



ARUNODHAYA
Centre for Street and Working Children

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

Vision

A just society in which every child enjoys childhood assured of his / her rights with dignity and happiness.

Mission

Build a social movement that will uproot all forms of exploitation and oppression of children and promote and protect the basic human rights of children enabling them to enjoy a dignified childhood.

Effect policy changes and ensure social justice through research, documentation, campaign, networking, advocacy and lobbying.

Philosophy

Arunodhaya believes that all children are born with an inherent right to justice, peace and freedom and deserve access to all fundamental human rights including education, health care, love, respect, security and protection.

A nation's development depends on the development of its children. Hence protection and promotion of the rights of children should become an inherent component of all development activities.

Core values

- Ambition
- Commitment
- Integrity
- Creativity
- Team work and Collaboration
- Accountability/ Transparency

Objectives

- Create a protective environment for every child free from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and neglect.
- Create an environment at all levels for every child to express themselves, take decisions and participate in governance on all matters concerning them with the support of Community Based Organisations.
- Create opportunities for all children to fully develop physically, mentally, gain knowledge and develop their personality.
- Ensure the rights of all children by strengthening all community based organizations for the protection of children from all forms of violence.



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PREFACE

The year 2020-2021 was a year of Covid-19 pandemic. It caused a grave disaster which was not only a health pandemic but triggered hunger, malnutrition, poverty and learning crisis for millions of families across the world. In India the strain is greatly felt by the marginalised communities who have been deprived of their source of livelihood and income due to the lockdown and COVID-19 situation. Arunodhaya's target population had a large number of women headed families, daily wage workers with minimum salaries. The lockdown devastated them and they were pushed to a situation of distress.

Single women and self-employed women who were doing small-scale business-like snacks shop, rice batter shop, fruit shop, tailoring unit, fancy store, fish sale etc. could not carry out their business during the lockdown period and they spent whatever savings they had, pledged their belongings and even borrowed money at high interest to lead their life. Even after the lockdown is lifted they are finding it difficult to resume their business as they lack money to invest in their business.

Adolescent, children and women were in stressful situation. Being in a confined atmosphere with no activities to do, lack of proper food, fear of COVID – 19, constant fight among parents, financial crisis, death of near ones etc. caused depression, suicidal thought, stress and confusion. The impact was seen in children who were silently observing the situation. Adolescent girls had hesitation to ask their basic needs to their parents as they saw their parents struggling for food. Adolescent girls and boys said that they preferred taking up a job than pursuing their education. The closure of schools has a devastating effect on the education of children affecting their learning and academic development. There are instances where children have joined labour force and many instances of child marriages have been reported. The lockdown has further exposed the children to an abusive situation.

Arunodhaya as an organisation with a vision of A just society in which every child enjoys childhood assured of his/her rights with dignity and happiness stepped in with interventions to ensure that children enjoy their rights and freed from violence and abuse. This report presents the interventions and activities geared at protecting children in the times of Covid-19 pandemic and enabling them to enjoy their right to childhood.

We thank the Almighty for the guidance and protection in overcoming the hurdles and reaching out to the needy in the times of Covid-19. Our thanks to all our supporters and volunteers who extended financial support and volunteered their time. A special thanks to our staff team who in spite of the Covid-19 situation was active and innovative in reaching out to children and adolescents. Our sincere recognition and thanks to the Trustees for their constant support and guidance.

June 2021

Ms. Virgil D Sami Ph.D
Executive Director



ENSURING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN TIMES OF COVID-19

“ I am Madhan, I stay in Korrukupet. During lockdown, my father did not have any job. He used to sell things from house and drink. My mom was going for cooli work and took care of us. In this situation, she was affected with corona and she was quarantined. We struggled for food and her company denied to give her job after her quarantine days. I decided to go for work, and used to work in a plastic company from 6 am to 8 pm. I got paid Rs. 200 per day. But I wanted to study and didn't want to deny my Right to Education. I left the job, paid fees for my sister and for myself. I joined Diploma in computer science. My mother got another job luckily. Now I am talking to other children who are working and asking them to study. I made one of my friend to leave his job and attend online classes. I will continue this work. ”

P. Madhan
15 years, Diploma

Ensuring the Right to Education in times of Covid-19

School closure adopted as a measure to contain the spread of Covid-19 triggered a learning crisis among the children especially children from marginalised and vulnerable communities. Online learning was taken as an alternative to provide education to children. But children from the vulnerable communities could not afford smart phones, faced difficulty in recharging and getting connectivity, living in small houses they could not attend classes in a peaceful way. All these made online classes out of reach for them. Low literacy level of parents, lack of learning atmosphere at home led to a steady decline in the learning skills.

10

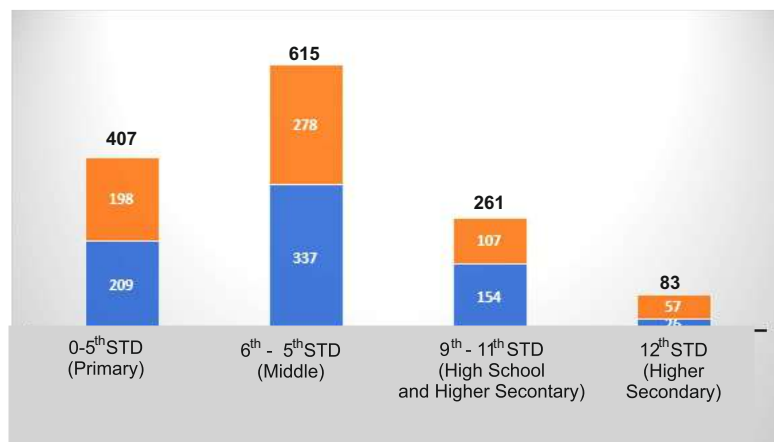
Arunodhaya organised programmes to enable the children to continue their learning, sustain their interest in education and make the community feel the importance of educating the children during this time.



MICRO LEARNING CENTRES

Understanding the need to organise learning session to arrest the learning crisis, discussion was held with community volunteers from women groups, youth forum and children sangam. They expressed the need and importance of learning session and came forward to volunteer in conducting sessions. Due to Covid-19 norms, children could not be gathered in big numbers so it was decided to have sessions with 15-20 children following Covid-19 norms of wearing mask, hand wash and maintaining physical distance.

Figure 1 : Details of children in education interventions





Primary School

Creative activities were organised. Children prepared alphabet charts, they learnt numeracy through simulation games. Children were eager to learn. 407 children - 209 boys and 198 girls participated in the sessions. We are thankful to Vidhya vidhai who helped us with the curriculum Akkam.



Middle School

Middle School children were encouraged to read books, they were also provided with school textbooks and taught lessons. 615 children (337 boys 278 girls).

Impacted 1366 Children



High and Higher Secondary

For children 9th -11th std. school text books were given and supported in learning 261 children (154 boys and 107 girls)



Higher Secondary School

12th std. prepared for examinations. 83 children (26 boys and 57 girls).

Ensuring Education amidst lockdown

During the lockdown, education of the children was majorly affected. In our intervention areas, parents were not equipped to teach the children. Most of the children were not able to access online classes. Arunodhaya with the support of community volunteers started micro classes. Through this, children exchanged books, clarified doubts with the volunteer and were motivated to study.

K. Soundariya, (15 years) is one of the volunteers who supported in starting micro classes in her area. She is studying 9th Std in Vellayan Chettiyar school. Her mom is a single mother and a coolie worker. During lockdown her family struggled without proper work. But amidst the difficult situation she was determined to study and share her knowledge with other children. She identified 15 children from 1st std to 8th std in her street and used an empty ground near her house to conduct learning centre. Every day lessons were taken and tests were conducted once a month. She used games and songs she learnt in children sangam and taught it to the children. This made children to show more interest and they started to come regularly. Through this parents were relieved and they said that their children are engaged in a good way during the time of school closure.

“I was very depressed seeing the financial crisis in my family. This learning centre not only helped me to study but also relieved me from my stress. Many children coming to my class were facing similar situation. I helped them to overcome it through fun filled learning”.

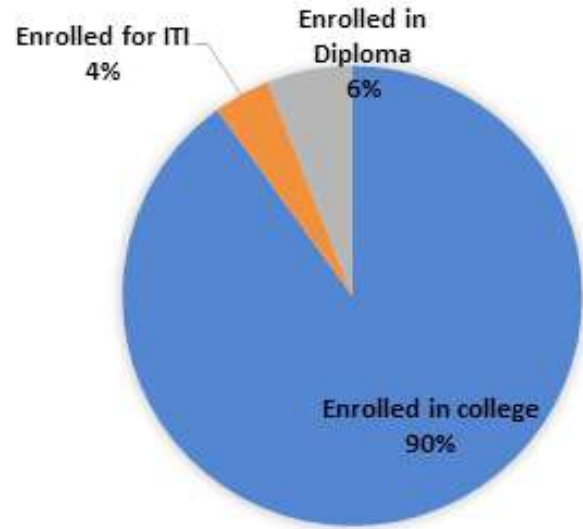
*K. Sowndariya
(16 years), Thiruvotriyur.*



ENSURING ENROLEMENT AND CONTINUITY IN SCHOOL

Schools were opened for 9th to 12th std students from February 2021. Continuous follow up was done in 19 schools and in the community with the support of volunteers and staff members to ensure that all children were back to school.

Figure 2 : Details on higher education



50 children completed higher secondary

24 child labourers were rescued

21 drop outs were identified, counselled and enrolled back to school. 9th to 12 th std.

113 children enrolled in school.

12

SESSION IN IMPROVING ENGLISH SKILLS

Virtual sessions were held in spoken English with the help of volunteers referred by ivolunteer. Twenty children benefited from this. The sessions were well planned and conducted regularly. This helped in improving the language skills of the children. Once a week special spoken English classes were conducted for 4 youth members by a Volunteer

“

My name is K. Mary, I am from Kargil Nagar, Chennai. I am Studying in Jaigopal Garodia School. My father is mason, My mother is homemaker, I have 8 siblings. Three elder brothers, two younger brothers and two younger sisters. I love my family. – This is the self introduction I learnt during spoken English session. I love to speak English but I was so afraid that people will tease me as no one around me speaks English. Now my confidence has improved and I am able to speak few sentences”.

K. Mary
9th std, Thiruvotriyur

”

“

I was happy to be connected with Arunodhaya. Mentoring my mentee in spoken English gave a purpose during the lockdown. I used to speak to her twice a week. She's cute and innocent. Has the urge to learn and highly motivated to learn. Gave few sentences to practice on daily basis.

Ms. Keethi
HR Professional.

”



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Early childhood care and education centre was continued in Athipet for the tribal children. 10 children (6 girls and 4 boys) attended the ECC regularly.

Children were engaged in creative activities, games, exercises and language development.



CAREER GUIDANCE SESSION

Career guidance was organised for 10th and 12th students.

247 students participated

The children got clear understanding on profession, passion, how to choose their career and courses available based on their passion and ambitions.



