SHAAGIRD FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

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Founder's Message

The academic year 2022–2023 marked a critical phase in the evolution of the Shaagird Foundation. Our commitment to justice through education gained firmer ground, as we worked tirelessly across riot-affected towns, refugee settlements, and impoverished communities. It was a year of growth and grounding – of reaching where hope was fading and rekindling it with structured learning, mentorship, and compassion.

In 2022–23, we extended our reach to regions still scarred by past violence – Khargone, Northeast Delhi, and parts of Nuh. We listened closely to the silenced voices of children who had lost more than just homes. They had lost trust, continuity, and the right to simply be children.

With every enrollment in our learning centers, be it Sunrise Public School, Fatima Sheikh Learning Center, or the newly supported Madarsa Imam-ul-Bukhari, we reinforced our mission: education is healing, and every child deserves both.

As our students delved into academics, we expanded our approach to include emotional well-being, safety, and cultural nourishment. From storytelling circles in Kulsum Sayani Learning Center to Ramadan food drives and warm clothing campaigns in winter, our work went beyond textbooks.

The rise in mentorship sign-ups was heartening. Mentors from across the country and diaspora sponsored the education of hundreds of students. These bonds between strangers became bridges to brighter futures.

Looking back at 2022–23, we remember not just milestones, but the faces of Khushi, Dawood, and Kaif – children whose lives pivoted because someone believed they mattered.

With profound gratitude,

Aasif Mujtaba,
Founder & Director, Shaagird Foundation

Who we Are ?

We are a team of educators and working professionals committed to educating child survivors of demolitions, communal violence, mob lynching, and hate crimes. These children have experienced unimaginable trauma at a very young age, and we believe that education is the first step towards helping them rebuild their lives. Our goal is to pull them away from an environment of fear and hatred and guide them toward a future of hope, peace, and opportunity.

We understand that these children need more than just books and classrooms. They need care, compassion, and consistent emotional support. That's why we focus equally on their mental and emotional well-being alongside their academic development. Each child is given individual attention, and we work closely with counselors and educators to create a safe and nurturing environment.

Our team works tirelessly to make their lives better. We believe that every child, regardless of what they've been through, has the right to dream, to learn, and to live a life full of dignity. Through our efforts, we aim to break the cycle of trauma and give them the tools they need to grow into thoughtful, empowered, and compassionate individuals.

What we do?

Shaagird is a platform, working towards making education accessible for all by connecting mentors from all across the world to children from impoverished & low-income families through a unique mentorship model.

Our vision is to create a platform where every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the opportunity to receive a quality education and reach their full potential. Shaagird makes it easy to share some of our 'privileges' and uplift the less privileged ones.

Under Shaagird, we have prepared a large database of the following kids -

- Kids orphaned in the communal violence
- Kids of victims of communal violence & mob lynching
- Madarsa kids enrolled in the Hifz Programs
- Other economically backward children.

You Can Make A Change !!

If you want to make any contribution in bringing a change in the lives of these poor kids by sponsoring their education (the sponsoring amount varies with the geographical location of the child as the cost of education is different in cities, towns, and villages), we kindly request you to sign up for the mentorship program. Every mentor may adopt kids (as many as they want) for sponsoring their education.

After due approval and after the payment of the sponsoring amount (monthly, quarterly, yearly, etc.), a unique login ID and Password are provided to each mentor to log in to Shaagird's official website www.shaagird.org so that the mentors are able to check up on the educational progress of their sponsored kids. Additionally, if a mentor wants to communicate with the family of the adopted kid, it is arranged too, as the kids stay with their families. Under Shaagird, a mentor can Sponsor the education of a child with as little as Rs 500 per month.

