

AARUSHI CHARITABLE TRUST FOR CHILDREN



# ACT for Children

“Towards sustainable development through education, health and awareness.”

**Annual Report**

**9/30/2014**

This is the Annual Report of the projects and activities supported by Aarushi Charitable Trust during the period October, 2013 to September, 2014

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## Introduction

Aarushi Charitable Trust (ACT) was set up in March 2000, when two of the founder members lost their daughter "Aarushi", an event that fostered in them an urge to do something for the development of the girl child. With encouragement and support from family members & close friends, and conviction to help the marginalized members of society, this NGO was registered. The first activity undertaken was to enable access to basic education to children of migratory construction workers. With the completion of the construction activity, these workers would go back to their villages. To support children of such workers who did not have access to schools locally, a premise was rented in Kishangarh village, Delhi and a teacher, appointed. Her tasks were to identify

and motivate non-school going children and teach them basic social skills. ACT worked there for close to 2 years with about 20 children.

Since then, ACT has expanded its operations in 2 slums in Delhi region and now in UP. ACT supports the children with availability of teachers after school to continue to solve their educational challenges, Other activities, such as educational visits to monuments, picnics, street plays on important social issues, and celebration of important festivals, are also carried out with them.

At Aarushi Charitable Trust (ACT) for Children, the mission is to promote knowledge and education; provide vital information for the promotion of health and prevention of diseases; and increase awareness on important social issues.

## Message from the Executive Director

The year 2013-14 has been yet another milestone for ACT for Children. The Trust continues to impact the lives of children in the slum areas of New Delhi. This year marked the opening of one new remedial education centre in a district of U.P. under the able-guidance of Mr. Ambrish Agarwal. Another success story was to have one of our former students, Munni, join us as a teacher. It is delightful to see how we have made education an essential part of the communities we work with. We initiated a very successful volunteer program this year, with children from private schools working with our communities for both teaching and for fun activities. We have also included on our board, individuals with a plethora of ideas, experience and drive to work for these communities.

Yet we understand that there is a lot to be done in the field of health and education, and to reach out to more such communities. There is a constant need to create new opportunities to motivate the children we work with, while continuing to sustain the existing initiatives. We have identified a new slum "basti" in

Vasant Kunj where the need for support is felt. To start this program this coming year, we had to unfortunately withdraw from Israili camp, primarily because of lack of funding and also some other NGOs have started other programs there for children. The activities at Shankar camp in Vasant Kunj will still continue. I would like to sincerely thank our core partners Bal Vikas Dhara and especially Dr. Bharat Singh to help us implement these activities so efficiently. Our Teachers Ms. Rita and Ms. Neelam have been so committed sustainably that it would not have been possible to achieve what we have so far.

We hope in the coming year, we increase the spread of our programs, through our existing model. At the same time, we would like to introduce new health care initiatives with the help of our distinguished members in the field of health and child welfare. There is a long way for us to go. We are therefore, looking at expanding our fundraising efforts by increasing corporate and government partnerships. Overall we hope for a more productive year ahead.

**Trustees**

**Mr. Brij Lal Garg**

*President and Founder Member*



Retired government official, freedom fighter and a devoted teacher, supports educational programmes

**Dr. Kusum K. Premi**

*Treasurer and Founder Member*



Ph.D. in Education, retired Head of Educational Policy unit at NUEPA, manages finances and education

**Dr. Charu C Garg**

*Executive Director and Founder Member*



Ph.D., worked with WHO, World Bank, SRCC among others, supports fund raising and new initiatives

**Mr. Hari Garg**

*Founder Member*



Senior management position with a leading Global multinational co., supports financially and through active advice

