



Quarterly Newsletter
July - September
2020





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Over 200 days from the first casualty related to Coronavirus pandemic in India to over 7.24 million cases has affected badly on the education sector. Around 32 crores learners stopped to move learning institutions as all the educational activities halted across India. The institutions are using different platforms of technology which more than half of the India institutions have not used earlier. Unfortunately, it's leading to widening the learning gaps and increase in the drop-out rate of the students belonging to the economically weaker section across the country.

Responding to the adverse effects of schools shut on the students mental health and house arrest, The Toy Bank has initiated a "Reach and Teach Program" in Municipal Schools of Delhi. Under the project, we provide "Activity-based learning kits and Toys" and "E-Learning classes" to each student enrolled in the Municipal Schools of Delhi to increase their accessibility to toys, board games, DIY activity kits, reading storybooks, stationery items and other aids required to continue their learning and able to participate in E-Learning classes at home smoothly.

The focus is to strengthen their existing knowledge in language, numeracy, environmental awareness and life skills as per their present and former grade. Moreover, after the distribution of educational aids and implementation of e-classes, we have observed a 70 per cent increase in the online attendance of the children.

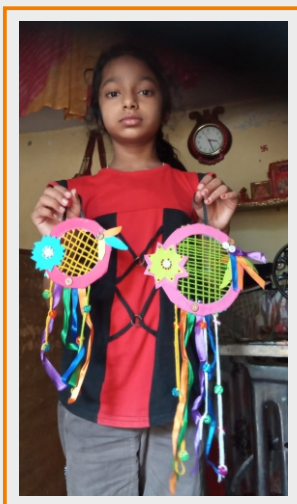
The Toy Bank aims to return the learners/students from the lockdown by supporting their journey to school during the pandemic lockdown. The support is to make sure that learning is deeply strengthened in the students and fill the learning gaps, i.e. to teach what has been taught in the prior class and increase the retention, as most of the students are the first-generation learner. The practice of remote learning activities will help us to maintain a firm foundation and optimistically resumes back when schools get open.

Vidyun Goel,
Director,
The Toy Bank

E-LEARNING DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

On 24th March 2020, the government of India ordered a nationwide lockdown by limiting the movement of the entire population of India to avoid contamination of Covid-19 infection. The Lockdown has affected the children and adolescents as they are most likely to experience anxiety, depression due to physical isolation from their friends, as well as teachers, extended family and community networks.


Keeping the mental health of the children of the highest importance, The Toy Bank has created and implemented an E-learning material from the month of April, 2020 for the students studying in Municipal schools of Delhi under "Reach and Teach Program". The students receive worksheets and guiding videos on drawing, art and craft, puzzles, word power and various other engaging activities to not only improve their learning capacity in language, numeracy, environmental awareness but also to keep the students mentally stimulated and engaged at home during the crisis.



Thankfully the technology has brought the imparting of education at homes, and now the learning continues. We have received touching stories from the students during the lockdown period, summarizing on how they have spent their day and coping with the challenges at home. The day-wise theme followed for the activities is as follows:

Day	Theme
Monday	Drawing and coloring
Tuesday	Numeracy skills
Wednesday	Environment and Life skills
Thursday	Language skills (English)
Friday	Art and craft
Saturday	Language skills (Hindi)

Class V Worksheet




Name: _____ Class: _____


Date: _____

LET'S DRAW

Draw the given picture below in your notebooks or drawing sheet. Colour the picture with your favourite colours. Write your name and class on the top of your drawing. Click a picture of your drawing and send it in your class whatsapp group. / नीचे दी गई तस्वीर को अपनी नोटबुक या ड्राइंग शीट में ड्रा करें। तस्वीर को अपने पसंदीदा रंगों से रंगें। अपने ड्राइंग के शीर्ष पर अपना नाम और कक्षा लिखें। अपने ड्राइंग की एक तस्वीर पर क्लिक करें और इसे अपने कक्षा के व्हाट्सएप ग्रुप में भेजें।



