

# voice of change

ISSUE 12, DECEMBER 2015

## Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program Mainstreaming Out of School Children



## From the CEO's Desk

Dear Friends,

Bharti Foundation has remained focused on formulating and implementing workable solutions towards filling the quality education gap in rural India. This year we are celebrating the tenth year of our flagship 'Satya Bharti School Program'. The learnings accrued from this ongoing experience are being taken to our extended education programs with Government Schools. This issue of the Voice of Change newsletter outlines one such initiative – 'The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program'.



Through this initiative we aim to enrol and mainstream Out of School Children residing in rural India into Government Schools through a structured program, thus strengthening our pursuit to provide quality education to children who are missing out on their basic right to education. The program is being run in partnership with *Educate a Child* (EAC), a global program of the *Education Above All Foundation* launched by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar. With Bharti Foundation as its strategic partner in India, EAC aims to catalyse efforts to significantly reduce the number of Out of School Children (OOSC) worldwide at the primary school level.

The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program began in Rajasthan in 2012 and we have since expanded the program reach to the States of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. We are privileged to work in partnership with the respective State Governments and their consistent support continues to help us bring thousands of children back into the formal education system. Some of the appreciation and encouragement that we regularly receive from Government officials as well as the community has been included in this newsletter. These testimonials not only reflect the sentiment on ground but also the impact the Learning Centres are making in remote and difficult rural areas.

As we continue to work towards creating a lasting impact on the children of rural India through quality education, I would like to thank all our supporters and partners who have contributed to the program's success. I welcome your feedback and look forward to your continued support.

Jai Hind!

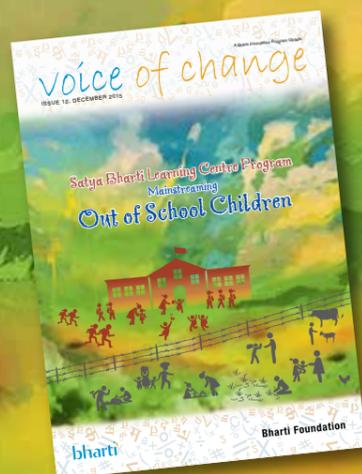
**Vijay Chadda**

Chief Executive Officer, Bharti Foundation



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## TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

Since the inception of Bharti Foundation's flagship initiative – the Satya Bharti School Program, the Foundation's journey has been one of learning and growth. This year, the Foundation is celebrating 10 years of the Satya Bharti School Program; we are extremely happy that our 254 Satya Bharti Schools have been successful in creating opportunities to provide quality education to thousands of marginalised children, especially girls. What is overwhelming is the fact that beyond the intended impact on students enrolled in Satya Bharti Schools, the program has been able to create synergies with the government schooling system through our two recent initiatives, "*Satya Bharti Quality Support Program*" and "*Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program*".

Under the **Satya Bharti Quality Support Program**, academic and non-academic best practices from the Satya Bharti Schools are introduced into Government Schools in agreement with the school leadership and teachers. **The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program** focuses on Out of School Children (OOSC) in close coordination with Government Schools.

In 2012, we entered into a partnership with the *Educate A Child* program of EAA under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar. Under this partnership, Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program was initiated with an aim to mainstream Out of School Children back into schools by identifying, enrolling and providing them bridge courses to bring them at an age/class appropriate level. The key components of this program are shown in the diagram.



**Key Components**

As an organisation we have enjoyed a strong precedence in running schools that impart quality education while instituting successful academic and non-academic processes. However, venturing into such a large outreach program and bringing back a great number of Out of School Children was a challenging as well as a formidable task. With our experience across 254 Satya Bharti Schools operating in six states of India, the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program is currently reaching out to three states of India to bring back Out of School Children into Government Schools. The program has already moved out of several villages as most of the Out of School Children in these villages have been mainstreamed.

It is a highly challenging program as the targeted locations are normally situated in extremely difficult terrains be it Rajasthan, Jharkhand or Madhya Pradesh. In addition, the program design has to converge with the existing Government system, requiring regular coordination and alignment with government officials. The program was started with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with *Rajasthan Education Initiatives* (REI) in February 2013. The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program started its operations from the remote blocks of Balesar and Shergarh in the Jodhpur District. The approach adopted is to establish a Learning Centre within a classroom provided in a selected Government School. In addition, Mid-Day Meals, textbooks and condensed courses (special training modules) were provided by the Government. Bharti Foundation appoints and trains Education Volunteers who undertake community surveys to identify Out of School Children in the villages. These Education Volunteers also undertake special teaching/training for the identified children, fortify learning with usage of innovative Teaching Learning Material, provide age-appropriate mainstreaming and undertake community mobilisation activities.

Finding suitable human resources continues to be a challenge in the areas where we operate. We identify and train youth from the local community with the support of the Education Department and other Government bodies as well as our trainers.





