



Every child has
the Right to Education

Newsletter
July 2020, 42nd Edition



Art- Child's feeling about the lockdown

At the beginning of March 2020 little did we even imagine that we would be in a lockdown for so long. The impact it has had on our children and their families has been traumatic. Almost all of

them lost their source of income overnight. The children were cooped up in cramped quarters with hardly any food to eat. Even so, Aseema's students and their families are emerging as bright and shining stars to go on to illuminate their world for all to see. Here is a glimpse of what was happening behind the scenes despite the havoc created by the COVID 19 pandemic!

Aseema launched the 'Together we Can' campaign immediately to raise funds to provide dry ration kits to our families in Mumbai and Igatpuri. The response to our campaign was overwhelming and we have been able to provide dry groceries twice to approximately 1800 families in Mumbai and Igatpuri in each phase. In this edition we share with you experiences of employees who were working remotely but towards the overall development of our children in these testing times.

When the lockdown was first announced in March our families were staring ahead at 21 days of no jobs, no income and no food. Over the next 2 days, we reached out to them to get a sense of their emotional and financial condition. We realized the need of the hour was to keep the families healthy and safe. And so, we started an extensive distribution drive. Over the past 3 months, we have been engaged in distributing dry ration kits and educational material to our children and their families. The dry grocery kits were distributed avoiding close contact and implementing social distancing measures. In addition cramped houses, large families, common toilets and washrooms, incomplete knowledge of the virus, stigma related to the virus made them vulnerable targets.

The Head of Aseema's Community Work Center (CWC) has this to share, "Most of our parents are daily wage workers who had to stay home with minimal savings and little certainty of the future. Most of their problems could not be solved overnight.



Ration kits for distribution - Igatpuri



Family with ration & Stationery kits - Mumbai

To protect them from hunger, we estimated that we would require 1800 grocery kits across Mumbai and Igatpuri. Procurement of provisions was a challenge as the

wholesale market was closed and no transportation was available. New vendors from each community were identified. Then began the mammoth task of providing each family with dry rations and spreading awareness about COVID 19 and the precautions to be taken. All this was possible due to the joint efforts of the CWC team, School Management Committee (SMC) members, alumni students, Aseema's purchase department and vendors. With effective co-ordination and communication, we completed the task! The challenge is to keep the ray of hope alive among the families and children and move ahead with the belief that together we will overcome this as well!"

Back to School with a difference! And how.....! Experiences from our teachers -

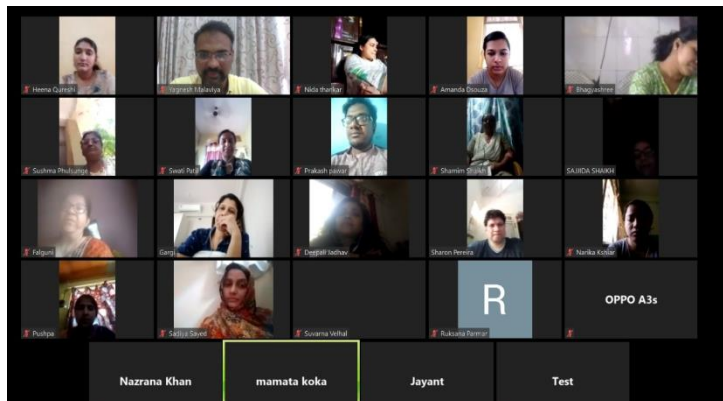


Sketch by Dipika Kanojia Standard X

It was time to change and adapt to the new times we are in. The pandemic pushed us into the realization that it was time to evaluate our education programme and come up with a plan that would fit our children's needs. The question for all of us was: How do we support our children to keep learning and growing, to stay engaged and to use their minds constructively in the midst of uncertainty? This was challenging, but possible.

As teachers, we needed to be exposed to and learn new ways of doing things. We found ourselves becoming more familiar with and relying more on technology. There were challenges, but also opportunities. Of course we had to work hard to learn together, find solutions and take advantage of these new opportunities. The logistics, curriculum,

timetable, teaching – the platform that would be used, the resources and the procedure, all had to be reviewed to make this a success. We also had to look at the physical and mental well being of our children and decide on how to track their progress.



