

Padho aur Badho

An AROH-GAIL Initiative

From the President's Desk

I am glad to share with you all that Padho aur Badho is emerging as a successful model programme for social inclusion and mainstreaming of the out-of-school children.

Initially it was difficult reach out to the needy kids in the slums, as the parents saw even in the small kids, only the earning hands adding to the meagre household income. Sparing them for something like education was never thought of by these parents, as they did not realized the importance of education. Moreover, they believed that rising costs of education were beyond their reach.

But not any more! Padho aur Badho has broken that barrier with persistence and perseverance. The dedicated and committed mobilisers and educators visit each and every household to create awareness and build confidence of the parents. Once the parents agree to send their children to school, there are innovative ways to retain them. It is not only education that is imparted to the beneficiaries, the curriculum designed is aimed at an overall personality development of the kids. Several meaningful activities are organized with the kids, sometimes involving the mainstream children, to facilitate a two-way enrichment in the little lives.

The aim of Padho aur Badho is to bring education to all removing the economic and social barriers. Reaching out to 1500 children in 50 Centres was not an easy task. Even more difficult is to retain them and mainstream them. The children are not only taught the alphabets, but they are also instilled with values and humane sentiments. I am indeed grateful to our sponsors GAIL India for their invaluable contribution in the lives of these children.

It is a real pleasure to share with all of you the developments taking place under the project through the monthly Newsletter. The issue aims at exploring the development at the Dallopora centers. I wish all the readers a happy and sincere reading.

Dr. Neelam Gupta
President
AROH Foundation



Padho aur Badho Centres

Voice Against Child Labour



250 kids of padho aur badho gathered participating in candlelight march to raise their voice against Child Labour

On the International Labour Day, 250 child workers engaged in various menial jobs, who are enrolled at Padho aur Badho centres said 'NO TO WORK' by lighting candles and offering a silent prayer at the Jantar Mantar. Voicing their concern against rising exploitation, they staged a silent protest against the inhuman conditions of work and their deplorable plight.

The program titled "Nanhe Munne Bachche Teri Muththi Mein Kya Hai"

was basically to raise awareness about the rampant child labour in Delhi and also to sensitize the public about their plight symbolizing that "**do we want to give our kids kan-kar pathar or a kalam(pen) in their hands**" thereby making them the responsible citizens of a progressive nation....

The challenge is huge, but we believe that children can be taken off work and sent to school making education options available to them.

Children lit the candles and in silence they pledged to study hard and to become 'something' in life. A nukkad natak by Asmita Theatre group highlighted the plight of these children who are denied their basic right to education.

Chief Guest, Vandana Chanana, GM, CC & CSR, GAIL and her team were very encouraging and motivating. It was a privilege for the kids to have her amongst them as a source of strength and mentor for this ambitious project. GAIL officials congratulated the children, their educators and their families on this AROH Foundation's initiative and committed to lend their full support for this wonderful programme.

Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director, National Human Rights Commission, the special invitee and Guest of Honour appreciated the effort and encouraged everyone present to work to abolish child labour which is a blot on nation's face. He assured that children are the nation's future and all care would be taken to secure this future. Dr. Dubey also shared his views and government's concerns on child labour.





Meenakshi Priyadarshini, an educationist who has been passionately striving to educate the care-givers of children for child-sensitive teaching-learning process spoke to the children and graced the occasion.

As the campaign picked up, children's voices rose above the usual din. They raised slogans such as "Padenge tab Kaam Karenge", "Education is our birth right", "Stop Child Labour", "Bacche Mange teen Adhikaar, Roti Shiksha Poora Pyar" (children demand their three rights – food, education and, above all, love).

