

14th Annual Report

2013-2014



Developmental Association for Human Advancement
Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh INDIA

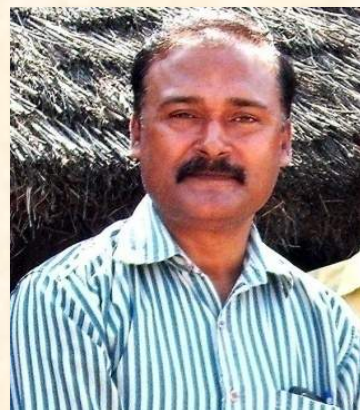
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From the Desk of the Chief Executive

The task of comprehensive rural development is one that presents a mountain of challenges all at once, as each piece of the solution overlaps with and strengthens the others. These challenges range from ones of health and nutrition, to education and empowerment, to farming and livelihood, down to the basic protections of security and well being for the most vulnerable among us. As we continue our work for a just, empowered, and egalitarian society, it is a good idea to pause and reflect on all we have managed to achieve, as well as on all that remains to be done.



In this 14th Annual Report of **DEHAT: Developmental Association for Human Advancement**, we are proud to present our accomplishments for the 2013-2014 year. We have inaugurated our Tarang Project for girl adolescent health and nutrition in tribal forest communities; we have added ten new schools and more than three hundred girls to our RGCEP alternative education programme; we have reconnected hundreds of missing children with their families and homes; and our work has been recognized locally and nationally with the Bahraich Ratna Award and as a finalist for the Dasra Girl Power Award.

These new ventures, and those that continue from past years, all support the guiding philosophy of DEHAT—one that found its beginnings in a group of young activists seeking betterment for Tharu tribal forest villagers, and that continues today as we work tirelessly on behalf of the deprived and underprivileged. We firmly believe that sustainable development can only take place when rural communities are empowered to take an active part in their own development. Long-term prosperity cannot depend on aid and expertise from the outside; it must originate from local masses standing up with the knowledge and power to ensure the realization of their rights, for themselves and for their children.

Children, truly, are the centre of this mission. They are not only our most vulnerable members of society today; they are the inheritors and the future of that society in years to come. Only when we can ensure the survival, development, protection, and full participation of all children can we hope to make meaningful development happen in rural India.

Our achievements and progress rest on the actions of many; our unity is what makes us strong. For their dedication and commitment, I want to thank our social activists and volunteers across all our programmes and initiatives. For their support and guidance, I want to thank our donor agencies, partner organization, and bankers—without them, none of this work would be possible. And finally, I want to thank the communities where we work for their cooperation and shared hope for a better future. It is for them alone that we continue into the years to come.

This report, I hope, will spread and strengthen the activism of DEHAT and its many supporters. When we take the time to look fully and openly at all we have accomplished, the solutions for moving forward become clearer and more within our grasp. A day when all children can enjoy the fullest realization of their rights, we believe, draws nearer every year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jitendra Chaturvedi
Chief Executive

Acknowledgements

We are sincerely grateful for the support provided by all our partners, and by our honourable community. All our efforts made during the 2013-2014 action year were made possible only due to the financial support provided by the following donors:

- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai
- IIMPACT, Gurgaon (Haryana)
- CHILDLINE India Foundation, Mumbai
- ACC Limited, Gauriganj, (UP)
- Gram Niyojan Kendra (GNK), Ghaziabad (UP)
- Centum Learning Ltd., New Delhi
- Milaan Be the Change, Lucknow
- Erase Poverty, Hong Kong
- Plan India, New Delhi
- Sahayog, Lucknow
- School for International Training (SIT)-USA, India Office-New Delhi

We give our sincere thanks to the following associations and networks for their guidance and support:

- United Nations Civil Society Organization Network (CSO Net)
- White Ribbon Alliance, USA
- United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC)
- Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA)
- Supporting Association for Thematic & Holistic Initiatives (SATHI), Uttar Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network (UPVAN), Lucknow
- Quality Institutional Care & Alternative for Children (QIC&AC), Uttar Pradesh
- Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD), New Delhi
- National Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition, New Delhi
- GuideStar India

In our advocacy of grassroots-level issues, the media responded with tremendous support for our efforts. Three feature stories from our efforts at grassroots level have been published in national outlets of Down To Earth, Civil Society, and India Today. We are thankful to all outlets that have supported us in both print and electronic forums, and for their help in broadening our message to the public.

We are thankful to all the government officials who have given every support to our efforts for the betterment of marginalized sections of society. And, of course, our acknowledgements would not be complete without thanking our staff & their family members, our volunteers, and community leaders.

Who Are We?

DEHAT: Developmental Association for Human Advancement began in 1989 with a group of young activists from the district of Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh. The Planning Commission has identified Bahraich as one of the 100 most backwards districts in India. For ten years, DEHAT served as a school for Tharu tribal villagers and forest children, until being registered under the Society Registration Act 1860 on the 21st of August 2000.

Since then, DEHAT has worked in conjunction with partners worldwide to empower and advocate for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged among us. We firmly believe that sustainable development can only take place when all children are assured of their survival, protection, and full participation in the development process. The 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child established a comprehensive set of rights for all children, and our work stands to translate those policies into on-the-ground practice. Through focused intervention that builds local capacity and empowers all sections of society, we hope to move towards a world where children enjoy the full range of their rights and opportunities.

