



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



MAKING FIRST GENERATION LEARNERS BECOME JOB READY


Co-Created By:

Kriti Tuteja, Helly Malviya, Sonakshi Saini

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Books for All

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A photograph of a classroom filled with students in white shirts and striped ties, looking towards the front. The background features bookshelves filled with books and colorful posters. Two large, stylized orange circular brushstrokes are overlaid on the image. The quote "The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." is written in white text within the upper orange circle. Below it, the name "- Sydney J. Harris" is also in white text. The entire image has a pattern of small, semi-transparent blue dots.

*The whole purpose of education is to
turn mirrors into windows.*

- Sydney J. Harris

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



This has been a catastrophic year for humanity! While the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been felt by all of us the poor have been hit the hardest. Not only have their earnings suffered, but the lockdown and the attendant closure of schools have also affected their children adversely, the impact of which may be felt for years to come!

Books For All also bore the brunt of this calamity. BFA Libraries remained closed for the entire year. Unlike Public schools which were able to limp back to a new 'normal' with the help of classes on Zoom or Google Meet, Government schools and private schools in poor neighborhoods could, at best, use WhatsApp to communicate with students.

We feel blessed that even in this bleak situation we were able to sponsor vocational training of 49 students thanks to the support of the HCL Foundation with whom we had signed an MOU in 2020. Despite the pandemic, we also managed to impart career counseling to more than a thousand students both in online and offline mode.

The fact that despite numerous challenges we enabled students to complete their courses in a hybrid model of online and offline and helped 20 students secure employment in the organized sector is immensely satisfying!

In the near future, we are optimistically motivated to help more students take up job-oriented courses so as to make the young generation Job Ready and Self-reliant. We are also looking forward to seeing those smiling faces and creatively talented children in our Library cum Creativity Centers.

Towards the end, I would like to convey my gratitude to all my self-motivated colleagues, volunteers, and well-wishers who contributed their time and money despite constraints. I look forward to another year of a fruitful and extended partnership with you all and urge our well-wishers to come forward with more generosity so that in the coming years no one who is in need is left out.