Use of colourful Teaching Learning Material (TLM) at Satya Bharti Learning Centres engages children in a variety of ways

We started the initiative in Rajasthan and have successfully expanded with the recent addition of the states of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. The centres in Madhya Pradesh are being run in partnership with *Humana People to People India*. We are vigorously working towards further expanding our geographic outreach to fulfil our vision – *To help underprivileged children and young people of our country realize their potential.*

**Mamta Saikia**  
 Head – Development & Alliance  
 Mamta.saikia@bhartifoundation.org

### PROGRAM STATUS

Parameters	Numbers
No. of Centres Operational (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand)	527
No of Centres Closed*	397
No. of Educational Volunteers (EV's of Madhya Pradesh not included)	456
Current Enrolment	10,271
Mainstreamed	9,880
SC/ST/OBC**	96.2%
% of Girl Students	50.3%
Total Children Impacted <sup>#</sup>	22,022
Student Performance (Government Assessment)	
Total Students Appeared in Assessment	9,880
a. Mainstreamed	9,880
b. Promoted to Next Level	NA
<b>Total (a+b)</b>	<b>9,880</b>

Data as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

\* 397 centres have been closed as most of the Out of School Children in these villages have been mainstreamed (number included in overall impact); in some villages the count of Out of School Children has dropped to such a low figure that it has gone below the minimum numbers required to run a centre, as per Government norms. 45 Centres had to be closed because of unavailability of qualified Education Volunteers.

\*\* Identified marginalised communities such as Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

<sup>#</sup> It includes 1,871 students who dropped out mid-course.

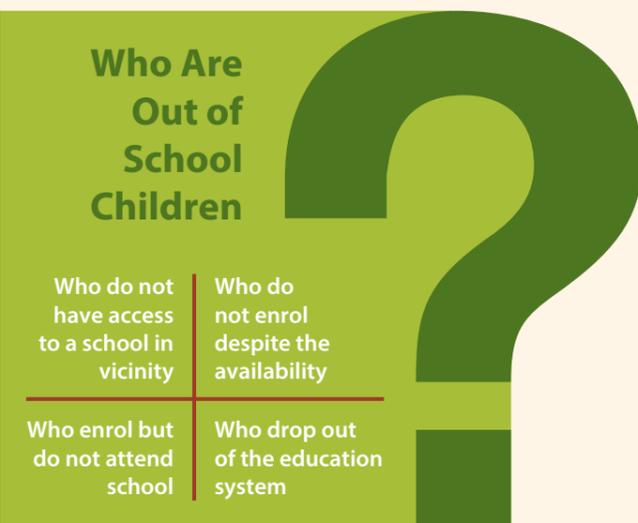
## Context of Out of School Children in India

The world has made substantial advancement in universalising primary education and is fairly on track in accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As per the MDGs report, the number of Out of School Children of primary school age worldwide has reached 57 million in 2015 as compared to 100 million in 2000.<sup>1</sup> While the numbers seem promising from a global perspective, India needs to work further to achieve the Millennium Development Goals' targets for universal enrolment.<sup>2</sup>

In 2009, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) was introduced in India. Since then, many initiatives have been undertaken to uphold this right for all children. In order to forge a brighter future for our nation, it is necessary to ensure education of children from the primary level as well as provide quality academics to sustain individual development. To attain this, it is important to focus not only on the children who are enrolled at schools but also mainstream those children who have dropped out of schools or have not had the opportunity to avail education.

To begin addressing the challenge of mainstreaming Out of School Children, Bharti Foundation initiated the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program. This comprehensive model provides remedial education to Out of School Children and mainstreams them into regular schools. Through this program, the Foundation is working towards improving enrolment levels in rural areas by encouraging parents and communities to send their children to school.

As per the data from the 'National Sample Survey of Estimation of Out of School Children in the Age 6-13 in India, 2014' by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, around 60.41 lakhs (2.97%) of the 20.4 crore school-going children in India are out of school. A higher proportion of girls (3.23%) are out of school than boys (2.77%). Also, more children from rural areas (3.13%) are out of school than from urban areas (2.54%).<sup>3</sup>



### Testimonial

During my visit to the Government Upper Primary School Kherda, Sawai Madhopur, I was happy to see the good work being carried out by Bharti Foundation through remedial classes for Out of School Children from marginalised families. The Education Volunteers at the centre are working hard to strengthen the quality of education provided in the classrooms, evident in the improvement in overall learning levels of the students.

