

December 2015

Dear Friends,

After eleven years of effort, we are just starting to see the results of our work here at Asha Deep Vidyashram. Due to their low caste and poverty, our students have a lot going against them. Can our school give them enough to succeed in a society that runs on connections and bribes? We can't see the end of the story yet, but just this week, we got two pieces of good news . . .



We just found out that one of our graduates, Anil Rao, got the TOP score in his school on the national 12th grade chemistry AND biology exams. These exams are much tougher and much more important than 12th grade final exams in the U.S. Competition is extreme since high scores are needed to get into good universities. Anil scored 95% in both exams. He is working to become a microbiologist.

Another of our graduates, Aradhna Kumari, will complete 12th grade this coming April, but she has already sent in her application to take the national medical entrance exam next May. High scores on this exam will allow her to enter medical school. Of course, she still has a long way to go to actually become a doctor, but I am very excited that she is actively pursuing her dream!



Some years ago I was told by a local (high caste) Indian that I was wasting my time because these kinds of kids would never amount to more than low-lives and thieves. We do not expect all our students to excel so spectacularly, but if some of them can reach for the stars, I am well-pleased.

Sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

love,
Connie