

Bharti Foundation initiates Phase 2 of Pilot Program in Barmer and Jodhpur Districts

- *Bharti Foundation led Satya Bharti learning Centres enters phase 2 of implementation in 70 Government schools of Barmer and Jodhpur districts; with more schools to be added as per requirement.*
- *2-year pilot program to be kicked off on 1st October 2016*
- *So far, 944 centres have been opened in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand with a total enrolment of 22,987 Out of school Children, of which 15,238 have been mainstreamed back into Government Schools.*
- *96.2% of these students belong to marginalized communities (SC/ ST/ OBC) with 50.3% of the students being girls.*
- *The Satya Bharti Learning Centre program reaches out to over 944 villages across these three states.*

Jaipur, 27th September 2016: Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, today announced the initiation of the second phase of its Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program in Rajasthan. The program enrolls and mainstreams ‘Out Of School Children’ (OOSC) into Government schools by providing them bridge courses that bring them at an age/class appropriate level. In its second phase, the program will also strengthen community and parent outreach as well as the learning processes towards ensuring the retention of enrolled children and improving the overall schooling experience.

Some of the reasons for children to drop out include:

- Socio-economic situation of parents
- Overall mind-set against the necessity acquiring an education
- Irregular functioning of schools and lack of proper academic support
- Children engaged in domestic work or as earning members
- Lack of community outreach and parent connect with the school

To counter this situation the program will target the following areas of intervention:

- ✓ Improve retention level of children mainstreamed and reduce number of dropouts.
- ✓ Enhance school environment as well as student and teacher engagement by conducting scholastic and co-scholastic events, introducing and including engagement processes in the annual school calendar and giving due emphasis to child communication and safety.
- ✓ Strengthen parent and community linkages by introducing and including parent and community engagement processes as part of the annual school calendar and enhancing School Management Committee (SMC) engagement.
- ✓ Improve student performance with support in school processes covering academics, co-curricular activities, health, hygiene and discipline.

About the Satya Bharti Learning Centres Program:

The Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program focuses on Out of School Children (OOSC) in close coordination with Government Schools. In 2012, the Foundation entered into a partnership with the *Educate A Child* program of EAA under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar. Under this partnership, the Satya Bharti Learning Centre Program was initiated with an aim to mainstream Out of School Children back into schools by identifying, enrolling and providing them bridge courses to bring them at an age/class appropriate level. The first phase of the program was initiated in Rajasthan in 2013 and it was later extended to Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

The program approach is to establish a Learning Centre within a classroom provided in a selected Government School. In addition, Mid-Day Meals, textbooks and condensed courses (special training modules) are provided by the Government. Bharti Foundation appoints and trains Education Volunteers who undertake community surveys to identify Out of School Children in the villages. These Education Volunteers also undertake special teaching/training for the identified children, fortify learning with usage of innovative Teaching Learning Material, provide age-appropriate mainstreaming and undertake community mobilisation activities. Finding suitable human resources continues to be a challenge in these remote areas, which is overcome to a great extent by identifying and training youth from the local community with the support of the Education Department and other Government bodies as well as Foundation's own team of expert trainers.

About Bharti Foundation: Bharti Foundation was set up in 2000 as the philanthropic arm of the Bharti Enterprises. It implements programs in the field of primary, elementary, senior secondary and higher education through the Satya Bharti School Program as well as Government School interventions under its Satya Bharti Quality Support and Satya Bharti Learning Centres Program. This year, the Foundation is celebrating 10 successful years of the Satya Bharti School Program. Bharti Foundation has till date impacted the lives of close to 1,50,000 students from underprivileged background and has touched over a million lives through its education initiatives.

In addition to education programs, the Foundation has initiated 'Satya Bharti Abhiyan', to improve sanitation facilities in rural Ludhiana District and 'Nyaya Bharti' to provide legal and financial aid to deserving underprivileged under-trials languishing in jails across the country for minor offences.

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