

IMPACT QUARTERLY REPORT

JULY 2014

OVER 38,000 GIRLS CURRENTLY ENROLLED • ACROSS 10 STATES



SPECIAL EDITION: CASE STUDIES



THIS REPORT IS A CASE STUDIES SPECIAL. IT SHOWCASES THE AMAZING STORIES OF OVER 38,000 TRULY REMARKABLE GIRLS WHO ATTEND OUR LEARNING CENTERS. THEIR MOTIVATION AND PERSEVERANCE TO NEVER STOP LEARNING INSPIRES US EVERYDAY.

AVID DETERMINATION

Manisha is an inspiration and one of IIMPACT's greatest successes. She completed her grade 10 and 12 both with first class merit, and pursued further studies, completing her BA. It is intriguing to see that her younger sister has gotten married while Manisha decided to take a GK course, and is now taking a computer course. She plans to apply to join the police once she has acquired this knowledge.

However, it is not only her academic and vocational accomplishments that make her so special to us. It is her utter confidence and faith in us that is so endearing. She has become so confident about demanding her right to knowledge and it is riveting to watch and help propagate such a determined young adult. We hope to continue connecting through text messages, reminding us of her journey to her aspirations.

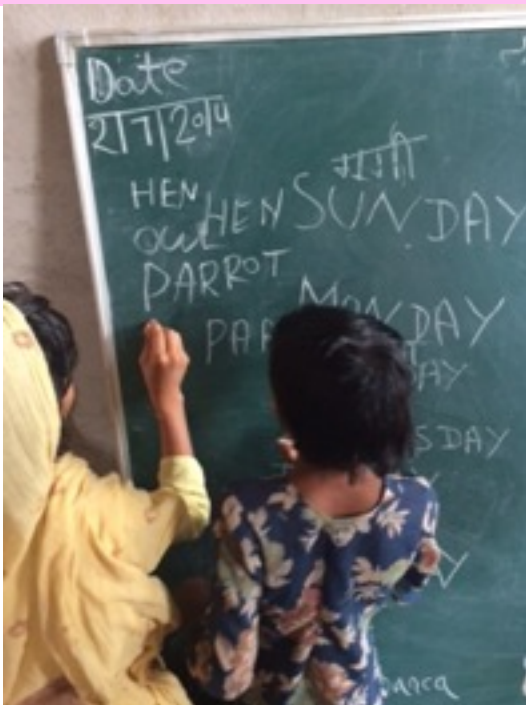


HEALTHY COMPETITION

It is highly gratifying to see our girls engaging in a positive manifestation of competition. Never before did we document two girls at the board showcasing their knowledge so eagerly.

Both children ran their hands around the board listing as many animals as they could in English at top speed. Their interest was tugged at immediately and it turned into a motivational, brain teasing game for both audience and contestants.

Not only did they bring out the best in each other, they soon progressed to collaboration. What one wrote in English, the other paraphrased into Hindi strengthening both their own, and their peers concepts of the languages. A hint of a challenge could draw out the shyness and illustrate the desire to prove oneself, and do so beautifully.



STANDING BACK UP

Saira was an exuberant, playful and lively girl. She was young and full of energy and hope despite her large family of 7 siblings and limited resources. Her father was a retired forest official and her mother, like so many other women in the village worked as a housewife and nothing more. Saira's father's pension was the only source of income for the family and probably made it impossible for such a large family to make ends meet.

Despite these circumstances, Saira's family aspired for a better future for their children. They exhibited superior wisdom by allowing their daughters to study at the IIMPACT centres and the boys at the local schools so that they can build a better future for themselves and their family.

However life had another obstacle in store for Saira. In 2005 she lost her leg in an accident and due to lack of resources had to have it amputated. Suddenly it was like the light went out. She sat in corners, hindered and lonely and had completely lost her confidence and her buoyant nature. She felt weighed down by her sudden disability.

But every fall offers a path back up. Saira received proper medical care and was provided with an artificial limb. This helping hand made all the difference in her life. Her cheerful expressions were back, for all of those around her to cherish, and revel in. Today she is flourishing in adolescence, wearing salwar kameez and even walking without a limp. That is the beauty of IIMPACT. We offered her a hand to steady herself and she stood back up to continue the climb.



A TOUGH JOURNEY TO EDUCATION

Aasmaa's journey to an IIMPACT centre has been tough, to say the least. One of 8 children, Aasmaa lived with her siblings and her parents in a small village. She regularly attended classes at the IIMPACT Centre there and did well. However, tragedy soon struck as her father suddenly passed away and their family was left without a main income provider. Her mother started working as a domestic helper to help raise more money, but it wasn't enough. One day, Aasmaa's uncle came to their house with an offer to take Aasmaa to Kolkata to work so that she could make money as well. Her mother accepted the proposal and sent Aasmaa with her uncle to Kolkata. Conditions in the house that she worked in were quite poor. Aasmaa was made to do many domestic chores such as cleaning the house and washing the clothes. Worse, she was not even paid for her hard work. It only got worse as her employers started to oppress her mentally and physically. Some days, she was not even given food, all because of a minor mistake made in her work. In the village, the supervisor and our teacher at the IIMPACT Centre in her village went to Aasmaa's house to investigate the reason of her irregularity at the centre.

