

Lighting Hope



Salma Public School, Village Rataul, District Baghpat, UP

OUR VISION

“To positively impact and transform our community, through continuous and sustainable initiatives that enable each Headstrong member to become a responsible, compassionate and concerned Indian citizen”



ABOUT SALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Salma Public School was started in 1993 by Prof. Zahoor Siddiqui and his wife, a gentle retired couple, a picture of total commitment and dedication.

Professor Zahoor Siddiqui is the quintessential history teacher. This erstwhile reader of history at Delhi University's School of Correspondence converted his ancestral mansion in village Rataul, District Baghpat, UP into a primary school. Prof. Siddiqui says he was inspired by former prime minister VP Singh who, during a meeting at his home, spoke about the common man's need for education.

His wife Nishat Saiyada, a trained teacher, gave up her government job to join him at the school. They sold their house in Delhi and invested their savings into constructing classrooms and employing basic staff.

Salma Public School, named after his grandmother who rebelled against her family's opposition to education, was recognized by the government in 2000.

Achievement: Salma Public School began with 30 students and two teachers in 1993. It now has over 475 students in grades up to class five, and 14 teachers. Of the students, over 200 are girls, significant in a conservative Muslim village.

Prof. Siddiqui continues to believe in the power of secular education to build citizens of modern India.

HEADSTRONG & CHIRAG FOUNDATION

Chirag started as the 'Kargil Trust' in the year 2000 when Headstrong decided to support the children and widows of the Kargil War at JRC Bareilly. The trust was formed using donations received from Headstrong employees and had employees acting as trustees, with our Managing Director, Mr. Harsh Singh Lohit acting as the managing trustee.

In the year 2009, in order to enhance the scope of the program, the 'Kargil Trust' was converted to 'Chirag Foundation' to support the education of children, especially girls, from socially and economically underprivileged sections of our society. Chirag Foundation now supports the activities of various initiatives like Salma Public School and Udayan Care; and forms an integral part of the community outreach initiatives under Chirag.

Through its new framework, Chirag aims to make a positive impact on the community while simultaneously encouraging its employees to become more involved citizens. The Chirag team in Headstrong is spread across Noida and Bangalore workforce of 2500+ employees.





THE TEAMS

SALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL



Prof. Siddiqui



Sheeba Sultana
(Principal)



Mehboob Siddiqui
(Administrator)



14 teachers & staff

CHIRAG



Harsh Singh Lohit
(Managing Trustee)



Charanjiv Singh Kalha
(Trustee)



Jennifer Francis
(Secretary)



Chirag Core team and volunteers

CHIRAG & SALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Chirag's association with Salma Public School began in the year 2009 and the main focus was on providing teaching assistance and scholarship to children. The school requires a lot of support to enable it to provide quality education to the children studying there and the following action items have been initiated in the last three years:

- 1 Annual scholarships to students and teachers:- The first big initiative in this project was the annual scholarship programme for both teachers and students; stimulating the spark of excitement to come to school and be regular in their studies has been the key focus for the initiative.
- 2 Teaching assistance to school staff and children: The volunteers from Headstrong try and visit Salma Public School at least once every month. The visits are kept on a Saturday and the volunteers focus on teaching English, Mathematics and Science to the children. Recently we have also started career counseling sessions for children in class 5.
- 3 Distribution of books and stationery to students & teachers: Once every two months, Headstrong distributes basic stationery (notebook, pencil and eraser) to the students of the school. Text Books, reference books are also distributed as per the requirements. Chirag has also helped build a library at SPS through books donated by Headstrong employees.
- 4 Support with basic infrastructure - Generator, toilets, maintenance & whitewash, repairs etc.: Headstrong is currently conducting a fundraiser for the school to raise 5 lakhs for various infrastructure needs of the schools. A part of the school building collapsed last year during monsoons and next step would be to restore it and build more classrooms for higher grades.



Other facts...



STUDENTS

- Many students not able to pay school fees.
- Few students unable to afford school uniform.
- English and Mathematics core weakness.
- Stationary shortage.
- No incentive to promote more and more girl children to pick up books.



TEACHERS

- English and Mathematics core weakness.
- Low salaries often force them to quit or change schools.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Class rooms without proper boards.
- Dustbin for the whole school.
- Not proper playground facilities.
- No study desks in class-rooms.
- Old / no floor mats in class-rooms where students have to sit on floor and study.

Focus Areas for 2011-2012



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Generator for the school
- Building of more toilets for the students
- Regular repair and maintenance work
- Blackboards
- Scholarships
- Develop the play-ground



STUDENTS

- Stationary,
- English / Hindi/Mathematics sessions.
- Regular Health Camps
- Mid-day meals for children in KG



TEACHERS

- Workshops for teachers – focus on pedagogy and teaching styles
- English teaching assistance – Focus on daily reading and comprehension

To change Salma Public School into a place of joy where students, teachers & administrative staff look forward to coming back to each morning to learn and grow.





**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CHIRAG,
CONTACT US TODAY.**

For more information contact us at project-chirag@headstrong.com



CHIRAG FOUNDATION

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