

RISE

Remedial Innovation in School Education

Painting Dreams with Colors

Holi, a call for grandeur celebrations, is one of the liveliest festivals celebrated in the world. Though the world sees it as a celebration of colors, the gravity of the celebrations is often overlooked. With the evil spreading across the world, may it be terrorism, corruption, wars, poverty, the world rests on the power of good to strike equilibrium. One does not usually celebrate the gifts goodness provides to the world, and constantly argues and complains about what is wrong. We overlook the worst case scenario, of what happens when this little good in the world, also disappears. Holi, marks this celebration. With ease and efficiency, the story of King Hiranyakashap and his son Prahlad, elucidates that even though the evil reaches its ugliest, the power of good, would always defeat it, and this defeat call for a celebration.

Our RISE beneficiaries, constantly battles the evil of poverty. Poverty, something which is beyond our control to be born in, has the negative power of demotivating a child, from not even dream let alone trying to pursue them. AROH Foundation's efforts of fighting this evil with the goodness of RISE centers and their teachers, call for a celebration as grand as Holi. With Holi, marking the victory of good over evil, RISE children celebrated this Holi, by painting their dreams, red, yellow and green. With sweets and colors, students through an engagement in activities over the week, were filled with motivation, to work harder, dream bigger and celebrate to the fullest. With a pledge to work harder than ever, and work towards defeating the evil in them, their society and in the world, students celebrated the festival of colors with great pride, enthusiasm and vigor such that all one could hear was laughter of joy and charades of "Happy Holi".

Wishing a happy and evil defeating Holi to all readers!



Promoting Reading Habits



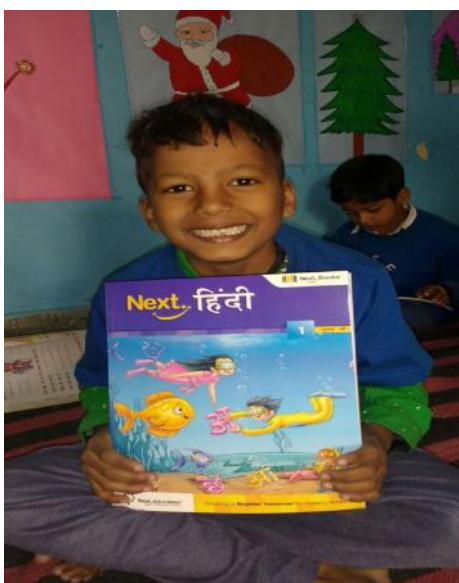
Books play a significant role in our life. They say that “When you open a book, you open a new world”. I believe that everyone would agree with this statement as books have become inevitable to mankind. For the majority of people, books are part of their everyday life. A book is like a best friend who will never walk away from you. Reading books is like a journey – we meet other and get to know ways of life we will never lead by ourselves. It is as if we would live many different lives. When we read, we learn new words, literary

language, we enrich our own vocabulary and we gain knowledge about our surroundings, different peoples and their culture, nature history. Guzarish is a social mutual fund where we raise contributions (donations) from individuals and invest in projects to maximize social impact (return) for our investors. At Guzarish, while we partner with top NGOs of India like Teach for India to create projects like Books for all, we also believe a lot of budding social projects have potential and just need guidance and funds to scale up and become sustainable. With that intent, Guzarish has initiated the concept of ‘STAR Projects’ where in Guzarish shall grant funds and strategic support to support projects which have potential to create a strong social impact. Guzarish book donation programs are managed in-country by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with links to academic, library, charitable or professional institutions. Over 30 members so far have participated in the



event, donating books in such fields as the arts and drawing, Comics, Story Book English Poetry ,Hindi Poetry books ,English language and the social sciences. Most of the books are component of elementary and high-school books have grown, in response to requests from the field.

AROH foundation supports children in unstable and uncertain living situations. AROH foundation Program met their goal of donating books to these children. AROH Foundation is passionate to develop a curiosity. We believe that a love of reading is a stepping stone to becoming an enthusiastic learner and a confident reader, writer and speaker. With confidence and enthusiasm, children can enjoy a wonderful world of learning and exploration.



