

DEEP JYOTI



From Editor's Desk

Season's Greetings!

In this edition of Deep Jyoti, we have featured the Poshan Maah activities stressing majorly on the importance of nutrition. Most years during festive season, we often think of dispelling of darkness as a theoretical concept rather than something that is experienced and overcome. This year, Diwali's message has a special significance. Every nation on earth is responding bravely to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lives and livelihoods have been lost as we have witnessed the most dramatic shock in generations. Despite this, we have a common hope. Throughout 2021, despite our own fears, we have supported each other, encouraged each other, and stood with each other. This is the real "Dharma" we need to perform.

Priya Chakraborty Giri

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Breaking Barriers: Gender Sensitization



More often, than not, the LGBTQII community are at the receiving end in various aspects of community life. Deepak Foundation, with its vision and mission of supporting the vulnerable, has taken up initiative of bringing about this community under its fold. This is being done through having awareness sessions through partnerships with academic institutions, and initiating inclusive skills building programmes. As a part of this, Tagore International School, New Delhi and Deepak Foundation collaborated for gender sensitization session: *Breaking Barriers*. This awareness session was a sincere attempt to sensitize about the LGBTQI + community, by highlighting and addressing the prejudice against the members of this community through years of stereotyping and social conditioning by society. Further, the Foundation has made an attempt to make their Home Health Aide (HHA) course more inclusive to provide opportunities and engage them in mainstream. Around ten people from the community were enrolled for the course. The Foundation also provided them an opportunity to interact with people through their mobile medical units, palliative care, and has also managed job placements for them.

Independence Day Celebrations



Aligned with the 'Nation First, Always First' theme, on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day celebrations, Deepak Foundation run Samaj Suraksha Sankul hosted the Flag hoisting ceremony with the aim of bringing to prominence India's special citizens. On this occasion, former Mayor of Vadodara, and a technocrat, Dr. Bharat Dangar; Director Deepak Foundation Smt. Archana Joshi; Deputy Director Dr. Jai Pawar; Head of Accounts, Ms. Sushma Bhonsale, team members of Samaj Suraksha Sankul including secretariat in charge Ms. Promila Zalpuri were present at the event. The children of Sankul gave an excellent rendition of National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana" in its original form, which is now hardly ever heard in public domain.



Towards Shared Goals: A Case Study of Partnership between Aspire Fellows

Candid Conversation: I SPEAK

It was tea-break during one of the initial retreats for Aspire Fellows of Cohort 3 at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad in 2015. I ventured out of the lecture hall in an open courtyard and saw a lady behind a wooden table that displayed a range of story books with glossy cover. She was passionately talking to some of the participants and I heard her saying that the books are in regional language and are priced modestly. Her statement drew me towards the table and I saw beautiful story books with big letters and pictures. The lady was Suzzane Singh from Pratham. I could not speak to her as the sessions resumed post tea-break.



Coincidentally, we at Deepak Foundation, had just about initiated mobile library services- project *Vivek Vidya* for children aged 6 to 14 years in 25 remote villages Roha taluka of Raigarh district in Maharashtra in 2015. The community members who were provided primary health care through a mobile unit in these villages, requested us to start hobby classes for children to keep them engaged during school vacation. We thought of starting project Vivek Vidya, as children did not have access to any recreation activities during vacation and none of the govt.'s primary schools had library facility. We were looking for good quality, culturally appropriate story books in regional language. The concept was to encourage children to become members of the library for a user fee of Rs.10 per annum. The children, irrespective of their age and gender, were assembled in open areas in their villages and local volunteers from the

community would narrate the story to the children. Our foray into intervention for children in primary level was at a nascent stage and were not quite enlighten about age-appropriate story books. We were also not scientifically savvy to start assessing reading competency among children at baseline to assess the impact, we just wanted to make sure that children have access to story books and that story books fuels imagination and creativity. While we were searching for *panchatantra* stories, the display of beautiful books that I saw in the afternoon at EDII was like a bowl of delicious food for a hungry person. Too good to resist! We placed an order and received a prompt reply from them.

We hired local volunteers who were given a set of story books procured from Pratham Books, to issue them to children. The story tellers were trained in the art of storytelling and were requested to stop the narration of

the story for children to complete the remaining part of the story in order to fuel their imagination and create their own stories. The idea was to develop self-confidence among children to narrate the story in presence of other children. Gradually we started assessing the reading, narration and other competencies among children to assess the impact of the pilot phase of the project. Based on the third-party assessment of the project, it was scaled in other sites in semi-rural and urban slums in two other states besides Maharashtra. Since 2015, we have purchased over 3500 story books from Pratham Books and about 14,000 children are issuing the books across three States. Aspire also brought us in close contact with Mr. Himanshu Giri who lead the Pratham Books during another retreats and the two organizations worked together quietly on shared goals.

