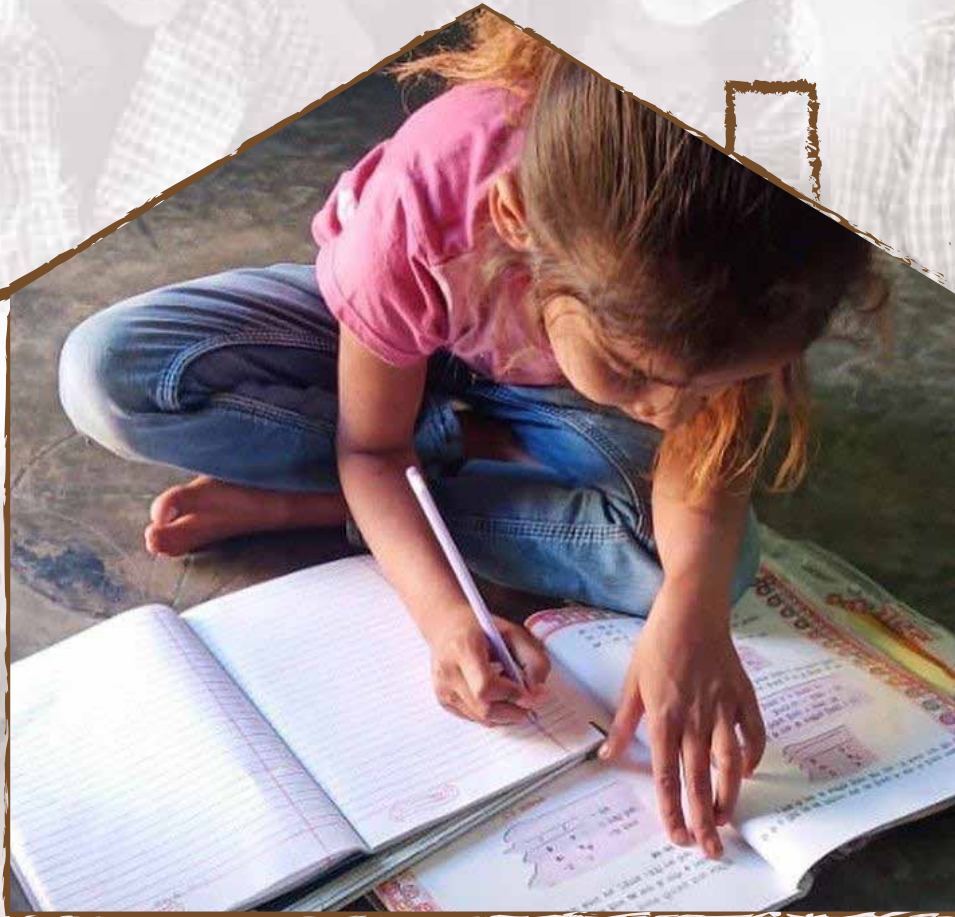


A Bharti Foundation Program Update

voice of change

Issue 24, September 2020



bharti
Bharti Foundation

Keeping Rural Children in India
Learning Amid Covid-19

From the CEO's Desk



Dear Friends,

As the entire country deals with COVID-19 and children are confined to their homes, ensuring continued education, learning, keeping them energized and motivated are some of the challenges educationists are facing today. This is true especially for rural India as most students lack access to technology at home. And, majority of parents are not equipped to teach. In such circumstances exemplary stories of passion, determination and humanity shine through. We, at Bharti Foundation, saw it happening on the ground. Teachers and students of our Satya Bharti Schools showed their resolve in this difficult period.

This edition of 'Voice of Change' gives a glimpse of Bharti Foundation's efforts in ensuring that

children continue to stay engaged with education at home even during the nationwide lockdown. It highlights the initiatives taken by teachers in Satya Bharti Schools as well as our on-going practices with partner government schools across India.

