

A Bharti Foundation Program Update

VOICE *of* CHANGE

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EDUCATED
•
ENERGISED
•
EMPOWERED



SATYA BHARTI STUDENTS – DRIVING SOCIAL CHANGE ACROSS RURAL INDIA

bharti

Bharti Foundation

FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you the latest edition of *Voice of Change* newsletter. This issue is dedicated to the award-winning entries by Satya Bharti students at the national-level *Design for Change* contest. These stories bring forth the social transformation that our young Satya Bharti students are bringing in their communities across rural India.

With holistic development at the core, our flagship initiative, the Satya Bharti School Program, continues to provide quality education to several first-generation learners in rural India,

with a special focus on the girl child. Our education initiatives are geared towards empowering children to become educated, responsible and self-reliant citizens with a deep sense of commitment towards society.

Community development campaigns form an integral part of this process. Our students learn the concept of individual responsibility at an early age, thereby inspiring them to be the change they want to see in the world. I am happy to note that year after year, our Satya Bharti students have been successfully running powerful social campaigns that effectively address prevalent social issues.

Please join us in celebrating the power of these young agents of change!

Jai Hind!

Vijay Chadda
Chief Executive Officer
Bharti Foundation

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TRANSFORMING INDIA, ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME



Bharti Foundation strongly believes that providing quality education to the children of today and ensuring their holistic development is key to building progressive societies and a developed Nation. Our world today needs educated, energised and empowered citizens who place their communities and Nation before self; leading their lives with integrity and fulfilling individual responsibility.

The Satya Bharti School Program was set up envisioning a generation of future citizens deeply rooted in their communities and aware of the social issues at large. This vision is supported by our young agents of change to lead the overall development of our Nation. And with a strong belief in the role that quality education plays, Bharti Foundation undertook this quality education initiative, reaching out to thousands of underprivileged children across rural pockets of the country, laying special focus on the girl child. The program, through its emphasis on holistic development, is aiming to bring

forth a new generation of citizens eager to usher in positive change.

The impact of quality education is being scaled up further by transferring the learning and best practices of the Satya Bharti School Program to Government Schools through the Satya Bharti Quality Support Program. Together, these programs have established Bharti Foundation as one of the largest private enterprise initiatives in the education sector in India.

Satya Bharti Schools are preparing children to emerge as responsible citizens, spearheading social transformation in their immediate communities and beyond. Here, it is important to note that while our education initiatives substantially complement the Nation's education agenda, our special focus on life skills such as communication, leadership, discipline, integrity and truth ingrains a strong sense of responsibility in children towards their family and their community. Furthermore, our programs' emphasis on the all-

round development of children encourages them to take up real-life challenges, thereby readying them to lead positive social change in their community.

Through our Community Development Program, students receive first-hand exposure to the various social issues and the best opportunities of experiential learning, encouraging them to think, to imagine and to act. This enables them to confidently move forward as leaders of social transformation while engaging the community to act! Through rallies, awareness campaigns, demonstrations, interactions, street plays, innovative practices, village activities and school activities; our students are marching shoulder to shoulder with community members, motivating them to offer their sustained support and participation. It is extremely heartening to see these young, enthusiastic students taking on the charge and responsibility of transforming the world into a better place.

Mamta Saikia
Chief Operating Officer
Bharti Foundation



A Safe Childhood, A Secure Nation



CHANGE-MAKERS

Rekha, 15
Priyanka, 15
Pukhraj, 16
Kailash, 14
Ranaram, 14

(Satya Bharti School,
Kanasar, Rajasthan)

The residents of Kanasar, a remote village located in the unforgiving conditions of western Rajasthan, are prone to several day-to-day problems such as availability of water, electricity and the means to earn a sustainable livelihood. Further, lack of awareness among community members often led to gaps in safety, with children being the most vulnerable. Shockingly, several children had lost their lives due to mishaps that could have been avoided, were it for basic awareness. Incidents such as children drowning in underground tanks because they weren't careful while attempting to draw water from these tanks, or dying of electrocution because a live wire had not been secured, were occurring at an alarming note. This was further worsened due to lack of access to basic first-aid. In addition, the absence of motorable roads meant that ambulances were heavily delayed, causing loss of precious time while attempting to reach the village.

Such mishaps alerted the students of Satya Bharti School, Kanasar, and they decided to do something about it. They devised a two-step plan. The first step was preparing a strategy that covered the means and tools required to spread awareness among community members. They also organized a sensitization session in the village and comprehensively discussed issues like precautions to be taken while drawing water, how to secure construction sites, etc. As part of the second step, the students created a street play on child safety and enacted it at strategic locations in the village, including at the *Gram Panchayat*.

