

RISE

Remedial Innovation in School Education

The midnight of August 15, 1947 is memorable for every Indian, as it is the time, when India gained independence from the stranglehold of the mighty British. The otherwise suppressed tri-colour flag of India was given its due respect, when it was hoisted in the midnight on the Independence Day. Since then, the red-letter day is celebrated with pomp and gaiety, across the length and breadth of India. Cultural programs and flag-hoisting ceremonies are the predominant affair of the day, while colourful kites fill the sky in the evening, to symbolize freedom. People indulge themselves in remembering the heroes of the freedom struggle and pay homage to them. All the patriotic hearts rejoiced at seeing India becoming a sovereign nation and the triumph of hundreds and thousands of martyred souls. It was a birth of a new nation and a new beginning.

While we beckon of emerging global power of India, what about the plight of 276 million population living below the poverty line and lacking the access to basic amenities? Well, such an occasion helps in sustaining the general euphoria of *"Mera Bharat Mahan"* among the public. It's good to have a sense of pride in one's own country but this shouldn't be a momentous phenomenon. Are we really proud of present status of country? *Crippling with tonnes of problems like widespread poverty, terrorism, internal security, corruption, inefficient governance, price rise and lack of efficient and affordable education and health care etc. It's up to you to make the best out of this situation."* This confirm to saying of Gandhiji ***"Be the change you want to see in world"*** .

We need to take responsibility for everything that happened around us and can't remain a silent spectator for changes taking place in and around the society. At RISE, we not only are dealing with crying need of quality education for our children, but also attending to various other social crises like social inequality, poverty, sexual harassment, corruption, child abuse etc and what better occasion than Independence Day can inspire us to take the oath towards curbing down these evils of society and attain extreme Independence.

RISE team strives to create brighter futures for the 500 RISE kids and making them truly independent!



71st Independence Day Celebration at RISE



Independence Day has a great importance in our life. The day reminds us every year that freedom is sacred and citizens must do everything to ensure that it shall not be endangered.

RISE centres in Sangam Vihar celebrated the 71st Independence Day with great patriotic fervour. All the teachers and the students marked their presence on this auspicious occasion.

First of all to commemorate the sovereignty of our nation, Indian National Flag was unfurled, which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Then, there was Udghosh and Pledge - A Pledge to protect the Nation which gives us everything including the free atmosphere we live in. The students sang group songs with extreme patriotism and full of zest. This vigour aroused everyone to move forward with bold steps against all odds and make a new India. . They also recited the patriot poems. Speeches were also delivered on the vitality of this red letter day. A vibrant dance in the praise of India was also displayed. Manager RISE delivered an inspirational speech.



In her speech, she enlightened the journey of India through the period of British bondage, achievement of independence and making India as one and united. Students were told about the supreme sacrifice the great martyrs gave for the sake of freedom and were narrated various inspiring stories of freedom fighters and the pain that was taken up to get off the hold of rigid British empire from India.

The day also took up to call upon the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and reminded the students about their duties towards cleanliness, health and hygiene. Importance of values, such as truth was imparted through interactive speeches by the educators. Students were reminded that freedom is very precious and it is very necessary to preserve it.

The day became all the more special since Krishna Janmashtami (also known simply as Janmashtami - an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna), coincided with the Independence Day. RISE team took this opportunity to celebrate this festival, which added more colour to the celebrations. Few kids danced on some Janmashtami songs from the Bollywood. While two of the students were dressed up as 'Krishna' and 'Radha' that gave more life to the event, which was followed by their dance performance together that became the most enjoyed performance of the day.

Later in the end as the tradition is always marked, kids were given sweets as a memento of celebration of our country and the programme left the little learners inspired and motivated to become responsible and answerable future citizens of the country. Indeed it was a day of joy, a day of love and respect towards our motherland, a day of realization that freedom is sacred and we must do everything to ensure that India becomes a better place to live.



Jewellery Making - Creative Expression of RISE Educators



"The cure for poverty has a name, in fact: it's called the empowerment of women. If you give women some control over the rate at which they reproduce, if you give them some say, take them off the animal cycle of reproduction to which nature and some doctrine—religious doctrine condemns them, and then if you'll throw in a handful of seeds perhaps and some credit, the floor of everything in that village, not just poverty, but education, health, and optimism will increase. It doesn't matter; try it in Bangladesh, try it in Bolivia, try it in India, it works — works all the time."

Christopher Hitchens

Many of the obstacles to women's empowerment and equity lie deep-rooted in cultural customs and even sometimes religions. Many women feel these pressures, while others have become accustomed to being treated inferior to men. We, in RISE are aware of the benefits women's empowerment and participation can have, many are scared of disrupting the status quo and continue to let social models get in the way of development.

