

Newsletter

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2022





Director's Message

Childhood and play go hand in hand and are indispensable to each other. When we see a child, we see his/her dreams, aspirations, and the innocence of fearless and creative play hood. Mingling this fun with the scope of holistic development gives rise to the possibilities of a bright and successful future.

Talking about toys and play, the worldview about their importance in a child's life is changing at god speed. There is now an entire school of thought that believes in the power of fruitful play in the overall development of a child. Play is an important tool for the expression and exchange of emotions, feelings, and thoughts, which is why using toys and providing play opportunities to every child is essential to encourage and enhance the child's imagination and give them hope for their near future.

Today, we as adults in this society have the responsibility to make every effort to provide every child with an open and carefree opportunity to play, regardless of any other factor other than their being a child. In this ever-changing and fast-paced world, it is essential to allow children to slow down and enjoy their childhood while it lasts, while also ensuring their growth and development. Results are a secondary factor, but making an effort and thinking concretely for the young ones is what really counts.

We at The Toy Bank cater to underprivileged children and aim to ensure that each child has access to toys, both educational and leisurely, thereby making certain that the child's right to play is not violated. We are working vigorously to provide toys and other learning aids to underprivileged children across India. Currently, we have created 5,382 toy libraries, impacting over 5 lakh children in 26 states and 4 UTs in India.

**Warm Regards,
Vidyun Goel
Director,
The Toy Bank**



Distribution of Activity-based learning kit

For change to happen, you have to take action. Of course, the thought counts, but making an effort also means taking tangible actions to provide what is needed. With this in mind, the Toy Bank took the initiative and distributed activity-based learning kits to six municipal schools in Delhi. This action benefited more than 2,000 children, as it served the purpose of providing opportunities to those who oftentimes can't seem to get a hold of them. These activity-based learning kits are not only fun and exciting, but also comprehensive and beneficial for the child's learning experience.





Creation Of Toy Libraries in Tamil Nadu

Play enables a child to enhance his or her capacity with creative thoughts and potentially innovative solutions. Numerous studies have revealed that children who play independently are more creative than someone who is set up to copy text from the board. The Toy Bank wants to create an atmosphere where children can choose and play with whatever toy or play material they wish to.

Vanavil Trust was started in 2005 in the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami of 2004 to support the children of two nomadic communities, the Boom Boom Mattikarars and the Narikuravars, in Tamil Nadu. The Toy Bank created five toy libraries for the Vanavil Trust children and benefited around **346 children**. The libraries increased access to different varieties of toys and the learning necessary for development. The library will assist us in closing the gap between privileged and underprivileged children by providing equal access to toys and storybooks.

Bringing the childhood back in Islampur, Gurugram

The Toy Bank has created Toy Library for children residing in Islampur, Gurugram in partnership with Agrasar NGO. Agrasar envisions a caring and compassionate society with opportunities of growth and development for overall well being. The library will provide a healthy space for the children where they can express feelings and practice different roles. Board games like monopoly, chess and word power allowed them to think critically, build vocabulary and general reasoning skills. The library will benefit nearly 100 children enrolled in the centre.





