

# Send My Friend Back To School

## BACK-PACK OUTREACH OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

### EDUCATION FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

Millions of parents, educators, teachers, the civil society, concerned individuals and children around the world are calling upon their governments to provide free/subsidized, quality basic education for all the world's children. They are part of the Global Campaign For Education; we, at the Hope Home Calcutta add our collective voice to their call!

We believe that education is a basic human right and fundamental to the fight for human dignity and freedom. For the over **125 million children** around the world, this right is violated everyday.

We are committed to promote education as a basic human right, and mobilize public opinion on all stakeholders comprising our society to fulfil our obligation to provide free/subsidized, compulsory, basic education for all individuals, in particular for children, women and all others who are disadvantaged, deprived and otherwise denied an education.

We are driven by the conviction that quality education for all is achievable, and by the concern for the immense costs of failure.

We also believe that in an increasingly knowledge-driven economy, exclusion from education would translate into growing poverty, inequality and deprivation.

### THE UNDERLYING MESS

The figures speak for themselves:

- **40%** of India's population is below the age of 18 years which at over **400 million** is the world's largest child population
- At over **65 million**, India is home to the world's largest population of child laborers
- **Less than half** of India's children between the ages 6 and 14 go to school
- One in every **10** children is disabled/challenged in India
- Only **38%** of India's children below the age

of **2** years are immunized

- Almost **one in every five** children in India below the age of 14 suffer from diarrhea, an easily preventable disease
- Children form **40%** of India's population, and yet they are discriminated against and treated as non-entities

### HOPE EDUCATION CENTRE

We, at the Hope Education Centre believe that **education is:**

- ✓ A universal human right
- ✓ The key to poverty-alleviation and sustainable human development
- ✓ A core responsibility of the state, the civil society and all concerned people
- ✓ Achievable if government, civil society and all concerned people mobilize their determination, will and available resources

(see page on Hope Education Centre)

## THE BACK-PACK INITIATIVE

The Backpack Initiative campaign aims to help support children from underprivileged, poor, marginalized families with school supplies, fees, uniforms, shoes, stationary and books to enable them to study at our school. The minimum suggested contribution for each child is **INR 1200 (USD 25)** every month to cover school supplies, text books, school fees, uniforms, school shoes and lunch on school days.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP

With so much to gain, there can be no excuse for delay! We should get involved immediately as citizen's groups, teachers, communities, concerned individuals and students in developing concrete plans of action for delivering and sustaining good, quality education for all, especially children.

**Students, Individuals, Schools, Community Groups and Teachers** are encouraged to:

- ❖ Create awareness of the great need to fulfil our obligation to provide free/subsidized basic education for all, particularly children, women

and all disadvantaged and deprived sections of society

- ❖ Help create a chain of testimony and accountability at the local, school and community levels and place action-oriented leadership at the end of a civil society monitoring chain for deliverables
- ❖ Work in partnership with civil society/non-profit organizations, government agencies and concerned individuals to ensure that the main stakeholders **children** receive a basic education that is a right inherent to every human and each child's birth-right
- ❖ Develop dyadic relationships between stakeholders on both ends of the benefit chain: help givers and help recipients; develop **tangible expressions** of care, thoughtfulness and concern to further strengthen such relationships
- ❖ Be a **student-volunteer** for community improv-

ement and developmental projects that focuses on meeting the campaign objectives of Education For All

- ❖ Be willing to share your **knowledge, skills** and **experience** with individual students-your own 'Buddy' at the Hope Education Centre for building up his/her capacity
- ❖ Sponsor the Back-Pack initiative and 'adopt' a student-individually, as a class, a family, a peer-group or a school and institution

*' A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove or how large my bank account was. But the world may be a better place because I was important in the life of a child'*



*The time to act is **NOW** and **HERE!***

