

INCEPTION REPORT on UGTA SURAJ Program

Barola and Nagla Learning and Support Centers

Ugta Suraj Program:

Ugta Suraj program is essentially meant for children in the age group 6 to 14 years. It is a bridge between formal school system and the community children. Under the program, a network of Learning and Support Centers (LSCs) has been established in Noida (U.P.) for 'Out of School' children who belong to the categories of working/non-working, migrant/natives/street. These children are either school dropouts or first generation learners. Their Out of School status owns to the various family or systemic reasons.

Noon.ch has been supporting learning and support centres at Barola and Agahpur.

About Barola Centre:

The Barola centre is situated in the barat Ghar in village Barola in Sector-49, Noida (U.P.). The children sit in the big hall with open space in the front courtyard. The children here come from the adjoining jhuggi colony predominantly inhabited by the migrant labour. The centre is an integral part of Ugta Suraj programme and has been operational since 2009. Last year i.e. 2012-13 there were 40 children who were enrolled in our center and all of them got admission in formal school 2013. Out of 40 children after one year of monitoring at our barola center got admitted in different school ,23 children has been enrolled in government school and 17 has been enrolled in private school such as S.D public school, panna dhaya school etc are nearby their home

This year we have enrolled around 41 children from areas in and adjoining the village. They live in a jhuggi colony which is situated adjoining the village and are very close to Ugta Suraj barola center.

About Nagla Centre:

Nagla is our new center which has been open in june 2013 earlier our agahpur center was working to mainstream children of agahpur village almost every children from that village has been mainstreamed and then we started our nagla center. Nagla is situated at sec 168 in noida and nagla center is situated in a huge and beautiful barat ghar of nagla village. Children sit on a carpet in a big room which is very well ventilated with three side open window. In front of it there is a big courtyard where children use to do there morning assembly and at lunch time it is their favorite place to play. Children here come from the adjoining jhuggi colony predominantly inhabited by the migrant labour.

This year at our Nagla center, we have enrolled around 28 children from in and around Nagla village. Most of them live in jhuggi colony in Nagla village itself. It is quite close to Ugta Suraj

center. Since this is our new center it is gradually building up in strength and closeness with the community.

The Present Status of Ugta Suraj:

The 2012-13 session got over in June 2013. The following table depicts the enrolment status of children that were with us during the year long session.

Table - 1

Status of mainstreamed children at the end of 2012-2013

Particulars	Agahpur		Barola	
	Enrolled during 2012-13	Mainstreamed for 2013-14	Enrolled during 2012-13	Mainstreamed for 2013-14
No. of girls	19	18	32	24
No. of boys	16	10	28	19
Total No. of children*	35	28	60	43

*total number of children may vary depending upon how many complete their Ugta Suraj session.

Upon the completion of Ugta Suraj session 2012-13, a total of 28 children have been successfully enrolled in Agahpur in Government Primary School, neighbourhood Private schools such as Vidhya Sagar School, Nav Chetna School, Sai Mandir School and CC Memorial School. Interestingly, more number of girls were mainstreamed as compared to boys for the session 2012-13. This observation is important in view of the fact that it is common for little girls in this area to help their mothers work as domestic workers in private homes. They go with their mothers and share the work, if the mother washes dishes, the girls may broom the floor.

From Agahpur centre, Govind, 8 years, had been adopted under Vidya Ratna programme and he continues his school journey successfully. In 2012-13, another child, **Gaurish Kail**, 8 years, was adopted under Vidya Ratna. He has joined Class II in Noida Public Senior Secondary School, Noida. He doesnot have his father. His mother, Rajni does some piece cutting work at home and is hardly able to meet their basic needs. Gaurish is a very bright child. We wish him all the Best!

The children mainstreamed for the academic session 2012-13 were given Pass out badges on 18 July 2012 during our annual Graduation ceremony.

Ugta Suraj status over the years:

This time we undertook an exercise of evaluating the performance of the program over the years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Status of Agahpur centre:

The following table summarizes the data for Agahpur centre.