Pravin Bhasin

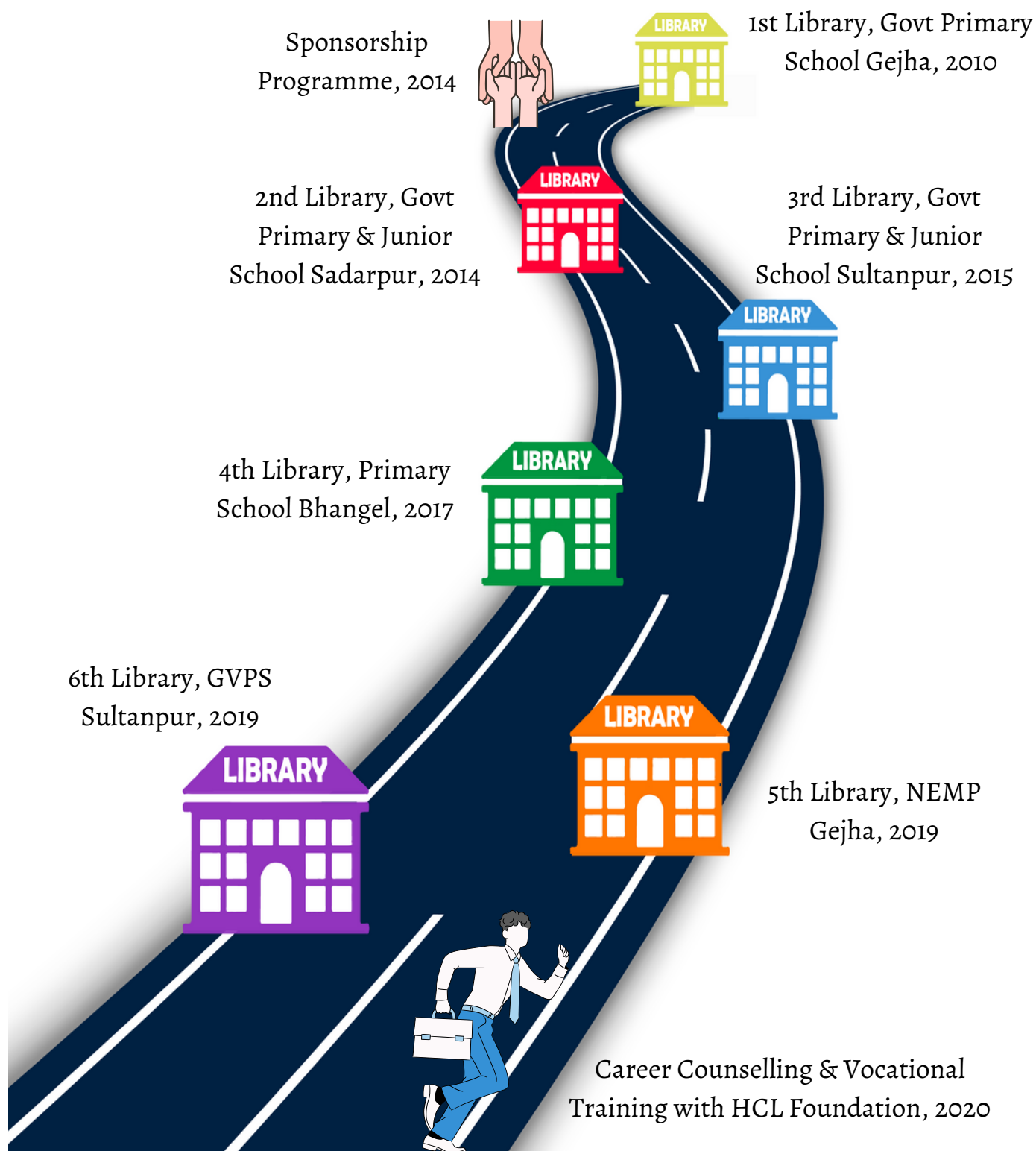
INCEPTION STORY



Books for All (BFA) was registered Public Charitable Trust on 10th February 2011.

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.

JOURNEY



AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Library



1. Develop love for reading in children
2. Help them discover their talents through art, craft, music, dance, and various co-curricular activities
3. Provide them a platform to express themselves creatively
4. Instill confidence, discipline, and good values for their better future

Sponsorship



1. Sponsor education of bright children to change the course of their lives
2. Provide handholding & mentoring support

पढ़ेगा इंडिया तो बड़ेगा इंडिया

Career Counseling and Vocational Training



1. Providing career counseling to students in senior secondary schools
2. Making first-generation learners job-ready through vocational training
3. Imparting soft skills and life skills to students to help them in their lives and careers

Volunteering



1. Expose children to new ideas and concepts through volunteer engagement
2. Encourage volunteerism particularly in young people

We Don't Teach, We Educate

A photograph of a classroom where a teacher is standing at the front, and a large group of students are sitting on the floor, raising their hands. The room has a whiteboard, a chalkboard, and several framed pictures on the wall. The image is overlaid with a large orange circular graphic and a pattern of blue dots.

**"Education is the most powerful weapon
you can use to change the world."**

- Nelson Mandela.

IMPACT

Developed reading habits
in **15000+** students
in our **6** Libraries.

Installed wall hung
libraries in **24**
schools, impacting
more than
6000 students.

50 volunteers contributed
to BFA and helped
students in reading, art
and craft, song and
dance etc.

Provided career
counseling to
2500+
students of Class 12.

50+ school and College
students conducted
activities, coached
students and interned
with Books For All.

Sponsored vocational
training of
140 students.

Sponsored **19**
students to better
schools for a
brighter future.

Ensured employment of
45 students after
imparting vocational
training to them.

Provided soft skills
training to **367**
students.

