



Enabling quality education and health for the underprivileged

Newsletter: September 2013

Background: The E&H Foundation, a 'not for profit organization', has been set up in September 2012 by a group of four Founder Trustees, with a vision to '*enable affordable quality education and health services for the underprivileged in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India.*' The Foundation's clear objective is to enable this for 100,000 underprivileged children by the year 2020, at least 50% of whom will be girls. The Foundation will follow a district/cluster approach and has started with Farrukhabad, one of the backward districts of UP. Today, the E&H Foundation is supporting over 1250 children using two education models.

In the initial years, the Foundation would depend on financial contribution by founder trustees, families, friends, other like-minded people and corporate organizations. Later, resources would also be raised from other private foundations, developmental agencies and government agencies to further scale up interventions in education and health sectors in UP. All contributions from sponsors go directly to the children's cause and Foundation overheads are all taken care of through internal contributions from Founder Trustees.

The rural model: In a small beginning, the E&H Foundation facilitated the Bharti Foundation (www.bhartifoundation.org) in setting up and running three primary schools in rural areas of Farrukhabad district in the state of UP. These three schools are presently providing high quality education to almost 500 children (around 60% girls). Furthering the same rural model, two more schools are likely to come up before the next academic year.



School in Sultanganj Kherata village



Class in progress in Jewna village School

There is a huge demand from parents for admission into these schools and finally the most underprivileged are identified and admitted there. These schools are fast becoming key learning center for young children in the Farrukhabad district. At full capacity these five schools would provide quality education to over 1000 children.

The urban model: The E&H Foundation identified Gyan Shala (www.gyanshala.org) as the key partner for urban centers. Gyan Shala is a proven and successful model providing affordable quality education to 30,000 underprivileged children in Gujarat and Bihar. The E&H Foundation is collaborating and supporting Gyan Shala in expanding and replicating this model in UP, with the first set of classrooms being in Farrukhabad. The project began in July 2013 and is presently covering over

750 children, with 55% of the students being girls. A total of 27 classes covering over 750 children have started in 20 poor slums of Farrukhabad city. To enable quality education in these classrooms, 34 teachers have been hired from the same or nearby localities and trained. It is remarkable to note that the average attendance in all classes in the first month has been over 85% (vs. an average attendance in neighboring government schools of less than 50%). This is significant as children are coming to school for the first time and most of them are first generational learners.

The children enrolled in these classrooms belong to the age group of 5 to 9. Parents of most children work mainly as day wagers and are in professions such as zardozi, rickshaw pullers, coolies and other misc unskilled work. Classes have been furnished with smart and colorful desks and chairs, project material, textbooks and educational charts. Children are going through specially designed 18 days course capsule, which initiates the first generation learners to school. The focus is on familiarizing children with school and on initiating children into joyous learning through games, singing, drawing, coloring and acting. Teachers play an important role in making children comfortable about school going. They talk to children often, discuss their daily activities, facilitate group working and focus on making learning a joyful activity.



Class in progress in Bazarria Maulavi Badan



Supervisor with students in Takiya Nasrat Shah

Teachers along with supervisors are regularly interacting with parents to get their feedback about the new classes, resolve any doubts and misapprehension and requesting them to get involved in their child's education. These meetings have been greatly appreciated by community members and helped in ensuring good attendance of the children in classes due to increased attention from parents. It is heartening to note that underprivileged and uneducated parents are aware of the importance of quality education and have sent so many children to Gyan Shala classrooms, rather than to government school where children get free mid day meal, dress and scholarship every six months to attend the schools.

Conference on Education and Health in UP: Preparations are on at a hectic pace for the conference on Education and Health in UP at the Glocal University campus in Saharanpur on 25th and 26th October. We have received abstracts of almost 20 papers from leading experts, which would be presented at the conference. In addition, about 10 organisations and experts would be making presentations and over 100 participants are expected to grace the conference. The E&H Foundation is organizing the conference jointly with The Glocal University, which has been established to provide access to world-class higher education to the youth of India. GHA (Global Health Advocates) which works towards the formulation and implementation of effective public policies to fight disease and ill health and DEF (Digital Empowerment foundation) which works towards a vision to make the digital inclusion reach the masses would take the lead in sessions on health and technology in the conference.

Support: In the last few months alone, E&H Foundation has received generous support from 25 individual donors. All contributions are directly used for the beneficiary children. This support has provided us huge encouragement and confidence in furthering and achieving our objectives. To view the list of donors please visit www.enhfoundation.in/files/2013/01/List-of-Donors-31st-August.pdf and to know more about The E&H Foundation, do visit our website www.eandhfoundation.in. If you wish to support us, please visit www.enhfoundation.in/how-can-you-support-eh-foundation.

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