- Archana Joshi

PARTICULAR	GUJARAT	TELANGANA	MAHARASHTRA			TOTAL
	Nandesari	Hyderabad	Pune	Talegaon	Roha	
Total number of books purchased	738	1404	624	690	798	3564
Total amount spent on books	24,528	45,690	27,500	30,195	31,842	1,29,560
Total members of the library	4402	3374	195	450	6325	14,296



Public Health Events

The Poshan Abhiyaan was launched in March 2018 by the Prime Minister as the Indian government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers aiming for Holistic Nutrition. Today in 2021, India is not just fighting COVID-19 outbreak but is also battling existing undernutrition in the country. The Budget 2021 has given a road map to boost the efforts already initiated to take the agenda of nutrition in a mission mode. Mission Poshan 2.0 brings together the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)—Anganwadi Services, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Poshan Abhiyaan,

Scheme for Adolescent Girls and National Crèche Scheme.

Following the objectives, Mobile Health Units implemented a comprehensive, unified strategy to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcome, with renewed focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition in the catchment areas. Mobile Health Unit has celebrated the Rashtriya Poshan Maah at various locations of India in the form of awareness sessions on the importance of regional food, distribution of nutrition kits comprising of regional nutritious food.



MHU name and number of beneficiaries:

NAME OF MHUs	REGIONS	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
Mokhada	Tribal	44
DNL Dugdha	Tribal	36
FAG Savli	Rural	141
FAG Maneja	Rural	88
Sisecam Halol	Rural	46
INEOS Waghodia	Rural	65
DNL Dahej	Rural	55
Nippon Paithan	Rural	64
INOX CVA Halol	Rural	128
HZL Chanderiya	Rural	62



Awareness Sessions Conducted

Breastfeeding Awareness Sessions are being conducted in various villages of Gujarat & Maharashtra by Mobile Health Units.



World Breastfeeding Week is an annual celebration held every year from August 1-7 across the globe. World Health Organization states breastfeeding as one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival. Aligning with the current year's theme, 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility', Mobile Health Units in Gujarat and Maharashtra had organised awareness sessions, discussing about its importance. Spanning from boosting the immune system of the infant, lowering the infant mortality rate and risk of developing infections such as respiratory tract infections, diabetes, allergic diseases, and childhood leukaemia.

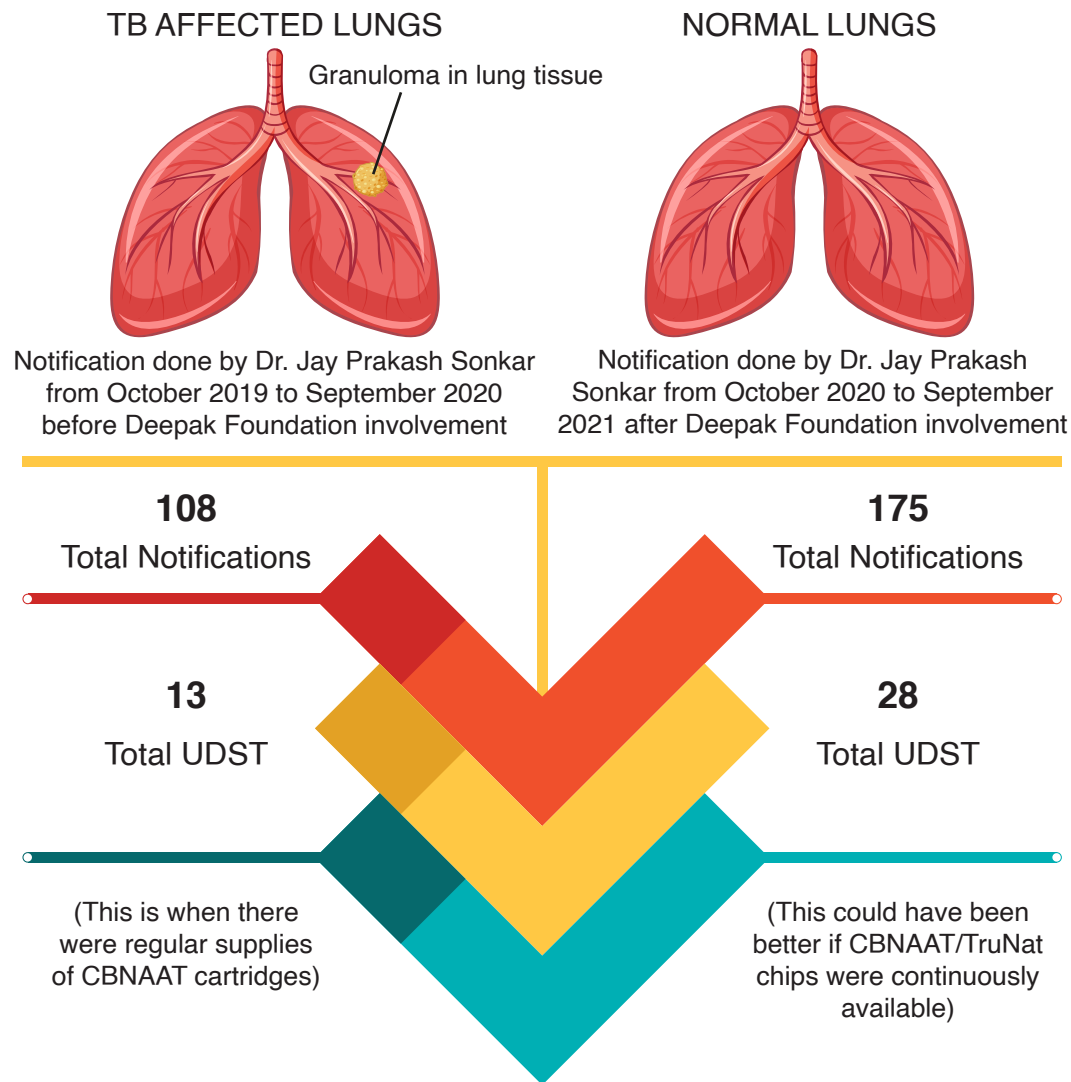
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We'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email and we will get back to you pronto. Let's get this conversation started. Please email at:

teamcomm@deepakfoundation.org

Madhya Pradesh - Gwalior district witnesses rise in patients' que

Deepak Foundation has been working as Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA) agency in 21 districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of India has established an ambitious target for elimination of Tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of Sustainable Development Goals. In order to accomplish this target and cover the umbrella of patients seeking treatment in private sector, the Foundation has established networks with private practitioners across all the 21 districts and facilitate patient diagnosis, adherence and outcome. Gwalior district has one of the highest patient load amongst all 21 districts, wherein several patients from various other districts visit eminent private practitioner Dr. Jay Prakash Sonkar. In order to facilitate the patients and reduce their out-of-pocket expenditure, rapport building with Dr. Jay Prakash Sonkar had been initiated. Dedicated staff was also deployed at Dr. Jay Prakash Sonkar's clinic, where samples were collected for further testing. Also, the Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) was kept at the clinic for the patients to access to free Anti-Tuberculosis medicines. Within the span of one year, there is 62% rise in number of patients receiving treatment and 100 per cent jump in Universal Drug Susceptibility Testing of patients who are seeking treatment at Dr. Jay Prakash Sonkar's clinic.



GUJARAT



Members of Krushak Mahila Khet Utpadak Company Limited (KMKUCL) participated at the Sahyog Mela held at Ahmedabad.



Improvement of learning outcomes of primary and upper primary grade children

According to National Education Policy 2020, the ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is considered as a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. However, various governmental, as well as non-governmental surveys, indicate that we are currently facing a learning crisis. A large proportion of students who are currently in elementary school - estimated to be over 5 crores in number - have not attained foundational literacy and numeracy that is the ability to read and comprehend basic text and the ability to carry out basic addition and subtraction with Indian numerals.

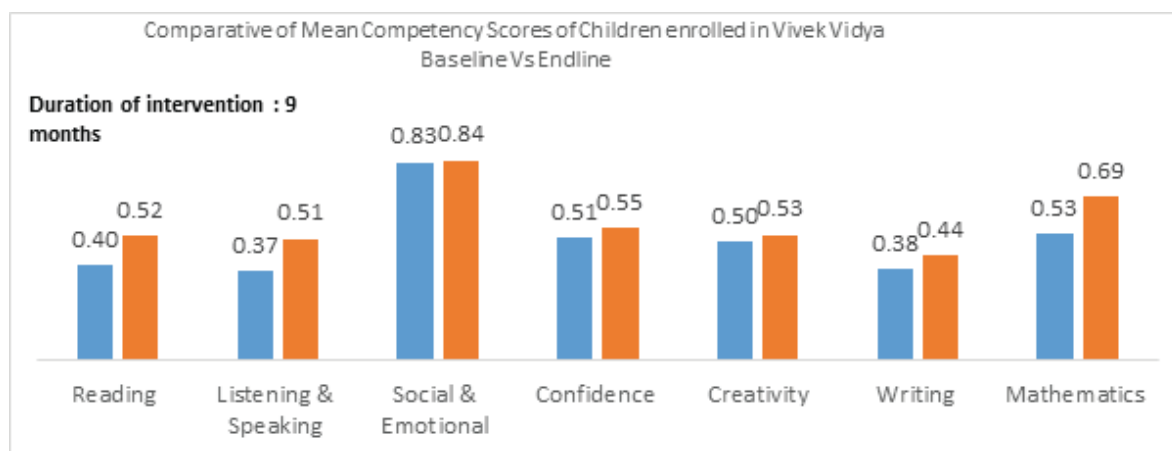
Deepak Foundation conceptualized a unique intervention, Project *Vivek Vidya* – a Mobile Education Service that caters to less privileged communities, with low educational outcomes and limited access