It also captures select interventions and successes of our programs. A special feature of this edition is the collection of inspiring stories of teachers who have, during this period, spread awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic amongst our students, parents as well as communities and have worked locally to provide support to people in difficult circumstances. We are very proud of our teachers, including those whose stories do not feature here. They have exhibited and lived the values of Satya Bharti Schools during this difficult period.

It is my hope that you will find these stories inspiring.

Jai Hind!

Mamta Saikia
Chief Executive Officer
Bharti Foundation

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Rural children continue to learn during lockdown

- Through its presence in 16 states, Bharti Foundation ensured that a large number of rural children in India continue to learn during lockdown.
- Over 1,000 class-wise WhatsApp groups have been created to reach out to Satya Bharti School students on their parents' mobile phones.

Since March 2020, children's access to schools have been disrupted, owing to preventive measures put in place in response

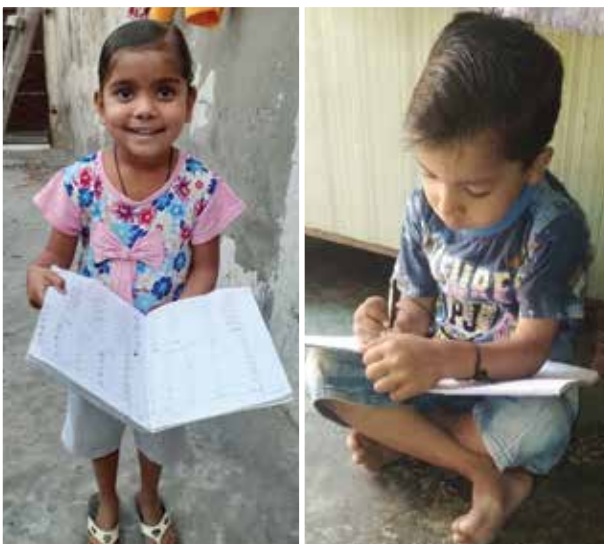
to COVID-19 pandemic in India. To help children, especially in rural India, keep up with their learning and stay in touch with their peers and educators while remaining safely at home, Bharti Foundation adapts online methods to facilitate remote learning.

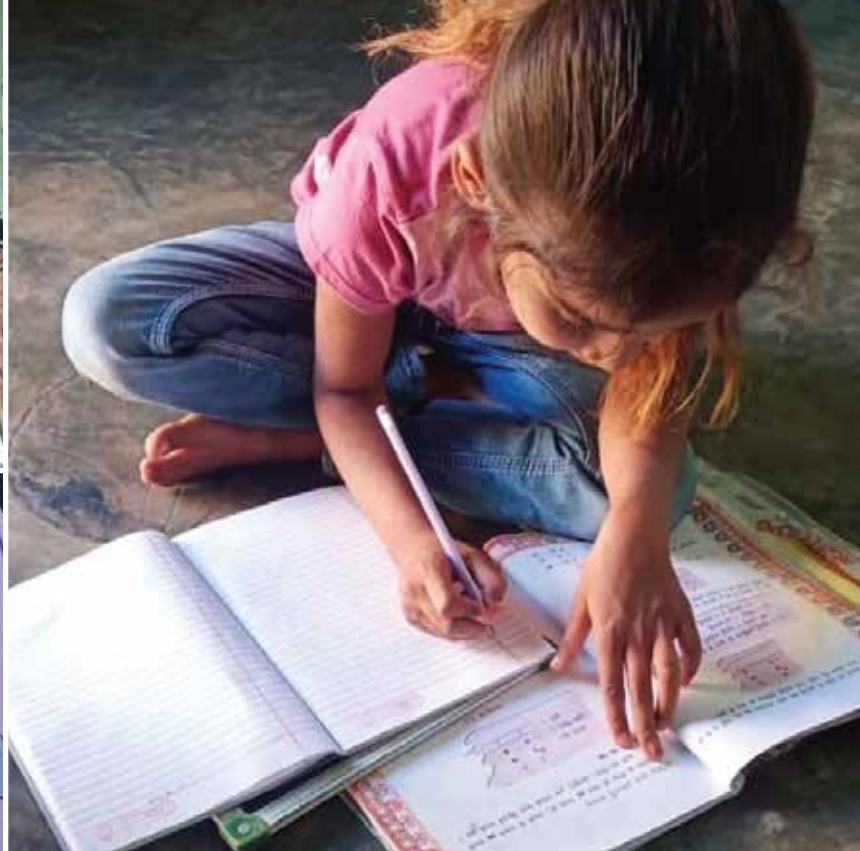
Although majority of families of the underprivileged children do not have personal computers, the Foundation has ensured that teachers remotely reach out to students through the following ways:

Students' Engagement:

Class-wise WhatsApp groups have been formed, which are being used for effective dissemination and communication, video call lessons, sharing homework assignments, etc. Along with WhatsApp, various digital teaching-learning tools, such as TicTac Learn, Hello English, Khan Academy, TV-DD Swayamprabha, EDUSAT (Har), Ticklinks, Diksha and Doubtnut, Sampark Baithak, NIIT (for Senior Secondary Schools) are being used. Activity-based learning at home is also being encouraged by giving topical assignments. In addition, virtual events/competitions are being organized on important days to creatively engage children from the safety of their homes.

Over 20,000 entries submitted across virtual competitions like Ambassador Hope, Khula Aasmaan, Bricsmath, Scholastic Writing, Brainfeed Picasso Painting, Ganga Quest, etc.





Teachers' Engagement:

Online trainings and capacity building sessions were organized to ensure that teachers are up-to-date and motivated. Mentoring and monitoring of lesson plans with feedback on improvement of transaction, TLM preparation and usage with integration of online/virtual tools for teaching-learning is consistently upgraded to ensure learning happens at home for students during lockdown.



Parents' Involvement:

As Satya Bharti School Teachers are recruited locally, they are not only sensitive towards the circumstances of students, but their bonding with parents and the community has also ensured that parents are fully supportive in this endeavor. Teachers are contacting parents on phone on a daily basis to ensure that students are studying. Parents have been actively involved in their child's learning process at home and are sending pictures of their children's homework and reports to teachers in the groups regularly. In addition, virtual PTM & SMC meeting are being conducted across all Satya Bharti Schools.

Updates From The Ground

Bharti Foundation introduces TicTacLearn Content to rural students



Bharti Foundation, in partnership with Central Square Foundation (CSF), introduces TicTacLearn Content – a repository of learning videos for Maths and Science, specially designed and curated in Hindi, English and regional languages for students. The initiative will provide students with video-based learning resources that can be accessed at home or in school. This would also support teachers with sound pedagogical tools and comprehensive content library that would enhance mathematical and scientific competencies of students.

It aims to benefit more than 2,70,000 students across 16 states and Union Territories through over 8,000 educational videos (Class-wise educational materials that are aligned to NCERT curriculum) in Hindi, English and regional languages.

Summer Camp at Home for Satya Bharti School students

Summer Camp for students of Satya Bharti Schools was launched in the month of May. The children, while being at home, participated in competitions that were conducted on different themes and subjects, including art, craft, model making, writing, etc. All the activities were designed to stimulate children's thought process and encourage them to innovate with minimum possible resources.

Students enthusiastically participated, sending their entries to their teachers through digital means such as WhatsApp on a regular basis. Every day, winners were announced on a cluster-level.



Celebration of Important Days

Though schools across India were closed, the fervor of celebration of important days among students of Satya Bharti Schools and partnered government schools remained. Important celebrations like World Environment Day, World Health Day, World Earth Day, International Biodiversity Day, International Yoga day, Independence Day, National Sports Day, etc. were celebrated with enthusiasm virtually across all locations. On these occasions, students were engaged through poster makings, essay writings, poem recitation and more. Some schools also conducted online quiz through Google Forms and shared with students.

