

# Padho aur Badho

An AROH-GAIL Initiative



From the President's Desk

Even after six decades of Independence and eight years since the launching of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the country, nearly 1,24,000 children of 6-14 years age group still remain out of school in the capital city and NCR, and are denied their Right to Free and Compulsory Education. (MHRD Report released on 1 April 2011).

The pockets of neglect exist mostly in the growing slum areas. According to a recent survey conducted by Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation, one out of five persons of Delhi is a slum dweller. The number of slums as well as the persons living in slums have increased manifolds and all efforts to reduce the number of out-of-school children are proving to be a damp squib because it has not been possible to fight the increasing numbers arriving from other parts of India.

When there's a question of survival, education does not seem to be a priority and the childhoods in these slums are lost in heaps of garbage and filth. Padho aur Badho, the GAIL-CSR Initiative, aims to restore these childhoods and provide them a better and brighter future. Last year we worked with more than 3500 children and got more than 3000 enrolled into formal schools. Some of the slum pockets were made free of out-of-school children and Padho aur Badho Centre was shifted to another needy location.

However, this is just a drop in ocean. Much more effort and much wider coverage is required to address the daunting challenge. Also, it is not enough to enrol them into school, but the retention is a greater challenge. Handholding of each child for about one year, along with an extensive parental counselling is essential to provide sustainability to the programme. The effort is also needed to provide better income generation opportunities to the parents, especially mothers, so as to send the kids to school, instead of work.

With GAIL India's support behind this noble endeavour, AROH is set to help the poor children move from darkness to light to be able to write their stories of success!

Dr. Neelam Gupta  
President  
AROH Foundation



## Centre Feature - Sector 8, NOIDA

### Educating the Kids of Noida

Industrial hub, technology hub, media hub and educational hub are few of the titles given to Noida. In a very short span of time it has become one of the most developed parts of Uttar Pradesh. Industrialists are always eager to open their firms in this area. It has been divided into various sectors and the ratio of residential sector and industrial sector is 60:40. Noida also gets an advantage of being a neighbour to the capital of India, Delhi. Almost every television channel is situated in Noida which is an extra advantage and raises the bar of livelihood. With all such facilities available Noida has become a dream place for almost all the people. Everyone wants to have a property in Noida and live in this wonderful city.

But, as said that there are two faces of coin. This is applicable to Noida also. With most of the population belongs to the category of higher middle class or upper class there are places where people are fighting for their basic needs. In some sectors of Noida one can find sky scrapers and in some sectors one will see slums where hardly someone wants to live. One of these sectors is Sector 8 of Noida. Here people are living in slums, in an environment where people are more prone to diseases instead of proper facilities, in a place where children are rag pickers instead of school boys or girls, where people daily dig the well and drink water.

### NFE Centre, Sector 8, Noida

The inhabitants of Sector 8 are deprived and marginalized. They fight for their need of basic and fundamental of life. The environment of the locality is very poor and the disheartening fact over this is that these people involved in the intake of intoxicated drugs and liquor,



Kids at Noida sector 8 center with Educator Shabana

involved in gambling etc. To improve the livelihood the basic need is of the education which most of the kids and children are deprived of in this sector. This is because the income of the families is meager and they are not able to afford education for their wards. They use them as an earning hand for the family which makes the situation worst.

Therefore, AROH established Non-Formal Education Center under the Padho aur Badho program initiated with support of GAIL India since 2010. The children under the age group of 6 – 12 are enrolled in these centers. These children are given basic education and mainstreamed in the other schools.

### Efforts of the Educator

Educator of Sector 8 center visited the jhuggies of these slums and counseled the families to send their child to the NFE centers or schools so that they can earn a better livelihood in long run. It is a difficult job because parents who are earning 4 to 5 thousand per month can't afford the schooling which is becoming costlier day by day. The

educators make them aware about the program and motivate them to send their kids to the NFE centers where basic education is free of cost. This somehow sounds convincing for the parents and those who know the importance of education readily agree to this. AROH Foundation also helps them to get admission in some government schools after the training from NFE centers in subsidized fee.

