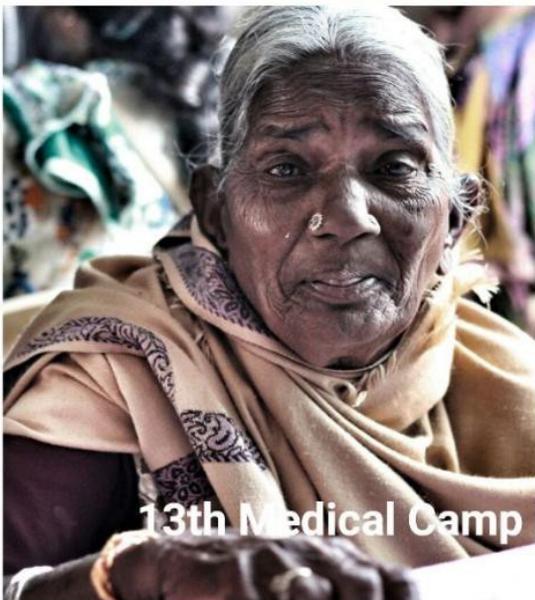


## SERVICE TO SOCIETY

ACCESS Foundation was set up two years ago by a small group of women committed to improve the lot of girls and women from marginalized sections of society. During the past two years the Foundation has been doing great service, by organizing health camps and setting up skill development centers as well as providing warm clothes, windcheaters to school children and also made arrangements for fixing water purifiers in schools.

26 Nov 2017



13th Medical Camp by AF at Al-Khair, Rasoolpura

**Ayesha Anees**, Founder President of Access Foundation describes the inspiration behind the setting up of the Foundation in the Write Up below.

Khuda ne Aaj Tak us khoum ki haalat nahin badlee,  
Na ho jis ko khayal aap apni haalat ke badalne ka.

*(The fact is that God does not simply change the fortunes of a people,  
The desire to improve, the winds of change have to come from within themselves!)*

An inspirational beginning - on a pleasant wintry November evening in 2015. The first winds of change were heralded during an engrossing conversation that I had with a talented group of intelligent enthusiastic girls at my house. I remember the conversation had turned to the current social and economic conditions, and as the discussion progressed, it became clear that the single most important factor responsible for the sad plight of the community was a lack of awareness and knowledge. This was the common stream running through various shortcomings- reflected in the poor schooling system, or the lack of vocational skills, or poor health and prevalent preventable illnesses in the community. From this understanding it was but a short step for the group to realize that as we represented the privileged few - it was incumbent upon us to try our best to improve the lot of those less fortunate. It was felt that an N.G.O. would be the best way to reach out to the underprivileged- to embrace them as our own and provide them the much needed services.

*“Gham har haalat mein mohlik hai, apna ho yaa aour kisi ka..  
Kyun na jahaan ka gham apna lein, baad mein kuch tadbeerein sochein  
Baad mein sukh ke sapne dekhien, sapnon ki tadbeerein sochein”*

*(Sorrows are lethal in every form, yours or my own it matters not..  
Let us first embrace these sorrows as our own, Search then for their resolutions;  
And Let us fill our dreams with pleasant thoughts, interpret the dreams as we will)*

The original group members completely believed in this beautiful heartfelt sentiment and shared their thoughts with some other like-minded individuals and we had encouraging offers of help and support from experts in various fields. In no time at all we had multiple projects being planned- doctors organizing medical camps; Educationists who started thinking of the best ways to impart knowledge; Lawyers who wanted to reach out to resolve disputes and conflicts within the community. Other specialists also joined us (a Senior Bank Manager, Marketing experts, Administrators and Business men- all very successful people in their fields of expertise) and soon we had the structure for the foundation of a charitable organization called Access Foundation with more than a hundred active members. The members obvious enthusiasm and sincerity was reflected in the fact that in spite of their busy professional lives and social commitments they were always ready to take out time for the work of the Access Foundation- confirming for me Allama Iqbal's assertion that :

*“Dil se jo baat nikalti hai asar rakhti hai, Par Nahin taaqat-e-parwaaz magar rakhti hai”*

*(The heart's lament has a powerful resonance, without wings it soars high)*

The group continues to grow- with members spread across different countries. We are also fortunate to have an excellent group of advisors who are high achievers and masters in different fields but have come together with a shared belief in the values that drive our Access Foundation. Their encouragement and advice has proved extremely beneficial and continues to drive us on an ever progressive path. We have conducted numerous medical camps, set up educational and skill training centres, and conduct hygiene drives on a regular basis- all of which have greatly benefitted the poor and the under privileged. The germ of an idea that was planted on that November evening has truly developed, by the Grace of God into a full grown tree with its many branches bearing various fruits and flowers. My appreciation for the esteemed members of this group is immense- their dedication and sincere hard work is what makes Access Foundation the uniquely successful and progressive organisation that it is today. Let our unity and our hard work be our strength and identity!

*“ Fard Qayam Rabt-e-millat se hai, Tanha kuch Nahin;*

*Mouj hai Dariya mein aur Bairun-e-dariya kuch nahin”*

*(Alone we are ineffectual, it is our community ties that give us the strength,*

*The wave as part of the ocean has power and grace, away from the ocean it ceases to exist*