

Padho aur Badho

An AROH-GAIL Initiative



A vast gap to bridge...

Despite progress in education sector, a huge number of children in slums continue to be excluded from school education. Besides being a colossal waste of human resources, *educational exclusion* is the worst form of exclusion because it means exclusion from other walks of life and areas of activities such as livelihood, knowledge, status in society, human dignity etc. *Educational exclusion* becomes cumulative as it is carried over from generation to generation, since it is seen that educated parents are more inclined to educate their children than those who are uneducated.

Besides, exclusion from school education, particularly at the primary level, is a denial of human rights both in accordance with the provision in the Indian Constitution and the relevant provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also a well established fact *education is the key to poverty alleviation* – the poor children, if excluded from education will never be able to grow out of the cycle of poverty and ignorance.

Rapid urban population growth and relative lack of attention to urban poverty, has possibly exacerbated multi-dimensional deprivation, including deprivation of education, in urban areas.

Padho aur Badho has penetrated the neglected pockets in 45 such slums this year, reaching out to more than 6000 out-of-school children to enrol them in formal schools. PAB beneficiaries have been found to respond well to their school environment and their learning achievements are found to be at par with other kids. Value education provided at the PAB Centres gives them a distinct advantage and reportedly their behaviour and conduct is excellent at school, at home and with others in the community.

The journey has just begun! With crores of children being out-of-school, there is no stopping till we reach the destination...

Dr. Neelam Gupta
President
AROH Foundation



Plight of Children in India - Childhood under Threat

Childhood is always considered as a happy state of ones' life but every human being born in this world does not have the luck of having a happy childhood mainly those kids born in the slums or rural deprived areas. As per the UNICEF report millions of Indian children are deprived of their rights to survival, education and health. The Child mortality rate is too high in the deprived section of the society when compared to their counterparts who reside in urban or semi-urban areas of the society. The worst victim in the low status section of the society is a girl child as the discrimination is rampant. Parents tend to ignore the girl child and they are often barred from stepping outside and forced to take care of daily chores and siblings.

AROH being a front runner in the cause of educating and empowering the children of low strata income



group has established 200 Non Formal Education centres in and around Delhi/NCT areas under the patronage of GAIL India Ltd and have mainstreamed more than 3000 children in the age group of 6-14

years into regular schools. Parents of the beneficiaries have thanked the Foundation for shaping their children's life and the Foundation too is happy to support them in whatever way it can.

GAIL-GARIMA – A Life changing Experience



AROH in its mission to educate and empower women of slum area of Delhi/NCT has started the GAIL-GARIMA vocational training program particularly for the mothers and siblings of PAB beneficiaries. The core aim behind this intervention is to sustain their children's/ beneficiaries education in long run. Normally the parents discontinue their children's education after some years due to financial crisis. To evade this problem and to keep their wards in school till they complete their high school the initiative of GAIL-GARIMA in association with GAIL India has been implemented. Here the mothers are taught on cutting and tailoring so that they can earn, staying put at home. The program edges out a dual advantage to them. One is to enhance their basic skills and second is to explore opportunities for a sustainable livelihood. One such story is of Meenu's a beneficiary of GAIL-GARIMA Program

Meenu's life changed for better after enrolling at GAIL-Garima Vocational training centre at Kchripur. She pines hope to get a decent job in near future as she has gained confidence to face the challenges and to raise her voice. She has been struggling to take care of her four children on her own as her husband remains unemployed most of the times, an alcoholic and a gambler. He gambles with her hard earned money and even beats her up if she denies. This made her crumble and led to lose of faith in any thing. She regained the faith when she heard about the Padho aur Badho program and enrolled her two kids under the program at the Kchripur centre and when she learnt about the GAIL-GARIMA program she thought of utilizing the opportunity presented before her. She is learning the ropes of the trade with due diligence and She has expressed her gratitude to the Foundation and the sponsors for making it possible for people like her to tackle the family issues smoothly and effectively.

Expressions of Empowerment

GARIMA - A Stepping Stone of Women Empowerment

AROH Foundation celebrated Women's Day at all its GARIMA centres. The main aim is to applaud the rural underprivileged women beneficiaries who stepped out of their home to get trained & placed, to earn a decent living. Women folks in rural area were suppressed and opposed to take up things on their own for centuries, The Foundation entered into such areas to propagate and counsel them to earn a dignified living.