Lockdown and online classes

H. Aarthi comes from a difficult background family. She lost her mother five years before. Since then she relied on her father but he was alcoholic and a coolie worker. The pandemic caused another new threat to Aarthi as there was more financial struggle and she was not able to attend online classes since she did not have smart phone. She was in her first year of her Diploma in Lab Technician Course at Chennai Corporation, Cholera Hospital, Tondaiyarpet. She was worried to see her friends completing many chapters and writing exams through online classes. In these difficult circumstances, she approached her school Head master from Jai Gopal Garodia for help, He referred her to Arunodhaya for support. Volunteers from Arunodhaya visited her and understood her situation.

She was then supported with a Tablet donated by Rotary club of Madras southwest to Arunodhaya. This was of great support to her.

“My father didn't have any income and I was not able to study, I felt left out and confused. I went and cried to my school head master and he understood my eagerness to study. Then Arunodhaya gave me this Tab. I never expected this, it was better than smart phone. Now through this I am able to attend online classes, do research in google and prepare for my seminars. Through my college I am also going for vaccination drive and I take this tablet to fill in patients data which is mandate. I am so grateful to Arunodhaya and Sponsor”.

Aarthi's aim is to become a General Physician. She is also stiving hard to clear her NEET exams. “When I joined NEET coaching class. Everyone near my house said that my father cannot afford my education and it made me think helpless. But it was my mother's dream to make me a doctor and through that I also developed interest in Medical field. Today I am doing my lab technician. I will complete my diploma, find a job and continue to pursue my dream”

*H. Aarthi
18 years, Ennore.*





ENSURING THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION IN TIMES OF COVID-19

“

I used to wash vessels at home and do household chores. But many used to tease me including women around my house. The view of the society should change for practicing gender equality. I am going to continue to do what I do. One day they will stop laughing and feel jealous of not having a boy like me”.

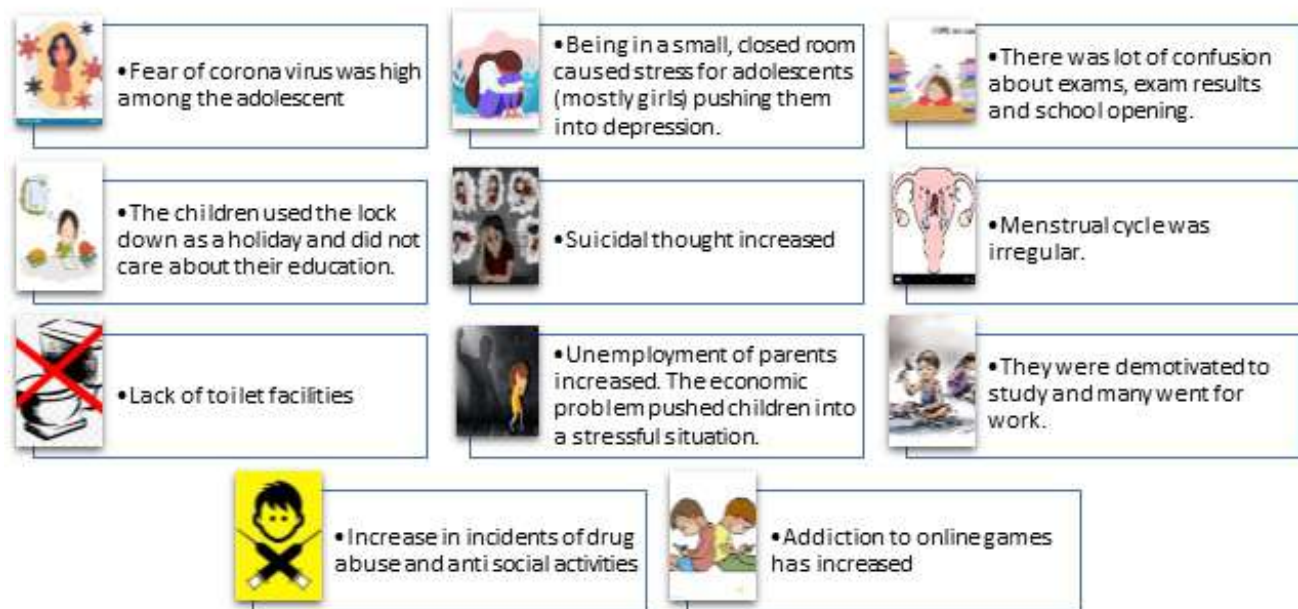
S.Suriya
18 years, Ennore

”

Ensuring the Right to Protection in times of Covid-19

Covid-19 pandemic is not just a health pandemic. Though the pandemic has not affected the children directly, they have been indirectly affected to a great extent, jeopardising their safety, exposing them to a more vulnerable and exploitative situation. Covid-19 exacerbated the existing inequality, pushing marginalised children into further distress situation. The families in the slum communities are daily wage earners employed in the informal sectors. The lockdown closed the job avenues for these families making them economically weak. Poverty and the resultant distress situation had a negative impact on the children. Children were forced to take up job, girls were married off early, confinement within the four walls of the houses led to abusive situation. Drug abuse and online abuse were also on the increase.

Arunodhaya geared up the existing child protection activities, redesigning it to meet the needs of the situation. The interventions carried out in the communities during the lockdown revealed the problems faced by adolescents.

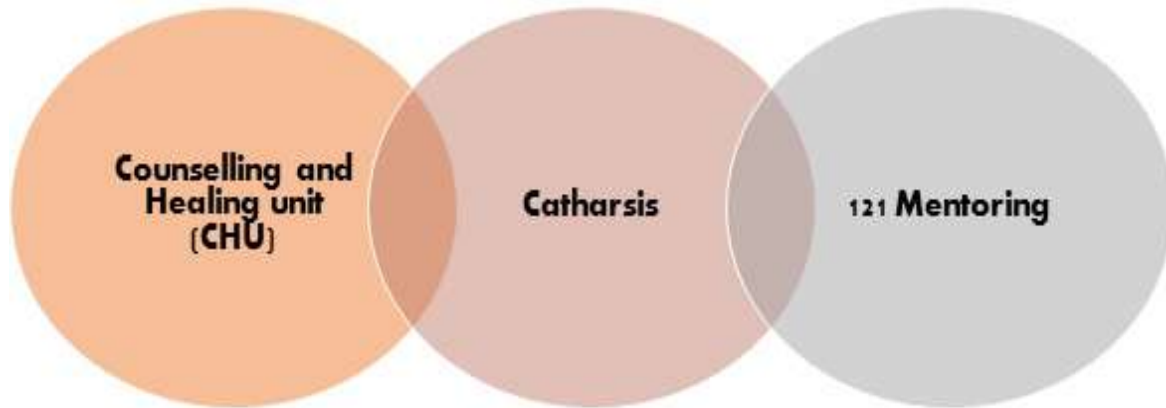


Interventions on Child Protection

- Psycho social support
- Awareness and life skill training
- Shelter home for homeless boys
- Railway Childline



I PSYCHO SOCIAL SUPPORT



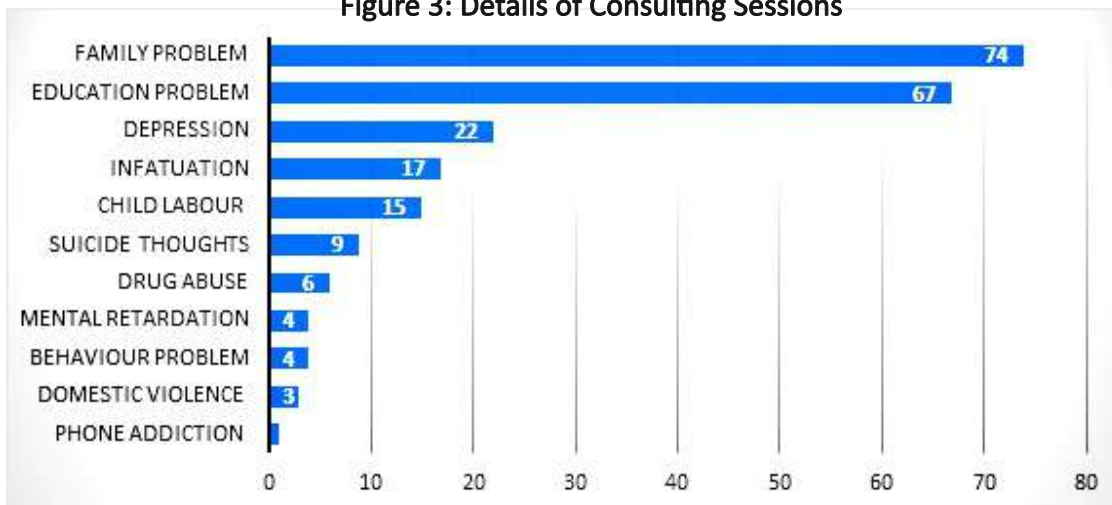
Counseling and Healing Unit (CHU)

The fear of Covid-19 affecting the family members, poverty at home, not able to meet friends, put great pressure on the children affecting the children psychologically. They had great fear and felt depressed. Children who were in 10th standard were under great stress since they were not sure whether the board exams would be held. There were contradictory announcements, and at last it was cancelled. The Counselors of CHU reached out to these children and youth through the community counsellors. The affected children were identified by community counsellors and referred for counselling. Group counselling was given to 206 through conference call



“
I am confused about when the exams will be held. I have been studying the same portion for a long time and it is frustrating to know what is going to happen. I don't know how to cope up with this situation. Counselling helped me stay clam.
 ”
A.Boopathi
 16 yrs

Figure 3: Details of Consulting Sessions



Catharsis

Fear of Covid-19 and the lockdown measures had a debilitating effect on the adolescents. Being confined to the house, not able to meet friends, the poor economic situation at home coupled with the fear of Corona virus created depression among adolescents. To enable them to come out of this situation they were engaged in expressing their emotions, fears, anxiety, their needs and aspirations through poems, paintings, drawing, short film etc.

“ Hi my name is Sai Keerthana, I did a video on the importance of getting proper medical consultation than self-treatment. We maintained social distancing during the shooting process. Initially it was so boring for me at home. My parents were worried that my days were getting wasted and they couldn't afford for any online special classes to develop my skill. I had interest in taking videos and staff from Arunodhaya motivated and guided me. I felt so happy and proud when it came in UNICEF social media page. I learnt something new and I was able to convey a message to many.

Sai Keerthana
16 years, Chennai.





1,1 Mentoring

With the support of volunteers 1,1 mentoring was provided to adolescent girls. 78 women volunteers from a variety of background, from India and abroad such as lawyers, teachers, students, artists, social workers engaged with the girls through telephone conversation. One volunteer was linked with one girl. They called the girls twice a week and had a fruitful time motivating them, guiding them to set up goals in life, maintain their mental stamina during this time of crisis, teaching them English, exposing them to different career options and being a source of inspiration for the adolescents. It was a joy for the adolescents to speak to the volunteers, it brought in fresh air in the otherwise gloomy atmosphere. It also helped them to think about their ambition in life and how to move towards it.



II AWARENESS AND LIFE SKILL TRAINING

Awareness and skill building sessions were organised for adolescents to enable them to be protected from exploitation and abuse.

