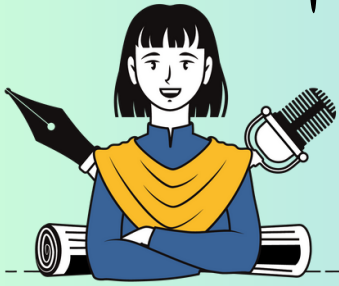


Behena Newsletter

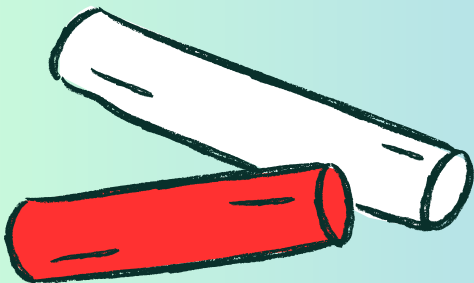
Aage Badte Raho Behena!



★ Via News Didi ★

Inspiring Women

Sakshi Malik decided to quit her wrestling career and return the Padma Shri award in protest of appointing Sanjay Singh (a Brij Bhushan loyalist) as the new WFI president.



Upcoming Articles

- Feature Article on Robinhood Army by Naisha and Tejal
- Profile Article on Ms Saloni Sharma by Radhika and Harshita

Women in:

- The Indian women's team registers their maiden test victory over Australia.
- Prerna Deosthalee is making history as the first woman officer to command a fleet in the Indian Navy.

Purpose: To create a sisterhood of talented women who reflect a collective effort of voices actively rewriting narratives that challenge gender stereotypes and promote gender equality.

Mission: Our aim is to break the barriers of gender inequality, where by women actively participate in shaping the world and making strides globally. Word by word, article by article and challenge by challenge.



BEYOND THE SHADOWS: THE ROBIN HOOD ARMY'S INSPIRING BATTLE AGAINST GLOBAL HUNGER

RHA's vision is to beat global hunger and bring out the best of humanity using food as a medium. RHA is showing hope and serving the famished all over the world. Drawing from the literary character of "Robin Hood" it aims to redistribute food in food surplus cities to ensure that no-one is left hungry.

Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations is to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people—especially children—have sufficient and nutritious food all year. Though an ambitious humanitarian goal, the success rate of this, as with most other SDGs, is as daunting as it is disappointing. As I sit at my desk and type out this article on December 20, 2023, just eight days short of less than six years remaining to fulfil this goal, I am extremely appalled at the figures that exist today.

It takes an incredibly apathetic person to take in the following information, with assimilation, and not shed a tear. (Trigger Warning: The following facts and statistics exemplify the true and most unfortunate state of the world. If you have ever had any traumatic experience with hunger, it may cause you discomfort).

- Hunger kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria, and terrorism combined.
- Every 10 seconds, a child dies from hunger.
- 82% of hungry people live in countries with food surpluses, not food shortages.
- One in every eight people sleeps hungry each night.
- One-third of the food produced around the world is never consumed.
- There are 850 million hungry people in the world.

As my mind assimilates this predicament, the rather dire sensations of dysphoria, imminent doom, frustration at my very own human race, and petrification of the dystopia that seems so very inevitable all battle within my heart for eternal dominance. Nevertheless, amidst this most ominous and macabre situation that the entirety of the world finds itself in, my heart is mildly comforted by the knowledge that some of my more generous and responsible fellow humans are not acting like sitting ducks like the rest of us amidst this extreme quandary, and that some are even willing to dedicate their entire lives towards remedying this grave vicissitude that humanity has cultivated for itself.

One such initiative was born on an early morning after a party in Mumbai, when a kind man called Neel Ghose and his friends ended up with too much leftover food on their hands. Not wanting to waste so much sustenance, they collectively decided to distribute this food to the malnourished.

Little did they know, this one decision of their lives would save the lives of thousands others. Galvanised upon witnessing the famished souls feast on ordinary dishes and latch with their dear lives onto the utensils as if they were their lifelines, Neel, filled with newfound invigoration, founded an organisation that would serve as a catalyst in terminating global starvation, an organisation that the world knows today as The Robin Hood Army.

