



A DECADE OF IMPACT BY  
SRF FOUNDATION IN NUH, HARYANA







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## ABOUT SRF FOUNDATION

SRF Foundation formerly known as the Society for Education and Welfare Development, was set up in the year 1982 as the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of SRF Limited, a multi-business chemicals conglomerate engaged in the manufacturing of industrial and specialty intermediates. Drawing inspiration from its founders, Late Sir Shri Ram and Late Dr. Bharat Ram, who believed in contributing to society through education, SRF Foundation is dedicated to the transformation of education in India. Currently, SRF Foundation

champions the cause of quality education and runs one of the largest community programs in and around SRF's manufacturing plant locations as well as in other parts of the country in partnership with like-minded organizations, imparting education and vocational training programs to underprivileged children and youth by improving both hard and soft infrastructure facilities in Government school, promoting computer-aided learning, and through the digital inclusion of communities.



## SRF FOUNDATION

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## Foreword



**Dr Y. Suresh Reddy**  
Director, SRF Foundation

SRF Foundation has a vision for a better future – a future where every child has access to quality education, regardless of their background. I believe that education can transform society, and it is the key to unlocking the potential of every individual. In 2009, when we embarked on implementing our education and employability initiatives in Nuh district in Haryana, our reasons were four-pronged:

- **Priority district:** Nuh was glaringly underdeveloped and lagging in almost all socio-economic and human development indicators.
- **Marginalized community:** Nuh was the weakest district in Haryana in terms of low literacy and high poverty. 80% of the population are traditional meo-muslims. We recognized the need to uplift the community through educational initiatives.
- **Potential for collaboration:** There was ample scope to work with the government and panchayat to bring about systemic change.
- **Proximity to Gurgaon:** This allowed us to be present on the ground regularly and work closely with the local communities to make a lasting impact.

### Implementing systemic and sustainable changes

Our primary focus was to bring systemic and sustainable changes to the education system of Nuh. We believed that collaborative efforts among the school leadership, community, and government were critical to accomplishing this goal. We implemented a holistic intervention approach to achieve this.

While improving physical infrastructure was crucial, we also recognized the need to strengthen the curriculum and enhance the capabilities of teachers. However, our biggest achievement, particularly in the early years, was shifting the community's perception of education. We successfully instilled a sense of trust and belief in the transformative power of education, encouraging the community to embrace it as an opportunity for prosperity and progress.

## Building trust and collaboration

Building trust within the community was pivotal to our success. We engaged with locals and shared our vision for a better future for Nuh's children by bridging the gap between schools and the community. Collaboration was the key to our success, and we acted as a conduit to bring together people at micro and macro levels.

Most villages in Nuh had only primary schools. Children had to travel long distances to attend school, causing high dropout rates, particularly among girls. We addressed this by collaborating with the government to establish middle schools so that children could make a smooth transition from primary to middle school. Enrolment rates have increased significantly, with almost 100% of children attending school, 50% of them being girls.

## Contributing to the future of nuh

We have achieved notable success in three areas:

- **Safe & Engaging Learning Environment:** We provided children in Nuh with access to a safe and engaging learning environment.
- **Girl Child Education:** Through quality education, girls have been empowered to pursue their dreams.
- **Scalable Transformation Model:** A successful model for transformation has been implemented and scaled across 24 locations in 12 states.

## Celebrating successes

With our unwavering focus on systemic and sustainable changes, fostering trust and collaboration, expanding educational access, empowering school leadership, celebrating successes, and embracing continuous innovation, we are not just transforming society through education today, but building a brighter future where education empowers all.

This report is a celebration of SRF Foundation's interventions in Nuh. It delves into the journeys of 30 extraordinary youth, not just to showcase the impact of our programs, but to amplify their voices and the transformations they've made. Prepare to be inspired by their resilience, determination, and the positive ripple effects they're creating.







## of SRF Foundation in Nuh



SRF Foundation is the corporate social responsibility arm of SRF Ltd - a multi-business chemicals conglomerate headquartered in Delhi, India.

The Foundation runs one of the largest community programs in the country, imparting education and vocational training programs to underprivileged children and youth by improving both hard and soft infrastructure facilities in Government schools, promoting computer-aided learning, and through the digital inclusion of communities.

The Foundation has been actively involved in Nuh district in Haryana, India since 2009, via its interventions such as the Rural Education Program, Udaan and Basic Electrician Training program.

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*This report celebrates the people whose lives have been transformed by the Foundation's interventions over the years.*

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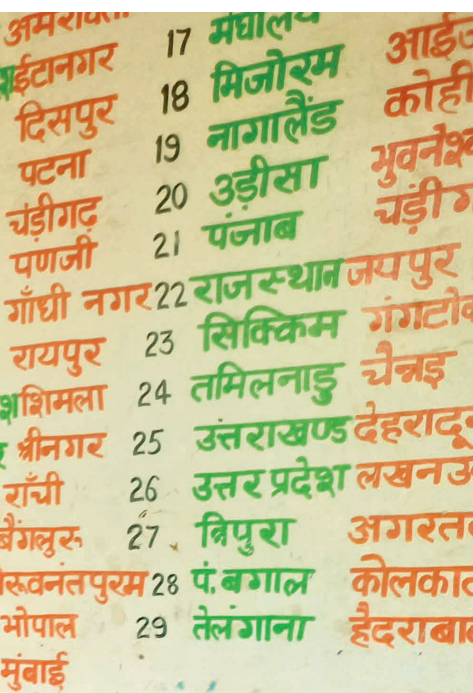


बालसभा  
सालाहेडी

मेरा भारत



- 1 आंध्र प्रदेश
- 2 अरुणचलप्रदेश
- 3 असम
- 4 बिहार
- 5 हरियाणा
- 6 गोवा
- 7 गुजरात
- 8 छत्तीसगढ़
- 9 हिमाचल प्रदेश
- 10 जम्मू कश्मीर
- 11 झारखण्ड
- 12 कर्नाटक
- 13 केरल
- 14 मध्य प्रदेश
- 15 महाराष्ट्र

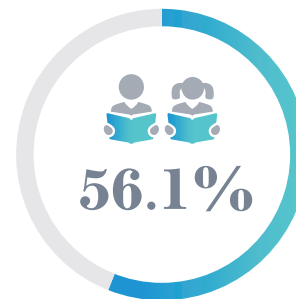


## Education: The Engine of Social Equity

Nuh district, formerly Mewat, in Haryana, Northern India, holds rich historical and socio-cultural significance. Despite proximity to Gurugram, it faces significant developmental challenges and is classified among India's underdeveloped districts by NITI Aayog.

With a population of 10.89 Lakhs as per the 2011 census, it has a literacy rate of 56.1%, which is much below the national average. The Meo Muslim community forms 79% of the population, shaping its unique cultural landscape.

Primarily agrarian, with limited industrialization, the district suffers from disparities in education, healthcare, and employment. In response, targeted interventions were needed for upliftment. In 2009, SRF launched the Rural Education Program here, citing its priority status, marginalized community, collaboration potential, and proximity to Gurugram as driving factors.



*Nuh has a literacy rate of 56.1%, which is much below the national average.*

# Challenges

## 01 Formal Schooling Neglected

Inadequate emphasis on formal schooling resulted in dismal enrollment and attendance rates, particularly among female students.

## 02 Infrastructure Deficiencies

Schools suffered from substandard physical infrastructure, lacking safety measures, adequate lighting, and basic amenities.

## 04 Lack of Stakeholder Engagement

Insufficient ownership and involvement from various stakeholders including parents, teachers, headmasters, and village leaders impeded educational progress.

## 03 Disorganized Academic Environment

Academic and extracurricular activities lacked coherence and structure, hindering holistic development.

## 05 Youth Unemployment

High rates of unemployment prevail among village youth due to inadequate skills training and school dropouts, exacerbating socio-economic challenges.



**01****Comprehensive Infrastructure enhancements**

Initiatives targeting physical infrastructure improvements include provisions for clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, recreational spaces like parks and playgrounds, and upgraded classroom furniture, aimed at enhancing student enrollment.

**02****Academic Enhancement Strategies**

Digital interventions and academic support mechanisms to furnish students with essential learning resources such as print-rich classrooms, well-equipped science laboratories, and mobile computer labs.

**03****Leadership Development Initiatives**

Programs focusing on leadership development aimed at instigating sustainable changes in the educational approach adopted by schools, communities, and local panchayats.

**04****Community Involvement**

Initiatives taken to actively involve the community and leaders with the aim of evangelising the importance of formal education for both boys and girls.

**05****Vocational Training Opportunities**

Collaboration with Schneider Electric to offer a three-month Basic Electrician Training Program targeted towards youth, equipping them for pursuing private or self-employment opportunities as electricians.

