

# RISE

Remedial Innovation in School Education

*“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men” - Fredrick Douglass*

Though he wrote these lines in the context of slavery, but it also holds true in relation to education. Education gives strength to the children to become strong adults and be successful in future. Education is so much important in a child's life that it marks the foundation of his success later in life and decides on whether he will turn out to become a happy and content adult or an emotionally shattered and depressed individual. We will one day hand over the control of our nation to our children and if they are not educated well to take up the responsibility, the goals that we have set for development will be remain unaccomplished. The purposes of education in a child's life can be many- learning skills, developing curiosity and creativity, instilling discipline, developing strength and endurance, communicating, building confidence, aspiration, observation, competition and personality development to name only few. If we give our children the opportunity to good education; we are handing them the key to their success and the success of the nation as well.



# Removing Every Hurdle



*“Krimi se chhutkara, sehatmand bhavishya hamara” and “worm-free children healthy children”.*

**The National Deworming Day** is an initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India which was celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> February to make every child in the country worm free. This is one of the largest public health programs reaching large number of children during a short period.

More than 836 million children are at risk of parasitic worm infections worldwide. According to World Health Organization 241 million children between the ages of 1 and 14 years are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms in India, also known as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH). In contribution to this day, all the students were taken to the Mohalla Clinic which included General

Physical Check-up, Eye Check-up, and Hemoglobin Check-up. Children went under Health Check-up programme and got themselves treated and vaccine. More than half of the students examined for various diseases and health related problems, were found to be suffering from weak eyesight. Free deworming tablets, medicines, necessary medical advice and precautionary measures have been provided to the students and the doctor advised the children to follow up.

In order to ensure that all the children are done with deworming,

deworming tablets are distributed again on 15<sup>th</sup> February (5 days later of the event). Physical and mental health and safety of the children is of utmost importance, so deworming is an effective step taken by the government to save the future of the nation. Deworming tablets are very safe with mild side effects like nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

RISE educators got involved very actively in making this mission successful. They were given educational materials having knowledge about all the aspects of deworming program. They got





trained already about what protocol they should follow and whom they report to in the unlikely condition like if a child falls ill.

Following practices, other than distributing deworming tablets, were promoted among RISE students, the community children and parents by the government to completely reduce the risk worm infections in children ,Never use open defecation, always use toilet for defecation, Always wash hands properly using soap and water before eating the food and after using the toilet,Always trim nails to keep them short and clean. Always keep the surrounding areas neat and clean. Always wear shoes or slipper specially while using toilet, Always drink clean water and safe food, Never keep food uncovered and Never eat fruits and raw vegetables without washing them with clean water.

The children learnt from the doctor and promised that they will avoid all illnesses and adopt good habits. RISE educators appreciated and thanked the doctor for the valuable service provided to the students.



# Celebrating Basant Panchmi



To welcome the onset of spring season, Glorious day of **Basant Panchmi** was celebrated at RISE. Basant Panchami is a popular Hindu festival dedicated to goddess Saraswati, who is the deity of knowledge, art and music. This day falls on the fifth day of the Hindu month of Magh, which is also the first day of spring. Goddess Saraswati denotes serenity and calmness. She is generally shown seated on a white lotus, wearing a pure white silk sari and holding a book in her lower left hand. The eyes of the goddess are full of compassion. Her four hands denote four facets of human personality namely mind, intellect, alertness and ego. The lotus on her hand symbolizes true knowledge. Her ride is a white swan which is

known for its peculiar capability of separating water from the milk. The swan indicates that we should have the ability to discriminate the bad from the good.

Basant Panchami, also known as the Saraswati Day, is celebrated by the Hindus across the world with great enthusiasm and festivities. The devotees visit temples which are filled with various types of religious activities. Yellow color is given prominence on this day and people dress up in yellow garments and perform rituals. Yellow represents spiritual knowledge, increasing the significance of the festival. People eat yellow sweets and distribute the same among friends and relatives. People feed Brahmans on this occasion and also perform Pitra-Tarpan, the traditional ancestral worship. Basant Panchami is the day when children are taught their first words, making it an auspicious occasion which marks the beginning of their learning process. Traditionally children place their books on the altar, at the goddess's feet. No one is allowed to touch the books during this period as they believe that goddess Saraswati is blessing the books.

Devotees believe that

worshipping of goddess Saraswati will lead to spiritual enlightenment. It is generally said that there is no comparison between a king and a learned person as the king is honored only in his land but a learned person is respected everywhere. Sainly and learned people who are inclined towards spirituality know the importance of worshipping goddess Saraswati. Other activities performed on this day include worshipping of Kamadeva, the God of Love. On this occasion, people offers prayers to





the Sun God and the deities associated with Ganges. The festivities of Basant Panchami include kite flying and a kite festival is observed in Ferozpur, Punjab. Basant Panchami marks the arrival of spring and can be noted from the colored blooms in trees and crops. This is the period when mango flowers start blossoming on trees, representing the beginning of a new life. Basant Panchami spiritually signifies that the days of ignorance and gloom are over and the period of joy and spiritual awakening has begun.