**Ms. Divya Bhasin**

*Incharge, Volunteer Program and Founder Member*



Senior IT professional and business manager, entrepreneur, supports volunteer

**Members**

**Ms. Samriddhi Bhatia**

*Current Member*



MBA and Engineer, manages social media and new initiatives, supports IT work

**Ms. Suman Patel**

*Current Member*



QA Analyst, UN, Bern. Supports IT work for the trust

**Dr. Poonam Dewan**

*Current Member*



Medical doctor, general practitioner, holds medical camps for the underprivileged

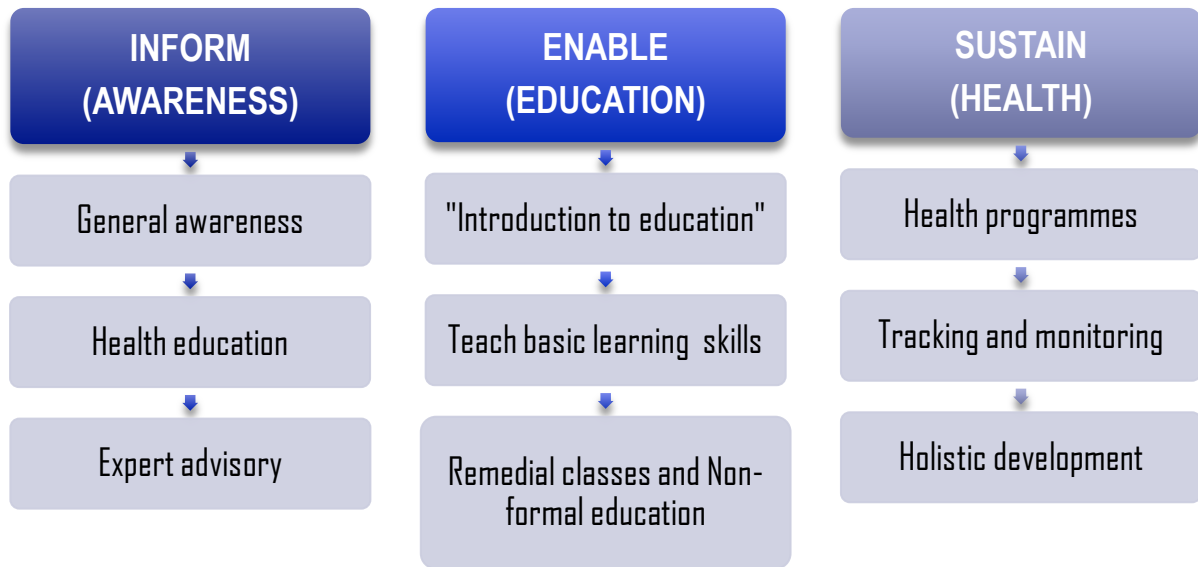
**Mr. Amrish Agarwal**

*Current Member*



Retired as GM from DoT, conducts corporate trainings, supports education initiatives

### Three Pillars of ACT



ACT upholds and cherishes the three pillars of growth i.e. awareness, education and health. When communities are aware of their rights and duties, they are capable of making better and informed decisions. The Trust promotes this by means of its expert group of advisors and supporters that spend time with communities that lack access or have been socially denied access to information. Various focus programs are organized for this purpose including “Bal Panchayat”, Street Plays, community surveys, door to door campaigns etc.

When a community begins to get informed and aware, it needs and demands further “education” to make correct use of their rights and duties. For example, while RTE has provided for education free of cost, many children that lack the support or the learning ability, end up not attending schools. Enabling and preparing them becomes important at this stage.

The next step is to maintain this information and education infused into the communities, i.e. to “sustain.” How do we ensure that a student who knows his/her rights and is attending school also continues to attend school, if he/she is lacking some basic amenities such as health? So, at this stage it becomes important for an organization such as ours, to ensure that the hope and the energy that we have introduced into these communities is sustained.

