

HOPE

Stories from Asha

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Behind Every
University Admission
is a Story of Hope

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION





LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Every Admission Carries a Story



Dear Friends,

There is something about this time of year that always moves me deeply. University admission lists begin to appear, and suddenly a name that we have watched, encouraged and prayed over for years is there - on a list that can change the direction of an entire life.

When I hear that one of our young people has secured a university place, I never see only an admission. I see the cramped room in which that student studied; the mother who worried about fees and safety; the father who had never imagined university for anyone in his family; the Asha worker who returned again and again to counsel, encourage and help; the forms corrected, documents secured, entrance tests prepared for, journeys made across Delhi, and the moments when a young person almost lost courage.

This is why every admission feels so personal to me. For many of our students, they are the first person in their family to step inside a university. A door that has been closed for generations suddenly opens.

This year, more than 99% of our students successfully completed their school-leaving examinations, nearly 80% registered for the University Entrance Test, and around 100 have already secured university places, mainly at the University of Delhi. More admissions are still to come, and our team continues to walk beside every student until the process is complete.

Since 2008, Asha has helped more than 7,000 young people enter university. Today they are teachers, nurses, engineers, scientists, public health professionals, corporate executives and community leaders. They support their families, mentor younger students and quietly redefine what is possible for children growing up in Delhi's slum communities.

And behind these journeys are you, our friends. Your belief, generosity and friendship have stood beside these young people long before an admission letter arrived. You have helped make these moments possible.

As you read their stories in these pages, I hope you will feel some of the joy and pride that I feel. Each life is precious. Each journey is hard won. And each open door carries hope far beyond one student.

With my deepest gratitude,
Dr Kiran Martin
Founder & Director, Asha

“Each open door carries hope far beyond one student.”



BEHIND EVERY UNIVERSITY ADMISSION

A university place can transform an entire family.

Behind every admission are years of encouragement, family trust, preparation, persistence and practical support.

7,000+

young people helped enter university since 2008

70%+

of Asha university students are young women

100

students already admitted this year

Opening doors takes years, not weeks.

A university admission is the visible moment. Behind it is a long chain of relationships, preparation, persistence and practical support.

1

IDENTIFY

Home visits and school outreach find every young person who hopes to continue studying.

2

BUILD TRUST

Families are counselled about cost, safety and the long-term value of higher education.

3

PREPARE

Tutoring, study materials, IT access, practice tests and mentoring build confidence.

4

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE TEST

Students receive guidance on registration, subjects, exam centres and computer-based testing.

5

DOCUMENTS

Certificates are checked; errors corrected; forms, uploads and course choices completed.

6

ADMISSION

Asha supports merit lists, counselling, verification, registration and fees.

7

THROUGH UNIVERSITY

Mentoring, English support, laptops, internships, career guidance and financial help continue.

LIVES TRANSFORMED

SOFIA

A chance to continue

B.A. (Hons.) History | University of Delhi

When circumstances said stop,
opportunity said continue.

Sofia's university journey could easily have ended before it began. After her father died following a long illness, her mother was left to support four children through domestic work.

Despite these circumstances, Sofia achieved 82% in her school-leaving examinations. Asha helped with applications, study materials and access to the IT Lab. When an error was found in her documents, the team corrected it before the deadline. Asha paid her registration fees and continues to support her educational expenses.

Today Sofia is studying History at the University of Delhi. Her admission has created new hope for her family.



LIVES TRANSFORMED

SHUBHAM

Turning ability into opportunity

B.Sc. (Hons.) Mathematics | University of Delhi

Talent needs more than recognition. It needs a pathway.

Academic ability alone cannot secure a university place. Students must navigate the University Entrance Test, subject combinations, online portals, course preferences, document uploads and strict deadlines - often without a computer, reliable internet or anyone at home who has done it before.

Shubham loved mathematics but had little family experience of higher education. With Asha's guidance, he secured a place to study Mathematics at the University of Delhi.

His journey shows what becomes possible when talent receives the right support.



LIVES TRANSFORMED

SURAJ

He studied when his father slept

B.A. Programme in Liberal Arts | University of Delhi

Someone continued to believe in him - until he could keep believing in himself.

For Suraj, the struggle began at home. His father opposed his education and sometimes tore his books. Suraj studied at the Asha centre or waited until his father was asleep before opening them.

The Asha team continued to affirm his ability and encouraged him not to give up. He persevered and secured admission to a Liberal Arts programme at the University of Delhi.