At first, the mother did not reveal the real reason why Aasmaa wasn't regularly attending school. Nevertheless, after repeated visits by the IIMPACT staff, she was compelled to disclose what Aasmaa was doing and where she was. After listening to Aasmaa's mother's story, the community teacher narrated the evils of child labour to the mother. She soon started to realize that making her child go through such an ordeal could bring immense pathos to the life of her daughter. Aasmaa's mother immediately decided to bring her daughter back to the village, and within a few days, Aasmaa was back at her house with her mother and her Uncle. When the IIMPACT team went to visit her, she told them "I am very happy to reach my village house and I again want to go to the Learning Centre." Currently, Aasmaa is once again happily attending class regularly at the learning centre.



HAVE THE WILL, WILL LEARN:

Gita is a girl who has overcome all obstacles in the way to achieve her dream. The only sister of five brothers, she looked past the hardships that come with being disabled, to attain her dream of being educated and of becoming a nurse. With the only income coming in from farming and agriculture, Gita's family did not have money to spare. Gita did not let that bring her down, and she regularly attended classes at the IIMPACT centre, vigorously studying until she had passed the 5th standard. However, Gita did not stop there. Even though life in the village was getting harder, she refused to let that get in the way of her education. Gita continued studying at the government school until she had finished 12th grade as well. Despite the fact that the nearest government college was still quite a distance away from her village, she started attending college and is now currently studying in the B.A. Second Year. A person who wants to help others, Gita's ultimate dream is to become a nurse, and because of her determination, hard work and courage, it is surely one that will become a reality.



ASCENDING THE RANKS

Nadira does not come from an uneducated family, both of her parents are literate. However, she does come from a family with no money to spare. With farming being the source of livelihood in the family and with 9 mouths to feed, life is tough. The 15 year old girl, however, did not let that deter her from seeking education. She started attending class at the IIMPACT centre and was called an outstanding student by her teacher. Her interest in her studies motivated her to keep studying after she passed the fifth grade with good grades. Now, she attends 10th grade at the school in her village. When asked what she would like to do with her life, she replied "I want to study to be successful in my life and I do not want to be a burden on anyone." She wants to spread education in her village and help others understand that education is the key to a better life and the key to breaking out of the poverty cycle. Her noble thoughts to make her village a better place don't end there. When she grows up, Nadira hopes to become a police officer and better the lives of others.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

Poverty and hunger doesn't understand the difference between socialism and humanitarianism. A burning stomach doesn't bother about any challenges. She will do anything and everything for her survival. No matter what the challenge be, no matter what the future holds, a hungry stomach would never bother for anything except food.

The above case speaks about the transformation of the community through two sisters, (i.e Meenu, a tribal girl aged 11, and her younger sister Ria, aged 9. They lived in a small village in Orissa along with the family of 5 members. Ria and Meenu both come together to our learning center. One day, all of sudden, Meenu & Ria lost their father, the only bread winner of their family. The family was shattered. Immediately the innocent Meenu became mature and bold and decided to take the role of the bread winner for her family.

Mohana is a high trafficking zone. Meenu's mother fell into the trap, where Meenu became the victim. Her decision to take care of her siblings and earn for her family made her an easy target for a local trafficker called Bikram, who offered her a regular income of more than Rs 3000, along with food and shelter in Mumbai. She was taken to a house, where she had to do all the household work, but would not get food often. She was beaten, tortured, and exploited. The moment she realized her mistake, she was already sold to two traffickers for a mere 30,000 rupees. Her experience with the second buyer at Goa, for a "high profiled house" spells out the ugly face of our civilized society. She was disrespected in the house and lost her dignity and was left only with pain.

In the meanwhile, Ria missed her sister a lot and gradually realized that Bikram had fooled her family. With the help of our teacher, Ria filed a FIR against Bikram and helped the police to get him arrested. Then, with the effort of the local Police, Meenu was rescued from Goa. Now Meenu is back in Mohana and she is helping her mother in her household and also coming to our learning center with Ria. This story made many parents aware about the fake promises made by the traffickers to the tribal parents.

The above story tells about the courage of little Ria who saved her sister, which was only possible by the Ria's empowerment through education. Like Meenu & Ria, several other girls are victimized by the traffickers. Education leads to empowerment, which offers solutions to the shortcomings of society.

