A Bharti Foundation Program Update

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Govt, Model Sr. Sec. School

WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENT SCHOOL LEADERS TO CREATE FORERUNNERS OF CHANGE Quality Support Program



Bharti Foundation

Contents

From the CEO's Desk	1
Giving Wings to Dreams: Quality Education in Government Schools	2
Four Critical Pillars of Intervention	
Student Empowerment and Learning Levels	4
Empowerment of Teachers and School Leaders	6
Stakeholders' Involvement and Connect	8
School Infrastructure, Facility and Environment	9
Case Study: Government Model Senior Secondary School, Bhojawas, Mahendergarh (Haryana)	10
Mahendergarh Celebrates Two Years of Successful Association	13
Case Study: Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	15
Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta hosts District Collector	17
Testimonials and Special Media Coverage	18



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Bharti Foundation



From the CEO's Desk



This edition of the Voice of Change centres around Bharti Foundation's Quality Support Program, an education initiative with Government Schools located in rural areas. The program has been conceived with the belief that adequate talent, knowledge and capacity exists in Government schools both amongst teachers and students; and, it is only the lack of opportunity and motivation that prevents them from realising their potential.

To that end, the Program entails engagement with the school leadership, teachers, students and communities to re-ignite the spark, generate positive energy and strive for excellence. The approach focuses on identifying, integrating and optimising best practices from Satya Bharti Schools and those existing within the partnered schools. The intent is to encourage innovation, participation and ownership to bring about sustainable change.

The success achieved thus far has been gratifying and this newsletter captures snippets of the on-going journey. We would welcome your suggestions and advice.

Jai Hind!

Madda

Vijay Chadda Chief Executive Officer Bharti Foundation

Giving Wings to Dreams



Quality Education in Government Schools

Under the Quality Support Program, Bharti Foundation works along with Government schools, its leadership and teachers, to support them in articulating and achieving their goals towards creating better schooling experience for their students. The program is developed around the principle of building on the existing wealth of knowledge among teachers, their passion for teaching and the success of their students.

Bharti Foundation initiates a dialogue and continuously

engages with various stakeholders of the schools to evoke aspirations. identifv needs, ways to bridge critical gaps and set goals to develop schools into institutions of learning and nurturing for the all-round arowth of students.

The program adopts a two-pronged approach to facilitate the desired change. It optimizes on the existing strengths and provides catalytic support to bridge gaps identified by the schools' leadership team, ensuring

PROGRAM APPROACH Optimize use Support school leaders to of existing achieve higher resources. goals and policies and bridge existing systems gaps Collaborate Facilitate, support with school and enhance leadership and school resources, staff to processes and maximize usage efforts

2. Empowered and engaged students illustrate the quality of a school. Our endeavour is to energise students through meaningful knowledge construction as well as by building capabilities to deal with the challenges of daily life. We encourage teachers to facilitate their students to take informed decisions by reflecting on their personal values and goals. To achieve this, school based interventions are planned including student events, exposure visits, life skill workshops, lecture series, formation of student clubs,

etc. We believe that the development of skills in a conscious manner has a impact huge on enhancing and strengthening an individual's potential. These events not only build confidence among students but also hone the required life skills of students. The energy thus generated is leveraged by the proactive teachers to academic improve performance of the students, thus developing the child holistically.

3. Stakeholder engagement works best where

that the schools experience success by building on their own capabilities and motivation.

The intervention focuses on the following four critical pillars for enhancing school effectiveness:

 Empowerment of School leaders and teachers is key to forming an institution of learning. Bharti Foundation partners with the school leaders and strives to infuse fresh energy in the school by providing rich exposure and experiences to the teachers, encouraging them to aspire for higher goals. Teachers undertake a variety of initiatives, which help them acquire new learning, build new perspectives, take on new responsibilities, achieve personal success and gain confidence to set new benchmarks for the success of their students. relationship and trust is built over time. Engaging with parents, community members, district administration officials and education department officials helps to establish the efficacy of school processes. Quality Support Program works at involving all stakeholders in school activities, helping them realize their responsibility and take ownership in contributing towards the school's growth. Conscious efforts are made to remove apathy and infuse interest in the stakeholders by planning events and meetings at regular intervals.

