



## Empowering Underprivileged Children Through Holistic Education

### A Success Story



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### **Introduction: A Vision for Change**

PAHAL—an acronym for “Prayaas Ab Har Anokhe Lakshy”—was initiated by the Social Work Department of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan. Officially launched in November 2022, PAHAL aims to empower underprivileged children, particularly those from low-income and migrant families, by addressing their academic and personal development needs. This unique initiative provides a nurturing environment where children can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. By providing free education and fostering holistic development, PAHAL addresses the needs of children from low-income and migrant communities. The program not only focuses on academics but also on building moral values, social skills, and personal hygiene, making it a transformative effort in rural education.

### **Transforming Lives: The PAHAL Journey**

#### **1. Holistic Educational Approach:**

PAHAL stands out by integrating academic support with extracurricular activities and moral guidance. The initiative conducts free tuition classes in the evenings, led by Master of Social Work (MSW) students, ensuring consistent mentorship. Activities include improving reading and writing skills, instilling moral values, and promoting behavioral and social growth.

#### **2. Addressing Challenges:**

The program identified key issues, such as irregular student attendance, lack of parental involvement, and teachers’ limited awareness of the initiative. To tackle these, PAHAL conducted assessments and engaged with schools to understand student needs better. Teachers and parents were encouraged to take active roles in their children’s educational journey.

### **Impact Highlights**

- ✓ **Academic Growth:** Students demonstrated noticeable improvement in reading, writing, and overall academic performance. For instance:
- ✓ At Government Primary School, Sanot, teachers observed significant progress in students' studies and behavior.

- ✓ Students in Sarvodaya School showed enhanced hygiene practices and reduced absenteeism.
- ✓ **Behavioral and Social Changes:**
  - Children at Government Primary School, Dhwala, became more disciplined and socially interactive.
  - Group activities and cultural celebrations like Diwali fostered a sense of community and belonging among the students.
- ✓ **Empowering Parents and Teachers:**

Increased awareness about PAHAL among teachers and parents played a crucial role in sustaining progress. At Sarvodaya School, parents actively inquired about their children's education, reinforcing the importance of parental involvement.

### **Key Success Factors**

- **Innovative Teaching Model:** MSW students and PhD scholars collaborated to ensure seamless learning. This unique model provided hands-on experience to social work students and quality mentorship to children.
- **Community Engagement:** Festivals and cultural events celebrated at PAHAL created a sense of unity, teaching children the importance of cultural heritage and shared joy.
- **Continuous Assessment:** The PAHAL team regularly assessed student progress, focusing on behavioral, academic, and social development. These assessments helped refine the program and ensure impactful outcomes.

### **Challenges and Overcoming Them**

While PAHAL faced obstacles such as irregular attendance and lack of teacher awareness, innovative solutions like organizing Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meetings and involving dedicated school staff helped bridge gaps. The program is also exploring infrastructure upgrades and NGO collaborations for sustained impact.

### **Conclusion: A Beacon of Hope for the Future**

PAHAL exemplifies the power of grassroots initiatives in driving social change. By addressing the educational and personal development needs of underprivileged children, the program not only

transforms individual lives but also strengthens the broader community. As PAHAL continues to evolve, its unwavering commitment to education, inclusivity, and holistic growth ensures it will remain a catalyst for positive change for years to come.

### **Pictures from PAHAL**