Educator, Shabana is putting in best of her efforts in making the kids learn the basics so they can easily get admission in the schools. She makes them learn alphabets, numbers, addition and subtraction, poems etc. She starts her jobs by collecting the children from their house and brings them to the center. With her dedicated efforts the center is turning out to be a success and more and more parents are showing interest in getting their child registered in this NFE center.

### Activities at NFE Centre

At NFE centers these kids are taught about the basic things like alphabets, numbers, addition, subtraction, counting etc. Other than this the

educators prepare some charts and other things which can impart a message to these children. These children don't get a healthy environment so they are not aware of healthy living. To make them aware of healthy living health camps are also organized in regular intervals. They are taught about social skills which lacks in them because of the society. The students are motivated to take part in drawing competition, painting competition, excursion trips and other outings which make them aware of the things which they never saw before coming to the NFE centers.



Kids outside the NFE center at Noida Sector 8

## Mainstreaming

After the students complete their basic education the team of Padho aur Badho talks to the government schools and get these students admitted in them. The fee of these children is subsidized and they learn the elementary education in these schools.

## Difficulties & Solutions

It is a very difficult job to convince the parents because they assume that their wards don't need education because they can easily earn their bread through rag picking, by working in some tea stalls or dhabas, by working as newspaper hawkers or by putting up a small stall of

cigarette, paan, bidi etc. But educators and team members of Padho aur Badho were always aware of such circumstances so they were ready with the solutions. They told them the importance of education and how will it benefit them in the long run. This motivated the parents to send their kids to the NFE centers. After conquering the one tomb, there was another in the way to be conquered so as to make this program a success. This tomb was the problem of mainstreaming. There was lot of reasons why the schools were refusing for the admission of these kids. They had notions that these kids won't be able to perform

to the reputation of their schools, these kids are not from good social background etc. The educators and other team members of AROH convinced them to take a test of these kids as the educators were confident enough that their learning won't go in vain. They were proved right as almost all the kids qualified the test of the different schools. Due to non-availability of government schools in Sector 8 the kids also faced problem. To solve this AROH is trying to relocate the Padho aur Badho center to some nearby school so that it might face lesser problem in mainstreaming the young, budding and aspiring kids.

## Upcoming Events May 2011

### Noida & East Delhi Cluster

1	Buddy Bus	6 May
2	Educators Workshop	7 May
3	Excursion Trip to Dolls Museum	20 May
4	Mother's Day at NFE Centers	31 May

### South Delhi: Khanpur Cluster

1	Cloths Distribution on International Labor day	3 <sup>rd</sup> May
2	Educators Workshop	9 <sup>th</sup> May
3	Picnic	14 <sup>th</sup> May
4	Buddy Bus	20 <sup>th</sup> May
5	Model Decoration	21 <sup>st</sup> May

## Mainstreaming Report

**More than 1800 children have stepped out of darkness to move towards a bright future.**

AROH Foundation has arranged the admission of Padho aur Badho children in different MCD and Sarvodaya Schools. Some children, were also admitted in different private schools. About 1600 children were admitted in MCD and Sarvodaya Schools while another 200 children are now going to different private schools in the vicinity.

Three children, who were not mentally capable and were rejected by MCD Schools, were admitted to 'SAMADHAN' a school for handicapped in Tigri area, which AROH found out after 3 days of struggle. After the meeting with principle the documentation of those children was done and they were admitted there.

The process for mainstreaming started in February since the schools refused to admit the children in December and January. To implement this process AROH divided the South Delhi centers into five different groups and Noida and East Delhi cluster into six different groups; the division of the groups was done area wise. Team of Padho aur Badho met the principals and other authorized persons of different schools. They informed us about the admission process and other necessary documentation needed. Admission process for Sarvodaya Schools was done by online application.

