



Books FOR ALL

We don't Teach We Educate

Annual Report

2015 - 2016

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1. Founders Foreword and Executive Summary

It is a matter of pride for Books For All that the tiny seed we planted six years ago has grown into a sturdy young tree. Our fledgling NGO now has five libraries cum creativity centres in five schools in the urban villages of NCR. Two of these centres at Sultanpur and Shahpur, Sector 128, Noida, were set up in this academic year.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who spare time and effort and spread love and cheer. Our libraries have all those things that children need to make them really happy- a cheerful ambience, lots of beautifully illustrated story books, art and craft material and librarians and volunteers who engage children in so many different ways to make them knowledgeable, confident, inquisitive and bring out the best in them. This is in line with our tag line “we don't teach we educate”

Ours is a small initiative but we trying to make a difference to the lives of children from the underprivileged sections of society and through them to a section of the society as well. This gives us tremendous satisfaction.

We have many well wishers both individuals and corporates who contribute to this initiative with funds and fervor. Many more are getting associated as we go along. We look forward to associating with more and more like-minded individuals and organizations

Together let us make a difference!

Pravin Bhasin

Founder President



2. Aim and Objectives

“To ignite the Flame of Knowledge and Nurture talent of children in Schools in underprivileged localities”.

- Encourage children to read and to express themselves fearlessly.
- Nudge them to discover the world around them through story books and find joy in reading.
- Expose children to new ideas and concepts through volunteer engagement, workshops and programs by NGOs and Corporates.
- Help children discover their talents through various activities in the Library cum Creativity Centres. Give them a platform to express themselves creatively.
- Instill confidence, discipline and good values.
- Guide children towards a better future.



3. Inception And Journey So Far

Books for All was set up to encourage children from schools for lesser privileged children develop reading habits. This was to be achieved by providing quality books in a room to be provided by school. The Library Room was also to have a White Board, Green Board & Soft Boards. The schools were to earmark Library periods for each class in the Time Table during which the children would come to the Library to read and engage themselves in various activities. It was decided to have a full time Librarian at each centre with further value addition being done by volunteers.

Books for All was registered as a **Public Charitable Trust** on 10th February 2011 in, New Delhi.

I. Libraries Cum Creativity Centres

Books for All started its **first Library on 30th January 2010 at Government Primary School, Village Gejha, Sector 93, Noida**. A room was given by the school and Books for All furnished it and provided the books. A full time Librarian was appointed to look after the Library and engage children in various activities. **This first Library became the model for our future Libraries, which is Sustainable, Replicable & Scalable.** We decided to keep our operations simple & low cost to reach out to maximum children

We now have five Libraries cum Creativity Centers in operation at the following places:

- i. Government Primary School, Village Gejha, Noida
- ii. Government Primary & Junior School, Village Sadarpur, Noida
- iii. Government Primary & Junior School, Village Sultanpur, Noida
- iv. Government Primary & Junior School, Village Shahpur, Noida
- v. Anglo Indian Public School, MadanpurKhadar, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi

Books for All caters to over 1000 students from these five centers. Children are from Urban Villages of Noida. Their parents are migrants from Eastern UP, Bengal, Orissa & Bihar. They are mostly daily wage earners, house maids or own petty stalls selling Tea or Vegetables.

II. Sponsored Children

In the process of close interaction with children we found a few who were very bright and eager to put in their best. We formed an ability group to mentor them and finally relocated from Government Primary School Gejha to a CBSE affiliated English Medium Public School. Encouraged by the performance of two children sponsored in the first year, Books For All sponsored four more deserving students to the English medium school. We are continuously providing coaching, mentoring and handholding them in their academics, co curricular activities and helping them develop into well rounded individuals. A corporate and a few individuals have come forward to meet full expenses by sponsoring these students

III. Engagement with Volunteers, Corporates and Other NGOs

Along the way we found many well wisher- Donors to support us financially and volunteers to engage with the children who helped us grow & enabled us to provide better services. Individual Donations are our backbone and highly valued. We got assistance from several Corporate, Samsung Engineering India Limited (SEIL), Sopra Steria, Optum (United Health Group), Gravitass Knowledge Services Limited, to name a few. These corporate Houses helped us financially, sponsored students, sponsored Library, deputed volunteers and organised events etc

