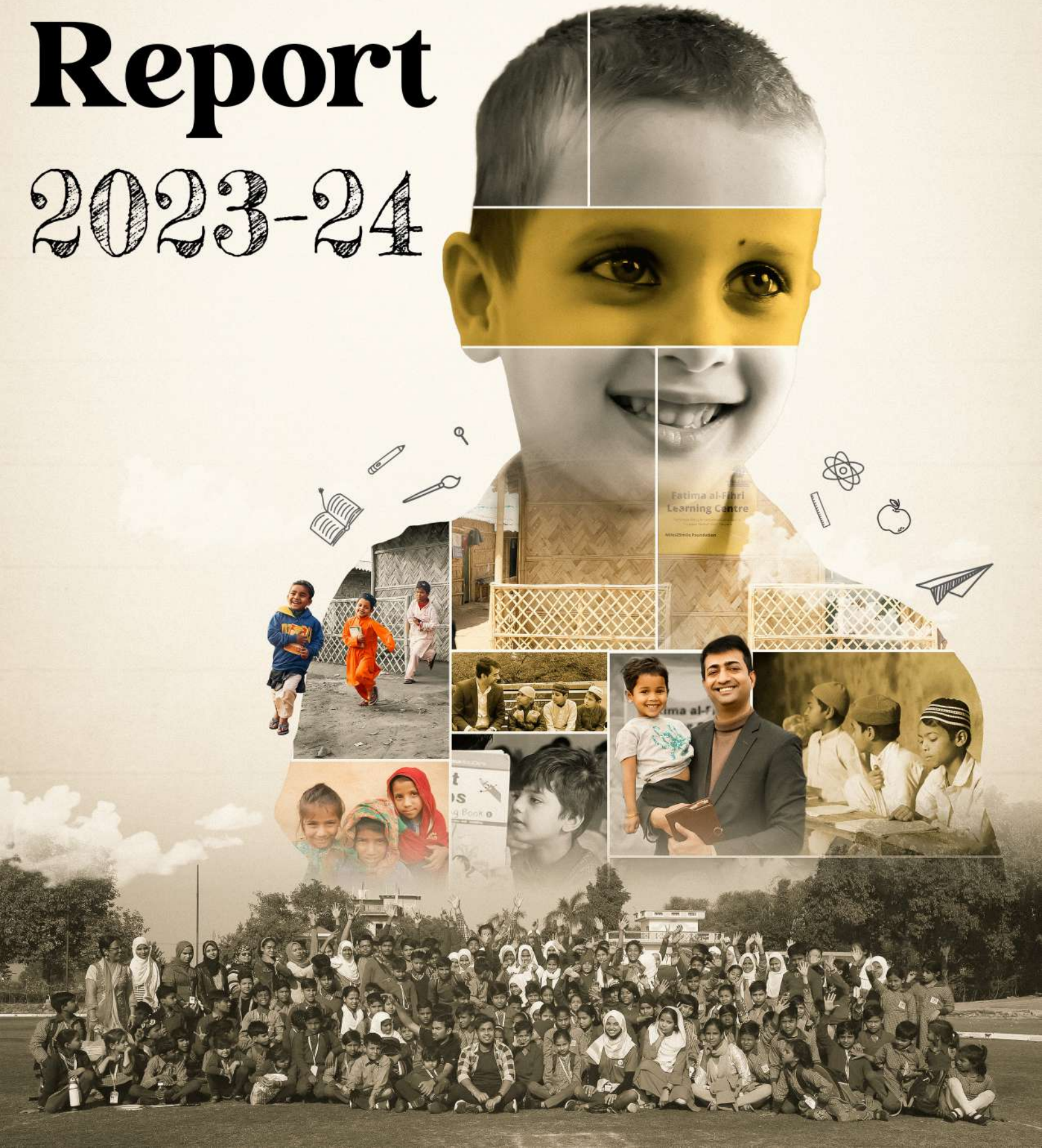
Annual Report 2023-24



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Director's Message

The corners of this report hold more than just statistics; they hold a year's worth of hope rekindled. As I look back at 2023, a deep sense of gratitude washes over me. We set out on a mission – to educate children, to mend broken lives, and to rewrite narratives. It wasn't a solo act, but a unity of compassion, with each of you playing a vital note. From the incredible team members to our generous supporters, your time and dedication have been the fuel for our journey.

This year, our classrooms overflowed with new faces. Witnessing this growth fills me with immense pride, a pride I share with every member of our incredible team.

This report is a story, a story of once-desolate streets now echoing with laughter, a story of shattered dreams pieced back together. We've focused on the cornerstones of a fulfilling life – education, skills, well-being and a chance to earn a living. It's been a year of listening to our students, to our educators – constantly refining our approach to empower the many. Existing programs were infused with transformative skill development initiatives, equipping our students for the future.

As we step into 2023-24, the dedication in our hearts burns brighter than ever. We may not be able to solve every problem, but together, hand-in-hand with unwavering determination, we can make a real difference, one life at a time.

My deepest gratitude goes out to our incredible team, our dedicated partners, and our unwavering supporters. Your unwavering commitment is appreciable. Let's continue to be agents of change, spreading hope and love in the year ahead. Let's create a world where everyone has the opportunity to get educated.

With a heart full of hope,

Aasif Mujtaba
Director, Shaagird Foundation

> **True Progress is not Instantaneous; it Requires Time, Dedication, and a Collective Spirit.**
>
> — **Aasif Mujtaba**

Aasif Mujtaba *(Director)*
Shaagird Foundation

Why Shaagird Foundation

Now imagine having a torch in this dark phase and someone leading you towards the light at the end of the tunnel, feeling elated? The Shaagird Foundation is here to make this fantasy a reality.

