



Dear Friends

After a long gap once again we are ready with the latest edition of the Alice Project News. In our last edition we shared the news about all the activities happened at Alice till July. In this edition we will bring you further on the journey of Alice. These months, on one hand were full of different activities, events, achievements, trainings, new projects and blessings while other hand some of our beloved ones left us, so it showed us the other phase of the life which gives and important lesson that nothing is permanent: Joy or sorrow both will come and will go.

Activities

The Independence Day celebration: India has three national festivals: the republic day, independence day and Gandhi Jayanti, which is also celebrated as International Day of Non-Violence. As every year, this year also the Independence Day was celebrated at Alice Project Schools. But the students were missing; it was the first time that the celebration was done without them.

The event was celebrated peacefully with the teachers, members of the society and all the staff, maintaining the social distancing and the norms of Covid. The principal hoisted the flag and addressed everyone about the importance of the day and importance of the freedom in the human life. He said that real aim of human life is to be free, free from all the sufferings which are caused by the ignorance and attachment.







Teachers of Sarnath and Bodhgaya Schools

Therefore one should always understand this truth and keep in the mind that we have to be free... and keep thinking and making effort to get the ultimate freedom.

Alice Project remembers Mahatma Gandhi on his birthday: This year Mahatma was remembered by all the members of the school and staff. Flowers were offered to the image of Gandhi and we wished each other on the occasion.





Lal Bahadur Shashtri Ji (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lal_Bahadur_Shastri) the second prim minister of India ,who was born near Varanasi, on the same day of Mahatama was also remembered on this day with great honor.

The examination center once again at Sarnath School

This year once again, the *Alice Project- Sarvabhaumik*, *Sikshsram Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya* got opportunity to conduct the exam of *Sampurnanad Sanskrit University of Benaras*. This year 250 students appeared in the exams in both the meetings. Since 2004 the school in Sarnath and 2008 the school in Bodhgaya got its affiliation form the Sampuranand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Benaras and since 2010 every year both of our schools have been selected as examination center. It is a great achievement for an institution. Till now Alice Project

Schools have been thrice awarded by the University for its Work in the field of Education and its research.





Sanskrit students at the gate and during the exams.

On this occasion we here dedicate the text of the third award from SSVV, Benaras

"We wish to confer and honour the researchers from Alice Project - Universal Education School in Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh), Bodhagaya (Bihar), Devan (Arunachal Pradesh) India, as well as several countries around the world. We wish to acknowledge the value of long, unique and successful search during over thirty years, for a new educational model capable of integrating the school curriculum with secular ethics based on a proper vision of reality (beyond dualism- Maya). Alice's pedagogy not only confirm the truth of the advaita philosophy, proffessed in India for millennia, but connects it with the most modern discoveries of transpersonal psychology, quantum physics and neuroscience. Alice's work allows us to open ourselves to a future free from materialism and nihilism that have infected the planet and young generation so heavily.

Date - 25.08.2018

Prof. Rajaram Shukla

Vice chancellor

Sampuranand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Benaras

First time the examination at Sarnath School: On 18 October 2020 Alice Project School Sarnath successfully conducted one more examination for the B.ED, M. Ed and PHD for the first time for the Students of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi. (Central Sanskrit University, formerly Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, is an institute located in New Delhi, India, to promote Sanskrit.[1] Established in 1970, it functions under the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India. It offers B.A., B.Ed., M.A., M.Ed., and Ph.D programs and offers a distance learning program in Sanskrit.)







Sanskrit students at the gate for the thermal scanning and Sanitization

Total 345 students of B. Ed, M.Ed and PHD appeared in the exams in both the sessions of the day. A group of 52 teachers, office staff and other workers did a great effort to make this possible. As *Alice Project - Sarvabhaumik*, *Sikshsram Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya* was the only examination center in whole Uttar Pradesh (the state). It was a great achievement for us.





The team of Management and the studnets during the exams

The investigators from Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, that were here for the inspection were extremely happy to see the facilities of the school and were surprised to know that that we the Alice Project- Sarvabhaumik, Sikshsram Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, has been thrice honored by the Sampuranad Sanskrit University, Benaras for its effort in the field of Education and preservation of this ancient language and tradition. He at once gave his approval to us for the examination center and today, we once again proved ourselves.