Learning Laws of Nature - Celebrating Maharshivratri



Mahashivratri is the day of Shiva. Wherever there is beauty, truth, and benevolence, there is Shiva. And, there is no place where the Shiva principle is absent. But, Shiva is not a person. It is that principle which is the summum bonum of the whole creation and pervades the entire universe. This principle, called the Shiva Tattva, is the quintessence of life and is present deep within every living being. On Mahashivratri, we celebrate the Shiva Tattva by going deep within us, meditating, and rejoicing in the Shiva energy. There are certain days and time frames in a year when one's mental health and spiritual faculties are enhanced and Mahashivratri is one such precious day. The festival marks a remembrance of "overcoming darkness and ignorance" in life and the world. It is observed by remembering Shiva and chanting prayers, fasting, doing Yoga, and meditating on ethics and virtues such as self-restraint, honesty, non-injury to others, forgiveness, and the discovery of Shiva. The ardent devotees keep awake all night. Others visit one of the Shiva temples or go on pilgrimage to Jyotirlingams.

RISE centers in Sangam Vihar celebrated mahashivratri with complete devotion wherein all teachers, students and their parents participated in activities for praising lord shiva and his virtues. The day started off with the students assembling in the center for an hour

long session on yoga. Students were taught the importance of daily exercise and how yoga could help them in increasing their

*Create, Nurture
& Change*

concentration power, attention span and inner strength. Students were taught the positions of various yoga asanas first by a demonstration by the trainer followed by group exercise rounds. Students moved through the progression of poses from surya namaskar to naukasana thus engaging all muscles in their body. Students were told about the

mythology of 84,000,000 asanas Shiva performs. Post the yoga session, students were taught about the various types of prayers and chants devoted for worshipping lord Shiva. Students were distributed chant magazines with illustrations and explanation of all the chants. In this activity, parents of the students were also invited to join. Children were inspired by the stories and chants. RISE aims to annihilate the social issues faced like inequality, poverty, sexual harassment through education to the children. Students were also shown the clippings of celebration of Mahashivratri at Mahakaleshwar. Parents and students enjoyed the activity together, which could be heard by the loud chanting sounds resonating in the room. Mothers were briefed about the process of making thandai at low prices and were educated about the benefits Thandai had for their kids if served during the scorching hot summers in Delhi. What followed next was a coloring and drawing activities by children. Children made figures of Lord Shiva doing tandav, meditating Shiva, Shiv Linga, Damru etc. Some of the paintings were so artistic that it left teachers spellbound by the talent of the slum dwellers. The holy day ended with meditation by teachers, children and parents. The simple act helped children to learn how to stop, focus, and just breathe to de-stress and how to create their own calm. clarity and focus at times when they really need it.



Training of Trainers



**Education is not
learning of facts but the
training of mind to think**

- Albert Einstein

Education is a never-ending process. Through continuing education, career-minded individuals can constantly improve their skills and become more proficient at their jobs. Being competent and well-performing teacher is one of the most important resources in any educational institution. For every teacher who is not learning and growing will result into students who are not learning and growing at some level. The teacher is considered the professional agent and the most directly responsible person in the process of learning; he is the one in charge of making/helping students learn and benefit or suffer from the quality of his teaching. Given this, the teacher and the quality of his teaching are always under

discussion and receive prevalent importance in education. At AROH we understand the importance of continuous education and provide to various learning to not only the children but the top 10 hardworking and deserving educators. The trainings are conducted every month by a master trainer.

The training varies from simple learning of yoga for physical well-being to laws of the constitution. In these training teachers are taught new concepts and their teaching methodology is improvised based on the progress of the students. The aim of the session was to make the

community more financially independent which would further help to manage their resources well and in the long save money. Apart from this educators were also taught about advanced concepts like insurance, government schemes and even mobile banking. With the increase in internet penetration the importance of mobile banking has greatly increased, it is not only convenient but also safe. RISE Educators are the backbone of RISE initiative. Training and knowledge of the trainers ensures that the same is passed to the students. These students are the face of the RISE program.



Engaging Parents with RISE



The parent-teacher conference often provides your first opportunity to have 15 to 20 minutes of uninterrupted time alone with your child's teacher. Teachers and parents can use these moments to establish a rapport and develop a common goal that focuses on helping your child have the best school experience possible.

teaching style, discipline methods and classroom policies early in the year through parent orientation and written information.

