



WATER FILTERS FOR GURGAON & U.P.

The Beneficiaries Up Close



ABOUT HEEALS

The project "Water Filters For Gurgaon/Uttar Pradesh" was implemented by founder of HEEALS, Gaurav Kashyap, and two Canadian Interns, Jayde Lavoie and Rachel Leistra. HEEALS is an acronym that describes the NGOs commitment to advancing health, education, environment and livelihood in communities across India.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Who does our work impact, and why?

“Water Filters For Gurgaon & U.P.; The Beneficiaries Up Close” is an accompanying photo series to a project implemented by the NGO HEEALS over the course of Summer 2018. The project sought to distribute 40 Water Filters (R.O and Manual) in schools and communities across Gurgaon and the state of Uttar Pradesh without access to clean water.

The aim of this series is to personalize the beneficiaries of the completed development project, emphasizing each individual community and bringing context to the aim of our work. With diarrheal diseases being the leading cause of death for Indian youth, it is difficult to visualize the impact that access to clean water has on a child's health, education and livelihood. The portraits of light-hearted children often juxtapose this daunting reality.

HEEALS would like to congratulate each community on having the strength to identify their needs, and create positive change in the lives of their youth.

A Letter from the Founder

One night, ten years ago, after reading a book, I was doing meditation in my room. After some time, I suddenly realized that I was getting the answers to every question that I have ever had. Ten years ago, enlightenment and Nirvana gave me silence... It connected me with a supreme being. Achieving Nirvana is not a one time accomplishment. Once attained, my life's journey was started on the Nirvana pathway. My journey with Nirvana keeps motivating and inspiring me to spread HEEALS message, and to inspire and motivate others.

Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of our generous donors for making a difference in someone else's life. Behind each child and family, there are compassionate people like you. Your support came to these women and children at their moment of greatest need. Your time and financial contributions are both admirable and much appreciated. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers, interns, local staff and team members who helped strive towards a successful project implementation. In total, we distributed forty R.O. and Manual Water Filters to twenty-six schools and eight families, equalling thirty-four locations that comprise Gurgaon and Uttar Pradesh. I started HEEALS eight years ago because I wanted to create positive social change in the poorer and marginalized communities of India. As they have a lack of access to the basic needs like health, education, livelihood, and a positive environment to prosper. I believe that through this project, I can say that HEEALS has done this. - **Gaurav Kashyap**

Science

Q.1 What are living things?

Date
17/11/18/
6 My
Start







A student at Oxford Public School races to wash her hands before lunchtime.



THE SCHOOLS, THE SMILES, THE STUDENTS

"Water Filters For Gurgaon & U.P." was implemented over the course of 5 days, by the founder of HEEALS, Gaurav Kashyap, and two Canadian Interns, Jayde Lavoie and Rachel Leistra. During the distribution phase of the project, the team travelled over hundreds of kilometres to communities of Gurgaon, Jewar, Meerut, Bhogapur and Kaushambi. They interacted with students at dozens of schools, learning their stories and witnessing the contexts in which many of them were trying to learn.

Many schools lacked the space, infrastructure and resources to create a productive learning environment. Yet despite the claustrophobic, crowded and chaotic nature of these facilities, the students still manage a positive outlook on their opportunity to learn, making each visit unique and memorable for all involved.



The Heroes Behind The Desk

Educators faces brutal trade-offs of working incredibly hard to support their students while given little infrastructural support to do so. These heroes work endlessly, and it shows.

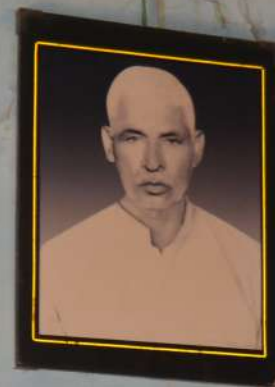






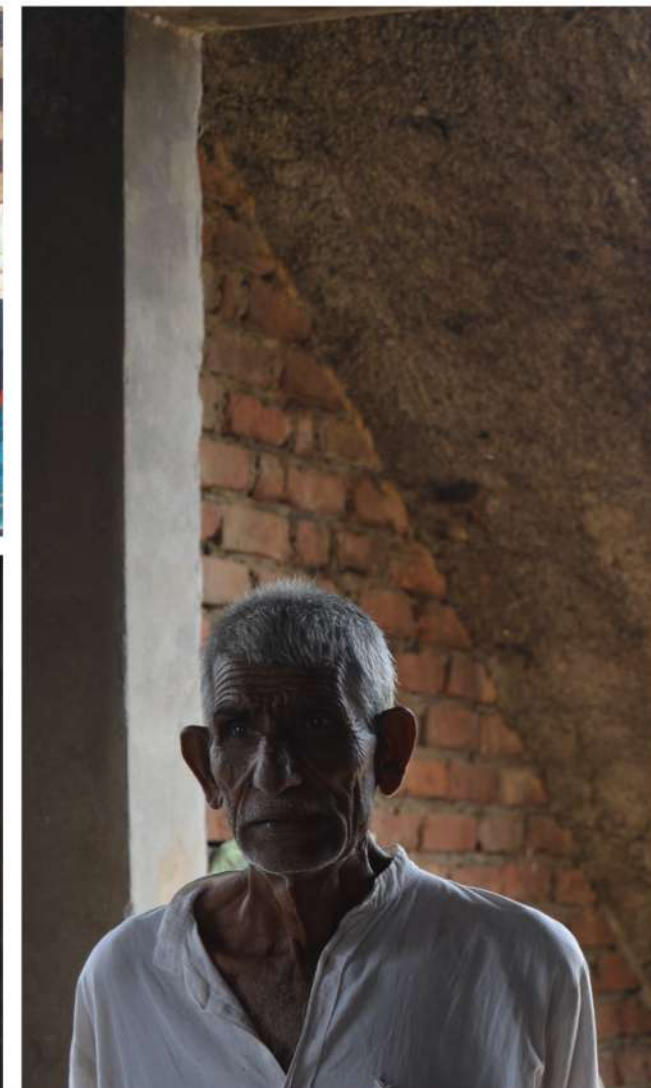


A student of Kanya Upper Primary School jumps at the opportunity to have her photo taken.