A child is first and foremost affected by his or her direct surroundings—family, neighbourhood, school, and friends most immediately shape the course of that child's life. With that understanding in mind, DEHAT takes a holistic approach to activism that brings together education, maternal and child health, female literacy and empowerment, protection against human trafficking, farming and livelihood practices, and community building into a comprehensive solution for the problems faced by children in our target communities. And, recognizing that those issues exist in a broader social context, we pair grassroots activism with political advocacy, community mobilization, and struggles for legal rights and their full realization. Thus, all our activity—be it at the level of national policy-making or local farming demonstrations—returns to serve the interests of children, especially those in the marginalized and oppressed sections of our society.

Vision

A child-centered society in which all children enjoy the fullest scope of their rights.

Mission

To empower the deprived and underprivileged sections of society, in order to ensure the basic rights of children.

Some of our rights-based interventions...



Right to Survival

- Community Initiatives to strengthen existing government health care systems
- Community education on maternal and child health
- Epidemic control and vaccination promotion
- Nutritional counseling and education

Right to Development

- Establishment of alternative education centers for school dropouts and non-attendees, especially girls
- Enrollment campaigns to mainstream children in government schools
- Promotion of agricultural practices to ensure food security for the family



Right to Protection:

- Rescue and repatriation of kidnapped and missing children through 24/7 Childline hotline
- Community education to prevent human trafficking and domestic violence
- Formation of Community Based Organizations like Van Gram Adhikar Manch and Lok Adhikar Manch

Right to Participation:

- Formation of Children's Groups like Bal Adhikar Manch
- Ensuring participation of elected child leaders in community meetings
- Organization of folk art and theater performances by children for the benefit of their own communities



Awards to the Organization and the Chief Functionary

India NGO Award, 2010

In 2010, DEHAT was one of four non-governmental organizations in the country to be recognized and honoured with the India NGO Award at a function organized on the 5th of August, 2011 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Resource Alliance, in association with the Rockefeller Foundation, selects the winners of this prestigious award on the basis of their highest standards of resource mobilization, accountability, and transparency. India NGO Awards are the most coveted awards in the country to honour NGOs adopting good standards and practices during implementation of their programmes.

Global Award, 2011

DEHAT was one of the five volunteer organizations (along with Water Aid-UK, Ashi Naga-Japan, Head Strong-Ireland, and Living Earth-Uganda) shortlisted at the international level for Global Awards, 2011. These organizations were selected from the national winners of NGO Awards given by The Resource Alliance, UK.

Social Bravery Award, 2012 (CID Gallantry Awards)

On the 11th of March, 2012, Dr. Jitendra Chaturvedi, DEHAT Founder and Chief Executive, was awarded a gold medal of the Social Bravery Award 2012 for his commendable work towards humanity. This award was presented by Bollywood under the banner of the SONY Entertainment Network in Mumbai.

Manjunath Shanmugam Integrity Award, 2009

The Manjunath Shanmugam Integrity Award was given to DEHAT for its integrity, commitment, and efforts against corruption by the Manjunath Shanmugam Trust on the 13th of June, 2009 at IIM-Bengaluru. This award was presented by Ms. Aruna Roy, the Ramon Magsaysay Award winner and a well-known social activist. The MST is an international IIM alumni initiative in memory of Shanmughan Manjunath, an alumnus of IIM-Lucknow and an Indian Oil Corporation officer who was murdered while working against oil adulteration.

Dasra Girl Power Award, 2014

DEHAT was honoured as a finalist in the Education category for the Dasra Girl Power Awards, given to organizations doing outstanding work with adolescent girls. Dasra Girl Power Awards highlight achievement in three areas of intervention: Health, Education, and Life Skills, and 17 organizations from the entire country are shortlisted as finalists for each category. Ms. Kavita Ramdas, the Asia Chief of the Ford Foundation, presented DEHAT with a citation to honour their work in girl child education.

Bahraich Ratna Award, 2014

This award was given to Dr. Jitendra Chaturvedi, Chief Executive, by the Global School of Learning on behalf of Bahraich civil society, for DEHAT's efforts in changing the lives of the disadvantaged. Recognition from the local community, whose knowledge of DEHAT's work is most honest and complete, is so dear to us.

Projects

Rural Girl Child Education Project

supported by IIMPACT, New Delhi

The Rural Girl Child Education Project seeks to bring **quality primary education** to villages where girls' education is otherwise forgotten and ignored. After adding ten new learning centres this year, we operate **alternative learning centres** in 50 villages in 37 Gram Panchayats, where girls from 1st to 5th class learn subjects including math, Hindi, science, and English, as well as important knowledge about nutrition, adolescent health, and their rights.

These learning centres are also a **safe space** for girls in these villages, where they can receive counselling against the harms of child marriage or child labour, and seek support of their teachers in opposing violations of children's rights. Through these learning centres and organizations of parents, teachers, and community leaders, we hope to both **empower** the girls studying in our schools, and to expand opportunities for these women long into the future.



