



IND-YMI-SCS-P02, Indore, India  
Reporting Period: January-June 2017

## A future for outcasts

**Budget:** \$10,000 for Year 2 – fully funded.

**Update:**

This is a long-term project to establish a government-accredited primary school in a snake charmers' community and pay a decreasing amount of the school's running costs each year until the school becomes self-sufficient. The project is working with the whole community and includes livelihood skills training for the women.

In this second year of the project, there are now 140 students attending school daily compared to 90 regular students last year. (They now have a space problem due to the increased number of students.) The children are provided with uniforms, shoes, stationery, toys and games. The school runs a weekly sports day and recreation activities twice a month.



Jitendra and Sunita, above right, have been living in this community their whole life. They both go out begging to meet their daily needs. Their son, Gulshan, who is 15 years old has been studying in Grade 5 for the past 12mths. He is a very teachable student; his academic performance is 'tremendously good' and his cleanliness and presentation has improved dramatically. The teachers were very disappointed to hear that his parents wanted him to discontinue his studies and start begging for the family. It took a great effort for them to convince his parents that an education with help Gulshan in life now and in the future. His parents finally agreed and Gulshan can now move ahead in life.

While the school is the primary focus of the project, it continues to impact the entire community! The livelihood training program is bringing new life to the women as well as providing mothers with the skills they need to care for their children. There are currently 2 groups of 35 ladies being trained in making cosmetics, handicrafts and toiletries (instead of collecting garbage, selling plastic and begging).

Healthcare is one of the core problems in this community. Deplorable living conditions, poor sanitation and unhygienic food habits mean that many of the children get sick and stay sick. Our partners are planning to run a small dispensary and health camps in the coming year.

Thank you for your part in transforming a whole community, not just investing in the future of the children.

