



Protsahan
India Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16



CONTENTS

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

pg 4

MILESTONES OF PROGRESS

pg 34

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

project educare - pg 6

impact of project educare - pg 7

project innocence - pg 12

impact of project innocence - pg 13

project lightbulb - pg 17

impact of project lightbulb - pg 20

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

pg 36

MEDIA COVERAGE

pg 37

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

pg 31

THE LIVES WE'VE TRANSFORMED

pg 38

Cover Art

Artwork donated towards Protsahan's cause by Rajeswari Saha
[@rajeswari.saha](https://www.instagram.com/rajeswari.saha) on Instagram



FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

The year 2015-16 marked the sixth year of Protsahan and proved to be a highly rewarding year for the organization. The projects we executed, the milestones we achieved as a team, the progress we witnessed in our girls - all of it acted as an impetus for us to aim higher and deliver more.

We expanded our partnerships with key organizations, strengthened the ones that have had a direct impact on the work we do, and made strategic improvements that will help us improve our work in the future. We established strategic partnerships with Avignon School of France, SafeCity, Goonj, and many others through the year.

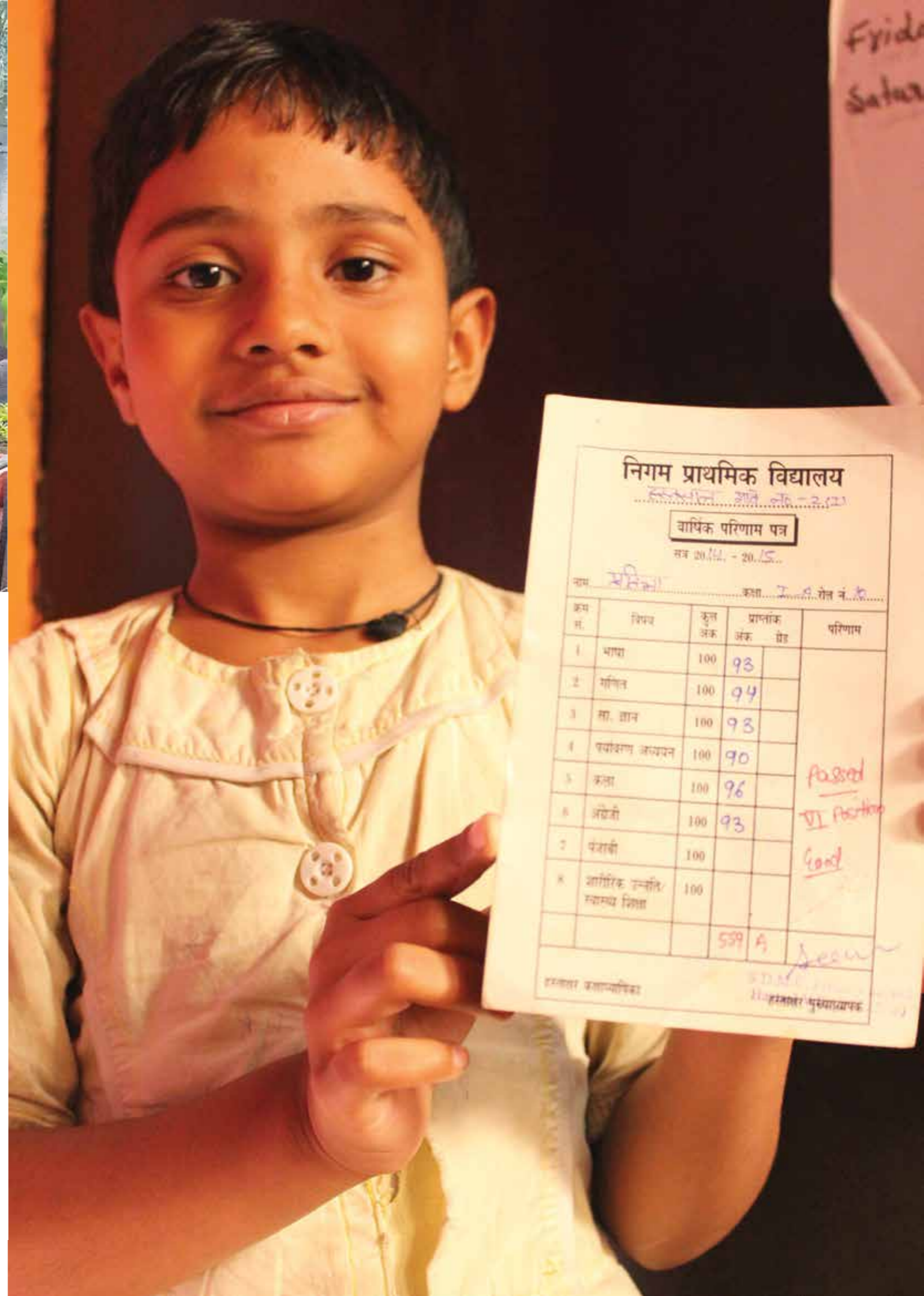
Our work was honored and recognized at many levels. And all of this was made possible due to the dedication displayed by our team and volunteers in their work at Protsahan. The unflinching support from donors, corporate sponsors from public and private sectors enabled us to achieve our goals for the year.

We also made some tough decisions this year. Protsahan consciously decided to consolidate the impact and focus of its work with adolescent girls. As a result, we had to bid adieu to Project Stree, Project Artisan Honor, and our Pune center towards the end of the year.

This renewed focus on our work, and the principles of 'Creative Education' and 'Skill Development' guided us through the year, and allowed us to successfully carry out interventions to ensure the safety and holistic development of our girls. We are extremely grateful for the persistent support from each individual and organization associated with us. You help us touch these young lives, and empower little, at-risk adolescent girls with our work.

2015-16 has been great for Protsahan. Here's to hoping for a better ones ahead with your support.

Sonal Kapoor
Founder, CEO
Protsahan India Foundation



OUR FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

Project Educare

Project Educare is the sum-total of our learnings at Protsahan over the years. The project is based on our unique grassroots-direct approach that caters to the formal education of children we reach out to.

The program is primarily designed to ensure that adolescent, at-risk girls in our focus area of Uttam Nagar slums of New Delhi have unhindered access to the best educational avenues. It follows the HEART principle of Healing with Art that empowers the girls to heal their past experiences and break free from an unending cycle of poverty and risk of abuse.



