



Books FOR ALL

We don't Teach We Educate

Annual Report

2016-2017

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1. Founders Foreword and Executive Summary

In March this year, our sixth Library cum Creativity Centre was inaugurated at Government Junior School Bhangel, Noida, giving us the opportunity to positively impact about 350 more children. In the 6 schools in which we are now present, we work with about 2000 children. We strive to inculcate in them a love for reading books and bring joy into their lives through art & craft, song & dance, games & sport, celebration of festivals, events and activities. We have also installed wall hung libraries in 6 other schools. The beautifully illustrated books draw the children towards books and inculcate in them a habit of reading. Through these libraries we are nudging at least a 1000 more children to read.

Ours is a volunteer based model. We have only a handful of paid employees. All others, founders and volunteers, devote time and expertise in order that they may make a difference to the lives of children who do not have access to the best in education. Our model is low cost and high value. Our administrative costs are low but commitment levels are high. Therein lies our strength.

Our 6 sponsored children who are in good English Medium school are performing exceedingly well in both academics and co-curricular activities. We mentor and coach these children. In coming years we propose to sponsor more bright children and give them a better future!

As our work is getting noticed, more individuals and corporates are coming forward to support us and to collaborate with us. With financial and mentoring support we are hopeful of opening more such centers in the near future and bring the joy of reading and learning to more and more children.

We are thankful to our Volunteers, Donors and well-wishers for their support throughout the year without which it wouldn't have been possible to contribute so much towards welfare & development of children at our centres.

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”

- a. Encourage children to read and to express themselves fearlessly.
- b. Nudge them to discover the world around them through story books and find joy in reading.
- c. Expose children to new ideas and concepts through volunteer engagement, workshops and programs by NGOs and Corporates. Increase their knowledge and general awareness.
- d. Help children discover their talents through art, craft, music and dance and various other activities in the Library cum Creativity Centres. Give them a platform to express themselves creatively.
- e. Instill confidence, discipline and good values.
- f. Guide children towards a better future.
- g. Sponsor education of bright children to change the course of their lives.
- h. Encourage volunteerism particularly in young people.



Inception and Journey So Far

Inception

Our Journey began on **30th January 2010 at Government Primary School, Village Gejha, Sector 93, Noida**. A room provided by the school was stocked up with used books. The idea was to inculcate the habit of reading among poor children who had no access to story books. Volunteers started visiting the library to read books to the children. They found that many children, even those in 4th and 5th grade could not read or write. They had no access to art and craft material and their talents were hidden even from themselves. There was no concept of a sports day or a fun day! School was drudgery, so they relieved boredom by being rowdy. The volunteers wanted to make a real difference, but to do this, funds were required. After a year of managing the library with the volunteers' own funds, **Books for All (BFA) was registered Public Charitable Trust on 10th February 2011**.

The Journey

What started as a small initiative to spread the joy of reading became something bigger. The library became a Library cum Creativity Centre where children could not only read books but create art and craft, sing and dance and learn so many different things. As help started coming in, BFA opened more such centers. **The first Library became the model for future Libraries, which is a Sustainable, Replicable & Scalable model**. We decided to keep our operations simple & low cost to reach out to maximum children.

Today BFA has 6 Library cum Creativity Centers and caters to over 2000 students. We have Library cum Creativity Centers in the following 6 schools in urban villages of NCR:

- 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, Madanpur Khadar, SaritaVihar, New Delhi
- vi. Government Primary School, Bhangel, Dadri Road, Noida

These schools cater to poor children. Their parents are mostly migrants from Eastern UP, Bengal, and Orissa & Bihar. They are daily wage earners or own petty stalls selling Tea or Vegetables etc or have jobs paying meager wages.

