The Nabha Foundation’s endeavour for the last 14 years has been to provide quality education through the Navi Disha Schools (NDS) to the children in poor and rural areas of Nabha so that they break the cycle of poverty and lead a dignified life. For this our team has been relentlessly working to identify and bring into fold children for whom going to school is a distant dream. The Foundation believes in equal opportunities and quality education also for children coming from families that lack resources to send them to school. Our team regularly visits the areas in Nabha, which we have identified as most vulnerable in terms of poverty and social inequality. The parents are mostly daily wage labourers, rag pickers, and others doing similar work and they rely on their children for household chores and to look after their younger siblings when they are out for work. A lot of children also face mental abuse due to disturbed conditions at home. They are also witnessing domestic violence and drug abuse in their surroundings. The parents have meagre resources and sending their children to school is not a priority. Our team with their regular visits, build a relationship of trust with the families and it does take some effort to convince them that their children should be in a school where their needs will be looked after, without any financial burden on the family. It still takes a lot of coaxing to convince the parents who have to do away with the help the children provide. It is a day of celebration for the team once the child joins the school. The schools ensure that the local flavour of the region is kept intact so that the child feels at home in the new environment. By education, we do not imply a superficial level of teaching where certain concepts are taught and
rote learning is given primacy; instead, a long-term sustainable impact is the objective. The skill to learn is taught, which keeps the larger comprehensive journey of learning in mind. The emphasis is on critical thinking, creativity, and strong conceptual understanding. This ensures that 6th class onwards there are very few dropouts as the child has acquired a strong base and can cope up with the academic rigor of the senior classes.

Equal emphasis is given to academics and extra-curricular activities for well-rounded development. Teachers also actively engage with the students on a personal level. They gain the trust of the students and provide them with a nurturing environment. They can recognize disturbed patterns if they exist and counsel the children when required.

The approach to education is inclusive, it accommodates the community who lends support when needed. It is a proud moment for the community when the children opt for higher studies and do well in life.

Today, it takes us great pleasure to say that these children who had little hope of ever attending a school, have done exceptionally well in their class 5th Board Exams this year, conducted by the Punjab Government. This has paved the way for their higher studies and to achieve their goals of becoming IT experts, doctors, teachers, and other professionals.

To keep the morale high of the students & teachers and to celebrate their achievement, we are sharing the grades of our five NDS children. We request you to give a moment to the background of these children. Most of these children are from the bottom of the pyramid families and are living in abject poverty. The Foundation strongly believes that quality education can bring them out of this despair and will give them access to unlimited opportunities and ultimately a dignified life that we all strive for.
The above performance of the students tested by the Punjab Board gives a fair picture of the calibre of our students and how well they are doing.

**NDS Teacher’s Online Trainings** - In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic teaching & learning have gone through a massive change and new ideas have emerged which have revolutionised the way teaching was being conducted so far. Schooling has moved from the classroom to home and the emphasis now is on delivering quality education online using new innovative methods & concepts. To update teachers & to keep up with the new system, the Nabha Foundation conducted an online training session on the newly launched guidelines for Digital Education-'Pragyata' & ‘Manodarpan’ (for the psychosocial support and mental health promotion for school students during COVID-19 Pandemic and beyond). The advisory & guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Benefits of the teacher’s online training will reach the students of Navi Disha Schools in rural Nabha. Teachers are regularly doing home visits to help students and gradually make them comfortable with the new system.

**“What Makes Me Happy”**

Kirnajit Kaur & Pinki Kaur, mothers of four students of NDS, Sahouli, class 5th & 1st, tell us about the learning progress of their children during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Our children are doing very well in school and we were worried that during lockdown they will fall behind in their studies.

We are happy to say that teachers worked very hard, regular classes are being conducted online and teachers have found new creative ways to engage the students. Even we find these activities very interesting and try to help our children.

We call the teachers if we face any difficulty and they are quick to help. The teachers visit our house at regular intervals to clear the concepts, solve problems & check homework. Assessments are done as well and recently the children gave Formative-1 exams from home. Teachers also share useful videos of some concepts which are difficult to understand otherwise. During their visit, the teachers also provide us the latest information on Covid-19 and safety measures that we should follow. We follow their instructions to protect our family. We must say that the teachers have supported the children during this pandemic and put in a lot of effort to ensure that the children meet their learning targets.

In our next issue, we talk about the Punjab Government’s one-time Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) under our Water & Sanitation Program...
NABHA SPEAKS...

Talking Through Pictures.....

NDS students working on their assignments at home during Covid-19 lockdown & teachers providing constant support by visiting them on regular intervals

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We apologize for any errors or omissions