## Rural Education Program: Quality Education For All

 1,46,000+  
*Lives Impacted*

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*With Rural  
Education Program,  
enrollment rates  
surged, ensuring  
nearly universal  
access to education.*

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In 2009, SRF Foundation launched the Rural Education Program in Nuh district, Haryana, driven by a belief in education's transformative power. This initiative aimed to address the district's glaring socio-economic and educational deficits, particularly among the marginalized Meo-Muslim community.

Proximity to Gurugram offered opportunities for collaboration with the education department and local engagement. Emphasizing systemic changes, the Foundation partnered with government schools, focusing on infrastructure, curriculum, and teacher training. Collaboration with stakeholders fostered community trust and involvement, shifting attitudes towards education.

To tackle accessibility issues, especially for girls, middle schools were established in villages through government partnership. Consequently, enrollment rates surged, ensuring nearly universal access to education, with a significant increase in female attendance.

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SRF  
FOUNDATION

BASIC ELECTRICIAN

Schneider





## Basic Electrician Training Program



700 +

*Lives Impacted*

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*BETP targets under-privileged youths aged 18 to 35, providing the hands-on training in essential electrician skills.*

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The Basic Electrician Training Program (BETP), a collaboration between SRF Foundation and Schneider Electric, targets underprivileged youths aged 18 to 35, providing them with essential electrician skills.

Aimed at those who may have dropped out of school, BETP offers the chance for dignified employment or entrepreneurship, particularly in areas like Delhi NCR. By emphasizing skill development, the program enhances employability, improves economic conditions, and reduces income disparities.

BETP serves as a vital pathway to self-reliance and professional growth for unemployed youths and school dropouts. Through its comprehensive curriculum and hands-on training, participants not only gain technical expertise but also the confidence to navigate the job market or start their own ventures. Since its establishment, BETP has trained numerous youths and facilitated their placement in various roles.

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## Udaan – Girls Residential Special Training Center



370+

*Lives Impacted*

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*Udaan has benefited girls aged 11 to 14 complete primary-level education up to the fifth grade.*

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Launched in November 2011, the Udaan Girls Residential Special Training Center (STC) is a key component of the Mewat Rural Education Program (MREP) led by SRF Foundation in collaboration with CARE India and the Government of Haryana.

Aimed at supporting girls' education in the Meo-Muslim community in Nuh block, Udaan offers an eleven-month tuition-free residential accelerated learning program. So far, it has benefited 370+ girls aged 11 to 14, helping them complete primary-level education up to the fifth grade, as mandated by the Right to Education Act (RTE). The program breaks the cycle of poverty, advocating for girls' education as a fundamental right.

Alongside academic instruction, Udaan provides specialized training, leadership development, health education, and psycho-social support, ensuring successful integration into mainstream educational environments like Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and government schools. Since its inception, the program has successfully completed four cohorts, enabling girls to continue their educational journeys.

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# Celebrating Success Stories



## Path of Perseverance Against the Odds



“

*My aim is to let  
my father enjoy  
an early retirement.*

”

**Shabnam**

23 years, PhD Student,  
Mahrola Village

Shabnam's story, currently 23, isn't a fairytale of effortless success. It's a testament to the unwavering spirit that can bloom even amidst the dust and challenges of Mahrola, a small village in Haryana. Her journey began within the walls of the government middle school, but her path to academic excellence wouldn't be a straight one. The crucial turning point arrived in the demanding year of 8th grade. It was a time when the scarcity of resources threatened to dim the flames of her curiosity. However, the intervention of the SRF Foundation proved to be a lifeline. Books, tables, digital classes and benches - seemingly mundane objects - became the tools that rekindled Shabnam's love for learning.

However, fate seemed to have other plans. A sudden school change hurled Shabnam into unfamiliar territory, forcing her to navigate a new educational landscape. Yet, amidst these challenges, a flicker of hope emerged. Shabnam, along with nineteen other girls from Nuh, were selected for a prestigious award by SRF Foundation. This recognition came with a life-altering condition: only girls determined to continue their education were eligible. The weight of this decision landed upon Shabnam's family. Her father, initially hesitant, found himself caught in the crossfire of traditional thinking. Relatives questioned the need for further education, suggesting Shabnam's schooling had reached a sufficient endpoint. But amidst these doubts, a quiet revolution was brewing within the family. Shabnam's mother, despite being illiterate herself, became the voice of reason. She championed Shabnam's right to pursue her dreams, a beacon of unwavering support in a sea of uncertainty.

Looking back, Shabnam remembers a pivotal moment in her academic life - a slap from her mother after failing the 3rd grade. Now, she sees it as a harsh but necessary reminder of the sacrifices and unwavering efforts made by her parents. This incident, coupled with the unconditional support of her teacher, Manish, became a turning point. Manish recognized the fire within Shabnam, a burning desire for knowledge that transcended the initial struggles with Hindi and English. With his guidance, Shabnam began her ascent, her determination paving a path towards academic progress.



Navigating the labyrinthine alleys of the education system presented further challenges. Financial strains and family health issues threatened to derail Shabnam's journey. Yet, she remained undeterred. Her achievements - securing the top spot in 10th grade, winning debate prizes, and confidently taking center stage in speech competitions - were testaments to her spirit.

Shabnam continued to excel, completing her Bachelor of Arts and even securing the coveted first position in her sixth semester. However, a new dilemma arose - the question of pursuing a Master's degree. Shabnam yearned for the bustling academic scene of Gurgaon, but her father, with a different vision, insisted on a local education in Nuh. Despite her initial disappointment, Shabnam enrolled in a Master's program in Nuh, demonstrating her ability to adapt and thrive. Financial constraints became a constant companion. But Shabnam, ever the resourceful individual, found a solution. Taking up a job at a Skill India institute in Nuh, she juggled work and studies with remarkable dexterity. Her dedication extended beyond academics, as she strived to support her family financially. Inspiration flowed from multiple sources. Teachers who nurtured her curiosity and the firebrand spirit of YouTube personalities like Muniba Mazari fueled Shabnam's ambition. A PhD beckoned in the distance, a proof of her relentless pursuit of knowledge. But even closer to her heart was the dream of guiding her younger sisters through their education, ensuring they wouldn't face the same hurdles she did.

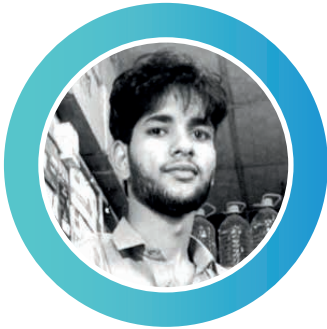
Through her journey, Shabnam learned a valuable lesson: failures are stepping stones to success. Every time she stumbled, she rose stronger, appreciating the sweetness of achievement all the more. With the unwavering support of her husband, she now aspires to create a YouTube channel. She sees this platform as a powerful tool to share her journey and inspire others, offering a ray of hope to those searching for their own paths. Shabnam's story isn't solely about academic achievements; it's a narrative woven with resilience, determination, and grit. It serves as an evidence of the impact of education and the steadfast support of family, turning a dusty path in Mahrola into a shining road toward a brighter tomorrow.







## Life Rewired: A Story of Grit



*Upskill yourself to have the power to provide livelihood to others.*



**Aasim Waseem**

23 years, Entrepreneur,  
Utawar Village

Aasim Waseem's path from the quaint village of Utawar in Nuh, Haryana, to establishing himself as a successful entrepreneur underscores the significance of perseverance and capitalizing on opportunities. Growing up in Utawar, Aasim, now 23, grew up in a family of entrepreneurs engaged in the electrical business. Inspired by his grandfather and uncles, who excelled in the field, Aasim's curiosity was ignited from a young age. However, it was the Basic Electrician Training Program (BETP) offered by the SRF Foundation that provided him with the platform to turn his passion into a profession. Despite facing academic setbacks, Aasim saw an opportunity in the six months preceding his 10th-grade re-examination.

With the encouragement of a friend, he enrolled in the BETP, mastering the skills of electrical work while simultaneously managing his studies. Upon completion, Aasim wasted no time in opening his own electrical shop in his village, driven by his entrepreneurial spirit and determination to succeed. Aasim's dedication and hard work soon paid off as he expanded his business, taking on private and government contracts and mentoring youngsters from his village in the trade. His commitment to empowering others is evident in his efforts to train and support these individuals, ensuring they have the skills to sustain themselves independently.

Despite his success, Aasim remains grounded and committed to giving back to his community. He regularly mentors younger children, teaching them essential life skills and encouraging them to dream big. His vision extends beyond his own business, as he plans to collaborate with the SRF Foundation to set up a smart lab for local youth, providing them with opportunities for growth and development. Aasim's journey is not just about personal achievement; it's about inspiring others to pursue their dreams and overcome obstacles. His story serves as a reminder that with hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to learning, anything is possible. As he continues to expand his business and support his community, Aasim is living proof that success is within reach for those willing to seize it.