Together, these concerted efforts by the students began to pay off, with community members growing more sensitized and a reduction in occurrence of mishaps.



HATHUR- A HOME FOR EVERY WINGED FRIEND



Every creature, big or small needs love and care. While playing in the school fields during their lunch break, a group of students from Satya Elementary School, Hathur, Punjab, noticed that there was a lack of bird nests in the trees not just in their school but all across the village. This raised a serious concern in the minds of these young environment crusaders spurring them to take immediate action.

They laid out a plan of providing shelter to the birds using waste materials. They set into action by collecting waste plastic bottles and cans, transforming them into beautiful nests. Inspired by the students' efforts, the community members also joined in and assisted the students on various fronts. They provided mud nests free of cost and

when students faced problems in reaching the high trees, poles and roofs; the community members helped install the nests both in the school as well as across the village.

This *Chidiya Ko Bhi Jina Hai* campaign by these young change-makers has provided shelter to many birds that fly over Hathur, and brought the community members of the village together. The villagers now continue to work hand in hand inspired by the compassionate students of Satya Bharti School helping every creature, big or small.

CHANGE-MAKERS

Amritpal Singh, 13
Aniket Singh, 12
Jaspreet Kaur, 13
Ramandeep Kaur, 13
Jashan Kumar, 12

(Satya Bharti School,
Hathur, Punjab)





No One Left Behind



Young out-of-school boys and girls working in their homes or picking up odd jobs had become a common sight in Tulesar village of Rajasthan. Working to ease their parents' financial burden is a path chosen more often than going to school, by these children. Owing to this, the dropout rates at Satya Bharti School, Tulesar, began to increase and the attendance rates started to drop. Students of Class V were deeply concerned about this, since a large number of their peers had recently dropped out of school, and resorted to working with their parents or doing other odd jobs in the village.

The concerned students of Satya Bharti School, Tulesar, then decided to launch a campaign to bring their peers back into school. The campaign titled *Aa Ab Laut Chale* targeted all 35 school drop-outs and with support from the school teachers, made them aware about the benefits of education and its lifelong impact. With the help of Village Sarpanch, the students visited the homes of their once-upon-

a-time peers and motivated them to return to school, including convincing their families. In fact, in their efforts to encourage the drop-outs to return to school, the Satya Bharti School students also helped them get dressed up in school uniforms.

As a result of the campaign, a total of 19 drop-outs returned to school and are now regularly attending school and displaying good learning levels. This campaign has truly captured the essence and values of the Satya Bharti School Program. After having realized the importance of quality education, the students are now reaching out to other out-of-school children to spread the joys of learning and its future benefits.

CHANGE-MAKERS

Laxita, 11
Manisha, 10
Ramniwas, 11
Mukesh, 10
Sawai, 10

(Satya Bharti School,
Tulesar, Rajasthan)



COMPUTERS: PORTALS TO QUALITY EDUCATION



On their way to school, a group of students from Satya Bharti Government Primary School, Majra, in Neemrana District (Rajasthan) would often notice a few children doing odd jobs instead of going to school. Wondering why these children are not in school, the students decided to do some research. Soon, they discovered that the families of these children often moved from one village to another in search of work, thereby

with the teachers, who also arranged for all the required teaching aids.

During this process, the students also reached out to community members for their support. They even approached families of the affected children and were pleasantly surprised by the positive response they received. Soon enough, the classroom-turned-computer lab was buzzing



depriving the children of a stable education. Unable to cope with constant change, these children would lose motivation of going to school.

Upset with their plight, the students of Satya Bharti Government Primary School, Majra, developed a plan to encourage these out-of-school children to go back to school, with the means of computer classes. Conducted over weekends, within the school premises, by converting a classroom into a computer centre, these free-of-cost classes were designed to generate an interest for learning among children. Each training session was designed along

with its newest learners. The bright children were eager to learn new concepts in each session. Soon, the joy of learning encouraged them to enroll in regular schools and pursue continued education.

CHANGE-MAKERS

Varsha, 10
Himansu, 10
Monika, 10
Chirag, 9
Vandana, 10

(Satya Bharti Government Primary School, Majra)



Toys for Girl Child



CHANGE-MAKERS

Simran Kaur, 9
Harpreet Kaur, 9
Priya Sharma, 9
Amandeep Kaur, 8
Kirandeep Kaur, 9

(Satya Bharti School,
Mithewal, Ludhiana,
Punjab)

As the daughters grew up in Mithewal village, Ludhiana in Punjab, they started to realise the gender inequalities and growing discrimination, which often led to girls losing their confidence. Determined to reverse the social stigma associated with the girl child, a group of girls from Satya Bharti School, Mithewal, decided to bring about a change by launching a community campaign.

