

Project Report: Safar Shiksha Ka – Special Hygiene and Cleanliness Education Initiative

Project Title: Safar Shiksha Ka – A Project of Special Hygiene and Cleanliness Education

Location: Sarai Kale Khan Night Shelter, New Delhi

Project Duration: March 27, 2021 – December 31, 2024

#### Introduction:

"Safar Shiksha Ka" is a community-focused initiative dedicated to providing essential education on hygiene, cleanliness, and basic academic skills to underprivileged children living at the Sarai Kale Khan night shelter. This project, initiated by Abhinav, aims to bridge the gap in educational opportunities for homeless and impoverished children, emphasizing the importance of personal hygiene and cleanliness practices that directly impact their health and well-being.

The program, backed by volunteers and key contributors, has delivered a structured curriculum covering academic subjects as well as daily hygiene routines, which include handwashing, oral hygiene, and waste management. Over three years, "Safar Shiksha Ka" has successfully reached over 100 children, fostering not just education but a supportive environment where learning thrives.

#### Objectives:

The project was conceptualized with the following key objectives:

1. Promote personal hygiene and cleanliness education to instill daily hygiene practices among children and raise awareness about the health benefits of cleanliness.
2. Enhance educational opportunities to provide foundational academic skills and structured learning sessions to children who lack access to regular schooling.
3. Encourage sustainable health practices in the community to foster a culture of cleanliness within the shelter, benefiting not just the children but also their families and the larger shelter community.
4. Empower the youth with knowledge and skills for a better future by preparing the children for future academic or vocational pursuits through values of cleanliness, discipline, and basic education.

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#### Key Contributors and Special Acknowledgments:

Special Contribution by Mr. Johny Seth: A renowned Punjabi singer, Mr. Johny Seth, generously sponsored "Safar Shiksha Ka" under the banner of Super Child Education India. His financial and moral support allowed the project to acquire essential educational supplies, sanitation kits, and other resources necessary for the effective execution of the program. Mr. Seth's vision and compassion for child welfare played a significant role in the project's success.

#### Dedicated Volunteers:

- Abhinav (Founder): As the visionary behind the initiative, Abhinav played a central role in organizing and implementing the program.
- Ankita, Aman, and Harsh: These volunteers provided unwavering support throughout the project, dedicating countless hours to teaching, organizing activities, and mentoring the children. Their consistent presence and dedication have been instrumental in achieving the project's objectives.

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#### Program Activities:

##### 1. Hygiene Education and Practices:

- Interactive workshops on hygiene: Volunteers conducted sessions focused on hygiene basics, such as handwashing, oral hygiene, and the importance of keeping their living spaces clean.
- Daily hygiene routines: A structured hygiene routine was introduced, encouraging children to practice personal cleanliness daily. The program also provided children with hygiene kits, including soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and towels, ensuring they had access to basic sanitation items.
- Health awareness campaigns: With the support of healthcare professionals and guest speakers, awareness campaigns were organized to educate children and families on topics such as disease prevention, proper nutrition, and the significance of a clean environment.

##### 2. Academic Education:

- Foundational learning in core subjects: The project provided free education covering essential subjects like Mathematics, Science, and Language. These sessions were designed to help children develop basic academic skills, preparing them for formal schooling opportunities in the future.
- Supplementary learning materials: Thanks to the contributions of Mr. Seth and other donors, children received books, notebooks, and stationery, making learning accessible and enjoyable.
- Engaging learning activities: Volunteers used engaging activities, such as storytelling, drawing, and group discussions, to make learning enjoyable and interactive. This approach fostered curiosity and enthusiasm for education among the children.

##### 3. Community Involvement and Family Engagement:

- The program encouraged family members and shelter staff to participate in sessions focused on hygiene education. By involving the broader community, "Safar Shiksha Ka" promoted a shared commitment to cleanliness and a healthier living environment.

- Family sessions were organized monthly to create awareness about the impact of cleanliness and proper sanitation on health and to encourage families to support children's educational and hygiene practices.

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#### Key Achievements:

1. Impact on 100 Children: The project has reached over 100 children, helping them develop essential hygiene habits and foundational academic skills. The children showed a marked improvement in their understanding of cleanliness and hygiene.

2. Improved Health and Cleanliness Standards: The regular hygiene practices and health sessions contributed to a decrease in health issues related to poor hygiene among the children and their families.

3. Educational Progress and Increased Interest in Learning: The children demonstrated notable progress in literacy and numeracy, creating a strong foundation for future education. Many of them displayed a newfound enthusiasm for learning, which is expected to benefit them beyond the project's duration.

4. Community Collaboration and Positive Behavioral Change: By involving the shelter community and families, the project succeeded in fostering a collective effort towards cleanliness and hygiene, which has had a ripple effect on the children's behavior and overall environment.

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#### Challenges and Lessons Learned:

- Maintaining Consistency in Attendance: Given the transient nature of shelter populations, ensuring regular attendance was challenging. Volunteers frequently reached out to families to encourage consistent participation.

- Resource Limitations: Despite Mr. Seth's sponsorship, there were occasional resource limitations due to the increasing number of participants. Volunteers had to manage materials and space creatively to accommodate more children.

- Behavioral Challenges: Adapting to hygiene routines required time, especially for children not accustomed to regular practices. Persistence, patient guidance, and positive reinforcement were essential in creating lasting behavioral change.

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#### Impact Assessment and Feedback:

An end-of-year survey and observations revealed that "Safar Shiksha Ka" made a lasting impact on the children's understanding of hygiene and their interest in education. Parents

expressed gratitude for the project's contributions, noting improvements in their children's cleanliness and academic abilities. Shelter staff also reported a noticeable improvement in the overall cleanliness of the living spaces due to the children's influence.

#### Conclusion and Future Scope:

"Safar Shiksha Ka" is a shining example of what community-driven initiatives can accomplish when fueled by passion, dedication, and support. The collaboration of volunteers like Abhinav, Ankita, Aman, and Harsh, and the critical sponsorship from Mr. Johny Seth, has provided these children with invaluable knowledge and tools that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Although the formal project concludes on December 31, 2024, the success of "Safar Shiksha Ka" lays the groundwork for similar future initiatives. Plans to maintain the impact through periodic follow-ups, possible extension of educational support, and partnerships with local schools are under consideration. Through projects like these, children at Sarai Kale Khan and similar shelters can continue their journey towards a brighter, cleaner, and educated future.