Impact of Project Educare

Classroom Coaching

At the base of all our programs is the principle of educating every girl at risk of abuse so that she is empowered to raise her voice against abuse. The school education system often delivers the literacy rates, however, more is needed in terms of delivering an education to these young, vulnerable souls to ensure their holistic growth.

The Protsahan Classroom Coaching sessions are designed to complement education with literacy and enable the girls to take their own decisions in the future. Everything from science, mathematics, social sciences, art, and languages receive equal focus in the Protsahan classrooms. Our girls, most of whom come from families with low literacy rates, often find it difficult to complete their studies at home. Protsahan classrooms coaching sessions ensure that this gap is mitigated and their education is uninhibited in every way.

Baseline Exams For Internal Evaluations

In order to ensure that the programs at Protsahan impact their lives and help them in their studies, we had to establish the baseline for each of our girls. The baseline exams, in conjunction with psychometric tests were designed to ensure that we understood their educational needs in detail. It was necessary us to design or modify all our programs and initiatives to these requirements. Moreover, we also needed to know the gaps in their school education that had to be plugged to ensure holistic growth for our girls.

The girls at Protsahan participated in the baseline exams with much enthusiasm. The result of these exams have enabled our team of teachers and volunteers to ensure that the focus of their efforts does not deviate from the on-ground requirements of our girls and helps them deliver a lasting impact on their educational needs.



Technology & Computers - Powerpoint, Painting, And Designing

Most of our girls have never had the opportunity to work with technology at any level. As a result, there were gaping holes in their skillsets when it comes to technology. They needed to stay abreast with the latest computer education to give them a fighting chance to break through the cycle of poverty and abuse. Keeping these points in mind, and with some help from our corporate sponsors, we were able to introduce technology and computers to the girls at Protsahan.

The girls started with basic designing skills using computers and tablets, and soon graduated to making some very intricate Madhubani paintings. Some of the girls in older batches were also trained in making Powerpoint presentations. It helped them develop an understanding of what they can accomplish with computer and technology education in shaping their own future as a productive member of the society.

Micro-entrepreneurship Training

We have often witnessed that the biggest impediment to the progress of our girls is the financial condition of their families. These financial issues manifest themselves into bigger problems for the family that often result in

termination of school education. In this regard, girls are often the first ones to be pulled out of school and pushed into menial jobs. In some of the cases, the girls are married before they attain the legal marriageable age.

Project Stree, and Project Artisan Honor are designed to enable women to become financially independent by giving them entrepreneurial life skills. Under these programs, the girls at Protsahan and their family members, especially their mothers, were trained in micro-entrepreneurial skills to ensure that some of their financial problems could be mitigated.

Although, both programs helped us achieve our goals to bring financial independence for some families we worked with, due to various logistical problems, we had to close them in the later half of the year.



IMPACT OF PROJECT EDUCARE - 2015-16

1 YEAR | 312 DAYS | 1872 HOURS | 130 GIRLS

Menstrual Hygiene (MH) Training

89%

IMPACT OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE TRAINING

- 89% of girls who participated in our MH trainings, now follow safe and hygienic ways of using and disposing sanitary pads
- 91% of the mothers of the girls who participated in MH trainings were convinced that menstruation is not reason enough to dropout their daughters from school
- 95% girls reported proper handwashing after changing a sanitary towel and after defecating in a closed toilet and not in open unlike before
- 4780 sanitary napkins distributed with proper awareness sessions

CBSE Extra Coaching (Grade 6th-12th)

48%

IMPACT OF CBSE EXTRA COACHING

- Over 48% Protsahan girls, after receiving extra coaching sessions (6th-12th grades) ranked 1st-2nd-3rd in their government schools
- By tutoring girls enrolled in school, Protsahan saw an overall average increase in their school marks by 39%.
- Coaching was provided in Mathematics, English, Social Studies, Science until 10th grade and for Humanities and Commerce for grades 11th and 12th.

Life Skills Enhancement

70%

IMPACT OF LIFE SKILLS ENHANCEMENT

- 70% girls were equipped with vocational skills like filmmaking, photography, tailoring etc.
- Out of 130 girls at Protsahan, 28 girls went ahead to write the script, act in and direct their own path-breaking film on importance of toilets for an adolescent girl
- Though the film was made in 2014-15, in the ensuing year 2015-16 too, girls and boys both from institutions across the country, widely watched the film across India and were made aware on the importance of toilets

Slum Panchayat

195

IMPACT OF SLUM PANCHAYATS

- 195 families were counseled about child abuse awareness via mothers' meetings 4 times across the year

Formal Education & School Enrollment

94%

IMPACT OF FORMAL EDUCATION & SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

- 94% of all girls who come to Protsahan are enrolled in formal system of schooling within first 18 months after a bridge course to enable them to get up to speed with the school curriculum





Project Innocence

Impact of Project Innocence

Project Innocence is the result of all the cumulative learnings from Project Educare. These learnings were then redesigned to take shape as an outreach program that can be shared with a larger network of institutions and organizations to increase the reach and impact of holistic development programs for children at risk of abuse. Project Innocence gives scale and replicability to Protsahan's work, and helps in a transfer of knowledge to effectively fight child abuse.



Protsahan India Foundation - Pune Center

With the help of a set of highly dedicated volunteers and staff, the Pune center of Protsahan had been operating under the same principles of empathy, creativity, and sustainability, and employed the HEART principle of Healing with Art to reach out to at-risk children in underserved community of Gosavi Basti in Karve Nagar, Pune. The center enrolled both girls and boys, as young boys in such communities are at no lesser risk of abuse.

The children received the same kind of education at the center as Protsahan's New Delhi center. However, due to a severe shortage of resources, we were unable to provide the same facilities in extra-curricular activities like photography workshops, dance and theater workshops, healing and meditation sessions, etc. at the center. As a result, we had to take a very tough decision to close down the Pune center towards the middle of 2015.

Healing And Meditation Sessions

Physical, verbal, or emotional mistreatment can leave psychological trauma that is harder to heal than physical injuries. Children who have survived or are at constant risk of abuse find it challenging to cope with the intense negativity that often results in behavioral changes. Childhood trauma isn't something you just get over as you grow up. Repeated stress of abuse, neglect and parents struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues has real, tangible effects on the development of the brain of a child. This often unfolds across a lifetime, to the point where those who've experienced high levels of trauma are at triple the risk for other diseases as well such as heart disease and lung cancer.