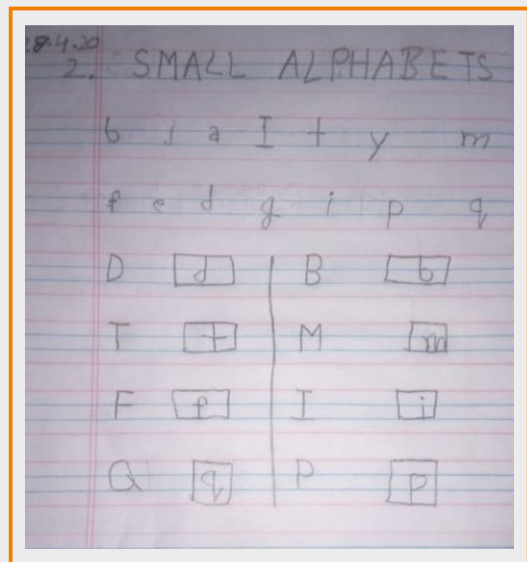

2. SMALL ALPHABETS



Select the small letters and write to them in front of the corresponding capital letters.

b	j	a	l	t	y	m
f	e	d	g	i	p	q

D		B	
T		M	
F		I	
Q		P	



3. COUNTING

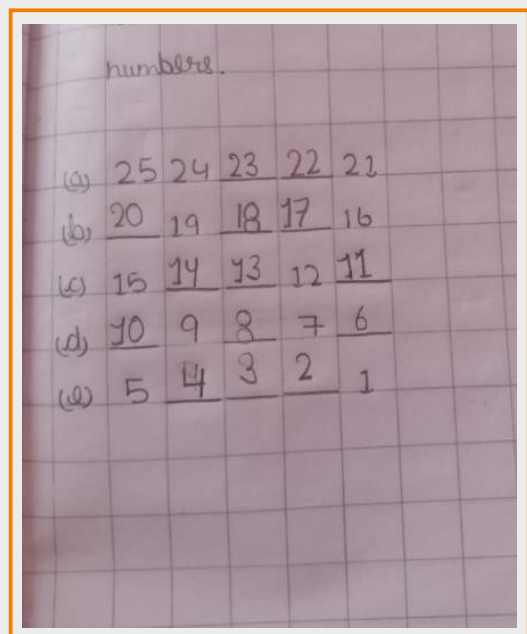


a) Circle the incorrect number in the sequence.

6	7	11	8	9	10
15	21	16	17	18	20
22	27	23	24	25	26
41	42	43	44	45	49
37	38	39	28	40	41

b) Write the missing numbers.

1			4	5	
12				16	
	25				29
30		32			





DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING KITS AND TOYS

While the corona virus continues to spread across India, the government has decided to close the schools as part of a social distancing policy to decrease the transmission of Corona virus infection. However, the closing of the school has affected 321 million Indian children leading to widening in learning gaps. The Lockdown has also affected the children, especially those who are living in vulnerable conditions as they are most likely to experience anxiety, depression due to physical isolation from their friends, as well as teachers, extended family and community networks.

Keeping the mental health of the children of the highest importance, The Toy Bank has created and implemented an E-learning material from April 2020 for the students studying in South Delhi Municipal School under "Reach and Teach Program". The students receive worksheets and guiding videos on drawing, art and craft, puzzles, word power and various other engaging activities to not only improve their learning capacity in language, numeracy, environmental awareness but also to keep the students mentally stimulated and engaged at home during the crisis. During the online classes, it was observed that many students have limited or no access to play or learning material which has affected their learning.

To address this concern, The Toy Bank team has come forward and distributed Activity-based Learning Kit and Toys in South Delhi Municipal School in the month of July, August and September. The kits are distributed to the students studying from grade one to five-under Safe Playroom Project

The Kits will also allow The Toy Bank team to conduct online sessions smoothly with the students, as these individual kits will allow them to perform DIY activities, develop crucial language and literacy skills, numeracy, environmental awareness, life skills and multiple concepts at home in a fun and engaging way. The learning kits will not only support The Toy Bank to conduct online sessions. But, will also allow the children to engage, learn and minimize the negative effects of the house arrest on the social and emotional well-being of the children.