Good work protect us from evil faith

Imagine being unable to study because of the challenges that life puts forth; imagine having a desire to learn but not the books; imagine the road is thorny to reach your school. Imagine the peril that you go through just to get educated. Have the thoughts scared you enough? This is the life of thousands of children across the country.

Shaagird Foundation provides a powerful stage to make a meaningful impact on the life of children who lost all the hopes to study and achieve quality education, Shaagird becomes a torch for these children in their dark phases of lives. We consider it our onus to educate the children who doesnt see the light at the end of the tunnel.

By your charity, at Shaagird Foundation, you are contributing to a vision aiming to cultivate empathetic leaders, compassionate professionals, future doctors, engineers, and lawyers. It sets its sights on providing financial independence to these children, through the power of education.

Every little bit you donate counts. It's like adding a penny to a fire, helping it grow brighter and illuminating the path for these children. Together, we can create a future where every child has the chance to shine.

Mission

At Shaagird Foundation, we fight for a world where education isn't a privilege, but a birthright. We act as changemakers, paving the way for marginalised children in India, removing the barriers that exclude them from classrooms and opportunity.

We believe every child holds the potential to create a meaningful change in the society, a potential that burgeons with the power of knowledge. Our mission is to rekindle that spark within, empowering children impacted by dehumanisation acts, communal violence and those from underprivileged communities. We work tirelessly to transform the distant dream of quality education into a vibrant reality.

By providing access to education, we empower these young minds to become the torchbearer of their own life and the future leaders of our nation. We opine that together, we can build a more inclusive, equitable society, one bright mind at a time.

Vission

Our Vision: A Platform for Equitable Education by 2030

Shaagird Foundation envisions a future brimming with opportunity, where every child in India who has gone through a trauma or has been affected by communal violence has the chance to excel through quality education. By 2030, we aspire to create a unique and impactful platform that removes the barriers and ensures equitable access to education, regardless of a child's background or circumstances.

This platform will empower each child to reach their full potential, nurturing their talents and igniting a passion for lifelong learning. We believe in the profound words of Mr. Aasif Mujtaba, "No gift is better than the gift of education and no accomplishment is greater than providing this gift to someone." Shaagird Foundation embodies this philosophy, relentlessly working to bridge the educational gaps and illuminate the path to a brighter tomorrow for all children.

Know About Us

The Birth of Shaagird: A Spark in the Ashes

Shaagird Foundation wasn't born out of a grand plan, but from the ashes of despair. In the aftermath of the horrific Delhi pogrom of 2020, the plight of children impacted by the violence struck a chord deep within the Miles2Smile organization. Their relief work in northeast Delhi revealed a heartbreaking truth - children were bearing the brunt of the violence, their education shattered amidst the chaos.

A small seed of hope was planted with the "Smile Class" initiative. This humble program offered a safe haven and an appearance of normality for these traumatized children. However, the damage was extensive. The violence had ripped away not just homes and livelihoods, but also the tools for learning - books, stationery, schools, everything. With displaced families struggling financially, the cruel reality was that many children faced the impossible choice of leaving school altogether.

It was in this critical moment that Shaagird emerged. We saw the children being doubly burdened - victims of violence and robbed of their educational future due to the unplanned lockdown's economic fallout. We couldn't stand by.

Shaagird stepped in to provide support to these families and, most importantly, to sponsor the education of these vulnerable children. The opening of Sunrise Public School in Ghaziabad marked a new beginning. This school embodies Shaagird's core principles, offering a unique "Smile Curriculum" that goes beyond ordinary learning. We believe in fostering a holistic development with an emphasis on extracurricular activities, languages, science, and igniting a passion for learning that goes beyond the classroom walls.

Shaagird was born from the ashes of tragedy, a testament to the unwavering belief that education is the key to a brighter future. We are dedicated to ensuring that no child, regardless of their background or the circumstances they face, is left behind.

What Makes Us
Stand Out of the Circle:

At Shaagird, we believe everyone deserves a quality education, regardless of life's disruptions. Whether facing pandemics, natural disasters, or human conflict, we're here to bridge the gap. **We stand out of the circle and bring light in the darkness because we:**

Empower 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.

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

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

Join us in building a future where education empowers every child to reach their full potential and create a brighter world

Why
Education?

Shaagird: Shaping a Brighter Future Through 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.

Education for Us Is More Than Knowledge:

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.

SCAN TO DONATE

Our Approach

Shaagird,a ray of hope for those who lost the desire to hope, is committed to nurturing the potential of every child, irrespective of their socio-economic circumstances. Our unwavering mission is to bridge the educational gap that often plagues marginalized sections of Indian society.

We recognize that children from underprivileged communities and those affected by communal violence face formidable obstacles in accessing quality education. To address this challenge, we have embarked on a transformative journey.

At the heart of our approach is the belief that every child deserves a fair shot at a brighter future. We target children from marginalized communities, providing them with the educational opportunities they have long been denied. Through our dedicated centers and strategic partnerships with nearby schools, we ensure that children have access to quality education, empowering them with the tools they need to thrive.

Our unwavering dedication extends beyond the provision of educational resources. We understand that holistic development is essential for children to reach their full potential. Our comprehensive approach encompasses not only academic support but also mentorship, counseling, and extracurricular activities. This integrated approach fosters a nurturing environment that allows children to grow intellectually, emotionally, and socially.

At Shaagird, we firmly believe in the transformative power of education. We are driven by the conviction that by dismantling educational barriers and nurturing the potential within every child, we can create a more equitable and just society. We envision a future where every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to shine and make a meaningful contribution to the world.

Our journey is not without its challenges. However, the unwavering commitment of our dedicated team and the support of our generous donors fuel our determination to make a lasting impact. Together, we are creating a brighter future for the children of India, one child at a time.