We dedicate this success to all the sponsors, friends, supporters, well-wishers, and everyone who is directly or indirectly involved in the project and we express a special thanks to all the teachers and working staff, as without them it won't be possible.

Reopening of the school in October: After all these, 20 October was a day that could not be forgotten today, the Sarnath School reopens after about 7 months of lockdown. Respecting the rules of distancing, use of masks, disinfection of hands, the students from class IX to XII returned to class for face-to-face lessons, after the indigestion of online

meetings with teachers. A Great excitement to meet again with classmates and teachers could easily be seen over the faces of the students and teachers.





Sanitization and Thermal scanning of all the students before entry in the school

The director of the school Mr. Valentino Sir, expressed his happiness and greeted everyone as follows: Greetings to the teachers who are tasked with helping students continue to be ... normal. Good school, dear Alice students, together we will also win the pandemic, with a smile on our lips and our hands to our hearts to say "Namaste" to the world. Even to Covid-19!





Finally the students are back in the classrooms

The school is going smoothly and now, in December, the half yearly exams are going to be started. All the necessary preparations are done.

Visit of Lama Ven. Kyelsang La: As last year this year once again, we were fortunate to get the blessings of Lama during his one month's stay at our institution. During his stay, he performed retreat and several pujas for the well-being of all the sentient beings and a special puja for all the sponsors, teachers, students and every single member of the whole Alice Project Family. We express our deep gratitude to him for his generosity and kindness which he showed to everyone.







File photo: Lama addressing to the students of Alice Project during his last visit

Diwali celebration and feast for all the teachers, residential students and the staff: We were extremely fortunate that the whole Alice Project family could celebrate Diwali in the presence of this holy master, who not only joined the celebration but also offered a feast to all the teachers, staff and the residential staff.





The Diwali celebration

It was a very pleasant moment for all of us to be with him. Every one enjoyed the event and thanked to Lama.





Wonderful moment together

Monk Mohali: In our last edition of Alice Project news, we shared with you that some of our chakma students after leaving form here, got the monkship and became monks to follow the tradition of their community. In this series Mohali Chakma the boy artist who managed to convey unique sensations with his paintings inspired by the beauty of the magical environment of Arunachal Pradesh, decided to follow the path of Dharma.

It was a pleasant message for all of us. Now he has become another type of art: that of knowing one's own mind, to control it and, therefore, transcend it, then share the beauty of the new dimension with others.

He was ordained a monk of the Theravada tradition, together with two other fellow villagers, of the same age. He lives in a Thai monastery, in Bodhgaya, where Alice runs a second school and where dozens of chakma have studied in the past. Many of these former students have had (and are still doing) an experience of monastic life.



Photo: Mohali at Alice and Mohali as a monk

Sanjay Kumar completes his Master course in Yoga and Therapy: Sanajy Kumar (in the

middle, with two beautiful chakma ladies) whom we call Sanjay Yoga, has finally completed his master course in Yoga and therapy. He recently returned from his college with a shine in his eyes and happiness over his face.

He shared the news of completion of his course with every one and says that now he is ready. We thought, he is ready to teach, as a



yoga master. But he made us surprised saying that he is ready to do the Doctorate course in the field of Yoga. We wish all the very best for him and his future.



Achievements

Now we would like to share with you about the achievements that Alice Project got in all these months:

The Manual in French:

We are pleased to inform you all that the book "Universal Ethics for teachers and parents" which was unveiled by HH the 14th Dalai lama in 2018. Then it was translated in Italian and was printed by the famous printing Terra Nuova. Now the book is translated in French too. Soon we will put it into the printing process and it will be available for our readers.



A new Book on Alice Methodology:



We are happy to announce that we are working on a new book on Alice Methodology. Mr. Valentino shares his joy about it as follows:

A new book on Alice's methodology and teaching The first volume published by Terra Nuova will follow. CHANGE OF PARADIGM for a new school that teaches how to manage one's emotions through a change in the way of thinking, while improving socialization, the relationship with oneself, Nature, learning and academic success.

