



FOOD MINIONS

FOOD CRISIS

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

MEMBERS

MAHREEN BHATIA, JASMINE
HUGHE, KABIR VOHRA,
PARIYA BAHL, SHYAMAL
SETHI, VIHAAN GOENKA

MENTORS

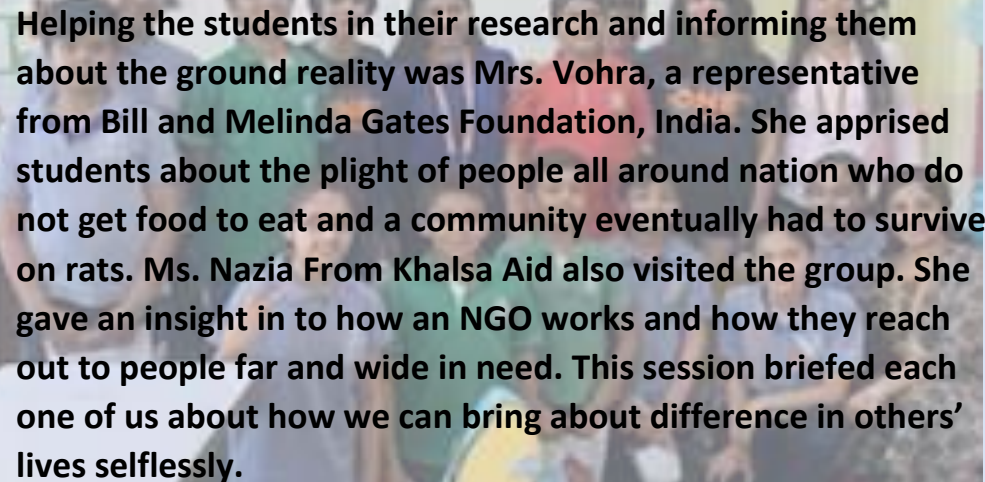
NITIMA ARORA
ARSHLEEN KAUR

Finding Out

Students began researching about the causes of food crisis in the home country and various other nations. They were astonished to know the facts that approximately 5000 people die of hunger every day! This led to further curiosity amongst the young minds which led to their finding out about the various reasons that affect the food supply in an area. They realized that natural calamities, war, poverty, drought are a few reasons due to which people do not get enough food. This was the point when they thought that they must bring awareness amongst people in their community about the gravity of matter.

The data collected by each member was being shared with the entire group on regular basis. Each one apprising the other about the facts gathered. It was indeed an eye-opening revelation for all.

Partners in our journey



Helping the students in their research and informing them about the ground reality was Mrs. Vohra, a representative from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, India. She apprised students about the plight of people all around nation who do not get food to eat and a community eventually had to survive on rats. Ms. Nazia From Khalsa Aid also visited the group. She gave an insight in to how an NGO works and how they reach out to people far and wide in need. This session briefed each one of us about how we can bring about difference in others' lives selflessly.

BILL &
MELINDA
GATES
foundation

“RECOGNISE THE WHOLE
HUMAN RACE AS
ONE”
Khalsa Aid

Be the change you wish to see.....

This was the point when they thought that they must bring awareness amongst people in their community as they comprehended the gravity of matter. They realized how fortunate they have been for getting regular supply of healthy food. But this also got them thinking that they and their fellow students were wasting food callously during breakfast and lunch. This gave rise to an awareness drive where the students made posters and pasted them on the lunch hall shelves. They also painted old t-shirts and jersey writing the same slogans and wore them during lunch hour to sensitize students.

Amidst this Mahreen Bhatia initiated a drive in her neighborhood to grow organic plants as she found out the harmful effects of using pesticides and other ammonia-based chemicals which were resulting in low quality fruits and vegetables. She further researched about the ill effects of inorganic farming. Her endeavor was much appreciated in the local newspaper. Taking this forward the rest of the group decided to collaborate with school gardeners. Together they grew organic seasonal vegetables which were sold during Primary Year Program Exhibition day to raise funds for the needy.

Not only this, Kabir created a blog-spot and websites “_poojseghal.wixsite.com/hunger-blog,poojseghal.wixsite.com/hunger-in-india” and “poojseghal.wixsite.com/help-fight-hunger to bring awareness amongst people”. He also donated funds to worldhunger.org that provides food and amenities to the needy.

It was heartwarming when the group members unanimously decided that they need to do something for the poor and hungry! They initiated a drive of “**Each one Feed one**” thereby each member used to feed at least one complete meal to any one needy person on the streets or in their neighborhood.

Evolution

These enthusiastic students were all out to make a difference but, in the process, something transformed – Yes! They themselves. They emerged as confident individuals to take on the challenges that came their way. Each one became *compassionate* and *empathetic* towards people. During the process of the project they developed *communication skills* by campaigning about the cause they so believed in. They also developed *interpersonal skills* while reaching out to people. Their *research skills* were sharpened as they took in-depth research and analysis of the food crisis.

The Green Diary
How residents turned trash dump into kitchen gardens in DLF 1
Photos: Indrajit Das

The green belt was a dumpyard visited by pigs and other stray animals around three years ago

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Situated along the Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, H-Block of DLF 1 stands apart from other areas around because of a large and well-preserved expanse of green, 800m long and 40m wide.

With its trimmed grass, more than 200 fully-grown trees and over 5,000 saplings, it is hard to believe that this verdant stretch was, only three years back, a dumping yard visited by pigs and other stray animals.

“It was an unmaintained patch with a few trees and heaps of garbage—the trees were dying due to continuous waste dumping,” recalled Rahul Chandola, secretary of H-Block residential community. So, a group of residents decided to take up the challenge of reviving the green belt, clearing the area of more than 100 truck-loads of garbage.

As soon as this space was cleaned, the waste-dumping stopped. “For the first one week, we had to get an earthmover to remove all the waste. Once the waste-dumping mafia noticed that the green belt had been cleaned, they immediately stopped

to tend to this small corner of Gurgaon.

Today, families are cultivating kitchen gardens by growing spinach, coriander, radish, onions and various herbs in the green belt, using the drip-irrigation method.

Over time, Narang and

Gupta were joined in their endeavour by neighbours Sunil Kohli, Misha Bhatia, Pamela Bhatia and Vinay Khanna, all coming together

od to have some plants. I mean, look after the compost pits here. “It’s so good to see children participating in the process. Mahreen, my 10-year-old daughter, is helping grow organic vegetables in the green belt and trying to keep the environment safe with good practices.

She is now planning to run a door-to-door campaign to encourage people to grow organic vegetables in green belts and make their own compost pits,” revealed Ruchi Bhatia, one of those who have turned to kitchen gardening to regenerate the surroundings.

“It’s not that the green belt

was earlier devoid of flora. R S Rathee, the councilor here, remembers a few species of trees and some wild shrubs surviving despite the odds. “However, with the residents’ efforts, many have been revived, and more trees such as neem, peepal, gulmohar and some fruit trees have been added, providing ample shade and clean air in the area,” said Rathee.

Indeed, proactive and committed residents, aided by a corporation that helped build a well-paved track and lights, have given this block a new lease of life.

And even though there are many parks in the vicinity, the green belt in H-Block proved to be nothing short of a boon for residents. “I never imagined I would ever visit this green patch, which used to be bushes with waste lying all around. Now, I come here for a walk every morning—even women and children can come here at night as it is a well-lit and safe place,” said Poonam, a happy morning walker.

EVERY MONDAY
A look at environmental issues plaguing Gurgaon