



Books FOR ALL

We Don't Teach, We Educate

पढ़ेगा इंडिया तो बढ़ेगा इंडिया

Annual Report
2019-2020

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1. Founders Foreword and Executive Summary

Year 2019-20 is a Landmark year for Books For All as we completed nine years of operation and entered the 10th year. It was on 30th January 2010 that we started our first Library in Govt Primary School Village Gejha in Noida. Little did we realize at that time that Books for All will evolve into an NGO impacting the life of lesser privileged students through its libraries, sponsorship of bright deserving students to better schools & providing Career Counselling & Vocational Training to class 12 pass students from Hindi Medium Schools.

Libraries: We added two new libraries during the year and had to close two libraries due to logistical reasons, keeping the total to Six Libraries, all in Noida with a reach of over 2000 students who visit libraries during the library period in their time table. These Libraries cum creativity centres help children of rural Noida develop holistic personalities through books reading & creative activities.

Sponsored Students: We admitted four students this year to class VI, in an English Medium School following a rigorous selection process and meeting/counselling with the parents. There are now 19 sponsored students & Books for All has not only paid the fees but also has also mentored them to ensure that they are progressing well in their studies. Our volunteers kept track of their attendance & performance by remaining in touch with teachers and attended PTMs.

Career Counselling & Vocational Training: In 2019, our latest initiative took shape. We were able to admit 10 students from a Hindi Medium School in Noida, after their passing class 12, in vocational courses like Paramedical & Dress Design Stitching Tailoring. All these students are first generation learners who will be the first in their families to get work in the organized sector.

Partnering with HCL Foundation: We are pleased to share that Books for All was selected by HCL Foundation as a Partner NGO in the Skill Development & Livelihood segment giving a boost to our nascent initiative of Career Counselling & Vocational Training to help us make more students job ready by skilling them.

Our achievement so far wouldn't have been possible without the continuous financial support from hundreds of individuals and corporates who believed in our dreams & helped us realise them. Right from the beginning Books for All is also blessed to have a team of volunteers who give their valuable time to work with village children as guides, mentors & teachers.

Pravin Bhasin

For **Team Books for All**



2. Aims 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. Instil 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 School, Bhangel, Dadri Road, Noida
- v. Green Valley Modern School (GVMS), village Sultanpur, Noida
- vi. National Education Mission Public School (NEMP), Village Gejha, 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 meagre wages.

Education in the Government schools is free & mid-day meals are also provided, 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 to encourage deserving bright students get quality education they can't afford, we continue supporting:

- Eleven Students in English Medium CBSE Schools. Five have cleared their X Board Exams in high First Division.
- Eight Girls in a Private Hindi Medium Inter College. Six are in class 11 & one student, Afreen has scored over 92% Marks in her Xth UP Board Exams.

We not only pay the school fee but also provide support for books & uniforms. As the children are from poor families with no parental guidance our volunteers provide them home coaching & counselling.

It is the result of these efforts that our students are excelling not only in their studies but also in all other activities.



IV Career Counselling and Vocational Training:

After counselling students for the entire year at Bhavani Shankar Inter College (BSIC), Noida we were successful in eliciting the interest of students in vocational courses. Almost 50 students gave their choice of vocations. Immediately after the Board Exams we conducted a formal aptitude test which was taken by students already registered with us. Out of these we finally selected 10 students for Paramedical & Dress Design Courses. These students completed their courses in March 2020.

We also continued with career counselling at BSIC for class 12 students, invited experts from Industry to explain about various vocations & even took batches of interested students to vocational Training Centres in Noida & Delhi.

In November 2019 we got confirmation about our selection by the prestigious HCL Foundation as Partner NGO for Career Counselling & Vocational Training. This gave a push to our efforts and encouraged us to raise the bar and plan for admitting at least 30 students to various vocational courses. To widen the reach of our mission we started career counselling in two more colleges in Noida. By the end of January 2020 we had a list of over 100 students interested in joining vocational courses. To ensure selection of only suitable students we conducted written aptitude test for nearly 100 students at three centers in Noida on 5th March 2020 & counselled the students with along with their parents, regarding choice of vocations on 16th March 2020. Before we could plan visits to training centres, the country went into a lockdownn due to Covid19.



4. Engagement with Volunteers, Corporates and Other NGOs

Books for All is run largely with the help of Volunteers. Most of the volunteers are highly qualified home makers who spare their valuable time for a cause. They teach, train, conduct activities and guide the librarians. Making full use of their domain knowledge we involved them in career counselling & mentoring vocational training students.

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 also partner with us to generate awareness on different issues. Student volunteers from schools and colleges teach on holidays and during school vacations. Some students 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 like Sopra Steria, Capgemini, Velocis Systems, Cadence Design System, Nasscom Foundation, Magnon-egplus, Supreme Global & Noida Educational Academy 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.
- 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 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.
- We admitted 10 students in Vocational Courses like Paramedical & Design Stitching Tailoring in reputed training institutes. Books for All will bear total expenses of their training.
- Through Vocational Training we want to make First Generation Learners acquire skills & making them employable in organized sectors.