*Ms. Anandi, District Collector, Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan)*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/mdg/the-millennium-development-goals-report-2015.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unic.org.in/items/India\\_and\\_the\\_MDGs\\_small\\_web.pdf](http://www.unic.org.in/items/India_and_the_MDGs_small_web.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://ssa.nic.in/pabminutes-documents/NS.pdf>



## Program Approach

The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program has been designed to ensure complete convergence with the Government's initiatives towards bringing Out of School Children back into schools. Hence, the approach adopted under this program is:

- I. To collaborate with the existing system and ensure optimum utilisation of available infrastructure and resources.
- II. To create a pool of human resource at the local level to sustain activities even after project withdrawal.



Education Volunteers are recruited from the vicinity to ensure community connect and project sustainability

Satya Bharti Learning Centres are set up to provide remedial education to Out of School Children for developing age-appropriate learning competencies. These centres are currently operational in partnership with the respective State Government and established within Government Schools. Designed to offer three/six/nine/twelve month remedial courses to develop age-appropriate competencies, each centre has one trained Education Volunteer who caters to an average of 12 to 20 children per centre. The monitoring staff for 50 centres comprise of a Cluster In Charge and a Cluster Assistant.

The building blocks of the program are as follows:

### Identification, Appointment and Training of Education Volunteers

Satya Bharti Learning Centres are located in remote rural regions where recruiting competent Education Volunteers (EVs) is often a challenge. The Foundation identifies volunteers who have an inherent passion for teaching. Each Education Volunteer undergoes a ten day training program which includes undertaking surveys, counselling techniques, various aspects of multi-grade teaching, creation of innovative Teaching Learning Material (TLM) as well as carrying out effective assessments.

### Identification and Enrolment of Out of School Children in Village

A village level household survey is conducted by Education Volunteers to identify Out of School Children in villages. Education Volunteers then counsel parents from the local communities to send their wards to the school. The identified children are provided age-appropriate class admissions in the Government Schools. Remedial/bridge courses are imparted at the Satya Bharti Learning Centres till they gain age-appropriate class competencies.



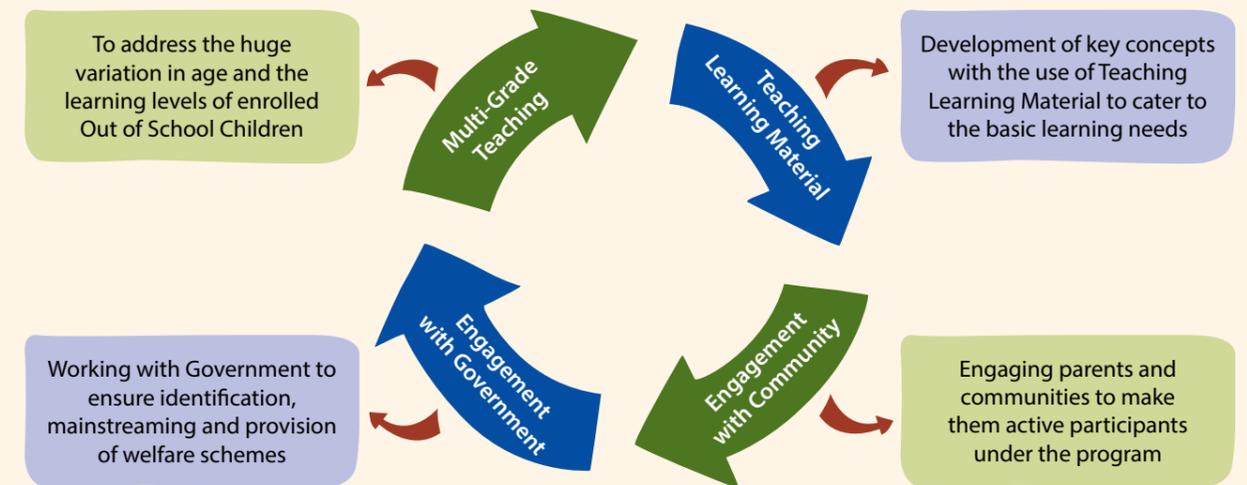
Education Volunteers conduct door-to-door campaigns to identify and enrol Out of School Children

- **Classroom for Satya Bharti Learning Centre**  
Selected Government Schools provide classrooms for setting up centers in the villages identified with a high number of Out of School Children.
- **Student Preparation for Assessment**  
With the help of baseline assessments, Education Volunteers identify the level of understanding and knowledge of the Out of School Children enrolled in the centres. Thereafter, learning groups are formed to develop age-appropriate learning competencies. To undertake multi-grade teaching, the Education Volunteers plan and create need-based Teaching Learning Material.
- **Mainstreaming of Enrolled Students**  
Mainstreaming of the enrolled students is the most critical aspect of the program. Education Volunteers pay close attention to prepare each student for the end-line assessment undertaken by the Government in order to successfully mainstream each child.
- **Instilling Community Ownership**  
To ensure that the enrolled students remain in school, regular parent counselling and community mobilisation events are conducted to build awareness as well as community ownership.



