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Akanksha's *Voices on the Rise* Brings Together New and Experienced Voices in Education

Leaders in Education and Philanthropy Join Hands to Support High-Quality Innovative Schooling for Underserved Communities

New York, NY, October 9, 2023 – Akanksha is thrilled to present “Voices on the Rise,” a Signature Event in New York City, to celebrate our groundbreaking work in providing innovative high-quality holistic education to children from low-income communities in India.

This event will be held at The Times Center on October 19, 2023, 6:30pm to 10:00pm. Noted speakers include Nitin Nohria, former Dean of Harvard Business School; Rebecca Winthrop, Director of the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution; and Sandeep Rai, Founder and CEO of The Circle. Guests will also be hearing from Akanksha alumni, young activists, and educational thought leaders, including The Akanksha Foundation's CEO, Saurabh Taneja. [Please click here for a list of speakers and bios.](#)

Voices on the Rise will draw professionals, academics, corporates, and other prominent individuals from the New York area and nationally. This event promises to be an evening of meaningful conversations, cocktails, and amazing food catered by Chef Gaurav Anand.

Since 2007, Akanksha Schools have educated children from underserved communities in Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur. Today, Akanksha is one of the largest urban networks of public-private partnership schools of its kind in India, serving 14,000 children across 26 schools, and 5,100 alumni.

"My Akanksha journey began 16 years ago in third grade. Growing up in a low-income family in India, the grip of generational poverty tightened when my mother, bravely standing against abuse and injustice, chose to be a single parent. Financial constraints meant I couldn't attend an

English medium school initially. However, Akanksha intervened by selecting me and a few others to attend KCTVN, the first Akanksha school in Pune. This turned the tide, allowing me to receive a top-notch education without any financial burden on my mother. Akanksha shaped my academic journey and opened doors to opportunities for underserved kids like me." said Pragati Raskar, an Akanksha Alumni who recently graduated from University of Rochester and now works at Akanksha Education Fund, mentioning that her life has come full circle.

"Akanksha provided me with acknowledgement and celebration, unveiling my potential and instilling in me the realization that I could use it for the betterment of both myself and other deserving students like me. For me, this embodies the essence of transforming education—an education that goes beyond societal backgrounds, unlocking the latent potential within each individual. It's about paving the way for a brighter tomorrow, where everyone, regardless of their background, can step into their full potential, prepared for the opportunities that lie ahead."

You can support the groundbreaking work Akanksha is doing in India for students like Pragati by joining their upcoming [Voices on the Rise](#) event on Oct 19 at the Times Center in NYC or making a [donation](#) if you are unable to attend.

"Providing children with a strong educational foundation can transform their lives, as well as positively impact the entire community," says Executive Director Sejal Desai. "Akanksha alumni are moving forward and succeeding in education and the workplace and are productive members of our global society. We are proud to continue our work in the sector and invite others to join us too."

All funds raised will go towards supporting the important work Akanksha does in India to offer pathways out of generational poverty for their students and their families.

About Akanksha Education Fund:

Akanksha Education Fund is a publicly supported charity in the U.S that raises awareness and support for education initiatives in India. For over 25 years, AEF has provided donors in the U.S. with opportunities to make an impact in India by connecting their passion for giving to high-quality programs in education, and has raised and granted several million dollars to The Akanksha Foundation. To learn more please visit www.akankshafund.org.

About Voices on the Rise:

"Voices on the Rise" brings forward new and expert voices that are making a global impact in education. The program also showcases those who have utilized education themselves to overcome major obstacles, achieving great things and inspiring others in the process. This event will draw professionals, academics, corporates, and other prominent individuals from the New York area and beyond. To learn more please visit give.akankshafund.org/voicesontherise2023.