

RISE Update | October 2017 | Diwali Special

# RISE

## Remedial Innovation in School Education

*Asato maa sad-gamaya (Lead us from Untruth to Truth)*

*Tamaso maa jyotir-gamaya (From Darkness to Light)*

*Mrityor-maa-mritan gamaya (From Death to Immortality)*

*OM shaanti shaanti shaanti (OM peace, peace peace)*



HAPPY  
Diwali

Diwali illuminations signified supernatural brightness and joy with the hope of finding light in darkness, achieving knowledge where there is ignorance, and spreading love amidst hatred. These lights symbolize knowledge. A Diya doesn't merely represent a decorative item but reminds one and all to give up their materialistic desires, defeat their ignorance by gaining knowledge if they wish to merge with God. We, in RISE also strive hard to add purpose and vision to people's life by adding the flavour of education and spread the light of knowledge within the darkness of ignorance. All 500 children and RISE management team ensured the actual message reached to everyone around celebrated the festival with all zeal. "Green and Clean Diwali" was the motto this year. It was well conveyed that lighting diyas is actually similar to showing gratitude towards nature and giving a selfless service. Placing a diya generates positive energy into the environment. The energy generated gives a positive effect on all the living around. It is a beacon that leads to a spiritual path and provides serenity of mind and soul. The month of October symbolized light, peace, harmony and knowledge. Diwali and Dusshera celebrations in the month depicted victory of good over evil, end of ignorance and darkness and attainment of knowledge





## Dusshera Celebration

Navratri is replete with symbolism about vanquishing evil and wanton nature, and about having reverence for all aspects of life and even for the things and objects that contribute to our wellbeing. The nine days of Navratri are classified as per the three basic qualities of *tamas*, *rajas* and *sattva*. The first three days are *tamas*, where the goddess is fierce, like Durga and Kali. The next three days are Lakshmi related – gentle but materially oriented goddesses. The last three days are dedicated to Saraswati, which is *sattva*. It is related to knowledge and enlightenment.

Dusshera which is also known as Vijayadashami, is a major festival which is celebrated at the end of Navratri every year. It is a celebration of the victory of good over evil. Every year as per Hindu calendar, this important festival is celebrated on the tenth day of the month Ashvin. The festival is observed for different reasons and celebrated differently in various parts of the Indian subcontinent. People all over the country participate in the occasion in their own way, with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The day marks the victory of the seventh incarnation of Vishnu – Lord Rama when he killed the ten-headed demon Ravana and thereafter handed over the throne of his kingdom Lanka to his brother Vibhishana. The word 'Dussehra' is derived from two Sanskrit words – 'dasha' and 'hara' – that mean defeating the ten, reported India.com. The day also marks the end of Durga Puja, where people remember goddess Durga's victory over the buffalo demon Mahishasur, to help restore Dharma.



RISE also holds its foundation in the thought of finding solace in struggles. RISE celebrated this vibrant festival with great vigor and enthusiasm. The tremendous cultural significance crossed the barriers of caste, creed or religion. The children, Educators and community of Sangam Vihar have been finding opportunities in crisis and making best out of it. RISE children also embarked Dusshera celebration through Skits, Ramleela Narrations and Cultural activities at all centres. The belief in honesty, truth and devotion was imbibed into the children through narrations by educators describing how well can be suppressed for a while but it cannot be defeated. It brought home the message of how being in reverence and gratitude towards everything that matters in our lives leads to success and victory

## Gandhi Jayanti Celebration

It was a celebration of peace, nonviolence and determination within RISE children on 2nd October 2017. Mahatma Gandhi was a man of Honour. **Gandhi Jayanti, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, is celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence by the UN. Such was the impact of the father of our nation!** His ideologies have been demonstrating pompous victory of simplicity and truth over deception and abuse.

