

RISE

Remedial Innovation in School Education

For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.

— T.S. Eliot

We need to ask to ourselves that why with the start of brand new year, why we make new promises or resolutions. Is there something we want to change? Or also we can put it like, is there a hope towards something better!? Yes, in RISE, we provoke hope within children who were otherwise deprived, depressed and disgraced. A hope to create something better, a better version of ourselves, a better version of our outlook, a better version of the society we are living into. This is the hope given to all our RISE children with the start of Brand New Year. They have been imbibed with a dream of change, change towards life-changing benefits like medical care, educational support, life skills and job-training before they graduate. Being poor as a child, even for only a short time, can have consequences reaching far into their adulthood. This can manifest itself in long-lasting ways. So comforting ideologies and an outlook towards hopeful & positive change that could help our children sustain the hardships of life was the resolution, taken by our management & educators for this year.

This probably would be our last year with our children, and we promised to load these kids with enough strength, optimism and happiness, that will help them dive and swim across all waves. Through RISE, we would help them RISE above all constraints!

We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year & Happy Republic Day !



Sharing & Caring



In RISE, we are trying to deal not only with the barrier a child faces in the class as a scholar, but also try to curb down the barrier he or she faces as being one of the under privilege class of the country. Sangam Vihar slums have been a hub of most unhygienic life conditions, deprivations, and extreme poverty. Our RISE children are regular victims of malnourishment, critical life conditions & scarcity of basic supply water, food, or even clothes. More than a necessity to look dignified, clothes protects our body from external germicidal attacks and impure air and surroundings. Children & their families in RISE were observed to be falling ill, getting dropped during winters, as they were not having sufficient clothes to cover them up and protect from extreme

Delhi cold. This is why AROH management, organised multiple Cloth Donation Drives, and donated warm clothes, shoes, and stationary, quilt etc. to maximum number of families. There are many reasons why donating clothing to others is a great action. Winter clothes are especially important for homeless or poor people like those in Sangam Vihar because they spend much of their time outside also they cannot afford to spend amounts on medical bills, and then due to proper care & medication, they tend to lose their lives even to minor health issues. Clothes are a basic human need, for protection against whether as well



as participation in social life. Children need clothes to attend school and adults have to dress for work. AROH-RISE team collaborated with leading MNCs of Delhi NCR and conducted a huge level clothes donation drive. People came up with all hearts and generously donated clothes for the needy ones. We made sure that old and used but not distorted clothes are being collected and distributed amongst the slum dwellers of Sangam Vihar Cloth is one of the basic human needs after food and shelter. But out of the three basic needs of mankind, Food, Cloth and Shelter, it is easy to believe that just by re-using the old clothes the problem of clothing can be solved to a great extent. It does not involve any major policy decisions, huge investments and endless efforts as in case of addressing the problem of Food & Shelter. Within this drive huge carton and thousands of clothes were distributed at all RISE centres during various PTM meets enhancing the level of social justice to all needy RISE indirect members.



Praying to Goddess of Learning

Saraswati is the goddess of learning, music, art and culture. Saraswati puja is celebrated as her birthday. Saraswati means purity and truthfulness. Sara means an ocean. Swa means one's own. Ti means the personification or embodiment. Saraswati is the embodiment of one's own ocean of experience. Saraswati Puja is celebrated throughout the country. The Goddess of knowledge is revered among the students and learned who strictly follow all the rituals to worship her. The festivities that accompany Saraswati puja is a part of the social celebrations. Young girls are seen in yellow sarees. Pushpanjali (offering of flowers along with mantras) are offered. Bright palash flowers are offered that are a part of the worship. Young people enjoy the day with each other. Cultural programs are staged at night. The Goddess who is the patron of music, culture and learning is revered by singers and musicians with great devotion. The Saraswati Puja is celebrated in almost all the houses and educational institutes. People of all ages worship the goddess on this day. Small kids who are

yet to learn how to write are a part of this tradition.

AROH foundation celebrated Saraswati Puja with its RISE beneficiaries. It is believed that Goddess Saraswati bestows the boon of All Pervading Knowledge to her sincere devotees. Saraswati Puja was conducted followed by event celebration, various activities were also performed. This boosted their confidence and inculcated a sense of value for education. The significance of Saraswati Puja is that, Saraswati, being the Goddess of learning, on the day of

Saraswati Puja young children are made to write alphabets. This is a common practice in West Bengal and it is known as "Hathe khori". It is a popular belief that if a young child writes in front of the Goddess, he would be blessed by the deity and will do very well in his education in future. RISE believes that when the Goddess herself would be blessing the child with education, obstacles would turn into opportunities and thus with much optimism, just like every year, RISE enforced religious and spiritual beliefs within the children.



