

Satya Bharti Abhiyan benefits over 50,000 individuals across 405 villages

Over 10,000 toilets constructed and handed over to households and Girl's toilets to 14 Government Schools under the rural Sanitation initiative

Plans to construct 11000 more toilets to cover all households in 900 villages across Ludhiana District within the next one year with an aim to assist the Governments' efforts to make rural Ludhiana open defecation free

New Delhi, February 1st, 2016: Bharti Foundation's '**Satya Bharti Abhiyan**', an initiative to improve sanitation facilities in rural areas, today announced that the program now benefits over 50,000 individuals across 405 villages of Ludhiana District (Punjab). In less than eighteen months of its launch, over 10,000 toilets have been constructed free of cost and handed over to individual households in these villages, thus allowing access to proper sanitation facilities. In particular, women and children have benefited from the program as they no longer need to relieve themselves in the open. Bharti Foundation had committed an investment of upto INR 100 Crores to improve sanitation conditions by constructing a toilet in every household in over 900 villages across District Ludhiana. The program on the targeted scale will benefit over 1, 00,000 individuals.

In addition to rural household sanitation, the '**Satya Bharti Abhiyan**' has completed construction of toilets to improve sanitation facilities in 14 Government schools in rural Ludhiana by building separate toilets for girls.

Apart from providing sanitation facilities, the Foundation is also focused on bringing about a behavioral change through various ongoing sanitation campaigns spread over six states in India. Through this awareness campaign over 3500 children of Satya Bharti Schools have inspired their parents to build toilets at home and have worked as agents of change to bring awareness amongst the communities they live in.

On this significant achievement of the Satya Bharti Abhiyan initiative, **Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation, said,** "We are proud to announce the rapid impact and achievement of the sanitation initiative in rural Ludhiana. This significant milestone would not have been possible with the active support of the State Government, local administration, the Panchayats and village communities. This accomplishment has further strengthened our commitment towards improving quality of life and we are confident that there will be no rural household in Ludhiana without a toilet by the end of this year."

Bharti Foundation launched the Satya Bharti Abhiyan in August 2014, to improve sanitation facilities in rural Ludhiana. The Foundation aims to cover every village across Ludhiana District under the initiative by constructing toilets free of cost in all households lacking such facilities. At the end of this program, Ludhiana District will be left with no household without a toilet. The initiative is being supported by Bharti Airtel Limited and Bharti Infratel Limited.

About Bharti Foundation:

Bharti Foundation provides free education to underprivileged children in rural areas. Its Programs (Satya Bharti Schools, Satya Bharti Learning Centres, and Quality Support Program) presently reach out to over 73,000 children from socially and economically challenged backgrounds, with special focus on the girl child.

Some of the initiatives of Bharti Foundation include:

➤ **The Satya Bharti School Program:**

The Satya Bharti School Program is the flagship program of Bharti Foundation. This rural education initiative provides free quality education to underprivileged children, with a special focus on the girl child. The program envisions transforming students into educated, confident, responsible and self-reliant employable citizens of India with a deep sense of commitment to their society. The program's reach is multi-pronged, encouraging active involvement of the rural community, parents of students and like-minded organizations working in the field of education in India. Making a lasting and sustainable impact on the community where schools are present and finding innovative solutions, through its primary and senior secondary schools, to create replicable and scalable components in the program ensures delivery of quality education. The Satya Bharti School program is being implemented with the intent to arrive at replicable and scalable components of quality education which may be adapted by the Government and other like-minded organizations. Reaching out to thousands of underprivileged children, the program, through its focus on holistic development, aims to bring forth a new generation of citizens eager to usher in positive change. Currently 249 primary/elementary Schools and five senior secondary schools are operational across Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal reaching out to 40,708 children and employing 1,645 teachers. Focusing on the girl child [49% girl students] and the weaker sections of society [75% of children from SC/ST/OBC Communities], the program is one of the largest end-to-end education initiatives by a corporate group in the country.

➤ **Satya Bharti Learning Centres:**

Bharti Foundation has introduced the remedial/bridge courses program in close partnership with 'Educate A Child' - a global initiative. The program aims at bridging the education gap of out of school children and mainstream them into regular schools. The first phase of the program has been deployed in partnership with the Government of Rajasthan. Currently, 456 Education Volunteers are engaged in teaching 10,271 out of school children, of which 50% are girls, enrolled at 527* Satya Bharti Learning Centres. Till now, 9,880 children have been mainstreamed, with the total impact reaching up to 22,022 children.

** 350 centres have been closed as most of the OOSC's in these villages have been mainstreamed (number included in overall impact); in some villages the count of OOSC's have dropped to such a low figure that it has gone below the minimum numbers required to run a centre, as per Government norms.*

➤ **Satya Bharti Quality Support Program:**

This initiative envisages working with the government system and improving the quality of schools through need-based interventions. Bharti Foundation has taken the learning and best practices from the Satya Bharti Schools to the Government schools for improving the overall quality of schooling experience. The program aims to partner the Government schools and work along with its leadership and teachers to support them in their journey towards excellence. Currently, 25 government schools are under active implementation supported through this model, across Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, reaching out to 12,428 students and 514 teachers.

➤ **Nyaya Bharti**

Nyaya Bharti was launched in November 2015 to help deserving and underprivileged under-trials languishing in jails across the country for minor offences by assisting them with legal and financial assistance and also promoting awareness about every individual's constitutional right to legal defense. It is a first of its kind national level corporate initiative in the country in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Vision of 'Sabka Nyaya' – Access to Justice for all. Its Board will consist of eminent persons led by Justice A.S. Anand (Retired Chief Justice of India) to provide oversight and guidance to the initiative and a panel of young public spirited lawyers shall provide pro-bono service towards the initiative.

Data as of 31st December, 2015