

ANNUAL REPORT



2023-24

Books For All

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FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

The year 2023-24 has been another fruitful year and we are grateful! Grateful to all our well-wishers; our donors who reposed their faith in Books For All (BFA), our volunteers who donated precious time to do good work, our staff who always put their best foot forward and corporates and individuals who have helped to make BFA what it is today.

It is BFA's 14th year and I am proud to say that we have grown steadily and organically from one library to Six Impact Missions, each promoting literacy and self-sufficiency.



The new impact mission, Sparsh, for Visually Impaired students was started this year, triggered by a remark from a well-wisher that Books For All should also provide books for blind students. During a short time of six months, BFA sent Braille story books sets, each containing 20 books, to 86 schools/institutions for visually impaired students across India.

Wall Hung Libraries (WHL), another of our Impact Missions, achieved a new milestone this year with 250 WHL being sent to schools in urban and rural villages in 20 states of India, including Andaman & Nicobar, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal. Books in Bengali language were also introduced.

Thanks to two new corporate partners, BFA was able to admit 90 students to various vocational training programs, giving them the gift of skill and self-sufficiency.

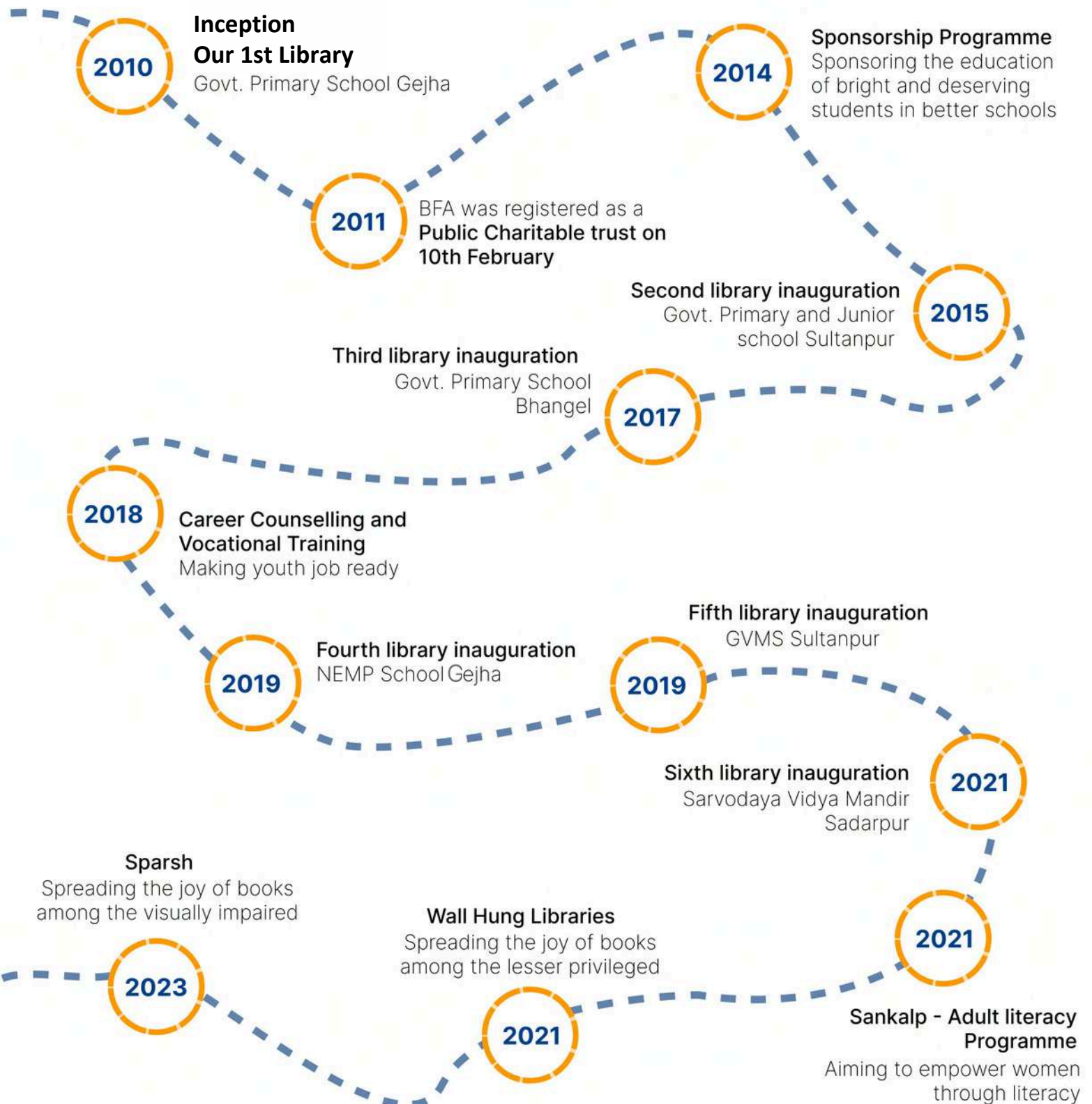
Books For All was privileged to be invited to several volunteer engagements at Adobe, Noida. During the Create Change Symposium, on 21st November 2023, Mr Kailash Satyarthi, who was the Chief Guest at the event, commended BFA's impact on promoting learning, particularly through the Wall Hung Library (WHL) project in remote rural areas. Interactions such as these reaffirm our belief in the good work that we are doing and encourage us to do better and spread our wings further.

I take this opportunity to assure that Team Books For All shall endeavour to reach out to more deserving students, schools and institutions & continue doing good work to make small changes in the lives of those who deserve our help.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pravin".

Pravin Bhasin

OUR JOURNEY



IMPACT MISSIONS



Libraries cum creativity centres

- Develop love for reading in children and provide a platform to express themselves creatively
- Help discover talents through various co-curricular activities, instill confidence, discipline and good values for their better future



Sarthak: Students Sponsorship Program

- Sponsor education of bright children to change the course of their lives
- Provide handholding and mentoring support and coaching to help them develop into well-rounded individuals



Saksham: Vocational Training Program

- Offer career counseling to students in senior secondary schools
- Make first generation learners job ready through vocational training
- Impart soft skills and life skills to students to help them in their lives and careers



WHL : Wall Hung libraries

- Bring the JOY OF READING to children who have no access to books other than course books
- Help village schools, that have no dedicated room to spare, with wall hung libraries



Sankalp: Adult Literacy Program

- Literacy classes for mothers of school going children and women who had to drop out of school
- Sessions on financial literacy, health and hygiene and other topical subjects to make them aware and independent



Sparsh: Braille and Tactile Books For Visually Impaired

- Address the lack of Braille and Tactile resources for visually impaired students in India
- Provide Braille and Tactile storybooks along with general awareness books for a well-rounded education

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



Celebrating 14 Years of Empowering Lives

BFA commemorated its 14th Anniversary this year, reflecting on its growth since opening its first Library cum Creativity Centre in Gheja village in 2010. BFA's six core missions cater to underprivileged children, youth, and women, primarily in Delhi-NCR's urban villages. The organization gives underprivileged children the joy of books, educational sponsorships, career counselling, vocational training, and conducts adult literacy programs.



Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi praises WHL

BFA's efforts to spread Wall Hung Libraries to rural schools across the country were validated in November 2023 when we were invited by Adobe to participate in the Create Change Symposium alongside India's leading NGOs. During a visit to BFA's stall, Mr Satyarthi was particularly impressed by the WHL initiative and its impact on promoting learning in remote rural areas. He pledged his support to spread awareness of the program and to ensure that deserving schools can benefit from this impactful initiative.



Launch of New Project-SPARSH

BFA launched "Sparsh" to address the gap in accessible reading materials for visually impaired students. Sparsh is initially providing Braille storybooks to schools and institutions for the blind across India, with plans to expand to other assistive technologies. BFA seeks collaboration to identify institutions in need of Braille Books, anywhere in India.



Engaging Earth Day Activities



On 22nd April 2023, BFA celebrated Earth Day across its libraries with activities like painting, slogan writing and discussions to highlight the importance of environmental responsibility. Students staged a street play promoting waste segregation, and BFA took a group of students on a visit to the Biodiversity Park to see and learn about its diverse flora. Students took upon themselves to clean the park and rid it of debris giving a message of keeping our green spaces clean and beautiful.

Students Engage in Chandrayaan-3 Activities in BFA Libraries



Along with Teacher's Day, Hindi Diwas and Janmashtami, one of the highlights of celebration in our libraries was the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission. BFA libraries buzzed with activities as students learned about the mission and their eyes filled with pride. Our librarians used creative methods like skits, quizzes, and storytelling to tell students about the Chandrayaan -3 mission, its history and the people involved. Children made unique models and art which were displayed at the libraries.

Promoting Sustainability Through Book Exchange/Donation Drive



BFA believes in sustainability, and in alignment with this core value, it organized a successful Book Exchange/Donation Drive. The event aimed to collect used curriculum and reference books for sponsored students while encouraging reuse and recycling among the residents of Eldeco Utopia. Over 60 families participated, donating books and exchanging stationery items. The initiative benefited underprivileged children and generated funds for purchasing new registers.

Geography Quiz with a Twist



BFA organized a unique Geography quiz for students at Sarvodaya Vidya Mandir (SVM) and Green Valley Model School (GVMS). The twist? Students used only atlases, not textbooks, to answer questions, fostering a deeper understanding of geography through exploration.

Celebrating Independence Day



BFA libraries commemorated India's Independence Day with student performances showcasing their artistic talents in dance, drama, and art & craft. This celebration instilled pride and national identity in the students. Our Librarians took this opportunity to tell students about India's freedom struggles and its great leaders.

A Fun-Filled Day at Optum India



On 13th October 2023, as many as 30 students had the privilege of experiencing the corporate world at Optum. Optum had invited BFA to be part of their Annual Corporate Volunteer Program, and the theme for the year was Bollywood. The half-day program was filled with fun and entertainment but most importantly, children from our libraries, who could otherwise never enter the corporate world, got this unique opportunity.

Storytelling Session at Adobe



BFA conducted a storytelling session for Adobe employees and their families at their Noida office. Artist Seema Wahi Mukherjee captivated the audience with an Earth Day- themed story, engaging children as characters and inspiring them through creative artwork. BFA also showcased its various initiatives, particularly the Wall Hung Libraries that are a game changer for rural schools.

Vocational Students Interact with Salasar Management



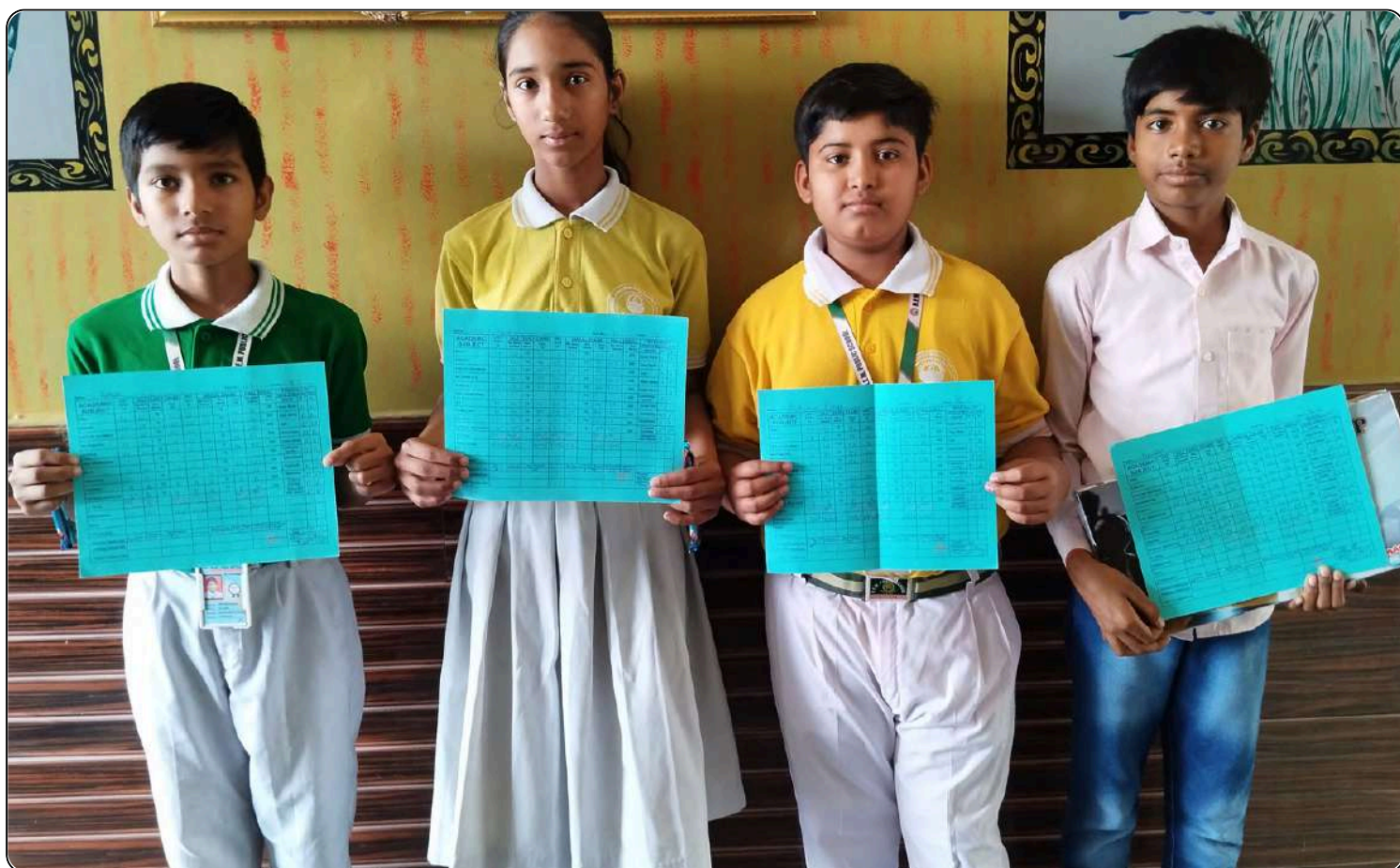
9th January, 2024 was a day to cherish for 29 students who attended the BFA-Salasar Student Meet at Eldeco Clubhouse. Students were presented mementos by the Salasar Management and this was followed by an interaction session. Students shared their joys and struggles and the support that they received from Books For All. BFA made a presentation while Ms Tripti Gupta of Salasar, who spoke at the event, motivated the students and encouraged them to keep growing!

