

DOOR STEP SCHOOL, MUMBAI

School on Wheel Project

Supported by Child Action & Hemraj Goyal Foundation

Progress Report for the period of January 2022 to August 2022

Project title- School on wheels-
Non formal education for street children and pavement dwellers



Number of beneficiaries' location wise as of August 2022

Sr. No.	Location	No of Beneficiaries	Supported By
Sow I	Oberoi Mall, Film city Aimbawadi, Indira Nagar , Raguleela,	107	Child Action
SOW II	Malad track , Poisar Gymkhana Chikuwadi, Flower Market , Navapada(B)	188	Hemraj Goyal Foundation & Child Action
	Total Beneficiaries	285	

Introduction:

This year began with normal conditions whereas schools have started. Most of the efforts put into the bring children back to the school. The first quarter, January to March 22, was spent focusing on the children's regularity of attendance and learning post test to see if the desired results were being achieved. By June schools recommenced the hard work of helping eligible children to be enrolled in formal school from the School on Wheels. During the period we observed demolition of and migration from a few pockets such as Poisar, near Borivali. 10% of our children were affected by this.

Key achievements / Highlights:

- 285 hard core attenders and most deserving children of streets were reached out to at two schools on wheels for Non formal education classes. Of these 56% are girls.
- 93% classroom sessions were conducted. 8% sessions were disrupted by bus breakdown, driver / teacher absent, and unfavourable weather.
- 99% attendance of children was observed at SOW-I and 70% attendance at SOW-II.
- 10% Children still continue working after classroom sessions.
- All the children were served mid-day meals once in a day with the support of Akshaypatra Foundation.
- 43 children from SOW-II were enrolled in the nearest municipal school. To make these children regular to school one class converted to study class to support these children in their day-to-day school learning.
- 90% of children moved ahead in language performance by 2 levels at SOW-I where the children knew all the letters, Matras and numbers. Children could read simple sentences against NIL performance at the beginning of the year. Similarly at SOW-II 78% children improved to the next level of performance knowing all letters, Matras and numbers.
- Modification in our curriculum framework to increase our focus on fundamental literacy and numeracy is helping children to progress faster.
- Digital devices have facilitated learning and made it easier to deliver information on child labour, child marriage, mental health etc.
- Regular parent meetings have improved regularity of attendance, formal school enrolment, and general awareness regarding the importance of education.
- Seeking documents for their children (such as birth certificate, Adhar card etc) was better understood and pursued due to parents meetings, awareness sessions.
- Sessions on cleanliness, health and hygiene for children and parents have motivated both to improve the health graph of street children.
- Extracurricular activities, life skill sessions and exposure workshops have increased children's confidence and motivation to attend classes regularly.

Case Stories:

Name: Krishna Raju Chauhan.

9 year old Krishna from Chikuwadi, Borivali, lives with his family in a small hut made by plastic on the banks of the gutter. His Family includes 5 members including 1 brother and 1 sister. His father performs as a sewer man of Mumbai city, and his mother is a housewife.



When Krishna was enrolled in our non-Formal education program, his handwriting was poor and his classroom behaviour was not decent. He was very naughty and would fight with others; his behaviour with the class teacher was disrespectful. He would often bunk classes to undertake begging activities on the streets and his younger sister also started following him, becoming involved in begging.

Krishna and his sister were completely absent from educational activities and lost their academic direction. Periodically our facilitator would speak to his mother to discuss his absence in the classroom. His mother also was worried for his future; she pushed him to attend classes but there was no change observed in his behaviour.

One day the teacher decided to meet his father to find out the root cause, and was delighted to learn his father is literate to some extent and can contribute towards Krishna's educational journey. Both our teacher and his father set a goal to collectively streamline his academic journey and began to work on it. The teacher ensured Krishna was given homework regularly and his father ensured he completed it within the timeline set and attended classes regularly.

Krishna's behaviour was completely transformed. He was paying attention in the classroom; he was completing his homework on time and his progress was being acknowledged by his father. He started reading different books in the classroom; it helped him to develop his reading skills and understand new concepts.

Now, his classroom performance is recorded at level II and aims to achieve level IV by the end of this academic year. His classroom behavior with teacher and classmates is very positive. He takes initiatives on his own to improve in his reading skills and grabs opportunities in the classroom to improve his knowledge. He has set an example for others and his change story is appreciated by his mother and father, and also by other parents in our parents' meetings. His parents are keen for Door Step school to continue with his educational support.

Name: Poonam Kurhade- Poisar Gymkhana community

9 years old Poonam stays with her family on the footpath. Her father is jobless, and addicted to alcohol. Her mother performs begging activities at the temples to meet their family needs.

Poonam was enrolled in our NFE program, but she always used to bunk classes and go with her mother and brother for begging. Sometimes she would attend the classes, but she never participated in the classroom activities. She always looked frightened and tense while sitting.



When teacher enquired on her calmness, she was shocked to discover that whatever Poonam and her mother receive from the begging activities her father takes that away from them, and if they don't agree he beats them brutally. Hence, Poonam and her mother always had to ask their neighbours to help them with food. It had badly affected Poonam mentally and educationally. She was unable to put time into her studies. Her academic performance was recorded as very poor due to this.

Our Door Step School Teacher made a home visit and met her mother to understand if we can help them to out of this situation. When our teacher was talking to her mother, suddenly her father entered and started beating her. Our teachers stopped him and tried to impress on him how his bad behaviour is affecting his childrens' lives. He just listened to our teacher and promised he won't do the same again, but at the next visit he did the same. It happened again a couple of times so our teacher decided to take the help of "Nirbhaya Pathak" (a police team on patrolling).

Her father and many like him in that community were arrested under the "domestic violence act". All the women were made aware on their rights and how then can avail help from police by contacting no 100 if they face domestic violence.

Now, Poonam doesn't go begging. She attends our NFE classes regularly. Her brother also comes to the NFE classes regularly with her. They both receive a meal on our School on wheel bus through our Mid-Day Meal program. Hence, they don't have to beg for their meal because they take some food home as well. Poonam is doing very well academically also. She completes her home work on the time and also actively participate in all the classroom activity.

The biggest change is "Poonam's father has completely stopped beating her mother and her as well. He also encourages Poonam to attend the classes and focus on education activities.

Challenges:

- A small percentage of children still continue working, begging on streets to support their livelihood. This affects their attendance to some level.
- Lack of basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity are the major concerns for parents.
- Mental health of children is still at risk as alcoholism drug addiction and domestic violence is very commonly witnessed in their families.
- Demolition of illegal living structures has been one of the ongoing constraints, children are always under pressure of being homeless.
- Due to mobilisation and livelihood, it is very difficult to enrol and sustain large numbers of students into formal schools.

Photo Gallery







शालि → लाल → लटक → कमल →
 लय → यज्ञ → शानी → नीम →
 मसाला → लाव → ललवार →
 रवा → वाव → वन → नर →
 टमटम → मटर → रबर →
 रथ → शरमास → रब → मस
 सल → सपट → टमाटर → रत्ना
 माच → चमचा → चार → राम
 माना → नामा → मका → कान
 नाक → कपट → टमटम →
 मगर →