



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

Jodhpur, India

Community(s):	Kakelao
Partner:	AFS India, The Veerni School, The Maharashta Girls School
Projects:	Education and arts, athletics, business consulting, construction, public health/medical, eyeglasses distribution
# Volunteers:	2014 (132) Trip Producer: Puneet Batra '02 M.S. 2015 (76) Trip Producers: Najib El-Sayed '89 M.Phil., '93 Ph.D., Melissa Reinberg

YASC organized two service trips in the community of Kakelao, supported by AFS India, an inclusive educational community of global citizens consisting of students, families, and volunteers determined to build bridges between cultures. The goal of these trips was to forge relationships with the community based on the concept of service particularly in education and public health. Our volunteers worked hands on in the community on a wide range of projects including education serving 420 students in the local primary and secondary schools. Classes ranged from world geography, English, and music to math, geology, and astronomy. A group of experienced teachers carried out a “teach the teachers” program at the secondary school; an arts program introduced students to collages and mosaics, hip-hop and beat boxing, digital photography and theater; professional film-makers taught students their craft and donated substantial film equipment to a local institute that educates girls from remote parts of Rajasthan; an athletic program introduced children to baseball, Frisbee, relay races, running, hip-hop, and other athletics activities; business consulting for multiple projects; construction of benches and desks for the primary school; paint murals in the anganwadis (child-care centers); and public health education programs ranging from child health, nutrition, and breast cancer awareness to hookworm prevention and diabetes education. We distributed hundreds of pairs of sandals, mostly to children, as part of a hookworm awareness project, and we provided glasses and sunglasses to many individuals in the community. We also taught local women how to identify visual problems in infants and toddlers for early intervention.

About the community:

Kakelao is a village of 4,000 located just outside the city of Jodhpur, at the edge of the Thar Desert in the State of Rajasthan. Most people in Kakelao speak Hindi, but some speak only Marwari. Although some villagers work in Jodhpur, Kakelao is mostly a farming community. It has high drop-out and illiteracy rates, primarily among girls and women, and significant public health challenges. Most homes in the village have electricity but few have toilets inside.