Dancing Star , Tanisha



Tanisha, 9 years is a regular student of RISE. Over the course of 2 years she has shown commendable progress in her studies. Her parents and educator Ms Shobha take immense pride in reiterating her results. But her constraints were different. Tanisha was a quiet and shy girl, but a good dancer. She could perform well within her house, but public fear didn't allow her to showcase her talent outside. Her mother, a dancer by choice herself, didn't want her daughter to be shy and requested her Shobha to help her overcome her stage fear.

This was a different challenge for Shobha as an educator. She started off with asking Tanisha to perform within RISE centers. She was appreciated by all viewers. Then she was taken to dance workshops conducted by RISE. Now there is a phase, where Tanisha performed on stage in front of hundreds of spectators and was largely appreciated.

Her mother says, "RISE has made my daughter grow in all forms. She scores well in studies, which secures her future and now she performs fearlessly as a dancer. And I want her to grow as a dancer too. Thanks to RISE team for taking care of our children in all possible means.

Celebration of “Poorna Swaraj”

India got freedom from the British Rule on 15th of August in the year 1947. At that time, there was no any permanent constitution of the country. First time, the first draft of the Indian Constitution was presented by the drafting committee to the national assembly on 4th of November in the year 1947. The first draft of the Indian Constitution was signed by the national assembly in both version, the English and the Hindi on 24th of January in the year 1950. Then the Constitution of India came into effect on the Republic Day means 26th of January in 1950. From then, the 26th of January was started celebrating as the Republic Day in India. At this day, India was declared as the Purna Swaraj Country thus it was started celebrating every year as the anniversary of



through our various constitutional rights but living under certain frames given by our constitutions.

In RISE also we strive to give whole world to our children to think and dream, but instead of the physical, psychological and social constraints, carving their way out of them. In RISE, Joining the nation in the celebration, with 500 children, educators and slum community members, 69th Republic Day Celebration was organized at all RISE Centers Sangam Vihar and Devli, South Delhi. The event started with flag hoisting ceremony by RISE beneficiary. Children were told how on this day our country was formally declared as SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, and DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

RISE team reiterated the importance of education and the role of educators in molding the young minds, preparing them to lead the country towards development. Further, she discussed with the beneficiaries about the AICO and its CSR Initiative RISE. The event commenced with welcoming the Beneficiaries and Community member. The students of RISE expressed their spirit of unity and secularism on the occasion of 69th Republic

the Purna Swaraj Day. The Constitution of India brought the power to the Indian citizens to select their own government. The oath was taken by the Dr. Rajendra Prasad as a first president of the India at Durbar Hall in the Government House. India has big history behind celebrating the Republic day.

Republic Day is the symbol of true spirit for the independent India where military parades, exhibiting military equipment, salute to the national flag by the Indian President and variety of events takes place at this day. Indian National Flag, our “Tiranga” is being hoisted. President addresses the whole nation, and drive attention towards major achievements, concerns and constraints of nation. The day is celebrated to feel proud to be living in such large diversified nation with multiple languages, religions and beliefs. We celebrate the ultimate freedom, granted





Day celebrations. They participated in GK competition. Beneficiaries paid a special tribute to Soldiers through patriotic songs. The celebration continued with song and dance competitions and speeches that reminded the students of the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters. An air of patriotic fervor permeated the atmosphere. In the end, Prize distribution & Sweet distribution ceremony was held and best performers got prizes.

While we today enjoy their freedom in heritage, we must know the amount of sacrifices the freedom fighters did without any



second thought, the activities that happened during the struggle for freedom and the amount of bloodshed that took place, so that we, as a country, can enjoy this peaceful life. It's very evident to notice that their sacrifice, nowadays, seems to have a very little value. This is a very true quote with says, "We realize the importance of a thing when it's taken away from us," and somewhere or the other, this is the exact case with today's youth. Most of them lack the sense of patriotism within them; they fail to realize the value of freedom they get in heritage.

So to induce the feeling of patriotism, to make them know the value, it's something that has to take place from the roots of their childhood. For, a seed will grow to be a huge tree only if it's watered properly from the beginning and this celebration enforced the feeling of responsibilities towards our nation within our RISE children.



Lohri Celebration with RISE



The harvest festival, a celebration of fertility, welcoming the spring with its bountiful gifts and being thankful for all of nature's blessings, all these make **Lohri the Indian thanksgiving festival**. Lohri is synonymous with Uttarayan, Pongal, Bihu and Sankranti – all celebrating harvest and Mother Nature all over India. Maghi – the day after Lohri day is important as it's the beginning of the month of Magh and month with 30 days coincides with January – February of the Western/Georgian/Julian Calendar from 13 January till 11 February. On this day it is said that a cleansing, holy bath should be taken symbolizing the washing of our bad Karma and Ego and to meditate so greed and desires leave us. The festival is **very important for the farmers** and the villages all over celebrate by welcoming the spring and praying and thanking Gods for a bumper harvest. The bonfire is used to roast the fresh Chholiya or Green Gram in its pods with the leaves and stem and enjoy the roasted gram as the first fruits of labour. It is significant of the plentiful harvest and thanking Mother Nature for her blessings. Lohri is also a time to relax and reenergize as the farmers take a break from all the hard work during the sowing of the crop and time for a little rest before the super busy harvest season. The festival of Lohri is **associated with Dulla Bhatti** – robber akin to Robin Hood, who lived in the times of King Akbar. He used to rob the rich people and distribute the spoils

to the poor. He also saved the girls who were kidnapped for slave trade and got them married to decent families and arranged for their dowries. As special thanks are given to him and most songs of Lohri are associated with thanking him for his good deeds.

