

RISE

Remedial Innovation in School Education



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. - Nelson Mandela

Education is the first step to given to children as the power to choose the way of life they want to lead. Education acts as a lever of change and our educators holds the lever and decide the curves and sharpness a child develops to deal in life. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. People debate over the subject of whether education is the only thing that gives knowledge. Education is an essential part of a living being, whether it's a boy or a girl. Education helps an individual to be smarter, to learn new things and to know about the facts of the world. Education plays one of the most important roles in Women Empowerment. It also helps to put a stop to discrimination based on gender. Education is an essential tool for bright future for all of us. We can achieve anything good in the life using the tool of education. Higher level of education helps people in earning social and family respect and unique recognition. Education time is a crucial part of life for everyone personally and socially. It provides a person a unique standard in the life and feeling of well-being. Education provides ability to solve any big social and family and even national and international level problems. No one of us can unseen the importance of education in the life in every aspect. It turns the minds towards positivity in the life and removes all the mental problems and negativity. Similarly Teachers play important role in our life to become successful in career and business. A good teacher helps us to become good human being in the society and good citizen of the country. Teachers know that students are the future of any nation. So the future development of any nation is in the hands of teachers. In RISE our educators acts as tools of change. They strive persistently to bring positive change in the lives of our children. There are an endless amount of great teacher stories that attest to the benefits of a strong relationship between an educator and pupil. We salute the undying and unending spirit of our educators and their determination towards job.



Felicitating the spine of RISE



India celebrates teacher's day on every 5th September to commemorate the birth anniversary of its second President and a remarkable teacher – Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Teachers' Day is celebrated to honour and acknowledge the countless contributions of the great teachers in India in helping and moulding the careers of lakhs of students and in turn shaping the destiny of India. In 2020, World Teachers' Day will celebrate teachers with the theme *"Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future"*. The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly added to the challenges faced by already over-extended education systems throughout the world. It is no exaggeration to say that the world is at a crossroads and, now more than ever, we must work with teachers to protect the right to education and guide it into the unfolding landscape brought about by the pandemic.

Every child, no matter where they come from, deserves great teachers. Passionate, motivating, effective teachers are the foundation of a quality education; and a quality education opens the doors to a lifetime of opportunity. Teachers are an important for the society and in everyone's life. Teacher in role is a method of teaching that utilizes techniques of drama to facilitate education. If the role of a teacher is to teach, the role of a student must be to learn. In the slums of Sangam Vihar children are provided all sorts of facilities to get the basic education, and the best part is the educators that are playing the roles of angels in the life of those children. As it was the time of COVID, students and teachers celebrated Teachers' Day 2020 virtually through online classes. Every year, students prepare a speech for their teachers, to convey their wishes and gratitude. Even this year also, RISE students prepared speeches at home, which were performed online, during virtual celebrations. RISE children across all the RISE centres have

HAPPY
TEACHER'S
- DAY -

come up with creative ways to thank their teachers, albeit virtually. Ishita, 8, who has made a poster, says, *"I drew a tree to represent my teacher and wrote: Teachers plant the seeds of knowledge that last a lifetime."* Tania, 7, has written on her poster: *"Thank you teachers for working day and night to find innovative ways so that our education doesn't suffer when we are at home. Teachers are our corona warriors!"*

Over the past five months, we have become tech-savvy and we are prepared to use every bit of technology to keep the studies going on with creative ideas. Though it was truly a challenging task as the programme will be held online for both the teachers & students living in the slum areas of Sangam Vihar but they never stopped accepting the challenges. Teachers & students of RISE love each other. Even RISE teachers were excited to see what their students do to celebrate this day. Babita, RISE Educator, says, *"Every year, I get lots of chocolates, cards and cookies from my students, but this time I was thrilled with beautiful online surprises by my students. One of my RISE students, Deepika, had been practising for days to portray by wearing a saree like me, and imitating myself. She was so excited to do something to say thank you. So, she draped her mother's dupatta around her like a saree, and she had been practising to speak like for days now! This was the best happiness I've got in these past months. It's the love and respect from our children that keeps us going."*



Honouring our mother tongue ... Hindi

Hindi Diwas is celebrated across the country at 14th of September every year to remember the historic occasion of the Hindi. It was started celebrating as a Hindi Diwas as Hindi written in Devnagari script was approved as an official language by the Constituent Assembly at 14th of September in the year 1949. India observes Hindi Diwas annually on 14th September, to promote Hindi language and to save it from getting extinct. Together with the economic prosperity and technological development in the country, the Hindi language is losing its importance a little while. Everyone wants to learn and speak English language in order to get success in almost all the fields as there is demand of the same. However, we should not leave our