Table – 2
Status of Agahpur centre over the last two years

Year	Total no. of children Enrolled in centre	Mainstreamed	Boys mainstreamed	Girls mainstreamed	Boys mainstreamed(6-10 yrs)	Girls mainstreamed (6-10 yrs)	Boys mainstreamed(11-14 yrs)	Girls mainstreamed (11-14 yrs)	Left Out
2010-11	44	37	20	17	17	15	3	2	7
2011-12	31	31	10	21	7	17	3	4	0
Total	75	68	30	38	24	32	13	15	2

The Agahpur centre was greater in strength of children enrolled during the year 2010-11. It went comparatively down in the year 2011-12 due to restricted response of the community. However the mainstreaming of children during 2011-12 was 100 percent with a far more number of girls being mainstreamed during the year. The number of children enrolled in the centre have been far more in the age group 6-10 as compared to 11-14 years.

Based on this data, we calculated the Drop Out Rate of children in Agahpur over the same two years. The following Table shows data in this regard.

Table – 3
Drop Out Rate of children in Agahpur

	Mainstreamed		Dropped		Continuing		Drop Out %	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
As in July 2011	20	17	2	3	18	14	5.4	8.1
As in July 2012	10	21	2	0	8	21	6.45	0

The Drop Out Rate for children mainstreamed during 2010-11 was 8.1 percent. The silver lining was added in 2012 when it was seen that only two children had dropped out of school during the session and they were all boys. No girl child dropped out, all 21 girls continued their schooling during the year.

Status of Barola centre:

The following table summarizes the data for Barola centre.

Table – 4
Status of Barola centre over the last two years

Year	Total no. of children Enrolled in centre	Mainstreamed	Boys mainstreamed	Girls mainstreamed	Boys mainstreamed(6-10 yrs)	Girls mainstreamed (6-10 yrs)	Boys mainstreamed(11-14 yrs)	Girls mainstreamed (11-14 yrs)	Left Out
2010-11	42	40	20	20	14	15	6	5	2
2011-12	40	40	19	21	12	11	7	10	0
Total	82	80	39	41	26	26	13	15	2

There was an almost equal strength of children enrolled during the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 in Barola centre. However the mainstreaming of children during 2011-12 was 100 percent with a far more number of girls being mainstreamed during the year. Incidentally, the girls in age group 11-14 years were mainstreamed in full strength in 2012.

Based on this data, we calculated the Drop Out Rate of children in Barola over the same two years. The following Table shows data in this regard.

Table – 5
Drop Out Rate of children in Barola

	Mainstreamed		Dropped		Continuing		Drop Out %	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
As in July 2011	20	20	2	7	18	13	10	35
As in July 2012	19	21	0	1	19	20	0	0.04

The Drop Out Rate for children mainstreamed during 2010-11 was as high as 35 percent. This was much higher in case of girls in comparison to boys. However it reduced significantly in the next year to 0.04 percent when only one girl dropped out of school.

A Day's Regime in Ugta Suraj centres

Each day the centre is functional from 9.00 in the morning to 4 in the evening. The children start coming before 9.00, go home for lunch between 1 to 2 p.m. and finally leave by 4.00 in the evening. The day begins with Morning assembly by children and then they start the study sessions.

During their stay in the center, they follow the time table that has been prepared with the help of facilitators. It comprises formal teaching - learning sessions on Maths, environment, language, science, life skill, and children's 'own time' activities like reading books, playing carom, making puzzles or drawing/painting as well as. The children are provided with all the learning material and stationery from the centre itself. The facilitators use Edugames for interactive sessions with children. A few of them are as following:

- **Number Match:** Saying names of numbers with fun, interactive graphics.
- **Words Creation:** Doing Word-building exercises using alphabets

Table – 6

Ugta Suraj Time Table followed in all the centres

week	9.30-10.30	10.30 - 11.30	11.30-11.30	11.30 -1 pm		2.30 -3.00 pm	3.00 – 4.00 pm
Monday	English	Maths	Hindi	EVS	L	Drawing	Storytelling
Tuesday	Hindi	EVS	English	Hindi rhyme	U	Educational game	Maths
Wednesday	Life skill	Maths	Game	English	N	Craft	English rhyme
Thursday	maths	english	Hindi	Story telling	C	Education Games	Life skills
Friday	EVS	Math	Hindi	Story telling	H	English	Drawing
Saturday	English	Hindi	Education game	Maths		Activity/parent interaction	Activity/parents interaction

Activities during the year 2012-13

- **The Graduation Ceremony for 2011-12 session**

Around 180 'out of school' children from underprivileged communities were linked to formal school session 2012-13. The Graduation ceremony for these little graduates from village Harola, Nithari, Agahpur, Nayabans and Barola was organised in The Great India Place, Noida on 18 July 2012. On this occasion, Mr MKS Sundaram, District Magistrate, Gautum Budh Nagar, gave away Pass out badges to the children and asked them to move on in life despite all odds. He reiterated the commitment of District Administration to make sure that no child remains out of school in the district due to any reason whatsoever. He said that he was happy to see such little children being called Graduates. He congratulated the children to have adorned the cap of literacy and continue their journey for learning.