## My Udaan-Taking Flight Through Education



*I want to inspire girls like me to take their own udaan.*



**Anjida**

21 years. Non-medical student,  
Tapkan Village

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Anjida's story is a soaring proof of the capability of education, particularly for girls like her who face societal barriers. At 14, her future seemed shrouded in uncertainty, devoid of the enriching world of school. But then, the SRF Foundation's Udaan program burst onto the scene, offering her a life-changing opportunity. Udaan wasn't just any school. It understood Anjida's background and her father's apprehensions. With a gentle hand, a female Muslim instructor and Anjida's own determination chipped away at those concerns, paving the way for her to embrace learning.

Her thirst for knowledge shone brightly, as evidenced by her exceptional score on the Kasturba Gandhi School entrance test, a result of the efforts of the Udaan program, propelling her directly into grade 8 without ever going to school before. College presented a new set of challenges. The long commute from her village to Gurugram University was arduous, but Anjida wouldn't be deterred. With her brother's unwavering support getting her to the bus stand each morning, she persevered. Finally, a move to the hostel eased the logistical hurdles. Throughout her journey, Anjida's father stood tall as a pillar of strength. He defied societal expectations and the disapproval of those around him, prioritizing his daughter's dreams above all else. This unwavering support became the wind beneath her wings.

Now, on the cusp of completing her junior college, Anjida is a far cry from the ridiculed girl she once was. SRF Foundation's Udaan program, with its sensitive approach, not only equipped her with academic knowledge but also instilled in her the confidence to speak up and chase her aspirations. It wasn't just a place of learning; it was the launchpad that propelled her and countless other girls towards a brighter future. As Anjida dreams of becoming a math lecturer, one thing is clear: she is an inspiration. Her story echoes with the power of education to dismantle barriers and empower girls to not just dream but to take flight and soar. Anjida's journey serves as a guiding light, paving the way for girls like her to aspire to great heights.





## Chandeni's homegrown TechGuru



*Chase your dream  
with all your heart!*



**Abdul Qadir**

22 years, Entrepreneur,  
Chandeni village

Abdul Qadir's evolution from a youngster in a large family to a tech expert in his village of Chandeni showcases the strength of determination and the profound impact of education. Despite financial constraints, Abdul never let go of his dream. Fueled by his parents' encouragement to prioritize education and a newfound passion ignited by a mobile science van run by SRF Foundation (his first time using a computer), Abdul cycled long distances to attend school, borrowed books whenever he could, and overcame self-doubt with determination.

Though a full engineering degree remained financially out of reach, Abdul strategically opted for a computer science diploma. This diploma, along with the knowledge and skills he had diligently acquired, empowered him to not only open his own CSC (Common Service Center), but also to become a symbol of empowerment and inspiration in his community.

Abdul's shop is a vibrant hub of activity, a place where villagers can not only receive help with essential services but also gain valuable computer skills. Witnessing the spark of curiosity and potential in the younger generation, Abdul enthusiastically teaches them computer basics, all the while imparting the wisdom gleaned from his own experiences: "Don't waste time. Chase your dreams with all your heart. Education is the key, something no one can take away from you."

Abdul's story is a simple yet powerful reminder that even the most ambitious dreams can take flight in the most unexpected places. With dedication, the right support, and the transformative power of knowledge, anything is possible.

## Science Buff to Commerce Champion: Journey for a Brighter Future



“

*One day,  
I will rebuild  
our family house.*

”

**Anjum**

19 years, B.Com student,  
Ferozpur Namak Village

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Anjum, a 22-year-old B.Com student, isn't following the path most expected in her village Ferozpur Namak in Nuh. Surrounded by ten siblings and a family of daily wage earners, defying tradition to pursue higher education is a bold act. Anjum dreamt of becoming a doctor, ignited by the respect villagers showed their local physician. However, financial constraints made that dream seem distant. Undeterred, scoring 85% in grade 10, she enrolled in science and excelled. But with a heavy heart, she transitioned to B.Com, a complete shift from her initial aspirations. Despite the setback, Anjum's spirit remained strong.

With unwavering support from her parents, she actively championed her siblings' education, becoming their guiding hand. SRF Foundation played a pivotal role in her journey, providing her school with resources like safe drinking water, a library, and even a badminton court where Anjum honed her skills, winning a district-level competition. College presented a new challenge: transitioning from a science background to a focus on commerce. Her classmates, with a commerce background, grasped concepts faster. However, Anjum's determination wouldn't be swayed. Working tirelessly, she managed to bridge the gap, even surpassing some commerce students in her first-year exams. Her computer skills, honed at SRF Foundation's vocational training center, fueled her fascination with the digital world, making her dream job clear – a career that utilizes her computer prowess.

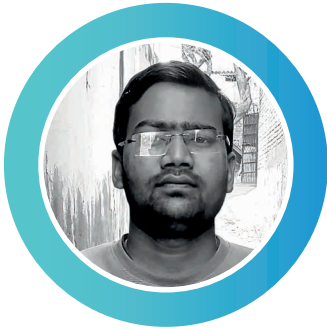
Anjum navigates the challenges of being one of only nine girls in her class of 97. Yet, she embraces her role as a confident speaker, a skill that blossomed through her education. She aspires to see her siblings surpass her achievements, to contribute to rebuilding their family home, and ultimately, to ensure clean drinking water reaches every house in Nuh. Anjum embodies the transformative potential of education and relentless perseverance. With each obstacle conquered, Anjum not only forges a brighter path for herself but also uplifts her family and community towards a promising future.







## Nuh to Haryana Service Commission



*Each one,  
teach one.*



**Ajay**

28 years, Haryana Govt employee,  
Kherla Village

In the heart of Kherla village, a story of resilience and triumph unfolded, symbolizing the power of education. Ajay Kumar, hailing from humble beginnings, embarked on a journey that defied the odds and illuminated the path to success. Born into a household where literacy was a rarity and his parents struggled to make ends meet, Ajay's educational journey commenced at the local Government Middle School, Kherla. Initially disinterested in academics, Ajay's spirit ignited in fifth grade during an inter class competition organised by the SRF Foundation, propelling him towards academic excellence. "When the fifth-grade results came, I started getting first division in the class, my mindset became competitive," he reflects.

Driven by ambition, Ajay pursued higher education at Hindu Higher Senior Secondary School and Prabhat Senior Secondary School, nurturing dreams of a career in medicine. Through unwavering dedication, he secured a scholarship, easing the financial burden on his family. "My father requested and I had 85%. So they gave me a scholarship," he recalls with gratitude. Undeterred by challenges, Ajay seized the opportunity to further his studies at SGT College in Gurgaon, supported by a scholarship. Amidst the adversity of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ajay's resilience shone brightly as he selflessly served as a medical technician, driven by a deep commitment to public service. "We served... for our country, for the whole community, and for the welfare of the public," he affirms.

Ajay's unwavering determination and relentless pursuit of excellence, a fruit of the competitive nature being inculcated in students by SRF Foundation, culminated in his appointment as a Radiology Officer in the Health Department of Haryana. "In December 2023, the result came... I was selected," he reminisces with pride. Beyond personal triumphs, Ajay's story embodies the spirit of giving back and inspiring others. "I have worked hard... I want to pay back," he asserts, reflecting on his journey. His story shines as a guiding light, highlighting the transformative influence of education and the limitless potential inherent in each person. He emphasizes on inspiring future generations to overcome obstacles with determination and perseverance, paving the way for a brighter tomorrow.

## Breaking Barriers with Vision



“

*My journey hasn't  
been a straight line.*

”

**Arfina**

22 years, Optometrist,  
Tapkan Village

The dusty village road of Tapkan stretched endlessly before Arfina, a familiar sight that once defined her world. Now, it was a symbol of the distance she'd crossed. Eight siblings under one roof, parents struggling to make ends meet – these were the whispers that followed girls like Arfina, whispers that murmured of chores, early marriages, and lives confined to the village walls. But Arfina harbored a different dream, a vision ignited by her father, a man who, despite being blind, saw a future brimming with possibilities for his daughter. Education was a luxury few could afford, a privilege reserved for sons. Yet, Arfina's father, his voice rough with a lifetime of defying limitations, spoke of its power. He'd lost his sight, but knowledge, he'd say, was a light that no darkness could extinguish.

The SRF Foundation became her training ground. Here, amidst camps bustling with girls like her, Arfina discovered not just literacy, but a voice. Confidence, once a flickering ember, bloomed into a flame. It was this fire ignited by the Foundation that fueled her decision to pursue optometry faraway in Gurgaon. Leaving the familiar embrace of her village was a daunting step. In the bustling city, filled with a symphony of noises and unfamiliar visages, her determination was put to the test. But the lessons learned at the SRF Foundation camps, the strength gleaned from her father's belief, held strong. The days were a blur of lectures and work. Nights were spent hunched over books, fueled by a potent mix of ambition and the desire to honor her father's faith. Today, Arfina is an optometrist at a private clinic. Arfina's story has become an inspiration. Parents, once hesitant, now nudge their daughters towards books. Seeing a future through Arfina's eyes, they too believe in the magic of breaking barriers.