PTM acts as an important platform to communicate about the RISE program, reminding them why this is necessary for their child's future and discussing the progress of the child. In

Parent-teacher meeting can help develop a successful partnership between parents and teachers, an important aspect of your child's academic and social achievement. Teachers often introduce

the meeting we first told the parents about AROH foundation and what happens in RISE program. The parents were really impressed to see the card and toys made by children from waste materials in art classes. Additionally we also provide materials for studies which include stationary like pen, pencil, notebooks etc. to all the children. Food is also given to children enrolled in this program.

Parents meeting created a lot of impact in which all the parents listened to us and they also put in their views. Even the school teacher are happy about Rise program, they feel the program has made them more financially independent and they love the social impact their work is making. The parents also felt that children have become more focused and now study after coming to home from school. Moreover they felt that the marks have also drastically improved and they get fewer complaints. All the parents thanked the AROH Foundation for helping their children have a better future.

Sunita, dreaming high

Mrs. Sunita who joined us 3 months back and in the short stint has changed the lives of many children. Sunita hails from the beautiful state of Uttarakhand. She was born in a middle class family in the small village of Bhinne in the district of Almora. Sunita's father is her role model. He is eldest brother in the family, so he has the maximum responsibility. He started working at the young age because of the illness of the grandfather and was the sole breadwinner for the family. Due to lack of opportunities in the village, her father moved to city in order to sustain the family.

When the financial condition improved, the entire family moved to the city in a rented flat. With the new transition, the expenses also increased. So to compensate for the increased expenses the mother also started working and sewing at the home. Sunita was lucky to have parents who understood the importance of education. She studied till class 12th with great difficulty due to financial constraints of the family. Immediately after the school, she got married. However, her husband didn't have a permanent job so they didn't have a stable flow of income. To meet the family expenses she decided to work. There was one problem that she couldn't work outside because of their small kid. So to overcome this obstacle she decided to teach 2-3 children at home in order to help her family financially, from the confines of her home. Eventually she joined RISE program as an educator.

She is grateful to AROH for giving her this opportunity. And through RISE, she feels that she got an opportunity to help poor kids and their families. They are counselled, helped and supported in all possible ways. She feels that she is bringing a significant change in society. She treats the children as her family. She feels that the RISE program has helped her become more independent. This program gives her a lot of happiness because her work is appreciated by not only her family but also the neighbourhood community.



Bringing Harmony with Holi Colors



Holi is a colorful and most fun-filled festival which is celebrated in the month of March, usually in the latter half of the month. It is a festival, with dancing, singing, and throwing of powder paint and coloured water. Numerous legends and stories associated with Holi celebration makes the festival more exuberant and vivid. The most popular one is related to the killing of Holika. The

story centres on an arrogant king who wanted everyone in his kingdom to worship him. But his son Prahlad refused and worshipped Lord Vishnu instead. He attempts to kill his son but fails each time. Finally, the king's sister Holika who is said to be immune to burning sits with the boy in a huge fire. However, the prince Prahlad emerges unscathed, while his aunt burns to death. Holi

commemorates this event from mythology, and huge bonfires are burnt on the eve of Holi as its symbolic representation. Holi also marks the legend of Radha Krishna, and signifies the importance of true, selfless love and affection which should be there in the society, regardless of caste, colour, social status or any other parameter of discrimination. The festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm all across the country. Though different places might name the festival differently, the underlying message which the festival signifies stays the same. For some regions, like Braj, Holi has a really high religious significance, which is seen by the 16 day long celebration happening in the region.

RISE center beneficiaries

come from a social stratum which is a victim of the economic disparity which India showcases. On one hand there are people, rich enough to indulge in the pleasures of life, and joyfully and lavishly celebrate occasions like Holi, on the other hand, students and their parents who are associated with RISE centers, come from a segment which struggles for a consistent and reliable source of income for their family's survival. Thus occasions like Holi, provides AROH Foundation and RISE center educators a wonderful opportunity of giving back to the community. For the students, enjoying Holi like the rest of the world does is a privilege they would love to afford, and RISE centers play an important role in bridging this gap. RISE centers celebrate a 3 day long celebration of Holi, which comprises of a gamut of events ranging from drawing, to dancing, singing, acting, story telling, along with the traditional celebration of Holika dehen and celebration with colours. RISE educators, across all centers, started off the celebration with a movie telecast on the story of King Hiranyakashap, his son Prahlad and his sister Holika and thus showing the legend and reason why Holi is celebrated. Students across all centers were truly amazed by the movie and enjoyed the telecast a lot. Post the movie, RISE educators also narrated the other legend of Radha Krishna, thus educating the students about Holi being a festival of which marks selfless love and affection and also the victory of good over evil.



