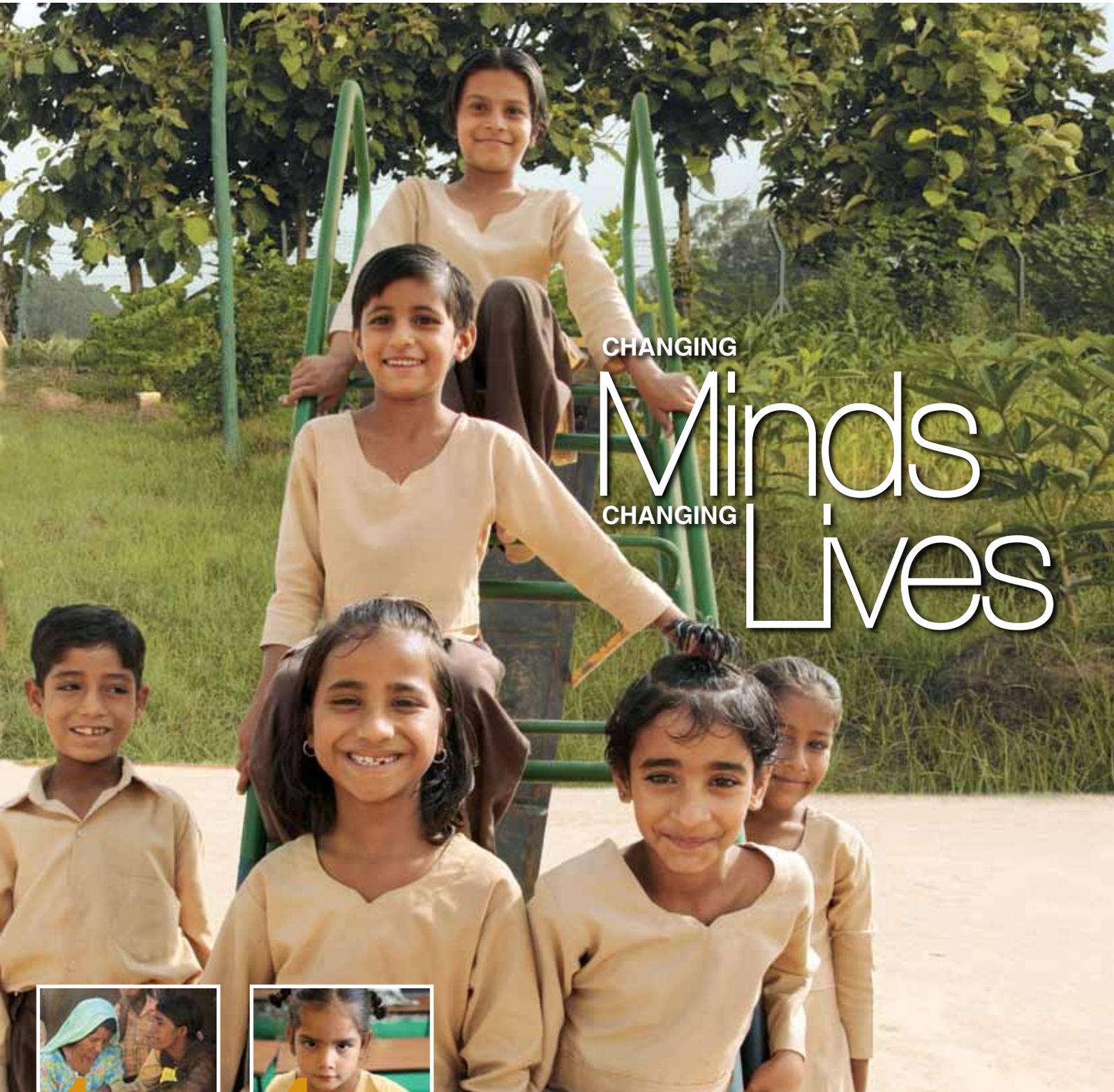


# voice of change

ISSUE 1, JULY 2010



CHANGING

# Minds Lives

CHANGING



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From Theory  
To Practice



4

The Learning  
Paradigm

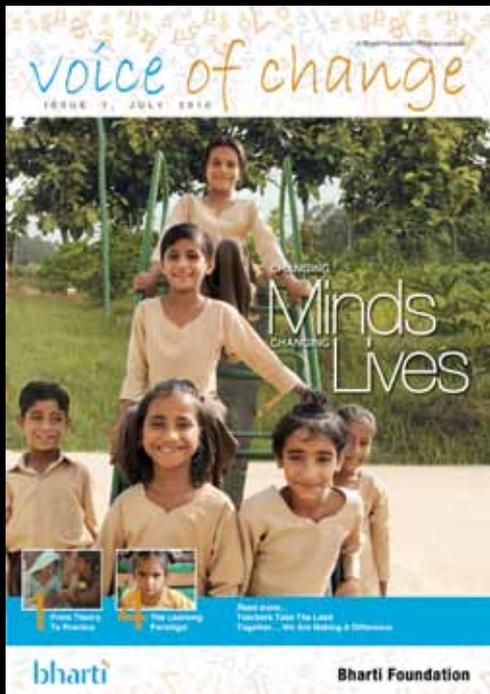
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**bharti**

**Bharti Foundation**



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## From the CEO's Desk

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the new version of our newsletter titled *Voice of Change*. The Satya Bharti School Program continues to be a very exciting journey for all of us. We have had varied experiences across the 236 villages that we operate in – numerous learnings, successes and also some challenges along the way. This newsletter attempts to bring all that to life and apprise you of the real life impact that the Satya Bharti Schools are making.

The current issue of *Voice of Change* focuses particularly on our emphasis towards holistic development of the students. The curriculum and the school calendar of events are both designed to achieve this and promote all-round development of our students. Everyday lessons are built around parameters of overall growth of children like personality, socio-emotional development, values, ethics and motor skill development for pre-primary students. We believe that this is essential for them to evolve into confident, responsible and committed citizens of our nation.

I hope you will find value in reading *Voice of Change*. We will keenly look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Kind Regards

Vijay Chadda  
CEO  
Bharti Foundation



# From Theory To Practice

## Positive Change Agents of the Community

Learning is not an inherent skill but is acquired through interaction and direct experience. It is an amalgamation of what we are taught and also what we observe and absorb from the world around us. Thus, at the Satya Bharti Schools, while we stress upon the quality of education being delivered, there is an equal focus on developing in students the ability to connect with their community and emerge as forerunners of positive change in their own surroundings.

