



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

**Newsletter: July, 2014**

**Background:** The E&H Foundation was set up in September, 2012 by four founder trustees with the vision to provide affordable quality education and health-care services for the underprivileged in Uttar Pradesh, India and corporatize the giving experience. The mission of this foundation is to provide quality education and health-care facilities to 1,00,000 underprivileged children by 2020, with a special focus on the girl child. Given this goal, the foundation started its journey from Farrukhabad, which is one of the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh. The foundation primarily operates with a model of supporting and implementing through other specialist organizations. We want to effectively channelize the sincere efforts of large number of dedicated individuals and different organizations in reaching scale with quality. Furthermore, our working approach has been to identify existing successful models rather than necessarily implement a completely new model from the first day, which would have certain limitations; like high gestation period, cost disadvantage, model suitability given the circumstances etc. Given this understanding, 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 with you that within 20 months of inception, the E&H Foundation is now supporting more than 2800 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. In the last academic year, these



three schools provided high quality education to 480 children who have now been promoted to higher classes. In the current academic year (i.e. July' 2014 onwards), 120 new children have been admitted to these schools, taking the total number of students to 600 out of which almost 60 percent are girls. Attendance is over 75 percent in these schools, which is the highest amongst all rural schools in the district. There is a surging demand from the underprivileged families for admission of their children into these schools, which are rapidly becoming key learning centers for young underprivileged children in the district.

**Urban Model:** The 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 Uttar Pradesh. This model has a proven track record in providing affordable quality education to 30,000 underprivileged children in Gujarat and Bihar. From June, 2013 the E&H Foundation has expanded and replicated this model in UP along with Education Support Organization. A total of 871 children in 27 different classes started in



2013 from 20 very backward slums of Farrukhabad city and amongst them almost 55 percent were underprivileged girls. Out of those 871 children, 771 children have successfully completed their class I and have been promoted to class II in the month of May, 2014. A few 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. We will endeavor to get them back into new classes after discussion with the respective families and communities.

**Recent Expansion:** For the current academic year, an additional 49 classes having been set up consisting of 1430 new children. For effective functioning of these new classes, 55 additional teachers and 6 additional supervisory staff have been hired. Appropriate training has been provided to both teachers and supervisors. Regular classes have started from the second week of May, 2014. The total coverage with the Gyan Shala model is now over 2200 children through a total of almost 75 classrooms, which includes 771 children who are now promoted to class II. From the collaboration and support provided by E&H Foundation, Education Support organization has set up the operations in Farrukhabad district. Cost of operation includes salary of 4 project staff, 10 supervisors, 85 teachers, rent of the class rooms, cost of providing furniture and drinking water, teaching material and work sheets to students, teacher training guides, training costs of supervisors and teachers, monitoring costs etc.

**Salient Features of Gyan Shala Model:** The children enrolled in class I belong to the age group of 5 to 9. Parents of most of the children work primarily as day wagers and are in professions such as zardozi, rickshaw pullers, coolies and other misc unskilled work. Classrooms have been furnished with smart and colorful desks and chairs, project material, textbooks and educational charts. In the very beginning children go through specially designed 18 days course capsules, which initiates the first generation learners to school. The primary focus is on familiarizing new children with school and on encouraging children into joyous learning processes through games, singing, drawing, coloring and acting. Teachers



play a very important role in familiarizing children about school and its importance. They talk to children very often, discuss their daily activities, encourage group-wise learning and focus on making learning enjoyable. A very critical part of pedagogy are the worksheets for each day of class for each student and similarly teacher guide sheet for each day of class for all subjects. This is a key innovative feature in this model which ensures high quality results at comparatively lower costs. It is also very encouraging to note that the average attendance in all the classes in the first year has been more than 75 percent compared to average attendance in neighboring government schools of less than 50 percent. This is truly significant as children are coming to school for the first time and most of them are first generational learners. Teachers along with supervisors regularly interact with parents to get their feedback about the new classes, resolve all prevailing doubts, misapprehension and requesting them to get involved in their child's quality education endeavor. These regular meetings have been highly appreciated by community members and helped in ensuring good attendance of the children in classes due to increased attention and awareness from parents. It is highly inspiring to note that underprivileged parents are also aware of the importance of high quality education and they have sent so many children to these classrooms, rather than to government schools where certain incentives are present such as mid-day meals, free dresses, scholarships every six months to attend the government schools.

**Total Coverage and Cost Advantage:** Till now, the E&H Foundation has expedited quality education to 2800 vulnerable and underprivileged children in Farrukhabad district of UP. Cost per child in providing good quality education under Gyan Shala model is around Rs. 5,000 per child per year, while in Government primary schools, costs usually range from Rs. 12,000 to Rs 20,000 per child per year depending on state specific costs. Gyan Shala model has been evaluated independently by many leading national and international organizations and it has been found that their students perform better than most government school students, almost

equal to India's leading CBSE schools, at 25 to 30 percent of the total cost. Importantly, E&H foundation staff is closely involved with the progress of both models and makes regular visits to Farrukhabad to monitor implementation and progress.

**Fund Requirements and Support:** Total funds required to finance the program for the current year is Rs. 8 million of which Rs. 3 million would be the overhead costs. All the overhead costs would be funded by founder trustees. Of the balance Rs. 5 million required to fund education program in the field in 2014-15, E&H foundation is seeking support from individual and corporate donors. During the first year of operations, 44 donors have contributed Rs. 1.3 million. Response both from individuals and corporate organizations has been encouraging. We would be approaching our committed existing donors and would also be exploring possible partnerships to fund the program costs for this year. All contributions are directly and fully used for the beneficiary children. The audited annual accounts would be available on the website. This support has provided us huge encouragement and confidence in furthering and achieving our objectives. To view the list of donors please visit <http://www.enhfoundation.in/files/2013/01/List-of-Donors-9th-July-2014.pdf> and to know more about the E&H Foundation, do visit our website <http://www.enhfoundation.in/>. If you wish to support us, please visit <http://www.enhfoundation.in/how-can-you-support-eh-foundation>.

**Recent Updates:** We are delighted to share with you 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 under which tax rebate of 50 percent of the amount donated would be available to donors. The foundation would issue certificates accordingly. We would also be applying for FCRA approval shortly. Till we attend FCRA approval, all Indian citizens can continue to contribute to the foundation directly.

We are also happy to welcome Nelson Chaudhuri as the Program Manager of E&H Foundation. Nelson holds an M.Phil degree from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB) with specialization in Industrial Economics. Prior to his M.Phil, he has completed his masters degree from University of Calcutta in Economics. Nelson has also served in the Glocal University as a faculty member in the School of Business.

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