Awareness Sessions





Ianthalir Sessions (adolescent Session)

Ianthalir session were held once in a month.

65 Ianthalir groups were formed with a membership of 1697 adolescents

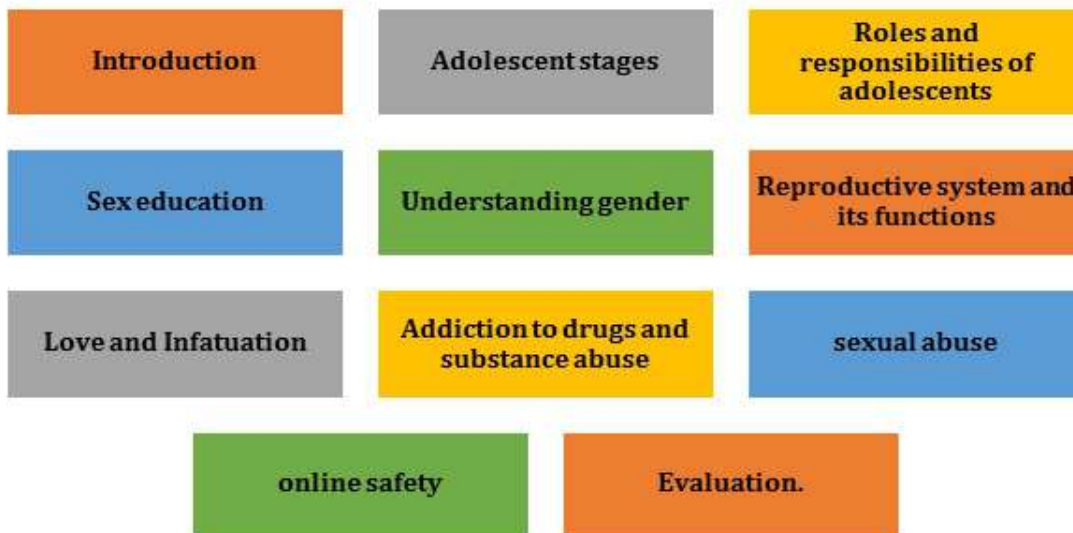
855 girls

842 boys



20

Topics Covered



Outcome

-They engaged themselves in activities and improved their mental health. It helped to keep them occupied.

-The sessions made them to clear their doubts and be bold in times of lockdown.

-Adolescents gained good knowledge on menstrual hygiene.

-Adolescents were able to analyse and understand the situation they were in and empowered to overcome it.

-They were able to find solutions to the problems

-They were able to reduce time spent on mobile phones and concentrate on education.

-They developed skills to protect themselves from abusive situation



“

I attended self-awareness session. I found that I was addicted to online games. I also used to tell lie to my parents and steal money to top up. I know quitting it is impossible. So I started to understand my other area of interest. I love drawing and craft work. I started to see such videos in you tube and started to draw in the same way. Slowly I came out of online game addiction. I have drawn many pictures and done arts.”

Vignesh (name changed), 15 years.”

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SRHR And Gender

Special session on SRHR and Gender was conducted for 1800 girls. A debate session was organised on the topic understanding gender crisis during COVID-19.

Adolescents debated on gender discrimination they faced in education, nutrition, protection, privacy and participation during lockdown. The session facilitated boys to identify gender discrimination they were practicing unconsciously. Parents were encouraging boys to use smart phone in case of one phone per family. Girls were involved in domestic work and boys were sent out to work or do jobs like going to shop, fetching water etc. They also shared that boys were allowed to go out and play whereas girls were never sent out of their houses.

A TOT training on SRHR was conducted for 12 boys. 5 TOT boys took SRHR training sessions in the community and covered 200 boys and trained them on SRHR.





Menstrual Hygiene

Special session on menstrual hygiene was conducted for 1800 adolescent girls.

The sessions facilitated them to speak out their problems, worries and get relieved from stressful situation. They gained awareness on reproductive system. They were able to overcome myths on menstruation. They understood it as a natural process and there is nothing to be afraid of. The participants said that they will speak boldly about their problems related to reproductive system with others. The menstruation cycle chart given was liked by all the girls. They are keeping track of their cycle. The sessions also facilitated the girls to come together and have fun. It relieved them from stressful situation

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“

My name is Kowselya, I volunteered with Arunodhaya to take training on menstrual hygiene. After the training, I used the cloth first and found it very comfortable. This helped me in training others effectively and to share my experience. When I first started the session most of the participants laughed and felt shy. Slowly, they got comfortable and started to share their doubts and experience.

Kowselya
21 years, Ennore

”





Awareness On Drug Abuse

Special awareness session on drug abuse was conducted in RR nagar for adolescent boys. 30 adolescents participated.

Awareness On Child Sexual Abuse

The sessions on safe and unsafe touch was organised for primary school children. 420 children have been reached

Skill Building

Life skill training

Training on goal setting, decision making, self awareness and emotional management was conducted in small groups reaching out to 235 children.

Coping with Covid-19

special session was organised through zoom platform for adolescents on coping with Covid-19. 32 adolescents participated. The session was organised by employees from Amazon. Life skill training on 'how to protect yourself from corona viruses was given through the snake and ladder game.

Stress management

Adolescents were trained on how to reduce stress and keep them occupied during the pandemic. The session was conducted by Ms. Divya , Psychologist. 23 Adolescent peer educators participated in the training and got benefited



“ During quarantine they made us to play snake and ladders game and we learned a lot through that game. We played along with our masks. They created awareness and taught us coping mechanisms through the game which was indeed fun to play and I enjoyed a lot.

Keerthana
11years, 7th std

”

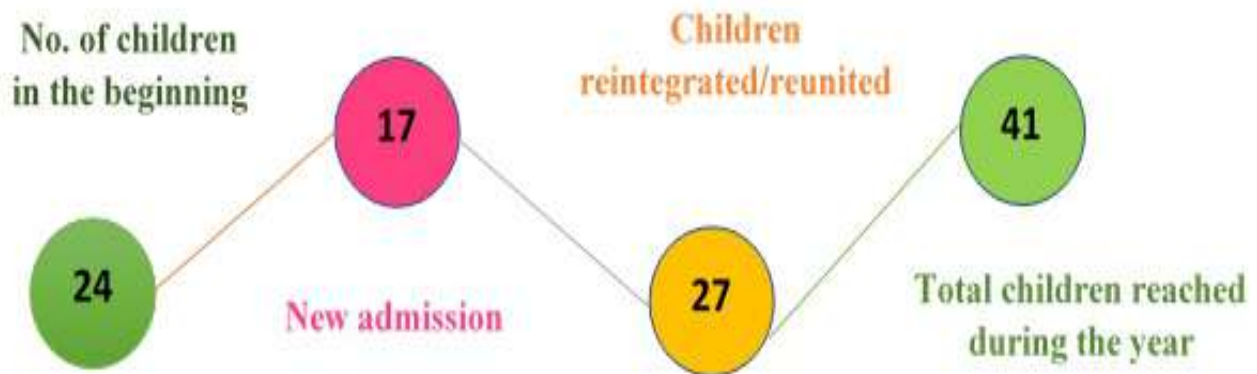


III. SHELTER HOME FOR HOMELESS BOYS

Shelter home for homeless boys was started in the year 2013 at R.,R. nagar, Kodungaiyur. The Shelter home is supported by Greater Chennai Corporation under the scheme 'Shelter for Urban Homeless'. The shelter located opposite to the dumping yard reaches out to children working in the dumping yard, staying in the vicinity of the dumping yard, who have no homes or come from dysfunctional families. The home meets the basic needs of the children and guides them in getting educated, trained in good behaviour and have higher aspirations in life.

The needy children are identified through community visit, night visit and are also referred by community leaders and people. The new children are welcomed with a welcome kit that consists of basic items and entered in the induction register

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Education

Education of children is given the first priority at the shelter home. In spite of the school closure due to Covid-19, children were continuously engaged in the learning process. They were enabled to attend online classes, watch Kalvi TV and learn the lessons according to their grades. Time table was set up in consultation with children for the day's activity that kept them active and energetic. Regular contact was established with the schools where the children were studying which facilitated the enrolment process and in getting the text books for the children. Special stationary materials were purchased for children to conduct activities and develop their learning skills. Primary level children were engaged in activity based learning like developing their own books, colouring, clay modeling. Wall charts of alphabets, tables, shapes, fruits etc. were displayed to create more interest in children to learn. Children studying from 9th to 11th std. attended the special coaching classes organised by Arunodhaya at Korukkupet.



Volunteers were mobilised to teach English, science, mathematics and general knowledge through online sessions. Volunteers from Ladies circle, Bhumi and student interns conducted the sessions. This enkindled the interest in learning among the children. The habit of reading newspaper has been inculcated and the children discussed major issues and current affairs among them

“

Every Saturday aunts from Ladies circle used to come and teach us songs, English and conduct games. I learnt to sing prayer song in English. I was given best student prize as I answered all fruits and vegetables names in English. I also taught other younger boys who found it difficult to learn. I taught everyone the English prayer song and we performed during annual day celebration

”

Joseph
6th std



Two boys (Paisal and Akash) were enrolled in college, Sam and Srinivasan are preparing for 12th exam.



Nutrition And Health

Nutritious food was cooked at the shelter and provided to children four times in a day. (breakfast, lunch, evening snacks and dinner). The food menu is prepared in consultation with children. Kabasura kudi neer was provided at regular intervals to protect children from Covid-19. Fruits and nuts were also provided to build up their immunity.





Health camp was conducted every month with the support of Primary Health Centre. Doctors visited the shelter home and conducted health check-up. They also spoke to the children on the precautionary measures to be taken to protect themselves from Covid-19. Hand washing method was explained to the children and they were asked to maintain cleanliness. Masks and multi vitamin tablets were provided during the health camps. Children with slight illness were treated by the doctors during the health camp and medicines provided. Three children were referred to hospital for fever and urinary infection and treated.



Body temperature gun and Fingertip Oximeter were provided by Greater Chennai Corporation to monitor children's health status. This kit helped in checking the body temperature of children and be alert with symptoms. Covid-19 test was done for all the children in the month of Decemeber 2021 and all the children were found negative.

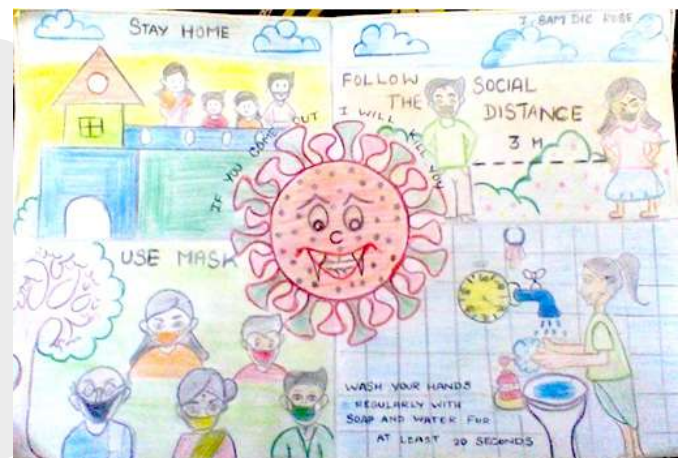
Dental camp was held with the support of Dr. Simin Abraham Dentist. All children had dental check-up and General check-up . Orientation on dental care was given by the Doctor and children clarified their doubts. Doctor distributed tooth paste to all children and explained how to use tooth brush and paste.