4. A stimulating physical environment contributes towards the learning and wellbeing of the students. Quality Support Program facilitates schools to reinforce their extant resources and also explore the feasibility of options for improvement. The Program works towards

Table 1: PROGRAM STATUS

Parameters	Numbers	
Number of schools	9	
Number of teachers	197	
Number of students	4280	
Teacher training deployed (man days)	548	
Number of student workshops on skill enhancement conducted (batches)	246	
Number of events organized for teachers and students (Sports Spark, Science Spark, Summer Spark, etc.)	51	
Number of opportunities availed by parents /community to engage with schools (events /School Management Committee meetings)	30	
Number of engaged teachers (those who have taken up added responsibilities to engage students)	88 (45%)	
Engaged Teachers /Principals of neighbourhood schools (who have been energized and motivated to take up additional roles /responsibilities to engage students)	17	
Number of new practices /processes introduced in the schools	36	
Funds mobilized by Schools /Community	INR 15,45,000	
Data as of 31st March 201		

optimising the usage of existing infrastructure and facilities of the concerned schools to ensure an environment that is conducive to the teaching learning process. The school's leadership is encouraged to access available Government schemes / funds as well as support from local community leaders to maintain and enhance infrastructure. The Foundation contributes at times of critical, need-based instances such as enhancing a library or making a computer centre functional, etc.

Currently, Quality Support Program is being run in partnership with the School Education Department of the Government of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab in the schools identified by them. (Refer table 1)

Mamta Saikia

Head – Development & Alliances mamta.saikia@bhartifoundation.org



Student Empowerment and Learning Levels





Students get energized when they feel empowered. Empowerment in turn is the process of providing meaningful tasks and an environment conducive to enhancing ones self-efficacy and positive self-image. This creates intrinsic motivation to engage in learning and taking responsibility. Students with high levels of energy and engagement truly personify the quality of their school.

The Foundation's endeavour has been to expose students to multiple activities that cater to students with varied strengths and interests. Teachers are being mentored at regular intervals to create opportunities for their students to tap their potential as well as hone important skills in order to lead a successful life. Students are encouraged to explore new ideas, work in teams, lead activities and take responsibility through a range of activities and events planned at the school and interschool level to involve them in large numbers. These interventions have been warmly welcomed by the schools and the stakeholders at large. The result is that not only the students but also the teachers feel energized, they are now confident about their students' potential and exhibited skills.

Important student empowerment activities undertaken:

Multi-disciplinary exposure, confiden			enhancing	
Student workshops awareness and skil		re serie	es for greater	
Students' Clubs training	and Cour	icils fo	r leadership	
Special projects for hands-on learning				
Special activities t	o bridge le	arning	gaps	



Facilitating practice of spoken English through student participation in events such as *Just a Minute*



Lecture delivered by Mr. Vijay Chadda, Chief Executive Officer, Bharti Foundation to inspire children Students clarify doubts with Col. Rajdeep after the lecture on Armed Forces Student workshop by PETA India on inculcating sensitivity & empathy





Facilitating IT skills



Creating agents of social change



Enhancing memory skills through students' workshop



Encouraging spirit of sportsmanship



Providing exposure to global cultures



Enhancing creativity through Rang Tarang competitions



Increasing exposure through inter-state school trip



Fostering leadership through student clubs



Developing presentation skills at Science Spark event



Facilitating creativity for putting together a tableau on behalf of Education Department

Empowerment of Teachers and School Leaders



A truly motivated and empowered Teacher has the ability to guide her students to unravel the joys of learning. Teachers at Government Schools have rich knowledge of their subjects and a keen awareness of the needs of their students. Quality Support Program with its blended approach helps teachers to use their knowledge and skills optimally by infusing fresh energy and providing rich exposure. Teachers are taken through a wide range of opportunities in experiential learning to generate greater interest and passion for teaching.