But Arfina's journey isn't over. A mobile unit, she envisions, bringing eye care to remote villages of Nuh, bridging the gap between possibility and access. Arfina, the girl who strives to be the light that guides others, especially girls, in their own journeys of breaking free and reaching for the stars. Her story, a tapestry woven with courage, determination, and faith, whispers a simple truth: education is the key that unlocks not just doors, but potential, dreams, and a brighter future.





## Journey of Responsibility, Sacrifice and Education



*Dreams do come true if you have the will and dedication.*



**Akil Khan**

19 years, Govt Employee,  
Shahpur Nangli Village

Hailing from Shahpur Nangli, a small village in Nuh, Haryana, 19-year-old Aakil's story exemplifies the spirit of grit and a thirst for knowledge. Despite shouldering family responsibilities, his passion for learning burns bright. Aakil's journey began in the village school, where he excelled academically. He actively participated in activities like badminton with the support of SRF Foundation. These participations gave him a boost in his confidence and enabled Aakil to overcome his speech impediment. Witnessing several girls dropping out after 8th grade due to societal norms, Aakil understood the importance of education, especially for girls. He constantly motivates his siblings and neighbors to prioritize schooling for all children. However, life took an unexpected turn. As the elder son, Aakil felt compelled to support his family financially after 10th grade. Despite scoring an impressive 92%, he had to take a temporary break from formal education.

Aakil's spirit remained undaunted. He enrolled in an ITI (Industrial Training Institute) course, acquiring valuable electrician skills. This dedication landed him a stable job at the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Board with a promising salary. Financial stability brought a sense of relief, but Aakil's yearning for further education never ceased. He aspires to pursue a polytechnic course and climb the professional ladder in his current field.

He draws inspiration from his uncle, a Junior Electrical Engineer, whose success fuels his own ambitions. Aakil's story is a unique blend of responsibility and ambition. He embodies the struggles faced by many young individuals in Nuh, where financial constraints often lead to a premature halt in education. However, his steadfast commitment to learning and supporting his family's welfare remains evident. Aakil's story stands as a symbol of hope, motivating others to pursue education while fulfilling familial duties. He exemplifies that success can be achieved despite obstacles, through a combination of perseverance and encouragement.

## Championing Change for the Youth of Nuh



“

*I promise to bring all the girls from my village into mainstream school.*

”

**Irfana**

22 years, Social Worker,  
Chandeni Village

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Irfana’s story is one of courage and resilience, a proof of the power of education to transform not just individuals, but entire communities. Growing up in Chandeni, a village in Nuh district, Irfana, aged 22, defied tradition. Surrounded by uneducated siblings and an initial pushback from her family, she fought for her right to education. The Udaan program became her turning point. Before Udaan, Irfana recalls being a timid girl, quick to anger. But the program instilled in her the importance of education, not just for personal growth, but for financial security and self-respect. Witnessing uneducated girls burdened with household chores fueled Irfana’s determination. Joining a regular school in grade 6 was daunting.

Facing students who had been in school since childhood, Irfana initially felt shy. However, her spirit prevailed. She excelled academically, even completing the 11-month Udaan program in just 6 months. Today, Irfana is a champion for girls’ education. Working with a foundation in her village, she single-handedly enrolled 12 girls back in school. She understands their struggles – the fear, the lack of transportation, and the societal pressure to prioritize household work. Irfana becomes their confidante, arranging transportation and maintaining a strong connect with their parents.

Her dedication extends beyond enrollment. Witnessing the impact of education on her own confidence, Irfana empowers the girls she reaches to speak freely and openly. She teaches them not just basic subjects, but also life skills. Irfana’s influence transcends her work. Her success story inspires her family. Her uneducated husband beams with pride at her accomplishments. Her brother, once a naysayer, now supports her mission. Together, they are ensuring a brighter future for their younger siblings. Irfana’s vision is a village where girls are not denied education due to poverty. She dreams of a Chandeni where every girl has the opportunity to thrive. Irfana’s story is a ray of hope, proving that education is the key to breaking free from limitations and empowering oneself and one’s community.



संग

साहसी  
गाथा

दैनिक

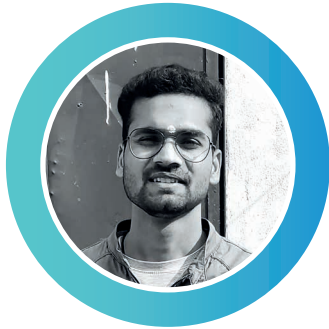
सर्वमान न रखें।  
सौ सीखले कर्ममालसे  
सौ फलिया सिद्धिसे

कहे लहे ।





## A Determination to Rise Beyond



*I have always wanted to become an artist.*



**Aman**

22 years, Computer Trainer,  
Kherla Village

Aman's journey stands as a proof to the power of determination fueled by education, even in the face of formidable economic and social hardships. Hailing from the village of Kherla, Aman encountered numerous challenges throughout his schooling – both financial and personal. The loss of his father during his schooling years added financial strain to Aman's family. With the weight of supporting the household resting on his elder brother and mother, Aman recalls the struggles they endured. Despite the constraints, Aman's spirit remained resilient. A turning point in Aman's life came through his association with the SRF Foundation. Their support provided essential resources and opportunities that were otherwise lacking in government schools like digital classrooms, science labs, practical experiments, access to clean drinking water, toilets with running water and much more.

Aman's participation in competitions organised by SRF Foundation in grade 7 and 8 further ignited his passion for learning and inspired him to always strive for excellence. Balancing studies with various jobs due to his family's financial situation, Aman navigated through challenges during his school and college years. Despite facing financial limitations in his academic choices, where his first preference was always B.Tech, a course not many can afford in a region like Nuh, he embraced the field of computer applications, driven by the promise of stability and growth.

While his current profession lies in computer training, Aman's aspirations extend beyond. Despite his initial shyness, his desire to explore his artistic talents as a poet and artist remains undimmed. Looking towards the future, Aman's dreams paint a picture of ambition and determination. His aspirations for a better life, including owning his own home and seeking opportunities in Jaipur, reflect his unwavering commitment to growth and independence. Aman's story offers inspiration to anyone facing adversity. It highlights the importance of commitment, the influence of encouraging environments, and the resilience needed to chase one's aspirations, even amidst unforeseen obstacles along the way.

## Breaking Barriers: An Educational Odyssey



“  
*I want to become  
Rehna’s first  
female engineer.*”



**Kashmina**

19 years, B.Tech student,  
Rehna Village

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**K**ashmina, 19 now, a resident of a small village Rehna, in Nuh district, serves as a story of resilience and perseverance. Once an eight-year-old afraid of school, she has become an inspiration for her entire village, pursuing a BTech degree in a field dominated by men.

The Udaan program transformed Kashmina’s life. It gave her the confidence to enter a classroom, and her talent blossomed. Excelling in academics and sports, she defied societal expectations by choosing science in a school where only two girls dared to do so. Undeterred by challenges, Kashmina tackled a new language, English, to pursue her dream.

Financial constraints and limited transportation added hurdles, but her spirit remained unbroken. Even her family, with the best intentions, urged her to stop studying. Yet, Kashmina persevered, driven by the desire for a stable future and a thirst for education. Kashmina’s brilliance shone through her science project, which tackled a real-world problem plaguing her hometown, Nuh city – water logging. Her innovative model showcased a solution using strategically designed drains on farmland. This would not only soak excess rainwater underground but also store it in a tank for future use. The project went a step further, proposing the conversion of an old historical structure near her school into a tourist destination. Kashmina believed this would not only improve the environment but also create employment opportunities for locals. Her model even included a plan for waste management to address potential downsides. Focused on tackling the pervasive issue, her innovative solution not only garnered accolades, winning her district and state titles along with a runner up position at the national level representing her mother state Haryana but also ignited a spark of hope within her community.

Her innovative project serves as a reminder that even young minds can find solutions to complex problems. Today, Kashmina stands tall as the only girl studying BTech in her village. Her journey is a glimmer of light, not just for girls but for anyone yearning to break free from limitations. Kashmina’s story is a proof of the life changing power of education and the unwavering spirit that can overcome any obstacle.





## Journey from Struggle to Success



“

*From student to mentor, I embraced the responsibility of lifting others.*

”

**Anil**

22 years. Entrepreneur,  
Kotla Village

---

Anil Kumar’s transition from the small village; Kotla to becoming a thriving entrepreneur is a testament to his grit, determination, and the influence of vocational training and opportunity. Despite financial constraints in his upbringing, Anil’s resolve to succeed, coupled with his family’s support, propelled him on a journey of transformation that impacted not only his life but also those around him.

