

IIMPACT CLASS OF 2012!

Quarterly Report April 2012

Dear Friends,

With the support and encouragement of our donors, IIMPACT is filled with joy and celebration as we share our 2012 graduating class in this year's April quarterly report. Our dedicated donors have taken a journey along with us visiting our learning centers and interacting with the community members, parents and teachers, to ensure deliverability of good quality education to young girls across seven states of India, where IIMPACT is currently working. Today more of our girls will be writing the class 5 exams in April. Each batch of girls who reach up to this level is an indication of their dedication, interest of the community and donor support.

We wish all our girls the very best for their upcoming exams!

Nirmala Tandon COO IIMPACT







Come April and approximately 1295 girls of IIMPACT will be appearing for the class 5 board exams! The preparations are in full swing and we believe that all of them will do us proud yet again!

After graduating, these girls will become ambassadors of Girl Child Education and be proud alumni of an IIMPACT Learning Center. In this quarterly report we take you through the journey of a class five girl and try to throw light on the important role that her family plays in her journey of 5 years culminating in the period of preparation for the exam.

MEET SOME OF THE GIRLS GIVING THE EXAM THIS YEAR!









A Girl's Impact



The girls of IIMPACT, in attending the classes regularly have set an example for the other children in the village and have positively influenced the village communities in accepting education of girls as a necessity. The community elders welcome IIMPACT Learning Centers with open arms and encourage more and more families to send their daughters to study. This sea change in cultural principles is attributed to the dedication with which our girls attend the classes and the visible results and improvements in these girls.

We have been on an incredible five-year journey with each and every one of our bright young graduates, attending their classroom sessions, encouraging them and learning how education has become accepted as a household activity. With a growing demand by rural disadvantaged communities to improve their livelihoods, and a growing demand by young girls to go to school and be able to read and write so they can become lawyers, teachers, pilots and police officials to protect and serve their nation, IIMPACT continues to grow.

Here, a special mention of alumni of IIMPACT Learning Centers needs to be made. Our graduates still remain a part of the IIMPACT family. They are in constant touch with us in several ways. The girls continue to support IIMPACT and our partner grassroots NGOs raise awareness about educating the girl-child in their communities. They are so attached to the centers that they regularly assist the teachers and the students in subjects like computers, maths etc. It is deeply heartening to see the interest they take in helping girls who are preparing for the class 5 exams. Who better than our alumni to share their experiences with the current batch?!

It is our girls who have helped IIMPACT make a lasting impression on he people of the villages and communities we serve.

Crunch Time - A Community Determined To Learn

As the graduating class begins to prepare for their class V board exams, they need to spend a lot of time studying to gain the confidence to complete their board exams successfully. The entire community comes out in support of these girls, making small but valuable contributions. Learning has never been such an overwhelming group effort!



Quality Educators



A large part of our success-to-date in ensuring over 1600 girls from disadvantaged communities reach class V at our IIMPACT Learning Centers and have a 100% graduation rate is due to our Teachers.

When it is time for the girls to prepare for their class V board exams, our teachers take a great amount of ownership in providing opportunities outside of their everyday classes to ensure success. They provide extra classes and arrange parent meetings to create a fruitful learning environment in the homes of their students.

They are not only facilitators but become guidance counselors by improving the habits of attendance, proper communication and how they express their feelings to others. They also provide emotional counseling, teaching coping techniques to prepare both mentally and emotionally, individually and as a family. It is one of the only opportunities the girls have available to them to change the course of their lives and the future of their village. As a result, IIMPACT teachers find methods to strengthen the girl's capacity and make the learning experience enjoyable and inclusive.

A Mother's Impact

Mothers are now becoming incremental agents of change in the effort to prepare their daughters for this life-changing exam. They are now providing the time and space needed in their homes to ensure their girls have set out a significant amount of time to prepare for the exams. The daughters are not expected to spend too much time washing utensils, cooking food etc. These mothers come to the Learning Centers during 'extra study time' periods providing food to not only their children, but all the girls and the teacher(s) included, to help assure that everyone is eating healthy and nourishing themselves an important need during exams.

Lighting up our future!

In a place where electricity is available for only a few hours in the entire day, the solar panels have proved a boon to the girls. The crucial role it plays during exams is undeniable. These centers have become places where IIMPACT girls preparing for the class 5 exams come and study. Girls from the nearby villages too come to these centers and spend a couple of hours studying individually and as groups, sharing notes and helping each other.