This day AROH feels proud that it has changed lives of many women in Villages of Loni- Ghaziabad, Chandigarh & Delhi-NCR with support from partners like GAIL India, WAPCOS & BPCL by opening GARIMA Centres at all the said places and by giving them training in vocational skills so as to make them start either their own venture or land up a job leading to empowerment and have a say in the community. The day convened as a get to know on the hardships they faced and the support they garnered from within the family as well as outsiders proving themselves as 'Women are the real architects of society & family'

Celebration at GARIMA-GAIL North East Delhi centre

Beneficiaries of GARIMA-GAIL of the North East Delhi cluster gathered at F-2, Community Hall, Block-F, Sunder Nagri, Nand Nagri, Delhi for celebrating their day on 6 March'12. The chief guest of the celebration was Dr Neelam Gupta- President of AROH Foundation. The convened gathering started with exchange of pleasantries followed by interaction with the beneficiaries by the president. They all shared their experiences on the differences they have carved out of their life after learning the skills of empowerment through the Foundation's skill training centre. A group of beneficiaries enacted a little



play on women's rise within the community which was a real tit bit of their own lives. The play unfolded their triumphs and tribulations. Another group exulted their voice of happiness by singing a thematic song on women's liberation composed on their own. Their cheerful and enthusiastic performance moved the president of the Foundation and she wished them all the luck and re

assured that she would come forward to help them in whatever way she can leading to empowerment and satisfaction of the women folks. She also reiterated that a mother's empowerment is directly proportional to the family's empowerment as well her children's which in a way would lead to society's empowerment leading to a trigger of chain reaction.

All the beneficiaries thanked the Foundation on its noble cause and vouched that they would try their level best to keep their heads up and fight for their rights and would try to live a decent meaningful life. Since the day coincided with the festival of colours 'Holi' all the beneficiaries greeted each other and enjoyed with true spirit by applying colours on each others. Holi is a festival where even foes become friends and forgives and forgets the sadness surrounded in each other's life and the beneficiaries did the same and enjoyed it to the hilt. Refreshments were distributed by the Foundation to keep up the energy and charm.

Celebration at GARIMA-GAIL Ghaziabad Centre

Beneficiaries of Ghaziabad centre converged at the nodal office of Garima-GAIL to enjoy the celebration. The chief guest of the evening was Mr Rajesh Jain- Secretary of BSP and Mrs Geeta Bisht- Principal of Govt. school at Nand Nagri.

The chief guest's of the event personally interacted with the women beneficiaries to know more about their problems and achievement they have conquered within a short span of time and how the Foundation have helped them to get empowered in terms of rights, finance, decision making and problem solving skills and how they have applied in their every day life.

The chief guest's applauded the efforts put in by AROH and even promised to extend their support in whatever way they can. A cultural program of dance and music was put



in by the beneficiaries that soothed the ears of the guests. They wished the beneficiaries for their better future and thanked the Foundation for its efforts on Women empowerment.

The event was covered by media houses of Amar Ujala, Dainik Jagran & NBT. The event concluded with Holi celebrations. Ms Jyoti-Sr program Manager thanked the chief guests for their gracious presence on the event and appreciated Ms Deepa-Coordinator of the program for putting up an excellent show.

Celebration at GARIMA-GAIL East Delhi and Noida centre

Beneficiaries of the cluster gathered at the nodal centre to celebrate the Women's day on 6 March'12. The program started off at 2 PM with a welcome speech by the coordinator of the cluster Mr Deepak Singh. He gave an insight about the origin of the celebration and the need for allotting a day for womanhood. Beneficiaries nodded in acceptance and informed that they all have gathered to show their unity and strength that they have formed being empowered beneficiaries of the program. Some of them stood up to share their tales of success while a group of beneficiaries enacted and spoke about the empowerment they have realized and shared their experiences on how life has

changed for better after receiving the collective training from the Foundation's vocational training centres. One of the instructors of the program Ms Usha then recited a poem on importance of being a woman. The sentiments were echoed by all the present beneficiaries. The day ended with fun and laughter with distribution of refreshments.

Celebrations at GARIMA-GAIL South Delhi cluster

Women's day celebration was organized to celebrate womanhood and most of the beneficiaries of the Foundation being women participated in it. The event was celebrated with full gaiety wherein the beneficiaries were called up to share their experience on empowerment and to analyze the results thereof. To everyone's surprise many of them realized that they have walked a long path of success in practical. A few still are in darkness, in hope of stepping the ladder of success in near future. The event turned out to be a self realization experience for the beneficiaries and they thanked the Foundation for giving them an opportunity to unleash their talents and attainment of success. Every one then danced to tunes of folk lore and typical filmy songs. The day brought in a lot of happiness in their lives and ended with a round of snacks and sweets distribution.



Holi Celebrations

AROH celebrates all the occasions with the beneficiaries whenever possible and to the maximum extent. One such occasion is HOLI- a day of happiness. Beneficiaries' at all four PAB clusters eagerly wait for this day as they get to play with colours and fire some crackers with other children of the community as well as outside the community.