At Protsahan, we believe healing and meditation to be an integral part of the process in empowering adolescent girls. These guided meditation sessions are conducted by experts who understand the needs and comprehension of young children towards meditation. As a number of experts have pointed out, when kids are living with really bad situations outside of school, their bodies and minds are so overwrought as a result, that it's virtually impossible for them to sit in class and learn. So intervention is almost a requisite, both from an academic point of view, and an ethical one.



Global Sanitation Campaign

Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that diarrhea kills approximately 800,000 children under the age of 5 every year. Many of those premature deaths could be prevented with adequate sanitation. No fancy liquid soaps or hand sanitizers are necessary: Washing one's hands for 20 seconds is one of the best preventive measures to prevent the spread of germs that can cause diarrhea and other illnesses. Hand washing may seem to be a simple part of the daily routine to us, and science shows it can save lives, but many people simply don't do it.

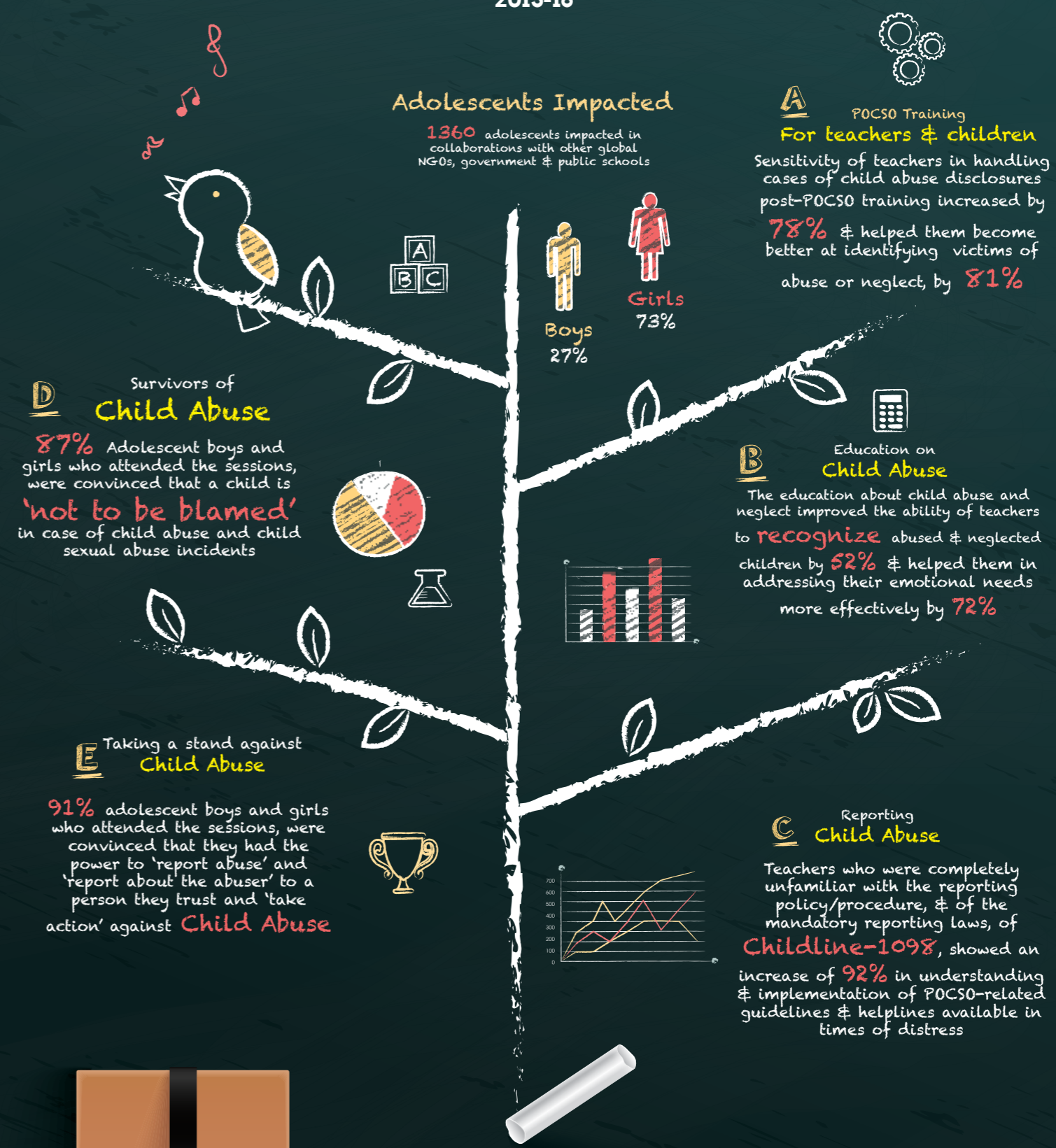
Our girls at Protsahan took it upon themselves to educate the people in their community towards the benefits of hand washing and sanitation. The campaign was run in partnership with World Vision and Mater Dei School, New Delhi. Protsahan girls interacted with children from Mater Dei School and came up with their own ideas on how to spread awareness in their community. They prepared the handouts and canvassed the area, talking to the people about the importance of washing their hands and maintaining sanitation in and around their homes.

Street Plays On Environment And Carbon Footprint

Environmental issues affect everyone on the planet irrespective of their social status. Our girls at Protsahan take this matter very seriously, and their attention on the matter resulted in a street play that they scripted, directed, produced and acted in for the benefit of their community.

Through the play, the girls raised awareness among the community members on how environmental issues and carbon footprint impacts their everyday lives. They impressed upon the people the need to participate and ensure that every person's carbon footprint is reduced. The highly innovative and interactive way of conveying their message and an astute grasp of the topic not only earned them the attention of the entire community, but also resulted in bringing them the respect of their parents.