Shri Manmohan Dadhich, Assistant District Programme Coordinator, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan) interacting with students and evaluating their learning levels

## KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SATYA BHARTI LEARNING CENTRE PROGRAM



### Testimonial

We are extremely thankful for the efforts made by Bharti Foundation through the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program in mainstreaming 35 Out of School Children from our village. The program was carried out from January 2014 to May 2015 in our school. During this period, we experienced tremendous growth not only in the learning levels of the students but also in the teaching methodologies exercised by the Education Volunteers. We seek Bharti Foundation's support in the near future as well, to help us provide continued quality education to all the children.

Mr. Hameed Khan, President  
SMC (School Management Committee), Government Primary School, Patelo ki Hodi, Etada, Barmer (Rajasthan)



## Program Outreach

Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program began with implementation in Rajasthan and has recently expanded to the states of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. The reasons for the large number of Out of School Children in these states are encapsulated in the box below:

- **Economic Conditions:** Low economic status of families is a key factor contributing to the high number of Out of School Children.
- **Domestic Work:** Children drop out of school to help the family by carrying out odd jobs or helping in household chores.
- **Girl Child Safety:** Parents are reluctant to send their daughters to the schools citing concerns for their safety. In addition, girls are often married off at an early age as per prevalent social norms.
- **Seasonal Migration:** A common practice in rural India is the phenomenon of seasonal migration in search of livelihoods. Due to this, children of migrant families cannot continue receiving regular education.
- **Availability of Teachers:** In some regions, shortage of teachers results in low student engagement and community outreach.



Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program focuses on the enrollment of girls to make them a part of the entire education system



The program reaches out to marginalised communities in remote rural areas

## RAJASTHAN

The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program was initiated in Government Schools of Rajasthan, to bring down the high number of Out of School Children that were prevalent in the State. A large section of the population belongs to identified marginalised communities such as Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. To mainstream these children into Government Schools, Education Volunteers appointed from local communities provide regular counselling to the community members to increase awareness on the importance of education. As the State experiences seasonal migration, Education Volunteers counsel parents to give charge of the uninterrupted education of their children to grandparents or their family members. In addition, the program is highly sensitive to the existing gender disparity in Rajasthan, devoting a singular focus on mainstreaming of the Out of School girl child into regular schools.

Key performance indicators of the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program in the state of Rajasthan:

District	Active Enrolment	Dropouts	Mainstreamed	Total Impact
Barmer	4,059	1,007	6,789	11,855
Jodhpur	1,218	188	2,897	4,303
Sawai Madhopur	489	88	67	644

Data as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

## MADHYA PRADESH

In the State of Madhya Pradesh the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program is being implemented in collaboration with the State Education Department. The program implementation is in partnership with *Humana People to People India* as the empanelled implementation partner. The program has been functional in Jhabua and Barwani Districts of Madhya Pradesh with close to 87% and 69% tribal population, respectively. At present, 80 Satya Bharti Learning Centres are operational across these two districts of Madhya Pradesh reaching out to over 2,000 Out of School Children.

Key performance indicators of the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program in the state of Madhya Pradesh:

District	Active Enrolment	Dropouts	Mainstreamed	Total Impact
Barwani	614	300	38	952
Jhabua	1,093	288	89	1,470

Data as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

## JHARKHAND

Bharti Foundation is currently running Satya Bharti Learning Centres in five districts of Jharkhand in close partnership with the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC). This includes the remote districts of Dumka, Godda, Pakur, Sahebganj and Deogarh. The Foundation has appointed Educational Volunteers in all these centres from local communities to impart bridge courses to the identified Out of School Children. After undergoing remedial classes in the learning centres to achieve age-appropriate learning levels, students are mainstreamed into the host Government Schools.

Key performance indicators of the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program in the state of Jharkhand:

District	Active Enrolment	Dropouts	Mainstreamed*	Total Impact
Dumka	539	NA	NA	539
Godda	743	NA	NA	743
Pakur	553	NA	NA	553
Sahebganj	677	NA	NA	677
Deogarh	286	NA	NA	286

Data as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

\* Since operations in Jharkhand have been initiated in October 2015, the first round of mainstreaming will start from July 2016 onwards.