Sponsorship and Mentoring

Sponsorship & Mentorship: Building Bridges, Igniting Futures

We're creating a revolution – a nationwide network of hope, where distance is no barrier to opportunity. Here's how it works:

1

Imagine:

You, a generous soul with a desire to make a difference, can sponsor a deserving child's education from anywhere in India. No longer are geographical limitations a hurdle. Imagine the child, their eyes sparkling with the potential you've helped unlock.

2

We become the bridge:

Shaagird connects you directly with your sponsored child, fostering a unique bond. Through our secure online portal, you'll have a window into their world – their academic progress, their triumphs and challenges.

3

Mentorship that empowers:

We believe guidance goes hand-in-hand with financial support. That's why we invite you to become more than just a sponsor, but a mentor. Adopt as many students as your heart desires – after all, the power to change lives is limitless.

4

Transparency, our guiding light:

Every penny you contribute is carefully keeping tabs on. Once your sponsorship amount is secured (monthly, quarterly, or annually – the choice is yours!), you'll receive a unique login, granting you full access to your sponsored child's academic journey.

Shaagird's sponsorship and mentorship model isn't just about funding education; it's about weaving a tapestry of hope, one thread at a time. Together, we can light a path for a brighter future, for every child, in every corner of India

A Brief history of Shaagird

First Year

Following the Delhi pogrom in 2020, Miles2Smile organization along with the Shaagird Foundation recognized the impact of 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. Shaagird Foundation tried to ease their burden and provided education to them yet again. 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 lockdown imposed as a result of COVID-19.

The lockdown restrictions made it impossible for the Smile Class to function in person, and the team had to find alternative ways to reach the children, but the zeal of Shaagird Foundation did not stop.

Second Year

Even in 2021, the scars of the Delhi violence 2020, both physical and emotional, remained embedded on the minds and bodies of the affected families. And their struggles elevated with the poorly planned lockdown. The year became taxing for them. With the intention to make the year serene, the Shaagird Foundation swiftly intervened. It paved the way for the survivors and their children and increased the number of staff, along with that, the number of smile classes were augmented to provide the students with quality education.
Local tuitions were incorporated in the nearby areas to bridge the gap. This initiative helped the students in understanding the topics crystal clearly.

Realising the need for the school, the Miles2Smile Foundation under the project Shaagird, acquired the Sunrise Public School premises on a five year lease basis. More than eighty students were enrolled and with this the journey flagged off, with the increase in the number of students, the number of educators who were among the brave survivors of the violence became the part of this family, this small initiative made them find serenity among the havoc.

Is it imperative to highlight that we renovated the infrastructure of the premises. This provided a better place for the students and the educators to learn and teach. Furthermore, we incorporated best quality chairs and tables, a water tank with clear water, and many other things.

Third Year

This year is marked by the major changes in teaching patterns and teaching centers. Workshops for teachers were frequently conducted to inculcate the best teaching practices.

With the motive to make the student learn beyond textbooks, we established computer labs. In the difficult phase of people the Shaagird Foundation becomes a torch in the dark. Being the same torch, it took an initiative to provide unwavering support to deprived children and as a result of which, this year writes an incredible success of Shaagird, The Madarsa programs, which are the cornerstone of the Foundation's efforts, flourished, providing a solid foundation in Islamic scripture to 940 children enrolled in Hifz programs across various branches. Additionally, 690 children participated in the learning programs, concentrating on essential academic subjects, ensuring their well-rounded development.

Shaagird Foundation is always driven towards providing relief to the children through the power of education, aiming to fulfil the onus that the Foundation has gracefully embraced. Recognizing the urgent need to extend its support beyond Delhi, Shaagird Foundation identified the plight of children affected by the 2022 Khargone riots in Madhya Pradesh. The Foundation promptly initiated collaborations with local organizations to assess the situation and explore avenues to provide assistance. This expansion of reach demonstrated Shaagird Foundation's unwavering commitment to supporting children in various regions who have been impacted by challenging circumstances.

Fourth Year

This year, the Foundation blossomed. Shaagird reached a staggering 1640 children, a result of their unwavering dedication. Imagine 1640 pairs of curious eyes, each one a universe waiting to be explored. Shaagird didn't offer a one-size-fits-all approach. They catered to each child's unique needs, providing extra attention for those who needed a little extra help, and providing skill-building activities to equip them for the future.

But Shaagird's reach extended beyond familiar borders. The heartbreaking news of the Khargone riots in Madhya Pradesh resonated deeply. The Foundation didn't just offer empty words of sympathy and fake promises. Shaagird became a ray of hope, rushing in with immediate relief: food, clothing, and most importantly, educational materials. Shaagird's vision stretched far beyond immediate needs. Plans were meticulously laid for learning centres.

Shaagird also understood the importance of nurturing the spirit. The Madarsa branches weren't just about rote learning. Here, religious teachings are blended with academic subjects, creating a place for them to learn both. Shaagird Foundation's story isn't just about numbers; it's about the countless stories whispered in classrooms, the dreams rekindled in after-school sessions, and the futures taking root in learning centres. It's a testament to the transformative power of education, a testament to the unwavering belief that every child deserves a chance to blossom.

GOALS

Building on its success, Shaagird Foundation aims to achieve even greater impact in the years to come. Here are some of its key goals:

Increasing Support Network:

- The Foundation plans to expand its support network by partnering with more individuals, organizations, and institutions.
- This will enable Shaagird to reach more underprivileged children and provide them with comprehensive educational opportunities.

Enhancing Curriculum:

- Shaagird Foundation intends to enhance its curriculum to encompass vocational training opportunities.
- By providing vocational skills, the foundation aims to empower children with employable skills and increase their chances of finding sustainable livelihoods.