Organized more than **1000**
programmes for students comprising
quizzes and competitions, celebration
of festivals, sports day, annual day,
general awareness and social causes.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The year began with an undefined total lockdown that had come into effect from March 25th 2021. BFA had some wins while overcoming a lot of struggles!



»» New Partnership with HCL Foundation:


BFA was glad to join hands with the esteemed HCL Foundation in February 2020. We were chosen to be a part of their mission of providing career counseling and vocational training to students of Class XII so as to open new employment opportunities for them. This year, more than 1000 students in urban village schools and inter colleges were given career counseling and 49 students were admitted to vocational courses.

»» Library Cum Creativity Centers:

In view of the lockdown imposed under the COVID19 threat only some of our libraries functioned as lending libraries where students were encouraged to take books while maintaining all COVID-19 protection protocols.

»» Sponsored Students:

BFA came to the aid of the sponsored students who faced challenges in attending online classes due to lack of mobile phones and financial crunch. In this hour of need, we helped them by giving their families dry rations and helped the students with mobile phones and laptops so that they could complete their education without hitch.

A group of school children in red uniforms are sitting in a classroom. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent orange circle and a pattern of small blue dots. The quote "One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world." is written in white text across the center of the image.

“One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world.”

-Malala Yousafzai

REPORT CARD

Library Cum Creativity Centers

Books for All have six vibrant library cum creativity centers with dedicated librarians. Unfortunately due to the COVID19 pandemic, this financial year all our libraries remained closed.

However, we engaged our librarians to invest their time in interviewing students for our newly launched Vocational Training program. This was a mammoth online task that they achieved with integrity and dedication. After the lockdown was lifted, some of the libraries were opened and functioned as lending libraries so that students could take books while maintaining all COVID19 protocols.



Sponsored Students

This year, Books for All sponsored the education of 19 underprivileged students, 11 in English Medium Schools and 8 in Hindi Medium schools. The COVID19 pandemic impacted them adversely as the parents of many students lost their jobs, putting a strain on their meager resources. To add to their woes, online education meant that students would need to have smartphones with an active internet so as to attend classes online. In this hour of need,

Books for All ran a campaign for smartphones which did not give the desired results. Hence, BFA bought phones for them and helped them with their internet recharge. Younger students who were finding it difficult to cope with online studies were mentored weekly. Ms. Ranjana Tiwari our spirited librarian not only coached these students but also organized meetings with these students and their parents regularly to help them adjust to the new normal.

It was a matter of pride and a great achievement for Books for All when five of our students in Noida Kanya Inter College passed their Class 12 board examination in First Division with three girls scoring above 70%.

HCLF PROJECT for Career Counselling, Vocational Training, Setting up of Computer and Soft Skills Centre

In February 2020, Books for All was selected for a partnership with HCL Foundation. We were given our first target to provide career counseling to 1000 students of Inter Colleges in urban villages of Noida, admit 70 students to vocational courses and sponsor 30 students in vocational training institutes. Our target also included imparting Soft Skills and computer training in the centers which were to be set up by us. But this journey did not turn out to be a bed of roses for us.



Within a month of our partnership, the country witnessed a complete lockdown so as to put a check on the rising pandemic. It was a major setback for our fledgling project. Many migrant families were forced to migrate to villages due to loss of livelihoods. Since a sizeable number of our target beneficiaries belonged to this demographic, **BFA's first challenge** was to remain in touch with them and counsel them. As vocational training centers were closed, Books for All librarians took charge of this herculean task by engaging these students in activities ranging from arts and crafts, English classes, and soft skills training.

Even when our vocational centers started opening up from May 2020 the classes were still being conducted in online mode. This was **BFA's second challenge**; to admit students online and then to help them in the transition to online learning. A major concern was that students could drop out due to a number of factors. However, our dedicated volunteers and staff mentored, monitored, and guided these students throughout and ensured that there were very few dropouts. As a result of their hard work, of the 90 students admitted for vocational training, only 9 dropped out, a great achievement given the circumstances!

