



Issue 7

# HIMAYAT

Winter Edition 2018

## Editorial

Our School was founded on the core values of integrity and service. The principle of service has been key to the very ethos of Chandbagh and it is this tryst with service that we acknowledge in this publication. As we move towards putting 'Himayat' into print, it is our privilege to define the very vision of this publication – one which doesn't only recognize or acknowledge work done by boys in the school, but also comments on the nature of social service.

In our rumination on the general nature of social service, we come across the fact that the needs and wants of our world are changing as the issues which we face take new forms and avatars. Humanity is now on the receiving end of problems which had never been reckoned before. Climate change, public corruption, absence of a universal quality education, mass unemployment, undernourishment, and poverty are just dots in this circuit of troubles and difficulties which India is having to face at the moment.

To tackle these, not only will we have to change our methods of social service, but also adopt approaches which would lead to the formation of a sustainable and self-sufficient society. It is in this spirit that we envision the nature of social service in our school transforming soon. We hope that upon reading this, one will accustom oneself to the very ethos of our school, at the core of which thrives our sublime aristocracy of service.

Signing off,



-Shivendra Pratap Singh & Shaurya Jain  
**Editors-in-Chief**

## behind this issue

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## Arcadia

By Shaurya Verma and Stanzin Namgyal

It was in our S-form that we began to conceptualize this Social Service initiative. We realised that most of the Social Service Initiatives which exist in our School cater to only aiding those in poverty - regions such as Bindal and Rudra Prayag to name a few. While this was a noble cause in itself, we felt that creating another Initiative which targeted these communities would only amount to having a number of initiatives which performed the same function. To that end, we instead chose a group of people who often face difficulties of similar if not greater magnitude, and were, at that time, largely untouched by Doon-Disabled individuals. In collaboration with our contemporaries over at Hopetown Girl's School, we located a Cheshire Home within Dalanwala affiliated with the Leonard Cheshire Disability Global Alliance. Well-equipped and the beneficiary of several generous donations, the Cheshire Home was the ideal place to start our initiative, and so, Arcadia came into being. What

we are most proud of is that Arcadia, at its very core, is an initiative reliant on human interaction and meaningful connections. Every week, a group of boys along with the two of us would go to the Cheshire along with a group from Hopetown, and together spend between one to two hours with the children there. We have been using a wide variety of tools and mediums to interact with the children, ranging from art, music and drama to a plethora of games and activities. On a surface level, our efforts provide the children with a weekly source of entertainment, but the true intention of our weekly visits is long-term aid. We give these children a medium to express themselves through constant periodic interaction and exposure to various artistic fields, subsequently building what we feel is an essential artistic bond. This inadvertently functions as a form of 'Music and Color' therapy, which provides us with quantifiable results in term of the children's mental improvement.

Arcadia, for us, holds a special value because its success is directly proportional to the heart and sincerity of the Doscos who work in it. Our first few sessions saw us make slow progress, but over the course of a few months, the recurring group of boys and the Cheshire children have

“WE GIVE THESE CHILDREN A MEDIUM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.”

developed incredible bonds that go beyond social service. In providing these children with a medium of social interaction and the chance to gain opportunities they might not have access to otherwise, the entire experience becomes an enriching one for the boys - one which we aim will continue to thrive far beyond our time in School.



## Thakurpur Service Project

By Shivendra Pratap Singh

The past year has been an eventful one for the initiative. We have covered numerous aspects of community service for the hamlet of Thakurpur. We are now gradually shifting our primary focus to the provision of light and electricity. The following were the highlights of this year: -

**-Health Camp** (For more than 250 people): The Health Camp was organized with the help of The Doon School wellness centre. The School wellness centre was requested to assist us with providing medical aid to the village. The Doctor was kind enough to accompany us to the health camp and check every villager's health. Among the diseases and physiological problems identified by the doctor, the most common were: Asthma, Fractures, and Tuberculosis.