Vocational Training Students - Learnings through an Excursion



29 girls and 13 boys joined a day long knowledge tour starting from the Waste to Wonder Park where the students came to know how waste can be transformed into innovative objects, to the National Science Centre and Lutyen's Delhi. Most of these students had never been on a field or study trip and for many living in urban villages in Noida, this was their maiden visit to the heart of Delhi. The trip ended with a joyful ride around India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhavan and there were squeals of delight as these landmarks came into their view, pieces of heritage and history that they have always heard of but never seen!

REPORT CARD 2023-2024



Our Champion Students

Rakesh, Khushi, Sudhanshu & Kundan (from left to right)

LIBRARY

CUM CREATIVITY CENTRES

Fostering Learning and Creativity

BFA Libraries continued to be vibrant hubs of learning and activity throughout the year. From thematic celebrations to creative workshops, BFA librarians provided students with engaging experiences that go beyond traditional book reading.



Engaging Activities

Book Reading, Storytelling, Public speaking, Art and Craft were some of the regular activities conducted at the library for all grades. Topics such as Health and Hygiene, Best out of Waste and Extempore were taken up and activities were conducted every month. Students also participated in Story Writing, Recitation, Origami, Painting and Poem Writing in the BFA run libraries. Students took part in Debates, Show and Tell, Science Experiments, Memory games and other interactive methods of learning.



Important days and festivals are celebrated in the library so that children are aware of their significance. Librarians used creative methods like skits, quizzes, and storytelling to tell students about Earth Day, water conservation, Chandrayaan-3 mission, Independence Day etc.

Students took part in art, craft, music, and dance activities, further enriching their learning experience. Suvanshi, a State level chess player, devoted her precious time to teach chess to students of NEMP School, Noida and students of Bal Bharti organised an Origami workshop.

Digital Literacy and Skill Development

BFA partnered with IMT Ghaziabad to host 32 students who volunteered their time to support BFA's initiatives. They introduced BFA students to new concepts like Model United Nations (MUN) and conducted life skills and digital literacy sessions for students, broadening their horizons and sparking curiosity.

Additionally, BFA's collaboration with ST Foundation's Tablet 4 Kids (T4K) Project brought digital learning tools to more students in government schools.



Community Partnerships

BFA actively seeks partnerships to expand its reach and impact. This year, Corporate volunteers from TATA AIG and Optum Global Solutions contributed their time and talent, engaging students in various activities. BFA students also got unique opportunities to participate in sporting events as well as social events at Adobe Noida, which expanded their horizons.

BFA libraries serve as important community centers, fostering a love of learning, creativity, and digital literacy. Through its innovative programs and collaborations, BFA is committed to providing a nurturing environment that empowers students to reach their full potential.



SARTHAK

Transforming Lives Through Student Sponsorship



BFA's signature program, Saarthak, empowers underprivileged children by providing them with access to quality education and mentorship opportunities. Since 2014, BFA has sponsored 46 deserving students, helping them gain admission to good Hindi and English medium schools.

BFA's dedication extends beyond financial aid. Committed volunteers monitor students' academic performance, provide coaching, and help them develop into well-rounded individuals. The program's success is evident in the achievements of its students. This year, 16 students from Classes 1 to 9 excelled in their final exams, with several achieving top scores in their classes.

Sponsored Students Soaring High



BFA's Saarthak program empowers students like Shivani, who transitioned from a house help to an office executive with BFA's support, and Kundan, a high-achieving student from a disadvantaged background who is thriving in a private school thanks to BFA's sponsorship, highlighting the program's ability to transform lives and unlock potential.

BFA's current batch of 28 sponsored students is demonstrating exceptional progress. Several students have achieved significant milestones, including admission to prestigious universities. Others have successfully completed vocational training programs and secured promising employment opportunities. These achievements highlight the impact of BFA's holistic approach to student development.

SAKSHAM

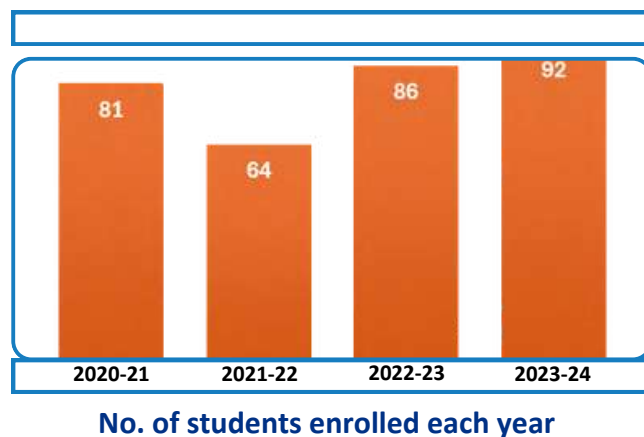
Empowering Youth Through Vocational Training

Books For All is committed to empowering underprivileged youth by equipping them with job-ready skills. This year, BFA's vocational training program achieved significant milestones.



