



Sarthak
Foundation
EDUCATE A CHILD

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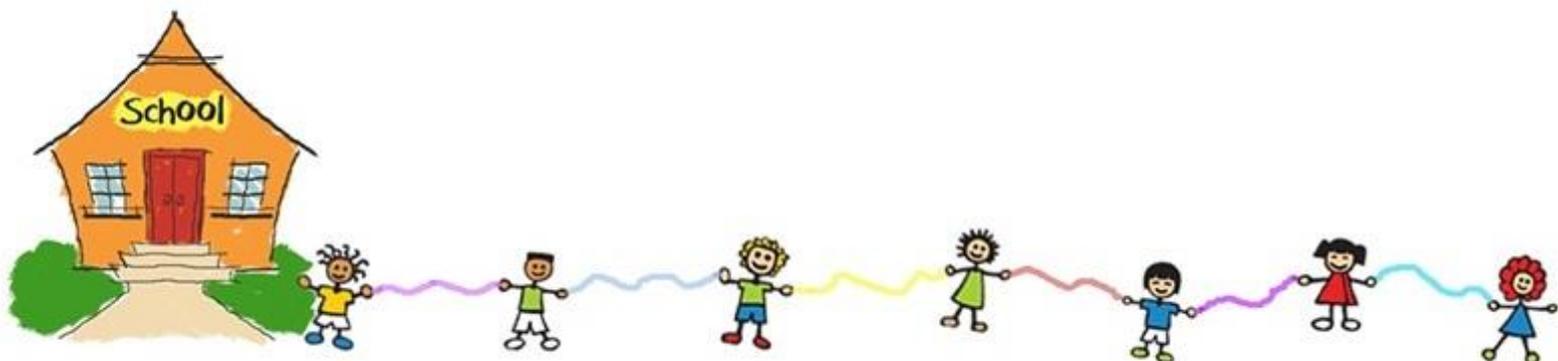
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Sarathak's vision is to add significance to the lives of the under-privileged children by providing quality education. We believe that every child has the right to education, irrespective of the background, religion and most importantly gender and thus we give a lot of importance to educating the girls.

EDUCATE A CHILD

PROJECT GOAL:

Our project (educaTE A CHild) focuses on providing quality education to the children who are deprived of it due to financial constraint. Our goal is to reach out to the slum children, beggars, rag pickers and children engaged in any form of labor. We are a group of young people who believe strongly in bringing about a change through education.

PROJECT RATIONALE:

Why Uttar Pradesh?

Uttar Pradesh has a population of about a 200 million and has the highest number of people living below poverty line in India (UP is home to 21% of India's poor). Poverty in UP exceeds that of the 26 poorest African countries.

UP also has one of the lowest literacy rates in India. Among all Indian states, UP has one of the lowest literacy rates (it is ranked 22nd among the 28 Indian states). The sheer number of children who do not have access to education here is daunting. In contrast, the visible presence of social sector organizations in UP is minimal.

There is a massive gap between the need/potential for help and the help available. We intend to change that.

Why Education?

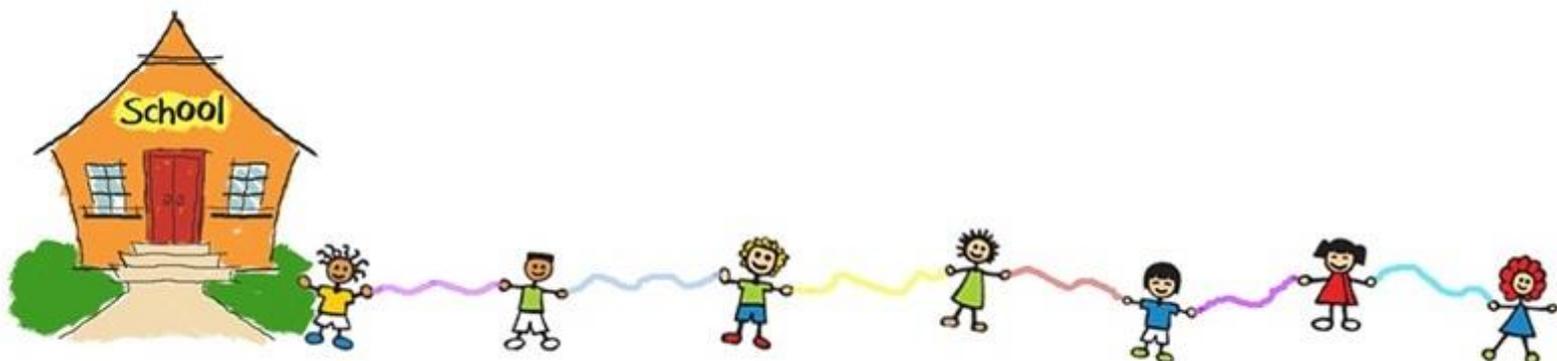
Education helps in making people informed. It gives a voice and thought to an individual. Lack of education makes children vulnerable to crime, poverty and other social evils.