RISE also witnessed the celebration of thanksgiving. Children were given the concept of thanking the gestures, act and words of generosity by any individual, group or nature. Educators demonstrated in detail how we are being selflessly served by our parents, neighbours, colleagues and nature and how we can thank them by taking proper care of the gifts given to us. Also, Lohri is like a final feast to bid goodbye to the cold winter, a festivity welcoming the arrival of spring. So, simultaneously children were warned against the diseases that would be spreading in season change time and so cleanliness, hygiene and proper nutrition would be essential in coming days. Even the Gods not reside at unhygienic places, and so maintain an ambience of health hygiene and harmony and make world a better place.



Engaging Community in self development

Involving community to for its own upliftment, is a part of our strategic exit policy. While this would be the last year in Sangam vihar with RISE, we wanted the idea of change towards betterment to be self-sustainable. This baton is tried to be handed over to well to do community members which can take forwards the mission with the children in their own possible way. In the same process, RISE team was engaged in verbal mobilisation of the community to donate physical assets which were not usable to them. Items like clothes, stationary were made to be donated for needy neighbours, and senior members of the community were asked to donate food items to the children. The idea was to promote compassion and mutual association within the community. Children living in Urban slums suffer from adverse health conditions owing to mainly two reasons –first the lack of education and thus lack of awareness; and second their parents unwillingness to lose a day's wage in order to reach the nearest medical facility. Children were tested for Anaemia, Vitamin and various essential mineral deficiencies.

Trying to combat the deficiencies of children and simultaneously trying to uplift the concept of mutual coordination, many community members were encouraged to distribute eatables, fruits to children of RISE. It was a harmonious sight. Known faces for these children, trying to calm down their needs was a boost for a positive outlook. It does not involve any major policy decisions, huge investments and endless efforts as in case of addressing the problem of Food & Shelter or Education. Within this drive huge support from the community was witnessed at all RISE centres during various meets enhancing the level of social justice to all needy RISE indirect members.



Dream of a Father, Kalpana ...

Kalpana, 8 years old girl is a migrant from Chapra, Bihar and lives in Devli Slum, Sangam Vihar, South Delhi with her Mother, Father, and three siblings. She comes from a marginally poor family and her father Dinesh Gupta is the sole bread winner of the large family of 6. With a monthly income of around 6000-8000, a lot many basic needs were a matter of distant dream for them; one such was education for 2 daughters of the family. Dinesh knew how education could change the fates of their lives, and so all his 4 children attend government school. But, due to lethargic systems in Govt School, the learning outcome of the children was almost nil. Since Dinesh's wife was uneducated and so, she also didn't support education of girls and wanted to invest this amount into some other important things. But Dinesh was

determined towards value education for all the children. He was giving all his effort to ensure productive learning of his children.

It was Dinesh, who, when got to know about RISE centers, got all his children into RISE centers. Now almost after 2 years of continuous support from RISE, a happy and optimistic father says,

"Kalpana and her siblings attend RISE regularly. After the school and added support from RISE, Kalpana has improved in her studies and can narrate English poems and essays. Not just the kids, but through the PTMs, my wife also now understands the value of education. We as a family stand for education as powerful weapon for positive change. I thank RISE educators and management for being there for people like us."



Joining ends ... Tulika Raj

Putting children first is really about ensuring a healthy future for our nation. No country can hope to progress and become truly civilized unless its young population has access to food, shelter, clothing, education and a life full of promise; a life that allows them to explore their immense potential. AROH Foundation has been doing exemplary work to transform the lives of children in India. Let's go ahead I am Tulika Raj, Assistant Project Coordinator in AROH Foundation, RISE. I remember, I was MSW -2016 pass-out batch from Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida and placed in AROH Foundation as a management – trainee. I can't believe how far I have come in these years. I really didn't think this awesome career move would come so quickly. Being a social work master degree holder, I had multiple plans, suggestions and hopes to be put in action. Thanks to AROH management and project RISE, this gave me ample opportunities not just to dream but to put them in action. Working with RSE children, understanding their daily struggles and still be able to smile and be optimistic about life has taught me the lesson of "Never to give up".

But even after giving my cent percent to all tasks assigned during RISE execution, I know we would need many RISEs



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.