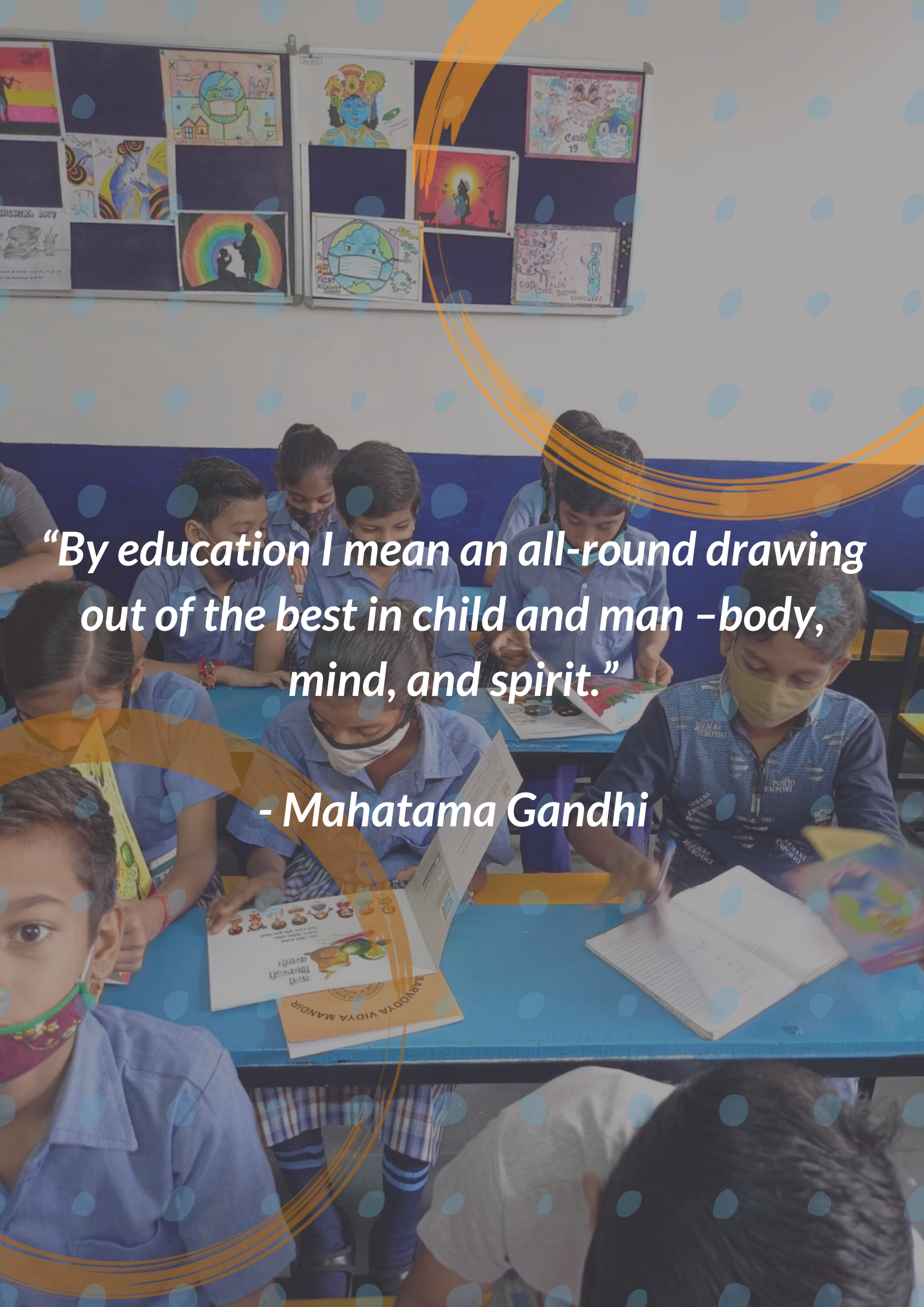


BFA's **third challenge** was imparting career counseling to Class 12 students as the schools remained closed. We overcame this challenge by obtaining the students' phone numbers from the school's WhatsApp groups and reaching out to them through WhatsApp and one on one call. Even though building trust and obtaining attention without meeting students physically was both challenging and time-consuming, our team worked tirelessly with zeal and confidence to gain their trust.