Training and Placement

BFA admitted 90 students to diverse vocational programs such as Paramedical studies, Graphic Design and Motion Graphics, Cosmetology, Motor Technician etc. Impressively, 40 students secured positions in hospitals, clinics, and workshops upon completing their training. A paramedical graduate landed a starting salary of Rs 17,000, while a cosmetology graduate now earns Rs 22,500 monthly. These and other success stories highlight the program's effectiveness in transforming lives.



Expanding Partnerships and Course Offerings

BFA has established strong partnerships with organizations like HCL Foundation, which supported the Saksham mission from 2020-2023, Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd, and Ultragenic Research and Technologies which supported the program in 2023-24. These collaborations have enabled BFA to counsel over 5,000 students in the last four years, guide them towards vocational training opportunities and support financially challenged students with admissions. BFA has also expanded its course offerings from 8 to 33, catering to a wider range of student interests and industry demands.



Career Counselling & Outreach

BFA actively reaches out to students through career counselling sessions at schools and colleges. This year, BFA counselled over 800 students and conducted three career melas in various Noida colleges. These initiatives equip students with the knowledge and guidance necessary to make informed career choices after 12th grade.

The outreach continues even after admissions. BFA monitors and mentors students, mostly first generation learners with little parental guidance, ironing out issues and guiding students to the best choices whether for continuing their education or choosing vocational studies.

BFA's dedication to vocational training is paving the way for a brighter future for underprivileged youth. The program empowers them with valuable skills, increases their employability, and provides a path towards financial independence and a dignified life. BFA looks forward to extending its reach and impacting even more lives in the coming years.

Career fairs at govt schools help students be job ready

Ashni Dhaor

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NOIDA: Until a year ago, 22-year-old Tanu Singh, the only person in her family to complete high school, was surviving on what little her parents made from working daily wage jobs in Noida. Today, she is the star achiever of her family, and is working as a nursing staff at a private hospital in Noida, for a monthly salary of ₹16,000, and is supporting her family financially.

Singh, who hails from Gorakhpur and lives in the temporary settlement adjacent to Sector 16, Noida, completed a course on OT (operation theatre) technician from a private institute and later completed a short term internship from a Greater Noida-based hospital.

She completed her Class 12 from Bhawani Shankar Inter College in Sector 46 and attributes her success to Books For All (BFA), a Noida-based NGO that counselled her at one of the "Career Melas" or career counselling fairs it holds annually at various government high schools in Noida's urban villages. It was they who supported her in pursuing a vocational course.

"When I was young, I wanted to be a doctor. But soon, I realised that it requires several years of studies and funds, and I dropped the idea. In October 2022, BFA came to my school and I learnt about the various kinds of paramedical jobs and that peaked my interest. With the help of guidance of counselors, I opted to pursue the OT technician course. I am grateful to BFA for mentoring me, for the financial support it has provided me to pursue my paramedical course and helped me become a confident, earning citizen," Singh says with a smile.

For 21-year-old Sagar Prasad, a resident of Sadarpar village, the career fair came as a window of opportunity in 2021 after his parents lost their livelihood to the Covid-19 induced nationwide lockdown in 2020.

"My parents used to work at a factory in Noida but after they lost their jobs, they had to resort to working at construction sites



The 'career melas' are being organised in schools by Books For All (BFA), a Noida-based BGO, which also counsels students on vocational courses that will help them land jobs in a short time. HT PHOTO

We have been counselling underprivileged students in choosing different career options and going about acquiring the skills needed to land a good job.

PRAVIN BHASIN,
founder, BFA

In 2021 to earn daily wages, I was in Class 12 in 2021 when the "Career Mela" was held at my school in Sector 46. I told the counselors about my interest in graphic designing and BFA helped me financially to enrol in a renowned graphic designing institute," said Prasad.

Following a one-year course in graphic designing, Prasad got a job as an illustrator at a magazine office and started earning a monthly salary of ₹20,000 by June 2022.

"In 2023, I switched to a product design company in Noida and for a monthly salary of ₹25,000. Now I am able to sup-

port my family and I wish to study art at Delhi College of Arts in the future," said Prasad.

Started by a group of volunteers from Noida in 2009, BFA began counselling underprivileged students at low-income private schools and government high schools in 2021.

"A large section of Class 12 students in urban village schools and government inter colleges are ignorant about career options and employment opportunities after school. They are also unaware of the educational qualifications, entrance examinations and skill sets required for pursuing different courses. We have been filling this gap by counselling underprivileged students in choosing different career options and going about acquiring the vocational skills needed to land a good job in a short time," said Pravin Bhasin, founder of the BFA, and a resident of Eldeco Utopia society in Sector 93A.

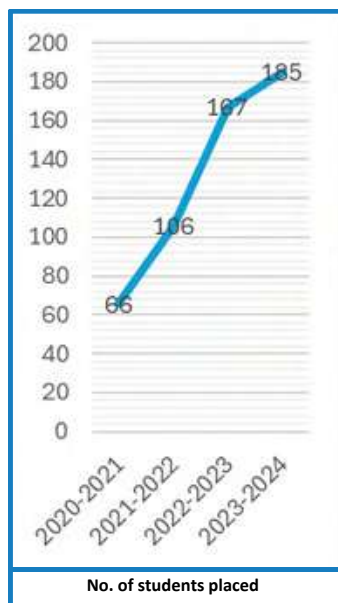
In the past three years, the volunteers of Books For All have counselled more than 5,000 students of 16 government and private inter colleges and high schools in Noida regarding career options and encouraged them to take up vocational courses.

"Of all the students counselled by us, we have so far

helped 350 disadvantaged students by helping them secure admissions to vocational training institutes and paying their fee in full. Further, we helped 160 students, who had completed their courses, secure jobs with good monthly salary. We have also imparted soft skills and life skill training to more than 2,500 students which helped increase their awareness, build confidence and improve their personality," said Rajendra Gupta, who spearheads the programme "Project Saksham" under the NGO, and resides in the same society as Bhasin.

Gupta noted that many students drop out after Class 12 because of lack of career guidance.

"Most students are from poor migrant families and have daily wage parents whose monthly income is about ₹10,000-15,000. They have almost no parental guidance. Many of them drop out after Class 12, either due to lack of guidance or to take up jobs in the unorganised sector. Through our "Career Melas", we pick up bright students and offer them counselling in vocational courses such as paramedical, cosmetology, diploma in IT, graphic design, AC and refrigeration, laptop repair and so on," says Gupta.