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, ONE TREE AT A TIME

Besides teaching English, Hindi, Maths and EVS, our IIMPACT centres also teach the girls the importance of global warming and about taking responsibility for the wellbeing of their surroundings. Our girls happily take up the cause and plant a sapling in front of their learning centres, and they don't stop there. They further nurture the sapling by regularly watering them turn by turn.

They not only planted trees, but also educated the others in their families and villages about the importance of taking care of their surroundings. It is truly heartwarming to see these girls look past their everyday problems and focus on improving the condition of their surroundings.. They are role models for us all.



NEW DIRECTIONS

Our IIMPACT centers across the country teach many important values and concepts besides academic ones. One of these values is hygiene. The girls are taught the importance of keeping healthy, clean and safe. To celebrate hygiene and health, we held a “Wash Day” at each of our centers to develop healthy habits such as proper ways of washing hands. Besides being taught basic facts such as the importance of washing hands before and after eating, the girls were also told to raise awareness of hygiene by sharing their newly found knowledge about hand washing with four other people.



GAMES

At the centers the girls engage in a plethora of energy evoking games. They seem to have gained expertise in their areas of interest, be it demonstrating poses in yoga or playing soccer fifa style.

kho kho is one of their favourite games. Everyone lines up in a single file in mere seconds ready to form teams. This game sharpens listening skills and agility both of which are important qualities to possess.

Through play, girls also learn of teamwork and collaboration. They often play a grouping game. All players run around in a circle, till the leader yelled out a number. The players then scramble around and form that number. Whoever is unable to form a group is out. It is rather intriguing to watch these creative minds depict half and quarter numbers by convoluting their bodies in innovative ways.

Not only were these games highly entertaining, they also promulgated the ideal of holistic learning. They brought forth innocent childhood joy that young girls are often robbed off due to household chores, as well as instilled the learning that knowledge can be acquired through multiple means and innumerable experiences.



APPLYING THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Almost all the girls studying at the IIMPACT centers have been out of schools. And every time a girl is able to overcome the obstacles of society and achieve a route into school it is extraordinary. Yet what really illustrates the success of education is when we see those girls passing on their knowledge to their peers, family and elders.

IIMPACT does not believe in rote learning. The children at our centres have slowly acquired the actual meaning behind certain teachings. This approach of understanding based learning encourages inquisition, which increases knowledge two fold.

At various centers, girls confidently and fluently read aloud from local newspapers, comprehending issues about gas prices, railway prices, elections and even sports. It is a delight to see them reading to their shortsighted and sometimes visually impaired or illiterate grandparents and elders of the family, who gaze fondly at their prospering children while listening intently to news from around the world.



AS DOWRY FADES TO BLACK

Though at first girls were often married off way before the age of 18 to ease financial burden, the lamp of awareness and education has lit and expanded minds. On rare occasions certain families still marry young girls in a bid to wed all their daughters on a single occasion, however, the children are still permitted to pursue education to their aspirations.

Parents seem very proud of their daughters, as educated children do not require dowry from their parents and are married off on personal merit. This accomplishment shines out in the eyes of the children from the centres more than anything. Not only have they reduced pressure from their parents, they have also inculcated a sense of dignity and self worth that is absolutely invaluable.



SUPPORT

It is heartwarming to see the support of the community from a village in educating their daughters. Though the process of setting up a center takes a little convincing and persuasion, however their eminent enthusiasm towards all activities is incredibly moving.

Not only do parents attend meetings to contribute to discussions, the ladies have often expressed a desire to acquire knowledge and education themselves. Communities have begun to recognize the need of education for the girl child.

They are often engaged by the idea that if those girls do, why shouldn't mine? This domino effect of awareness is a prime pillar in the progress of IIMPACT and holds strong in even the toughest of situations.

NOTHING WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT ... OUR STAFF!



OUR TEAM!

