



ZS Cares 2020 Annual Report

Bringing an innovative spirit to making
a difference in a 2020 world

Enter

Impact where it matters.®



SM Sehgal Foundation

The SM Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation) is a public charitable trust whose mission is to strengthen community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic and environmental change across rural India. The Foundation envisions a rural India where every person is empowered to lead a more secure, prosperous and dignified life.

The Sehgal Foundation works with area schools, among other rural development initiatives to alleviate challenges, such as low attendance, poor infrastructure, lack of electricity, lack of clean drinking water and low digital literacy.

As part of a partnership spanning 3+ years, New Delhi-based ZSers partnered with the Sehgal Foundation to work with approximately 60 students from the Kota junior high school on topics, such as digital education and life skills. Following a digital literacy curriculum, ZSers taught students how to use digital devices and

navigate the internet, as well as email skills and the fundamentals of Microsoft Office and online research. ZSers also worked with students to develop necessary life skills, focusing on general knowledge, health and sanitation, decision-making, self-confidence and building a positive peer culture. Additionally, solar panels were installed at the school, providing reliable, cost-free electricity for six fans, six lamps, and two power outlets. Recently, ZSers focused on hand hygiene and distributed sanitation kits to students to promote good health.

During this volunteer partnership, enrollment at the Kota public junior high school increased from 160 to over 203 students, as regular attendance improved from about 45% to 90%. Meanwhile, the dropout rate significantly decreased. Local families have been able gain financial ground by sending students to the local public middle school, and parents share that the learning environment continues to improve. With more resources at



LOCATION:

Gurugram, Haryana, India.



ZS OFFICE:

New Delhi



ENGAGEMENT:

Volunteer Work

SM Sehgal Foundation (continued)

their disposal, teachers are more motivated and optimistic than ever. ZSers' work in Kota has been so successful, they are now working with the Sehgal Foundation to adopt a nearby school and bring these life skills to more rural students!

Volunteerism and charitable work are long-term commitments for ZSers, as exemplified by such multi-year initiatives to elevate quality of life. Continuously engaging in meaningful, long-term associations with charitable organizations, ZSers ensure a brighter tomorrow in—and beyond—their communities.

