



BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING FUTURES

4Ws – Wisdom, Wheels, Wings and Web of Empowerment



At **Kooba PG College**, nestled in a small Indian village in eastern Uttar Pradesh, the corridors echo with the cheers of enthusiastic girls, their laughter mingling with the whispers of dreams nurtured amidst societal challenges. Some giggle freely, while others quietly suppress their aspirations, caught in the tug-of-war between tradition and ambition. As they juggle classes, these girls pass by the vibrant Worli Art pillars they have skilfully painted, a testament to their creativity and resilience. In their personal lives, many toil in agricultural fields, manage household chores, and fight traditional expectations of being in the house to support their families as they balance textbooks and responsibilities with unwavering determination.

Their collective struggle is a powerful story of Nari Shakti (Girl Power!), one that **KARNA** is committed to amplifying and transforming into a tale of success.

THE IMPACT OF KARNA ON GIRLS' EDUCATION

A wave of transformation is sweeping through this 75-year-old College. Under **KARNA** initiatives, significant strides are being made in promoting girls' education. One such initiative is the recently launched **Durga Shakti 50** scholarship program, designed to select and support bright, ambitious young girls in their educational pursuits. This program includes providing the selected girls with support for their college fees, a bicycle and feminine hygiene products. It was awarded to 50 girls for the academic year 2024-25 with 44 girls from Bachelor's program and 6 girls from the Master's program.

WISDOM PATHWAYS: SUPPORTING EDUCATION

KARNA's Durga Shakti 50 provides financial aid in the form of fee support as a catalyst for empowering girls to pursue academic programs for personal fulfilment. The primary objective for the girls is to seek formal education to build their foundation as a passport to have an independent career for themselves. The academic fee for the college is a significant burden for many households as they struggle to maintain their livelihood – the choice of having food on the table versus supporting education pursuits. With patriarchal male family members working in different cities in faraway lands, mothers bear the weight of managing everything at home.

Durga Shakti 50 lifts this heavy financial burden, allowing girls to focus on their studies and future. It is not just about funding education, it is about igniting potential and investing in the leaders, innovators, and changemakers of tomorrow. Each scholarship is a step towards a brighter, self-sufficient future for these young women and their current and future families.



WHEELS FOR DREAMS

ENABLING GIRLS THROUGH MOBILITY

Providing bicycles to these girls liberates them from the constraints of distance and unreliable public transport. Girls like Jyoti, Kiran, Sonam, Priyanka, and others will now ride to College with newfound freedom and confidence. Each pedal stroke resonates with resilience as they traverse the path to knowledge, no longer shackled by logistical and social hurdles. The visibility of these uniquely visible bicycles in the crowd provides them with added confidence and a sense of pride as they pedal to College.



WINGS OF CONFIDENCE

ENHANCING LIFE THROUGH SANITARY AID

Another crucial aspect of the program is the provision of feminine hygiene products. Menstrual hygiene is vital for uninterrupted academic pursuits. By offering these essential products, **KARNA** promotes sustained health while focusing on education. Freed from the distress of inadequate menstrual care and missing College, these girls can now channel their energies towards academic endeavours with undeterred dedication. This initiative extends beyond provision, creating a transformative narrative of empowerment and renewed vigor that continues uninterrupted month after month.



WEB OF SKILLS

ELEVATING EDUCATION WITH COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER

A Computer Training Center with five brand new computers equipped with internet connectivity was opened. A teacher has also been funded for the year to provide free basic computer education – e.g. Microsoft applications, picture and video editing capabilities etc. Almost all these girls will not have access to a computer at home. Having basic knowledge of computers and some additional skills on the platform empowers them, opening doors to new opportunities and bridging the digital divide. It equips them with essential skills for the modern workforce, paving the way for a future of promise and self-reliance.

A JOURNEY OF DETERMINATION AND SUCCESS

Through **KARNA**, we have witnessed firsthand the transformational power of supporting these selected 50 girls - they are now more focused and determined. Annu dreams of becoming a teacher and wants to prepare for the government services. Shalini aspires to be a doctor, Savitri a banker, and Priya aims to become a chartered accountant. Their dreams and stories are powerful testament to the profound impact of donors' support through Karna's initiatives.

KARNA's support for these dreams reinforces its commitment to creating a future where every girl can freely pursue her aspirations, unhindered by social impediments. The journey continues, driven by the belief that education is the fulcrum of opportunity and the key to a brighter, more equitable future.

Meanwhile, the lanes and by-lanes approaching the College now resonate with a new sound—the cheerful herald of bells on clearly identifiable bicycles of the students selected for the program. This bright, brassy banter adds to the girls' laughter and cheers, its crisp chime carried on the morning breeze. It is a hopeful harmony that echoes their determination and youthful energy, announcing their approach with every pedal stroke towards a brighter future.