Working across the three pillars in the value chain of sustained growth, ACT seeks to continue to grow its programs and activities, and introduce new ones that are in line with its goals and mission. In doing so, we also do our bit in supporting UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

*MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education*

*MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women*

*MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health*

## ACT's Programmes

### Mainstream Projects and Activities

#### 1. Aarushi Bal Vatika

Aarushi Bal Vatika, run in partnership with Bal Vikas Dhara, is a preparatory school for underprivileged children in the age group of 3-6 years. Although RTE promotes education for all, the children in this age group require assistance to develop interest, curiosity and a general preparation to enter the formal education system. This is particularly important for those from poorer and/or uneducated families to motivate them to enrol in to regular schools and reduce chances of dropping out by imbining in them, basic learning skills.

The school is being run out of two locations in Delhi – Shankar camp and Israili camp in Rangpuri Pahadi, Vasant Kunj, since 2007. Classes are run for three hours in the morning and afternoon, six days a week. (Enrolment report: [Appendix 2](#))



#### Volunteering @ ABV

Volunteers often come to spend time with the students at ABV to teach them various skills such as scholastic, social, communication, etc.

**Volunteers conduct classes for children at ABV**

#### Extra Curricular Activities

For the overall development of the children, various extra-curricular activities are organized. In 2014, the school organized celebrations of national holidays like Independence Day and Republic Day. Such activities provide a platform for the children to explore and showcase their creativity.



**Children at ABV perform a skit on Republic Day**

## 2. Remedial Classes and non-formal education

Remedial classes are run for student in the age group of 6-14. They attend regular schools but are often not able to perform as per their age or grade, and lack behind their peers. Their parents are not able to afford additional tuition classes, which increases the probability of dropping out of school. To prevent this from happening and to continue the journey of education, the Trust holds such classes for them.

Yet, there are students who drop out due to other constraints or they never had the chance to get inducted into formal education system. For such students, ACT runs non-formal education centres.



### **NFE – Non-formal Education**

NFE centres at Israili and Shankar Camps is run for children, 6-14 years of age, to provide education to non-school going children, who were either dropouts or never went to school. The teachers work with these children to prepare them for admission in regular schools.

**NFE Centres for children who are unable to attend regular schools**

### **Remedial Classes Introduced in UP district**

ACT introduced remedial classes for underprivileged children at Shrifabad, Rajpur, Farrukhnagar Dist. Ghaziabad in June 2014 under the guidance of Mr. Amrish Agarwal. The teacher Asha Rani teaches 35 children in grades 1-5 and conducts tests to monitor their performance.

**Remedial classes help students be at par with their peers**



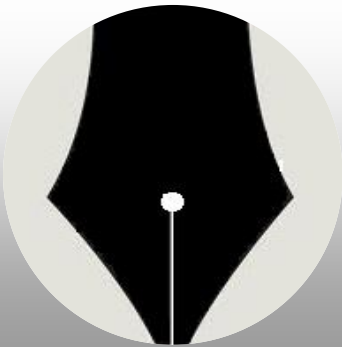
### **Painting Competition, 2014**

Painting competition was held this year for the children to display their artwork. The theme was "India, Our Country." Volunteers provided all art material to the participants. Three winners were awarded prizes.

**Proud winners of the painting competition**

**3. Support through cash or kind**

While ACT provides coaching to students at no cost, there are children that require special assistance for which ACT is not equipped at the moment. At the same time, there are children that do not require learning assistance per se but instead financial assistance. For these reasons, the Trust provides assistance in cash or in kind. They are described below.



**Scholarships**

The Trust provides merit- and need-based scholarships to 15 children annually in rural schools. These are given to students in classes 6 to 8. It has prevented several poor but meritorious students from dropping out of schools.

*Sustaining education through scholarships*

**Support to blind schools**

The trust also funds students in blind schools to enable them to pursue their studies. Grants to blind children are also made to support their financial needs so that they could take the exams with the help of an aid.



*Supporting blind children for specialized training*

**Winter is here!**

We share the joy of festivals with the Trust's beneficiaries by celebrating, organizing fests and distributing sweets and clothes. In Nov, 2013, the Trust distributed sweaters before winters to children coming to the two centres.