The students kick-started the campaign by going from door to door in the village, raising awareness around the discriminatory practices followed by people in the village, such as preferential treatment to sons by providing them new clothes and toys while leaving out the daughters. Role-plays were also conducted throughout the village. In addition, the students spoke to parents regarding this issue at parent-teacher meetings. With the support of the *Naujawan Sabha* (Youth Club), Mithewal, the students conducted rallies and spread the message through newspapers to ensure an expanded outreach of their campaign. An important component of the campaign was distribution of toys to

girls in the village under five, as a symbol of equality between them and the boys (with financial support from *Naujawan Sabha*).

The campaign also faced its share of challenges, with some community members refusing to admit to the prevalence of the issue. However, the brave students of Satya Bharti School, Mithewal, were able to bring about a significant change in an otherwise rigid community mindset. They are now determined to enhance the impact of their campaign by extending it to the neighbouring communities. Through efforts like these, students are helping communities move towards a gender equal India!



A HOME FOR ALL CREATURES, BIG AND SMALL



CHANGE-MAKERS

Rajwinder Singh, 13
Jaspreet Singh, 13
Dilpreet Singh, 13
Shiv, 13
Talvinderjit Singh, 13

(Satya Bharti Adarsh
Senior Secondary
School, Rauni)

Each living being needs to be treated with respect and care. While the residents of Rauni village in Punjab believed in the sentiment, for some reason, they were not practicing it well. Animals and the cattle that had ceased to be useful were grossly neglected. As a result, the stray cattle were wreaking havoc in the village, damaging homes and fields of villagers in search of food. The sensitive students of Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Rauni, noticed that village property was not the only thing getting damaged. The cattle were suffering from various life-threatening diseases due to the lack of care and proper nutrition.

These students then took it upon themselves to provide care to affected animals. They identified nine stray cows in the village that were in desperate need of help. Upon speaking with a nearby *Gaushala*, it was noted that even though

they were ready to accept these stray cows, they were in serious lack of funds. The students, during the process, discovered that the residents were also empathetic towards these animals, just that they lacked the initiative to take any serious action. To inspire the residents, the students organized a *Nukkad Natak* where they highlighted the desperate plight of these animals. To further demonstrate the objectives of their campaign, the students fed food and water to the cattle.

As a result of this campaign, three cows were adopted and cared for by the community members. The remaining cattle were dropped off at the *Gaushala* along with some funds donated by the residents. The residents also lauded students for their efforts towards taking care of the stray cattle. These students now wish to support stray dogs in the village by helping them get vaccinated and also find a new home!



Simple Solutions, Big Impact



CHANGE-MAKERS

Gurdeep Kaur, 10
Randeep Kaur, 9
Gagandeep Kaur, 9
Amanpreet Kaur, 9
Ajay Kumar, 11

(Satya Bharti School,
Khurani, Punjab)

During the blazing summer months and power cuts; the residents of Khurani village, Punjab would often suffer the intense heat of afternoons. Generators and inverters meant high financial costs, something that the average villagers could ill afford, while exacerbating the environmental fallout of using fossil fuels. The students of Satya Bharti School, Khurani, put to use their innovative bent of mind and came to the rescue of the villagers by producing and selling what they called *Hava-Havai* hand fans!

To gauge the interest of the community members, the students initially displayed prototypes of these fans at parent-teacher meetings, where they received a very positive response. These hand fans made of waste material are not only affordable and eco-friendly but are also easy to carry.

Once the seed of the idea was sown and a heartening response received; it was time for the students to

generate awareness among community members. Thereafter, they went door to door in their village, explaining the benefits of *Hava-Havai* hand fans. In addition, these students capitalized on every forum of community, where they seized the opportunity to sensitize the villagers. Soon, several community members adopted the *Hava-Havai* hand fans!

The community is proud of their young environmentalists and in the process, the villages in the vicinity have not only gained a handy fan but also learnt the importance of conserving fossil fuel dependent energy.



AWARE CHILD, SAFE CHILD

CHANGE-MAKERS

Shilpi Pal, 10
Anjali Tiwari, 10
Ajay Mishra, 10
Aadarsh, 10
Pooja Pandey, 10

(Satya Bharti School,
Kurrian Kalan, UP)

Deeply concerned over the disturbing news coverage on child safety, a group of students from Satya Bharti School, Kurrian Kalan, Uttar Pradesh took it upon themselves to create a safer environment for children in their community. The students soon realized that community members were unaware of the protocols to be followed upon being attacked; most children did not even know they are being taken advantage of due to lack of knowledge. Upon learning this, the students of Satya Bharti School decided that their campaign would center around creating awareness on safety of children, especially from unsolicited advances.