Toys in Observation Home for Boys, Noida

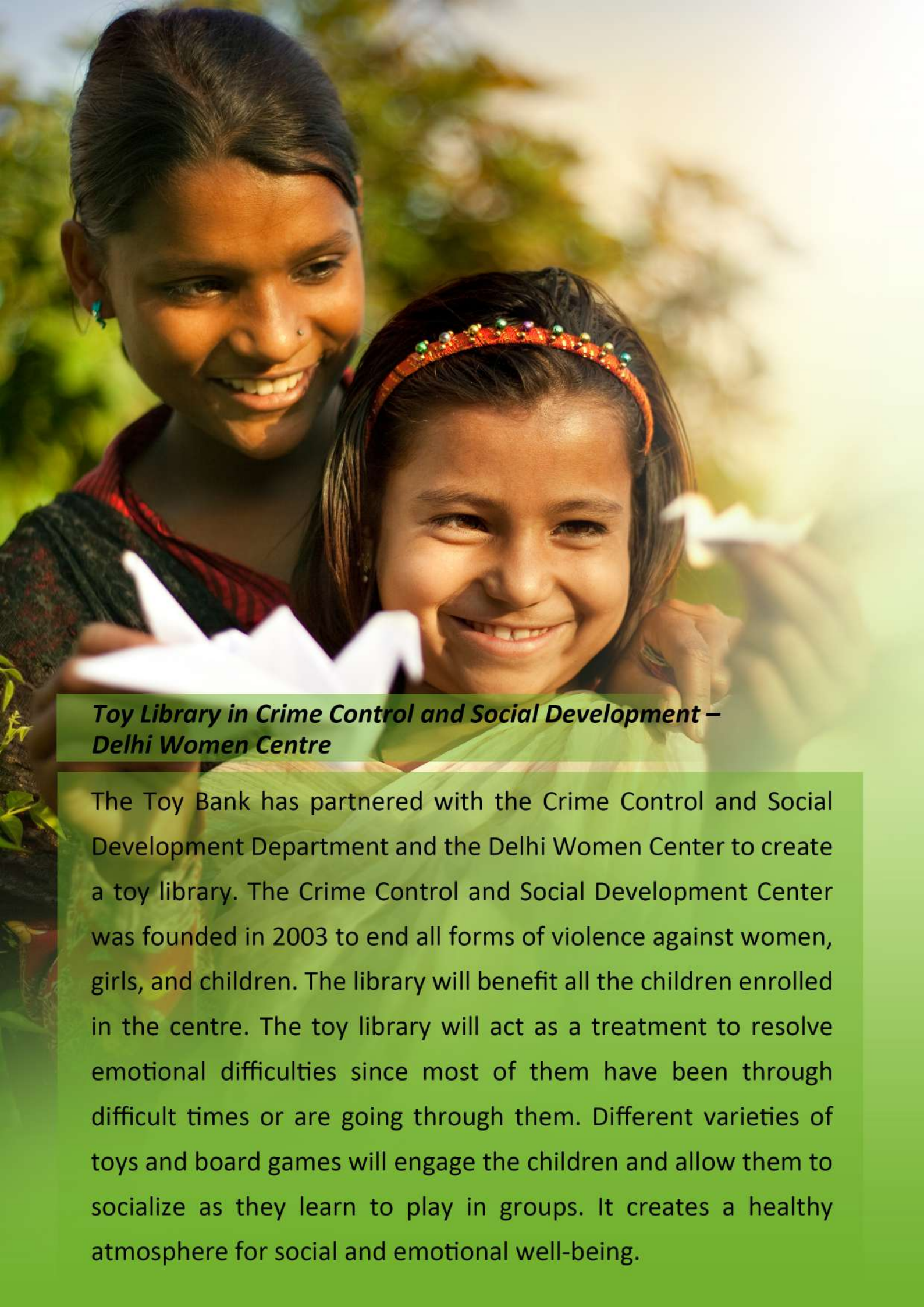
The Observation Home is a safe place for improving the attitudes and behaviors of the inmates. It plays an important role in rehabilitating delinquent children by changing their mindset so that they can become responsible citizens of the country. Children living in observation homes should have a better social environment for their optimal growth.

To achieve optimal growth, The Toy Bank has created **three** toy libraries in different Observation Home for Boys in Noida and Greater Noida in collaboration with SADRAG NGO. The library will act as therapy for more than 250 children. Different varieties of board games will allow the inmates to develop skills and keep physically and mentally fit by engaging them in free play, group play and recreational activities.



Power Play in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

The Toy Bank has successfully established toy libraries at the Danish Mission School in the Tamil Nadu district of Cuddalore. The creation of toy libraries will increase access to toys, board games, and other learning aids for the nearly 350 students enrolled in these schools. The school is located in a rural 1-type location, and a large number of the students come from Virddhachalam village. The libraries will benefit children from rural Tamil Nadu who do not have access to toys or board games. The creation of the library will allow the children to play together freely, which will enhance their language, numeracy, and life skills.



***Toy Library in Crime Control and Social Development –
Delhi Women Centre***

The Toy Bank has partnered with the Crime Control and Social Development Department and the Delhi Women Center to create a toy library. The Crime Control and Social Development Center was founded in 2003 to end all forms of violence against women, girls, and children. The library will benefit all the children enrolled in the centre. The toy library will act as a treatment to resolve emotional difficulties since most of them have been through difficult times or are going through them. Different varieties of toys and board games will engage the children and allow them to socialize as they learn to play in groups. It creates a healthy atmosphere for social and emotional well-being.

The Pursuit of Games

Toys are everyone's best friend. Everyone enjoys playing with toys. We all enjoy playing with toys and feel joyful when doing so, regardless of our age. If we manage to win the game, the happiness is much greater.

