

DISHA

(SOCIETY FOR URBAN & RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

Annual Report

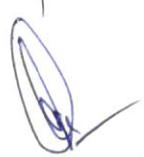


2020-2021



Contact

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Self Attested

RAVI CHOPRA
Secretary, DISHA
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OUR MISSION

DISHA's mission is to make real the idea of society consisting of having social, economical and educational empowerment of the underprivileged sections of the society towards grass roots democracy. The commitment is to eradicate all forms of injustice and discrimination against women and children and to build unity and solidarity through peace and justice.

To realize our dream, we feel called to join the under-privileged community in their struggle to create a just society through 'Antyodaya' (the awakening of marginalized people) and 'Gram Swarajya' (People's participation in governance).

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Empowering poor women towards self-reliance, gender equality, better health, capacity building, developing leadership qualities and training in managerial skills through formation of cooperatives, and self-help groups.
- ◆ Increasing functional capabilities through non-formal education.
- ◆ Introducing experiment and innovation to emphasize on vocational education and skill upgradation.
- ◆ Developing communication material, designing training support material and utilization of traditional and modern communication media.
- ◆ Educating young women and men on issues concern with reproductive health and family planning through community-based initiatives.
- ◆ Using effective channels of communication to deal with the problems related to environment, shelter, sanitation, infrastructure and health.
- ◆ Emphasizing upon human resource development by nurturing local talents and resources with various development skills through training workshops and learning exposures
- ◆ Undertaking case studies related to issues concerning women and children

ORGANISATION PROFILE

Address:	13/88, Block C-4/B, Pocket 13, Flat No. 88 Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058.
Administrative Office:	Block C-5/D, 6A, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
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Web site:	www.dishaindiasociety.org
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/Dishaorganisation https://twitter.com/Shobhana_Disha
Field Office:	Basti Vikas Kendra, Khazan Basti Nangal Raya, New Delhi
Year of Establishment:	1992
Chief Functionary:	Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna

LEGAL IDENTITY

- DISHA is a voluntary organization registered under the Society Registration Act 1860 with registration number S/23467 dated 10.10.1992.
- DISHA is registered u/s 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 with registration number 251/93-94 dated 21.1.1994, and also 80G (5) (VI) with DIT (Exemptions), 1976 with registration number DIT (E) 2007-2008/D 534/2106 dated 10/10/2007.
- DISHA is registered u/s FCRA 2010 with registration number 231650748
- The PAN number of DISHA is AAATD2251L
- Name and address of the Banker:
 - ◆ Bank of Baroda, Kirti Nagar Branch, New Delhi 110015
(for Indian money and FCRA Account)
- Name and Address of Auditors:
Ram K. Gupta & Associates, Chartered Accountants
F-9/12, Ground Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017
Phone 011-2667 7211 (o) 011-26682204 (R)

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

DISHA works in four slum clusters of Delhi with children, adolescents, youth and women and their families.

In Delhi

NAME	LOCATION	Number of families covered by DISHA
Kanchan Basti Slum	Nangal Raya	200
Rewari line Slum	Mayapuri Phase – II	450
Khazan Basti Slum	Nangal Raya	150
Sabzi Mandi slum	Nangal Raya	350

- **Information on the objectives and a description of the main activities of the year:**

DISHA is a voluntary organization working for socio-economic development of urban and rural communities. DISHA is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of serving the downtrodden, poorest of the poor and marginalized sections by working on peace, justice, human rights, education, health, employment generation and development.

These programs are based on the felt needs of people with an effort to mobilize participation for their individual and community development. DISHA was founded in 1992 and since then these initiatives have helped people on the path of self-reliance, dignity, justice and empowerment.

- ❖ **DISHA implemented the following main activities this year:**

- Education for vulnerable children in Delhi
- Community awareness about COVID-19 Pandemic
- Relief work for COVID-19 Pandemic
- Skill training for women and children
- Health awareness programs and camps
- Digital Learning Program for Children and youth
- Peace education for youth and community

DETAILS OF MAJOR PROJECTS TILL MARCH 31, 2021

❖ EDUCATION

• Education for vulnerable children in Delhi

Alternative Educational Classes

It is commonly recognized and accepted that education is a major requirement for development. Its role in the development of human resources can be hardly underestimated. However, it is not education per se, but the relevance of that education to development which is significant for the achievement of our national goals. Secondly, human resource development can only be linked to economic development when the developmental model is specifically designed to raise the levels of those in the lower economic strata of our population and is not deflected towards providing advantages for those who can capture, for themselves, the fruits of development.

