



Teaching tomorrow's carriers of generation  
through bridge course...



## Annual Progress Report

April 2014-March 2015

**Sr. Crescence Mary SSH**

Fakirana Sisters Society, Bettiah, West Champaran, Bihar

## General Information of the Organization

### Bridge Course Program (BCP)

Title of the Project

Name of the organization	Fakirana Sisters Society
Address of the organization	Fakirana Sisters Society Banuchapar, Bettiah, West Champaran 845 438, Bihar, INDIA
Phone	91-6254-242594, 91-8862844435
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Contact Person	Sr. Crescence SSH
Location of the project	Bridge Course Sacred Heart Convent, Bettiah of West Champaran districts of Bihar
Project Duration	Ongoing
Reporting Period	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015
Date of Submission of the Annual Progress Report	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2015



There are numbers stars in the sky.

Let me place my own little lamp among them ravinder nath taigor .

Yes, we the children of Bridge course want to make a little world more enlightened, a little brighter, more comfortable to live with one another in love.



## Introduction and background of the program

The bridge course program was started in July 2010 with the financial support of Free School World Literacy Program (WLP). Now Bridge Centre Program is training the 5<sup>th</sup> batch of the girl children. In 13 years, we have analyzed that the girls were outshining the boys in education but due to many socio-cultural factors the girls were forced to stay at home and discontinue the studies. Especially we felt very sad about the brilliant girls who could be the leaders in their life.

Therefore, we had a discussion with Saskia what could be done for these types of girls and after much thought and sharing of ideas we thought of having one year residential program for such girls from our non-formal centres. It took 13 years to emerge with the bridge course program. Bridge course appears to be a big achievement.

### Objectives

- To identify and enroll the girl children aged 8-14 years belonging to the scheduled caste (lowest strata) in bridge course program.
- To educate them through the bridge course up to 5<sup>th</sup> standard.
- To enable them to access their right to education and bring them into the mainstreamed education to compete with other children.
- To reduce their vulnerability by linking them to the educational arena through bridge course and formal education.

### Location of the project

Bridge Course Program is being operated in a separate building and office within the premises of Sacred Heart Convent, Banuchapar, Bettiah, West Champaran district of Bihar.



Director & project secretary and they say that Time calls for serious preparation for future challenges.

# Activities implemented during April 2014-March 2015

## 1. Identification, selection & enrollment of children



18 girl children were identified from different places, undergone the structured selection process and finally enrolled in the Bridge Course Program for their studies during this year. This was completed in July 2014 itself. Unlike previous years, this year we designed and developed an organized, structured and well fabricated system of identification, selection and enrollment of the girl children.



This entire process has enhanced the authenticity of the candidates and parents with their children were also oriented and counseled at every stage which has made them understand about the Bridge Course Program, its rules, regulation, its objectives and mission etc. Following is the designed & developed process of identification, selection and enrollment to find the authentic candidates:

