



Quarterly Newsletter

October - December 2020



Director's Message

A Very Happy New Year 2021!

Last year has been quite a rollercoaster of lockdown, physical isolation and testing times for the people around the world. The Covid-19 outbreak has seriously affected all the sections of the population of the world.

Mainly, those who are underprivileged and living in vulnerable situations are affected continuously by the Covid pandemic. Above all, children from marginalized communities are paying the heaviest price as disparities in learning extends. Nearly, 43.28 lakh children in India rely on government school-based education, food and nutrition programmes. And, they are less likely to return after an extensive school shutdown from past ten months, especially girls.

We all need to come together as a team to ensure all the children have equal access to quality learning during the crisis. And, prioritizing remote learning with the available resources and the resources we all can provide. With an immediate focus and responsive measures focus on education and emotional well-being of children from economically weaker section of the society. The Toy Bank has initiated "**Reach and Teach Program**" for government school children residing in Delhi. Under the project, we provide "**Activity-based learning kits and Toys**" and "**E-Learning classes**" to each child 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 activity classes at home smoothly.

I sincerely believe that it is the time to join the forces and work together to bridge the widening gaps in education. The community working whole as a team will surely help us to keep all the children connected and learning. Essentially, a positive transformation in the enrollment when schools reopen and children return to their classrooms.

Vidyun Goel
Director
The Toy Bank

Distribution of Activity Kits in Rural Belts of Alwar, Rajasthan

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 30 Anganwadi centres under Anganwadi Toy Connect Project in August and October 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 new words overheard. It will also allow the children to have a healthy emotional and social well-being.

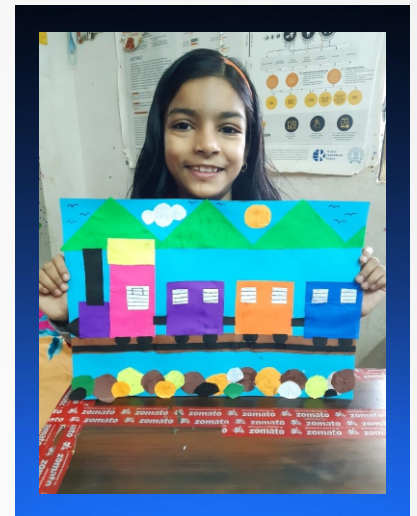


Considering the foundation for a **healthy future** is generated in the **crucial early years, where the healthy diet, physical activity, communication skills, cognitive development, improvement in motor skills and pre-reading/ writing skills are the main components of a healthy and strong childhood.**

Remote Learning for Primary students during Covid-19 Outbreak

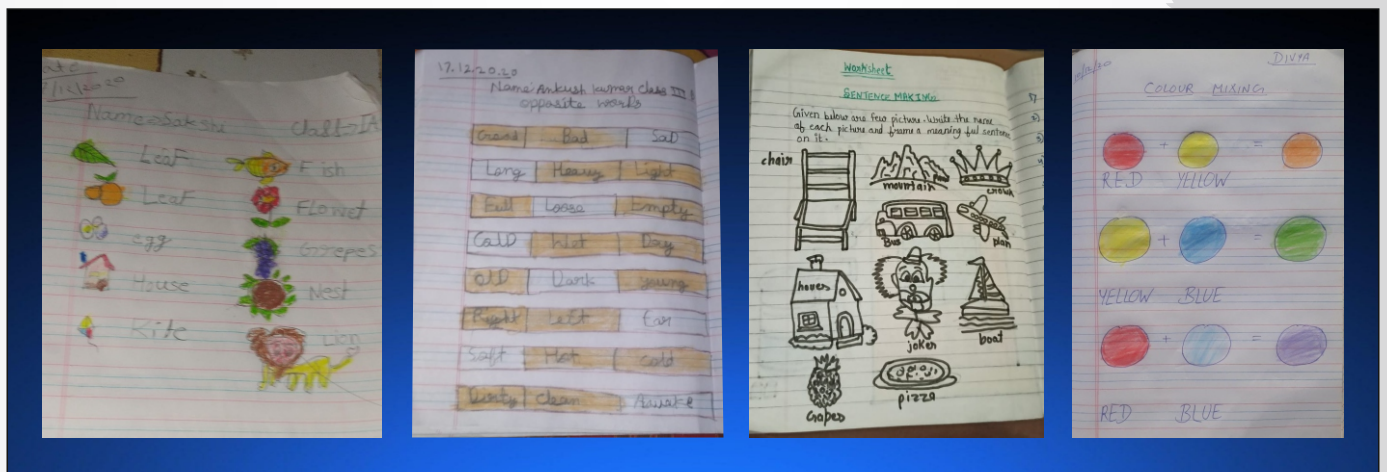
Covid 19 pandemic has limited the movements of entire country to lessen the contamination of Covid-19 infection. The lockdown, schools shut, physical isolation from their friends as well as extended family has caused anxiety and depression in the children.

Keeping the mental health of the children of the highest value, 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



- **DIY Activity-based learning kits and Toys**
- **Online activity worksheets**
- **Guiding videos and audios** 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.

