


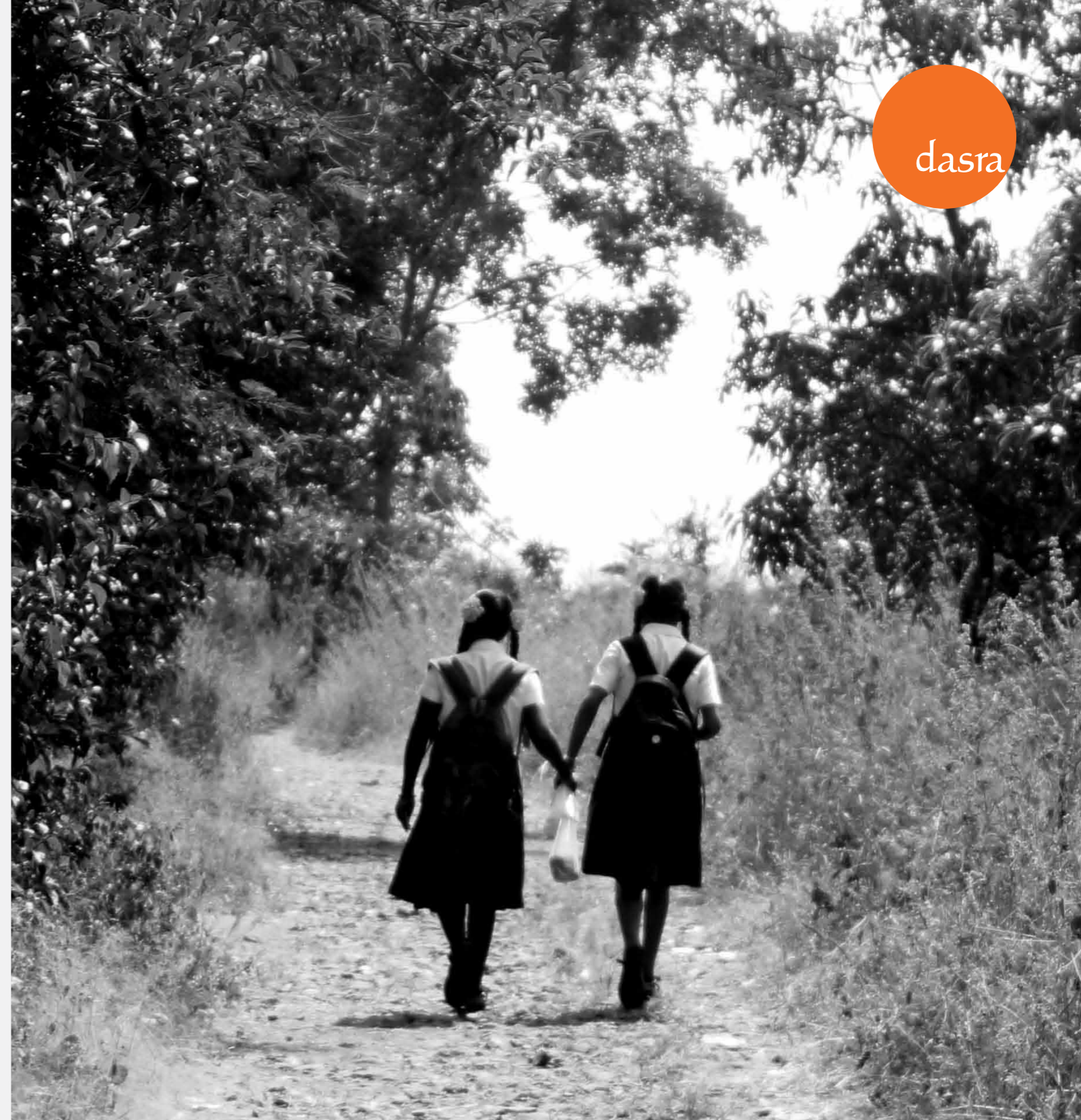
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RECONNECTING WITH THE ROOTS

A case study on giving back to India

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The Opportunity

Sanjeev Prasad (an Indian donor based out of Singapore) approached Dasra Family Giving with a desire to make the only secondary school in his hometown of Samastipur district, Bihar, a model school. Over a period of 3-5 years he wanted to restore and renovate the school's infrastructure and facilities, and also extend the school up to the 12th standard.