WALL HUNG LIBRARIES

Foster a Love of Reading in Rural Schools

BFA's signature program, Wall Hung Libraries (WHL), is making a significant impact on children in under-resourced schools. Launched in 2021, WHL provides schools with a compact and easy-to-install library containing about 100 beautifully illustrated storybooks in English, Hindi, and regional languages. **The objective is to help village schools, that have no dedicated room to spare, with a WHL that will bring joy, develop curiosity and accelerate learning among students.**

By the end of 2023, BFA had installed over 375 WHLs in schools across 24 states, bringing the joy of reading to over 15,000 students. Last year alone more than 250 WHLs were sent to village schools in States all over the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. BFA is committed to further expansion, with an ambitious target of reaching 400 schools in 2024-25, both in urban and rural areas.

WHL - Reaching Remote Locations and Spreading the Joy of Books

The WHL program demonstrates the power of a simple idea to create lasting change. Each WHL costs just Rs 10,000 and requires minimal setup, making it an ideal solution for space-constrained schools.

BFA's dedication to fostering literacy has garnered recognition from prominent media outlets like ABP News and Hindustan Times. This national coverage has fueled program growth, enabling BFA to expand its reach to 24 States/UTs and cater to the diverse needs of students by offering books in Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Odia, Assamese as well.



WHL Media Coverage

[TEACHER'S DAY] BOOKS HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THE WORLD BETTER AND ALSO INSTIL VALUES

'Hanging libraries' give govt schools children a chance learn and dream beyond the textbooks

Ashni Dhaor

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Noida: For 13-year-old Sikander, the best part about going to school is getting to rifle through the books of his library, so that he can peep into the worlds brought alive through words and lose himself in the adventures of other children, just like him.

But Sikander's library is no grand old building with wall after wall lined with polished shelves, heaving under the weight of countless books and tomes. For Sikander, it is just a classroom at his government school where over a 100 story-books have been wall-mounted into a foldable bag.

It is what everyone calls a "hanging library".

A group of residents from Noida's Sector 93A volunteering for a local NGO have placed these hanging libraries at six government schools in Noida and Greater Noida and aims to

educate children beyond their curriculum through storybooks. The initiative was started in 2021 by the NGO Books For All (BFA), to address the challenge of lack of space and infrastructure at most schools situated in urban and rural villages.

"These students come from families with limited means, and may not have the privilege to read for leisure. The children in these schools have no access to good quality books other than their course books. That has an adverse impact on their learning outcomes. Hanging libraries addresses this shortcoming. The colourfully illustrated books attract students to read and aid learning and understanding and encourage them to write, draw and dream. The idea is to give children access to books which are not part of curriculum," said Pravin Bhasin, a resident of Eldico Utopia society in Sector 93A.

Bhasin began BFA in 2009 by donating storybooks to govern-



A group of residents from Noida's Sector 93A volunteering for a local NGO have placed these hanging libraries at six government schools in Noida and Greater Noida.

SUNIL GHOSH/HT PHOTO

ment school students in Noida's Gejha village in Sector 93.

In 2021, BFA launched its novel project, 'hanging libraries', as there was no need to invest on racks and shelves. The concept began in Noida, with these libraries put up at six schools of

Government Primary & Junior School in Sultanpur village in Noida's Sector 128, Government Primary School, village Gejha; Sarvodaya Vidya Mandir, village Sadarpur; Government Primary School, Bhangal; Green Valley Modern School village Sultanpur

and National Education Mission Public School (NEMP) village Gejha.

"Each library has over 100 books on engaging themes, written in the simple language of the region and containing colourful pictures. Bilingual books are also made available as per the need. These books encourage students of all strata to develop a reading habit and increase their vocabulary, knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live and instil values in them as well," said Lata Aggarwal, another volunteer at the NGO and a resident of Eldico Utopia society.

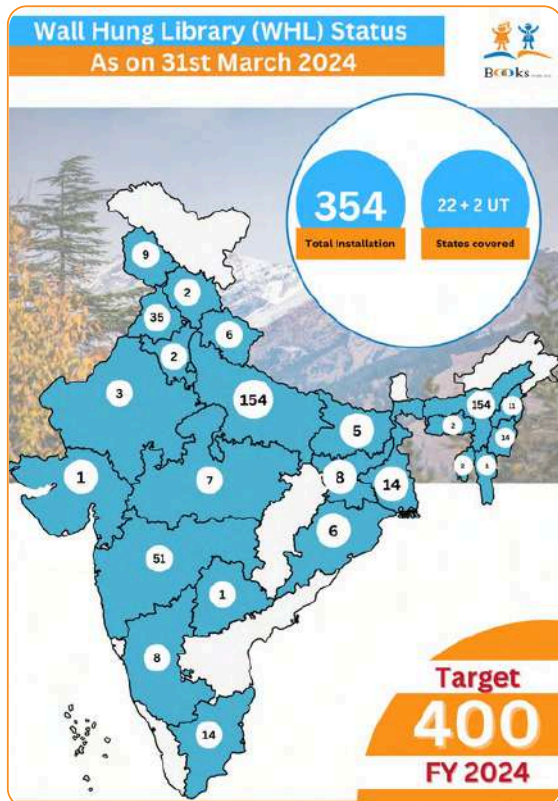
With an aim to install over 100 hanging libraries across the country, BFA began a campaign in March 2021 to gather donors for funding these libraries. "Each library of over 100 books costs about ₹8,000 and we crowd sourced funds through online campaigns. We have now installed 166 libraries in as many

villages across 21 states till August 2023," said Bhasin.

Sikander, who studies at the Government Primary & Junior School and is a resident of Sultanpur village in Sector 128, Noida, says he wants to be writer when he grows up.

"Since last year, after we were introduced to these libraries, I started writing fiction in Hindi, inspired by the stories I read. I also write poetry and want to publish my own book some day, just like the ones we read now," said the class 8 student, whose favourite subject is Hindi.

Aishwarya Laxmi, basic shiksha adhikari (BSA) of Gautam Budh Nagar, said, "The education department appreciates the work being done by the volunteers of Books For All as it helps in the holistic development of students at government schools. The concept of hanging libraries is not only innovative, but also useful for our students without using as many resources."



We are in the News Again!

BFA with the support of Deputy Commissioner of Chumoukedima, Nagaland provided Hanging Libraries in 2 Schools.



DC Chümoukedima inaugurates library

Our Reporter
Dimapur, Nov. 18 (EIN): Hanging library at Government Middle School in Chümoukedima Block IV was inaugurated on Friday by the deputy commissioner of Chümoukedima, Abhinav Shivam.

Speaking to media persons, Shivam informed that the collections are Pratham books given to them by Books For All trust. He opined that many people are not reading books as they are expensive. He also asked the principal and teachers to make sure that the students read books because the final purpose of the book is "not to be in shield but to be read."

He shared that the purpose of the hanging library is also to inculcate the habit of reading among the students. Further, he shared that they are planning to establish a library in Government High School, Chümoukedima, because the school has proved good results over the years led by good teachers and dynamic principal. It will not be a hanging library but an expensive library, he said, adding that there will be books for students of higher students, but he clarified that this planning is still in pipeline.

The success of the school library depends upon only if the books are read and I am very sure that with the intervention of the principal and the teachers, they will make that the students read books, he believed. He also appealed to them to have one period as a library period followed by other activities.

Earlier of the day, Shivam also inaugurated Hanging library at Government Middle School Teniphe II.

BFA's WHL program is a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and innovation. By providing access to high-quality books, BFA is empowering children in rural communities to learn, dream, and reach their full potential

SANKALP

Empowering women

BFA's "Sankalp" Adult Literacy Program is an example of our commitment to women's empowerment. Launched in November 2021, Sankalp provides free Hindi and English literacy classes to women in Gejha and Sadarpur Village.

Dedicated volunteers play a vital role by conducting workshops on essential skills like basic banking. This equips women with the confidence to manage their finances independently.

All participants in a recent program successfully completed their exams, demonstrating the program's effectiveness. BFA is proud to celebrate their achievements and is committed to empowering even more women.



Identifying the Need and Expanding the Program

The high illiteracy rate among women in the community became clear during visits to BFA libraries. Many mothers were unable to help their children with schoolwork or even manage their day-to-day activities. This prompted a survey in nearby areas, revealing that over 120 women desired to learn. This overwhelming response led to the creation of Sankalp.

IMT Ghaziabad Students Bolster BFA's Initiatives

BFA's collaboration with IMT Ghaziabad students is fostering a spirit of social responsibility. Five groups of eight students each interned with BFA on various projects, including climate change, computer literacy, and adult literacy expansion.

IMT Ghaziabad students also assisted BFA with a survey in Sadarpur Village of Noida to assess the need for a second Sankalp center. The results, highlighting an 80% illiteracy rate, underscore the urgency of BFA's mission to empower women in the community.



SPARSH

Expanding Literacy Access for Blind Students

Books for All is proud to present the SPARSH initiative, a program dedicated to providing Braille story books and tactile books to blind and visually impaired students across India. Launched in October 2023, SPARSH follows the success of BFA's Wall Hung Libraries project, which brings the joy of reading to children in under-resourced schools.



Addressing the Gap in Literacy Materials

While blind children receive textbooks as part of their curriculum, they often lack access to storybooks and general awareness materials. This absence of engaging reading materials can hinder their overall development and prevent them from experiencing the joy of reading. SPARSH aims to bridge this gap by providing Braille book sets containing a mix of stories and general knowledge topics.



Reaching Students and Institutions

Through careful research and outreach, BFA identifies institutions for Visually Impaired with the greatest need and the most enthusiastic staff. Upon receiving a request, BFA ships a set of 20 Braille story books to the institution and follows up to ensure receipt. BFA remains engaged, gathering feedback and usage data through calls, messages, pictures, and videos.

Impact and Looking Ahead

In the short time since its launch, SPARSH has reached to over 6,000 visually impaired students in 85 institutions. BFA's goal for the upcoming year is to reach at least 150 schools, providing Braille books to an additional 8,000 students. Regular reporting will track the project's progress, including a list of recipient institutions, feedback received, and plans for future expansion. An annual assessment report will comprehensively evaluate SPARSH's impact on student development and reading habits.





SUCCESS STORIES OF THE YEAR



Books For All at Adobe's Create Change Symposium

Kundan Scores 99.6%

Scoring 99.6 in the Annual Exam by the son of a daily wage worker is indeed breaking news! Kundan, who is being sponsored by BFA and studying in class VI at NEMP School Gejha, has made his parents, teachers, sponsors and BFA proud by his outstanding performance.

Until class V, Kundan was studying in Government Primary School Salarpur, Noida, and his father, a daily wager, did not know where his son should be admitted after Class VI. During the screening test conducted by the BFA Team, Kundan's merit was identified, and he was selected and admitted to NEMP School, Gejha, where he continues his education.



Kamlesh

A Grandmother Learns to Read and Write

Even with the smallest interventions, Books For All aims to add value to lives based on contextual needs. When Sankalp, the Adult Literacy Centre, was initiated in Gejha village, we were eager to witness the transformation it would bring. Kamlesh (left), a grandmother with a heart full of dreams, despite her advanced age, was drawn to Sankalp's supportive environment and expressed her desire to enroll and become literate. To our surprise, she quickly picked up reading and writing skills. Her hard work, combined with the dedication and energy of our volunteer, Ms. Heena (right), who was committed to seeing positive changes in Kamlesh, made this success possible.



Sumit - Gets Placed at Tata Motors

From a young age, Sumit Kumar Singh was deeply interested in technical courses. After learning about BFA, he received counseling and decided to pursue courses in Automobile Repair and General Technician from Automobile Repair and Service Institute run by Uttam Toyota.

Coming from a family where his father is a daily wager and the sole breadwinner, Sumit was driven to secure a better future. He eagerly took up the opportunity and completed his courses. Today, he works as a General Technician at Tata Motors, earning a salary of Rs 20,000 per month. "BFA provided me", he states, "the skill sets that I can make use of at any point in my life. For this very reason, I will always be grateful to BFA."



Anjali - Dream Comes True

Anjali's journey has been one of resilience and determination. She started her education at DAV School, but financial difficulties forced her to transfer to a government school. Despite these challenges, Anjali never gave up on her dreams. She learned about BFA through a friend and decided to reach out for help. BFA counselled her to join a Motion Graphics course at MAAC Institute. While continuing her course, Anjali joined Jindal X Meesho's chatbot department. She is now in the HR department at Vedify Solutions Pvt Ltd, earning Rs 17000. In addition, she has ventured into freelancing, taking on video editing projects that bring in an impressive Rs 30000 to 35000.



