

YOUTHREACH BUZZ

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

The second wave of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic spread like wildfire across India leaving behind a trail of devastation, particularly amongst disadvantaged communities in both urban and rural areas. To help reduce the spread of the virus in rural areas, Youthreach started a number of initiatives across India such as distributing masks, fundraising for meeting critical needs for Covid care in hospitals and health centres, material donations like dry rations and disseminating awareness material.

A Glimpse of our activities from April to August 2021

1. Providing Oxygen Concentrators to Primary Health Centres

After speaking to several health centres in the communities we are working in, Youthreach identified that one of the primary needs of the hour was providing sufficient oxygen to affected patients.

Youthreach organised 9 oxygen concentrators, 7 for Primary Health Centres located in Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Haryana where our Integrated Community Development Projects are running, and 2 for the First Referral Unit at Nalagarh. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Lions Club Uptown Mumbai, Niloufer Bilimoria, and Janki Santoke for donating 5 of these concentrators and to Siddharth and Shiv Mathur for donating 4 concentrators.



2. Online Classes under the AIS ICDP Programme

Teachers from our education and vocational centers have ensured that our students do not miss out on their education. They developed a Whatsapp video of each lesson and uploaded it on Youthreach's education channel; furthermore, these videos are in the local language of the students so they do not have any difficulty in understanding the content. Through digital education, we have been able to reach out to more than ten thousand students in Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Delhi/NCR.

Classes for Computer Education as well as for Cutting and Tailoring were held online at our rural locations of Bawal, Roorkee, Nalagarh, and Patan.

In Patan, Gujarat, besides online classes, Mohalla classes resumed in July 2021 for students in 4 villages.

A Mohalla class is when children living in a particular locality come together to learn from a teacher outdoors. Since the number of students is limited in number, it is easier to follow social distancing and hence, these classes proved to be a success.

In Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh, 16 students were trained in digital literacy and 18 women were trained in the cutting and tailoring unit during the first quarter of 2021-22.

Under the Omni Skill Development programme, trainers continued to take classes and shared tyre technology videos, notes and slides with the students through the online platform. A total of 164 students were covered during the first quarter. Under the agriculture programme, we organized 8 events in which 920 farmers from 12 villages were trained on natural farming.



3. Covid Awareness Sessions

Our field and community staff conducted sessions to create awareness on Covid prevention amongst the community. Videos and informational pamphlets issued by the government and also videos made by us were circulated and our staff members also conducted in-person sessions with all our beneficiaries where information regarding the virus was disseminated to help keep people safe from the pandemic. We reached 1500 community members through our awareness sessions.

Our field staff also helped community members to register for vaccinations and supported health departments in conducting vaccination camps. We reached out to over 1000 community members through our mobilization strategy.

Our tailoring unit stitched masks for distribution among our staff, students and community members.



4. Material Donations

We are proud to share that our organization was able to help our partner NGOs, several slum communities, and shelter homes affected by the virus through material donations which were generously given by our friends and supporters.

We would like to thank Manmohan Mongia, Chanana Welfare Foundation (CWF), Rohit Khattar (Old World Hospitality), and Bedi Foundation for donating dry rations which we distributed to Udayam Trust, Udayan Care, Jamghat, and Earth Saviours.

We are also thankful to Chanana Welfare Foundation for donating stationery that was distributed to the students studying at the Remedial Education Centre and to the women studying at the Adult Literacy Centre in Roorkee.

Youthreach would like to thank Aviva Baig for her fundraising initiative through sales of her photographs which enabled her to donate board games to Jamghat and four laptops to Jamghat, Spread a Smile, and Udayam. The proceeds will also go to the Kitchen Gardens in our project areas.

Thanks to Omair Warsi from Zazu, a clothing brand, for their continued donation of cotton masks to Jamghat and Spread a Smile.

A big thank you to Arjun Singh from Om Foundation for raising funds to provide dry rations to children and communities affected by Covid.



5. New Partnerships

We are delighted to partner with McCoy Soudal with whom we have set up a Pragati Computer Center in Bithwana Village in Rewari district where we have installed desktops to train students in computers following the course syllabus offered by the NIIT Foundation. We are extremely thankful for their support and Youthreach hopes to deliver to the best of our abilities in the future.



6. Volunteer Placement

Promoting Volunteerism has been one of the core functions at Youthreach. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who took out precious time to volunteer at different shelter homes.

Thank you Mehar Rastogi for bringing the complicated world of economics in such a fun manner to the children. Mehar was able to bridge this gap through an age-old technique-fairy tales. Mehar related economic concepts to everyday life through storytelling.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Bharat Tandon for volunteering to teach computers online to children at Jamghat.

GRATITUDE

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered; corporates, NGO partners and individuals who have supported Youthreach, without whom we would not have been able to implement our projects and programmes.

We deeply value our national and international partners who have enabled us to work across the country over a spectrum of issues, volunteers who have contributed their time and energy as well as those who have mobilised material and funds for our beneficiaries and for our organisation.

Our grateful thanks to AIS, Indag, Unipatch, National Geographic, Chanana Welfare Foundation, Sir Sobha Singh Trust, Vehant Technologies for being our partners in supporting our current programmes and projects.

Our deepest gratitude to the Khemka Family the principal sponsors of Youthreach.

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