Mother visit the centers regularly



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER!

60 NEW CENTERS STARTED!

New Learning Centers were started at Kota, Rajasthan, Shahjahanpur, U.P. and Jaunpur, U.P. Each district now has 20 centers. The Centers were identified after an extensive and rigorous baseline survey in these districts. Three partner NGOs were identified for these three areas. These are Eklavya-Kota, Bhartiya Jan Sewa Ashram-Shahjahanpur and Vinobha Sewa Ashram, Jaunpur. Our partner NGOs in these districts assisted IIMPACT in carrying out these surveys.

With the addition of these centers there are now 177 centers in UP and 182 centers in Rajasthan. The number of girls has simultaneously increased in both the states.

IIMPACT is educating 19,058 girls. There are now 609 IIMPACT Learning Centers across 7 states of India [as of 31st March 2012].

WE LIKE TO READ! OUR GIRLS' FEEDBACK ON THE GIRL STAR BOOKS DONATED BY GOING TO SCHOOL

Going to School, India, an organization that tells the story of children 'going to school' in India through books presented IIMPACT Centers with the Girl Star Series of books that documents the lives of young women who went against traditions and socio economic constraints, studied and took up unconventional jobs. Our girls thoroughly enjoyed reading the books and have been inspired by these stories. Our girls gave their handwritten feedback which were sent to Going to School.

Presented here are expressions of their thoughts on the stories (translated into English).

I liked the story of Durga. Durga used to teach kids. Even I will teach kids in the evenings, I will learn myself and become a Madam.

Durga became a nurse. She cleans the hospital. My parents send me to school but Durga's in-laws did not send her to school. My father has some money. Durga's father does not have enough money. My brother studies in class 8. He does not know anything. I will teach him Maths and each and every letter of English and Hindi. I will teach even my mother. Now I wish to study continuously. I will study till I am sixteen. Durga became a health professional. From this story I learnt that the work that men can do even women can do. - Waseema Bano is a student of class 5 from the Learning Center Ujala.

I liked the story about Krishna. I liked her father in the story. He wanted to educate her. He dreamed of Krishna joining a government job. Krishna was very young when she started going to school. Even I go to school and I enjoy it very much. I really like my teacher and want to become like her. -Shabnam Bano is a student of class1 from the Learning Center Vikas.

TRAINING OUR VALUABLE TEACHERS



26th -30th March :IIMPACT Project Officers Neha and Abhishek with the teachers after the foundation training at Shahjahanpur



26th-30th March:Teachers Training at Shravasti



9th-12th March:Teachers Training in progress at Kolkata



13th Feb:Orientation on Child Rights and Protection for teachers at Diamond Harbour



28th Jan- 1st Feb:IIMPACT Project Officer(Training) conducting the training at Jamwah Ramgarh



1st-6th Feb:Program Manager conducting the workshop at Kota

INCREDIBLE STORIES FROM IIMPACT CENTERS!



SHIVANI

This is a story about a remarkable girl-child named Shivani Rajpur from a village called Reusa in Lucknow. 6 years ago, her parents enrolled her at one of our Learning Centres in Sukhanpurwa in the district of Sitapur.

After her first year with us, our teachers began to notice something very special. Shivani was a born leader. She can count to 100, she knows more than a dozen poems and is brilliant in reading.

It was not too long after that Shivani began to take center stage in the class, leading the rest of the girls when reciting poems and English comprehension exercises.

When Shivani's dad attended one of the parent-teacher meetings to discuss how his daughter was doing in the class sessions, her father shared how she brought her lessons home with her to help teach him how to read English and recite poems and mathematical tables.

Shivani was not just a leader in the classroom. She became a leader at home, one who took the initiative and taught her parents giving them the chance to learn what she was learning.

RAMAVATI DEVI'S REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTION!

IIMPACT connected with Smt. Ramavati in 2008, an elderly woman at the age of 85, 'chachi' to the entire village. She shared a special gift with our girls. As a woman with no family of herself to support, she donated part of her land for IIMPACT to establish a Learning Centre. She not only provided her community with a safe and clean place where girls could get quality education, play and spend their time together, she also made it a point to provide food to the Learning Centre during exam periods to ensure everyone was getting the proper nourishment and care.

In February 2012, two of ING Vysya Foundation's executive members, Mr. Jayant Mehrotra and Ms. Joyatri Ray, visited these IIMPACT Learning Centres and were honoured to meet Ramavati Devi.

