



Progress Report: April 2010 to June 2010

Introduction

Music Basti was launched in 2008 with the support of Integrated Development Education Association (IDEA), to promote access to information and opportunities for children-at-risk, through the medium of music. Music Basti's programmes are geared towards generating social and cultural awareness through music, among "children- at risk", who may be street children, runaways, orphans, abandoned by their families, society or education system. The vision for Music Basti aims to create a collaborative model for the use of music as a tool for personal and social empowerment. The awareness that is generated is conducive to their participation and inclusion in society, along with promoting self-confidence, awareness and a sense of self-worth among the children. Music Basti supports Aman Biradari's "Dil Se" campaign, to uplift the dignity and rights of street children, and has worked directly with over 200 children so far. The YP Foundation, Aman Biradari, and Bridge Music Academy, EFICOR, Furtados Music India and the Gibson Foundation support its programs. Music Basti was selected for the Change Looms (DAC program) in July 2009 (Pravah and Ashoka). It has collaborated with organizations including CRY, iCONGO, American Center, Hard Rock Café and others.



Photo: Program at Hard Rock Cafe, Delhi, June 14th 2010; Photo by: Zafar Khurshid

[Read about our work !](#)

Platform Magazine, music edition, July 2010

[Profile: Faith Gonsalves, Founder, Music Basti](#)

HT City (June 25, 2010)

[Music Basti](#)

Sunday Guardian, July 11, 2010

[City Rockstars come together to bring music to the basti](#)

Sunday Business Standard, July 11, 2010

[At Home with Music](#)

www.radioandmusic.com

[Delhi's Street Children Learn to Rock](#)



Activities and Results

I. Music Workshops and Program Development

a. Content Development

Based on previous learning, through planning the content and conducting workshops during the project, a need was felt to ensure that the content was being developed based on a framework that **best suited the learning needs as well as the desires of the children** who are part of the project. This teaching and learning material is now being created through consultation with music professionals and teachers who are both, directly and indirectly a part of Music Basti workshops.

The teaching and learning content focuses on creative activities such as singing and playing instruments. They also pay attention to the listening aspects of music to inculcate an appreciation for music, and provide a forum for accessing diverse kinds of music. Apart from training the children in concepts such as tone, rhythm, volume and tempo, children are also taught how to feel and express music through the body. Here activities involving movement and natural rhythm are key to generate a response to the feelings expressed in music. The [Lesson Plans](#) (Click to view excerpt) utilizing these concepts are facilitated with audio and visual aids.

For teaching purposes, the Orff Schulwerk¹ method of teaching is heavily relied upon.

Note on Lesson Plans

b. Research on the Impact of Music

Music Basti's programs promote the role of music and its impact to develop positive self-esteem, encourage self-expression, and connect to curriculum areas too. It also lends to the creation of self-awareness by placing individuals within their cultural context.

Based on this understanding, Music Basti is conducting a research study primarily based on secondary sources and studies, case- studies and Music Basti's own impact assessment. A brief [introduction](#) (Click to view) to the same is available online.

c. Music Workshops

Music workshops were conducted at **3 centers**, namely "Kilkari" Home for girls, Kashmere Gate; "Umeed" Home for boys, Mehrauli; and "Khushi" Home for girls, Okhla Ind. Area Phase1, which are part of the "Dil Se" Campaign, Aman Biradari.

¹ The Orff Method is a way of teaching children about music that engages their mind and body through a mixture of singing, dancing, acting and the use of percussion instruments (i.e. xylophones, metallophones, glockenspiels). Lessons are presented with an element of "play" helping the children learn at their own level of understanding.

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Based on the above content, music workshops were conducted in April and June. Workshops were temporarily suspended while children at the "Dil Se" Campaign, Aman Biradari were on holiday from May 20th to June 20th 2010.

Workshops were conducted with children's homes of the ["Dil Se" Campaign, Aman Biradari](#). (Click to view) located at Kashmere Gate, Mehrauli and Okhla Industrial Area Phase 1.