Activities undertaken for teachers:

Motivational trainings, on-job coaching for exposure to best practices

Organizing and participation in school events and inter-school events

Reward and recognition initiatives for innovative and proactive teachers



Exposure to practices at Shriram Police Public School



Coaching of teachers by their mentor



Training on goal setting



Training on motivation skills



Goal setting exercise with Principal



Teachers articulate goals for their school





Recognition of a teacher by Mr. Vijay Chadda, CEO, Bharti Foundation



Teachers share innovative teaching-learning material, post training



Coaching session on project work



Teachers organise Science quiz



Engaging teachers through network meets



Government school teachers experience school processes at Satya Bharti School



Orientation of teachers

Stakeholders' Involvement and Connect



Stakeholders play a major role in the effective functioning of the school. Quality Support Program creates several avenues for parents, community members, government officials and other stakeholders to actively participate and contribute to the growth and development of a school.

Critical activities for greater connect:

Stakeholders are invited during school events and celebrations

Community mobilization campaigns are conducted and led by school students

Periodic workshops are conducted for School Management Committee (SMC) members

Special Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) are organised for greater involvement of parents in their child's schooling



Involving mothers on Sports Day



Synergizing efforts with the Education Department



Honoring community members on 15th August



Encouraging SMC Chairman's proactive engagement with school



Facilitating regular community meetings



Inviting parents for a night sky observation along with children

School Infrastructure, Facility and **Environment**





School infrastructure contributes to the wellbeing of students. The availability of basic infrastructure can help in creating an environment conducive to effective learning. Bharti Foundation encourages and facilitates schools to work on improving facilities by using available Government Schemes and Grants as well as actively engaging the community's involvement in this aspect. At critical times, Bharti Foundation contributes to need-based intiatives such as enhancing Science and Computer laboratories, providing bulletin boards etc.



Sample Library (before intervention)



Upgraded Library (after intervention)



Sample Activity Room (before intervention)

Colorful Interactive Activity Room (after intervention)



Computer lab made functional



Students of Lorta take charge of their learning by creating a learning aid





Attractive bulletin boards add character

Functional Science Lab





Students initiate the classroom project (before intervention)



The vibrant learning environment in the classroom (after intervention)



Sample Toilet (before intervention)



Case Study



Government Model Senior Secondary School, Bhojawas, Mahendergarh (Haryana)

In 2013, when Quality Support Program began intervention at the Government Model Senior Secondary School in Bhojawas, the school consisted of an impressive building situated in this remote village of Haryana. The school had a strength of 1,400 students and 50 staff members, highest among neighbouring schools. The school enjoyed a good reputation with a dynamic Principal along with good students' performance, active engagement of teachers, adequate infrastructure facilities and consistent community support.

However, the situation in the Primary section of the school was unlike the Senior Secondary School. The Head Teacher of the Primary school was nearing her service retirement. The teachers lacked exposure, guidance and a vision for their school; while students lacked exposure. The school infrastructure was not maintained and the parents and the community remained disengaged with the school.



Facilitating launch of the school's official website

As an initial step, the Foundation facilitated a baseline assessment for teachers to analyse the situation and identify the school's needs, some of the needs outlined by the teachers were as follows:

To increase focus on Primary section, school environment, facilities, teachers' motivation and students' learning levels

Need for exposure to innovative pedagogy for greater interest and involvement of students, beyond the classroom

More avenues for practical learning and an enhanced focus on Science

Addressing the attitude and mind-sets of some teachers

Expansion of infrastructure facilities to accommodate students in a single shift school

Greater involvement of parents and the community

Based on the requirements, the Foundation formulated an initial intervention strategy to support the school. The Principal of the Senior Secondary section is very confident and sought to explore greater challenges to create a unique identity of the school. The momentum built also helped in garnering the support of the Head Teacher of the Primary section to embrace learning and growth. Bharti Foundation extended support to the school to address their aspirations, widen learning horizons, ensure readiness to experience new pedagogical practices at par with other progressive schools and help them set new benchmarks. Some of the activities undertaken were as follows:

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

- Engaged students in various structured activities and curriculum based projects to instill confidence, enhance critical skills interpersonal, presentation, critical and creative thinking, renew latent energy while unravelling the existing potential of the students.
- Hosted/organised events such as Science Spark, Sports Spark and Rang Tarang (a drawing competition) as well as workshops on life skills, learning skills, project work and values.
- Lecture series were initiated wherein the students of senior classes were exposed to lectures by professionals in various vocations; guiding them to make appropriate career choices.
- A reward and recognition program was introduced to motivate students and to hone their leadership skills.
- Students were involved in projects under the *International School Award by British Council* on various topics helping them increase their international exposure.
- Student excursion visits organised to reward students who displayed leadership skills.



