



POKHRAMA
FOUNDATION

That which truly liberates is education

"Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye!"

*"For every child
a fair chance"*

- UNICEF

pokhramafoundation.org

POKHRAMA FOUNDATION

The Foundation is named after an outlying village of District Lakhisarai, called Pokhrama. This village could well stand for the most debilitating underdevelopment – the kind encountered in large parts of rural India, especially Bihar. It has no dispensary or hospital, no potable water, not much sanitation, and the supply of electricity is erratic. Yet, the resilience of the people seldom gives way. They are ever so keen to overcome, to march on...

For Equity and Excellence

Pokhrama Foundation seeks to address the needs of such people. It recognizes the many facets of disadvantage and strain to give equal opportunity to all. We create access to means and institutions but believe that this by itself is not enough. We also bring excellence to our systems, organizations and practices. Through this, we hope to bring real change. The belief in positive transformation of remote and disadvantaged parts of India led to the birth of the Foundation.

Giving Wings to Aspiration

In March 2016, the Foundation decided to offer ten full scholarships to socio-economically disadvantaged Pokhrama students. But 347 children turned up on the day of selection. Overwhelmed and enthused, we took on twenty-seven in our first year!

The Foundation currently offers scholarships to 41 students in Lakhisarai and Nalanda. It also offers high-quality regular enrichment in numeracy and literacy.



Changing disadvantaged lives



78.2% of our students are first generation learners; 33.3% have seen extreme violence in their lives; 42% come from a background of grave poverty; 33.2% are from single parent households; and 100% of them suffer the ills of regional underdevelopment.

Children are encouraged to speak their minds in a free environment, to articulate and reflect. They are not taught what to think but how to think. They have learnt to argue effectively, to back their claims with evidence, to work together, and to take their own decisions. They have begun to see the world and themselves in a new light. They now have new hopes, new aspirations!

OUR INSPIRATION

Formal education is not all. A little-educated boy tinkers with thrown-out wires, tin cans and other “waste” to make crude electronic items. He plays cricket, excels at dramatics, and dreams of being an engineer one day. All this despite the extreme violence he has seen. He refuses to be defined by it.

A girl of 8 sits and reads for hours in the noisiest of settings. She is able to translate, with facility and precision, Harry Potter into Hindi and Safdar Hashmi into English! She wants to be a professor when she grows up.

A girl, our oldest kid, pushes herself to organize and lead and publicly present in English. She wants to be a media person one day.

A boy of ten, whose mother is a domestic worker and father a daily labourer, taught himself to write in English by painstakingly copying a page of English text each day. His great hope was that one day he would be able to go to school. Now the Foundation funds this child and he tops his class. He wants to become a scientist.

**Pokhrama Foundation
resolves to take its
educational blueprint to
other parts of our vast
country. We plan to open
several schools. And we wish
to connect our educational
work in communities to
interventions in health and
sanitation.**

