



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



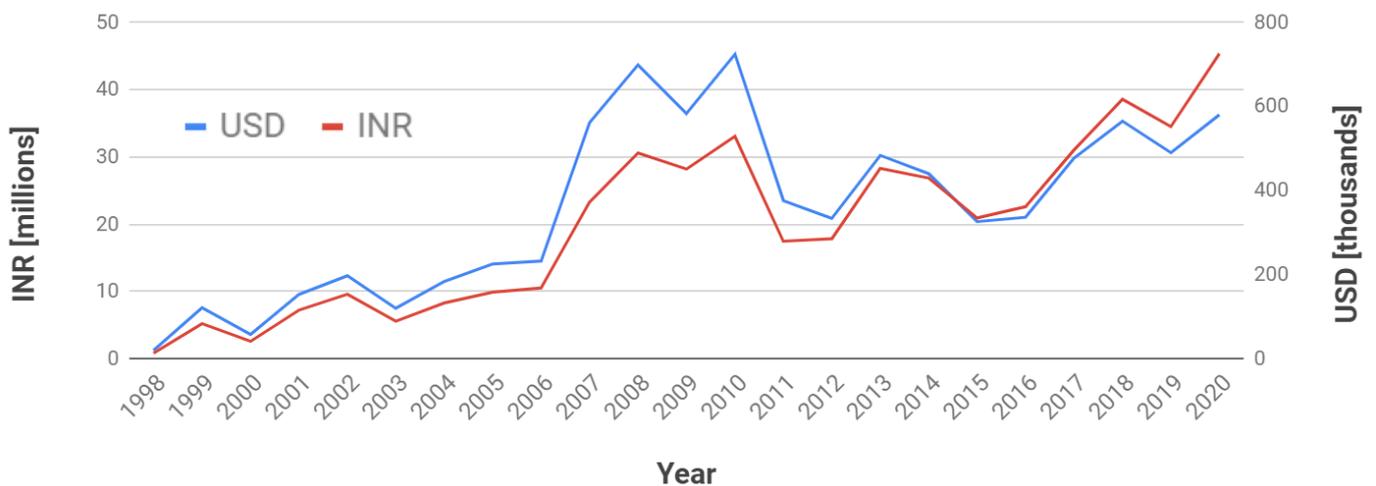
Message From Coordinators

Dear friends of Asha,

As we wrap up 2020, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your continued support towards Asha for Education, Silicon Valley [SV] chapter. We just completed a busy season of mid-year updates and fund disbursements to our partners across the length and breadth of India. For the third consecutive time, we are completing the year with all of our disbursements going out in time to our partners, enabling them to do their best work.

In this edition of *Endearing Causes*, among other things, you will read about how our partners are coping with the pandemic and ensuring our children get uninterrupted access to learning. You will also read about our "Meet & Greet" initiative and several other exciting topics. 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.

Our 2020 Disbursements Soar!



Asha SV disbursements [in INR] reach an all-time high in 2020
More details in upcoming Annual Report 2020

2020
So far...

37,200



Children Impacted

\$580,511



Disbursed

28



Projects Supported



Education During COVID-19



Children adapt to their new "normal" schooling, with outdoor classes, masks, and social distancing

In rural Uttar Pradesh, in the village of Naugarh, a little boy walks through an unpaved road amid paddy fields to reach his school. He isn't wearing shoes, but he wears a cloth mask on his face. He washes his hands and feet before he sits on a mat in the empty land outside his classroom. Today he's learning multiplication tables. Elsewhere in the district of Bhilai in Chhattisgarh, a mobile van screens learning videos about wild animals to an audience of children sitting under a large banyan tree watching with rapt attention. In Ahmednagar, a trained physical therapist places her smartphone closer to her face as she demonstrates an exercise using her tongue, a technique used as a part of speech therapy for children with cognitive disabilities. Up north in Jammu, adolescent girls work in a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit to manufacture pads that will be distributed for free to girls in the community, contributing to good menstrual hygiene for girls who don't have the means to buy napkins.

