



ANNUAL BRIDGE COURSE REPORT



April 2025-March 2026



RESIDENTIAL BRIDGE COURSE



PROGRAM FOR THE POOREST GIRLS

हर बेटी का सपना — शिक्षा, सम्मान और आत्मनिर्भरता



 Year of Inception
April 2010

 Implemented By
FAKIRANA SISTERS SOCIETY, BETTIAH

★ ★ शिक्षा के माध्यम से बदल रही है बेटियों की ज़िंदगी ★ ★

हम क्या प्रदान करते हैं

- निःशुल्क गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा
- सुरक्षित आवास एवं भोजन
- व्यक्तित्व विकास और जीवन कौशल
- पुस्तकें, कॉपी, स्टेशनरी एवं अध्ययन सामग्री
- संस्कार, नैतिक शिक्षा और मार्गदर्शन
- आत्मविश्वास, अनुशासन और नेतृत्व विकास

हमारा उद्देश्य

- ✓ हर बेटी को शिक्षा का अधिकार दिलाना
- ✓ स्कूल से दूर बच्चियों को मुख्यधारा से जोड़ना
- ✓ आत्मनिर्भर और सशक्त बालिकाओं का निर्माण
- ✓ बेहतर शिक्षा, बेहतर भविष्य, बेहतर समाज


"जब एक बेटी शिक्षित होती है, तो पूरा समाज प्रगति करता है।"

हमारी विशेषताएँ

-  छोटी कक्षाएँ, व्यक्तिगत ध्यान और बेहतर सीखने का माहौल
-  नियमित प्रार्थना, योग, खेलकूद और सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियाँ
-  कला, संगीत, नृत्य और जीवन कौशल की प्रशिक्षण गतिविधियाँ

इस कार्यक्रम से बदल रहा है भविष्य

-  शिक्षित बेटी
-  आत्मनिर्भर बेटी
-  सशक्त बेटी
-  सशक्त परिवार
-  सशक्त समाज

आईए, हम सब मिलकर हर बेटी के उज्जाल भविष्य की ओर कदम बढ़ाएँ।

ORGANIZED & IMPLEMENTED BY
FAKIRANA SISTERS SOCIETY, BETTIAH

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Contact No.
9631196523

General Information of the Organization



... and many generous donors!

*Sr. Mary Crescence
Director*

Title of the Project	Bridge Course Program
Name of the organization	Fakirana Sisters Society
Address of the organization	Fakirana Sisters' Society Banuchappar, Bettiah, West Champaran - 845438 Bihar, India.
Phone	91-8862844435, 9661447535
Email	sr.crescence@gmail.com niteshsingh75@gmail.com
Fax	Not available
Contact Person	Sr. Crescence, Nitesh Kumar
Location of the project	Bridge Course Sacred Heart Convent, Bettiah of West Champaran districts of Bihar
Project Duration	Ongoing
Reporting Period	1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Bridge Course Team



Nitesh Singh
Administrative in charge



Tannu Kumari
Teacher



Riya Kumari
Hostel Warden



Lalita Devi
Cook

Location of the project



The Bridge Course program is operated in a separate building and offices on the grounds of the Sacred Heart Convent in Bettiah, Bihar.

Selection of the candidates



The Bridge Course is a free residential program for poor girls with inborn talents and capacity for leadership. A survey of the FreeSchools World Literacy program carried out by us in 2010 showed that after class 4th or 5th 95% of the female students were deprived of further education. One reason was that the schools were at a great distance from their villages, but more was the society thinking: “Girls do not need education more than class five.” The Bridge Course is a one- or two-year remedial program to counteract the wrong thinking of society. It is a unique type of education conducted in Bettiah; there is no program similar to it in Bihar.

Only intellectual young and poor girls can be candidates for this program. These girls are chosen after class five in the FreeSchools program. In a very short period of two years they are given quality of education up to class 7th with modern methods and techniques. The Bridge Course focuses on developing their inborn talents and preparing them as confident, responsible, knowledgeable and

vocal female leaders in today's society. Its aim is not only to prepare them for exams but also to develop their all-round personalities.

Each year, members of the Bridge Course staff travel to the various villages where FreeSchools operate, and from those students girls are selected through intellectual testing. After obtaining their parents' written permission, the girls are admitted into the Bridge Course program where they live in a dormitory with a maximum capacity of 18-21. All the necessities, such as bedding, food, books and study materials, are provided free of charge.