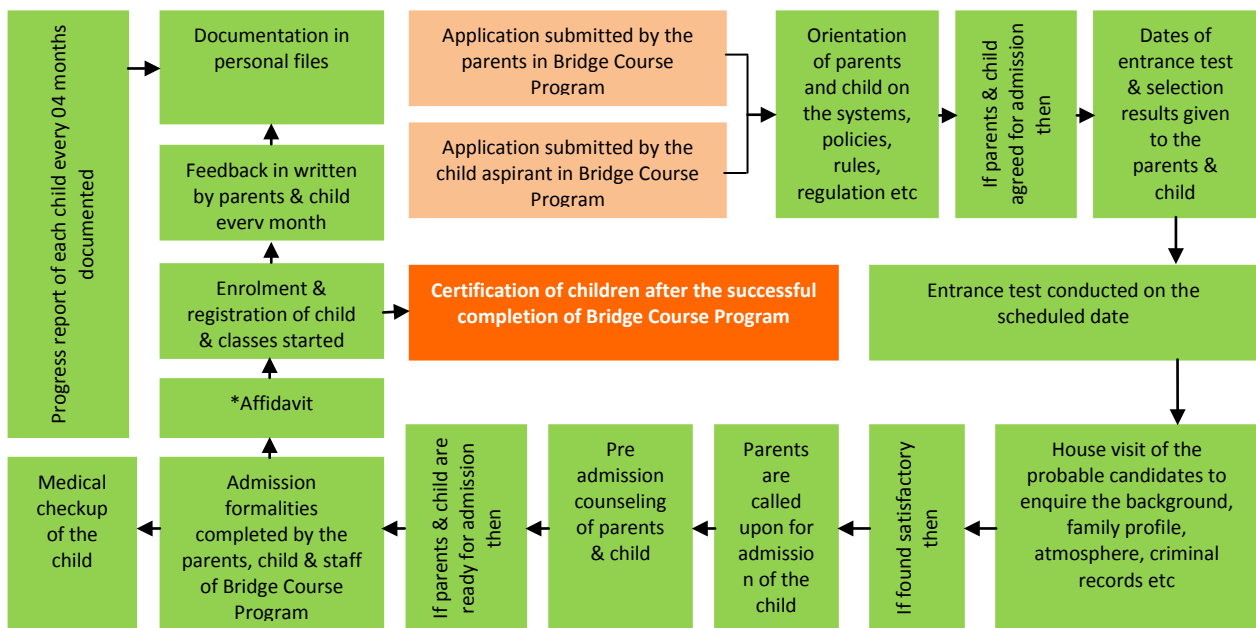


Figure-1: Identification, selection & enrolment process

## 2. Teachers' Day Celebration



Teachers' day was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in the Bridge Course Program in Bettiah. The celebration began at 10.30 am in the Bridge Course Program office. 03 teachers, 03 staff members, 10 sisters and 15 girls of the Bridge Course Program took active participation in this program. First of all, Sr. Crescence welcomed all the delegates, children, sisters and the chief guest Mr. Raj Anand-District Child Protection Officer (DCPO). Prayer dance was presented by the little girls followed by the role plays based on education. Children also presented the "Dandiya" dance and had lot of fun. Some of the children delivered English speeches flawlessly. Humorous acts, jokes and songs also became the part of the cultural programs.

Chief guest-Mr. Raj Anand-district child protection officer addressed the children and reminded them the aim to join the Bridge Course Program and keep it alive till they got succeed in their aim. He says that the changes are visible and impacts can also be seen. He told children that the foundation laid by Bridge Course Program will bring the impact later in your life. He appreciated the efforts made by Sr. Crescence Mary and her staff.

Sr. Crescence Mary says that she felt proud to see the little girls presenting such vibrant and energetic cultural programs. "This is commendable", she added in her speech. She congratulated her staff for their splendid efforts they made for making this program a grand success. Sr. Crescence Mary lastly presented the gift on this day; she gifted the salwar suit to female teachers and bed sheet to male teachers and staff.





### 3. Republic Day celebration



Republic day was organized on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Bridge Course Program. Children of the Bridge Course Program joined other children in Sacred Heart School, Bettiah and witnessed the flag hoisting ceremony. Sr. Crescence-Project Director along with the children of the Bridge Course Program also hoisted the flag followed by singing the national anthem. Sr. Crescence also addressed the children and shared the significance of the republic day. On the same day, children were invited in the convent where they had their supper with the sisters and fun as well.

### 4. Celebration of Christmas



Christmas was celebrated in the Bridge Course Program on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014. To make this day memorable, children and sisters lighted the candles all around which made the entire campus filled with light. Sr. Crescence along with her staff organized various games such as pinning up the balloons. In this game, hands were tied and each participant was provided with the pin and was asked to break the balloon of her rival. Everyone enjoyed nicely.

Second game was to keep the balloon in the air by blowing it with mouth air which was difficult but enjoyed by everyone. Lastly, cakes, tea and snacks were served to everyone and program came to an end with the wishes for this day and the New Year.