At the Satya Bharti Schools we have built in components in the school curriculum that, apart from academics, also emphasize upon personal, cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of children. This integration is done by way of a comprehensive academic calendar developed through intense consultation and direct engagement with the immediate environment and the community the children live in. Together, this leads to learning that focuses on both academic development and also all-round holistic development of these children.

The Satya Bharti School activity calendar encompasses themes, values, extra-curricular activities and learning opportunities enabling children to experience 'beyond classroom teaching' and link them with the community, increasing their participation in local societal issues. This offers them opportunities to be part of various campaigns addressing local issues and change attitudes, behavior and practices.

**A bright morning in Dhulka village of Amritsar district of Punjab.**

**It is 8 am in the morning and a group of students from the Satya Bharti School in the village have gathered in the school premises. They are excited as today is the second Saturday of the month, a designated day for them to visit the village and the neighborhood for community service. Today they have taken up the task of educating the community members about cleanliness in the village and encouraging them to adopt hygienic practices in their day-to-day life.**

**Similar community service activities will be conducted across all 236 Satya Bharti Primary Schools providing children an opportunity to gain exposure beyond classroom teaching and develop them as active members of the community.**



## Giving “Her” Wings to Fly

At the Satya Bharti Schools our core focus is to ensure that irrespective of the communities in which we operate, every child must realize her right to a quality life and access to quality education services. This holds especially true for girl children and remains a core focus area of the Satya Bharti School Program. Thus the Girl Child Campaign introduced at our schools is a step to make quality education a reality for every girl and to educate the community about the significance of educating girls. The philosophy behind the campaign is to encourage girls in our schools to believe in themselves and express and follow their dreams. We also try to ensure that our schools are sensitive towards the needs of girl children.