Goal

To provide **free, quality primary education** to 1615 girls in 50 villages, and to build broad **community support** for **girl child education** through our Girl Child Learning Centers and Balika Shiksha Adhikar Samiti community organizations.

Key Activities

Balika Shiksha Adhikar Samiti meetings: Over 500 meetings of parents, teachers, and community members in BSAS community-based organizations took place, building support for girl child education and increasing community involvement with the learning centres.

Teaching Learning Materials: Classrooms use a variety of learning materials including wall paintings, charts and games, songs, poems, and activities to make girls' education engaging and multidimensional.

One-on-one parent contact: Home visits and parent-teacher meetings connect staff with students' families and homes. These visits have convinced parents to reduce household chores,

increasing regular school attendance by 25%. Teachers also learn about potential marriages, allowing them to counsel families against child marriage and for continuing girls' education.

Girls Mentoring Girls programme: Children become teachers on a rotating basis, where they mentor slow-learning girls and build their confidence and knowledge by teaching peers.



Teacher trainings: Trainings throughout the year shared lessons and teaching tools with all 50 teachers and 5 support staff. Teachers were advised on the use of engaging teaching materials like flash cards, colour charts, word matching, and peer teaching, which they have implemented in their own classrooms.

Art and Painting competition: 1130 girls participated in a competition of art and painting, breaking outside normal schooling activities and expanding their creativity and imagination.

Holiday celebrations: Students joined with teachers, pradhans, government officials, block pramukhs and other community members to share songs, paintings, and nukkad natak in celebration of Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Children's Day and Republic Day, and learned about the importance of these holidays in the process.

Community celebrations: Project staff organized rallies, meetings, home visits, and workshops for World Women's Day, World Hand Wash Day, Iodine Deficiency Disorder Day, and World Breastfeeding Week, benefitting students and communities with the knowledge of these topics.

Review meetings: Fortnightly performance review meetings and regular meetings between project and support staff helped teachers and staff communicate with each other. 7 block-level

meetings with representatives from the Balika Shiksha Adhikar Samiti also shared values for girl child education beyond the village level.

Exposure visits: Senior teachers and staff took exposure visits to Shahjahanpur and Lucknow, where they learned about best practices in alternative schools and received two days of adolescent health training from the Azadi Foundation. Staff from low-performing centres also held exposure visits to high-performing centres, allowing teachers to improve their own centres.

American student interactions: 59

American university students held small-group interactions at nine of our alternative learning centres, providing our students with a chance to learn about the importance of education and gain inspiration from the interaction.



IIMPACT visit: Mr. Abhishek Guar, the IIMPACT state project coordinator, and Mr. Junaid Khan, the IIMPACT director of programmes, visited several of our learning centres, where they shared their appreciation of the project work and gave their thoughts for further improving the learning centres.

Major Achievements

10 new centres inaugurated, with 345 new students enrolled
Involvement of 13,903 community members about the importance of girl child education through Balika Shiksha Adhikar Samiti community-based organizations
19 girls finished 5 th class and enrolled in upper primary schools
498 illiterate mothers of students were inspired and taught to read by their daughters
Honoured as a finalist for the Dasra Girl Power Award, Education category
17 child marriages and 23 early gauna stopped by staff counseling of students' parents

Farmers' Action for Sustainable Agro-based Livelihood (FASAL)

supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and People's Action for National Integration

FASAL **targets the problem of poverty** in a context where as many as 80% of families survive by means of subsistence farming. Advanced farming practices, with the help of progressive government schemes, offer farmers the promise of better standards of living, but these promises have yet to be realized in remote and underprivileged communities. FASAL seeks to educate farmers in Mihinpurwa block of Bahraich about these practices and government programmes, in order to empower them towards a future of **dignity** and a **better living wage** for them and their families.



Goal

To improve the livelihoods of farmers and their families through progressive farming that **decreases input costs, increases production**, connects them with **financial networks**, and takes full advantage of **government assistance**.

Key Activities

Vermi compost/wash: Vermicomposting uses earthworms to produce cheap, effective fertilizer. We demonstrated 30 compost units, and farmers responded by establishing 676 units of their own. Vermicomposting has saved each farmer over Rs.7000 per year on chemical fertilizers, and farmers sold excess worms for additional profits. Farmers also make water-based Vermicom washes for their fields, prolonging field fertility by months over untreated fields.

System of Rice/Wheat Intensification (SRI and SWI): SRI and SWI offer farmers a highly efficient way of planting grain crops, allowing for yields as much as 40% higher than traditional methods. Following SRI and SWI demonstrations last year, more than a hundred farmers adopted these methods this year. We also demonstrated high-yielding Pusa Sugandh-4 and PRH-10 hybrid rice strains, further decreasing overhead costs and increasing production.



Machan farming: Machan farming uses net roofing to grow a second crop above the ground-level crop, so for farmers growing turmeric or ginger, we promoted machan cultivation of bitter melon above their ground crop. This year, 30 farmers adopted machan practices, gaining additional income between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 60,000 per acre.

