



Books FOR ALL

We Don't Teach, We Educate

पढ़ेगा इंडिया तो बढ़ेगा इंडिया

Annual Report

2017-2018

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1. Founders Foreword and Executive Summary

We are seven years old & we are evolving with each passing year, adding to the repertoire of our activities. Every year we take stock and make improvements. We started with one library which evolved into a creativity center. Now we have six libraries cum creativity centres where children are exposed to a plethora of activities. Exposure to good quality books, art craft, song dance and sport enables children develop a holistic personality. Children develop confidence to express themselves. **Our six libraries cater to nearly two thousand students in Primary & Junior schools in Noida & Delhi.** We have also installed wall hung libraries in six other schools that have no rooms to spare. These 'libraries' have 150 beautifully illustrated story books which tempt children to read them. This encourages children to develop a habit of reading. During interaction with the students we often come across children who are bright and eager to learn. In July 2014, we sponsored two such deserving students to an English medium CBSE school. Tasting success with these two students we continued sponsoring students each year & **presently we have 14 underprivileged students in two good schools in Noida.** We not only facilitate their admissions but also hand hold them throughout the year by organizing summer camps and regular coaching classes to ensure they perform well in studies.

As part of our vertical integration our next project was triggered by the need to counsel students about education and career choices so that they become employable. This year we have ventured into **Career Counseling** for students of class XII in a Hindi Medium Inter College in Noida. We counsel them about various options available after class XII in case they don't want to pursue regular graduate studies for want of financial constraints or family circumstances. We give detailed information about vocational courses available in Delhi NCR and plan to help them apply for jobs in Army, Police & other Govt. Departments.

Another positive development is that we have received FCRA Registration that will enable us to garner financial support from our well-wishers abroad.

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 the welfare & development of underprivileged children.

Pravin Bhasin

For **Team Books for All**



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.



3. Inception and Journey So Far

I 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, Sarita Vihar, 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”**

II 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.

III Sponsored Students

In keeping with our mission of encouraging deserving bright students get quality education they can't afford, we continue supporting Six students in English medium CBSE school. We have also got eight girls who had done well in their class VIII



exams admitted in class IX in a Hindi medium Girl Inter College. This is a step towards making girls empowered through quality education which they wouldn't have pursued without our intervention. We are coaching and mentoring them and handholding them in their academics and co-curricular activities to help develop them into well rounded individuals. We are thankful to our well-wishers who are meeting the expenses by sponsoring these students. To ensure these children don't lag behind we organized summer camp where volunteers taught them Science, Maths & English.

IV Career Counselling:

During our interaction with students of class 12 of a Hindi Medium Inter college in Noida, we realized that there is a void in their education which doesn't enable students to obtain skills required for employment. Books for All started counselling sessions with the help of experts who volunteered to interact with students to share the importance of vocational courses in shaping ones career. Later we have plans to post a full time counsellor at the college to guide students to proper courses suiting their temperament and background. We have already identified several institutes offering short to medium term vocational courses. We may also consider sponsoring a few bright students who can't afford fee for these courses. This is a natural extension of our efforts to enrich education of lesser privileged students



4. 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, D'Gipro, Velocis Systems, Optum, Magnon-egplus & Monoclick to name a few. These Corporate Houses and individuals helped us financially, sponsored students, sponsored our Libraries, sponsored activities and events, created our newsletters, deputed volunteers and organised events etc.

5. 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.
- By sponsoring bright deserving students we help them pursue better education.
- Career Counselling will have a major impact as we highlight the importance of vocation courses to class 12 students and guide students towards vocations of their choice.