We have received a positive response from the school administration and teachers while distributing the kits as they believe that they are the fun kits which will help a lot to these students during the crisis, as they have very little access and the kits will give them an opportunity to learn and enjoy at the same time.



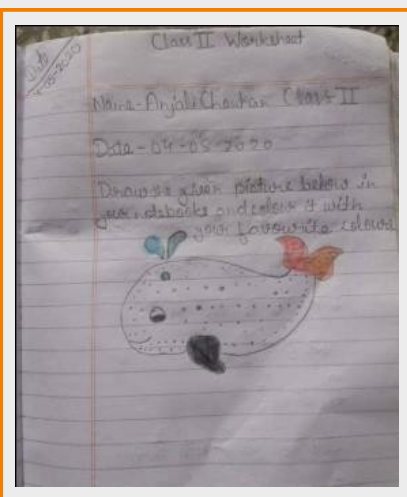
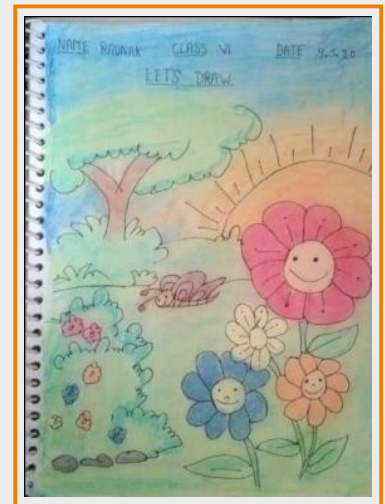
LOCKDOWN TALES

A five-year-old boy named Anmol from second grade lives in a one-room apartment. During the lockdown period, Anmol learned how to use the WhatsApp group with the help of Playroom in-charge. And, now every day he uses the group to complete his worksheet task and ask questions if required.



Ishana from fifth grade was unable to submit her worksheets on time as only her father has a smart phone and he goes out for the work. She waits for her father to come back home at 10 PM in the night and borrow his phone at night to complete her worksheets and submit the same by midnight.

A nine-year-old boy Raunak loves to play and draw. But going out and play is not possible. During the lockdown, when most of them were depressed at his house, he was always excited and waits for his Kheya ma'am (Playroom in-charge) to share worksheet. He is the first one in the class to complete his worksheet and always asking for more worksheets. Moreover, his mother told us that he always asks us to look at the positive sides of staying at home to keep our spirits high.



Second-grade student Anjali is waiting for the school to re-open. Her parents are still adjusting with the stressful lockdown as they are still working to make ends meet. She doesn't get much support from her parents in completing her worksheets. But, with the help of reference videos shared by The Toy Bank along with the worksheets, numerous students alike Anjali can understand and complete their task.

Kaira from grade two is suffering from hearing and speech impairment. She couldn't contain her happiness while collecting the learning Kits from The Toy Bank. She completes her assignment daily and on time. She loves to draw, colour and do art and craft activities at home. According to her mother, daily online activities keep Kaira engaged and happy as she doesn't have much to do during house arrest



GIVING OUT TOYS IN NEEMRANA VILLAGES FOR EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF THE CHILD DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

The countrywide closure of the Anganwadi centres across India due to the Covid-19 pandemic has caused a potential loss in the learning development and health services for today's children. Further, younger children residing in rural areas with very insufficient support and infrastructure are particularly affected. Mainly, the children from weaker social-economic backgrounds, who are widely dependent upon the one-time meal provided by the Anganwadi centres, and pre-school education for their learning development.

Anganwadi centres have been closed from the mid of March 2020 and door to door supply of nutrients kits have started to mitigate the adverse effects of the lockdown on the health of the children. But, as these children are under house arrest, they may no longer have the sense of structure and environment as they have less probability to be with their friends and the social support needed for healthy emotional and social well-being.

To provide the necessary support and availability of resources for the children residing in rural areas, The Toy Bank has distributed toys, puzzles, coloring book and other aids to children enrolled in the Anganwadi centres under Anganwadi Toy Connect Project on 22nd August 2020. The team implemented all the Covid-19 preventive measures and social distancing to protect both the Anganwadi staff and the team.