6. Activity Highlights – 2019-20

Career Counselling & Vocational Training;

Career Counselling: To make class 12 students aware of vocations available after passing 12th exam, we focused on counselling them on vocations through which they can acquire skills to become employable. During the year we counselled nearly 500 students of three Hindi Medium Inter Colleges of Noida.

Vocational Training: We were able to admit 10 students in Dress Design & Paramedical Courses in prestigious Institutes after due selection process including written aptitude test. We were fortunate to get sponsors for all the students.

Soft Skill Training: To enable students of class 9-12 acquire skills in Spoken English and Public Speaking & increase their general awareness, we started special classes, which we want to scale up in the next year.

Partner NGO with HCL Foundation: In January 2020 we signed a MOU with HCL Foundation for providing Career Counselling, Vocational Training & Soft Skills to students from Hindi Medium Schools of Noida. It gave a boost to our nascent initiative & we are now aiming high to make **First Generation Learners acquire skills to become Job Ready.**

Library & 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.
- 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.

The Year at a Glance

MONTH	ACTIVITIES
April 2019	<p>4th April: To make students familiar with Air Force Vocational Training centre on Race Course Road our senior member Rajendra Gupta & Counsellor Asiya Ahmed took some students from Noida by Metro.</p> <p>16th April: We admitted four bright poor students from Primary School to English Medium School. Books for All shall meet all expenses towards education of three girls and one boy in class VI.</p> <p>23rd April: Volunteers from Capgemini Noida, visited Sadarpur Junior School to explain to importance of not generating plastic waste as part of their Earth Day Campaign.</p>
May 2019	<p>3rd May: Our year long efforts at Career Counselling bore fruit and we were able to admit three girls in Vivo Health Care, Seven students in Fashion Designing in Air Force Vocational College,</p> <p>5th May: Show & Tell event at Bhangel & Sadarpur Libraries. We also had a very talented Swati Jain joining as Volunteer.</p> <p>16th May: Books for All launched its seventh library at NEMP School, Gejha Village on 16th May 2019. This library is being supported by Cadence Design Systems(India) Ltd, Noida.</p>
June 2019	Summer Vacation. Special classes held for Ability Group students to help them with their studies
July 2019	<p>4th July: Books for All got a rare recognition when we got an invite to attend Dinner Hosted by US Ambassador to celebrate 243rd Anniversary of Independence of USA.</p> <p>9th July: Project where learning will be more fun. Three sets each of 14 identical books were distributed for each library. Each set will be used for one week where children will read the story, narrate it their own way, draw pictures and discuss various issues raised in the book.</p> <p>19th July: Pratibha who got her Dress Designing Certificate joined as Apprentice in a leading boutique</p> <p>24th July: Counselling sessions started for class 12 at Bhavani Shankar Inter College.</p>

August 2019	<p>August 10: Books for All devoted the week in encouraging children to create Rakhis. And they let their imagination run wild in unleashing hidden talent.</p> <p>14th August; Books for All celebrated Indian Independence Day at Govt Primary School, Bhangel on 14th August where children performed dances, Sang Poems, Skits and daredevil Human Pyramids.</p> <p>24th August: Visited VIVO for monitoring progress of 3 students admitted there and review plans for their internship in hospitals.</p>
September 2019	<p>1st September: We are on Instagram now. https://instagram.com/booksforallindia</p> <p>4th September: On Teachers' Day students presented their favourite teachers with handmade cards across all the schools where we have libraries</p> <p>8th September: As part of making young students aware of Pollution & its Impact on Environment, Cummins India gave an audio visual presentation at our Sarita Vihar Library. It was an initiative of iVolunteer, an NGO associated with us for last over five years</p>
October 2019	<p>4th October: Gejha Celebrates Dussehra. A fun filled cultural program was organised by BFA volunteers where nearly 80 children took part in dance Drama events.</p> <p>10th October: Gift from Japan. It is so fulfilling when you receive a parcel from overseas from an unknown well-wisher with books for children.</p> <p>14th October: Three Paramedical students join as Interns in reputed hospitals.</p> <p>25th October: Diwali Art from our Libraries. Come Diwali our students unleash their talents to create beautiful Diyas, Torans Thalies and Rangolis.</p>
November 2019	<p>20th November: To increase our reach to class 12 students of Hindi Medium Schools we launched career Counselling at Noida Kanya Inter College, Bhangel, Noida.</p> <p>Mural Painting: Volunteers from Cadence Design Systems visited Cadence Library at NEMP Gejha Noida to bring cheer to its walls by painting colourful & bright Murals.</p>

