



Hi, this is Indra Sen Maurya. My family lives in a village on the outskirts of Lucknow (now it is part of Lucknow Municipal Corporation and no more treated as a village). My father was a farmer and mother was a housewife who often helped my father in the field. My parents never went to school but they could read and write a little bit. I have six siblings, five sisters and a brother. The first two sisters had very little access to education and the rest of us received higher education. My brother, the second eldest in the family, went to the collage and later underwent some technical training from ITI and now working as a government servant in Lucknow Nagar Nigum.

First time I heard about NEDI when I visited the Lucknow Baha'i House for a Ruhi institute course. As I came in contact with other Baha'i friends I came to know about NEDI. In 2002 when Alka (my sister) and I went to the Baha'i House Worship, New Delhi for service I met a few NEDI graduates and had the opportunity to serve with them. They shared many stories about their learning and suggested me to study at NEDI. I was more impressed with Swati Shewate (A girl who later married an American and living with her husband there). During our service Alka decided to go to NEDI for study. For more details we talked to Dr. Sohail Mohajer. This much of information were more than enough for deciding to join NEDI.

We talked to my parents and elder brother regarding our study at NEDI. After a bit of dilemma they agreed and my sister Alka went to NEDI. Two years later when I completed my college degree, Alka suggested me to go to NEDI as it had brought tremendous changes in her.

I had heard a lot about NEDI from two of my sisters Alka and Sajma. On my arrival at NETTC I found everything new and interesting. The study was intensive but joyful. I still recall all my classes and the teaching methods of NEDI. The teachers, the senior students and the teaching methods extended a unique experience of learning. I had never been to such an atmosphere of learning. The learning was indeed a fun there. A few classes were conducted by second year's students which had offered opportunities of learning from their practical experiences. The experiences acquired by them were being passed to us. NEDI's teaching was more practical than theory which had built confidence in its trainees to teach efficiently. In fact NEDI was a place of experiment, new learning. Here one even learns even from the mistakes.

We lived in a well-structured family system with friends from different language and cultural background. This had given me a unique opportunity to learn about different cultures. During the training I was sent to a village for field practice for a month. That had really brought me the experience of surviving in tough conditions.

After receiving training I found myself more confident and positive towards life and learning. I realized that my persistence level had grown much more than before. I had become a fast learner as well as creative. New innovative ideas had begun to be harbored in my mind. After completing my training I worked in three different schools. At all these three schools, the Administrations, parents, staff and students had immensely appreciated my teaching methods. Many of them asked about the Institute I studied and showed interest to send their relatives to study at NEDI.

NEDI's training has given a new dimension to my thinking. When I joined the school I changed its prevailing system of learning and teaching. I used cooperative learning as a compulsory part

in my teaching activity at school. I encouraged having good moral behavior than obtaining higher marks. Children grew up with the spirit of helping one another in learning. I appreciated them and a joyful atmosphere flourished in the classroom. The children loved me for I was loving, kind as well as strict at the same time. Now-a-days I receive many mails from schools and my students requesting to come back to their schools. I had noticed a lot of changes in the students after applying what I had learnt from NEDI.

I used to have my children's class and JYESP. Now at the Baha'i World Centre (Haifa, Israel) also I am having a children's moral class every Saturday and I teach the children cooperative games along with moral lessons.

After NEDI's training I completed my Master degree in Sociology and subsequently Bachelor of Education. Last year I passed Teacher's eligibility test (CTET). My family is indeed indebted to NEDI as four of my siblings had studied here. My parents are happy for we found a good source of livelihood and dignity in the society.