Our last challenge was to conduct soft skill classes in online mode. A number of attempts were made to conduct these classes through Zoom, Google Meet etc. but we only achieved partial success in our endeavor as the students did not have dedicated mobiles or internet connection.

Despite all these unforeseen challenges and management of a new vertical, BFA succeeded not only in meeting almost all its targets but even exceeding them. We exceeded the counseling target given to us during the MOU period. Also in the short window of January to March 2021 when schools opened up partially, BFA managed to conduct a few offline counseling sessions and Career Melas for the students. BFA's first Career Mela was conducted in Bhavani Shankar Inter College on 23rd Feb 2021 and then in Noida Kanya Inter College on 1st March 2021.

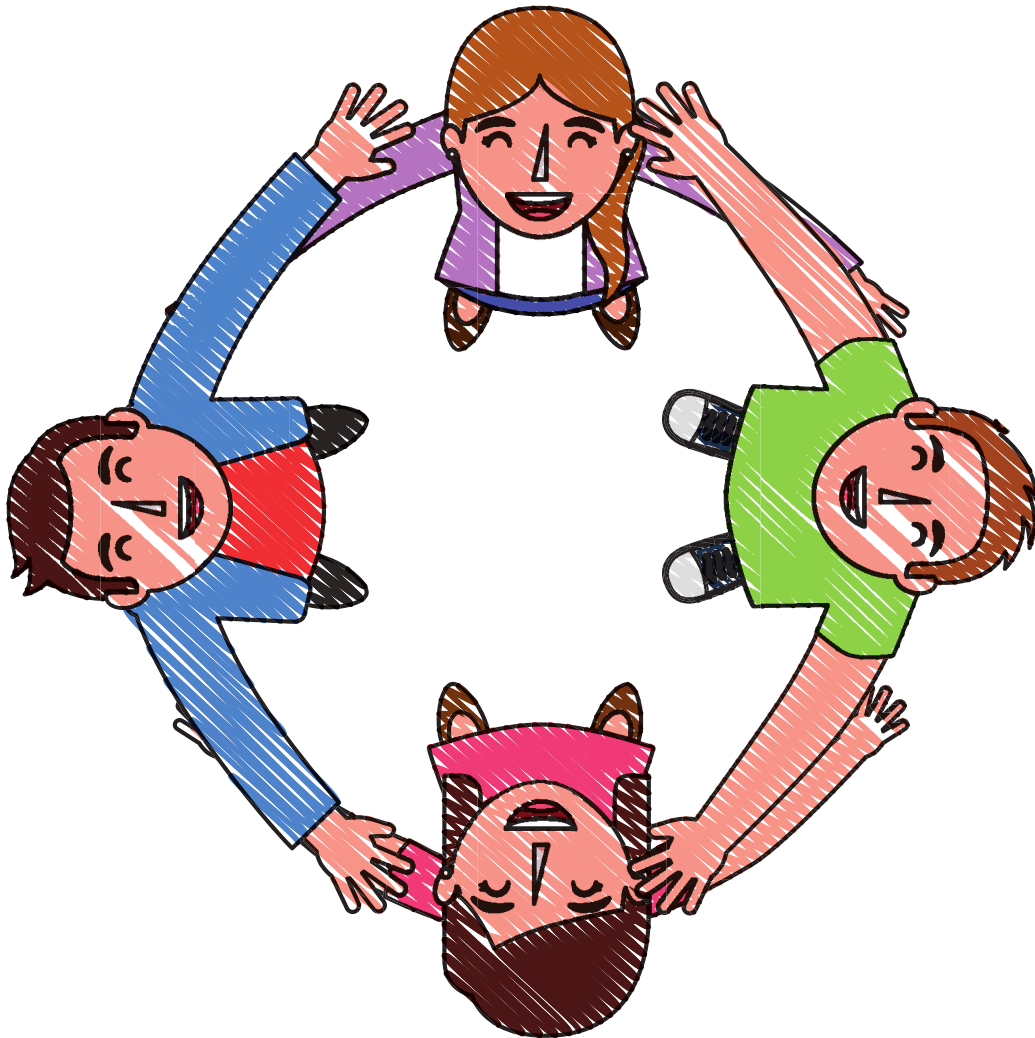




*“By education I mean an all-round drawing
out of the best in child and man –body,
mind, and spirit.”*

- Mahatma Gandhi

THE CHANGEMAKERS



Someone has rightly said, “There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.” Living up to these words were our unsung heroes (or should we say heroines) who became the agents of change in the lives of our sponsored Class 11 students from Noida Educational Academy Public School. During the COVID19 pandemic when all hope was lost, Anushka, Nitika, Gurnoor and Priyanka came forward and mentored these students in their academics which helped them pass their exams with flying colours. This is their story.



**GURNOOR
KAUR**

Gurnoor, a student of BBA International Business with Artificial Intelligence in Amity Noida hails from Agra. During the period of complete lockdown, she got to know about Books for All and the students who were earnestly looking for someone to guide them through one of her friends who had previously volunteered with us. She taught our sponsored students business studies for Class 11 for more than two months. She took one-hour classes every alternate day with them on zoom and cleared their concepts. .
"My motivation for mentoring these students originated from a desire to share the knowledge I had gained in my high school. After the onset of a pandemic, I understood that the students were impacted the most and wanted to help them out."