Anil’s path began when he discovered the BETP course at the SRF Foundation’s Center in Nuh, introduced to him by Sonu Sir. Overcoming initial apprehensions, Anil embraced the opportunity and enrolled in the course, emerging with valuable technical skills in electrical repair and entrepreneurship. With guidance from Sonu Sir, Anil established his own electrical shop in Kotla, starting with minimal investment but eventually gaining a reputation for reliability and quality workmanship. Beyond personal success, Anil’s entrepreneurial journey had a ripple effect on his community. Recognizing the potential to uplift others, he mentors and trains local youth, offering them employment opportunities and imparting valuable skills. His expansion into fieldwork services further solidified his status as a respected contractor.

Anil’s success not only improved his family’s financial stability but also inspired other youth in Kotla to pursue education and entrepreneurship. With aspirations to broaden his business horizons, Anil dreams of opening a second shop in Rajasthan, seizing new avenues for growth and prosperity. In summary, Anil Kumar’s story underscores the transformative power of determination, and entrepreneurship in surmounting challenges and shaping a brighter future. Through his resilience and commitment to excellence, Anil has not only achieved personal success but has also become a catalyst for positive change and empowerment in his community.

## Igniting Minds: A Path to Empowerment



*I aim to bring  
my family  
out of poverty.*



**Komal**

22 years, Social Worker,  
Kherla Village

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In the heart of Nuh district, amidst the fields of Kherla village, lives Komal Chauhan, a young woman defying limitations and igniting the spark of education. Komal's story unfolds against a backdrop of hardship. Her father, a daily-wage laborer, was forced to abandon work due to an injury, leaving the responsibility of a large family on the shoulders of her elder brother. Witnessing the struggles firsthand ignited a fire within Komal – a burning desire to break free from the cycle of poverty through education. Despite societal pressures, particularly towards marrying girls off early, Komal persevered. After completing her BA degree, she landed a job at Spirit NGO, a platform to channel her passion for learning into empowering others. Here, she found her true calling: bringing out-of-school children back into the fold of education. Komal's days are dedicated to a cause bigger than herself. Overseeing four villages, she identifies dropouts, tackles the root causes – seasonal agricultural pressure on children and incomplete documentation – and works tirelessly to bridge the gap.

The journey isn't easy. Mothers, burdened with household chores, often see their daughters as helping hands. Komal, however, doesn't back down. With unwavering dedication, she teaches Hindi, English, and Maths, equipping these students with the basic skills needed to re-enter the formal education system. Her success speaks volumes. In a single year, Komal has re-enrolled 10 students, her efforts touching the lives of 44 young minds. The strategically located center, operational year-round, ensures minimal disruption to their routines.

Komal's journey transcends mere personal triumph. Inspired by the educational initiatives of the SRF Foundation during her school years, including the captivating reading corner that sparked her interest in teaching, Komal's aspirations reach beyond her own achievements. Despite facing financial constraints that temporarily defer her dreams of pursuing a B.Ed degree, her resolve remains unshaken. Komal actively pursues knowledge through platforms like YouTube, exploring various paths in the teaching profession. She envisions a brighter future for her family – one with a comfortable home, nutritious meals, and freedom from financial burdens. Komal's story goes beyond the confines of an individual's experience. It serves as an example of the power of education in shaping lives and communities alike.







## Rural Resilience: Journey to Engineering Excellence



“

*With every challenge, I found an opportunity to grow.*

”

**Javed**

34 years, Asst Engineer,  
Dhenkli Village

Javed Khan's journey from Dhenkli village to becoming an Assistant Engineer at Escorts Company in Faridabad is a proof of his grit and resilience. Born into a family where government employment was the norm, Javed broke away from tradition to pursue his passion for electrical engineering. After completing his Diploma in Polytechnic in 2012, Javed faced the challenge of securing employment in a competitive job market. However, his encounter with Sonu Sharma, an electrical instructor at SRF Foundation, proved to be a turning point. Under Sharma's guidance, Javed not only honed his technical skills but also gained the confidence to pursue greater opportunities.

After completing the BETP course at SRF Foundation's Training Centre in Nuh, Javed's skills and dedication earned him a position at Escorts Company, where he underwent rigorous training before being appointed as an Assistant Engineer. His journey reflects the transformative impact of vocational training and mentorship in empowering individuals from rural backgrounds to thrive in professional settings. Moreover, Javed's story highlights the importance of perseverance and adaptability in navigating challenges and seizing opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Beyond his own achievements, Javed's impact extends to his community, where he has played a pivotal role in inspiring others to pursue technical education and training. By referring numerous individuals to the different vocational courses offered by SRF Foundation, Javed has facilitated access to opportunities for skill development and employment. His commitment to uplifting others underscores the ripple effect of empowerment, as each individual empowered by education and training contributes to the socio-economic progress of their community. Javed's journey epitomizes resilience, innovation, and community upliftment, offering hope and inspiration to future generations in rural India.

## From Arts to Algorithms: Journey to Tech Education



“

*My aim is to teach computer to the children of Nuh.*

”

**Preeti**

18 years, Computer Diploma student,  
Kherla Village

Preeti Baghel, an 18-year-old resident of Kherla village in Nuh district, is defying stereotypes. The eldest of three siblings, she's on a remarkable journey from Arts student to computer whiz. Early challenges with health impacted Preeti's schooling, but her father, Babu Ram, a graduate security guard at a medical facility in Nuh, instilled in her the value of education. Inspired by SRF Foundation's visits to her school; Government School, Kherla, Preeti persevered, scoring well in 12th grade. Though she opted for Arts initially, fate intervened. Her father, recognizing the potential of computers, enrolled her in a government diploma course. Stepping into a computer lab for the first time ignited a passion in Preeti. Unlike many classmates who approached college casually, Preeti's curiosity drove her to attend every class, except for a brief period due to surgery. Despite the challenges of a government college with frequent power cuts and maintenance issues, Preeti excelled.

She balanced her 5 km daily auto commute with household chores, always finding time to help her siblings and cousins with their studies. Determined to further her skills, Preeti plans to take a computer training course at a regional institute after her diploma. Her dream is to become a well-respected government computer teacher, empowering future generations. Preeti's journey hasn't been without hurdles. Switching from Arts to a technical field in English medium was a steep learning curve. However, her resilience shone through. She not only mastered the course but even took a weekend cybersecurity course recommended by a lecturer impressed by her performance. In a class of 30 diploma students, only 5 are girls. Preeti's story is a beacon of hope, not just for girls in Nuh, but for anyone seeking to break boundaries.

Education, she believes, is the key to financial security, fighting social evils like dowry, and even understanding basic English to avoid financial frauds. Preeti's spirit and her father's unconditional support demonstrate the power of education to transform lives and communities. Her journey is far from over, but she is well on her way to becoming a leader in the field of technology education.





## Glory despite a loss: A CRPF Dream



“

*If you wish to dream,  
only dream big.*

”

**Makhmul**

22 years, ASI Joinee - CRPF,  
Badwa Village

Makhmul's story isn't a fairytale ascent to glory. It's a validation to the indomitable human spirit, rising from the ashes of loss and financial hardship. At 22, Makhmul stands on the cusp of a promising career as an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), a testament to his unwavering determination.

Excelling in school, Makhmul tackled the challenges of English medium education. He pursued a diploma in civil engineering, fueled by a friend's guidance. A corporate job in Vadodra wasn't his dream. Long hours clashed with his desire for a fulfilling life. Despite financial limitations, Makhmul excelled in his village school up to the 5th grade. However, his thirst for knowledge demanded more. He transitioned to Aarohi, an English medium school, for grades 9 and 10. The shift wasn't easy. Grappling with a new language could have daunted many, but Makhmul persevered. His dedication paid off, securing him the third position in 9th grade and the coveted top position in 10th grade.

In 2021, with his mother's support, Makhmul dedicated himself to competitive exams. He faced hardships, even traveling alone for physicals while his mother mourned his father's demise. But his resolve remained unshaken. In June 2023, his hard work culminated in an All India Rank 1 for the CRPF ASI exam (technical entry). Now, he's set to join the force, not just for personal glory, but to inspire his village. Makhmul envisions a future where education empowers all, especially girls who rarely progress beyond 10th grade in Nuh. His journey vividly showcases the remarkable resilience of the human spirit, serving as a bright example that dreams can still take flight despite facing significant adversity.

## Student to Spark: Lighting Up Young Minds



“  
*My biggest  
repayment to  
my father will be  
my success.*

”

**Rabina**  
21 years, Teacher,  
Kanwersika Village

---

Rabina, the eldest of six siblings, isn't just a name; it's an evidence to resilience. Growing up in a village, she didn't let limitations dim her dream of education. After conquering 12th grade from her village school; Govt Senior Secondary School, Kanwersika, one of SRF Foundation's flagship schools and also one of its earliest adoption, she embarked on a Junior College program, a stepping stone to her true calling – teaching.

