



# NABHA SPEAKS \*\*\*

The Nabha Foundation Phulkari

Things which kept us going in 2019 (contd. from the last newsletter) ...

## Education Programs :

### Navi Disha Schools (NDS)

The Foundation impacted around 500 children studying in the 5 Navi Disha Schools by providing quality education free of cost. Initially the enrolment was focused on disadvantaged sects of society but now after showing exceptional results, children from all backgrounds receive a similar education.

#### Highlights for the year 2019 :

- Formative assessment 1 & 2 of all NDS schools conducted. Students performance evaluated and results collated. The schools maintain individual portfolio for each student to track their learning progress throughout the year and it becomes an important tool for both teachers and

parents to understand the child's progress and actively participate in his or her learning.

- Home visits organised regularly.
- PTMs & SMC meetings were conducted. By way of these meetings often people come forward with donations as per the need of the school and it is heartening to see the enthusiasm. The local youth club distributed shoes to 55 students of NDS Kakrala on 19th December. 105 school bags were distributed to the students of NDS Mandour on 5th December. The community steps in time to time to fulfil the needs of the schools by donating various items like furniture, water pump etc. Further they have helped organise sports and cultural events regularly. National scholarship

affiliation of all NDSs renewed in December 2019.

- Government of Punjab affiliation to all five NDSs renewed.
- 11 monthly teacher's training workshops conducted.
- **Rallies on Drug Awareness** – In the Nabha region, it is extremely important to generate awareness on drug addiction which is rampant in the area. The idea is to nip the problem in the bud by making the children crusaders of the cause. The children were encouraged to make banners & posters and participate in the rallies which were held regularly. A rally followed by play in NDS Sahouli was conducted on 11th October 2019 where 160 people participated.
- **Environment our topmost priority** – NDS children are regularly apprised about the environment and the effects they will face in future if trees are cut. Plants Distribution Program was organised by the local youth sports club.

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204 plants were distributed in NDS SAHOULI on 17th October 2019 and both children & their parents actively participated in planting saplings.

- **Sports Day** - Annual sports event was conducted in NDS DULLADI on 19th November 2019 and the event was supported by the local panchayat & parents. Around 345 community members participated in this event
- All festivals and national days were celebrated with equal enthusiasm and joy and all students are encouraged to participate.

## Maharani Gurcharan Kaur Euro Group Preparatory School (MGK)

MGK School was established in 2017 at Nabha, spearheading the Foundation's dual vision of providing world class progressive education to the girl children in Nabha and equipping them with a modern world view and an equally strong set of values rooted in Indian tradition.

### Highlights for the year 2019:

- Overall 123 children study in the MGK school from play group through class 7th. The School gives emphasis on the overall development of the child and teachers are trained

on a regular basis so that they are updated with the latest teachings methods. This year also teacher training was conducted from 7th to 13th January 2019.

- Children showed a marked improvement as far as academic performance is concerned and more than 80% Grades 1 students got 90% and above. Grade 2 & 3, all students got 90% and above. Grade 4, 5, 6 & 7 students got 80% and above.
- Grade 3 onwards, all students

## Form a connect with...

*(In this article we connect you to a place or an individual in Nabha)*

### Navi Disha School (NDS), Mandour, Nabha, Punjab

After performing due diligence of Village Mandour, Nabha Foundation found that the school dropout rate of children was very high at the primary level itself. There was already a government run primary school in the area along with a private school, but children were not interested in going to school. Either they were not engaged properly or they found the teachers too strict. Children up to 12 years of age were sitting at home, doing housework and looking after their younger siblings.

The Foundation felt the need and decided to establish a school to bring these children back into the formal education system. Even though the education was free and there was no expense involved for the parents, it was still a task to convince the

residents of 'Bajigar Basti' where mostly rag pickers live, to send their children back to school. Most of all the children were reluctant. It took some effort to make the community understand and get their approval to start a school.

The Nabha Foundation established The Navi Disha School in Mandour in 2007 with 40 children, most of them school dropouts, of mostly rag pickers & daily wage labourers, with the support of the community members. Today most of the children of that first batch, have completed their class 12th and are in college. The children who had given up on studies are now pursuing maths, economics, arts and other subjects at the college level. Some of them while studying are also giving tuitions in their spare time. As for the Navi Disha School, the opinion at that time when it started

was that it will shut down soon. Today it is giving a tough competition to the government run primary school as children from there are now seeking admission in NDS school. The NDS children are doing exceptionally well and getting admission after 5th class in government run free school for meritorious students, the coveted Adarsh Model School. It is our endeavour to bring back to school every child who has dropped out and provide them with quality education so that then can live their dreams. The enthusiasm of the classroom which is full of joy and hope for the future has to be felt.