## 5. Monthly Review Meeting of the Project



During this year, regular staff meetings were conducted with the bridge course program team to assess the progress of the project, gaps, challenges, strategies to overcome these challenges, learning at the project level, correctives for better implementation of the project. Each meeting was presided over by Sr. Crescence Mary to give the value addition every time we had the staff meeting. It was the regular phenomenon to promote lot of discussions leading to the emergence of better and workable strategies beneficial for the achievements of project and sustainable impacts created among the children we work with.

## 6. Inaugural ceremony of new hall of "Bridge Course" & annual function



Inaugural ceremony of new hall of "Bridge Course" and annual function was organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015. First of all, a devotional prayer was offered by the priest and blessing was showered upon followed by the inauguration done by Mrs. Saskia and Mrs. Geri Johnson by cutting the ribbon. Sr. Sumita-Provincial of Sisters of Sacred Heart (SSH), Patna, Sr. Jyotsna, Sr. Seema, Sr. Vinaya and Sr. Vinaya have graced the occasion with their benign present in blessing ceremony. All the delegates were assembled in the conference room. Mrs. Saskia, Mrs. Geri Johnson, Mr. Jawed akthar -district program officer, Sr. Sumita-provincial lighted the lamp and the program was proceeded further.







Little girls of the Bridge Course presented the welcome song "happy welcome" followed by the welcome speech by Kajal Kumari. Vandana dance was performed by Kajal Kumari. Joke was shared by Shyamal Ji. In the series of programs, little girls again presented the dance on the song "Panchhi banu..". Subhash Chakravorti then shared a humorous joke "Shadi ki dawat". On dafla wale song, little children Rani and Priyanka performed the dance followed by Sapera dance done by Shilpi and Pinki and drama sunaina ki shadi . Many other items were presented by the Bridge course girls and enjoyed by the audience thoroughly.

A Telecast was presented by the passed student of of the Bridge Course, showing their present studies, their challenges their affect to meet the challenges etc. It was an eye opening for the audience and the determination of the old student to continued the studies in spite of the difficulties was enraging for us all. It was very clear that the old student had great appreciation for the Bridge Course. At the end of the program a vote of thanks was presented by the Directors Sr. Crescence. It touch the heart of the chief guest Saskia, Geri and Mr. Javed akthar and all the actors for stage performance, and faculty of Bridge Course for the preparation of the program and others stage management and all our friends our audience.

Then Mrs. Geri Johnson was called upon to the stage to share few words. She said, "Education is more than reading and writing. I saw how far you have learned. Please learn cooperation. You have now become skilled. I am very proud of you. I am very proud of your parents who have sacrificed a lot. You have given these children to Bridge Course Program so that they can learn more and more. I thank all the teachers. I also thank Fakirana Sisters Society for its vision to educate every child. Thank you all".

Mrs. Saskia then was called upon to the stage who distributed the gift to the people who have constructed the new hall. Sr. Crescence thanked



Mrs. Geri Johnson & Mrs. Saskia for their philanthropic support to bring the change in the lives of the children. Sr. Crecence then invited everyone to have the refreshment. The last—the children thank the lord in lyric singing whole heartily “O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD” and the assembly joined the children in praising and thank you in lord.

## 7. Terminal examinations conducted

S. N.	Name of the student	1 <sup>st</sup> Term Examination	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Examination	3 <sup>rd</sup> Term Examination
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Standard</b>				
1.	Rani Kumari	261	344	450
2.	Nikki Kumari	258	321	433
3.	Sarita Kumari	232	273	343
4.	Nishu Kumari	275	329	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Standard</b>				
5.	Pinki Kumari	323	359	450
6.	Baby Parveen	269	303	403
7.	Sahana Khatoon	228	256	337
8.	Tamanna Khatoon	257	296	399
9.	Pooja Kumari	285	306	398
10.	Lakshmi Kumari	249	278	259
11.	Khushi Kumari	211	232	235
12.	Khushbu Kumari I	219	240	197
13.	Neha Kumari	215	203	196
14.	Babli Kumari	225	281	342
15.	Khsuhbu Kumari II	249	302	438
16.	Shilp Kumari	242	307	392
17.	Shahzadi Kumari	240	209	221
18.	Lalmuni Kumari	242	303	411