Fostering Collaborations:

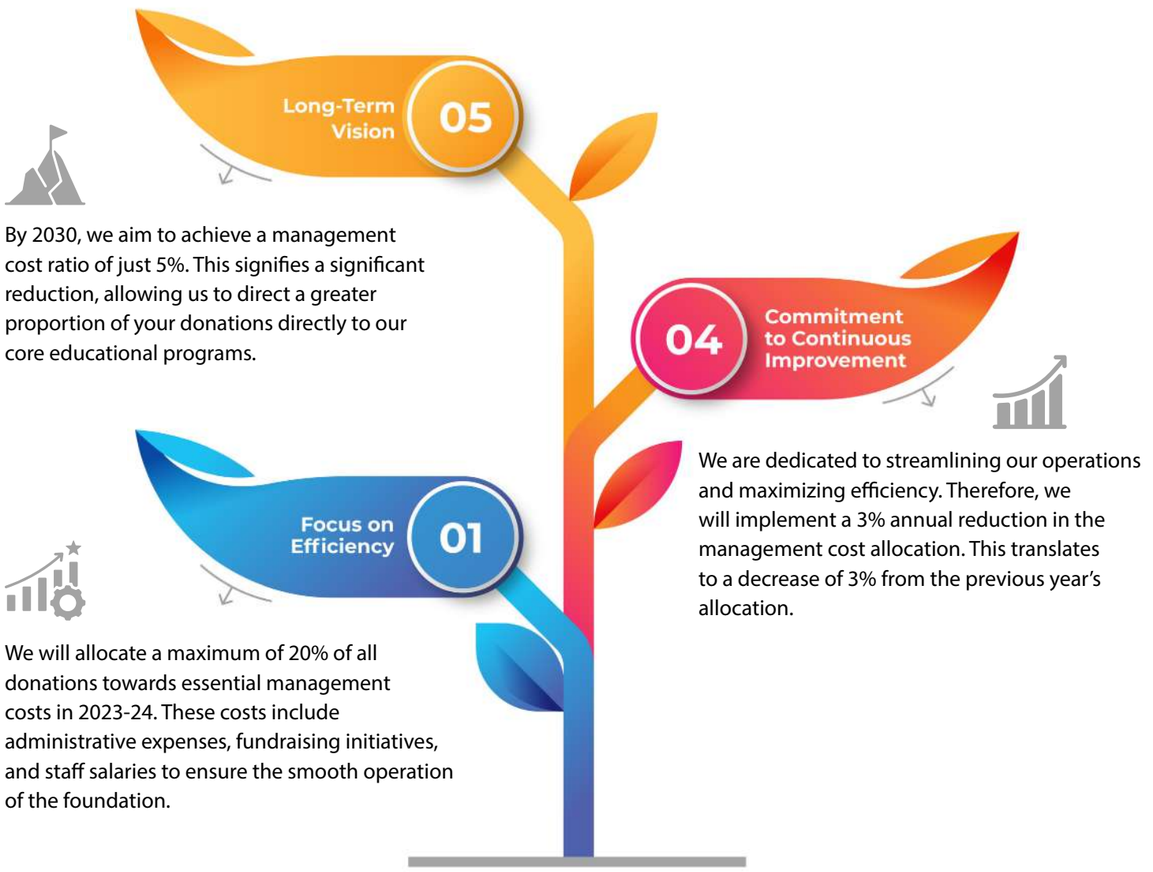
- The Foundation recognizes the importance of collaboration in achieving its mission.
- Shaagird plans to foster stronger collaborations with government agencies, educational institutions, and civil society organizations to broaden its impact and create a more conducive environment for underprivileged children.

Shaagird Foundation remains committed to breaking the cycle of poverty through education and empowering underprivileged children to become agents of positive change in their communities. With the support of its donors and partners, the foundation continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children who need it the most.

Financial Accountability

Shaagird Foundation: Transparent and Sustainable Management Practices

At Shaagird Foundation, we are committed to maximizing the impact of your generous donations on the education of underprivileged children. We understand the importance of responsible financial management and are pleased to announce a progressive approach to our monetary policy for donors.



By 2030, we aim to achieve a management cost ratio of just 5%. This signifies a significant reduction, allowing us to direct a greater proportion of your donations directly to our core educational programs.

We are dedicated to streamlining our operations and maximizing efficiency. Therefore, we will implement a 3% annual reduction in the management cost allocation. This translates to a decrease of 3% from the previous year's allocation.

We will allocate a maximum of 20% of all donations towards essential management costs in 2023-24. These costs include administrative expenses, fundraising initiatives, and staff salaries to ensure the smooth operation of the foundation.

Through these measures, we aim to foster a culture of transparency and accountability within our organization. We believe that by being open and transparent about our financial practices, we can build trust with our donors, stakeholders, and the community at large

At the core of our organization we believe in commitment to transparency and accountability. We firmly believe that our donors deserve to know how their contributions are being utilized and how we are managing our financial resources. To uphold this principle, we have established several measures to ensure that our financial practices are conducted with the utmost transparency and accountability:

Regular Financial Updates:

We will provide regular updates on our financial performance, including detailed breakdowns of our income and expenses. These updates will be made available to our donors and the general public on a consistent basis, enabling them to track the organization's financial progress.

Annual Reports:

We will publish comprehensive annual reports that provide a thorough overview of our financial activities during the previous fiscal year. These reports will include detailed information on our revenues, expenditures, assets, and liabilities, as well as a summary of our financial achievements and challenges.

Donor Access to Financial Information:

Donors will have access to our annual reports and other relevant financial information upon request. We believe that it is essential for donors to have a clear understanding of how their contributions are being utilized, and we are committed to providing them with the necessary information to make informed decisions about their support.

Independent Audit:

Our financial statements will be independently audited by a reputable accounting firm on an annual basis. This audit will provide an objective assessment of our financial condition and ensure that our financial practices are conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Open Communication:

We welcome any questions or suggestions that our donors or stakeholders may have regarding our financial practices. We believe that open communication is essential for building trust and maintaining transparency. Our team is always available to address your inquiries and provide clarifications on any financial matters.