In our academic calendar the Girl Child Campaign occupies a significant place and is implemented

through a set of year-round activities and the school curriculum. In-school activities like 'Khaas Baatien', 'Bal Sabhas' (child cabinets), parent-teacher meetings and out-of-school activities like community-centred programs and household visits provide platforms for educating and raising awareness towards girl child education. These activities identify and highlight girl achievers within the community, thereby bringing them into the limelight.

In 2009-2010, the Girl Child Campaign helped reduced the number of drop-outs of girls. The drop-out percentage of girls reduced from 1.37% in August 2009 to 0.2% in December 2009. Several Sarpanches of the villages also came forward with an oath to ensure that all girls from their respective villages will be enrolled and will regularly attend school.



Students participate in a rally during the Girl Child Campaign



A community volunteer teaches sand art to students during the Community Volunteering Program



Rahul Bose and Geet Sethi felicitate the winners of the Design for Giving School Contest

### Bringing the Village to the School

Another event that is an integral part of the school calendar is the Community Volunteering Program, designed to bring the school and the communities closer to each other. The idea is not only to expose our students to learn beyond the curriculum but also to engage the community more actively with our schools and bring in learning for constant improvement in our delivery mechanism. The program is built into the academic calendar and is conducted for one week during the summer camps held in June-July every year. A pool of enthusiastic volunteers is identified from the local community who are willing to devote time to help our children learn skills like art & crafts, local folk art, hygiene practices, environmental cleanliness, etc. The volunteers visit the school during the allotted time of three hours to interact and apprise the children of their vocation.

The program was conducted across 158 schools across Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in 2009-10 with approximately 1400 volunteers. The assessment of the program has shown encouraging results with 97% of teachers rating the program useful for children. 90% of volunteers who participated in the program were from the immediate community, indicating the interest and level of community involvement in the program.

### Heralding Social Change

Saturdays also hold special significance in our school annual calendar. Every month, the second and third Saturdays are devoted towards community service, 'Bal Sabhas' and in-house activities. During community service, the students identify one issue of relevance each week and visit the village and households and talk to the people about the issue. Some of the key campaigns undertaken last year included Education of Children, Plantation Drives and Health & Hygiene Promotion. Students also join hands with community members in the work being done in the village like cleaning of areas, sanitation programs etc. and work along with them, learning about the problems and finding solutions at the same time. During 'Bal Sabhas', children meet and discuss a given theme and put forward their ideas and solutions to the issue.



Students interact with community members during a Community Development Campaign

Taking forward the community development programs, the students participated in the Design for Giving School Contest, a part of the Joy of Giving Week, in September 2009. Conceptualized to promote children to work together in groups and identify a problem that relates to their community, the contest saw participation of a large contingent of urban students. With our children already being involved in several community level campaigns, the experience held them in good stead and helped them identify and draw up campaigns around sensitive issues as a part of this contest. More than 1200 students across 83 Satya Bharti Schools sent in their entries with varied campaigns like education, sanitation, road safety and also the need for children's playgrounds. The Campaign against Child Marriage, implemented in the Satya Bharti School, Lordi Dejgara, at Jodhpur, was a huge success and many parents came forward in support of the campaign. The children also managed to prevent 16 incidences of child marriage during this campaign. Of all the entries, nine Satya Bharti Schools were awarded for their innovative projects at the national level. While the Child Marriage Campaign was awarded the Special Jury Award, three entries were in top 20 awardees and five were chosen for Change Maker Awards. Such recognition reinforces our faith that children, especially girls, can be future change agents and can contribute to the overall development of their communities.

Beyond all this, our academic calendar is also marked with significant days which have relevance to the value identified for the month. Important days like Literacy Day, Environment Day, Blood Donation Day, Women's Day and Forestry Day are marked and observed in schools to create awareness among children towards the significance of these days.

At Bharti Foundation, we are solely dedicated to improve the quality of education with special focus on children from excluded communities. Providing avenues for practical exposure and holistic development for children is the a key strategy for the Satya Bharti School Program, making it possible to move from classroom theory to actual practice.