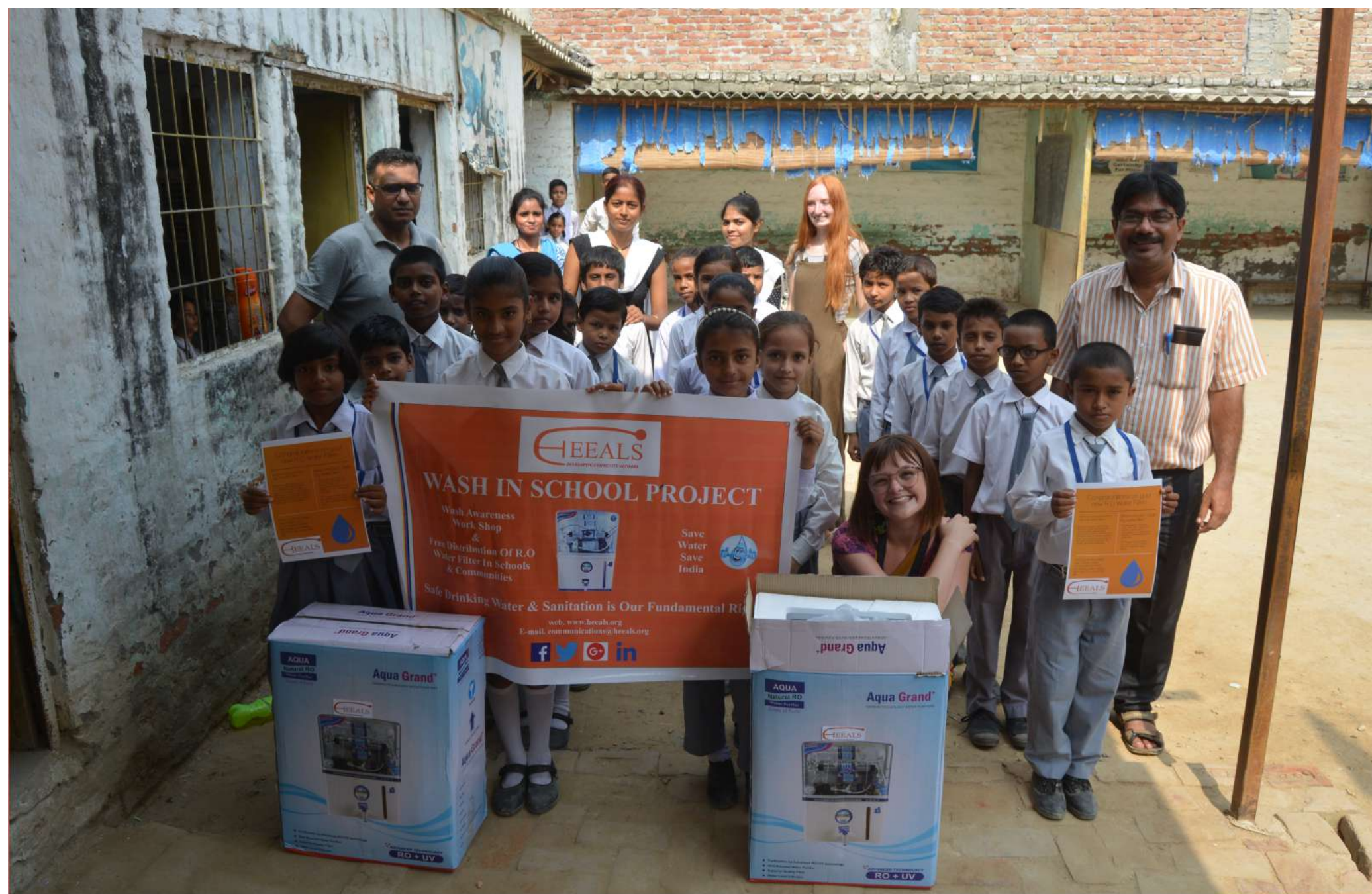
THE COMMUNITIES

Not only were water filters distributed to schools, but also several community members in the village of Meerut and Jewar. Families in rural areas live in extremely impoverished conditions, and to know that clean drinking water is not a staple of their daily lifestyle is frightening. HEEALS was so grateful to be able to extend the scope of the project into the homes of hard-working, deserving people.









THE TEAM

While the community benefitted from the implementation of this project, as did everyone else involved. For each intern, this was an experience in exposure to a completely new, raw, and beautiful side of social work. The organization as a whole crossed a new threshold in terms of project size and scale. Everybody won.





Wisdom From The Interns

RACHEL: "This water filters project was one of the biggest highlights of my internship with HEEALS. Organizing a project of this scale was a first for me as well as for the NGO. We certainly had some bumps in the road, but seeing both the support of our personal circles as well as the happiness of the schools and families receiving the filters made all the worries worthwhile."

JAYDE: "I feel so lucky to have been a part of such an incredible project, with such inspiring people. I choose to live by the mantra, 'service is the rent we pay for room on this earth', but implementing this project didn't even feel like service. It felt more like a gift. I will return to Canada knowing that while I changed India, India also changed me for the better."











A Thank You

The funds for this project were raised through an extraordinary group of individual donors who believed in our organization's potential to implement change. None of this would have been possible without their support, and we sincerely thank them from the bottom of our hearts.