Your Donations Make a Difference:

By adopting this progressive monetary policy, Shaagird Foundation demonstrates its commitment to responsible stewardship. A reduction in management costs translates to more resources reaching the children who need them most. With your continued support, we can empower countless children through quality education, shaping a brighter future for them and their communities.

Our Institution

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 haven for victims' 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 victims 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.

Fatima al Fihri 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.

The gift of **education** is the **greatest gift** one can give, for it opens doors to **endless possibilities**

Madarsa Miftahul Quran

In the heart of Shiv Vihar, Northeast Delhi, Madarsa Miftahul Quran stands as a symbol of 'Hope'. It fell victim to the Hindutva mob during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots. The sight of its burnt and collapsed walls was disheartening. The future of kids was tragically impacted by this devastating incident. However, through community support, the once dilapidated building has risen from the ashes, transformed into a vibrant learning environment. Within its walls, 72 students now find shelter, solace, and education.

Fatima Sheikh Learning Center

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"**Live** as if you were to die tomorrow. **Learn** as if you were to live **forever**"

— Mahatma Gandhi

Madarsa Imam ul Bukhari

Madrasa 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 Madrasa 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.

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.

> "Education is the movement from darkness to light"
>
> — Allan Bloom

Madarsa Talimul Quran

Nestled amidst bamboo camps in Nuh, Haryana, Madarsa 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 Madarsa Taleem-ul-Quran, the joyous sounds of laughter and eager voices intertwine as students recite their lessons and engage in chatters with their mates.

Madarsa Kala Mahal

In Mehrauli at Delhi, a 600 years old Madarsa Akhoondji was razed to the ground along with the historic mosque. It rendered 20 students completely homeless. The Shaagird Foundation shifted 20 kids to a nearby Madarsa called Kalan Mahal. This new Madarsa will provide lodging & food along with a quality education (including Science, English, Maths, Hindi, Computers etc) in collaboration with Shaagird.

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

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 ambitious “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 victims, 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 two years, we have successfully provided vocational training to a large number of young and adult women 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

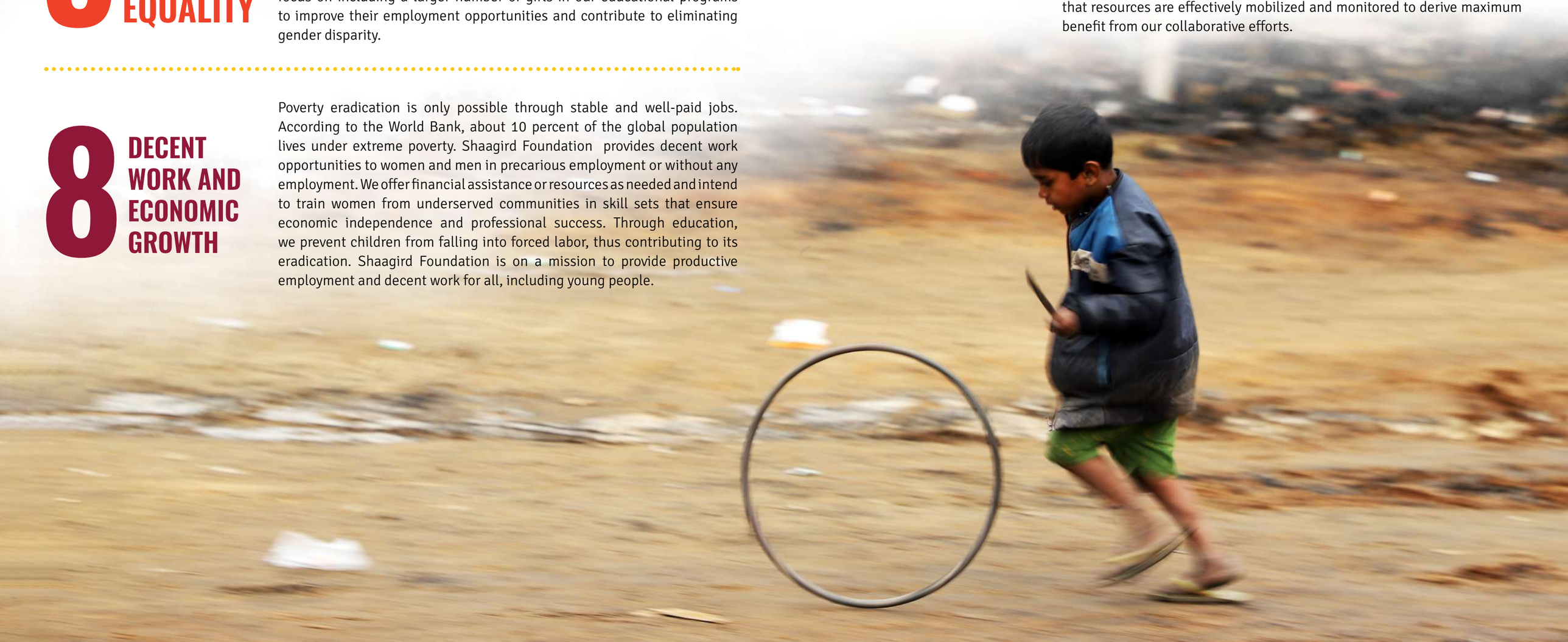
Poverty eradication is only possible through stable and well-paid jobs. According to the World Bank, about 10 percent of the global population lives under extreme poverty. Shaagird Foundation provides decent work opportunities to women and men in precarious employment or without any employment. We offer financial assistance or resources as needed and intend to train women from underserved communities in skill sets that ensure economic independence and professional success. 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