The students' campaign was three-fold. The first part of the campaign consisted of training community members including school and college students, their parents and the local police on the proper protocols involved. The second part included working with the Gram Pradhan to open a Child Safety Centre in the village. The third part involved providing information on child care helplines around the village, to enable each community member to reach the helpline if need be. Each leg of the

campaign was successfully carried out by the students with parents, especially mothers, playing a big part in educating their children on the matter. As a result of the training program, several schools have installed new CCTV



cameras within their compound in addition to already installed CCTVs on the main gates.

During this campaign, the students were able to orient and bring awareness among over a hundred community members. The ripple effect in the surrounding villages has brought community-wide safety awareness for all vulnerable children.

Joining Hands for a Just Society



The residents of Jyouna village in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh, due to lack of education and widespread illiteracy, were facing several challenges, including unemployment, lack of sustainable livelihoods. As a result, they were being defrauded by middlemen or vendors. The villagers were not aware of the concepts of maximum retail price, the manufacturing and expiry dates of products, the true value of their crops etc. This often led to them being cheated of their rights and fair remuneration.

The students of Satya Bharti School, Jyouna, got together and decided to educate the residents. They first approached members of the *Panchayat* and the educated community members, seeking their support in spreading awareness in the community.

The students then divided themselves into five

groups and started setting up education centres at strategic locations in the village like the local market, post office and the Gramin Bank. Each centre, besides students, had an ex-serviceman to educate and sensitize villagers on consumer rights and other related matters. These groups also sensitized the shopkeepers and vendors, explaining them the consequences of violating consumer rights. The students also organized awareness rallies and street plays and campaigned

against defrauding and illegal activities.

Initially, the campaign faced criticism from shopkeepers and vendors who felt they were being portrayed in bad light and that their profession in specific was being targeted. But soon, they too realized that this campaign was beneficial for all. The Village *Panchayat* also lauded the campaign for curbing wrongful practices. Seeing the impact, the *Gram Pradhan* announced the setting up of two new adult literacy centres in the village.

CHANGE-MAKERS

Muskan, 10
Sohit, 11
Prem Sagar, 13
Muskan Singh, 11
Rosy, 12

(Satya Bharti School,
Jyouna, Farrukhabad, UP)



THE ROAD TO CHANGE



CHANGE-MAKERS

Narinderpal Singh, 15
Simranjot Kaur, 13
Sanehdeep Kaur, 12
Daljit Singh, 10
Arshdeep Singh, 10

(Satya Elementary School, Dhulka, Punjab)

The road connecting the villages of Jharunangal and Dhulka in District Amritsar, Punjab, had deteriorated such that it was the cause of several road accidents. Unexpected potholes and ditches had caused spinal injuries, hip dislocations and broken bones. Satya Elementary School, Dhulka, had also been witnessing a steady decline in attendance rates, due to the ill condition of the road. Monsoons made the road completely unusable, further exacerbating the situation.

The menace caused by the faulty road, however, did not go unnoticed by the students of Satya Elementary School, Dhulka, spurring them to initiate a road safety project. The children went door to door, approached the Village *Sarpanch*, community members and the students of the nearby school, informing them about the project and involving them in the solution strategy. Unavailability of

funds was a major challenge; for this, the students approached the *Sarpanch* as well as the community members. The impassioned plea of the students received a resounding response! As a result, they could soon procure the road construction material and then, with the help from community members, got on to repairing the road, carry out repairs during the non-peak hours to avoid any inconvenience. Within a short time frame of less than a month, the students' efforts led to a repaired and safe road.

Since the completion of the project, students have begun attending school with a new-found sense of exuberance; the village elders feel safer to travel, and the two wheeler drivers are now safely commuting. The Village *Sarpanch* commemorated the hard work of these students, calling the road between Dhulka and Jharunangal, 'The Road to Change'!



Wielding the Needle, Twinning Smiles



CHANGE-MAKERS

Simranjeet Kaur, 16
Sukhsajan Singh, 17
Jobanpreet Kaur, 16
Sukhpreet Kaur, 16

(Satya Bharti Adarsh
Senior
Secondary School,
Fattubhila, Punjab)

Even in this day and age, in several parts of our country, married women are not allowed to step out of their homes without their husbands. Earning a living for their families is a distant dream. This was the case in some of the houses in Fattubhila village, near Amritsar (Punjab). Some of them, confined to managing household chores, would slip into depression or other related illnesses.