Ramavati Devi continues to be a pillar of support for her village and the girls who come to the Learning Centre. The mothers and fathers owe tremendous gratitude to her selflessness. The girls have much respect for her and continue to come visit her well after they have completed their five-year program with IIMPACT and have enrolled in formal schooling away from their village.



Mr. Mehrotra, Ms. Joyatri and Nirmala Tandon with Ramavati Devi.

DONORS CHERISH THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE



Mr. Jayant Mehrotra (Chief Financial Officer, ING Vysya Bank, Trustee ING Vysya Foundation) and Ms. Joyatri Ray (Director Projects, ING Vysya Foundation) visited many centers in Mehmoodabad near Lucknow. They visit their sponsored IIMPACT Centers every year!

Mr. Mehrotra loves teaching. He spent time doing Maths with the girls, giving them sums to solve and teaching the girls interesting tips and tricks in Maths!

Mr. Mehrotra loves to teach! Here he is seen teaching Maths Mr. Mehrotra and Ms. Joyatri interacting with the girls





Yamini and Rahul with the girls

Yamini and Mudit Tandon, the brother sister duo have been sponsoring a center at Paladi, Khurd, Jaipur. Ms. Yamini recently got married. Being very close to the girls of the center Yamini wanted them to be a part of her wedding celebrations. However, since the wedding was in another city it was difficult for the girls to come. Hence, she decided to spend time with the girls of her center after her wedding and share some special moments with these young girls.

Mr. Anil Tandon, Nishith Arora, Anju Arora, Yamini and her husband Rahul Arora, visited the center. They were given a colourful welcome by the girls. The community offered a simple, delicious and healthy lunch to the visitors. The visitors were overwhelmed and cherished the wonderful experience.



Mr. & Mrs. Arora, Mr. Anil Tandon, Rahul & Yamini having a chat with the teachers



Mrs. and Mr. Budhiraja with the girls and teacher



Mr. Vijay sharma and Chavi Sharma with Nirmala Tandon at the Learning Center



Ms. Shweta Tiwary, Programme Associates, SDTT interacting with the girls.



Jens and Andrea Schulte along with their daughters visited their sponsored center in Jaipur

CASE STUDIES FROM JHARKHAND



Nisha Kumari Class 5

Nisha's family consists of her mother, father, three brothers and a sister. Poverty had driven her family into desperation. The family didn't even have enough money to buy utensils to cook food in. So much so that even at the tender age of eight, Nisha was forced to work in brick kilns. As she grew older she expressed her wish to study. She was eventually enrolled in a Government school in her village. When she started attending classes, she realized that she was much older and bigger than the rest of the children in her class. The other children often teased her. Humiliated, she left school. But during that time she came to know about the Education Centre being run by IIMPACT in her village. She joined the Learning Centre in 2008 and has been with the centre ever since. She is working hard and preparing for the class 5 exams. She now aspires to continue studies and eventually get a B. A. Degree. After passing out from this centre she intends to join Middle School. The good thing is that she gets all the support from her parents.

Tetri Kumari Class 5

Tetri Kumari is 16 years old and studies in Class five in an IIMPACT learning centre. She belongs to a family where the father is a drunkard and a habitual gambler. Her mother collects leaves from the forest. She sells plates and bowls made from these leaves and supports her family. Tetri is the fourth among seven siblings.

Before joining the Centre she was a rag picker, and worked as a domestic help etc. She is the only girl above the age of 14 years in the Centre. She loves coming to the centre and is adamant that she wants to continue her studies. She aspires to become a writer someday. She refused the temptation of a cycle which was offered by a particular school. Her logic is that she needs knowledge and not a cycle.





Roshni Kumari Class 5

Roshni is 12 years old. She is the youngest of nine siblings. Her father works as a laborer and is a habitual drinker. Her mother too joins him occasionally.

Roshini used to collect fire wood and leaves from the forest as means of contributing to the income of the family. As a habit she used to silently pick up small items during the weekly bazaar. She along with her friends used abusive language pretty often. This was the girl before she joined the IIMPACT learning center.

In 2008, she joined the Education Centre run by IIMPACT. She has been attending classes regularly ever since. Her punctuality and determination to study has been her forte. Today she is in Class five. Five years in the centre has transformed her unrecognizably. She pays special attention to personal cleanliness and speaks a refined language. Her aim is to get recruited into the Police Force.

Looking forward to a bright future!



We thank our donors, friends, associates and well-wishers for joining hands with IIMPACT.