

LEARNING BY LOCALS

March 2019



Who are we

Learning By Locals is an NGO started with the aim to educate and empower the youth. This is done by providing students of the Sanjay Colony, a slum in Okhla area of Delhi, with the right opportunities and honing their practical skills, and helping them take the necessary steps required to achieve their life goals. Our present focus is on proficiency in English, Computer Skills, finding job and internship opportunities, supporting to start businesses, education outside of the classroom through trips outside Delhi as well as events held within Delhi.

Our First Step

“Even if you just change one life, you’ve changed the world forever.”

— **Mike Satterfield**

Pradeep Kumar, founder of Learning By Locals hails from a humble background. During his adolescent years, he received great support from an NGO, Manzil, based in Khan market, Delhi. When he started his touring business, Delhi By Locals, he wanted to use the 50% of the profits to give back to the community. He realised the importance of the support he received and aimed to provide the same for the youth who don't have access to opportunities. He started taking classes in the Sanjay Colony, a slum in Okhla, Delhi. Most of the families here are from lower income group working in factories. Youth here goes to the government schools with very limited resources for any additional learning opportunity. We officially registered the NGO 'Learning By Locals' in September 2017. It was inaugurated by Ravi Gulati, his mentor and founder of Manzil. This is the beginning of a journey that will touch thousands of lives and make a remarkable difference for many. We would like to share our story with you and hence this newsletter will make you a part of us. Looking forward to a mutually fulfilling partnership!



A TRIP TO REMEMBER

Cultural heritage and finding a common identity are important factors to understand ourselves. On this note, Learning By Locals & Manzil students took an unforgettable trip to Agra in April last week 2018. 27 students, teachers and volunteers took the early morning train to see the Taj Mahal in all its splendour. It was



followed by an eye opening experience at Sheroes Cafe- a cafe started and staffed by women who have been victims of acid attacks in India. Hearing their stories of strength to persevere despite disfigurement was inspirational to all the young boys and girls on the trip- and will linger long past this weekend. We capped it off with a tour of Agra Fort at sunset to relish the glorified past of the Mughal kings. It was a tour full of smiles, laughs, learning and bonding that won't be forgotten. As many of the students said, "it was the best time we ever had". And that was in full view on the train journey back as the students sang and clapped the entire way home. Thank you Delhi By Locals for supporting us.

IMPACT STORY

Meet 15 year old Bithika, a student & a volunteer of Learning By Locals (LBL). Previously, an introvert, Bithika, shares how over an year of involvement with LBL has changed her into a more outgoing and confident person. She now feels more comfortable interacting with people from various backgrounds and gives credit to LBL for helping her improve her communication skills along with providing her the exposure of meeting new people. When asked why she chose to stay and be a volunteer, she stated, "We don't have to pay to learn here so we learn and we give back. Hopefully this continues"

Bhitika also learnt management skills by organizing events at LBL. One of her fondest memories is of that one time she got to perform at Kamani Auditorium at an event of Manzil, an Youth-Led Learning Center NGO, from LBL. Bithika, who just gave the board exams of grade 11, aspires to be a medical doctor in future.



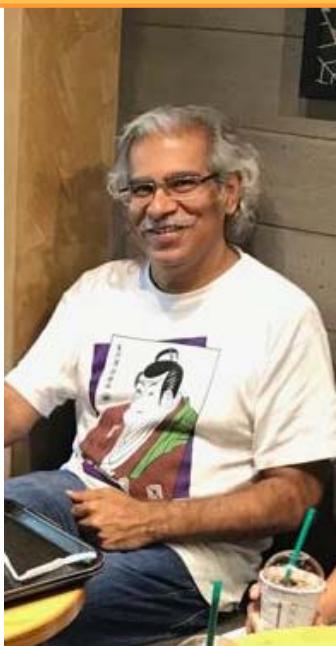
OUR CLASSES

English Learning English is crucial to increase employability and gain confidence. Therefore spoken and written English classes are our main focus here. A regular class happens three days a week and a special discussion class on Saturday & Sunday. These classes enrol students based on their present command over the language and not on age. This class attracts maximum students and we are grateful to our volunteers for their consistency and making these classes so interactive.

Computers Computer skills have become essential in this digital age. We have basic classes where we learn keyboard typing, MS Office and advanced classes where students learn programming and even had a workshop on robotics.

Business Development Women from the locality lack awareness to become self dependent. Our volunteer Ronita, helps them by providing necessary guidance and support to start their own business and become financially independent. She held a 4-week pilot program, based on global curricula in the space + personal experiences, to help more women and girls launch their ideas. The girls learnt a lot and were able to share exciting ideas for their future entrepreneurial endeavours.

Theatre Theatre provides the expression needed to bring out the best in oneself. Every Sunday we have theatre classes where kids not only learn to act, engage in various creative activities but are also learning script writing. This class engages students in creative writing exercises and they also improvise while they act. This class is packed with oodles of energy and fun.



STAR VOLUNTEER

Sanju Bhaiya

We have a house full for our Saturday afternoon English discussion class because its facilitated by a person full of life, positive energy and enthusiasm that can put a teenager to shame. Sanju Bhaiya does a brilliant job at opening the young minds to a wide range of subjects. He candidly discusses anything from big bang theory to LGBT rights and students ask questions, have hearty conversations and keep soaking from the ocean of wisdom and knowledge that he is. We had a sushi party at his house where kids tasted sushi for the first time. Apart from that he has been a pillar of strength for Leaning By Locals. We can not thank him enough. We love you Sanju Bhaiya.

THE LATENT TALENTS

The students here exhibit extraordinary talents. One of them being music. Many students learn to play guitar and sing. Three of our students, Sanket, Vivek and Vipin, participated in the talent show at Indian Habitat Centre. Students from Manzil (NGO in Khan Market) and our students gave group singing performances and received a very heart warming response from the audience. Everyone cheered for the group and it has become one of the most memorable events for Learning By Locals!.



Our aim is not to restrict the kids only to school textbooks. We want the young minds to explore, experiment and enrich themselves through various art forms. If Learning By Locals is able to provide the kids here a platform, that enables them to think, think from perspectives unknown to them, and imagine for themselves a life that is based on truth and meaning, we will succeed in what we set out to do.

CONTACT US

Get in touch with us and join our growing family. We would be happy to be associated with you. You can volunteer with us, provide assistance and support to students in multiple ways and come and spend quality time with the kids here.

Call us at **+91 9717820186**

Or write to us at learningbylocals@gmail.com

Visit us at www.learningbylocals.org

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Contribute your time and meet young minds eager to learn. Take a step to make a change. Volunteering will enrich you more than you can imagine.

JOIN AS A **VOLUNTEER**