JBT, her chosen program, wasn't just about studying; it was a baptism by fire. The first year was spent observing experienced teachers, their techniques etched into Rabina's mind. The second year transformed her into a teacher herself, with her lessons carefully scrutinized by mentors. Every lesson was an opportunity to hone her craft, and stories became her magic ingredient. “An honest person's story,” she shared with a smile, “helped them understand the value of honesty.” It was in these moments, igniting young minds, that Rabina found her true purpose. Today, a dedicated teacher for the past 3-4 years, Rabina doesn't stop at JBT. A second-year Bachelor of Arts student, her sights are set on a Master's degree. But her heart yearns for a familiar classroom – the one where she once graduated. “A job in the village after that,” she dreams, “would be ideal.” Rabina's journey isn't solitary. Her family, especially her father, defied societal pressures, champions of education for all their children. Witnessing Rabina's journey, a spark ignited in her younger sister's eyes, a testament to the ripple effect of one girl's determination.

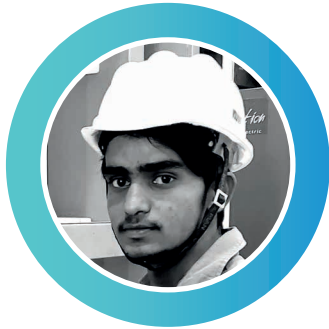
But Rabina isn't just a teacher; she's an entrepreneur. Capitalizing on a pandemic challenge and learning from her experience with SRF Foundation's summer camp, an educational camp for students in Nuh, she organized a summer camp, her resourcefulness turning into a tidy sum of saved money. Teaching remains Rabina's North Star. “To teach my younger siblings well,” she declares, her voice brimming with warmth. Rabina's journey is an ode to her unwavering spirit. She's not only paving her own way; she's setting an example for girls in villages, showing that education can be a powerful force for change, empowering not only individuals but also future generations. With her commitment and enthusiasm, Rabina isn't just a teacher; she's a catalyst, poised to inspire young minds and illuminate the path toward a better tomorrow.







## Empowering His Community Through Skill Development



“

*I broke barriers and shattered stereotypes as I became an engineer from a family of farmers.*

”

**Mohd Ujer**

21 years, Electrician,  
Ferozpur Namak Village

Mohammad Ujer, a young man from Ferozpur Namak, has emerged as a beacon of hope and progress in his community. Born to Mohammad Islam and Mubina, Ujer grew up in a humble farming family alongside his five brothers. Despite facing financial constraints, Ujer's determination to uplift his family's living standards led him on a remarkable journey of self-improvement and success.

At the age of 15, during his 10th-grade summer break, Ujer took the bold step of enrolling in SRF Foundation's BETP (Basic Electrical Training Program), showcasing his proactive approach towards utilizing his time productively. This decision marked the beginning of a transformative period in his life, where he learned essential electrical skills that would shape his future career path. Following his completion of the BETP course, Ujer continued his education, graduating from Polytechnic in Nuh, with a focus on electrical engineering. Armed with his newfound knowledge and skills, he secured a job at FMI Automotive Company in Manesar, where he specializes in electrical work, contributing not only to his family's income but also to their improved quality of life.

Ujer's story highlights the power of skill training and determination in breaking the cycle of poverty and opening doors to new opportunities. His commitment to self-improvement, coupled with his desire to support his family and community, serves as an inspiration for others facing similar challenges. Through his journey, Ujer not only transformed his own life but also became a catalyst for positive change in his village, demonstrating that with perseverance and dedication, anyone can overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams.

## From Village Courts to Academic Dreams



“

*Even the distance  
couldn't stop me  
from moving ahead.*

”

**Riza**

18 years, D.Pharmacy students,  
Mahrola Village

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Riza wasn't your typical village girl. Growing up, the youngest amongst her siblings, with both her father and brother working as drivers, she defied expectations. While many girls in her village pursued religious education, Riza harbored a dream – to excel in academics and badminton, a dream nurtured by a spark ignited in the 6th grade. A bright yellow SRF bus, a symbol of science education on wheels, captured Riza's imagination. From that moment, her path diverged. By 7th grade, she wasn't just a student, she was a leader – the head girl, instilling discipline in her peers while honing her badminton skills. Every smash on the court echoed with her determination, each medal was a testament to her dedication.

Transitioning to a school in Kanwersika in 9th grade presented new challenges. The distance brought additional household chores, but Riza juggled responsibilities with unwavering focus. Her father, a pillar of support, encouraged her to excel both academically and athletically. He saw in Riza the potential to lift their family from financial struggles. Society whispered of early marriage and domestic duties, but Riza dreamt of a different future. Inspired by the grit she displayed on the badminton court, she envisioned independence earned through education and hard work. She saw a parallel between the stamina required for a backhand smash and the perseverance needed to overcome life's hurdles.

Today, Riza stands tall, having completed her 12th grade with a shining record in science. Her journey is a proof of the transformative power of education and sports. It's a story woven with resilience, self-belief, and the courage to challenge societal norms. Riza's spirit echoes a message for girls everywhere; hold fast to your dreams, for education and hard work can empower you to reach for the skies.



Mewat Rural Education Program (MREP)  
Proud Parents of a Girl  
Academic Male  
2019

APPRECIATION

Winner

1st POSITION

Sports for Development  
Badminton

Certificate of Participation  
Mewat District Badminton Championship 2021-22  
for his/her participation and contribution to the development of Badminton in Mewat District.  
Supported by Sports Authority of India and Government of India.

Winner

Winner

Winner

Winner

Winner

Winner

Mewat District Badminton Championship 2021-22

Winner

Certificate of Participation  
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for his/her participation and contribution to the development of Badminton in Mewat District.  
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Supported by Sports Authority of India and Government of India.



## Tragedy to Triumph: Story of Resilience and Success



“

*In every setback,  
I discovered the  
strength to move  
forward.*

”

**Mohd Tarif**

29 years, Electrician,  
Kori Village

Tarif, hailing from the village of Kori, embarked on a journey defined by hard work and perseverance. Despite being born into a family entrenched in farming, Tarif sought a different path, delving into the world of electrical work. His journey began in 2012, undertaking fieldwork under a contractor, where he specialized in tasks like fitting and light decorations for houses within his village. Despite the physically demanding nature of his work, Tarif found solace in the opportunity to provide for his family and pursue his passion for electrical craftsmanship.

Driven by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to excel, Tarif seized the chance to enroll in the BETP course offered by the SRF Foundation. This decision proved to be pivotal, as it not only enhanced his technical skills but also instilled in him the confidence to pursue greater opportunities beyond the confines of his village. Through dedication and hard work, Tarif distinguished himself among his peers, earning the respect and admiration of his instructors and paving the way for a promising future in the field of electrical engineering.

However, Tarif's journey was not without its share of challenges. A tragic accident in his childhood left him with severe injuries, including a broken neck and the removal of his spleen. Despite the physical and emotional toll of his ordeal, Tarif's resilience shone through as he underwent a grueling operation and embarked on a lengthy road to recovery. Undeterred by adversity, Tarif emerged stronger and more determined than ever, embodying the spirit of perseverance in the face of adversity. Today, Tarif personifies hope and inspiration, his journey showcasing the significant impact of hard work, resilience, and determination in conquering life's challenges.

## From Humble Roots to Soaring Heights



“

*I wish to become  
the healthcare  
specialist that  
Nuh needs.*

”

**Rizwana**

24 years, Teacher,  
Salaheri Village

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In the quaint village of Salaheri, where dreams often collided with the harsh reality of limited opportunities, a determined young woman named Rizwana emerged as an unexpected beacon of hope. Born into a family with modest means, Rizwana faced the challenges of education head-on. After completing her early schooling from the government school in Salaheri, Rizwana's thirst for knowledge led her to Nuh for higher studies. Upon her return, armed with newfound wisdom and a passion for change, Rizwana took up a role at the SRF Foundation, working in the field of nutrition. Every Saturday, Rizwana organizes sessions, motivating teenagers and their parents about the power of education and the importance of immunization. Her message resonated, sparking a positive change in Salaheri. Rizwana's impact extended beyond.

She joined the local health department, tackling immunization challenges head-on. Salaheri, once lagging in healthcare, transformed into a model village with regular vaccinations, ensuring the well-being of its children. Not content with this achievement, Rizwana set her sights on improving the education system. As the school expanded to class 12, more students, especially girls, filled the classrooms. Her efforts shattered barriers, bringing about a positive change in her village. Balancing her own education with community service, Rizwana emerged as a trailblazer for her siblings, symbolizing the transformative power of education.