Showcasing Indian festivals for school project



Honing presentation skills of students



Government Model Senior Secondary School, Bhojawas, Mahendergarh (Haryana)

LEADERSHIP AND TEACHERS' EMPOWERMENT

- Exposure visits were organised for the teachers to other schools and national level seminars
- Workshops on goal setting, motivation and innovative pedagogy were conducted to trigger progressive thinking and self-reflection
- Coaching sessions were imparted that focused on planning and execution of activities and projects
- A block level network of innovative teachers was formed in partnership with STiR Education (an independent organisation), to provide continued exposure to the school teachers
- Enrolling the school for participation at the International School Award (ISA) program by British Council



Empowering the teachers and school leadership

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Engaging parents and community with the school

Opportunities were created to increase participation of the parents and the community in all school events and activities

 Parents and community members participated in all the activities and projects conducted under the *International School Award (ISA)* program

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

- Bharti Foundation facilitated the utilisation of school funds for repair, whitewash and painting of classrooms
- Special focus was laid on renovating the Primary school with funds allocated for creating a sample activity room, providing floor mats and for the repair of toilets. Bulletin boards were also introduced to effectively display students' work
- In the Senior Secondary section, the Principal used the school funds to build an additional block of classrooms, renovate the Principal's room and establish a resource room



Introduction of 3E-Enlightement, Entertainment and Exploration corner room



IMPACT OF INTERVENTION

Impact on the School's Overall Environment and Culture

- School's achievements at district and state level activities led to enhanced reputation and status in the district
- The school enjoys a positive physical and emotional environment
- The Primary School possesses a renewed energy and greater interest among teachers and students, with classes allocated for Sports, Library and Art
- The school has been awarded the *International School Award* by British Council for having an outstanding level of support in nurturing global citizenship among young people and enriching the teaching and learning process
- Silver Medal for the class-readiness program
- The school has acquired the momentum to take off on a journey to achieve higher goals

Impact on School Leadership and Teachers

- Teachers and school leadership possess enhanced confidence, self-esteem, motivation and vision to achieve higher benchmarks
- Teachers experienced and utilised new pedagogical tools through the dynamic International School Award project
- One of the teachers has been awarded a certificate from Roehampton University, UK, for establishing innovative teaching practices
- 49% of teachers have taken up added responsibilities to engage the students
- Six teachers involved in the Teachers' Network

Impact on Students

- Students exhibit renewed energy, improved self-image, motivation and raised benchmarks to perform
- They have attained enhanced levels in creativity, leadership, interpersonal, critical thinking, presentation and social skills
- In the class 12 board exam results of 2014-15, the school recorded a significant performance surge that was 15.33% higher than the state average, while in 2013-14 it was 11.04% higher than the state average
- The students have won many Awards as a result of the intervention, such as:
 - Students have emerged as district level winners in computer applications and in preparing Science models
 - Awarded a Silver Medal for the Class Readiness Program by the State Government and won second position at the cluster level *RangTarang* (a drawing competition)

Impact on Parents and Community

The Primary School has initiated several successful outreach initiatives and received donations and support from the community. The Senior Secondary School has attained greater parent and community connect with the school





Mahendergarh Celebrates Two Years of Successful Association

An interactive meet was held at Government Model Senior Secondary School, Bhojawas, Mahendergarh on 7th May, 2015 for Principals, teachers and students of the existing and aspiring schools under the Quality Support Program. The event was graced by eminent members of Bharti Foundation and the district administration.







A warm welcome of guests by students

Release of a School Magazine









Principals share their experience of working in collaboration with Bharti Foundation





Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation addresses the students of Government schools







Display of models based on science theories



Students of Kanina Girls present their Models with confidence



Felicitation of Government officials



Student volunteers actively support the event



Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

The Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta is situated in a remote village of Balesar in Rajasthan. When Quality Support Program was introduced to the school, student enrolment was at 94 with seven teachers. School infrastructure and facilities were inadequate and lacked regular maintenance. The records of the students showed low student performance. While the parents and the community were compassionate, their engagement with the school was limited.