Three terminal examinations were conducted for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> standard students of Bridge Course Program during this year. In the first terminal exam, children’s performance was average and they were guided to work hard to secure good marks and enhance their understanding in various subjects. In the second terminal exam, they performed slightly better than before while in the last and third terminal exam, their performance stood best than the two times earlier they performed. **Detail of all terminal examinations and the respective marks is given in annexure-2, 2.1 and 2.2.**

### Key achievements & impacts created by “Bridge Course Program”

- 18 girl children were identified, selected and enrolled in the bridge course following the structured procedures
- 14 girls altogether successfully completed one year bridge course program; 06 girls passed with 6<sup>th</sup> standard while 08 girls passed with 4<sup>th</sup> standard from the bridge course.
- 04 girls of the same batch were re-registered for one more year as they were not found to be capable to compete with other schools.



- Out of 14 passed out girls, 02 girls got admission in 8<sup>th</sup> standard, 03 girls in 6<sup>th</sup> standard, 01 girl in 5<sup>th</sup> standard while 08 girls successfully got admission in 5<sup>th</sup> standard in various formal schools.
- 14 passed out girls are continuing their studies and quite ambitious to reach at the zenith of success as per their capacity.
- 14 passed out girls have developed a decent living style, attitude of respecting everyone, groomed their personality, changed their behavior & sharpen their wisdom.
- 14 passed out girls have developed analytical thinking and their capacity to work hard in every situation.
- 14 passed out girls developed the concern for their parents, siblings and other people.
- 14 passed out girls became disciplined, developed mannerism, helping attitude and significantly the interest in the studies.
- Parents were so much influenced by the quality education of bridge course program that they were insisted to make their daughters to stay till they complete 10<sup>th</sup> standard.

## Challenges and strategies to overcome

Challenges	Strategies to overcome
Identification of authentic girl child- with the predetermined criteria	A system has been developed with multi stage scanner to find the right candidate for the bridge course program
Adjusting in a structured and disciplined life is very difficult for the girls who came from a different background as they miss their own atmosphere	Counseling at regular interval, motivation and engaging them in a hectic routine of studies and multi tasking gradually make them to adjust in the new environment
Sudden shifting from villages to the bridge course program and "feeling at home" is really difficult	Psychological support, affection and regular motivation give them the "feeling at home"
Threatening to commit suicide and run away tendency of the girl children is the great challenge	We have adopted the approach of "handover r to parents at the end of the program " immediately
Making the girls children of bridge course interested in studies throughout the year	Joyful learning, new and scientific methods of teaching, participatory approach and multi tasking have created the interest in them and creating a good impact
To make them unlearn their mugging habit, and changing their attitude was indeed a challenge for us	Assigning them creative work/assignment such as preparing the speech & delivering it within specified timeframe has proved to a good exercise in changing their behavior

Way forward...

- Conference of the old alumni of bridge course program is planned to be organized in the day to come to capture the success stories of the children of the bridge course program passed out in the past

Life Change Stories

## Turning over a new leaf: a story of Rani



Rani Kumari aged 12 years and Nikki Kumari 11 years are the real sisters who were enrolled in bridge course during the year 2014-15. They hail from Machaha village of Turhapatti panchayat of Yogapatti block of West Champaran district of Bihar. Their father Mr. Shiv Kumar Sah is simply a farmer who has a patch of small agricultural land. He grows the paddy and wheat in his land and feed the

family with lot of difficulties. Sometimes, their father has to work on others' field as the labourer to meet family expenses. Their mother is the housewife who stays at home and takes care of other children. Rani and Nikki have 02 other sisters and 01 brother.