IMPACT OF PROJECT INNOCENCE • 2015-16





Healing & meditation sessions



Learning about female reproductive system



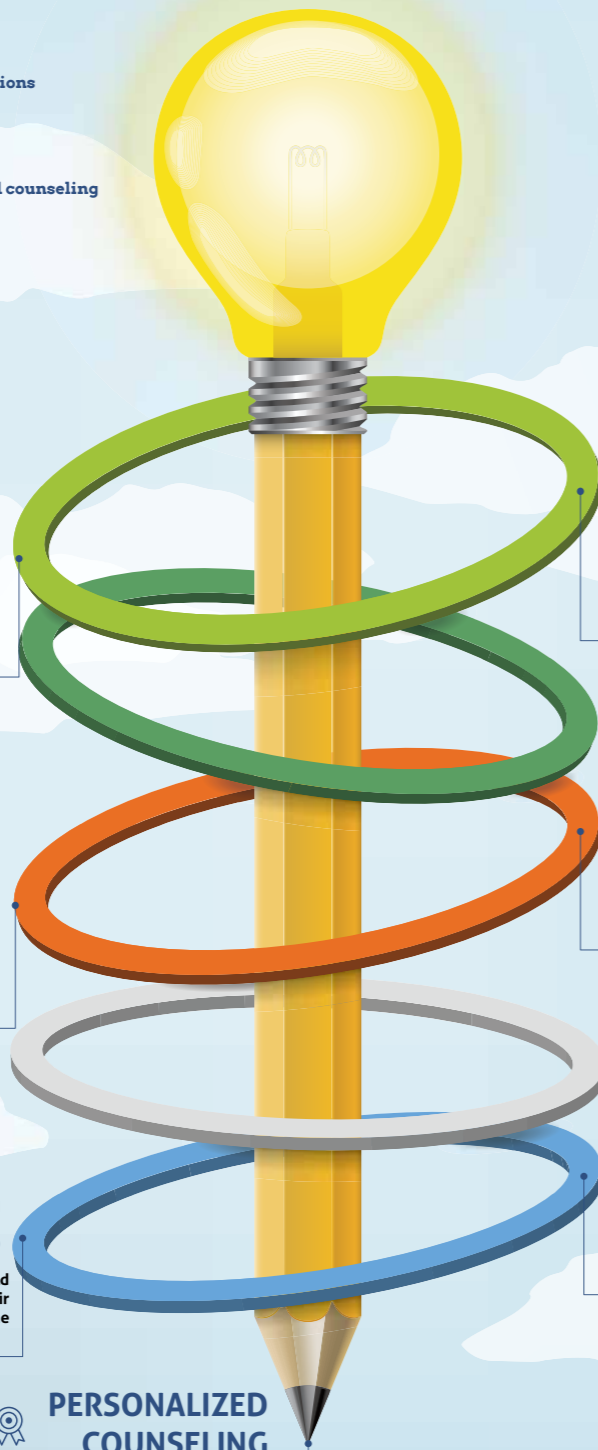
Project Lightbulb


The aim of Project Lightbulb is to invite individuals and experts as trainers to conduct workshops on their subject matters. These experts are from diverse professional backgrounds who help kindle the spirit of creativity and lateral thinking while giving the girls of Protsahan a vocational or entrepreneurial life skill.

We've hosted professionals and volunteers who conducted workshops on positive body-image, photography, film making, dance and theater, jewelry making, and computers among other things.

IMPACT OF PROJECT LIGHTBULB 2015-16


 **16** corporate houses & institutions
 **568** hours of volunteering
 **950+** hours of personalised counseling



 **GRASSROOTS IMPACT**
473 people directly impacted
 & **2365 people indirectly**
 impacted in the slums of Uttam Nagar
 around Kali Basti

 **CINEMA FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**
18+ hours dedicated to cinema
 for social change with socially relevant
 movie shows organized at PVR Cinemas
 for mothers & adolescent girls during
 educational excursions and trips

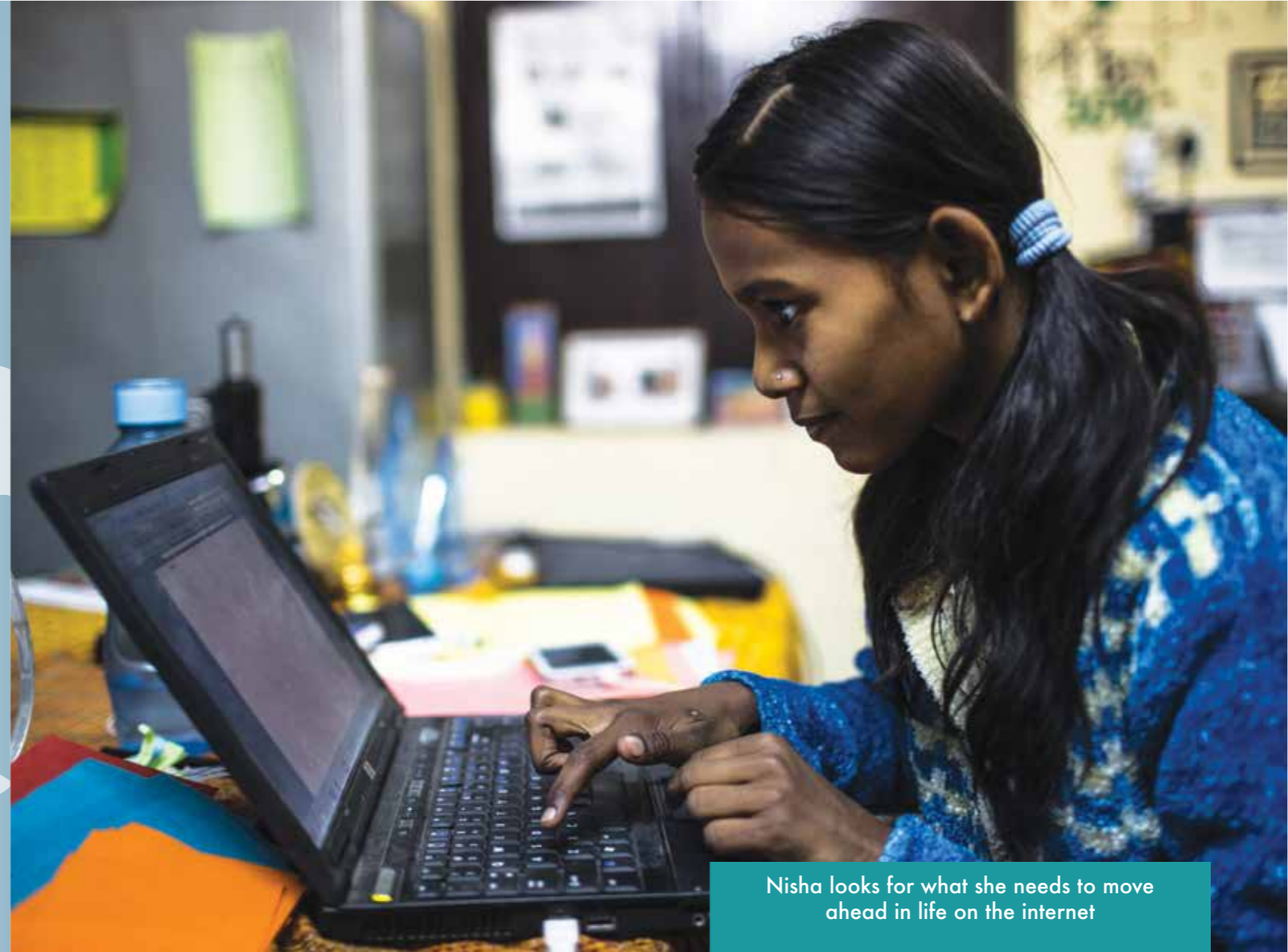
 **CELEBRATING OUR DAUGHTERS**
72 girls from the slums and child
 care institutions celebrated their
 birthdays for the first time