Visit Website

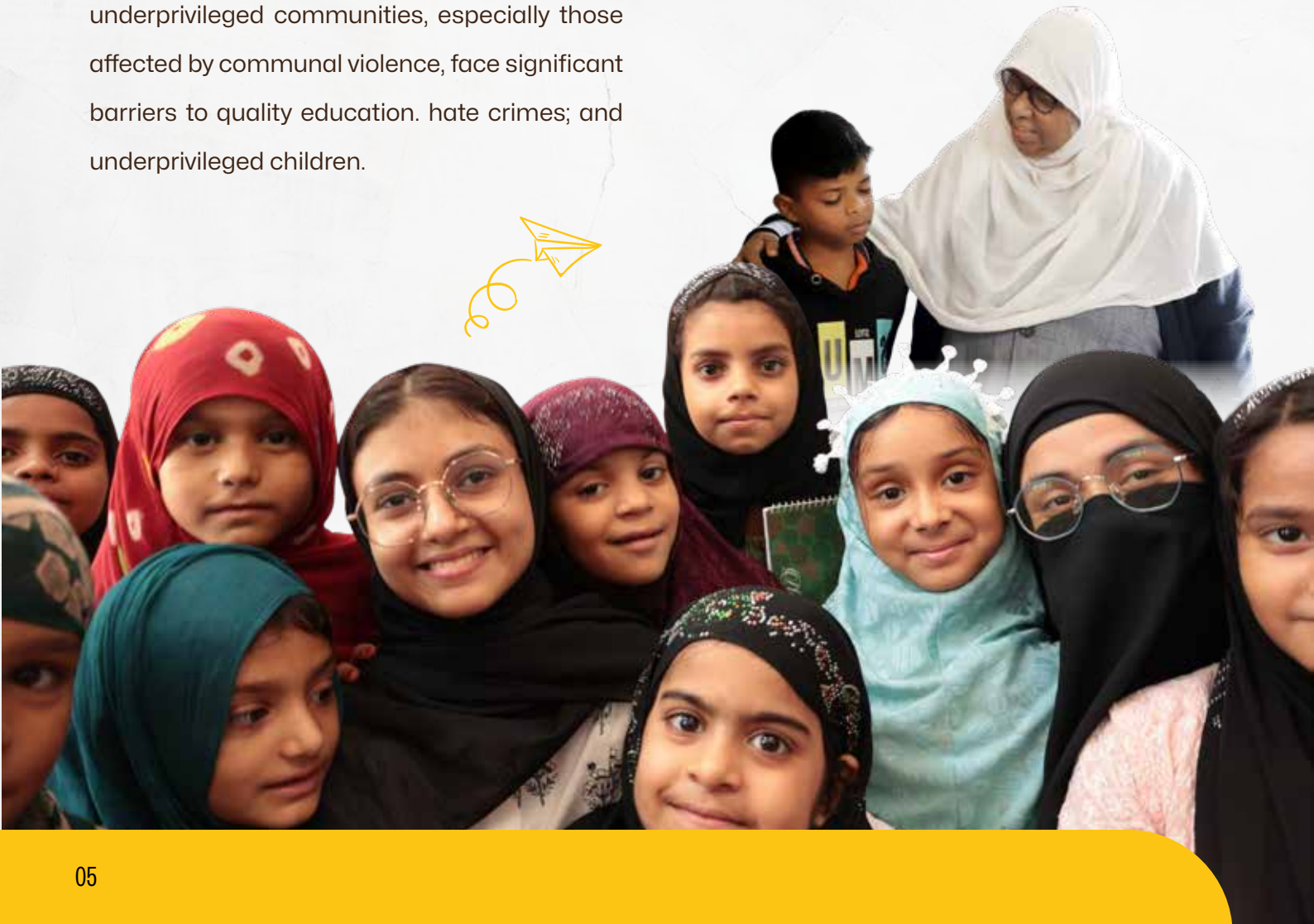
Strategy

Our strategy is simple yet profound. We believe in creating a smooth and consistent educational journey for every child. To make this possible, we connect students with dedicated mentors who guide them through their learning process. Each mentor has access to the academic and emotional progress of the child, allowing them to provide personalized support, encouragement, and timely interventions. This close monitoring ensures that no child is left behind.

We recognize that children from underprivileged communities, especially those affected by communal violence, face significant barriers to quality education. hate crimes; and underprivileged children.