After their enrollment in the bridge course program, they were taught rigorously throughout the year and also they were provided additional teaching of 30 days. Both these sisters cleared 6<sup>th</sup> standard in the bridge course. So normally their admission should have been in class 7<sup>th</sup> but their performance pleased they had master and they were admitted in class 8<sup>th</sup> St. Xavier's School on of the renowned. So we are very proud of Rani and Nikki. Congratulations !!!!!

It is like a dream for Rani and Nikki to study in St. Xavier's School which they never thought ever in their life. They are very happy and thank to Bridge Course Program" for changing their life. Their father Mr. Shiv Kumar Sah says, "It was not possible for me to see my daughters where they are today. I give the credit to Bridge Course Program which changed the life of my daughters who are now getting quality education today".



## Life on track: a story of Pinki Kumari...



Pinki Kumari was just 8 years old when she was enrolled in 4<sup>th</sup> standard "Bridge Course Program" during the year of April 2014- March 2015. Pinki Kumari is the resident of Machaha village of Turhapatti panchayat of Yogapatti block of West Champaran district of Bihar. Pinki has 03 sisters and 01 brother and her father Mr. Manoj Ram is the tempo driver. Her father hires the tempo everyday and works hard the whole day. Her father is able to earn Rs. 200 to 250 a day after paying the amount of hiring the tempo. Her family has always been facing the financial crunch as it was difficult to feed the entire family within the limited resources. Educating the children was almost difficult for her father but

thanks to people behind "Bridge Course Program" due to which Pinki could complete her 4<sup>th</sup> standard successfully.

Having completed her 4<sup>th</sup> standard from "bridge course program", Pinki Kumari appeared in the test which she cleared without any difficulty. She was then admitted in 6<sup>th</sup> standard in Machan Vidyalay Mandir, Yogapatti block of West Champaran Bihar.

Pinki is very happy & studying hard to see herself successful in life. Her father says, "It is only possible because of Bridge Course Program which made my daughter capable to compete others & confident enough to cope up the life situations. I am thankful and be indebted to Sr. Crescence and other people who are doing wonders".

## Destiny has another plan: a pathetic story of Sarita Kumari



Sarita Kumari a girl child who was 12 years old when she was enrolled and admitted in Bridge Course Program in May 2015. She was the original resident of Mahnagani panchayat of Majhaulia block of West Champaran district of Bihar. Her father Mr. Virendra Bhagat was the poorest farmer in the village. Her father did not have enough resources to feed her and other members of the family.

Sarita Kumari was enrolled and admitted in 6<sup>th</sup> standard in Bridge Course Program in May 2015. She was attending the classes and studying smoothly in the Bridge Course Program. One day, she got fainted, immediately she was provided the first aid and her parents were informed about her faint. Her parents rushed and took her to home thinking that she will be alright within a couple of days. But destiny was planning something else. She got fainted again at her home. Her parents contacted to Sr. Crescence and consulted on this matter. Sr. Crescence guided them to for exact diagnosis and then the treatment. Sr. Crescence along with her parents took her to the doctor and as per his advise; CT-scan was done. She was diagnosed with having a problem

in her brain. After the proper diagnosis, she was taken to Patna Medical College & Hospital, Patna where she received proper treatment in the neurology department. Sr. Crescence helped them at every stage and arranged contacts, information and whatever was possible. With all these efforts, Sarita recovered well from her illness but could not continue her studies in Bridge Course Program.

Her father says, "I am very much thankful to Sr. Crescence to save the life of my daughter which was not possible for me as I am illiterate and the world was unknown to me. I express my sorrow that my daughter could not continue her studies in the Bridge Course Program. I hope that destiny will not play with other children as it did to my daughter".