Education in the schools is free. The Government also provides mid day meals, which is one reason why the poor send their children here. But coming to school alone is no guarantee that they learn nor that they enjoy coming to school. This is where the Libraries set up by Books for All are making a difference. Our libraries have all those things that children need to make them really happy- a cheerful ambience, 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"

I. Libraries Cum Creativity Centers

The Library is in a room provided by the school. The Library Room is cheerfully painted and provided with simple furniture, durries, White Board, Green Board, Soft Boards, charts, lots of beautifully illustrated story books, art and craft material. The schools earmark a Library period for each class. Every Library has a full time Librarian. The library period is used to encourage children to read books. it is also a place where remedial classes are conducted for weak students and a host of other activities are conducted.

II. Sponsored Children

In the process of close interaction with children BFA had the opportunity to spot those who are bright and



eager to put in their best. BFA formed an ability group to mentor them and finally relocated them from Government Primary School Gejha to a CBSE affiliated English Medium Public School. Currently 6 children are sponsored to this school. We are coaching and mentoring them and handholding them in their academics and co-curricular activities to help develop them into well rounded individuals. Our well-wishers meet the expenses by sponsoring these students.

III. Engagement with Volunteers, Corporates and Other NGOs

Books for All is run largely with the help of Volunteers. Most of its volunteers are home makers who spare their valuable time for a cause. They teach, train, conduct activities and guide the librarian. Due to their involvement, the library becomes a creativity centre where children learn art, craft, singing dancing and gain knowledge on a host of subjects. Learning is organic and fun.

We also have corporate volunteers who visit our centres to conduct a host of activities such as Sports Day, health and hygiene awareness, painting and craft competitions etc. other NGOs partner with us to generate awareness on different issues. Student volunteers from schools and colleges teach on holidays and during school vacations. Some intern with us for 15 days to a month.

Individual Donations are our backbone and highly valued. During the year, we also got assistance from several Corporates, Sopra Steria, Capgemini, Samsung Engineering India Limited (SEIL), Voith Hydro, Optum (United Health Group), Gravitas Knowledge Services Limited, to name a few. These Corporate Houses and individuals helped us financially, sponsored students, sponsored our Libraries, sponsored activities and events, deputed volunteers and organised events etc.

4. Impact

- Developing Reading Habits is our core area and by providing quality books we are able to encourage over 2000 students in our six 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 who cannot read take books and try to read them.
- By organizing remedial classes BFA ensures that every child in the schools that we are present in, is literate.
- Educating a Girl Child is a big challenge in Indian Villages. We counsel parents to continue the education of their daughters by highlighting the importance of education
- Activities such as public speaking, art and craft, dance and drama transform the personalities of the children and academic activities such as science quiz, math quiz, atlas quiz, earth day etc increase their knowledge. Diwali and Christmas celebrations, Sports day etc spread cheer and bring joy to their lives.
- Visits of Volunteers, drawn from various segments of society, also have a transformational impact. They are exposed to a world beyond their boundaries. This broadens their outlook.
- Children are taught good manners, discipline and need to keep their school premises clean. From a bunch of rowdy youngsters, in a few months children learn to be well mannered and responsible.
- Children are encouraged to learn English as this is useful for them. Volunteers teach them phonetics and spellings and talk with them in English.
- By organizing programs on Girls Hygiene, Safety, Pollution etc Books for All is positively impacting the ecosystem.
- Books for All is encouraging Volunteerism amongst corporates, who depute their executives to work with children. Several students from Public schools and colleges also volunteer with BFA. This has a positive impact on both sides; children learn new things and volunteers get the joy of giving and are humbled by the happiness of children who have so little.

5. Activity Highlights - 2016-17

I Library cum creativity Centers:

- i. **Book Reading Activities:** 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 too we supplemented our stock 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! This year too we had practical science and math sessions and conducted a quiz both in science and math to develop their interest and strengthen their concepts.
- iii. **Supplementing Academic Programmes:** We supplement the academic efforts of the schools by handholding weak students and mentoring the bright children.
- iv. **Students as good citizens:** Good behavior, discipline and good manners are intrinsic to this. The library period gives us an opportunity to inculcate these values in children.
- v. **Holistic Development:** 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.

