

# CHETNA: Changing Lives in East Champaran

A partnership with the Emmanuel Hospital Association

Country: India

Category: Health Care

Project number: 98260

Need December 09: \$191,799



A staff worker meeting with a boy's youth group.

↙ This ministry is helping people in more than 120 impoverished villages in the northern state of Bihar to dramatically improve the quality of their lives. It does so by addressing high mother and child mortality rates, sanitation, risk behaviour among adolescents, high women's illiteracy rates, and lack of education amongst children. A key goal is that of empowerment—facilitating communities to address their own needs through community organisation, leveraging more functional service delivery from local government, and skills training for income generation.

## ↙ Update from Project Manager, Mr Subhas Das, December 2009.

I would like to introduce 12 yr old Bikki, a mute social outcast, who would chase other children and beat them. Considered by his community to be "abnormal" he was ignored by other children who refused to include him in any of their activities and games, leaving Bikki alone, neglected and angry.

Bikki met one of our project staff who runs the Children's club, and was invited to join in with the group. He slowly started mingling with other children. Through games and group activities Bikki has settled in and now enjoys playing with the other children who in turn have begun to accept him. This new experience of acceptance

helped Bikki began to change and grow. One day startling the staff with the greeting "Namaste Didi" (a typical greeting), it was amazing hearing a child who since his childhood never uttered a single word, speaking out.

There are many other things about him we have noticed. He now gathers the other children when the project vehicle arrives at his village. He is neat and tidy and no longer fights or beats other children.

Children need love, care and friendship to grow and develop well. Without these Bikki was on a path to destruction but the care and fellowship, allow Bikki to smile and enjoy his interactions with his community.



The relief and development fund of SIM Australia [www.sim.org.au](http://www.sim.org.au)  
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