Poverty, trauma, and social exclusion often stand in their way. To address these challenges, we have embarked on a transformative journey; one that not only focuses on academics but also on healing, resilience, and empowerment. Through our model of mentorship and care, we aim to build trust, restore hope, and nurture every child's potential, and give them a bright future.

The main focus of Shaagird is on the children who have survived demolition, communal violence, riots, and other hate crimes; orphans who have lost their parents to mob lynching and



Our Mission

Empowering Through Knowledge:

We offer educational resources that foster understanding, empathy, and the critical thinking skills needed to tackle social injustices and build a more just world.

Building Resilience:

Education equips individuals to overcome obstacles and build the resilience needed to thrive in challenging times.

Creating Positive Change:

By empowering individuals, we empower communities. Education is the foundation for positive change, both personally and collectively.

Our Vision

We envision a world where every child has access to quality education. At Shaagird, our vision is simple every child, everywhere deserves quality education. We believe education is a fundamental right, the key that unlocks a world of opportunity, regardless of background.

Empowering Growth:

It's a springboard for personal development, fostering critical thinking and the confidence to create positive change.

Fueling Social Progress:

Education empowers individuals to become active agents for social justice and a more equitable world.

Driving Global Change:

By nurturing potential in every child, education becomes a powerful force for positive societal transformation.

Our Approach

At Shaagird, we're dedicated to giving every child a fair shot at education, regardless of their background. We focus on uplifting children from marginalized communities in India, ensuring socio-political circumstances don't hinder their potential.

Bridging the Gap:

We target children impacted by communal violence or those from underprivileged communities.

Shaagird Education Centers:

We offer a nurturing environment with qualified instructors and a curriculum designed to empower them.

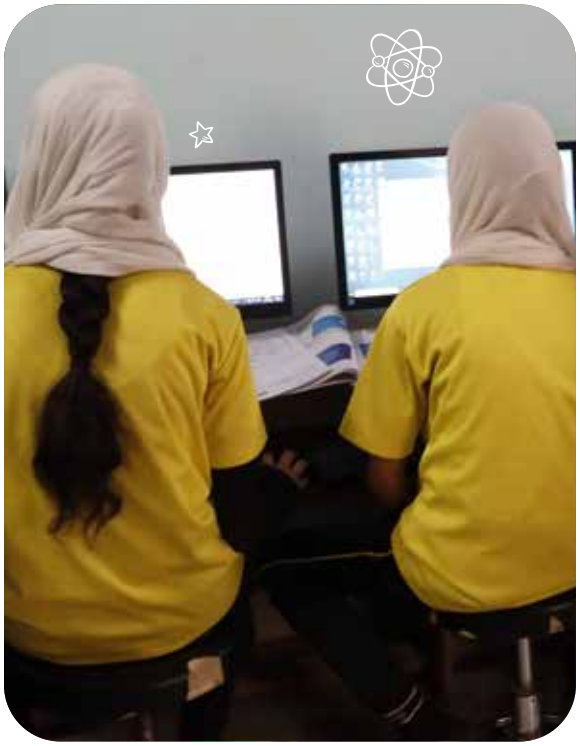
Community Partnerships:

We collaborate with nearby learning facilities to expand our reach and resources.

What Shaagird Aims to Achieve?

Access to Quality Education

One major goal of our organization is to ensure that children from systematically marginalized sections of Indian society have access to quality education. This goal focuses on bridging the educational gap and providing equal opportunities for these children to thrive academically. By establishing education centers or partnering with learning facilities, we aim to create a nurturing and caring environment where these children can receive free education up to the primary level.



Gender Inclusivity

While working on the ground, Shaagird's team has identified the critical importance of focusing on girls' education. Our primary goal is to ensure a significantly higher representation of girls in all our institutions. At Shaagird, we firmly believe in empowering girls to become who they aspire to be and pursue their passions freely. We strive to create an environment where girls are encouraged to explore their full potential. Our efforts also involve raising awareness about the significance of girls' education and the immense potential they hold.

