

My experience at Uday CDP Aulia

On 22nd August my friend Anna and I arrived from Holland after 20 hours of flight exhausted but excited in Indore. We were looking forward to one year as "Missionary on time" (MaZ) in India, to live, work and pray together with the SSpS sisters and local people, Anna in Alirajpur, I in Aulia.

I still remember the first day I spent in the CDP Aulia. On this day the staff conducted a Medical Camp in two villages. In the car, everyone introduced himself to me, but when we reached the village I had already forgotten all the names. Immediately when our Jeep stopped a group of children formed around the vehicle to see what is happening. Everyone was talking in Hindi and I stood there, understanding nothing, being overextended by all these new impressions.

After four months sometimes still I have this feeling. Nearly every morning I go together with the Staff and Sr. Roseline to the SHG meetings in different villages. Next to this they organize different programs. One of these was a two days training for the women of the villages about Federation. In Federation all SHGs are organised in one group. Like this they have more influence in the village and can better advance their opinion. The first day was mainly to learn how to form a Federation and how it functions. A woman from Dewas had come together with the resource person shared with our women of Aulia about how she took leadership to form Federation in her village, told about her experience and motivation. On the second day was an excursion to a village where we met an already well functioning Federation. It was impressing to see what that the Federation of that village in Khirkya had already reached in their village to share with us and they were united together. Since it was in all in Hindi I did not understand very much, but I could feel, that "our" women from Aulia Cluster also want to start and cause changes in their own villages.

Three days of Children's camp was organized in October and 62 children from two villages participated. Besides different games and sessions (one about Mallala, who got the Nobel price this year) one day was an outing to Khandwa. Many of the children had never been to a bigger town before, so they saw the first time a railway station and a school with more than 200 students.

The "Children's Day" we celebrated in one school with games and singing and dancing competition. First most of the children were a little bit frightened to stand alone in front of all the others, but in the end nearly every child presented one small song, dance or poem.

For me every day there is something new to discover and I am looking forward to 8 more eventful months.

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