Students' interest in the education process is kept alive by provision of materials like workbooks by Bharti Foundation

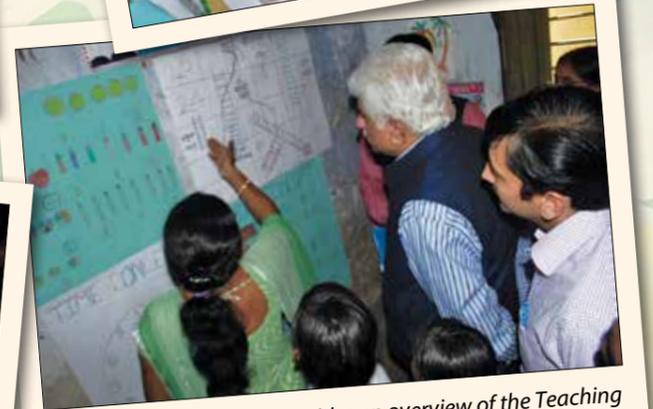


# Commencement of Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program in Lakhikundi, Dumka (Jharkhand)

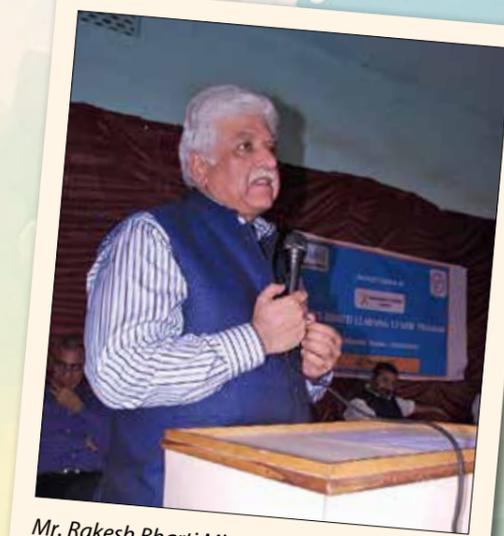
Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation graces the ceremony for the commencement of 'Satya Bharti Learning Centres' in the State of Jharkhand in collaboration with the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC). 113 Satya Bharti Learning Centres are operational in five Districts of Jharkhand reaching out to over 2,798 Out of School Children, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.



Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the Satya Bharti Learning Centre in Government Middle School in Lakhikundi, Dumka



An Education Volunteer provides an overview of the Teaching Learning Material created by her



Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal addresses the gathering during the commencement of Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program in Jharkhand



A warm welcome of dignitaries by the school students



Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Mr. Vijay Chadda and Mr. Nishikant Dubey with EAC project team and Education Volunteers from Jharkhand



## Stories from the Field

### A WANDERER TO A HIGHFLIER

This is the story of Dost Ali, studying at Satya Bharti Learning Centre, Bhag Bhare Ki Beri, Barmer (Rajasthan)

Dost Ali, a highly spirited child from the remote village of Dhorimana (Rajasthan) lives with his family of ten members. Being the youngest in his family, he is showered with endless love by all his family members. His father, Neeraj Khan has always been particular about his children's education. He understands the importance of education for a brighter future. Khan always encouraged his children to attend school, however, his efforts were in vain when it came to Dost Ali. Unlike his siblings, Dost was not interested in going to school. He was a carefree child and enjoyed roaming around with other children who never went to a school or dropped out due to various reasons. The concerns of Dost's parents grew when they were unable to convince him to continue his education.

Hanif and Barkat, neighbours of the family regularly visited his house and emphasised with Khan. They decided to help persuade Dost to go to school. They introduced school as a place for play and also assured Dost that he could attend classes for only two hours a day in the company of his own friends. Together they will be served nutritious Mid-Day Meals and play as much as they like. After persistent persuasion, Dost half-heartedly agreed to go to school. Hanif and Barkat immediately contacted the Satya Bharti Learning Centre in their village and got him enrolled into the remedial classes. Dost was provided with all the study material including books, stationary, etc. by the centre. Initially, Dost wasn't interested in the classroom sessions, however, witnessing the enthusiasm of his classmates, he too developed interest and began to actively participate in activities like painting, poem recitation, etc. Within few months, Dost emerged as a regular student at the Satya Bharti Learning Centre. He even overcame the language barrier which was a big hindrance in his education earlier and started grasping both Hindi and English lessons.

Dost Ali has become an avid learner and a role model for many other children in his village. He added, "I really enjoy studying at the Satya Bharti Learning Centre. I have made so many new friends here, we learn and play together. My dream is to become a teacher and teach thousands of children in future."



#### Testimonial

Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program has mainstreamed more than 30 Out of School Children to our school in Bawdi Kalan. The program was launched in our school in February 2014. During its one year implementation period, the Education Volunteers working under the program worked tirelessly to convince the local community about the need of education for their children. Their special focus on the girl child is indeed commendable and gives us hope for a better tomorrow. The program has laid the path of success for our students as they partake in all the academic and non-academic activities with great enthusiasm.

*Mr. Kripa Ram, Principal  
Government Secondary School, Bawdi Kalan, Chohtan (Rajasthan)*

### MAINSTREAMING A MIGRANT

This is the story of Mahesh Gulla, studying at Satya Bharti Learning Centre, Bedawali, Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh)

Mahesh is an avid learner at the Satya Bharti Learning Centre in Meghnagar. His enthusiasm to partake in classroom activities and eagerness to learn something new every day is indeed commendable. He is a popular student among the teachers for his regularity to the school. However, Mahesh's cheerful nature and positive outlook towards life do not reflect the struggles he and his family faced in the past.

