

# IDFC FOUNDATION – CHANGE AT THE GRASSROOTS

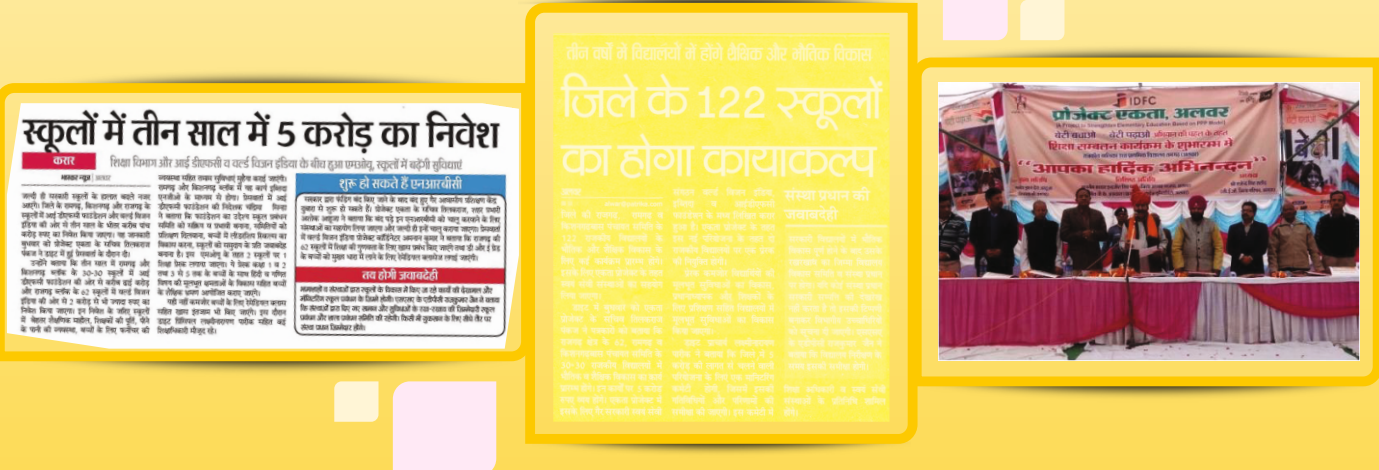
IDFC Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that transcends mere charity. Through its unique socially inclusive brand of CSR, the Foundation spearheads large scale community development projects, facilitates capacity building of stakeholders, and supplements governmental efforts in targeted sectors.

IDFC Foundation has built on IDFC's rich lineage of developmental activity and government engagement to promote work in health and education at the grassroots. Some of the Foundation's recent initiatives include:

## Primary Education

IDFC Foundation launched an initiative in October 2014 to improve learning levels of students studying in 60 government primary schools (Classes I to V) in Ramgarh and Kishangarh Bas blocks of Alwar district, Rajasthan. Implemented in partnership with the Alwar District Authority, the program involves a 'whole-school approach' targeting holistic improvements across a set of intervention areas. These include development of specialized remedial packages for students who are lagging, training of government school teachers for improved teaching techniques and better school management, building leadership qualities among school children, and capacity building of the local community for playing a greater role in School Management Committees (SMCs). The program is expected to benefit 8,000 students over 3 years.

IDFC Foundation received the prestigious Bhamashah Award for the year 2015 from the Government of Rajasthan for this initiative. The Award was presented by the Honorable Governor of Rajasthan, along with Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and the Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education.



## Night School Transformation

For the last three years IDFC Foundation has been supporting Masoom, an organization working towards improving education in night schools of Mumbai through a 'Night School Transformation Program'. The grant support extended by IDFC Foundation has covered a large part of the administrative expenses of Masoom and has helped improve its organizational performance and program delivery. In this time period, Masoom has been able to scale up its interventions to 30 night schools, impacting the life of about 3,500 students. Masoom's intervention has helped night schools improve student attendance and SSC pass percentages.

Through sustained advocacy Masoom has been able to influence the Government of Maharashtra to provide nutrition to standard VIII students of the night schools and also provide a non-salary grant to the night schools. IDFC Foundation has also facilitated Masoom to tap into the Foodbanking Network to avail and meet the nutritional requirements of students in a sustainable manner.

IDFC Foundation is in the process of adopting 10 new night schools and transform them to provide better learning environments and also empower school management committees to raise funds and take up management of the schools. The Foundation has also committed to provide financial support and scholarships to meritorious visually challenged students from economically challenged backgrounds.



## Maternal and Newborn Health

IDFC Foundation has been supporting the Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action (SNEHA) since June 2012 through grants and capacity building for its 'Maternal & Newborn Health Beyond Boundaries' program. SNEHA is a Mumbai-based non-profit organization addressing four major areas of public health - Maternal and Newborn Health, Child Health and Nutrition, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Prevention of Violence against Women and Children in the urban slum context.

Under the IDFC sponsored program, referral systems have been established between healthcare facilities for safe deliveries. SNEHA has partnered with 104 health facilities (hospitals, maternity homes and health posts) in four Municipal Corporations of Mumbai Metropolitan Region. About 1 lakh pregnant women with normal conditions and 20,000 with high risk and emergency conditions have benefitted from the program. The referral linkages have also significantly contributed in saving lives of 2,164 pregnant women.

## Community Development

As part of its engagement with the Government and the community in Meghalaya, IDFC Foundation commissioned a Solar Street Lighting Project in Mawlynnong Village. Named Asia's Cleanest Village, Mawlynnong attracts a large number of tourists; up to 500 a day during peak season. Inaugurated in May 2015, the project has had a positive impact on both tourism and life in general.

In the absence of street lights, sight-seeing and experiencing the natural beauty of Mawlynnong remained a day time activity. The Solar Lights assist in lighting up public spaces, encouraging tourists to spend the night in the village and experience the local culture. This significantly improves the livelihoods of the villagers.



This project now has become a benchmark Public-Private-Community Partnership for the Government to replicate in other rural areas. The State Institute of Rural Development Meghalaya has documented, published and widely disseminated details of this initiative to showcase as a success story. The project has also been included under Salient Features of Mawlynnong Village in the Good Practice Document showcased by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.