

AROH  
FOUNDATION



# AROH Foundation

Annual Report 2007-08

...working to emancipate the poor and disadvantaged through programmes of education for life, vocational training and community health to promote a democratic, exploitation-free society, ensuring quality of opportunity to all - both at research level and action level.

A Ray of Hope



## **Introduction**

AROH (A Ray of Hope) Foundation is a non-government, social welfare organisation formed by a group of likeminded professionals and academicians from various segments of the society. AROH Foundation works to emancipate the poor and illiterate people through programmes of education, vocational training and improvement of community health services to promote a democratic, exploitation-free society, ensuring quality of opportunity to all both at research level and action level.

AROH's mission is to provide necessary services and facilities for education, growth and development of the vulnerable women and children. To understand and analyse the socio-economic concerns of women, especially from the weaker sections of society, whenever possible empowering women to gain their rights and advocate on behalf of them.

To fulfil its aims and objectives, the organisation adopts a two-pronged strategy. It undertakes research activities in the areas of concern to strengthen and consolidate the policy-level decisions. Along with research activities, the organisation is also actively involved in grassroots-level action to make a direct difference to quality of several lives.

All the previous programmes continued during the year.

Major activities and projects taken up by AROH in 2007-08 are:

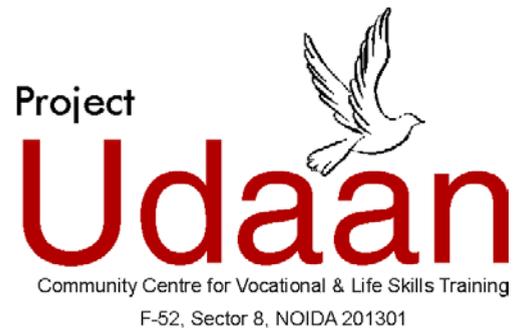
- Started Project UDAAN for Vocational and Life Skills Training for the poor and under privileged sections in Raghuvir Nagar and Village Gharbarah.
- Literacy and Education Programmes under UNGEI
- Padhna-Likhna' project
- Health camps under programme for Healthy Living
- Single-window Rehabilitation Program



## Vocational and Life Skills Training Programme:

AROH Foundation has started an initiative called **Udaan**. Project Udaan is an intervention targeted specifically towards the underprivileged women and youth population through Vocational Training – that is giving them equal opportunities to pick up and learn a new skill, supplemented further by counselling and guidance services hereby nurturing and empowering them till they reach a level where they are not only self-sufficient, but they in turn make a valuable contribution to society.

Aim here is to introduce the trade according to the needs assessment of the community on the basis of educational relatives, occupation, demand of the trade and identification of beneficiary. Those trades will be identified which are relevant for the economy of the area and will be helpful in creating jobs for individual or for group activities.



**The Project envisages to setup Centres for Vocational and Life Skills Training in various locations depending upon the local industry requirements. There will be a nodal Udaan Centre to cater to the bigger urbanised industrial setups and smaller Udaan kiosks will be set up at village-level. One nodal Udaan Centre will support, supervise and monitor 10-15 Udaan kiosks.**

The project is envisaged to benefit the beneficiaries and has the following advantages:

- Prepare the underprivileged youth for a vocation of their choice.
- Build up a workforce of international quality, which would have demand not only in local industries and India, but in all countries. In the manufacturing and service sectors there are hundreds of skills and vocations for which there is a worldwide shortage. For example, TV, electrical appliance repair and service, automobile repair and service, foreign language skills such as German, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, French etc., medical and health services, nursing, and any others. For India we need millions of trained people in the area of services for agriculture, floriculture, horticulture, sericulture, fisheries, healthcare, tourism and hundreds of skills for the manufacturing sector. We do not have world class vocational training infrastructure, even after 53 years of India's Independence.
- Reduce unemployment by supplying world class skilled people required by the nation and for rest of the world.
- Reduce costs and improve productivity of services and manufacture by providing skilled manpower. Run the industry with a higher efficiency, lesser wastage and lower cost of operation.

During Phase I, first Nodal Udaan administrative-cum-working office was setup at F-52, Sector 8, NOIDA and base-line survey was conducted in various communities to identify the beneficiaries and trades.

## **Programmes Offered**

Udaan Centre has organized following types of programmes:

### **Skill-Development Programmes:**

- Short-term courses are being offered to develop/enhance the skills/practical applications leading to income generation activities. These courses and skills can be broadly classified under: Computer-aided applications, Electrical /Electronics Repairs, Handicrafts, Information Technology, Generator Repair, Beauty Culture.
- Udaan Centre is also catering to any specific industry's demand to prepare skilled workforce for them from amongst the local population.

### **Capacity Building Programmes:**

These programmes include need-based programmes for training of resource persons, master trainers, designers, local body representatives, etc.

### **Awareness Programmes:**

Programmes such as exhibitions, audio-visual shows, talks, meetings, celebrations, melas, quality of life improvement programmes are being taken up on different occasions.