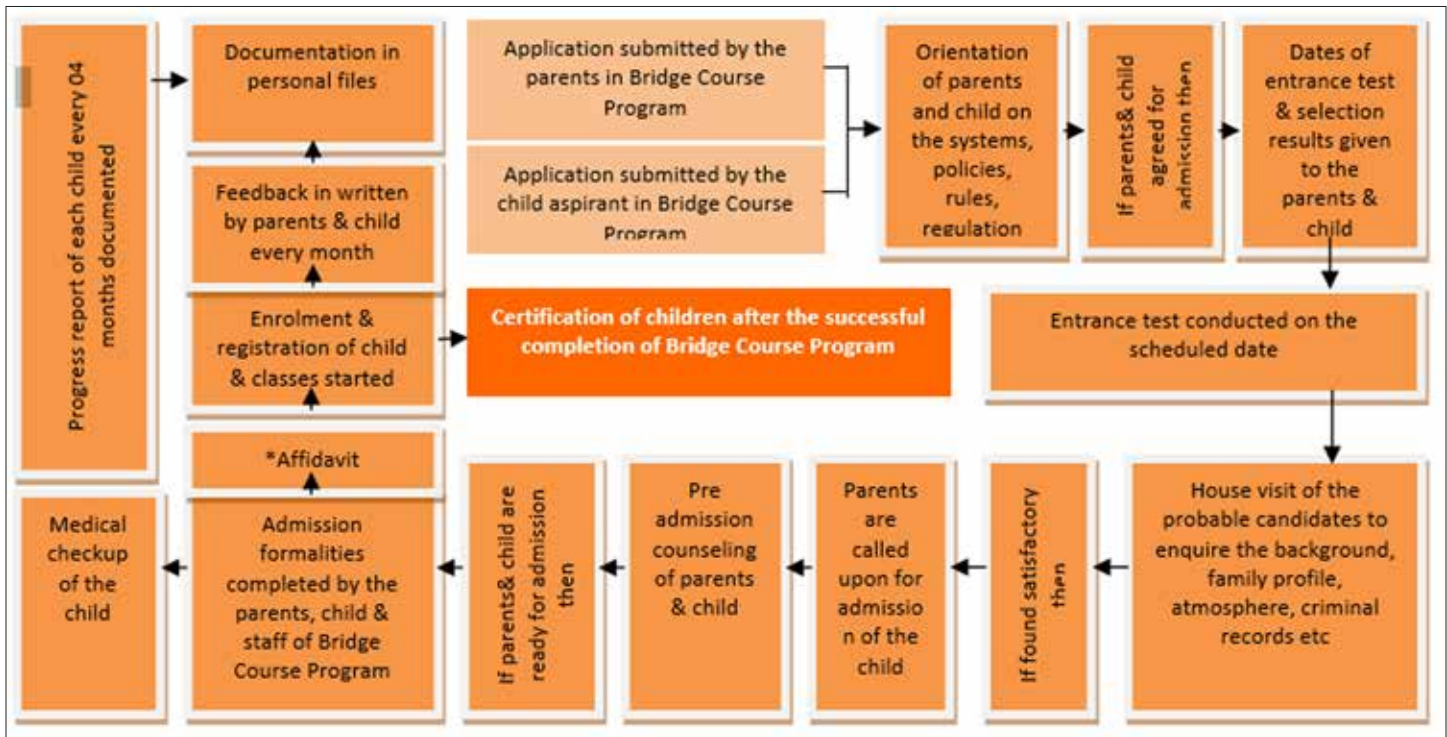
The designed and developed process of identification, selection and enrollment to find the right girls has enhanced the authenticity of the candidates. Par-



ents and their daughters are also oriented and counseled at every stage about the Bridge Course Program—its rules, regulations, its objectives and mission.

After completing one year of Bridge Course, the girls find positive changes within themselves and feel inspired to be active instruments for the change of their society. Bridge Course completes in one year the requirements of class 7th. Girls who would go for normal education are sent home to continue their studies through local schools, and definitely 99% pass 10th in 1st division. Girls having extraordinary talents and capabilities are screened and kept for a second year of Bridge Course, being given class 8th and 9th courses and leadership training.

The selection process



For the 2025-2026 season, eighteen girls were selected from different villages. The selection program began with a test in all subjects. The test paper was prepared by three staff and prior information was sent the girls a week before the date. Examination was conducted, papers corrected and successful candidates were called to join. Thus the girls were selected and the schedule of education began. The parents and children were given an orientation in the rules and regulations of the Bridge Course. The parents departed and the children stayed.