New members in the Alice Team: Mr. Vinod Kumar Pal and Mr. Rajeev Bhardwaj two of the most senior teachers of Alice Project with a deep knowledge and experience in management and accounts were added in the management team with other members to support and run the projects smoothly. We wish all the best to them.





(The team last year)

(The team now)

New FDs for the school students and teachers: Recently in the month of December the administration and management decided to renew the FDs of last year and make a new FD of 50 Lakh which can be fixed life time period for the teachers and students welfare.

Insurance for all the teachers and staff: As last year this year once again we made the medical and accidental insurance for the teachers and working staff to make them feel more protected and secure.



A meeting with the insurance agent Mr. Robin and the members of the society

Our former students got Governmental jobs as teachers:

As we informed you in the last Two ex-students of our school: Miss. Sandeepa Pal and Miss. Shabnam Bano got selected for the Govt. Teacher Job. They said they could not express themselves how happy they have been for this. They expressed their thanks to Mr. Valentino, all the teachers and everyone saying as follows:



"It is the Alice Project that, finally we got our goal. Since beginning, when I was a child I had a dream to become a teacher and thanks to our teachers and the education that we got at Alice School, today we succeeded. I will never forget the teachings that I got here and will share what I have learned with my students. "

New Road for School and new land:

This year in summer we solved a major problem that we have been facing since many years. It was challenge for us to have a proper road in all these years. But this year we solved this major issue also. And we could purchase a new piece of land and a road directly to our compound was made at once.



A view of the new gate that enters the school

Trainings and New Projects:

Teachers training on teaching method, special program and Yoga, at Bodhgaya and Sarnath Schools:

The month of October and November were the months of trainings, revisions, and self-preparation for the students and teachers. In this series, a teacher training for two weeks was organized at the Sarnath School and Bodhgaya School. In these trainings senior teachers (Mr. Rajeev Bhardwaj, Mr. Arun Kumar Shukla, Mohan lal, Mr. Sanjay Kumar), who are our experts and have long experience of teaching subjects, special program and Yoga, revised and introduced the method with new teachers of primary classes.







Teachers during the Yoga lessons and practical demonstration of how to teach math

The teachers training also had a practical part of Karma Yoga, where everyone joined in cleaning, watering, and maintaining the school compound, the campus, classroom and the garden.







Teachers during the Karma Yoga

It was very nice to see the teachers attending these training with keen interest and enthusiasm. They said that it was very nice to have this chance to make a revision and learn new concepts.

Gayatri Mantra Chanting retreat: The Gayatri Mantra is a sacred chant that demonstrates the unity that underlies manifoldness in creation. It is through the recognition of this unity that we can understand the multiplicity. (https://www.sathyasai.org/devotional/gayatri)

From 27th of November, we proposed the teachers to chant the Gayatri Mantra for 125,000/-times each. Gayatri Mantra is a universal Mantra, very effective for self - development and realization. For the students and teachers it is believed to be one of the best mantras. Therefore we proposed it to the teachers.

Once the retreat will complete, we will perform a fire-puja and dedication prayer for the well-being of all the sentient beings.





Teachers while chanting the Gayatri Mantra and Singing Bhajans

Mr. Valentino Training in different places of Italy:

Mr. Valentino after completing his retreat at VY center in Toulouse got some free time and he dedicated it in making different trainings, conferences, and meetings.

Online conference on Mindfulness Education: On July a group of students and teachers from the Sarnath School participated in an online conference on mindfulness education which was led by Mr. Nanni Deambrogio, promoter and co-founder of the first Mindufulness project in Italy. It was the first initiative in Italy for the integration of the Eastern vision of the mind and awareness with Western research. He is director of the Mindfulness Project Center in Milan. It was the first time the Alice Project Schools had participated in such an interesting workshop. All the students followed the experiment of international online communication with keen interest and attention.





Group of students and teachers during the online meeting

On this occasion the students shared their experience, explaining how Alice's methodology has a significant impact in their daily life and in their way of thinking and interacting with others, friends, families and the people of the village. They reported that the Alice Project not only teaches them the normal school curriculum, but also how to stimulate deep insights. Alice helps to find a balance between the external and internal world. The two worlds, in reality, are the manifestation of the same source; the mind.

