

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 17. November 2023.

"What we do is more important than what we say or what we say we believe."

#### - Bell Hooks

SwaTaleem has experienced different events over the past few months. We are thrilled to witness the Field Team's impressive performance in conducting baseline surveys and cluster sessions, elevating their capabilities to new heights. Simultaneously, the efforts of all the new Field Team members are commendable, showcasing remarkable results. The recent riots in Mewat led to abrupt School closures, presenting unexpected hurdles. But these incidents have equipped us with the strength to navigate challenging situations tactfully. These circumstances have brought together the collective talents and abilities of our Team, propelling our efforts. Technically, this was a tough period for us to

#### **Baseline Survey 2023-24**

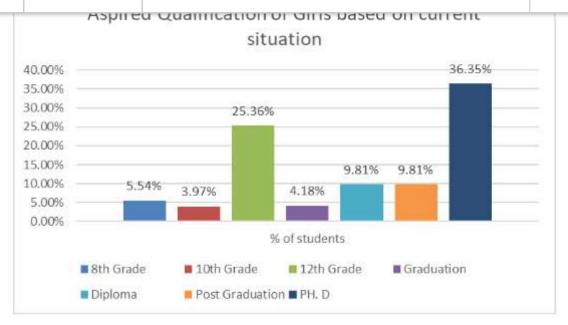
Over July and August 2023, we completed the Baseline Survey in 10 districts of Haryana - Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Mahendragarh, Mewat, Panipat, Palwal, and Sirsa. 2367 Girls and 90 Teachers, Wardens, and Principals participated in this survey. This was a fully digital tablet-based survey aimed to understand the current learning levels for Life Skills and English comprehension skills of Girls in KGBVs. All our Field Team members, along with our Monitoring and Evaluation Team, conducted this academic year's survey and successfully completed it.



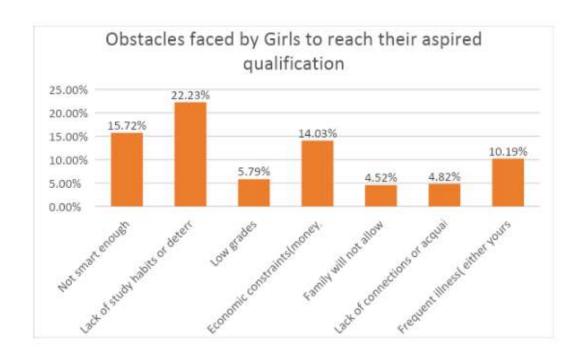


KGBV Girls' participating in Baseline Survey using tablets





Baseline 2023-24 Analysis Data 1



Baseline 2023-24 Analysis Data 2

We will provide 15 tablets to each KGBV for Girls to engage and access the Digital Engagement programs in hostels and Schools. The tablets have been handed to most of the Schools, and we have almost completed setting up in every KGBV. Girls are divided into multiple groups, and each day, during and after School hours, they access the tablets according to their assigned group.



Groups created by Teachers for the Girls to use Tablets



Training for Teachers to use Tablets

#### **NCERT Aid**

We introduced the NCERT Aid program for the Teachers across all 33 KGBVs in 10 districts of Haryana. It focuses on aiding the Teachers by providing an easy-to-use and easy-to-understand booklet and enabling them to teach NCERT English. The Aid program addresses the learners' challenges and provides Teachers with supporting material for their teaching. It offers supplementary text and reference material to the NCERT for KGBVs, which bridges the learning and pedagogical gaps in Schools and delivers effective teaching strategy methods. This solves the significant challenges the Girls in KGBVs face - gaps as per the required grade levels in:

- reading,
- comprehension, and
- expression



Teachers conducting classes in KGBVs with the help of NCERT Aid

## **English Bridge Course**

We launched an English Bridge Course for the Girls across all KGBVs in 10 districts of Haryana. This course aims to equip the Girls with the necessary skills and foundational knowledge of English required for the academic year they have entered. It provides supplementary support to the Girls who need to strengthen their English Language competency at their class level. We start with collecting the students' details who are not on par with their class level competencies and conduct sessions with them during or after school hours depending on the Schools' feasibility. Our Field Team started conducting an English Bridge course and distributed booklets to all the Girls in KGBVs. They will also do regular check-ins and collect feedback from Teachers about this program.



