



## No Longer Marginalized: Emancipation Through Education

SUMMER 2018

In the Ahmedabad suburb of Gujarat, there is an ashram nestled along the lush banks of the River Sabarmati. This retreat, the Sabarmati Harijan Ashram, was established by Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba 100 years ago. Today, it hosts multiple institutions that promote Gandhiji's teachings, including a program that provides young women — Harijan girls, or so-called "untouchables" — with resources to escape an unjust caste system that has oppressed their families for generations.

The students come from the most marginalized communities of India. Many were raised in ghettos with virtually no health or sanitation facilities, where malnutrition is rampant and early marriage is the norm.

To empower these young women to rise above such extreme challenges — and to encourage them to become mentors for other marginalized individuals — the program offers a holistic, value-based approach. It provides fundamental resources like education and healthcare, as well as a wide range of life skills workshops. Some students commute for daily classes, though many reside in a safe on-site hostel. At the hostel, students receive free meals, uniforms, and school supplies.

### Share & Care Joins a Milestone Celebration

As the ashram celebrates its centennial anniversary and the 150th birthdays of Gandhiji and Kasturba, the program organizers wish to give their activities a renewed sense of focus. To assist, Share & Care's Educate 2 Success (E2S) and Women Empowerment (WE) Signature Programs are collaborating in support of the ashram's mission to help these young women and their communities.

Through E2S, Share & Care will assist with school supplies, computer training, science classes to enhance curiosity and critical thinking, scholarships for post-XII students, and additional tutoring for girls from remote villages. Through WE, we'll help fund self-defense and gender equality training, personal safety education, character-building and leadership workshops, health check-ups, and excursions that will provide opportunities for growth and self-expression. Additionally, we will support an event honoring Ba and Bapu's 150th birthdays, which will feature performances from students.

### Education as Emancipation

Just as Gandhiji demonstrated the ability of one person to enact great change, within each empowered student exists a spark that can brighten the lives and futures of many. We are pleased to support this program as it carries on Ba and Bapu's legacies, and hope you'll join us with a contribution to our WE and E2S Signature Programs.



Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba were both born in 1869 (nearly 150 years ago). In 1917, they established the Sabarmati Harijan Ashram (just over a century ago). This year, the ashram is honoring both of these milestones with a variety of celebrations and performances. The students at Sabarmati Harijan Ashram receive a comprehensive education, and are provided with character-building workshops and trained in skills like spinning.



## EDUCATE 2 SUCCESS



Shruti Vijay Bhalerao



# Bringing Hope to Young Lives — Before It's Too Late

Poor children in India (and around the world) are at the mercy of the inherent learning gap between rich and poor students. As they move to higher grades, the gap widens — with 29% dropping out completely during their first five years of primary school, and a larger 43% before finishing upper primary school.

Our Educate 2 Success Signature Program embodies our holistic approach to education. Not only are the children E2S serves dealing with intense poverty, the majority are neglected at home. Many come from single-parent homes, and others are orphans and/or scheduled tribe children. Without the love and guidance they deserve, they are at high risk of repeating the woes of poverty they were born into.

### Destined for a Life of Poverty

Shruti Vijay Bhalerao is one of four siblings from a single-parent household. Like her mother, she worked as a laborer to contribute toward the family income, removing all hope for an education.

When our partner NGO identified Shruti as a candidate for the E2S program, her mother was leary. Shruti was also hesitant as she was already years behind and could not read or write Marathi (her native language) or English, and her understanding of math was extremely weak.

Timid and reluctant to participate in activities outside the classroom, Shruti nervously entered the program. She was grouped with other children from similar backgrounds so she could build a social network, and educators developed a curriculum customized around her special needs.

Shruti persevered and by Std. IX, she was experiencing major breakthroughs in learning comprehension. Her confidence bloomed, and she began to join in on extracurricular activities and weekend workshops.

Today, Shruti is in Std X at the Manora Center, Washim District, Maharashtra, and can read and write Marathi and English and is excelling in math. She plans on continuing her education, and dreams of becoming a pilot.