Mixed vegetable farming: Following last year's demonstrations, 82 farmers have begun growing onion and garlic this year. This is particularly useful for farmers in areas where wild animals destroy large portions of their crops, as not a single case of garlic or onion loss to wild animals has been reported.

AAS organization and training: All 600 farmers were organized into 36 Aajivika Adhikar

Sangathan community-based organizations. AAS leaders were trained on government schemes and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, as well as record keeping, family-level business planning, and leadership skills.

Major Achievements

Farmers gained more than Rs.17 lakh in profits from new farming practices
Vermi composting has saved farmers thousands of rupees on expensive chemical fertilizers
All 601 farmers were organized into 36 Aajivika Adhikar Sangathan, and these AAS groups have formed a block-wide federation for the whole intervention area
246 farms are in process for registration with the 30P government assistance programme
6022 subabul trees have been planted for use as construction material and cattle fodder
All 601 farmers have adopted rooftop vegetable cultivation at their homes

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The Story of Dwarika Prasad

In 2010, Dwarika Prasad was working as a day labourer, earning 50 rupees per day on days when employment was available. He grew small plots of rice and wheat in his fields, using traditional farming methods for modest harvests from 4,000-square foot plot of land. But without regular employment, it was difficult for him to provide a stable livelihood for his family.



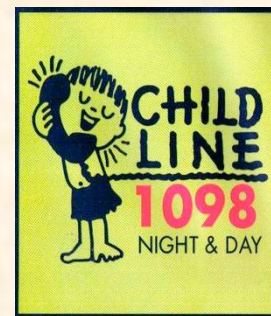
Dwarika's involvement with DEHAT began as a member of the Gram Adhikar Manch (Forest Rights Forum) in his village, and later through his participation in DEHAT's Empowering Rural Women Project. In 2012, Prasad came to know about FASAL, and began to seek a means of improving his own livelihood. Through FASAL, he learned about subabul tree plantation and machan farming, and began attending workshops as far away as Faizabad and Delhi to continue increasing his knowledge.

Using money that he gained from subabul tree planting, Dwarika later bought a machine to process menthol plants into menthol oil, which he now sells to medical and pharmaceutical companies in the area. Over the years since, he has continued to increase his land and his crop diversity, and his 80,000 square feet of land now include chilli plants, bitter gourd, menthol, onion, turmeric, rice, wheat, mustard, subabul trees, and neem trees.

In 2010, Dwarika worked for minimum wages on others' fields. Today, with twenty times his prior landholdings, he needs to hire others to work his fields. With stable employment and a steady source of income, he no longer needs his children to work as labourers and wage earners, and all five of them are now regularly attending school. With FASAL's help, Dwarika has not only increased his land and his profits, but he has also built a better life for himself and his family.

CHILDLINE 1098

*supported by CHILDLINE India Foundation, Mumbai
with thanks to the Ministry of Woman and Child Development, Govt. of India*



CHILDLINE provides nationwide 24/7 toll-free emergency phone service for children in need of care and protection, and works to secure their immediate safety and link them to long-term rehabilitation. CHILDLINE began in Mumbai in 1996, and DEHAT operates the Bahraich branch of this network that now spans 291 locations in urban and rural centres across India. CHILDLINE focuses in particular on marginalized groups of children; in Bahraich, the most prevalent issues are those of missing children, child trafficking across the Indo-Nepal border, and child runaways.

Goal

*First, to ensure that every child in India has access to **emergency assistance** by setting up the CHILDLINE service across the country. Second, to facilitate long-term children's long-term **rehabilitation** and to **advocate** for children's rights and protection nationwide*

Key Activities

Micro level

We respond to all calls to the 1098 hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We immediately rescue children in need, and connect them to medical help, shelter, protection from abuse, or counselling according to their need

We work with partner networks and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) to rehabilitate and return children to their families, thoroughly documenting each child to ensure they reach home quickly and safely

Through door-to-door contacts, open houses, and tent activities, we spread community awareness about child rights, and we educate families on how to handle trafficking or missing children

Regular children's meetings allow children to voice their concerns and ensure that systemic change serves the best needs of children

Mezzo level

Our booth for lost children during Dargah Mela protects children from abductors and safely returns them to families

City mapping of child rights violations highlights high-need areas for outreach and intervention

Regional CHILDLINE meetings improve staff capacity and share best practices across districts

We coordinate with police, railways, Health and Labour departments, and other government or volunteer services to rescue children as far away as Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

We work with state governments, local companies, district administration, village panchayats, community volunteer organizations, and academic institutions to create child-friendly systems

Macro level

We collect data on rescued and rehabilitated children for CHILDLINE's national database on child protection

We support national efforts to track missing children from as far away as Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

We catalyse the government, corporations, and volunteer agencies to bridge gaps in current programmes, improve the use of technology in child tracking and repatriation, and increase budgeting for child protective services



Major Achievements

Protection from abuse, shelter, medical assistance, and repatriation for 86 children through 1098 hotline
Safe return of 484 children to their families during Dargah Mela
1134 hours of one-to-one community contact
Direct outreach to over 7,700 community members through door-to-door contacts, 29 tent activities, and 8 open houses to sensitize communities to the problems of child safety
Compilation of trafficker profiles and trafficking-prone villages for training against child trafficking
Training of police officials and community leaders to fight and prevent child trafficking

The Rescue of Seven Indian Children from Nepal

On March 8th, 2013 a call came to the Bahraich CHILDLINE centre regarding the forced bondage of seven Indian children in brick factories in Kathmandu, Nepal. These children had been kidnapped from their villages in Bahraich district three months prior, lured by promises of good pay and threatened with violence once they realized the traffickers' lies. They tried to escape from these brick factories once before, but after traveling 500km to the Indo-Nepal border, they were caught and once again kidnapped by the brickfield owners.