*Written by Mamta Saikia  
Head, Development & Alliances*

*“Education should have a threefold objective – for the sake of imparting knowledge, for self-employment and for employment. In India our education system is concentrating mostly on passing on information while employability of the students is still a distant objective.”*

*– Kapil Sibal  
The Union Minister for Ministry of  
Human Resource Development*

# The Learning Paradigm

## From Learning to Understanding

With the Right to Education Act coming into force, the huge responsibility of providing quality education to children between 6-14 years of age has been entrusted upon the entire nation. However, “Quality in Education” has always been the topic of debate in terms of providing ‘Excellence for Few’ vs. ‘Improvement for All’, ‘Rote Representation of Knowledge’ vs ‘Indigenous Independent Thinking’, ‘Examination Focused Learning’ vs ‘Learning for Learning’.

Under the current system, many students leave school lacking important skills that they would require in life to achieve different goals. Thus, there is a need to bring about a paradigm shift in the way teaching-learning happens in schools – a shift in education from teaching to learning and also a shift from the instruction paradigm to a



learning paradigm. What is required is a child-centric, skill-based, value-oriented system that allows each child to nurture latent talent and grow into a confident, well adjusted individual.

## The Paradigm of Holistic Development

It is keeping this in mind that we at Bharti Foundation have tried to create the Satya Bharti School Program in a way that not only impacts and brings about positive changes in old mindsets but also contributes to a paradigm shift in the teaching-learning practices of teachers. Our aim is to develop the schools as “temples of learning” where children can be transformed into educated, responsible and employable citizens of tomorrow

with a deep sense of commitment to their own society.

At the Satya Bharti Schools our efforts have been directed towards helping children learn in a ‘learning paradigm’. Thus the focus has been on providing education for holistic development, geared to a child’s psychic needs and capacities. The methodology followed at the schools maintains an environment that supports active learning which is high on challenge but low on threat. The Satya Bharti Schools thus aim to have a truly meaningful education based on the holistic paradigm which implies the scientific recognition of the human being as a totality of “body, soul and mind.” We have devised a “Two Pronged Approach” in order to achieve this. One of the integral



Students gather around a computer during a computer session

components of this approach includes a consciously designed “Holistic Curriculum” incorporating processes and modules that help children learn through experience and enquiry rather than rote learning.

### Satya Bharti School Curriculum – The First Move Towards the Big Leap!

The Satya Bharti School Curriculum is based on the principle that people are different from each other. It adheres to the belief that there are different types of learners and that each child has her own unique way of learning. Therefore the curriculum has been designed to cater to the learning preference of each child. It supports teachers to understand the needs of the learners, find out what they already know and what they are ready to learn and contribute towards providing education that is practical, relevant and skill based.

#### Common Curriculum ... An Approach that Addresses Diversity

While a common curriculum is followed across all Satya Bharti Schools it addresses the state specific requirements of five states within a single framework.

Students use interactive games to understand lessons better



Built around the guidelines of the National Curriculum Framework, the curriculum is mapped to all states boards and goes beyond text books. It also incorporates best practices of other organizations and supports teachers with guidelines and instructional material that helps them plan experiential learning for each child in the class.

#### Holistic ... Integration of Values, Life Skills and Physical Development

Value education is a way of life at the Satya Bharti Schools. It is our endeavor that children learn values by experiencing them in their school culture. While the curriculum provides opportunities for children to hone 21st century life skills such as communication, decision making, problem solving, interpersonal skills etc. it also reiterates the traditional values and skills of the local environment. Students are encouraged to take up collaborative projects making learning a life-long experience. A specially drafted Life Skills Curriculum by Udayan Care is being implemented under monthly themes such as “Health & Hygiene”, “Safety” etc.

#### Innovative ... Moving Beyond Text Books

The teaching-learning material used at the schools has been thoughtfully created to make learning a fulfilling experience for each child. In addition to the text books, the curriculum also integrates a variety of exciting printed material to remove teachers’ and students’ dependence on text books. The class libraries consist

of books that have been chosen with great care and caution and are integrated into the curriculum, to help students explore their world of imagination.