 **PERSONALIZED COUNSELING**
950+ hours of personalised
 counseling provided to girls at
 Uttam Nagar center through
 meditations & one-on-one sessions

 **ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS**
 Impactful employee
 engagement from **16** corporate
 houses & institutions with
568 hours of CSR &
 youth volunteering

 **LIFE SKILLS TRAINING**
6 unique life skills
 taught to Protsahan girls (jewelry
 designing, wedding photography,
 cloth designing, sanitary napkin
 stitching, muffin baking, idli-making)

 **TOYS FOR JOY**
400+ educational and soft toys
 distributed to children who've
 never had access to toys



Nisha looks for what she needs to move ahead in life on the internet



Pooja talking to the community members about the importance of washing hands



Impact of Project Lightbulb

Positive Body Image Workshops

One of the biggest concerns for us at Protsahan is to ensure that our girls grow up to be confident about themselves and their bodies. As their physical appearance changes with age, young adolescent girls often begin to feel responsible for any kind of harassment they face in everyday life. To change this, they need to develop a strong sense of positive body image of themselves.

Miss India, Aditi Arya conducted workshops on positive body image for our girls at Protsahan. Through various anecdotes and experiences, she shared the need for every girl to believe in herself and develop a positive body image of herself. She explained to our girls that how each one of them is unique and that they need to take pride in that uniqueness in every way. The workshop resulted in helping our girls to start grooming and taking better care of themselves as confident individuals ready to take on the world.

Photography Workshops

Photography and digital storytelling are an integral part of the storytelling experience at Protsahan. In the past 6 years, we have regularly invited experts to conduct workshops and give our girls an opportunity to express themselves through their lens.

Sayali Khare, a highly accomplished photographer from Pune, India, conducted these workshops where our girls learned the finer nuances of digital photography. It gave them the confidence to speak up for themselves through their work and bring about an ideological change in the community. An exhibition of their photographs was held within the community where parents of all the girls at Protsahan were invited. The girls reveled in the experience of having captured precious moments that go unnoticed in everyday life around them, and the parents took pride in their daughters and their work being appreciated by everyone.

Such is the power of the medium that photography as a discipline will always be given a very high priority at Protsahan as a creative medium of learning for our girls.



Photography workshop



Positive body-image workshop



Film-making workshops



Film screenings at Protsahan

Film Making Workshops

The photography skills that our girls acquired over the year manifested into film making. They participated in film making workshops with great enthusiasm and learned the minute details of camera placements, camera movements, filming, editing, etc. They worked under the guidance of expert film makers from Big Klick Media, and produced the film titled “Cleanliness Is Godliness”. The film highlights the need for cleanliness in the neighborhood and aims to discourage the practice of open defecation.

28 girls of Protsahan teamed up to script, produce, direct, and act in the film. Their inspiration was the rampant molestation and harassment girls and women in India face due to no access to toilets at home or within the community. The fact that our girls cared for the cause enabled them to script a very powerful message in the form of a film and raise awareness among their community members towards the need of clean toilets in the community and at home. The film’s production was sponsored by UNICEF in line with the Prime Minister’s Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It is currently available on Protsahan’s YouTube channel and has received numerous positive reviews from viewers.

Film Screenings

Quality cinema is meant for not only adding joy to the lives of viewers, but also to stimulate the mind to think and discover solutions to some of the most pressing social issues. It is a device for change in the society that impacts not only the young adolescent girls that Protsahan reaches out to, but also to the community at large by seeding new opinions and thoughts in their collective minds.

We’ve often witnessed that some of the films with a very powerful storytelling have an impact on the academic performance of our girls. Apart from that, it also lends to a positive shift in their relationships with their parents and their peers.

Gandhi

Richard Attenborough’s Oscar winning classic based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi was an eyeopener for the girls of Protsahan. The film taught them the value of their own opinion, their self respect, and introduced them to the ideals Mahatma Gandhi lived by - equality, equanimity, and perseverance.

Sardar

Based on the life of the great Gujarati icon and The Iron Man of India, Sardar Patel, the film introduced the girls of Protsahan the importance of never giving up on what they believe in. It taught them that as Sardar Patel unified India after independence from the British, with grit, determination, and steadfast focus, they too can achieve their goals if they develop the same qualities in themselves.

Chronicles Of Narnia

C.S. Lewis’ epic saga tells the story of a family of four siblings traveling to the fabled lands of Narnia and establishing peace in a land fraught with war and disaster. The story is not only a great entertainer, but also delivers the message of a need for morality, empathy, and courage to the girls.

Mulan

Mulan is an animated story of a girl from China who wants to fight for her country alongside the men in the Chinese emperor’s army against an invading force of Ghenghiz Khan. But society and

traditions deny her the right to do so. Faced with great difficulty, Mulan shows courage and determination to win her right to fight in the emperor’s army and save her country from the invaders. While the animated characters ensured that the girls and their families were glued to the screen, watching the film intently and with great interest, the story of the film delivered its message to the girls and their parents that they are no less than boys and deserve an equal amount of opportunity to rise and shine as exceptional, successful human beings.

Harry Potter Series

The Harry Potter series is an excellent source of entertainment for children. The world of magic and fantasy adds to the charm of the story while delivering the message that courage and steadfast determination can change the world for anyone. As Harry, an orphaned adolescent boy is thrust into a dangerous world where he’s being hunted by his enemies whose sole purpose is to kill or enslave those opposing them, young Harry rises up and challenges what he believes to be wrong. In spite of facing numerous odds, Harry defeats his nemesis with determination, courage, morality and better judgement.



Celebrating life at Protsahan

Charlie Chaplin

The happy tramp from one of the most difficult times in modern American history when the Great Depression ruined businesses and many lives conveys the message of staying positive in the toughest of times. The girls not only enjoyed the legendary antics of Charlie Chaplin on screen, but also learned the importance of smiling and laughing in the face of adversity.