Continuation of Education

Another goal of our organization is to empower the children we serve and encourage them to continue their studies beyond the primary level. We aim to support and guide them in pursuing their interests and higher education. By investing in their educational journey and providing necessary resources and mentorship, we aim to equip them with the tools they need to break the cycle of marginalization and achieve their full potential. We firmly believe that education is not only a means for personal growth but also a pathway to social progress and equal opportunities.

Empower Marginalized Communities

Work towards empowering marginalized communities by involving parents and community members in educational initiatives and fostering their active participation. Ultimately, aim to break the cycle of marginalization by providing children with the tools and opportunities they need to overcome socio-political barriers and realize their full potential. Through our efforts, we envision a future where children can overcome barriers, transform their lives, and contribute positively to their communities and society as a whole.

How Shaagird Works?

Step 01 - Select Profile

Step 02- View Expenditure
Here you can check the monthly expenditure on the education of the child.

Step 03- Fill Mentor Form & Pay for sponsorship

Step 04- You Restored A Smile

Congratulations! Your support will create a lasting and positive impact on a child that will transform their lives for the better.

Why Education?

While the law promises education to all children, reality does not. Children around the world are forced to confront the devastating impact of wars, conflict, violence, and the heart-wrenching experience of being uprooted from their homes.

At Shaagird, we recognize the urgency and importance of addressing the educational needs of children affected by such circumstances. Our organization is driven by the belief that every child deserves access to quality education, regardless of the challenges they face.

In each instance, numerous children are left destitute, often, without an education. Their lives get dramatically upended and their educational pathways so disrupted, as many never fully recover from the loss of their loved ones, their homes, and the reigning chaos.

Through our efforts, we aim to restore a sense of stability and optimism in the lives of these children. We believe that education is not just about academic knowledge but also about providing a sense of belonging, purpose, and a brighter future.

Why Education for Riots- Ridden Children?

With riots, demolitions, mob lynching, and hate crimes in every nook and cranny of the country, those who suffer the most are the innocent child survivors, bringing their happiness and childhood to an abrupt, disturbing, chilling, and gory pause.

The loss they witness is both overwhelming and irrecoverable, but their burdens can be shared and reduced. These children, whose lives have been shattered and who had the misfortune of witnessing the death of their parents, family members, kin, friends, and neighbors, often fell prey to trauma and apprehension. In these times of grief and agony, they draw away from education. Thereupon, educating them becomes a major onus, which many refuse to embrace.

However, it supports them for healing, resilience, and social cohesion. Without access to education, these children may grow up internalizing trauma, resentment, and fear, which can perpetuate cycles of violence or alienation.

At the Shaagird Foundation, we believe every child deserves quality education; we make them feel the value of acceptance and pluralism and train them to handle different situations. We welcome the child survivors of selective demolition, targeted riots, and hate crimes. We welcome the orphans who have lost their parents to mob lynching and communal violence. We open the doors of happiness for them through knowledge, skills, and education. To fulfill this mission, we have incorporated various institutions, collaborated with numerous projects, and partnered with established schools that share the same mission and vision.

In our attempt to educate these children, we have closely examined their lives, fears, and trauma. We have scrutinized their struggles and have made every step possible to make Shaagird a happy dwelling for them.

Integrity and Accountability

At Shaagird Foundation, we are committed to complete transparency. Every penny donated goes directly into the educational programs of the children. We prioritize keeping our donors informed about the difference their contributions make. To ensure transparency, we consistently share the Shaagirdnaama; stories of change, provide photos, and send updates on the progress of our educational institutions and how donations are being used. We believe in maintaining an open line of communication, allowing our supporters to witness the positive change they are creating. By keeping donors engaged and informed, we build trust and encourage continued support for those in need.

Click to read
Shaagirdnama

Timeline of Shaagird

First Year 2020

Following the Delhi pogrom in 2020, Miles2Smile organization recognized the impact of such violence on children and their education while providing relief work in north-east Delhi. It all began with a small initiative known as the Smile Class, which aimed to provide these children with some respite amidst their despair. During the violence, all the belongings of these families, including their children's books and stationary, were burnt to ashes. In an effort to provide them with a place of relief, the Smile Class was established in Mustafabad, near the base camp. However, this initiative could not be fully realized at the time due to the country-wide

Second Year 2021

Since most of the families lost their homes and livelihood in the violence of February 2020 they started to take their children out of schools because of financial constraints. They bore the double burnt of Delhi the pogrom and the ill-planned lockdown which destroyed their livelihoods.