#### Progressive ... Leveraging Technology

The use of technology is an integral part of the Satya Bharti School curriculum. Each school has been provided with a computer to teach students the use of technology in education. Computers and MP3 players are also used to support the teachers in enhancing student learning. Teachers have access to a variety of high quality multimedia content shared by IBM, Azim Premji Foundation, Pratham and Ernst & Young Foundation to maximize student learning. We also use an interactive CD-based program in collaboration with Education Development Centre (EDC) to help students improve their English language skills.

#### Reflective ... Assessment that forms Learning

In today’s context of assessment of rote learning, the Satya Bharti School Program has upgraded the value of assessment as an important tool for learning. The curriculum integrates a continuous and comprehensive method of gathering feedback on the process of learning to determine how well the students are learning. It helps the teachers identify changes that need to be brought about to enhance student performance.

At the Satya Bharti Schools our endeavor remains to address the issues of holistic learning through innovative interventions. We hope that through our curriculum we are able to help the children of Satya Bharti Schools learn with understanding that will help them develop requisite skills and realize their true potential.

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# Teachers Take The Lead

The Satya Bharti Schools aim at becoming “temples of learning, radiating knowledge and excellence for underprivileged children”.

While innovation, expertise and best practices are integral facets of the program, proactive intervention of teachers to undertake new initiatives also forms one of its most critical pillars. Our teachers are constantly reaching beyond the prescribed curriculum to undertake new programs and projects in order to help children learn better and with understanding. Two such examples that have helped both children and the teachers enhance the teaching-learning process are enumerated ahead.



*A regular day at a Satya Bharti School*



*A teacher training session in progress*



*Students recite a poem during a lesson*

### Teacher Pro-activeness

Sushma, a teacher at the Satya Bharti School, Lakhowal, Punjab has always been eager to undertake new initiatives in teaching methodologies to help children improve their learning levels. While teaching at the school, Sushma noticed that most of her students were first generation learners and faced a lot of difficulty while learning the Punjabi language. Thus, her efforts were directed towards introducing her students to a system wherein she could help them learn the Punjabi script faster and better. She undertook an arduous task of modifying the existing notebooks with dotted alphabets of the Punjabi script to help her students acquire and improve their writing skills. These newly designed notebooks were found to be effective for teaching the basics of the Punjabi language and has now been adopted across all the Satya Bharti Schools in Punjab.

### Self-driven towards Development

At Bharti Foundation, apart from regular trainings conducted on pedagogy and teaching methodologies, skill-based trainings are conducted on a regular basis to empower teachers with skills that help in their own personality development and career growth. Taking this cue forward, the head teachers of the Satya Bharti Schools in Shahajahanpur, Uttar Pradesh have started organizing one-day workshops every month, in addition to regular trainings conducted by the Foundation. These workshops organized solely by the teachers and for the teachers act as forums for self-development and also help them explore, share and enhance existing skills. The workshops are designed to help teachers share classroom practices and also learn about assuming greater responsibilities for improvement in the functioning of schools.

**These workshops organized solely by the teachers and for the teachers act as forums for self-development and also help them explore, share and improvise existing skills.**

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# Together... We Are Making A Difference

At Bharti Foundation, we believe that partnerships and alliances can go a long way in bringing about change that is large-scale and has a positive impact.

In 2009-10, the Satya Bharti Schools received great support from various like-minded organizations. A large number of our partners went beyond general monetary contributions and supported us through donations aimed towards a specific component of the Satya Bharti School Program. Their support and co-operation has only reinforced our belief in the program. Some of the ways in which our partners supported the Satya Bharti School Program during 2009-10 are:

## Monetary Partnerships: Corpus Contributions

The contributions made towards the Corpus by our partners have

A Satya Bharti School in Punjab



ensured that the commitment of the Foundation to the thousands of underprivileged children in the country is met and duly fulfilled.

## Corpus Partners

- **Bharti Airtel Ltd.**
- **Bharti Enterprises Ltd.**
- **Essar Ltd.**

## Supporting Construction of Satya Bharti Schools

The estimated Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) of a Satya Bharti School is INR 2.1 mn.

By sponsoring a school building, our partners have helped us set up colorful and vibrant buildings that now stand as symbols of hope and progress for the community.