Lord Of The Rings and The Hobbit Series

J.R.R. Tolkien's epic fantasy of valor, resolve, and persistence is a story of victory of good over evil. The story, in both written form and on screen, takes the audience on an adventure filled with danger and excitement as a band of unlikely heroes risk everything to fight the forces of evil. The story is a reminder to all of us that evil never wins, and no matter what the odds, truth shall always prevail. For the girls of Protsahan, the films in the series were great entertainment and taught them the importance of inculcating the values of courage and persistence in their lives everyday.





Jewelry making workshops

Jewelry Making Workshops

Jewelry design and making workshops at Protsahan always draw a lot of attention from our girls. They get to experience the joy of creating something of value with their own hands and learn the importance of not giving up when things go wrong.

During the workshops conducted by an artist from Turkey, the girls learned to make beaded pendants, earrings, bracelets, decoupage technique etc. They brought in torn fabric, broken glass pieces, plastic pieces, computer chips, etc. from their own backyards, and put them together with glittery charms, buttons, ribbons, and threw their imagination to the skies to come up with some beautiful pieces of jewelry that they sold in Delhi's most prestigious corporate exhibitions.

These after-school workshops for children aged 8-13 not only provided the girls a project to create something of value, but also encouraged them to try new things, get creative with designs, and not to give up if something went wrong during the creative process. This kind of environment where a girl's innate creativity is allowed to blossom as an amateur to an ardent craft enthusiast, and finally a creator of simple pieces of jewelry shows her the true wonders of creating

something of tangible value. Even more importantly, it became a proving ground where Protsahan girls developed and identified some of their key strengths and passions as each one of them beaded a simple bracelet on the given parameters of costing, marketability, and the entire business process of selling a product.

When asked, what they thought about the jewelry making workshop, one of our girls, Manisha says, "my jewelry making training where I learned how to make earrings, anklets, and bracelets didn't just give me the skills to make jewelry, it taught me how to be a teacher, how to build things and create experiences, it made me realize that I could imagine something and then actually bring it to life."

Nisha, one of the brightest girls at Protsahan says, "this workshops connected my mind with my hands and my body. It taught me humility and creativity. I'm good at maths and science, but I had never imagined that I could create a piece of jewelry, take pictures with a DSLR, and in the evening went back home after watching Mulan. It fills me with hope that my father will stand by me and make me equipped enough to follow my heart."



Theater workshops

Theater Workshops

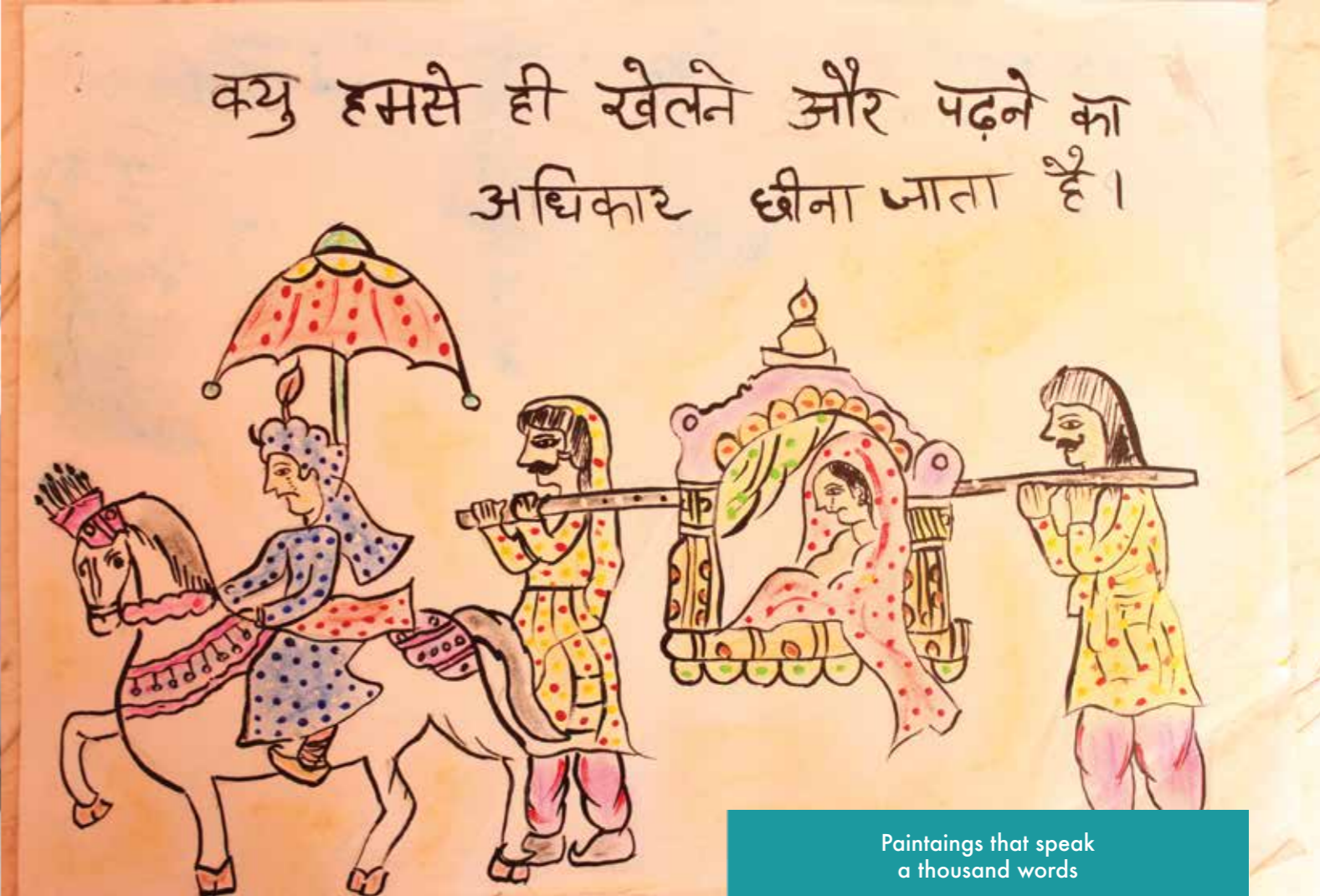
Theater workshops have been one of the core focus of Protsahan since the beginning. These workshops provide a space for the girls of Protsahan to freely express themselves and develop the confidence to speak in a public forum, be it in their own community, at school, or any other stage. Enacting different situations that they often go through in real life allows them an outlet to get rid of any negative feelings left over by the trauma inflicted by a constant risk of abuse.

