

## “ASSRA” EDUCATING THE FUTURE MINDS : Delhi, Odisha & Jharkhand

We see the world through our experiences. **The good that we create today can help**



**us create better tomorrows.**

ASSRA doesn't just raise concern over important matters of people and society. It extends hands to reach people who need us through any means possible. This is exactly



why It's difficult to delineate the specific functional areas of ASSRA, education holding



predominant proportion. The volunteers and members of ASSRA have made sure that the areas which once remained disconnected from the primary



needs, now have proper road connectivity along with schools for education, electricity



and employment opportunities. The young hands carrying books in school uniforms reflect the difference ASSRA brought to their lives. The conclusion of all our



endeavours lies in making stronger bonds among people, empowering our women and paving way for worthy future citizens.

Primarily, ASSRA takes education as one of the pivotal tools of transforming society

and expanding the future prospects. To stand true to this intent, numerous educational centres have been set up by the NGO in different areas of Delhi, Odisha and Jharkhand. In the state of Jharkhand, ASSRA majorly has begun and is running centres near Jamshedpur and Ranchi



in Jharkhand & Mota Sahi & Kandlei in Khurda; the centres being located at Kasidih, Garigram, Burudih, Lawa, Khunti etc in Jharkhand. The NGO basically looks into the following:

### 1. BASIC EDUCATION

The purpose of education serves right when it enlightens the most unaware of nation's population. ASSRA was compelled to take steps to enliven and highlight the potential in the rural children, moved by their perusal and participation in competitive activities. Initiated in July 2000, the ASSRA School imparts basic



education in the rural belt of Patamda block of East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand state, in the villages –Kasidih and Gobarghushi, covering varying age groups through it's 5 centres. The Basic Education Campaign aimed at bringing the disadvantaged and deprived children into the mainstream of development and has the following innovative features:



- Relevance to the needs of disadvantaged groups
- Concern with specific categories of people
- Focus on clearly defined purposes
- Flexibility in terms of organization as well as methodologies



Considering the rural belt, it is not easy to convince people to send children to



schools owing to several other household jobs at hand. The government schools in many areas of our function lack the capacity to impart competitive



knowledge base into the children. The ASSRA School initiated with merely



seven underprivileged children with a mission to impart supplementary/non formal education to the drop-outs from Govt. schools and working children in the village. Over



the course of twelve years, three more centres have

come up in Garigram Village, Amkadhi Village and Lawa Village respectively. All the four centres cover strength of more than 400 children. The



programme was extended and replicated in Kusunpur Pahadi, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Sankalp Project in Munirka, Mota Sahi & Godipada in Khurda District of Odisha in order to impart supplementary/non-formal education to the drop-outs and working children of the migrant labour.

The approach to ensuring basic knowledge to children has proved to be an uphill task yet a roaring achievement in itself.

## 2. SYSTEMATIC VEDIC EDUCATION TRAINING

From the young age of 10 to 20 years, students from the traditional Vedic families of India follow systematic training to become peace professionals – Maharishi Vedic Fellows. They follow a special programme of study designed by Maharishi Sh.Mahesh Yogijee which lays stress on discipline, strict schedule, simplicity of living and respect for teachers. It includes learning the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programme as well as Yogic Flying, studying Sanskrit, and gaining proficiency in performing the traditional Vedic performances. The crux of Vedic education is to promote sharing the resources with society, grooming one's personality while conserving our ancient culture and tradition. Their daily studies earn credits towards Bachelor, Masters and Ph.D. programs.



The centres have been running for years and facilities are being taken care of with time like building of halls for classes, providing stationary items, organising sports competition, distribution of wifi devices and providing net connection for online classes. Guest lectures are also being arranged through online modes. The whole status quo begins from the volunteers of ASSRA meeting parents and families to send their children to school. In addition, the families are informed about the nature of backup we provide in order to guide students through their learning phase. The teachers are also appointed who maintain the track of classes, students, their queries and finding methods of resolving their queries.



Over the past year and a half, we have witnessed social unrest, finances shutting down, repercussions of not abiding by basic healthcare and hygiene. Above all, we saw a halt in the academic sessions all around, affecting hundreds of students within the state and beyond. Hard times revel in the true spirit of our ability to bounce back. Adjusting with the new-normal, it was felt that education and classes of especially children of matriculation and intermediate had been on the back burner due to covid. Considering the ongoing circumstances, ASSRA arranged for a visit to



the Kasidih centre (Jamshedpur, Jharkhand) and planned to begin online classes for



children. The meeting with the centre coordinators from Kasidih, Gadigram, Lawa, Ladaidungri and Burudih helped us arrange a live video session with the



children. The children were willing to continue classes which



are being fulfilled through providing them with internet connectivity devices and smartphones. The centre incharges were provided with wifi devices and data packs at the centres where classes were to be conducted. Classes are arranged through video



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calls and tasks are given to students. The students seem to be going with the flow and



send their homework through whatsapp or other online modes available. The attendance is maintained, and they are also given feedback accordingly. For those interested in games and sports, kits



including jerseys, leg guards, footballs, and other essentials have been arranged for students in Jharkhand centres as well as in Odisha to encourage budding talents and promote them in ways possible.

**The Journey Continues.....**