4. Impact

- Developing Reading Habits is our core competence and by providing quality books we are able to encourage over 1000 students in our Five Libraries to develop interest in reading books. Within a few days of opening a library we find children being drawn like magnets towards the library. Some cut short their lunch period to read or flip through books. Even those that cannot read or those who cannot read English books take them and try to read them.
- Through our annual activities we are developing the overall personality of children by exposing them to Book Reading, Public Speaking, Dance & Drama and Craft.
- Visits of Volunteers, drawn from various segment of society, also has a transformational impact. They are exposed to a world beyond their boundaries. This broadens their outlook.
- Children are taught about good manners, discipline and need to keep school premises clean.
- Exposure to English improves their spoken English and spellings
- Books for All is encouraging Volunteerism amongst corporates, who depute their executives to work with children. This has a positive impact on both sides; on children who learn new things and on corporate volunteers who feel the joy of giving and are humbled by the happiness of children who have so little.
- Even the Eco System is getting impacted due to our efforts. By organizing programs on Girls Hygiene, Safety, Pollution etc we are reaching out to parents of students who are from poor rural background.
- We try our best to ensure that every child at Primary level can at least read and write Hindi
- We are also trying to spot bright children and give them an opportunity for better and continued schooling after the primary level. Six bright children have already been sponsored by Books for All to a private CBSE recognized English medium school. There is a transformational change in each of them.

Books for All was nominated for the prestigious IVolunteer Awards in "Leader in Volunteer Engagement" category.

Books for All was featured on BIG FM 92.7 Delhi 8-9 A.M on 11th April Saturday & again on Sunday, 12th April 7-8 P.M.

5. Activity Highlights - 2015-16

I Library cum creativity centres:

i. **Book Reading Activities:** Book reading is our core activity. In our early days we learnt that if we are to attract children of Government schools of Noida, where we largely operate, we need to give them access to easy to read and beautifully illustrated Hindi books that they can relate to. With this in mind, we have an excellent collection of books from Pratham, CBT, NBT and similar others at each centre. We have books in English and bilingual books as well. Like in previous years, this year too we used these books in a variety of ways. We issued them to the children to read, conducted story telling sessions, used the books for children to find new words and spellings and used the illustrations for drawing and painting.



ii. **Dictionaries and Atlases:** This year we made available a large number of bilingual dictionaries and atlases to each centre. This has helped students enlarge their vocabulary and knowledge of the world around them in a fun way.

iii. **Science and the Third R:** We believe in teaching Science and Arithmetic in a fun way! Each picture is worth more than a thousand words.



iii. **Supplementing Academic Programmes:** We supplement the academic efforts of the schools by handholding weak students and mentoring the bright children.



We also focus on the holistic development of children. Good behavior, discipline and good manners are intrinsic to this. The library period gives us an opportunity to inculcate these values in children. We also lay emphasis on art and craft, music and dance and sports and games. These are woven into the activities that we conduct during the year. We also expose the children to important issues such as environmental pollution, clean energy, gender sensitization etc. Some of these activities are conducted together with other NGOs and corporate partners. A gist of the activities during the year is given below:

a. **Earth Day Celebration:** Earth Day was celebrated at AIPS Sarita Vihar. The importance of earth day was discussed and the theme 'Saving the Earth' was depicted through paintings by the students. Prizes were given to the winners.



b. **Road safety workshops-** During May 2015, books for all, in partnership with DND organised Road Safety Seminars at Books for All Libraries at Government junior school, Sadarpur and primary school, Gejha to educate children about basics of road Safety and how to give first aid.



c. **Independence Day celebrations:** A grand function to celebrate India's Independence day was organized at Government Primary School Gejha on 14th August. Nearly 60 children took part in the Dance Drama depicting India's Struggle for Freedom. 58 of these children gave a scintillating performance before an elite audience of Eldeco Utopia sector 93 A Noida in the club house on Independence Day and won their hearts!



d. **Health, Hygiene & Safety Awareness For Girl Students-** In collaboration with NGO Chetna, BFA organised workshops for Girl Students of class V-VIII at the Sarita Vihar and Sadarpur Centers. The idea was to educate the girls of Urban Villages about basic menstrual hygiene and safe practices, good and bad touch etc. The audio visual program was very interactive and girls opened up to ask questions, especially about safety.



e. **Tree Plantation At Gejha:** To encourage children develop love for Trees, a tree plantation drive was conducted at Gejha Primary School on 28th August.