Remote learning has proved to be a fascinating journey for the teachers. There is an even greater need for learning to be interesting, engaging and enjoyable; keeping our connection with the children alive; keeping the children's minds busy and active each day while they are at home! The Covid pandemic has affected all of our lives profoundly. Our children have felt these effects over the last 3 months,

and will continue to do so over much of the next year and beyond. These were all good reasons to give time - during lessons - for children to talk, write and discuss their experiences during the lockdown; and to learn more about this pandemic with these themes inter-woven into our lessons. In the months of April & May our teachers remained busy conducting trial classes on WhatsApp and Google Classroom to ensure that classes begin seamlessly in the new academic year.

One teacher shared, “Teaching remotely is a completely different experience. It requires thorough planning where each concept is made simple so that students understand easily.”



Drawing and Craft classes at home

Assignments are sent to students which they work on and send in the next day. Art, physical fitness and singing are not neglected, neither is counselling. The students are enjoying all their classes and look forward to them each day completing and submitting their assignments meticulously.

To give you a glimpse of the remote learning classes that started on 15 June we bring you some bite-sized anecdotes shared by our teachers: “I feel very proud that many of the students are all set 10 minutes

before time. Their eagerness to study and acceptance of the situation motivates me to work even harder.”

Another teacher says, ‘It was a new challenge for teachers as well as children. The first few days were a challenge. Getting children to understand some things on the phone was a bit difficult.’



PE and Yoga Day June 21 - Mumbai



International Yoga Day June 21 - Igatpuri



The first few days of the new academic year moved slowly as parents were trying to comprehend and assist with this new process. On the whole they have responded very positively, follow what is being taught closely and observe how their child responds. They have sacrificed their own usage of the mobile phone for their children for a couple of hours every day and helped taking videos of their child's assignment to send back to the teacher. It is heartening to watch many parents being patient and supportive of their child's education.

We had the opportunity to speak with a parent and this is what she had to say: "My daughter is in Standard X. I'm very happy that her studies haven't been interrupted and that she is continuing with her lessons."

Living with a positive attitude is the mantra that some of our students of Standard X are following to beat the current situation. "I like the classes," said one student, " Our teachers use interesting videos and activities and solve our difficulties." Then she added, "Most of all I miss being with and studying with my friends and the others in class. But that cannot be helped due to this pandemic and I am happy that my classes continue!"

Our staff and students are working together and doing their best to overcome the situation. All our efforts as an organisation have given them the hope to wade through these incredibly testing times. But in our efforts to look after each family and each staff member, to give them all the courage to go the extra mile, we need your support to help our children sustain their learning curve. This will take them one step closer to fulfilling their dreams of a better future.

Support – Our 'Back to School' Campaign and ensure that our children gain access to remote learning classes. Donate Now - <https://aseema.org/make-difference>

Support - Our 'Together we Can' Campaign and help our families with basic grocery kits. Donate Now - <https://aseema.org/make-difference>

Asema Products



Asema launched a new set of products - hexagonal trays, sticky note pads in two sizes, boat shaped trays, round coffee tables. All these are available in attractive designs created by our students. To order, please contact Mr. Fahad Shaikh: 9768607594 or write to products@aseema.org. Do get in touch!

A big thank you to-

Monetary Donations

Amarjeet, BNP Paribas India, BNP Paribas India Foundation, Dalal Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Darius Khambata, Foundation de France, Friends of Asema, Ghelani Charitable Trust, Haldyn Glass Limited, HDFC Property Ventures Limited, Laxmibai Dwarkadas Charity Trust, Mary & Peter Ashton, Mateen Dholakia, ME-HIN Consultants and Advisors, ME-HIN Tech Edge Solutions, Naushir Devitre, Nivea India Private Limited, ORIX Leasing & Financial Services India Ltd., Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas, Rambatra Memorial Foundation, Reshma Shetty, Sanmarg Parivar, Saint-Gobain India Foundation, Securities India Pvt. Ltd., Societe Generale India, Sweta Patel, TEAMS 4U The Charity, United Way of Mumbai, Vidya Trust, Wipro Cares.

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