### Good start of life: breaking taboos...



Baby Parveen was 10 years old when she was enrolled and admitted in Bridge Course Program. She lives in Sheikh Dhurva village of Bettiah block of West Champaran district of Bihar. She has 03 brothers and 02 sisters. Her father is a small farmer who grows paddy and wheat on his own small land. Her mother is a housewife who takes care of the children at home. Struggling from the acute poverty, her father sent her to the bridge course program where she completed her 4<sup>th</sup> standard studies successfully.

She went back to her home after completing her studies at "Bridge Course Program" but she found difficult to continue her studies as her father expressed his inability to do so because of the persisting poverty. Baby Parveen was very upset and very hopeful at the same time. She contacted to Sr. Crescence and requested to convince her father if he can continue her studies. She knew that she was speculating for her life. Sr. Crescence visited her home and counseled her father who gave his green signal. She was then admitted in a private school located at Chhawani in 6<sup>th</sup> standard. Baby Parveen is very confident and looking forward to see a dignified life. Being a Muslim girl, it was like breaking the taboo for her education.

### Vanishing dreams: a story of drop out...

Nishu Kumari originally lives in Mahnagani village & panchayat of Majhaulia block of West Champaran district of Bihar. She was 12 years old. Nishu was enrolled and admitted in 6<sup>th</sup> standard in the Bridge Course Program in May 2015. Nishu was performing very well in the classes of Bridge Course Program.

It was the occasion of Christmas when she went to her home for the holidays. She met an accident at her home and got a fracture in her leg. Her father Mr. Rameswar Sah who was a small farmer took her to the village doctor who treated for her fracture. Since that doctor was not a specialist, that's why it took long time to recover from that fracture. It was her cruel destiny due to which she could not continue her studies in the Bridge Course Program and feel sorry for the same.



## The final destination: a story of Ruby's agony..



Ruby is the one of the most unfortunate children of the world. She lost her parents when she was an infant. She has no brother and sister and was the only child of her parents. She was originally the resident of Bettiah but had to move to Darjeeling, West Bengal with her maternal uncle Mr. Benedict after the death of her father. She is now 12 years old. Life without parents can be imagined, what it may take turn? Same happened with this child. She was working as a domestic help in her maternal uncle. She could not study because of two reasons 1. Education in English medium school was expensive and beyond Mr. Benedict's capacity. 2. -there was no Hindi medium school within her reach. So after the death of her mother she remained with Mr. Benedict her uncle almost like a helper in the house whole work.

Mr. Benedict has the relatives in Bettiah who informed him about the Bridge Course. Being a nice person, he came to Bettiah and took all the information about the Bridge Course and thought why Ruby can not be educated at Bridge course Bettiah. After consulting the director it was decided the Ruby can get admission In Bridge course. Ruby was brought by Mr. Benedict and enrolled in the Bridge Course. She is very loving and charming girl she has now become the part of the group. In introduction of herself she said "I feel it is my great fortune that I got this opportunity to study here. Education in life is most important thing so all of us so study and study. She feels very happy as she is free here... She has to do nothing but to study and study, most work very hard to become learned. I am very happy to be here".



Sr. Crescence Mary standing with the passed out girls of the Bridge Course Program of 2014-15 year



A passed out girl showing her certificate provided after the successful completion of Bridge Course Program.

## The children of Bridge course celebrating Holi festival



Let the sky be limitless for them  
Let them fly untiringly and unendingly with the wings of their wishes...  
Let them explore the world in their own way  
Let them fill the colours in the destiny of their choice  
Let them do what they want  
Let them break all social taboos  
Let them have equity & equality in all spheres of life  
Let them prove their potentiality  
Let them show that in no way they are less than boys  
Let them be the star daughters of their parents  
Let their parents proud to have them  
Let their parents pray to have daughters in every birth & life they have  
Let the world change its attitudes towards them  
Let the world give them enabling environment  
It is not too late  
Because life never comes again....never...never...



**Director**  
**Sr.Crescence**  
**WLP& BRIDGE COURSE Programme**  
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