They also use these workshops to bring to light social issues of gender, child marriage, incest, and abuse, their impact on them, and possible solutions for society at large. It also helps them to develop a sustained focus of mind, body, and voice while giving them the courage to speak up for themselves. Writing, rehearsing, and performing their own scripts fills them with self-confidence and blends play and learning for improved retention of the lessons learnt. The girls who participate in these workshops are also learn to evaluate and appreciate themselves, both academically and aesthetically before and after participating in theater and film production projects.

Indian Classical Dance Therapy Workshops

Dance and performing arts have always been considered to have therapeutic value. Indian classical dances and music (sangeet) have even been mentioned in the Vedas as beneficial to human physical and mental health. It helps fight depression, anxiety, anger, and post-traumatic stress when used with traditional counseling and rehabilitation methods. It also provides an active, non-competitive exercise of mind and body for the young adolescent girls that Protsahan reaches out to.

At Protsahan, Indian classical dance workshops are not only therapeutic for our girls, but also encourages them to find their own self-respect, courage, and agility with grace. It helps them develop their cognitive skills for improved learning, their physical wellbeing, and their behavioral patterns towards their surroundings and people in their lives. Indian classical dance therapy workshops also help our girls overcome the trauma of constantly living in a risk-prone environment, allowing them the freedom to think positively and aim higher in life.



Paintings that speak a thousand words



At their first classical dance stage performance



Painting Workshops

Every child is an artist. Some of them learn to improve their skills, most of them don't try. However, at Protsahan, we believe that our girls have a lot more to gain from letting their inner artist free. The painting workshops at Protsahan are a result of this ideology. These workshops are designed to ensure that our girls have another avenue in arts to explore and learn to express themselves freely.

Some of our girls who have survived abuse or are at constant high risk of being abused have used these painting workshops to overcome the trauma of such experiences in life. Moreover, some of the girls have found their hidden talents in highly regarded art forms like Madhubani and Warli. The girls of Protsahan, apart from their proficiency in traditional painting styles, have also learned to explore digital formats to merge the traditional painting styles with the digital platform and take these art forms to the next level.



Avignon School

The students from Avignon School in France came to India and joined the girls at Protsahan to exchange ideas and work together on 3D art, drones and drone photography. While our girls experienced working with 3D art and drones for the first time in their lives, the students from Avignon School learned about Madhubani and Warli art for the first time as well.

The exchange proved to be a fulfilling experience for our girls as well as the young students from Avignon School who took home sweet memories of the joy on the faces of our girls.

Google

Google India's team played an important role through out the year in our girls' lives. Their visits to Protsahan to encourage our girls and share knowledge of technology with them allowed our girls to advance their skills in digital photography, designing and painting. In return, the team from Google learned about the importance of resilience and positivity from our girls through their interactions. The team from Google helped Protsahan to streamline major parts of our technology education to enable digital inclusion for our girls in line with the Prime Minister's Digital India Mission.

Press Play TV

The awesome team from Press Play TV donated tablets to Protsahan that added yet another avenue of growth for our girls. They joined us at Protsahan to ensure that the girls learn the proper way to use tablets and maximize the output from these devices in learning and pursuing creative arts. Such contributions not only broaden the horizons for our girls, most of whom have never experienced technology, but also allows them to gain confidence and prepare for a better future with better learning resources at their disposal.

NDTV Road Safety Campaign

During the Road Safety Week in January, NDTV and Protsahan India Foundation collaborated on a theater production to highlight the need for safe practices for drivers and pedestrians. The girls of Protsahan scripted, produced, directed, and acted in a street play that brought the attention of the general public on the matter. This collaboration with NDTV also served as a launchpad for our girls as they catapulted to fame on national television, reaching out to millions of homes in India and other parts of the world.



Goonj team with Protsahan girls



Youth volunteers meet at Protsahan

SafeCity

SafeCity and Protsahan collaborated on a campaign to reclaim public spaces and make them safe for girls, in communities that witness some of the most horrific acts of abuse and harassment. The campaign required our girls to canvass the area within their community and collect information on sexual harassment. The girls of Protsahan collected 117 such instances that they used to prepare data maps and build a campaign to reclaim their spaces. Our 12-13 year old girls raised their voices in order to try and get rid of harassment in their community. The campaign was conceptualized by SafeCity and executed brilliantly by our girls as they took charge and became agents of change in their community.

Goonj

The lovely people of Goonj joined us at our Uttam Nagar Center to spread a few moments of cheer

among our girls. Goonj brought school kits for our girls, complete with supplies like notebooks, pencils, and other stationery items neatly packed in a school bag. Their contribution to the school education of Protsahan's girls was highly appreciated by not only our team but also by our very happy girls who were ecstatic to go home with bags full of supplies for the next few months.

SAP & Toybank

SAP, a leading global consulting company collaborated with Toybank to share New Year joy with the little ones at Protsahan. The team members at SAP made arrangements with Toybank to deliver toys for the younger batches of Protsahan. The little girls loved the gesture and thanked the teams at SAP and Toybank in the only way they could - with broad smiles on their faces and their favorite toys in their tiny hands.



SafeCity team with Protsahan girls



Milestones Of Progress

5th Anniversary Celebrations

2015 marked the 5th year of Protsahan as we strive to bring dignity to the lives of young girls at risk of abuse. The 5th Anniversary celebrations at Instituto Cervantes, New Delhi saw attendance by our girls and their parents as they navigated through a photo exhibition of photographs captured by their daughters. The girls of Protsahan also released their film on hygiene and open defecation titled "Cleanliness is Godliness" at the event.

The event was supported by UNICEF and Intel India. Dignitaries from these organizations were present at the event, and proceeded to award trophies and certificates of excellence to the high achievers of Protsahan.