to quality reading and learning materials in rural, tribal and urban communities/villages of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana. It is designed not only to ensure exposure to quality reading and learning material through direct inputs support, but also to develop children's reading levels and other learning competencies that are crucial for success in academics across language and mathematics. The focus of the programme as one that includes strategic intervention designs to build cognitive competencies that support children so that they do not drop out of school.

Deepak Foundation enrolled 4000 plus children who were tracked across the year and were provided remedial support along with storytelling sessions and reading practices through library books. Our trained *Vidya Sathis* and field team facilitated remedial inputs sessions with workbook practice. They also undertook home visits

to counsel parents and ensure children issue story books and attend remedial input session regularly. The aim of the project is equipping the children with necessary competencies to reading, write and quantitative with understanding, think critically, develop social and emotional competencies and communicate with confidence.

A baseline and end line assessment had been conducted with the help of competency-based assessment tools. Assessment tools has been designed based on curriculum framework. Approximately, 3255 children in baseline and 3597 children in end line were assessed. Overall data of assessment and comparative study from baseline to end line result helps to see the impact of interventions. **Figure 1** shows the level of improvement from baseline to end line among children those who tracked.



Statistical analysis using paired t-test showed significant improvement in mean competency scores ($p < 0.005$): Reading, listening & speaking, writing, mathematics and confidence.

Figure 1: impact student learning outcome in Baseline and Endline in the year 2020-21



Books issued to children



Storytelling session

MAHARASHTRA



Deepak Foundation is operating a Mobile Health Unit (MHU) in Mokhada block of Palghar district. One of the most underserved blocks of the district, in terms of health services, this at-the doorstep intervention has created a new hope of the tribal population living in remote villages of the block. This initiative is jointly supported by Deepak Nitrite Limited as a part of its CSR programme, and District authorities of Health Department of Government of Maharashtra. The MLA Vikramgad, Shri Sunil Bhusara has also lent support in terms of providing a vehicle. Apart from the regular health services provided, a special vaccination drive was jointly organized by the Foundation and Health Department especially covering the tribal women and a total of 170 women received their first and dose of COVID-19 Vaccine. From July till September end, a total of 3420 people got their vaccines through the MHU. Thus, with this service, the Foundation has been able to contribute to safeguarding the people from COVID 19.

TELANGANA



Deepak Foundation is currently implementing a de-addiction programme in Hyderabad as a part of a CSR initiative by Deepak Nitrite Ltd. The activities carried out are:

- 1-1 awareness Sessions in slums.
- Group Sessions
- School & College Interventions
- Special Events
- Providing livelihood to addicts & Rehab persons
- Training on livelihood to addicts families
- Medical camps for identified addicts
- Basic counseling by Community mobilizers
- Family Counseling
- Psychiatric Counselor by counselors
- Providing Medicines & Investigations to the addicts & Rehab persons
- Providing treatment by Dr. Surekha
- Youth Interventions
- Providing Social Entitlements.

As a part of this intervention, a de-addiction health camp was organized at the Devender Nagar slum in Hyderabad on 20/07/2021. Around 50 people were screened and tests like CBP, LFT, RFT, RBS, USG, ECG and chest x-ray were conducted. Out of 50 addicts, 05 were female and 45 were male. Totals no. of addicts screened 50.



Season's Greetings



Utsav Gift Hampers

- Assorted handmade soaps (Neemsattva-Rosesattva-Lemonsattva-Lavendarsattva)
- Temple flower recycled incense sticks
- Neemsattva Handwash 250 ml
- Guggal & Loban Dhoop cups
- Ragi laddoo (on order basis only)
- Handloom masks
- Reusable hand-stitched bags
- Quilts & Dohars

For placing bulk orders:

Ankur Singh: 7572890011/15

Pavan Jadhav (Maharashtra): 7709519139

Minakshi Sahoo (Mumbai): 9099951034

Dr. Abhay Sahay (Dahej, Gujarat): 9839121272

Khadija (Gandhinagar, Gujarat): 9898067661

Kanika Bhatia (Delhi): 8447820004



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