Mahatma Gandhi is arguably, one of the most influential persons of the 20th century. **Albert Einstein, very aptly put it, when he said: "Generations will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth." He was not just a political leader, but a social reformer and a spiritual teacher, too.** On his birthday, We in RISE thought of sharing and promoting his ideologies within our children too. Lessons from his life depicted:



- **Anything is possible** – Mahatma Gandhi was not born in a family of great leaders nor was he a child prodigy or a genius like many other famous people. He was a common man who used to be very shy in childhood. He still emerged as a leader and a great man. **The lesson taught was to believe in you and do what feels right.** Never think any less of yourself.
- **Keep trying** – He never stopped trying until he succeeded. Step by step and slowly, he achieved what he wanted. **The lesson taught was of trying till we succeed. Success comes slowly to those who try and not to those who lose patience and stop trying.**
- **Non-violence** – Mahatma Gandhi always followed the path of non-violence and achieved what he wanted through peace. Sometimes, things around us make us sad and upset. But we can learn from him the lesson to stay calm in the tough situations. **The lesson taught was to try to follow the path of peace instead of violence to handle the tough situations.**
- **Simplicity** – Money and materialistic things don't matter if you are not happy. **Simple living and high thinking was his mantra.**
- **Be a role model** – Gandhi ji's famous quote- '*Be the change you want to see in others*' teaches us to be a role model and to lead by example. He was an active participant in all his campaigns, whether it was Dandi march, satyagraha or quit India movement, he was a role model.
- **See no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil** – We all heard of this lesson when we were small. Gandhiji's 3 monkeys are every famous who teach us this lesson.



At various RISE centres, prayer services and community functions to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation were conducted, paintings that reflect the Gandhian principles of life and freedom, an interpretation of Gandhi's ideologies on canvas were made by children and skits depicting glimpses of his inspiring life were portrayed. This way, we at RISE honoured his contribution towards India's freedom struggle and tried inculcating Gandhi in each one of us.





## Diwali Celebration

Diwali is celebrated on a nation-wide scale on Amavasya - the 15th day of the dark fortnight of the Hindu month of Ashwin, (October/November) every year. It symbolizes that age-old culture of India which teaches to vanquish ignorance that subdues humanity and to drive away darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge. Diwali, the festival of lights even today in this modern world projects the rich and glorious past of India.

The word Diwali is made of two words; deep (lamp or diyas) & avari (row), which means a line or a row of lamps. During the festival of Diwali lamps are lit in every home, office, etc. that is why this festival is also known as the 'Festival of Lights'.

This Diwali, RISE celebrated the festival in a unique way and made a difference in slum-dweller kids of Sangam Vihar, with full of joy and beauty. Burned the negativity in them and fired up the light of positive heart and mind. They were motivated to sparkle up their house and surroundings with true beauty and real light and spread message of clean India. In the wake of the Supreme Court order on the sale of firecrackers, the voices for



and against the sale and use of firecrackers during Diwali was raised through kids and educators.

For most of the underprivileged children it's not easy to have fun during childhood, as they are always busy helping at home or working to support their families from a very young age. The difficulties they face, financially and emotionally, are so persistent that they barely have time or mindset to even enjoy one of the biggest festival in our country – Diwali. Abject poverty is the main hurdle in celebrating the festival. These



children have only despair and darkness even on the occasion of festivals like Diwali resulting into hatred and desperation in the hearts of these children towards society. RISE did their bit to make a difference and celebrated Diwali with our 500 slum kids by distributing sweets gift packs to them.

We celebrated Diwali on October 18, 2017 at RISE Centres. All Educators with their children decorated the Centre from Waste Material and enforced sustainability and Green India vision. Very beautiful toran and artefacts were created out of waste and the children decorated the candles and diyas. The zeal of festival, creativity and harmony was tuning high through the preparations and

celebrations amongst all students and educators.. All the educators and children made Diwali very pompously.

The children lighted colourful candles around the slums and held Rangoli competition. Nothing can be more sublime, yet colourful and beautiful than this special way of celebration. Of course, there slogan was “healthy Diwali”. The children showed the real meaning of Diwali celebration – of peace, safety, happiness and prosperity. A lot of competitions like Rangoli Making, Diya and Candle decorations, artefacts out of waste and cultural plays and dance were conducted throughout the week to celebrate the festive week. At the prize



distribution, sweet distribution and awareness towards safety, Green and Healthy Diwali was conducted. The celebration was not restricted only to the kids and educators, but parents and community people were also engaged to spread the message in maximum capacity.

