



NEWSLETTER

Volume 16. July 2023.

"We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated."

— Maya Angelou

The past three months have been a whirlwind of progress and accomplishments as we embarked on numerous projects. From laying the initial groundwork to ongoing efforts and successful completion, our Team has been focused on making a difference. We successfully organized the Principals' conference, Teachers' workshops, and the final preparations for the Tab-Lab inauguration. Moreover, the recent SwaTaleem Samvaad initiative was our crescendo of the quarter. Moving forward, we remain committed to our vision of providing quality education and creating an environment where open discussions, continuous learning, and personal growth thrive.

Over April and May 2023, we conducted recruitment of Cluster Leads and Field Coordinators for our Team to expand our efforts to all the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) in 10 districts of Haryana. All the recruits are women with a zeal to contribute to the cause of adolescent Girls' education and sufficient experience in the field of education. They will be in charge of different districts like Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Nuh, Panipat, and Sirsa. We conducted an orientation for them over May 15 - 17, covering an introduction to SwaTaleem and Team members, field visits, verticals-based sessions, reflections, and monthly plan discussions.



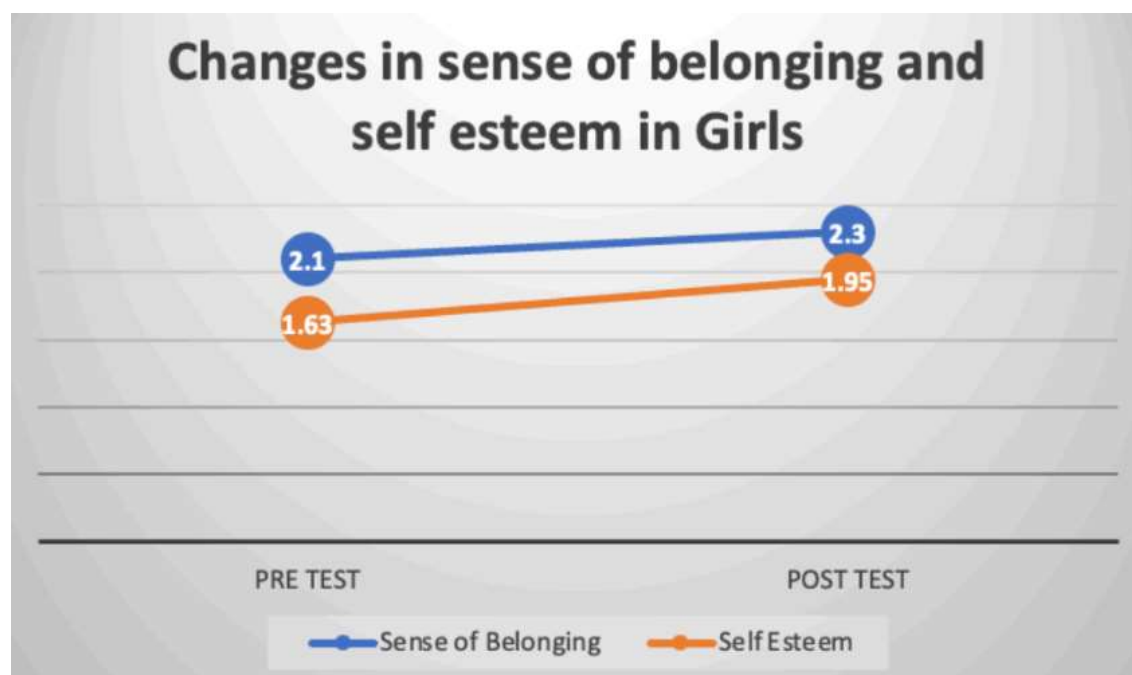
Program Outcomes Based on Baseline and Endline

