

Annual Report 2019-2020



muskurahat
foundation





CONTEXT

This Annual Report covers the progress of Muskurahat Foundation during the year 2019-2020. The overall goal of Muskurahat is to be a Centre of Excellence that builds strong institutions focussing on holistic development for kids from all sections of society. This report highlights all the events and projects executed in the past year with an emphasis on Muskurahat's flagship project, KEYtaab. The past 12 months have been of growth and learning which has been discussed extensively. A sneak peek into the future of Muskurahat has also been elaborated to give an idea of what's coming next on Muskurahat's journey for the betterment of the society. Overall, Muskurahat has achieved nearly all milestones scheduled to be completed during this period. These factors are discussed in detail throughout the report with a few stories and testimonials of our children.

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Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see. They are the future and it's on us to make them future-ready.

As we bid goodbye to a year of extensive learning, few shakedowns but more coherent vision, we want to thank you for showering us with love and support in our journey of ensuring a conducive growing environment for at-risk children.

Hundreds of children who have lost their families and are now residing in different shelter homes and orphanages across India are living under adverse conditions. Shelter homes fall under the unorganised sector in our country and are often neglected. This is where we have laid our cornerstone. From establishing structured and holistic education for children to meeting their proper upbringing and mental healthcare requirements, we are spreading hundreds of smiles every day and we aim to continue doing so.

wanting to do good for the society has now become an organised network of 200+ volunteers working passionately at 11 shelter homes in 3 cities in India, Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore.

This year we faced some setbacks like stagnancy in the team and bandwidth problems, but we are set to improve and grow plenty in the coming years. Our future endeavours are in line with enabling the child to grow up to become a socially responsible citizen contributing to the society through harnessing 21st century life skills in them, taking care of their mental health and hygiene and securing overall positive upbringing.

Our team is pumped up with energy and passion and we are confident that we are striving in the right direction. We have envisioned working towards a

society where every child has a satisfactory lifestyle and a society where the disparity between fortunate and less fortunate is eliminated.

Everyone who has helped and supported us in our journey has made our resolve stronger and we are grateful for their trust in us. A big thank you to our brilliant and diligent team who have become family and have made sure that this journey is filled with love and compassion. Muskurahat is now embarking on a new journey with a lot of rigor and we would be delighted to have your support in all our future endeavors.

**Love,
Himanshu and Ayush**

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS





CORE VALUES



LEADERSHIP

To instill the drive for change and progress that produces a holistic individual



INTEGRITY

Firm principles and a strong personality are what help us create impact



PERMANENCE

Our aim is to strive for sustainable plans of long-term development



COLLABORATION

Outreach and partnerships are prime to us, especially involving the Youth



ACCESSIBILITY

Disapproving of hierarchies, we promote an open interactive environment



UNIQUENESS OF APPROACH

Tackling common social ills in our hatke way is a priority for us



VISION

Envisioning a world where children become socially responsible citizens contributing to the society



MISSION

To position Muskurahat as the Centre of Excellence that builds strong institutions focussing on holistic development to 1 lakh children by 2025

THEORY OF CHANGE

...OR WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

THE PROBLEM:

Children are exposed to a variety of influences that shape their lives as they grow up and participate in society. However, not all the influences they come across are positive in nature – lack of proper parenting, societal rigidity, socio-economic disadvantages, media biases and unfiltered Internet can adversely affect the development of a child's thought and value system. This gap is more evident in "at risk" children, those who grow without all or some of these influences. A child, transitioning from such a background into adulthood - unchecked, without guidance, positive reinforcements and the basic know-how of navigating life, is significantly more prone to negative influences leading to bad decisions and poor life choices.

RATIONALE:

Article 29 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in continuation of Article 28 (Right to Education), states that the Goals of Education is to develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. The current educational infrastructure lacks adequate focus to realize Article 29. At Muskurahat Foundation, we aim to fill this gap through our carefully curated initiatives that puts impetus on attentive upbringing, 21st century life skills and mental health of the child. We believe, every child must have access to an environment conducive to positive growth. One where he/she develops the ability to learn, unlearn and relearn crucial values and life skills, necessary to live life with a healthy mindset.





HOW ARE WE DOING IT?

Our overarching approach to create such an environment for the child rests on the firm belief that imbibing personal values, learning life skills and developing a positive mindset takes time and requires patience. For a child whose mind is continuously developing and getting influenced, our programs focus on continuous exposure to these values and skills.