Alternative Educational Classes have been established by DISHA to meet the needs of children and adolescents who cannot learn effectively in a traditional school environment due to learning disabilities, psychological and behavioral issues, and advanced skills. In general, alternative classes have more comprehensive educational and developmental objectives than conventional primary schools. Classes have curriculum elements that focus on improving student self-esteem, fostering growth of individuality, and enhancing social skills. Alternative classes are more flexible in their organization and administration, which allows for more variety in educational programs.



DISHA aims to provide inclusive and equitable quality education to disadvantaged children for promoting lifelong learning opportunities as per the UN Sustainable Development Goal-4 (SDG-4).

One of our focus areas is inclusive education through innovative approaches for underprivileged children and to advocate for making quality education a reality for all by 2030. DISHA aims to play a transformative role in shaping young minds, molding their characters, and imparting quality education in the alternative educational classes which focus on high quality, low cost, and which addresses the needs in the education system. With a mission of 'Every child in school and learning well,'

To cater to the needs of a heterogeneous group of learners, DISHA held educational classes for approximately 34 school going, school dropouts, non-school going and disabled children from four slums. The focus is on enabling children to gain knowledge and skills through participatory actions suitable to their needs.

DISHA used innovative pedagogy like need-based teaching learning materials, children's theatre, and audio-visual aids in education for enhancing the artistic bent of the child's mind and help in increasing the technical ability.



The Coronavirus Pandemic has forced the education system to shift to online classes, but Digital India continues to be a far-fetched dream for the underprivileged and poor. With strict social distancing norms in place and students wearing face masks. However, Alternative Educational Classes are the only alternative for those who do not have access to either smartphones, laptops, or the internet.

Children from Kanchan basti, Khazan Basti and Rewari Line slum area are attending the educational classes. Teachers were engaged to conduct the classes with suitable timings in consultation with the community. The classes have been successful in improving student attendance, student retention, parental participation, and imparting quality education.



DISHA noticed that children did not have school bags and the ones they were bringing were torn and soiled. As per the suggestion of the children DISHA organized a function to distribute school bags. The school bag contained a set of ten pencils, erasers, Geometry box, water bottle, lunch box and bars of scope.

Digital Education Classes

Due to the sudden outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent nationwide lockdown DISHA also suspended the Alternative Educational Classes and associated services in the field from March 23rd, 2020. There was no other option left except to have virtual follow-ups about the wellbeing of the children and their families during this crisis. DISHA's team made sure that they follow the pandemic safeguard guidelines released by the Government.

The Municipal schools appeared to be even worse off - authorities of the north, south and east zones of the MCD issued orders on paper to school principals and teachers to assign work on WhatsApp.

Of the three civic bodies, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has the maximum number of schools, 714, with over 3.5 lakh students. East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has 364 schools with over 1.7 lakh students, while the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has nearly 2.5 lakh children in 575 schools.

During the lockdown phase, the worst setback to these slum children and their families was the loss of livelihoods. It was a challenge for DISHA to officially resume work in a regular pattern to intervene and address the immediate needs of the community - food and safety essentials. However, given the situation, we distributed monthly food ration packs and hygiene kits to the families of all listed children for three months.

DISHA introduced online classes until the situation returned backs to the normal. However, initiating online classes with slum children was not an easy task as most of the children and their families do not have access to an Android phones, and even those who have are not familiar with downloading the zoom apps. They often faced challenges in data pack recharging and dealing with other network issues. However, due to incessant efforts and the committed Education team they finally executed online classes in spite of all odds and on-field challenges.



