

Foundation For **Equal Citizenship**

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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The Promise of Equal Citizenship

The basic premise of any democracy – as also of ours – is Equality. Equality among its citizens. Equality of Status and of Opportunity – as mentioned in our Preamble. Equal Citizenship for all.

In reality, we are far from attaining this ideal. Large sections of our society are deprived of the opportunities to explore their full potential and benefit from India's economic progress. As also, the Indian society is deprived of their contributions, through their skills and talents, in its onward march towards development.

We intend to bridge this gap. Only a productive and empowered citizenry can avail of opportunities to reach its potential. A population which is an asset to the nation, it consists of educated and healthy citizens.

We aim to work in the field of education, skill development and training, and health among the marginalised sections of our society. So that they get equal opportunities to realise their potential and become equal partners in India's success story. So that they enjoy equally the fruits of India's growing economy.

So that the promise of Equal Citizenship is fulfilled...



NOTE FROM THE Founder

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Slums like Trilokpuri lack open and safe spaces for children, youth and women.

Kadam Learning Center was established with this in mind. It is not just a learning space. It is for kids living in constrained spaces to hang out, have fun, be creative, confident and learn to be responsible and participating citizens.

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-Yasmeen Fatimah-

2022 saw the world limping back to normalcy. FFEC's programs too were back in full swing, with new partnerships, team members and projects.

The number of students coming for after-school classes went up to above 100. Twelve university students completed summer internships. We saw a 100% success rate in the class 12 board exam results. Online Mathematics classes for class 10 board exams were introduced in partnership with CLE Trust.

FFEC also sponsored 11 students for a one year Food Technology diploma course from Jamia Hamdard, Moradabad. These online classes are held at our center, Kadam in Trilokpuri.

Regular workshops on topics such as gender equality, communal harmony, citizenship, career counseling and spoken English encouraged critical thinking, engagement and open discussions promoted self-confidence among the youth. Many of these were conducted by SMILE fellows from the organization, Pravah.

Workshops for women on health, nutrition and hygiene were conducted every month catering to around 300 women. We also focused on adolescent girls with a series on menstrual health and hygiene held at our Centre in collaboration with Aru Foundation.

I would like to sincerely thank FFEC's team of employees, volunteers, interns, fellows and partners for their hard work and commitment. Of course all this wouldn't have been possible without the continued support of our donors and well wishers and their trust in our work.

I look forward to another year of engagement with the community in Trilokpuri on working towards enabling equal citizenship!



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OUR PROJECTS

FOUNDATION FO

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It was pretty great, i interacted with everyone and got to know how aware everyone is already. So i conducted an introductionary session to assess the needs and expectations

-SMILE Fellow



#### Raah: LIFE SKILLS FOR YOUTH

•• I only thought of government jobs or becoming a Zomato or Ola driver and didn't know about technical courses after class 12 till I attended a session at Kadam Centre.

-Suny, Student

Engagement with the youth over the years made us realize that it wasn't enough for them to go to school to prepare for life and find opportunities and achieve equal citizenship. Most of them are first generation learners and do not have the awareness or guidance about what possibilities exist.

Although we have been conducting workshops on leadership, spoken English and creative art, this year we decided to prioritize life skills coaching to build confidence, think critically, articulate their thoughts, engage in issues and become responsible citizens.

We were able to conduct the workshops on a more regular basis averaging 1-2 per month in partnership with fellows from SMILE program at Pravah and interns from different universities. In addition, FFEC's director Asim Mirza conducted a session to mark the World Environment Day. About 45-50 young boys and girls attended these workshops.

Themes for these workshops were:

- Gender equality
- Spoken English
- Career guidance
- Mental health
- What it means to be a citizen of India
- Entrepreneurship
- Communal harmony
- Creative Art
- Environment and Recycling

My interaction with the students had a huge impact on me as even at such a tender age they had a very nuanced understanding of society and things around them.

-Shoaib, FFFC Fellow

My session was on understanding how they first figured out about their gender and the unequal aspect of it, and it was a very interesting conversation. -SMILE Fellow





#### **KADAM:** Towards a better future

#### After-school classes

Four sessions of after-school classes for kids aged 8-14 years continued Monday-Friday and are attended by 110 children (75% are girls). Most of them live in *jhuggis* in Ambedkar Camp.

We focus on improving the fundamentals of the attendees in all subjects, with special attention given to Mathematics and reading skills. In addition our educators also assist with homework and preparing kids for school examinations. A significant improvement in students' grades was observed by end of the school year.

We also provide coaching for board and college examinations and are proud all students coached were able to pass their 12th class boards. This year we have also partnered with CLE-Trust for class 10 Mathematics classes that are conducted online. We look forward to more classes with CLE-Trust in the future.