Her journey, from fear to confidence, became an inspiration for her peers, motivating them to overcome obstacles. Now in her second year of BA studies, Rizwana dreams of becoming a doctor, envisioning a future where she can contribute even more to her community. Her story, marked by resilience, determination, and a commitment to positive change, serves as a proof of the boundless heights achievable through education and perseverance. From the humble roots of Salaheri, Rizwana's journey inspires generations to strive for a brighter future.







## Dreams Dimmed to Hope Rekindled



“

*Seeing my shop burn to ashes pushed me into depression but I overcame that with will.*

”

**Rajender**

32 years, Teacher,  
Akera Village

Akera village in Nuh, Haryana, once held the bright dreams of Rajender, a 32-year-old teacher. A polytechnic diploma gave him theoretical knowledge, but left him yearning for practical experience. Then came Sonu sir, a BETP instructor at SRF Foundation, in 2016. The Foundation’s training program offered the missing piece – hands-on skills. The 4-month course ignited a spark in Rajender. He opened his own electrician’s shop, his skills reflected in healthy profits. But fate struck a cruel blow. A fire devoured his shop overnight, turning his dreams to ashes. The Rs. 1 lakh loan he invested became a heavy burden.

Undeterred, Rajender channeled his knowledge elsewhere. He became a technical expert at SRF Foundation, his skills illuminating solar panels in partner schools. The 4-month BETP course, ironically, equipped him with more practical knowledge than his entire year of polytechnic education. Today, Rajender is a teacher by day, guiding young minds. By night, he takes on electrical work, a testament to his dedication and a way to boost his income. Though his teaching salary pales in comparison to his shop’s income, his skills are undeniable – a master of motor wiring, household fittings, and the symphony of home appliances. Job interviews used to be an ordeal before the BETP course. Now, he tackles real-time problems with confidence, honed in those 4 months. He even won tenders for electrical fittings in residential complexes. The fire may have ravaged his shop, but it couldn’t extinguish his spirit.

After a dark period, an NGO offered him a lifeline – a contract teaching job. He wasn’t just lighting up classrooms; he was passing the torch of knowledge to others, training his cousins and others to become self-sufficient electricians, some even opening their own shops. Teaching provides stability, but Rajender craves entrepreneurship. He dreams of reopening his shop, saving every penny to repay the loan and reignite his venture. His passion for empowering the youth is evident – he partnered with SRF Foundation to enroll over 10 students in the BETP course. Rajender’s story is one of resilience and the transformative power of skilling programs. He aspires for a longer BETP program, a year instead of 4 months, to equip others to shine brighter. In the end, for Rajender, security may come from a high-paying job, but true fulfillment lies in building his own empire, one glowing wire at a time.

## Against All Odds: A Tale of Triumph



“

*My father allowed me to think out of the box.*

”

**Sahila**

27 years, Nurse,  
Rojka Meo Village

Sahila’s journey from the humble village of Rojka Meo to becoming a General Nursing Midwife (GNM) in Bengaluru is a proof of her determination and the support of her father, Akbar. Born into a family where education wasn’t a common pursuit, Sahila faced numerous challenges, including societal pressure to marry early and the financial constraints of her family. Akbar, working as a driver, understood the value of education and the respect it could bring to his daughter’s life. Despite the discouraging voices around him, he decided to support Sahila’s dream of education. He struggled to make ends meet, earning a meager income of 5000 rupees per month, but he persevered, ensuring Sahila received the education she desired. Sahila’s journey was not without obstacles.

She faced skepticism from villagers who believed that education, especially for girls, was futile. They questioned the need for her studies, suggesting she should focus on household chores or get married. However, Sahila’s determination remained unshaken. She completed her schooling from SRF Foundation’s partner government school in her village and went on to pursue a GNM course in Bengaluru. The path was arduous – financial difficulties forced Sahila to work at Max hospital in Gurugram for three months to pay her fees. The road to education was steep, but Sahila’s resilience and her father’s support propelled her forward. Despite setbacks, like failing the Haryana Police examination twice, Sahila refused to give up.

Her father, Akbar, continued to encourage her, understanding the importance of education in shaping a better future. Now working as a nurse, Sahila’s story is an inspiration to the girls in Rojka Meo. She stands as the first girl from the village to pursue a career in the medical field. Sahila’s story reflects not only personal triumph but also a glimmer of hope for the community. Akbar’s sacrifices and Sahila’s determination have broken the shackles of societal norms, paving the way for education and empowerment in Rojka Meo.





## Building dreams, one wire at a time



“

*My shop is not just my bread earner but my pride.*

”

**Ram**

32 years, Entrepreneur,  
Ujjina Village

Deep in the heart of Haryana, nestled in the aspirational district of Nuh, lies the unassuming village of Ujjina. Here, amidst dusty lanes and the steady hum of rural life, a quiet revolution has been brewing, led by a man named Ram Singh. Ram, a 32-year-old with the calloused hands of a working man, always held a spark for the electrical field. Though his father tilled the land, Ram craved a different path. He completed an ITI course, but something felt incomplete. Enter the SRF Foundation’s BETP program, a beacon of opportunity that changed everything.

The journey wasn’t easy. The BETP center was a 45-minute public transport commute, a feat in Nuh’s vast, sparsely connected landscape. Yet, Ram persevered. The program instilled in him not just technical skills, but a newfound confidence. He saw his small electronics shop in a new light, a launchpad for bigger dreams. Gone were the days of simply selling batteries and inverters. Armed with knowledge and a burning ambition, Ram started pitching for contracts. His meticulous work, honed by the program, caught the eye of local organizations like Schneider Electric and the Smile Foundation. He started winning big tenders, a proof of his dedication.

This success wasn’t just his. Ram, a firm believer in self-reliance, started employing youngsters from his village. Sachin, a bright-eyed teenager pursuing electrical training, became his first apprentice. Ram, remembering his own struggles, is nurturing a future generation of skilled technicians. The financial rewards followed. Ram could now afford better quality materials in bulk, leading to higher margins and a growing family income. His dream of a comfortable life for his wife, a homemaker, and their three children came closer. But his vision extended beyond his own doorstep. Ram envisions Ujjina as a hub of skilled electricians. He dreams of a training center, a place where the village youth can learn and build their own success stories. He sees the SRF Foundation, the guiding force behind his transformation, as a model for rural development across India. Ram Singh’s story highlights the strength of ambition and the life-changing impact of skill development initiatives. Starting as a modest shop owner, he has evolved into a local icon, a source of inspiration for his village, and a representation of the dreams taking shape in Haryana.

## Empowering Change: From Adversity to Achievement



“  
*Family pressure  
is not a barrier  
for me but a pillar  
of strength.*

”

**Sana**

20 years, Social Worker,  
Tapkan Village

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In the small village of Tapkan, amidst challenges and societal expectations, a beacon of change emerged in the form of Sana, a 20-year-old trailblazer with a heart set on education and empowerment. Sana, the eldest among six siblings, defied the odds to pursue education beyond the 9th grade, facing initial resistance from her family and community. With a father who worked as a long-distance heavy vehicle driver and parents with limited education, Sana chartered her own course.

Her journey began when SRF intervened in her village, constructing separate toilets for boys and girls and imparting computer education. Sana, having completed her 12th grade at the Government Senior Secondary School, Tapkan, was propelled into the workforce. Undeterred by financial constraints, she found a job in the Publicity Department at SGT University. Sana had strong determination to overcome societal norms. She accredited her family's support as the cornerstone of her success as her father and the whole family had to endure taunts from villagers for sending their daughter to work outside the village, which was not a common sight in the region. Sana's impact extended beyond personal achievements. She became a catalyst for change in her village, inspiring her younger siblings and other children to continue their education. With an ambition to become a government teacher, she not only dreams for herself but also acts as a guide and mentor for her siblings, encouraging them to dream big. Her journey involves commuting to Gurugram for work, managing her college studies, and dealing with societal expectations. Sana's eloquence and open-mindedness shine through as she navigates the challenges of her dual roles.

She has not only broken the barriers of gender expectations in her village but has also contributed to the community by working with NGOs and empowering local women through self-employment initiatives. Looking at Sana's journey, one can't help but be inspired by the power of education, determination, and the indomitable spirit of a young woman making waves in a society that once resisted change. Her story simply shows that with education, empowerment, and solid support, anyone can break free from societal norms and build a better future.







## Running Against Tradition: Life of a Mewati Entrepreneur



*Entrepreneurship  
will be the key to  
Nuh's upliftment.*



**Rashid**

24 years, Entrepreneur,  
Tapkan Village

Mohammad Rashid's journey from Tapkan, a narrative steeped in determination and resilience, starkly contrasts the traditional expectations of his family and the transformative role of the SRF Foundation in his life. Born into a large family with eleven siblings, Rashid found his passion in athletics, a path less trodden in his community. By adopting his village and enhancing its educational and sports infrastructure, SRF Foundation illuminated a path for Rashid to pursue his passion. The installation of solar panels and the promotion of sports at his school provided Rashid not only with the facilities to train but also with the guidance that propelled him to district and state-level competitions. A pivotal moment in Rashid's life was when his family, unbeknownst to his aspirations, arranged his marriage. "They didn't even ask me..." Rashid recalls, highlighting the deep-seated customs that nearly derailed his dreams. This unexpected turn of events occurred just as he was preparing for a significant state-level competition, illustrating the chasm between his aspirations and his family's expectations.

