



Enabling Quality Education and Health for the Underprivileged

Quarterly Newsletter: July 2015

Vision

To provide quality education and healthcare services to the underprivileged in Uttar Pradesh

Mission

To provide quality education and healthcare facilities to 100,000 underprivileged children per year, by 2020, with a special focus on the girl child

Background

E&H Foundation was set up in 2012 by four founder trustees, with the vision to provide free quality education and healthcare services for the underprivileged in Uttar Pradesh (UP), India through 'corporatized giving'. Our intent is to effectively channelize the efforts of a large number of dedicated individuals and organizations in reaching scale without compromising on quality. E&H Foundation started its journey from Farrukhabad district of UP. Our operational approach is to identify successful existing models rather than inventing and implementing a new model. So far, we have collaborated with Educational Support Organization (ESO) for their Gyan Shala model for the urban areas and Bharti Foundation for rural areas, to provide quality education. We are delighted to share that in two and a half years, E&H Foundation is now educating more than 5,000 children with free quality education, through these two education models.

Rural Model

E&H Foundation started its journey by facilitating the Bharti Foundation (www.bhartifoundation.org) in setting up three primary schools in rural areas of Farrukhabad district of UP. Currently, these three schools are providing high quality education to 720 children



across five different classes among which more than 60% students are girls. Observing the high learning levels amongst the existing students in these three schools,



almost all the parents in the neighborhood want their children to be admitted in the Bharti Schools. This has led to a huge increase in demand for Bharti Schools in the locality. As a consequence we will facilitate Bharti Foundation to start two new schools in the district.

Urban Model

E&H Foundation identified ESO's Gyan Shala model (www.gyanshala.org) as the most appropriate model to provide quality education in the urban slums of UP. This model has a proven track record in providing quality education to more than 45,000 underprivileged children in Gujarat and Bihar. From June 2013, E&H



Foundation with the support of ESO has replicated this model in Farrukhabad district of UP. The urban model currently provides



quality education to more than 4,300 children in slum areas where more than 55% of the total students are girls. Due to high demand for these classes in the local neighborhood, five new Gyan Shala classes have started in the Shamshabad block of Farrukhabad district.

Progress Update

The initial phase of enrolment for Gyan Shala classes in Farrukhabad got over by 15th April 2015. Gyan Shala classes have added more than 2,000 children in this academic year, increasing the total reach to more than 4,300 in Farrukhabad district. With these additional enrolments, the total number of Gyan Shala classes has increased to 140 from earlier 75 classes. Ten new supervisors have been hired, bringing the total number of supervisors to 18. Almost 100 teachers were given the initial induction training in the second week of April. Based on the performance in the training period 55 new teachers were hired.



Classes started in the last week of April 2015 for the new academic year. Classes have continued till 15th May before closing for summer vacation. During the summer vacation, all teachers have undergone extensive Refresher Training program to improve their teaching skills for all the subjects. Senior Gyan Shala staff conducted this training program with special focus on the new teachers.

Five new Gyan Shala classes started operations in Shamshabad block of Farrukhabad district in July 2015. Six additional teachers and one new supervisor have been hired for these classes. Almost 250 children have been enrolled for these classes. Given the demand and depending on the final number of students Gyan Shala may start few more new classes in this block.

In rural Farrukhabad, the three Bharti schools have enrolled another 120 additional children for the new academic year, increasing the total number of children under the rural program to 720. With this, the total number of children under the two models supported by E&H Foundation has increased to more than 5,000.

Teachers Training



Summer vacation is an extremely critical time for Gyan Shala to prepare its teachers and supervisors to provide quality education. This summer, intensive large-scale training programs were organized for teachers and supervisors of class I, II and III in separate groups. All the teachers of class I, II and III were provided training for one day for each subject. Training was provided for a total of 12 days. Gyan Shala's training process is divided into two parts i.e. core and refresher training. Core training is provided in the beginning of the session, which is longer in duration and is the basic building block for enhancing teachers' capacity. During the summer vacation the focus is on the refresher training. Refresher training primarily includes revision of the key subject concepts taught during the core training. This mid-year refresher training provides teachers a valuable platform to share their experiences with each other, with their supervisors and senior staff of Gyan Shala. Teachers also got an opportunity to practice in sub-groups similar to their students in classrooms. This experiential learning helps strengthening the power of group learning in teaching approaches and processes.

E&H staff attended the refresher training for two subjects i.e. Projects and Mathematics for class I in May 2015. The objective was to understand the training process and learn about the key challenges from the teachers. Salient features of this training are mentioned below.

Training on Projects: Project is a subject taught to students to improve their observation and identification skills. The content of the subject is pre-science aimed at young children to inculcate science education in later classes. Training is primarily based on the concept of activity based education and experiential learning where teachers are taught innovative methods of teaching concepts like push, pull, round, rectangle, etc. Inside the classroom teachers spend the first day in explaining the concept to the students and in the next three days teachers perform games (which are primarily used as a teaching aid) with students to facilitate the learning among the students along with increasing students' interest.



Games are used in three different ways i.e., (i) games where all the kids of a particular class participate together, (ii) games in which students are subdivided into smaller groups consisting of 7-9 children and



(iii) individual games. During the training period, teachers practice these games with each other and learn from demo practice sessions. According to teachers, children learn the concepts better through games, which enhance their observation skills, learn to count and help them to retain their learning. During the entire training process, all the teachers practice these concepts through instructors, perform the games, clarify doubts and importantly create a strong bond among each other.