I The Year at a Glance

Timelines	Activities
1st April 2016	New Library cum Creativity Centre at Government Primary and Junior School Shahpur, Sector 128 Noida, is launched!
19th April 2016	Students at Sarita Vihar centre learn first aid and make First Aid boxes
27th April 2016	Samsung Engineering celebrated their Founder's Day with Books for All at Shahpur Centre. they brought books for children and kits of Solar panels to spread awareness about solar energy
29th April, 2016	Executives from UHG visited Gejha centre. They conducted a session on health and hygiene and distributed hygiene kits and snacks to about 80 children

Timelines	Activities
May 2016	<p>Earth Day celebrated at all centers to spread awareness about our environment, planting trees and judicious use of electricity.</p> <p>Show and Tell activity was organized at all Centres. Students had to observe and speak about simple everyday objects. The objective was to develop among children power of observation, creative thinking and expression.</p>
June 2016	<p>Students from some of the best schools of Delhi NCR volunteer with Books for All and teach the Ability Group of students sponsored by us. They help them improve their spoken English, Math, science and arts subjects</p>
July/ August 2016	<p>Health and Body Quiz conducted at all centres. Children were taught about the human body, good nutrition, diseases and prevention, good habits etc. children were divided into teams and a quiz was conducted as a fun way to remember all that was taught. Prizes and certificates were given to winners and participants</p>
4th August 2016	<p>Books for All installed a Library in Classroom at Government Primary School Rohillapur . The students of this school are typically children of migrant labour.</p>
August 2016	<p>Independence Day was celebrated at all centres by making beautiful kites, slogan writing competitions and cultural programs in which children performed dances, skits, songs and speeches on the theme of independence. As a prelude, Children were taught about the freedom struggle and important milestones in Indian history.</p> <p>Students of the Ability Group gave two scintillating performances at Eldeco Utopia, an upscale housing society in Sector 93 A Noida</p>
26th August 2016	<p>A workshop on gender sensitization and menstrual hygiene was conducted at Sarita Vihar Centre by Chetana an NGO. This was followed by similar workshops at other centres.</p>
8th September 2016	<p>On the occasion of World Literacy Day, Books for All in partnership with Pratham organized a special book reading session in all centres. Special props were used to create characters from the books which were being read to create interest and enthusiasm. Children also painted characters from the books</p>
10th September 2016	<p>Concept of democracy in our country explained through a children's parliament at Sadarpur Junior School</p>
September 2016	<p>Books for All installed 2 libraries in the Government Primary Schools at Mohaiyapur on 23rd September and at Bakhtawarpur and Rohillapur on 29th Sept creating enthusiasm and spreading joy among the children of these schools.</p>

Timelines	Activities
October 2016	<p>Atlas Quiz and Poem recitation was organized by Sultanpur school. The idea behind Atlas quiz is to familiarize the students to geography concepts and the world around them through Atlases. Students are able to absorb tremendous information and concepts through the atlas within a few days. This is followed by team quiz competition.</p> <p>Other schools organized this quiz in January and February</p>
October 2016	<p>A beautiful Ram Lila was organized by the Sultanpur Centre. The program which was choreographed and designed by BFA volunteers was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Other themes, including Girl child and Swachh Bharat were also covered.</p> <p>Samsung Engineering visited Gejha centre and conducted a session on clean energy</p> <p>Books for All organized painting contests at all its centres to mark Deepawali. Children made paper craft, painted Diyas, made rangolis and decorated puja thalis. More than 500 children took part in the events</p>
14th November 2016	<p>Children's Day was celebrated at Gejha and other centres. Students put up cultural programs with the help of BFA volunteers</p>
21st November 2016	<p>The Ability Group visited Sultanpur Centre where they acted as brand ambassadors to encourage children of the school</p>
30th November 2016	<p>Samsung Engineering visited Sultanpur school where they donated books and interacted with the students. Books for All helped students organize a program and</p>
2nd December 2016	<p>Continuing with our mission to provide quality books for children go Government schools to enjoy, another Library in Classroom was installed at Government school, Village Challeria, Sector 44, Noida, which aims to benefit 300 children</p>
7th December 2016	<p>First Sports Day organized in Sadarpur school, which is short of space but not enthusiasm!. Despite space crunch BFA managed to organize several competitions in the primary and junior school.</p> <p>This was followed by Sports Day at our other schools as well in December and January</p>
9th December 2016	<p>Maths quiz was organized at Shahpur. This was followed by math quiz at other centres. The purpose of the Math activity is to install in students basic math concepts of measurement, area, fraction, decimals etc in a practical and fun way. Our endeavor is to develop an interest in Math in children of Government schools as their standard is quite low</p>