From today the two Associations, Mindfulness and Alice Project, will work together to form a group of animators who will be responsible for managing a two-year training course for future teachers specialized in an educational proposal that combines correct cognition with a path of identification (Jung).

Epistemology and Mindfulness. Correct way of knowing the phenomena and self-realization path. This new group was called "Mindfulness on Cognitive Intelligence". Our internal training (referring teachers for the two years of training) will be shorter from October 2020 to July 2021.



Nanni Deambrogio and Valentino

At each meeting the issues of two / three modules will be addressed at a time.

The objective of the ME Project is to train educators, teachers, pedagogics, etc. so that all minors and students in the training and educational paths can receive an educational-training approach aimed at developing qualities / skills such as concentration, awareness / presence, empathy and compassion, able to respond to the needs of personal and community inner growth, for a Universal Ethics that can change the current educational paradigm. The reality of Mindfulness Project and Alice Project put together their ten years experiences and curricula, to allow each child / young person to develop these qualities / skills both internally and directly in teaching and daily educational life

Training at Centro Tara Cittamani

On 3 October 2020 the Centro Tara Cittamani had the opportunity to host Valentino Giacomin, founder of Alice Project-Universal Education School, the meeting was attended by about twenty people of different ages and backgrounds, from university students to retirees, from teacher to mom. The audience was particularly attentive and involved in the presentation, it can be said that there was a real relationship between the speaker and the

audience that led to several questions and comparisons and a natural desire for further study.



The director of the Center Marco Parolin shares his experience as follows: We are aware that reducing an educational path in three hours is reductive but we are equally sure that they are seeds that push people to cultivate their own minds and the minds of their children / pupils / grandchildren. We warmly thank Valentino for his energy and we hope to have him again at our Center.

FEED BACK AND REFLECTIONS AFTER THE CONFERENCE: "A heartfelt thank you for your presence. I am neither a school teacher nor a parent (...). I consider fundamental awareness not so much of the breath which remains a technique, but the awareness of life. You started the conference quoting Santa Claus, to the magic / lie we teach, but how many more lies we teach to children and how many lies we adults believe or want to believe! We raise children with Walt Disney cartoons full of loving animals and in reality animals are deprived of their freedom and then killed to be eaten in total indifference.

In the video you showed us you could see a child who could not sit still for a minute but it is the same situation as many adults (who participate in meditation courses). Here, for me a universal education includes all these aspects: animals, food, friends ... and must lead to a radical transformation.

I greet you with a story (...). It tells of two lovers. After being in the desert (to meditate on love) he goes to her, knocks on her door and hears "Who is it?" He promptly replies "It's me" and the door stays closed. The boy returns to the desert and this thing is repeated for years. Finally, after several attempts, the question "Who is it?" the boy replies "It's you" and the door opens. The understanding that there is no separation leads to love.

A warm greeting



Training at Madrid: Training was organized at Madrid, where Mr. Valentino practically

demonstrated the methodology of the Alice Project. Mr. Valentino shares the experience as follows: MAGNIFICENT CHILDREN IN THE LAND OF WONDERS: Spanish children at the training course held by Valentino, in Madrid. They learned and taught cooperating patiently with the speaker who wanted to practically demonstrate the methodology of the Alice Project.



FEED BACK AFTER THE TRAINING: I felt and appreciated the spontaneity and honesty that shone through your lessons. A beautiful energy has been created between us all. In fact, I also found myself very well with the people of the group, a varied group by age, by place, by experience, by training, but all in harmony through a common thread that united the desires of curiosity, sharing, waking up and learn.

Training at Oremelle: A two days training was organized at Oremelle with catholic priest and special research group for using the Gospel's parables as spiritual therapy.



Meeting at Zero Bronco: A meeting at Zero Branco was also organized. Several people gathered the meeting and we started cooperation with neuroscientist. Another achievement for us.





A new Alice Project Italy and Nepal: We would like to share that in Italy in a village near Pomaia we are planning to open an experimental School. Here we are sharing the beautiful picture of the place. Mr. Valentino, and his friends went to see the place and soon the work will be started.