***We can plan your trip to Navi Disha School in Mandour where you can know more about the daily lives of these children. You can also sponsor a child if you wish. Do get in touch by writing to us at [info@thenabhafoundation.org](mailto:info@thenabhafoundation.org) and we will get back at the earliest.***

interact in English and have shown marked improvement in their communication skills.

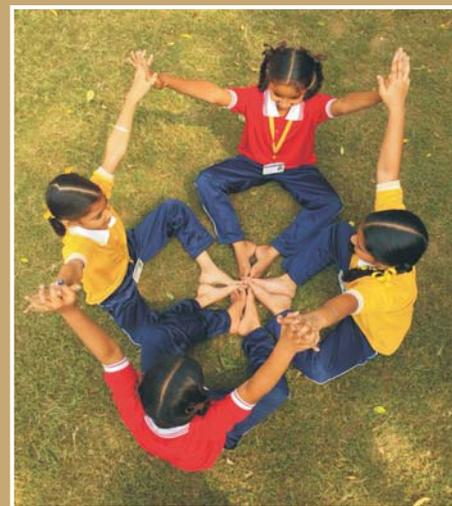
- The school participated first time in Annual Athletic Meet (65th) Inter School Competition held in Nabha Zone on 9th October'19 and achieved first and second positions in long jump and discuss throw.
- Extracurricular activities like painting, drawing, recycling waste material to make useful products were conducted throughout the year.
- Theme based festivals like green & eco-friendly Diwali & Dusshera were celebrated. 'Save Girl Child' was the theme for 'Lohri', one of the major festivals of Punjab.

- To promote learning by teaching, students took out various rallies in Nabha Town on saving environment and keeping pollution in check.
- One-day school trip was organised for the senior students to Anandpur Sahib and Virasat-e-Khalsa.
- "I care" session was conducted to make children aware about the good & bad touch and self-defence classes are a regular part of the school schedule.

**Water and Sanitation Program**

The Nabha foundation has commissioned a study to understand the problem of sewerage system in Nabha resulting into severe water

**Photo of the month**



A joyous connect...

logging and sanitation issues for Nabha town. The study will reveal the bottlenecks and problem areas also making relevant recommendations to improve sanitation conditions in Nabha Town.

**“What Makes Me Happy”**

**Parents of Honey Kaur & Sonam Yadav talk about the achievement of their daughters...**

It is no small feat for children of broken & poor families to rise to a level that sets an example for the entire community. Honey Kaur has received primary education (pre nursery to class 5th) in Navi Disha School (NDS), Dulladi. Her parents are separated and she stays with her mother and brother. Her mother Pardeep Kaur talks about their journey “My daughter really liked going to school, going through an emotionally turbulent time at home and shuffling housework, did not deter her from giving her best. Credit goes to NDS teachers who created an atmosphere of interest and encouraged her. Due to their efforts, my daughter cleared the Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyala Exams which every child in our village aspires for as studying there is considered a sure way to success. The entrance exam is tough and only few children make it. Initially my family was hesitant to send the girl to a co-education school but the NDS teachers convinced us. Today it is a dream come true for my daughter. All her expenses, education till class 12th, boarding & food are covered by the school. She no longer feels like a burden on the family and is free to study and dream big”.



Honey Kaur with her mother & brother

Similarly, Sonam Yadav of Navi Disha School (NDS) Dulladi also cleared the Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyala Exam. Sonam belongs to an extremely poor family. Even though she cleared the exams, it was a challenge for NDS teachers to convince her parents to send her to a boarding school. Her father Prem Yadav says “My daughter always wanted to study but in family like ours where it is difficult to make ends meet, it was impossible. She cleared the Navodaya School exam and now this worry is also behind us. Sonam wants to be a Police Officer and now there is nothing to stop her from fulfilling her dream”.



Sonam Yadav

*In our next issue, we will talk about ‘Gendered Approach Towards Development’...*

# Talking Through Pictures.....



**Education Program - Navi Disha Schools**



**Education Program - MGK School**

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*We apologize for any errors or omissions*