



## EMAMI FOUNDATION TOUCHES THE LIVES OF AROUND 500 UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS WITH ITS CSR PROGRAMMES

### ***“PADHO INDIA PADHO” AND “BADHTE KADAM”***

- **Dr. Partha Chattopadhyay, Hon’ble Minister of Education, Govt. of West Bengal honours the occasion as the Chief Guest**
- **The Book lending programme of Emami Foundation under “Padho India Padho” spreads out its reach to around 400 students of IX and X standards in its 7<sup>th</sup> edition**

**Kolkata, January 9, 2016: Emami Foundation**, the CSR and philanthropic arm of the Rs 10,000 + cr business conglomerate – Emami Group, brings around 500 students under the ambit of its CSR programmes ***“Padho India Padho”*** and ***“Badhte Kadam”***.

Through a formal function organised at the South City International School Auditorium, free text books (all subjects) were distributed today to around 400 students of IX and X standards from 18 schools from in and around Kolkata as a part of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Text Book Lending project undertaken by Emami Foundation. Around 6 schools from areas like Haltu, Tiljala, Picnic Garden, VIP Bazar, Suchetanagar of Kolkata, 3 from areas adjoining B.T. Road and 9 from Haripal, Hooghly have been selected for the current edition. Under this scheme, the text books lent out are returnable so that they can be re-issued to the next batch of eligible students thus making the endeavour more sustainable.

Apart from this, 46 students pursuing B. Tech course under Calcutta University were also awarded with educational scholarship worth of around Rs 90,000 to pursue their higher education. These two programmes were a part of Emami Foundation’s educational CSR initiative ***“Padho India Padho”***.

On the same day, in a separate initiative in the field of Skill Development, 49 students were awarded certificates for the successful completion of their vocational training course under Emami’s ***“Badhte Kadam”*** project.

The occasion was graced by **Dr. Partha Chattopadhyay**, the Honourable Minister of Education, Government of West Bengal as the **Chief Guest** and **Brahmachari Mural Bhai**, General Secretary & Trustee, Dakshineswar Ramkrishna Sangha, Adya Peeth as the **Special Guest**. **Shri R.S. Agarwal** and **Shri R.S. Goenka**, Founders and Joint Chairmen, Emami Group of Companies also attended the programme.

On this occasion, **Mr. R.S. Agarwal** and **Mr. R.S. Goenka**, Founders and Joint Chairman, Emami Group, said , “We at Emami Foundation believe that empowerment of an individual is possible only if India reads and learns. We want to extend the coverage of these programmes to a larger number of beneficiaries across the State of West Bengal and subsequently beyond the limits of the State to other parts of the country. Towards this



purpose, we are planning to spread our connect further through print advertisements in major dailies.”

Speaking on this occasion, **Mr. Sushil Goenka** of Emami Foundation said, “Through our CSR initiatives in the field of education and skill development we have been able to reach out to around 500 underprivileged students this time. Our text book lending programme is one of the major highlights for today. We started our journey in 2013 with just 71 students and today we have been able to bring around 400 students under this programme. This initiative has proved to be significantly effective in kerbing school dropouts. We are receiving encouraging response from teachers, students and their parents and more and more schools are approaching us to be a part of this initiative. Apart from this we are also awarding scholarships and certificates to B. tech students from Calcutta University to pursue their higher education and students pursuing vocational training for their skill development respectively. In coming days we hope to reach out to larger number of students and try to bring a difference to their pursuit of their dreams.”

Apart from educational support, Emami Foundation also extends infrastructural aid to some of these schools by donating fans, school benches, and water purifier etc. Under the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) project, the Foundation is also going to construct toilets with running water in some of these schools. The Foundation has plans to include more government sponsored and anganwadi schools within the Padho India Padho project in the days to come. Under the Badhte Kadam project, the Foundation also runs after school education centres and skill development centres in tailoring, computer training, beautician training etc.

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