

hope

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02 Batch 2017



“Admission to Kirori Mal College is the best thing that happened to me. I can’t thank my Asha family enough for all their patience and guidance”

– Prince (Mayapuri slum community)



“Happiness is going to college and making new friends but most importantly pursuing studies to build a career and be independent”

– Madhu (Peeragarhi slum community)



“My admission would not have been possible without my Asha family, the guidance, fees and the running around was all done by them. What I did was only followed them, and see, I am here in this college”

– Roshni (BIW slum community)



“My parents earn around Rs 10,000 a month. I am the first one to go to college and am very happy about it. It is my responsibility to study hard”

– Devender (Tigri slum community)

Asha is a community health and development society dedicated to improving the lives of slum dwellers in Delhi.

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asha-india.org
facebook.com/ashasociety1
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youtube.com/ashasociety
instagram/ashasociety

Thank you for your continuous support and generosity for helping students from Asha slum communities break every barrier and achieve great successes in lives. Each year, Asha high school leavers prove that they can be at par with their peers. We strongly believe that education is not a luxury, rather the single most powerful human right. So, we ardently pledge to have 100% literacy in our slum communities in Delhi. You can do your bit too.

03 Spotlight



Against all odds, a cobbler’s son aces class 12 exams scoring 90.75%

Growing in sheer misery, 17-year-old Hariom, a son of a cobbler from Tigri slum community never imagined that he would one-day score 90.75% in his class 12 exams, thereby becoming one of the toppers (fourth) in Asha’s 2017 high-school leaving batch.

Born in an extremely challenging environment, the young lad achieved a mark many from an affluent background can only aspire to.

“My father’s meagre income wasn’t enough to support my education although he so dearly wanted to. I have three younger siblings to take care of. But things changed when I came across Asha,” recalls Hariom.

Hariom says the books and study materials Asha provided have been a great help to him. “The Asha team at times spent hours counselling and motivating me to achieve this percentage. They instilled hope in me”, says a humble Hariom.

Backed by everyone at Asha, Hariom persevered harder each day and in June this year achieved a score he believes was an accumulated effort by the Asha team and him.

A meticulous student throughout, Hariom has now secured a seat at the prestigious College of Art, Delhi, with an aim to paint like M.F.Husain, an Indian painter of international acclaim.

Hariom’s success is one of the many experiences that inspires Asha to move ahead with a strong belief and a stronger resolve to give back to society.

04 News at a glance



Bidding adieu to the Canada's Deputy High Commissioner

Asha hosted a farewell evening to bid adieu to Deputy High Commissioner for Canada to India, Jess Dutton and his wife Sigrid on July 11, 2017 at Kanak Durga slum community. Earnest supporter of Asha's work, Mr Dutton has been enthusiastically involved in Asha's Internship and Mentorship programme, which has opened different avenues for our students. Sigrid has also mentored Asha students and actively participated in various donation drives for Asha's slum communities. **1**

Celebrating Asha's 2017 High School Batch Toppers

Asha celebrated the triumph of High School batch 2017 on June 03 at Asha Headquarters. Dr Kiran proudly welcomed the bunch of fifty-two bright enthusiastic teenagers and applauded them for their outstanding dedication and hard work displayed in their exam results, with the highest score being 93.2%.

Festival Brass in concert with a cause

Asha supporters in Hollywood Parish Church organized a charity show, "Festival Brass", with special guest and International singer Peter Corry in aid of Asha's Computer Literacy Programme in Peeragarhi and Zakhira slum communities. A big thank you to our friends and supporters in Northern Ireland for your hard work and support.

A trip of a lifetime for young Ambassador Chandan

Recently, Asha Ambassador Chandan had the opportunity of a lifetime to accompany Dr Kiran to the UK in the month of July to share his journey with old and new Asha supporters. Chandan inspired many with his humble story. A very excited Chandan shares, "The trip to UK will be the most cherished experience of my life. I was awestruck when I saw the sea for the first time. I was deeply touched by the hospitality and positivity shown by Asha supporters". Asha extends its heartfelt gratitude to the UK community and supporters for their generosity!

05 News at a glance



Launch of Asha's 2017 Internship Programme

Asha's trailblazing Internship programme for 2017, was launched at the Australian High Commission on June 02. Now in its sixth year, this programme has become one of the main highlights of the lives of the Asha students. So far 200 students have interned at various High Commissions and corporations. This year 53 students have received Internship opportunities. **5**



World Environment Day celebrations

Members of Asha's Children and Women Association from all Asha slum communities enthusiastically celebrated World Environment Day on June 05, 2017 and promoted a clean and green environment by enacting street-plays, organising cleanliness drives and planting trees. The occasion brought together Asha teams and the local government to work towards the common goal of ensuring a healthy environment and reducing our carbon footprint. **6**

Farewell to Mark Westenra, First Secretary of the New Zealand High Commission

With heavy heart, Asha bid farewell to Mark Westenra, First Secretary of New Zealand High Commission, on April 21, 2017. Mr. Westenra, a dear and earnest supporter of Asha since 2013, has devotedly supported our Mentorship Programme. Despite his busy schedule, he made sure that he was personally involved in the holistic development of his Asha student mentees, who today are successful examples of his diligence.