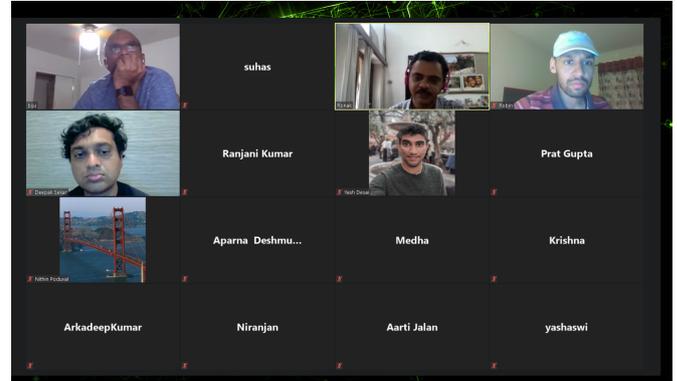
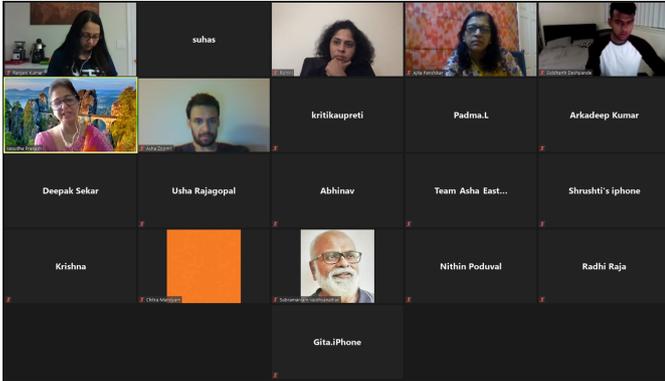
Across India, Asha SV's partners are using innovative methods to help communities thrive, through their

resilience and commitment towards providing opportunities to underprivileged children. Through their quintessential ability to do "jugaad", they enable children across the country to learn during one of the most unusual and challenging year we have ever faced.

India was already facing a learning crisis even before the pandemic. Over 3.22 crores of school-going children were out of school in 2018. The pandemic has created the largest disruption in India's history, threatening to double the dropouts rate. By operating mini schools, Asha SV's partners enable children to attend classes within the confines of their hamlet with other students/teachers that are a part of the same social bubble. To ensure that children learn safely, Asha SV has invested in the distribution of masks and hand sanitizers in addition to continued funding of other operating costs such as teaching materials, blackboards, and staff salaries. We are proud to support nonprofits across India who are constantly adapting to maintain education continuity for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Meet & Greet Series



"Packed" zoom sessions as our chapter volunteers directly connect with our project partners

At Asha SV, we split our disbursements to our partners in two halves. We typically have an annual budget review and renewal meeting in the first half of the year, after which we release 50% of the annual funds. We follow that up with a mid-year update from the project-steward in the second half of the year, after which the remaining funds are disbursed. The steward would usually handle all interactions with the partner, and the chapter typically gets a concise version of the updates.

With 2020 bringing unprecedented challenges, it dawned upon us that it calls for deepening our understanding of the pandemic's ground realities. This was especially true after we saw a flood of funding requests, COVID-19 related and otherwise, from both current and new partners.

We held separate conference calls with partners from every project during the mid-year renewal to educate ourselves better. That is over 25 non-profits working across length and breadth of India.

This seemingly small change enabled several conversations between the chapter volunteers & our project partners, helping us broaden our perspective and discuss potential ideas to ensure continued learning among children. It also paved the way for exchanging ideas and information between various partners in India through our chapter meetings' common platform. Most importantly, it enabled human to human connection that will go a long way in continuing the important partnerships we have established with these organizations.

Edu-Impact 2021

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





Bike The Bay

The Team Asha [TA] biking program for the year 2020 was held back in April, much like everything else. Once the initial Shelter-In-Place orders from California authorities were lifted, TA biking alumni regrouped informally to ride in small groups while maintaining social distancing protocols mandated to the public. They organized rides across Marin, Berkeley, East Bay, San Francisco, Peninsula, South Bay, Santa Cruz, Highway 1, and Monterey, adding a staggering 28,000+ miles and 2,000,000+ feet of elevation on the saddle! For reference, the Earth's circumference at the equator is about 25,000 miles, and the elevation of Mount Everest is about 29,000 feet. The longest ride covered 135 miles in a day.

Despite the program being unofficial in nature and not tied to any fundraising requirement, the bikers went ahead and raised funds for Asha SV to help the cause of education for all. We thank TA biking alumni for keeping our community together and for their continued support to our children.