A survey has found that majority of the children living in slums are not part of the formal school structure. Many abuse drugs and most are addicted to chewing tobacco. They need education, counseling and guidance. They also need role models from among them, which is where Sarathak's work comes into picture.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of our project are:

- Identify non-school going children from the under-privileged section of the society.
- Provide informal education (Open Study Center) to children who cannot get admitted to schools because of financial constraint and help them eventually get admission.



- Provide tutorials to the admitted children to help them cope up with the course curriculum. Conduct classes using graphics and animation to make learning easier and more interesting.
- Focus on holistic development of the children by conducting hobby sessions, sports activities, moral value classes and sessions on etiquette and manners.
- Increase their awareness about matters related to health, hygiene, nutrition and environment and provide regular medical aid to the children.

ABOUT SARTHAK FOUNDATION:

We 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. So we got together, went to a slum, got the people together and started teaching the children.

The children that 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. We are trying to bring about a change in their life through our study centers.

The average age of our team is 27. Most of us work without remuneration and dream of a day when each of us will be able to work for Sarthak in a full time capacity. The core team has management professionals, engineers, as well as students. We are motivated, driven, confident and focused, and we love working together. The professional and personal comfort between us, the passion in each of us, the desire to make a difference and the willingness to make sacrifices to see that happen, make our team awesome.

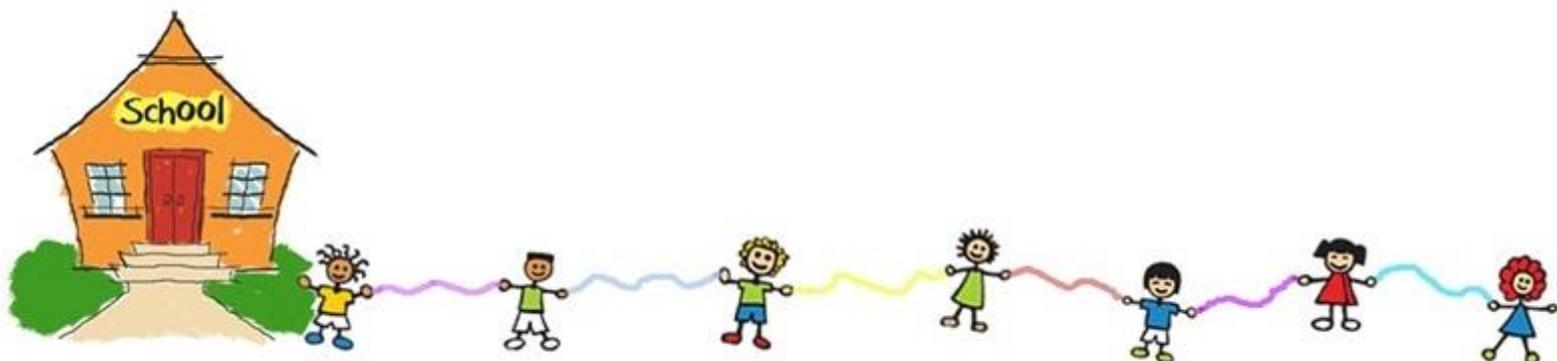
We are poised for success because we have the right idea, which fills the right gap in need and supply. Our project is based on practical, doable and locally applicable use of resources and technology. It keeps the ground realities in mind and does not depend much on externalities for success.

We are happy with what we have done so far. We started with six children. With no external help or aid, in a short time we have managed to raise this number to more than one hundred and fifty. We have got nine children admitted to an English medium school. We now cover two areas of Lucknow and have already organized events like 15th August Celebration, Bekar Se Saakar sale and Wish Tree. The details of our current work are as follows:

Malhaur Outreach -

This is the first project started by our team under Educate a Child. Malhaur is a small village in Lucknow, India. Currently, we have more than seventy children in this project. We conduct classes six days a week and also focus on extra curricular activities like dancing, singing and craft making.

We have been able to send nine children to school till now.



Chinhat Bazar Outreach -

This is the second project started by our team under Educate a Child. Chinhat Bazar is a small area in Lucknow, resided by beggars and people who play in bands during marriage processions. Currently, we have more than eighty children in this project. We conduct classes six days a week. We also give a lot of focus on hygiene and cleanliness as that is a major issue in this area. We also hold health camps for them, as addiction is a cause of concern in this area.