06 Spotlight



Finding Asha at the right time was a life changing experience for Gomti

After getting married at an early age, Gomti, originally hailing from Uttar Pradesh, India, started living with her husband and in-laws in East Delhi. The 23-year-old was naive and didn't understand at first the severe state of her gynaecological problems. Rather she had inhibitions discussing them. However, some ten months ago pressurised by her in-laws on questions about her fertility, Gomti confided in her cousin who lives nearby Seelampur slum community.

After experiencing no success at several other clinics, her cousin recommended that Gomti visits the Asha centre at Seelampur. She started to have a ray of hope after listening to the several successful pregnancy cases being treated there.

In March 2017, Gomti visited the Asha Centre and shared her medical history with the Asha team. The diagnosis followed through with ultrasound, blood tests, a proper diet chart and daily dosage of iron folic along with vitamin tablets.

Now, after four months of treatment, Gomti is two months pregnant and is expecting her first child which is due in February 2018. A very happy Gomti said, "The feeling of conceiving for the first time is indescribable. I can't thank Asha enough for everything."

07 Volunteer diaries

Some amazing people make a real impact this summer

It is always wonderful to have people from all walks of life joining us in our efforts to transform lives. This time, we were delighted to have four different individuals from around the world, coming forward and spreading joy and love in our communities. The volunteers include Dave and Chloe Jones (The River Church UK), Sudhanshu Agarwal (India) and Andrew Robertson (Scotland) who taught English to the Asha High School and College students, brushed up the students' problem-solving skills, taught organising skills to sort books and improve reading skills of the children, spent time with the Women's Association as well as played games with Asha's Children Association among others.



Cannot wait to be back again

Andrew Robertson
Student, Scotland

While teaching English in Anna Nagar community for around a month, I have learned a great deal about life in the Delhi slums from the Asha students, and the impact of Asha's work. The hospitality of the locals has been incredible, and I will sorely miss all the great friends I have made here. I will cherish the memories always and surely hope to come back and teach here again in the future.

Blown away by Asha's work...

Dave and Chloe Jones
River Church UK

What an inspiring week! As we visited the slums and projects Asha work in, we were blown away by the genuine community transformation taking place. The precious people we talked and laughed with, who are seizing opportunities for a better life with both hands, gave us much encouragement. For us, a connection has been made with Asha, one that we hope to develop more strongly in the future.

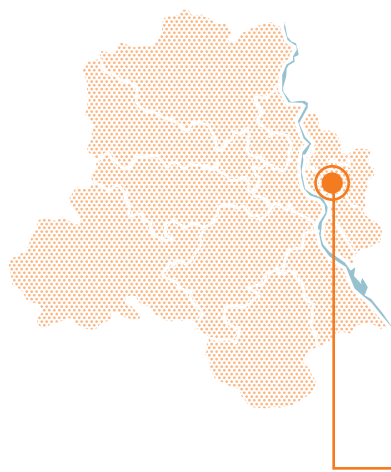
The most fulfilling experience of my life...

Sudhanshu Agarwal
Student, India

Volunteering at Asha was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. My volunteering lasted only for four months but the friendships I made will last forever. It taught me that success does not depend on hardships one faces but their determination to achieve even when things go horribly wrong. I went to teach the children at Asha, but ended up being a student. The children here are full of determination. They taught me how to be content, how to sail even when the wind is against you and how scientia ipsa potentia est (knowledge itself is power) still holds true. Knowledge is the greatest gift anyone can ever give to someone, the one I received from Asha. It was a very humbling experience which changed me in ways I could have never imagined. I got the opportunity to experience what true happiness means and I look forward to being involved in future as well.

If you would like to volunteer at Asha, please contact info@asha-india.org

08 Transforming lives



Case Story: Aarti

Aarti from Seelampur faced poverty, mocking from her father for being a girl-child, slept on an empty stomach, but didn't give up. She took-up several part-time jobs to support her 6 younger siblings when her father went back to his village, leaving the bereft family to provide for themselves. Amidst this, she secured 74% in her class 12 exams. She has battled many odds, that people her age can't fathom.

● Seelampur, New Delhi

Today, Aarti is pursuing a BA programme and dreams of becoming a teacher. The humble girl says, "My life would have been over if Asha had not stepped in. They supported my education and all I can do is pay it forward. Asha instilled in me that even as a girl, I can still achieve anything in life."

Friends of Asha (Australia)

If you would like to contribute to the lives of poor slum dwellers in Delhi, then you can become a Friend of Asha. Friends of Asha are an integral part of our organisation and aid our activities through donations, fundraising events, volunteering and raising awareness of the work we do.

For more information, contact:

**Mr Richard Leder, Secretary and Coordinator,
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(AFOA)**

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Donations

Donations over AUD 2 to Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Overseas Development Gift and Relief Fund (ACN 161 085 650) are tax deductible.

To donate online

Send your contribution directly to Asha by visiting our website at asha-india.org/getinvolved/donate, or visit AFOA website at www.australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au/donation/

To donate by cheque

Make your cheque payable to "Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited" and mail to:

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Australia India Institute
The University of Melbourne
147-149 Barry Street
Carlton VIC 3053, Australia.

To make a direct deposit

Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited |
Account No: 147 414 122 | Bank: Bendigo Bank |
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