Rupa - She could buy a Piece of Property

Rupa's father, was a daily wage laborer, couldn't support her education beyond the 9th grade. Aware that without education she might face the same struggles as her parents, Rupa sought help. BFA, recognizing her potential, sponsored her education from the 9th through the 12th grade and enrolled her in a Diploma in Emergency Medical Technology at UNIZONA (2020-2022). After graduating, she started her career at a hospital in Chandigarh with a salary of Rs. 17,000/-. Now, she works at Artemis in Gurgaon, earning Rs. 20,000/- while pursuing a Diploma in Physiotherapy to advance her career. Significantly, Rupa has also purchased property in her hometown, Bardhaman, West Bengal. Her parents are proud and are grateful to Books For All.



Pooja - Her Family's Safety Net

After completing her 12th grade, Pooja approached BFA in order to enroll in a Data Entry Operator course to improve her family's financial situation. Her mother was the sole breadwinner as her father was unwell. This placed a heavy financial burden on the family. Pooja, after completing the course, joined Steller IT Park in Sector 62, earning a salary of Rs 16500. Her perseverance and dedication led her to a better position at India Mart, where her salary increased to Rs 18000. Pooja is deeply grateful to BFA for the support that allowed her to help her family financially and become self-reliant. She says, "Thanks to BFA, I can now support my family and stand on my own feet."



CHANGE MAKERS

During the year gone by...





Ms. Indrani Rajkhowa Banerjee

Count your blessings and pay back whenever the universe knocks with an opportune moment. This has been my belief but considering the fact that I worked as a Journalist with various leading media houses for two decades, I was left with very less time and bandwidth. Eventually, the right time and opportunity arrived as a friend suggested Books For All (BFA) – an NGO doing wonderful work of introducing the world of storybooks to children who are deprived of the simple joys of the imaginary world. My association with BFA has taught me how important holistic development is for the marginalised children and I've tried to contribute to BFA's roadmap of learning beyond classrooms, I am instrumental in developing curriculum for students in our libraries and methodologies.

BFA is also doing tremendous work in spreading awareness about the need for vocational training among undergraduate students who come from urban villages in Noida, skilling almost 300 of them through sponsorship courses and by doing so the NGO is upgrading the lives of not just the students but also their families and the -

community. I thank BFA for giving me the chance to channel my efforts to enrich the lives of scores of children who deserve nurturing and encouragement in critical thinking and cognitive skills and of course, a better understanding of the world beyond theirs.



Aarav Arora, Pathways School Noida

Hello readers, I am Aarav Arora, student of Pathways School Noida. I am currently in grade 10. My journey with Books for All started in 2022 and since then I have been associated with them. What really motivates me to work there as a volunteer is the freedom to explore various opportunities with the students of Government schools. I have enjoyed coaching them for football, conducting various matches and would love to continue the same in the coming year. The bond that I have created with the football team of Government Sultanpur School is amazing. Teaching math and conducting quizzes was another activity that I truly enjoyed. The zeal of the students to learn through an iPad and watching videos is something that I can never forget. Currently I am teaching grade 1 and 2 children various motor skills. Every Saturday, when I visit Bhangel school with different activities the joy on the faces of primary school students is really overwhelming. I always encourage my friends also to contribute whatever they can as I believe volunteering doesn't need much time, it just needs a good heart.



Ms. Raj Laxmi

Throughout my life, I have been keen on contributing to society in whatever way I could. Fortunately, I had a lot of opportunity to help people during my three-decade-long career in SBI and association with other non-profit organizations. After I took voluntary retirement and moved to Noida, I was very lucky to meet a BFA member, pretty early on, and got to know the good work they do with young kids.

In addition to the material and financial support, the kids also get moral support from BFA volunteers, which is very essential in today's challenging world. All the kids I have come across from BFA are very mature and responsible. They understand the importance of getting equipped for their survival in terms of getting qualified and being a support system for their families. I am very grateful to be a part of this organisation.

Suvanshi Deb

I'm Suvanshi Deb, a recent graduate of Bal Bharati Public School in Noida, eagerly awaiting the start of my college journey. From a young age, I've been inspired by my parent's dedication to helping others and improving lives. They've taught me that with privilege comes responsibility—to use our resources for the greater good. This belief sparked my commitment to making a difference. During the summer break of 2023, I discovered Books for All. Along with classmates, I visited National Mission Public School, where Ms. Lata, a senior member of BFA, mentioned their need for a chess instructor. Given my passion and skill in chess, volunteering was an easy decision. Teaching not only brought me joy but also the satisfaction of sharing something I love.

Since then, my involvement has grown. I now regularly teach chess to students in grades 6-8. Witnessing the progress, enthusiasm and heartfelt requests from the students, "Didi, please take the next class as well," with their twinkling eyes, keeps me motivated. Books for All lives by their motto "We don't teach, we educate," focusing on holistic child development. I'm grateful to Books for All for this opportunity and for helping me become a changemaker.





Our Team



Through thick and thin- the BFA Team

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Pravin Bhasin**Founder President**

Pravin Bhasin, Founder & Managing Trustee, is 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.

Ms. Deepali Kukreja**Trustee**

Deepali Kukreja, with a Masters in Business Economics from Delhi University is active in children education and associated with several welfare projects. She was instrumental in developing curriculum for children and methodologies to enable them read & speak English.

Ms. Puja Nath**Trustee**

Puja Nath, a graduate from Patna University, is an expert in Child Development. She played a major role in developing creativity in children by organizing plays, dances and public speaking.

Ms. Kanchan Bhasin**Trustee**

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

MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMEBERS

Mr. Pravin Bhasin

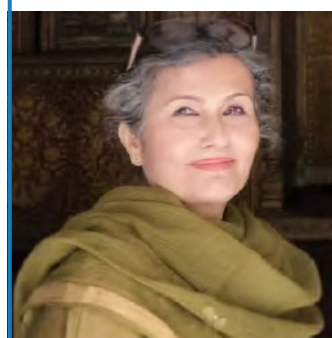


Managing Trustee

Mr Pravin Bhasin, an Electrical Engineer from Thapar Institute Patiala (1966 batch), worked in reputed Indian MNCs in senior positions. Project Management of Power Plants was his core competence. Pravin Bhasin, along with his wife, Kanchan Bhasin set up the first library at Gejha.