In economic development, the empowerment approach focuses on mobilizing the self-help efforts of the poor, rather than providing them with social welfare.

Indian women need all the support they can get in order to achieve real independence – this is a statement that few people will argue with. And, while there are many who appear to be fulfilling this role in their own

different ways, there are actually only a few that are truly making a difference. RISE, in Sangam Vihar, Delhi is one such place. Besides its many other programs, AROH led RISE has initiated a pilot program in jewellery making that promises to help women to empower themselves through attainment of skills and economic upliftment.

This is where RISE decided to step into the picture to make a significant contribution in the most important areas of imparting training, conceptualizing design and finding markets for this handmade jewellery. This is a small scale pilot phase where we are trying to gauge the actual stand of our designs, the demand and market. We plan to establish a network through which these ladies can take care of all of their family needs.

Babita – the Budding Entrepreneur

Babita is a 21 old girl hailing from Bihar. After completing her education she was not doing to add meaning to her life and education. Being the curious girl she was, she was always in search of opportunities for a better future, which made her aware about the RISE initiative in her locality. Her passion towards education landed her a job with RISE.

Babita is one of the best educators in RISE, but the urge was not limited only to teaching. She was a pro in Art & Craft activity. While regular Art & Craft activities in RISE, management noticed her skill and decided to give her a platform to showcase. Under the brand AMYA, she started making jewellery with her creativity. With minor guidance and training she has been producing incredible products. Beautiful earrings made by her are good in quality and are in high demand.

She shares her experience by saying, "Association with AROH and RISE has given multiple dimensions to my life. Passion towards education was nurtured through classrooms in RISE and the creative aspect was not only identified but groomed and rewarded through the jewellery making sessions. Now they are selling these earrings for further betterment of children of RISE, which again is adding on to my contentment. Now I have a sound say in my family, life and society. The immense identity and self-confidence through RISE has been irrepayable and I couldn't stop thanking enough to the management for the same."



Parental Awareness - Key to Child's Progress

There is no doubt that the future success of our children and our society starts with a solid base of education. Development of every child in the community is a derivative of the development of his community at large, equally true is the vice versa. However, communities with lack of social knowhow tend to falter since they are inapt at understanding natures of administrative dictums at large. Thus in RISE, we believe that community awareness about crucial concepts is elementary to both setting a stage for every person to live a life of dignity to their actions being accountable to the greater spectrum of common good. Communities that lack the knowledge of social and environmental systems grow children who are incapable of understanding the same concepts. Hence community awareness and parental counselling are important part of monthly PTM sessions that are conducted at all 10 centres of RISE.

Parents are made aware that the belief that education can transform and empower people is an enduring asset - it has stood the

test of time. Education is perhaps the most important gift you can give your child, and also the most sustainable one. The educated children of today will strive to avail all their rights as they will be better informed and aware. They will thus be able to contribute better to their own welfare and the community around them. Also the most horrible struggle of financial crunch will also be sorted once these are trained enough for a sustainable income.

With the awareness programmes, we look to establish stable ideologies on an intra-community level. Sociological thoughts like parity of genders to environmental issues like waste management is properly dealt with, along with the understanding of education and how it complies with the fundamental rights of children, are shared and talked about. Such active discourses only promote the necessity of education and help parents realise the importance of schooling their children thereby making their lives better. We are actively organising a continuous cycle to promote education through a common platform created during RISE PTMs.



Bright Naitik

Naitik's family shifted to Delhi ten years back. The family was engaged in agriculture back then. Excessive rains in one season led to the destruction of their yield. Instead of relying on the vagaries of monsoon for their daily bread, Naitik's father decided to shift to Delhi hoping for a better life. They decided to settle in Sangam Vihar in Delhi where houses are relatively cheaper. Naitik's mother dreams of educating her son well so that he can take up a good job upon growing up. Her husband's job is temporary. It becomes difficult for them to make both ends meet. Naitik is a very disobedient child. He keeps playing outside in the streets and is very irregular in going to school. Their colony is not hygienic. During the rainy season, a lot of people in their locality were impacted with Chikungunya. Naitik's behavior with other kids is very bad. He bullies other kids in the class and does not take interest in studies. The RISE educator is working hard to correct his behaviour and make him learn and develop his interest in studies. Consequently, he is progressing. Seeing Naitik progress makes his mother very happy.



Stationary Distribution during PTM

Slum children in the sample dropped out for financial reasons (34.1% of dropout children), followed by negative perception of education by parents (13.6% of dropout children). The NSS 2004/05 showed the distribution of the most common reasons for dropout (percentage of reasons for the total number of currently not attending children aged 5 to 14 years old) is “Children have to supplement household income”, followed by “Education is not considered necessary” and “Has to attend to domestic chores”²². It seems there is not much difference in dropout reasons between slum children and children in general.

