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STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

OF YAMUNA CENTRE BRIGADE



SPECIAL THANKS TO

MR. MAHESH NAVANI



www.projectwhy.org

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About Project WHY Yamuna Centre

Project WHY is the Flagship Program of the Trust

The **Yamuna Centre**, established in 2015, was created to support the children of agricultural labourers living in the community. Over the years, it has grown into a safe learning space that nurtures and empowers young minds. The centre currently provides education to more than 100 students through its well-structured programs, which include a **Full-Day Education Program**, a **Half-Day Education Program**, and a **Mid-Day Meal initiative** that ensures children receive proper nutrition while they learn.

Yamuna Brigade

				
Centre Manager & Teacher- Parth	Primary Teacher - Sonia Gupta	Primary Teacher - Amit	Secondary Teacher - Prince	Secondary Teacher - Rukhsar

It gives us immense joy and pride to share the inspiring journey of our Resource Person with Project WHY — a journey that truly reflects dedication, growth, and heartfelt commitment

CENTER MANAGER

***Parth* : Rising Through Challenges with Project WHY**



Life turned upside down for Parth in **2008** when tragedy struck. His father, the sole breadwinner of the family, lost his life in a road accident. In an instant, the weight of the household fell upon Parth's shoulders. With no income and no support, he found himself at a crossroads—burdened with responsibility yet determined to keep his family afloat.

In this dark phase, a ray of hope emerged. On **4th December 2008**, **Mr. Dharmender**, the then Centre Incharge of Project WHY, opened a door for **Parth**—appointing him as a primary class teacher. This was more than just a job; it was the beginning of a journey that would shape his life in ways he could never have imagined.

Even while carrying the weight of responsibilities, Parth refused to let go of his dreams. He completed his **Class 12 studies** alongside his work and, in **2018**, proudly achieved his **graduation**. With dedication and perseverance, he rose

within Project WHY, and by **January 2019**, he was serving as the **Centre Incharge**.

He nurtured his leadership qualities during his time at Project WHY. Soon, a friend offered him an opportunity in a private company, encouraging him to gain experience in a different field. Though he never truly wished to leave Project WHY, he decided to resign, driven by his desire to earn more, expand his knowledge, and broaden his experience. It was a difficult choice, but one he made with the hope of upskilling himself for the future.

But life tested him yet again. In **May 2023**, Parth lost his job, and once again uncertainty loomed large. Yet, just as before, Project WHY stood by him. Recognizing his integrity and commitment, **Mr. Dharmender once again extended his hand**, and Parth returned in **August 2023**, this time as the **Centre Incharge of the Yamuna Centre**.

Today, Parth looks back at his journey with immense gratitude. Twice, when life pushed him to the edge, Project WHY gave him the chance to rebuild. Beyond his professional growth, he is also a **devoted father to a 15-year-old son**, a bright young boy in Class 9, who—much like his father—carries a deep compassion for helping others.

Parth's journey is not just a story of survival—it is a story of **resilience, second chances, and the power of unwavering support**. His life reminds us that no matter how many times we fall, with courage and the right opportunities, we can rise again—stronger each time.



PRIMARY SECTION TEACHERS



***Sonia Gupta* : From Struggles to Stability**

Sonia Gupta hails from Bihar but was born and raised in Delhi. She has finished her Masters in Humanities and holds a Bachelor of Education Degree. She first joined Project WHY in 2009 at the Khader Centre as a computer teacher. In 2012, after her marriage, she had to leave her job due to personal reasons and family responsibilities.

A few years later, in 2016, Sonia rejoined Project WHY, as her family's financial situation had become unstable. At that time, her elder daughter was just two years old, and despite the challenges of raising a young child, she continued to work with full dedication. **During this period, she also gave birth to her second daughter. Sonia managed to balance her household responsibilities with her professional commitments,** devoting herself wholeheartedly to teaching and actively participating in all centre activities. With time, her financial condition improved, and she began to feel more secure and responsible.

In 2019, Sonia once again had to step down from her work to care for her younger daughter. However, in **2021, tragedy struck when her husband suddenly passed away from a cardiac arrest.** His untimely death completely shattered her life. Along with immense emotional pain, **Sonia faced financial hardships and social challenges.** To make matters worse, her in-laws did not support her, even for basic

expenses, leaving her to raise her daughters alone. **The trauma of these circumstances pushed her into depression.**

At her most difficult time, Project WHY once again stood by her side and offered her a job for the third time. With this support, Sonia slowly regained her strength and stability. Today, she is able to take care of her daughters, provide them with an education, and rebuild her life with renewed confidence.

Sonia remains deeply grateful to Project WHY for standing by her through every stage of her journey and giving her the strength to rise again.



***Amit Kumar* : A Teacher by Chance & A Mentor by Choice**



Amit's family originally belonged to Uttar Pradesh but had settled in Himachal Pradesh, where he was born. Both his parents were government employees, and he completed his schooling in 1998. In 2002, at the age of 23, Amit got married, and by 2003 he had completed his graduation. Sadly, soon after, he lost his father, a loss that deeply affected the family.