Bharti Foundation began by facilitating a self-assessment exercise that was conducted by the teachers, where they themselves identified the persisting issues of the school. The concerns highlighted were as follows:

Low visibility with dipping enrolment and reputation of the school

Lack of school infrastructure and facilities

Underutilisation of allocated funds for the school

Low interest, self-confidence and poor academic performance of students

Inadequate opportunities for skill and holistic development of students

Parents' apathy towards the school and its students



A School Management Committee (SMC) meeting in progress

Reflecting on the identified issues, Bharti Foundation prepared a strategy of intervention focusing on the four important pillars, as follows:

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

- Students were involved in various structured events and activities Earth Day, Morning Quiz, Sports Day, celebration of National Days, Children's Day, Teachers' Day, Drawing Competition, *Design for Change* Community Campaigns, Inter-school Sports
- Computer classes were held during summer camps for students to attain basic computer skills
- Special classes were conducted to impart lessons in Math; and, improved practices were ensured for regular and fair assessment of students' performance
- Student Clubs were formed to inculcate leadership skills; and, motivational workshops were conducted for students to set higher goals
- An enrolment campaign was introduced that included collateral distribution to increase awareness about the school in the community
- 'Winter Spark'- an inter-school event was hosted to enable students to participate with the students of neighbourhood schools to increase the challenge to perform



Formation of Student Clubs



Student participation in quiz competition

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT

- Rapport building and need-based mentoring provided to ensure task-readiness and positive attitudes among the school leadership and teachers
- Trainings for teachers to develop a roadmap, set a vision, goals and expectations for the school

PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

 Parents and the community members were invited to observe various events held at the school. Their visits were capitalised to sensitise them towards the importance of their involvement, while also honouring them for their increased engagement with the school



Community participation during school events

Case Study



Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)



Vibrant classroom

Science laboratory made functional

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

- The school Principal was motivated to initiate school infrastructure improvement measures and also approach the District Education Officer (DEO) to release frozen funds
- The Foundation thereafter supported the school to establish a Computer lab, Science lab, a composite activity lab with library books and games, renovation of toilets and in refurbishing the Principal's room

IMPACT OF INTERVENTION

Impact on the School's Overall Environment and Culture:

- With the synergised efforts of Bharti Foundation and the school's stakeholders, the school now enjoys an enhanced self-image and increased enrolment
- The school has gained greater visibility and has been upgraded to a Senior Secondary School
- The school possesses a new look and feel along with a positive physical and emotional environment as a result of regular repairs and maintenance

Impact on School Leadership and Teachers:

- The school leadership and teachers display high self-esteem and confidence along with raised aspirations and a zeal to perform
- The teachers have a raised self-esteem and confidence in their students, helping the students in turn gain a high self-image and motivation to perform

Impact on Students:

- Student enrolment has increased to 275 from 100
- Students display a renewed energy, enhanced self-image and motivation with raised benchmarks to perform
- Interest in Science has peaked significantly among the students
- Students display a responsible and collaborative behaviour and attitude
- Some of the enhanced skills exhibited by the students includes creativity, leadership as well as interpersonal and critical thinking skills. IT skills have seen a remarkable improvement with over 70% of students working comfortably on MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- The school has recorded a surge in winners at interschool competitions such as Quiz competitions and sports events
- A new benchmark has been set in the Board results
 - 89% of the students have passed this year as compared to 70% in 2014
 - 37% of students have scored in the first division, while there had been only six students who secured first division in the last five years and there were none in 2014
 - A staggering 63% of the students have secured distinction in at least one subject
- A special benchmark has been set in Mathematics:
 - 100% of the students have passed in Mathematics as compared to 50% in 2014
 - 5% of the students have scored distinction, 40% have scored above 60%

Impact on Parents and Community:

The school has energised its engagement with the community and received several donations for infrastructure improvement



Regular school assemblies



Increase in students participation in competitions



Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta hosts District Collector



Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta ready to host the 'Winter Spark' event