Shaagird, then came to provide aid to these families and sponsored the education of these children. It opened Sunrise Public School in Ghaziabad.

The school has its own Smile Curriculum which focuses integrated and holistic development by emphasising on extra curricular activities, languages, science etc. We provide our students with access to Promethean programs that engage and taps into their specific interests and aspirations .Today, Sunrise Public School in Ghaziabad has over ***200 children enrolled.***

Third Year 2022

Continuing Support: Shaagird Foundation's Madarsa programs continue to flourish. 940 children are enrolled in Hifz programs across the branches, receiving a strong foundation in Islamic scripture. An additional ***690 children participate in the learning programs***, focusing on core academic subjects.

Sunrise Public School Thrives:

Established in 2020 for children affected by the Delhi riots, Sunrise Public School in Loni Ghaziabad continues to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Expanding Reach:

Shaagird Foundation identifies the need to support children impacted by the 2022 Khargone riots in Madhya Pradesh. Collaborations are initiated with local organizations to assess the situation.

Our Institutions

Sunrise Public School

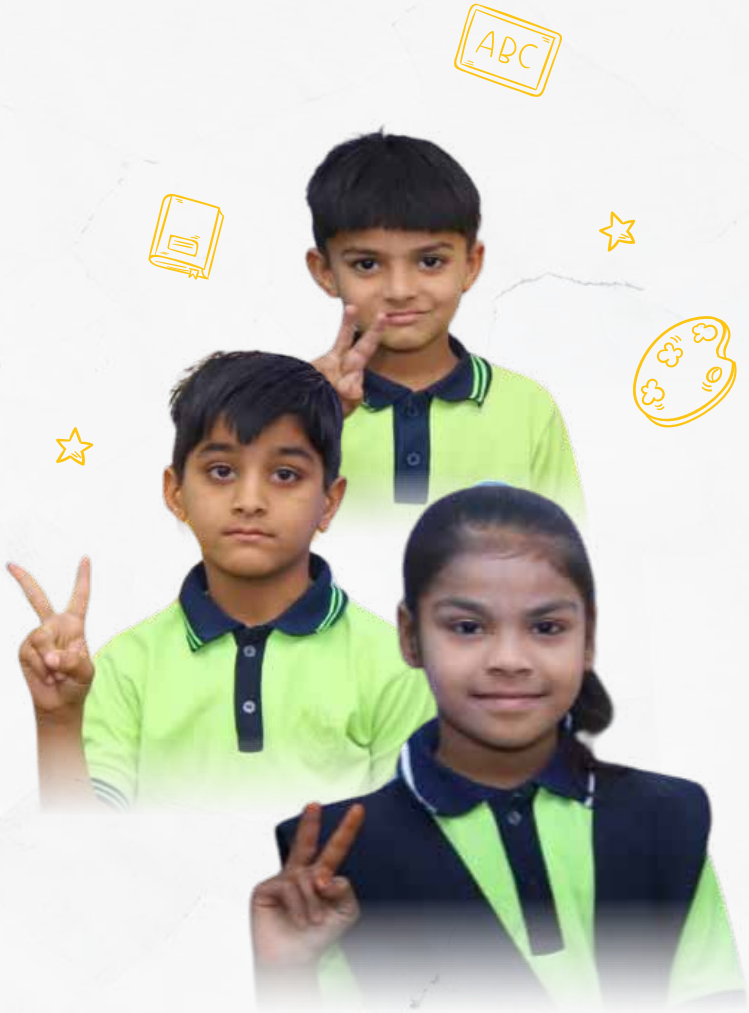
Sunrise Public School is a relief school based in Loni, Ghaziabad. It was primarily set up for the survivors of 2020 Northeast Delhi Riots kids, and currently serves as a nurturing place for survivors' kids, orphans, and other underprivileged children, offering psychosocial support and quality education to over 450 children up to 8th grade. Dedicated teachers employ innovative methods to foster a love for learning, and personalized attention to meet individual kids' needs while tailoring instructions.

