

## **PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PROJECT EDUCATE A CHILD:**

### **Summary of the Project:**

The project Educate A Child by Sarbhak Foundation aims at providing quality education to the under-privileged children who have not been able to go to school due to financial constraints. In the last one-year of our working for the project, we have been able to make some progress in the project and please find the details of the progress below:

### **Progress Report: 01<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – 01<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

- ***Number of children***

Last year we had started with strength of six children. In the last one-year we have been able to bring this number to one hundred and fifty.

- ***Number of centers***

When we had started there was no place or room where we could teach. So we started teaching on the open playground in the areas. In the last one-year we have been able to take up two rooms on rent and have established full-time Open Study Centers.

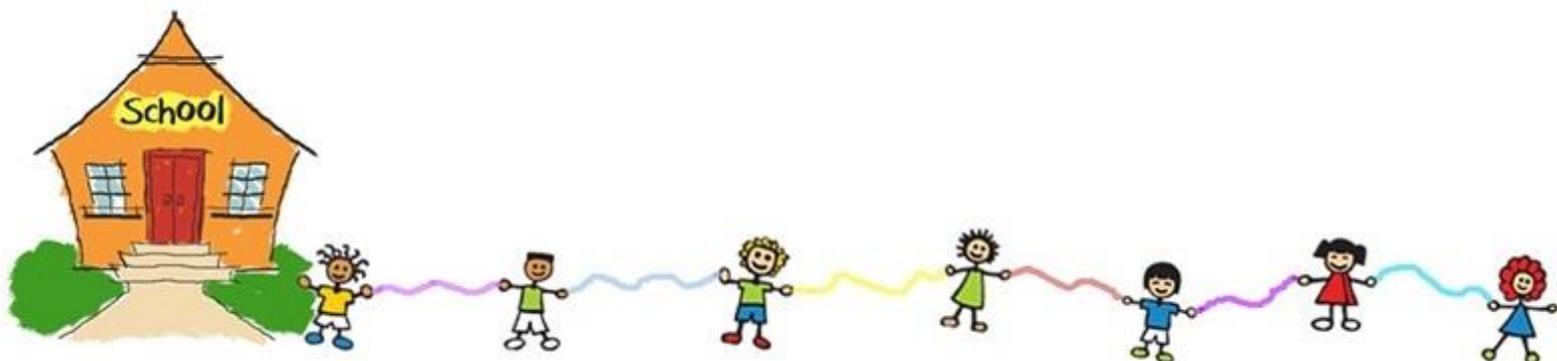
- ***Level of education***

When we started the children did not have any access to education and thus they did not even know the alphabets. In the last one-year they have been not just been able to learn the alphabet but they have also started recognizing four letter words and making small sentences. In mathematics, they have started basic additions, subtraction and multiplication.

- ***Modus Operandi***

When we identify an area where we see a lot of children, our first approach is to conduct a survey. We have a questionnaire with the help of which we are able to know if that slum has children who do not have access to education. During the first two months, we conduct classes on weekends or thrice a week with the help of volunteers. During these months we try and get the children and parents interested and serious about education.

Once that is established, we take up a room on rent and recruit a teacher and convert it into a full-time Open Study Center.



- ***Number of children admitted in school***

In the last academic year we were able to get eight children admitted to school as some individuals took the responsibility of sponsoring their education. In this academic year, we have continued with those eight and have admitted one more child to the school. The gender ratio of girls: boys is 2:1.

- ***People who have sponsored for the cause***

We have had the chance of coming across some angels who have believed in our work and have supported us whole-heartedly and generously. In the last one-year we have had individuals donating for our cause, Uninor donating books for us and Round Table India - Lucknow chapter helping us run two centers.

- ***Core Team***

We all began working for this cause because we all individually, at some point or the other recently, came face to face with the reality of abject poverty. None of us is rich. But we have never wondered what a pinch of fennel seeds tastes like either. We got together, went to a slum, got the people together and started teaching the children.

