



EVERY CHILD IN SCHOOL

THE RTE STORY BOOK

RWA | **RIGHT WALK**
Foundation

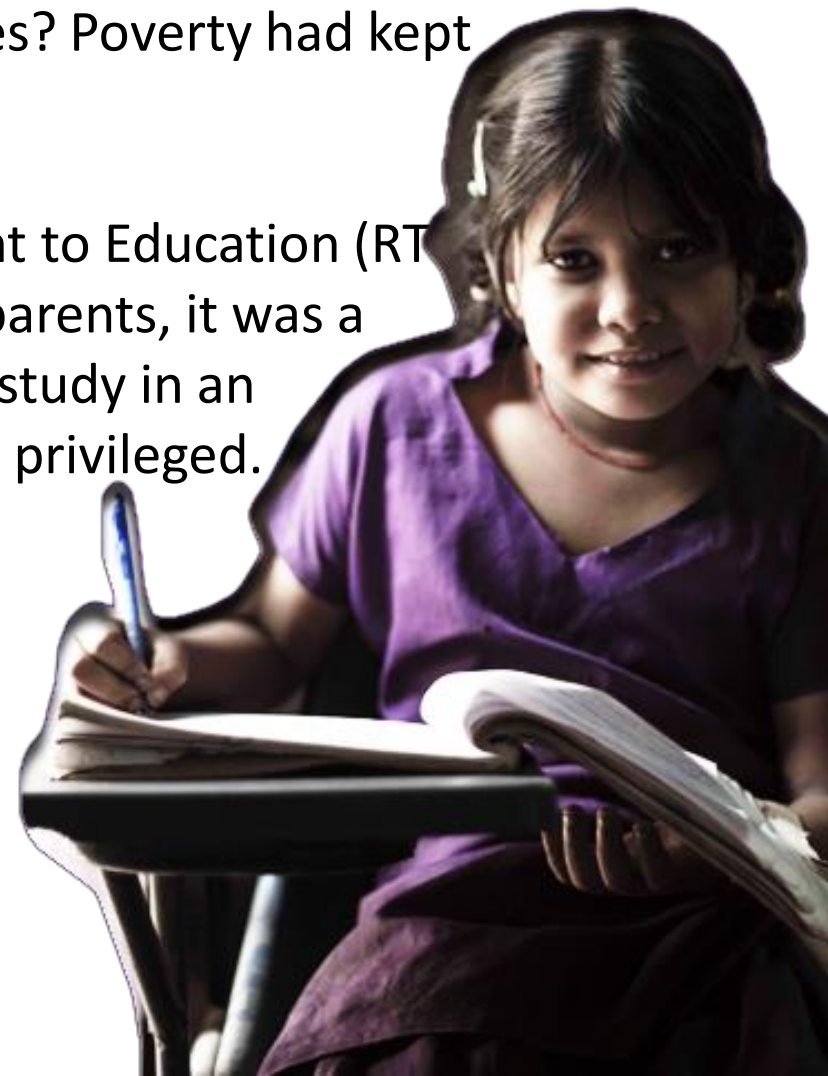
The Beginning

About four years ago, thousands of children from across the state would tag along with their parents, wherever they went, to earn their daily bread. This population comprised of families with no fixed source of income. While most of them depended on rag-picking, selling peanuts, trinkets and so on for their livelihoods, for some, incessantly loading bricks on their little head, sweating it out in the scorching heat throughout the day and getting paid a meagre amount for this work – to add to the income of their parents – was their childhood all about.

Why would one think of education, when even getting the next meal is replete with uncertainties? Poverty had kept such children away from education.

When the Centre introduced the Right to Education (RTI) Act four years ago, for thousands of parents, it was a dream come true – to see their child study in an English-medium school alongside the privileged.

जिसे देखा करते थे दूर से
पढ़ते हैं अब वहाँ गुरूर से



The Zardoziwala & RTE



“He would have either been tagged along with me to earn our daily bread, or he could have gone to school and secure his future. We chose to send him to school. Thanks to RTE.”

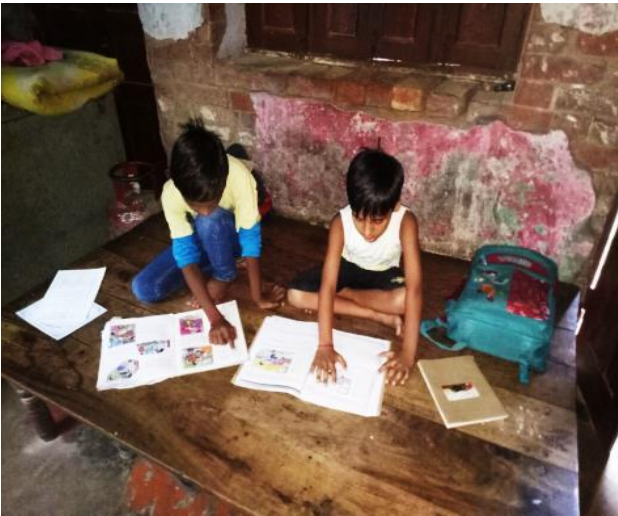
– Hasan Raza

Lucky, son of Hasan Raza, a zardozi artisan, is the **first to attend a school in his family**. Hasan, the sole breadwinner of the family, was already befuddled as he struggled to make ends meet, as his eyesight was becoming progressively worse. Week eyesight only meant his earnings dwindled. Thinking of a private school for his child was madcap, but RTE came to his rescue.