**-Hygiene** (Through the provision of I-Bins): We have always emphasized on the importance of hygiene in our education sessions. In a temporary settlement like Thakurpur, hygiene can become one of the major sources of problems if not treated correctly.

Therefore, the initiative sponsored the I-Bin program to allow the clean disposal of biodegradable waste and cleaning of the meeting ground of Thakurpur every time the team visited the village.

**-Child Education Partnership with an NGO:** The initiative teamed up with the NGO 'Medical Ambassador' to coordinate the child education sessions. As many children were already attending school (which is wonderful to observe), we focused more on moral studies as well as spreading awareness on social and environmental responsibilities. We also collaborated with the Udaan initiative to provide Anti-substance preliminaries to teenagers and adults who were responsible for their families.

**-Government Representation Exercise:** As we took account of their Aadhar status and what sort of public aid the community was receiving, It came to our attention that the population base was almost entirely immigrant. Therefore, any

help from the official handle was rendered unreachable. At the present, the deliberative process is ongoing with the Tehsildar and the District Magistrate and we hope some tangible measures can be taken in the near future.

**-Lighting of the area (Litre of Light):** Litre of Light is the flagship project of our initiative, in which we intend to light up the entire village with solar-powered lights. Previously, we used plastic cola bottles for the system, installing 30 of them at first. As of now, we have developed proper canned bottles, assembled at a factory at minimal cost. Some 150 units have been assembled and are awaiting installation at other places including the village of 'Batoli' too. We hope that we are able to light up numerous such villages which are deprived of light and electricity - a dream which was as distant as even earning a livelihood for some residing there.



## Tempus

By Yash Dewan

It has been a while since Tempus has been working at the Arthur Foot Academy (AFA) at Dandanagar and as project head, I am proud to say that a significant amount of progress has been made. Arthur

**“TEMPUS HAS BEEN WORKING THERE TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF MUSIC AND ART AMONG THE STUDENTS.”**

Foot Academy is a school that The Doon School took under its wing to help provide good quality education to the underprivileged children of Dandanagar. Tempus has been working there to promote a culture of music and art among the students and has also been active in developing the infrastructure of the school.

Our team, along with the help of the students who came for Summer at Doon, has painted and decorated the walls of all the classrooms. Due to this joint effort, the class walls are now in vibrant colours with decorative images of sports, question words, etc. on them. In collaboration with Home Decor, Tempus has also provided the students with writing boards which can be used by the teachers to teach as they have educative material such as pictures of animals, seasons, vegetables, etc. printed on them. All this has helped improve the study environment for the students. We have also worked to promote environmental awareness among the students of AFA. Our team made hanging gardens using 2 litre plastic bottles and hung several columns of these bottles all around the school. Then, we educated villagers and the students about environment pollution which not only made the people more aware, but also improved the aesthetic beauty of the school.

The team also celebrated Independence Day with the students as well as their parents. We watched the program made by them and later distributed laddoos all around the village. No celebration is complete without a little bit of dance. This is why the Tempus team, lead by the school dance captain, taught various dance steps to the children on Bollywood songs of their choice.

All in all, the project, according to me, is a coming out to be a success. We are currently working on providing the school with whiteboards, carpets and more writing boards to the school. Teaching, playing and celebrating with the students of AFA is always enjoyable for the Tempus team. It is amazing to see how the children of the village join in and assist us when we are painting the walls or cutting the bottles. They too probably understand the importance of education in India and want to improve the academy through their own efforts.