As the transition of lockdown and staying at home is becoming difficult for the parents as neither of them is used to be around each other all day long. The Toy Bank wanted the children to use their home time effectively by constructing and engaging their time in play and recreational activities. The toys and other aids like building blocks, drawing book, clay and moulding kit will allow the children to engage themselves into a skill-building activity and feel less isolated at home.

The aids will not only allow the children to be engaged and happy as they cannot visit their friends. But, will also improve fine motor skills like kick, catch, draw, build a tower from building block, Cognitive skills like identifying the colours, numbers and counting and pre-reading and communication skills like knowing the familiar people and able to give easy instruction and able to repeat the words overheard. It will also allow the children to have a healthy emotional and social well-being.

Considering the foundation for a healthy future is generated in the crucial early years, where the healthy diet, physical activity, communication skills, cognitive development, improvement in motor skills and pre-reading/ writing skills are the main components of a healthy and strong childhood.



INCREASING ACCESS TO PLAY

Anganwadi centres might be the child's first experience of being away from their families and become more independent. And, these centres in rural areas of India plays a very significant role in a child's development as these centres are the only source for providing nutrition, awareness to the caregiver and most importantly preschool education.

However, due to limited resources and support in the rural areas, the Anganwadi centres lack the aid needed for the engagement and holistic development of a child in early ages. Aids like activity/learning books, storybooks to colours, toys, board games and other educational aids are considered necessary for both education and leisure. But due to non-availability of these resources in the centres, the Anganwadi worker used to face various issues as children do not want to stay for a longer period and always asked for their parents or family members to stay. And hence, children are staying for a shorter period of time which also leads to decrease in the attendance rate.

Similar concerns are also seen in Anganwadi centre situated in Ghiloth village of Neemrana, Rajasthan. The centre is situated in the heart of the village making it very easily accessible to all the children enrolled in the centre. But due to lack of resources and proper training of the Anganwadi staff, it has led to demotivate the parent's interest in sending their child to the centres as it looked very dull place and they couldn't locate any tangible purpose for sending their child to the centre every day.

The Toy Bank has reached the centre during the baseline study and instantaneously realised that even when the centre is located inside the village, children are still not visiting the centre as it has very little or no resources to keep the children engaged. Under the Anganwadi Toy Connect Project, The Toy Bank has decided to create a Toy Library in Ghiloth -1 Anganwadi centre for the children between 1 to 6 years. The library increased the access to different varieties of play material like building blocks, puzzles, musical toys, soft toys, abacus, stationery items, storybooks, clay, kitchen set, doctor set and many other educational aids for the holistic development of the child.



The activity modules are also provided at the centres along with the toys to provide specific guidance through one to one sessions, workshops and hand-holding sessions through observation of the Anganwadi staff in selecting appropriate techniques effectively to use toys or play material to attain learning through PLAY.

After the creation of Toy Library and during the monitoring visits and hand-holding session by The Toy Bank team member, it was observed that now the children want to stay for a longer period which also resulted in an increase in the attendance rate. As they enjoy playing with different sets of toys with their friends and in fact while interacting with the parents, they stated their desire and willingness to send their child to the centres regularly as they do not have these toys at home.

Ms. Champa Devi, Anganwadi worker of Ghiloth -1 told us that the activity modules are very engaging and helps in the enhancement of social skills, cognitive skills and motor skills in the children as they show affection and now waits patiently for their turn, they also like to build tower from building block or solving puzzles with their friends. She has also stated that the activity sessions has made the children more active in her centre as it involves a lot of structured physical activity and focuses on pre-reading skills like colours name, counting through fun and engaging activity.

We can conclude that the Anganwadi Toy Connect Project under The Toy bank, is not only increasing the accessibility of toys to children of the lower socio-economic background but also helps in improving the holistic development of the child through PLAY. By working on all the domains such as sensory, fine and gross motor skills, social, emotional, language, teamwork, and much more to have social and emotional well-being of a child.