Witnessing these women go through such a plight, the students of Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Fattubhila, decided to address the issue along with their teachers.

After much deliberations, these young students decided to help the village women learn a craft which they could use to support themselves and also build their confidence. By way of a seminar

on the impact of puberty on their children, the students managed to wean the women out of their homes. Once there, the ladies were also taught the art of *Phulkari* (Punjabi style of embroidery) by a professional and how to monetize this art. The students' mothers also pitched in on the days the trainer couldn't make it! Over time, the morale of the women blossomed, and upon seeing such a change, the entire village chipped into the initiative taken by these students. Many men voluntarily came to the school to drop off their wives for the special training classes. As a result, these women also started getting orders for clothes and accessories from the residents for festive occasions.

Today, these women are running a *Phulkari* boutique in the village; but more significantly, the smiles on their faces are the highest reward for the young change-makers of Fattubhila.



ADULT LITERACY: THE SATYA BHARTI WAY!



CHANGE-MAKERS

Deepika , 10
Mandeep , 10
Rupesh , 10
Tamanna , 11
Rahul , 10

(Satya Bharti School,
Kohrar, Haryana)

Gender discrimination continues to be a rampant practice in several parts of the country. And Kohrar, a small village in Haryana, was also suffering from its ill effects. Among the various manifestations of gender discrimination, depriving women of education was a major one, leading to high rates of illiteracy among them.

Identifying this issue as a key concern area, the students of Satya Bharti School, Kohrar, decided to do something about it. As a first step, they went door-to-door, generating awareness among community members on the benefits of education for all. The students then encouraged them to send elderly women in the households to the *Aanganwadi* centre to learn how to read and write. Initially, the students' efforts were not very successful since the project was considered to be "unnecessary" by

conservative villagers. However, not ready to quit, the students persevered and soon, the residents relented leading to a growing group of elderly women swarming the school corridors! Students were happy to provide their notebooks, textbooks and other stationery to the new learners.

Though the response was limited initially, the enhanced learning levels of the women served as an inspiration to the other women in the community. At the end of the summer holiday, when students visited the learning centres, the women were able to write their names, read the newspaper, make phone calls and even do some basic calculations.

The students were lauded by the entire community for their hard work and sincere efforts. They also received an appreciation letter from the *Sarpanch* of the village.

A Simple Tool, An Empathetic Solution

For the residents of Talwara village (near Ludhiana), road accidents were becoming a common occurrence. It was noted that a number of accidents were caused when a motorist hit a stray cow or some other animal on the road. The students of Satya Bharti School, Talwara, sensitive as they were, decided to not remain mute spectators. After due discussions, they collectively came up with a simple but effective solution to prevent such accidents. They set about making radium rings, using locally available material which would glow at night, thereby warning motorists of an animal's presence.

Subsequently, the students went around the village creating awareness amongst the residents about the rampant problem of road accidents caused due to stray animals and the solution that the students had come up with. With the help of local community members, the



CHANGE-MAKERS

Luxmi, 10
Kirandeep Kaur, 10
Amritpal Singh, 11
Gagandeep Singh, 10
Jashandeep Singh, 10

(Satya Bharti School,
Talwara, Punjab)

students were able to tie these radium rings around necks of all animals in the village.



Despite the sheer number of animals making it a daunting task; together, the joint efforts of students and the community members helped them complete the task within a short span of a fortnight. Thanks to the radium rings, it became much easier for road travellers and residents to spot stray animals at night and this, in turn, led to a rapid decline in the number of accidents in the village.



EMPOWERED ADOLESCENTS, SECURE SOCIETY



CHANGE-MAKERS

Ramanjot Kaur, 14
Jasmandeep Kaur, 13
Randeep Kaur, 14
Sukhpreet Kaur, 17
Navjot Kaur, 17

(Satya Bharti Adarsh
Senior Secondary
School, Sherpur Kalan,
Ludhiana)

Puberty leads to a lot of psychological problems and physical discomfort among young adolescents, as their mind and body are not mature enough to deal with the changes. The students of Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Sherpur Kalan, Punjab were aware of the fact that most parents are unable to counsel their children or find it difficult to talk to their children about the changes their body is going through.

With the guidance of their teachers, the students decided to run campaigns to spread awareness about puberty amongst adolescent students. The intention was to sensitize them on the various changes caused by puberty and to ensure that they are able to discuss puberty related issues with each other and with their parents, without any hesitation.