Nurturing Talents And Potentials

Covid-19 in a way provided opportunities to nurture the talents of children . Many volunteers came forward to organise talent sessions with the children online. At the shelter children were provided with opportunities to develop talents in drawing, painting, singing, dancing etc.

In the month of July 2021 children were facilitated to draw pictures on Covid-19 prevention and protection. All the children drew picturers and explained it to other children. This process encouraged children to develop their talent in drawing as well as be aware of Covid-19 prevention measures.



Children had an opportunity to train their vocal chord through the online music classes conducted by Nalandha Way. Children enjoyed the classes and developed interest in singing. One child, Karthikeyan participated in the training in Parai dance (traditional dance) conducted by Arunodhaya. In February 2021. After the training he taught other children in the Shelter home.



In the evenings children played games such as Carrom, Chess and ball games. A volunteer Mr. Ragavan, Chess player referred by GCC taught Chess game to the children.

Every day morning children meditation was organised and after meditation children created their own stories. Each one told a story. This helped in improving creative thinking, listening and concentration skills. In the beginning of this session children had hesitation to speak in front of other children. But by continuous practise children started to tell stories fluently. The story narrated by Samdicrose about Covid-19 was uploaded on youtube 'Voice of children' promoted by Forum for promotion of child participation



Bhoomi one of the volunteering organisation teaching spoken English to the children, conducted a drawing competition for children from different centres. Drawing by Manikanadan on the theme Save Wild life was selected as one of the best.



Psycho Social Care

Children at the shelter home come from dysfunctional families which affects their behaviour and developed negative habits like aggressive behaviour, use of unwelcoming language, drug abuse etc. Each child is given individual counseling and group counseling to overcome the negative behaviour. Through different counseling sessions they are led to develop a goal in life and chalk out their way to reach the goal.

The common behaviour issues identified were

Low self esteem

Anxiety

Anger

Depression

Not interested in education

Slow learners

Fear of darkness



Individual and group counseling was conducted with the children to enable them to overcome their problems. Exercises such as clay modeling, balloon bursting, river of life, punching the boxing bag, ball games, drawing and painting, SWOT analysis were adopted as tools for counseling.

Recreation

Children were taken to the Government Museum in Egmore on 30th December 2020. Children were happy to come out after many months. Due to lockdown they did not have the opportunity to come out of the shelter home for nearly eight months. The children were very happy to visit the museum and they also played in the park in the museum premise. It was a relaxing experience for the children.





Capacity Building

Trainings were organised to build their personality and guide them in developing a brighter future.

Safe touch and unsafe touch

Planning

Good habits and bad habits

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

Covid-19 precautions

Environment

Goal setting

Video documentation

Representatives from Shelter home participated in the trainings conducted by Arunodhaya for Children sangam members

Sam dicrose who attended the SRHR session became a trainer and trained other boys.





Reintegration /rehabilitation

Many children come from dysfunctional families. Shelter home is a transit place where the children stay till the home situation improves. The counsellor visited the homes of the children and counselled the parents/guardians to develop a positive atmosphere in the family for the child to develop in a healthy way. Meetings were also organised once in three months for parents/guardians. Through this process 27 children have been reintegrated with the family. Follow up visits were done to monitor the child's position.

Children whose family is not in a position to take the child were admitted in children's home. 3 children were admitted in long stay home



27 have been reintegrated
with the family

Story of change

A Transition

M. Rajesh (name changed) 16, years fought with his parents and left his house. He decided to stay on the streets of Kodugaiyur and planned to look for a job the next day. Luckily he was identified by one of the former inmates, he enquired about his situation and brought him to Arunodhaya Shelter home. During intervention we found that his home is at Royapuram. His mother and father are having their own editorial news press and he has fought with his father over his hair cut and he left his home. Information was given to his parents and counselling was given to him. Counsellor also met his parents and did a group counselling. He was trained in problem solving techniques. Through this he understood that his decision was taken in anger and he showed interest to reunite with his family.

“I am thankful to Arunodhaya because today my son is staying with us and we are a happy family. I could not imagine having lost him in any circumstance. Even today he and his father used to fight now and then but he is handling the situation differently. We are grateful to Arunodhaya shelter home for inculcating these values in him”. Mother

“My father scolded me for my hair cut. I didn't like it and I took a quick decision of leaving my house. But I was pushed to a situation of staying in streets. Thanks to Arunodhaya for helping me to reunite with my parents. Now I am studying 1st year B.Sc, Physics and I go to my fathers office to help him in the evening.



Referral

P6 police station Inspector referred one homeless woman with three children to shelter home for night stay and for referral to a safe home for the mother and children. The screen test was taken for four of them before admission and separate room was given to them. On 3rd August through Childline with help of Ms. Rathi, referred the mother and children to the women shelter "Siga". Timely help saved both children and mother during the lock down.

Celebrations

On 15th August 2020 Independence day was grandly celebrated with all safety measures and chief guest Ms. Geetha Head Mistress of Chennai Primary School, RR Nagar attended the programme along with teachers. Children welcomed the guests with chocolates and flag. Child E. Ragul honoured the chief guest. Chief Guest hoisted the flag and children honoured the flag by singing "Vandhe Matharam" song. All enjoyed sharing sweets and snacks.

On 25th December 2020, at Arunodhaya shelter home children had Christmas celebration. Children decorated Christmas tree and 2 children went to church with the care taker. Also childrens made dolls using clay, drew pictures of snow man, igloo, birds and decorated chirstmas tree. Children prepared greeting card for sponsor. Afternoon they had a special lunch, cakes and celebrated the day well.

On 26th January 2021 Republic day was celebrated.

Shelter home children birthday celebration was organised every month. Children whose birthday falls in that month cut cake and celebrate. Other children decorated the home for the birthday boys. special snacks of children's choice is prepared on that day.





Shelter Maintenance

Children Committee

Children committees have been formed to ensure the participation of children in the management of the Shelter home.

Education	The education committee looked at planning the education activities and education material needs of the children
Health and Hygiene	Health and hygiene committee took the responsibility of keeping the premises clean.
Food and nutrition	Food and nutrition committee involved in preparing the menu in consultation with children and following up on it
Games	Games committee took care of the games materials and plan the games hour

The committees met once in a fortnights and reviewed their activities. Representatives from the Committees were part of the Shelter Maintenance Committee.

On 9th June, Srinivasan shared his views on online classes with the Hindu reporter. It was a good opportunity for children to express their views.



Annual Plan and Evaluation



Children evaluated their shelter environment, food, education, health and hygiene, recreational activities and trainings organised in last year. Children used colour flags and rated each activity.

They also prepared plan for the next year. Children in primary level drew 'the shelter they would imagine in this year and explained. This year children said that they need bench in park area, sports kits, bunker beds, separate room for younger children.



Shelter Maintenance committee

Shelter Maintenance committee comprise of SI, SO, Child Welfare office- Police, representative from community, representative from shelter home and Shelter home staff. SMC meetings were conducted once in a month.

Children thanked Greater Chennai corporation for their continued support for shelter home by providing food provisions, snacks, fruits, dresses and necessary medicines. It was of great help in shelter home maintenance during the lockdown period.

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Monthly review

Monthly review on the functioning of the shelter home is conducted by the Executive Director with the Coordinator and Counselor.

Shelter home renovation work

Painting of the shelter home and fixing of bathroom doors was done on 28th March 2021. It was supported by Parenting matters. After the painting work children did art and decoration work to make it more brighter and child friendly.





Visits by officials

Associate coordinator from GCC visits the Shelter once in a month and provided valuable feedback on the functioning of the shelter.

Officials from the zonal office visit the Shelter at regular intervals and attend to the needs related to the maintenance of the shelter home.

Capacity Building Of Shelter Home Staff Team

Orientation is provided to the staff at the time of induction on the functioning of the shelter and their respective role and responsibility.

Trainings

- Child rights and child protection policy
- Roles and responsibilities of the staff team
- Child participation- functioning of children committees

Sponsors

During Covid-19 pandemic Greater Chennai Corporation provided KabaSura powder for children to increase immunity power and masks to protect children. They also provided biscuits, sanitary products like soap, cooked food, provisions and vegetables. It was of great help especially during the lock down period. Books were received from GCC which had a collection of Rhymes books, Magic books, Story books and maths books. Children were happy to receive the books and read them with interest. GCC provided a Television for use by the children





Story of Change

Inspired by former inmate

Kumar (name changed) is 14 years old. He was enrolled in Arunodhaya shelter to rehabilitate him from drug abuse. Due to continuous follow up he was not only able to overcome drug abuse but also showed good interest in education. During the lockdown he was encouraged to identify his skills and hobbies. He was interested in drawing and so he was encouraged to draw. He created interest in pencil sketches by seeing the pencil sketches of Shelter home Alumni Paisal. In the month of Jan, he participated in the drawing competition organised by Bhoomi as part of republic day celebration and got selected at the national level. He was awarded by Arunodhaya Director with drawing book and colour set to encourage him.

Story of Change

My new friend during lockdown

Stephen joined shelter home in 2018 He was abandoned by his parents and his grandparents were taking care of him. Due to financial constraints and age factor they could not take care of Stephen and his brother. His grandmother is also differently abled. During house visit they were identified staying in platform near Ennore. They were also dropouts. They were rescued and rehabilitated in shelter home. Now he is studying 5thstd.

During lockdown we found him to be very aggressive. In the counselling session we understood that he has started to understand about his parents and his family situation. Not able to express with other he was carrying the struggles and problems of his family. This made him very stressed and related his problems with other inmates.

We had special activity session with him to express his feeling. We used art therapy, activity boards and concentration activities. We found lot of changes in his behaviour and attitude. Now he has taken more responsibility and he is friendly with other inmates.

I heard that COVID would affect older people and I was worried about my grandparents. I like them so much. This made me upset and I used to get irritated often at shelter home. During my counselling session I shared this with my counsellor, she gave lots of activities to keep me engaged. I called and spoke to my grandparents, this made me so happy. A new boy came to shelter home, he was very dull, I went and spoke to him and made him my friend”.

T. Stephen
6th Std.





IV. RAILWAY CHILDLINE CHILD HELP DESK

Child help desk (CHDK) in Egmore railway station functions 24*7 to protect every child who comes in contact with Egmore railway station. CHILDLINE team members are present at the Help desk round the clock. It is supported by Ministry of Women and Child Development through Childline India Foundation and is implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Railways. The project was started in June 2015 and 2,592 children have been rescued and rehabilitated till March 2021. During the period April 2020 to March 2021, 337 children were rescued with the support of CHDK team members, GRP, RPF, Railway officials, Sahayaks, Cleaning staff, Auto and Taxi drivers and passengers.

