

IIMPACT QUARTERLY REPORT

JULY 2015

OVER 45,000 GIRLS CURRENTLY ENROLLED • ACROSS 11 STATES



Google Serve - An Event to Remember



A ten member team of volunteers from Google's Gurgaon office celebrated the annual Google Serve Event with IIMPACT's girls at Kherla Learning Centre in Mewat on a very hot and humid Wednesday.

The enthusiasm was infectious. Interesting games were played testing the girls' knowledge and skills, and they came out with flying colours! Tough questions were answered correctly. The girls felt very special. Quiz Time, using a life size Snakes and Ladders board, and fun filled Musical Chairs were enjoyed by all the girls.

The long hot day (which went unnoticed by all) ended with most welcome refreshments, freshly prepared sandwiches and muffins and Googles goody bags being distributed.

A day the girls at Kherla will not forget!

A big THANK YOU to the Google Team



RBL Supports IIMPACT in Innovative Ways

Car Rally

A car rally was organized by RBL Bank to raise awareness of the issue of girl child education, highlighting IIMPACT's effective role in this area.

The RBL 4 IIMPACT – Online Crowd Funding Campaign

The campaign was a huge success. The funds collected have gone towards taking care of an additional Learning Centre, educating 30 girls each for a year. We commend the enthusiasm and sincere efforts of the volunteers who promoted this very successful campaign.



NEWS FROM DIFFERENT HUBS

JAUNPUR – UTTAR PRADESH

Celebration of 14 April

Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti is an annual festival observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar. Our girls, parents and the community celebrated this day with tremendous enthusiasm at Jaunpur. Approximately 3000 people participated in the event.

Community Meeting

A community meeting was organized in Jaunpur where several pertinent points were discussed:

- Role and responsibilities of staff
- Regular school attendance of girls
- TLM development
- Cleanliness and hygiene
- Issues related to learning centre
- Community support
- Skills of girls



SHRAWASTI – UTTAR PRADESH

Community Mobilization

The greatest strength of IIMPACT is community participation and their involvement at each level. Community mobilization is a process by which we reach out to different sectors of the community to create partnerships that focus on and address several social, structural and individual hurdles associated with the issue of girl child education.



Community mobilization meeting in Shrawasti

MIRZAPUR – UTTAR PRADESH

World Health Day

The World Health Day was celebrated on 7th April, 2015 across Learning Centres. In this celebration, sessions on the importance of Food for Good Health were conducted by our teachers by using participatory methods.



NEWS FROM DIFFERENT HUBS

GAZIPUR – UTTAR PRADESH



Community Meeting Organized with CMC Members

The Importance of Food for Good Health was also discussed in the CMC meetings here. It was emphasized that food is a vital aspect for proper mental and physical growth of girl students as they need proper energy and stamina to concentrate in the class room and to participate in other LC level activities. For this reason girls should be provided with proper nutrition and a positive environment at home. At the end of the discussion the parents accepted the importance of food for good health and its impact on the overall performance and efficiency of the girls.

SHAHJAHANPUR – UTTAR PRADESH



Science experiments help explain complex processes.

PAKUR – JHARKAND



Long strides-running to win the race



Our girls are enjoying joyful learning

NEWS FROM DIFFERENT HUBS

ALWAR – RAJASTHAN

Staff Capacity Building Workshop

A two-day workshop was conducted for the purpose of capacity building and to evaluate the progress of the programme. Five field supervisors and one support staff member each from Ramgarh, Rajgarh and Tijara Kishangarh participated in the workshop.

Issues Discussed

- New Strategies were designed for the better implementation of the project
- Field experiences and learnings were shared by the supervisors
- Discussion and preparation of students' evaluation papers
- Daily and weekly plan of teachers and supervisors
- Community awareness
- Plan and strategies for the next quarter documentation



BANSWARA – RAJASTHAN



A remote, difficult terrain, starting centres here were a challenge, so was finding good teachers.



Girls happily come to their learning centres and are eager to learn.

PALIGANJ – BIHAR

New intervention



Teacher's trainings



Community meetings

NEWS FROM DIFFERENT HUBS

DEHRADUN – UTTARAKHAND



IIMPACT believes in innovation. This time the focus was on making teaching and learning enjoyable through music. Our teachers, as well as our girls, learnt a lot through music and appreciate its importance in our lives.

Music can be very engaging in the classroom and is a great tool for memory enhancement. IIMPACT has established that when teachers used songs and rhythm to teach multiplication tables, the girls would memorize and retain information with greater ease.



Music also teaches us self discipline and time management skills. When you study an instrument on a regular basis you work on concrete principals and theories and take small steps to achieve larger goals. This in turn reorganizes the wiring in your brain which helps to approach learning in a new light.

