

DISHA

(Society for Urban and Rural Community Development)



Annual Activity Report - Year 2021-2022



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DISHA Organization Profile

- **Name:** DISHA (Society for Urban and Rural Community Development)
 - **Address:**
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 - **Administrative Office:**
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 - **Website:** www.dishaindiasociety.org
 - **Social Media:** <https://www.facebook.com/Dishaorganisation>
 - **Year of Establishment:** 1992
 - **Chief Functionary:** Dr.Shobhana Radhakrishna
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Main Activities Implemented (2021-2022)

- **Education for Vulnerable Children**
 - Online educational classes for slum students
 - Distribution of educational material
 - Alternative educational classes for heterogeneous learners (including school dropouts and children with disabilities)
 - Focus on inclusive, equitable, and quality education aligned with UN SDG-4
 - **Digital Learning and Remedial Teaching**
 - Digital learning programs for children and youth
 - Computer labs and skill training in computer education
 - Remedial teaching for academically weak students in grades 5–10
 - Internal assessments showing marked improvement in student performance
 - **Skill Training for Women**
 - Vocational training in cutting and tailoring for women and adolescents
 - Focus on women-headed households, backward castes, and low-income groups
 - Training duration: 4 months
 - **Community Awareness and Relief Work**
 - Awareness campaigns on COVID-19, hygiene, and sanitation
 - Community meetings and rallies for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
 - Relief work during the COVID-19 pandemic, including food ration and hygiene kit distribution
 - **Volunteering and Community Engagement**
 - College students volunteering in educational programs
 - Festivals celebrated with cultural programs and community gatherings
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Key Achievements and Impact

- **Education**
 - 68 children from slums participated in alternative educational classes
 - 32 children attended online digital education classes
 - Remedial teaching for 32 students with improved academic results
 - Skill training in computers for 34 students at Nangal Raya centre, Delhi
 - **Skill Training for Women**
 - 20 women and adolescents trained in cutting and tailoring
 - Trainees learned basic to advanced tailoring skills, including machine handling and garment finishing
 - **Community Support**
 - Monthly food ration packs and hygiene kits distributed to families for three months
 - 65 families of daily wage workers received 30 days of ration support
 - Community awareness drives involving 80 children and youth
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Challenges and Solutions

- **Digital Access**
 - Limited access to smartphones, laptops, and internet among slum families
 - DISHA organized practical solutions: batch-wise classes, community-based timings, and use of computer labs
 - **Economic Impact of COVID-19**
 - Loss of livelihoods and increased risk of child labor and school dropouts
 - DISHA provided food relief, educational support, and vocational training to mitigate risks
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Conclusion

DISHA's initiatives in 2021-2022 focused on inclusive education, digital literacy, vocational training, and community support, especially for vulnerable groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization's efforts have resulted in improved educational outcomes, enhanced skills among women, and strengthened community resilience.

DETAILS OF MAJOR PROJECTS TILL MARCH 31, 2022

❖ 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 that 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 the 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 education classes that 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 68 school-going, school dropouts, non-school going, and disabled children from nearby 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 helping 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 nearly 42 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, a Geometry box, a water bottle, a lunch box, and bars of soap.

DIGITAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Due to the sudden outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown, DISHA also suspended the Alternative Educational Classes and associated services in the field. 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.

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 for 32 children from nearby slums until the situation returned back to 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 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. Expert teachers were specially engaged 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 the 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 internalize 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 32 students when the difficulties in learning or school attendance were noticed, so that the students would not stay behind permanently in their studies.

DISHA’s objective of remedial teaching was to provide additional help to disadvantaged students from slum areas.

DISHA provides remedial support to students 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 who were enrolled for remedial classes with priority were unable to cope with the online classwork and homework.

