

**Bharti Foundation and ECHO India announced their partnership to help 40 Principals collaborate from rural areas of Rajasthan and UP**

**‘Satya Bharti Schools Leadership ECHO’ is first of its kind initiative to help share learnings and best practices among school Principals**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Gurgaon:** Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, partnered with ECHO India, not-for-profit organization working towards building capacities, to launch the **‘Satya Bharti Schools Leadership ECHO’, an initiative in rural India** under which 40 principals of Satya Bharti Schools in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan will come together virtually, every fortnight, for collaborative discussions and brainstorming.

Under the **‘Satya Bharti Schools Leadership ECHO’** initiative principals will share their respective case studies on challenges affecting his / her school. They will present strategies or solutions adopted to overcome situations faced by them, as part of the Action Research Methodology. Discussion on this platform will instill a culture of critical thinking and problem-solving – resulting in recommendations on the best practices and will also open-up space for peer learning. This initiative is currently launched for schools from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, it will be extended to Satya Bharti Schools in Haryana and Punjab in the coming months.

This partnership was announced by Ms. Mamta Saikia, CEO, Bharti Foundation, and Dr. (Col.) Kumud Mohan Rai, Founder-Chairman, ECHO India, in a virtual event along with other members of the leadership team from both the organizations.

The topic of the launch session was **‘Increasing Parent Awareness and Empowerment on Usage of Technology in Education’**, which was presided by Mr. Binu Nair, Chief School Operations, Bharti Foundation and Mr. Ved Pal Singh, Principal Satya Bharti School Bari Khas, Shahjahanpur, UP, who was the case presenter.

**Mrs. Anuradha Rai, Education Lead, ECHO India said,** “The Satya Bharti Schools' Leadership ECHO is a great initiative. It is a dream come true for all of us at ECHO. I hope we can reach many more students through this partnership and provide them with their fundamental right to education. Education is a Moral endeavour. Besides building strong foundational skills this initiative also focuses on building values and life skills which are a very important aspect of education. Through these ECHO sessions I am sure we will be able to help contribute towards nation building. I am very much inspired by this initiative.”

Speaking on the partnership, **Ms. Mamta Saikia, CEO, Bharti Foundation** said, “Partnerships and exchange of ideas is one of the best ways to improve the delivery of education at the grass-root level. This collaboration will not only help create a platform to facilitate exchange of best practices followed by the principals in rural areas, but also encourage critical thinking as well as problem-solving. Our teaching community is the central stakeholder that is responsible for shaping and building the future of tomorrow, that is our children, hence their development in the right direction is extremely important.”



Moreover, this initiative aims at improving the quality and accessibility of education at school level across rural India and provide training and education opportunities to the youth of our country to make them employable.

#### **About ECHO India:**

ECHO India is a not-for-profit organization operational since 2008 and working towards both building capacity and extending access to speciality care for underserved communities. The organization was started with a mandate to replicate the impact of the tele-mentoring model perfected by Project ECHO. Under the leadership of Dr. (Col) Kumud Rai as Chairman and Dr. Sunil Anand as Executive Director, the focus areas for programs include cancer screening, palliative care, mental health, liver disease, tuberculosis in health and school leadership, student engagement, subject pedagogy, foundational education, etc. in education. Started as a healthcare initiative, today the versatile ECHO model is being implemented by nearly 400 partners in 38 countries, working across 70+ focus areas, including education, livelihood and environment. It truly is an embodiment of the organization's motto of moving knowledge, not people.

#### **About Bharti Foundation**

Bharti Foundation was set up in the year 2000 as the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises. It implements and supports programs in primary, secondary and higher education as well as sanitation. Since 2006, the flagship Satya Bharti School Program has been providing free quality education to thousands of underprivileged children in 183 schools in rural areas across six states, with a focus on the girl child. The impact of quality education has been scaled-up by transferring the learning and good practices of this program to 2,45,556 students studying in 791 partner government schools across 13 states and union territories, through the Satya Bharti Quality Support Program, since 2013. Satya Bharti Abhiyan, the sanitation initiative started in 2014, has benefitted 2,17,129 beneficiaries by improving sanitation conditions in the districts of Punjab, providing access to toilets and by fostering behavioral change in communities. Together, these programs have cumulatively impacted over 2.2 million community members.

<https://bhartifoundation.org/>