SIRMAUR – HIMACHAL PRADESH



A Staff Review meeting was held with 20 teachers of the Himachal Pradesh Learning Centres along with their supervisors on 1st June, 2015. A detailed presentation was done on the IIMPACT programme implementation and future plans.

Formation of CMCs

Teachers under the guidance of their supervisors will form a CMC for their Learning Centres. They are regularly meeting community leaders, parents and influential people at the village level to engage them and garner their help to ensure the smooth running of Learning Centres in their respective villages.



NEWS FROM DIFFERENT HUBS

KHARGAON – MADHYA PRADESH



Mr Shekhar Agarwal and Mrs Shashi Agarwal of Maral Overseas Ltd seen interacting with the girls

SHEOPUR – MADHYA PRADESH

World Environment Day Celebration at Various Hubs

On 5th June 20015, World Environment Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm across different hubs. Various cultural activities such as singing, dancing and drama on environmental awareness were performed by our girls.



MEWAT – HARYANA

Parent-Teacher Meeting

It is a well acknowledged fact that any kind of social change can take place when its people believe that it will be for their betterment. For getting support of society at large a series of Parent-Teacher conferences were organised.

A parent-teacher conference is a short meeting between the parents and teachers to discuss the children's progress at school and find solutions to academic or behavioral problems. Parent-teacher conferences supplement the information conveyed by report cards by focusing on students' specific strengths and weaknesses in individual subjects and assessing their level of inter-curricular skills and competencies.



NEWS FROM DIFFERENT HUBS

GAJAPATI – ODISHA



Organized Village Education Committee Meeting

The Village Education Committee (VEC) plays a vital role in the functioning of an LC in the concerned village. It consists of 10-15 members, including women. The VEC monitors aspects of the functioning of the LC such as teachers' regularity, enrolment of new students, their monthly progress, regular attendance of girls, causes of dropout etc. Issues pertaining to the maintenance of the school house, mobilization of parents towards total enrolment and regular attendance are also discussed. A total of 128 members of VEC were mobilised to attend meetings this quarter.



Swachha Bharat Abhiyan

We have been doing Gram Safai Abhiyan before lunch as part of the continuing Swachha Bharat Abhiyan scheme. International Yoga Day was celebrated as our girls and teachers together participated wholeheartedly in yoga activities. Teachers took the initiative to practice various yoga techniques with the children.

SOUTH 24 PARGANAS – WEST BENGAL

In West Bengal the learning centres have played an important role not only for ensuring the education of the out-of-school girls but also in preventing them from early marriage and trafficking. The community participation and support from the local panchayat and government schools have been quite helpful in bringing back these girls to school. Children have been taught using the accelerated teaching method for them to fill the learning gaps and cope with school curriculum effectively. Several tools have been developed to strengthen the intervention and portray a positive image to the communities. Some of the important tools include:

- ~ Child Home Visit Register used for both regular and irregular children
- ~ Lesson Plan maintained by the teachers for each grade and level of children
- ~ Colour Coding Chart and Register to indicate academic progress of the centre
- ~ Daily Diary maintained by the teachers
- ~ Attendance Register of children
- ~ Meeting Resolution Register
- ~ Monthly Progress Report of children
- ~ Child Tracking Register



Teachers Training

To enhance productivity and efficiency, IIMPACT makes a continuous effort to increase the capacity of its teachers and conduct quarterly capacity building trainings to strengthen its girl child education programme.

Foundation Level Trainings: Foundation training is a preparatory level training which helps in developing the basic knowledge, skills and aptitude required to teach primary classes in a joyful manner. This level involves lots of activities, games, poems, stories and practical demonstrations. In this quarter Foundation Trainings were organized at Paliganj in Bihar and Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh. The duration of each training was five days.



Level Trainings: IIMPACT follows a 20-level training programme. The first four level trainings (level 1 to level 4) cover the standard 1 of the Primary Course, level 5 to 8 cover the standard 2, levels 9 to 12 cover the standard 3, levels 13 to 16 cover standard 4 and levels 17 to 20 cover standard 5. Each level is of 3 months duration and these level trainings are organized after all the children in the learning centre complete the foundation course. Thereafter, the individual level training is organized after the completion of each level course of 3 months. In this quarter the following level trainings were organized across IIMPACT's field locations.

New Interventions in this Quarter

IIMPACT introduced 30 new learning centres each in the rural villages of Paliganj in Bihar and Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh. IIMPACT conducted need assessment studies and selected the lowest literacy rated villages in these regions.

