

Doorstep School – Keeping Education Moving

Schools on Wheels Project Activity Report October 2020 – March 2021



Location- Goregaon : Obraoi Mall & Film City,
Kandivali - Raghulila Mall,
Boriwali -Indira Nagar

Number of direct beneficiary : 110

Number of classes : 4 Non-Formal Education classes (1 School on Wheels bus)

Children Reach-out of the project:

Class	Number of Children		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Non Formal Education	42	68	110

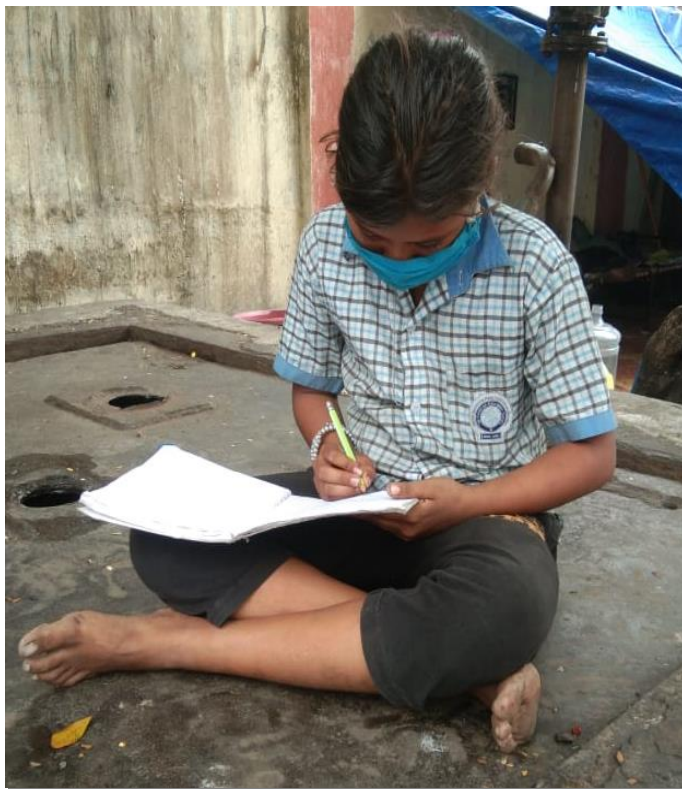
A Story of Change

Ishara 10 years old, beneficiary of School on Wheels.

Ishara lives with her mother, father and siblings. Her parents sell clothes in the market and Ishara was always late for class. On Wednesdays she routinely skipped school to help her parents sell clothes or to look after her siblings.

When the teacher tried to speak to Ishara and her parents, to persuade her to attend classes more regularly, the response was negative but soon after seeing the School on Wheels their neighbours joined in with trying to convince them to send her too. The teacher encouraged and motivated Ishara to study by showing her different educational and motivational videos and by planning and conducting parents meetings to explain how important education is for her future. They motivated and taught Ishara the importance of leadership and gave her the responsibility of being a leader. Her parents agreed for her to go to the Child Action School on Wheels and, not only did she start coming on time, she stopped going to the market with her parents and attendance on Wednesdays was resumed.

The teacher is trying her best to prepare Ishara for enrolment in primary school. We can see the change in her; she does her homework by herself and with a lot of interest and effort.



Major Achievements of the Project:

- Approximately 600 classroom sessions were organised on School on Wheels in past 6 months.
- Total reach is 110 children till March 2020; 62% of beneficiaries are girls.
- Two new streets near Raghu Leela Mall and Indira Nagar at Kandivali and Borivali respectively were identified and 48 new children were enrolled in October 2020.
- 78% children have achieved more than 75% of class attendance.
- 4 parents' meetings were conducted to make sure parents were aware of Covid 19 safety measures. Community parent's engagement has been good thereafter.
- To improve parental awareness, an exhibition of teaching & learning materials used in the classroom was organised.
- Diwali and Christmas were celebrated with social distancing but without losing out on the spirit and essence of these festivals. Children brought themselves clay and made diyas at Diwali; similarly at Christmas lanterns were prepared to bring out the light for the New Year.
- Sports Day and Girl Child day events organized by the teachers have made children feel more normal about their day-to-day life.
- Sessions on global hand washing, good touch and bad touch, health and hygiene and pollution have made the children more conscious and responsive about today's environment.
- Good touch and bad touch sessions were organized separately for girls and boys. Girls shared their experience and talked confidently without fear. This session was very effective for children.
- A poster exhibition and puppet show were organized to sensitize children to the issue of how not to lose out to the consequences of the pandemic.
- Due to regular sessions on Covid 19 safety measures, children are very aware of the COVID 19 Pandemic. They wear masks regularly, sanitize hands, and keep a safe distance in class.
- Grains distribution had benefited the children's community and they appreciated Doorstep School's concern.
- A total of 16 days training was organized by the Training Cell for teachers on digital learning, including subjects such as awareness of Covid-19 safety measures, how to conduct socially distanced classes, planning remote learning, searching for and using digital learning apps, how to prepare worksheets for children and how to set homework on Whatsapp.
- During the period mid year performance was also assessed to ensure continuity of learning.
- 79 children of Khadakpada were shifted due to demolition of the community's homes in October 2020, and unfortunately 60 Khadakpada children dropped out from formal school due to this disruption. Most of them have migrated out of Mumbai.