f. **Diwali and Christmas celebration with Art and Craft:** Festivals are an opportunity for children to unleash their creativity. Like in previous years, children in all the four centers were guided to create beautiful diyas, thalis, cards and rangolis before Diwali. There were competitions and prizes were given to winners. On the occasion of Christmas, children created beautiful Christmas themed cut outs and these were displayed at our centres. All the material was provided by Books for All.



g. **Demonstration on clean energy:** Led by their Head HR MrVinayKaushik, team Samsung Engineering India Ltd visited Books for All Library at Sultanpur on Friday, 20th Nov 2015. They spoke to children about energy sources and the need for clean energy. Students were given kits of Solar Powered fans to assemble. They thoroughly enjoyed the activity and it was a big learning for them. They also distributed books and sweets.



h. **Pollution and protecting the environment:** Books for All in collaboration with NGO IVolunteer& Cummins conducted a program on Pollution and protecting the Environment, at all centres during September 2015. It was very well received by students.

i. **Fun Activities for Children:** Noida office of a leading US Company United Health Group (UHG) is associated with Books for All for over last four years. Every year they organize atleast one event in one of our Libraries cum Creativity Centers. This year too they came to our center at Sultanpur on 8th December and conducted a number of activities for the children.



j. **Picnic:** Once a year Books for All organizes a Picnic at Gejha School which has children from a very deprived section of society. Children look forward to it. This year the picnic was organized in December. Children played Musical Chairs, Housie, Passing the Parcel in the lawns of the school on a bright sunny day. Refreshments were served to students.



k. **Sports Day** :As in previous years, Books for All organised sports day at Gejha. Children demonstrated various asanas including the Surya Namaskar. There was a skit on saving water and a number of races. The first annual sports day at Sultanpur school was organized on 17th February in which 8 races were held including a relay race. Small cheer leaders added a zing to the event. Prizes were given to the winners.



l. **Essay Competitions:** An Essay competition was organised at AIPS, Sarita Vihar on 5th February for class V to VIII. About 175 children participated. Prizes were given 10th February to best three entries. Topic for the essay was '*What do you want to do become when you grow up*'. Nearly 200 children of Government Primary & Junior School, Sadarpur from class 3-8, participated in an Essay Contest organised by Books for All & sponsored by our long time well wisher Sonia Vig. Prizes were given to best three essays from each class. Sweets were also distributed.



m. **Geography group Quiz and Slogan writing:** The Atlas was used as a tool to prepare for the quiz in Government School Sultanpur which was held on 25th February 2015. Slogan contest for class IV-V was held simultaneously. Certificates and prizes were given to participants and winners. The level of knowledge that Children had gained just by studying the atlas was an eye opener for organizing more such events.



II. Sponsored Children- The Ability Group is of bright students we have relocated from Government Primary School Gejha to an English Medium Public School. Encouraged by the performance of 2 children sponsored to an English medium school during the previous year, Books For All sponsored 4 more deserving students to the English medium school. Our sponsors are now meeting most of the expenses of these students.



Our Dream is to hand hold them atleast till class 12 and ensure that they become employable. In line with this commitment Volunteers conduct after school classes. Most of these volunteers are senior school students and college students from housing societies of Sector 93 A, NOIDA. The handholding has helped the children tremendously. In the academic year 2015-16, Rajkumar topped his class, Neeraj came second in his class and the other four students also did extremely well. They are also doing very well in extra-curricular activities.



III. Volunteering: Our small NGO is largely volunteer driven. Our philosophy too is to encourage voluntary service. While it is largely homemakers who spare time to contribute during school months, summer vacations see a large number of students from our complex and its neighborhoods volunteering to teach the ability group. While the focus is on English reading and grammar, maths, science and geography are also taught. It is a win-win situation for those that teach and our students who receive that knowledge.



Mr N.P.Singh, District Magistrate GB Nagar Noida visited Gejha center on 2nd May 2015. DM spent time in our Library cum Creativity center to understand various activities undertaken by us

6. Governance and Human Resources

I. Governance

a. Books for All has a team of trustees who manage the day to day affairs. Following are the members of the Trust:

- a. Mr Pravin Kumar Bhasin
- b. Ms Deepali Kukreja
- c. Ms Puja Nath
- d. Ms Kanchan Bhasin

The trustees meet from time to time to decide the plan of action, growth strategy and review the progress. All decisions such as opening of new centers, engagement of persons and major items of expenditure are taken after deliberations with Trustees and other stake holders.

b. For ease of organization and managing day to day affairs, Books for All has also constituted a Management Committee comprising of trustees and senior volunteers:

- a. Mr Pravin Kumar Bhasin
- b. Ms Kanchan Bhasin
- c. Ms Lata Aggarwal and
- d. Ms Deepa Sengar

The Management Committee meets regularly to review the progress and also to decide activities to be taken up in various centers. Minutes of Meeting are recorded and circulated.