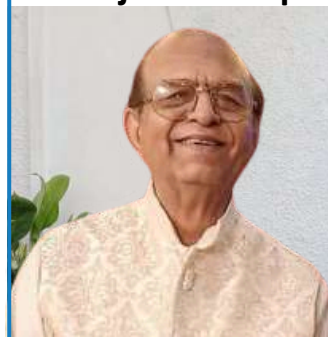
Ms. Deepa Sengar, a senior Indian Railway Service Officer (1988 batch IAS and Allied) who took voluntary retirement after vast experience both with Indian Railways and Central Govt. Ministries, is volunteering with Books For All since 2015 as part of Management Committee.

Ms. Deepa Sengar



Managing Committee Member

Squadron Leader Mr. Rajendra Gupta



Managing Committee Member

Squadron Leader R K Gupta (Retired), 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.

Lata Agarwal, a senior mathematics teacher who now coaches senior students from home, is a long-standing volunteer of Books for All. She was instrumental in taking up initiatives for literacy, art and craft, organising dance and skits and sports day through the Library cum Creativity Centres

Ms. Lata Agarwal



Managing Committee Member

OUR MENTORS

No organization, including NGOs, can thrive without the support of experts who bring rich domain experience and specialized knowledge to guide and steer it in the right direction. BFA has been fortunate to benefit from the expert guidance of Mr. Ulhas Vairagkar and Mr. Vinod Luthra, who generously offer their services pro bono. They have not only dedicated their time to understanding our challenges and providing invaluable direction but have also contributed financially to many of our initiatives."



Mr Ulhas Vairagkar

A BE & MBA (IIM-A) Mr. Vairagkar has served in senior positions in corporates and founded a successful business. He is now sharing his vast experience with NGOs, full time. 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.

Mr. 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

Office Staff

Ujwal Singh Nayak



Sr. Project Coordinator
MBA-HR

Asiya Ahmad



Senior Counsellor
M.Hsc

Gaurav Kumar



Office Coordinator
B.Sc Chemistry

Santosh Kumar



Admin Assist
B.A

Librarians & Teachers

Ranjana Tiwary



Librarian
M.A. English & B. Ed

Ruchi Sharma



Librarian
B.Com & B. Ed

Shashi Bala



Librarian
B.A

Varsh Pal



Librarian
B.A

Riya Tyagi



Librarian
B.A

Kachan Pal



Librarian
B.A & NTT

Heena Lakhani



Sankalp Teacher
MBA (HR)

Preeti Chauhan



Sankalp Teacher
MA (Pol. Sc)

AWARDS



Acknowledgement by Adobe

In November 2023, Adobe, recognizing Books For All for its contribution to education, invited us to participate in the Create Change Symposium 2023 along with other reputed NGOs. During the event Shri Kailash Satyarthi, co-recipient of the Nobel Peace prize (2014), praised Books For All for its effort to spread reading habits especially through its Wall Hung Library project.



Strongest Future Award by Salasar

In January 2024, Salasar Techno Engineering Limited presented the Strongest Future Award to Books For All for its contributions to the Skill Development and Youth Empowerment sector. The award was presented by Ms. Tripti Gupta, Director of Salasar.



Runner Up in Adobe CSR Cricket League

In January 2024, Books For All participated in the CSR Cricket Tournament organized by Adobe. Alongside us, several other NGOs working in the urban villages of Noida also took part, all striving to empower communities based on their specific needs. Books For All performed exceptionally well throughout the series and emerged as the runners-up. It was a proud moment for our library students, their parents, and our staff.

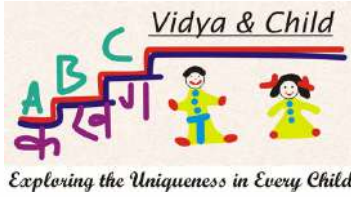


OUR PARTNERS

Corporate Partners Through the Years



Our NGO Partners



Society for Welfare of The Handicapped Regd Managing
 Patiala School for The Deaf
 Patiala School for The Blind
 Patiala School for The Deafblind
 Patiala Early Intervention centre for Deaf Infants
 Patiala Vocational Training Center



FINANCIALS

Status of Funds as on 31st March 2024

Expenses during the year	Rs. 87,44,540
Donation Received Total	Rs. 109,98,988
Donations from Indian Sources	Rs. 84,56,579
Donation through FCRA	Rs. 25,42,409

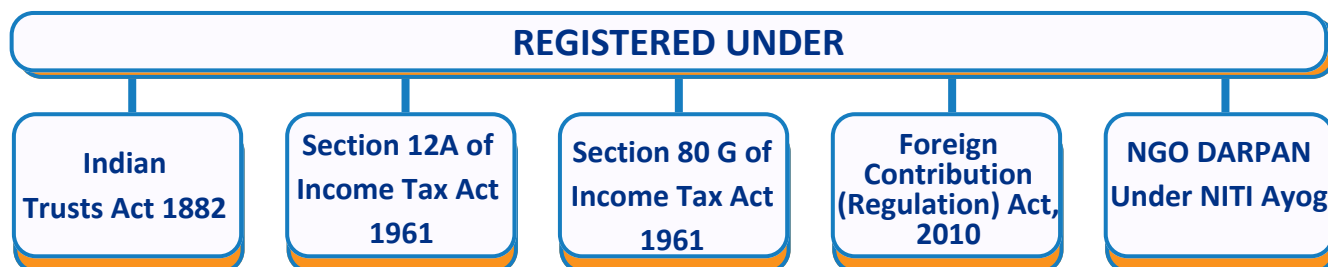
Estimate of Major Expenses in FY 2024-25

Libraries	Rs. 10,00,000
Sponsored Students	Rs. 7,00,000
Vocational Training	Rs. 30,00,000
Wall Hung Libraries	Rs. 32,00,000
Sparsh	Rs. 9,00,000
Salaries	Rs. 12,00,000
Events	Rs. 2,00,000
Admin Expenses	Rs. 4,00,000
Maintenance	Rs. 3,00,000
Total	Rs 109,00,000

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.

LEGAL AND COMPLIANCES



All Donations Qualify for Tax benefits under 80 G

FOR DONATIONS FROM AN INDIAN ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME : BOOKS FOR ALL TRUST
ACCOUNT NO : 081505000239
BANK : ICICI Bank
BRANCH : Sector 110, Noida 201301
IFSC CODE : ICIC0000815

Bank Details For Donations

FOR DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE INDIA

ACCOUNT NAME : BOOKS FOR ALL TRUST
Account No : 40092397545
Bank : SBI New Delhi
Branch : 11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-01
IFSC : SBIN0000691
SWIFT : SBININBB104



Books For All

We Don't Teach, We Educate



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