### Hundreds Can Become Thousands

Shruti is one of hundreds of children who found their way as part of the E2S program. What she's accomplished in a few short years has changed her life forever. But as long as children like Shruti continue to be marginalized by society, programs like E2S must go on. With your help, the journey will continue! ●



## COOKING for a CAUSE

This exciting culinary competition will be judged by **Iron Chef runner-up Jehangir Mehta** and five other executive chefs: Firoz Buhariwala, Hemant Mathur, Niti Sanghrajka, Raja Jhanjee, and Shaun Mehtani. **Prizes will be awarded for the top recipes. Attendees will have the pleasure of sampling 40 dishes!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 - 3:00 PM**

**MIRAGE BANQUET HALL**

1655 OAK TREE ROAD #150, EDISON, NJ

For more information, visit:

[shareandcare.org/cooking-for-a-cause](http://shareandcare.org/cooking-for-a-cause)

or contact us at: [events@shareandcare.org](mailto:events@shareandcare.org)



## A BETTER LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

### Rameshwar Bandu Mhaske

is another of our E2S beneficiaries. In his own words, he explains how the program has helped him and his fellow classmates:

"All of us [in the program] started to get better grades. Different activities helped me become a better person. **I'm less afraid and feel better about life.** My parents have assisted too, after they were taught how to help. Home is much better than before. This experience has taught me to believe in the value of hard work. I sincerely thank Share & Care for helping me to get an education."

# Bright Minds Create Even Brighter Futures

Millions of families in India can only dream of a college education for their children. Thankfully, bright young scholars can turn that dream into reality.

The Educate 2 Graduate Signature Program, which seeks out and provides loan-scholarships to high-performing, ambitious students from poor families, has accomplished the near-impossible — ended the cycle of poverty for hundreds of families. When comparing the incomes from one generation to the next, we are seeing E2G graduates earning up to 30 times that of their parents. The economic impact of the program has proved to be nothing short of phenomenal.

Here's the story of one such family living in Gujarat. Mayur Borad's father, Mukeshbhai, had been a diamond worker and was able to provide well for his family — until the diamond market crashed in 2008. Mukeshbhai first found employment as a millworker, then later, due to his failing physical health, he could earn money only by selling embroidery machine parts.

Mukeshbhai was able to provide his family with the basic necessities, but his income fell well below middle class standards. Mayur was a bright and motivated learner and wanted even more for himself and his family. He hoped to continue his studies as far as his mind would take him, but the money simply wasn't there.

Hoping to attend Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University in nearby Gandhinagar, Mayur sought help through the E2G program. We were blessed to include him among our other bright young scholars in the E2G program, which provided him with an interest-free loan scholarship. It was no surprise that he was able to graduate from university with high marks. He secured a position directly upon graduation last year through an on-campus interview and is now an AEE-Production Engineer at India's prestigious, multinational Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. In only his first year, he is earning an annual salary of Rs. 1.8 lakh, which is nearly 33 times that of his parents.

We recently spoke with Mayur, and asked him about the time he learned that E2G would be able to assist him with a loan scholarship. "At that moment [E2G] appeared to me as a gift from God." He added that E2G "supported me not only financially but mentally as well."

Mayur was also happy to report that his father has "retired from his business and will rest for the rest of his life."

If Mayur hadn't been able to continue with his schooling, it surely would have been a wasted opportunity. You, our supporters, made this happen. With your help, Mayur's story can come true for so many more deserving young scholars, their families — and the next generation.



**EDUCATE 2  
GRADUATE**



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## THE FIRST IN HER FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

Below is a letter of gratitude from Anak Patadiya, an E2G scholar.

"I belong to a poor family, and my father died when I was in second standard. I am the first to study and successfully complete secondary or higher education. When I completed my 12th standard I was admitted to an engineering college, but I had no way to pay the fees. Then I applied for the Share & Care Foundation loan-scholarship program, and was able to attend college and graduate. There are thousands of people who are looking to learn, but due to family backgrounds they never have the chance to succeed in life. **This program is the perfect answer to giving someone like me a bright future.**"

## HOW YOUR DOLLARS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**\$100 EMPOWERS** 1 mother and her child with pre- and postnatal care. (Healthcare 2 Unreached - H2U)

**\$130 EMPOWERS** 1 at-risk child under age 13 with a secondary education. (Educate 2 Success - E2S)

**\$360 EMPOWERS** 1 woman with livelihood training and equipment, plus gender equality and self-defense education. (Women Empowerment - WE)

**\$500 EMPOWERS** 5 marginalized female students with safe lodging, education, and training for personal growth. (E2S/WE)

**\$1,000 EMPOWERS** 1 bright, low-income student with a college loan-scholarship. (Educate 2 Graduate - E2G)



**SHARE & CARE FOUNDATION**  
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**Your gift will provide education and hope for children in India's poorest communities. It will give marginalized youth a chance to thrive. Contribute to Share & Care to change lives.**

# Yes! I want to empower rural India!

I want to join Share & Care Foundation in creating a world in which everyone has access to **Education, Gender Equality, Healthcare, and Sanitation & Hygiene** by making the following donation:

\$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1000     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift will be matched by: \_\_\_\_\_

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