



ENDEARING CAUSES



Quarterly newsletter of Asha for Education, Silicon Valley chapter



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Asha for Education
Bringing hope through education
Silicon Valley chapter



Message From Coordinators

Dear friends of Asha,

Thank you for your continued support towards Asha for Education Silicon Valley chapter. We had a busy quarter with several fundraising and fund disbursement activities running in parallel. We invested our efforts in virtually connecting with our partners on the ground and devising plans to reopen our education centers in the safest way possible.

In this edition of *Endearing Causes*, among other things, you will read updates about Edu-Impact 2020, India's new National Education Policy, Team Asha triathlon program, and several other exciting topics. We hope you will enjoy reading about them. If you would like to volunteer, donate, or learn more about our initiatives, visit sv.ashanet.org, or write to us at sv@ashanet.org.



Edu-Impact 2020

Asha SV's Edu-Impact Contest seeks to identify and encourage impactful and innovative ideas that overcome the challenges in India's field of education. For 2020, the contest was primarily focused on identifying new projects working with 1/ special needs children, 2/ rescue and safety of children in vulnerable conditions, and 3/ improving the quality of education in Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

The contest was initiated in Dec 2019. About 80 proposals were received from NGOs working across India. A dedicated team of 15 volunteers reviewed the proposals in various stages and proposed four projects for initiation. COVID pandemic has posed enormous challenges with project reviews, especially in arranging site visits to the identified projects. Thanks to our volunteers, all the required checks have now been completed, and the projects are underway. The next 2 pages have more details about these projects.

2020
So far...

26,966



Children Impacted

\$394,114



Disbursed

24



Projects Supported



Edu-Impact 2020: Projects Initiated

Gramin Vikas Samiti - ChildLine-1098: Assurance of Care and Protection



Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

CHILDLINE 1098 is a service of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in India for children in distress. It is available in about 543 districts. About 117 railway stations have Child Help Desks. Childline operates through a network of non-profit organizations. GVS is one such organization in the Damoh region of Madhya Pradesh. The organization primarily focuses on missing, abused, runaway, and trafficked children in the area.

The organization currently operates with a bare-bones infrastructure. They use personal two-wheelers to reach the children in distress, mainly delaying their rescue times. Government funding support is limited to staff salaries. Asha SV will help support additional infrastructure needs. This will significantly improve the overall reach of the program from approximately 500 villages to 1250 villages. Read more about the project [here](#).

Rural Volunteers Center - Child Friendly Spaces to facilitate continuity of education



Dhemaji, Assam

Dhemaji district in Assam is affected by floods every year due to heavy rainfall. Several schools have been damaged in 2020. Displacement, unsafe migration, damage to critical infrastructures, school dropouts, child labor, early marriage, and trafficking of children are some other principle issues in the district.

The project aims to set up Child-Friendly Space [CFS] to help children continue their education during floods. These are temporary structures built in areas that are heavily damaged. Between 2016-2018, RVC has promoted 20 child-friendly spaces.

Asha SV will support and facilitate the functioning of 2 such CFS centers starting in 2020. In addition, we will also explore the best possible solutions to help children continue education post-flood emergencies. Read more about the project [here](#).



Samagra Seva - Improved access to quality education for Musahar children



Jamui, Bihar

Jamui District, with a literacy rate of 59.76%, is one of the most underdeveloped regions of Bihar. The literacy rate is much lower [<20%] for the Musahar community, who are placed lowest among all scheduled castes in India. This community is heavily deprived of many socio-economic opportunities in the country.

The project aims to set up 30 Cultural Education Centers in 50 Dalit hamlets across four district blocks and run five special coaching classes for children in class 8 and beyond. The main goal of the center is to prevent school dropouts by providing additional support to these children. The project will also strengthen Vidhyalay Shiksha Samitis in 10 schools and Panchayat Shiksha Samitis in 5 Panchayats. Read more about the project [here](#).

Sense International India - Educational Services for Children with Deafblindness



Vadodara, Gujarat

Deafblindness combines varying degrees of both hearing and visual impairment. Sense International India supports specialized educational and rehabilitation services, which enable children and adults with deafblindness to overcome the challenges and become an integral part of their society.