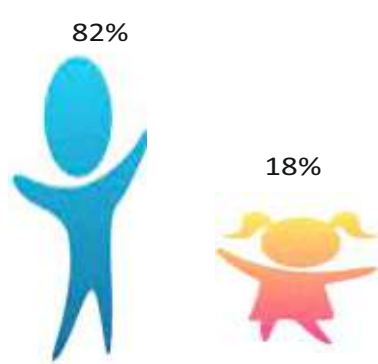


The challenges and hardships faced were many. But all these pass away with the look of relief on the face of the parents when they find a missing child, the thank you call received from a parent when a runaway child is restored to them, the smiling face of a child when reunited with the parents ... the list goes on. These are the energiser or the tonic that triggers the CHDK team to work relentlessly to identify children in need of care and protection in and around Egmore railway station and rehabilitate them.

My daughter had run away from home due to family problem, by God's grace she was rescued by RCL members, I can't imagine if she had not been rescued by them, what would have happened to her. My heartfelt thanks to them". - Mother of 16 years old girl

Details of Children Rescued

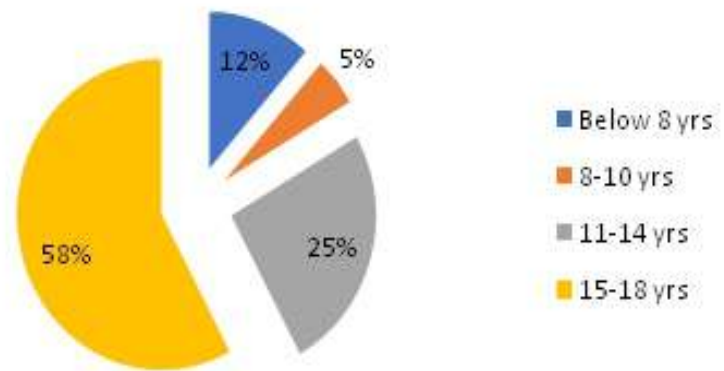
Total number of children rescued during the period April 2020 to March 2021 is 337.



Sex ratio of children

Among the 337 children rescued 227 (82%) were boys and 60 (18%) were girls.

Figure 4: Age Group of Children



Age group of children rescued

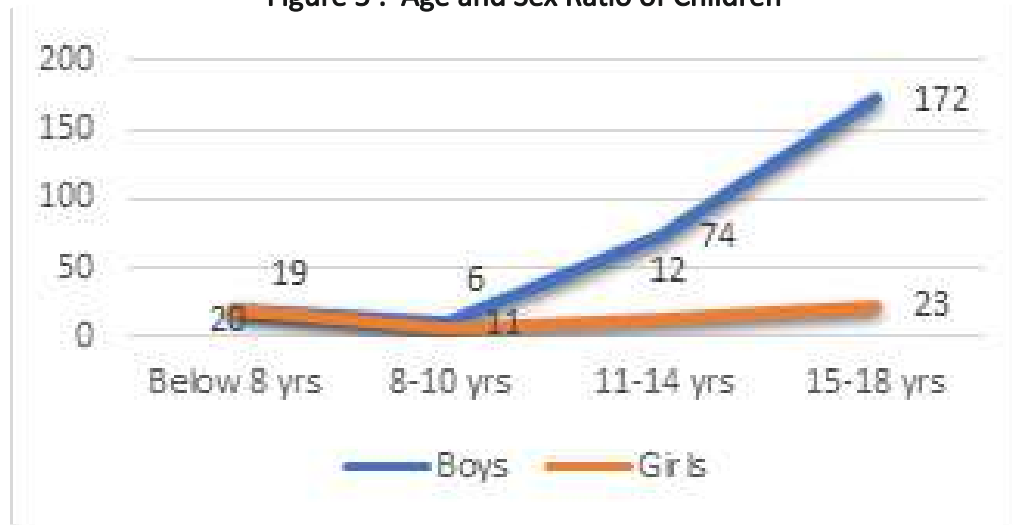
A higher number of children i.e. 195 children (58%) were in the age group 15-18 years. The next higher age group was 11-14 years with 86 children (25%). 39 children (12%) were below 8 years and 17 children (5%) were the age group 8-10 years.



Age and Sex ratio of children

An analysis of the age and sex of the children shows that more number of boys 277 (82%) were rescued when compared with girls 60 (18%). In the age group between 11 to 18 years 172 boys were rescued and 23 girls rescued. Above percentages clearly states that more boys came alone for various reasons. The reasons were sight-seeing, going to friend's house without informing parents, child labour, school dropouts, job search and peer influence. Mostly the girls came for sight-seeing and going to friend's house.

Figure 5 : Age and Sex Ratio of Children



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Mode of Rescue

The children were rescued by RCL team members, RPF and GRP. GRP rescued 198 (59%) children, RCL team members rescued 124 (37%) and RPF rescued 15 (4%) children

Figure 6 : Mode of Rescue





State wise representation of children

An analysis of the State wise representation of children reveals that 326 (97%) children were from Tamilnadu and 11 (3%) children from other states. Due to lockdown (Covid-19) protocol, trains were cancelled, so the number of children rescued from other states was very less.

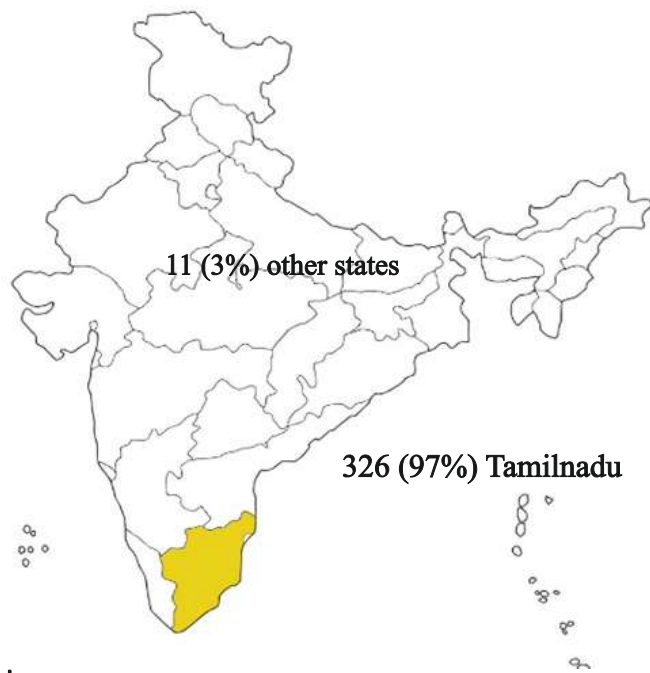
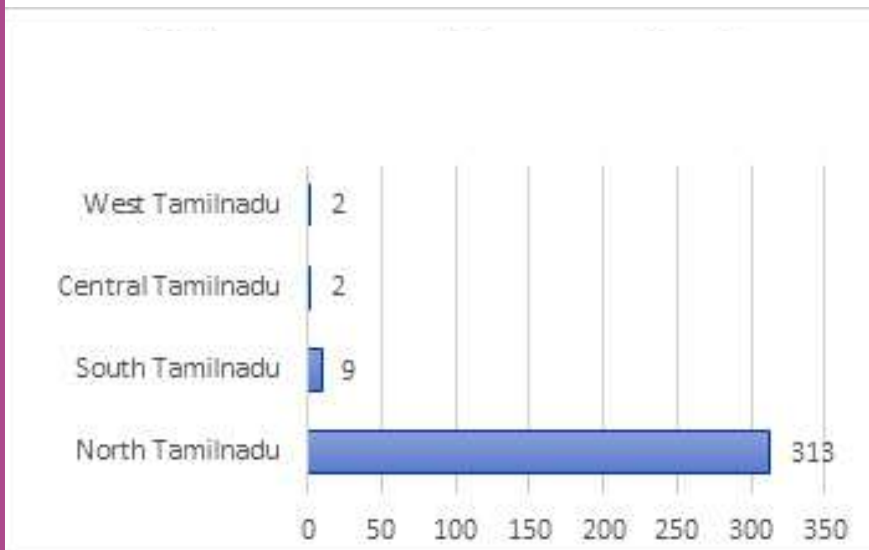
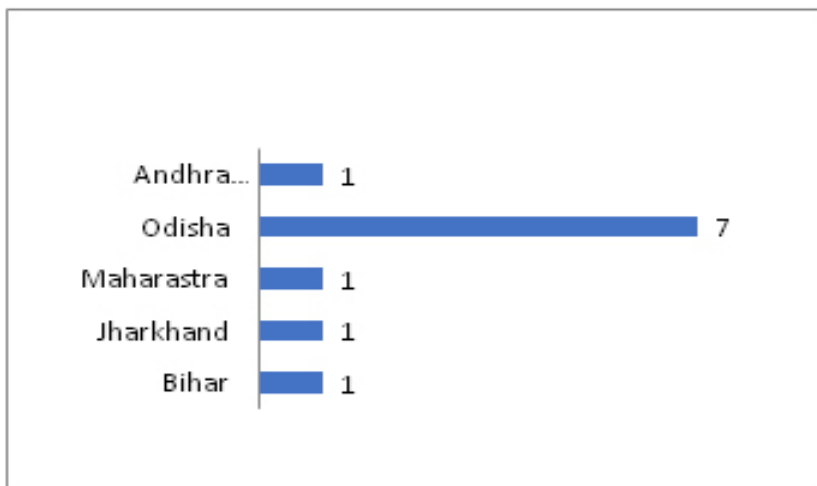


Figure 7: Children Rescued from Tamilnadu



Among the 326 children rescued from Tamilnadu a majority of children 313 (96%) were from North Tamilnadu. 9 (2.8%) children were rescued from South Tamilnadu, 2(0.6%) children from central Tamilnadu and 2 (0.6%) children were from West Tamilnadu.

Figure 8: Children Rescued from Other States



Among the children rescued from other states a higher number of children 7 (64%) were from Odisha and 1 (7%) each one from Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

Rehabilitation

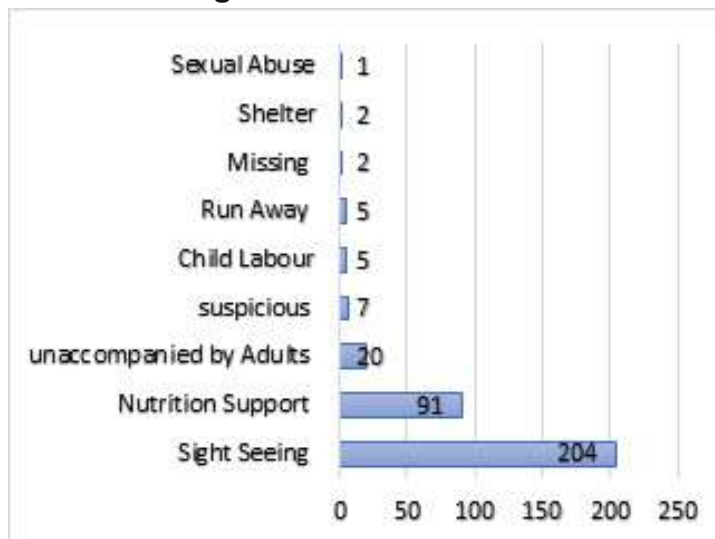
1	6	330
Missing	Placed in CCI	Reunited with parents through CWO and CWC
1(0.2%) child run away during intervention.	In instances, where the family cannot be reached the child is admitted in CCI - Child Care Institutions. 6 (3%) children were placed in CCI	CHD with the support of CWO, GRP, RPF and CWC had reunited 330 (96.8%) children with their parents after documents

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Reasons for rescue

A majority of the children 204 (60.5%) had come for sight- seeing. During SMILE operation most of the children were rescued from park station, they all came to visit Marina beach. The nutrition support was given to 91 (27%) during lockdown. 20 (5.9%) children had come without an adult, the reasons were going to friend's house, and shopping. 7(2.0%) children were rescued under suspicious category. They were roaming in the platform without tickets. Conflict with parents/family members at home force 5 (1.4%) children to run away from home and 5(1.4 %) children had come to Chennai for work. The next category of children 2 (0.6%) were homeless and slept in the foot over bridge, they were given shelter. Children who got lost in the railway station premise were 2 (1%). One child (0.2%) who was rescued from sexual abuse (Filed the case under the POSCO act).

