

Padho aur Badho

An AROH-GAIL Initiative



From the President's Desk

While the Law governing Right to Education is meant to ensure higher enrolment, we have a long way to go before we can ensure 'real and gainful' enrolment and retention for all out-of-school children. At the end of the first two years of Right to Education Act (rolled out from April 1, 2010) which guarantees free and compulsory elementary education, we have recorded a marginal drop in the number of students aged 6 to 14 dropping out of school.

Between 2010 and 2011, the system is stated to have ensured only two additional students for every 100 enrolled staying in school. Nearly one third of the states and union territories have seen an increase in the dropout rate in primary education despite an overall increase in enrolment two years after the Right to Education (RTE) was implemented.

Enrolling an out-of-school child on the school register will not make any social impact till each 'registered' child is retained by the school and taken forward on his/her educational journey in an appropriate manner. It is important that all stakeholders — the funding bodies, including Government of India and parents, teachers, school officials and social activists — to ensure that children stay in school and receive quality education.

The RTE Act has made the task a little easier by making schools accessible for all children, and all children acceptable to school authorities. However, the challenge before schools is to provide extra infrastructure and teachers for increased intake, so that children find schools attractive and inviting and the parents feel confident that education is adding value to their lives.

More than 50 per cent of the children in slums covered under PAB, either do not attend school because they are either not enrolled in school or have dropped out for various reasons. Most of these children are helping hands of parents fighting for their survival in the big cities. Children are sent out to work - for petty and menial jobs. Parents are ignorant and do not value education. To ensure retention of such vulnerable children in schools, is a challenging task which PadhoaurBadho is taking up successfully for the past three years.

We invite new ideas, views and opinions of all concerned on how we can ensure maximum outreach and success for PadhoaurBadho.

Dr. Neelam Gupta
President
AROH Foundation





Padho aur Badho – A Beacon of Hope

Padho aur Badho is an intervention by AROH, in partnership with GAIL India Ltd aiming towards literacy and empowerment of slum kids and their continued education in formal schools. Padho aur Badho not only aims at functional education but also value and development education covering areas like health care, economic, environment and empowerment.

Apart from their routine curriculum, the beneficiaries of PAB are taught good manners, good conduct and behavior. They are also given training on self grooming, neatness and hygiene. The changes brought in the kids have also motivated their parents and elders to learn such values and change themselves for better.

PAB kids are also given lessons in punctuality and time management as well, to prioritize their needs. This sharpens their memory manifolds and enhances their capacity of reading, speaking, writing. Their arithmetic, social science & general knowledge skills improve significantly and they are eager to pick up new skills.

An Ode to Educators

Educators are the backbone of Padho aur Badho. They are the ones who motivate the beneficiaries to learn and become better individuals. They reinforce in the young minds, the importance of education. They also help in identifying and shaping individual talents in the beneficiaries, like drawing, singing, elocution, games and moral studies. They, along with mobilisers and supervisors, counsel the parents for getting their kids enrolled in the nearest NFE centre.

Educators are selected from the same locality and this move of selecting the educators from the same area or community where the NFE has been opened has garnered full support from local communities too.

Since the inception of PAB, the Foundation has enrolled more than 10,000 beneficiaries and has mainstreamed approximately 85-90 percent of the enrolled beneficiaries. The ratio of drop outs comprises of only 10-15% of the total enrolment since the last 2 years. There is an increase in the count of the beneficiaries in the formal schools, continuing with their education.

Agenda for the new session

PAB project has set foot in its third year and it has been an incredible journey so far. From June, new session would start in all the clusters. The final lap of mainstreaming the trained beneficiaries has picked up its pace and to achieve the set target, the educators, supervisors and coordinators have padded up themselves to mainstream all the beneficiaries of the last session. To cover the areas of operation, educators have been divided into groups to visit the near by schools and to meet the responsible authorities for formal admission of the PAB beneficiaries.



Workshop for the new session

It's a dream come true for the mainstreamed beneficiaries, parents to see their children getting dressed for schools.

Since the mainstreaming process collate with the new enrolments for the current session, parents have started asking the rounds of enrolment process. Trained beneficiaries have come forward and requested to enroll their younger siblings for the current session. Seeing this act, the hope of the parents has doubled. The act has triggered a chain reaction and AROH is more than happy to help those in need. The new session plan has been put in place at all the four clusters. All the four clusters have been asked to follow a uniform pattern of activities as per the derived standardized teaching tools patterns. Beneficiaries have started enrolling in the program with new hope leading to new horizons.

Mission: Mainstreaming-2012



Mainstreamed Beneficiaries

During the session 2011-12, more than 1500 beneficiaries were enrolled at PAB South Delhi Cluster. The process of securing admission spots in formal schools were initiated early in the month of February-March.

After rigorous rounds of networking with different education departments and schools, AROH has managed to mainstream beneficiaries at various MCD schools, Sarvodaya Schools, Kendriya Vidyalaya and at some private & public school as well. Approximately 900 beneficiaries have secured admission in MCD and Sarvodaya schools, as per their eligibility criteria from class 1 to class-8 while approximately 410 have secured admission in nearby private schools.

Out of the entire lot, some 3-4 beneficiaries, belonged to special need category and cannot be admitted into regular formal schools. As they need special attention for learning, they have been enrolled at 'SAMADHAN' - a school for handicapped in Tigr Area.