Upon receiving the call, three DEHAT employees, Dr. Jitendra Chaturvedi, Mr. Triloki Nath, and Mr. Vinayak Nagarajan left immediately for Nepalgunj, Nepal to rescue the children. In coordination with police and government officials in both India and Nepal, DEHAT took custody of all seven children and returned to their home district of Bahraich.

With the children's help and through CHILDLINE's community network, DEHAT was able to find the parents of all seven children and return them quickly to their homes. Three of the children, Amritlal, Nakchhed, and Akhilesh, were the sons of Shri Jagram from Turhani Rajjab village. Sh. Jagram had been working as a daily wage labourer, forced to seek employment over 100km from home in Lucknow due to lack of work in Bahraich district. After the kidnapping of his children, he became demoralized and afraid to leave home for work.



After the return of his three children, Sh. Jagram remained in contact with DEHAT's Missing Child Alert programme. With MCA support, he opened a small shop in his village and enrolled all three children in a local private school, while DEHAT covered the cost of their school fees, uniforms, school bags, and books.

Presently, all three children are studying in 6th class and attending school regularly. Sh. Jagram is earning three to four times his prior wages through his shop, and working hard to give a quality life for his children. Through the collaboration of DEHAT's CHILDLINE and MCA programmes, all seven children were not only rescued from their enslavement in Nepal, but also connected with long-term rehabilitation that will improve the trajectory of their lives long into the future.

Swabhiman: Girl Child Education Project

supported by Milaan, New Delhi

Swabhiman is a programme that empowers girls to lead a life of **independence** and **dignity**. We identify girls in 5th through 9th class who have been forced to drop out of school for any number of financial, familial, or social reasons, and enable them to return to school and **complete their secondary education**. By providing these girls in villages of the Mihinpurwa block of Bahraich with regular and remedial classes, extracurricular activities, and regular examinations to monitor their progress, we have succeeded in re-enrolling all 30 of these girls in government schools for their board exams.

Goal

To **mobilize** and **educate** 30 rural dropout girls, to enable these girls to return to government schools and **continue their education**, and to ensure that 100% of these girls succeed in 10th class examinations within three years.

Key Activities

Mobilization and registration: Dropout girls in target villages were identified through door-to-door contact with families, and 30 students were registered to continue their education.

Inauguration of the learning centre: Following enrolment, an inauguration programme with students, parents, and important community members allowed communication of the importance of girls' education with the whole community.

Mapping of learning levels: Initial knowledge mapping revealed that many girls could not identify English letters or do simple subtraction and division, and some lacked even basic Hindi literacy. Using this knowledge, we developed weekly action plans, including one-page writing assignments in Hindi and English.

Remedial classes: For students that lagged behind in their performance, we held remedial classes to bring all students up to high academic standards. As students improved, they could participate fully in regular classes with all students.

Interaction with American students: American university students visited DEHAT's programmes in September and February, where they conducted interaction programmes with our students. In total, 48 American students visited our learning centres, teaching our students about the importance of education and providing inspiration to all our girls.

Milaan visit: Ms. Shalini Ji, a representative of the support organization Milaan, visited the learning centre to teach and inspire students about the importance of education.

Regular examinations: Monthly subjective tests in mathematics, Hindi, English, science, and general knowledge confirmed and documented the progress of all students.

Student Examination Grades



Nukkad Natak: In March, students organized Nukkad Natak community plays in three villages to educate their communities about girl child education, health and hygiene, and child labour. In total, they organized 15 meetings with local girls and 6 Nukkad Natak.

Republic Day celebrations: Students joined with 90 children of the Bal Adhikar Manch children's group and 60 teachers and community members

in songs, games, competitions, and speeches about the importance of Republic Day.



Visit to Shravasti: Students and teachers visited historical sites in Shravasti including the Sri Lanka Temple, Mahatma Buddha Statue, Sita Dwar, and Jain Mandir. This visit allowed students to explore diverse cultures, traditions, and faiths, and express their views with peers on a common platform.

Major Achievements

30 girl students who had dropped out of school were registered and are continuing their education.

All students are able to write Hindi and simple English words without hesitation.

After zero students received A grades on the first exam, 18 students received A grades on the third quarterly, and all students continue to demonstrate improvement.

16 very poor girls reached a satisfactory academic level

Inspiration from American student visits, Milaan team visits, exposure trips to Shravasti, and community events broadened the scope of girls' education and provided hope for their future

All 30 students are now enrolled in government schools for board exams

Moving Forward

While there is much to celebrate from the 2013-2014 year, much also remains to be done. Many families, oftentimes with parents who never attended school, still don't appreciate the central importance of education for young girls. In the face of social pressures and household chores, regular attendance remains difficult for many students, and we must continue to motivate them to invest themselves fully in their education.