[Annexure 1: List of Workshops](#)

d. Instruments – Learning Project: Instruments Collection Drive

Through an online call for donations of second hand instruments, 5 guitars, 2 drum- kits, and small percussion instruments were collected.

In July to September 2010, a program will be set up with the children's homes to directly network music teachers to volunteer on a weekly basis to teach specific instruments to select groups of up to 5 children, i.e. a total of 15 children.

II. Development of Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:

[Needs Assessments](#) (Click to view) have been conducted at the 3 children's homes in May 2010. Subsequently, evaluation and monitoring indicators for the programs are being conceptualized.

The Needs Assessment aimed to gauge the educational background of children, their interest-levels in extra-curricular activities and the extent to which these interests were catered to by formal systems of education: the 'school'. Their lives at the 'home' were also assessed, in particular, their safety and grievance-redressal mechanisms. Dealing more directly with program development, the needs assessment sought the children's feedback on Music Basti workshops that they had attended and areas where they felt the organization could improve and introduce new things. The last section of the assessment dealt more closely to the persona of the child; the motivations in life, ambitions, desires, fears and complaints of the children were documented.

This assessment is being followed up by an assessment in June-July 2010 related to the right to expression, with a focus on participation, inclusion and creativity.



III. Special/Exposure Programs

Photo: Guitar workshop, "Umeed" Home for boys, Mehrauli, Aman Biradari; Photo by: Sikandar Kumar

Special concerts and programs reach out to a maximum number of children including those who do not necessarily participate in weekly music workshops.

- a. **Special Performances by Rohan Solomon with Cyanide & Shabnam Virmani (April 10th 2010).**
- b. **Music performances by children at the "Dil Se" Campaign, Annual Day program (April 17th, 2010)** At "Umeed" Home, Mehrauli, "Dil Se" Campaign, Aman Biradari.
- c. **"Action Replay" Concert with Swarathma (April 28th 2010):** Bangalore based folk-rock band Swarathma believes that its music is rooted in a social context. That is why the band in 2010 resolved to take ACTION, to take their music, its message and the joy it brings to those who may not get a chance to hear it easily. A live concert was hosted at "Kilkari" Home for girls, Kashmere Gate, "Dil Se" Campaign, Aman Biradari.
- d. **[Gibson Foundation supports Music Basti](#)** (Click to view): To support music being used to make a positive difference in communities, and its commitment to making a social change, the Gibson Foundation is supporting Delhi based project Music Basti, part of Integrated Development Education Association with three Epiphone guitars to aid the organization's music education programs.
- e. **Music Training for music instructors with Mr Ritesh Kokhar, Director, [Bridge Music Academy](#)** (May 15th 2010) Part of a series of workshops with Mr Ritesh Kokhar, Director, Bridge Music Academy, training consists of primarily developing teaching methodologies and training musicians on the same, as well as ideas and concepts for musical content.





Photo: Guitar workshop with Chayan Adhikari, "Umeed" Home for boys, Mehrauli, Aman Biradari; Photo by: Sikandar Kumar



IV. Partnership Projects

a. Project with Plan – India (June 7-13th and 16-18th, 2010)

Plan India collaborated with Music Basti, along with film-maker Siddhartha Sharma, and Pritha Ghosh of Learning Inq, for a song-writing workshop with 13 children from Plan India's "Child Advisory Board" (CAB) and CASP-PLAN Delhi (Community Aid and Sponsorship Program). The children were trained in music and other creative exercises by the Music Basti project, in order to write, compose, sing and record at a studio an original group composition on the theme of "[Learn Without Fear](#)" (Click to view). "Learn Without Fear" is a global campaign to end violence in schools. Music Basti's team included 2 facilitators and a team of documenters; as well as music, dance, theater and story telling professionals who conducted sessions.

b. Song Writing and Composition Project: Collaboration with [Project Ahimsa](#)

Project Ahimsa is a global effort empowering youth through music. The collaboration with Music Basti will assist in developing new songs and recording 4 tracks for distribution online and through CDs. Basic music education and studio recording skills are the focus. Awareness generation around the issues affecting the lives of street children is the goal. The workshops will serve 60 children or youth 'at risk' (up to age 14) i.e. children who may be "street children", abandoned, runaway, survivors of child abuse, trafficking, exploitation and child labor. The program is youth-led and run, through volunteers, musicians, networking with NGOs and organizations focused on childcare.