Study Skill training benefits over 14,000 students of Govt. Schools in Jammu

Bharti Foundation, in association with the Directorate of School Education Jammu, conducted training on study skill module which included topics like Goal Setting, Stress Management, Tackling Procrastination and Time Management. As many as 315 teacher counsellors from 206 Govt. Sec./ Hr. Sec. schools participated in the four-day training. These teachers, in turn, imparted training to over 14,000 students through online mode, video clips, audio clips, written material, flow charts, etc. for their holistic growth amid the lockdown.



TLMs created by Teachers in Ludhiana to be converted into E-book

More than 150 teachers in Ludhiana have been trained over 14 WhatsApp groups, with participation from around 10-12 teachers per training session on the 'Use of TLM for Effective Classroom' and 'Pedagogy of Virtual Teaching-Learning.'

The training encouraged teachers to create multiple effective and innovative TLMs, which are lesson based. 42 TLMs have been shortlisted for an E –book, which will be circulated among students. The training has helped teachers create micro lesson plans for curriculum implementation as well. In addition, more than 650 regular lesson Plans have been created by the teachers.



'Mobile Paathshala' for children in West Bengal

The Mobile Paathshala initiative began in Satya Bharti Schools in West Bengal with online dissemination of lessons by connecting maximum number of students with their teachers through different virtual platforms. The program focused on making class-wise and subject-wise WhatsApp groups for the students with the help of parents. Those who did not have access to smart phones were connected by telephonic conversations and were given lessons and doubt clearing sessions in groups of 5-6 students each through 30 minute long conference calls. The team also formed a resource group consisting of select teachers who have an expertise in making quality WhatsApp video content for students' education. These videos are then shared among students on WhatsApp group day prior to the actual class. Relevant home assignments, creative projects, effective teaching-learning material, etc. are designed for active engagement and participation. This concept has been extended to other Satya Bharti Schools across India.



Mega Parental Education Training, targeted to reach over 1.5 lakh parents in Assam

Samagra Shiksha, Kamrup, along with Bharti Foundation, initiated an extensive training program on Parental Education on Digital Communication & Ethics in the month of August. Bharti Foundation brings in their expertise and experience in Parental engagement through Satya Bharti Home Mentoring process for parents.

Under the program, virtual training was conducted for nine Block Resource Persons and 159 Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators who took initiatives to reach out to nearly 5000 teachers. These teachers worked towards further training and conducting various activities for awareness of parents across the district. The program has been designed to impact on a scalable level in Assam through its trickle-down model.



New Admissions go Online in Satya Bharti Schools

Satya Bharti Schools in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu introduced simple online ways for parents to enroll their children for the new academic session. The schools developed questionnaire through Google Forms and shared the links with parents through WhatsApp. Teachers and field staff then guided parents on filling up the necessary information online. The simplified process was accepted and appreciated in the communities for not only saving time and resources, but also for being a safe practice in the current scenario of the pandemic.



Online Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parents' involvement has always been a key component of Bharti Foundation's educational programs. As Satya Bharti Schools across India were closed, teachers engaged with parents online through video calls using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, WhatsApp, etc., making them adapt to technology as their children did themselves. Teachers and SMC members took this opportunity to update parents on the ongoing situations and various virtual learning initiatives undertaken for engaging students with academics. Teachers used video calling apps to also reach out to the parents of children who do not go to school to orient them about importance of schooling, and to introduce them to Satya Bharti Schools, students' achievements in both scholastic & co-scholastic activities, and more.