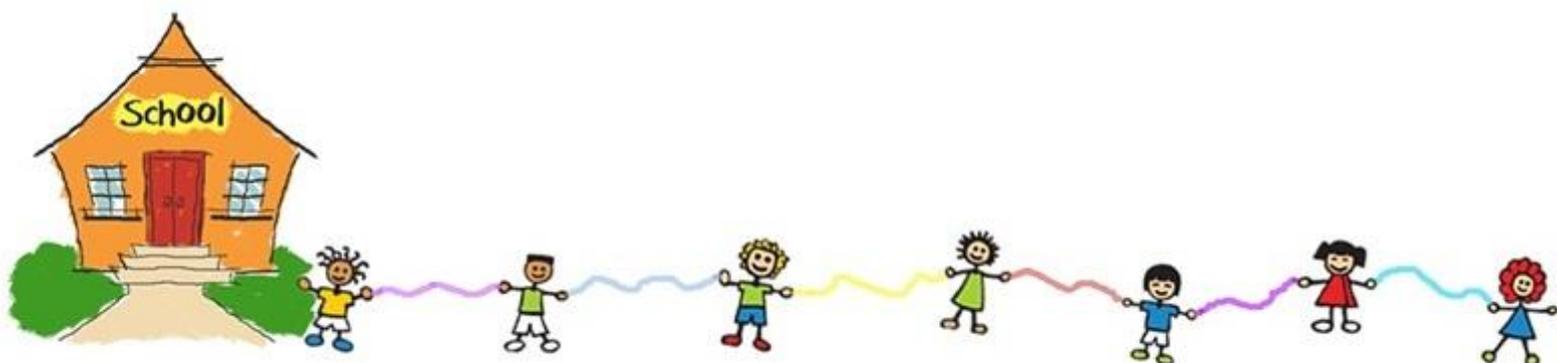
The average age of our team is 27. We are a team of around fifteen people and we all work on a voluntary basis. We work without remuneration and dream of a day when each of us will be able to work for this cause in a full time capacity.

- ***Number of employees***

Since we have to run the centers on a full-time basis, we have employed two people with us. One of them is an Operation Coordinator who teaches at one center and handles the operation of both the centers and the other is a Teacher.

- ***Extra-curricular activities for the kids***

Apart from regular teaching, we give a lot of importance to the holistic development of children. We give a lot of importance on observing manners and etiquette during and after classes. We also focus a lot on hygiene and health. From time to time we show them videos of the ill effects of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse. We also conduct their drawing sessions once a week and conduct dance classes as and when possible. We have integrated games as a part of their curriculum and teach them through games.



- ***Current projects***

Apart from the two centers that we have opened, we are conducting weekend classes in another area. We have also identified two more slums where our weekend classes will start in another fifteen days time and after a couple of months when the resources are available we will convert them into full-time centers.

- ***Events organized***

So far we have organized the following events:

1. Wish tree on two occasions
2. Bekar Se Saakar (sale of used items) on three occasions
3. Independence Day Celebration – cultural and sports event
4. Outing for thirty children
5. Participated in Lucknow Literary Festival 2014
6. Cartoon Movie/Painting/Jigsaw Puzzle Event
7. Dental Camp for the kids and their parents
8. Food distribution for the kids on two occasions

- ***Hurdles we face***

The biggest hurdle that we face currently is the paucity of funds due to which we have not been able to run as many centers as we had planned. The second hurdle is that the children we deal with are mainly beggars, rag pickers or nomads. Some of them are also employed as laborers by the local vendors. They are addicted to drug, tobacco and alcohol abuse. At times it becomes very difficult to motivate these children to become serious about education. At times dealing with their parents is also a major hurdle.

- ***Future objectives to be achieved***

We are in a location where not many NGO's are working for the under-privileged children. We intend to change the lives of as many children as we can under our project and provide them quality education. Our plan is to open more than twenty centers in the next three years covering around thousand slum children.

