



The Akshaya Patra Foundation – An Introduction



The Akshaya Patra Foundation is the world's largest non-profit school meal provider. We are globally recognised as one of the **Top 25 NGOs in the World**, and have been studied by leading institutions, including Harvard Business School. **Our vision is that no child should be deprived of education because of hunger.**

One in three of the world's malnourished children live in India, and malnourishment kills 3,000 children every day. We work to eradicate malnourishment and facilitate childhood education by feeding **1.6 million school children across 11 states in India every day** through our **Food For Education Programme**.

Our aim is to positively impact children whose families are living in poverty by delivering **hot, healthy and nutritious school lunches** - hygienically prepared in our state of the art kitchens - to over 13,000 government schools.

These free school lunches enable the children we serve to attend school instead of having to work for food, give them the energy to concentrate in class and improve their academic performance, and allow them to **grow and develop healthily**. The children are encouraged to enjoy their meal together as equals, irrespective of gender, religion or caste.

As a result of our Food For Education Programme, 78% of parents surveyed perceived that their child's health had improved. **School attendance levels and school enrolments have increased** – in particular the enrolment of girls, who are often the first in a low income family to be withdrawn from school. There are also noticeable improvements in the cognitive development of the children we serve, with 85% of their teachers reporting that the proportion of students achieving higher grades has increased.

By enabling children to receive an education in this way we are **breaking the cycle of poverty**, not just for our direct beneficiaries but for their families too – when gainfully employed, an educated young person also takes two to three family members out of the poverty cycle. Evidence published by the World Bank shows that educated women *“tend to be healthier, earn more income, have fewer children, and provide better healthcare and education to their children”*.

We have an ambitious goal to reach **5 million children by 2020** – helping them to gain the lifelong gift of education and to build a brighter future.