DISHA wanted to look for practical solutions to the problem. The idea was to enhance the learning outcome of the students by bringing learning modules, students and technology together,” to enable

the holistic development of students, and make an impact on the school and community through their initiatives. The overall data suggests that nearly 16 lakh children from poor families are studying in government and municipal schools in the national capital who are staring at disruptions in their studies without access to mobiles, internet and laptops or desktops, even as privileged students from private schools are taking online classes amid the coronavirus lockdown.

Expert teachers were specially engaged for three months to improve the system of online education and with their help DISHA was able to commence the goal of Digital education. DISHA worked to boost digital literacy in education to disadvantaged youths with skills, tools and capabilities that new global economy demands. Digital learning classes were organized in different subjects for the students from class 6th to 10th in batches. DISHA has set up computer labs in our study center to internalized digital learning.

Remedial Teaching

After the lockdown was lifted the schools remained closed. DISHA's efforts were to enable the children who had temporarily fallen behind in their studies or otherwise needed short-term support in their learning. DISHA provided this support through remedial teaching. to students when the difficulties in learning or school attendance was noticed, so that the students would not stay behind permanently in their studies.

DISHA objective of remedial teaching was to provide additional help to disadvantaged students from slum area. DISHA provide remedial support to students who are who are academically weak and studying in class from 5th to 10th standard. Remedial classes were organized in two batches separately for boys and girls after regular school hours. Those students were enrolled for remedial classes with priority who were unable to cope with the online class work and homework.



The student's learning showed improvement and they were able to better cope in their studies. Internal tests conducted by DISHA revealed marked enhancement in their scoring. Parents also appreciated the extra efforts put in by DISHA' facilitators in bringing their wards up to the mark.

Celebrations of festivals:

The students of alternative educational classes celebrated festival of Christmas and New Year by putting up a cultural program, exchanging Christmas and New Year cards and having a get together.



For this each child contributed to his or her ability and made this event memorable.

❖ SKILL TRAINING IN COMPUTER EDUCATION



Skill training in computer was organized with 18 students at the Nangal Raya center at DISHA. The syllabus involved getting to understand about the various parts, learn programs of Paint, DOS, and MS Word. Fourteen boys and sixteen girls attended the computer training classes. The syllabus included in the first month the fundamentals of computer hardware and operating system, DOS and basic of computers. The advanced syllabus covered MS office, MS paint, MS power point Word and Excel, internet, browsing, e-mail creation, e-mail handling and data entry operations.



The trainer divided the students in two shifts. In the Paint and DOS program all the students became well versed and able to create different designs, add models in MS paint. MS word excel and power point programs were picked up well by the students.

❖ A SKILL TRAINING

After the lockdown was lifted and as the economic condition of the community had worsened due to no avenues for earning and difficulties in securing any type of occupation, DISHA started the vocational training course for adolescents and young women in cutting and tailoring skills.

DISHA identified the beneficiaries from this area by holding interviews to ascertain their condition and aptitude. Following this they were registered as the first batch of trainees for the vocational training course of four months duration.

The age of the trainees was fixed at 18 years and above. Preference was given to trainees from women headed households, backward castes, and low-income categories.

Batch of fourteen trainees having low educational and economic opportunities and living in the slum started attending the skill training in tailoring at Basti Vikas Kendra, Khazan Basti slum, Nangalraya. The timing of the class was from 2-5 pm.

In the training they learned simple stitching by hand, hemming, making eye, fixing hooks, stitching buttons and so on. They were also made familiar with the sewing machine and its parts and handling. They were taught to prepare drafts on paper which they first learn to stitch by hand before they were able to stitch using the sewing machine.



During the training period, the trainees became proficient in sewing terminology, taking correct body measurements, advanced machine stitches, designing, drafting and pattern making, layout and fabric estimation, cutting, tailoring & finishing of garments for children, ladies and gents.

❖ COMMUNITY AWARENESS ABOUT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DISHA found that the slum community members had many misconceptions and lack accurate knowledge about transmission & prevention of COVID-19 Pandemic.

In 2020-2021, DISHA organized community meetings for creating awareness about crucial aspects like preventive, hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing, and combating stigma.

To create awareness about crucial aspects of the COVID appropriate behavior DISHA held get to gather with eighty children and youth from Khazan Basti slum, Kanchan Basti and Rewari line slum bastis in New Delhi.