**RAHUL TANDON,
PRESIDENT IIMPACT
INTERACTING WITH THE
STAFF AND GUIDING
THEM**





Ibanca and Suhane Anand at their sponsored centre

Mr. Sridhar, Ritika Gandhi and Deepa from Titan Industries



**Shashi Agarwal of LNJ
Bhilwara group along with
Sunitha Narahari**



**Ms. Shanta Vallury and
Mr. Girish Godbole
representing Ratnakar
Bank Limited**



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK



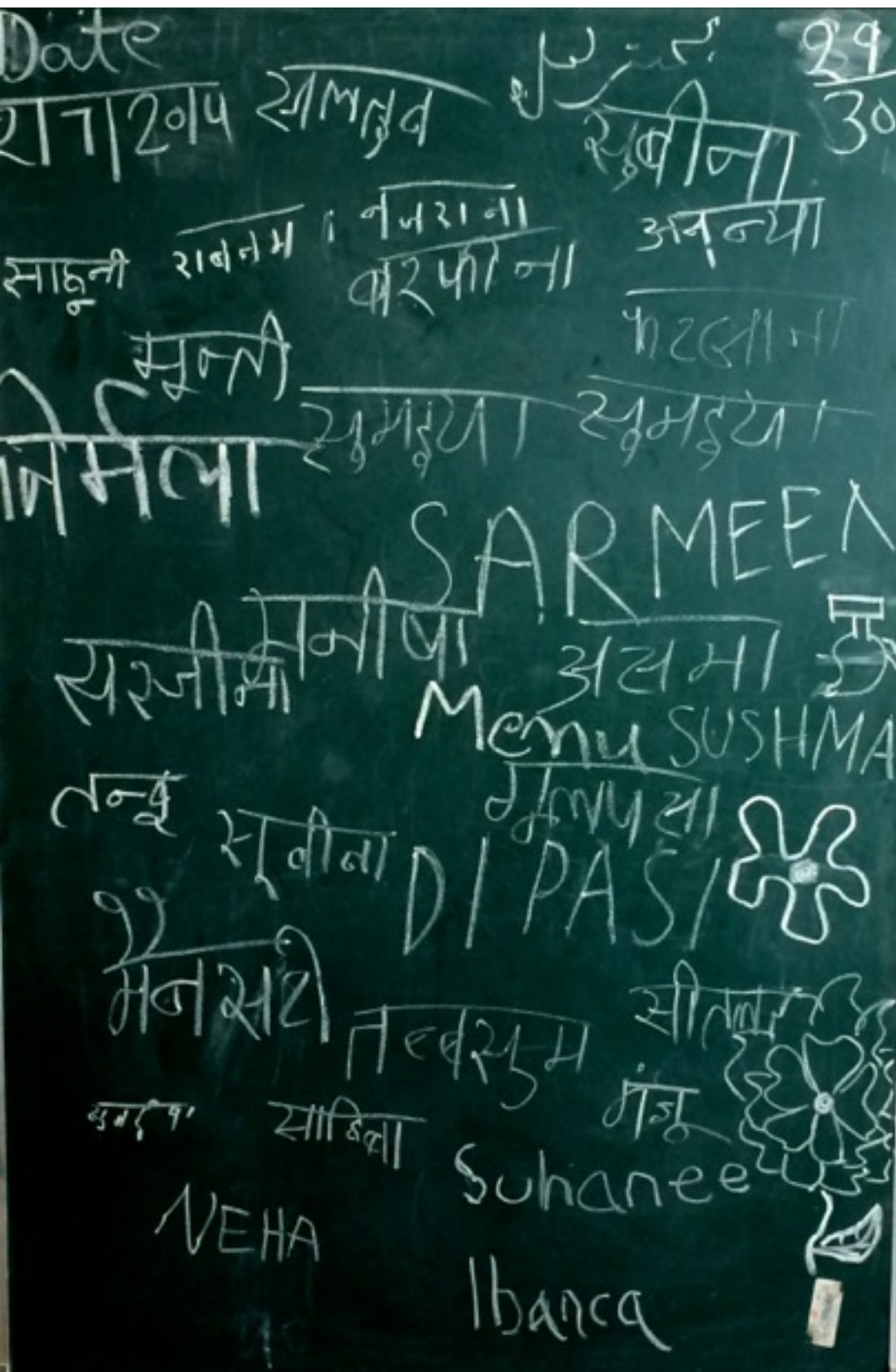
AAKSHI CHABA:

I am a 10th grade student, and this is the first summer I have spent working with IIMPACT. I do hope it's the first of many. My first contact with IIMPACT was when I visited one of the centers that my family is sponsoring, in Mewat. It was truly inspiring to see the girls' grit and determination to learn, in spite of the countless obstacles they face in everyday life. My hope for the future is to keep working with IIMPACT to help these girls achieve their dreams and have brighter futures.



ANANYA GUPTA:

I have been with IIMPACT for quite a prolonged period of time since the summer of 2013. I am currently in the eleventh grade, and created a movie summarising the origins of the organisation, their work and success. Recently my mother and I visited some of the centres in Jaipur to connect with the students there. Now, I am working on a book consisting of the stories of the girls at the various centres, and bringing their lives into the limelight. I hope to illustrate their admirable courage and optimistic determination despite adversities thrown their way.



IIMPACT

www.iimpact.net

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

During one of our visits, we were curious to know whether all our girls would be able to write their names. each girl went to the board to write her name, even asking us to write ours. This is the impact, of IIMPACT.

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We thank MPS Ltd, Pirojsha Godrej Foundation, ACC Ltd and SC Johnson for their enhanced support. Ratnakar Bank for joining hands with IIMPACT.