Figure 9 : Reasons for rescue



Follow Up

Follow up done on the rehabilitated children by CHD team members, it was found that 296 (87.8%) of children are continuing their studies, 22 (6.5%) of the parents did not respond to the call or the number was not reachable. 14 (4.2%) of the children are school dropout. 3 (0.9) children are staying in CCI, 1 (0.3%) child are admitted in special school and 1 (0.3%) child taking treatment for cancer





Story of Change

Taking the Right track

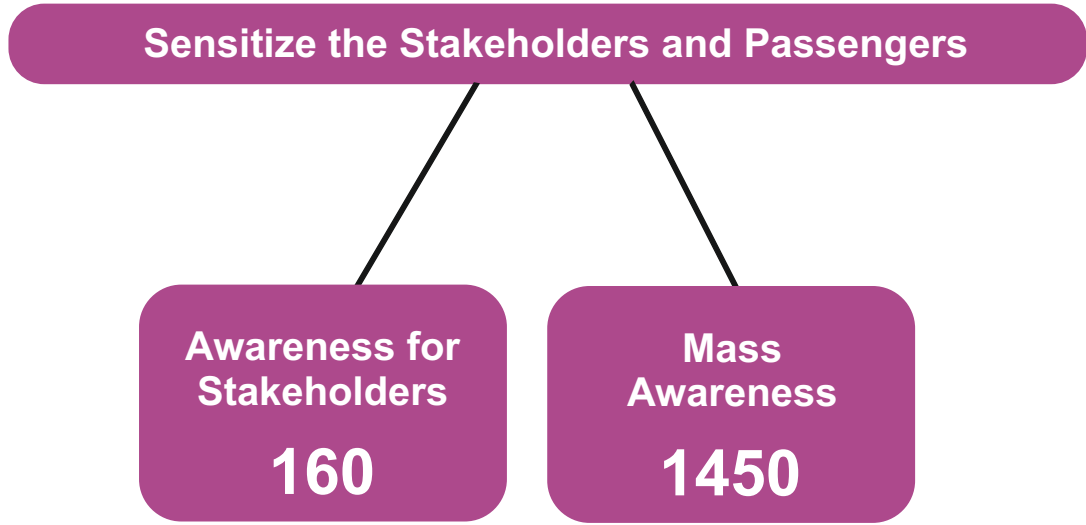
Selvi (name changed) girl child, 17 yrs. studying in 11th std. was rescued by RCL team on 17th March 2021 at 4 p.m. She was standing alone on the platform and looked worried and anxious. The team member brought her to CHDK and made her feel comfortable. Slowly she opened up and said that she came to the railway station to meet her boyfriend. But the boy did not turn up. The girl was counselled on the difference between love and infatuation and the importance of education. She was also made aware of the dangers of trafficking. With her consent parents were informed and they came to CHDK. The parents were also counselled to guide their daughter in a principled way and also on the positive upbringing of the child. The child apologized to the parents, expressed her love towards her parents, also she requested them to trust her and she promised them that she will not involve in these unnecessary activities. She will concentrate on studies and focus on her goals. The child was restored with the parents on the same day. Follow up with the child revealed that she is staying with her parents and attending online classes regularly.



Awareness Programme

Awareness programmes were organised to sensitize the stakeholders as well as general public on Childline 1098 and Child protection. Two types of awareness programmes were organized by CHDK.

Figure 10 : Awareness Programme



The main aim of this programme is to gain the support and cooperation of stakeholders in rescue of children in need of care and protection. The programme was a motivation for the stakeholders to identify and rescue children at risk and promote child protection.

Organized mass awareness programmes on special days, the main aim of this programme is to give awareness about Childline 1098 and get the public support to ensure child protection.





Stakeholders Awareness Programs

Stakeholders	Content	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railway officials • Reserve Police Force (RPF) • General Railway Police (GRP) • Sahyayaks, Carriage and Wagon staff, • Krystal workers • SSE workers • Prepaid auto/taxi drivers • Shop owners 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Awareness on CHILDLINE 1098 and CHDK b) Care and protection of children during the pandemic c) Stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in rescue of children d) Symptoms identification and Preventive measures of COVID-19. e) Awareness on importance of mask wearing, usage of sanitizer and physical distancing. f) Importance of testing and stigma against positive cases. 	<p>The awareness programmes helped the stakeholders to know about CHDK activities, sensitized on various topics related to Child Protection and they came forward to support CHDK team. The stakeholders provided support to the staff at the time of rescue of children. The awareness programmes was a motivation for them to identify and rescue</p>

Mass Awareness Programme



13th Nov to 19th Nov

To create awareness on child protection, Childline and Child Help Desk



24th Jan

Awareness on importance of Girl Child and their safety.

Childline Se Dosti Week Celebration



Anbu Kadhitham

Anbu Kathidham (Diwali greeting and Children Day wishes) sent to 124 children. Children were very happy and sent thanks message to RCL members. Most of them told, due to lockdown not able to meet friends and play with them so, we are feeling bored and stressed. We felt happy to get the greetings, it helped us to come out of the stress.

“ *I am so frustrated and not interested to celebrate Diwali due to lockdown. I was not able to see my friends. After I received greetings from RCL, my mood changed. I felt so happy and belived that there is someone in the world to remember me. Now I will celebrate Diwali happily with my Family members –* **”**

**Naresh
Villupuram**



Drawing and Debate competition for homeless children

“This platform helped us to exhibit our views, talents and potentials - Ramya



Selfie Campaign, Face painting and Komal video screening

150 members took selfie pictures throughout the programme.

More than 300 people witnessed the video and information about Childline 1098

Street play

“This play was an eye opener for people like me, I am a single parent, and have 17 years old daughter. She is not studying well so I decided to arrange marriage. But after saw this show, came to know how the child was affected by early marriage. Now I realize my mistake and encourage my child to study well at the same time will create awareness on child marriage in my native”-Lakshmi, Gudhiyatham.





Special Child Help Group Meeting

*"I commit myself to: Dial 1098
To Help, Support and Protect Children in distress in my District
Oppose to any harm being caused to any child
Speak up against those who cause harm to any child
Treat children with dignity respect and love".*

I _____ Promise to be a true CHILDLINE dost.

National Girl Child Day

National girl child day was celebrated on 24th January 2020 at Egmore railway station. Girl children were greeted with chocolate and Suraksha band was tied to the girl children. Spoke to parents at the station premises on the importance of girl child and child protection. Totally 330 members were reached out through this celebration.





Open House

No. of open house 11

Every month open house was organized with women and children groups from homeless community. During the programme, they were sensitized on Childline 1098, importance of education, child protection, consequences of child marriage, drug and substance abuse, about Covid-19 precautions, hand wash techniques, Covid-19 protocols, importance of vaccination, health and hygiene,

Lack of awareness on preventive measures of COVID-19.	Conducted awareness programme on Covid-19 preventive measures with available resources.
Not getting enough food. Not getting three meals a day.	Nutrition kit was distributed
Adolescent children, especially girls facing lot of problems during lockdown. Psycho-socio counseling for children	Sanitary items and sanitary pads were distributed to adolescent girls. Counselling was provided
Stigma against COVID -19	Demonstrations on hand wash techniques, wearing and safe removal of mask and maintaining physical distance.
Need to give special focus to 10 th and 12 th students.	Helped the children to enroll in higher education
Career Counseling.	Career counseling programme was organized.
Income generation programme for parents.	Helped the parents to apply for income generation programmes available at Greater Chennai Corporation.



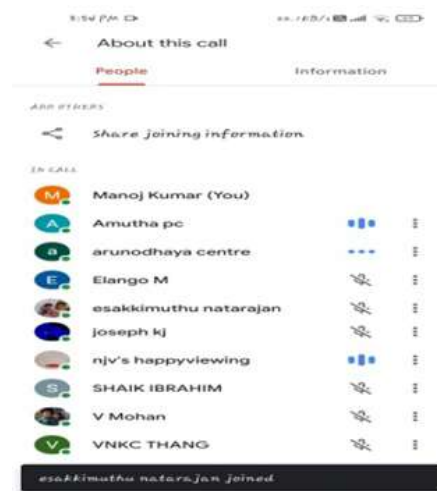


Child Help Group

Child Help Group meeting was organised every month with the support of the Station Directors. Only 7 meetings could be organized due to Covid-19. All the meetings conducted through virtual platform. SD, DSMR, Health officers, RPF, GRF, SSE worker, Krystal supervisor, Carrier and Wagon supervisor, Executive Director, Arunodhaya and CHILDLINE team member participated in the meeting.

The Child Help Group members have given full support to CHD and a good rapport has been created. The following points were discussed during the meeting

- Conducting awareness programme on Covid-19 preventive measures and importance of vaccine to stakeholders and passengers.
- Finalizing the beneficiaries for nutrition kit distribution.
- Decided to conduct awareness programme only in small groups or individual to avoid crowd.
- CHG members need to sensitize the passengers to follow the COVID-19 protocols and ensure safety at station.
- Providing snacks for children of migrant laboursers.
- Among the children rescued during SMILE operation a larger number were children who came for sightseeing and boarding on running train. On taking this into account SD suggested to make outreach programs to give awareness for the children residing near the station premises. Arunodhaya Director requested CHDK team to do an analysis and find out the areas where the children came from. This information can be sent to CIF and the respective Childline team can be requested to conduct awareness programmes in their respective areas. SD welcomed this suggestion. Analysis report was shared with CIF
- MHPSS training for stakeholders.
- Repair work at CHD, Planning and evaluation of special awareness programme.
- The details of children rescued from other districts, getting an update report of these children which ensures the continuous protection of these children.
- After lockdown, many children are coming for labour purpose and they come with adults who may be traffickers. There is the need to investigate the adults so that the action is taken on the traffickers. The krystal staff, SSE workers and train cleaning staff need to gain awareness on the way to identify the traffickers and children in distress
- To conduct awareness programme in other stations to create awareness on CHILDLINE1098 in collaboration with GRP and RPF.
- Train visits with RPF and GRP





Capacity Building for Stakeholders

Mental Health and Psycho Social Support

Child Line India Foundation in partnership with UNICEF produced a **PSYCHO SOCIO SUPPORT MANUAL**. This manual is about providing psycho social support to children during this situation of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. The routine life of children is affected and they go through stress and strain. Support is needed to bring them out of this frustration. This manual explains on how children are affected and the role of parents, adult and community to support the children. RCL senior members attended the training. It is planned to organize training for the different stakeholders like CCI, NGO volunteers, homeless community, railway officials, GRP, RPF and all other stakeholders in the railway station premises. The details of training conducted.