Students at our Center look forward to summer camps because they like spending time here doing different activities and learning new things, different from their regular school work.

This year twelve students from different colleges and universities did internships during the summer break. They wrote blogs and conducted sessions as listed below.

#### Workshops by interns at our Summer Camp:

- Story telling
- Computer classes
- My aspirations in life

#### Other workshops

- Arts and Crafts workshop by Aaghaaz-e-Taleem
- Darwin's Tree of Life by Amitabh Pandey

#### Blogs written by interns:

- Fighting against all odds: Story of Shahin Baji
- Easing Accessibility of Education
- Importance of Story Telling and Creative Writing
- Domestic Workers in Trilokpuri
- Self-help groups-Creating change from the grassroots Visit our blog page.





## Zarriya: Technical Skills Development

FFEC sponsored eleven students who have completed class 12 for a one year diploma course in Food Technology at Jamia Hamdard. Classes are held online at our Kadam Center in Trilopuri and lab classes are held in Moradabad.

The key objectives of the course are to educate them about food processing and preservation, inform them about opportunities in this sector, build entrepreneurship skills and provide 6 months hands-on training at different companies.





## SEHAT



Women play a key role in a family and their empowerment can lead to a better future. We were already engaging with them on education for their children but this year, with a dedicated person for outreach amongst women and adolescent girls we were able to build a network of around 300 who attend our workshops on health, nutrition and hygiene.

#### **Adolescent Girls**

A week long workshop on menstrual health and hygiene for adolescent girls was conducted by Aru Foundation. Attended by around 50 girls, the sessions were informative and gave an opportunity to learn about their bodies and ask questions they are often unable to ask anyone.

#### Women

Awareness sessions for women on healthy diet, nutritious food for the family and diseases such as hypo and hyperthyroidism, high blood pressure and diabetes were held.

NAB India organized a breast cancer screening camp which was conducted by blind women.

A workshop on how to save water and the importance of clean water and sanitation for better health was conducted by Haryali Centre for Rural Development.

The taboo of shame surrounds when we talk about menstruation. Girls at the FFEC Center were more engaging and keen to learn more on the topic. We have observed there is a desire to have proper knowledge about this.





#### ROZGAAR

We continued our micro-loans program for daily wagers at a low scale this year giving loans to a vegetable vendor and hawker and street shop owner due to lack of resources.

I owned a small shop but had to close down during Covid lockdowns. I found out about FFEC's loan program and thanks to that I was able to buy inventory and restart my corner shop (kinari ki dukaan).

-Bablu



## FFEC WEBINAR SERIES

A 3-part series on Climate Change and its impact on India was was conducted by different speakers.

Life Skills and Entrepreneurship trainer Daniel Ludwig hosted a session for 10 young entrepreneurs from Berlin and guided them on how professional coaching works and how it can make an impact in one's life.

#### Watch here: **FFEC WEBINARS**







#### Samreen and Anjum Students



**Fauzia** Ex-student and educator



**Pankhuri Jha** *Fellow, SMILE Pravah* 

We didn't know what to do after class 12 as we didn't get admitted to a college. FFEC paid our fees so we were able to join a diploma course in Food Technology at Jamia Hamdard University. We are finding the course interesting. Our parents agreed because we can attend classes in Trilokpuri at the Kadam Centre. We are thankful to FFEC for the fees and the van they arranged to travel to Moradabad for the practical classes which we enjoyed very much.

I have been associated with FFEC since 2017 when I was in school. Coming here improved my understanding of subjects. The class 12 board exam coaching was also very beneficial. Then I became a teacher here for a year while doing Bachelors in Social Welfare. After completing my bachelors I again started attending coaching sessions for university entrance exams for my Master's. I didn't get admitted the first time round but I continued coming for the caching classes and I very happy I finally did clear the entrance exams at Jamia Millia Islamia and am now doing a course in journalism.

I was a SMILE fellow at Pravah for the batch of 2022. My topic was around creating a space for dialogue on gender, everyday sexism and feminism. After following FFEC's work I chose to conduct some focus groups with the youth there. The participants were aware of gender inequality but they didn't voice their concerns or grasp the complexity. During the sessions girls opened up about their experiences of feeling suppressed due to their gender. Towards the end, boys were able to unlearn their own ideas about sexism and gender. They all felt a need to intervene if any sexist instance happened around them in future.





**Shaheen** Women's Programs, FFEC



Pratigya Student



**Rohit Raj** Volunteer, Architect



Haseen Fatima Educator

I joined FFEC in November 2021 to run their women's health awareness program. I had worked with Agha Khan Foundation prior to this. When I visited the Ambedkar Camp I realized the people here were poorer than in Nizamuddin Basti where I live and worked for 20 years. There was a need to work here.

