

Asha Higher Education Programme

Donation request

Fighting patriarchy with education

“We would sit on the pavement outside and wait for amma (mother) to give us dry chapatis soaked in water,” recalls a teary-eyed Mehjabeen.

The family of Mehjabeen, daughter of a daily wage mason Mohammad Raees, migrated to Janta Camp from Uttar Pradesh’s Sultanpur some two decades ago. This specific ghetto is a few miles away from Asha’s Anna Nagar slum colony. Mehjabeen along with her parents, one brother and sister, and a grandfather live altogether in a shanty no bigger than the size of a car. With a meagre and non-fixed income, that usually ranges between Rs 7000 to 8000 (£76.47–£87.40/ \$99.50– \$13.71) per month, their monthly household expenses are barely managed.

The Asha Ambassadors, while on a visit in search of bright students in and around the community, found a sincere Mehjabeen. Mehjabeen was intelligent but naïve. The Ambassadors knew that it is important that Mehjabeen, a class eleventh student then, should be counselled for her better future as a matter of priority. But her orthodox background was a hurdle to her to even dream of college. The Ambassadors sought the help of Asha Team and made Mehjabeen’s family understand the importance of university education. In 12th class, Mehjabeen was provided with much needed scholastic materials and made to sit for extra classes and tests at the centre.

“I had terrifying moments before the results were announced. But the emotional support I received from Asha Ambassadors is beyond words. Earlier, I was studying hard but never had a goal; with the help of Asha, I could recognise my dreams,” said 17-year-old Mehjabeen.

This year, Mehjabeen scored 96% in her 12th examination securing the highest in the subject of Home Science– 98. This would have been impossible without her hard work and assistance from the Friends of Asha and supporters. Now, she seeks to get admission to a good college so that she can realize her dream of becoming a teacher one day.



“I want to make a difference in the lives of as many students as I can. I want to become a Teacher.”

Under Asha’s Higher Education Programme, more than 2500 young people have received tertiary education. Since last year our Asha Ambassadors and Graduates have been reaching out to every bright and needy student living in the slum communities of Delhi. This endeavour has ignited the light of higher education amongst the bright students. Asha believes that where you live shouldn’t be a barrier to who you can become. We hope to continue our efforts spreading education across all the slums of Delhi. Together, we can realize our dream of educating and empowering each of the slum children of Delhi.

Let’s be united and keep donating Asha to make the lives of slum children happy and bright!



AUD 1590

will cover all university expenses for one child for one year

AUD 800

will pay the university tuition fees for one child for one year

AUD 395

will cover one college preparation workshop for 30 children

AUD 239

will buy books for one child for one year

AUD 165

will provide a student with new clothes for university

Donate today – and make your gift go further!

Australian Friends of Asha (ACN 161 085 650) can collect funds for Asha from Australia. Donations over AUD 2 are tax deductible. You can donate the following ways:

● **Online:**

Visit australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au/donation, and follow the simple steps to make your payment via a secure server.

● **By Cheque:**

Payable to Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited and mail it with the form below to:
Mr Richard Leder, Secretary and National Co-ordinator,
Australian Friends of Asha for Slums, Australia India Institute, The University of Melbourne, 4th Floor, Arts West Building, Parkville VIC 3010, Australia
Charity Registration No. ACN 161085650

● **Direct Deposit**

Please make payment to the following account, and please include your name as a reference.
Account Name: Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited
Bank: Bendigo Bank
Account Name: 147 414 122
BSB No: 633 000

● **Directly to Asha India**

asha-india.org/get-involved/donate/australia-donations

For more information, contact: Mr Richard Leder, National Coordinator, Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited (AFOA) at info@australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au.

Yes, I'd like to give a child from the slums the opportunity to study and work.

My contribution of AUD _____ is enclosed.

I would like to become a Monthly Donor and contribute AUD _____ every month.

My first contribution is enclosed. Please send me a standing order form.

I particularly want to contribute towards _____

Please keep me informed about Asha's activities. My email is _____

Full name & title _____

Organisation (if any) _____

Address _____

City and postcode _____ Country _____

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