Welcome of Dr. Pritam B. Yashwant, District Collector of Jodhpur



Students display projects at the Science Exhibition organized by them



Felicitation of the winner of Science Exhibition by the District Collector



Cultural performance by students



Inauguration of school's Science Lab by the District Collector and the Sarpanch



Felicitation of the School Principal by the District Collector



"Bharti Foundation is working in three of our schools in Kanina Block in Mahendergarh (Haryana); and it is indeed heartening to see the positive change. I have been searching the internet for many years, looking for innovative ways to improve the quality of education and that is when I learnt about the Foundation. When they approached me to initiate their program in our district, I felt really happy and blessed. Mobilizing teachers and students, generating curiosity and enthusiasm to do new things, these are all activities which are truly noteworthy that Bharti Foundation is facilitating in our schools. I believe that expanding this excellent initiative will bring in positive change. I extend my sincere thanks to Bharti Foundation and Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal for initiating this program for school excellence."

Rajendra Singh, Block Elementary Education Officer (BEEO), Kanina Block, (Haryana)

"Our heartfelt thanks to the organisation for providing us with an opportunity to learn new and innovative ways of ensuring holistic learning. We have learnt to plan and conduct student events in an organized manner. In all such activities not only the students but their parents also take part and enjoy them. With these activities we observe that the confidence level, spirit of healthy competition and managerial skills of our students receives significant benefit. We also attend workshops conducted by Academic Mentors, giving us an insight on the process of teaching and the use of innovative teaching methodologies. We strongly believe that Bharti Foundation will support us in the near future so that the capabilities of our students reach the next level."

Mr. Balvinder Singh, Principal - Government Primary School, Nangla (Punjab)

"Despite numerous doubts and hurdles during initiation of the Quality Support Program, we along with our stakeholders, are truly convinced about the kind of positive change the program is bringing in our schools. Under this partnership we have initiated number of projects such as improvement of school infrastructure, enrolment of students for *International School Program*, organizing student events and many such activities, which have provided exposure to our students and have led the school towards progress." **Mr. Sudhir Yadav, Principal – Government Model Senior Secondary School, Bhojawas (Haryana)**

"We faced deficit of teachers in our school and had discussed the matter with Bharti Foundation team members. Within five days we were provided with substitute tutors to address the learning needs of our students for which I am highly obliged to the Foundation and its team."

Mr. Krishan Kumar Yadav, Principal - Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Kanina Mandi (Haryana)

"My first thought on Bharti Foundation was why they chose our area for implementing their intervention program. Following the media reports and my inquisition, I made visits to their existing operational areas. I then realized that the need of the hour was to provide such knowledge to students from which they attain skills supplementing their aspirations. I am highly obliged to the Bharti Foundation team for helping us imbibe this spirit into our system. Their Quality Support Program has laid the foundation for improved learning levels of children with Quality as the genuine focus."

Mr. Naresh Kaushik, Principal of Senior Secondary School Gudha (Haryana) and Coordinator of Teachers' Network set up by Bharti Foundation in collaboration with STIR Education

"Bharti Foundation has helped in creating a stimulating, encouraging and motivating environment in the school. Everyone including students, teachers, community and the School Management Committee (SMC) are highly appreciative of this support to the school. Students have learnt a lot through Computer Camps, Science lab activation, Library activation, Sports, Student Clubs and other school activities supported by the Foundation."

Mr. Mohanlal Devasi, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Lorta, Jodhpur, Rajasthan





Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation (right) being presented the 'Hari Chand Award for Corporate Citizen of the year 2013' by Shri Balramji Dass Tandon, Governor of Chhattisgarh.

Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation,

honoured by Ludhiana Management Association

Conferred with the Hari Chand Award for Corporate Citizen of the year 2013

Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice-Chairman, Bharti Enterprises and Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation, was conferred with the 'Hari Chand Award for Corporate Citizen of the year 2013' by the Ludhiana Management Association (LMA) on September 3rd, 2014. He was awarded for his outstanding contribution in the field of education of underprivileged children through Bharti Foundation, the development arm of Bharti Enterprises. LMA recognizes and felicitates the role models of Ludhiana, who contribute to the dignified living of its citizens by showcasing innovative business ideas implemented in the competitive world successfully and also illustrating how courage and skills hold the key to advancement.

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