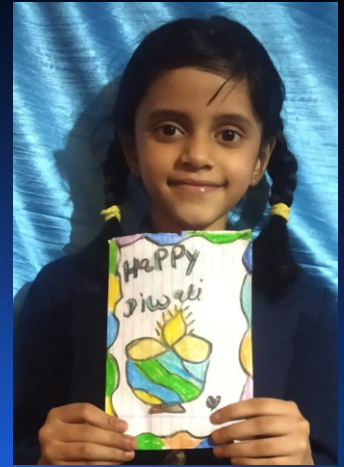


Virtual Festival Celebrations

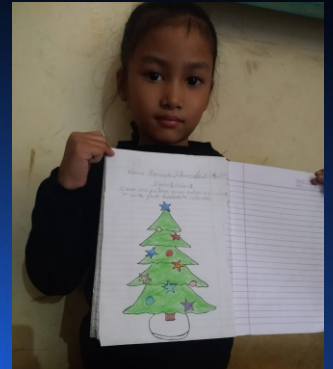
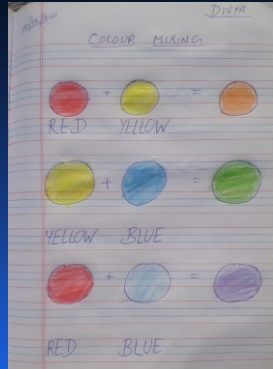
Dussehra



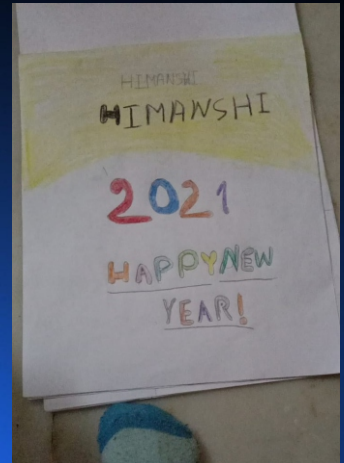
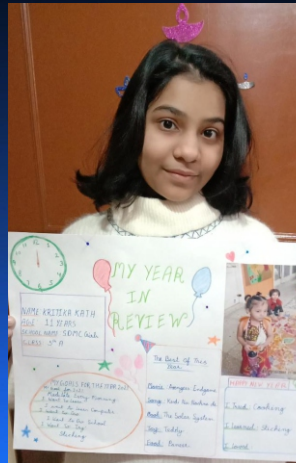
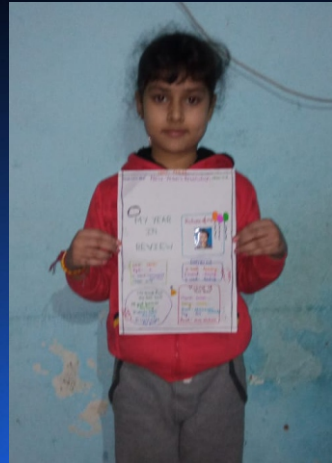
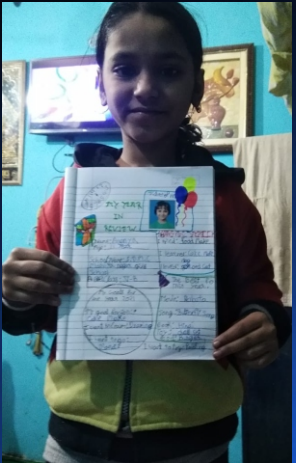
Diwali



Christmas



New Year



Joy of Giving

The joy of giving allows us to do good for our community. And this Diwali, the employees of British Telecommunication Company, contributed with The Toy Bank to provide learning aids and toys to the children living in vulnerable circumstances.

Stories of Change

Learning with TOYS: More fun and creativity

“Children have started wishing their elders and say hello, good morning, namaste whenever they come in the center. They can point out to the pictures or objects when named and asked to do so. They follow the instructions of the activities”, states Anita Chauhan the AWW at Kankar village, while sharing an example of language development in the children in her center. She was trained by Toy Bank in child development through an intensive capacity development session. The sessions followed by hand holding support helped her in understanding key concepts of child development.



As a result of these training she has been able to help children greatly. Some key changes she notes in the children includes self-identification for instance where by children are able to talk about their likes and dislikes. There has been an improvement in social skills as children interact with each other and wait for their turn. They can point out to the pictures or objects when named and asked to do so. They follow the instructions of the activities while earlier it used to be difficult to make them sit at a place for an activity.

Increase in attendance after the Creation of Toy Library in Anganwadi Centre

“Attendance in my center has increased by 50 percent. Children have started coming because of the attraction of toys. In fact children who are now in school sometime come to my center whenever they have a day off from their school”, states Anita the AWW from Jainpurwas. For the first time, her center has enough toys for all children who come there. Her center received blocks, puzzles, bat and balls, cars, truck, kitchen set, doctor set, teddy bears, pencils, colors, painting set and pickkoo toys amongst others. She states that few children who used to come would sit quietly. Communication was limited between children. Because of toys, all the children have started developing bonds with each other. Children now share their toys while playing.

Further talking about the complex play activities that she now observes she states, older children mostly played with bat and ball earlier. **They used to throw balls in different directions, but with time they have learnt how to throw a ball in a particular direction. They can also make different things using building block like a building or towers. Younger children have started gaining interest in coloring pictures and scribbling and playing with doctor set and kitchen set.**

Play date at home

I love playing with my friends in school and neighborhood. But, due to Coronavirus, I haven't played with any one of them, and neither do I have toys at home to play. I used to get bored and sad, as I cannot go out. The Toy Bank has given me various storybooks, puzzle game, colours, drawing books and other board games to play at home. Now, I enjoy my time at home and don't feel alone. And, I also take help from my toy bank teacher when I face any challenges while playing.

- Saloni, Third grade



An Unusual Switch in Teaching

As a Child Development Professional, I never thought of engaging my children through online mode. The switch from physical classes to virtual online activity classes to engage and focus on their learning was quite challenging. Particularly, the children from the economically weaker section, who have very few resources available at home. Through the implementation of Reach and Teach program, the

access to learning aids at home and flexibility to engage students as per their accessibility to smartphones has done wonders. Now, there is an increase in the child's interest to perform activities with us. Also, they often ask to conduct activity classes on weekends.

Pragya Sharma, Playroom Teacher