There are an estimated 1,650 children and adults with deafblindness and multiple other disabilities living in the Vadodara district. However, there is only one specialist center to cater to all their needs. Sense India, with its local partner, Disha, has established a center in Vadodara. Due to the high costs involved in the services, they could only reach out to 20 children. With support from Asha SV, they will be able to double their reach in the coming year. Read more about the project [here](#).

Edu-Impact 2021

*Reaching out to the most underserved communities with innovative solutions.
Watch out for Edu-Impact 2021.*





Asha Ironman 140.6!

The Team Asha [TA] triathlon program started in 2014 with a modest goal of taking the other TA programs' alumni through a sprint triathlon experience. In 6 years, it has become vastly popular and successful, with more than 60 triathletes raising ~\$70K in 2019. The athletes who signed up for Santa Rosa Ironman on October 17th 2020 have continued training independently. However, the event is now canceled. Considering the effort invested in training, this was disappointing.

Hence, we have put together our own Ironman distance 140.6 event slated for the same day, with appropriate social distancing. We will follow all the rules of an official Ironman as close as possible, including medals and t-shirts, and attempt to give them as close to an Ironman experience as possible. So come October 17th, our athletes will race, and for once this year, we may have outdone the pandemic!



TA triathlon team after an open water swim session

Volunteer Spotlight

Kritika Upreti learned about Asha during her graduate studies at Purdue University and felt a strong desire to volunteer with the local chapter. Later, when she moved to Portland for work, she continued her association with Asha through her Portland chapter work. In her own words, "The main motivation to join Asha was the cause of educating underprivileged children in India; however, what has kept me involved over the years is the community of like-minded people.". Since moving to the Bay Area, she has been an active member of the Silicon Valley chapter.

As of 2020, Kritika is a core part of our project and treasury team, and her work has ensured smooth passage of funds in this challenging year. She was also part of the evaluation committee of Edu-Impact 2020 - our annual seed funding challenge for new initiatives pan-India. We wish Kritika a long and fruitful journey with Asha.