Timelines	Activities
December 2016	<p>Christmas was celebrated with with art and craft.</p> <p>Books for All also launched a campaign for getting sweaters for the children and succeeded in collecting a sizable donation in a short time to buy and distribute sweaters</p>
January 2017	<p>January is the month in which Books for All organizes the Sports Day in the schools. This month saw the first Sports Day at Shahpur. Other centres too organized the sports day. This event teaches the children much more than providing them sheer enjoyment. They learn discipline, organization, leadership and sportsman spirit too!</p>
February 2017	<p>Atlas and Math Quiz was organized by the centres that had not been able to conduct these events due to extra effort involved in coaching the children and getting them ready for the competitions. Hindi and English spell bee was also conducted in the month. Prizes and certificates were given to the winners and participants.</p>
17th March 2017	<p>After the final examinations, it was time to organize a career counseling session for the students passing out of 8th standard and motivate the, especially the girl students to continue their studies. Young professional Antatra Dave helped us with this activity though an interactive session.</p>
22nd March 2017	<p>The year ended with a meeting of Centre in charges and Librarians to work out strategy and the plan for the next year. It was stock taking time! What went right, what needed course correction and further improvement!</p>

II The Year in Pictures



ART & CRAFT



MUSIC DANCE & DRAMA



SPORTS & GAMES



ACTIVITIES, QUIZ & COMPETITIONS



OUR SPONSORED STUDENTS

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:

- i. Mr. Pravin Kumar Bhasin
- ii. Ms. Deepali Kukreja
- iii. Ms. Puja Nath
- iv. 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 under the guidance of the volunteers attached with each centre. They maintain liaison with the teachers and carry out the day to day work at the centres. Currently Books for All has 6 librarians who are paid honorarium for their services and are also reimbursed travel and communication expenses. Books for All also has Art and Craft Instructor to teach, guide and coordinate the extra curricular activities.

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 was supported by the following organizations in 2016-17:

Corporates

1. SopraSteria
2. Samsung Engineering India Limited
3. Optum (United Health Group)
4. Capgemini
5. Voith Hydro

NGOs

1. Chetna Consciousness of Women (CCW)
2. iVolunteer



ENGAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS, NGOS AND CORPORATES

8. Financial and Legal Overview

I. Financial Information at a glance

i. Status of Funds as on 31st March 2017

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. Expenses during the Year: | Rs. 8,71,723.00 |
| b. Donations Received: | Rs. 8,78,500.00 |
| c. Interest Income from FDs: | Rs. 59,158.00 |
| d. Cash & Bank Balance: | Rs. 2,03,332.00 |

ii. Donations:

During the year a total of 52 donations were received, 47 from individuals and 5 from Corporates.

iii. Estimates of Major Expenses in 2017-18

a. Sponsored Students:	Rs 300,000.00
b. Books & Library in Class Rooms (LIC)	Rs. 60,000.00
c. Opening New Library:	Rs. 150,000.00
d. Maintenance:	Rs. 50,000.00
e. Salaries:	Rs. 450,000.00
f. Events:	Rs. 50,000.00
Total:	Rs. 10,60,000.00

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: 082505000239
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.
- We are Registered with FCRA vide Registration No: 231661678