Bekar Se Saakar -

Our project Bekar Se Saakar is a fund-raising sale in which we collect used but usable items like clothes, toys, shoes, and bags and sell it at very economical price to the needy. This project has two-fold aim:

- Raise money for the education of children
- Provide used but usable material to the needy

Wish Tree -

Wish Tree is a festive activity organized to fulfill the wishes of our children. Through this activity we are able to:

- Collect resources for the children
- Promote our work in other areas

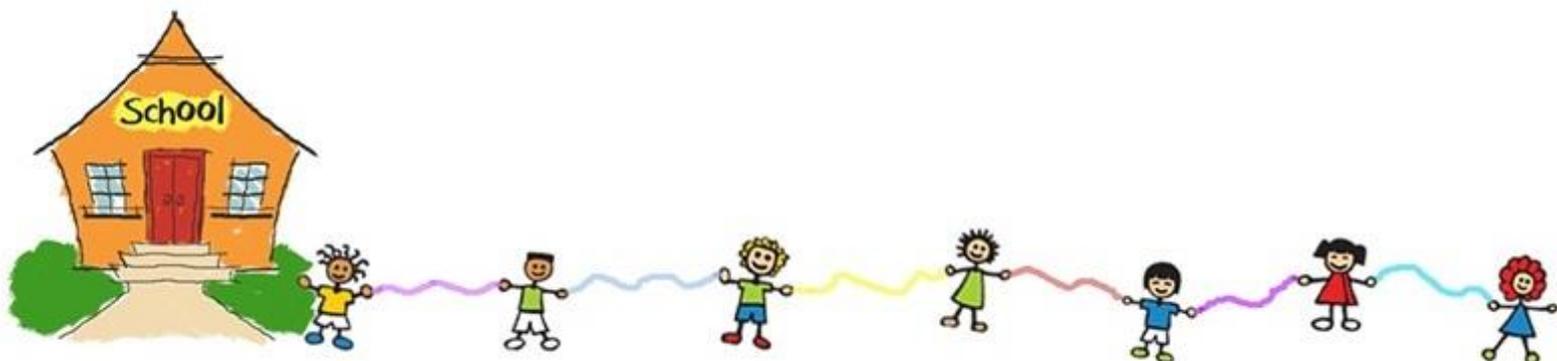
We raise funds through individual donors and events. We use social media and networking to create awareness about our projects.

PROJECT MODEL:

We give a lot of importance to educating girls and thus the ratio of girls:boys is 60:40 in our classes.

Our modus operandi is:

- We conduct a formal survey of the slum before starting the project in that area.
- Post analysis of the findings, depending on their level of knowledge, we divide the children into two categories, ***Tenderfeet*** (basic) and ***Advancers*** (one level above basic).
- We set up an Open Study Center in the slum and start classes six days a week to cover their primary education.
- A child in the Tenderfeet batch will study with us for six years before we get him/her admitted to mainstream school. A child from Advancers batch will study with us for four years before we get him/her admitted to mainstream school.
- Just a year before admission in mainstream schools, there will be a special batch run for children who have shown better potential.
- Once a child has been admitted to mainstream school, he/she will continue to keep coming to our classes for tutorials.
- After the completion of secondary school, the contact hours with the child will be need based. However, our counseling and guidance will continue for years to come.



Other initiatives that we plan to incorporate in the future in the program are skill-building courses for teenagers, Bank Fixed Deposits for education of selected girls who show potential and similar plans.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Indicators we would use to track impact would be:

1. To track Quantity / Volume -We will calculate:

- Number of children enrolled
- Growth in the number of children enrolled over the years
- Number of children admitted to formal education by Sarbhak.

Example: In the first month if we have 50 children and in the sixth month if we have 120 children, the growth would be 70% in six months.

2. To track Quality – We will calculate:

- Learning (pre-enrollment and post-curriculum assessment tests to measure progress)
- Average class attendance rate and the trend thereof
- What percentage of classes happened as per schedule
- Parents' satisfaction survey
- Tracking school performance of students enrolled in formal education by Sarbhak.

Example: To assess the learning rate of our children we would be conducting two tests. The first would be when they get enrolled with us. After a period of one year the same test will be administered to find out the learning growth of the students. The difference in the marks of both the tests will tell us the learning of the children.

Apart from this, we will be conducting class tests to check the level of learning and teaching and also conducting evaluations on regular intervals.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

The monitoring and evaluation of the entire project will be done through two ways:

1. Internal Mechanism – We will have a team who will audit the reports on a timely basis. We will also generate MIS to update the records. We will hold monthly meetings to ensure the smooth operation and execution of the project.
2. External Mechanism – We will be getting the reports audited by an external consultant to maintain transparency in our work. We will also encourage the funding agency to audit the reports on a timely basis so that they are satisfied with the utilization of funds.

PROJECT RESULTS:

A survey estimates that there are about 787 slums in Lucknow. Some estimates suggest that more than 60 percent of the city's population lives below the poverty line. According to the 2011 census, the total urban population of Lucknow district is about 3 million. We plan to open around 20 study centers within the next 3 years. Each center will cater to about 70 children. We have also found that about 10% of children in slums abuse some kind of drug. One of our goals is to free our children of this habit. In the next few years the project plans to cover 60 slums (3,30,000 people) in Lucknow and aims to educate around 5000 children.