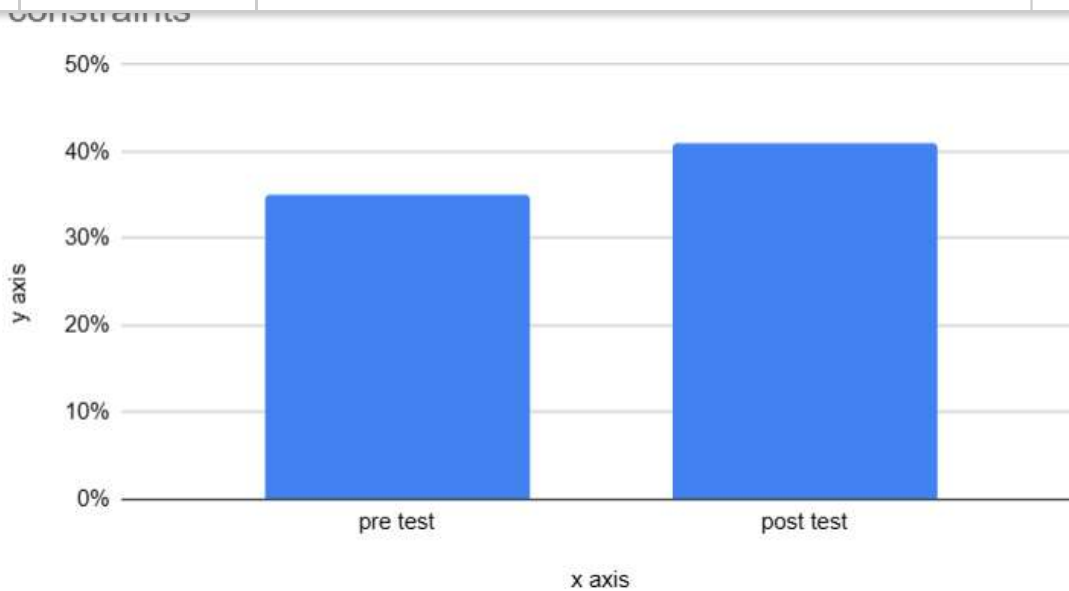
Assessment Report Analysis

Baseline and Endline, completed in all 5 KGBVs of Mewat. Additionally, we randomly selected one KGBV from each district for Need Analysis before implementing the program to gather a sense of current levels of life skills and English competencies.

This report analyzes the impact of our efforts in the 5 KGBVs (namely, KGBV Firozpur Jhirka, Nagina, Nuh, Punhana, and Tauru) of Mewat, Haryana with whom we engaged in the academic session 2022-2023.

- Girls' English reading and comprehension improved by 11%.
- 41% Girls want to pursue a higher education degree (compared to 36% at baseline), and of these, 74% feel they can do so.
- Girls' self-esteem and sense of belonging to school and society increased significantly after the program.
- The outcome of our efforts during COVID-19 revealed that 57% Parents agreed to be better involved in their daughters' education as a result of IVRS COVID-19.
- Since 96% Girls wanted to return to school after COVID-19, dropout rates have decreased.
- Child marriage conversations at home have declined by 3%.





Principals' Conference

On June 16, 2023, we conducted the Principals' conference at the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Gurugram, Haryana. There are 33 KGBVs in Haryana, and an overwhelming majority of 28 attended the conference. The Conference focused on familiarizing Principals with SwaTaleem, the organization's efforts planned for the academic year 2023 - 2024, and taking them on board. They were informed about

- The curriculum,
- Tech-based interventions like IVRS and Tab-Labs will be established in schools,
- The roles of Field Coordinators and cluster leads and their work with respective schools.

All the Principals discussed their roles and responsibilities to champion rigorous efforts in their respective schools and support SwaTaleem's endeavors collaboratively.



Principals' attending the conference



On June 17, 2023, we conducted Wardens' workshop at SCERT, Gurugram, Haryana. Each of the 33 KGBVs in Haryana was represented as 33 Wardens came together for the Workshop. They were informed about the in-school and after-school activities and engagements planned to be conducted by SwaTaleem this academic year. The Wardens were oriented about their role in running the digital Tab-Labs in their hostels, brief an overall curriculum and their role in the smooth functioning of these cutting-edge offerings for our Girls. A segment of the Workshop impressed upon the Wardens the significance of Life Skills and Group Engagements for our Girls.



Discussion with the Wardens

Teachers' Workshop

On June 24 & 25, we conducted a workshop to orient the English Teachers at SCERT, Gurugram, Haryana. This workshop was graced by 29 Teachers from KGBVs in Haryana. They were oriented for the English NCERT Aid and English Bridge course planned by SwaTaleem this academic year. A discussion covering modalities was also conducted. And, SwaTaleem's role and support provided for effective English teaching in the classrooms. The Teachers were also informed about the last year's progress, tech-based interventions like IVRS and Tab-Labs for their curriculum that will be established in schools, the roles of field coordinators and cluster leads, and their work with respective schools.



Activities with the Teachers

Dalberg's Education Leaders Retreat

On March 20 and 21, 2023, Vaibhav Kumar, our Co-Founder, was invited to Dalberg's Education Leaders Retreat in Goa with selected individuals from India. The retreat focused on cross-learning around leadership and future disruptors of Education (Innovative Financing, Life Skills, Climate Change, and Technology). They had insightful discussions and learned from each other's journeys and experiences.