C. Collaboration with Radio Mirchi

As a part of [Radio Mirchi's 7th anniversary celebrations](#) (Click to view), Radio Mirchi arranged to collect musical instruments and donate these for the use of street children through the NGO Music Basti.

d. [Program with Hard Rock Café, Delhi](#) (Click to view photos)

Hard Rock Café, Delhi hosted a program for 40 children from "Umeed" Home, Mehrauli, "Dil Se" Campaign, Aman Biradari including live music performances for and by the children, dance and food and beverages.

V. Training and skill building for volunteers

a. Summer Internships for Volunteers, May-July 2010

Music Basti has provided a learning experience for 6 interns, with a focus on skills development and creating awareness on the issues affecting children particularly related to poverty and education. This was done through specific research pieces, volunteering on location at workshops and documentation.

b. Re-evaluation of Volunteer Policy and Requisite Processes and Procedures: This is being done to ensure sustainability in volunteer processes and in order to ensure best practices. Inclusion of musicians as a part of the core team members, planning projects is one such measure that has been undertaken.

c. Faith Gonsalves, Project Officer, Music Basti attended a conference by Human Rights Law Network on "Legal Interventions to Strengthen Accountability for Maternal Health And Reproductive Rights" 26-27th June, Goa

VI. Research & Administration

a. Research Briefs

Music Basti is doing three sections of research:

- i. The impact of music (See point 1. b)
- ii. Best practices for volunteer management in a youth model
- iii. Sustainability for non- profits: Understanding what drives organizations and helps sustain them

b. Development of Communications Strategy

A strategy using primarily online communications is being developed in order to promote awareness around child rights issues and violations, and the power of music to make a difference. The concept of the first phase of the strategy is to encourage musicians, artists and bands to support the cause and endorse access to information for the same.

c. Music Basti is working with a [team](#) (Click to read about the team) of musicians and part- time volunteers



VII. Key Follow-ups and Future Plans

a. [Recording Project](#) (Click to view videos and updates)

From July 1st – 9th, Music Basti will work on a project with award winning record producer from the UK, Ian Wallman, and two academics from the Centre for Media and Cultural Research at Birmingham City University, Andrew Dubber and Jez Collins.

The project will explore ways in which music projects can find a wider audience online, and be used as a tool for fundraising. Through collaboration with a range of local professional musicians, we are recording a children's album featuring the singing and enjoyment of the children the project works with and its volunteer musicians. The album will be released online as part of the research and will be available for free – or with a donation.

b. A blog will be set up to document testimonials and case studies in order to make this information accessible:

Click to view: <http://musicbasti.posterous.com/>

c. Follow- up Needs Assessments

The assessment to be conducted in June- July 2010 will be related to the right to expression, with a focus on participation, inclusion and creativity.



Photo: Music Basti workshops with Plan India; Photo by: Shiv Ahuja



VIII. Conclusion

The shift in the approach of Music Basti has been towards a model that strives to represent the learning needs and the desires of the children, as they articulate them within the programs. Valuing the opinion and choices of the child within the learning space is seen as critical in order to promote best practices in learning music, and the general learning atmosphere.

In addition to this, programs have acquired a structured approach towards ensuring inclusivity of and enjoyment by children, as well as more intensive programs to promote skills based musical learning through instruments or song- writing and recording projects. Support from the musical community has increased through inclusion of a larger number of musical professionals, performers and artistes being involved in planning and implementing programs; donation of instruments; and key collaborations with organizations like Hard Rock Cafe, Radio Mirchi and the Gibson Foundation, among others.

