

# Jagran Cityplus

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## Joy of giving, a success

Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege. What would be more appropriate than 'Joy of Giving Week' to initiate a noble cause.



ON the occasion of 'Joy of Giving' observed from October 2-8, the residents of South City-II took an initiative to serve the underprivileged students.

Under the RTE Act, the residents will now literate the weaker sections of the society and will sponsor one underprivileged child for his/her entire education.

GK Bhatnagar, president of Sudha Volunteer Organisation, introduced this campaign among residents and the project was much appreciated.

With the help of many residents including housewives, retired servicemen, students as well as many non-profitable organisations, they have joined hands to literate the weaker section between the age group of six to 14 years.

So far, around seven to eight students have been sponsored by several families. As per this initiative, the families have to dedicate just one to two hours in teaching the students daily.

Informing about the same, Bhatnagar said, "We have received a good response. We wish that residents work for this initiative and at least family should adopt one child."

The initiative targets around 100 families right now and hopes the number to rise.

Initially, the volunteer organisation had initiated three open schools for the underprivileged children in 2010. After the Commonwealth Games 2010, the weaker sections of the societies were dislocated and the number of children coming to those schools reduced.

Later, these schools were shut too. But, after RTE has been operational in majority public as well as private schools, the residents thought of making this right useful.

"This initiative will give them a respectable chance and help the children to understand the value of education. This initiative will also make sure that these students get into main stream schools on a regular basis and get a better exposure, while all the exposure are borne by his/her sponsored family," added Bhatnagar.

Even after the students get into good school, they would be given special attention and proper educational guidance. Ritu Bhatia, who has sponsored a child, said, "These students are brilliant. All they need is some exposure to hone their talent and enhance their knowledge."

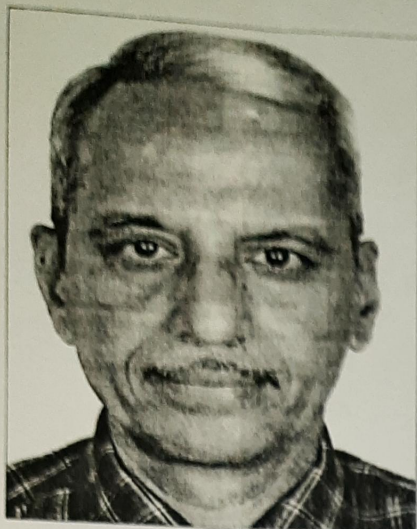
Bhatnagar added that citizens should provide school like atmosphere when they take such responsibilities of teaching underprivileged kids in their houses.

"Especially when they are teaching girls. Families should take care that no one should smoke in the house, the kids should not be made to do any household work and girls should not be left alone in the house, especially when domestic help is around," he added.



# FIND YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR SEVA UNDER RTE ACT

By: G.K.Bhatnagar



Service is the expression of love. Serve in whatever possible manner you can. Ask yourself, "How can I be useful to people around me, and to the whole world?" Then your heart starts blossoming and a completely new level begins. Otherwise we're always thinking, "What about me, what about me?" The best seva is helping someone to understand this eternal nature of life. — Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Illiteracy is one of the biggest problem that India is facing in contemporary world. Illiteracy, the stumbling block of the Indian society has given birth to many issues like casteism, dowry, corruption, female feticide and child labor etc. The list is endless. This element is one of the responsible factors for hampering the socio economic growth of our nation. Masses are still unaware of the social issues and consequently they end up living in ignorance. Only literacy is the key to unlock the economic and social power of India. In the light of this need, Indian Constitution has framed RTE as a part of our system. There is an opportunity for every Indian citizen to perform "seva" for the weaker section of the students in the age group of 6-14 years. Introduction of RTE (Right to Education) by the Govt. of India give this opportunity which is applicable in all the

schools including private schools.

What is RTE? The right to children to free and compulsory Education act has come in to force from 1st April 2010. This has turned out to be a historic day for us as from this day the Right to Education has been accorded the same legal status as the right to life as provided by article 21A of the Indian constitution. Every child in the age group of 6-14 years will be provided 8 years of elementary education in an appropriate class room well within the vicinity of his/ her neighborhood. All private schools also shall be required to enroll children from weaker section and disadvantaged communities to the extent of 25% of their enrolment by simple random selection. These children will be treated at par with all other children in the school and school will be subsidized by the centre-state at the rate of average per learner costs in the Govt. School

How can your seva make a difference?

RTE would definitely give the children from weaker section a respectable chance but once admitted in the private schools they may find problems to cope with the schoolwork/ home work because of their family background. This hurdle can also be removed with the kind participation/ contribution of our educated and aware citizens towards day-to-day studies of such children. These children will require special attention apart from what they get from the respective schools. This is where you, as a responsible citizen especially as a housewife, retired person and student or as a NGO, can voluntarily take the onus of teaching these children at your homes for 1-2 hours to assist them in coping up with routine studies. By helping the children from weaker section in their studies you will in turn be doing your bit of SEVA work for a very noble cause for our society. This

is just a sharing of the knowledge and wisdom what we have. The true measure of our lives is not how much we have gained for ourselves but how much we have given to others. Hence there is opportunity to all the citizens to perform the seva work by educating such children of our society but citizens should provide school atmosphere when they take such responsibilities of teaching underprivileged kids in their houses. There are hundreds of examples in our society where the underprivileged students when given little guidance in the education have done the excellence in their studies and careers. The best example is Bihar's Super 30 coaching centre where coaching is being provided to 30 underprivileged students every year free of cost. The success rate of the same institute is above 90% every year. The most recent example is of a rickshaw puller whose son has got selected for IAS cadre. I am sure everyone will enjoy the 'JOY of Giving' in their life by stretching their hands for such SEVA project and shall make RTE act very successful in letter and spirit which will ultimately help us in creating a brighter and powerful India.

Only if we nurture our children and young people with the right education, India's future as a strong and prosperous country is definitely secured.

From 2nd oct. to 8th oct. "joy of giving" was observed.

Writer - G.K.bhatnagar Gurgaon

He was principal consultant to Ministry of HRD( women Empowerment project) and DIRECTOR RUDSET institute Gurgaon presently President SUDHA -V.O.

([www.sudhasesudhar.com](http://www.sudhasesudhar.com))

E mail [gkbhatnagar23@yahoo.com](mailto:gkbhatnagar23@yahoo.com)

Mob-09818856406