Nikita, a self-employed woman from Bhopal gives private tuitions in Commerce and Accountancy at her home. She got to know about BFA and students who needed help in Commerce through one of her relatives. At a very nominal fee, she enrolled these students online in her batch of students in Bhopal and started to teach them Commerce and Accountancy. She also gave them access to and the facility to listen to recorded lectures and study materials whenever a revision of concepts was required. *"The students have been diligent and sincere. It's amazing to see how they have managed to study seamlessly through online platforms."*



**NIKITA
AGARWAL**



**ANUSHKA
SARASWAT**

Anushka, a student of B.Com (Hons.), Delhi University came to know about BFA through a volunteering activity of collecting books for children. When she was approached by the NGO to give tuitions in Economics she gladly accepted it. In addition to helping these students in their exams, Anushka also provided these students with sample papers/study books. *“Even before the pandemic I was looking for an opportunity to do social work and after the lockdown I became more active in my search. I am glad to have come across these students through BFA as they have not only helped me get some satisfaction in life but also helped me revise my concepts of Economics.”*

Priyanka too is a student of BBA International Business studying Artificial Intelligence in Amity Noida. She always had a desire for social service and helping others out. When she came to know about students of her own stream who needed help in Accountancy and Economics, Priyanka gladly volunteered. Thrice a week she would take one and a half hour classes for these students and clear their doubts in Accountancy and Economics on Sundays. Needless to say, our students performed exceptionally well in the exams. Priyanka says, *“I always encouraged two-way communication because of which I received a good response from them and I could help clear their doubts in a more efficient way.”*



**PRIYANKA
SAREEN**

We must inform you that these volunteers are still helping our students.

BFA FAMILY



Books For All is managed by a dedicated team, all volunteers, and paid staff who hail from different backgrounds but share a common vision for helping lesser privileged children. 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.

Trustees & Managing Team

Pravin Kumar Bhasin, Managing Trustee



An Engineer with Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management and over 40 years of experience in reputed corporations like BHEL, Thermax, L&T, and Reliance Infra. He is a Power Sector Specialist. After superannuation in October 2014 as Senior Executive VP, Reliance Infrastructure, he is devoting full time & energy to serving lesser privileged children through Books for All.