“The problem is not that there isn’t enough food; it is the lack of consistent food facilitation to the right people at the right time; in fact, 82% of the people in the world live in countries with food surpluses. We are on a mission to change this,” said Saloni, the Growth Expansion Lead at RHA.

Modelled after the Re Food model in Portugal in 2014 and named after the infamous and iconic literature character Robin Hood, who stole from the rich and gave to the poor, Robins form associations with restaurants that provide them with leftover food; they then distribute this food to those that need it the most.

It is rather noteworthy that RHA is a zero-funds organisation. “We don’t believe that we need money to instigate social change. Only a true passion,” said Saloni. Furthermore, RHA does not provide its volunteers with any sort of certification. On this, Saloni said, “We want our Robins to be fueled by passion, not an incentive to further their CVs.”

Today, RHA has served 28,164,165 people and functions in 159 cities in India and abroad. Saloni also mentioned, “With over 28 million people served, the army streamlines its processes to set up hyperlocal community chapters across the world. Our focus is to become a global engine that brings out the best of humanity using food as a medium.”

Despite these pleasantly astounding facts and figures, RHA claims that they are 1% done. “Solving global starvation is not something I believe I will be able to see in my lifetime. There is just so much to do. We are still just 1% done. 99% to go.”

The existence of organisations such as RHA is truly the only ray of hope we have in a dark tunnel.



Naisha

Student journalist

Hey there! I'm just a kid trying to find her way in the world. I'm passionate about physics and mathematics academically; domestic violence, gender inequality, sustainability and climate change socially. I believe and advocate strongly for these issues, via the medium of my blog and other literary pieces. I hope to nurture, expand and evolve my talent, in order to be better prepared for the future, and live an invigorating present!

Tejal is a 9 grader, who is strongly passionate to build variety of skills and believes in fighting for student voices. Who is fascinated to use the power of journalists to make a change in this community. She is a critical thinker and likes to be part of group discussions.



Tejal

Student journalist

SALONI: NURTURING HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RHA'S FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

Saloni, a key member of RHA, chose to address hunger because of a personal experience that deeply resonated with her. Her act of feeding someone in need made her realise the simplicity of helping.

"The problem is so big, but the solution is very little. Millions of people do sleep hungry each night, but if we all take some smaller steps, it won't be a big problem anymore, Saloni said. She believes that even small efforts, like giving a Frooti to a hungry child, can collectively solve the significant problem of hunger.

Being part of RHA has not only allowed Saloni to help others but has also transformed her personally and professionally. "It is weird, but I got better at Excel." Saloni said It humbled her, instilling gratitude, and professionally made her more confident and disciplined. RHA, with its diverse team of Robins, including teenagers, kids, and retirees, unites everyone in the fight against global hunger.

"Whenever I see someone wasting food, I feel sad or angry. The thing I do is communicate." Saloni communicates the importance of not wasting food, using it as an opportunity to educate others about the plight of those who go hungry. She never wastes food herself and always carries Parle G to share with those in need.

"I never waste any food on my plate," she said. "Being a mother, I always tell my daughter not to waste food. There are people who are not very lucky to get enough food." Saloni, juggling her roles as a mother and professional, emphasises prioritisation and passion in achieving goals. She believes in the power of commitment and discipline to balance different aspects of life. "RHA is a part of my life." We all do something to solve social issues. "We are going to make a difference," she said very passionately.

As RHA approaches its 10-year anniversary in January 2024, Saloni expresses excitement about the global gathering of Robins in February. She credits RHA for bringing positive change to her life, challenging the misconception that charitable acts offer nothing in return.

In essence, RHA teaches us not to waste food and encourages gratitude for what we have. Saloni emphasises the value of helping those less fortunate, as the returns from such acts are immeasurable.

I am Radhika, a 8th grader of Delhi. I am passionate about learning different skills and diving into the world of mysteries. I am a couch potato and hates working.



Radhika
Student journalist



Harshita
Student journalist

Meet Harshita. Currently studying in 12th and pursuing PCB, she believes that every experience holds value, whether it be a challenge or a lesson learned. Hailing from rural India, she is committed to making a positive impact in her community.