The students held candid discussions with girls as well as boys between the age of 12 and 15 years encouraging them to share the problems they were facing. Using multimedia with the students broadened their scope of communication such as including presentations and informative articles around adolescence issues. In the next phase, parents too were involved through discussions to establish the need and to encourage open dialogues between parents and children.

This initiative by students was successful, garnering appreciation in the community. It led to the development of confidence and a positive attitude among impacted adolescents while ensuring effective communication between parents and children. Thereafter, the students carried forward their campaign to more schools, receiving much appreciation and wider success.



Young Financial Gurus Show the Way!



CHANGE-MAKERS

Diksha Kalra, 13
Karanjeet Kaur, 13
Mandeep Kaur, 11
Seema Rani, 11
Sandeep Kaur, 13

(Satya Elementary
School, Behlolpur,
Ludhiana, Punjab)

Perturbed by the rising number of domestic disputes, the students of Satya Elementary School, Behlolpur, decided to address the issue through an ingenious plan.

It was observed that the affected households were mostly from the lower income or lower-middle income groups. Often, the main reason for quarreling was overspending of the meagre income and in turn, not being able to pay for essentials like electricity, gas and water.

The students on further research realized that there was no structured system being used in these families to keep track of the income and expenses, thereby leading to spending on products and services that were not as important as the basics. These young change-makers from Satya Elementary School, Behlolpur, thereafter went on to generate awareness amongst these families along with a

ready solution for them. By way of a street play, they enacted the problems and the solution showcasing the use of a structured budget. The students not only explained the benefits of a budget to the families but also how to go about maintaining it. The students subsequently visited these households to observe what kind of impact the structured budget was creating. It was noted that after adopting the budget, the families had a clearer picture of how their income was being spent and were able to segregate the non-essential expenses from the essential ones, thereby helping them curb their expenses. This way, the families were not only able to make ends meet but were also able to generate savings for a rainy day!

The initiative and ingenuity shown by these students was highly appreciated by the *Sarpanch* and community members of the village.



FOSTERING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE



CHANGE-MAKERS

Satinder Preet Kaur, 16
Chandni, 16
Jashan Singh, 17
Gursahib Singh, 17
Gursharanjit Singh, 17

(Satya Bharti Adarsh
Senior Secondary School,
Fattubhila, Punjab)

settled in the village, come together which helped in cross-learning. Popular regional recipes, such as *dhokla* from Gujarat and *patod* from Himachal Pradesh were soon up for grabs in this tiny village of Punjab! To add to the sales pitch, the enterprising children ensured that no additional flavours, colours or preservatives were added to the food.

Even as our Nation continues to grow leaps and bounds, gender discrimination continues to prevail in various forms. The gap in the education of the girl child remains a core challenge. This issue is centered on the expectation that women remain confined to household duties. The students of Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Fattubhila, Punjab, decided to break this cycle for empowering the women in their village. This decision by the passionate Change-makers would go on to change the community's destiny.

After many creative discussions amongst themselves and with their teachers, the students came up with a brilliant idea, that of helping women start their own business. The main objective was that the business could run without worrying about the financial resources, and a business that involved doing what they love. The idea of making 'Tidbit Snacks' was finally decided and readily available materials such as wheat, gram flour sugar, oil, etc., were used. Students started motivating and encouraging the women from their village to join the business. Women hailing from different regions of India,

To promote this initiative, the students served these snacks at parent-teacher meetings in their school and at other school/village events. Subsequently, the demand of these snacks increased, and with the help of the students, the women started selling the snacks at a larger scale and at a price that helped in increasing their family income. With their teachers' support, the students went all out to support the women folk; from collecting raw materials to packaging and selling the snacks. This initiative has transformed the lives of several women in the village while also bringing a palpable shift in the perception of the role of women in the community.



Recycle Today, for a Better Tomorrow



CHANGE-MAKERS

Rajni, 11
Neelam, 11
Shani, 10
Pradeep, 10
Atendra, 10

(Satya Bharti School,
Bari Khas, UP)

We all want to breathe clean and pure air to stay healthy. But how many of us are willing to work towards it? Perhaps just a few of us, but the students of Satya Bharti School, Bari Khas, Uttar Pradesh, decided to turn words into action and worked to mitigate the fallout of environmental hazards.

Observing the huge amount of non-biodegradable waste, including polythene and plastic, scattered across the village – be it out in the open, in the garbage dumps, on the roads, in the farms or on the lanes – these young environmental crusaders started spreading awareness within the community on the associated hazards, such as animals choking on plastic, soil pollution, dip in farm productivity, etc. Besides, they also initiated a campaign against the cutting of trees for paper, highlighting its ill effects and motivating villagers to reuse and recycle paper.