Deepali Kukreja, Trustee

Master in Business Economics from Delhi University is active in children's education and associated with several welfare projects. She is focusing on the curriculum for children and developing methodologies to enable them to read & speak English. Deepali these days is devoting her time to Family Business which is in steel modular furniture.



Puja Nath, Trustee



A Graduate from Patna University, Puja Nath is an expert in Child Development. She looks after developing creativity in children by organizing plays, dances, and public speaking. Puja these days has turned Entrepreneur & is engaged in Organic Farming in Noida and involves herself with important policy decisions.

Kanchan Bhasin, Trustee

Widely traveled Kanchan is a seasoned social worker having taught for several years blind children in Pune. She was also associated as a volunteer with reputed NGO Akakansha (आकांक्षा), involved with educating slum children.



Deepa Sengar, Managing Committee Member



A senior Indian Railway Service Officer (1988 batch IAS and Allied) who took voluntary retirement after vast experience both with Indian Railways and Central Govt. Ministries is volunteering with Books For All since 2015 as part of the Management Committee. She, along with Mr. Bhasin, manages all verticals of BFA.

Sqn Ldr Rajendra Gupta (Retd), Managing Committee Member

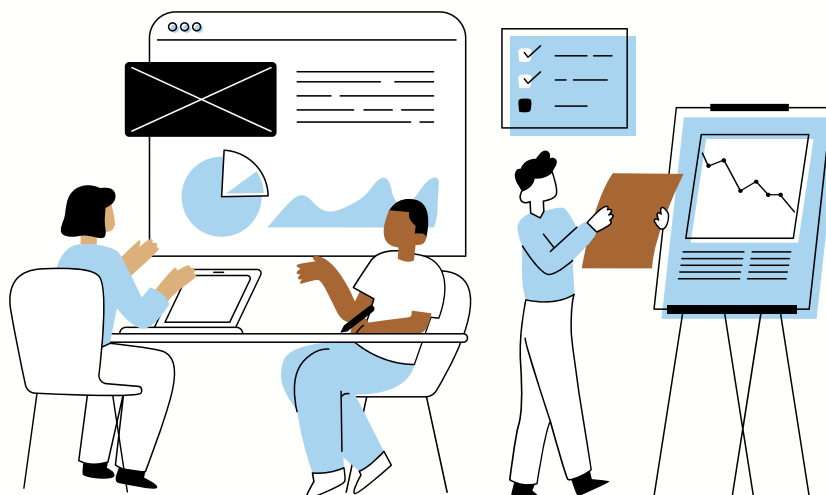
A Mechanical Engineer from IIT Kharagpur 1964; took premature retirement in 1984 from Indian Air Force after 20 years of commissioned service. An entrepreneur for close to 30 years thereafter, Mr. Gupta is now a part of the Management Committee. He looks after the Counselling and Vocational Training vertical.



Lata Agarwal, Managing Committee Member



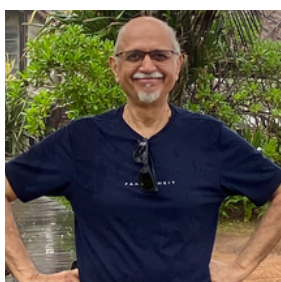
A senior mathematics teacher who now coaches senior students from home is a long-standing volunteer of Books for All. Currently she is managing the Libraries and Sponsored Students vertical. Ms. Agarwal was also instrumental in taking up initiatives for literacy, art, and craft, organizing dance and skits, and sports day through the Library cum Creativity Centers.



Our Mentors

No organization can grow, least of all NGOs, without the services of experts who have rich domain experience & specialization that can guide & steer it in the right direction. BFA too has been blessed with the services of the following experts who provide their services pro bono. They have not only contributed time in understanding issues and guiding BFA but even financially to our many initiatives.