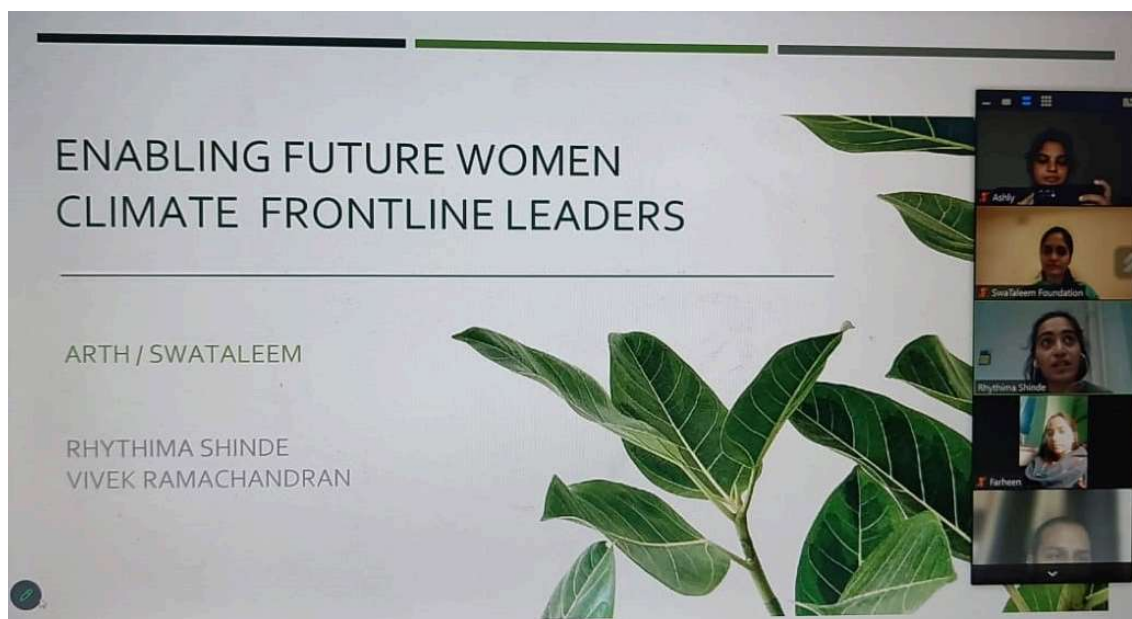
Women's Forum USA 2023

On March 29, 2023, Ananya Tiwari, our Co-Founder, was invited to the Women's Forum USA 2023, in partnership with Vital Voices, alongside other inspiring individuals from diverse backgrounds and fields in Washington D.C. Women's Forum has emerged as the leading international platform for transforming the power of women's voices and perspectives into forward-thinking economic and policy initiatives for societal change. The event's theme was "Reimagining education for a more inclusive world". This was an excellent opportunity to reflect on our efforts and spread awareness.



Climate Awareness

On April 28, 2023, Rhythima Shinde and Vivek Ramachandran from ARTH Consultancy conducted a session on “Enabling Future Women Climate Frontline Leaders” for our Team. It was an interesting interactive session covering many topics on Climate Change and the steps forward.



On June 4 and 25, 2023, we organized “SwaTaleem Samvaad (SwaTaleem Dialogue) in Delhi and Bangalore, respectively. This was an open discussion forum for people and organizations focused on and interested in gender equity and Girl’s education. For the event, 25 people participated, including both venues. All the participants appreciated the session’s inclusive, diverse, and compassionate approach, as well as the openness of the discussions. The group then pivoted to discuss the general non-profit space and ways to improve aspects of collaboration, policy, advocacy, sustainability, and fundraising. We are committed to organizing such events in the years ahead.



SwaTaleem Samvaad in Delhi



SwaTaleem Samvaad in Bangalore

Meet our Team Members!



Hadisha Tyagi is from Panipat, Haryana. She has done her Bachelor's in Education from Chaudhary Charan Singh University. She also has a one-year Office Automation & Publishing (DOAP) diploma from Rajiv Gandhi Computer Saksharta Mission. From Azim Premji University, she also completed her master's in Education.

Komal Kumari is from Sitamarhi district of Bihar. She has a Master's in Rural Development from Ranchi University, which has equipped her with the skills to impact the community positively. She was also a Gandhi Fellow (Batch -14) with the esteemed Piramal Foundation. She is a motivated individual who has a strong drive for rural development.

A Note from our Team Member

“SwaTaleem has changed my life! Earlier, I was a teacher, and while teaching, I used to focus on memorizing things. I easily got angry, but after working at SwaTaleem, I learned to teach and facilitate through playing. I, myself enjoy all the activities I do with the girls. The best part of my day now is meeting and teaching students.”

- Sushila Devi, Field Coordinator

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