Our Padho aur Badho Program sponsored by GAIL, as a part of GAIL CSR Initiative, aims at bringing all children into the fold of this intervention, all those fighting their daily battle for survival as rag-pickers, shoeshine boys, street vendors, domestic helpers, or even beggars and are victims of extreme poverty. These children are the "poorest of the poor" and 'unreachable', who have been denied education and their right to a childhood largely because of poverty. They are often living on and off streets at the mercy of the elements of nature, criminals and drug addicts. Many of them become victims of violence, abuse and exploitation, which initially results in disorientation and delinquency ending up in a life of abandonment and social disintegration.



Chief Guest GM, CC & CSR, GAIL, Smt Vandana Chanana with Dr Sanjay Dubey, Director, NHRC. Meenakshi Priyadarshini and AROH' President Dr. Neelam Gupta



Asmita Theatre Performing the Nukkad Natak

Centre Focus - Dallopura Padho aur Badho



Dallopura Village in East Delhi is not actually a village, but an expansion an extension of Delhi towards trans Yamuna. But still, it is a perfect example of a divided demograph in a very small area. The main road divides the village. AROH has established two Padho aur badho Centres in Dallopura.

Center 1

On one side of the road is a slum with *jhuggies* all around and the inhabitants are still deprived of the basic fundamentals of life.

Imagine the living conditions with a *nallah*-sewer drain passing just 10 meters from your house and monsoons are the months when the sewer trespasses and enters their houses. When the whole city looks forward to a good monsoon, they have no choice but pray to God not to have a downpour because it would lead to distortion of their already miserable, small and pitiful lives.

The majority inhabiting the slum is the ragpickers who are contributing to keeping the city clean in a big way but with the education becoming costlier with each passing day, it remains a distant dream for the kids inhabiting

there. Moreover the kids start following their parents and help them in their work. They have nothing to do but add to the ever growing disguised child labour.

The slum is poverty struck and sustenance in the capital though is fancy but is becoming difficult with the soaring price rise. With huge families to sustain, education takes a back seat in their minds, in their lives.

The Padho aur Badho center installed by AROH under the program initiated in support with GAIL brought a ray of hope for the kids inhabiting there. It was education which came to their doorstep in such an accessible format and it was all welcome. With initial difficulties and objections, now after 4 months, the centre has a strong hold in the slum and the teacher and the coordinator ensures that every child in the age group of 6-14 inhabiting the slum is enrolled in the center.

The enrollment does not remain a formality and thus the teacher takes immense pain in going to each of their houses to bring them out to the center. Now after sometime, the kids are self motivated to come to the center. The best is that they have realized a

change is awaited and they are part of the process of the change. They dream a better life and AROH's initiative is making them realize their dreams.

The children enrolled with the center lie in the age group of 4-14 and it is not an easy job for the teacher to handle the students of such a varied age group. Some are learning the alphabets and numbers though some can add and subtract as well. Under all circumstances, the teachers involved are committed to the cause and they reach at the center at 8 in the morning. Her job starts with collecting them at the center and then holds them for at least 3 hours making them learn the designed curriculum.

Center 2

The second center in the Dallopura Village is located in a better room on the other side of the village. The locality around is slightly better but the inhabitants majorly involved with the activities as daily wages labourers aim at their children to grow to become labourers.

They don't hesitate in involving their kids with child labour of any form as that would add to the income of the



Slum view of Dallopura



Children displaying their notebooks and bulletin board shows the art work done by them.



Kids outside Dallopura Centre



Kids of Dallopura Centre engaged in group activity.

family and the father can have better quality liquor every night and exploit the rest of the family. The environment of the locality is poor but sad and pitiful as the adolescents in an age group of 12-17 involve themselves in activities like tobacco intoxication, gambling, liquor etc. and the kids are influenced with that.

AROH realized that the children in the locality are losing their childhood and the track which is being exhibited to them doesn't ensure sustainable future. Thus it intervened the locality with its different programs.

The intervention was aimed at first motivating the youngsters in the society to undergo vocational training which would help them grow as individuals in life. In addition to this, the second intervention was aimed at kids in the age group of 4-14 to ensure their enrollment with the NFE centers

to impart them elementary and primary education.