❖ RELIEF WORK DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic which was reported globally in 2019, India witnessed a massive surge of cases in the past 3 weeks starting from March 2020. As of 30 April, 33 610 confirmed cases and 1075 deaths have been reported from 32 states/union territories in India. Apart from the nationwide lockdown, India has increased its testing rate and has markedly strengthened the health care sector to combat Covid -19. With India's population of more than 1.3 billion people at a significant population density compared with the rest of the world, the lack of universal access to clean water and overall poor socio-economic status, all have posed a major challenge to India's fight against Covid -19. Unabated spread of the pandemic could make India the next COVID-19 hotspot; hence the World Health Organization has recently stated that the "future of the pandemic will depend on how India handles it."



Under this situation DISHA took an active role in the community and especially with children to firstly raise awareness, giving correct information and take immediate measures to reach out to families with dry ration supply to tide them through grueling period of lockdown. Covid-19 Pandemic and resulting economic shock continues to have a huge impact on livelihoods.

For a lot of families at the bottom of the pyramid, going back to pre-covid jobs seems massively far-fetched still. Our endeavor had been to constantly reach out to families of children we work with in need of medical care and dry rations in 6 communities in Delhi to make sure they get through these trying Covid-19 Pandemic times. In these families, none of them get a monthly pay cheque or bank transfer. Their cash flows are dependent on them working.

No one was prepared for such a catastrophe that struck so mercilessly. At the height of the pandemic, DISHA made sure to not give up on any little vulnerable girl who needed support and care. Sometimes it was a meal, sometimes access to a digital device or tuition support, sometimes access to sanitary pads, or sometimes access to a caring teacher who will not let her fall.

The Alternative education class was converted into humanitarian assistance hub to provide critical food supplies for families of children, adolescent girls. DISHA worked with in communities in Delhi until the lockdown lifts. Food is a basic human right for survival for any child or adult. DISHA doubled up as relief workspaces for 30 days of ration distribution to 190 families of daily wage workers, rickshaw pullers and the fathers of our girls in the direct communities where we have been working for last two decades, that were severely affected by covid lockdown.



Along with this DISHA providing dry ration, masks and hygiene material to people living in the slum areas. The saddest part was that children and adolescent girls did not have clothes to cover themselves. There were teenage girls roaming around with torn clothes. Who would allow their daughters to roam without clothes if they weren't living in extreme poverty? Along with cooked meals and dry ration, we also provided them with clothes, soaps, and sanitary napkins. DISHA conducting awareness drives among them continuously on hygiene, sanitation, health, and nutrition.

Our teams of volunteers reached nooks and corners to provide sanitary supplies to girls and women along with ration essentials. The food relief work during covid-19 continued unabated for families of children and adolescents who are not left with any resources as the families sink deeper into poverty and children face a real risk of ending up as child brides, child laborers and falling out of the education system. As our Alternative education center was transformed into relief hub, along with dry rations to last a month, each family also got snacks for children, age-appropriate learning materials and colors. People living in slums are more vulnerable during a pandemic because the families in these areas live in a compact space. Since they also lack access to basic facilities like cooking gas, clean drinking water, toilets, and proper sewage system, they are more susceptible to pulmonary, and stomach related diseases related to sanitation and indoor air pollution.

Every day, our team came across many stories from the ground that are heartbreaking during our covid-19 relief work. Hunger is a real problem. Coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating inequalities for women. The current public health emergency will probably mean a disproportionate economic impact for women, who often work in un-organised service industries hit hard by Covid-19 as they additionally tend to take on the bulk of unpaid family care at home, a burden that has become even more all-consuming amid physical distancing and self-isolation.

Our staff worked with all precautionary measures for about 12-hours a day to make sure relief reaches the unreachable. So far, team we have been able to directly provide dry ration support for a month to about 180+ families in deep crisis after sudden job losses.

