

## **Satya Bharti Schools mark Children's Day by launching 'Sanitation Week'**

**- Over 41,000 students in 254 Satya Bharti Schools across six states of India join hands to engage with their communities while learning about the importance of sanitation and hygiene**

- Students to create awareness drives by conducting rallies and street plays underlining the importance of sanitation and hygiene
- Communities to get educated on ill effects of open defecation and lack of personal hygiene on health and environment

**Ludhiana, November 14, 2014:** Bharti Foundation, the development arm of Bharti Enterprises, on the occasion of Children's Day launched the 'Sanitation Week' across all 254 Satya Bharti Schools in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Marking the importance of role of children in building awareness in communities on sanitation and hygiene, the week-long initiative was inaugurated at the Satya Bharti School, Bagga Khurd near Ludhiana. The students staged rallies and enacted skits in support of their Clean Community Campaign while exhorting the hazards of open defecation and lack of personal hygiene. Students, teachers, community members and visiting dignitaries swore allegiance to a Cleanliness Oath through which they pledged to commit their time and sincere efforts to create a cleaner India.

Speaking on the occasion, the **CEO of Bharti Foundation, Mr. Vijay Chadda** added, "This year, in line with our Honourable Prime Minister's message of "Swachh Bharat", over 41,000 students at 254 Satya Bharti Schools across six states in rural India will launch a renewed campaign for cleanliness and sanitation. While we have been addressing the issue of cleanliness in our schools through various campaigns; it is now our intent to take this message not only to parents and the immediate community, but also to other villages and schools in the vicinity. Our students will be engaged in activities that increase awareness around the importance of sanitation and we have full confidence in their role as true agents of positive change in building a new India."

Recently, Bharti Foundation announced the adoption of rural Ludhiana, as its focus area for improvement of sanitation. As part of this programme, the Foundation will invest up to Rs100 Crores in constructing toilets while reaching out to every rural household lacking such facilities in the District, over the next three years. In addition to rural household sanitation, the '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.

**Some of the recent initiatives of the 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 185 primary Schools, 64 elementary schools and five senior secondary schools are operational across Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal reaching out to 41,490 children and employing 1,618 teachers. Focusing on the girl child [48% girl students] and the weaker sections of society [74% 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, 396 Education Volunteers are engaged in teaching 5,958 enrolled out of school children of whom 50% are girls, at 270\* Satya Bharti Learning Centres. As of now, over 2,780 children have been mainstreamed, with the total impact reaching up to 8,738 children.

➤ **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, 16 government schools are supported through this model across Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Out of these, nine schools are under active implementation reaching out to 4,345 students and 195 teachers. For the remaining schools, program movement is in progress.

\*65 centres have been closed as all of their students have been mainstreamed into respective Government Schools.

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