Like many other migrant families who live a life of constant upheaval in search of livelihood, Mahesh too migrated from Surat (Gujarat) to Jhabua along with his family of five. While Mahesh's parents made the move in the hope of a better life, Mahesh was distressed with the fact that he will not be able to play with his friends. The family began working in brick kilns and Mahesh had to discontinue his schooling to support his family by earning extra money.

During this two year long struggle, all the family members worked tirelessly in the hope of a better tomorrow. Everyday Mahesh watched smartly dressed children of the village pass by the brick kiln where he worked. He silently nurtured a dream of attending school.

As he made his way to the kiln, Mahesh was spotted by Hemanti, an Education Volunteer at Satya Bharti Learning Centre, Meghnagar. On hearing the story of Mahesh, Hemanti decided to get him enrolled into the Satya Bharti Learning Centre. She began by counselling Mahesh's family through regular home visits. Initially the family showed reluctance to the idea of Mahesh's enrolment as his odd jobs brought extra money for the family. However, with the diligent efforts of Hemanti, they finally agreed.

Thereafter, Hemanti facilitated the admission of Mahesh in the Satya Bharti School, Meghnagar and ensured that he was provided with a uniform, stationery and other school supplies that are part of the school kit. Though Mahesh was shy and not as confident as other students in the classroom, his eagerness to learn was evident. Today Mahesh has come out of his cocoon of hesitancy, evolving as a bright and eager student. The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program endeavours to bring many children like Mahesh back to school who have lost the hope of uninterrupted quality education due to seasonal migration.



#### Testimonial

Learning levels of children have shown tremendous improvement since their enrolment at the Satya Bharti Learning Centre. I am very happy with the work that Bharti Foundation is doing under this project in our region.

*Shri Manmohan Dadhich  
Assistant District Programme Coordinator, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan)*



## Stories from the Field

### SPREADING THE JOY OF EDUCATION

This is the story of Ram Khiladi Meena, an Education Volunteer engaged at Satya Bharti Learning Centre, Dhanipur, Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan)



Ram Khiladi Meena comes from Kacchi Basti of Kherda Village. Despite being from a poor family with no access to proper schooling, Ram fulfilled his dream of completing his graduation. However, he was pained by the fact that his village was almost completely illiterate. The sight of children engaged in petty jobs like collecting garbage and cutting stone would distress Ram to no end. He yearned to bring about a change in their lives.

When Ram heard about Satya Bharti Learning Centre in Sawai Madhopur, he paid a visit to the staff members to seek help in educating the children of his own village. He was keen to join the team of Satya Bharti Learning Centre as an Education Volunteer. Under the guidance of the staff members, he started counselling the key community leaders of his village and explained to them how the village could benefit with the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program. The provision of free education, nutritious Mid-Day meals and a safe learning environment helped him win them over. Thereafter, together they organised a meeting at the community level during which several parents were convinced to send their wards to the school.

The efforts made by Ram were paid off when 22 children from his community were successfully enrolled into the Satya Bharti Learning Centre, Sawai Madhopur. Today, Ram is an active Education Volunteer at the centre, he says, "I am privileged to be a part of the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program. I always wanted to spread the joy of learning, however, my pockets were not deep enough to fulfill this desire. With this special program run by Bharti Foundation, children from various backgrounds in the village now have access to regular schooling. I am also thankful to the staff members here at Sawai Madhopur for their constant support."

### Testimonial

Bharti Foundation is doing commendable work by mainstreaming Out of School Children through its special initiative, the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program. I am impressed by the hard work being done by the Education Volunteers inducing ceaseless enthusiasm among the students to learn and also achieve bigger goals in life. I am sure that Bharti Foundation is on the right path of fostering responsible future citizens of India.

Mr. Chetan Prakash Sen  
District Elementary Education Officer (Elementary), Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

### EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION

This is the story of children from the Madari (migrant) community enrolled at Satya Bharti Learning Centre Kherda, Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan).



Poverty plays a critical role in preventing children from attending school and the migrant *Madari Community* in Kherda is a point in case. This community is one of the most marginalised communities of Rajasthan; remaining largely unaware of the importance of education. Community members make a living through small jobs such as rag picking or performing simple magic tricks, acrobatics, etc. With children playing an integral role in these activities, school attendance often remains a distant dream.

The Education Volunteers of the Satya Bharti Learning Centre, Kherda, Sawai Madhopur knew that it would be tough to persuade the parents to send their children to school, especially the girls. However, they worked tirelessly to convince parents that quality education alone can improve their children's future.