Conducting Bridge course for KGBV Girls'



Distribution of English Bridge Course Activity Booklet

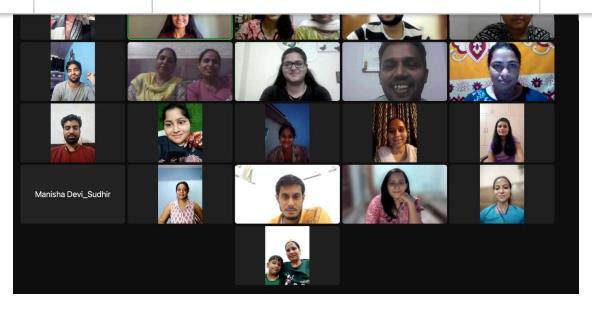
#### **Team Recruitment 2023**

As part of the expansion of our efforts to all the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) in 10 districts of Haryana, we recruited 4 Cluster Leads, 3 Associate Cluster Leads, and 10 Field Coordinators for our Team. All the new team members are women with a zeal to contribute to the cause of adolescent Girls' education and have considerable experience in the field of education. They oversee SwaTaleem's field covering like Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Nuh, Panipat, and Sirsa.



## SwaTaleem's Family Day 2023

On August 19, 2023, we conducted our first-ever family day with our Team and their family members. It was an amazing experience for us as a Team to meet all family members and to talk about our efforts and engagements in detail. During this 2-hour Zoom meeting, we introduced ourselves, played games, discussed our learnings, and shared memories.



#### **Shortlisted for Nature Award in Science Outreach Category**

"Mai Bhi Curie" project is to promote more girls from rural backgrounds in the field of science. It is for 6-8th class students to develop their scientific temperament and gender awareness. The curriculum designed for this project aims to ensure that rural adolescent girls get exposure to contextually relevant gender-responsive science content that they can relate to in their day-to-day lives. The curriculum covered 26 overall themes (18 science-gender and 8 gender themes).

We are thrilled to announce that we have been selected as the winners of 2023 Nature Award for Inspiring Women in Science under the Science Outreach category for our Science Gender Program "Mai Bhi Curie". It is a very special moment for us and our project partner, TARA foundation. This recognition is a testament to the incredible dedication and hardwork of the entire team. This recognition for our project is inspiring and motivating, pushing us to do more amazing projects for girls from marginalized communities. This award reaffirms our commitment and we promise to strive for excellence and innovation in this field.





### **Shortlisted for the HundrED Global Collections 2024**

We are excited to have been shortlisted for the HundrED's Global Collections 2024. This will feature 100 of the most impactful and scalable education innovations in one Collection. Experts in the education field will review the



#### **Annual Report 2022-23**

We present the Annual Report 2022-23, the theme for this year is "Growth and Stability". We are thrilled to share our wonderful journey experiences, get an inside look at our updates, discover, and learn more about our efforts. The Report is brimming with new highlights on our Team, our goals, our learnings, programs and impacts, achievements, and other wonderful steps we have taken.

To read click here



#### **Meet our Team Members!**



Manisha Dhiman
Cluster Lead- Jind and Kaithal



**Rizwana**Field Coordinator-Mewat

Manisha is from Karnal, in Haryana. She has done her Master's in Commerce from Government Rizwana is from Singar village of Nuh district in Haryana. She has done her Master's in History from

Foundation. After completing her education, she joined Varitra Foundation and started her career in the development sector. For the past five years, she has been engaged with the Varitra Foundation, where she explored content designing, staff training and development, and ground realities in educational institutions.

to classes 6 - 9th for six months at Government Girls' School, Singar. She proceeded to teach Maths and Hindi to students from classes 1 - 5th in Mohalla Schools in Haryana. She likes to do activities with children and improve their education.

#### A Note from our Team Member

"I really like SwaTaleem's effort on improving the learning outcomes of the Girls. Apart from this, SwaTaleem's Digital Tablet lab project, which includes the establishment of digital tablet laboratories across every KGBV in Haryana, is also well appreciated by all the government officials."

- Indubala Dahiya, Deputy Director of KGBV

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