

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Satya Bharti School Program

Project Brief

Background:

Though enrolment in schools has risen post the enactment of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, it has not translated into full attendance, retention or improved quality of education. The 2017 Annual Survey on Education Report (ASER) targeting youth in the age group 14-18 years, shows that dropouts increase with age (30% at 18 years), especially for girls. School infrastructure, especially toilet facilities for girls, lack of trained teachers, space or a participative curriculum, high teacher-student ratio, etc. are few key reasons for children dropping out of school early. For girl-students, the reasons are more societal such as facing harassment on the way to school, pressure to get married, among others. Similarly, due to socio-economic reasons, dropout rates are higher in lower castes, tribals, and other marginalised communities.

About the Project:

Bharti Foundation has been working since 2000 to support excellence in higher education and research. Satya Bharti School Program was launched in 2006 to help underprivileged and youth achieve their true potential. The SBSP was started in Punjab in collaboration with the community, and has now spread to six states (Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Haryana).



The SBSP focuses on providing free quality education to children from the marginalised communities in rural India especially the girl-child. Through parents and community participation and motivating teachers, the program aims to provide holistic learning and development to children.

Post a decade-run of this highly successful program, Bharti Foundation partnered with Change Alliance for an impact evaluation of the program to understand the approach, strategy, relevance and impact of the quality support programme on students' continuation of education, learning, attitude, behaviour and skills, and the economic impact on the lives of key stakeholders as through its employment opportunities as teachers and service providers.

Processes Undertaken:

The evaluation design chosen for the study was a before and after, quasi-experimental design framework which allowed comparisons between case and control schools. The methodology used a mix design of both qualitative and quantitative methods for interviews and focussed group discussions. A total of 46 schools were selected in all six states. A sample of around 2,500 individuals from both case schools and control schools were extensively interviewed.

About Change Alliance:

Change Alliance is a for-profit organisation providing CSR consultancy and other development sector services to both companies and civil society organisations. Our services include end-to-end CSR strategy, design, implementation and management of large programs, in-depth research, baselines and end-term impact assessments, mid-term evaluations, and training and capacity building across sectors and industries. We have expertise and a successful track-record in conducting large-scale research, monitoring and evaluations, trainings, and implementing campaigns especially in education, gender, livelihoods, and climate change. And our 60 years legacy of developmental work, engaging with civil societies across the globe, and working with over 300 partner organisations in India has helped clients reach the remotest corners of the country.

Change Alliance is a wholly owned subsidiary of Christian Aid UK, an international non-profit organisation supporting development and humanitarian work in India for over 60 years.