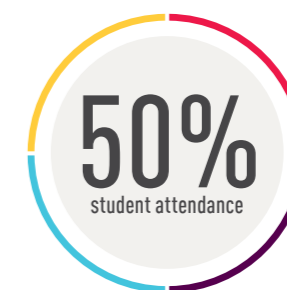
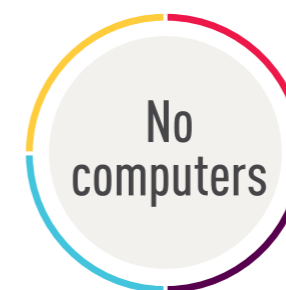
The Situation

Similar to many other schools across villages in India, the school building is in a dilapidated state and lacks basic facilities and infrastructure. The school only offers classes up to the 8th standard and students have to drop out since their parents are often not willing to send them to schools located far away.

The school shuts during the rains, and despite partnering with the Midday Meal Scheme (a government school meal program to improve the nutritional status of school-age children nationwide) food is cooked in unhygienic surroundings. Other problems include poor student-teacher ratio, lack of facilities such as a science and computer lab, no separate toilet for girls and an absence of sports and extra circular activities.



PROBLEMS ON GROUND



DASRA'S APPROACH

DFG worked closely with Sanjeev to provide tailored support. We took the following approach to help him execute his philanthropic vision.

1. Understanding the problem

We worked closely with Sanjeev to understand his vision and shape a strategy with a clearly articulated action plan for impact.

2. On-ground Research

We worked with a credible partner to conduct an 'As-Is-Study' which helped us understand the scope of work, the ground challenges and what the areas of focus should be to create maximum impact.

3. Interview stakeholders

We consulted and conducted interviews with the sarpanch, school principal, teachers and several NGOs working in the area to understand the needs and challenges.

7. Monitor & Report

We are monitoring the progress of the program on a regular basis via feedback reports, fund utilization statements and periodic reviews to better understand the impact of the donor's philanthropy.

6. Finalize a nonprofit

We helped Sanjeev choose a nonprofit organization and facilitated a needs assessment that culminated into a 3-year plan.

5. Shortlist non-profits

We evaluated and shortlisted a group of organizations working in the Samastipur region with similar programs using different interventions.

4. Map required interventions

We shared with Sanjeev a list of interventions that would help achieve his philanthropic vision.

NGO Selection Process

Quest Alliance (www.questalliance.net), a nonprofit focused on creating transformative experiences for any learner, was chosen as the implementing partner. Dasra followed a robust due diligence process involving an evaluation of leadership, organization, and program potential to ensure that Quest Alliance was the right partner.

SOME OF THESE CRITERIA INCLUDED:

- ▶ Understanding the ground realities and geographical presence
- ▶ Ability to engage with the community
- ▶ Innovativeness of the intervention to solve the problems
- ▶ Sustainability of the programs
- ▶ Capacity to utilize funds
- ▶ Expertise and credibility of the NGO



Strategy Implemented

Through the journey of this program Sanjeev realized that extending the school up to class 12 was not enough. To make an impact, it was necessary to take a systemic approach and improve educational and livelihood opportunities for the community.

The following initiatives were identified to improve educational and livelihood opportunities of the village

1. Bridge education programs for students graduating to the 9th standard
2. Teacher training programs to improve teaching methodologies
3. Student engagement programs to improve attendance
4. Vocational and livelihood training programs to give past and present students avenues to earn incomes
5. Self-help groups for women to promote community support
6. Improve functioning of the School Management Committee (SMC) to take onus of administrative activities of the school
7. Supplementary material and remedial sessions to enhance learning outcomes
8. Financial support to top 5% high achievers to continue education
9. Increase parent's awareness and help them play an active role in their child's education
10. Introduction of assessment and evaluation systems to gauge progress of students over the course of 3-5 years.



Outcomes

Based on the interventions implemented by the organization, we expect results in seven main areas:

1. **Increased enrollment and retention of students** through improved school infrastructure and the creation of the School Management Committee (SMC).
2. **Improved learning levels and greater student engagement** by providing 800 students with access to a quality learning environment.
3. **Well-trained teachers** who understand better teaching methodologies by creating a formal assessment system.
4. **Increased Community Engagement** through facilitating interactions among parents, school, youth and local government bodies.
5. **Creation of a model school** that extends up to the 12th standard by the 3rd year of supporting the school.
6. **Set up of a Youth Resource Center** to create employment opportunities for local youth.
7. **Set up of Women's self-help group** to promote community support.





Dasra supports individuals and families by responding to their philanthropic objectives with unique and customized solutions. We help you overcome key challenges in giving such as, what causes to support, what social organizations to fund and how to give most effectively.

Dasra engages with philanthropists to provide them with the knowledge, tools and insights to make better informed decisions and create social impact at scale.

If you would like to know more on how Dasra can support you with your philanthropy, email funding@dasra.org