So let us welcome the eternal spring of perennial bliss in RISE, making our students understand the spiritual significance of Vasant Panchami. Keeping the tradition alive, RISE celebrated the Basant Panchami festival with more fervor & enthusiasm. We at RISE set a perfect example of secularism and celebrate all the festivals. Over the past week, in classrooms throughout RISE, all educators & students of all the centers have been working on special activities focused on promoting student understanding the significance of Basant Panchami and showcasing their own interpretations of this celebration. The day started off with a girl from each center was dressed up in the attire of Goddess

Saraswati holding Veena and other children wore yellow clothes to symbolize the significance of the color in the festival. Students were told the significance of the festival and they all enchanted Saraswati Vandana to feel peace within. Beautiful pieces of Art related to the festival were decorated on the boards. A floral rangoli with yellow and orange colored flowers signified

the brilliance of nature and the vibrancy of life. Children then organized dance & poetic sessions. This festival gave students a bundle of excitement and joy while celebrating this festival. This festival has taught all our children the significance of study and getting knowledge from it. They even have taken oath to study harder than before.



## Training of the Trainers



A teacher is a learner before he/she is a teacher. The spirit of bettering oneself is what defines an educationist. In this regard, it is essential for teachers to upgrade themselves, attain a set of differential skills, and improve upon practiced strategies. Teachers are at the heart of all centers' activities and their role as the most important contributor to the self-esteem of a child is undeniable. The holistic development of community, society, nation and universe is dependent on educational system and it is in the hands of teachers which has a symbiotic relationship with teacher education as teachers are the frontline providers of quality education.

A one day workshop was conducted by RISE team for preparation and planning talk with educators, discuss and then activities to be finalized as per interest of students. The team also guided educators in adopting more efficient ways of teaching, planning, and strategizing their lessons and activities so as to

maximize learning for students. Selection of activities had been discussed, day to day need of the children and teachers was assumed in the training as well. In workshop educators were motivated to incorporate the four A's: **avoid alter, adapt and accept** in order to understand the children and to take them to a different level. RISE team and educators also had a discussion on PBL which would help for future planning also. Aims of education were also discussed.

The main objective of the training was capacity building of teacher educators which mentioned the necessity of intermediate check of the course content for students' benefit; to ensure the objectives that have been declared at the time of beginning of classes; planning, formation of course content and evaluation; remedial education of poor students. The training was focused on to strengthen the teachers in planning and visualizing lesson & preparing concept /mind map, designing worksheet and knowing learning gaps. The training also aimed at helping RISE educators understand and appreciate diversity in children and accept their shortcomings more positively. In training RISE

team focused on teacher responsibility and accountability, teaching strategies, regular assessments and evaluation, child psychology, making of the child-centered learning materials, etc.

The training saw an active participation from educators who shared their experiences and showed commendable team spirit in planning out activities. RISE team stated "with the learning, there is a strong need of unlearning, relearning how to teach the new generation students in this highly technological world. Educators in this liquid society must be 'a meddler in the middle' and the process of teaching is mutual learning for both teachers and students. We should move from the attitude of 'I do, you do' to an effective and inclusive approach of 'we do'." RISE team felt that availability of all information at the click of the mouse for the students made the 21st century teaching a very challenging one and teachers should mould themselves to the required environment. It was a hands-on training with educators preparing their own teaching tools in groups and reviewing those of others. The educators also got an opportunity to share their own teaching innovations with their peers in the field. The ultimate aim to share and grow was addressed again through yet another workshop.



## Parents - Teachers Interaction

Parent Teacher meetings (PTMs) are organized on quarterly basis in RISE centers as a regular activity of RISE Academic Calendar. These meetings serve as a connection platform for parents, teachers and community. Moreover PTMs are a wonderful time for parents to meet with child's entire teaching team. These meetings also demonstrate to a child that s/he can trust his/her teacher, because their parents do. PTM can help to make student teacher relationship a strong and rewarding one.

RISE aims to train the students under its umbrella so that they may emerge as civilized member of society and contribute for the betterment. To achieve target we polish the skills and abilities of students from time to time. Learning starts from home, whatever is learnt at home, stays with the person throughout lifetime. Therefore parents are counseled to play their active role in the personality development of kids. In this regard, some suggestions were shared by RISE educators such as: cleanliness



& personal hygiene, punctuality, regular study time at home, respecting others, avoid negative talking and behavior in front of the children, give respect and regard to the children, etc. The PTM came to an end with the conclusion that the progress of the students depends on the joint effort of parents and teachers. Educators were happy to note that as teachers of their students, their efforts to make the students creative, confident and hardworking was being well appreciated unanimously by all the parents.