Rashid now runs an E-commerce business. His transition from the dusty lanes of Nuh to the track and later on to the realm of e-commerce in Noida, Sector 37, marks a significant pivot in his narrative. "I sell multiple brands and look at the end-to-end process myself," he explains, showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit and his hands-on approach to business. Not only did he go out and setup his own enterprise, he is now onboarding youth from his village to his venture providing them opportunities unheard of, in Nuh. Once settled and established, Rashid wishes to arrange a Haj yatra, a pilgrimage to Meccah, for his parents.

Today, Rashid stands as a testament to the power of resilience and the impact of nurturing talent, embodying the potential for change in traditional societies. He believes that only education can bring the culture and change he would like to see in Nuh. His journey from Tapkan to the competitive tracks of e-commerce in Noida serves as an inspiration for young individuals facing similar crossroads between tradition and ambition. An inspiration only made possible by external support systems like the SRF Foundation.

## Journey of Defying Expectations and Societal Norms



“

*I believe in  
blazing trails, not  
following paths.*

”

**Seema**

21 years, Teacher,  
Badwa Village

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Seema, a determined young woman hailing from the small village of Badwa in Nuh, has charted a unique path that defies traditional gender norms. Growing up in a family where education was valued, she pursued her studies diligently, completing her BA degree in Vashim, Maharashtra. Despite belonging to a village where educational opportunities for girls were limited, Seema’s family provided unconditional support, recognizing the importance of education. This familial encouragement instilled in her a drive to excel and contribute meaningfully to her community.

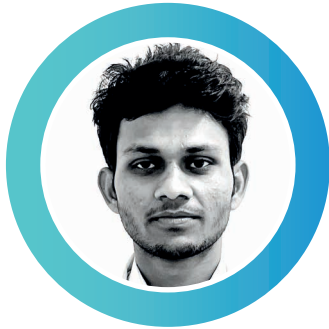
In 2023, Seema embarked on a journey that would further distinguish her from her peers. Motivated by a desire to break stereotypes and inspire other girls in her village, she enrolled in the BETP course offered by the SR Foundation. Despite being the only girl in her batch, Seema persevered, demonstrating remarkable determination and resilience. Her decision to pursue an unconventional career path not only showcased her courage but also challenged societal expectations regarding women’s roles in traditionally male-dominated fields.

After completing the course, Seema embraced her newfound skills, not only as a means of personal empowerment but also as a service to her community. She actively engaged in electrical work within her village, defying gender stereotypes and proving that girls are equally capable in technical professions. Alongside her professional endeavors, Seema also pursued her passion for teaching, becoming a temporary teacher at the local government school. Her aspiration to pursue an LLB degree reflects her commitment to furthering her education and advocating for justice, particularly for marginalized individuals in her community. Through her dedication, Seema has become a source of inspiration, challenging societal norms and empowering future generations to dream beyond the confines of tradition.





## From Humble Beginnings to Healing Hands



“

*My ultimate aim  
is to come back to  
Nuh and work here,  
for my people.*

”

**Riyazuddin**

25 years, Physiotherapist,  
Salamba Village

---

Nuh district, Haryana, often paints a picture of limited opportunities. Here, Dr. Riyazuddin’s journey stands as a beacon of hope, defying the odds and pursuing his dream to become a physiotherapist. Hailing from a family of seven, with a farmer father and a homemaker mother, the odds seemed stacked against Riyazuddin. Education, however, became his guiding light. A spark ignited in his 6th grade when the SRF Foundation entered his village school, introducing the power of practical learning. Witnessing science come alive through models and competitions, Riyazuddin’s curiosity bloomed. His path wasn’t without hurdles. After moving from the village school, the switch to an English medium school demanded immense effort.

His brother, Shakeel Ahmed, a real life example of his family’s unconditional support for their children, stepped in, tutoring Riyazuddin with spoken English relentlessly for six months so that he could compete with those who had been studying in English since the start. Financial constraints loomed large, forcing him to forgo his MBBS dream and pursue a physiotherapy course at a government university. Dr. Riyazuddin’s success story isn’t just his own. He is acutely aware of the challenges faced by his community. Witnessing friends dropping out due to limited schooling options and societal pressure to contribute to household chores, he aspires to bridge the gap.

His vision is multifaceted. He dreams of returning to Nuh, opening a clinic, and introducing physiotherapy’s benefits to a community unaware of its potential. He also envisions setting up educational camps, sharing his experiences, and inspiring children to explore career avenues beyond their immediate surroundings. Dr. Riyazuddin’s story is a powerful narrative of resilience, ambition, and the support of a family. He embodies the power of education, not just for personal growth, but for the collective well-being of his community. His journey is a source of hope, encouraging others to pursue their dreams.

## Journey of Education and Empowerment



“

*As a teacher, I want to cover up for all the hardships that my family faced.*

”

**Tarjuma**

24 years. Teacher,  
Kherla Village

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Tarjuma's journey from Kherla village to the classroom is a proof of her determination and resilience. Born into a family of farmers, with eight siblings, Tarjuma faced numerous challenges on her path to becoming a teacher. Initially, her father tried his hand in the transport business, but unfortunately, it failed. Consequently, the family encountered financial hardship, relying solely on the income generated from their buffaloes. To supplement their earnings, Tarjuma and her family engaged in various manual labor activities, such as working as laborers in fields or cutting grass to earn a livelihood. Despite these challenges, Tarjuma remained steadfast in her pursuit of education and eventually completing her JBT and BA degrees.

Tarjuma's father also remained a source of support and encouragement. His belief in Tarjuma's abilities inspired her to persevere, her educational journey. Today, as the fourth among her siblings, Tarjuma has taken on the responsibility of contributing to her family's income. Tarjuma prioritizes her family's well-being above all else. Every penny she earns is dedicated to fulfilling her parents' dreams, whether it's building a better home or providing for their needs. Her decision to become a teacher was not just driven by personal ambition but also by a deep-seated desire to uplift her family and community. She highlights the challenges faced by government schools, were a lack of resources. This is where the SRF Foundation stepped in and provided the students of her school with proper benches, access to clean drinking water, digital classrooms, sports activities, computers, reading corners and much more. All this enabled an increase in the enrollment rate at her school, she added.

Teaching in a village seven kilometers away and providing tuitions after school, Tarjuma tirelessly imparts knowledge to young minds, ensuring they receive the education they deserve. She defies societal norms by riding a bike and choosing not to marry early, a common expectation in her village. Through her perseverance, she has become a role model for her family and community, demonstrating the power of education and the significant impact one person can have.







## Mahrola to Poland: Journey of Triumph and Inspiration



“

*I request all Mewatis to come out of their shell and experience the world.*

”

**Shakir**

24 years, Supervisor (in Poland),  
Mahrola Village

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Shakir Khan’s journey from the humble village of Mahrola to Poland is not just a tale of personal triumph; it’s a ray of hope and inspiration for his community and beyond. Born into a family of six siblings, Shakir was the youngest, raised by hardworking parents who instilled in him the value of education and resilience. Despite financial constraints and the loss of his mother at a young age, Shakir’s father ensured that all his children received an education, even if it meant Shakir attending government schools while his siblings went to private ones.

From a young age, Shakir exhibited a passion for sports, excelling as a sprinter and badminton player despite the lack of proper facilities in his village. His journey took a significant turn when he joined the SRF Foundation, where he not only honed his athletic skills but also discovered his calling to empower youth through education and sports. With determination and perseverance, Shakir pursued higher education in Delhi while simultaneously training children in his village and advocating for better educational facilities. His tireless efforts, alongside SRF Foundation members, led to the establishment of a proper badminton court in Mahrola, a testament to his commitment to uplift his community. Shakir’s journey didn’t stop there. He seized an opportunity to move to Poland, where his talent and dedication were recognized, leading to a role as a supervisor for a French company.

Despite being far from home, Shakir remains deeply connected to his roots, actively assisting youngsters from his village to pursue opportunities abroad and advocating for the importance of sports and education. As Shakir reflects on his journey, he dreams of a future where every Indian village boasts adequate sports facilities and emphasizes the integration of sports and education. His unwavering commitment to his community and his determination to create positive change serve as an inspiration to all who hear his story. With each step he takes, Shakir continues to pave the way for a brighter future, proving that with resilience and dedication, anything is possible.

## Acknowledgements

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