6. Activity Highlights - 2017-18

Library cum creativity Centers:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

MONTH	ACTIVITIES
April 2017	<p>11th April Story Telling Session: The new academic session started with a bang! Story telling session at our Sadarpur Center was organized with Jaishree Sethi enacting stories with a message before our young audience and keeping them enthralled for over two hours. This was followed with a Question Answer session that had great participation.</p> <p>19th April: Reading competition was organized at Gejha Center in which 40 children of class 4th&5th read bilingual story books with great enthusiasm.</p> <p>22nd April: Book Earth day Competition was organized at Sarita Vihar Center with the theme of Earth Day being depicted in posters and slogans Posters, slogans and discussion also marked Earth Day celebrations at various other Centers of books for all. The idea was to create awareness about need for protecting our Earth.</p>
May 2017	<p>19th May: A Painting Contest was organized at Govt. Primary School (Gejha). Students made beautiful drawings around the theme for the Competition namely Beti Padhao. The event was organized by M/s Optum who adjudged the winners and gave away the prizes.</p> <p>Show and Tell: To encourage children express themselves, Books for All organises Show and Tell competition in all its Centers. May was devoted to this activity. Children were taught on how to look at different object and formulate their thoughts and speak on the subject. Towards the end of the month Show and Tell competitions were organized.</p>

Jun 2017	<p>Remedial Classes: During the summer vacations remedial classes were organized by BFA for teaching hindi and mathematics to the children of Class 2 to 5 of Shahpur Primary School, who were unable to read and write and thus were laggards in their class.</p> <p>BFA also held coaching for 8 girls sponsored to Kanya Vidyalaya. English classes were organized for 6 children sponsored to an English medium school. The classes were taken by volunteers of BFA.</p> <p>27th June: Volunteers Meet was organized on 27th June. Volunteers are the backbone of Books for All. They give their valuable time for teaching poor children. The meet provides a good ground for exchange of ideas, tweaking the strategy from time to time and bringing in new ideas and improvements.</p>
July 2017	<p>12th July: Books for All was privileged to have a meeting with Dr.Sushil Vachani, former Director-IIM Bangalore who brought in fresh perspectives for BFA and encouraged the work that BFA is doing. He also paid a visit to one of our libraries.</p> <p>13th July: Mr Ulhas Vairagkar, a long time Mentor of Books for All visited our Shahpur library & interacted with students. He also visited Noida Academy Bhangel to meet our sponsored students & told them hard work is the only mantra for success.</p>
August 2017	<p>Independence Day: Books for all Centers vied with each other in putting up wonderful Independence Day performances. Cultural events comprising speeches, poems, skits and dances were organized at every centre</p> <p>Raksha Bandhan: Librarians and volunteers helped children create beautiful Rakhis at all Centers of Books for all. This activity is very fulfilling, teaches children team work and brings out their creativity.</p>
September 2017	<p>Science Quiz was organized at all Centers of Books for All. The theme was Our Body, Health and Nutrition. Children were taught important aspects of the theme and a team quiz was organized in order to ensure that children retain what they had learnt.</p>
October 2017	<p>13th October Mural Painting: Capgemini, Sponsors for the BFA library at Sadarpur and BFA together organized a beautification drive. Capgemini executives visited Sadarpur and painted the walls with beautiful murals along with the students. The experience was a very fulfilling one for the executives as well as BFA and the students.</p> <p>26th October: Books for All set up a wall hung 'Library in Classroom' at Kakrala Govt. School. BFA also interacted with the students and provided them with art material and stationery.</p>

November 2017	<p>14th November: All libraries cum creativity Centers of Books for all celebrated Children's Day by making posters and cards. Math Quiz: In order to make Maths fun and to remove the fear of Math from the young students, BFA, every year, devotes a month exclusively to inculcating everyday math concepts such as measurements, profit and loss, distance and time, decimals and fractions etc in a practical way. This is followed by a Math Quiz which was held at all Centers of Books for All. Children participated whole heartedly and prized and certificates were given to the winners.</p> <p>23rd November: Storytelling Session was organized at Govt. Primary School, Sultanpur & Shahpur. Over 400 children enjoyed the session by Ms Jaishree Sethi of storyghar who kept the children captivated for over two hours. 26th November: Volunteers from M/s Sopra Steria made beautiful mural paintings at Govt. Primary School, Sultanpur. This was both fun and learning activity for the students.</p> <p>30th November: Books for All visited Kasturba Balika Vidyalya which is being run by committed individuals for girl children of the most depressed sections of society. BFA interacted with the students and presented the school a kit with about 150 books.</p> <p>Spelling Competition was organized in several BFA centres. This is part of the initiative to promote good reading and writing skills.</p>
December 2017	<p>Career Counselling: Books for all launched a new and very important project by starting Career Counselling session for class 12th at Bhawani Shankar Inter College Sec-46 Noida. AVM Ajay Masson was the lead speaker with motivational talk highlighting importance of knowledge, confidence & dreams.</p> <p>Xmas: All centres decorated their Libraries with Art & Craft work on Xmas theme bringing festive look and encouraging children to unleash their talents. Books for All conducts theme based quiz in its six Centers all around year. For December the theme was Geography. BFA volunteers encourage children to learn geography from Atlases which are stocked in our libraries. the visual stimulus helps children understand the concepts quickly and retain them as well. the quiz held at the end of the session reinforces the learning. Teams competed with each other to come out tops and children in the audience too participated with gusto!</p>
January 2018	<p>Republic Day Celebrations: Children discuss Indian Constitution and Fundamental Rights. They also create art work with pictures of leaders like Dr Ambedkar.</p>

