

Bharti Foundation Holds Alumni Meet across all 254 Satya Bharti Schools

Over 7,500 former students of Satya Bharti Schools attended the Alumni Meet, part of the 10 year celebrations of the Satya Bharti School Program

Date, Location: Bharti Foundation, the development arm of Bharti Enterprises organised an Alumni Meet at all 254 Satya Bharti Schools located in the villages across Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. More than 7,500 ex- students of Satya Bharti Schools of which 50% were girl students, attended this special event. This Alumni meet is part of the ongoing 10 year celebrations of the Foundation's flagship initiative - the Satya Bharti School Program.

During the meet, the ex-students shared memorable experiences from their tenure at the schools, adding that till date they draw lessons from the holistic learning imparted at their alma maters.

The current students of Satya Bharti School were visibly moved by the inspiring stories of ex-students like Manisha who secured 70% marks in Rajasthan Board Class X exams, Nitesh who won first prize in the inter-school English Quiz in Amritsar, Sumitha who won 1st prize in District Level Value Education Exam in Tamil Nadu and many others. In addition, the awards won at the School, Block and District Level competitions in various academic and non-academic activities further ignited the minds of the young ones.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Vijay Chadda, CEO, Bharti Foundation** said, *"Bharti Foundation's education programs focus on quality education with an overall aim of holistic development of each student. Meeting these children and learning of their continued success makes us proud."*

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 40,742 children and employing 1,642 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, 432 Education Volunteers are engaged in teaching 9,876 out of school children, of which 50% are girls, enrolled at 484* Satya Bharti Learning Centres. Till now, 10,350 children have been mainstreamed, with the total impact reaching up to 22,251 children.

** 402 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.*

45 Centres had to be closed because of unavailability of qualified education volunteers.

2 Centres were closed due to mass migration (in Madhya Pardesh).

➤ **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 12,330 students and 514 teachers.

➤ **Satya Bharti Abhiyan:**

Bharti Foundation has undertaken a major initiative – 'Satya Bharti Abhiyan' - to improve rural household sanitation facilities in Punjab. Inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call to the corporate sector in his 2014 Independence Day speech to strengthen Government's initiative on this score, the Foundation has decided to adopt Ludhiana district – home district of the Founders - as its focus area for improvement of rural sanitation. As part of this program, the Foundation has committed an investment of INR 100 Crores over the next three years for constructing toilets in rural households lacking such facilities in over 900 villages across the district. In addition to rural household sanitation, 'Satya Bharti Abhiyan' will also invest in improving sanitation facilities in Government schools in rural Ludhiana by building new toilets for girls, where no such facilities exist.

Till now, the Abhiyan has directly benefitted over 50,000 users, providing 10,162 Individual toilets across 407 villages of Ludhiana district.

➤ **Nyaya Bharti**

Nyaya Bharti was launched in November 2015 to help deserving and underprivileged undertrials 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 January, 2016