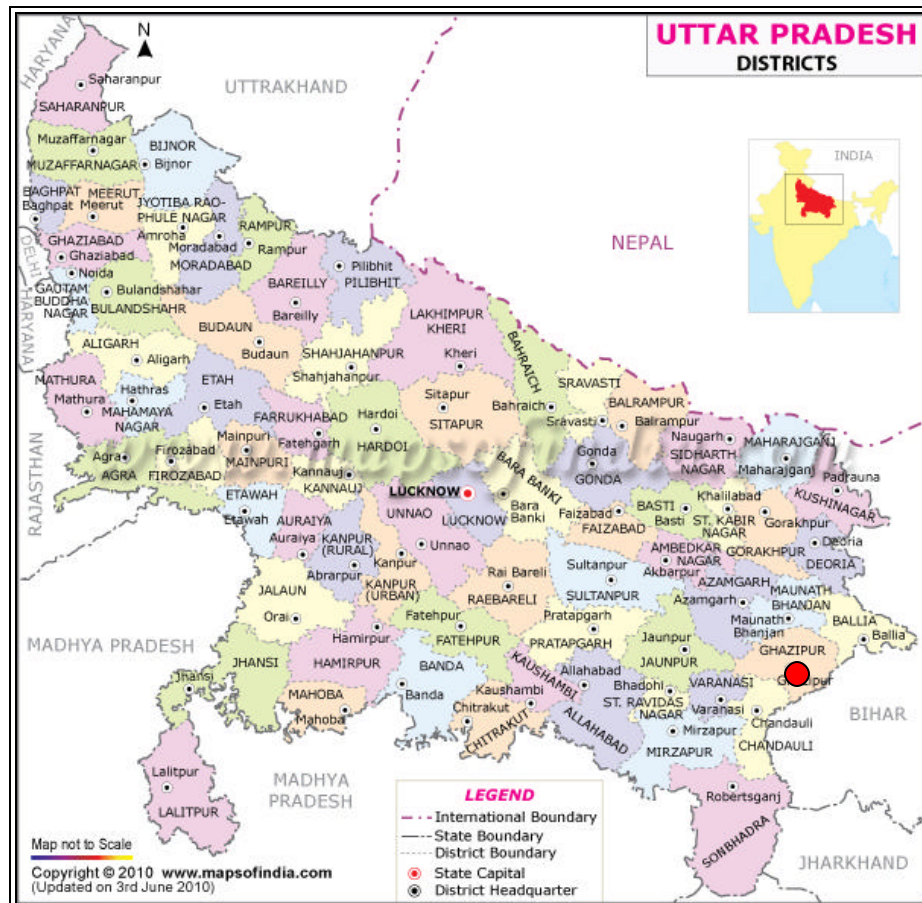


'Badlav ki Chah' initiative among manual Scavenging Community

Mohammadabad, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh



Yusufpur, Mohammadabad, Ghazipur is around 115 kms towards away from Varanasi towards Patna. There are many families which were dependent on manual scavenging as their only occupation. Over years of SDF's hard work, there has been a significant change in the entire community.

Badlav ki Chah Centre

SDF has a centre in the area, which is meant for young boys & girls to learning different things. There is a computer learning centre which has 3 batches of one hour each. Due to erratic supply of electricity, the students have to depend on theory more than practical. The problem of electricity supply could be solved if we raise some money to get a powerful inverter, which will be charged during the time when the supply of electricity is there and used later.

- ? The students want to learn to develop blogs and HTML pages if we take internet connection.
- ? The other centre is the sewing centre which has been handled by Women teacher.
- ? The centre also has a library, the book ranges from history to contemporary fiction.



Scholarship for Girls

Another initiative of SDF in Gazipur had been 'Savitri bai Phule scholarship'. Apart from these girls, 13 more girls have been identified by SDF who will be given scholarship to study from class I to XII in one of the best English medium school of that area. These girls are being supported by "Friends for Education International US".



There have been many individuals who have been supporting our cause from time to time to liberate the children from the horrendous traditional occupation of their parents and grandparents and the taboo attached to it.

Economic Empowerment of Women

This year SDF have gone upfront with its very small income generation program for the women who were working as manual scavengers till



today. The revolving fund has been created in order to help families to de-link themselves from the traditional occupation. That is where “Badlav ki Chah” is showing the real change in the community.

SDF initiative and overall development of the Children in the area

Interestingly, the Gazipur Centre is falling short of space in spite of having 4 rooms. As the number of children using the centre multiplies and it's hard for the coordinator and other teachers to accommodate children. But still, performances by the children never deterred the space crunch.

The Impact of the project in the lives of Manual Scavenging community

According to Geeta, a manual scavenger who chose to leave her work and start up a new occupation with dignity and courage, “there are many people in our community who are longing to change their occupation and they have also tried. But without any support, they are unable to take the big step towards reforms...*Kaun nahin chahta is kaam se mukti* (who does not want to liberate themselves)”.



Women will their produce - tomatoes

According to Prakash Rawat, who is an employee of the local Municipality and also an active member of SDF- Gazipur, “ the community want to take up the permanent jobs in the government related to cleaning work... the community needs to be made aware of their rights as Human being and show work towards a dignified and meaning future.”

These children are the future ambassadors of Social Development Foundation's Initiative.

The children especially girls, are usually taken to various meeting and allowed to interact with activists from other areas. The girls actively participate in all programs which include debates, discussion, songs, dance, theatre and also story telling. Humanist Festival in Village Malwabar was organized and girls from Ghazipur took the lead in all performances and also making the place of celebration.



Thanks to the friends of SDF Gazipur Initiative

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For more info visit: <http://gazipursdf.blogspot.com/>