



MUNSEL SCHOOL

teaching structure for mentally and physically challenged children
aide aux enfants avec handicap physique et mental
struttura scolastica per bambini e ragazzi in situazione di handicap

Newsletter winter 2022

After the long period of covid emergency, which affected all activities, travels and contacts during nearly three years, we finally enjoyed a carefree summer in Ladakh as well.

The pupils at the Munsel school could take pleasure in the open air activities, the excursions, the pick-nicks as well as the special events organized in the area, such as the **sports day** for the disabled.



The borders were open to foreign travellers as well and I was able to take up my work on site. I was accompanied by Wilma Minoggio, the former person responsible for SUPSI and by Angela Giacomazzi, a specialist in polypedagogy, who put their experience and a part of their time at the disposal of our school. We were welcomed by great enthusiasm after the three years of absence.



We took up our work on three sectors.

On the one hand, the re-organisation of the administration, also in function of the structural changes in the Ladakhi government, which has been transferred from the status of a region of the Jammu and Kashmir state to the status of a Union Territory under direct government of New Dehli.

This is why we seek close cooperation with the Ladakhi Committee of the Munsel Society, reflecting on both the present and the future of the school with the aim of an increasing autonomy.

Together, we met the persons responsible for the Department of Education and of Social Affairs.



Mara with Dr Ladhol, the President of the Ladakhi committee

We also met the persons responsible for two other ONGs (Rewa and Pagir) in Ladakh, whose main concern are disabled adults. We are aiming at reinforcing the collaboration in the domain of transition, where the girls and boys need to be taken care of in a different way once they have reached adulthood, as well as on the level of planning and relations with the government.

Thanks to Wilma's expertise in administration, a young PDG (responsible for administration), competent and very eager to help, has been found in the person of Pema Chokey. We appreciate his open-mindedness as well as his affection and sensitivity towards our students. He actively participates in certain activities.



Pema Chokey, the new Director of Administration, during an excursion with students from the Munsel school.

On the other hand, from the pedagogical point of view, we spent two days running workshops for teacher training aiming at the introduction of individual work mode. This kind of selective intervention is extremely important, in view of the vast differences that exist between our students as far as their cognitive development and their behaviour is concerned.

A new classroom has been set up for specific work on cognitive stimulation. It has been equipped with furniture brought by Angela from her studio in Mendrisio, which closed in 2020. Furthermore, the room for sensoric stimulation of the most severely impaired children has been reorganized.

During our stay, we assisted the teachers in their daily activities in order to introduce them to these new pedagogical approaches. We also supported them and stimulated them in order to enhance the habitual group activities.





There are at present eight teachers at the Munsel school. They work with 23 pupils with various degrees of physical, mental and learning disabilities. They are between three-and-a-half and 25 years old.

In order to keep you in the know regarding the immediate and future prospects and, above all, to have the pleasure of meeting you personally, our association is planning to organize new events next spring. In the meantime, we hope to be able to count on your generosity so as to be able to meet the most urgent needs. The roof insulation needs to be adapted to the changing climate and we would also like to fit out a playground in the garden.

But time is running out... it is already very cold in Ladakh and the school year closes at the end of this month. Our teachers are preparing individual tasks and, as usual, they will keep in close touch with the families during the long period of the winter holidays.



The Munsel school always remains optimistic and full of renewed enthusiasm.
Above all grace to your solid and reliable support.
We would like to express our heart-felt thanks on behalf of all our employees and to wish you
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Julay! Mara

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