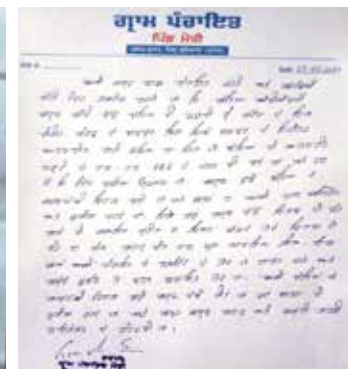
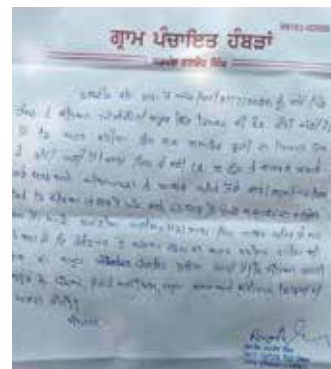
Contactless Book Distribution in Satya Bharti Schools

Following the closure of schools to tackle the Covid-19 crisis, thousands of Satya Bharti School students were confined inside their homes without textbooks for the new academic session that began in April. While teachers used various means to send daily learning activities to students, access to textbooks of the new academic session was essential to supplement their learning process.

Bharti Foundation developed and implemented a meticulous procedure for contactless distribution of books to ensure that all Satya Bharti School students in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan safely receive textbooks for the new academic session. The process was carried out with prior intimation to DM, DEO and village sarpanch.

Parents of students were called to schools in separate time slots for different classes while strictly maintaining social distancing measures and mandatory sanitation guidelines. A maximum of 60 parents with a maximum of 15 per half-an-hour were called in a day. Teachers ensured that 10-15 book bundles were kept on the desks before parents came in.

Though all the books were sanitized, parents were advised to not handover the same to children for a minimum of three days.



Grain Distribution in Senior Secondary Schools in Punjab

Bharti Foundation is working in partnership with the Department of School Education, Govt. of Punjab, to ensure that students of Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary Schools - continue to receive Mid-Day Meals. A conscientious process was developed and put in place to ensure that the highest standard of safety is maintained in distributing food grains to families.

The schools were cleaned a week ahead of grain distribution day; and grain packets, prepared by authorized and checked personnel, were kept ready at least two days before distribution. All staff maintained 12 ft. distance among themselves while at work and wore masks all the time.

Staggered arrival time was created for both teachers and parents at school. Verandah/ porch, marked with circles, arrows, and indicators, were used for distribution of grains. Parents were given all necessary instructions on phone, while calling them to school, which included date, time and the general procedures.

There was no physical contact between teachers and parents during the entire exercise.



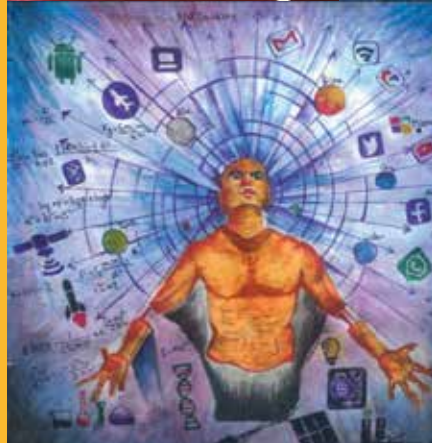
LEARNING, CREATIVITY AND DEVELOPING

Skills for Life

'Learning-from-home' turned fun and creative for government school children when Bharti Foundation introduced the 'Satya Bharti Skill Fest' - an online summer camp filled with activity-based learning in the month of May. The fest was conducted under the Foundation's Satya Bharti Quality Support Program that is currently working in partnership with 804 government schools across 14 states/UTs to improve overall schooling experience for children.

The Skill Fest has been designed in consultation with school Principals and covered a range of activities for raising awareness, nurturing creativity, and promoting holistic development. Students of the partnered government schools participated in competitions like quiz, calligraphy, painting, craft making, doodling, essay/slogan writing, etc. as well as gained knowledge from awareness sessions like storytelling, concept videos, and more. Every activity was designed to be done from home and shared via online/digital media - the likes of WhatsApp, etc. While the topics covered focus on academic growth, various social issues, such as COVID-19 prevention measures, environment conservation, afforestation, etc. were also included to develop children as responsible citizens of the future.

