

Certificate Awarding Ceremony of CDS

On March, 14th 2009 the beneficiaries of various apprenticeships offered by CDS received their certificates. Following some preparatory effort, the ceremony finally took place on Saturday evening. Throughout the whole day, volunteers helped to clean the facilities and set up chairs for the 300 expected guests.

The festivities began around 6.30 pm. About 300 guests followed the invitation of CDS and took their seats at the decorated roof top of the CDS building. Students of the ESG Frankfurt, Tobias Gerstenberg, Tobias Böhler as well as some additional invited guests resided next to the stage.

Alka Macwan, the leader of the CDS women's program, was leading through the program. As a welcoming gift, the special guests were given *garlands* – the traditional Indian flower necklaces. Like handing over garlands, traditional dances form an important part of any Indian ceremony. Hence, a group of young Indian women performed an initiatory prayer dance. This very group will be visiting Germany for a month from the 23rd of April onwards in the course of an exchange program. Afterwards, the certificates were handed out.

Certificates were obtained for the following courses:

Garment Making (1 year):	32 participants
Garment Making (6 months):	23 participants
Teachers Training (1 year):	3 participants
Computer Course Basic (3 months):	22 participants
Computer Course DTP (6 months):	13 participants
Heena Course (2 months):	58 participants

Overall 151 certificates were handed out to the participants. Following the Garment Making Course, all the participants successfully passed an exam and thus achieved a government certificate. For Heena and Computer Courses only participation certificates were obtainable.

After the ceremonious presentation of the certificates, all employees of CDS were thanked for their support without which the successful participation of so many young women would not have been possible. Their engagement was symbolically honoured through the presentation of little presents.



A proud graduate shows her certificate



left to right: P. Müller, R. Diwan, A. Desai, F. Eckert, M. Macwan, A. Macwan, V. Macwan

Another dance performance served to break the ice again. This time a group of girls, which were former attendants of the CDS kindergartens, showed us a beautiful dance which was accompanied by the vocals of three girls.

In the course of the evening program, several speeches were given by the honourable guests. Dr. Rasidaben Diwan and Abidaben Deasi (AFS India) made a start. Both spoke about the role of the

woman in Indian society – especially the role of Muslim women – and stressed the importance of education. Philipp Müller, leader of the present student group of ESG, further underlined the necessity of providing young Indians with a good education. Only through education will young Indians have a chance of a safe and better future.

Two of our co-workers together with a student gave short speeches in order to express their gratitude for the effort put in by all volunteers. Manoj Macwan and Alka Macan together with their respective families were thanked in particular. Furthermore, they were very thankful for the support from German donors, without which many aims could not have been reached. Particularly touching was a short spontaneous thanksgiving to Manoj Macwan for his enduring support by one of our teachers.



Traditioneller Garba Tanz

A group of students of the Garment Making Course rounded up the evening program with the *Garba*, a traditional dance in Gujarat.

Subsequently, the honourable guests as well as the regularly supporters of CDS were invited to a dinner at family Macwan's house. All the other guests were served a snack at the CDS centre. After dinner all guests had the opportunity to let the day unwind with some music, dancing and good vibes.

Florian Eckert, Tobias Böhler
Anand, 31-03-2009