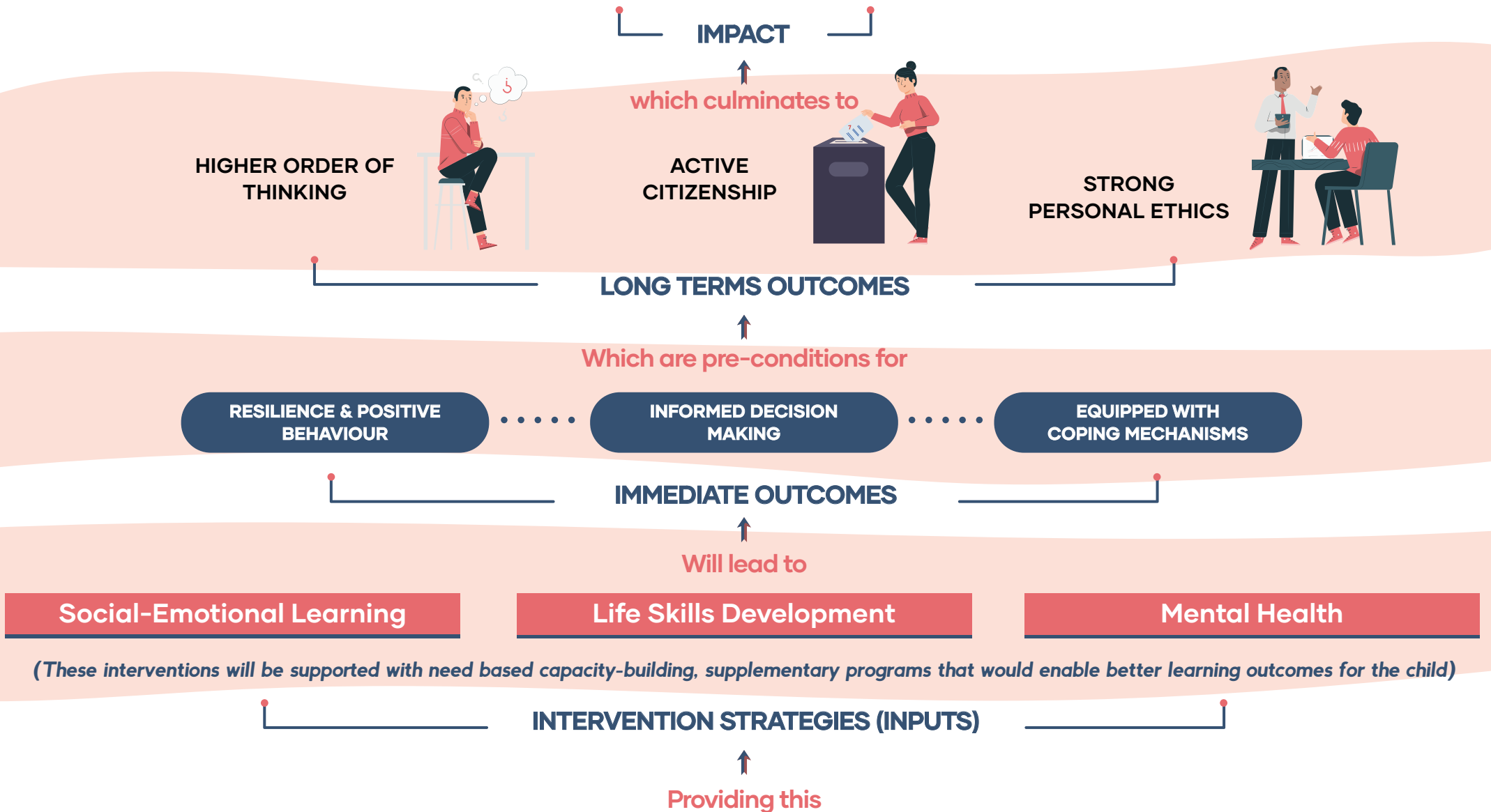
We achieve this through:

- Maturing our content and approach along with a child's growth. Leaning on the principle that learning happens effectively and efficiently when it is through relevant practical experience
- Consciously crafted activities and meaningful engagement with caring adults which promotes positive relationships between the child and adults.

We know it takes a village to raise a child and are therefore cognizant of the other stakeholders within the child's environment. Our underlying aim promotes research and learning in this area through extensive monitoring data, initiating collaboration with other individuals, agencies and government to build institutions that contribute to creating an environment of holistic development for the child. Thus, enabling the child to grow up to become a socially responsible citizen contributing to the society.