“Lucky hasn’t faced any problem in integration. Anmol, Tanveer, and Naaz, in fact the entire class loves our son. Anmol and Tanveer are Lucky’s Non-RTE friends and they often visit Lucky. They also share tiffin, games and swing with each other. Anmol is Lucky’s best friend,” says the happy father.

Today Hasan is weaving dreams of a beautiful tomorrow. "Lucky is the first one from our family who speaks English. **He'll grow up to be a doctor or an engineer one day**, In Sha’Allah," says his mother, Sarwar Jahan.

From Samosa Stall to Saint Anthony Public School



"The teachers take good care of our children; they don't discriminate. RTE has given me hopes for my son,"

Says Prem, who dreams of making his son a pilot.

"I want my son to touch skies," he adds.

For cousin brothers Prem Gupta and Raj Kumar Gupta, jollification knew no bounds, when the application of their children, Arnab Gupta and Vaibhav Gupta, for admission under RTE was accepted by St. Anthony Public School, Lucknow.

Prem Gupta, who is a widower, with a daily earning of barely Rs 350/- by selling samosas, had almost given up on sending Arnab to school, till RTE showed him the way. With necessary documents in place, Prem along with his brother Raj Kumar applied for their children's admissions online at rte25.upsdc.gov.in, and without much tumult, Arnab Gupta and Vaibhav Gupta managed to get a seat.

"I don't want my son to sell samosas... I want him to be a pilot and touch skies," said Prem.

Darzi waley Bhaiyya and RTE

Mohammed Imtiaz's dilapidated tailor shop in Gomti Nagar in Lucknow district has suddenly become the attraction of the entire neighbourhood.

Popularly known as 'darzi waley bhaiyya' in his neighbourhood for his tailoring, Imtiaz, proud father of Mohammed Arbish Faridi, had always lived with only one dream - to give his son the best education.



“Every time a parent visited my shop with their children’s uniform, I would literally break down into tears,” he said, adding that, "I did not know how to make it possible, **but I knew education could change my son’s fortune**" Imtiaz learned about RTE from his neighbour, who handed him a pamphlet printed and distributed by RightWalk Foundation which read, “स्कूलों में कक्षा 8 तक निशुल्क शिक्षा”

“**RTE opened doors to my dream.** If it weren't for RTE, Arbish would have never be able to pursue his education. Like myself, he would have probably worked as a tailor earning less than ₹ 5,000 per month. **He deserved best, and RTE gave him the best,**” says Imtiaz.

Today Arbish completed his one month at Modern Academy School, Gomti Nagar. He is one happy child who actively participates in all the activities at school and is bright in academics as well.

No more selling ice my son

Kamlesh Prajapati, a father of four, is into hand to mouth living, and earns his daily bread by stitching dead bodies recovered from accidents and murders after postmortem.

He always wished a better life for his children and didn't want them to lead a life of handicap of not being able to read or write. Kamlesh was at his wits' end on how he could get a seat for his son in a good school. Dreams were on the verge of shattering as his children started selling ice in summers on road, but **RTE 12.1.C opened a world of possibilities for Kamlesh.**

"It was a gala moment at home when my son's name was announced under RTE. If I hadn't got the seat, my son would have been selling ice on roads. As soon as my son's name was announced, I ran towards my son shouting, 'No more selling ice on roads, my son'

I'm not spending a single rupee for my kid's education. My biggest joy is he's learning to use the computer," he says.

RTE 12.1.C presented my children with the opportunity of going to school, and my little ones have seized it with all their might.



These stories does not end here, rather it spells the beginning of a new dawn.

It shows how RTE acted as a magic wand to rescue thousands of children from the shackles of illiteracy, and allowed them an education that would help them soar to freedom.

While these stories did not begin with "Once upon a time.", we would like it to have the proverbial fairy tale ending of,

“and they lived happily ever after!”





हम नही मानते कोई दीवार
दोस्त हैं हम समझो ना यार
बड़ा घर, महेंगे कपड़े,
और ज़रूरी है क्या एक बड़ी कार
स्कूल जाना तो है
हम सभी बच्चों का अधिकार
क्यों भारी चीज़ों से तोलते हो
आप हमारा प्यार
छोटे छोटे सपने हमारे
स्कूल जा कर होंगे साकार
हम नही मानते कोई दीवार
दोस्त हैं हम समझो ना यार
कभी पढ़ाई तो कभी लड़ाई
कभी प्यार तो कभी टकरार
हम मिलकर अपने सपने साजे
ताकि टूट जाए ये सब दीवार
मैं हूँ कलाम
मैं हूँ कल्पना चावला
चलो मिलकर करें देश का सपना
साकार
हम नही मानते कोई दीवार
दोस्त हैं हम समझो ना यार

RIGHT TO EDUCATION,
RIGHT TO HOPE

Everyone has the right to a quality education