His achievement reflects extraordinary determination - and the power of having someone who continues to believe in you.



Tripti: From an Admission Letter to Sydney



BEFORE



AFTER

When Tripti first held her university admission letter at the entrance to her home, it represented a future that had once seemed unimaginably distant.

Growing up in Asha's Vivekanand community, she went on to become the ninth Asha student to receive the Sydney Scholars India Equity Scholarship. In 2024 she began a Master of Strategic Public Relations at the University of Sydney and graduated in December 2025.

Tripti returned to India with international experience, stronger professional skills and renewed confidence. She has since secured a position with a leading public relations company in Delhi.

Her journey does more than change one life. It expands what younger children in her community can imagine for themselves.

“A global education can begin in the narrowest of lanes.”

Changing Lives. Enriching Communities.

A degree changes more than a CV. It changes what a family can expect from the future.



Annie

HR Analyst | Wipro



Jubair

Deputy Manager, Sales and Marketing | Pratham Institute



Monica

Nurse Practitioner | Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Hospital



Sonu

Lab Technician | Med Source Ozone Biomedical Limited



Sumit

Executive | Macquarie Group



Sunny

Executive Assistant to the Deputy High Commissioner | Australian High Commission

Today Asha graduates are working across education, healthcare, science, finance, public service and the corporate sector. Many return as Asha Ambassadors, guiding younger students through the same journey they once made.

Opportunities Without Borders



Surbhi has begun a new chapter as she pursues a master's degree in International Relations at the University of Queensland. Raised in Asha's Ambedkar community, she received the UQ Asha Scholarship, covering tuition and living expenses throughout the 18-month programme.

Surbhi is the third recipient of this scholarship. With her departure, 13 Asha students have now travelled to Australia to study at leading universities through Asha's partnerships with the University of Queensland, the University of Sydney and the University of Melbourne.

These partnerships give gifted young people international academic experience and professional confidence - and they return to India with new skills, wider horizons and a determination to contribute.

13

Asha students have now travelled to Australia for postgraduate study.

Nourishing Women. Strengthening Families.

Many women in Delhi's slum communities spend their lives caring for everyone else while placing their own health last. Limited incomes, repeated pregnancies, illness and relentless work can leave women undernourished and anaemic for years.

During the quarter, Asha expanded its Women's Nutrition and Health Programme to Lal Bagh, Zakhira and Mayapuri. Women receive freshly prepared nutritious meals six days a week, protein-enriched milk, Asha laddoos, health assessments, nutrition guidance and continuing medical care.

Afsana joined with a BMI of just 14.9. In Lal Bagh, Asha met Shabana, a mother of three affected by prolonged malnutrition, and Swarthy, a young mother weighing only 35 kilograms. Their experiences reflect a wider, often invisible burden.

The programme is more than a meal. It tells each woman: your wellbeing matters too.



6 DAYS

Fresh, nutritious meals
each week

NUTRITION

Weight, BMI, dietary
intake and nutritional
progress monitored

HEALTH

Haemoglobin, anaemia
and overall health
assessed



OPEN THE NEXT DOOR

An admission is only the beginning.

Across Asha's communities, more young people are preparing for university. They have worked for years to reach this point.

What they cannot do alone is meet the cost of admission, fees, books, transport, technology and the support needed to remain at university.

Your gift can turn an admission letter into a degree - and a degree into a different future for an entire family.

Giving options for Great Britain are on the next page.



Choose the Way You Prefer to Give

Every gift helps a young person move from admission to graduation - and helps open possibilities for an entire family.

UK taxpayers can Gift Aid their donation. Friends of Asha (GB), Charity No. 1085071, can collect an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN MAKE POSSIBLE

£3,500	one year of a professional course at a semi-private university	£2,000	one year at a public university	£1,500	computer skills for five students
£1,200	one IT lab for one year	£1,000	clothing, footwear & transport	£250	books for one university student

1

BANK TRANSFER

Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-96-31
Account: 01899891

2

DONATE ONLINE

asha-india.org/get-involved/donate/great-Britain-donations/

3

DONATE BY CHEQUE

Payable to "Friends of Asha (GB)"
Dr Richard Hogben
36 Combe Street Lane
Yeovil, Somerset BA21 3PE, UK

NEED HELP?

Dr Richard Hogben
National Coordinator, Friends of Asha GB
foasha.richardhogben@gmail.com

Hope begins
with opportunity.

Thank you for walking with us.