There were some migrated families who came to Delhi-NCR region in search of livelihood. These families had to live in poverty as they had to work as laborers and do other odd jobs. The income was meager and they couldn't afford the education. They saw a ray of hope when AROH opened PAB centers near to their slums or jhuggies. But for mainstreaming the kids of such families' proper documentation was



required in which AROH Foundation took help from associates and MCD. AROH Foundation submitted the documents and admitted the children to the government schools and Sarvodaya schools.

AROH Foundation helped the beneficiaries to avail the 'LADLI' Scheme which has been initiated by Government of India for girl child.

Many reputed persons like **Mr. Satyendra Chowdhery** (Nigam Parshad, Sangam Vihar), **MLA** (C-Block, Sangam Vihar), **Mr. Ram Laut** (Govt. Employee Bachhan Prasad Sarvodaya School), **Mr. Praveen Choudhery** (Subhash Camp Nigam Parshad), **Mrs. Veena Dholakia**

(Sanjay Camp, Dakshinpuri), **Mr. Praveen Kasana** (Nigam Parshad, Jawahar Park) also joined hands and helped AROH in this initiative.

AROH has trained the PAB children about dress sense and better performance in the schools. AROH firmly believes that these activities will surely lift these children from a life of abject poverty and deprivation to a life where their basic needs are met and rights are protected. They are protected from child labor, begging and rag-picking.

A brighter future awaits the PAB kids as they walk their way to the school corridors!

## Capacity Building Workshop Innovative Ways of Educationg

AROH Foundation in association with Katha (NGO), organized an educator's capacity building workshop on 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at AROH Foundation's head office. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the ways of innovative teaching which could help the students to enhance their skills. Mrs. Shailendra, from Katha, introduced the session and told the educators about the workshop.

The session commenced with the discussion on integrated teaching. In this session teachers were told about new ways of teaching where many subjects can be combined in one and taught which would make learning a fun experience. With this kind of teaching the students will also be able to learn things fast. This practice would enhance the learning approach of the students. A butterfly poem was told as an example of the integrated teaching. A story telling session was followed by the integrated teaching session. This session focused on playful techniques of imparting education to the kids.

A session on social skills was also organized where educators were told about imparting the social skills and value in the kids. The kids from slums hardly experience any respectable environment. They are prone to the cat fights between the dwellers. Filthy language has become a part of their livelihood. With these things in their kitty, they need to develop a lot of social skills in them. Educators discussed about the ways of imparting these skills and making them learn to respect others.

After this a group discussion was there which helped the educators to interact among themselves and bring out some new things from each other. This exercise helped the educators about the techniques adopted by the experienced educators of AROH and the new educators zeal and ambition



Educators in a group discussion

motivated the other educators. Lot of valuable things were discussed which marked the success of the first day of program.

Teachers also gave some life changing examples. The examples were about the kids who were earlier prone to child labor. Now, in both the cluster i.e. Noida and East Delhi cluster and Khanpur cluster, people are motivated to send their children to the schools. People who are not able to send their children to the school for basic education are sending their wards to the nearest NFE centers of AROH.

The second day of workshop commenced with the exercise of Story web chart. In this exercise the educators were given the books by Katha namely Kokila ka mast matka, Jadui Martban and Bagh ka Panja, educators had to prepare a summary of the learning which they got from these books. They prepared a story web chart and presented their view on the same.

Educators also discussed about the teaching aids which can be

useful for the effective and efficient teaching. The educators gave example that they can also take the students out in the parks or gardens so that they can learn about flowers and enjoy the time as a picnic and all which would help them to retain the things for the longer duration. Educators also participated in the collage making which was done through the cuttings of the newspapers. They had to make a collage of any story and had to give a short presentation on the same. One of the educators gave a very good presentation on the global warming which was appreciated by all the members present on the occasion.

The workshop concluded with a session where educators were shown a video clipping on superstition. This clipping gave them the idea of how much superstitious these people are who prefer going to the Hakeems instead of doctors in case of any illness. Educators were also motivated to counsel the slum dwellers on superstition so that they can live a better livelihood.