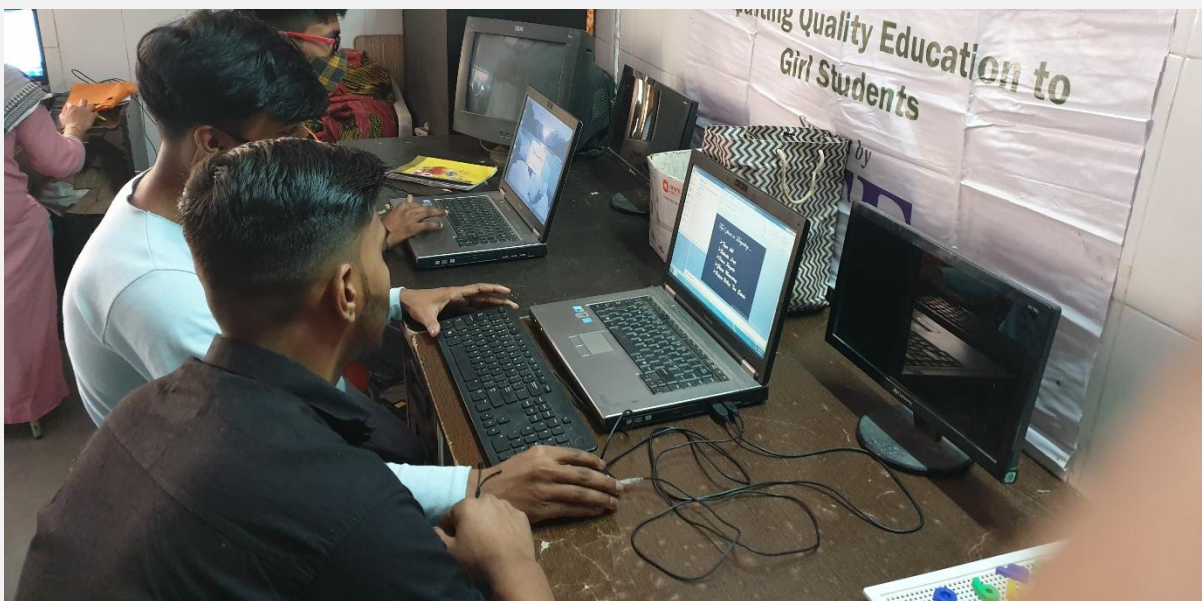
The student’s learning showed improvement and they were able to better cope in their studies. Internal tests conducted by DISHA revealed marked enhancement in their scoring. Parents also appreciated the extra efforts put in by DISHA facilitators in bringing their wards up to the mark.



SKILL TRAINING IN COMPUTER EDUCATION



Skill training in computers was organized with 34 students at the Nangal Raya center at DISHA. The syllabus involved getting to understand the various parts, learning 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 basics of computers. The advanced syllabus covered MS office, MS paint, MS PowerPoint Word, and Excel, internet, browsing, e-mail creation, email handling, and data entry operations.



The trainer divided the students into 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 PowerPoint programs were picked up well by the students.

CELEBRATIONS OF FESTIVALS:

The students of alternative educational classes celebrated the festivals of Diwali, 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 TO WOMEN

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.



The batch of twenty 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 eyes, 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.

AWARENESS ABOUT SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or Clean India Mission is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management.

DISHA informed students about pollution, global warming, hygiene and sanitation. Children participated in the rally for creating awareness in their area on the theme of “Climate conservation and sanitation”



COMMUNITY AWARENESS ABOUT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DISHA found that the slum community members had many misconceptions and lack accurate knowledge about transmission and prevention of COVID-19 Pandemic. In 2021-2022, 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

The COVID-19 pandemic has now risen to a global health crisis across the world. India was severely affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. This novel virus outbreak has challenged India's economic, medical, and public health infrastructure. Health care professionals and researchers around the world are looking for an effective treatment regime for COVID-19. The number of people infected by COVID-19 in India as of 28 December 2021 is 34,799,691 of confirmed cases; and the current recovery rate is 98.40%. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India has taken many measures to raise awareness on COVID-19 and the actions to control the spread of the virus.

Apart from the lockdown, India had increased its testing rate and vaccination, and has markedly strengthened the health care sector to combat COVID-19. Unabated spread of the pandemic could make India the next COVID-19 hotspot; hence, the World Health Organization had stated that the “future of the pandemic will depend on how India handles it.”

Because of this emerging scenario DISHA took an active role in the community especially with students to firstly raise awareness, giving correct information and take immediate measures to reach out to families with dry ration supply to tide them through a grueling period of lockdown and resulting economic shock continued to have a huge impact on livelihoods. Our volunteers helped the community members in getting vaccinated.





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

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, or sometimes access to a caring teacher who will not let her fall.

When girls faced a risk of dropping out of the school system forever - lack of digital devices, shutting down of school routines and long gaps in learning, our volunteers reached out to hundreds of girls with constant access to quality education.

During the lockdown period, the risk of sinking into poverty and dropping out of school was real for many affected families. However, our adolescent girls continued their education even in lockdown, completed homework, studied for exams, on the digital platform.

We converted the Open school into assistance hubs to provide critical food supplies for the needy families of the students and the adolescent girls we work with in communities in Delhi until the lockdown lifted. Food is a basic human right for survival for any child or adult. Our Open School doubled up as relief workspaces for 30 days of ration distribution to 65 families of daily wage workers, and the families of our students in the direct communities with support from the Indian Development Foundation, Mumbai.

The food relief work during COVID-19 continued unabated for families of students 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. Our community learning centers transformed into relief hubs till the May end.

The volunteers of DISHA worked with all precautionary measures for about 12-hours a day to make sure relief reached the unreachable. We directly provide dry ration support for a month to about 65 families in a deep crisis after sudden job losses.

Ravi Chopra
Secretary

New Delhi

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