

Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow

Learning to make a difference in a Global School Partnership

Inspired by the GSF2010 theme of *Education Beats Poverty*, students at Hutchesons' Grammar School used GSF resources to develop their DFID-funded Global School Partnership with the Dr. NSAM English Medium High School in Nitte, India. The results have included a greater understanding among Hutchesons' students of the barriers to education in Nitte and more young people in Nitte getting the opportunity to attend school.



The Hutchie-Nitte Challenge participants

On visiting Nitte in November 2010, two GSF students from Hutchesons' Grammar School used the GSF Peer Educator DVD with Nitte students as a stimulus for discussion about access to education. Hutchesons' GSF students shared their learning about the global situation and invited Nitte students to teach them about their local situation. This led to the 'Hutchie-Nitte Challenge', the aim of which is to raise awareness about the importance of education in both school communities and globally.



*Hutchesons' students teaching at
Dr. NSAM English Medium High School*

In pairs, the Nitte students took up the challenge to raise awareness of the importance of education in their local community and report back to the Hutchesons' students on the main reasons why some children were not attending school. When a further group of Hutchesons' students visited Nitte in February 2011, they were inspired by the progress their peers in Nitte had made with their projects. Some students had already succeeded in persuading parents to send their children to school; some had discussed the issue of access with local government officials and others had influenced two local companies to sponsor children through school. Some had also launched their own programme of peer education, going into local primary schools to impress upon children the importance of

remaining in education. One of the Hutchesons' students visiting Nitte, Saorcha Warren, recalls, "We were overwhelmed to see the enthusiasm with which the pupils had approached this competition, going to exceptional lengths to fulfil the requirements of the project they had embarked on."

The winning students will pay a reciprocal visit to Hutchesons' Grammar School to find out more about education in Scotland. For their part, Hutchesons' GSF students have raised money to finance the return visit to Scotland and have also reported to Nitte students on some of the challenges in education in Scotland. In particular, they highlighted how some young people in Scotland miss out on education through truancy - which came as something of a surprise to their peers in Nitte!



Dr. NSAM English Medium High School students with their posters to raise awareness of the importance of education