Team Asha bikers at San Francisco

Volunteer Spotlight

Mubarak Seyed learned about Silicon Valley's TA program through a friend. He was impressed by TA's structured running program that had a methodical and time-tested approach to build speed and endurance. He joined the TA running program in 2019. With the help of TA's structured workouts, his perseverance and dedication helped him finish the 100 miler ultra marathon in 2019. He has also participated in several local running events since.

Later, he joined our chapter meetings and got more involved in the tasks of running the chapter. Earlier this year, he took up coordinating Asha Spring Run, which despite the setbacks brought about by the pandemic, turned out to be a very successful virtual event. He is currently organizing Spring Run 2021. In his own words, "the main motivation to join Asha was to help the team raise funds for underprivileged kids and educate/enable them." We wish Mubarak a long and successful journey with Asha.



Mubarak Seyed with his medal after Berlin Marathon, 2018



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



COVID-19 Relief Efforts Continue

Even as the world awaits the wide-scale deployment of a vaccine for COVID-19, we continue our ongoing efforts to provide relief to the underprivileged where necessary. We primarily focus on food relief programs for families left out of government schemes and belong to extremely impoverished backgrounds. So far, Asha SV has funded nearly \$65,000 towards COVID relief across India.





Projects Showcase: Asha Darshan

Asha Darshan is a registered non-governmental organization based in the Baksa district of Assam. It focuses on community development in this insurgency-ridden area through education and organized Self-Help groups (SHGs). The project runs 11 centers (pre-primary, primary, and lower secondary) around Tamulpur and Kumarikata areas and has 450 SHGs under its wing. The centers provide a crucial schooling source to about 1400 children in the age group of 3-15 years. These schools provide a critical, often only source of education, with far and few Government schools in challenging and remote terrain.

19

YEARS OF SUPPORT

\$950,305

TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED

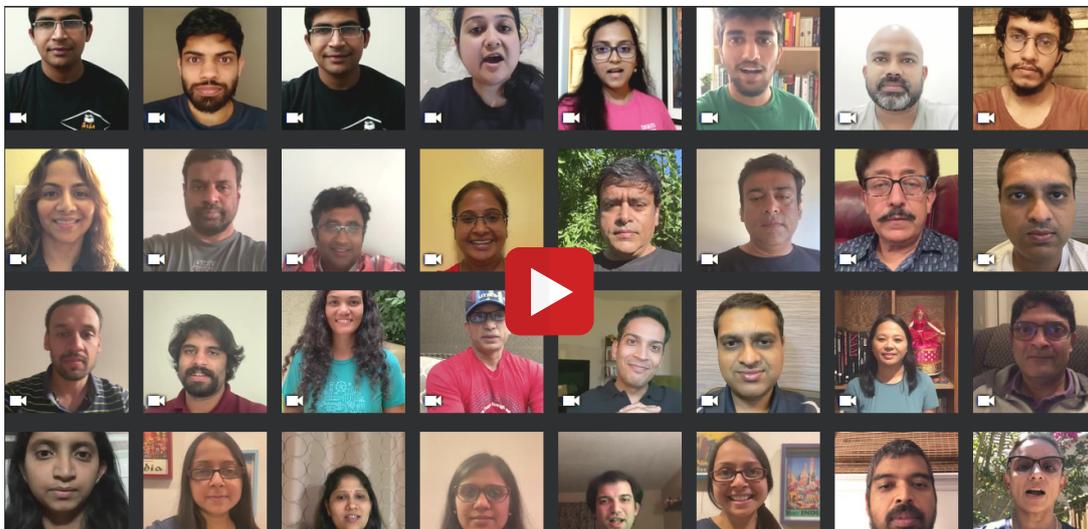


Video about Asha SV's partnership with Asha Darshan

Asha SV has been supporting Asha Darshan since 2001, successfully influencing the future of thousands of children at risk for the better. Through the work of Asha SV volunteers, Asha Darshan also secured grants from Yahoo and NVIDIA in 2006 and 2012, respectively. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Asha Darshan in the years to come. To learn more about the Asha Darshan project, click [here](#).

Thank You!

Our volunteers made a short video in various Indian languages to thank the Asha community.





"Mini-Schools" during COVID-19



Asha
for Education
Bringing hope through education

Silicon Valley Chapter

"We rise by lifting others."

ROBERT INGERSOLL