In the past year I have been able to mobilize around 300 women. They trust us because the workshops are benefitting them. They told me the ones on menstrual hygiene were particularly useful. They also learnt from the nutrition workshops what to take if they have have problems with periods and the importance of nutritious food for their kids.

My father works as a goods delivery person and couldn't afford to send me for private tuitions. I started coming to FFEC's *Kadam Centre* 3 years ago. Now I am in class 5. I have improved in Hindi and Maths. I like coming here everyday because the teachers are caring and we have fun activities too.

As a Graduate student of Urban Design, I always had the desire to conduct a small local area planning and design workshop for the purpose of design, FFEC gave me the opportunity to participate with the youth and learn how we can utilize their un-tapped potential from these workshops. It was a great learning and adds to my book of knowledge about how practical & visionary thinkers we have in our youth. I was learning throughout the process, and the path was carved out from scratch,

I was a student at FFEC and now I am a teacher here because I want to give back in some way. I am trying to bring more kids from the *jhuggis* to study here so they can benefit like I did. My interactions with the kids and their families have made me learn new things and have a better understanding of my own community.





65% of the students coming for classes and workshops are girls.

Akbar Programs Lead

2022 was a challenging year because we had so many different classes and workshops in our small center. I had to juggle and figure out how to manage sessions and coordinate with different partners, some of who were completely online - like Jamia Hamdard's faculty and the educator, Prarthna from CLE Trust.

I had to put together a team of 15 volunteers to coordinate and manage these sessions and our outreach efforts. Sometimes there are network issues or no power so the classes have to be rescheduled.

The Food Technology classes are 6 hours long. For the students it sometimes gets tiring to sit for so many hours. But it is good because they don't have to commute. This is the main reason parents of girls allowed them.

Besides online classes we continued with our regular after-school classes too and had at least 1 or two workshops on weekends on very relevant topics. We also had to squeeze in workshops for women in between classes if there was an open slot since they prefer weekday afternoons. We also saw a record number of interns during summer whose sessions had to be coordinated.

I am very happy that we have more girls enrolled for the regular after-school classes as well the Food Technology course. We also get a higher percentage of them coming to workshops and they are more expressive too. It is as if attending workshops and classes have given them confidence to voice their opinions!

Collaborating with different organizations and interns has taught me a lot too. Each one has its own way of operating. It has also improved my skills at mobilizing the community with the help of young volunteers from the community.

I have a busy day but I am enjoying it because it is rewarding to see that our work is improving lives.

## **MEET OUR TEAM**







Yasmeen Fatimah Director



Asim Mirza Director



Amitabh Pandey Director



**Rida Ali** Director



**Akbar** Program Lead



**Shaheen** Community Health Worker



**Haseen** Educator



**Shoaib Khan** Programs Coordinator





**Simeen Anjum** Graphics Designer



**Chanchal Goyal** Programs Coordinator



**Shad Azmi** Web Developer



**Hina** Women's Health

## **OUR PARTNERS**









#### HAMDARD VOCATIONAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

(Real Courses Leading To Real Careers) (A CENTRE OF JAMIA HAMDARD)









The students are curious to learn new things and they have satisfactory subject knowledge. They were involved in laboratory assignments with great zeal. Coming from very under privileged backgrounds, these courses are benefitting them by giving skill based education which will improve their financial status by providing good job opportunities in the Food industry. It lays out a for girls to feel empowerment as women.

Hasan Kamal

Director, Hamdard Vocational Knowledge Centre, Jamia Hamdard



Rahul Pandey

CLE Trustee and Co-Founder FFEC is one of the grassroots nonprofit organizations we (CLE Trust) partner with. Yasmeen has built a team of highly dedicated people at FFEC who work with (and for empowerment of) children and youth from some of the marginalized communities in Delhi.

For the past many months, we have been conducting live online mathematics classes for children of standard 10 who FFEC works with. Our and our teacher Prarthna's experience of teaching the children and working with FFEC coordinator Akbar has been extremely satisfying.

It is thanks to a great sense of responsibility displayed by Akbar that the classes run so well. The children are enthusiastic in the class and Akbar follows up with post-class tutoring and especially assisting the children who struggle with learning. All that goes to show the truly safe and empowering environment FFEC has created for the children to learn and grow.

Rahul (CLE Trustee), Leela, Shalini (CLE Program Managers)





## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL This possible!

Our outreach grew and projects became more structured in 2022. We were able to accomplish this due to the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers and the new partnerships we developed.

With your support, we look forward to continuing our work and strive towards equal citizenship for all!

Thank you!

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