



## *Enabling Quality Education and Health for the Underprivileged*

**Newsletter: January, 2015**

### ***Vision***

To provide free quality education and health-care services to the underprivileged in Uttar Pradesh.

### ***Mission***

To provide free quality education and health-care facilities to 100,000 under-privileged children per year, by 2020, with a special focus on the girl child.

### **Background**

The E&H Foundation was set up in September, 2012 by four founder trustees with the vision to provide free quality education and health-care services to the underprivileged in Uttar Pradesh, India through ‘corporatizing the giving experience’ With this mission, the foundation started its journey from Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh. The clear intent is to effectively channelize the sincere efforts of a large number of dedicated individuals and organizations in reaching scale without compromising on quality. Our working approach has been to identify existing successful models rather than necessarily implement a completely new model which would have certain limitations.

The foundation has collaborated with Educational Support Organization (ESO) for the Gyan Shala model for the urban centers and Bharti Foundation for rural, to provide quality education at the lowest possible cost. In due course of time, as the foundation learns from its ground experience, it will evolve its own low cost, scalable quality model. We are delighted to share that within barely two years of inception, the E&H Foundation is now supporting about 3,000 children with free quality education, using two different education models i.e. the rural and urban model.

### **Rural Model**

The E&H Foundation started its journey by facilitating the Bharti Foundation (<http://www.bhartifoundation.org/>) in setting up and operating three primary schools in rural areas of Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh. These three schools are providing high quality education to 600 children out of which 60% are girls. Attendance during the year is well over 75% in these schools, which is the highest amongst rural schools in the district. Schools have finished the mid-term exams in December and are closed for winter break. Results will be out in the second week of January. There is high enthusiasm amongst children and learning levels are high. Demand from the underprivileged families for admission to these schools continues to be high. Given this kind of demand, we are facilitating the Bharti Foundation to start two new schools in the district in the next academic year.

### **Urban Model**

E&H Foundation identified Education Support Organization’s Gyan Shala model (<http://www.gyanshala.org/>) as the most appropriate model to provide quality education in urban slums of Uttar Pradesh. This model has a proven track record in providing quality education to more than 40,000 underprivileged children in Gujarat and Bihar. From June,

2013 the E&H Foundation has expanded and replicated this model in Uttar Pradesh along with Education Support Organization. The urban model today provides quality education to almost 2,400 children (out of which 60% are girls) in the slums of Farrukhabad and Fatehgarh. Of these 750 children are in class II and 1,650 children are in class I. Average attendance rate in the last six months of the current academic year has been about 70% which is considered excellent for first generational learners. Half yearly oral and written exams were completed in the month of December 2014 with excellent results from the oral exams. Results of the written exams will be announced in January 2015 after the winter holidays. A small number of children have dropped out due to very poor financial background of the family and the need to provide some kind of support system for the survival of the family has acted as a catalyst for such dropouts. Attempts are being made to bring these children back to class after discussing with parents.

### **Case Studies**

As part of measuring outcomes through these models, E&H Foundation tracks the progress of students from the inception. In this section we would like to share three of our students who have been in our classes for more than a year.

**Vareesha:** Vareesha is a student of class II in Gyan Shala center supported by E&H Foundation, in a slum of Farrukhabad town in Uttar Pradesh, who has been coming to the school for the last one and a half year. She comes from an economically backward family and her father works in the nearby factory as a 'Zardozi' worker earning barely Rs. 5,500 per month. Her mother is also a 'Zardozi' worker and works from home, earning about Rs. 2,500 per month. She has two siblings and her elder sister cannot come to school as she takes care of their younger brother and helps her mother with the *Zardozi* work to earn their family livelihood. Vareesha also helps her mother in regular work at home by cleaning clothes, washing utensils and other household activities.



She aspires to be a teacher in future as she is highly influenced by her teacher in the class. She hardly gets any help at home for studies, still her class performance (i.e. both in terms of results and attendance) is highly commendable. Despite coming from an economically backward family, Vareesha and her parents are aware of the importance of quality education. After attending the Gyan Shala classes for more than a year, she can read and write basic Hindi and can identify all the English words with 100% accuracy from her worksheets. Her parents are sad about the fact that they are unable to send their elder daughter to school as she is helping the family in getting additional earnings. Her parents are also keen to send her younger brother to the school after 2 years, when he comes of age. During the conversation with her parents, they mentioned that the quality of education at the local government school is very poor and they have seen that the neighborhood children who attend the government schools have not learnt much even after 2-3 years. Her parents were delighted and feel very proud when Vareesha enacts poems that she has learnt in the school but her father feels sad that due to his hectic work schedule he is unable to give her enough time to learn her progress on a day to day basis.