**“The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself, in the service of others.”**



## Digital Literacy

By Abhiraj Lamba

Progress is a necessary evil that mankind cannot stop bragging about. In order to measure progress, humankind created technology. As and when technology improved it meant that mankind had progressed, giving the boost to mankind's morale the human would spend a lot of time trying to improve, pushing the limits and the younger generation into an abyss full of mysteries. Every era has its prime type of technology; our era hosts a world that is digitalised. The community that we have built needs to progress and move side by side or else we would be lost in hatred and blinded by jealousy. As citizens of a meritocratic India it is our duty to help our community and improve our grip on technology. Progress seems far, far into the abyss of digital technology. Technology has increased its grip so much, that education has made digital material an integral part of our society. To help the society increase its hold on life and the social norm we must help our society become masters of digital technology. Thereby every person deserves to become digitally literate. The culture of our school involves a lot of work that we as boys do for our society. Taking into account the

recent events and latest developments done by the Indian government, it has become quite clear that every citizen needs to learn technology so that he or she is able to live a life of comfort and convenience.

The aim of this initiative is to make people as digitally literate as possible. In India many government schools do not possess any resource in terms of digital support and computers. As

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our school has possessed a flourishing support for people who have any use for computers, a lot of spare computers were leftover. These computers were still in working condition, so we planned to make use of the surplus. After picking a school which held the ideal location we transported those old systems to the school. We then started putting those systems into their place, hoping that the systems would work.

It took us a whole day to set up the systems. After a successful test runs of all the systems, we returned to school with new ideas in our mind. While coming back to school we noticed a group of people who do online bookings and online bill payments in exchange for money. It struck our mind that why don't we try and help the elderly in these processes by doing these things for them for free and probably teach them how to use the available technology around them, as we noticed the proximity of the electronic stores that reside near our school and in the vast expanse of Dehradun. Though this plan did not succeed as we did not receive much heed by the public, so we started a new plan this time we hoped that our plan would work. Indeed it did work. The main aim of our plan was to try and get orphans to use out the I.T. centre. Turns out that it was not such a tough task though we also had to teach most of them the most basic form of running the tech pieces. After this project, our examinations started due to which we were not able to work much but we hope to cover up next term and work harder towards digital literacy.



## Litre of Light

By Raghav Grover and Shivendra Pratap Singh



While doing some paperwork for a social service initiative, I realized there was not even sufficient light to even read and write. After some further enquiry, I got to know that out of the 700 huts in 'Nanda Ki Chowki', only 200 of them had substantial lighting. That was when the idea of trying to lighten up the place struck me. But to think of a design which would require less labor and more of innovation was tough and it was not late until when I finally came upon something viable. While surfing on web, I found about a global initiative headed by Pepsi co. whose objective was to turn 21

plastic bottles into lights which have no running cost. This was based on the principle of scattering of light and was very simple. You just had to install 21 bottles on the roof which will allow the light to reach the water stored in the bottle. I went and installed some of the lights in the slum but very soon, I realized that people weren't too enthusiastic about this and they wanted night light. This was disappointing to hear but then I found a solution to it. If you add a solar panel on top of the bottle and a battery and LED light in the bottle, a sufficient amount of light is produced.

Raising funds for the cost of add-ons was a problem, hence my friend and I funded the project. We have installed the lights in currently 2 villages to provide the villages with self-sufficient lighting. The bottles now have handles for allowing to be hanged from roofs or even from cycles. The initiative has grown exponentially with the help of members like Shankar Mutneja, Siddharth Raman and Vansh Gandhi. It is good to see a smile on someone's face after you have done something good to improve the quality of their life!



## Fundvisor

By Rajveer Kochar & Pritish Dugar

FundVisor is a small scale organization aiming to educate citizens on tackling common financial difficulties faced by all age groups above 15 with regard to their age-specific needs. Financial literacy enhances an individual's decision-making skills which enables them to be self-sufficient and also caters to future financial stability. Our focus is to help support a variety of individuals in Dehradun, financially. The initiative works towards enabling society to manage their respective financial matters in an efficacious and an independent manner by using their financial knowledge to make mindful decisions about their personal financial matters covering key areas

such as how banks work, insurance policies, investment opportunities, retirement savings, budgeting, tax planning etc. Under each key financial area, we will be working on basic financial predicaments which, due to lack of transparency, work against the best interests of the people. The FundVisor team has initially begun its work by collaborating with government schools. Further on, as the initiative gains momentum, the FundVisor team will work with old age homes, prisons, college students, and in villages in order to expand and educate individuals about personal fund management based on their needs.