In 2012, Amit and his family shifted to Delhi in search of better opportunities and to be closer to their relatives. He is the father of three children—two daughters and one son. **In 2013, he found employment at a call center, but in 2015, he lost that job.** With no source of income apart from his mother's modest earnings, **Amit struggled to meet his children's educational expenses.** For almost a year, he searched desperately for stable work but without success.

It was during this time that a neighbor, who worked at Project WHY, told him about the organization. Though unsure of himself, **Amit decided to apply for a teaching position,** convinced he would **be rejected as he had no prior experience** in teaching children apart from helping his own. To his surprise, **Project WHY appointed him as a secondary teacher at the Khader Centre in 2016,** where he began **teaching Class 6 students.**

Amit recalls, “*Project WHY supported me in my time of need. They took a chance on my abilities. This motivated me to be the best teacher I could be, not only for the organization but especially for the children I taught.*”

Over time, Amit discovered his passion for teaching. He realized that being a teacher was not just about finishing lessons or covering the curriculum, but about ensuring that every child truly understood what was being taught. This inspired him to think beyond standard methods and experiment with innovative ways of teaching—using props, stories, drawings, and even films—to make lessons engaging and effective. His creative approach helped many children learn with confidence.

Later, Amit chose to teach at the Yamuna Centre, where he continues to share his knowledge and experience with the most vulnerable children of agricultural laborers. His work has not only transformed their lives but also enriched his own.

Reflecting on his journey, Amit says, “*While working at Project WHY, my life has gone through many positive changes. The workshops organized*



from time to time have brought remarkable improvements in my way of thinking and working. The sessions on behavior and psychology helped me understand children better and also brought meaningful changes to my personal life. I feel very fortunate to be a part of Project WHY.”

Today, Amit takes pride in his journey and in the trust that Project WHY placed in him. He continues to dedicate himself wholeheartedly to his students and remains grateful for the opportunity that changed not just his career, but his entire life.

SECONDARY SECTION TEACHERS

Prince : Balancing Dreams and Duties



Prince Mewati, a secondary teacher, joined Project WHY in 2023. At Project WHY's Yamuna Centre, **Prince began teaching secondary students in innovative and creative ways.**

Understanding that many Yamuna children had never attended regular school before, and that subjects like science felt especially difficult to them, Prince adapted his methods. He taught through practical examples, interactive activities, and simple explanations, making learning fun and engaging. **His joyful, hands-on approach helped students grasp complex concepts with ease and sparked their interest in subjects they once found intimidating.**

He was born and brought up in the Jaitpur area of Delhi. He began his education at a small neighborhood school that went only up to Class 8, where his younger sister also studied. Prince completed Class 8 in 2017 and later continued his studies at a government school in the Molarband area, eventually completing Class 12.

From an early age, Prince was determined to support his education. After Class 10, he started looking for part-time work to ease the financial burden on his parents, who, despite being educated, often struggled to meet the rising expenses of their children's higher education. His father had completed his graduation, while his mother, a graduate with a D.El.Ed., has been working as a school teacher since Prince was in Class 4. Both parents strongly valued education and dreamt of seeing

their children succeed. However, with the challenges of inflation and limited income, it was not easy to manage household expenses along with the costs of higher education. Prince wanted to help, but finding suitable part-time work while continuing his studies was not easy.

After completing Class 12, Prince enrolled in B.A. Political Science (Hons.) at Delhi University, School of Open Learning (DU SOL). Around this time, he was eager to contribute financially to the family, but again struggled to find a job that matched his needs.

His turning point came in 2023, when Mr. Dharmender, an acquaintance of his father, offered him the opportunity to work at Project WHY. This not only gave Prince the means to continue his studies smoothly but also allowed him to discover his passion for teaching.

Prince's journey is a testament to resilience, determination, and the transformative power of education. While supporting his own studies, he has become a mentor and role model for many young learners at Project WHY.



Rukhsar: Journey of an alumni to a teacher



Rukhsar's association with Project WHY began back in 2009, when she first joined the Khadar Centre as a young student of class 2. Over the years, she grew within its nurturing environment, and today she continues to remain an integral part of the Project WHY as a teacher. She joined as a secondary teacher in 2021.

After completing Class 10 in 2013, Rukhsar chose Commerce in Class 11 with the dream of pursuing CMA (Cost Management Accountant). Unfortunately, life took an unexpected turn. In 2018, her father met with a serious accident that left him unable to walk again, despite several operations. With her father unable to work, the family's financial burden grew heavier, and her mother had to step in to support the household.

During this difficult time, Rukhsar displayed remarkable strength. She continued her graduation through NCWEB (Sri Aurobindo College) while also searching for ways to support her family. In her search for guidance and stability, she once again found her way back to Project WHY. With constant support and encouragement from Mr. Dharmender, the then Centre Manager, was able to step into a new role at the Yamuna Centre.



**Thank you for taking the time to connect with our
Yamuna team**