Theory of change

A world where children become socially responsible citizens



Our Theory of Change is premised on a continuous program based intervention that facilitates strong curriculum through experiential learning and supported by a robust M&E Framework.

KEYtaab

A holistic and experiential learning is of utmost importance in a child's life. Proper guidance and love and care is essential to nourish the kid to become competent and confident. Upbringing is a long lost concept for children in shelter homes and orphanages because they are deprived of parental support and counsel. Ideally, it's the shelter home management's responsibility to provide the kids with a good upbringing, but in our country, they are highly under-resourced and can barely focus on basic amenities like food, clothing, shelter and education. Because of this sorry situation, upbringing often takes a back seat.

This is where we have laid our cornerstone, KEYtaab. This project focuses on bettering the future of these children by contributing to their overall development, in assisting these children in integrating into the larger society and settling down with dignity and independence. Besides formal education, these children require basic life skills, global skills and assistance to cope up with the competitive world.

With KEYtaab, we are emphasising on suitable upbringing, 21st century life skills and positive mental health and hygiene through a custom - made curriculum which includes experiential learning methods to create an everlasting impact on the child. Beaming with a heart full of dreams and bustling with energy – these children are inquisitive and are in the quest for the right door to their success. We provide these children with a world beyond their academics.



Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see. They are the future and it's on us to make them future-ready.



We have 10 shelter homes in 3 cities where KEYtaab sessions are functioning and making a huge impact on the lives of these children. These sessions include fun activities, personal time with trainers, and experiential learning not rote learning.

In **Mumbai**, Snehasadan (Chakala), Snehasadan (WEH H.N. 7), Snehasadan (WEH H.N. 3), Don Bosco (Wadala), Auxilium School (Wadala), and Mother Foundation (Malad). In **Delhi**, Don Bosco, Snehalaya, and Asha Grih. And our newly launched, Sneh Ghar in **Bangalore**.

The major objective of KEYtaab is to develop the social and moral skills and add value to the upbringing of these children. **“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”**



AnganShiksha

Our surroundings play a vital role in our understanding of the world and people. Even Psychology emphasises on the contribution of nature in a child's development. Community engagement and societal norms impact a child in various ways from a very tender age.

AnganShiksha focuses on educating the angans, creating a positive and healthy atmosphere in a community to enhance the living conditions of everyone. Kids in slum areas are hardly exposed to conversations around mental health, body image, relationships and other intangible topics. We work towards creating a pro-learning, anti-abusive, informed and tolerant environment for communities to enrich their overall living.

Our volunteers visit slums of Asalpha and Bamanwada every Sunday to familiarize themselves with these families and gain their trust in order to create an impact. A healthy and promising home goes a long way in building a confident and competent individual.



**The work of education is
divided between the
teacher and the environment.**



BENEFICIARY TESTIMONIALS



I eagerly wait for Bhaiya and Didi to come to our shelter home every Sunday, the sessions are fun and I learn many new things. Last Sunday, Bhaiya got us wings and we stood on chairs trying to fly but we couldn't. We learnt how birds fly and we cannot. We also learnt about airplanes. My friend and I made a plane which can land on water and land both and had fun presenting it to everyone.

Prem, Age 12, Standard 8th (Shelter Home, Mumbai)

My favourite activity was growing our own plants! Bhaiya and didi got us seeds, mud, manure and plants. They taught us how to plant them and the importance of taking care of them everyday. Through this activity we learnt about taking responsibility for our own things.

Sagar , Age 9, Standard 6th (Shelter home, Mumbai)



BENEFICIARY TESTIMONIALS



When Himanshu Goenka approached me in 2017 and told him he wanted to help our children, I was surprised to see someone at the age of 17 was thinking about our children rather than chasing his own dreams like many his age do. Since then, I have seen Muskurahat grow and more such youth joining Himanshu in their aim of giving our children the education and upbringing that they are deprived of. We can see the impact of this project through the positive changes we can observe in our children. Muskurahat thinks of our children as one of their own and does only what's best for them.

Robert Arhana (Shelter Home Manager, Mumbai)



FELLOW TESTIMONIALS

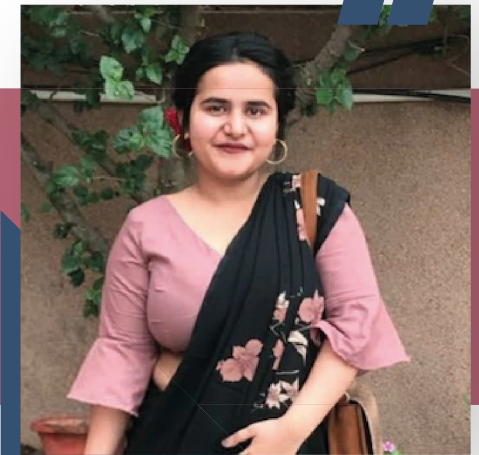


My past year in Muskurahat has been so intellectually stimulating and fruitful. It's really been an amazing journey. I've had some great experiences being a part of this team but my fondest memory is of when our kids from different shelter homes came and performed songs and danced with us.