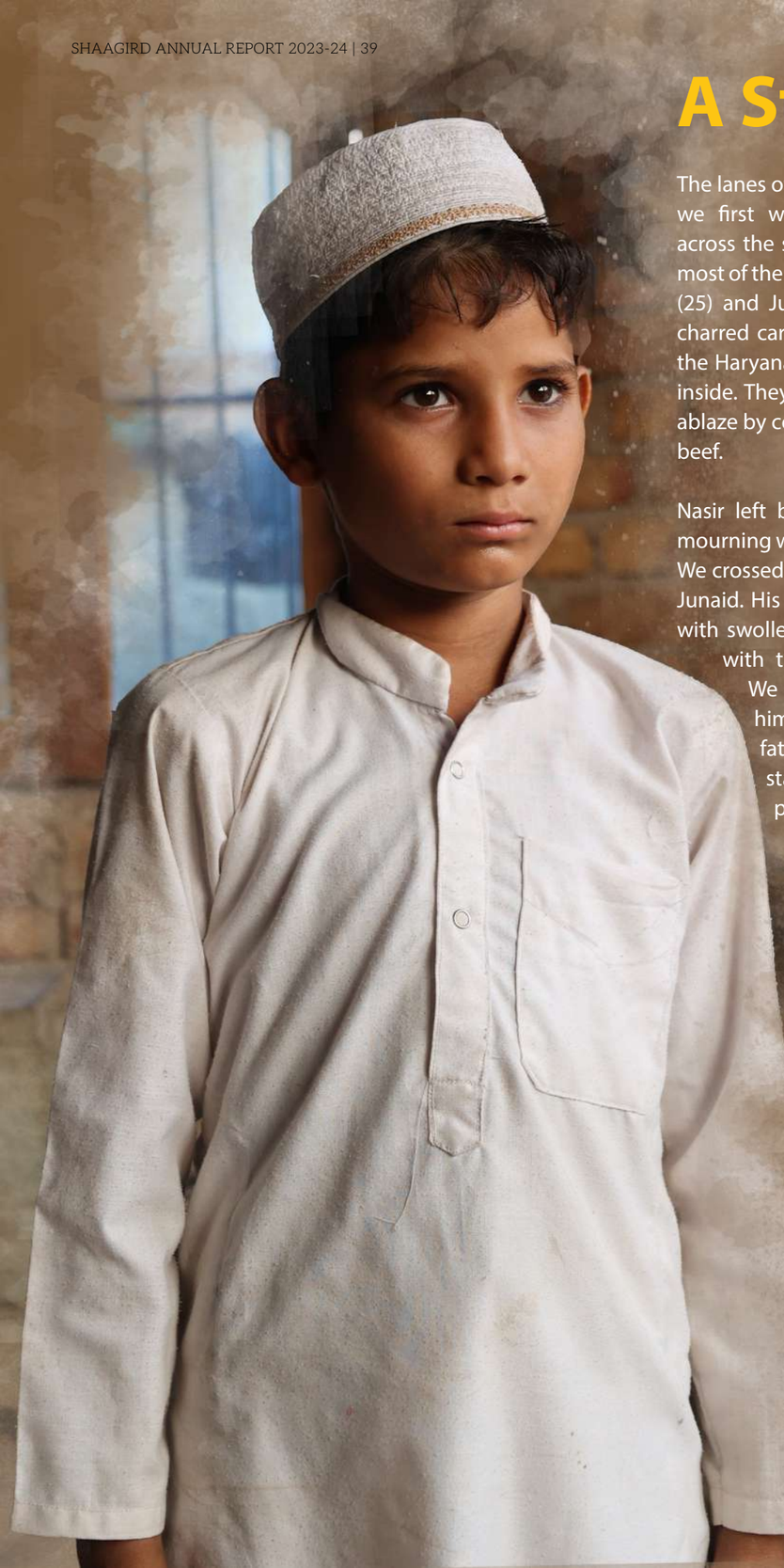
Shaagird Foundation understands that a peaceful world requires equality, encompassing not only wealth but also social protections, equal opportunities, and access to health and education for all. For the past two years, we have dedicatedly worked towards increasing income outcomes for the underprivileged 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.



Smile Stories



A Story of Kaif

The lanes of Ghatmika were bizarrely quiet when we first went there; melancholy was spread across the streets, humanity was shrouded, and most of the houses were locked. A week ago Nasir (25) and Junaid (35) were burned alive. Their charred car was found on February 16, 2023, at the Haryana-Rajasthan border, with their bodies inside. They were kidnapped, assaulted, and set ablaze by cow vigilantes on suspicion of carrying beef.

Nasir left behind an adopted daughter and a mourning wife; Junaid left six children and a wife. We crossed the black gates of the small house of Junaid. His elder daughter was weeping silently with swollen eyes. Junaid's son, Kaif, was quiet, with tired eyes and an emotionless face. We sparked a conversation and asked him how he was. "They burned my father alive," he said, and suddenly tears started to roll down his dry eyes, and pain engulfed his emotionless face.

Shattered Lives, Burnt Hopes, Rekindled Dreams, And A New Life

Sajida, Junaid's wife, was sitting on the bed, tapping her elder daughter's forehead with love to make her fall asleep. She told us how their elder daughter was always around Junaid, and his brutal death has shattered her.

On our request, Junaid's son Kaif, accompanied us to the graves of Junaid and Nasir. We walked, crossed some houses, a few shops, encountered children of Kaif's age playing on the road; they were happy, unlike Kaif, and finally we reached the graveyard. Their graves were laid side by side, with identical gravestones reading 'Nasir and Juniad' on both. We asked Kaif about the gravestone. "It was difficult to identify who's abba and who's Nasir uncle" he said without an emotion. Their bodies were burned so brutally that nobody could identify them.

Kaif led us towards the mosque, and we offered Salah for the departed souls. While praying we saw him sitting quietly with eyes wide open, we made a promise to the Almighty to bring his smile back..

Adhering to our promise, we visited Ghatmeeka quite often. Junaid's daughter looked weaker on every visit and subsequently died. A religiously motivated hate crime yet again took away Sajida's piece of heart. A daughter and a sister was lost, and how many daughters and how many sisters will die we don't know, and when will this crime stop remains unanswered.