The curriculum includes a range of subjects including mathematics, science, languages, social sciences, and arts. It also encompasses the development of essential life skills, instilling values of empathy, integrity, and respect in each child.

The school ensures that no child faces barriers to education due to financial constraints by providing uniforms, books, and stationary.

Smart India School

Smart India School is a partner school under Shaagird dedicated to providing quality education to communal violence survivors in Khargone, Madhya Pradesh. Recognizing the losses suffered by these families, including their homes and livelihoods, the Shaagird Foundation covers all educational expenses for these children. With highly trained faculty, the school ensures that these young souls receive the same educational opportunities as any other child, while actively working towards reducing the negative effects of violence, trauma, pain, and distress caused by the violence they endured.



With the help of a nurturing environment, Shaagird strives to empower these children to develop self-efficacy, take a proactive stance towards their life and career, and live a life free from the trauma, pain, and distress and distress caused by the violence they have experienced.

Learning Center Talimul Quran

Nestled amidst bamboo camps in Nuh, Haryana, Learning Center Taleem-ul-Quran serves as a religious sanctuary for 61 refugee children, offering solace and hope. In its nurturing environment, young minds find respite from the daily hardships of camp life. The dedicated teachers, entrusted with the task of imparting the beauty and depth of the Quran, guide the students on their transformative educational journey. In the learning center Taleem-ul-Quran, the joyous sounds of laughter and eager voices intertwine as students recite their lessons and engage in chatters with their mates.

Kulsum Sayani Learning Center

Kulsum Sayani Learning Centre ensures quality learning to about a hundred refugee teenage girls, who face barriers to education during their crucial developmental stage. Recognizing the importance of education for these refugee girl-children, the center provides them a safe environment, with a quality bespoke curriculum delivered in their own language from trained, and trusted teachers.The engaging lessons offered at the center not only foster a love for learning but also among them the social skills, and practical life abilities. Moreover, our teaching methodology actively involves parents and the community, fostering a collaborative approach that strengthens the impact of learning.

Learning Center Imam ul Bukhari

Learning Center Imam-ul-Bukhari is a home for 45 young refugee kids. Nestled amidst a tranquil setting, it provides solace and education to those who have been displaced by adversity. The learning center fosters a compassionate environment, providing not only Quranic teachings but also formal education besides support and understanding. Dedicated teachers impart religious knowledge, while promoting cultural exchange and fostering mutual respect among the locals and the community members. These bright young minds after receiving an education aim to pursue a brighter future, filled with hope and possibilities.

Fatima Sheikh Learning Center

Fatima Sheikh Learning Centre provides quality education to 70 refugee children in the primary and pre-primary age groups. Through colorful learning resources, the center offers engaging visual and tactile stimuli through colorful learning resources, utilizing an innovative play-based approach to ensure that early years education is accessible to all children, regardless of financial, linguistic, cultural, ethnic, or geographical barriers.

Located near their homes, the center eliminates the requirement of uniform and lunch expenses. Bite-sized lessons are taught in the children's own language, actively involving parents and fostering a strong sense of community. Trained teachers create a safe and nurturing environment for the children's holistic development.

Goal Post 2024

- *Enroll more children in Sunrise Public School*
- *Incorporate computer learning centers*
- *Conduct more educational and awareness workshops*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (S.D.Gs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), unanimously adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, consist of 17 interconnected objectives to be accomplished by 2030. These goals aim to alleviate poverty, safeguard the environment, and promote global peace and prosperity. At Shaagird Foundation, we are steadfast in our conviction that achieving these goals is paramount in fostering a better, more sustainable, and inclusive life for everyone.