*Act of kindness and a broad smile – prized moment*



## Support Activities

### 1. Communication and Information dissemination

ACT believes that in supporting the communities in health, education and awareness, it is very important to set up formal channels of communication for the various stakeholders. It enables the following:

- a) Receive constructive feedback from the community and other stakeholders
- b) Sensitize dormant stakeholders<sup>1</sup> for the cause
- c) Garner resources in monetary or non-monetary (e.g. volunteering) terms




**Website and Social Media**

In May 2014, the Trust successfully launched its website “www.ACTforChild.com”. It was well thought out effort in which highly experienced IT professionals were involved on voluntary and paid basis. With its distinct features, it creates a channel of communication with each and every stakeholder. Social media has been adopted to further promote the activities of the Trust and increase visibility.

**Home page of the website with distinct features**

**Branding**

In order to create a brand for the Trust and a common “identifier” for all its activities, the logo of ACT for Children was created. We want to deliver the message of child health, education and awareness through our brand and how it is essential for the collective and cohesive development of a nation.



**The newly created logo of ACT for Children**

### 2. Monitoring Activities

Every year children who are admitted to schools and those who drop out are monitored. We also monitor the progress of the students enrolled with us time to time and accordingly provide additional assistance to children who require it.

In the summer of 2014, we took a survey of all the kids in the NFE and remedial classes to understand their level in English, Hindi & Maths. The survey threw up some

<sup>1</sup> Stakeholders that have the power but are currently inactive

dismal results indicating that several children could only do rote learning with very little understanding. Following this, we started the volunteer program in which high school and college children provided the classes. Two groups were made - one consisting of girls in high school, and the other a mixed group with children in classes 3-6.

The high school girls (9 in all) were taught exclusively by college girls only, and the focus areas were Maths and English. Classes were held thrice a week for 2 months, and then once a week for another month. There was marked improvement in at least 6 of the 9 girls, those that exhibited a willingness and motivation to learn.

The primary school children were taught by high school kids who took classes thrice a week for 2 months, and then continued on with classes twice a week for the next 2 months. The children were taught Maths and English. The volunteers prepared material to be taught and homework sheets for the kids to practice. During this time, the volunteers organized a painting competition for the children, providing a theme of "India, our country" and providing all the art material. The children participated enthusiastically, coming up with some really good concepts in their drawings.

### **3. Area Surveys**

We recently conducted a survey on the demographics, health and education of the two slum areas we support. Major results from the study are summarized below:

- Israili camp – has 607 households with 2744 persons. There are 1225 children (0-18 years) with 425 children 0-6 years. There is only one child identified as malnourished. There are 102 children admitted in Class 1, 79 in class 6 and 32 in class 10. Thirty three children are receiving remedial classes under RTE Act.
- Shankar Camp has 405 households with a population of 1454 persons. There are 797 children (0-18 years) with 196 in 0-6 age group. There are 29 children admitted in Class 1, 47 in class 6 and 18 in class 10. Thirty six children are receiving remedial classes under RTE Act.
- Currently immunizations are ongoing for 184 children in the 0-5 age group in Israili camp and for 69 children in Shankar camp. Our partner organization BVD is monitoring these and has been following up with all the stakeholders.

Another survey was conducted to find the challenges faced by children in government run schools. The major educational challenges facing the children in the 14+ age group in these schools are in the areas of English and Mathematics. We are currently considering a demand from these children for remedial classes so they can be better equipped as they go to senior classes.


## Other Partner Activities

### 1. Bal Vikas Dhara


Bal Vikas Dhara is an organization that started with the aim of betterment of women and children. It is a voluntary organization that as established under section 21 of Society Registration Act 1860 in 1993. With a common aim of child education and health, BVD and ACT partnered to provide educational programs for marginalized children of the Shankar and the Israili Camp. Together, they work for supporting these children to bring them into mainstream education system and to help them cope with their studies.