Through rallies, role plays and distribution of pamphlets, students spread these messages far and

wide. They then went on to train the community members on how to reuse and recycle waste. They also taught villagers how to make useful household objects such as flower vases, pen stands, toys, etc., using waste material. The young environmental crusaders placed dustbins at several locations in the village and encouraged villagers to dispose their household plastic and paper waste in them. The student campaigners then collected those waste items, made household articles and toys using them, and sold them at the school fair. The earnings from the sale were also put to a noble cause by buying and planting over a hundred saplings in the village!

This project has gone a long way in enhancing the environmental consciousness of the community members. To sustain the impact of the project, a committee comprising the village *Sarpanch*, students and community members has been formed which will continue to motivate community members for a cleaner and greener environment!



YOUNG E-WASTE MANAGERS OF MANAGIRI



CHANGE-MAKERS

P Anupriya, 10
P Srimeenakshi, 10
K Santhosh, 9
M Veerapandi, 10
A MariyaVaishnika, 9

(Satya Bharti Nursery
and Primary School,
Managiri, Tamil Nadu)

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” This quote by Charles William Eliot echoes not only our love for books but also resonates with the story that unfolded at Satya Bharti School, Managiri, Tamil Nadu. The students’ love for books knew no bounds. However, due to lack of an organized library system, the students faced chaos and wasted a lot of time trying to locate their favourite titles. At times, students had to loiter for long in the area or sit or even lie down on the floor to search for the same.

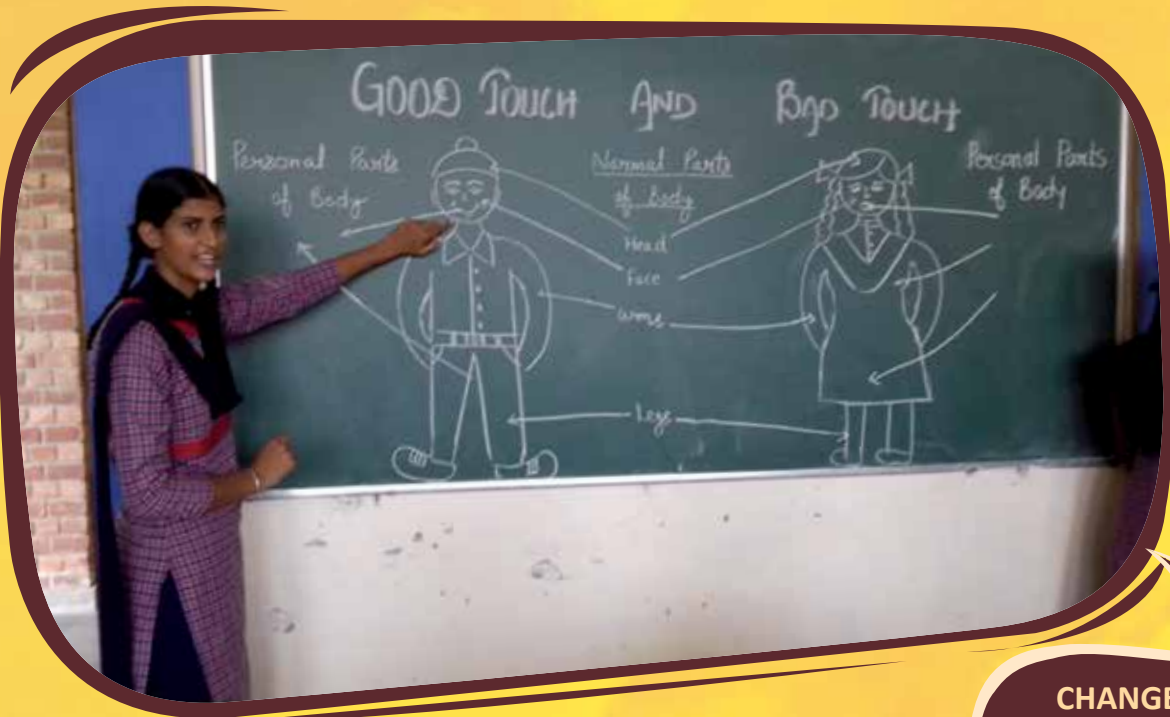
Observing their teachers struggling for time to organize the books, the young book lovers took the initiative of organizing the library books in an alphabetical order. Upon deliberating on how to go about it, the students decided to make cupboards using low-cost material such as waste plastic

bottles, metal rods and cardboard. They created a plan where groups of children accompanied by at least one teacher, fanned out into the surrounding villages to collect waste water bottles, iron rods, sticks and any other waste material with inherent strength. By the end of this exercise, the students had collected 120 bottles. Soon, they began building their eco-shelving system with the support of their teachers. At the end, they had built six bookstands with five shelves each, which they marked alphabetically.