With a series of house visits and counselling sessions, the Education Volunteers were successful in convincing the community members to send their wards to the Learning Centres. Once enrolled, the Education Volunteers engaged the children with the classroom sessions using interactive charts, songs and innovative Teaching Learning Material (TLM). Today, children of the *Madari Community* attend the school regularly and love spending time in the pursuit of education.

The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program has emerged as a guide of quality education for numerous communities caught in the web of extreme poverty and illiteracy. Today, the children of this community, as first generation learners, are set on the path of progress.

### Testimonial

Bharti Foundation has become a beacon of hope for many children seeking a brighter future. The Foundation has truly stimulated our teachers, students, community members and the complete school management through the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program. I am grateful for the efforts made by the Foundation in providing quality education to numerous children residing in rural and remote parts of the country. The enrollment of 23 girls in our school underlines the success of the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program.

Smt. Veena Devi, Head Mistress  
Government Upper Primary School, Barmer (Rajasthan)



# Bharti Foundation & Educate A Child (EAC): The Global Partnership



Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation receiving the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) award 2012 at Doha (Qatar)



Over the years, Mr. Vijay Chadda, CEO Bharti Foundation has represented the organisation in strategy discussions, ministerial meetings and panel discussions at the World Innovative Summit for Education (WISE) event in Doha (Qatar)

## Testimonial

EAC's mission is to reach 10 million Out of School Children by the end of 2016. In three years, we have secured commitments to reach more than 6 million children globally. Our partnership with Bharti Foundation will enable us to reach 48,200 of these Out of School Children in India through a full course of quality primary education through the Satya Bharti Schools and enrolling children in Government Schools through the Satya Bharti Learning Centre program that will empower them to secure a better future.

*Dr. Mary Joy Pigozzi, Executive Director, Educate A Child*

# The Journey So Far...

## Challenges

**Availability of Qualified Education Volunteers:** For appointment of Education Volunteers, the Education Department has prescribed the minimum qualification of 'graduate'. In some cases, candidates with the prescribed qualification are not available in either the host or neighbouring villages. In order to continue operations, candidates with a passion to impart education are appointed even if they do not fit the required qualifications.

**Low Attendance:** Certain areas continue to report low daily attendance of children in centres, impacting the timely completion of special training modules and learning achievements. The main reasons for this include: engagement of children in odd jobs for an extra source of income and lack of awareness.

**Traveling Long distances:** The habitation pattern and Geography of Rajasthan is such that children are forced to traverse long and difficult terrains to reach school. In addition, with the lack of public transportation, regular school attendance is a daily struggle for most children.

**Updating Changes in Guidelines:** From time to time, the Education Department introduces changes in the guidelines to run learning centres for the aid of ground staff. This requires regular updation of records as well as establishing clarity of processes through documentation.

## Learnings

**Regular Monitoring:** To ascertain the status of children who have been mainstreamed and to check their retention level, a non-project member visits the villages from where the Program has been withdrawn after the successful mainstreaming of all the identified Out of School Children. Their survey showed that close to 80% of the mainstreamed children were found attending the school on a regular basis. With the remaining 20%, attendance has been a major issue with instances of attendance as low as 30% due to lack of awareness, low parental participation and engagement of children in odd jobs.

**A Comprehensive Exit Strategy:** Considering the results of the regular monitoring process, the Foundation has planned to introduce a more comprehensive exit strategy by leaving behind larger community ownership in ensuring retention of mainstreamed children in schools and to sustain the project activities post withdrawal.

## Achievements

**Villages with Most OOSC Mainstreamed:** By September 2015, the Satya Bharti Learning Centre program had successfully mainstreamed Out of School Children in 306 villages. In some villages the count of Out of School Children dropped to such a low figure that it was below the minimum numbers required to run a centre as per Government norms. The centres were closed after completing the process of training the identified Out of School Children through short and medium term courses and also after mainstreaming them into the respective Government Schools.

**Training of Education Volunteers:** The Education Volunteers recruited through these centres undergo special training with an aim of delivering good results and raising the learning levels at the centres.

**Successful Mainstreaming:** Since the inception of the project in 2013, the identified Out of School Children have successfully completed their bridge courses and were mainstreamed into age-appropriate classes at the host school. The rate of enrolled Out of School Children clearing the assessments conducted by the Government displays a healthy trend. Further, over 90% of the children cleared the assessment in their very first attempt.

**New Centres Established in Madhya Pradesh:** The program has been extended to the remote tribal areas of Jhabua and Barwani in Madhya Pradesh. Close to 2,000 Out of School children have been identified and enrolled in the Learning Centres located in Government Schools as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

**New Centres in Jharkhand:** The Foundation recently announced the commencement of 'Satya Bharti Learning Centres' in the State of Jharkhand, in collaboration and under the guidance of Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC).



