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Education: A route to empowerment

Education gives knowledge of the world around and helps develop perspective on various issues. Many believe it to be a prerequisite to be empowered. This newsletter brings to you stories from Roorkee, Uttarakhand of Gurvinder Singh; a role model for farmers in his village & fifteen year old Gunshan who is breaking the shackles of uneducation.



Gurvinder at his Polly House



Gurvinder Singh wished to study and work in a Company unlike his father who was a farmer. He completed his schooling and graduated in hotel management against his family's wishes. He soon got married & started looking for a job. But as luck would have it, he didn't succeed even after one year of struggle. His family life was effected due to his inability to earn. Left with no other option, Gurvinder turned to farming.

He started working on a small patch of land to understand the nuances of farming. Gurvinder also got in touch with ACF for regular guidance and training in farm practises. On one such occasion, he along with other farmers attended an exposure visit to a polly house (naturally ventilated climate controlled structures to grow flowers, vegetables, etc). Post the visit, Gurvinder was keen to



A session at Ambuja Gyan Deep Kendra



to experiment it on his farm in spite of high investments. In the meanwhile, he learnt about organic farming & benefits of drip irrigation through ACF training & applied to his farm. His experiments bore quick results. He saved resources & reaped better profits.

From an unemployed youth, Gurvinder transformed into a role model in his village. Gurvinder credits his education & right guidance from ACF for his success.

For fifteen year old Gunshan, studying at the Ambuja Gyan Deep Kendra, the non formal education centre (NFE) run by ACF is the best part of the day. Her journey to the centre was a tough one as nobody in her family felt the need to educate children.

It was only through the feedback given by neighbours & counseling did Gunshan's parents reluctantly agreed to enrol her in the centre. The NFE centres provides basic literacy to out of school girls and motivates them to join the formal education system. Gunshan & her parents never felt the importance of education till she started helping her father in maintaining accounts. She also guides her mother to shop at the best price.

Motivated by Gunshan's experience, her parents have decided to enroll Gunshan and her siblings in a formal school. Gunshan's parents are thankful to ACF to be aware of importance of literacy.