A project of a school in Nepal is also going on. We call this project 'Poor help poor." There is a school at Nepal, which works for extremely poor and orphan children. They requested us for collaboration, which sound very interesting to us. As we too are poor (financially, especially after the loss of our main sponsors...) and they too, but two poor can make miracle.





We accepted the proposal of sharing our methodology and way of teaching. We will help them for the trainings, and other teaching and study materials. **People who left us:** As we mentioned above, these months showed us both faces of life, till now we talked about our achievements now we talk about the people who left us in this journey.

ONE OF OUR GURUS LEFT US...

Ven. Swami Varishthanad, head of Ramakrishna Mission, Varanasi a legendry example of selfless service to humanity; who dedicated his life to the service of the Rama Krishna Mission Ashram and to the mankind.

We the 'Alician' are extremely lucky to get chance to meet him and to listen his talks. Often he used to pay a visit to our Sarnath School and was blessing the students and teachers both with his teachings about the life, ethics and morality, importance of the education in human life.

He used to say that we all are the sons and daughters of the same Lord, therefore we all have all the qualities of that Lord within all of us. There is no difference between ATMAN (the self) and the PARMATMA (the Lord). It is only because of our ignorance we do not realize this truth. Only a right Master can show us the path to reach this state of realization. He used to explain this concept of ATMAN and PARMATMA with the famous story of. 'Lambert the Lion'.





In his last visit in April 2019, at Alice Project Universal Education during its silver jubilee celebration as chief guest of the event he said that "I myself am the witness and I have seen this institution in all these years and I assure that this institution is successfully fulfilling its aim of giving a chance of better education to the children who did not get it." All the students, teachers, the staff, members of the management team, the heads of all the departments, every single member of our Alice Project family paid our deep regards, and prayed for peace for the Swami ji. It is a great loss which can never be fulfilled. But in our memories Swami ji will

always be there through his teachings and as a person and a living example of selfless service to the mankind.

Three of our students left us:

This year took 3 of our students too from us: Kushal Maurya, Bindu Kumar and Satya Ranjan Chakma. Satya Ranjan Chakma and Bindu kumar had been our ex-students form Bodhgaya School. They both were one of the brilliant students with all the best qualities. Bindu was a student of class 12th this year while Satya Ranjan was a college going student. But their destiny was to leave us.







Bindu Kumai

Kushal Maurya

Satya Ranjan Chakma

The third one was Kushal Maurya a student who just had passed out class X. Mr. Valentino writes about Kushal as follows:

ANOTHER STUDENT KUSHAL LEFT US...

His name was Kushal Maurya......He was 16. He had just enrolled in the penultimate year of high school. He should have been in school this morning if there hadn't been a lockdown because of a cursed virus that's been paralysing India for six months. Six months of agony for a country with a population of one billion and 400 million forced to close and block factories, schools, hotels, churches, temples, monasteries, personal contacts, social relations... Kushal was with some friends visiting an ancient temple, located 25 kilometers from Sarnath, the village where he lived. After the visit, he decides to take a bath and swim in the river that flows near the temple. But the river reserves a trap for him and drags him away from the shore. Attempts to save him are futile. Remains only the desperation of his parents, his friends, his schoolmates, all those who loved him. There are many who love him, because Kushal was a serious boy, mature, sensitive, without the drifts typical of modern teenagers. He was also engaged in a path of spiritual self-realization proposed by the school. He regularly attended the weekends on ethics course morally and materially supported by the Dalai Lama. He had learned that he had much to give to himself and others: a smile, a hug, when more could not be done. And then to meditate: to take the suffering of others within himself to



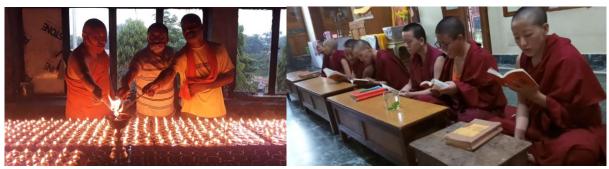


Photo: Puja in our temples, and lights were offered at the main temple Bodhgaya for all these students.

transform it into a wonderful Light of love and peace. We, with our Masters, the Lamas, the pundits, the Christian guides of our interfaith school, remind you of what you learned at school: "Any vision appears these days, in these weeks of transition, fear not! Everything is a creation of your consciousness. Recognize in those images, beautiful or fearful, the manifestation of your divinity that will manifest himself for you with the face of Shiva!"

