

Hema

Hema, one of the children working in the brick kilns of Kanpur, UP has inspired us all to continue striving for the betterment of the lives of other children like her. Migrating from Navada, Bihar to Kanpur, UP with her parents, Kari Devi (mother) and Birju Manjhi (father) and 3 siblings, she started to work by molding bricks in Saran brick kiln at a small age of 6. She became motivated to study and started coming to the Apna Skool Saran center from class I. Initially, her parents resisted her education since she was a girl. But, Apna Skool with its efforts, convinced her parents to continue her education for her better future. At the end of the working period running from Nov to June, she went back to her village due to which she suffered a break in her studies. But on coming back to Kanpur next Nov, her parents came back to



those kilns at which the Apna Skool centers were running. In this way, she completed her primary schooling, passing class 5th with 1st rank in her class. The problem her annual break in studies posed a bigger problem when she was admitted to a mainstream school from class 6th. To overcome this issue, Apna Skool started a seasonal hostel for the children like her during the period when their parents went back to their villages at the end of their work. She has been staying in the hostel for 2 years along with 6 other girls thus, continuing her education without any break. Currently, she is studying in class 9th thus, becoming a first generation learner in her family.

Conveying what Hema thinks about being associated with us:

I am very grateful that Apna Skool has gave me so much support in my life. I don't know what would I be doing if I were not be helped by them. Maybe I would have ended up as a married girl if Apna Skool would not have found me. I aspire to become District Magistrate in future so that I can help other children like me as well as Apna Skool in completing its objectives.

We are sharing the link of one of the poem written by her to give you all an idea about her creativity:

<http://apnaskool-kanpur.blogspot.in/2017/12/blog-post.html>