As we press forward, we look to exciting projects on the horizon. Weekly student presentations will immerse students deeper in course content, while debate competitions will enhance their abilities for expression and critical thinking. In monthly parent-teacher-student meetings, we will continue to develop the community's understanding about the crucial role of education in a child's development. An annual exam will serve as a capstone for the year, while weekly tests and learning mapping will both motivate students to study and provide detailed information about their progress. In difficult work like this, we are bound to face challenges. However, these challenges haven't lessened the determination of our team on the ground. Every day, we are closer to reaching more girls who have given up the dream of education, to help them complete their secondary schooling and move towards a brighter and more empowered future.



Swabhiman Girls Prevent Child Trafficking

One June 6th, 2013, a group of sixteen girls from Nai Basti village were returning home after school, when they noticed a truck driver with a child crying and shouting in the back of a large truck. None of the girls were older than fifteen years old, but they immediately recognized the telltale signs of child trafficking.

While the driver was trying to quiet the child's crying, the group of girls stopped their bicycles and confronted the driver. They asked the driver, "Is he your child? Where are you taking him?" The driver attempted to pass the child off as his own, but the crying child responded, "He is not my father! My father is Bhagat Singh!" With the knowledge they had gained through their involvement in Swabhiman and the Bal Adhikar Manch children's rights forum, they knew that this instance of child trafficking had to be stopped.

As the driver started the engine of his truck to drive away, the girls threw their bicycles in front of the vehicle. The truck driver managed to escape, but the girls immediately called the 1098 CHILDLINE helpline. With CHILDLINE's help, the Motipur police department and local SSB border security force joined the search for the child trafficker.

Despite having left the girls and their cycles behind, the truck driver was intimidated by their opposition. He became scared of being caught for child trafficking, and dropped the child in the next village, Bichhiya. But upon his arrival in Motipur, the truck driver was promptly arrested. He confessed to kidnapping the child, and to leaving him in Bichhiya after his confrontation with the Swabhiman girls. His truck was seized, and he was sent to jail. The child, after being dropped in Bichhiya, took a train back to his home.

These girls' activism is not confined to this one encounter. With this set of skills and knowledge, the same girls have gone to children's homes to counsel parents against child marriage, or encourage students' regular attendance in school. One of the group's leaders, Rekha, has taken her experience to state-level exposures about child protection and trafficking as far as Lucknow and Varanasi.

Through their courage, the girls took their knowledge of children's rights far beyond the lessons they had learned in Swabhiman. Empowered by their training on child trafficking, they saved a child from bondage and ensured that the trafficker was caught for his crimes.



Sustainable Community Development Project (SCDP)

supported by ACC Cement Works, Ltd.

The Sustainable Community Development Project approaches rural development **holistically**, bringing together areas of **education, literacy, health, livelihood, and infrastructure** into a single unified programme. Our interventions support and empower six villages in the district of Amethi to build safe and nurturing homes for their children, and in turn serve as models to surrounding communities in their own development.

Health

Adolescent Health

- 55 girls trained as health leaders, who in turn organized meetings to educate 600 girls on important issues for adolescent health
- School quizzes and competitions educated hundreds of students about hygiene, nutrition, iodine intake, and safeguards against anemia
- Handwashing workshops taught schoolchildren healthy sanitation techniques

Maternal and Child Health

- All eligible couples, pregnant women, newborns, and infants registered in MIS database
- 12 Traditional Birth Attendants trained on home delivery and in promoting institutional delivery
- 598 children vaccinated against BCG, DPT, and measles
- Meetings and rallies for New Born Care Week and World Breastfeeding Week educated hundreds of mothers about caring for their newborns

Community Health

- 15 ASHAs, AWWs, and ANMs trained in record keeping
- Village Health and Nutrition Days in all villages
- 6000 anti-mosquito larva fish introduced in 9 mosquito-heavy areas
- Health camps provided over 400 patients access to doctors and treatment for issues of skin disease, fever, respiratory and gastrointestinal disease, and pain

Education

Girls' Education Centres: With the goal of re-enrolling 88 girls who had dropped out or never begun their schooling, we met with parents, held enrolment rallies, and taught supplementary classes. All 88 girls are now continuing their education in government schools. We also established libraries in each of the primary schools, now managed by students through Bal Sanskar Pustakalay Sanrakshan Samiti.

Girls' Coaching Centre: We conducted coaching classes for 92 girls in 9th and 10th class to bolster their subject mastery and help them prepare for board exams. 46 of the 48 girls who took board exams passed, and 12 scored above 75%.

Computer Education Centre: Inaugurated by the President of ACC Ahead Mrs. N. Kesav, this centre taught 112 girls and boys on computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Paint, as well as in Internet use and research.