Jan-Feb 2018	Annual sports days at Books for all Centers are much sought after events for students. They are engaged in week long activities comprising of preliminaries and rehearsals culminating in sports day where the best compete for the slots in sports. Gejha library was started on 30 th Jan 2010 and a tradition is being maintained to celebrate founder day at Gejha by organising sports day. All the other centres too organized Sports Day in the month of January February when the weather is conducive and students are able to enjoy sports in the warm sun. Books for all Center at Bhangel sponsored by Sopra Steria organized their very first annual sports day on 2nd Feb. Primary School Sadarpur had their Sports Day on 9 th February
March 2018	<p>8th March: Gejha Centre celebrated Women's Day.</p> <p>28th March: We had Vinod & Vinay Luthra from USA visit our Shahpur Library. Vinod is a long time well-wisher of Books for All.</p> <p>Ability Group Excels. Attended PTM at CBSE School Neaps. All six students did very well in their Final Exams</p> <p>Attended PTM of eight sponsored girls at Kanya Inter College. All have moved to class X.</p>

II The Year in Pictures



Art & Craft



Dance Drama



Sports Day



Quiz & Awards



Sponsored Students & Career Counselling

7. Governance and Human Resources

I. Governance

a. Trustees have different background but share a common devotion for serving lesser privileged children. Following are the members of the Trust:

- i. Mr. Pravin Kumar Bhasin
- ii. Ms. Deepali Kukreja
- iii. Ms. Puja Nath
- iv. Ms. Kanchan Bhasin

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. For routine office work we have finally engaged a full time staff. She coordinates with Libraries, keeps records of books, visits banks etc.

8. 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 2017-18:

Corporates

1. Sopra Steria
2. Capgemini
3. D'Gipro
4. Velocis Systems Pvt Ltd
5. Optum
6. Mangnon-egplus
7. Monoclick Systems Pvt Ltd

NGOs

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



Engagement with Volunteers, NGOs and Corporate

9. Financial and Legal Overview

I. Financial Information at a glance

i. Status of Funds as on 31st March 2018

a. Expenses during the Year:	Rs. 12,50,289
b. Donations Received:	Rs. 16,21,417
c. Interest Income from FDs:	Rs. 67,786
d. Cash & Bank Balance:	Rs. 3,18,158

ii. Donations:

During the year a total of 80 donations were received, 66 from individuals and 14 from Corporates.

ii. Estimates of Major Expenses in 2018-19

a. Sponsored Students:	Rs 462,000
b. Books & Stationary	Rs. 60,000
c. Opening New Library:	Rs.150,000
d. Maintenance	Rs. 50,000
e. Salaries	Rs.660,000
f. Events	Rs. 60,000
g. Career Counselling	Rs100,000
Total:	Rs. 15,42,000

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:

ICICI Bank

Sector-110, Noida

Account Name: Books for All Trust

Account No: 082505000239

IFSC code: ICIC0000815

And

HDFC Bank

Eldeco Studio, Sector 93A, Noida 201304

Account Name: Books for All Trust

Account No: 50200028827205

IFSC Code: HDFC0002830

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