

## Where do we stand?

From a small idea in October 2004, Aaghaz has now grown into a full fledged movement that has impacted thousands of lives. Some students helped by Aaghaz have got good jobs and are now themselves supporting poor students. Today we run four major programmes. Brief description below:



### 1. Scholarship programme:

**Objective:** To plug school drop outs and give financial assistance to poor Muslim students

**Status:** Each month we pay the fees of several hundred students.

### 2. Lucknow Coaching Centre

**Objective:** To impart free coaching in English, Maths, Physics & Chemistry for classes IX-XII (Associate partner: Aligarh Alumni Association)

**Status:** Running successfully. Scores of students, mostly girls from very poor families attend free evening classes six days a week at the Lucknow Coaching Centre located at Mehr Montessori School in City Station.

### 3. Feeder Programme

**Objective:** To provide financial assistance to students at the grassroots. (Associate partner: Aligarh Alumni Association)

**Status:** Running successfully. Several children (mostly girls and orphans) are benefitting from this programme.

### 4. Lucknow Coaching & Guidance Centre

**Objective:** To prepare students for Banking Railways and LIC exams. Thousands of posts are advertised in these sectors every year. (Associate partner: Aligarh Alumni Association, Aligarh Forum/India Wisdom Foundation)

**Status:** Running successfully at our centre located at 3rd Halwasiya Market in Hazratganj. A nominal fee is charged from students.

## Why should you join Aaghaz?

*Because this is a community initiative.  
Aaghaz is as much yours as it is ours*

**Aaghaz needs you** – our efforts are barely a drop in the ocean. But with your support we can make a huge difference. So join Aaghaz now. Write in to us at [aaghaz.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:aaghaz.foundation@gmail.com) or contact any of our representatives today.

### Fast Facts

One-third of Muslims in rural India earn less than 8 dollars (Rs 450 per month)

The representation of Muslims in government jobs is only 5 per cent

Out of 100 Muslim students who start school, hardly 4 manage to study beyond class X

The average number of years an Indian Muslim girl studies in school is just 2.7 years

3 percentage is the representation of Muslims in the Indian Administrative Services; 1.8 per cent in the IFS; 3.4 per cent in the IPS and 2.29 percentage in the Indian Army as against 23.5 percentage in domestic jobs and 17.4 per cent in construction labour workforce.

You have two ways to react to these numbers: You could brush them aside and be happy you are not one of the stats. Or you could pause and ask yourself: Is there any thing you can do to make a difference?

### To learn more about us

Email: [aaghaz.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:aaghaz.foundation@gmail.com)  
or visit [www.aaghazfoundation.com](http://www.aaghazfoundation.com)

### Our Partners:

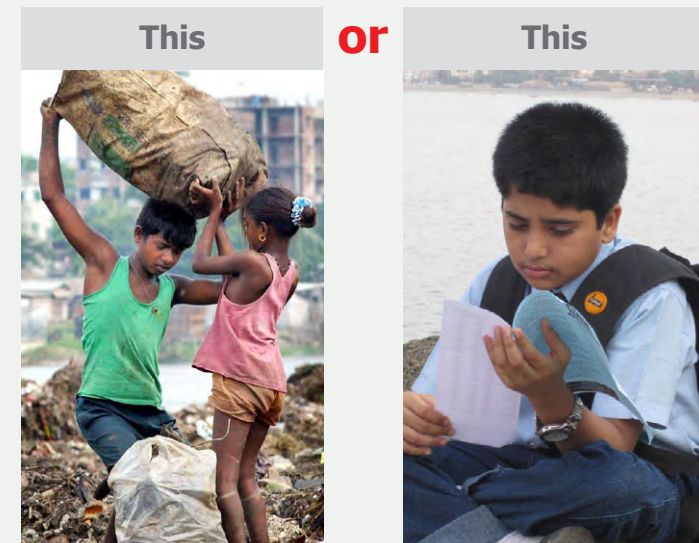
World Literacy Foundation, Bihar Anjuman, India Wisdom Foundation, Aligarh Alumni Association, Aligarh Forum

### Our Representatives:

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## What do you want them to carry...



## Aaghaz Foundation

*Padhao Aagey Badhao*  
Literacy Initiative for Indian Muslims

We use education as a tool  
to bring about socio-economic reforms

## What is Aaghaz Foundation all about?

*A unique community effort to root out illiteracy from Indian Muslims*



Every year, thousands of Muslim children are forced to discontinue their education because they can't afford to pay their school fees.

Aaghaz prevents these budding careers from being nipped in the bud by paying their school/college fees directly into their institutions. Each month we pay the fees of several hundred poor students across various schools and colleges.

We also run a Free Coaching Centre and a Coaching and Guidance Centre for students preparing for Bank LIC/Railways and other competitive exams.

*Aaghaz Foundation is registered with the Society of Registrar under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.*

## Who are we?

*Ordinary Muslims*

A selfless group of individuals from different walks of life driven by a common agenda: Eradication of illiteracy from our community. Our members include men and women from diverse fields and different age groups.

*In 2010, Aaghaz was nominated for the Best Muslim Organisation of India award by online newspaper Two Circles.net.*

## How do we work?

*Smartly*

As soon as someone recommends us a student who needs financial support, we ask our members to volunteer for a pre-scholarship survey. A minimum of three volunteers are needed.

**They visit the student's house with a set of questionnaire to determine whether or not the student is eligible for scholarship.** The academic record of the student, his/her financial condition etc. are among several things that are taken into consideration by the volunteers. Priority is given to orphans and meritorious students.

Based on the findings, the scholarship is approved or rejected.

## How do we raise funds for students?

*Take it from the community, give it back to the community*

Through monthly contributions of Rs. 100/- from members

From our partner organisations

Through sponsorship schemes – we have sponsors for most students



Aaghaz accepts Zaka'at but doesn't take any **grant/aid from the government.**

## How do we monitor the progress of students?

Scholarship is given for an academic session and, subject to a student's performance, extended or withdrawn. The progress of students is strictly monitored. Students given scholarship for higher education are made to sign a moral bond wherein they promise to return the funds (without interest) when they start earning. The bond has no legal sanctity.

## Some frequently asked questions

*Why education?*

Because illiteracy is the biggest threat to our community. It's directly linked to unemployment and backwardness.

Education is a long-term investment that we have criminally ignored for years. According to a recent study if we don't pay attention to education for another few years, we might lose millions of children to illiteracy.

## What can we do?

Use education as a tool to bring reforms in the community.

Provide financial assistance to deserving students who want to pursue their studies but don't have the resources.

Capitalize on our numbers. **One individual may not be able to help 10 others**, but 10 individuals can certainly help one.



## Some Clarifications

Aaghaz Foundation does not have any political affiliations.

No one has any vested interests. Alhamdulillah, we all are doing fairly well.

Transparency is the key word. Accounts, records of students etc can be checked any time by calling the numbers at the end of this mail.

There are no personal gains to be made through Aaghaz.

**Aaghaz is a zero-expense\* organisation.** We don't have any salaried staff and we pay no rent. All office expenditure, including stationary, postal expenses etc. are borne by the members voluntarily). **Funds raised from members/patrons, well-wishers are used solely for education.**