Sajida told us how Kaif yearns for his sister; he frequently misses studying with her. We asked Sajida about Kaif's school. "Junaid was the sole breadwinner, and now we are left with nothing," she said. On further conversation, she told us she wanted to send Arbaz and Juanid to school, but financial crises were a hindrance.

Happiness Raised Again

On learning about Sajida's adversity, Shaagird Foundation stepped up and facilitated the admission of Kaif and Arbaz to Meer Public School, a boarding school in Rajasthan.A third-grader, Kaif, who lost his heart to brutality, is finding it again.

Once lost, he now exhibits confidence and participates in extracurricular activities. In our recent visit to Ghatmeeka, he smiled and told us how he could fluently read English paragraphs. "'Shall I read it for you?" he excitedly asked.

Sajida told us that Kaif spends most of the time studying. On further conversation, she said Kaif envisions dreams of becoming a police officer. He wants to end the hate crime so that another Kaif does happen to face the same fate.

In addition to facilitating the admissions, Shaagird Foundation along with Miles2Smile set up a cosmetic shop in Sajida's house, helping her to make ends meet. Sajida merrily told us she sold two beautiful dupattas (long scarves) in the morning.

Shaagird Foundation's small effort added meaning to Sajida's life, gave a sense of purpose to Kaif and Arbaz, and rebuilt their homes.

“Shaagird Foundation wishes them good luck and hopes to see them grow and glow!

Anas’s Transformation Journey

The Delhi Pogrom, 2020 had a devastating impact on countless families, including that of Anas, a 12-year-old boy from Shiv Vihar. Anas’ father, Jamaluddin, who worked as a bakery product seller and was the sole breadwinner of the family, was brutally lynched during the violence.

With the loss of Jamaluddin, the entire responsibility fell upon the shoulders of Anas, his eldest son. To make his life a bright one, the Shaagird Foundation, with the unwavering support of its volunteers, sponsored Anas’s education and enrolled him in ‘Sunrise Public School.’

The foundation believes everyone deserves a quality education, regardless of life’s disruptions. Whether facing pandemics, natural disasters, or human conflict, Shaagird is there to bridge the gap.Anas, with the assistance of Shaagird, gets educational resources that foster his understanding, empathy and critical thinking skills needed to tackle social injustices and build a more just world.

At Sunrise, he transforms his personality and studies English, Hindi, Math, Science and Computer with keen interest. Education has become his best friend and a way to erase the scars of his dark past.

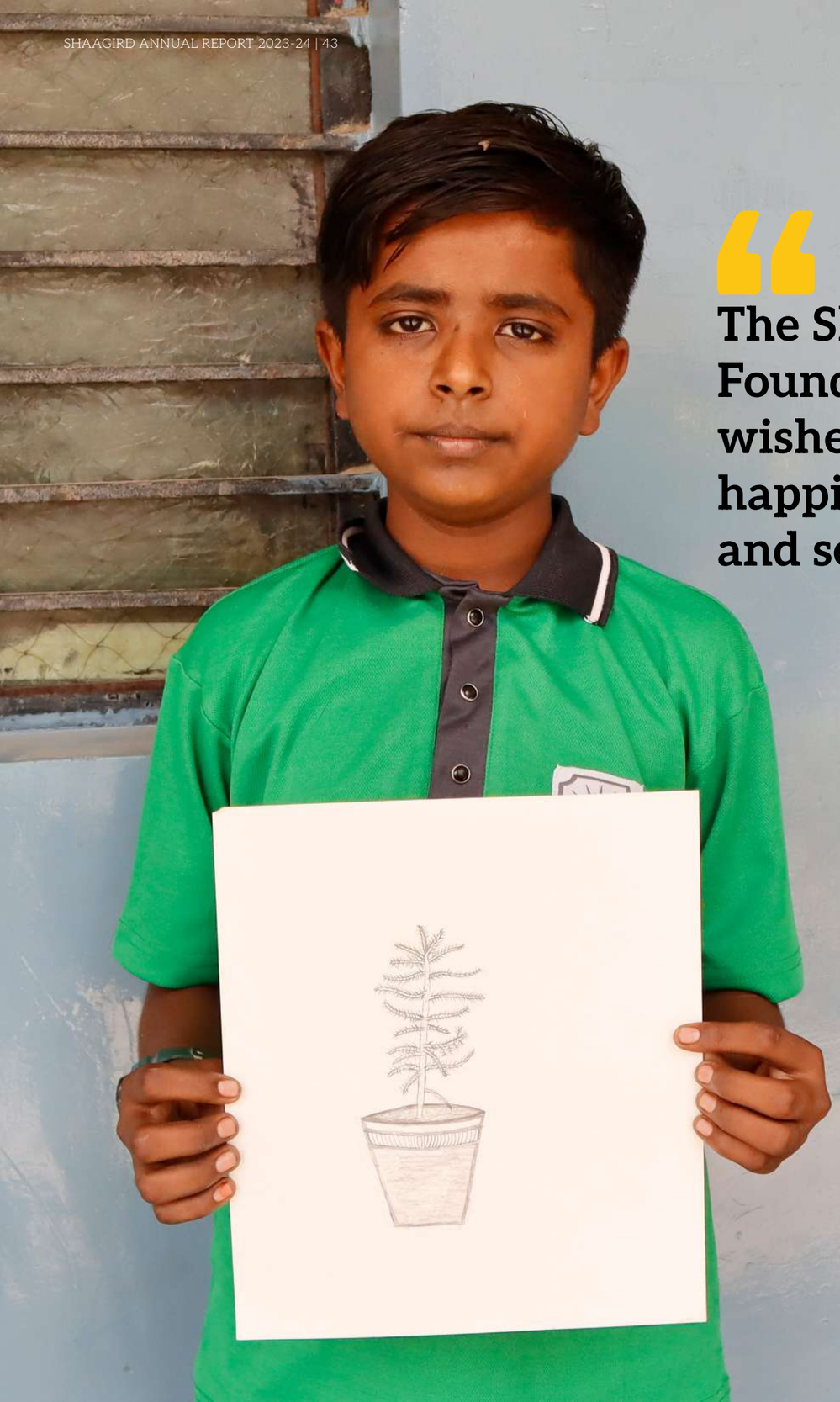
He embraces the importance of education and knows that this is the only ladder that can elevate the condition of his family and help them meet both ends. With zeal and interest, he studies and is good with numbers.On being asked about his future endeavours, he said, “I want to be a pilot.” He dreams of racing with the clouds and building a castle on them.