We were successful in our efforts and the regular counseling sessions organized in the locality has bore fruits on a very early basis. No child in the age group of 4-14 who is not part of the formal school program is enrolled with the center.

Building up on this center was very difficult but with the curriculum designed in an interesting manner and moreover the commitment of the teacher involved ensures that the children gets self motivated to come to the center and learn.

It's a pleasure to announce that the two centers initiated in Dallopura Village exhibits community participation and enrollment of every child in the targeted age group who is not a part of the formal education system.

The achievement lies in the fact that 6 children including the two centers have left the formal education and joined the center because their parents realized that the education and the overall up bringing ensured at the NFE centers is better than the schools they were going in earlier.

Our aim is not to bring out children from the formal education system and thus AROH Foundation is planning to organize workshops for the teachers of the local primary schools to share with them our methodology and curriculum which would make it interesting for the children.

Padho aur Badho – it is not only about Education

This section covers the major activities which have taken place during the last month in different centers of Padho aur Badho.

Buddy Bus Ride for NFE Kids, 2nd April 2010

AROH Foundation have been able to seek support towards this noble cause from the major eating chain Nirula's in the form of BUDDY BUS Program, where every fortnight a bus from Nirula's comes to one of the centers of the NFE Program and take the children to their ice cream production unit in Sector 1, NOIDA. The kids are first oriented about the same and then they get to visit the whole unit and gather information on the production system. The trip is meant to be a fun cum learning excursion.

At the end of the trip, the children are offered with Buddy meals, which the students tend to enjoy the most. The students are asked to discuss about the visit when they are back in the center. This tends to give them a learning experience in a very different way.

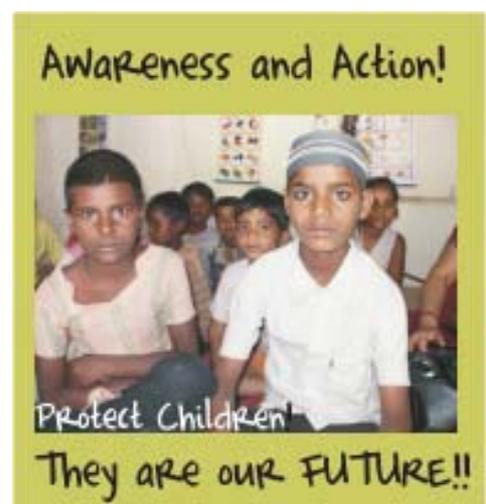
This time it was 30 kids from the Trilokpuri center who were taken from the trip. It was a lovely experience for the kids which was clear from their satisfied faces at the end of the trip.



On 12th June 2010, the Anti Child Labour Day, we hold a meeting of all stakeholders to find ways and means to protect Padho aur Badho kids from exploitation and labour. The 45 days campaign launched at Jantar Mantar on 1st of May would mark the end of first phase on 12th of June.

Poor families need to keep as many family members working as possible to ensure income security and survival. It very difficult for them to invest in their children's education. In fact, educating a child can be a significant financial burden and even the so called free and compulsory public education costs much to a poor family. Many poor families weigh the cost of sending their children to school against the cost of the income lost by sending their children to work.

Education is the key to ending the exploitation of children. Our education system must attract and retain children. Children attending school are less likely to be involved in hazardous or exploitative work. They are also more likely to break out of cycles of poverty. The focus should not just be on education of children, emphasis should also be on education programmes for parents, especially women as most out-of-school children have illiterate parents. Evidence also shows that there is an inverse relationship between adult literacy rates and the incidence of child labour in the long run. Educated adults have fewer and better-educated children.



Drawing Excursion for kids, 17th April 2010

The overall development is what we aim at and in pursuance of our goals, a drawing competition was organized at the Aghapur and Ghaorlli Village centers. The kids from two centers were collected together in an open space under a tree. They were asked to draw anything which came to their mind without any barriers.