### **Life Enrichment Education (LEE) Programmes:**

Apart from the vocational courses, activities which are of immediate importance to the day today life of the beneficiaries are being organised. LEE components include: Communication skills, Inter-personal relations, Time management, Stress management, Self discipline, Work culture, Empowerment, Environment, Self development, Self confidence, Health education, Nutrition education, Home management, Memory power, Positive thinking, First aid and nursing, Legal awareness, Waste management, Air pollution, Rain harvesting, Population education, Adolescent education, Value Education, Child rights, Building of good habits, Personality development and grooming, Financial planning, Self esteem, etc. The objective of LEE is to make an individual not only capable of engaging in productive activities but also responsible citizens and successful human beings.

### **Beneficiaries of UDAAN project:**

Youth from marginalized and low-income groups in and around NOIDA

**Course duration:** Short term 12 weeks

**No. of Learners:** 20-25 per batch

**Total Beneficiaries:** During the last year more than 100 learners have benefitted form various programmes being offered at UDAAN.

## **Implementation Strategies for UDAAN:**

- Conducting base line survey in various communities to identify the beneficiaries and trades.
- Identification of vocations suitable to the needs of youth and women.
- Arranging financial and technical support for the project through various donors, multilaterals, government and non-government agencies.
- Selection of the qualified instructor/guest faculty members with appropriate experience for the vocational courses.
- Provide skill training in various identified vocations.
- Organize training programme for trainers to update their skills and spread their knowledge through the multiplier effect.
- Starting production centres to train children and women of marginalized communities.
- Identification and creation of marketing outlets for various products.
- Identification of outlets for placement of trained beneficiaries into wage employment.
- Arranging financial and technical support for project beneficiaries having skills to start self employment ventures.
- Establishment of liaison with government and non government financial institution to promote entrepreneurial skills.
- Rehabilitation of such children and main streaming them for economic rehabilitation.
- Establish linkages with the Continuing Education Programme and other development schemes with the help of district administrations, Local volunteers, state resource centres and other NGOs working in the field.
- Assisting outgoing trainees to form Self-help Group and develop and system for providing proper placement/employment to the trainees of vocational courses.
- To promote entrepreneurship and sustainability among the target groups, communities and through useful production and Income Generation Programme (IGPs).

## **Response to UDAAN Project:**

The target group and beneficiaries have responded well to the project. The need-based programme suits the requirements of various learners. The vicinity of industrial area gives ample scope for demand-driven courses.

## **Support for the project:**

The project seeks financial and technical support from various corporates and industries.



Soft toy making programme at UDAAN



Beauty Culture programme at UDAAN



Sewing programme at UDAAN



Computer Training programme at UDAAN

## **Computer Literacy for Under Privileged Girls**

Last year at AROH, we started using educational software to educate under privileged girls who are unfamiliar with the use and benefits of Computer Technology. The programme was based on interactive games, activities and classes, allowing the users to learn through self-paced, interactive sessions. The programme was merged into UDAAN project for the current year.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS:

### 1) Basic Computer Literacy:

The first part of the training programme for street and working girls comprises of a basic Computer literacy module

MODULES OBJECTIVES:

Information Science:

1. To identify the main components of a computer system.
2. To explain how to switch on and off the computer system.
3. To explain how to boot the computer system.
4. To demonstrate how to use the printer.
5. To identify a floppy disk.
6. To demonstrate proper handling of floppy disk.
7. To identify a CD-Rom disc.
8. To demonstrate proper handling of CD-Rom disc.
9. How to develop confidence with the computer mouse through various graphical projects.

### 2) Computer Aided Learning:

Once the basic Computer Literacy need is addressed, expansion into education in the fields of introduction of alphabets, numbers ,different colors, monuments of Delhi, etc. would be the next step.

The objective of the second part of the training is to teach the girls the basics of English and Numbers , spoken and written. Our effort is to make learning a pleasure for them by capturing their interest and bringing the excitement of learning for them. Also, this will help them build their communication skills .Having strong written and verbal communication skills are important to carry out a business of any kind , this will also help them with day to day human transactions.

Result of the training:

There should be a measurable improvement in the quality of learning gained after the completion of the training Programme at AROH. The girls should be able to recognize, understand and speak out English alphabets and numbers.

## Literacy and Education Programmes Continue:

AROH Foundation has been working towards increasing awareness about the importance of educating the girl child. Under this programme, several types of awareness building activities are taken up for different target groups. For policy-makers and stakeholders, it prepares reports on indicators, best practices and interventions needed to increase the GER in educationally backward areas. The Foundation works closely with the government of India and UN system. It mounts its efforts on programmes like UNGEI to reach the unreached. The programme was launched in 2003 and has since been carried out in various locations.