Table 1 : Details of Psycho social support team

Date	Partici pants	Beneficiary	Key discussion points	Feedbacks
27.01.2021	9	Surabi (CCI Staff and Chidren)	Providing psycho social support to children during this situation of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. The routine life of children is affected and they go through stress and strain. Support is needed to bring them out of this frustration.	This training was very helpful to understand children mentality.
29.01.2021	18	RPF		
30.01.2021	12	Arunodhaya Shelter Home (CCI Staff and Children)		Through this training we understood how to take care of our children during pandemic.
31.01.2021	20	Carriage and Wagon staff		This training helps to understand children and their mental state.
31.01.2021	17	Homeless Community		By this training we came to know how we can help a child to overcome stress.
23.02.2021	10	GRP		We will help when we come across a child in need of support.
28.02.2021	10	Homeless Children		We assure to give more attention and spend time with children.
17.03.2021	15	Prepaid auto drivers		
18.03.2021	09	Apollo staff		Through this workshop explained on how children are affected and the role of parents, adult and community to support the children. RCL senior members have attended the training.
30.03.2021	30	Rainbow home		
30.03.2021	62	Sevachakra home		
31.03.2021	30	NGO Volunteers		



Story of Change

Prevented from becoming a child labourer

Abdul (name changed), 13 years old boy was rescued by RCL members. The boy is from Bihar. He said he had studied up to 3rd standard. His father was not going for any work and his mother is a domestic worker. He has three younger siblings. Since the family was facing severe financial constraint, he decided to take up a job to support the family. As the eldest child of the family he felt he has the responsibility to take care of the family. He contacted his cousin working in Madurai and through him got a job in a textile company in Madurai. He gave the contact number of the Madurai textile shop.

RCL team member contacted the textile shop. The shop owner said that the boy was coming for sight seeing and they have no plan of employing him since he is underage. Since the real situation was not clear, RCL team tried to contact the parents but could not reach them.

Memo was given by RPF. The child was produced before the CWC and then admitted in Boy's home, Royapuram. Team member contacted the parents and helped them to book the tickets and did regular follow-up of his parents. The parents came to CHD, counseling was given to the parents through the team members and explained the consequences of child labour and also gave information on shelter homes which is available at Bihar. If they are not able to educate the children, they told them to get the help from available resources in the shelter homes of Bihar. The child was reunited with his family back with the help of CWC members.

At present he is with family and not going for work now and plan to join in vocational training.



ENSURING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION IN TIMES OF COVID-19

“ Hi my name is Karthick. I am an average student at school and my mom always used to scold me. I have good talent in elocution. Through Children sangam I got an opportunity to share my views on how I felt during the situation. I also highlighted the stigma people had on COVID -19 Warriors. I asked everyone to support them. This was later posted in YouTube. Seeing this my mom showed it to my neighbours and spoke proud about me. I was so happy. Now my mom knows my talent

*S. Karthick
11 years, Thiruvottiur.*

”



Ensuring the Right to Participation in times of Covid-19

UNCRC Article 12 lays emphasis on listening to children by adults and taking their opinion into consideration while taking decisions on issues affecting children. In this time of Covid-19 pandemic it becomes more pertinent to listen to the voice of children to ensure that their needs are addressed during and after disaster. Not listening to children will leave their needs inadequately addressed leading to long term consequences.

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Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam provided the platform for enabling children to express their views, interact with policy makers and be a change agent in the community.

MAKING CHILDREN VOICES HEARD

Expression through drawings and songs.

Children were encouraged to express their views and opinions through drawings. It gave them an opportunity to be engaged during the lock down time, spend their time positively, and develop their talents



Expression through video and social media

The trainings held in video documentation and social media enabled the children to develop one minute video expressing their opinion and their needs in the times of Covid-19 pandemic. They prepared awareness videos to communicate information on the safety measures such as handwashing, physical distancing and wearing of mask. Their production also appealed to the people not to discriminate against those affected by Covid-19. 10 videos were prepared and 34 children were involved. Seven of their videos were posted in UNICEF India page.



Documenting the voice of children across the State

Arunodhaya as the convener of Forum for Promotion of child Participation facilitated a process of listening to the voices of children and compiling the voices of children from across the State of Tamil Nadu, India. Children's views and opinions were elicited on five aspects- Awareness on COVID-19, the problems faced during lock down and their situation, impact on their education, their opinion on COVID19 frontline warriors and their recommendations.

Responses were received from 256 children covering 11 districts and 18 NGOs. Children creatively expressed their views, opinions, feelings and concerns about COVID-19. The songs, videos, audio recordings, poems and drawings were received by Arunodhaya through email and WhatsApp.

The response of the children has been documented as “COVID-19 Pandemic & lockdown Voice of children”.

A Youtube channel was opened to share the views of children and encourage their creativity and talents. Children did videos, poems and songs for this Channel.

It was very tough time in my house during lockdown. My father was alcoholic and my mother did not have job. All this made me worried and depressed. Through Arunodhaya I was able to engage myself in various actives like drawing, video making, editing and creating script. I also has a change to meet my friends and interact with them.I did a drawing and made videos creating awareness on education and COVID – 19. I was very proud about myself and it helped me to express myself and be relieved from boring environment.

***R. Saravanan
17 years, Korukkupet***



Video on School closure

When schools are closed, children miss out on more than learning

Children across India expressed their views on school closure. Two children from Arunodhaya shared their views on how they miss school and have lost interest in education.

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CE8woN3hvYG/?igshid=1ambgdwxokkgx>



Althap created a video on how lockdown has affected him and children in his community.

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CDx-sJzBQgv/?igshid=3puz61fzzkvm>



Story of Sangamitra (Illanthalir Member) was documented with the stories of Girls around the world during lockdown.



Story of a girl who was saved from child labour by Arunodhaya adult peer educators was documented by UNICEF. This video was taken by Althap, from children sangam



Voice of Children on Education

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN Member States pledged to ensure “no one will be left behind” which is the motto of SDGs. When children are being left behind, there is serious concern to hear from children and act collectively investing more on children.

Arunodhaya conducted a study to analyse the situation of 10th std students on their access to online classes and their views on the exams. 150 children from Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam who are studying in 10th std. and waiting for the Board exams participated in the study.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Video Documentary Training

During the pandemic adolescents and young people of CACS created awareness through social media on prevention and protection from COVID-19. In order to develop their creativity and enhance their skill in using social media to voice their opinion and views, Arunodhaya in partnership with UNICEF organised training in Video documentation for adolescents. Mr. Arul Gnanasekaran, Director, script writer, editor and cinematographer was the resource person for the training. The training was conducted over a period of four months building the skills of 36 adolescents. The participants were oriented on conceptualization, scripting, shooting and editing. They developed the story board based on real time incidents on various issues relating to child rights. Videos were taken by children based on the script developed by them. They functioned in group of five. The trainer reviewed the videos and guided the members in improving their performance.



“ I and my team did a documentary on child labour. We learnt to take B-roll shots, long shots and voice over video. It was so interesting to hear the same story when I saw it in the video we took. It took us a day to finalise this one minute video but we had lots of fun and we were happy to show the reality of the situation in our area to others ”

S. Dharshini
15 years, Korakkupet

Details of Training Conducted

Training	Dates	No. of children	Resource person	Content	Impact
Orientation on Video documentary	22 nd Oct 2020	26	Dr. Virgil D Sami	Introduction on Video documentary training and planning	Children selected for video documentary training.
Video documentary	23 rd Oct 2020	26	Mr. Arul Gunasekaran	conceptualization, scripting, shooting and editing	Prepared 52 videos.
Presentation skills	24 th and 30 th Sep 2020	26	RJ Ms. Sanobar	Developing skills in elocution.	Effective participation in Virtual field trip of Ms.Trisha
Environment	23 rd Oct 2020.	26	Dr. Vishwaja, Volunteer & Mr. Prasanth, Environment	Pollution issues in the community	Children took videos on pollution in their communities. Set up pollution monitor
Child marriage	12 th Dec 2020	22	Ms. Chitra	Child marriage- causes, prevention, Legislations and protective measures	Gained awareness and committed to prevent child marriage
Coping with Covid-19	30 th Jan 2021	25	Mr Thenpandian Advacate	impact of COVID-19 on children	Children prepared Election manifesto
Young facilitators training	28 th and 29 th Oct 2020	30	Ms. Sangeetha	Children issues during covid-19 rise in child labour, importance of education, child labour	6 child laboureres rescued. One child sexual abuse reported to child line and rescued.
Cultural training	20,21 Feb 2021	25	Alternative media team	Children learnt Parai, Oyil and Street Play	They performed in areas

Celebrating World Children's Day

Covid-19 did not deter the children from celebrating World Children's day. The celebration was held on virtual platform and it was a novel experience for the children

World Children's Day was celebrated on the theme "Reimagine the World Post COVID - 19 - Voice and Expectations of Children" on 20th November 2020 from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm through online platform. 250 children, women, youth members and special guests Mr. Sugata Roy, Communication specialist, UNICEF, Ms. Aarti Madhusudhanan, Volunteer Ms. Nancy, Trustee, Arunodhaya and Dr. Virgil D'Sami, Executive Director, Arunodhaya joined with the children for the celebration.



Children voiced out their opinions and recommendations on education, environment and child protection relating to the pandemic through cultural programs, sharing and videos during the celebration. The program was live streamed in Arunodhaya Face book page. It was a very new experience for Arunodhaya and children to celebrate an event on online platform. The program evoked the innovativeness among them. Children were also proud to exhibit their talents in online platforms and they were happy to see their faces in Facebook and in zoom call.

During the lockdown this program gave a different experience for them to come out of their daily plight and practice for a week. It also paved a way to relieve from their stress. It facilitated for children to see their friends once again and practice with fun.

This process also helped the children to understand their rights and to use the platform they have to speak for other children.



ENGAGEMENT WITH OPINION LEADERS AND POLICY MAKERS

K Akila, member of CACS spoke on inequality in education during lockdown in a panel discussion organised on Interaction with Parliamentarians & Adolescent Youth Addressing Young People's concerns during the COVID crisis Organised by Youthki Awaaz and UNICEF. 5 MPs from around the country participated in the discussion.

Yuva Sansad: Working with decision makers to create Impact

LIVE

Khan Atiya Rafi (Uttar Pradesh) | **Akila** (Tamil Nadu) | **Yogendra Chandrakar** (Chhattisgarh) | **Binita Bonia** (Assam) | **Kulsum Zehera** (Maharashtra)

May 23 | 9 PM
#YouthKiAwaaz

unicef for every child
YuWaah for every child
YOUTH KI AWAAZ



CACS EC members discussed on the needs of the children during the pandemic and drafted a petition which was sent to the Chief Minister through Email.