Ms Rita Bhaduria, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Gautum Budh Nagar released year 2011-12 edition of Ugtā Suraj magazine and congratulated the children on their achievement. She reiterated the commitment of her department to effectively implement the welfare schemes and programmes for the mothers of these children who work as daily wages. She also talked about her department's role in combating child labour in the district.

Dr Mala Bhandari, Founder-Director, SADRAG gave a brief account of the organisation's activities and called for a convergent action for issues like education and child labour. She called upon the administration to take a lead so that a facilitating environment to address the various development issues can be created in the district. She drew the attention of the people concerned towards the lack of a Child's Home in the district. She said that there is no provision for a safe and secured Home for the distressed children who are rescued by their organization. She also talked about the need to improve the quality of infrastructure and teaching learning experience in the government schools of the district.

The main feature of the programme was a colourful cultural program presented by the Ugtā Suraj children. They sang and danced to the latest Bollywood tunes. The day also marked the beginning of a Plantation drive by the Great India Place. The celebrations got over refreshments and the children dancing all the way.....

- **Rakshabandhan**

Rakshabandhan was celebrated on 1 August 2012. The children were told about the importance of Raksha Bandhan festival. They made Rakhis with colourful paper and girls tied them on the hands of boys. They celebrated the day with sweets and songs

- **Janmashtmi**

On 10 August 2012, the birthday of lord Krishna was celebrated, children were told the stories which they enjoyed listening to. They made drawings of lord Krishna and enjoyed the day with songs and dances.

- **Independence Day**

Independence day was celebrated by telling the children about the importance of this day. They were told about many great freedom fighters of our country and they were also told how this day was marked in our country, how the flag is hosted in Red Fort by the Prime Minister of our country. Children sang the National Anthem and made paper flags.

- **Id-UI-Fitter**

The festival for Muslims community, Eid, was celebrated on 20 August. The children were told about the importance of the day and how it must be celebrated in the spirit of community brotherhood. .

- **Gandhi Jayanti**

Children celebrated the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and talked about his life and work for the country . Gandhi was fondly called “Bapu”.

- **A Brush with College students**

On 28 October 2012 we took 80 children and 6 Facilitator from the renowned colleges, Institute of Management Technology at Ghaziabad, U.P. from all four centres. They played many games over there and all of them enjoyed a lot. Ugeta Suraj children participated in different activity Dance, play and Sang a song. It was a memorable experience for all our children.

- **The festival of Lights: DIWALI**

On 8th Nov 2012, our children went to adjoining government schools. There they presented a play on Diwali for the teachers and students of that school. Through the play our children gave the message about the importance of celebrating this festival of lights and also cautioned against the use crackers and the harm that they cause.

- **FRIENDSHIP WITH CHILDLINE**

On 17 November 2012, our children participated in spreading awareness on child protection issues. The children visited places like Surajpur Police station , Ansal Plaza and Collectrate Office in Greater Noida. Our children talked to the policemen regarding the exploitation of child labour and Childline and distributed the pamphlets and posters . They also interacted with Ms Anju Lata, City Magistrate, Greater Noida.

- **An experience with Science**

On 19 November 2012, the children in Agahpur centre had a taste of science and indulged in basic scientific experiments with a team of trainers from Pratham, a leading NGO in Delhi. Around 40 Ugta Suraj children participated in the event which was also attended by the primary school children of the government school which is situated next to the centre. The children were introduced to the basic fundamental concepts of Science through play way methods. The event was organised by the CSR team of The Tata Chemicals Ltd., Noida branch

- **Drawing Competition**

On 23rd November 2012, Children of both the centres held a drawing competition where the children were given away the first second prize and then they had a GK quiz in which prizes were distributed . Children were served lunch and enjoyed the fun filled day. The day was sponsored by a Gurgaon based multinational company.

- **Christmas**

Children participated in the Christmas celebration on 25 December. They did colouring, sang songs and chorals and enjoyed the fun filled day in their respective centres.