Complete devotion towards your gurus, dedicated and firm relations within a family, respect towards fellow being, end of darkness and dawn with light, importance of optimism, patience and positivity, victory of persistence and perseverance, equal status for all, and spreading love and harmony are clear learning from the story of deepawali and we strive hard to bring all these to each kid of RISE.



### YMCA NGO Meeting

Times are very hard to implement and achieve the basic mission of a project within the pre-established frames of a community. Slums like Sangam Vihar are very reluctant to accept changes that we are striving hard to implement. Social, economic and communal setups are very rigid and acceptance towards new initiatives is hard. Coordination mechanisms can provide significant value in community contexts, particularly in rapid-onset and/or large-scale community response. Well-run coordination bodies can improve community operations and result in better outcomes for affected populations. So YMCA Delhi decided to bring together all NGOs working in the similar conditions, towards similar goals to come together and mutually work towards the benefits of these deprived sects, societies and people. This eventually was targeting towards facilitating each other's' work and making the movement strong.

Not just empowering each other with work, experience, contacts and psychology but the aim of this association



is also to promote the work done. Conducting XIth addition of Yuva Mahotsav and NGO Mela has an agenda to promote merchandises produced by NGOs and introduce them to new public and private entities working in their communities.

Representatives from AROH Foundation RISE team also introduced the initiative within various bodies and

demonstrated the expertise and innovations we are taking up with underprivileged 500 children. RISE has also registered with NGO Mela and many children from the centres would be participating in various events like Folk Dance, Free style Dance, Rangoli Making, art & Craft, Skits etc in the upcoming event.

Children would be given a chance not only to showcase their talents but they also are introduced to more positivity of lives while interacting with other children, opportunities and events.



## Hailing RISE Children

Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivaar celebrated its Annual Day on 10<sup>th</sup> September in association with Government of India. Students and administration from privileged government & private schools, eminent personalities from government had gathered to solicit the occasion. On this occasion, RISE kids had also participated in the cultural event of the show and even volunteered for government aided scholarship exam held on the event. Later after the event, RISE students, educators and management were facilitated with shields and medals. The zeal of participation was at its apex and children utilised the platform for its maximum. In the crowd of well qualified and well equipped students, once again RISE managed to mark its presence with their undying spirit & full confidence.



## Sujeet – the pillar of RISE

Sujeet Kumar Chauhan has been the backbone of RISE since start. He works as Field supervisor but the intricacy of his approach is deeper than any other member working in the mission. He hails from Mau Village of Uttar Pradesh. His father Mr K B Chauhan and mother Ms Kamla Devi has faced many hardships to support Sujeet for his primary and secondary education. With similar connection of pain and struggles with RISE kids and educators, he has made a very strong bond and with the income, he also is supporting his graduation. RISE has experienced much different kind of employees, but Sujeet has always been the Stellar. He is one hard working and dedicated employee who keeps everyone else tied in one rope. Sujeet is proactive and he is available at all times and places irrespective of any constraint for which he thanks his wife Sheela who takes care of his house in his absence. Learning along with every day being RISE, Sujeet has proved his competency at all levels for all opportunities he thanks AROH Foundation for giving his various platforms to grow and help grow.

## Salim, Tortoise of the race...

Not just kids in RISE suffer a financial crunch in their lives but the emotional tragedy they bear on daily basis is hampering their learning capacity to a great extent. Salim is one of them. His mother has been ailing for a long time and need of her treatment has forced half of his family to migrate from village to Delhi. In a bare minimum wage of his father from being a sewing operator in a garment factory, it was really hard for the family of 4 to survive. RTE has given Salim a chance to pursue free education but the level of his education was equal to none. Also he often missed his school to be one of the earning hands of the family. RISE educators counselled his family that they are just investing in a short term income. They convinced him to send Salim to RISE centres in order to be capable enough to support his family for a longer time.

*He is showing slow improvement, but the good point is his charts shows inclination. His teacher in school describes him as one sincere and hardworking child. But now he is also only the list of well performing children of schools.*



**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.