



ARPANA SERVICES

Arpana's Educational Support for Underprivileged Children



Arpana Education Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021

ARPANA EDUCATION CENTRE
Molarbund, New Delhi, India

Under the Auspices of Arpana Trust
Headquarter: Arpana, Madhuban 132037, Karnal, Haryana

Our Founder and Inspiration – Param Pujya Ma



Param Pujya Ma embraced all human beings as the Lord's children. Thus, it is essential for those on the spiritual path to assist the underprivileged in their quest for a better life.

Since education, including inculcating humane values, is one of the most effective means of assistance, Arpana Centre was started in the slum resettlement colonies in Molarbund, New Delhi.

With Param Pujya Ma's blessings, Arpana Trust set up many innovative programs which have enabled thousands of children from disadvantaged families to transform their future prospects.

"The Lord comes to give and teach the art of giving; to serve and teach the art of serving. He transforms ignorance into transcendental beauty."

Param Pujya Ma

Brief History of the Organisation

Arpana Trust is a charitable and not for profit organisation, registered in India, headquartered in Madhuban, Karnal (Haryana). It is a non-sectarian organisation, whose spiritual foundation inspires members to translate the eternal values into everyday living. Thus Arpana has built a variety of health and socio economic services over the past 25 years for a population of over 15 lakhs underprivileged folk in the states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and the underprivileged in South Delhi.

"During Good Times and Bad – Arpana is With Us!"

My name is Rohan. I am now studying in grade 8, but I had joined Arpana in Balvatika (pre-school) when I was 3 years old. I just love the way the teachers of Arpana Trust take care of the students. The teachers always clear our doubts and we feel confident to study. But due to the Covid pandemic the Centre was closed and online classes started.

My family was going through a severe economic crisis and I didn't have money to buy a smart phone. Looking at my hard work, my class teacher recommended me and I received a smart phone from Arpana Trust. Now I am very happy, as I am able to take online classes and understand all my chapters. I am also able to complete all my work on time.

I am very thankful to all the donors who are supporting us in these difficult times.



Rohan of class 8

Education Support Opens up their World!

Slum Resettlement Colonies of Gautampuri

Arpana Trust provides education support to children of the underserved, urban poor families who have migrated from the darkest parts of India's poorest states. The children are from families who live in the slum resettlement colonies of Gautampuri Phase I & II, in the larger area of 'Molarbund' in South Delhi.

These families made a leap of faith, from isolated, rural hamlets in green forests or arid deserts, for the possible opportunities amongst the teeming millions of India's capital city. As parents and members of traditional rural communities, they are thrust into the confusing blur of diverse ethnicities, cultures and religions: into a daily, hard struggle for subsistence, security, success.



Displaying her online homework

Their children are first time learners – bursting with energy, charged with untapped potential and talents.

In 2002 this slum resettlement colony was only covered with plastic shanties, where thousands of relocated families struggled to live with nonexistent civic amenities. Residents of the community are mostly daily wage laborers, self-employed in small shops etc. and often without any permanent source of livelihood. Lack of education, pressing health issues, and substance abuse further compounds the challenges faced by the residents.

Arpana engaged in an intensive, multifaceted community development program resulting in some degree of relief, and resolution of this diverse range of problems

Tuition Support Classes

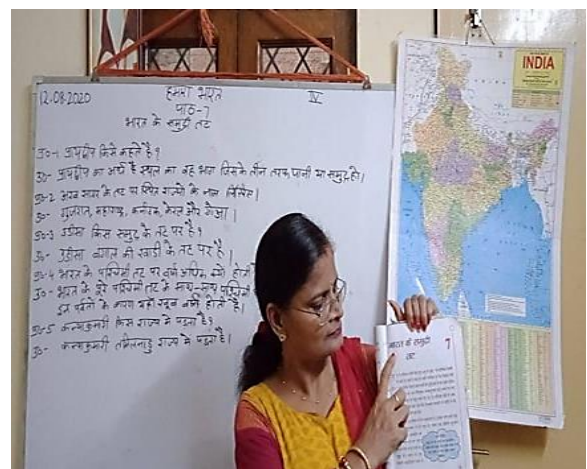
From 25th March 2020, the Nation was under complete lockdown. At this crucial time, Arpana developed an alternative plan to continue providing educational support to our students.

A 'WhatsApp' group was created for each class wherein videos are made by the teachers (recording their live teaching) and worksheets prepared.

Several students whose parents didn't have a smart phone used the smart phone of their relatives as most of them live in a joint family set up. The students completed their assignments and sent back their work to their teachers. Teachers also shared their feedback on WhatsApp.

Teaching online

Zoom classes were also held, adding depth and complementing the academic inputs which the children received via WhatsApp groups. This platform helped the students to clear their doubts face to face with their teachers.



Smart Phone Distribution

The majority of the students had been benefitting from online classes through use of smart phones of their parents or, if they live in a joint family set up, of one of their other relatives



Smart Phone Distribution

However, 19 students in senior classes could not attend these classes as they did not have access to a smartphone. This was of great concern as these students were lagging behind. With the support of Kalpana and Jaydev Desai from the USA, 19 cell phones were magnanimously gifted to these students. These students are able to attend the online classes and are performing well in their respective classes.