Educators along with coordinators of the four clusters arranged a Holi bash for its beneficiaries at their respective clusters nodal office on 6 March'12. The program started with story telling on origin of the festival and on the way of celebrating the festival with organic and hygienic colours. They also informed the beneficiaries on the ill effects of playing with dark dyes which comes at a cheaper rate and how it would affect the body parts including skin irritation, eye irritation, hair loss etc. They also explained on the techniques of safeguarding oneself by applying oil on the whole body before playing with colours. They eagerly listened to the reason behind



the celebration and nodded their head in acceptance on protection mechanisms.

When the time to play with colours came everyone pulled their bags of gulal and applied on each other and played only with dry colours. They then danced and enjoyed to the tunes of music played and even sang along. Seeing the kids enjoying to

the hilt educators wished one another and applied tilak on forehead of the one another and paid their respect to the elders and coordinators. The day ended with distribution of sweets and savories to all beneficiaries and educators and the coordinator of the respective cluster wished them a Happy Holi and to have a great weekend.

Path of Illiteracy to literacy

Name: Aniket

Father's Name: Dinesh

Mother's Name: Seema

Age: 10 Yrs



Aniket a PAB beneficiary now got mainstreamed into formal school and goes to school regularly like any other kid. Her father a barber is happy to see his son getting ready to school every morning with his school uniform on. The family migrated from Bihar in search of a good livelihood and realized the hardships one goes through to sustain a living. The high cost of living index pulled the idea of getting his son admitted in a regular school as the expenses of admission went very high and out of affordability factor. But with the help of PAB program Aniket studied the entire necessary curriculum at the Sangam Vihar NFE centre and cleared all the entrance tests to gain a spot in regular school. The change brought by the program in his son moved his father on the efforts being carried out by AROH. With tears of joy in his eyes he thanked the Foundation and the sponsor GAIL India for shaping lives of children like his son. Aniket is now a regular student of class 3 at Shivani Convent Public School He too feels proud to be counted among regular school goers.

NGO India 2012

NGO India 2012 is an exhibition organized by UBM India to help out the NGO sector to foster alliances and networking among other NGO's and corporate. It is a unique platform for both the commercial as well social sector to understand exchange and realize the problems faced by rural under privileged section of the society and the potentiality to extend help to social causes. The Exhibition also provided an opportunity to profile the work done by a NGO in front of audience of all masses. AROH Foundation took part in the NGO INDIA 2012 exhibition held at Epicentre, Gurgaon from 16-18 March'2012



AROH put up a stall to showcase the talents of beneficiaries whose creative products were exhibited out on display. Works of beneficiaries like Jute bags, Wall Hangings, Frames, colourful vases, zardozi embellished suits, artificial beaded jewellery, handbags, cushion covers, Pillow covers, Hand made paper products

were put on display for the audience to gauge the hidden talents of rural beneficiaries.

The exhibition paved a way for exchanging of ideas, views and market linkages for utilization of the talents of beneficiaries and also

grabbed attention of corporate's who wanted to engage in their preferred CSR activities. A conference was also organized on social practices and AROH took part in it too to gather and gain knowledge on perfecting and polishing the existing methods of practices.



Capacity Building Workshop

Capacity development also referred to as capacity building is a conceptual approach to development that focuses on understanding the obstacles that inhibit people from realizing the goals of oneself or organization and help in improving the abilities that would allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results. It paves way for strengthening the skills, competencies to overcome the hindrances in the daily routine. It also works as a guide for internal development of the employees and to bring finesse in their duties.

AROH always try hard to motivate and encourage the educators of the program PAB by organizing capacity development workshop on monthly basis to assess and evaluate the development of them. One such workshop was organized at Ghaziabad PAB cluster on 3 March '12 at its nodal office. Since the new academic session is about to start the main thrust was on the target



setting of new enrolments and mainstreaming of the beneficiaries in to formal schools.

Educators discussed the problems they face during mainstreaming with the coordinators Ms Deepa & Mr Deepak. After a brain storming

session some solutions were derived for trial execution. It has also been said that if the solutions derived work out then the same could be applied at all clusters simultaneously. The workshop wound up with a round of refreshments to all educators.

Creative Analogy - Budding Artists of New World



Creativity is a phenomenal exercise for children's mind to open up and express their ideas and imaginations in a lot of ways using tools like painting, sketching, story telling, crafting etc., PAB beneficiaries too apart from their regular academia pulls their socks to show their creative side.

The amazing and adorable fact is that they use waste products like bottles, cottons, ice sticks, straws to bring out their imagination. Proper grooming would turn them into a good craftsmen and a good human being. Some of the products prepared by the teeny tiny hands of PAB beneficiaries were displayed above. AROH tries its best to expose the beneficiaries' talent at all available occasions to garner support from every nook and corner possible.