Kritika Upreti joined Asha SV as a volunteer



Volunteer with us

*You can help us create a better tomorrow.
Join today as a volunteer!*



fb.com/AshaSV



sv.ashanet.org



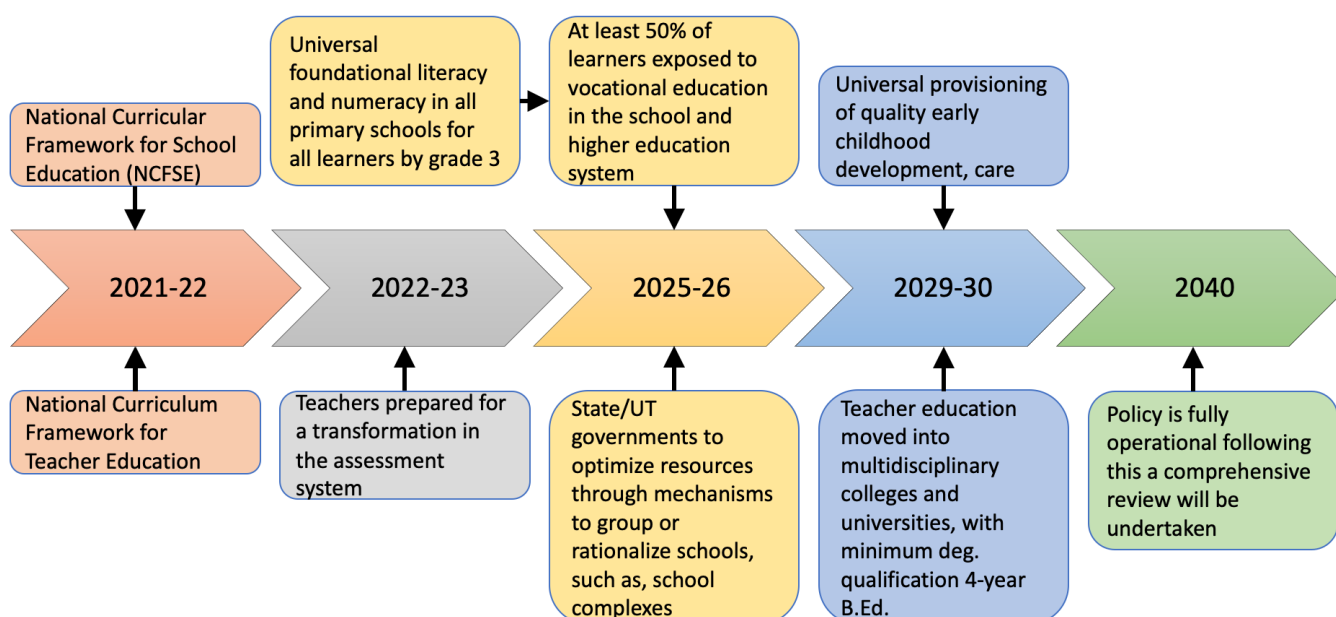
sv@ashanet.org



National Education Policy [NEP] 2020

NEP 2020, with a vision to create an education system contributing to an equitable and vibrant society, was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on July 29th, 2020. It replaces the last education policy introduced over three decades ago, becoming the first one for the 21st century. NEP 2020 recommends transformational ideas for school education, pushing to increase education expenditure from 3.1% in 2019 to 6% of the GDP at the earliest. A few goals and recommendations of NEP 2020 are listed below.

- Universal access to high-quality ECCE by 2030 based on a new national curriculum.
- National mission to achieve National Literacy and Numeracy by 2025.
- Achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio for school education.
- Curriculum redesign to enable holistic development and distant from rote learning.
- Restructuring school curricular by replacing the 10+2 structure with a 5+3+3+2 structure.
- Revised coursework with higher concentration on core concepts and active pedagogy and early introduction to vocational learning.
- Learning for all with particular emphasis on Socio-economically disadvantaged groups.
- Holistic 360-degree progress card, including peer and self-assessment.
- Low stake, modular, best of two, board exams.
- Empowering teachers and improving their recruitment, service conditions, transfer policy, and career progression opportunities.
- Mother tongue/home language/local language, as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5 and at later stages whenever possible.
- 3-language formula without any language imposed
- Greater emphasis on technology use and online learning to improve multiple aspects of education, including learning, assessment, planning, and administration
- Separation of regulatory, administrative, and policy-making functions to eliminate conflicts of interest.
- Setup school complexes for resource sharing.



Timeline for NEP 2020 implementation



Asha Learning Program

<https://sv.ashanet.org/asha-learning-program/>

Want to learn a new skill? Asha presents to you a variety of online learning programs to make your shelter-in-place exciting. All the funds raised with this program and will go towards educating children in India.

- > Python programming
- > Gardening 101
- > Paint Party
- > Tan "Door" Cooking
- > Baking 101
- > Photography



Projects Showcase: Door Step Schools

Doorstep School [DSS] provides education and support to the often-forgotten children of pavement dwellers, slum dwellers, construction site families, and many other underprivileged families in Pune and Mumbai regions of Maharashtra. Many of these children are not enrolled in school and have limited access to books and a place to study. Additionally, many children drop out of school to work or care for younger siblings. With neither support nor resources at home some children also suffer from very low learning levels. DSS is trying to bridge this gap by bringing education to the "Doorstep" of these children.



Video about Asha SV's partnership with Door Step Schools

10
YEARS OF
SUPPORT

\$287,003
TOTAL FUNDS
DISBURSED

Asha SV has been supported 10 such education centers of DSS in Pune since 2010, successfully influencing the future of thousands of slum dwelling children for the better. We look forward to continuing our partnership with DSS in bringing education to the doorstep of these children. To learn more about the DSS project, click [here](#).



ENDEARING CAUSES



"Mini-Schools" during COVID-19



Asha
for Education

Bringing hope through education

Silicon Valley Chapter

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

WINSTON CHURCHILL