



NEWSLETTER

Volume 15. April 2023.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist.

2023 began with immense excitement, enthusiasm and appreciation for Team SwaTaleem. We collectively reflected in our Annual Step Back, organized our first Kasturba Sangam – an annual event for our Girls from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas (KGBVs) to showcase their talent, our Girls won district level events and we received acknowledgement for our efforts on global platforms. The zeal shown by our Girls and the appreciation for our efforts received across multiple platforms is pushing us to excel with each passing day.

Our April 2023 Newsletter offers a deep dive to our spectacular start to this year!

During the first week of January 2023, we conducted our annual Step Back near Sringeri, Karnataka. Step Back is a reflection space for SwaTaleem Team members. This opportunity for personal and organizational reflection is utilized to propel ourselves in different capacities. We had several interesting and informative sessions, in which we discussed and listened to Team Members' viewpoints, last year's efforts, and upcoming plans for this year. The Step Back refreshed us as a Team with a bold vision to drive in 2023.

[Step Back 2022-23](#)



Our Team during Step Back 2022-23



Activities during Step Back 2022-23

Kasturba Sangam 2023

On February 17, 2023, we conducted our first annual event Kasturba Sangam 2023 that was a culmination of our efforts in Mewat district of Haryana. This was organized at Government Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School, Mewat, Haryana to celebrate the joy of learning, spirit of togetherness and building confidence through sports. The cynosure of this event were our efforts focused on Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL), English language, and Sports in all Mewat KGBVs. 350 Girls from the 5 KGBVs (Jhirka, Nagina, Nuh, Punhana, and Tauru) participated, supported by their Teachers and Wardens. This momentous occasion marked the launch “RunToFly”, a sports program in collaboration with Team La-Ultra, which is one of the world’s hardest ultra marathons in the highest altitudes of Ladakh, headed by Dr. Rajat Chauhan.



Glimpses of Kasturba Sangam 2023



Girls from 5 KGBVs in Mewat



Girls participating in Sports events



Girls participating for SEL and English Activities

School Bags and Medal Distribution

in Kasturba Sangam and are enrolled in Saheli Ki Udaan programs. 750 bags were distributed across all 5 KGBVs in Mewat: Jhirka, Nagina, Nuh, Punhana, and Tauru. On the same day, we also distributed medals to the winners who couldn't attend the medal distribution ceremony on the event day and all the participants of Kasturba Sangam.



Bags Distribution in KGBV Tauru



Medals Distribution in KGBV Nuh

Mai Bhi Curie Annual Science Gender Mela 2023

On February 27, 2023, as part of the "Mai Bhi Curie (I'm also Curie)" project, we conducted a science-gender exhibition for Girls from grades 6 to 8 at KGBV in Panipat on National Science Day. It is a collaborative project with the Transformative Actions for Reformed Attitudes (TARA) Foundation. Based on the "Science and Gender" theme (the curriculum implemented in partnership with TARA Foundation), 55 students participated and created 30 incredible individual and group working models. Some of the projects highlighted human teeth, string phone, tangram, parts of flowers and solar and lunar eclipse. The Girls offered confident detailed presentations of the projects to all visitors, including Parents, Teachers and Wardens.



Girls demonstrating their models



Certificate distribution for the Exhibition in Panipat

KGBV Girls Winning Government Competitions

February, Girls from KGBV Jalmana participated in the Science and Maths exhibition conducted by the Department of Education in Panipat, Haryana at Block and District levels respectively. They won the competition at both levels. The winners for Science- Mansa, Parik and Renuka from grade 8 and for Maths - Anshika, Nishu and Radha from grade 6.



Girls with their models





Girls demonstrating their models

SwaTaleem at CIES in Washington DC

On February 19, 2023, Ananya Tiwari, our Co-Founder presented our project in collaboration with the University of Illinois titled "Promoting self-esteem, sense

Education Society (CIES). Additionally, she gave a talk on an upcoming analysis of New Education Policy and KGBV Schools.



Promoting self-esteem, sense of belonging and self-efficacy among adolescent girls in rural India through Interactive Voice Response System

February 19, 2023

Ananya Tiwari Dr. Nathan Castillo Shafagh Hadinezhad
Vaibhav Kumar Prateek Bansal



Ananya at CIES in Washington DC

We are thrilled that Alphabet Inc. and its subsidiary Google's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai and Google.org's President Jacqueline Fuller mentioned us and our efforts in their tweets. This is a huge compliment for us and serves as an inspiration for our Team Members. Our goal is to further foster path breaking changes and provide our Girls with the best opportunities.





Jacqueline Fuller @Jacqfuller · 4h

Amazing to see @SwaTaleem continue to grow and scale their work with technology and have an impact on the lives of women and girls in India



Google.org @Googleorg · 7h

This #IWD, we're applauding @SwaTaleem's work to expand education for girls in India. Learn more about the natural language processing tool that this #GoogleOrgImpactChallenge Women & Girls recipient piloted, in collaboration with Googlers: goo.gle/3Zvcp1C