December 2019	<p>12th December: New Library Launched. Books for all Launched its 8th library in Green Valley School in Sultanpur Village, Sector 128, Noida. Sponsored by Velocis Systems it will cater to over 300 students from class 2 to 8. Children performed a short dance drama on the occasion.</p> <p>20th December: Optum Provides Warmth to Sultanpur Children. Volunteers from Optum visited Sultanpur Govt School to distributed woollen caps, socks & snacks. They also interacted with students.</p> <p>14th December: Xmas Craft: Our volunteers & Librarians encouraged students create beautiful craft to mark Xmas. They were displayed across all the seven schools.</p> <p>24th December: Eastbound Travel Team spent their Xmas eve at Govt Primary School, Bhangel distributing Caps, Socks & Chocolates to over 250 students. It brought lots of cheer & warmth to children in this year's sever winter.</p>
January 2020	<p>21st January: At HCI foundation partner meet attended by over 150 NGOs. It was a very well organised event showcasing csr activities of HCI across India. Compliments to the HCI foundation team for hard work put in make this 2days event a resounding success</p> <p>23rd January: Annual Sports Day of Govt Primary School, Bhangel organised by Books for All was held on 23rd January 2020. Over 100 students took part in the final event cheered enthusiastically by their friends. Ably supported by Hina, Varsha & Sumit it was organised very well. Prizes to all the winners were given by Headmistress Sarna Ji.</p> <p>30th Jnauary: Books for All opened first library on 30th January 2010 at Govt primary school village Gejha Noida. It was a wonderful journey of the last decade. Looking forward to support and encouragement of all well-wishers in coming years to make this decade also equally eventful.</p>
February 2020	<p>5th February: As part of our 10 years celebration Sports Day was organised at Govt School, Sultanpur.on 5th Feb 2020. Volunteers from Cadence also participated</p> <p>13th February: BFA organized on 13th Feb Painting Contest at Cadence Library in NEMP School, Gejha . Over 90 students from class 3-8 took part and top three paintings from each class were given prizes in the assembly in presence of all the students of school.</p>

March 2020	<p>7th March: Celebrating Women Day 2020.</p> <p>Books for All salutes all the volunteers who have helped it grow in its journey of last 10 years. BFA is an example of Women Power. We celebrate Women's Day every day of the year.</p> <p>16th March 2020: Vocational Training: Shortlisted 50 students who have just completed class 12 UP Board Exams for vocational courses like Fashion design, Paramedical, Chef, Ac Mechanic etc. Books for All will sponsor training of nearly 40 needy students by paying their full fee.</p> <p>20th March 2020: All physical activities stopped as Covid19 Lockdown declared and schools were shut down.</p>
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7. Governance and Human Resources

I. Governance

a. **Trustees:** Trustees have different backgrounds but share a common vision for helping lesser privileged children. Following are the members of the Trust:

- i. Mr. Pravin Kumar Bhasin
- ii. Ms Deepa Sengar
- iii. Mr Rajendra Gupta
- iv. Ms. Deepali Kukreja
- v. Ms. Puja Nath
- vi. 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, admissions to Vocational Courses, engagement of personnel and major items of expenditure are taken after deliberations with Trustees.

b. **Management Committee:** 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. Deepa Sengar
- c. Mr Rajendra Gupta
- d. Ms. Kanchan Bhasin
- e. Ms. Lata Aggarwal

The Management Committee meets regularly to review the progress and also to decide activities to be taken up in various centres. 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. Many join Career Counselling team & advise students on career to choose, About two dozen 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. Currently Books for All has 6 librarians. There is an Art and Craft Instructor to teach, guide and coordinate the extracurricular activities

Books for All also has a full time Counsellor who visits schools for counselling class 12 students about vocations that they can choose.

For routine office work we have finally engaged a full time staff. She coordinates with Libraries, keeps records of books, and helps with other routine office work.

8. Our Well Wishers

Books for All prides itself on 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 2018-19:

Corporates

1. Sopra Steria
2. Capgemini WeKare
3. Jeevan Jyoti samaj
4. Nasscom Foundation
5. Velocis Systems Pvt Ltd
6. Noida Education Academy
7. Mangnon-egplus
8. Supreme Global Trading Ltd

NGOs

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

9. Financial and Legal Overview

I. Financial Information at a glance

i. Status of Funds as on 31st March 2020

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| a. Expenses during the Year: | Rs. 20,77,749 |
| b. Donations Received: | Rs. 25,19,474 |
| c. Grant from HCL Fdn | Rs 14,78,622 |
| d. Interest Income from FDs: | Rs 2,09,562 |

ii. Estimates of Major Expenses in 2020-21

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| a. Sponsored Students: | Rs 600,000 |
| b. Books & Stationary | Rs 50,000 |
| c. Maintenance | Rs 100,000 |
| d. Salaries | Rs 700,000 |
| e. Events | Rs 100,000 |
| f. Career Counselling, Vocation | Rs 12,50,000 |
| g. Admin Expenses | Rs 240,000 |

Total: Rs 30, 40,000/-

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