

## **Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership Supports Government of Jharkhand and NITI Aayog to Improve Education Indicators in Pakur and Sahibganj**

- **32,201 new students enrolled across 2,235 government schools (2018-19)**
- **678 school libraries made functional (2018-19)**
- **Education leadership capacity built for 200 Middle Managers (Block Education Officer, Cluster Resource Coordinators) impacting 6,493 teachers and 2,235 headmasters in 2,235 government schools by supporting District Collectors and District Education Officials**

**Thursday | May 16, 2019 | Ranchi, Jharkhand:** Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL) has partnered with NITI Aayog to improve Education Indicators in 25 Aspirational Districts across 8 States in India, through its Gandhi Fellows, a network of 300 talented youth. As an extension to this programme, PFEL is working in partnership with Government of Jharkhand and NITI Aayog to improve Education Indicators in Pakur and Sahibganj districts. Through the Aspirational Districts Transformation Programme (ADTP) PFEL supports District Collectors and District Education Officials to develop the capacity of 200 Middle Managers for supportive supervision. It also enables community engagement and alignment of multiple stakeholders for improving learning outcomes and school enrolment in these districts.

One of the key challenges identified in Pakur and Sahibganj was low attendance. To address this, Gandhi Fellows, PFEL's on-ground implementers, mobilized 'Bal Sansad' (student cabinet) by conducting workshops in 30 government schools of Barhait block, Sahibganj. This resulted in a 25% improvement in attendance in February and March, 2019. In Amrapara block of Pakur, Gandhi Fellows worked closely with community members and Head Masters to create a conducive learning environment for students, resulting in a 24% improvement in attendance.

Inspired by the Gandhi Fellows, the District Administration of Sahibganj decided to leverage the youth's potential, with the support of PFEL initiated 'Gyanjyoti Fellowship', an initiative to engage college going youth to support their efforts. The initiative received a huge response of 500 applications, of which 300 were selected as Gyanjyoti Fellows. The Fellows have committed 36 days of their time to increase community participation in schools, and to improve attendance by supporting school activities such as Library, Assembly, and Bal-Sansad.

Commenting on this programme **Mr. Alok Kumar, Advisor - Human Resource Development, NITI Aayog** said, "Social transformation is incomplete without the support of society. Therefore, transforming these Aspirational Districts is not only the responsibility of District, State and Central Governments, but also of organizations like Piramal Foundation. I believe the Youth, including Gandhi Fellows, has an immense potential and energy to transform the system's outcomes." Mr. Kumar also added that there is a need to collectively rethink means to enable desirable quality outcomes at speed and scale.

Speaking about the Aspirational Districts Transformation Programme (ADTP) **Mr. Manmohan Singh, Director, PFEL**, said, "I am pleased to announce that PFEL has deployed 21 employees across Pakur and Sahibganj to support District Collectors to improve education indicators set by NITI Aayog. Over

678 libraries have been made functional in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, and 278 schools have been painted under the 'Building as Learning Aid' initiative. Through Virtual Field Support Centres, PFEL has empowered 11 women to support teachers on reflecting and mitigating challenges on pedagogy, lesson plans and assessment over telephonic conversations."

A half yearly boot camp organized by PFEL was held in Ranchi for 250 Gandhi Fellows working in 30 districts across 8 states of the country, between May 8 and May 12, 2019, providing them a platform for sharing their learnings and challenges.

On the occasion of the boot camp, **Mr. Uma Shanker, State Project Director, Education Department, Govt. of Jharkhand** said, "We were delighted to have an insightful interaction with the Gandhi Fellows, who brought in learnings and interesting experiences from across different states. We are certain that these Gandhi Fellows will play a significant role in transforming the social landscape of our country."

**About Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL):**

Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL), an initiative of Piramal Foundation, is a change management organisation, that aims to improve learning outcomes of students, by transforming Education Leadership at State, District and School level, in partnership with District, State and Central Governments.

PFEL catalyses behaviour change at scale, through building Meaning, Learning, Joy and Pride and supporting government officials to improve processes, deploy tools and integrate technology. It enables government officials across the value chain, to develop mindsets, leadership skills, and knowledge to improve the quality of learning imparted to children.

Through its flagship Gandhi Fellowship, an intensive two-year youth leadership development programme, PFEL enables talented and committed youth to re-envision India, articulate problems, and develop solutions, with an aim to create a pipeline of nation builders who can cause large scale social and public systems change.

PFEL is currently present in 14 States across 50,000+ schools, impacting 50 Million+ lives across India.

**About Piramal Foundation:**

Piramal Foundation is a Section 8 company that develops innovative solutions to resolve issues that are critical roadblocks towards unlocking India's economic potential. The Piramal Group's core values of Knowledge, Action Care and Impact guide the organisation in carrying out its responsibilities towards society. It believes that considerable positive change can occur when we collaborate with like-minded partners and nurture projects that are scalable, ensuring a long-term impact. In line with the Strategic Development Goals, the Piramal Foundation is focused on universal primary education, empowering women, reducing child mortality rates, improving maternal health and improving access to safe drinking water.

Piramal Foundation has partnered with NITI Aayog to transform 25 aspirational districts across 7 states in India.

The Foundation currently works across 21 states and has impacted over 90 million lives, mostly in partnership with state governments. It has developed innovative approaches and programs in every vertical and has built strong partnerships with governments, technology partners and international organisations, including with Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Harvard Graduate School of Education and World Diabetes Foundation. The projects are implemented through Piramal Swasthya, Piramal Sarvajal and Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership.

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