**More than 47,000 entries
were received from Bharti
Foundation's partnered
Govt. schools across India.**





Satya Bharti Adarsh Schools outperform CBSE national average in Class X and XII board exams

- ✓ Overall pass percentage of Satya Bharti Adarsh Schools (Class XII) is 96.89 % and (Class X) is 99.26%, as compared to the CBSE national pass percentage of (Class XII) 88.78% and (Class X) 91.46%. The pass percentage of Chandigarh region of Class XII and X are 92.04% and 91.83% respectively.
- ✓ The schools are located in rural areas of Punjab where children primarily come from challenging socio-economic backgrounds.
- ✓ Overall pass percentage for girl is 97.74% for Class XII and 100% for Class X, as compared to the CBSE national average of 92.15% and 93.31% of Class XII and Class X respectively.
- ✓ For Class XII, the highest subject-wise marks among Satya Bharti Adarsh Schools' students are: Beauty & Wellness (100), Retail (100), Business Studies (99), Economics (98), English (98), Punjabi (98), IT (98), Physical Education (97), History (96) and Accountancy (95).
- ✓ Of the 400 students of Class X who appeared for the exam, the highest subject-wise marks are Punjabi (100), IT (100), Social Studies (99), Retail (99), English (98), Science (95) and Mathematics- Basic (95).
- ✓ Ms. Gurpreet Kaur (Class XII - Humanities student from Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Jhaneri, Punjab) has scored the highest among all Satya Bharti Adarsh Schools' students with an overall percentage of 97.4%.
- ✓ Ms Sehajpreet Kaur (Class X student from Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Rauni, Punjab) secured highest marks among the schools' students with 94.6%.



Gurpreet Kaur, Class XII
Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Jhaneri

Gurpreet's father is a farmer and the only earning member in the family of seven. Being the eldest of the sibling in the family, Gurpreet shares responsibilities of looking after her brothers and sisters also does the household chores. Despite growing up in adversity, she never gave up on education.

Gurpreet dreams of becoming a Judge one day.

Inderpreet Kaur, Class XII
Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Sherpur Kalan

Inderpreet's father and mother – both work on daily wages. As her parents leave home in the morning and return home in the evening, Inderpreet had to do most of the daily household chores. She used to study in the late hours at night, and during breaks.

She wants to become a Chartered Accountant.



Harmandeep Kaur, Class XII
Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Rauni

Alongside academics, Harmandeep has a lot of interest in art and crafts, and singing. She has received numerous awards for her paintings, including a Gold Medal in a National-level competition.

She wants to become an Animator and own an animation studio one day.



94.2%

Amandeep Kaur, Class XII

Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Fatubhilla

Amandeep's father is a farmer who struggles to make ends meet with a meagre income. Adversities were many, but Amandeep never gave up on her education. She got most of her study material during her exams from the school library.

Amandeep wants to become a Bank Manager.

Jaspreet Kaur, Class XII

Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Chogawan

Jaspreet's father, a shopkeeper and the only earning member in the family of six members, always supported the education of his children. Jaspreet loves painting, reading and has won multiple awards in quiz competitions.

Jaspreet wants to become a Teacher, and teach underprivileged children in future.



91.2%



97.2%

Sehajpreet Kaur, Class X

Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Rauni

Sehajpreet father – is a farmer who has always ensured that his children never give up learning, no matter what. Sehajpreet loves reading books as well as participating in outdoor activities.

She wants to become a Chartered Accountant.

Manpreet Kaur, Class X

Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Sherpur Kalan

Manpreet's father, a car driver, supports a family of six members with his meagre income. Challenges at home never discouraged Manpreet from working towards her goal. Besides studies, she is equally good at sports.

Manpreet wants to become an IPS Officer.



94.4%



85.2%

Anmolpreet Kaur, Class X

Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Fattubhilla

Anmolpreet's father works as a mason and her mother is a homemaker. As her home is far from School, she often spent her travel time in finishing her homework. With a keen interest in playing kho-kho, she even bagged the first prize with her team in the district.