Today, the young book enthusiasts not only access their books with ease but also have space for new books! The project has had a ripple effect in the community by inspiring other students to implement similar ingenious projects at home using waste material and making their homes and school a better place.



Setting Personal Boundaries



Children are sensitive souls and by nature they remain unsure of how and what they can communicate even with their parents and teachers. Sadly, several of them are not even able to differentiate between 'good touch' and 'bad touch'. The students of Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Jhaneri, Punjab, felt that there was a strong need to address the lack of awareness on these sensitive topics in order to prevent child abuse.

The young change-makers got together to strategise on the tools and means that could be used to sensitize the adolescent girls and boys in their village. With the help of their teachers the students devised several innovative platforms, including group discussions, lectures, pictures and films on 'good touch-bad touch' to spread the message far and wide. The students held these private sessions in a classroom, monitored and guided by their teachers. Thus child helpline numbers were introduced to the adolescents in the event of anything untoward that may occur. The ingenious

children also developed several do's-and-don'ts and other related tips which were shared during the orientation sessions. During the process, several children from the village had opened up and for the first time shared the abuse that they suffered. These children were then given special counselling sessions to cope.

The Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School students did not stop there; they also made it a point to reach out to the parents and sensitize them on the need to keep communication channels open with their children. The students now plan to take their awareness campaign in the nearby villages as well. Their aim is to reach out to every child in their community and bring a tide of social change in rural Punjab.

CHANGE-MAKERS

Amritpal Kaur, 17
Ritika Joshi, 16
Kusum, 16
Kamalpreet Kaur, 16
Mansi Bawa, 17

(Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Jhaneri, Pnjab)



FROM DEBRIS TO FLOWER BEDS



CHANGE-MAKERS

Uzair Ismail, 13
Sahil Manzoor, 13
Sahil Mushtaq, 13
Saraiya Hamid, 13
Huzaifa Bilal, 12

(Army Goodwill School,
Behibagh, J&K)

The mesmerizing nature and the beauty of the lakes make Jammu and Kashmir a heavenly place on Earth. Behibagh, a small village in Kulgam district, epitomizes the beauty of the state. However, the students of Army Goodwill School, Behibagh under Bharti Foundation led Satya Bharti Quality Support Program were highly concerned about the ills that had started affecting their beautiful habitat and the problems such as open defecation, lack of proper drainage system and excessive use of plastic. As a result of their daily observation followed by research and studies, the students identified the improper garbage dumping as a widespread menace. It was not only bringing down the aesthetic value of the village but polluting the environment and resulting in the proliferation of dangerous communicable diseases.

The students believed that it would be an injustice to the community and villagers if they didn't take action. After much deliberation the students came up with the idea of transforming the garbage dumps into flower beds. After identifying the sites where the garbage was improperly dumped they flattened the garbage with fertile soil, the garbage buried beneath acting as humus for the soil. On the flattened layer of garbage were herbs and flowering plants. Soon a mound of rubbish turned into a thing of beauty. With this eco-friendly method, students showcased an effective manner of recycling garbage, thereby helping the environment.

Besides beautifying the village, the exercise served as a major eye-opener and a source of inspiration for villagers in the community on how to protect and conserve the environment.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



September 20, 2017: Bharti Foundation won the 'Best Corporate and Business Communication (Campaign and Sectoral Communication)' award at the 'National Award for Excellence in CSR and Sustainability'.

November 13, 2017: Bharti Foundation bagged 'The CSR Journal Excellence Award 2017' under Education and Skill Training category at a ceremony held in Mumbai. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Former Home Minister, Maharashtra, Shri Kripashankar Singh presented the award.



February 6, 2018: Bharti Foundation's Satya Bharti School Program was recognized as the best CSR program under 'Education' category by the Government of Rajasthan at the '2nd Rajasthan CSR Awards – 2018'. The accolade celebrates high-impact CSR projects, recognizes the success of the programs and highlights the commitment of the organizations behind these initiatives.

February 18, 2018: Bharti Foundation received an award under 'Support & Improvement in Quality of Education' category at 'ET NOW Presents CSR Leadership Awards'. This prestigious award was presented by 'World CSR Day', recognizing the initiatives of Bharti Foundation towards delivering quality education to underprivileged children.



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