



*At The Same Table™ (ATST), hosted by EdelGive Foundation, is an equal platform for free and frank discussion on issues and ideas that collectively concern the funding community.*

## AT THE SAME TABLE™

### PUNE, 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2019

The 16th edition of ATST brought to light the ways and means to achieve large scale sustainable improvement in the education system through Collective accountability for improvement in education. The conversation stemmed from the insights shared by Gyan Prakash Foundation (GPF) on transforming prevalent primary education system in Maharashtra.

EdelGive COO Naghma Mulla cited that in order to make effective improvements to the education system in India, it is very critical to fix accountability across all levels and stakeholders of the ecosystem. Daljit Mirchandani, the founder of GPF emphasised that the journey of transforming the system, needs to start with improvement of the existing rural Government education system and then creating sustainability through community participation and ownership.

Insights from the Philanthropy for Impact in Maharashtra – a knowledge paper highlighting development performance in the areas of Education, Health, Livelihood and women empowerment, and the status of Government and CSR spending; were shared at the convening.

## Other key highlights of the conversation included:

- Of the 200 million children in India, 40-50 million reside in rural areas and hence are totally dependent on the prevalent Government education system. Therefore, in order to achieve learning outcomes to the age-appropriate levels, efforts should be prioritised towards reforming the Government education system to function optimally.
- A visa to work or essentially working integrally with and within the Government leadership and machinery will enable access to the Government education system and allow for implementers to innovate with Government patronage; which will make such interventions seamless and sustainable.
- A paradigm shift in the way education is imparted to students is required, involving a change from current mindset of “Teach and I will forget” to “Involve and I will learn”. This can be achieved through capacity building of the teachers and making learning outcomes of the students, as their primary focus.
- Skill or capacity-based grouping of students and customising the delivery of content can help achieve a significant, progressive change in the learning outcomes of the students.
- A scaffolding technique to sustainable systemic improvement in education can only be successful if the implementers engage the local community and develop a sense of ownership amongst them. Thus eventually the implementers can move out and the community can take over the responsibility of the improved system.
- While financial sustainability and freedom from donor dependence is a desired goal that NGOs should aspire to achieve; this will only be possible when the entire system is reformed through long term systematic changes and the anticipated educational outcomes begin to be achieved.

The session concluded with a consensus that in order for education system to transform; accountability at all levels - individual and more strategic and sustainable changes at the systemic and community level, are key levers to success.



### EdelGive Foundation

EdelGive Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Edelweiss Group of companies. It is a non-profit company registered under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013), engaged in philanthropy, and promotion and development of public charitable activities.

### Contact:

EdelGive Foundation, Edelweiss House, [Kalina, Mumbai - 400098](#) | [ATSE@edelweissfin.com](mailto:ATSE@edelweissfin.com) | 022 40705161