



REPORT

Transformative Impact of Education and Scholarships at The Hope Project

Established in 1975 with the mission of serving marginalized communities in Delhi, The Hope Project has been a sanctuary of support and opportunity for families living in socio-economically challenging conditions. Founded on the principles of equality, empowerment, and holistic development, the Project has worked relentlessly to uplift underserved children and youth through education, healthcare, and skill development.

The Educational Landscape and Early Challenges

In the early years of our intervention, we observed a discouraging pattern — most students, especially girls, discontinued education after the primary level. Several factors contributed to this:

- **Social and religious constraints**, including rigid gender norms and early marriages for girls.
- **Cultural expectations** to prioritize household responsibilities over academics.
- **Economic limitations**, where children were expected to work or care for siblings.
- **Lack of exposure** to possibilities beyond primary and middle school.

These realities resulted in a cycle of limited literacy, low self-esteem, early marriage, and restricted livelihood opportunities.

Shifting the Narrative: From Primary to Post-Graduation

Through persistent awareness campaigns, parental counseling, academic mentoring, and community engagement, we were able to initiate change. Over the period of a decade, we gradually shifted the educational trajectory of our students:

- Students began to complete their 12th standard and showed interest in further studies.
- We introduced and encouraged skill-building and vocational training as a bridge to self-reliance.
- As awareness and aspiration grew, students began enrolling in undergraduate programs, preferably in regular colleges.
- Today, we are proud to share that some are even pursuing postgraduate degrees, a milestone once unimaginable for the community we serve.

This progress has had a profound impact on the community, particularly in empowering girls, raising the average age of marriage, and increasing their confidence and autonomy.

Support from Ms. Saba Siddique

In this journey of transformation, we recently announced an invaluable contribution from Ms. Saba Siddique, a generous and visionary supporter. Moved by the spirit and potential of our students, she offered financial support to those pursuing graduation and post-graduation, initially for 15 girls which may be extended to those deserving in future.

Her scholarship initiative has eased the financial burden for many families, enabling students to pay college fees, purchase learning materials, and focus on their academic growth. For many first-generation learners, this support has been life-changing — both practically and emotionally.

Impact in Numbers

- Over the years, **85** students from Hope Project have successfully cleared their graduation.
- Currently, **76** students are enrolled in graduate and postgraduate programs, many in regular colleges and universities.
- A rising number of female students are delaying marriage in order to complete their education and pursue careers, which is a significant cultural shift in the community.

Ms. Saba Siddique proposed the title of the scholarship after her mother's name—"Khan Begum". Hence, Khan Begum Scholarship for Higher Education was officially instituted on 17th June, the occasion of Annual Day of The Hope Project.

The scholarship provided by Ms. Saba Siddique will not be merely financial aid — it would be an investment in the dreams, dignity, and future of young people who have historically been denied opportunities. It will not only transform individual lives but also inspired a cultural shift within the community.

Education is now seen not just as a privilege, but as a right and a pathway to empowerment. As we continue our mission, we remain committed to expanding such scholarship opportunities and ensuring that no student is left behind due to financial or social barriers.

The journey continues, but the future is bright — and full of hope.