

Hope in times of crisis!

Global Giving Report, March - June 2021

Despite the unprecedented challenges brought on by COVID-19, 2020 ended on a note of hope. Towards the end of the year, cases were down; news of the vaccine was uplifting; educational institutes, work-spaces and business were slowly limping back to normalcy. Azad and Sakha were able to keep our women trainees and drivers engaged and supported, and our work picked up slowly and steadily. In 2021, Azad and Sakha services started in full swing in all our locations Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Indore (Sakha) and Chennai. We celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March, where Sakha shared the joy of being back in business by offering discounts on all rides booked that day along with a referral discount to promote Sakha services.



However, our happiness was short-lived as the second wave of COVID-19 arrived, taking us all by surprise. The second wave has been unprecedented not only because of the numbers of lives lost, but also because of the complete failure of government machinery in terms of health services and relief support.



With the surge in positive cases and deaths, each state introduced their own lockdown restrictions, keeping open only essential and emergency services. As transport was an essential service, we kept all our services open despite minimal business. We extended our services to include patients suffering from mild and moderate COVID-19 symptoms who were struggling to get local/private taxis, and to a range of clientele, including the elderly, pregnant women and people going for their vaccinations. All cabs met safety guidelines, including handy sanitizers, isolators, a

properly kitted driver (mask, gloves, face shields, PPE Kits).



Stories of resilience from women driving the wheels of change in Kolkata

During this time of uncertainty and immense loss, our Sakha chauffeurs continued to do their duty diligently knowing fully the danger involved. We take a bow to all these brave women.

Since 1st March 2021, till date, we have provided close to **6500** safe rides across all our four locations.



On **19 May 2021**, a call for a cab booking came in at 3.15 pm in Kolkata. It was a COVID patient who needed to visit her ailing COVID parents and get them hospitalized. It was a call of desperation. Within 15 minutes of the call, our driver Shankari Halder reached the client's place, ready in her PPE Kit, with the cab fully sanitized, all safety measures in place, and drove the client to her destination. At 9 pm, the same voice called back to inform that her grandfather had passed away in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Shankari drove the client's mother multiple times and helped her see everything through for her father, including his last rites. The client thanked Sakha and Shankari profusely for making it possible

for her mother to see her father (the client's grandfather) the last time.

On **16 March 2021**, a call for an airport pickup came in at 11.30 pm in Kolkata. The booking was for a senior citizen. Unfortunately, on the day of the pickup, the flight got delayed to 12.45 am. Sakha driver Mitu Dey patiently waited, picked up the client and dropped her off safely at her house. Mitu reached home only at 1.45 am in the morning.



We remain committed but as the world stands still again we seek your support !

With business hitting rock bottom, we started the **#NoTurningBack** campaign once again to support our drivers. Through the campaign, we set up a helpline for our women drivers, trainees and their support systems. We initiated an assessment to understand their current system, organized weekly sessions with a qualified doctor to answer their questions on COVID-19, and conducted workshops with qualified counsellors to ensure their mental well-being. All drivers on duty have been provided with safety kits (PPE kits, N95 masks, regular masks, gloves, face shield and hand sanitizers) to ensure their safety as well as the safety of the clients. Till date, we have ensured uninterrupted salaries to all our Sakha commercial drivers across all locations. Every bit of donation to the **#NoTurningBack** campaign counts and it will ensure that these brave hearted women are able to tide through these difficult times. Your support will make a difference. Donate now to Azad Foundation: <http://m-lp.co/azadfoun>