Ulhas Vairagkar



A BE & MBA (IIM-A) Mr. Vairagkar has served in senior positions in corporates and founded a successful business. Now he is full time sharing his vast experience with NGOs. BFA has been receiving his guidance since 2011 when it was a fledgling organization and not sure of its career path. He has been guiding and handholding us all these years.



Vinod Luthra

After completing B.Sc. Engg & MS, Mr. Luthra is settled in Rochester USA. He is the founder and President of Barrington Residential, Inc.(BRI), a multifamily Real Estate Company in Upstate, NY. Vinod is not only guiding us to become a sustainable organization but is also helping us garner funds for our various Impact Missions with the support of his vast network of friends & associates.



Our Staff



Asfia Zainab
Soft-Skill Trainer
M.A. in Social Work



Ranjana Tiwari
Librarian
M.A. English &
B. Ed



Asiya Ahmad
Sr. Counsellor
M. Hsc.



Ruchi Sharma
Librarian
Highest
Education



Hina Lakhani
Sankalp Teacher
MBA (HR)



Shweta Tyagi
Librarian
B.Sc. & B.Ed.



Priya Sharma
Librarian
B.Sc.Zoology (Hons.)



Sushma
Office
Coordinator
B.A.



Priyanka Chaudhary
Librarian
B.A.



Varsha Pal
Librarian
B.A. & NTT

Our 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 the Career Counselling team & advise students on careers, vocational courses to choose and mentor them. Currently, more than 20 volunteers are associated with Books for All.





“Education, leading to financial independence, has surely made women more empowered.”

-Sudha Murthy

FINANCIAL & LEGAL OVERVIEW

Financial Information:

Status of Funds as on 31st March 2021

Expenses during the Year:	Rs 3,065,041
Donations Received:	Rs 1,712,636
Grant from HCL Fdn:	Rs 1,427,585

Estimates of Major Expenses in 2021-22

Sponsored Students:	Rs 500,000
Books & Stationary:	Rs 100,000
Maintenance:	Rs 100,000
Salaries:	Rs 700,000
Events:	Rs 100,000
Career Counselling, Vocation:	Rs 2,800,000
Admin Expenses:	Rs 350,000
Total:	Rs 4,650,000

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.

Our Bank Accounts

RUPEE ACCOUNT	FCRA ACCOUNT
<p>Account Name: Books For All Trust Account No: 081505000239 Bank: ICICI Bank Branch: Sector 110, Noida 201301 IFSC Code: ICIC0000815</p>	<p>Account Name: Books For All Trust Account No: 40092397545 Bank: SBI Branch: New Delhi Main Branch, 11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110001 IFSC Code: SBIN0000691 SWIFT: SBININBB104</p>

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: AABTB8776FF20214 dated 28-05-2021 has been obtained
- Registered U/S 12A of Income Tax Act 1961 vide reference Number: AABTB8776FE20214 dated 28-05-2021
- Registered with FCRA vide Registration No: 231661678 dated 20.05.2017
- Darpan (NitiAyog) Registration No. is UP/2018/0214607 dated 26.11.2018

OUR PARTNERS

through the years...

CORPORATES



HCL Foundation



Garvitie Knowledge
Services Pvt. Limited



Velocis Systems
Pvt Ltd



Samsung Engineering
India Limited



Optum (United
Health Group)



SopraSteria



Capgemini



ST Microelectronics



Noida Education Academy



Nasscom Foundation



Voith Hydro



Mangnon-egplus



Jeevan Jyoti Samaj



D'Gipro



Supreme Global Trading Ltd



Monoclick Systems Pvt Ltd

NGOS



Chetna Consciousness
of Women (CCW)



iVolunteer



Head Office

502 EH4 Eldeco Utopia, Sector 93A, Noida 201304

☎ : +919313584600, +919818649959

✉ : booksforallinfo@gmail.com, admin@booksforall.in

🌐 : www.booksforall.in