## CAPEX Partners

- **SPA Capital Services Ltd.**
- **The Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales General Charitable Trust**

## Operational Expenditure: School Adoptions

The estimated Annual Operating Expenditure (OPEX) per school is approximately INR 1.2 mn per annum, providing education to 210 children per school, at full capacity.

By "Adopting a School" our partners have ensured that all costs towards books, notebooks, stationery, mid-day meal, teacher salaries and development, uniforms etc. are taken care of, contributing to our mission of providing free quality education.

## OPEX Partners

- **Bharti Teletech Ltd.**
- **Bharti Walmart Ltd.**
- **Chapman Taylor and Family (USA)**
- **Deutsche Bank**
- **DLF Foundation**
- **Dura-Line India Pvt. Ltd.**
- **F C Sondhi & Co. India Pvt. Ltd.**

- **FieldFresh Foods Ltd.**
- **The Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales General Charitable Trust**

### Supporting Teacher Development

The cost of teacher training and development is INR 24,000 per school for six teachers.

By supporting the training and development of teachers our partners have helped us empower those who are the crux of the program and the most important conduit in our mission to provide quality education.

#### Partners for Teacher Development

- **Ericsson India Ltd.**
- **Monsanto India Ltd.**
- **Western Union**

### Supporting Mid-Day Meals

The cost of mid-day meal per child, per annum is INR 1200.

Mid-day meals are an essential part of our school routine. By sponsoring mid-day meals in our schools, our partners have given children a healthy reason to come to school and also played a large role in ensuring social equity among children at the rural level.

#### Partner for Mid-Day Meals

- **MCKS Food for Hungry Foundation**

### General Monetary Partnerships

Some of our partners have made general monetary contributions



Students enjoying a mid-day meal

independent of a constituent of the Satya Bharti School Program. These donations have been used towards the implementation of the program as a whole.

#### General Partners

- **Aegis Ltd.**
- **Airtel Enterprises Services Ltd.**
- **Alcatel Lucent**
- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co. Ltd.**
- **ECI Telecom India Pvt. Ltd.**
- **Ganges International Pvt Ltd.**
- **Gemalto Digital**
- **Haveli Ram Bansi Lal**
- **HTMT Global Solution Ltd.**
- **Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd.**
- **IBM India Pvt. Ltd.**
- **IMRB International**
- **Madison Communications Pvt. Ltd.**
- **Mphasis**
- **Mukul Consultants**
- **Procter and Gamble**
- **Schmid Telecom India Pvt. Ltd.**
- **Spice Digital**
- **Tejas Networks Ltd.**
- **Tekelec**
- **Trees for Life**
- **UT Starcom**
- **Vidya Foundation**
- **World Bank**

#### Technical Partnerships: Supporting Expertise

Technical Partnerships form an integral part of the system. By supporting the technical needs of the program our partners have helped us leverage their expertise in the field of education and incorporate their best practices in our program.

#### Technical Partners

- **Education Development Centre**
- **Ernst and Young Foundation**
- **Latika Foundation**

#### Supporting Equipment Requirements

We also welcome companies or organizations who wish to support

our initiative by providing materials required for our programs. Our partners have supported the program with material either free of cost or at direct cost.

#### Material Partners

- **JHS Svendgaard Laboratories**
- **Max India Foundation**
- **Metro Ortem Ltd.**

### Supporting Computer Education

All Satya Bharti Schools have been provided with computers and internet connections. By supporting this need, our partners have helped introduce the students to the world of technology and the use of multimedia software.

#### Partner for Computer Education

- **IBM India Pvt. Ltd.**

### Supporting Alternative Power (Solar Power) Solutions

While we try to ensure a proper classroom environment with lights, fans, computers and audio-visuals, less or no supply of electricity often restricts the use of these amenities. Thus the electrification of the schools with alternative sources of power is critical for the effective delivery of the program as a whole. By supporting this initiative our partners have ensured that the students at the Satya Bharti Schools have access to all modes of education delivery used at the schools.

#### Partners for Alternative Power Solutions

- **KDDI Corporation (Japan)**
- **Monsanto India Ltd.**

#### Our Special Thanks To:

- **British Asian Trust**
- **Gaia Initiative**

Written by Mukesh Dubey  
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