Aarushi Bal Vatika and NFE are two such programmes. In addition, remedial classes are held for students that are already enrolled in formal schools. Under these programs there are some very important activities that BVD undertakes beyond teaching. Some of them are:

**Bal Vikas Dhara**



**Parents Teachers Meeting**




**Bal Panchayats**

Bridging the gap between teachers and parents; it provides motivation to parents to encourage education among their children. Teachers also discuss some socially relevant issues with them.

Bal Panchayats consist of those children that have completed their NFE and have been mainstreamed into formal school. They are engaged in constructive activities during their free time such as inspiring other children to attend school.


### 2. Berkeley Usability Study

The Berkeley usability study was conducted for tracking immunization of infants. It consisted of a mobile application that the health workers would use, along with a RFC chip based tracker that the families would get. Actual focus group study was done with the health workers, and surveys were held with mom-groups. All acknowledged the importance of such a tool, and many families admitted that they were not sure if their infants had actually been through all the immunizations. Health Camp and health cards are being developed to monitor immunizations and other health conditions.



**Berkeley Usability Study**

*Mothers of infants take part in the study*




### 3. Friends of ACT

Friends of ACT are volunteers or experts that work for short term on projects to contribute in whatever way they can.


While substantial impact has been made on the education in the two slum areas where the focus is the maximum, health care initiatives are still far behind. We have included a doctor in our executive board in 2014 to undertake this event and are hoping for greater impact.

We also initiated an activity of lighting up the homes, on the lines of a Brazilian experiment of providing light during the day at no cost. At the moment, the pilot has not attracted much attention but it will be retried in other areas with the help of our volunteers.



**Lighting Up!**

*Pilot to introduce lighting during the day at no cost*



## Impact 2013-14

Appendix 2 shows that our enrolment has reduced; it has been done as an intended step. While many more children are interested in coming to our centres, we do not encourage those who are going to private schools or are capable of taking paid tuitions from elsewhere.

Also during the earlier years many children were in NFE, but after RTE, that problem is almost negligible and most children are attending schools. We now focus on providing them remedial education.

This year we employed one teacher from Shankar camp who has been associated with ACT since her childhood and is now studying in college.

We are growing awareness of our programs by means of the internet and social media which will help us garner more resources to execute our projects.

## Outlook for 2014-15

ACT will continue its existing initiatives in the Shankar camp, with the addition of a new centre in U.P. At the same time we would like to expand our operations to more communities. Further, we want to plan a health camp and create health cards for all children.

Some planned activities for the schools are as below:

- We plan to prepare a curriculum for our teachers and also provide them some training;
- In line with the Prime Minister's drive for cleanliness, we plan to prepare the children to present a street play on this topic of "Swacch Bharat – Swasthya Bharat."
- Also, we would like to introduce basic accounting education/ short-term camps for money management and if resources permit, help them with opening bank accounts.

We would also rework on our "light the houses" campaign. We are discussing with a volunteer who is likely to get a TERI support for the project.

We are also looking at closing our centre in Israili Camp and are looking to start at another slum called Dalit Camp in C6, Vasant Kunj. While there will be some break for these children, there are several NGOs already working in Israili camp and there are several Aangawadi centres too. We think now we can make a bigger impact in Dalit Camp with same resources.

We plan to initiate some fund raising activities to improve our infrastructural support and expand our projects.