II. Human Resources

Volunteers

Books for All is essentially a **Volunteer Driven organization**. Our volunteers are drawn from all walks of Society. They are Home Makers, Corporate Executives and even Students both from Universities and Elite Public Schools. Senior volunteers are part of the planning process and the think tank. A number of volunteers take sessions at the libraries and expose students to old and new concepts in interesting ways. Others teach them art, craft, music and dance. Quizzes, storytelling and other group and participatory activities are part of the regular routine. So are celebrations of festivals and important national and international days such as Independence Day, Earth Day, World Literacy Day etc. About 50 volunteers are currently associated with Books for All

Paid employees

Running the libraries is a full time job for which we have librarians. The librarians work on all school days during school hours. They manage the library, issue books, handhold weak students, and assist in the planned teaching program as well as the extra-curricular activities. They maintain liaison with the teachers and carry on the day to day work at the centres. Currently Books for All has 5 librarians who are paid honorarium for their services and are also reimbursed travel and communication expenses. The engagement of a part time instructor for spotting and nurturing talent& creativity in children is also underway.

7. Our Well Wishers

Books for All prides itself in being able to attract a host of individuals, NGOs and Corporates who support it in many ways.

I. Individuals Donors and Volunteers

A number of individuals provide financial assistance to support its various initiatives. Their donations, big and small, are the life line of Books for All. Many others devote their time and volunteer in the libraries, coach and mentor students at home or help in planning and decision making.

II. Association with Corporates and NGOs

Several like-minded organizations also support us in a number of ways. They give monetary donations and sponsor the Library cum Creativity centres. They organise events, distribute books & material, other necessities such as sweaters, depute volunteers, etc. Their monetary donations are invaluable. Even greater is their association with the children that exposes them to a world that they have no access to otherwise. Books for all is supported by the following organizations:

Corporates

1. Samsung Engineering India Limited
2. Optum (United Health Group)
3. SopraSteria
4. Garvitie Knowledge Services Pvt. Limited
5. ST Microelectronics

NGOs

1. Sankalp Trust
2. Chetna Consciousness of Women (CCW)
3. iVolunteer



8. Financial and Legal Overview

I. Financial information at a glance

i. Status of Funds as on 31st March 2016

a. Expenses during the Year:	Rs 5,64,724
b. Donations Received:	Rs 9,90,183
c. FDRs with Bank:	Rs 3,85,817
d. Interest Income from FDs:	Rs 54,976
e. Cash & Bank Balance:	Rs 1,04,939
f. Cheques in Hand:	Rs 4,35,000

ii. Donations:

During the year a total of 51 donations were received, 48 from individuals and 3 from Corporates.

iii. Estimates of Major Future Expenses 2016-17

a. Six Sponsored Students:	Rs 180,000
b. Books & Library in Class Rooms (LIC)	Rs 60,000
c. Opening New Library:	Rs 150,000
d. Maintenance:	Rs 50,000
e. Salaries:	Rs 350,000
f. Events:	Rs 50,000
Total:	Rs 840,000

II. Audit of Accounts:

Accounts have been audited and IT Return Filed by Auditors P.K.Chadha, Sector 14A, Noida. There are no major observations on accounting procedures.

III. Our Bankers:

We bank with ICICI Bank, Sector 110, Noida

Account Name: Books for All Trust

Account No: 081505000239

IFSC code: ICIC0000815

IV. Legal

- Books for All is registered as a Trust in Delhi vide registration Number 832 dated 10th February 2011
- IT Exemption U/S 80G(5)(vi) of IT Act 1961 vide reference No: DIT(E)/DEL-BE23750-5652 dated 7TH March 2011 has been obtained.
- Registered U/S 12A of Income Tax Act 1961 vide reference Number :DEL-BR 21965-1516 dated 7TH March 2011
- FCRA Registration has been applied for.