Beneficiaries of the program 2025-2026



No	Name	Parent's Name	Village	Current status
1	Alka Kumari	Bindhychal Patel	Nankhar	Studying in class 7 th
2	Kajal Kumari	Ashok Patel	Lauriya	Studying in class 7 th
3	Chinta Kumari	Rajan Patel	Nankhar	Studying in class 7 th
4	Roshani Kumari	Rajdeep Kumar Yadav	Binwaliya	Studying in class 7 th
5	Deeprani Kumari	Hiralal Sahni	Teluaha	Studying in class 8 th
6	Anshu Kumari	Anil Sahni	Gahri	Studying in class 7 th
7	Ranjana Kumari	Chatu Sah	Motihar tad	Studying in class 8 th
8	Anchal Kumari	Jatasankar Sahni	Yogapati	Studying in class 8 th
9	Jyoti Kumari	Sambhu Ram	Awariya	Studying in class 8 th
10	Sakshi Kumari A	Dharmendra Mishra	Lakhnipur	Studying in class 8 th
11	Bashudha Kumari	Kedar Ram	Koharabegahi	Studying in class 8 th
12	Rubi Kumari	Suresh Ram	Lakhanipur	Studying in class 7 th
13	Sakshi Kumari B	Late Jayparkash	Maghwaliya	Studying in class 7 th
14	Sashibala Kumari	Rajdev Ram	Nanosati	Studying in class 7 th
15	Rabina Kumari	Saheb Yadav	Nautan	Studying in class 8 th
16	Anushka Kumari	Mohit Sharma	Parsa	Studying in class 8 th
17	Nitu Kumari	Kedar Yadavi	Binwaliya	Studying in class 9 th
18	Neha Kumari	Mukesh Ram	Rampurwa	Studying in class 8 th

Teaching



The method of teaching in the Bridge Course is far superior to the teaching in government schools or other private schools. It is modern, qualitative, expanded to improve the children's minds. By making the learning interesting for them we try to make them thinkers with a desire to become a great person one day. Within one or two months great changes rare noticed in the girls.

Eating and Sleeping



Extra-curricular activities

Activities such as drawing, essay writing, letter writing, stage performance, etc. were also a major part of the syllabus this year. This was highly appreciated by the parents who they said their children had become so active!



Games and Exercise



Selecting the girls

A long process of meeting, motivating, dialoguing with parents and an interview of girls for selection of suitable girls took place in the villages we visited. People feel very happy when their children are selected for our Bridge Course.



After the girls leave the Bridge Course, we make it our duty to meet them and see that what they are doing in their lives. It gives us great satisfaction to see them ambitious, earnest, for real progress in their lives. The villagers felt very proud of the development in their girls. They say we feel very, very grateful to donors. They have really very big heart.

Teachers' Day Celebration



The first program of the year was Teachers' Day, celebrated on 5th September 2025 in the office of the Bridge Course Hall. The celebration began at 03.30 PM. Teachers, staff members, sisters and eighteen Bridge Course girls took active participation in this event. Sr. Crescence welcomed all the delegates, children, sisters, and teachers. One Bridge Course girl gave a small speech to all the teachers present after which a variety program was presented by the girls. The teachers and the sisters thoroughly appreciated their talent. Then a meal was served for both children and staff. Before it was over, Sr Crescence presented a gift to each of the teachers and a vote of thanks was given by Rakesh Kumar.

Celebration of Christmas



Christmas was celebrated in the Bridge Course Program on 24th December 2025. The hall was decorated and a small crib was prepared with the baby Jesus inside. Sr. Crescence lit the first candle followed by the girls who also lit candles. The children sang Gloria and played with balloons. We all shared Christmas cake. What a joy! The children got shawl as a Christmas gift. The staff also got the same gift. We all ate Christmas cake. It was a real joy.

Outside visitors



During this year some important people, Peter Sebastian Goveas the Bishop of Bettiah and Fr Ananad Pashkal, visited the Bridge Course and met the children and staff. They remarked that the girls have become so smart. The girl's answers are cute. The Bishop and Father were shown the sleeping room, the class room, the big hall, and games arrangement. The Bishop said really you are doing work of real charity and he gave toffee packets to the children.



The parents



Every holiday the parents come to take their daughters home, to satisfy authorities that the girl is handed over to the parent



Terminal examinations conducted

Three terminal examinations were conducted for the 7th and 8th standard students during this year. In the first term exam, the girls are tested on becoming more polite; by the second term they get more ambition to study, and by the third term the responsibility of citizenship develops in them and they become thinkers, bold, and risk-taking.

Altogether 18 girls successfully completed the one-year Bridge Course program. Ten girls took admission in class 8th. The rest went for class 7th, all joining government or private schools. At the end of the year the girls are amazed to see the change in themselves. Naturally they are grateful to God, to the benefactors for the financial help, and to Sr. Crescence and the staff members for their hard work.