**Appendices****Appendix 1: Annual Income Statement****AARUSHI CHARITABLE TRUST FOR CHILDREN**

INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE A/C FOR THE PERIOD 1-04-2013 TO 31-03-2014

PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT IN RS
<b>INCOMES</b>		
DONATION		2,57,600
INTEREST ACCRUED FROM FIXED DEPOSIT		62,576
INTEREST FROM SAVING BANK		2,929
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,23,105</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
HONORARIUM TO TEACHERS		2,37,000
RENT FOR CENTER		43,200
TEACHING & LEARNING MATERIAL		3,600
TRAVELLING & SUPERVISION		7,200
ADMINISTRATION & ACCOUNT EXPENSES		1,800
SWETOR FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN		5,700
DONATION TO BLIND SOCIETY		2,100
DEPRECIATION		3,252
DOCUMENTATION CHARGES		7,200
WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT		17,000
BANK CHARGES		100
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,28,152</b>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>		<b>(5,047)</b>

\* This income expenditure statement does not include the time and transport expenditures of the members for conducting these activities.

As per Audit Report of even date attached.  
for AGRAWAL GUPTA & SAHU  
Chartered Accountants (Regn. No 015284N)

(Ramesh Ch. Agrawal)  
Partner, Mem No 094084

DATE : 06-08-2014  
PLACE : NEW DELHI

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
AARUSHI CHARITABLE TRUST FOR  
CHILDREN

(KUSUM KUMARI PREMI)  
TREASURER

**Appendix 2: Enrolment Report**

**Shankar Camp  
ABV and Remedial Classes**

	Male	Female	Total
Aarushi Bal Vatika (ABV) (3-5 years)	10	18	28
Remedial Classes (6-14 years)	29	34	63
Total	39	52	91

ABV: Shankar Camp  
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 am  
Facilitator: Ms. Neelam

	Oct-Dec			Jan-Mar			Apr-Jun			Jul-Sep		
	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G
2008-09	86	39	47	91	49	42	89	39	50	91	36	55
2009-10	93	31	62	75	25	50	75	25	50	76	19	57
2010-11	77	24	53	76	25	51	75	27	48	75	33	42
2011-12	75	30	45	75	30	45	69	30	39	75	28	47
2012-13	68	30	38	77	32	45	76	28	48	76	24	52

NFE: Shankar Camp  
Time: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
Facilitator: Ms. Rita Singh and Muni

	Oct-Dec			Jan-Mar			Apr-Jun			Jul-Sep		
	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G
2008-09	91	30	61	86	43	43	85	44	41	81	39	42
2009-10	93	37	54	80	33	47	75	31	44	69	31	38
2010-11	75	39	36	75	32	43	75	29	46	74	27	47
2011-12	72	37	35	72	38	34	70	31	40	75	21	54
2012-13	74	17	57	77	26	51	76	25	51	70	25	45

Remedial Classes: Shankar Camp  
Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Facilitator: Shri Ram Rai (Oct 2008 – Jun 2010), Mam Raj (Jul 2010 – Sep 2011), Pramod Kumar (Oct 2011 – Sep 2012), Vikas Pathak (Aug 2012 – Feb 2013)  
Current Facilitator: Munki (Since Feb 2013)

	Oct-Dec			Jan-Mar			Apr-Jun			Jul-Sep		
	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G
2008-09	83	33	50	42	09	33	60	15	45	83	37	46
2009-10	68	32	36	41	11	30	47	14	33	45	14	31
2010-11	45	24	21	45	24	21	46	20	26	47	17	29
2011-12	52	18	34	59	18	41	57	14	43	64	20	44
2012-13	52	18	34	68	27	41	70	35	35	75	36	39

ABV: Israili Camp  
 Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
 Facilitator: Ms. Neelam

	Oct-Dec			Jan-Mar			Apr-Jun			Jul-Sep		
	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G
2008-09	90	41	49	90	27	63	84	31	53	90	29	61
2009-10	90	28	62	75	34	41	75	40	35	64	36	28
2010-11	75	39	33	72	37	35	69	33	36	60	30	30
2011-12	90	28	62	72	31	51	64	23	41	87	36	51
2012-13	58	28	30	62	30	32	75	39	36	62	25	37

NFE: Israili Camp  
 Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 am  
 Facilitator: Ms. Rita Singh