She wants to become a Bank Manager.

Hardeep Singh, Class X

Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Jhaneri

Hardeep left no stone unturned to ensure that he makes his parents proud. He focused on his academics with all his heart, studied hard and achieved success.

He wants to be a Mechanical Engineer.



84.6%



84.6%

Harmanpreet Kaur, Class X

Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Chogawan

Despite having to juggle between her school and household chores because of her mother's ill health, she did not leave her education behind. In fact, she also proved her excellence in co-curricular activities like painting, quizzes and calligraphy competitions.

Harmandeep wants to become a doctor and help those who can't afford expensive medical treatments.

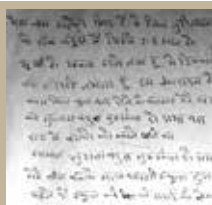
Satya Bharti School – Teacher Changemakers

The teachers of Satya Bharti Schools not only ensured that every child gets proper education during COVID-19 but also contributed towards preventing the outbreak of the coronavirus through spreading awareness and distributing safety kits. Many of them arranged and distributed food among the needy. The efforts and selfless contribution of these teachers were recognized during Bharti Foundation's Satya Bharti Educational Rockstar Achievers (SBERA) Awards 2020, held online on Teacher's Day.



Ms. Paramjeet Kaur from Khanpur, Ludhiana (E): Paramjeet made extraordinary efforts to educate people in her community about COVID-19 prevention measures. She leveraged technology to spread awareness through virtual plays on platforms like Google Meet, Zoom and YouTube.

Ms. Surinder Kaur from Gosal, Ludhiana (E): When Surinder saw children going out in public without masks amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, she understood the gravity of the situation. She took immediate steps and got herself involved in making and distributing masks among children and their families.



Ms. Sharanjeet Kaur from Tungaheri, Ludhiana (W): Sharanjeet, during her online interaction with students, learnt that their families were facing food shortage during the lockdown. She was quick to respond by informing the sarpanch about the situation. Because of her efforts, ration was arranged for all the families who were struggling to acquire food supplies.

Mr. Jaswant Singh from Hanbran, Ludhiana (W): After receiving calls from parents of children about shortage of food in their village, Jaswant left no stone unturned to ensure nobody sleeps empty stomach. He contacted the Sarpanch and other influential people of the area, and arranged cooked food, thereafter, ensuring that families got their rations on time.



Ms. Anita Grover from Ladhowal, Ludhiana (W): Anita took up the responsibility to aware people about COVID-19 and its prevention measures. Every day, she used to call people informing them about the steps they should take to protect themselves from the coronavirus. She still continues to do so.

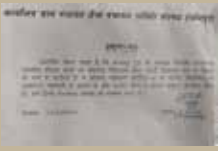
Ms. Harleen Kaur from Bath, Amritsar: Adept in sewing, Harleen used old clothes in her house to stitch masks. She distributed them among the needy in her community to save them from the coronavirus.



Ms. Rupinder Kaur from Hambran, Ludhiana (W): Rupinder ensured during the lockdown that everybody in her community got their quota of ration. She consistently worked with the Sarpanch to provide regular food supplies to those in need.

Ms. Daljit Kaur from Khiduwali, Amritsar: Daljit used her savings to buy food packets and distribute them among the needy. She also involved many people, including her family members, friends and relatives living abroad, in her initiative.





Mr. Dhanraj from Belwa Ranaji, Jodhpur: To keep his students and their families safe from the coronavirus, Dhanraj took up the responsibility of constantly telling them about the importance of wearing masks, washing hands and practicing social distancing.

Mr. Sugna Ram from Sopra, Jodhpur: Sugna Ram, besides using social media platforms to spread awareness on COVID-19 and its prevention, also worked with government agencies to ensure people coming to his village from outside followed quarantine guidelines issued by the Union Health Ministry.



Mr. Ran Mal from Belwa Ranaji, Jodhpur: Ran Mal served the poorest of the poor, like animal grazers, who had to step out of their homes during the lockdown. Seeing the risk they were taking, he made masks available to them.