For instance, upon conducting a poll in a town on the outskirts of Dehradun a majority of the people didn't know how to setup a simple savings account in a local bank, others were more concerned about their money falling into the wrong hands. Such mindsets and inadequate information in a country like India regresses the socio-economic growth and, in all certainty, becomes an opportunity cost. Our main goal at FundVisor is to make sure the India of tomorrow can be proud of being financially literate and independent citizens. For any further queries regarding this initiative please contact us at fundvisorinitiative@gmail.com.



## Padhega India toh Badhega India

By Lakshman Santhanam

Education is the key to all the treasures of success in the world. In today's world without education your life can come to a halt, you end up being stalled and are restricted to one place. Mankind has grown to accept education as the next key to a bright future and they have realised its importance. Reflecting on the purpose of starting the initiative, Padhega India Badhega India, where we plan on giving the unprivileged masses of dehradun district a slice of higher education so as to enhance their intellect levels and expose them to greater thinking skills and overall education.

So as a part of our social service project 'Padhega India Toh Badhega India' we have always tried to reach out to government schools and the underprivileged. We teach them in the best and most interactive way possible being students ourselves. Our project, being supported by the government, was encouraged by Dehradun's former Governor K.K. Paul and many of the other schools all around Dehradun such as Welham Girls' school, Hopetown, etc. who help us by providing books to be sent to these government schools for the underprivileged children. As a result we are able to collect thousands of books from almost all around Dehradun. Many of our own teachers have also been very supportive by providing us with all their old books that they recommend for these

children. Two of our teachers: CSG sir and AMB ma'am have helped us by arranging outings for us and also by providing supervision as well as some additional aid to us in order to go and help these children.

We aim to reach out to a vast array of these children who are willing to study and are trying to increase their interests in reading and writing but are also learning to be better in spoken English. Not only this but to be better in written English and have a more refined understanding of Hindi. We do this by visiting these schools every once or twice in a week and we try to teach them and read books to them and tell them the summary of some of these books so that they may gain interest in reading and as a result may also be willing to learn these languages. These people may later be able to contribute to the society and to their families in their own unique way and in the long run may have much better and improved lives to live.

We do not only emphasize on the aspect of reading but interacting as well. As a result we often conduct group quizzes and ask them quick questions and help them with anything that they may not understand. At the end of every two hour session with them we have a quick session with these children in which they ask us anything that they may still have in mind and we help them understand some of these things better. We also

play other types of games with them to make their learning better and much more fun.

We have also been part of a social service fair to raise awareness about our social service projects as well as some of the other projects to raise awareness about what we do in school

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to help the underprivileged and as a result have gotten the support of various other schools around Dehradun to provide us with books and other forms of aid to create a better and brighter future for these children. Being keen readers ourselves we take a lot of interest in this project and selflessly work hard to provide these underprivileged children with the best education we can so that they may later try to contribute to society in their own personal ways after they have been educated. As a result we have outings for this purpose so that we too can contribute to the society and they can too in return. With this mindset we take out time to go to these schools and play our role in this cycle of helping the community.



## Organic Farming

By Udaya Goel

It all started when my love for plants and nature helped me start up the organic farming initiative in school. It was started as a social service initiative where we donated plants and saplings to a government initiative which was The Eco Task Force initiative of the Uttarakhand government. This initiative was to abolish deforestation and encourage people towards afforestation and reforestation. In our journey ahead we tried to help a family in debt by opening up a nursery for them and we even sold the plants for them but as they provided us with the space to open a nursery we donated all the money we earned from that to them as they were people in need and we wanted our passion for nature to help the world.