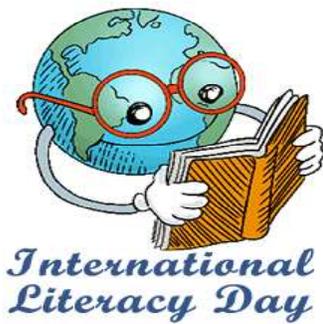


mother language and take interest in it to have thorough knowledge together with other necessities of being success. Language and culture of any country plays an important role in making people-to-people contact between any countries. Every Indian should give value to the Hindi language and credit for the economic advancement in the country. It reveals the history of India from very ancient time and is the key for our identity in future. It is a very vast language spoken and well understood by the people of other countries too. It provides very easy and simple means to interact with each other. It plays a key role in uniting the diverse India, so called as the link language. The reason to celebrate this day that people are now forgetting their mother tongue or the language, now everyone is busy in learning other languages and the value of Hindi is getting lost. Times are tough, and needless to say it has impacted our mental health. The pandemic has taken a toll on most of us, but there are still some rays of hope that keep one motivated. Like every year this year also, RISE team has not left any single event/ festival to celebrate no matter if it is the time of COVID. Children very enthusiastically celebrated all the days and festivals with their classmates & teachers digitally. Hindi is the better mode of communication among the people in India so it should be promoted among each other. Thus, Hindi Diwas is celebrated in RISE with the unique programs and competitions organized related to Hindi poems, story recitations, vocabulary quizzes and etc. These were few of the finest speeches children recited to their teachers in their online classes. Their Hindi speeches included Hindi's history, its contribution in building a modern India, why it was chosen as our official language along with English and also the raging debate over its nation-wide imposition. Children even created Hindi posters & drawings and showed to their fellow classmates & teachers while on video calls. On this occasion RISE Educators also told the students the importance of our mother tongue, Hindi language. Educators also shared few names of the Hindi literature whose books are still being read and they will be evergreen writers and their books will be preferred in future also. Writers like Kabir, Kalidas, Chand Prem, Harivansh Rai Bachhan, Mahadevi Devi Verma and many more. RISE educators also shared few of their personal favourite books that they have read till now and still love reading them.

We at RISE tried our best to strengthen our roots of spoken language and children feel proud of our mother tongue.



Demonstration of Importance of Education



To remind people of the world the importance of literacy, World Literacy Day is observed every year on September 8. Literacy helps people live with dignity and makes them self-sufficient. This year, Literacy Day assumes even more significance amid the COVID-19 crisis. The mode and focus of learning have changed as virtual classrooms replaced the usual ones and online interactions took the place of face to face discussions. Literacy missions across the world have suffered a setback as reaching out to millions of children in poorer countries have become tough online. International Literacy Day is a United Nations designated day. International Literacy Day (ILD) 2020 will focus on Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond with a focus on the role of educators and changing pedagogies. The theme will highlight literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective and therefore mainly focus on youth and adults. The recent Covid-19 crisis has been a stark reminder of the existing gap between policy discourse and reality: a gap that already existed in the pre-Covid-19 era and is negatively affecting the learning of youth and adults who have no or low literacy skills and therefore tend to face multiple disadvantages.

On International Literacy Day our Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi said, *"we promise to work towards achieving 100% literacy by complying with the reforms within the National Education Policy 2020."* RISE believes that a time when we need to reinvent a world of hope, literacy is more important than ever. Literacy plays an important role in empowering and transforming the lives of individuals and society. On International Literacy Day, RISE resolved to create a self-reliant, self-confident and competent Bharat that is literate, educated and empowered. *"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."* This quote stands completely true as the power to read, or literacy, is much needed to escape any form of bondage or restrictions. History is witness to the fact what a pen or a book could do to overpower even those



who considered themselves undefeatable. On this day RISE Educators shared their feelings regarding the importance of education & told that they feel lucky to be literate persons and that make them feel proud & confident. They can take decisions, understanding the positive and negative sides of the issues/ topics. Educators shared that they feel privileged and honoured as they can share their education to others who can use education as weapon to conquer the world and could set examples for other ones. Educators also told the students that Literacy is essential to get free from the shackles of poverty, exploitation, taboos, superstitions, stereotypes, hegemonies, and anything that holds back the society from progressing. Children very carefully learnt everything by their teachers through virtual classes and promised their teachers to study regularly.