We will not leave you alone until you find peace by resting in the lap of your God!

The School requested to the president of its society Mr. Tsewang Tenzin to arrange special prayers in the monasteries of south India, for these students who passed away.

FAREWELL TO AN EXCELLENT TEACHER:

Mrs. Roopa Maurya, a very skillful and talented primary school teacher with a very humble and soft nature, came to the school to say bye, bye to everyone at the Alice.

She informed to the administration that she was very sorry and sad to inform that she will not be able to come to work anymore. Actually her family's members are leaving to New Delhi, in another state, and she has to be with them.

But she will keep sharing what she has learned here at the Alice as a teacher in the schools there. As it was her dream to be a teacher and now she has got the training and she can work as a teacher anywhere.



The tears of joy for a new future and sadness of leaving the Alice family both were seen on the face. She thanked everyone for giving her a chance to be the part of Alice family.

She expressed gratitude saying: "What I have learnt and got here, will never get anywhere!"

We wish her all the best for her bright future.

It is a loss for us to lose such a dedicated, skillful and talented teacher with so many good qualities not only as a teacher but as a person too. But we are happy for her new journey. We will accept her back at our school, any time, with open arms and open heart.

Quote of thanks and Wishes for Christmas: I Valentino Giacomin, would like to share a few words with this newsletter... Year 2020 has been a terribly difficult year for our schools, for India and for the whole world. Unfortunately, the forecasts for the future leave no room for optimism.

In this critical situation I like to mention and thanks from the bottom of my heart all the sponsors who helped our schools during the current financial year (2019/2020): Shining Hope, So Hum foundation, Dalai Lama Trust, Buddhistickie Akademie, Progetto Alice Universal Education, Fritz Grohman, All the friends from Taiwan, Alessia Bulgari ,Vettori Keti , Trevisan Claudio , Ghirardini Michela , Sarl Et Cie Sc , Bevilacqua Flavio , Tassinari Elisabetta , Dotta Andrea , Marchesi Cristina , Francesco Silvestro La Rocca , Molinari Dolores Wendy , Durighetto Elena , Usellini Andrea , Occhionero Gianni , Immobiliare Valsesiana , Maria Valeria Selleri , Alice Project Belgio , Croci Greta , Croci Mario , Rottin Silvia . Porcellato Marco , Vattolo Maria Rosaria , Gisella Barche , Stupa Onlus , Ecoprogress Srl , Romina Della Ratta, Fabienne Davallou , Camilla Hulse , Chang Chinfan , Roberta Acciari , Marina Bassi , Eva Campioni , Daniel Villalta Medina, Gianluca Bottero , Annick Petit, Sonia Calza, Claudia Revelli, Camilla Previato (Anjali Association), Luciano Villa, Luciana Usellini, Michael Mueller, Mauro De Marchi, Gruppo Yoga Davide Cova, Amici Zero Branco.



I apologize if I missed some names. It's always difficult to recall all the friends, old and new, who help our Educational Research. With your support we were able to secure, this year, teachers' salaries, despite the fact that students' fees were reduced to zero. We were able to pay pension fund for the teachers and Insurance for all the staff and

residents children, routine expenses, and maintenance. We have also been able to set up a security fund in the bank for the future of all those who have been working at our school for years and receive salaries that are 1/5 of what is paid by the Government to its employees. The fund has been tied up for several years and the bank's interests will serve to improve wages and uncertainties and difficulties that Covid has Thanks to the intuition about we called shared responsibility; we were able to create a selfsufficient staff that succeeded to manage the Covid crisis independently, when the Government India due asked volunteers to leave to the epidemic. I thank also to all the members and President of our Society who have been able to live up to assuming great responsibilities, without personal The Covid crisis was a test for the Indian staff. I think the test was passed brilliantly. We also thank all of you for giving us confidence in this new way of running the schools. For my part, I will continue, from afar, to give, discreetly, advice, but leaving the staff responsible decisions. final

I thank everyone once again and wish a Christmas of peace and hope.

- Valentino Giacomin



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.!!