**Farman:** Farman is a class II student in Gyan Shala supported by E&H Foundation. Both his parents work as a local *Zardozi* workers. His father earns Rs. 4,800 per month in the local factory and his mother earns Rs. 2,400 per month from home. He has two sisters and four brothers in his family and he is the only one among them who attends any school. His younger siblings (one sister and two brothers) are too small to attend school. His elder sister does not attend school as she helps her mother in household work.



Farman's class attendance is as high as 96% and his class performance is also very good. He is one of the most pro-active students in his class, always eager to learn and picks up quickly. He is very enthusiastic about his studies specially Mathematics. He is also very much interested in outdoor games such as cricket, football. He mentioned that he is interested in his studies as his teacher is very good and always encourages him in his studies, especially when he faces some serious challenges in Hindi reading and more so in writing. Apart from his class hours and games, he also goes to the local mosque to study *Sipara* (religious scriptures) every day from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Apart from his other activities, he also takes care of one of his younger brothers when his elder sister is busy with household activities of the family. Farman wants to be a Police Officer in future as he recognizes the prestige of a Police Officer. His father mentioned that Farman is brightest among all his kids and is really enthusiastic about his studies as he goes home and shares enthusiastically what he has learnt in the school with his father. Farman's mother also adds that she wants Farman to study well and get a good life for himself, as she understands that quality education is the only way, which will get the family out of the poverty trap. This understanding is reiterated in his father's statements though he is completely illiterate but has a great deal of respect for education and teachers. His parents were sad for not being able to send their elder daughter to school as she helps in taking care of the younger siblings when her mother is involved in the *Zardozi* work. His parents mentioned that in the government schools the quality of education is very poor, though they were highlighting the incentives of mid-day meal program and various scholarship schemes availability which according to them are reasons why some of the children of the locality are going to the local government schools, despite severe shortcomings regarding teaching quality in government schools.

**Gulshan:** Gulshan is attending the Gyan Shala classes for the last one and a half years and was recently promoted to class II. Her father is a local *Zardozi* worker earning Rs. 5,000 per month and her mother is also helping in earning livelihood for the family by working as a *Zardozi* worker from home. She earns Rs. 2,200 per month apart from household activities. She is a single child in the family and very enthusiastic about her studies. Her class attendance (which is almost 99%) and performance in class is very encouraging. Her teacher is delighted to observe her enthusiasm in studies, as she is amongst first to arrive in the classroom and last to leave. She completes all the worksheet exercises which the teacher gives as homework in the class itself which really speaks volume about her sincerity in the studies.

Her class participation is also very high as she is very keen in answering all the questions the teacher asks before anyone else. Gulshan pointed out that the single most important factor for her coming to the classes regularly is the teacher and her good style of teaching. She also

stated that her friends in the colony are not as good as her in the studies since they are mostly attending the only government school. Gulshan helps her mother after her school and *Sipara* studies (religious scriptures) in the local mosque. Gulshan also has a tutor at home to study English, Hindi and Mathematics. She regularly goes to the local mosque for her *Sipara* studies from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm. She wants to be a Teacher in the future with special influence of her teachers. Her mother mentions that they do not send



Gulshan to the other local schools since the school is quite far from their home. After coming to the Gyan Shala classes for a year, she can identify all the English alphabets, read Hindi but she is facing some challenges in writing in the Hindi language but her teacher mentioned that she is learning very quickly. Apart from studies, she is interested in both indoor and outdoor games. It is satisfying to note that in spite of the fact that her parents are not literate, they are aware of the importance of education and they believe that quality education is the key determinant of their child's future. Her mother took real pride when Gulshan read some parts of the newspaper and recites poems. Both her parents are enthusiastic regarding her sincerity for studies and they want to help in every possible way.

### **Other Updates**

We are delighted to share that the E&H Foundation has recently got registration U/S 12A of the income tax act and has been granted approval under section 80G of the income tax act. Donations given under this section would give a tax rebate of 50% of the amount donated to the donors. The foundation issues certificates accordingly. We would also be applying for FCRA approval shortly. Till we obtain FCRA approval, we request all Indian citizens to contribute to the foundation directly. You can support a child for Rs. 5,000/year and a classroom for Rs. 100,000/year. To know more about the E&H Foundation, please do visit our website <http://www.enhfoundation.in/>. If you wish to support us in our endeavor then please visit <http://www.enhfoundation.in/how-can-you-support-ehfoundation>.

We are also delighted to welcome Rama K. R. Gupta as the Director, Partnerships of E&H Foundation. Rama has a MA in Mass Communication and has more than 20 years of experience in the development sector. She has extensive experience in fundraising, project management, participatory rural appraisal, poverty and livelihood analysis and many more. She managed a national level flagship programs in terms project planning, designing, monitoring and management. Prior to joining the E&H Foundation she has worked in reputed organizations such as Udyogini, HelpAge India, Plan International (India), Partners in Change and ActionAid.

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