Six Months experience of Door Step School in Indira Nagar

Reshma, 13 year old residing at Indira Nagar with her old grandmother, has a very tough time trying to survive. Her father is an unemployed alcoholic and her mother ran away when she was very young, To stay alive she was working as a taxi and rickshaw cleaner but this was not an easy job, as she experienced sexual harassment by the taxi driver.

When our Door Step School coordinator came to know about this incident she spoke to Reshma's grandmother and advised her to stop sending Reshma to work. She also counsels her as Reshma was not willing to go out of the home. To create a support system, the coordinator also spoke to Reshma's neighbours, asking them to help take care of her when her grandmother is away doing domestic work.

Indira Nagar is a very tough community near a railway station. Most of the families are involved in stealing goods from the railway and a few families, along with their children, are involved in selling drugs. Doorstep School has a big challenge in trying to change the habits and attitudes of Indira Nagar families.

We aim to positively impact each child in the community.



(Reshma is in the black dress)

Digital Learning at School on Wheel – New Initiative

In the month of October 10 digital devices were provided to the children visiting the Child Action School on Wheels. A digital learning syllabus has been prepared and each child is provided with a mobile for one hour after his or her class.

The mobile is used for revision of classroom activities, watching educational videos, listening to stories, and working on different educational apps.



Children are thoroughly enjoying learning in this new way!

Classroom Activity Report:

Activity Name:

Learning the concept of “Time”

Aim:

The child should recognize and conceptualize time.

Learning Material:

Various types of clocks such as wall clock, wristwatch, etc.
Number piece, notebook, pencil etc.

Process:

Introducing 1 to 12 digits, Identifying the hour, minute and second hands of a clock and the concept of what they represent -
1-minute = 60 seconds, 1 hour = 60 minutes

Children were invited to create their own clock with the help of paper and pencil. After learning this concept the child has to explain the minutes and hours using the clock which he or she has made.

In order to make this concept easier for the child, teachers also set them an exercise to use different clocks at home.

Outcome:

The 55 children learned this concept in an enjoyable way and were able to help the other children understand time.

This activity was of considerable importance to appreciate the time monitoring processes associated with our daily lives.

Performance of Children in class

At Door Step School we conduct pre-, mid- and post- teaching tests to understand the learning level of students. This process also helps us to plan our curriculum and set up learning goals for each student. The pre tests were conducted one month after class started. The mid test was conducted during December 2020

The performance of children attending regular classes is better when compared to the performance of children attending classes irregularly. This is a consistent observation of ours and we make extra efforts to support the children from most vulnerable backgrounds. In supporting this performance improvement, our training units played a key role. They conduct weekly trainings for teacher to ensure the smooth functioning of classes as well as enhancement of the teaching capacity of every teacher.

Language Performance

Within six months we saw 10% of children moving forwards with language skills. In the category of letter, matra and words - 6% children have reached level 3 where they have completed all 49 letters with 6 matras, recognition, use and writing sentence and use of grammar, as compared to 0% in the beginning of the year. 10-12% of children still require further support to familiarize with language development.

Maths performance

As we know that more than 50% children are new to the center. Although they are good at mental maths, they do not perform well when tasked with doing maths on paper. Approx 30% of children at Level 1 could do 2 digits of addition and subtraction up to number 20. As mentioned in past reports, children attending the School on Wheels need to start their educational journey with regularity, concentration, discipline before they can be introduced to reading and writing. This means performance is understandably at a slow pace.

Challenges

- Due to the pandemic and the need for social distance, classes have still not resumed for the former duration of 2-3 hours each day. Each class was conducted for 1 hour and 1 hour provided in addition for digital learning.
- Uptake of digital learning is difficult and challenging, since electric connectivity is poor and the security of the devices in use is limited.
- Because of language problems, it takes time for children to understand words, so it also takes time to teach.
- Family and children are afraid of the Railway Authority due to demolition hunts, so children are constantly on the move.
- Parents do not have work, so they have to face a lot of financial difficulties. due to which children are also looking for jobs and some have started begging.

Photo Gallery



Session on Child Rights



Parents Meeting



Girl Child Day Celebration



Diwali Celebration



Digital Device Use by children



Poster exhibition

Akshara's father said

"During the lockdown we had the opportunity to understand our children living with them. Thanks to the worksheet you gave to the children, we also got a chance to remember the study we did today. We began to remember a little bit of what we had forgotten through the children's study. And because of that we were able to explain in to our children. "

Mother of Mohan Madan Singh

"Children were getting restless at home. We are happy that you restarted your classed for them. We do not have any work but our children have." -

This can only be achieved through the generosity our donors, volunteers and supporters show for the disadvantaged children we look after.

Thank you to our supporters at Child Action and Global Giving!