Over a period of time we realised that this wasn't working out very well as the place we opened our nursery in, was outside school. As plants need regular care it was not viable for us to go there every day. Due to this our plants did not live long enough and died frequently and we also did not have good sales to the extent that we had to shut it down. After this, our current master-in-charge gave us an idea to open an organic farm in

school and this is what we are doing currently. Our Organic Farm is behind the Art and Media centre. The land there was empty and was not being used for anything. To convert that into an organic farm required some work of us - we had to dig to get the perfect

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depth and division between the 15 different beds that we created. The primary challenge we faced, however, was that as we dug up a few centimetres, we found out that there was a lot of rumble underneath. So we

had to sieve all the mud we would put there. Also, as the soil there was not fertile enough, we had to add a lot of manure from outside. The good thing is that we did not use anything which contained any sort of chemicals, our aim being to promote non-chemical farming. Further on, we made the bed boundaries with the help of the school gardeners (to whom we are very grateful for their help and skill).

As of now, we have planted different herbs and vegetables in every bed. We have planted herbs like Basil, Rosemary and Lemongrass, while the vegetables planted are bell peppers, tomatoes and cherry tomatoes. Nowadays, the members of the Organic Farming STA, go every now and then to the farm and water the field and weed out the wild plants. We started Organic Farming in school in April and in July we got our first yield. Now, we are expecting our second yield. We aim to inspire the new generation to prefer organic plants and vegetables in the future. We hope to spread awareness about the potential harm chemical pesticides and insecticides can cause, and also to instill in our society, a healthy and organic dietary lifestyle.



## Independence Day

By Aadi Jaiswal

Social service according to me is a range of services provided by the citizens, the government or an organization. These organizations have an aim, it is to create a better community, promote equality and give people different opportunities to make their lives better. They try to make people's life better by providing them with things that they can't afford or don't have an access to.

Independence Day, the day when our country got free from the British rule,

**“WE DO THIS TO  
GIVE THE BEARERS  
AND WORKERS  
A BREAK FROM  
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is celebrated each year on the 15th August. Each year on this date we do social service to understand the hard work the house bearers put in each and every day to make our lives more convenient and comfortable, but all this effort put by them goes unnoticed. We do this as to give the bearers and workers a break from

their tiring and hectic routine. This year on 14th August my form mates and I went to a shed situated in our school and got all the equipment that we required to clean the house. These things included: brooms, rakes, metal brushes, gloves, cloth, glass cleaner etc. Then on the 15th August the whole house woke up at 6:45 am and started cleaning in the house. It was decided that the best kept room will get a cake so we all worked very hard. The first task we did was to clean our rooms, including the beds, our lockers and to keep everything in place. We moped the floor and made the room very clean. This was the only day in the whole year when the whole house worked together cleaning personal and public areas in and around the house. While cleaning the house we all realized how difficult it was for the bearers to clean the whole house every day, to make our lives more suitable. We did a lot of work that day, and by the end of it we were exhausted, however, happy to complete the task. After cleaning the house, we gathered in the house veranda and were instructed to go outside and clean the surrounding areas. We were provided with various kinds of tools and were

assigned jobs. I was told to go to the garden and separate the weed from the flowering plants. The dame showed us how to take out the plants from the roots. It was very tiring to sit in a specific position and take out the weed using a trowel.

After doing this I took the metal brushes and started to scrub the moss off the floor and bricks outside the house. At first it seemed easy to do, but after doing it straight for fifteen minutes my hand started hurting and I found it to be a tough job. Then I thought how difficult it would be for the gardeners, to clean the bricks and floors all around the school day by day without stopping and felt really sad about it. At the same time some people were collecting the fallen leaves from the garden while the others were collecting weed.

In the end I felt really happy after helping the bearers with their work for a day and was truly satisfied with my work. It wasn't our room that got the cake. But, we were happy that it was all our hard work that we put in which gave the bearers a day off from their hectic routine.



*“Some of our finest work comes through service to others.”*

**-GORDON B. HINCKLEY**



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