Similarly the process has been adopted at other PAB clusters as well leading to a mainstreaming of all enrolled beneficiaries.

Process of Mainstreaming

The process for mainstreaming got started in the month February, 2012. An approach mechanism was developed for educators to cover all the nearby schools of the area of operation. The first step was to meet the principals and other authorized persons working in both shifts of the schools in their assigned area and to introduce the Foundation's activities in Non Formal Education. Educators then have to understand the process of admission at the school and on the necessary documents required for admission. To collect the required documents, supervisors met every beneficiary's parents personally and collected documents like Birth Certificate and Identity Certificate of the beneficiary.

In lack of such necessary documents, the admission process becomes cumbersome. Most migrated families do not have the residence proof, birth certificate or domicile certificate required for admission. In such a scenario the coordinator of the project requests the MCD school principal to assign schools staffs to pay a visit at the beneficiaries place for verification and the teachers do visit to confirm their identity and convey to the board for admission.

Delhi Government has initiated a program called "LADLI", for continuing education under which a provision of Rs. 1,00,000/- would be given to the children who have caste certificate and complete their class 12. Educators even submitted the caste certificates of the beneficiaries at MCD schools so that in future the PAB beneficiaries may avail the opportunity.

During the whole process personalities like **Mr. Satish Gupta** (Councillor, Sangam Vihar), **Mrs. Jyoti Singhal** (MLA), **Mrs. Sarita Choudhary** (Nigam Parshad, Sangam Vihar), **Mr. Satyendra Chowdhery** (Nigam

Parshad, Khanpur), **Mr. Ram Laut** (Govt. Employee Bachhan Prasad Sarvodaya School), **Mr. Praveen Choudhery** (Subhash Camp Nigam Parshad), **Mrs. Veena Dholakia** (Sanjay Camp, Dakshinपुरi), **Mr. Praveen Kasana** (Last Nigam Parshad, Jawahar Park) helped the PAB team in their mission 'Mainstreaming'.

Through this process of mainstreaming, out-of-school children get a second chance in life and one day they would be able to break the shackles of poverty and deprivation and move towards a life where their basic needs are met and rights are protected. Education is the only key to safeguard them from exploitation and being forced into child labour, begging or rag-picking.



A Happy Moment to share with Launching of PAB Website & MIS

A dedicated website for PAB project (www.aroh-pab.in) has been put in place for readers and patrons, to view the latest updates on news, events and progress of the project. The current happenings in the project is being updated immediately and the events that would be organized as per the scheduled calendar is also updated so that volunteers can come forward to register themselves in helping us to execute the planned activities.

Nutrition & Hair Care Awareness Workshop by VLCC

VLCC, a premier institute in the field of beauty culture, organized a wellness workshop on 'Nutrition and Hair Care' for the beneficiaries of PAB and GARIMA. To make the beneficiaries of Ghaziabad cluster aware of having a healthy life routine, the workshop was organized at the Ghaziabad Nodal office on 11 May 2012.

It covered the best practices of Nutrition and Hair care. Diet expert Ms. Laxita arrived with her team by 12 AM and the team included a hair care expert and a skin expert too, who sensitized the beneficiaries on the proper ways to look after their hair & skin.



Excerpts from Hair expert

Mother's Day at PAB - Show your mom you care

To honor and pay gratitude to one's mother the second Sunday in the month of May came into fore as 'Mother's Day'. PAB beneficiaries of North East Delhi Cluster too honored their mothers' by celebrating the Mother's day on 11 May'2012 at Sunder Nagri NFE centre

The Chief guests of the evening were Dr Sanjay Kapoor-MBBS, Ms Sheela Sharma- Project Coordinator (Action India) and Ms Bimlesh Kumari- Area Coordinator (Action India).

Dr Sanjay Kapoor shared his experiences of his childhood and on the importance of mother in every one's life while Ms Sheela Sharma asked all the assembled beneficiaries to respect and take care of their mother's as she is the first teacher, guide and mentor of her children.

Beneficiaries then sang a song to honor their mother's and presented them with their hand made greeting cards and hugged their mother's tightly. Project Coordinator thanked the chief guests for taking out some time and sharing the moment of truth with the less privileged beneficiaries of PAB.



Proud Parent

Annual Day Celebration– 2012

'Padho aur Badho' project was taken into the deep lanes of South Delhi slum areas for its implementation and started its operation in 2010 in the month of May. To commemorate the inception day, every year annual day was celebrated. The second annual day was celebrated at South Delhi PAB nodal office on 21 May, 2012. It is not just a celebration, but reminiscing the days of journey, overcoming the initial barriers and walking towards the successful progress of the project

Every team member of the South Delhi cluster converged at the nodal office and shared their sweet little memories, experiences and association with the project and the Foundation.

The gathering also gave an opportunity to discuss on the steps of implementation of the project effectively for the current session starting June'2012. Stepping into its third year of operation the team reassured that they would work even harder and would apply all the techniques learned so far for another successful run.

News at HO

- *Deepak Singh Coordinator of East Delhi/Noida cluster has been replaced by Soon Agarwal.*
- *Mirza Muneer has been appointed as cluster coordinator of Ghaziabad PAB cluster in place of Deepa*