Through sustained contact and teaching at the 3 children's homes stronger relationships have been built with children. A key observation by the Music Basti team and volunteers has been the development of values of cooperation within the group, taking initiative, and confidence to speak or sing in front of a large group.

Efforts are being made by Music Basti to create self- mobilizing strategies among the children, stressing upon initiative taken by the children to practice music that is being taught. These efforts have been successful at "Umeed" Home for boys, where a select group of boys organize music for the larger group on a daily basis. Here, a selected group of children will be networked with a music school for more advanced training by July 2010.

Along with this, through the song- performance and recording project of July 2010, a further step will be taken towards promoting the originality and creativity of the children through songs which will be recorded and available online. Music Basti's team is continuing in its efforts to ensure that programs are designed in a child centered and enjoyable manner, with an emphasis on developing monitoring tools to map the growth of the child's musical skills, as well other key life- skills such taking initiative, self- confidence and cooperation within a group. Plans are being made to organize performance spaces for the children wherever feasible.

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ANNEXURE 1

LIST OF MUSIC WORKSHOPS

Khushi Home for Girls: Workshop Log (April-June 2010)	
Date	Members Present
4/04/10	Arjun Shankar, Faith Gonsalves, Ishani Butalia, Nikhil Rao, Neeraj Arya, Sikandar Kumar
7/04/10	Neeraj Arya, Ushinor Majumdar, Sikandar Kumar
12/04/10	Neeraj Arya, Sikandar Kumar
15/04/10	Ishani Butalia, Ushinor Majumdar, Neeraj Arya
7/05/10	Ushinor Majumdar, Sikandar Kumar
15/05/10	Ushinor Majumdar, Nikhil Rao
19/05/10	Abhishek Mangla, Jazmine Bento, Nikhil Rao
30/06/10	Sikandar Kumar, Neeraj Arya, Ishani Butalia

Kilkari Home for Girls: Workshop Log (April-June 2010)	
Date	Members Present
28/04/10	Arjun Shankar, Faith Gonsalves, Ishani Butalia, Neeraj Arya, Sikandar Kumar
12/05/10	Ishani Butalia
24/06/10	Juhila Saini, Sampath Daniel, Neeraj Arya, Abhishek Mathur, Nisha Parmar, Suhail Yusuf, Chayan Adhikari, Faith Gonsalves
28/06/10	Juhila Saini, Sampath Daniel, Neeraj Arya, Abhishek Mathur, Nisha Parmar, Suhail Yusuf, Chayan Adhikari.
30/06/10	Juhila Saini, Sampath Daniel, Neeraj Arya, Abhishek Mathur, Nisha Parmar, Suhail Yusuf, Chayan Adhikari;

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Umeed Home For Boys: Workshop Log (April-June 2010)	
Date	Members Present
6/04/10	Arjun Shankar, Neeraj Arya
9/04/10	Faith Gonsalves, Ishani Butalia, Sikandar Kumar, Neeraj Arya
13/04/10	Sikandar Kumar, Neeraj Arya
14/04/10	Arjun Shankar, Neeraj Arya
20/04/10	Neeraj Arya, Sikandar Kumar
22/04/10	Arjun Shankar, Neeraj Arya
27/04/10	Sikandar Kumar, Neeraj Arya
30/04/10	Arjun Shankar, Faith Gonsalves, Ushinor Majumdar, Sikandar Kumar, Neeraj Arya, Chayan Adhikari, Abhishek Mathur
8/05/10	Faith Gonsalves, Ushinor Majumdar, Sikandar Kumar
21/06/10	Five8, Sikandar Kumar, Neeraj Arya, Arjun Shankar, Sikandar Kumar
23/06/10	Five8, Neeraj Arya, Arjun Shankar, Sikandar Kumar, Faith Gonsalves
28/06/10	Five8, Neeraj Arya, Arjun Shankar
30/06/10	Five8, Faith Gonsalves, Arjun Shankar