Indicator	2012-2013	2013-2014
Pregnant women registered	0	202
Infants registered	0	139
Antenatal care	61	151
Postnatal care	28	116
Institutional deliveries	49	109
Home deliveries	76	22
TT-1	88	151
TT-2	42	127
JSY Realization	49	109
Immunizations (BCG, DPT/Polio, measles)	203	
Private hospitals	19	7

Women Literacy Centres: 803 women, or nearly three-quarters of all illiterate women in the six target villages, registered in literacy centres where they learned their signature, the alphabet and numbers, the names of family members, and more sophisticated exercises. An impact assessment revealed that 98% of these women could sign their name, and that 76% had mastered all tasks including advanced exercises in word matching and sentence construction.

Community and Infrastructure

Water security: Community meetings educated villagers about safe water practices and hand pumps, while training of Peyjal Sanrakshan Samiti allowed for effective local pump upkeep. Monthly follow-up meetings with Water Use Groups confirmed that pumps were being effectively maintained.

Micro enterprises: 260 women in 26 self-help groups (SHGs), including six established with DEHAT support, held regular meetings to manage group savings and discuss issues of debit and credit. Six members of these groups used their SHG's resources to establish shops with the help of Azadi Co., and are using their profits as return on the investments of their fellow SHG members.

Construction: 11 kitchens in 4 villages have been built already, with the construction of 11 more already underway. Solar panels have been installed

at sites identified by the community in all six villages, providing power to 77 villagers. Local solar power management committees are responsible for supervising and managing the solar lights.

World Environment Day: A celebration of World Environment Day on 5th June stressed environmental issues and provided 30 neem plants to Tikariya village, with ACC representatives Mr. Ramagya Pathak and Mr. Brijesh Nayak and the

Tikariya Gram Pradhan attending.

Community activities: Kabaddi and Kho Kho tournaments provided 144 participating children and over 1,500 attendees with entertainment and a strengthened community, while a



Musical Chair Race tournament at a nearby ACC plant brought nearly 500 attendees to watch the 114 women & adolescent girls participating.

Major Achievements

598 children vaccinated against BCG, DPT, and measles

Three times as many mothers and children received antenatal/postnatal care with SCDP support compared to prior years

98% of women in literacy centres can sign their name, and 76% mastered advanced literary exercises

46 of 48 girls who took board exams with coaching centre support passed

Six women have started their own business with the support of self-help groups

11 newly constructed kitchens and six solar panels are benefitting 88 families

District-Level Skill Development Centre

supported by ACC Cement and Centum Learning

The District-Level Skill Development Centre provides **vocational training** to non-college attending youth, so that they can enter India's **modernizing workforce**, increase their **self-reliance**, and break the **cycle of poverty**. In partnership with Centum Learning and Work Skills India, we recruit and train youth seeking jobs with skills for retail, sales, business process outsourcing (BPO). We then connect our graduates with employers throughout India, enabling them to earn monthly salaries of Rs.5,000 and above and improve the livelihoods of themselves and their families.



Training

Every training provides students with 24 days of intensive instruction, starting from workforce basics and building to highly marketable, professional skills. Following a life skills training on teamwork, resume writing, communication skills, and developing professional relationships, students choose to pursue skills in sales, retail, English, DTH engineering, and domestic business process outsourcing according to their aspirations during the second half of training.

This year, 654 students completed Skill Development Centre trainings in 21 batches, with a 90% graduation rate. This is more than double the number of students trained in the prior year, and the programme continues to expand. To date, we have fully trained 995 students, improving their livelihoods and expanding their work opportunities far beyond unskilled labour into modern jobs in a modern Indian economy.

*654 students
completed trainings
with a 90%
graduation rate*

Company	Graduates placed
Café Coffee Day	21
Competent	123
Deep Enterprises	64
DR IT	115
Dusters Total Solution Services	33
Karvy Data Management	68
Pay Asia	23
Serco	55
Sinar Jernih India Pvt. Ltd.	59
Total	561

Job Placement

From this year's 654 graduates, we placed 561 with companies across India like Café Coffee Day, Pay Asia, and Serco. This placement rate of 87% allows our graduates put their new skills to use immediately after leaving the Skill Development Centre. With monthly salaries of Rs.5,000 and above, students who find employment this way can expand their self-reliance, as well as contribute to their families who are often otherwise stuck in harsh poverty.

Looking Forward

The District-Level Skill Development Centre will continue to expand our efforts for people's livelihoods and for a strong workforce for India. To date, we have placed 95 women and 763 men through our programmes, and we hope to shrink this gender gap further with recruiting strategies that encourage women's participation and lower their barriers to entering the workforce. We also hope to help our graduates with the transition to urban life that many jobs bring, by connecting them with other Skill Development Centre graduates and facilitating communication back home.



Missing Child Alert (MCA)

supported by GNK and PLAN India

MCA is a network for **missing and trafficked children** in the Indo-Nepal border region, where cross-border trafficking forces thousands of children each year into bonded labour. DEHAT is the implementing this programme in Bahraich district, working with organizations in the other 22 border districts in West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. In addition to conducting rescue operations for missing children, MCA seeks to develop systems for **tracking and rehabilitating** victims of child trafficking, and to improve **communication and cooperation** between stakeholders in both India and Nepal.