Class 12th C.B.S.E Board results 2020: In class 12 C.B.S.E Board Examination, the students of Arpana Trust had come out with flying colors. A total of 38 students appeared and all passed the 12th Board Examination, with 95% students scoring above 60%. In Humanities, Vijay Laxmi stood first with 92.4%. In Science stream Akash secured 94.8%.

Many students have scored above 90% in individual subjects. 9 students have scored 90% and above in Political Science, 5 students in History, 4 students in Hindi, 3 in Home Science, 2 in Geography and one student in English has scored above 90 out of 100 marks.

The Toppers of Class 12 (2019-2020) Batch:



Akash 94.8%



Vijay Laxmi 92.4%



Lakshika 90%

Offline Classes

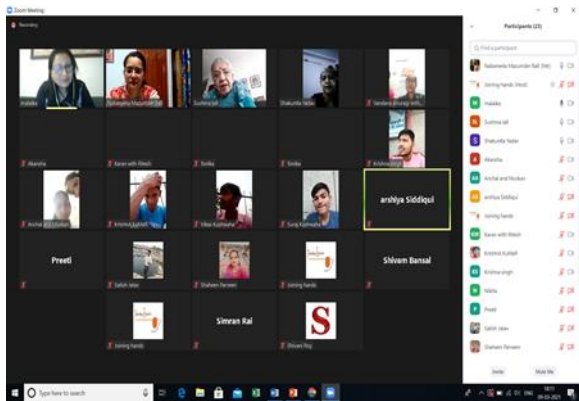


Offline Classes At The Center For Senior Students

From January 2021, regular classes for class 9 to 12 students were held at Arpana Centre. Students and teachers were back on track and the academic learning gained momentum.

Thermal scan and hand sanitization for all the students and parents entering Arpana Trust was done to ensure safety against Covid infection. Wearing mask has been mandatory and proper norms of social distancing were maintained.

Career Counselling: Two rounds of Career Counselling sessions were organized for class 12 students by our partner NGO- Joining Hands. Mrs. Malika Nanda, a very experienced career counsellor conducted one online and one offline sessions with class 12 students.



Online Career Counselling Classes



Offline Career Counselling Classes

In the first session that was held on 2nd March, students were shown videos to understand the concept of how to select a career. The next session was held on 9th March, where students shared their interest (career options) with the counsellor. The students streamlined their career choices and gathered information regarding their chosen field.

Session on Menstrual Hygiene

Ms. Suparnaa Chadda, a media personality, conducted this session for all the teachers, covering menstrual periods through facts, ancient wisdom, busting myths and sharing information on sustainable feminine hygiene solutions.

The main purpose was to enable the teachers to pass on this vital information to the adolescent girls and also clear their doubts. A poster making competition was also conducted by Ms. Suparnaa and the winner received a menstrual cup.

Balvatika (Nursery)

Due to the Pandemic, Balvatika was closed from March 2020. As it was an unprecedented event, it took some time to plan and create a new action plan for it.



Hand Printing Assignment

Every year we start our new academic session from April and open our admissions in March. This year the admission drive was conducted over the phone.

The teachers got in touch with the children and their parents. 79 new admissions took place in Balvatika.

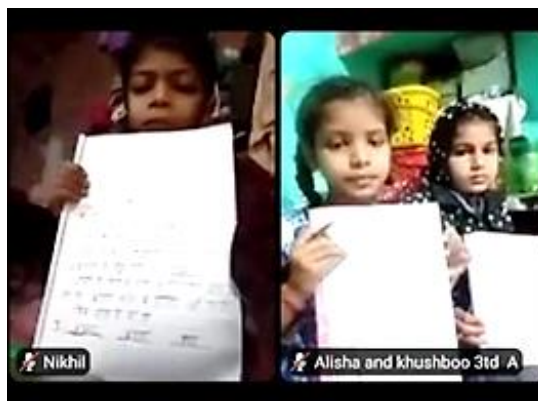
At the same time, we looked through different options and finally the practical solution was to create 'Whatsapp' groups for each class and to send videos made by the teachers (recording their live teaching) and worksheets on these groups. The total number of students in Balvatika is 287 out of which 15 students don't have smart phone therefore are not able to access our classes.

A few students went to their villages but were connected through their Whatsapp group. During lockdown, we were not able to conduct Parent Teacher Meetings, but the teachers made individual calls to all the parents in every alternative month. In case there were any queries the parents sent messages or called up the teacher directly.

Revision via Whatsapp and Zoom

From February onwards, revision of all subjects was undertaken. Online sessions on Zoom were conducted and doubts were cleared.

Sample papers were shared on WhatsApp and the children shared their answer sheets with the teacher. The teacher corrected their answers and sent it back to the children individually which helped them to understand where they had made a mistake.



Free Distribution to Balvatika Students

- **Distribution of Stationary:** Since students have been doing their assignments at home, to ease parent's burden, stationary has been regularly distributed to all the students.