### Padhna-Likhna' project

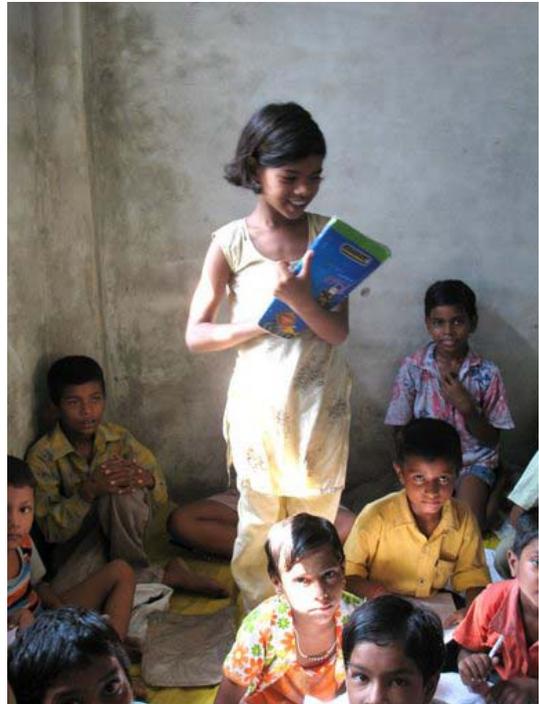
In recognition and support of community based grass root organisation - AROH's efforts continued in promoting early literacy for the disadvantaged children via its community reach programmes.

AROH's initiative called 'Padhna-Likhna' is to promote reading, writing, and basic arithmetic in children and the organisation is working with the communities and gram panchayats to help ensure that children between the ages of 6 and 14 achieve basic literacy.

The 'Padhna-Likhna' project, was launched in January 2006, and it tries to improve the learning levels of children in language, mathematics, physical and social sciences and life skills.

The programme involves four major components - introducing learning to read activities in the target groups, creating and supplying reading and learning materials to volunteers, involving mothers in their children's learning, and mobilising youth groups in helping teachers, children, and parents.

The programme is an step in the efforts to end the cycle of poverty perpetuated by illiteracy and poor education. As part of its mission, AROH volunteers see that every child is in school.



## Community Health Initiatives

AROH is running several community health programmes with the help of resources drawn from community, corporates, civil society and volunteer support. Some of the major programmes carried out during the year are:

### Identifying health problems and hazards in different areas:

Under this programme we carry out surveys to identify area-specific health concerns and try to find their root causes. Problem is tackled by adopting a two-way strategy – removing the

cause on the one hand and providing medical aid in the other. Such surveys were carried out in 4 villages of Dadri Block.

### **Programme for Healthy Living**

The project supports the national reproductive and child health programme in its aim to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality. It's aim is to improve overall immunisation coverage, raise awareness about the indispensable role played by routine immunisation in protecting a community's health, improve the quality of emergency obstetric care and promote an integrated management of early childhood illnesses.

Gender mainstreaming is of special concern to us. Due to their lower social status, girls are far more at risk of malnutrition than boys their age. Partly as a result of this cultural bias, up to one third of all adult women in India are underweight. The project seeks to provide the healthcare facilities to girl children and to create awareness about equal status and facilities for both girls and boys.

**Project Duration:** The duration of the project is one-year in each area. The frequency of camps depend on the local needs.

This year AROH organised the camps in 2 villages.

**Bal Swasthya Shivirs** (Child Health Camps) organised in Villages Aghapur and Harola of NOIDA. Regular periodal camps are organised in these villages and follow-up was kept. The camps provided:

- Provide free health check-up facilities for children upto 12 years of age.
- Provide free vaccination for infants.
- Provide counselling to mothers for better health and hygiene
- Check if there is any neglect in healthcare of a girl child by the mother or the family.

It was observed that the children suffered from various general problems. Generally they had ENT problems. The parents were given awareness about the hygiene and sanitation.



**Mahila Swasthya Shivirs** (Women Health Camps): organized in villages Agahpur and Barola. Stress was on reproductive health and childcare.

## Single-window Rehabilitation Program

In order to improve the general well being of our beneficiaries and communities, AROH has now developed a Single Window Rehabilitation Plan. This starts from identifying the problem to redressal leading to overall community development. There will be a convergence of all our programmes under one single umbrella. The main components under this programme are:

Component	Strategy	Activities
Primary and pre-primary Education	Improving the quality of primary education by having remedial classes, maximizing enrolment, minimizing drop outs, organizing teacher's networks, improving school infrastructure etc.	Support classes, teacher's network & training program, library & primary resource centre in schools, primary library, toy and experiment van, pre-primary education
Middle School Education	Improve the quality of science and social science in education, improve resources for the same, create teacher's networks, develop teaching techniques and enriching their skills etc.	Exhibitions, festivals, tuition center network, night schools, etc
Health and Women's Empowerment	Improve health status of women and children, improve utilization of existing of government health services, drinking water, create a local team of village health activists, and finally organize & empower women, support women victims of violence.	Good Health Movement, women's health program, adolescent girl education, health van & health camps, health melas, counseling & support networks, health resource center, self help groups, sanitation, and drinking water
Income Generation and Vocational Training	To train women and unemployed youth on skills to provide them with employment, to provide product development & quality improvement support, and to create wider marketing network for products made in villages.	Enterprise network and building strong folk mart.