Since all the students of RISE are registered in government schools and come from very poor families and end up as school drop outs due to lack of proper infrastructure and poor teaching standards. Education, we believe is the greatest wealth one can have so, in RISE we decided to do something for children’s education and made plans to reach the most vulnerable and needy children in the slums.

Stationary for these kids is just not the necessity for education and they do not take this for granted, but it also acts as luring tools which pulls these kids towards the learning centres. Be it stack of books, register, pen or pencils or the often distributed nutritional food items, that keep these kids sticking to learning centres for as long as possible and then only can we ensure any sustainable growth and impact

The experience is personally satisfying as these efforts have ensured a reduction in the dropout rate among students at the bottom of the social pyramid. The smiles that we see each year keep us going, We have decided to involve students from corporate schools and colleges in our mission as well. We made a presentation and our team has visited various schools and colleges and issued a plea to students to donate to this cause. Also we suggest the improvement of quality and quantity of government schools remains an important policy agenda for children in the lower echelons of society, who have no choice but to attend government schools. Some policy and practice amendments, such as collaboration with anganwadi, extension of subsidy for stationery, books etc., are recommended to improve admission, retention and completion of compulsory education.

Rakhi Celebration

It was a day when young RISE students turned into little artisans.

Not just artisans and little entrepreneurs, these children turned waste into valuables. With creativity and colours and household waste, loose threads and broken toys and buttons were made into beautiful and colourful Rakhis by RISE kids. Not just they had aesthetic sense to soothing our eyes; it carried the love and respect towards the beautiful relation within siblings.

The auspicious day of Raksha Bandhan was celebrated at all RISE centres. The preparation had started



a week before when students and educators started to make rakhis from waste. And then the day of Raksha Bandhan was marked on 6th August by sisters tying Rakhi on their brother’s wrists as Raksha Bandhan is a special occasion to celebrate the bond between brothers and sisters symbolized by the tying of a holy thread, ‘Rakhi’ around the wrist of brothers. The children joined in this celebration, which was aimed at strengthening the bond of love and to instil the virtues of love and harmony among the young, growing RISE kids.

All the children participated with great zeal and zest in the creative event of Rakhi making. The whole process saw a number of creative and colourful rakhis being made by the students. The rakhis that were made were an enviable lot and a fusion of modern with traditional styles was seen.

Nurturing Talent

Sunila Yadav is one of the most outspoken and dynamic educators of RISE. Since 1.5 year she has been educating children under AICL-RISE initiative. She hails from Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh, and has completed her graduation along with NCC certification. It was when Sunila went to enrol her own daughter in one of the government schools of Sangam Vihar that she came to know about RISE canters through school teachers. She then visited one of our RISE centres in the community, which filled her with zeal to join the initiative in any capacity. After proper assessment, she was selected as educator for RISE. It was an opportunity standing on her doors. Not only she could satisfy her urge to do something fruitful in life but she got a chance to build another 50 lives. Sunila has a spark in her deliveries and her children are always highlight of any shows, events or assessment in RISE.



Sunila narrates her experience as, ***“It was destined that when I was struggling to get my own daughter enrolled in government school, opportunity to help and arise 50 more children came to me. RISE is a mission where we are instrumental in shaping and defining so many lives, and I feel privileged to be part of it. I thank AROH and RISE for giving that identity to me.”***



Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC) was incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956 on 20th December, 2002 with an authorized share capital of INR 15 billion and paid up capital of INR 2 billion. AIC commenced business from 1st April, 2003. AIC has taken over the implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which, until FY 2002-03 was implemented by General Insurance Corporation of India. In addition, AIC also transacts other insurance businesses directly or indirectly concerning agriculture and its allied activities. AIC also works towards upliftment of marginalized sections of the society. Project RISE is CSR initiative of AIC which aims to provide better educational opportunities to underprivileged children.



AROH Foundation is a leading national-level NGO, strengthening government programmes and CSR initiatives of several corporates and PSEs by providing total integrated solutions - consulting, planning and implementing - for sustainable, inclusive development and growth of the needy and marginalised communities in several states of India for the past 12 years. AROH is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified organization, registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.

RISE is a pioneering initiative designed by AROH Foundation, which recognizes the nation's concern of improvement of learning outcomes and universalisation of elementary education as of paramount importance, and strives to bring the deprived and marginalized or educationally backward children in backward villages and slums under the safety net of education through an innovative approach and Project-Based Learning Methodology.