No	Name	1st term	2nd term	3rd term
1	Alka Kumari	232	355	480
2	Kajal Kumari	255	377	477
3	Chinta Kumari	210	381	481
4	Roshani Kumari	211	387	482
5	Deeprani Kumari	222	390	489
6	Anshu Kumari	210	399	483
7	Ranjana Kumari	219	366	480
8	Anchal Kumari	226	388	479
9	Jyoti Kumari	250	355	478
10	Sakshi Kumari (A)	247	397	480
11	Bashudha Kumari	211	377	481
12	Rubi Kumari	220	395	482
13	Sakshi Kumari (B)	222	396	487
14	Sashibala Kumari	232	399	490
15	Rabina Kumari	236	322	490
16	Anushka Kumari	238	394	488
17	Nitu Kumari	229	396	487
18	Neha Kumari	216	391	486

Annual Day



The Annual Day celebration was held at the end of the school year. The variety entertainment program with such acts as song, dance, drama, and comic, were performed with enthusiasm by the girls and delighted the audience. At the end the outgoing girls received their certificates and prizes with touching votes of thanks, such as, “We will never forget Bridge Course and the staff,” “You have done a lot for us,” “To depart from you is heartbreaking.” We will never forget Saskia mam who is all in all for us. It is because of her help [*and of course the donors!—Ed.*] that our future has changed.



The Achievement of Bridge Course!



When the torch of education was lit in the six villages of Nautan Block, a new ray of hope emerged. This year, nine students wrote Matriculation and Intermediate examinations passed in the First Division, marking a historic achievement for the alumni of the Bridge Course. These students belong to the Scheduled Caste community and have brought pride to their families and villages. The day results came out entire six village atmosphere was changed in celebration

Nautan Block is located approximately 30 kilometres from Bettiah town. These girls come from remote interior villages where families face severe economic hardships and limited educational opportunities. Despite these challenges, the alumni of the Bridge Course, with the support of their families and the dedicated efforts of the Fakirana Sisters Society, have achieved remarkable success in education.

Their achievement is a milestone for the entire community. It demonstrates that education can transform lives, inspire hope, and open new pathways for children from marginalized communities.

The names of the students who have achieved success are:

1. Ishika Kumari; 2. Pooja Kumari
3. Kushi Kumari; 4. Nandini Kumari
5. Babita Kumari; 6. Ramita Kumari
7. Rupali Kumari; 8. Roshni Kumari;
9. Karuna Kumari

All these girls come from families whose parents work in agriculture, daily wage labour, and goat farming. Their families do not have sufficient land for cultivation. After completing the Bridge Course, the girls joined private and government schools and began attending classes regularly from home with the guidance and support of their parents. They have become role models for the younger girls in their villages.

The role of Fakirana Sister's Society continues. The Society organized separate coaching classes and provided scholarships to support their education. The Bridge Course team from time to time regularly monitors the students' progress in school and checks their attendance. The success of these students was made possible through the hard work and dedicated efforts of the Bridge Course Center under the guidance of Fakirana Sisters Society.

History of the Bridge Course program

by Saskia Raevouri, Bridge Course Fundraiser

In 2006, during my first visit to Bettiah to visit the FreeSchools, Sr. Crescence told me of her dream of remodeling an old structure on the convent grounds into a dormitory to house, each year, 18 of the poorest but brightest girls from the FreeSchools background and prepare them to qualify for “bridging over” to the formal schools. At the same time these girls—who would otherwise be married off at an early age—would learn social skills and be exposed to a higher standard of living, acquiring habits they could take back to inspire and educate their primitive villagers. Additionally they would form bonds with each other, leading to high-level cross-fertilization between remote villages.

I thought it a wonderful idea and pledged my support, taking around two years to raise the building funds. By March 2010 the building was complete and, together with Geri Johnson (president of FreeSchools-USA) and Dr. John Lange, we visited Bettiah to cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the Bridge Course Program.

Each year since then, Sr. Crescence and her staff have acted as “talent scouts,” identifying the most promising girls between seven and eleven

years of age and putting them and their parents through an extensive screening process before granting them admission to the program.

Our annual goal (from \$7500 in 2010 to \$12,500 in 2025) covers room and board for 18-20 girls, salaries for an administrative assistant, two teachers, a hostel warden, a cook, an honorarium for Sr. Crescence, study materials, textbooks, stationery for exams, toilet articles, medical expenses, sporting equipment, meeting and office expenses, travel allowance (for the girls to visit their families), audit fees, and dormitory maintenance including electricity and other utilities. So far we have managed to reach our goal each year!

Sr. Crescence and her Sacred Heart sisters have taken vows of poverty, are self-supporting and receive nothing from the Catholic Church or the government, refusing to consort with corruption, bribery, and other practices that are common in India when money is involved. The sisters and their staff do the work, and the only help we as Westerners can offer is financial. Those of us who have personally visited the FreeSchools and Bridge Course programs can vouch that every cent raised by us goes toward the cause.



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Bridge Course Programs
Director: Sr. Mary Crescence



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