Awards & Recognitions

Media Coverage

Woman Achiever Award, Punjab & Haryana

Protsahan's founder Sonal Kapoor was honored with Haryana Government's Woman Achiever Award for the year 2015-16. The award was conferred by the Honorable Governor of Punjab And Haryana, Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki at a ceremony held in Chandigarh on March 17, 2016. The award is testament to our work and a reflection on the dedication of the entire team at Protsahan in bringing joy and dignity to the lives of young adolescent girls at constant risk of abuse.

ilnspire Awards By BizDivas & Barclays

BizDivas is a conglomerate of exceptional women achievers from diverse backgrounds. The collective honors and acknowledges other women achievers with an extraordinary track record in various fields of business, public life, and social enterprise. The award is sponsored by Barclays Bank PLC of England, and Protsahan's founder, Sonal Kapoor, was conferred the ilnspire Award for the year 2015-16 in the Young Trailblazer Category by the jury panel for her work with young adolescent girls at risk of abuse.

Uma Jain Award Rotary Club of Mumbai

Rotary Club of India's largest chapter in Mumbai honored Protsahan for its work as a resolute agent of social change for our work with at-risk girls in underserved communities. The award conferred by the Club and presented by Mr. Adi Godrej of Godrej Industries was accepted by our founder on behalf of the entire team at an event held in Mumbai.

National Social Entrepreneurship Conference, XLRI, Jamshedpur

Protsahan was invited at The National Social Entrepreneurship Conference at XLRI, Jamshedpur. Our founder, Sonal Kapoor presented the keynote speech on behalf of the entire team and participated in highly focused conversations with the students and esteemed panelists from the social enterprise sector comprising of Jithin Nedumala of Make A Difference, Anshu Gupta of Goonj, and Shweta Chari of ToyBank. The conversations covered a variety of topics related to the social entrepreneurship and the importance of the next generation of students in bringing about a change in the social enterprise sector.

Protsahan's work was covered by numerous media outlets in 2015-16. These media coverages are a symbol of recognition for the entire team's steadfast dedication, persistence, and hard work in bringing happiness and dignity to the lives of young adolescent girls living in some of the harshest communities in the slums of New Delhi.

Doordarshan

Doordarshan, the national broadcaster of India with an overwhelming reach across the country, captured the essence of Protsahan with a 30-minute program that introduced the viewers to the depths of our work. It was an opportunity for Protsahan to reach out to a larger audience at a national platform with the hope and intent to bring change in the lives of many more young girls who continue to remain at risk of abuse.

Live Mint

One of the major national English language dailies in India, Live Mint, covered the story of Protsahan and our rockstar Anju. The story chronicles Anju's tryst with destiny as she defied traditions and financial hardships in her family to opt for an education to bring change in her own life.

92.7 BIG FM

Richa Anirudh, host of the radio show Big Heroes

on 92.7 Big FM focused on the issue of risk of abuse to young adolescent girls, invited Protsahan to be a part of her radio show. The radio program gave us a platform to reach out to a much larger audience and bring their attention to the scourge of child abuse so that it may be eliminated from the country one day.

Better India

Better India, a website dedicated to bringing positive news to the audience captured the soul of Protsahan in a cover story. The story not only allowed Protsahan's message to reach out to a wider audience, but also highlighted the need for society to wake up to the reality of the problem of child abuse and come together to take positive action in order to root it out for good.

NDTV

NDTV, a major English language national television news channel covered the story of the girls of Protsahan and partnered with us to on theater productions that highlighted the need for road safety measures, especially for children. The street theater production garnered a lot of support from the community and catapulted our girls to national fame as they deftly raised the issue and garnered the support of the public on the topic of road safety.



The Lives We've Transformed

Each day at Protsahan brings in a new ray of hope and jubilation as we witness our little girls grow into a beautiful and talented young women. The stories that truly inspired us all this year are those of three such young girls, all of whom are first generation of daughters in the families to receive a formal education.

Sadhna

Sadhna's was one of the most challenging cases at Protsahan. She was not able to learn, or retain as much as her peers and was regarded as a child with special needs. Many a times, it was recommended that she be admitted to a special school instead of a school for normal children. However, on close observation and monitoring, the teachers at Protsahan realized that she may be suffering from malnutrition that was impeding her physical and mental growth.

Armed with this new realization, the teachers proceeded to design a program to ensure that Sadhna recovered from her malnourished state

and became an active participant in the classroom. Her meals were carefully put together by the teachers to ensure that her recovery is quick and easy.

Once out of her malnourished state, Sadhna became an energetic little girl who is always full of life and enthusiasm to learn. One of the biggest factors that contributed in her recovery was that the teachers at Protsahan never gave up on her when everyone else had, including her family. When donors ask for a child's report cards, they often don't realize that in cases like Sandhna's, the best report cards are the ones that reflect her normal growth and her active participation with peers. It took our team more than a year to get through to her and win her trust so that she may open up to the teachers and start participating in the classroom proceedings.

(Photo: Sadhna trying to explain to her teacher why she and her classmates shouldn't be given any homework.)

Sonamati

Sonamati is one of the happiest girls at Protsahan. She is a constant chatterbox and a source of help and encouragement to her classmates. Coming from a family with limited income, this child has seen some very harsh times. However, none of that has ever come in the way of her infectious smile. With unflinching support and encouragement from their father to continue their studies and excel in academics, Sonamati and her sister had joined Protsahan when we first started our operations in this neighborhood.

Sonamati is one of those children who have more than 100 "best friends". She is enthusiastic and an active participant in various extra-curricular activities at Protsahan. She is extremely intelligent for her age and helps other kids in her class with their problems, both academically and sometimes even at a personal level. Girls like Sonamati give our team at Protsahan a reason to continue with our work and spread more smiles



Sonamati and her infectious smile make a beautiful day at Protsahan

Jannat tries her hand at a video camera

among little girls each day.

Jannat

A true rockstar of Protsahan, Jannat is a go-getter who never allows any obstacles in her path to stop her from moving ahead with her life on her own terms. She has displayed a massive interest and talent in various art forms, be it photography, film making, clay modeling, painting, and many more. She picked up the camera one fine day and has never looked back, moving from one milestone of learning about photography to another. With her newly acquired skills on a DSLR, she shattered past all the boundaries of tradition and became the first female wedding photographer in her community and regularly takes up wedding assignments in her free time. While her parents were initially apprehensive about allowing her to work, they have finally come around and started appreciating her for who she is. Not only that, Jannat has earned the respect of her entire community with her work and made us all really proud.

However, this is not to say that Jannat is any less in academics. An exceptional student, she wishes to enroll in the commerce stream for her higher studies so that she may understand the financial details involved in fulfilling her dream of owning and operating her own professional photography studio one day. Jannat is one of those girls who truly represent the essence of Protsahan in every way.



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Your donations encourage us to empower many more broken childhoods.



Protsahan
India Foundation

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