STORIES

Anita Devi a 35-year-old vegetable seller living in Nanagalraya slum, in West Delhi who was on the verge of hopelessness after the lockdown was imposed in the country, to control the coronavirus outbreak. She had to stop selling vegetables as the mobility of her cart would be restricted during the lockdown. Anita Devi had no savings or support to fall back on during this difficult time. Being a widow and the sole breadwinner of her family of three children and her elderly mother, she had no means of buying essentials like food grains. She did not have a ration card and was unable to apply for the electronic coupon, she was not able to access the free ration being distributed by the government. In spite of Delhi government providing cooked meals at various spots, food was still inaccessible to her family because of the lack of information about the nearest distribution center. She said, “My family was facing extreme poverty and we had sleep on empty stomach for a few nights. If the people from DISHA had not visited here, I may not have survived. It feels like they were sent by God.”

Ruksana Bi, the mother of six children said that when we tried to sell fish during the lockdown, the policemen did not allow them and even beat us badly. They did not have any place to go back to because our family is no longer living in our native village in Uttar Pradesh. We have not received any ration or food from the government source and no official s visited this place till now. As a result, a we have not received any ration or financial help from the government. We are thankful to the DISHA because they were the only ones who seemed to care about us.

Shikha Bhujal is eighteen years old and hails from Nepal. Her family is settled in Khazan basti slum in Mayapuri area. Though she was born in Nepal her parents Kamal Bhupal and mother Sushmita Bhupal migrated to India and settled in Delhi. He father is a driver earning Rs. 10000/- and her mother works in a factory earing Rs 8000/-. As bother her parents are working Shikha helps in the household chores and also takes care of her brother who is a student of class 2nd. She has a helpful nature and always eager to extend a helping hand to the needy.



She is good at singing and her dream is to become a singer when she grows up. She has learnt English with great interest and has great interest in Retail. She learns computer skill in the computer training classes with DISHA and is a diligent student who has picked up all the applications proficiently. She resumed her training after the lockdown was lifted and she wants to take up a job.

When Shikha came to enroll herself in computer skill training course she said that in all the other places they charge hefty fees for imparting training. Only in DISHA the training is given free, and, in these times, it is important to have digital skills for which the basic requirement is in computer training. She was very excited to be able to touch the computer for the first time in DISHA. She has worked very hard and learnt the entire syllabus which included MS Paint, MS Excel, MS word, MS Power point and the internet skills.

Her dream is to construct a house so that she and her family could live comfortably in their own home.

Thirteen-year-old **Senjal Parmar** lives with her parents in Nagalraya slums in Delhi Cantonment area. Her family is from Himachal Pradesh. Her father Parsen Singh Parmar and mother, Seema Parmar had come to Delhi 17 years ago leaving behind their parents in Himachal Pradesh. Senjal

was born in Himanchal Pradesh. Her father is in a private job earning Rs. 10000/- and mother is a housewife. Senjal has an elder sister and has a very quiet disposition. But in the class she is the one who asks maximum questions to clarify her doubts. She is fairly good in studies with Arithmetic being her favorite subject. Besides that, she likes to Yoga Asanas, singing, dancing and painting. She is a good cook and helps her mother in the household chores. Senjal says that since DISHA imparts free computer skill training and is near the house, she is able to learn the computer skills. She enjoys attending the classes and. Sometimes visitors also come to visit DISHA to interact with the trainees and help them with their queries.

Seema is a fourteen-year-old adolescent girl who lives in Padam Basti in Nangalraya, Delhi Cantonment area. Her family is from Nalanda district in Bihar from where they had migrated to Delhi looking for better opportunities. However, here they live a small shanty and somehow manage their life. Seema's father Shailendra Kumar is an electrician and earns Rs. 15000/- per month. Mother Madhumala Devi works as a labor earning Rs. 10000/- per month. Her father is very keen to impart good quality education to his children and that is the main reason for his coming to Delhi.



Seema is a student of class 7th and is a smart girl. She is good in studies, math being her favorite subject. She comes first in her class. In addition to working hard on her studies she also coaches her siblings regularly. She wants to become a Bank manager when she grows up. Seema has no other interests than studies and has joined the computer skill training course in DISHA. She says that her main interest in joining DISHA was because she wanted to learn computer skill as her aim is to work in a bank. According to her computer skill are an absolute must for getting a job in the Bank. At DISHA she has learnt lot and enjoys attending the classes regularly. She is keen to learn advanced computer skills next.



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Secretary

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