Training on Mathematics: The key objective of this training is to facilitate the teachers to teach key mathematics concepts like number identification, understanding of the numbers, ordering of numbers, shape identification, identical objects identification, and smaller/larger number identification. Similar to projects, group-wise teaching is the key for mathematics too where teachers divide students into smaller groups, mostly of 8 students. Group teaching is an important part of learning pedagogy followed in Gyan Shala classes for enhancing learning with teachers spending 50 minutes on group activities. For each page of the worksheet, teachers give instructions for 15 minutes and then students' work on these worksheets individually. Matching different objects is another key component for which teachers are



trained rigorously where the key objective is to increase the inquisitive nature of the students about many objects around them such as chalk, duster, shapes, etc. For the students of class I, counting from 1 to 20 is the key learning for the first 6 months among which counting from 0 to 9 is the most critical level of learning. During the entire training phase, instructors' focus on Abacus-based counting method as it enables learning numbers easily. During training, teachers get a hands-on experience with all the games, Abacus method, shape identification method etc., which they are supposed to practice in the next 6 months with the students inside the class.

Case Studies

In May 2015, two high school students from Gurgaon visited Farrukhabad to observe the challenges of the underprivileged kids and their families. They talked to many families around the Gyan Shala classes to understand their level of awareness about education and their life in general and two case studies are highlighted below:

Case study of Aavash: Aavash has a family of three. As Aavash's father had gone for *Zardozi* work, his mother was our key source of information. She started by telling us about the new Gyan Shala classes, in her locality. She told us that her son Aavash (age: 8 years) has shifted from a government school to the new Gyan Shala class, where he has started to show significant progress. Although her family is financially unable to support, she has always thought of education as a must for her child. She said *"the*



Gyan Shala teachers are able to clear doubts of Aavash and teach new things more clearly as compared to the government school teachers who taught him earlier. Now, I can see that he can easily read Hindi newspaper." She is proud of the fact that her son is one of the toppers in his class and can easily do all the assignments. She stated that after seeing this improvement she would ensure he

continues his studies beyond third grade.

Case study of Fahima's family: Fahima, 50-year-old, mother of five children, explained their tough financial situation. Her husband is a part of a local band, performs at marriages and other religious functions. "Band Business is seasonal and despite working at odd hours for four months of the year, money earned by him is not enough





to run the family and thus the residual part has to be earned by her and her daughters through *Zardozi* work. During the summer months, demand for *Zardozi* work drops and brings a major problem” said Fahima. Fahima is sending two of her children to the Gyan Shala classes - her daughter Sanjeeda and son Sajar. Fahima shares that ‘there is a new found enthusiasm in two children regarding studies after they joined Gyan Shala classes, due to attractive worksheets and teachers that make her children study or practice nearly two to three hours a day while helping her in household work. Sanjeeda wakes up

at 6 am, does some household work, and studies before going to school. After returning from school she revises what she has learnt before she starts helping her mother and sisters in *Zardozi* work. Sajar is very enthusiastic about *Qawwali* singing and goes with his father in the band as one of the lead singers. He practices singing two hours every day. He is unable to regularly attend the classes, due to practice sessions and performances given by him and his group but when he is able to attend the classes he is extremely focused and attentive. I want Sajar to go to school regularly but cannot, as his income is important to sustain the family.” She thanked Gyan Shala for increasing interest amongst her children about studies.

Our Supporters

In addition to five of our existing donors who extended their support this quarter, eight new individual donors and one corporate donor joined hands with E&H Foundation for supporting this noble cause. Till now, 67 esteemed donors have supported E&H Foundation in educating underprivileged children. E&H Foundation acknowledges our donors contribution and would like to sincerely thank them. For more details, please visit our website link http://www.enhfoundation.in/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/List-of-Donors_updated14July20151.pdf.

Appeal for Support

E&H Foundation aims to expand to 15,000 children in next academic year starting in 2016 by expanding in few more districts of UP. This expansion will not be possible without your continued support. You can support a classroom (of 25 children) for Rs.100,000 p.a. and/or support a child’s education for Rs. 5,000 p.a. or multiple children at Rs. 5,000 per child. To know more about E&H Foundation, please do visit our website <http://www.enhfoundation.in/>. To extend your support for this noble cause, please visit <http://www.enhfoundation.in/how-can-you-support-ehfoundation>.

Request for Participating in Airtel Delhi Half Marathon (ADHM) on 29th November 2015

E&H Foundation wishes to participate in ADHM 2015 for fund raising and increasing visibility. E&H Foundation invites its supporters to join as participants in the event in any of the two categories:

- a) Individual supporters interested in participating in the race and committing to raise funds can nominate themselves.
- b) Companies can support by sponsoring employee teams to participate in the Event. Companies can choose to field teams of 40, 25 or 10 employees. This provides an excellent opportunity for an organization to increase visibility while supporting a noble cause.

We request all our supporters to join hands with E&H Foundation either as an individual or as a corporate to promote the cause of quality education for underprivileged children in U.P. Participants can choose to run under the Half Marathon Category (21.097 km) or Great Delhi Run Category (6 km). If interested, to register or to know more, contact Rama at ramakrgupta@gmail.com or call +91-9871119364.

Contact Us

Office Address: 1D, 1st Floor, ShahpurJat, New Delhi-110049, India
Landline: +91-11-40634830, Mobile: +91-9871119364/+91-9999140894
Email: eandhfoundation@gmail.com/ramakrgupta@gmail.com

Website: www.enhfoundation.in

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eandhfoundation>

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