



FUTURE HOPE SCHOOL

Giving Today's Street and Slum Children a Better Tomorrow



Future Hope is a charitable organisation which provides opportunity through its homes, school, sports and medical programme for some of the most vulnerable children from the streets and slums of Kolkata, India. Future Hope addresses the individual needs of destitute children and helps them to become independent, self-supporting members of society.

Thousands of children still live on the streets, abused, exploited and maimed. Future Hope responds to these problems by taking the most vulnerable children who have no family capable of caring for them into one of its residential homes, whilst offering the children from the very poorest families in the slums an all-round education at Future Hope School till class 8, and thereafter support their senior school and college education by providing financial support. Our aim is to help the children overcome their poor start in life to become independent and caring adults.

From a lonely, hungry child collecting rubbish on the streets to a happy, safe child with hope and opportunity a couple of years later



The team at Future Hope has always worked for the street and slum children of Kolkata with passion and energy. We have put society's most vulnerable children at the centre of all we do, and with 30+ years of experience we have a much better idea of the problems these children face and the solutions that dramatically — and permanently — change their lives for the better.



Education and skills training offer our children the best opportunity to employment and help them become successful, independent citizens, who can contribute back to society. Future Hope School provides an all-round education, which aims to help each child reach their full potential. Our aspiration is that the majority will achieve academic excellence through public exams and go on to higher education, while the others will go into vocational training or employment.

EDUCATION – THE KEY TO OPPORTUNITY

Nearly 20 lakh (2 million) children live on the streets of India, without an identity or a name to call their own.

At Future Hope the children receive an education which is focussed on nurturing individual talent and skills, preparing them for the workplace and to take up gainful and skilled employment. Future Hope is immensely proud of its 500 working alumni, many of whom are good role models for the younger Future Hope children, their own families and the community at large.

A year-ago two of our girls lived under the fly-over in rubble and dirt. They had nothing: no protection, no belongings, no education, often no food and certainly no hope. They were at constant risk of accidents, prone to trafficking and abuse. Our outreach team, aware of the family's dire situation, brought the young girls into the safety of Future Hope.

A disturbing statistic from the Census of India is that 89% of kids with learning disabilities are enrolled in primary school, while only 8.5% actually go to secondary school.

Future Hope school is all-inclusive. We have a specific Fast Track system to help the children who started school late and an integrated classroom approach for pupils who have learning difficulties. Children with mild handicaps are included in the mainstream classroom and encouraged to take part in as many activities as possible.

Sunny, Baisakhi and Girish all had one thing in common when they came to Future Hope from the streets: they suffered from a distinct inability to speak. Long silences, a seeming lack of comprehension and frustrated grunting dominated their interactions.

They started speech therapy with experienced professionals who work methodically at the root of their speech impediment, with our house parents as constant support letting them know that they are heard and understood. There has been a marked increase in their confidence and all three children have grown calmer in school and more able to make friends.

The distinct character of the school

While all our children come from backgrounds where there is no access to quality education, our aim is to develop a culture of reading throughout the school and for our students to become independent learners.

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To enable every child to reach their full potential.
- To provide an enabling learning environment in which every child matters.
- To provide a caring learning environment for students, teachers and staff to develop themselves.



The school is managed by qualified, experienced and highly dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff who are conscious that high results and league tables are not the only important factors in education. They know that it is their task to ensure that the talents of each child are nurtured so that they become successful adults. In addition to the children in our own school we also support several children through local schools, or if they require specialist schooling.

All our children come from backgrounds where everyone is illiterate. Each child who enters Future Hope School is required to study in English. Through a combination of one-to-one teaching, graded reading, storytelling and dedicated software courses on the computer, our

newest students are able to progress into the English Medium School system with confidence.

We strive to set a good balance in our curriculum between academic, sports and cultural activities. Students are grouped into houses for friendly competitions, small tutorial groups for pastoral care and personal development, and they know that a coordinator, tutor or the school counsellor is there to provide support and advice when needed. Management, staff and volunteers all work in accordance with the Future Hope Child Protection Policy.

MENTORING & COUNSELLING

Like all children, and young people, they need strong guidance, mentors and positive role models. These have been predominantly absent in their life on the street or in the slums. Our children often have low aspirations and need to be encouraged and inspired to see their own potential and what they can achieve. We draw on our staff, our alumni, leaders and mentors from all walks of life to support and inspire our young people to have the confidence, knowledge and skills to succeed.

Counselling has helped the children to understand the real meaning of 'listening'; they speak without being judged, assessed or criticised. The unconditional acceptance and confidentiality maintained about their life stories, helps them to speak their minds and to approach the sessions with eagerness and spontaneity.



“The biggest commitment you must keep is your commitment to yourself. When you make a commitment you build hope when you keep it you build trust.”

Sudipa Bardhan, the Counsellor, is available for all the children and staff.