Rashi Shetty (Fellow)

Muskurahat has been an encouraging journey for me so far. Muskurahat's vision of how everyone in the organisation is able to relate to the kids is what drives me. Be it the volunteers or the founders, everyone always keeps the kids before everything else. Also, Muskurahat is always ready to hear us out and address our inputs wherever possible which I think is amazing.

Farheen Fatima (Fellow)





One thing I love about working with Muskurahat are our meeting and bonding sessions with our kids. For me this journey has been progressive and I look forward to more of it. We were made aware of how to acknowledge children and treat them and I realized how these small things are great teachings for us. Muskurahat has had a significant impact on my personal life, I have become more compassionate and patient.

Harsh Patel (Fellow)

My journey with Muskurahat has been tough but always rewarding. I've become much better at time management after joining the team. What makes me feel connected to Muskurahat is that the end result has been clear and concise: to do good, spread cheers. Even when the means to get there can sometimes be difficult, the entire team never forgets why they are doing what they are doing in the first place and I reciprocate that.

Zil Shah (Fellow)



I have grown a lot over the last two years with Muskurahat. I have become more expressive and vocal with my opinions and views. My journey has been so engaging and one of my fondest memories is of a session on the topic 'Light'. The kids were told to shut their eyes and we had to read out a story to them, about a blind girl. The kids had an amazing experience and they felt more connected and involved.

Tirtha Parkar (Fellow)

PAST EVENTS

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

We celebrated Christmas Extravaganza, a 3 day fundraising event with The Executive Centre, Mumbai. Being the festival of hope and charity, we designed this event for working professionals to raise funds for fulfilling wishes of children for our shelter homes. Through engaging and enthralling activities like Wish Wall, Blind Book Date and Bake Sale; we raised over Rs. 14000 and our children a Christmas to cherish.



BLIND BOOK DATE

One of our most trendy crowdfunding ventures, Blind Book Date was set up at the Under25 Summit in Bangalore on the 1st and 2nd of February, 2019. Being the largest youth summit, the event had youth coming from all over Karnataka and the response we elicited through this exciting venture was overwhelming.

PAST YEAR AT MUSKURAHAT

The past year 2018-19 has been a year of expansion, new developments, learnings and dynamism. Muskurahat multiplied its flagship project, **KEYtaab** in 2 new major cities of India; Delhi and Bangalore. Currently, KEYtaab, a project focusing on active youth intervention in the upbringing cycle of a child living in an orphanage or shelter home, is operating in 6 shelter homes in Mumbai, 3 in Delhi and 1 in Bangalore.

We carried our 370 KEYtaab sessions with 1000+ hours of facilitating and learning impacting 500+ kids in enhancing their life skills with the support and passion of over 200 volunteers.

370

KEYtaab SESSIONS

1000+

HOURS OF FACILITATING

500+

KIDS

200

VOLUNTEERS

KEYtaab PROJECT



10 PROJECTS



3 CITIES

CITY WISE PROJECT STATS (KEYtaab)



MUMBAI

6



DELHI

3



BANGALORE

1

FUTURE PROJECTS

LIBRARY PROJECT

This project aims at developing readiness as a habit in students. Reading is a vital aspect of holistic growth in a child, yet there are thousands of children who are deprived of an environment that can help thrive this habit. A conducive environment enabling students to take active participation in reading through various activities like story reading/telling sessions, tasks involving age appropriate books of different genres and access to an infrastructure that appeals to kids can make reading an interesting practice for them.

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

This project aims towards eliminating the disparity between the soft-skills learning of students from vernacular schools and those of private city schools. Children from rural backgrounds often lack professional conversational skills, reading and augmentation abilities thus, with this initiative we will focus on making these students college ready. The program will focus on soft-skills, confidence building, public speaking and life skills that will equip the students entering college to be at a level playing field with the city school students.