4. Quality Education

With the Shaagird project, we are actively contributing to the UN's objective of providing high-quality education to all. We have implemented educational programs for children from marginalized groups, including riot survivors, madrasa students, and others. Quality education extends beyond academics and traditional school settings. It encompasses the social, cultural, and physical environment that shapes children's growth and learning. Through 'Shaagird,' we focus on creating stimulating learning environments beyond traditional methods. We incorporate activities like drawing, painting, role-playing, and other co-curricular engagements to unleash learners' creative potential.

5. Gender Equality

Shaagird Foundation is committed to eradicating gender inequality through various educational and awareness programs. In the past years, we have successfully provided vocational training to a large number of children from families affected by violence. Additionally, we focus on including a larger number of girls in our educational programs to improve their employment opportunities and contribute to eliminating gender disparity.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth

Poverty eradication is only possible through stable and well-paid jobs. Shaagird Foundation educate children and make them future ready for decent work opportunities. Through education, we prevent children from falling into forced labor, thus contributing to its eradication. Shaagird Foundation is on a mission to provide productive employment and decent work for all, including young people.

10. Reduced Inequalities

Shaagird Foundation understands that a peaceful world requires equality, encompassing not only wealth but also social protections, equal opportunities, and access to health and education for all. In the past years, we have dedicatedly worked towards increasing income outcomes for the underprivileged through various interventions to reduce the income gap. We ensure access to education at lower costs for marginalized children and empower women from underserved communities to become self-reliant. Shaagird Foundation is committed to making societies more inclusive for all and pledges to continue working fervently to close the access gap for the underprivileged.

17. Partnerships for the Goals

Shaagird Foundation believes that people are best positioned to transform their own lives, so we prepare our beneficiaries to be active partners in the process of change rather than passive recipients. We introduce the concept of partnership among communities through physical activities and diverse play among peers with different abilities. As partners, we ensure that resources are effectively mobilized and monitored to derive maximum benefit from our collaborative efforts.

SHAAGIRDNAMA

Obaid-ur-Rahman: A Story of Faith, Resilience, and Hope

Ten-year-old Obaid-ur-Rahman is a beacon of determination and gratitude, rising above life's hardships with remarkable strength. Raised by a fruit vendor father alongside his two brothers, Obaid's early life was marked by financial struggle. Yet, his thirst for knowledge and devotion to faith never wavered. His journey took a hopeful turn when his father discovered the Shaagird Foundation's Hafiz Sponsorship Program.

What began as a path to memorizing the Quran blossomed into a life-changing opportunity. The program offered not only religious education but also shelter, nutritious meals, clean clothes, and a nurturing environment. For the first time, Obaid felt supported and cared for in every aspect of life.

"I thought I would just learn the Quran, but I also received love and education", Obaid shares with a shy smile. Now thriving both spiritually and academically, he stands out as a focused, respectful, and determined student.

Obaid dreams of supporting his father and brothers, ensuring they live with dignity. Grateful to the donors, he says, "I am thankful to those who helped me." His story is a powerful reminder of how compassion and charity can light the way for a brighter future.

Obaid ur Rehman
Refugee

From the Dust of Demolition to Dawn, Shoaib Fights

Shoaib, a vibrant 20-year-old from the small town of Mathura, has called the learning center home for the past eight years. As he prepares for his tenth-grade exams, he carries not only books but also the weight of painful memories. One of his toughest challenges now is the 'Basic Computing' exam—daunting without access to a working computer. The demolition of his old learning center, Bahrul Uloom, left him with shattered resources and broken memories. "I lost all my notebooks... everything I worked so hard for," he says quietly.

Despite these setbacks, Shoaib remains undeterred. His journey is marked by resilience, shaped by the tragic loss of his father in 2016, just after Eid. Since then, his maternal uncle, Zakir Sahab, has supported him, guiding him through life's hardships. A Hafiz of the Quran and skilled in Tajweed, Shoaib dreams of fluency in English.

"I love English," he beams. Proficient in Hindi and Urdu, he also cherishes Urdu stories and the works of Iqbal. Cricket is his daily escape, offering moments of joy and normalcy.

Shoaib's ultimate dream is to become a teacher at the same center that shaped him—a place he hopes to give back to, just as it gave him a future.

Shoaib
Refugee

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Shaagird
Gateway to Education