A boy named Ritik, of the Municipal School of Delhi, studies in the first grade. Ritik is a naughty child who loves to play outdoor games like cricket, badminton, and football in comparison to indoor games. He finds immense joy and pleasure while engaging in outdoor games with his friends in comparison to indoor games. He had never explored or shown interest in playing puzzles and board games, as he believed that he could never solve them and his friends would make fun of him. He has always been a hyperactive child who loves to jump and hop around. During play sessions, it is often difficult for the facilitator to make him sit calmly for a long time as he always tries to roam around, play, and explore different toys present in the Safe Playroom.

There were a few instances when all of his classmates wanted to play board games or explore the indoor toys present in the Safe Playroom instead of playing cricket or football. Ritik was a little upset as his friends were not playing any outdoor games with him during the free play. The facilitator asked him why he was upset and sitting alone. The facilitator understood his issue and convinced him to play with a rainbow stacking ring game. The facilitator asked him to stack the rings in the correct order. He was very sure at first that he would do it easily, but the arrangement was incorrect. He again tried but was not able to put them in the correct order. After a few attempts, when he was unable to solve it, he was not feeling motivated and gave up, but the facilitator motivated him and helped him to solve it. He again tried, and after a few attempts, he was able to solve it. The joy on his face was everything a teacher could wish for. "Yeh kar liya maine," he said. (I completed this.) He was extremely happy and delighted that he had completed the task and was sharing it with his friends. He asked the facilitator for the bigger ring stacking toy to solve as he was excited and wanted to increase the level of complexity, as he had gained a sense of confidence in solving the puzzles and wanted to try playing with different puzzles available in the Safe Playroom. Now, whenever he visits the Safe Playroom, he tries solving different puzzles. He began to investigate other board games in the playroom. Now, he likes to solve puzzles and feels a sense of accomplishment.



Solving puzzles helps to enhance their hand-eye coordination. The act of putting the pieces of a puzzle together requires concentration and improves short-term memory and problem-solving skills. Using the puzzle as an exercise of the mind can spark your imagination and increase both your creativity and productivity. Similarly, Ritik applied trial and error to solve the ring and puzzle games. In the process, he learned cooperation and developed patience. He internalized the idea that with consistent efforts, one can achieve whatever one wants to. A sense of accomplishment was clearly visible. It also helped Ritik gain a sense of trust and belief in him, as he now believes he can complete a task independently. It gives him confidence and makes them feel valuable. During the play sessions, he appeared to be more focused. Solving puzzles helps children to concentrate and pay more attention to the activity they are engaged in, as playing and putting puzzles together require one to be attentive; hence, it helped Ritik too, and the change was visible. He even tried learning to twirl the hoola hoop ring around his waist from one of his friends and said, "Mujhe aa gya, thank you." A positive change in behaviour was visible in him. He made some new friends and played with them.

We at The Toy Bank focus on providing holistic childhood development through play. During these years, a child develops social, cognitive, physical, and emotional skills that form the foundation needed to have a healthy future. Our aim is to help every child have an equal opportunity to play, learn, and grow. Play is not only a process where one enjoys and seeks pleasure, but it is also a process through which one learns different skills that are essential for holistic development.

Thus, we encourage children to realize their highest potential, helping them work on themselves and encouraging them to learn new things through toys. We motivate them to achieve their strengths and work on their weaknesses.



Toy Collection Drive in Schools

A drive is a force that is often used to bring about change. The purpose here was to use toys as a medium to establish the status quo among children and sensitize them to the differences and adversities their counterparts face. Sharing is one important skill enforced here, along with the feelings of compassion, empathy, and respect. These are the qualities that require early nurturing, so introducing them to children would encourage character development and be a step towards a better society.

The drive was conducted in the following schools:

- **Adarsh Public School, Vikaspuri**
- **Bal Bharti Public School, Pitampura**
- **St. Thomas School, Dwarka**
- **Bal Bharti Public School, Dwarka**



Through this toy collection drive students were taught about the importance of opportunities and privileges they get and how to be thankful for them. Secondly the purpose was to instill respect and a sense of equality among them for the students they were sharing their toys with. Every child is born with an equal right to develop to their full potential and through best of means. And, hence the toy collection drive ensured that every child, irrespective of their socio-economic background gets this chance, and children at the higher end of the spectrum understand that they hold responsibility towards their peers across this spectrum.

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