SWAJEEVI

The motto of Swajeevi is to enable rural youth from being job seekers to job creators. The program works with youth from rural areas who have less access to jobs and the skills required to be able to earn their own living and subsequently make their lives. They start with knowing themselves, strengths and weakness and move along to understanding the process of starting their business which includes needs assessment, sustainable and scalable solutions, financial management, risk management, etc.



MEDIA

We were featured in Asian Age covering our work in shelter homes on creating experiential learning filled classrooms, here's what our Founder says, "In three hours of class, we teach things that academics don't cover, and create an emotional impact on the child through experiential learning. In the first phase we don't use books, but instead do activities with them, make them experience things. We try to generate curiosity, observational and life skills that every child should have," he explains, adding, "Then we move towards soft skills, like generating curiosity, observational skills, team works, public speaking, morals, self- esteem, respect, hygiene, sex education, etc."

Read the article at:

www.asianage.com/life/more-features/300719/classroom-of-their-own.html

» Life » More Features » 30 Jul 2019 » Classroom) of their own

Life, More Features

Class(room) of their own

THE ASIAN AGE. | NIRTIKA PANDITA

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Mumbai's Samaritans are taking to the streets, providing education to underprivileged children from the slums.



Signal Shala

It takes faith, courage, and zeal to set out on the path of unimaginable. And Mumbai residents Himanshu Goenka, Bhatu Sawant, and Prince Kumar Tiwari certainly show each quality: They all individually work to provide education to underprivileged children.

For Goenka, founder of Muskurahat Foundation, it was the lack of holistic development in a child that he wanted to address. "According to me, a child can be underdeveloped because they do not have proper upbringing or stay in proper surroundings; these are the major factors contributing to a child's overall development," rues the 22-year-old, who came across the Asalpha slum in 2017.

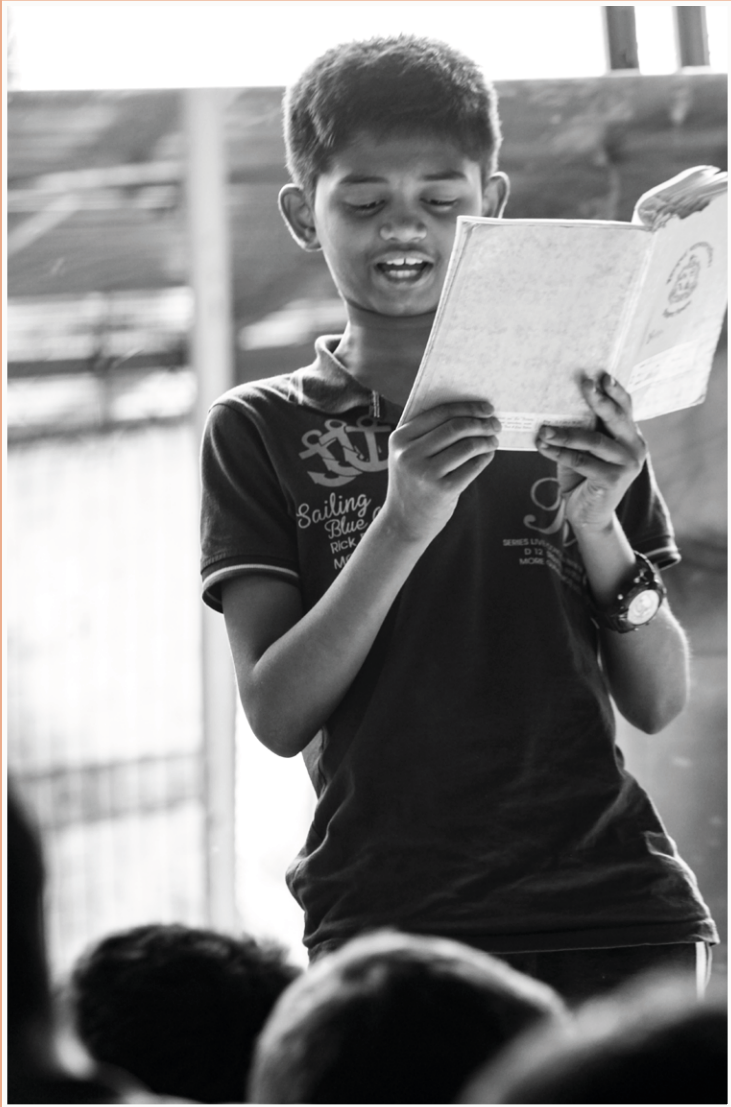
GALLERY





Children have to be educated, but they have also to be left to educate themselves.









GET INVOLVED — Reach out to us for donations/Partnerships/CSR.

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