# Snapshots of Success



### Testimonial

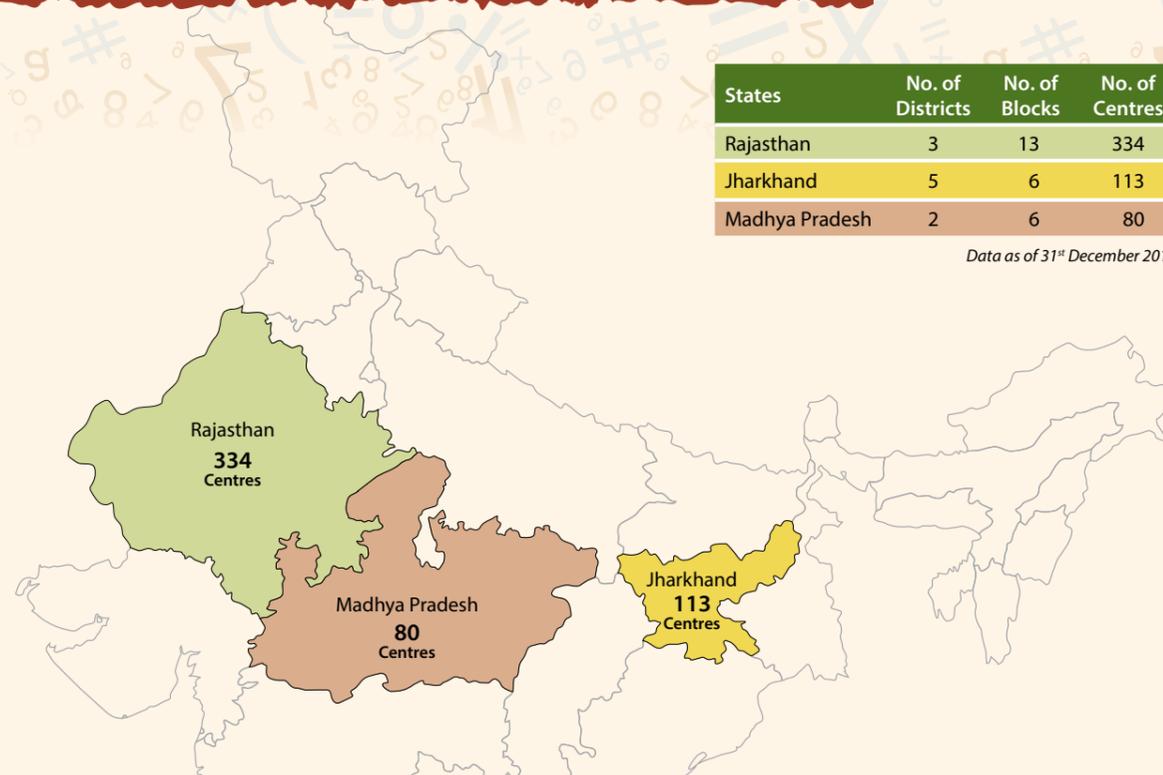
The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program was introduced to us by the team of Bharti Foundation in July 2014. Initially we were uncertain about the implementation of the program in our region due to the rigid mindset of the local community. However, today we are amazed to see the positive outcomes of this intervention. Till date, 30 students have been mainstreamed through this program whereas 27 children have been brought back into the school. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Education Volunteers who are always engaged in providing innovative solutions to engage and involve both the students as well as community members.

*Chena Ram Choudhry, Head Master, Primary School Ojiya, Barmer (Rajasthan)*

# Satya Bharti Learning Centres' Locations

States	No. of Districts	No. of Blocks	No. of Centres
Rajasthan	3	13	334
Jharkhand	5	6	113
Madhya Pradesh	2	6	80

Data as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015



# Media Coverage





10 YEAR CELEBRATIONS  
SATYA BHARTI SCHOOLS

## Launch of 10 Years of Satya Bharti School Program

(Satya Bharti School, Bhojpur, Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh)



Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation; Mr. Vijay Chadda, CEO, Bharti Foundation; Ms. Mamta Saikia, Vice President, Bharti Foundation; Mr. Rajdeep Anand, Regional Head and other key officials at the launch of the 10 year celebrations of the Satya Bharti School Program at Satya Bharti School, Bhojpur (Uttar Pradesh) on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. The Satya Bharti School Program was initiated in the year 2006 with an aim of delivering quality education to underprivileged children in rural India, with a special focus on the girl child.

Marking the onset of the 10 year celebrations, *Saksharta Bharti Abhiyan*, an initiative to spread the joy of reading was also launched. It aims to educate parents and communities through the students of the Satya Bharti Schools. Under this program our students, the real changemakers, will help their family members read and write by teaching them at home and increase literacy in society.

**Editorial team:** Sherry Bhawsar-Malhotra, Parul Sharma, Samreen Ghauri

**Inputs from:** Binu Nair, Sanjay Jat, Sandeep Sarada, Raj Narayan and several members of the field team

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