Menstrual Hygiene Day



While menstruation is a normal phenomenon, which is an essential feature of a woman's reproductive ability, yet girls and women in India go through extreme struggles to manage their menstruation cycle every month. India, a sub-continent with over 1,380,209,695 people as per July 6, 2020, has **only 57.6% of women using sanitary napkins during their menses**. If this percentage wasn't already a red flag about the rest of **42.4% of the women across the country resorting to unhygienic practices** like using cloth, cotton, leaves, ash, or hay, the recent Corona lockdown created harsh circumstances for menstruating women. Use of Ashes and Muds for menstrual hygiene, washing reusable feminine products with soap and drying them in sunlight may be difficult due to lack of water, private facilities, and cultural taboos associated with menstruation can increase a woman's chances of contracting cervical cancer, Reproductive Tract Infections, Hepatitis B infection, various types of yeast infections and Urinary Tract Infection, to name a few. The situation is worst in poor and marginalised segments.

In times of Covid pandemic, where health and hygiene is of utmost im-

portance, lack of menstrual hygiene is only aggravating their risk to infection. AROH on personal level took the initiative of sanitary napkin distribution to women in need. Along with the distribution of the pads, AROH-RISE conducted community surveys, extensive online webinars and Facebook Live sessions to connect with the last mile houses in the villages and make them aware about safe menstruating practices. Experts were roped in, projectors were used and local ANMs were engaged to achieve the mission of "Period Freedom" – effort for Promoting Freedom of Women from Period Pain and Shame. RISE Educators recalled how helpless the women had become during COVID and how the personal hygiene had taken a back seat. While RISE teams were on the ground, trying to facilitate essential supplies people in need, they met residents of Sangam Vihar & Mundka slums of Delhi. The residents said, *"We don't even have enough to afford two square meal for our families how can then we ask our husbands for sanitary napkins? We & our daughters have managed to survive our cycles while using old clothes. We know*

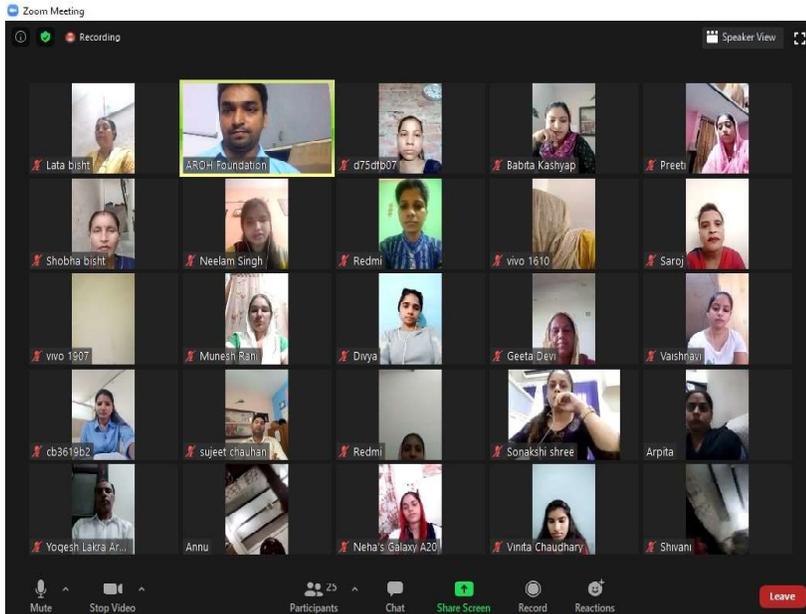
it can affect our health but then what can we do?"

During the survey our teams observed Rohini wasn't alone. Hundreds of women in the urban slums of Delhi were in a similar situation and things may be worse than what they appear as such issues are not discussed openly. They already were struggling to survive in lockdown as the pandemic had already taken their sources of income.

With more and more awareness, we need to address both the genders so that we make them comfortable and accept menstruation as a naturally occurring healthy phenomenon, instead of some shameful and impure occurrence that makes women untouchable for the time being. Further, we need to take the initiative of making sure that women coming from less fortunate families have access to sanitary napkins, while the state-run schools come back in action after the pandemic is taken care of.