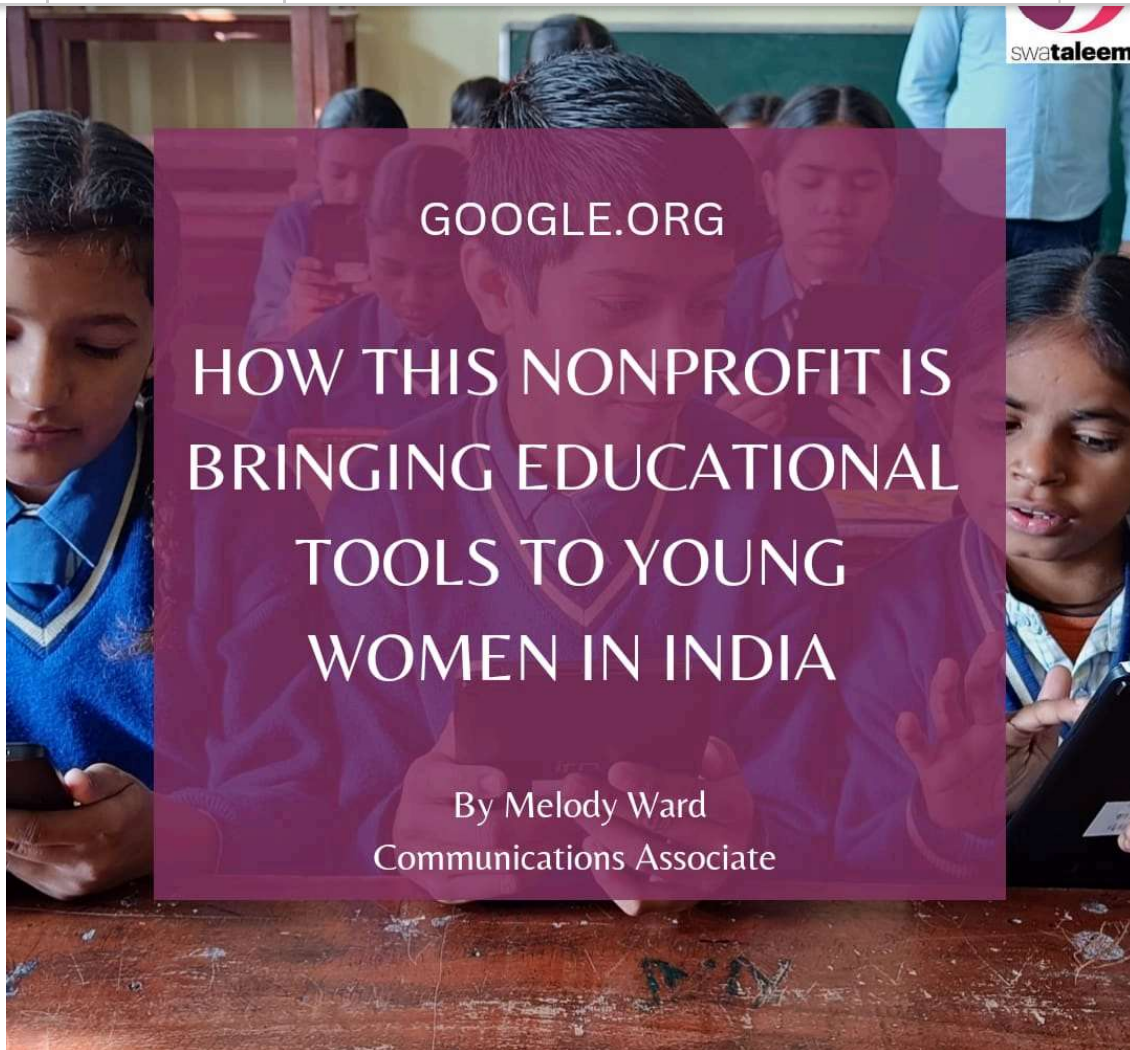


ALT



Google Keyword Blog

On March 1, 2023, Google Keyword published a blog titled "How this nonprofit is bringing educational tools to young women in India" written by Melody Ward, their Communications Associate. The blog highlights SwaTaleem's endeavor to bridge the digital gap in KGBVs in Haryana using the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). To read click [here](#).



International Women's Day Global Goals Video

On this International Women's Day March 8, 2023, Ashly Gopalakrishnan, our Fundraising and Communications Lead was part of the Global Goals' short montage film, which sends a significant message that Women's power means world progress. This was for their [Global Goals Instagram channel](#) with a number of gender influencers.

It's time to #ImagineWinning for Women and Girls.

To watch, click [here](#).



**WOMEN'S
POWER
MEANS
WORLD
PROGRESS**

Meet our Team Members!



Sushila Devi

Field Coordinator

Sushila is from Rathiwas village in Gurugram district of Haryana state. She has a Bachelors in Geography and Political Science from Government College Sidhrawali. Sushila likes to study and explore realms of Political Science. She has taught in a private School and ran her own Play School. She has served the cause of marginalized Girls in her village to usher change in their lives as a role model.



Abhishek Kumar

**Government Liasoning and
Expansion Lead**

Abhishek is from Khagaria district of Bihar state. He has a Bachelors in Social Work from Shobhit University, Meerut. He joined the Gandhi Fellowship program in 2016 to understand the state of the Government education system and worked with 20 Schools on developing Principals' leadership. He worked as an entrepreneur to make the organic agriculture practice affordable and accessible in the tribal district Dungarpur in Rajasthan.

A Note from our Director

SwaTaleem fosters a culture of resilience on many dimensions, including ongoing preparation and adaptability. These qualities were on display throughout the months of the pandemic, when SwaTaleem planned and executed IVRS to support learning continuity. Our organization exhibited

fundraising and assessment, introduced us to the Team Members, and presented briefs on workshops and new initiatives. Other ways that information is disseminated to SwaTaleem participants is through Town Halls and webinars. Transparency contributes to SwaTaleem's accountability and trustworthiness, important dimensions of organizational resilience and sustainability.

Dr. Sandra Rice Murray Nettles, Director

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