



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 The Coordinator

Dear Friends of Asha,

With renewed energy and high spirits we welcome you to the first newsletter of 2021! We are proud to have survived 2020 without impacting the funding of current projects. Moreover, we provided pandemic relief as well as funded four new amazing initiatives in 2020. This has only been possible with your generous support. A big thank you!!

In this edition we are excited to share with you our latest initiatives, fund-raisers as well as challenges. Inspired by the success of our previous years' Edu Impact seed funding contests, we kick-started another one this quarter. We also launched a virtual Spring run fund-raising program that has attracted 300+ participants. We launched Season 2 of the Asha learning program consisting of cooking, painting, Bhangra classes and more to come in upcoming months.

We also have several amazing volunteering opportunities in our Asha ambassador and learning programs. 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. Thank you again for your continued support towards Asha for Education, Silicon Valley chapter.

- Kritika Upreti,
Chapter Coordinator



2021
so far...

4938



Children Impacted

\$72,031



Disbursed

5



Projects Supported



Edu-Impact 2021

At Asha Silicon Valley it's our constant endeavor to support fledgling nonprofits in India that attempt to solve challenges in education through unique, innovative, and scalable solutions. With that in mind the Edu Impact contest was originally conceived in 2018, with a new set of themes each year, aimed at enriching the portfolio of projects, supported by Asha Silicon Valley. Since then, we have partnered with 2-3 new projects each year to see meaningful impact in underserved communities in Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

2020 was a challenging year for education in India. India was already facing a learning crisis before Covid-19 - over 32 million children were already out of school even before the pandemic hit. Government schemes and nonprofits were trying to make a positive difference, but the pandemic created the largest disruption to education in India's history, threatening to double the rate of dropouts as per a news report by Mint, India.

Due to the pandemic, more company CSR efforts have been channeled towards Covid relief, that otherwise would have benefited education of children. In 2021, there is a glimmer of hope- with vaccination efforts picking up steam across India

and schools reopening across the country, there is light at the end of the tunnel. But we need to do more.

And that's why Edu Impact 2021 aims to focus on areas pertaining to education policy and efforts empowering the girl child. Through this contest, the Silicon Valley chapter of Asha for Education will fund up to 3 projects for a period of 1-3 years and budget of up to INR 11 lakhs from the below categories .

EDUCATION POLICY ADVOCACY AND ENFORCEMENT

Projects advocating for changes to government policy or helping enforce policies such as (but not limited to) Right to Education etc.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES EMPOWERING THE GIRL CHILD

Projects benefiting the female gender tackling challenges such as (but not limited to) female hygiene, malnutrition, child labor, early marriages, trafficking, sexual assault victims, supporting tribal girls, orphaned girls etc.

To submit a proposal for consideration, please visit <https://sv.ashanet.org/edu-impact-2021/>

Edu-Impact 2021

*Reaching out to the most underserved communities with innovative solutions.
Please stay tuned for more updates.*





FCRA Changes

Between 2010 and 2019, the amount for Foreign Funds received by Indian NGOs had doubled but the framework to monitor and regulate use of these funds was sketchy. In 2020, with the aim of regulating NGOs and monitoring flow of money, Government of India enacted new changes to Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 (FCRA). The purpose of these changes was to reduce misutilization of funds by recipient NGOs or their management, and to make sure the funds were used for the cause they were donated for and not diverted away.

Some of the key points of the changes are:

1. Prohibition to accept foreign contributions by 'public servants'
2. Restricting Transfer of foreign contributions to any other person
3. Furnishing of Aadhaar details by office-bearers at the time of FCRA registration
4. Restriction in the utilization of foreign contribution
5. Reduction in allowable expenses for administrative purposes from 50% to 20%
6. Receiving foreign contributions in foreign-contribution designated bank account exclusively with the public-sector bank SBI
7. Additional extension on the tenure of suspension in respect of registration

Project Renewals

The disbursement of funds to many of the projects funded by Asha have been delayed for Indian Financial Year 2021-2022. In order to track the in-flow of funds coming to India, the government made it necessary for all NGOs to have an account at the State Bank of India's New Delhi main branch by March 31, 2021. Starting April, the project partners cannot accept foreign funds in old bank accounts.

Many of the NGOs were not aware of these provisions till late and thus, did not start the process. They cannot receive funds till they open a new account. While Local branches of SBI are facilitating this process, it is still slow and can take 3-6 weeks for the account to be opened. The fact that many of these applications are being submitted at the same time, is also creating an administrative bottleneck in opening these accounts.

Asha SV is on track for project renewals, with 10 out of 24 project updates completed in the first quarter. However, fund disbursals had to be frozen starting March till project partners receive new bank accounts. Since most of the project partners are in the process of opening their new FCRA account, we expect the disbursals to resume by April.



Volunteer Spotlight

Nina Patel first heard about Asha while out on a routine walk in East Bay, when she was introduced by a volunteer to Asha's 2015 Running Program. Nina had been looking for a legitimate charity to contribute to, and now found the added benefits of training and motivation for a half marathon. Since then, the volunteer (Anu) has become one of her close friends, and Nina has gone from a participant to co-leading/organizing the 2020 Team Asha East Bay running program. Despite challenges brought forth by the pandemic, the program was a great virtual success!