## Planning Workshop for Session April 2011 - March 2012

Padho aur Badho: Planning workshop for session April 2011 to May 2012 held at AROH Foundation head office conference hall at 11.30 AM on dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011. Project Coordinators and Supervisors of Both cluster participated in the same headed by Senior Project Manager Smt. Jyoti Srivastva. The workshop was aimed to Introduction of Project team members, A view about the project from very beginning, Planning for next session, Beneficiaries Profile, Age Group, NFE Center location, Curriculum, Documents required for admission, Outreach Program, Tie-up, Capacity Building of the Project Team, Networking with other NGOs and the organizations working in same stream, Relocation of centers, Holidays list, Roles and Responsibilities of the Project team and to Prepare events calendar for next session.



Supervisors planning for the next session at planning workshop

The workshop began with an introduction session where every one introduced him/herself. Then SPM delivered inaugural speech telling about the project form very beginning and told about new strategies for project implementation in next session. It is also shared that Noida, East Delhi Cluster and South Delhi: Khanpur Cluster have to set examples of good practices as we are going to initiate two new clusters Ghaziabad and North East Delhi in this Session.

Beneficiary profile is also discussed. It is told that beneficiaries should be come from Poor Families, From Dropouts, Out-of-school or Never

enrolled in any school. Their age group should be 6-12 years. It is also said that if an educator faces problem to maintain 30 children of the said age group, she may enroll 5-7 children from 4-6 age group.

It is decided after a brain storming session that NFE Center should be located near to school and within the community. Educator should be from the same community but center will not be established in educator's home. Presence of infrastructure and inner look of center is discussed. Calendars and posters should be hanged at eye label. Minimum 10 calendars should be maintained at each NFE center. Inner look of a

center should be creative and it should be changed after a certain time period.

It was also discussed that an educator should collect following document at the time of enrollment of a beneficiary-

- Registration Form
- Birth Certificate
- Photo (6 copies)

Roles and Responsibilities of project team were shared with the educators. Both teams prepared events calendar for the coming session month wise. The 6 hr. long planning workshop ended at 5 PM with vote of thanks.

### Project Outcomes at a glance

No. of Centres	Estimated Enrolment	Actual Enrolment			Drop outs	Mainstreamed as on 31.3.11	To be Mainstreamed by 30 April 2011 (new admission start)
		Total	Boys	Girls			
100	3000	3961	1596	2365	579	1820	1381

## Educators Workshop – An Initiative for Bright Future

AROH Foundation conducted an Educator's workshop for the educators of Padho aur Badho program on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at AROH Foundation head office. This workshop was for the educators of Noida and East Delhi cluster. The agenda of workshop was to discuss on the status of mainstreaming center wise, problems in mainstreaming, and plans for the next month, planning for the fresh enrollments and about the upcoming events.

Educators enthusiastically participated in the workshop and shared their experience. Some educators who have been associated with AROH Foundation shared their experience with the newly appointed educators.

The main problem which the educators face while mainstreaming the students was that the schools take admissions of the children who are above 5 years so the children which are below 5 years of age are been sent to Aanganwadi Kendra. There were few schools which denied the admissions to our beneficiaries. Our project coordinators and educators contacted the higher authorities of those schools and helped our beneficiaries in mainstreaming.



Educators participating at Educators Workshop

A similar kind of workshop was organized for the educators of the Khanpur cluster in South Delhi on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Khanpur project office. The workshop provided a platform to the educators to share their problems which they face.

The project coordinators helped them to find the solutions to their problems. At the end of the workshop the educators were given a 360 degree feedback form to fill up to get an idea about the success of workshop.

## Planning Meeting: Noida & East Delhi Cluster

A planning meeting was organized for Noida & East Cluster on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at AROH Foundation Head office. In this meeting monthly status of program was reviewed on the basis of program indicators by Project coordinator and supervisors. The agenda for the meeting was to discuss the strategies for old centers where beneficiaries are available, relocation of centers to the community and behind the government school and to close non-performing centers.