## Breaking barriers - Guddi

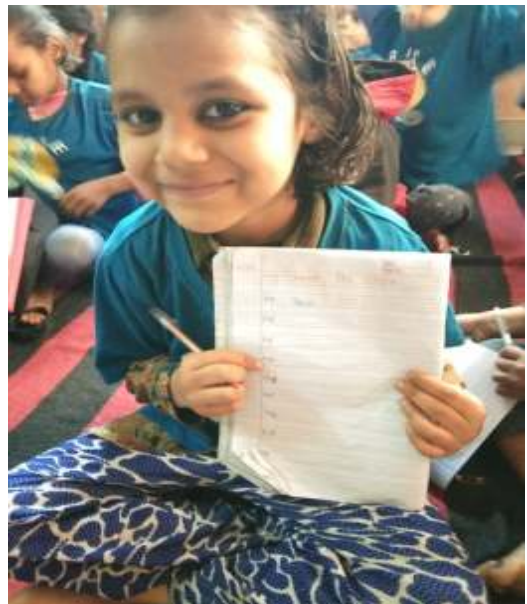
Guddi, an educator of RISE has been one of the oldest educators of AROH Foundation. Being a girl associated to the Muslim community she wasn't allowed to move out and work, thus she found it difficult to help & support her family financially. But now after being engaged with AROH Foundation she is one self-dependent & dignified girl who had fought from all the odds & has been working confidently to support her large family of 9 members including her 3 sisters and a brother living with her father and her grandparents. She feels more attached to the project RISE, working for the betterment of deprived children and community. She is one of the most loved educators in RISE. Her dedication, politeness & calmness has given her immense love and respect in her center and around in the community as well. Not just during teaching in her center, she also very enthusiastically takes part and initiates many other processes for the betterment of the students and community. She has built a great relationship with the students and their parents and not only that their parents have full faith and trust on Guddi but Guddi also loves her work and enjoys every part of it.



*Guddi says "RISE has given me a chance to teach and learn both. AROH foundation's influence and coordination towards society, environment and poor children has brought change to a greater extend in my life which cannot be expressed in words. The concept of bringing under privileged children to mainstream and for continuous enhancement of educators like me has been a regular process. Today, I look at myself sometimes and I myself feel very happy & proud that I'm teaching the children to achieve their morals and goals & supporting my father foremost. Additionally, I thank RISE from the bottom of my heart that they recruited me and made me the member of RISE."*

## Smiling & Inspiring “Muskaan”

Our success story for the day comes from another successful RISE center operating in Sangam Vihar, New Delhi region. Aoli, a RISE educator since last two years, shares this story of Muskaan, an 11-year-old RISE center education beneficiary, who has shown remarkable growth in only a short span of 12 months. Muskaan studies in class 5<sup>th</sup> in an MCD government school in Delhi. She has 5 members in her family including her 2 sisters and parents. Her father, Mr. Sarveshan used to work as a farmer in Kannauj (U.P.), but in search of better life and wage they all shifted to Delhi. Muskaan’s father has worked his way through not earning even enough to feed his family, to eventually sustain his family in Delhi; he enrolled his kids in government school. Her father works as a daily wage labour now and mother is a housewife. In such situation, her parents are unable to afford a private tuition for their children. Though there is a need for tuition classes, families like such of Muskaan cannot afford such classes because of their financial status. RISE centers play a vital role in such cases. Muskaan was very weak in studies before coming to the RISE center and rarely did she go to school. Her journey at RISE started when our Educator Aoli went on one of her community visits. She found her playing on the streets and her parents also conveyed that Muskaan doesn’t like to study much. Then after, Aoli told Muskaan’s parents about the project RISE and they got Muskaan enrolled the very next day. For some days Muskaan didn’t show her interest in studies but at the end of her first week to RISE she started engaging herself in activities conducted in the class. Slowly and steady she started studying well and stood in top 5 students’ list of the class. Her hand-writing and drawing has been much improved. She is now the most attentive student of the class who makes other students understand the things.



*Muskaan’s parents are very happy with her progress in studies. Her mother says “Even after coming home, she studies. Moreover she teaches us and younger sisters, whatever she learns at the RISE center.”*



**Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC)** was incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956 on 20th December, 2002 with an authorized share capital of INR 15 billion and paid up capital of INR 2 billion. AIC commenced business from 1st April, 2003. AIC has taken over the implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which, until FY 2002-03 was implemented by General Insurance Corporation of India. In addition, AIC also transacts other insurance businesses directly or indirectly concerning agriculture and its allied activities. AIC also works towards upliftment of marginalized sections of the society. Project RISE is CSR initiative of AIC which aims to provide better educational opportunities to underprivileged children.



**AROH Foundation** is a leading national-level NGO, strengthening government programmes and CSR initiatives of several corporates and PSEs by providing total integrated solutions - consulting, planning and implementing - for sustainable, inclusive development and growth of the needy and marginalised communities in several states of India for the past 12 years. AROH is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified organization, registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.

RISE is a pioneering initiative designed by AROH Foundation, which recognizes the nation’s concern of improvement of learning outcomes and universalisation of elementary education as of paramount importance, and strives to bring the deprived and marginalized or educationally backward children in backward villages and slums under the safety net of education through an innovative approach and Project-Based Learning Methodology.