



# SAHAITHA

THE NEW GENERATION TRUST, DELHI

It's August, and it's humid in Delhi, with the city experiencing good rainfall. We resumed teaching and other activities with our women and children in July, after a short pause for two weeks during June's hot weather.

In May, our team underwent a three-day training on various aspects of community work, imparted by a team of community workers and a doctor from a community health organization with expertise in this area. This has given us valuable insight into ways to serve our community areas.

## Saidulajab

In Saidulajab, classes happen in parallel in for children and women in two separate batches, through the afternoons each weekday. We have 30 children enrolled with us presently at the centre. Five of them are from the community on the street on the adjacent MB road and are enrolled under the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The others are school-going students, who we supplement with non-formal education (NFE) in subjects they struggle with. We also teach them basic typing in English with the aid of read aloud books online, and general knowledge sessions. The children from the street have a low attention span, so we use activity-based lessons to help them enjoy learning concepts.



We also have 30 women enrolled with us for adult literacy classes. Of them, twelve study through NIOS, and six are enrolled in open university's graduate programmes. The rest learn basic maths, computers, and English communication. We teach these to all the women with a key focus to build their capacities this year, enabling them to be skilled for employment opportunities in the future. Some of them are in their mid-thirties and with children, whom they bring along and join our children in their sessions. We want to see the women grow in confidence, becoming well-versed with these skills, which are basic requirements for higher study and most office-based jobs. All students are assessed every two weeks. We keep a note of their typing level and speed daily so we can coach them to complete their weekly plans.



Activities at Saidulajab Centre

Some of the women struggle with issues in their families for choosing to come to the centre and are not appreciated for the hard work they put into their families. They feel affirmed as they relate with us, and we continue to support the choices they make each day. We often do cooking, baking and get-togethers as way to catch up, bringing everyone together. We also did a talent show at May-end, to encourage the women and just enjoy each other's company with some food, music, and dance.

## Shanti Colony

In the past few months, we have begun to build new relationships within the Shanti colony community, having visited women, children and older people who need care and support. Some seek medical advice, while others look for

guidance to enrol their children in the nearest government schools. When schools had summer break, over 40 children and 20 women joined us. With schools re-opening, we now have 10 children and 8 young women who regularly come to the center. Of the women, five join us from Bhim Basti, the urban poor settlement close to the area.

The children are from very poor families, some of whom have many siblings to care of. We are helping them with necessary documents to enroll in government school. They also seek our love and affection. Their parents are often working long hours making ends meet and are unable to give them time.

We are addressing their basic literacy needs through a basic curriculum that covers languages, math and general knowledge. This includes teaching phonics, rhymes and physical exercise. We find that their aptitude is low and use creative ways to help them grasp and learn better. We introduce computers to children ages ten and above.

We also pick up and bring two boys with special needs for lessons. We identified them during community visits and learnt they stay home alone while their parents leave early for work, being out the whole day and the siblings go to school. We built friendship with the family and encouraged them to send their boys to us. At the centre, they are very excited to do lots of colouring and activities.

We support the women in applying for government IDs and documents so we can initiate their NIOS enrolment. We teach them NIOS-based syllabi, computers and English communication. We also meet women who don't have much say in their families and do not have the ability to leave their homes to come to the classes. We seek to befriend them, make them aware of their rights and help them channel their inner struggles.

As our centre is becoming known in the area, women and children want to be enrolled into graduate programmes and the spoken English and computers lessons with us. We have begun to extend the times we work in the community so that we can support more women and children.

### **Viru Camp and Bhim Basti**

Due to the summer heat, we had to pause meeting outdoors in Viru camp. During this period, we encouraged women and their children to come to our centre at Shanti colony, but they could not come due to cultural and family restrictions. So, we were looking for a government-owned space to use free of cost as a sub-centre.

After months of searching, one of the women offered her place for us. We are grateful to have found this space and will start to use it from August onwards.

**Thank you for your loving support!**

*Sahaitha is a project of the New Generation Trust, a charitable trust Reg. No 1859/2005, at New Delhi, India.  
We use pseudonyms to protect the identity of our women and children. To know more about us, please visit  
[www.newgenerationtrust.org](http://www.newgenerationtrust.org)*



Activities at Shanti Colony

### **Meeta's Story\***

(\*name changed)

Meeta, a smart young woman, has been with us for the past seven years. Her husband is self-employed and runs an eatery shop each evening, which means Meeta's mornings are spent cooking and preparing the evening's sale.

We encouraged Meeta to continue her education, helping her enroll in a graduate programme. She is now in her final year. Meeta feels unsure of job opportunities after her studies. Though she is quite capable to secure a job in an office, she shares of how her husband feels insecure if she earns more than him or gains more exposure. As a result, Meeta expresses frustration for her situation. She stopped coming to our centre for a while as she felt very discouraged thinking there is no way forward.

We encourage Meeta to keep coming and learn, so she has a change of environment. We see her feeling uplifted after meeting us and the other women. We continue to encourage her to not lose hope.