It was nice looking at the pictures which exhibited their creativity on paper. Someone drew a Ravaan being killed by Ram, and someone was keen on putting their living conditions.

The kids enjoyed an outing to a nearby park and also enjoyed the Drawing activity which they did.



Health Camp at Shashi Garden, 13th April 2010

More than 150 children were catered to at a health camp for disadvantaged children organized by AROH Foundation on 13th April, 2010 at Shashi Garden through the Smile on Wheels mobile health care van.

The four-member team which comprised of Dr. A. K. Pandey and three para-medical staff diagnosed the children. The age group of the children was between 5-14 years.

Free Medicines were distributed to the diagnosed children. The referral card of all the children was made by the doctors in health camp so that they may provide free health services to these children every month. Around 150 of the registered kids are diagnosed on the first day itself. Most of the cases that have been seen diagnosed were diseases due to improper sanitation and lack of knowledge about health and hygiene among them. The Parents are regularly counseled and made aware of hazards by our qualified doctors and his team.



Children standing in queue waiting for their turn at Shashi Garden for checkup

The Kids Speak!

Rahul, 12 years, Trilokpuri Padho aur Badho Centre on his trip to Nirula's

मैंने कभी सोचा भी नहीं था कि मुझे ऐसी किसी ट्रिप पर जाने का मौका मिलेगा जहा पर मैं इतना मजा करूँगा। हम सुबह 7:30 बजे घर से निकले एक लाल रंग कि सुदर सी बस में, हमें थोडा सा मेम ने बताया था कि किसी आइसक्रीम फैक्ट्री में जायेंगे। पर ऐसा नहीं पता था कि ऐसे हम आइसक्रीम बनते हुए देख पाएंगे। बहुत मजा आया और हम सब को वहां के मैनेजर अंकल ने आइसक्रीम बनाने के बारे में बताया कि वो कैसे बनती है। फिर हमें पूरी फैक्ट्री दिखाने के बाद एक कमरे में ले गए जहा हमें खाने के लिए अच्छे सामान मिले। वो सब इतने अच्छे से पैक था और उसे खाने में बहुत मजा आया। पढ़ो और बढ़ो ने तो हमारे सपने पुरे कर दिए। प्लीज हमें वाहा दुबारा से ले जाना, ऐसी चीजें खाने को मिली उस दिन जो कभी सपने में भी नहीं सोची थी।

Sanju, 11 years, male

मुझे तीन महीने से खांसी थी, दवाई के पैसे ही नहीं जुटा पाते थे, एक दो बार तो दवाई लाए पर जब ठीक नहीं हुई तो मैंने घर पर मम्मी से कहना ही छोड़ दिया। 13 अप्रैल को टीचर ने बताया कि एक गाड़ी आएगी एक डॉक्टर के साथ, जिसको कोई समस्या हो बेहिचक दिखा ले। यह फ्री में कैम्प है। मैंने सोचा फ्री में है तो चलो यहां के डॉक्टर को भी दिखा ले। बड़ा अच्छा लगा डॉक्टर ने दवाई तो दी ही, एक कार्ड भी बना दिया जिससे मैं जब चाहूँ उनसे दवाई ले सकता हूँ। लगता ही नहीं हम गरीब हैं। धन्यवाद आरोह का कि हमें लगने लगा है कि हमारी किस्मत ही बदल गई है।



Upcoming Events in June

- > 5th June World Environment Day
- > 7th June Educators' Workshop
- > 12th June Anti-Child Labour Day
- > 18th June Buddy Bus

An APPEAL - WELL RECIEVED

DPS Mathura Road has joined hands with Padho aur Badho in Joy of Giving programme. Students have been very eager to help and will collect usable items from kids after the holidays and distribute to the Centre children. We thank DPS, its teachers and students for taking up this noble cause.