Online Educator Workshop



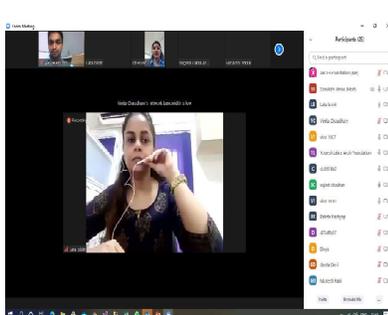
Educators play a very vital role in RISE. The development of community, society, nation and universe is dependent on the educational system. The holistic development of children of any nation is in the hands of teachers. Education in RISE has a symbiotic relationship with teacher education as teachers are the frontline providers of quality education. Sufficient supply of well-qualified and well-trained teachers is the most important, if not the only, contributing factor of school effectiveness and quality of learning. With this paradigm shift from simplistic linear quantitative expansion to qualitative transformation in school education, the teacher education system in the country has increasingly emerged, during the last two decades or more, as an area of overriding concern. Thus to ensure Quality in the field of Teacher Education, a digital Educators' Workshop was conducted through Zoom. As new RISE educators were appointed, reporting methods, formats & rules were discussed with them. To highlight issues and the services that could be included in the Education, methodology for preparation of core scope document, purpose and expectations, this online workshop was organized. Suggestions were welcomed & all the doubts & queries were cleared during the workshop. The whole team was informed about the importance attached to Education & how the outputs of this exercise will be used as inputs for creating the Core scope document for the School Education.

The primary purpose of this workshop was to explore the importance of Education and to find solutions to the problems that RISE Educators face while reporting on Whatsapp groups, in community & surveys. The workshop saw the participation of all the officials of the RISE department. The workshop began

with a formal welcome of the RISE officials by Ms Sonakshi Shree, RISE Project Head, addressing everything about AROH & how Project RISE works. The workshop was about providing the teachers an overview of the importance of teaching & Education. She emphasized on the role of Education and explained how it has come to be perceived as a symbol of people's aspiration for quality education. She next talked about the challenges faced by teachers while teaching digitally such as difficulty in explaining concepts in English/Hindi, lack of participation by students, teachers not equipped to handle the language in their own domains etc. Teachers also came forward and talked about the challenges & difficulties they face while they are surveying students & families in the communities. They opened about the lack of participation of community people with them.

The workshop aimed at encouraging and motivating the educators to bring in innovation in the teaching-learning process. It also aimed at developing their leadership skills to guide students and enable them to find a solution to problems to bring about positive changes for a sustainable future. Every aspect of online teaching was touched upon with an effective group task given by the AROH Head office staff, followed by a fruitful discussion.

The workshop was summed up by giving very important suggestions to the teachers such as using new techniques to build students' self-confidence; giving students ample opportunity to engage in studies & activities at home; simple conversation, discussion and debates during Zoom/ Whatsapp class interactions and finally, attending workshops for professional growth. This workshop was a medium for all the RISE Educators to encourage & participate freely and frankly so as to provide relevant and useful insights for the smooth functioning of work & responsibilities.



Digitizing Anshika !

Anshika, 11 years, is a fruit of hard work put up by RISE educators, and her parents. She is a student in 5th standard in Delhi government school. But at this stage also she was not able to hold pencil properly and identification of simple alphabet was a struggle for her. But Anshika's mother Meera Devi always wanted her daughter to study & she saw education as a hope towards better life. During one of our RISE awareness campaign, Meera Devi came to know about RISE initiative in her region. It took her no time to get Anshika enrolled for the benefits. Anshika has been a regular student since start of RISE in 2016 and now after around 1.5 years, her growth is spectacular. But in times of COVID-19, studies of Anshika were badly hit as the classes were shifted to online mode. Coming from a poor background fighting for meal and money, extra support for better education was not even in thoughts. But Aoli Singh, RISE Educator didn't let her suffer. She informed AROH team about Anshika's condition and on the very next day Anshika's father's smartphone was recharged with Internet so that she can continue her digital classes. Now Anshika is happily continuing her classes.



In her own words, Anshika's mother Meera Devi proudly says, *"Hard work put in by her educator, regular monitoring and her own dedication has made her score well both scholastically and CCA too."*

RISE has given her hope to study & see dreams for her bright future. Anshika has been very happy and she promised us saying, *"I'm so grateful that my studies has not stopped and this all because of my RISE teacher and AROH. I'll pay much more attention towards my studies and will score number 1 position in examinations."*



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.