Final Impression, July 2017

Since my Volunteering year at Sambhali Trust Empowerment Center Setrawa is coming to an end and I start reflecting my time at the center and in the village I see how much changed at the last months. I have been working in a center where I teach women and children in English and Maths and where I do workshops about general knowledge. After spending so much time in the village I have a better understanding how everything works in the center. I have a better feeling for what to teach and especially how to teach, to make it interesting and understandable for the women. I can see now which things are important to talk about with my students and which not. Where I have been choosing topics at the beginning like the ‘the perfect sentence structure’ or all the different ‘tenses’ I see now that this is not the most important thing when it comes about education. The past months I was trying to do more general knowledge even in my class. So we went from ‘tenses’ to topics like Hygiene, a healthy lifestyle, different cultures and how the world works in different parts of the world. Or simply topics my students were interested in. So the way I teach and how I prepare lessons became more deliberate. So I finally found a routine in the way do my work. When I look and talk to my students now I can see how they get a little bit of a new perspective on the life they are living. And I am sure this is at least just as important as the perfect sentence structure.

Also with the staff from the local teacher we became more like a team. We understand each other so much better then maybe in the first months. Weather we know the tics from each other, or where we are good at. That makes working together so much easier. Not only the students where learning from me, but especially I was learning from the staff and my students so much about their life or life in general, about the difficulties they have to face every day or simply something about their culture.

Even when I wished at the beginning to work at the Center in Jodhpur I am so thankful and glad to spend my year in the village. And to have the opportunity, experiencing the village life. Today I would never miss the chance for anything in the world. Living in a local family with all the other village people so close to me, I had the possibility to become a part of the village society. I spend almost every free second somewhere in the village at family’s houses. We learned so much from each other or just created wonderful memories. There is nothing more precious than to be taken as a part from them. When I think about my time in Setrawa I feel only joy, love and hap-
piness. I am so thankful for the chance Sambhali gave me to leave a little bit of my heart in Setrawa and to take a lot of love from Setrawa with me, forever in my heart.