Sunrise Public School has become his new ray of hope, bringing back the dawn of new glimmer and rays!At school, he learns from and beyond textbooks. He just does not learn about the biographies of his favourite cricketers but hits the ball with his bat in the playground, just like his favourite cricketers.

He visits trade fairs and science museums to learn the practicality of the subjects, and when inquisitive, he asks a series of questions from his mentors. Their mother, once shrouded in despair, found solace in Shaagird’s support. Education, a gift long denied, became her weapon against vulnerability.

Shaagird is providing education to his younger brothers, Asad, Ayan and Arman, with opportunities to build their futures and support their mother. They are constantly learning and dreaming of becoming doctors and social workers, so as to curtail the ailments of society.

Today, the Anas family stands as a testament to Shaagird’s transformative power. The riots may have stolen their past, but Shaagird gifted them a future brimming with colour. Anas, the aspiring pilot, dreams not just of soaring through the clouds, but of building a future as bright and hopeful as the sky itself. His brothers, fueled by their newfound knowledge, envision a world healed and uplifted. Shaagird’s story isn’t just about filling bellies or mending roofs. It’s about painting hope onto the canvas of despair, about empowering individuals to become the vibrant colors that will redefine their world. It’s a story waiting to be continued, a story where every child, every family, has the chance to paint their own masterpiece.



“The Shaagird Foundation wishes them happiness and serenity!

Sadiq’s Tale of Talents Amidst Adversity

Sadiq, an eleven year old kid, holds more stories than his age. His innocent eyes and golden heart have witnessed dehumanisation beyond the framework of his mind.

Sadiq’s ode is not of melody but eerie enough to haunt the universe. He grew up seeing his mother battling a decade-long journey for justice. His mother, Aisha* is a gang rape survivour during the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013.

The horrific episodes of life made him confined to the four corners of his house, making him dull and underconfident.

His life changed exquisitely in a matter of a few days when the Shaagrid Foundation swiftly intervened.

It introduced him to the vibrant sides of life by enrolling him in Sunrise Public School. It is a relief school of Miles2Smile and the Shaagird Foundation that provides education to those who are deprived of it.

It provides a platform for the children with the notion that every child counts.

Sadiq is a student in grade 6 and has captured eyeballs with his mesmerising drawings. He has a mind full of thoughts and magic in his fingers. He leaves everyone in awe with his talents and determination.

Under the shade of Sunrise Public School, Sadiq’s knowledge has surged incredibly. He is well versed in English, Hindi, Science, Math, and Computers.

Known for his drawings, he’s always in demand for all the art competitions.

During his free periods, he could be seen frolicking around the playground of his school with his friends.

He is a focused student with a desire to achieve his dreams. His unwavering determination often leads him to give extra time to his studies.

Back at his abode, he completes his homework with sincerity and revises his lessons whenever he can.

When tired from his studies, he cuddles his mother and finds solace in her warm arms. He plays with her and makes her laugh when she’s frantic.

Sadiq loves helping her with the day-to-day chores and embarks on a journey to protect her in all ways possible.

SHAAGIRD FOUNDATION
(A Company Licensed under Section 8 of the companies Act, 2013)
CIN : U80901DL2022NPL406795
D-247/248 Second Floor, Left Side Kh No 338/2, Abul Fazal Enclave-Jamia Nagar Okhla, South Delhi-110025

Statement of Profit & Loss for the Year ended March 31, 2024

*All amounts are in INR

Particulars	Note No.	Year ended March 31, 2024	Year ended March 31, 2023
Donation Received	15	2,24,248	2
Other Income	16	-	-
Total Revenue		**2,24,248**	**2**
Expenses:			
Utilization On Project Activites	17	1,61,800	-
Professional Charges	18	-	-
Employee benefits expense	19	-	-
Audit Fee	20	25,000	-
Other admin expenses	22	45,354	-
Total expenses		**2,32,154**	**-**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		**(7,906)**	**2**
Surplus/(Deficit) carried Forward		-	-

BALANCE SHEET AS AT March 31, 2024

Particulars	Note No.	As at March 31, 2024	As at March 31, 2023
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Shareholders' funds			
Share capital	2	1,00,000	1,00,000
Reserves and surplus	3	(7,904)	2
Non-current liabilities			
Long term borrowings	4	-	-
Defered tax liability (net)		-	-
Other long term liabilities	5	-	-
Current liabilities			
Short-term borrowings	6	2,36,400	1,00,000
Trade payables	7	-	-
Other current liabilities	8	-	-
Short term provisions	9	1,15,400	-
TOTAL		**4,43,896**	**2,00,002**
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	-	-
Other non-current assets	10	-	-
Current assets			
Trade receivables	12	-	-
Cash and Bank Balances	13	4,43,896	2,00,002
Short term loans and advances	14	-	-
TOTAL		**4,43,896**	**2,00,002**

ABOUT ORGANISATION

Shagird Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to advancing education for children who have survived demolitions, mob lynching, communal violence, and other hate-driven crimes. Contributions from Indian donors qualify for income tax exemption under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act.

www.shaagird.org

contact@shaagird.org

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