As Nina puts it, "My favorite part of volunteering and being part of Team Asha is the company of like-minded people. We not only run together, but we share stories, support each other, and celebrate together. We are like a family at Team Asha. I have met incredible people and have made lifelong friends that I am very grateful for. And of course, I appreciate the opportunity to help others in need, especially underprivileged kids in India."



Nina Patel ran the SF Marathon as part of Team Asha

Volunteer Opportunities

Your volunteering can have a great compounding impact on Asha and countless other lives, just as Nina, who was approached by Anu in 2015, has made a phenomenal impact since then and hopefully will continue to do so for many years to come.

Asha Ambassador Program

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to promote and raise funds for Asha for Education, Silicon Valley initiatives by becoming Asha ambassadors in their corporate organization. Asha ambassadors will be expected to set up and promote corporate fundraisers within their organizations. All fundraiser material will be provided by Asha SV. Please write to us at sv@ashanet.org for further details.

Asha Learning program

Asha Learning Program is looking for volunteers to help out with marketing, web design as well as logistics and planning for its next season in Summer 2021. It is a virtual learning platform that offers a variety of classes and are all led by our talented Asha volunteers. Please visit <https://sv.ashanet.org/asha-learning-program/> or write to us at sv.learning@ashanet.org for more details.

You can also contact us at sv@ashanet.org with your own interests and ideas about how you prefer to contribute, and a volunteer coordinator will get in touch with you.



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





Team Asha Programs to Restart

We have some good news! Team Asha SV is planning to restart Team Asha (TA) programs with appropriate safety precautions. TA Biking Season-1 will start April 3 and will continue till mid July. You can find more details about TA Biking Season-1 at <https://sv.ashanet.org/team-asha-biking/>

We are still in the process of finalizing other TA programs and will reach out with more information as soon as we have a decision. Please stay tuned and watch out for TA program communications in the upcoming months.



Projects Showcase: Samerth Talim Kendra

Disability among children in communities that are poor, uneducated, and practice consanguineous marriages can be a significant challenge to overcome. Among the among the lower socio-economic communities living in the Juhapura locality of Ahmedabad, issues related to resettlements, discrimination, and the overall feeling of mistrust add to an already dismal scenario. In these communities a child born with a disability is destined for a life of dependency. Samerth Talim Kendra was started in 2006, in order to meet the community's need for services and facilities for children with special needs.

5

YEARS OF SUPPORT

\$165,683

TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED



Asha SV has been supporting Samerth Talim Kendra since 2016, successfully influencing the future of hundreds of disabled children. Apart from providing support and services to the disabled children, we are also working on creating awareness regarding disability in the community, encourage early detection, and dispel myths associated with it. To learn more about the Samerth Talim Kendra project, click [here](#).



2020: A Year In Review

We want to thank our volunteers, donors, athletes, and project partners for working tirelessly and helping us deliver a successful year in 2020, despite the unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic. You can find the summary of the year in numbers below, but please go through our detailed [annual report](#) for more information. We got a lot of work done in 2020, and we have a lot of work lined up for 2021. We look forward to your continued support.

Silicon Valley Chapter Impact

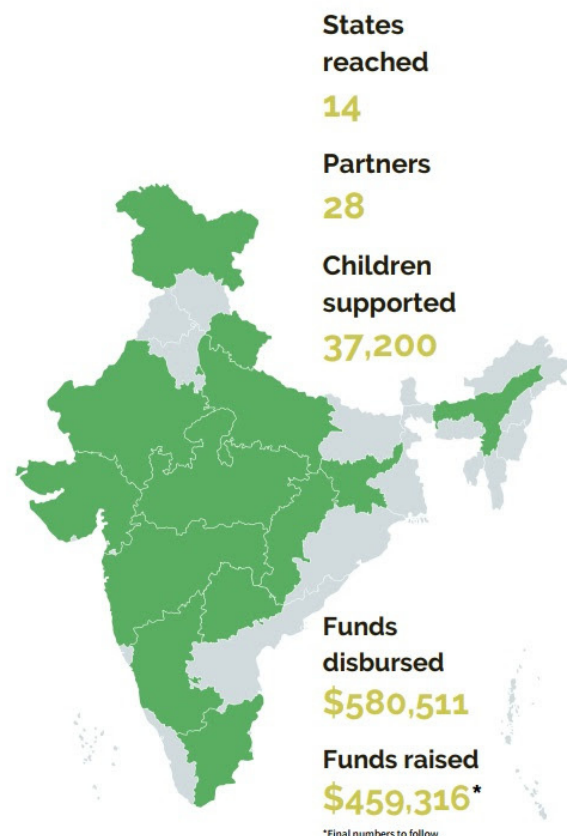


\$8 Million+
Disbursed

100k+
Children
Supported



22
Years of Service



“How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE