

IIMPULSE

IIMPACT's Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2021



**“When you invest in a girl’s education, she feeds herself, her children, her community and her nations”
– Erna Solberg, Prime Minister Norway**



"I was afraid that since our Learning Centres closed down because of covid my parents will engage me in household work or as a daily wage labourer. Thanks to my teacher at the IIMPACT Learning Centre who continued classes through phone as well as house visits. Throughout I was connected with my studies. I enjoy learning at home and share my lessons with my parents too.

I want to be successful one day and teach many girls. Just like my teacher"

Chandni Kumari, Rampur Nagwa LC, Bihar

IIMPACT is a non-profit organisation established in 2003 by the IIM-Ahmedabad alumni batch of 1978. The organisation, through its Girl Child Education Program identifies out-of-school, irregular to school, and dropout girls between the ages of 6 to 14 in marginalized villages of India and provides them with quality primary education. The objective of the program is to empower and mobilize young girls from rural disadvantaged and socially backward communities, provide them with holistic education-focus on skills and competencies which enable the child to be a self-reliant, confident learner and become active change agents for their communities.

IIMPACT creates building blocks towards transforming the lives of women, families and entire communities in India by educating and empowering the girl child.

IIMPACT started with just 450 girls across 15 Learning Centres in 2004, Today IIMPACT has its presence in 11 states and supports close to 60,000 girls across 1936 Learning Centres.

The IIMPACT Learning Centre model establishes single-teacher led Learning Centres imparting Primary-level education using a Multi-Grade Multi-Level approach. IIMPACT runs this project for about 5-6 years in one locality, up to the time that each girl enrolled in the Learning Centre has received a firm grounding in primary education.

To know more visit www.iimpact.net

From the Executive Director's Desk



Dear Friends,

It is a great feeling to write to you with the start of learning activities in our centres under ALA (alternate learning arrangements). As I write to you almost 100% of our centres are functional in ALA mode inviting children in small batches to observe covid protocols. I am proud to state that with the support of our partners 82 % of our teachers are vaccinated , so as our support staff .

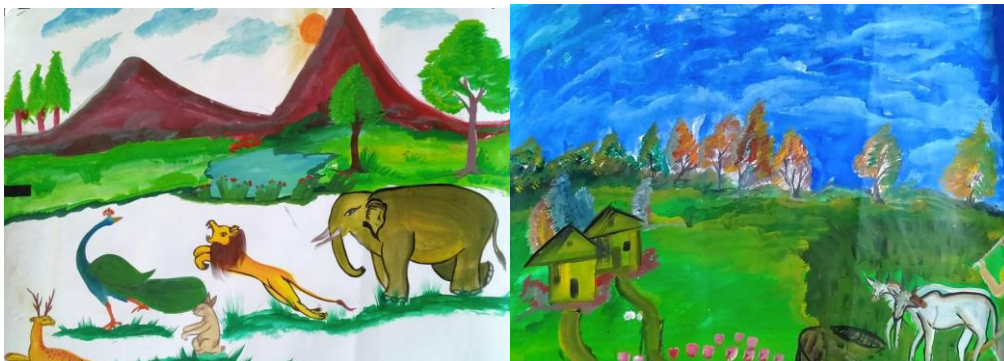
The conditions on the ground are still far from ideal, however, learning has to begun . We did experiment with using technology during lock down period this year and well as last year and realise that we need to blend it with physical engagement as the children we cater to come from marginalised backgrounds. Teachers' are no different in terms of access and reach to technology.

As we start we know that we have to address the learning losses. It is a precarious condition. COVID 19 has set us back by several years complexifying the challenges and the operating eco system. For girls' it has been a period of uncertainty. We need to review how many of them come back to learning spaces and what is to be done to help them catch up with the learning.

However, I can tell you that the motivation and energy in the community and parents is intact despite difficult times. As we were planning to start ALA we took a full month visiting the villages, talking to parents and other stake-holders, getting their permission to start . More than 90% of the places, to our surprise, we received whole - hearted support along-with written permission from parents / local self -governance system or even the local administration to start. This was a overwhelming gestures giving us confidence that education most have lost focus in this period , however, it has not gone out of sight.

In the coming months our entire focus would be on learning besides providing emotional support to children to continue. While we plunge into action we look forward to your commitment to be with us

While we plunge into action we look forward to your commitment to be with us



**“Every great dream begins with a dreamer”-
Harriet Tubman**



Eleven year old Nishu Jatav dreams to be an expert in Mathematics when she grows up and teach Mathematics to girls like her. Living in the remote village of Lakhnipur 45 kms from Karauli, Nishu had been fighting the ordeal of patriarchy and negligence since her childhood. Lakhnipur is a village surrounded by forests with lack of basic facilities, most of the people are engaged in farming, animal husbandry and some others work in the mines. With close to 400 families belonging to Jatav and Kumhar communities there is a very high rate of female illiteracy and dropouts in the village. Nishu's father worked in the mines and died of Siliosis. Education for Nishu came to a standstill when her mother asked her to lend a helping hand and contribute

Things changed for her after IIMPACT identified her case and enrolled her in the Lakhnipur Learning Centre. She was made aware of her rights as a girl and as a child and was oriented towards the academic curriculum of the centre. With guidance from her LC teacher she attends her classes regularly and is extremely active in class. The quiet introvert Nishu is now confident, able and a wonderful storyteller. She is currently the monitor of her class and a favourite among her friends. Seeing her eagerness to study, Supita, the teacher at the IIMPACT Learning Centre got her admitted in the Government School where she is studying in Grade 4 now. At present Nishu has a very busy schedule, “she attends school, goes to the IIMPACT Learning Centre and also helps me regularly at the farm” says Nishu's mother proudly. “

“I have witnessed girls in my community who suffered due to lack of education, I wanted to pursue my education. IIMPACT has given me a platform to voice my opinion, has empowered me to help other children and put me in the path to follow my dreams” says Nishu while she teaches mathematics to her younger siblings through games.



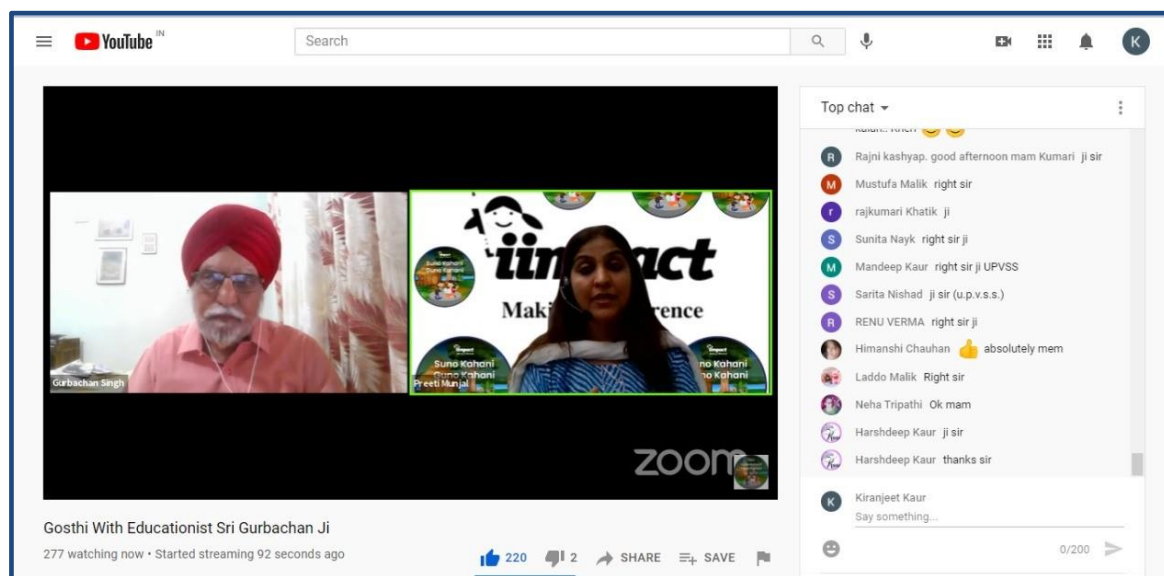


Updates from our Training Desk

Expert Talks

We are thrilled to announce that Gosthi, which started initially as a platform for IIMPACT colleagues to interact and learn by sharing their experiences, has now expanded its scope. In this quarter a series of “expert talks” were organized for the capacity building of IIMPACT staff. Experts from the field of education focused on issues and engaged in fruitful discussions around various topics. These sessions were organized to strengthen the teams’ understanding and knowledge and encourage learning about the sector.

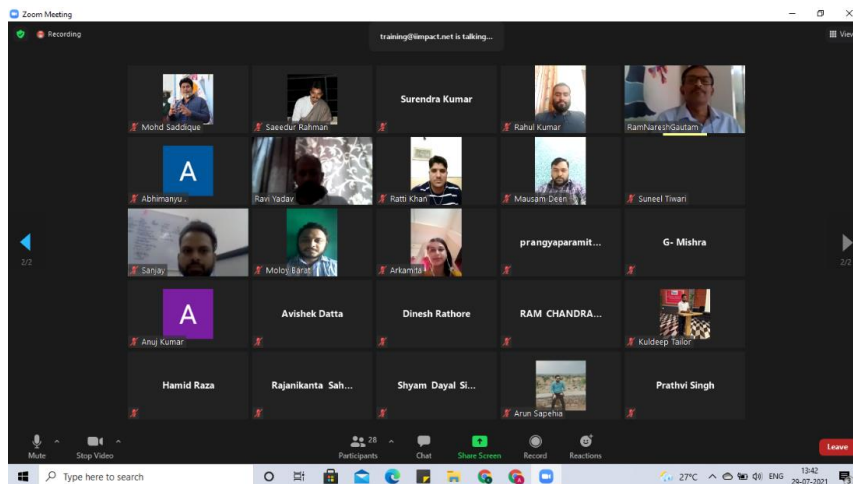
Expert Talk with Gurbachan Singh – Gurbachan Singh, former Assistant Director the Department of School Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh has over forty years of experience in the field of school education and literacy, both at State and District levels. Well-known for his work in children’s literature, his topic for the talk was ‘Language Pedagogy and Children’s Literature’.



Expert Talk with Kiran Tiwari – The second Expert talk was by Kiran Tiwari on ‘Whole Language Approach’. Ms Tiwari, Cofounder of UPKRAM Educational Foundation, is an expert of Language teaching in Primary classes. A total of 367 teachers along with IIMPACT and PNGO staff attended the session where Whole Language Approach and its implication at classroom level along with Combined Language Approach was also discussed in details. The objective was to create deeper understanding about ‘Whole Language Approach’ so that participants could apply it in their classrooms



Expert Talk with Sri Ram Naresh Gautam – The third expert talk was with Mr Ram Naresh Gautam, a Language Expert from the Azim Premji Foundation. He also shared his experience on the concept ‘Whole Language Approach’ and answered questions interacted with participants to help them understand the approach



A Language Programme called Prayatn was launched by IIMPACT in this quarter with an objective to increase language skills and competencies in children and strengthen teaching methods of the teachers. Pedagogy of ‘Whole Language Approach’ was the core of this Programme. The Expert Talk sessions also facilitated better understanding of Prayatn which will be rolled out in the coming months.



Workshop – Building Reflective Resilience मिमांसा

6-10 September 2021



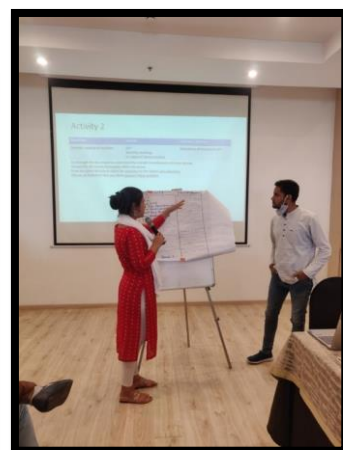
A five days residential workshop was organised for the entire IIMPACT team in Gurgaon with an objective to reflect, share, discuss, understand, and collectively chalk out a way forward. The first two days of the workshop was on communications when external consultants Gagan Sethi conducted the training. Gagan Sethi is the founder of Janvikas, a development support and training organisation, and Centre for Social Justice, a human rights and Access to Justice initiative working in South Asia and has authored books on legal aid, gender, non-profit governance, and communal violence in Gujarat. He was assisted by Lopamudra Shah who is engaged actively in social sector training.

In the session on communications there was a lot of reflection about 'Me' 'Myself' both as an individual and as part of IIMPACT. To bring about a change in the outside world or in your own organisation. It is very important to be able to understand oneself and be able to bring about a change in oneself. The first two days were spent trying to direct the team towards this understanding. It was an action packed two days with early mornings and late nights full of activities, interactions lot of sharing and some fun.





In the next three days IIMPACT team came together to talk about the work done so far, the challenges faced and shared the best practices adopted. There were sessions on operations, communications, donor management and finance. Star performers of the year were recognised and felicitated. A session on sexual harassment at workplace was conducted by Ms Vandana Mahajan which was engaging and participatory. These three days not only did the team interact amongst themselves but also had the opportunity to engage with the IIMPACT board members and partners. A lot of learning happened and the team went back to their respective working areas energised and motivated to take on newer challenges.



Star Performers of the year -

- ❖ Ratti Khan
- ❖ Farhan Falahi
- ❖ Hamid Raza
- ❖ Mohd. Saddique
- ❖ Ankul Pal



“One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world” - Malala Yousafzai

Teachers have been the flag bearers, driving IIMPACT’s work in the remotest of places in India. They have helped us arm the young girls with education which has made the girls’ lives so much better while they look forward to a bright future. They have always been our strength, more so in these challenging times. During the month of September, on teacher’s day as we celebrate these heroes working for IIMPACT we bring you a short conversation with our very own teacher Sahina Khatun

Sahina Khatun, teacher IILAMI LC, Pakur in conversation with Rajanikanta Sahoo, IIMPACT



“My students also see the English School students in uniforms and shoes, with identity cards proudly hanging around their necks. I think children get motivated if they feel a sense of equality and are thus happier”

Rajanikanta: How did you first learn about IIMPACT?

Sahina : I first heard about IIMPACT from a supervisor at FACE. I was told that if I got selected for the position, I would be teaching thirty girls who either never had been to school or had dropped out. Then shortly after, following a successful interview, I started teaching at my Learning Centre.

Rajanikanta: What has IIMPACT changed in your village through its work?

Sahina: IIMPACT’s work has radically changed the mindset of parents regarding their daughters’ education. Earlier there was scant or no concern over the importance of the matter. IIMPACT has been instrumental in instilling a sense of urgency in the parents to get their daughters involved with organized learning. This project has directly helped many girls get educated and move towards a better future. This venture has also made the girls more well-mannered and disciplined. Now, parents and community members are able to clearly comprehend the benefits of having their children educated.

Rajanikanta: What was the level of interest among children to study when the Learning Centre first began operating? Do you see a change in that level now?

Sahina: When the Learning Centre first started, the children could not be bothered much to attend and take classes. They would rather be lazing, wandering or playing around in their spare time. I would try coaxing them to classes but most flatly refused to come. Over time, I tried talking to parents explaining the necessity of education but still faced many difficulties to bring them to my Learning Center. One day, it struck me that I might get more success if I adopted an activity-based interactive teaching methodology. With that idea, I started integrating different learning activities, action songs and other games as a part of the overall education process. Gradually their interest grew and attendance steadily rose. Now the children are very involved and take a keen interest in learning. Apart from other things, they really love reading stories and rhymes.

Rajanikanta: You have introduced uniforms, identity cards and shoes for your students. What prompted you to take these initiatives?

Sahina: I have observed the students at an English medium private school operating close to my learning center. My students also see the English School students in uniforms and shoes, with identity cards proudly hanging around their necks. I think children get motivated if they feel a sense of equality and are thus happier. So I thought of introducing these elements so my children do not feel left out.

Rajanikanta: How has the work at IIMPACT Learning Centre helped you?

Sahina: I learned a lot about teaching children, how to effectively work with them coming from diverse backgrounds and with varying levels of ability. I have developed greater awareness of child psychology and teaching the children personally, I think I have developed myself as a teacher.



Rajanikanta: How has this program impacted your village?

Sahina: This program has created an enormous impact in my village. Guardians and community members are convinced that their daughters are getting quality education even when compared to government schools, and that they would greatly benefit from this in the future. Another great impact of this program is that the mothers are learning to read and write from their daughters.

Rajanikanta: In the beginning, what challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

Sahina: In the beginning I used to take the girls to the Panchayat Bhavan and use the space to teach them. After a while, members of the Panchayat Samiti revoked the use of the building for teaching and we had nowhere to go. But the villagers were very supportive. They were the ones who provided a place for me to continue teaching the children. They were driven by the desire to see their children's educational progress.

➤ **Rajanikanta:** What do you see as a future of this work that you are doing?

Sahina: I want this IIMPACT project to be running for a long time and all the children of my district getting education. I wish IIMPACT spreads its work to more areas in the future. Personally, I want to keep myself involved in this program forever.



Rajanikanta : Have any of your students progressed to government schools?

Sahina: My students are not enrolled in government schools yet. I will mainstream them after they complete five years at the IIMPACT Learning Centre.

Rajanikanta: If one says, that the children of your learning center are being deprived of government facilities, what would you say?

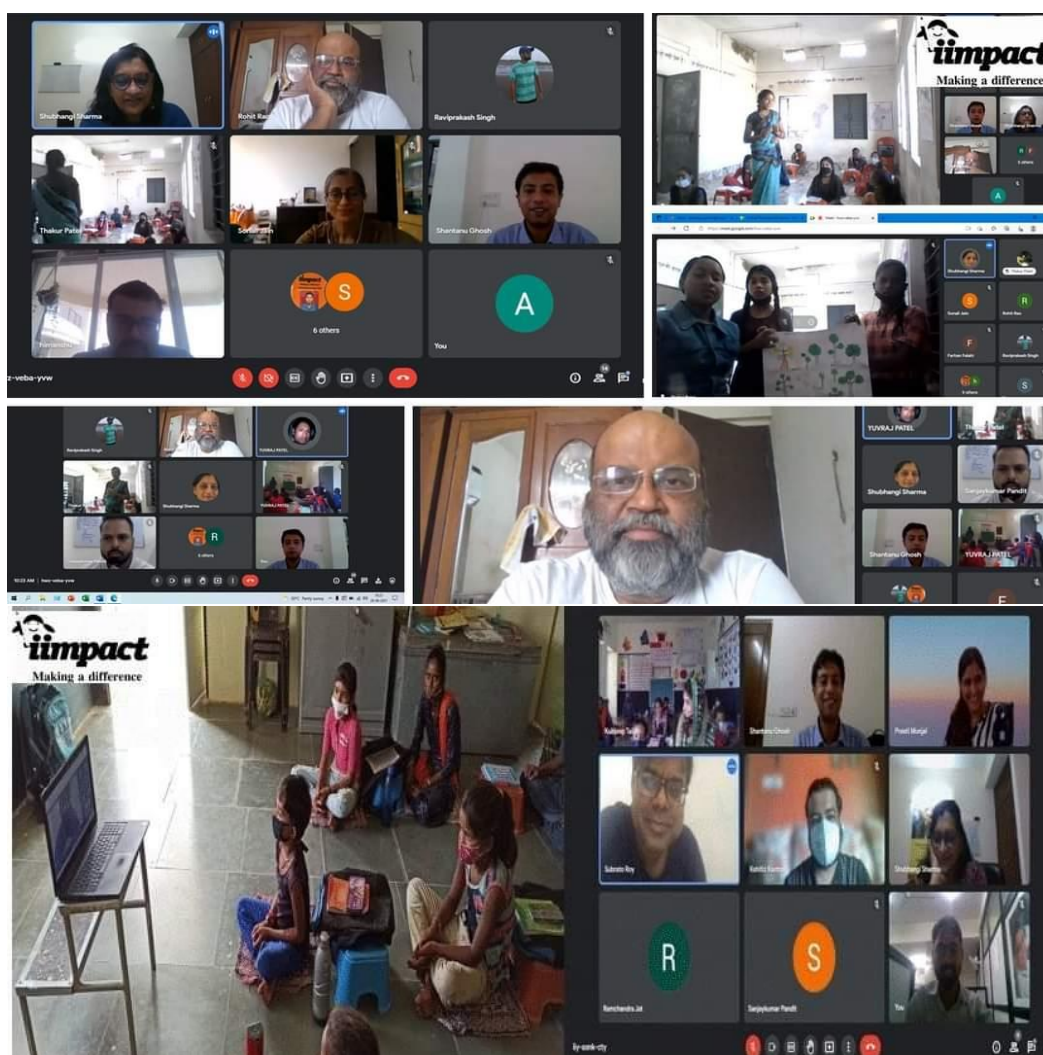
Sahina: Well, it is true that my children are not getting any facilities from government schools in the form of scholarship or uniforms yet, but they are very happy with quality of education at the Learning Center and look forward to continue their education in school soon. There is an environment of education in their households, now their parents always keep saying that they want to have proper education for their children which they are getting at the IIMPACT centre and they are looking forward to their daughters going to school soon and pursuing higher education. This shift in attitude is very reassuring.



How our Donors connected-some highlights

Virtual LC visits

Senior management of our top CSR donors took time out to participate in virtual LC visits this quarter. A total of 7 virtual sessions were conducted wherein our top CSR donors like Kotak Mahindra Bank, MG Motors, HDFC Life, MPS Ltd. and Emirates Airline Foundation participated



Seen above Mr. Rohit Rao, Jt. President and Group CSR Officer Kotak Mahindra Bank and Mr. Subroto Roy, Senior VP of HDFC Life interacting with children and teachers of IIMPACT Learning Centers.

Celebrating World Literacy Day

The Emirates Airlines Foundation celebrated World Literacy Day on 8 September with a fun filled online story telling session with children from Durgapur Village in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

Ms. Nidhi Verma, a cabin crew of the Airlines took time out to interact with the children. She played games and took questions from them.

Emirates also donated 500 books to the IIMPACT Learning Centres on this occasion



Titan East India team visit



Members of Titan East India team visited Learning Centres at Chaka, Nainan and Bishra village in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal as part of the **“Tata Volunteering Week”**.

Our students presented beautiful dance performances, drama, songs and storytelling sessions for the team.

The children were extremely happy with the goodie bags received from the team

Reboot, Renew, Restart

We are happy to announce that we have been able to reopen our Learning Centres this quarter under the Alternative Learning Arrangement (ALA). IIMPACT and our partner team worked together with the communities to make this possible while taking all necessary administrative and local permissions.

At present 1934 Learning Centres are functioning on ALA mode

ALA is a blended approach involving both face to face learning in small batches as well as home-based learning, while ensuring safety of our girls.



VACCINATION

Strengthening our Defence



82% Teachers
are
vaccinated. 12
Partner staff
fully
vaccinated

92%
Coordinators
Vaccinated

95%
Supervisors
vaccinated

IIMPACT Field staff
vaccinated with
the first dose. All
Head Office staff
vaccinated
except 2

“If you educate a woman, you educate a nation”



IIMPACT's journey so far has been extremely rewarding. Starting with a mere 20 girls, today we have **60,000** students in **1500** villages. Another **45000** girls have completed their education

However, there are millions of girls who are still uneducated. Only quality education can help them to come out of poverty and give them a chance to lead a better life. If we can't continue their education, they will be put into child labour, forced into child marriage or even sold off.

We just can't allow that to happen. Join hands with IIMPACT, together let's make a difference

Get Involved! The girls need your help

DONATE NOW!

IIMPACT

M2/3, DLF Phase 2, Gurgaon 122002

www.iimpact.org

info@iimpact.net

0124-4371141



Remembering Kamla Bhasin



1946-2021

क्योंकि मैं लड़की हूँ मुझे पढ़ना है

एक पिता अपनी बेटी से कहता है –
पढ़ना है! पढ़ना है! तुम्हें क्यों पढ़ना है ?
पढ़ने को बेटे काफी हैं, तुम्हें क्यों पढ़ना है ?
बेटी पिता से कहती है –
जब पूछा ही है तो सुनो मुझे क्यों पढ़ना है
क्योंकि मैं लड़की हूँ मुझे पढ़ना है

पढ़ने की मुझे मनाही है सो पढ़ना है
मुझ में भी तरुणार्इ है सो पढ़ना है
सपनों ने ली अंगड़ाई है सो पढ़ना है
कुछ करने की मन में आई है सो पढ़ना है
क्योंकि मैं लड़की हूँ मुझे पढ़ना है

मुझे दर-दर नहीं भटकना है सो पढ़ना है
मुझे अपने पाँवों चलना है सो पढ़ना है
मुझे अपने उर से लड़ना है सो पढ़ना है
मुझे अपना आप ही गढ़ना है सो पढ़ना है
क्योंकि मैं लड़की हूँ मुझे पढ़ना है

कई जोर जुल्म से बचना है सो पढ़ना है
कई कानूनों को परखना है सो पढ़ना है
मुझे नये धर्मों को रचना है सो पढ़ना है
मुझे सब कुछ ही तो बदलना है सो पढ़ना है
क्योंकि मैं लड़की हूँ मुझे पढ़ना है

हर ज्ञानी से बतियाना है सो पढ़ना है
मीरा का गाना गाना है सो पढ़ना है
मुझे अपना राग बनाना है सो पढ़ना है
अनपढ़ का नहीं ज़माना है सो पढ़ना है
क्योंकि मैं लड़की हूँ मुझे पढ़ना है ।

कमला भसीन

