Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you that there has been significant improvement in the girl-child education in the areas where IIMPACT has its presence. In the last quarter, IIMPACT has stepped into areas which are described as “most backward” according to various studies and census reports.

As per these reports, the number of "out-of-school" girls in rural, tribal and indigenous areas is much higher. It is in some of these areas that IIMPACT has started a large number of their Learning Centers. We identified these new areas based on our knowledge of exactly where there is maximum need.

With help from our supportive donors and well-wishers, we received funds from many quarters at this crucial juncture. Based on this unstinting support we were able to set up our Learning Centers in Murshidabad district of West Bengal where only 10% women are functionally literate and about 4 million people live under the shadow of poverty. With further support, we stepped into Pakur district of Jharkhand where female literacy rate is extremely low. According census reports, this area is the second most backward district of India. More support poured in and we started our Learning Centers in one of the most backward regions of Madhya Pradesh that is Sheopur district. 80% of the girls in this district are "out-of-school". This problem is further compounded due to a high incidence of malnutrition.

Such drop-outs and "out-of-school" pre-teen girls are a vulnerable group with a bleak future. Our donors and supporters understand this serious issue. With their support and their extended hand of assistance, IIMPACT has been able to reduce the drop-out rates by bringing such girls to our Learning Centers.

Your simple continued support and faith in us literally means the world to such girls who have never seen or been to a school before.

Thank you!

Nirmala Tandon
CEO IIMPACT
It is with much pride that IIMPACT announces the expansion of the girl child education programme in four new hubs: Palwal in Haryana, Murshidabad in West Bengal, Pakur in Jharkhand and Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh. These areas have been found to have amongst the lowest female literacy rates with a large percentage of the population living below the poverty line. The number of "out-of-school" and drop-out girls is also very high in these regions. Here is a brief introduction to these new areas and an overview of some IIMPACT activities held.

Palwal, Haryana is one of the 4 districts with majority of Meo Muslim caste. This region has the lowest literacy rates in the country and extremely large population of ‘out of school’ and school ‘drop-out’ children in the 6-14 yrs age group. For women in Mewat, the literacy rate ranges 1.76 % to 2.13 %, the lowest in the country. According to the Census of India, they represent the lowest education rates in the country. One study places the female education among Meo population at just 4%.

**Inauguration Ceremony at Palwal**

The Learning Centers at Palwal were formally inaugurated by the 1988 batch of IIM Ahmedabad on March 2, 2013. Sharad Agarwal, Ravi Sreedharan, Mythilli Ramesh, Atishi Pradhan, Harpreet Singh, Archana, G. Krishnan and Monica Agarwal attended this grand function. The girls at these centers, their parents and community members were in full attendance at the inauguration ceremony. The children impressed all the guests with their songs and poem recitations! There are 20 Learning Centers in Palwal.
The Murshidabad district in West Bengal has been recognized as one of the most backward and high trafficking prone districts of the state and priority district for protection, education, health and nutrition interventions. A closer look at the socio-economic conditions of the district shows that mean age of marriage for girls is 18.1 with 54.8% of girls getting married before 18 years of age. In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Murshidabad one of the country's 250 most backward districts. 20 IIMPACT Learning Centers are running successfully in 7 blocks of Murshidabad.
Pakur District in Jharkhand is a minority concentrated district of India. It lags behind the rest of the country in socio-economic as well as the basic amenities. The literacy rate of the district is quite low. According to the 2001 census, female literacy was as low as 16.37%.

IIMPACT has started 20 Learning Centers at Pakur.

**TEACHER TRAININGS HELD AT PAKUR**

- In rapt attention!
- Classes are fun!
- A teacher sharing her ideas
- All the teachers were given foundation training
One of the most backward regions of MP, some blocks of Sheopur district are the poorest and deprived with high incidence of malnutrition.

The female literacy in Sheopur was recorded to be just 18% in the Census of 2001.

IIMPACT is in the process of opening its Learning Centers in Sheopur despite its challenging terrain and harsh environment. It is a region in urgent need of education for the girl child. Below are pictures taken during the baseline survey.

Republic day is celebrated every year across IIMPACT centers. This year, skits, song and dance, speech competition and painting competitions were a part of the celebrations. The girls of the Shravasti centers prepared a nukkad natak on child marriage on the occasion which impressed the audience. Patriotic songs were sung with pride and our Flag was unfurled to the tunes of the national anthem. Republic day celebration is used as a platform to educate the children about our country and its heroes. Here are a few glimpses from the various celebrations.
It is that time of the year when assessment of the girls is being carried out across all IIMPACT learning centers. On the basis of an internal assessment and evaluation the girls will be graded and promoted to the next level. The girls prepare themselves and take the help of the teachers whenever required. Each girl is given individual attention by our teachers. Any girl who is unable to clear the expected level is given special attention by her teacher so that she performs much better the next time and goes to the next level. The parents are at their supportive best during the month before the evaluation.
FRIENDS AND DONORS VISIT IIMPACT LEARNING CENTERS

Mr. Shumone Chatterjee, Managing Director, S.C. Johnson at their sponsored learning center at Maroda

Mr. Ashok B Rao, Trustee and Joyatri Ray, Director Projects, ING VYSYA Foundation interact with the Community at their sponsored center

Representatives of CIF interacting with the girls at their sponsored center at Shahjahanpur

Representatives of MPS Ltd. at their sponsored learning center at Dehradun

Sunil Khanna of Berkshire Hathaway, New York, along with his wife Su San and children Serena and Nikhil visited their sponsored learning centers

Konstanze Singenberger (not in pic.) and Roswitha Bodingbauer from Austria and Angelika Helfer from Germany visited an IIMPACT learning center
Chandaria Family visits their sponsored learning centers

Mr. and Mrs. Chandaria along with their children Simran, Maya and Kush visit their sponsored learning centers every year! Glimpses from their visit this year are given below.
This quarter we had a total of 4 interns who as a part of different programmes worked with IIMPACT. These interns were placed at a suitable project area of IIMPACT for them to observe, assimilate and carry out their respective activities. Three interns were from TATA Administrative Services (TAS) and one from Vodafone-DASRA. The interns brought with them expertise in their respective fields and an enthusiasm to work in a field which is in stark contrast to their own.

**INTERNS FROM TAS**

Chhavi Gupta, Sneha Mishra and Reema Das of TATA Administrative Services interned with IIMPACT-CYSD Girl Child Education Project at Odisha. All three of them were from management backgrounds and were placed with IIMPACT through Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. They spent 45 days in the field. They prepared a socio-economic and political profile of the villages in the Thakurmunda block of Mayurbhanj District. They helped in the documentation, conducted independent studies, participated in community meetings, organized children’s academic and extracurricular activities, assisted in structuring community meetings, processes and teacher workshops.

**VODAFONE-DASRA**

Monika Modi, as a part of ‘World of Difference’ Program organized by the Vodafone Foundation (through DASRA) interned with IIMPACT for a period of 6 weeks.

As a part of the internship Monika visited 20 learning centers and met with the village education committee. Monika conducted a short session on the importance of documentation during the teacher trainings. She was also instrumental in designing a model of village education committee.
IIMPACT ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

The annual review meeting was held at the IIMPACT office over three days (18th March - 20th March). The entire staff including the state project officers attended the meeting. Mr. Anil Tandon, President, IIMPACT discussed the major achievements of the past year and the way forward with the staff. The focus of the discussion was to enhance the quality and standard of training, monitoring, documentation and development of resource materials to help IIMPACT touch newer heights.

For further details please visit www.iimpact.net