Students were then engaged in art and drawing activities, wherein students were encouraged to draw their own perspectives of the lessons they learnt from the legend of Holi celebration. All students actively participated in this activity and made their lovely and beautiful understandings of the legends. On day 2, i.e the day on which Choti Holi is celebrated, students were engaged in the RISE centers from morning in variety of activities. Students started the day



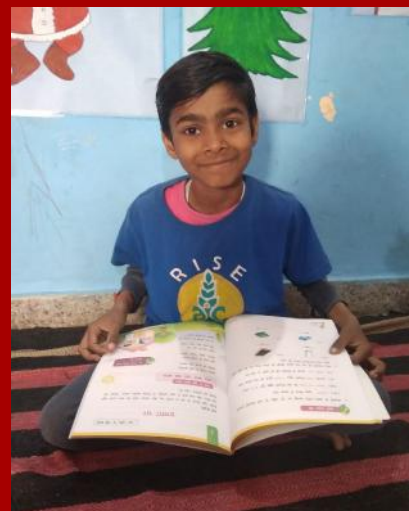
with a group singing exercise on religious songs sung during Holi celebrations, followed by fun exercise of singing contemporary songs played during the Holi celebrations. A singing competition followed this activity, which was aimed at letting the students gain confidence in addressing the audience, and being comfortable in opening up. Students were then engaged in the activity of acting, wherein the educators assigned roles of the king, his son, his sister and lord Krishna. The whole class enjoyed this activity a lot, which could be seen by the laughing faces of the students across all centers. Following this, the educators taught the students about how to play a safe Holi. Students were told about the precautions necessary to take before one heads out to play Holi the next day, how one should not use colors extensively, and how water wastages should be prevented. Students were also taught about how the day of Holi was taken up by a lot of people as a day when they can molest others, thus educating girls on what to do if such things happen to them, and educating boys why they should not indulge in any such activity and try to stop them if it is happening around them.

In the evening of day 2, RISE centers put up the bonfire setup depicting the scene of Holika dehen, which is celebrated all across the country, for their respective neighborhood. The educators urged the families of all the students to join them for the prayer, thus bringing the community together. Students actively participated in organizing the Holika dehen, and the parents really enjoyed the event put up by their kids. On the day of Holi, students of respective RISE centers gathered together, to play the festival of colors. They were given natural colors, which are safe to play with. All students really enjoyed playing with the colors and with great enthusiasm celebrated the festival. Sweets and refreshments were served after this, which drew an end to the Holi celebrations conducted in RISE centers.



Vipin's road to success ...

Vipin is just another success story of RISE program. He studies in 5th class and is part of Sangam Vihar RISE center. While his mother is a housewife and his father drives a Rikshaw and spends the meagre income he earns on alcohol. Vipin stays with his uncle and aunt. Vipin was very weak in studies before coming to the Rise Centre and rarely did he go to school. His journey at RISE started when our instructor Mrs. Sunila Yadav visited his school and talked to teachers and students about the RISE program. Vipin was very excited about the program and visited the centre after school. He enrolled himself in the program the very next day. Though there is a need for such tuition classes, families like such of Vipin cannot afford such classes because of their financial status. Moreover the problem arises from the lack of basic concept teaching at schools. With RISE educators like Mrs. Sunila working for her community reaching out to families, parents are educated about the free tuition facilities being provided in their neighbourhood. Vipin now comes to centre daily and there has been phenomenal growth in his learning curve. After coming to the centre, he is now able to read and write in Hindi and has even started to learn English. Apart from literature, Vipin has made a remarkable progress in Maths; he is not only able to do calculations but has learnt table by heart. Vipin is very inquisitive and determined to learn, his teachers say that if he doesn't understand something he makes efforts to get all his doubts are clarified even though it involves him asking the question 10 times. He has started to perform well in the school and gets good marks.



Vipin's parents are very happy with his progress in studies. His aunt says that even after coming home, he studies. Moreover he teaches his aunt and uncle whatever he is taught at the RISE centre. The school's teacher said that if such program is done in every state of India then that day is not far when every citizen of our country is literate and India becomes a developed nation. RISE educator Sunila said that Vipin has not only been good at studies but also participates in all the activities. He is very inquisitive and questions everything. Post the program he has started getting good marks and also helps other children in the studies.



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.