	Oct-Dec			Jan-Mar			Apr-Jun			Jul-Sep		
	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G
2008-09	89	42	47	90	35	55	84	26	58	86	41	45
2009-10	82	36	46	70	30	40	70	28	42	72	30	42
2010-11	72	21	51	73	20	53	75	19	56	77	22	55
2011-12	74	14	60	71	13	58	73	21	52	74	27	47
2012-13	69	29	40	76	33	43	76	36	40	75	32	43

Remedial Classes: Israili Camp  
 Time: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
 Facilitator: Shri Ram Rai (Oct 2008 – Jun 2010), Mam Raj (Jul 2010 – Sep 2011), Pramod Kumar (Oct 2011 – Sep 2012), Vikas Pathak (Aug 2012 – Feb 2013)  
 Current Facilitator: Munni (Since Feb 2013)

	Oct-Dec			Jan-Mar			Apr-Jun			Jul-Sep		
	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G
2008-09	44	20	24	42	22	20	47	16	31	50	19	31
2009-10	42	21	21	42	18	24	42	18	24	43	21	22
2010-11	51	3	48	51	6	45	46	10	36	48	18	30
2011-12	49	13	36	53	25	28	52	23	29	58	18	30
2012-13	55	24	31	61	24	37	62	26	36	72	39	33



## Appendix 3: Case studies

### Success story 1

**My name is Munni Kumari and I live in Shankar Camp. I joined Aarushi Charitable Trust as a junior teacher in the year 2013.** I am also studying as a B.A. 2nd year student. I like singing and listening to music. From childhood my dream was to become a teacher for young children.



My father, Dilip Yadav and my mother, Anita Devi moved to Shankar camp in 1999 with my elder sister, a brother and me. I am the youngest and was then five years old. We were poor and had to face several difficulties. That time, my father used to sell vegetables. There were no easy means for our education, except for a teacher in the neighbourhood who used to teach children for fees, which was beyond what my father could afford. My mother then registered my name in Delhi Nagar Nigam Prathmic Vidyalaya School. However, I needed help to cope with studies in the school. My mother persistently looked for tuition, which she could afford. One day she found, one teacher was teaching small children without any fees in the temple in D-7, Vasant Kunj. In 2001, mummy registered my name with that teacher. I studied there from 2001 to 2005.

In 2006, Aarushi Charitable trust started classes in Shankar camp for small children. One teacher of Shankar Camp came to us and told us about it. Initially, only very small children were taught free of charge there. Later, they started classes for older children also. I joined these classes. Also sometimes, when the teacher was not there, I used to take the class for small children and also accompanied them for activities outside. I also took part in the Bal Panchayat meetings, and any cultural activities organized for the children. I always watched the teachers with awe and wanted to be like them. I always loved teaching. I want that in future generations, no child is uneducated.

### Success story 2

**Hi, my name is Arti and I am 10 yrs old. I am studying in 5th class and live in Shankar camp, Rangpuri Pahadi.** My father has 5 brothers and we have land in Madhya Pradesh but nobody wants to do farming. My grandfather was living in Shankar camp, Delhi since very long. We also come to live with our grandfather.



My father used to work as a worker; then he learned to do TV repairing and now, works as a technician. I have two sisters and am the eldest one. I am coming to Aarushi Bal Vatika for very long and now my younger sister also comes to bal vatika. I like to go Aarushi Bal Vatika daily and like to attend school very much. Aarushi Bal Vatika teachers are very nice to us and teach very well. My parents want me to study hard and grow up as an educated person. Both of my sisters also love to study. My parents say that they couldn't study but they want us to study. I also want to become a teacher and teach students.

## Appendix 4: Teacher Information

1. Ms Rita Singh  
BA (completed)
2. Ms. Neelam  
High School (completed)
3. Ms. Munni  
B.A. (pursuing)



"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development."

- Kofi Annan