- **Republic Day**

On 25th January 2013, children of the two centres celebrated our Republic day. They were told about the Republic day which is celebrated on the 26th of January every year. They were told about the importance of this day for us. They sang patriotic songs, made the flag of India. They were given sweets and balloons.

- **Basant Panchmi**

On 15th February 2013, children were asked to bring yellow flowers. They sat together to do Saraswati Pooja and they made posters of Goddess Saraswati.

- ❖ **The festival of colours:Holi**

On 25th March 2013, children came to the centre, and played Holi with gullaal. They were told stories about the happenings of this day and the importance of the festival. They made some drawings and they recited poems. The centre remained closed for 3 days due to the nature of the festival and community environment.

A few activities since inception of the Session 2013-14:

Besides the regular teaching and learning sessions, children indulged in the following activities:

Children at the center celebrate each and every important festival like Makar Sankranti which is celebrated by flying kites and singing songs related to the festival. Through these celebration children come to know about their culture and importance of the festival.

Recently children has celebrated independence day on this day they made some beautiful drawing ,flags, they sang patriotic song and also performed dance.

A few case studies:

- **Case study 1: A strong and healthy mind**

Sunita, 12 years, lives in village Barola with her small family comprising mother, father and one elder and one younger brother. They have migrated from their native village in the state of Bihar. They came to Noida in search of livelihood.

Sunita's mother and father are daily wage labourers. Sunita joined Barola center last year in the year 2012. She spent the full year with us and has now been admitted in government primary school in class 5.

Sunita goes to her school everyday and she enjoys her school life very much.....

- **Case study 2: The boy of courage**

Anup, 12 years, lives with his family in a rented room in Barola village. They belong to a migrant community from the state of Bihar. They came here in search of livelihood.

Anup's father works as a guard in a private company. His mother works in private homes as a house maid. Anup joined Barola center last year in 2012. He has now been admitted in the government junior school in class 6th.

Anup goes to school regularly. He is proud to be part of a formal school.....

- **Case study 3: The responsible and matured**

Sandhya, 12 years, has joined Ugtta Suraj center, Barola this year in 2013. She lives with her father, mother and 2 brothers. They belong to Hamirpur district, Uttar Pradesh. Her family got migrated to Noida in search of livelihood opportunities.

Sandhya's father and mother are both daily wage labourers. They have found Ugtta Suraj centre as a place for their children's education. Sandhya is a regular at the centre along with her other two siblings.

- **Case study 4: Committed children**

Suraj is an 8 year old boy who has joined our Ugtta Suraj center this year in June, 2013. The family belongs to the category of migrant community from Pichoriya village in Bihar.

Suraj's father works in a private Company. His mother is a house wife. They migrated to Noida in search of livelihood. A regular, Suraj and his sister are enrolled in the centre to pursue their interest in studies. Both happily come to the centre everyday.

- **Case study 5: An Enthusiastic Leaner**

Sunil, 12 years has joined our new Ugtta Suraj center at village Nagla for the current session. He lives with his small family of mother, father and a younger brother. They originally belong to Mooradabad in Bihar state. They migrated to Noida for livelihood opportunities.

Sunil's mother and father are labourers and work on daily basis as and when they get work. Sunil and his brother are regularly enrolled at the center. They both come everyday and look forward to learning new of things. They enjoy being at the centre.

Sunil is very happy and proud to be a part of Ugtta Suraj since he had never attended any formal institution like a school.

- **Case study 6:**

Rohit, a 6 years old boy has joined Ugtta Suraj center this year at Nagla village. He lives with his parents and a slightly older brother. The family migrated from Ramghat village in Uttar Pradesh state to earn a livelihood.

Rohit's father works in a private company. His mother is a casual labourer. He is enrolled at the centre with his brother who 7 years old. Both the brothers enjoy at the center as it is their first experience to be a part of any learning center.

Glimpses from the field:



Children at Barola center are busy with their pencil and paper to get some beautiful drawing on their drawing sheet



Monali, 8 years, Ugta Suraj, Barola came up with a beautiful drawing during their graduation ceremony celebration. She has got admission at Vidhya school this year in class

2nd.



Anjali and Pooja, two of our dancing dolls, Nagla center during Independence Day celebrations



Nagla children with the flags they drew during Independence Day celebrations