Goal

To connect child protection systems in both India and Nepal, in order to create a **stronger network** for tracking missing children in the Indo-Nepal border region and providing long-term **relief and rehabilitation** to victims of child trafficking

Key Activities

Mapping of the district: We mapped trafficking in Bahraich, including demographic profiles of the district, the number of missing and trafficked children, the number of families affected, and the number of children in these families.

Rehabilitation of trafficking victims: 15 trafficked children re-enrolled in school with MCA supporting their fees, books, and uniforms. 60 children and their families also benefitted from vocational training programmes in tailoring, sales & retail, and electronics/auto repair.

Building stakeholder networks: Workshops and meetings with media, advocates, civil society, lawyers, government officials, and border security forces sensitized key stakeholders and strengthened child protection networks in both India and Nepal.

Community mobilization: Meetings and human chain demonstrations in seven border villages educated hundreds of community members about how to address the problems missing and trafficked children. 10 youth groups and 5 child protection committees were formed in the most vulnerable areas, involving over a hundred youth and reaching 463 vulnerable families.



Major Achievements

Restoration of 3 victims of child trafficking in India to their families in Nepal

District mapping of hotspots for trafficking and key regions, roads, and railways where interventions are most needed

Vocational training, counseling, and educational support to 75 victims of trafficking and their families

Bahraich District Bar Association agreed to represent victims in all child trafficking cases free of cost

MCA network has brought together child protection stakeholders from police, media, civil society, legal associations, and governments in both India and Nepal

American Student Visits

The American university SIT World Learning continued its partnership with DEHAT this year, sending two groups of students studying health, culture, and human rights to learn about DEHAT's programmes and philosophy. Each group stayed for one week, and in total 37 students from 27 American universities learned firsthand about DEHAT's approach to rural development in India.

"The people that we met stunned us with their inspirational acts of generosity and dedication," said Noam Yossefy, Skidmore College. "We spent time with children who were empowered by DEHAT, which educates children on their rights and provides them with tools to change their future on a daily basis."



Two students, Mr. Evan Weiner (Harvard University) and Ms. Sarah Glass (Tufts University) decided after their week-long visit to return to Bahraich and volunteer for DEHAT for a period of six months. They were motivated by the passion and dedication of DEHAT staff to support DEHAT's projects at the grassroots level, contributing their time and expertise to help build DEHAT's vision and the capacity of its staff. Meanwhile, their fellow students continue to spread word of DEHAT in the United States.

These visits not only benefitted the American students—their presence also brought excitement and inspiration to the activists and children who interacted with them. Girls from Swabhiman and the Rural Girl Child Education Project had the chance to ask the American students about their homes, their families, and their values, and to share their own experiences with education and children's rights. Both American groups spoke about the importance of empowerment and education, especially for young girls, and our students took their advice to heart. As American and Indian students shared songs, dances, and lessons from across the globe, each left the meetings stronger and more inspired than they had come in.

All the American students left with a tremendous appreciation for DEHAT, and for all the people involved in our work.

"For me personally, DEHAT embodies the essence of inspiration. In a single humbling experience, DEHAT broke my heart, put it back together, and gave me hope—instilling in me the passion I have for education and all it encompasses. DEHAT is doing amazing things, and I can only imagine how their efforts will benefit the future of India." —Maggie Stroud, Wofford College



Governing Board & Staff Strength



**Ms. Vinika Karoli:
Chairperson**

18 years experience as child rights activist; MA (Defence Science & Ancient History), PGDHRM, M.Ed.



**Mr. Satish K. Srivastava:
Vice-Chairperson**

23 years experience as journalist, advocate, and child rights lawyer. MA (Sociology), LLB



**Dr. Jitendra Chaturvedi:
Secretary**

23 years experience as child rights activist and grassroots mobilizer. MA (Sociology), BHMS



**Dr. Balmeet Kaur:
Treasurer**

18 years experience as educator with mentally challenged children. MA (Eco. Hindi), Ph.D. PGDHR CTD



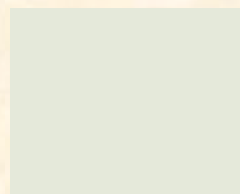
**Mr. Praveen Srivastava:
Board Member**

13 years experience in education. MA (Political Science), B. P. Ed., NIS



**Bhan Mati:
Board Member**

8 years experience as community leader and grassroots activist. Literate



**Mr. Shahid Ali:
Board Member**

23 years experience in education. BA, DFA

	Qualification	Male	Female	Total
Project Level				
Project Director	Postgraduate/Professional	1	-	1
Project Coordinator	Postgraduate/Professional	5	-	5
Associate Coordinator	Graduate or Postgraduate	2	-	2
Field Coordinator	Graduate or Postgraduate	15	-	15
Community Level Worker	Matriculate or higher	3	74	77
Computer Instructor	Postgraduate, Computer Applications	4	-	4
Counsellor	Graduate	-	1	1
Office & Administration				
Accounts & Admin. Manager	Postgraduate, NGO Mgmt. Diploma	1	-	1
Accountant	Bachelor of Commerce	1	-	1
Assistant Accountant	Bachelor of Commerce	-	1	1
Office Assistant	Matriculate or higher	2	-	2
Total		34	76	110