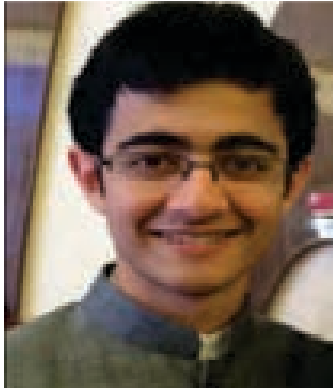
New Partners Join Hands with IIMPACT !

- Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives Pvt. Ltd.
- BIC-CELLO Pens
- Emirates Airlines Foundation
- IFCI Limited
- Infosys Foundation
- Shanti Gears
- Tube Investments of India Pvt. Ltd.
- The Doon School Old Boys Society



Doon School Old Boys Society visit

Volunteer with IIMPACT – Raghav Mehrotra



My name is Raghav Mehrotra, and I was born and brought up in Mumbai. I attended The Cathedral and John Connon School, and I'm currently a rising sophomore at Stanford University, where I plan to pursue a combination of Computer Science, Education and History.

In the twelfth grade, I attended a conclave about education in Mumbai, where I participated in a heated debate about improvements that the current Indian system of education needs. Since then, my interest in education has only grown. My dream is to provide quality education to every Indian child through a combination of policy, technology and service. Encouraged by my father, who is heavily involved in education and public service, I chose to volunteer at IIMPACT to take a step towards my goal.

Special Science Training Workshops Conducted by Me

Aim of the Workshop

Science is perceived to be a difficult subject in rural areas. As far as primary education is concerned, scientific principles are both hard to teach, and often too complicated to grasp. Children are afraid of learning science and resort to memorizing scientific laws to pass exams, rather than understanding these laws because they are genuinely interested.

In order to address this issue, science must be taught with a heavy emphasis on hands-on learning. The long-term goal of this workshop was to teach scientific experiments to teachers, who in turn would perform them at their Learning Centers. This would allow students to appreciate science and technology. Teachers would also explain the principles behind the experiments, enabling students to understand rather than rely on rote learning.

Since affordability is often an issue, these experiments have been designed to be performed with cheap, easily available materials and waste. The experiments were originally conceived by Mr. Arvind Gupta. Mr. Gupta has designed such toys and experiments to popularize science amongst children who have no access to formal education.

In fact, a large number of materials used – plastic bottles, straws, thermocol cups, matchboxes, CD's, sketch pens among others – would ordinarily be discarded as waste after use. The 17 experiments performed were obtained from his website – www.arvindguptatoys.com.

Structure of the Workshop

Each workshop spanned 2 days during which approximately 30 teachers were trained to perform 17 experiments. Four such workshops were conducted during the 10 day period, for teachers teaching at Premangar, Sahaspur, Vikasnagar (all in Dehradun), and Sirmaur (at the Uttarakhand-Himachal border).



Experiment on the refraction of light

These 17 experiments were performed under 4 categories (electricity and magnetism, air, light, and miscellaneous). The scientific principles that were covered include reflection and refraction of light, basic forces and circular motion.

Results

The feedback received from the teachers indicated that they had learned new skills from the workshop. Many of them had never taught science before this program. After this workshop, they believed that they were equipped to implement basic science lessons at their Learning Centers. Those who had been teaching science before the workshop felt that their earlier methods of reading from a textbook or having students copy notes from a blackboard could be supplemented with experimental hands-on learning.



Building a helicopter from two thermocol cups

The teachers also responded positively to the use of cheap, everyday materials to conduct the experiments. They were confident that most of the materials could be found among household items, they would easily be able to integrate the experiments into their curricula.

Transforming Lives – IIMPACT Prevents Child Marriage

This is the story of a girl studying in the learning centre at Cheora village under Sarisha Gram Panchayat of Diamond Harbour-II block who was rescued from getting married at the early age of 13 years. The girl was a dropout and got enrolled in the learning centre in 2013. She attended the learning centre programme regularly and was very attentive in class.

However, a few months back she became irregular and it was brought to the notice of the teachers during their home visits that her parents had initiated the process of getting her married. When confronted by the IIMPACT team, the parents naturally denied this and tried to ignore the teachers' attempts at addressing the issue. A few days later, the young girl herself pleaded with the teachers to help stop her marriage as she wanted to study further. The teachers, with support from the Village Level Child Protection Committee and Childline, intervened in the matter. They succeeded in their mission after a series of home visits and counselling of the parents. It was really difficult to get the parents to agree to allow their daughter to continue studying.

Now the girl is a regular face at the learning centre. The Block Development Officer of Diamond Harbour-II block along with other officials met the parents and assured her of an annual Rs. 500 scholarship till the age of 18 years to enable her to continue to study.

This incident has set an important example in the village and created an environment for the education of all girls till 18 years of age.



Learning Centre at Sujagolpur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal