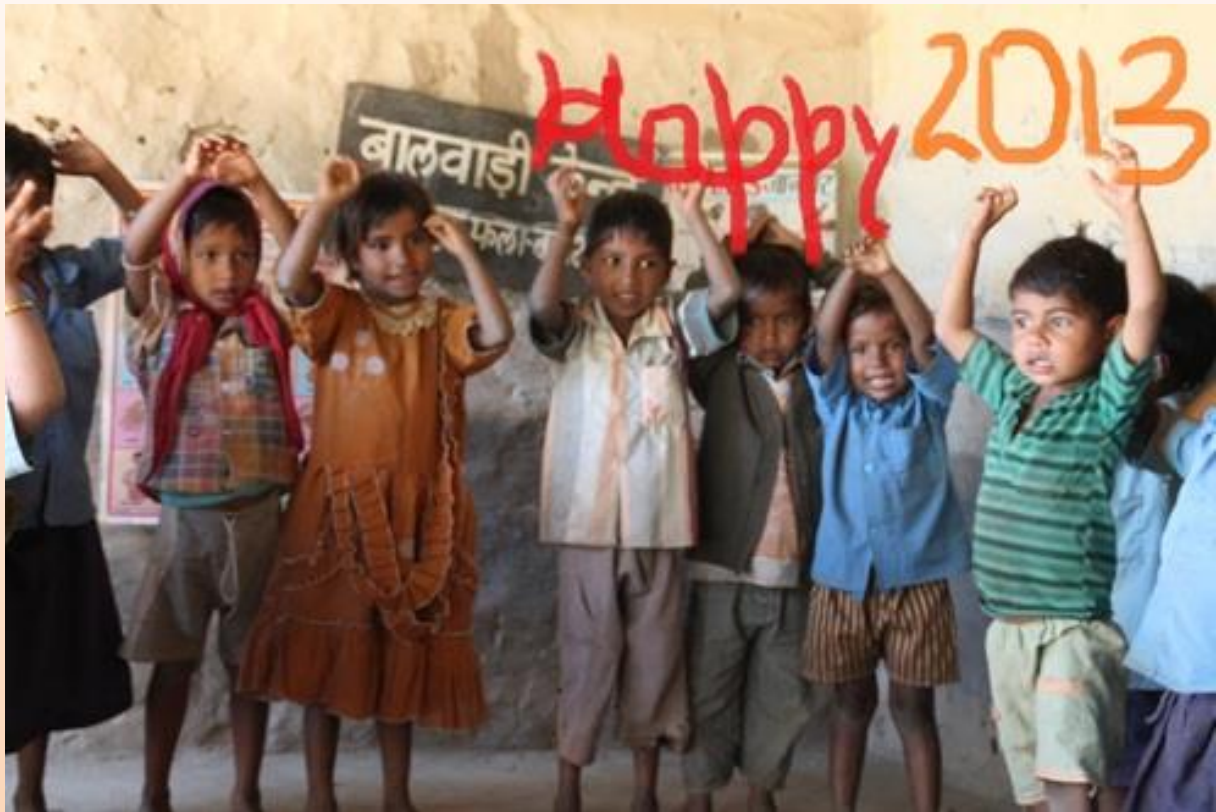




## *Bada Bhilwada and Amod Balwadi*

Seva Mandir's 205 Prschools (Balwadis) are reaching out to over 5,000 young children every year.





Hi, I am Oliver from England.

I've been working for Seva Mandir in NRD (Natural Resources Department) since the start of September and I've been working on the cookstove project which is part of CDM (Clean Development Mechanism).

I received an email from Deepti asking if any volunteers would be interested in a field visit to some of the other sites and projects that Seva Mandir had been working on. It was an amazing day, very interesting and inspiring. Our first stop was a pre-school or Bal Wadi of Bada Bhilwada village.

We arrived and there were about 30 children who initially all looked absolutely terrified by us.



**Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Rajasthan**



We spoke to the teacher who had been working there for the past 13 years. She said that initially the children used to turn up very dirty but they spoke to the parents and explained that this was not good enough and they should clean and care for their children better. She also explained that some of the children were malnourished in the beginning but the school supplies food for the children which is fortified with extra vitamins.

As she was explaining all of this the children's gazes were locked on this group of foreign volunteers.





It was a very nice place with some toys lying around and learning materials like alphabet posters as you'd expect to see in any normal pre-school. Normally the children would just be sitting at home doing nothing or would probably just be helping out on the farms.



Thanks to Seva Mandir the children in this village now have the opportunity to start learning from an early age and all go on to further education.





As we all started to get up and leave with the children still staring and gazing at us with a little bit of fear I decided to turn into a giant kid and chase them around. The kids ran like mad, partially from fear but slowly coming to the realisation that I wasn't so bad and just a normal person.



One minute later as soon as I would turn my back the kids would creep slowly towards me and as soon as I'd turn around they'd run off screaming and laughing. It was so nice to see these children so happy and healthy and it was truly inspiring and so nice to see some of the other types of work Seva Mandir are involved in.



A Balwadi for 25 kids costs £1,000 per annum

That's £40 per child!

If you would like to help then [click here](#)