Aditi Raghavendra Rising 6th grader Panacea Challenge 2022

## **Promoting Education in the US**

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" -Nelson Mandela

Imagine that kid you saw a few years ago that was begging for money is now the CEO of the company you just walked into applying for a job. That is the life of having freedom of education. This is where Northsouth Foundation (NSF) can play a big role. Northsouth Foundation can help with changing those underprivileged lives and make a huge difference forever.

Every journey starts with baby steps. So NSF can initiate by ensuring that every single child in America can hold at least 1 book. This can be done by creating a fundraiser so that more privileged kids can donate their used books or books they don't use anymore. A circulation system like the Book Bank USA can be organized. For those who are not aware of what a book bank is. A book bank is a system that is somewhat like a library; the only difference is that anyone can donate and borrow.

The next thing that can be done is providing teachers that can help special kids that have dyslexia or autism or different challenges that can be a hurdle in the learning process. So that every child can be treated equally no matter what because ultimately, we are all humans. Other than hurdles in education due to certain health-based illnesses, there are other kinds of hurdles which are bullying, discrimination, and sometimes even personal problems that can be a big distraction. To address those hurdles, counseling can be provided. At least 2 counselors can be situated at each school. In fact, they don't need to be teachers! They could even be high schoolers who are willing to volunteer and help students.

Additionally, kids belonging to families whose caretakers don't understand the importance of a child's education can be provided in either a hostel or some kind of foster care

Yet another possible way NSF can help is by identifying kids from low-income families whose annual earnings are below \$50k and being provided certified counselors who are willing to volunteer.

Everything that has been stated till now is either about teachers or schools. Now how would that be possible without proper funding? This is where NSF plays a major role. NSF can do fundraising from parents who have a high-income range

Studying till high school can only help you so much. But for people who are interested in becoming more certified in their profession, will be in a hard situation as education in colleges in America is exorbitantly expensive, especially in IVY league colleges. Yes, there are scholarships, but there are not enough for every underprivileged aspirant in America. So NSF can help with waiving their loans or start an online platform. Where students can choose the course they want to take and then be connected with a teacher that has a certain qualification in the area, which can be done online or in person based on their circumstances. Based on their seriousness level, progress, and merit, tuition can be made affordable. This is intended to make sure that kids keep making progress and don't take advantage of the resources provided.

North South Foundation can change millions of kids for the better and make this world an even better place to live, as smarter people can protect our planet. Who knows if that kid who was going to drop out of school may become the Steve Jobs of tomorrow using the help NSF offers?