

POVERTY IS THE ONLY RELIGION FOR PHILANTHROPIST ROBIN RAINA



Some people are born to make a difference in society. Robin Raina is one of them. In spite of being a successful entrepreneur, this man finds bliss in serving the underprivileged section of society. Though he was born in India but his social service arena is not limited to this country only. His various foundations have made a mark in many countries and now he wants to cover the entire globe. Today Robin Raina Foundation (RRF) is one of the biggest NGOs working towards realizing the dreams of the poor.

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has been endeavouring to build 6,000 homes free of cost for the underprivileged. Out of which 216 homes have already been given to slum-dwellers. It expects 600 homes by the end of this year and a few thousands homes in the next couple of years. "I've not taken any financial help from any government organization. Each home has been provided to the slum-dwellers free of cost on the condition that they have to send their kids to RRF schools and they cannot sell a home for the period of seven years," he says. Robin can usually be seen in slums talking to people. He doesn't even hesitate to pick up bricks himself. He says, "I want to make charity fashionable & cool."

employment in various industries. Thanks to RRF's constant financial & moral support, 34 blind children are today completing their masters in various subjects from Delhi University while some are studying in top-notch colleges like St. Stephens, Ramjas, Hindu, Kirori Mal etc. Many women have become proficient in vocational courses. Robin is still restless. "For me, there is no limit to social work," he reveals.

IN FOCUS

MAN OF WISDOM

Robin was not an extraordinary child but somewhere inside his heart he carried a strong desire to do something for the poor sections of society. He is a believer in God but neither does he pray nor does he visit any temple. "I feel God is omnipresent and one need not search for him outside. He always stays within our soul. Praying and only depending on God are mere signs of weakness. God comes for assistance and guidance only if we call Him with true feeling. Serving the poor is equivalent to worshipping God and I find it a way to move closer to Him," he says.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Robin Raina is the chairman of a 32 year-old publicly traded company, besides being president & CEO of the company. "Under my leadership, the company has delivered one the highest returns on shareholder investment in the recent US stock market history. Atlanta Business Chronicle has recently ranked me as no.1 CEO in Georgia," he reveals. He has also been awarded the prestigious South Asian Excellence award by Sony TV for being the personality of the year at Waldorf Astoria, New York on May 10 last year and was named amongst the 100 most powerful people in insurance in North America by Worksite magazine.

Hope for the underprivileged
The Robin Raina Foundation

NURTURING POOR

"I think education alone can play a vital role in enhancing the standard of living of any person. I want to spread education everywhere," he says. He has bought two big charitable schools, Raina Prayas School and Raina Shine School. "Raina Prayas has adopted 800 children belonging to slum areas in Bawana in north west Delhi whereas Raina Shine school has adopted 650 children belonging to slum areas in Ghijor village in Noida. Here we provide the children with facilities like computers, library, television, water filters and not to forget, good education so that these kids may live better in the future," he explains. RRF is also engaged itself in projects like empowering of women & giving assistance to visually challenged men & women so that they can become self-reliant. "RRF has sponsored several blind children in the age group of 17 to 23 years in Delhi. It pays for their graduation studies, hostel fees, books, clothes, food etc," he says.

'SOCIAL WORK'

Robin Raina's support has enabled lots of people get

COMMENDABLE ATTITUDE

Robin's charity extends far and wide. In Chicago and Atlanta he donated for the treatment of many kids suffering from diseases like cancer. RRF has also sponsored a cancer treatment ward at Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital, built in the name of Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan's mother. "Being a Kashmiri Pandit people raised questions about my sponsoring a hospital ward in Pakistan. Some opined that being a Hindu and an Indian I should only focus on my own country. However, I personally feel that poverty is a religion in itself and one should follow it diligently," he smiles.

—TARUN KHANNA