India February 2019: EQUI +

Do you want to do something? Equi+ is the answer! Thousands of rural Indians migrate to the cities; both parents work; children (if lucky) come home from school to an empty house; children (many) are so behind the school won't take them; children over 14 are no longer admitted to school and so one girl cried.

There are no jobs in the countryside in India and still about 70% percent of the enormous population live there. So Lotus Outreach's branch (<u>lotusoutreach.org</u>) in India, White Lotus Trust, decided to help and created Equi+,

They knew that the top of the bottle was a circle! And what a jolly <u>tiny</u> classroon



The teacher and the filmer!

an after school catch up and remedial program for a few lucky kids.

We were so impressed by the program! It runs during the school year (we started in June last year) and enrolled 27 kids (should be 25 but...) They don't only do basics but add hygiene, some art and special attention to those that need it.

One girl, Punam, burst into tears after the teacher told us that she is the brightest there but has not been able to go to school because she had <u>never</u> been to school and, when she applied, she was refused because she would hold the others back. In addition, the family have wanted her to help with all her 7 siblings. Now she has the basics, we

have been able to enrol her at the beginning of the next school year in April!!!! It was all in a nick of time as she is 13 and would have been refused for good any later.

We want a bigger room. We want more classes. We want a program for the over 14s who will remain totally unschooled forever.

What do you think?

Puna