- **Distribution of hygiene kits:** In February hygiene kits (hand wash, face towel and hand towel) were distributed to all the children of Balvatika.
(Funds earmarked for daily nutrition could not be given, as children were not physically present at Balvatika. These funds were used to procure hygiene kits.)
- **Distribution of dry rations:** In January dry rations were distributed to all the balvatika students
- **Blankets and warm clothes** were distributed among the needy students to protect them from the cold winter months.

Parent Teacher Meeting

Teachers assessed the performance of students and identified the areas where students required extra support. Following strict Covid protocol, Parent Teacher Meeting was conducted on 19th September to share the performance of the students with their parents. The average PTM attendance was 83%.

Prizes were distributed to the students who secured ranks in their respective classes. The purpose was to motivate these hardworking and sincere students.

Free Distribution to Senior Students

- **Distribution of Sample paper books to senior classes:** Sample paper books were distributed to all the students of class 10 and 12 to prepare for their upcoming board examination.
- **Stationery was Distributed** to all the students their studies.
- **Blanket and Clothing Distribution:** Blankets and clothes were distributed among the needy students to protect them from the cold winter months.



Activity to Spread Awareness on Corona Pandemic

The children made posters on the various ways to prevent the spread of Corona virus. Special emphasis was given on wearing mask and doing proper hand sanitization.



Poster on Covid pandemic and pollution

Online Celebrations

Due to the pandemic, Independence day, Janamashtmi, Gandhi Jayanti, Children's Day, Diwali, Christmas, Republic Day were celebrated online.

A few students with two teachers came to Arpana Centre maintaining the Covid protocol. Children recorded videos of songs, speeches, and dances. They also made posters on the slogans given by our freedom fighters. These videos and pictures were then shared in all the different WhatsApp groups.

A dance performance by the girls



Beauty and the Beast

On 14th November, popular Bollywood and theatre actress, Mrs. Sushma Seth, organized a play 'Beauty and the beast', online for the children of Arpana Trust.

A few children also made posters of the first prime minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, lovingly called Chacha Nehru by the children.

Online Play 'Beauty and The Beast'

Vocational Courses

Due to Covid pandemic vocational training courses have been discontinued for the time being.

Pihu

"My daughter joined the Arpana Bal Vatika just before the Lockdown. She is a new admission this year, so I thought that the beginning of my daughter's education was not going to be smooth. However, the efforts made by the teachers of Arpana Bal Vatika revived my hopes.

"I want to convey my sincere thanks to Anandi Madam, the class teacher of my daughter, who made her initial days of school happy ones. Teachers of Arpana provided online classes, gave homework & assignments, and they quickly responded back after the submission of the work done by my daughter."



Mr. Pradeep Bishwas, father, & Pihu

Vijay Laxmi



Hi, I am Vijay Laxmi. I have studied at Arpana Trust since the age of 3. I live in Gautampuri with my family of 7 members. My father runs a tea stall with my elder brother, who is married. My mother is a home maker. My elder sister, Pooja, is doing graduation from Shri Aurobindo College (Delhi University), sponsored by Arpana and my younger brother is studying in class 7.

Arpana Trust nurtures students not just academically, but holistically. As the financial condition of my family was very weak, Arpana Trust provided me a monthly scholarship from class 8 onwards for books, stationary and other expenses.

In class 10, I scored 65% – much below my expectation. When I went to class 12, Shakuntala Madam motivated and guided me. I worked hard and scored 92.4% in CBSE class 12.

Now, with the help of a scholarship from Arpana, I am pursuing a degree in Political Science from Motilal Nehru College under Delhi University. I want to be a teacher. I am very grateful to Arpana for all the support.

With Deep Gratitude...

...to all our friends and donors who support these educational programs, bringing hope and success to underprivileged children of the slum resettlement colonies of Gautampuri, Molar Bund, New Delhi.

Their success is our reward!

Add Your Support to Empower Vulnerable Children as they Reach for Their Dreams!

Indian Donations: Arpana Trust is approved u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, giving 50% tax relief for donors.

1. Online Donation please use this link: [eazypay | Search, View and Pay your bills | ICICI Bank Ltd.](#)
2. Donation through Direct Bank Remittance: To: Bank of India, Karnal (IFSC Code: **BKID0006750**)
Bank Account Name **Arpana Trust**; Bank Account No. **675010100100001**
3. Cheques to Arpana Trust to be sent to: **I & R Office**, Arpana, Madhuban, Karnal, Haryana 132037

Foreign Donations: Arpana Trust has FCRA Registration No.172310001

1. **USA:** AID for Indian Development, 84 Stuart Ct, Los Altos, CA 94022, email: tejinder.singh.1537@comcast.net
2. **Canada:** Arpana Canada, 7 Scarlett Dr., Brampton, Ontario L6Y359, email: suebhanot@rogers.com
3. Donation through Direct Bank Remittance: To: State Bank of India, 11 Sansad Marg, New Delhi -110001; (Swift ID: **SBININBB104**);
Branch Code: **00691**; IFSC: **SBIN0000691**; Bank Account Name **Arpana Trust**; Account No. **40193018145**

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