Center wise enrollment status of beneficiaries was also discussed. Supervisors were asked to inform educators about maintaining 30 children of 6-12 age groups in each



Supervisors at Planning Meeting

NFE center. Supervisors were asked to complete the documentation of educators and submit them at the Head office.

Supervisors were also asked to

maintain the status of particulars at NFE Centers and find the requirements for the next session. Events calendar was shared and supervisors were asked to plan activities at NFE centers individually.

## Buddy Bus Trip of the Month

AROH Foundation in collaboration with Nirula's been able to avail Buddy Bus excursion for unprivileged children, where every fortnight a bus from Nirula's comes to one of the centers of the NFE program and take the children to their Noida Sector-2 Outlet.

This time 32 Block Trilokpuri was the lucky NFE Center which on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2011 along with their educator Shazreen and Supervisor Kamla Joshi visited the Nirula's.

Children are as happy as it seems like a heavenly trip for them. During the way to Nirula's they sang songs, cracked

Jokes and did lots of gup-shup. At Nirula's outlet they spent a gala time with Singing, Dancing and Scatting.

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

We are very much thankful to Nirula's for this initiative that allows the children to learn in a funny way, which improves not only their personality but



Children of Trilokpuri center at Nirula's

increase the ability to dream bigger & do effort to achieve the same.

## Kids Educated about Healthy Living

A health cum awareness camp was organized at Kalyanpuri. The purpose of the camp is to cater the beneficiaries of Padho aur Badho of our East Delhi Cluster. Centers of Kalyanpuri and Khichripur were benefited from this camp. Dr. Meenakshi Puri was present for the check up of the kids. She also educated them about the healthy habits which could keep them away from the diseases.

Dr. Puri said, "Almost all children are suffering from malnutrition and allergic diseases. They should take proper diet so that they could live a healthy life. If these people are given some tips of healthy living and they can implement them in their daily lifestyle, they can live a healthy life."

The camp started with an interactive session between doctor & the beneficiaries. At the end beneficiaries were given medicines and some refreshments. The refreshments were arranged by Mr. Sanjay.



## Success Story

With 50 centers running in Noida, East Delhi and Khanpur cluster, more than 1800 students have been mainstreamed in various schools of their respective cluster. Out of those AROH has been sharing success stories and here are another couple of success stories which broke the barrier of all adversity and emerged as winners.

### A Journey towards Success

Seven year old Rahul, who lives in slum of Sangam Vihar, with his father, mother & siblings, is a talented lad & had interest in studies, but as his father doesn't work and his mother has to work as a maid to serve the whole family, could not join school. With meager income her mother didn't take any initiative to get admission into schools.

She got to know about NFE Center of Padho aur Badho where Rahul could get non-formal education and that too free of cost and then with the help of NFE center only he would get admission in a government school or Sarvodaya school. She was very happy with this and readily agreed to send Rahul to NFE center. After his completion of basic education at NFE center at Sangam Vihar, he got admission in Sarvodaya School with the help of AROH Foundation.

Her mother says, "I always wanted my kids to go study, but with adversities on our way we couldn't afford it. Now, with the initiative that AROH Foundation has started, we are very lucky to get benefit of that. I would really like to thank AROH Foundation. This initiative will help my children to live a better life."

### Mahak – Spreading Essence of Learning

A saying in Hindi "Poot ke paon paalne mein hi nazar aa jaate hain" which means you can figure out how your kid is going to turn up right when he is only an infant. Same is the story of 5 year old Mahak. She joined the NFE center just two months ago and within two months she is now mainstreamed in R.S.K.V. School.

Mahak from childhood was a good learner and she used to learn things really fast. When she came to NFE center she was weak in reading and writing as there was no one to guide her at home. She used to live with her grand mother in Seema Puri.

Her parents are happy about her. Her mother says, "We couldn't have been able to afford her education. Thanks to NFE center of AROH, they helped my daughter get admission in school. This initiative will help other families who are not able to afford the education of their wards."