Ms. Periyamayaki from Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu: Preiyamayaki used her personal resources to provide safety kits to children and their families in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. She decided on using her tailoring skills and the material available with her to sew masks for over 230 people.



Mr. Sunil Kumar from Khairana, Haryana: Sunil made commendable efforts to provide food to the migrant laborers in his village for a month. He got his larger community of friends involved in cooking meals every morning and evening. Sunil also ensured that the food is cooked and served in a safe environment.

Ms. Anjalee Khushvaha from Gurgawan, Shahjahanpur: When Anjalee realized that a lot of people were not taking the COVID-19 pandemic seriously, she decided to create short awareness videos on usage of masks, hand washing, practicing hygiene and social distancing. Anjalee's videos had a huge impact on her community.



Mr. Saurabh Pratap Singh from Gurgawan, Shahjahanpur: Moved by the plight of the underprivileged who could not afford to buy masks, Saurabh went the extra mile by making and distributing masks among them. He ensured that the marginalized in his community are protected from COVID-19.

Ms. Rana from Sikanderpur, Shahjahanpur: Notwithstanding the many constraints and challenges in her way, Rana mobilized funds and resources to ensure that students and their families got food during the COVID-19-induced lockdown.



Mr. Atul Kumar from Sikanderpur, Shahjahanpur: Atul leveraged digital platforms like WhatsApp, Zoom and Google Meet to reach out to aware people of his community about the precautions of COVID-19. He spread the message on use of masks and sanitizers, hand washing and social distancing.

Ms. Prabha Devi from Marena Wanger, Shahjahanpur: Prabha, through video calls, taught people how to make masks at home. She also spread awareness in her community to ensure that children and their family members use masks when they move out of homes, wash their hands and practice social distancing.



Their Achievement, Our Inspiration

During the reporting period



23 students declared winners in online competitions like: Healing Planet, Brainfeed Picasso, Ambassador of hope, UNESCO-TAKHTE & CSIR - NISCAIR

- a. 17 students declared winner in painting, poetry and photography categories of Healing Planet competition held at national level.
- b. Prachi, student of Satya Bharti School Karora (Kurukshetra) won 3rd prize (8-10 years age group) in Brainfeed Picasso Art competition held at national level.
- c. Mehakpreet Kaur and Ruhaniat Kaur, students of Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Fattubillah and Satya Bharti School Ghungrali Rajputana in Ludhiana East respectively, bagged consolation prizes in Ambassador of Hope competition held at Punjab state level.
- d. Jashanpreet Kaur, student of Satya Elementary School, Nassar of Amritsar, Punjab featured in Essay writing category in UNESCO – TAKHTE competition held at national level.
- e. Hemlata from Satya Bharti School Kanasar, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and Amrit Singh from Satya Bharti Adarsh Sr. Sec. School, Rauni declared winners in Drawing and Poster Making categories in CSIR – NISCAIR competition held at national level.



11 teachers from Sr. Sec. School, Chogawan and Satya Bharti Schools in Jodhpur have received content approval confirmation from Vidyadaan team for their e-resource, i.e. explanation videos, teaching videos and practice questions contribution on Vidyadaan portal. (Vidyadaan, a national platform for teachers, initiated by Govt. of India)



Satya Bharti School, Gurgawan, Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Govt. School Hiranwali, Punjab (partner govt. school under Satya Bharti Quality Support Program) featured in Top 30 most inspiring ideas of change under Novel Idea category in Design for Change Youth Challenge 2020, organized virtually in collaboration with YUWAAH & UNICEF.



Bharti Foundation recognized among **India's best companies to work for, 2020**

The Foundation has emerged as the only NGO among the top 100 to be awarded 'Great place to Work 2020' certification. Bharti Foundation was selected amongst 'Top 100 Great Place to Work' in 2018 and 2017 as well.



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Special Thanks to
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