A focus group discussion was organised through call and in person in small groups with parents, teachers and children on their opinion on 10th Examination. With all their inputs a petition was sent by children to education minister, CM cell, and CM through Email.

அருணோதயா குழந்தைகள் சங்கங்களின் கட்டமைப்பு

19/9/2 டிஜி நெட், இராப்பள்ளம், சென்னை- 600 013, தொ.பி.டி :9444051529, 8662812979. திகை 13.05.2020

தேர்ப்புகள் :
"குழந்தைகள் தங்கள் உரிமைகளைப் பற்றித் தெரிந்து கொண்டு தங்கள் விருந்தினர் உரிமைகளைப் பற்றித் தெரிந்து கொள்ள வழிவகுக்கும் நிகழ்ச்சி" எனும் தலைப்பில் கருத்துக்களை வெளிப்படுத்த கனம் உறுதுறைகள் உடனடி நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டுகோள்.

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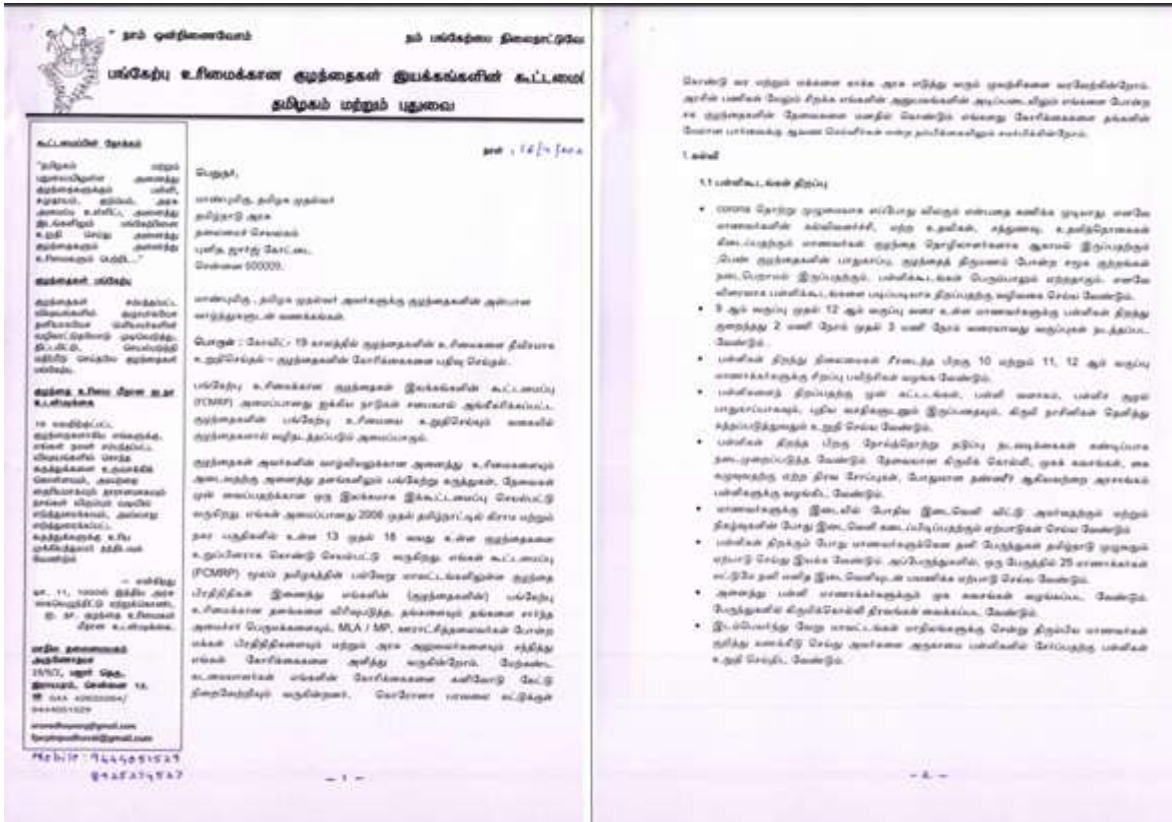
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4 children organisations in Tamilnadu through FCMRP sent petitions to minister of 8 departments.



Interaction with UNICEF celebrity ambassador

Representatives from Arunodhaya children sangam had a virtual interaction with Ms Trisha Krishnan, UNICEF celebrity ambassador on 1st October 2020. Children shared on the initiatives taken by them in addressing child protection issues in the times of COVID- 19 pandemic. It was shared on UNICEF India facebook page on International Girl child Day and it got 1,14,000 views . It was an enlightening experience for the children and it motivated children to keep doing such brave acts.

Earlier children had two facilitation session on 24th and 30th September 2020with RJ Ms. Sanobar Sultana.

“ My name is Madhan I was part of this interaction with Ms. Trisha Krishnan, UNICEF celebrity ambassador. During the interaction I told that I wish to become Chief Minister one day. Speaking to her I was so proud and happy because it was an enriching experience that I got through UNICEF. When the video was streamed on Facebook one of the member in my community edited my speech and he circulated it in WhatsApp and many people who do not know me in the community came to know about the things I did. Today I am called as chief minister in my community and each time when I hear, it motivates me to achieve my dream.

**R. Madhan
15 years.**





CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

“

During the lockdown, I was told to identify children who are 10th and 12th std near my house. I was able to identify 6 children. I spoke to them and they were so confused. They did not have books, they were not able to pay fees, not able to attend online classes and they lacked motivation. I was able to organise them in my terrace, I borrowed book from pervious class children and motivated them to study. From our women group we raised funds and sponsored to pay fees. Now all these children are studying well. It gives me immense satisfaction and the lock down became meaningful to me. There would have been chances of these children drpoging out due to lack of guidance

*Ms. Sivagami Rajavel
Adult peer educator, Korrukupet*

”



CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Arunodhaya believes in empowering the different stakeholders in the community and building their capacity to initiate action against child abuse and create a protective and safe space for children. The impact of the investment made over the years in building a team of community volunteers became highly visible during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The lockdown and the insistence on social distancing as measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 created a great gap in connecting with the people. But the community volunteers immediately sprang up to the occasion and extended their support in the relief and rehabilitation work. They identified the neediest and supported in procurement of provisions and in distribution. The adult peer educators and the community counsellors reached out to those who needed counselling and support to come out of depression. In the times of school closure, the volunteers stayed in touch with the children in their neighbourhood enabling them to continue their learning.

60

**248 active
volunteers**



“

I went around my community and identified the needs during lockdown and informed to Arunodhaya. Through this I was able to support 52 families in my community with groceries and 13 children continued their education amidst lockdown. I also referred two adolescents who needed psychosocial support for counselling. Today my soul is filled with happiness for doing something for the most deserving people.

*S. Mythili
Thiruvotriyur*

”

Volunteers day was held on 6th March 2021 in which they were recognised for being ambassadors in the community to protect child rights during the pandemic.



COVID- 19 RELIEF WORK

COVID-19 caused a grave disaster which was not only a health pandemic but triggered hunger, malnutrition, poverty and learning crisis for millions of families across the world. In India the strain is greatly felt by the marginalised communities who have been deprived of their source of livelihood and income due to the lockdown and COVID-19 situation.

Arunodhaya working communities had large number of women headed families, daily wage workers with large members and minimum salaries. The lockdown devastated them and they were almost pushed to a situation where they did not have proper food to eat.

Single women and self-employed women who were doing small scale business like snacks shop, rice batter shop, fruit shop, tailoring unit, fancy store, fish sale etc. could not carry out their business during the lockdown period and they spent whatever savings they had, pledged their belongings and even borrowed money at high interest to lead their life. Even after the lockdown is lifted they are finding it difficult to resume their business as they lack money to invest in their business.

Distribution of Provision and Groceries

The families suffered from no income, poor access to food and other essential services. For people who were already living in poverty, these impacts were a shock and impede their ability to move forward and achieve basic needs.

Many families did not have proper meals a day and children did not get nutritious food. The lockdown handcuffed them from doing any job to support the family. Adding to this entire crisis they lived in fear of the disease. But the poverty was killing them more than the virus.



I and my husband were having a very difficult situation. my husband used to sell plastic dolls on the road. I have three children who are married and we are not getting any support from them. I have burnt marks in my body and so I was not offered any job. I used to sell dolls near central railway station. This lock down left us with nothing. With empty hands we were sitting outside the house. A volunteer from Arunodhaya gave me a bag full of provisions. I couldn't catch it; it was so heavy and wondered what was inside. It was more than what we dreamt. It is enough for us for more than a month. I never used to buy everthing in one lot. We never had so much money, when we return home from work, we used to buy ration for our dinner and come home. This bag not only gave us food but also happiness and hope.



Thank you.

*A. Chithra
40 years, Korukuppet*



Identification of families to Support



Arunodhaya with the support of 70 volunteers identified these families who were in a very difficult situation due to the crisis. These families were struggling to meet their basic needs. 80% of the families were not able to get government benefits as they did not acquire a ration card.

51% (1214) were coolie workers, 8.5% (200) people from traditional folk artist were supported, 7% (166) people who were supported are from irular community, 6% (147) of them were from people involved in rag picking, 5.5% (132) of them were women domestic workers, 5% (116) women auto drivers, auto drivers and Rickshaw drivers were supported, 4.5% (102) of the people were from coastal community and 3% (71) of the people were from relocation site, 2% (55) of the people were from homeless community. Remaining 5.5% (130) were daily wage worker as rag pickers, sand doll makers, auto drivers, tailors, street vendor, astrologer, people working in cemetery, mason work and provision support was also given to 2% (49) single women, people affected with COVID 19 and transgender.

Figure 11: Identification of families to Support



Role of Volunteers in identifying the families

Arunodhaya has a strong community base through the holistic approach done in the past two decades. These volunteers supported in identifying people who were having a real tough time in this situation. Though there was a need for everyone in the community, the volunteers along with the community members prioritized single women and most affected for this support. Since these volunteers are active in the community, they were able to identify families without ration card.

All these facilitated smooth distribution of the materials which reached the target community.

I live in MGR nagar, most of the families here are coolie workers. But I know we cannot support everyone, so I went to canal road near my house where more marginalised people were living. I know that they will suffer for daily needs. I selected 15 women headed families for the support. When they received it, they were so happy. Many said that they didn't have anything to eat for the next day, the support we gave will feed them more than a month. They said that they expected only rice, but they had these surprises inside that bag which made them very happy. They blessed me and my children for supporting them. I told them that I am just coordinating but still they blessed me and the donor. I felt so happy and emotional at that moment”.

S. Nisha, 30 years, Former member of Arunodhaya children sangam, and now Adult peer educator.

Packing

Arunodhaya volunteers supported in packing and delivering the kits to the community.



Distribution

Precautions were taken to distribute the materials in the best possible ways. In most of the places Arunodhaya volunteers along with the community members reached their houses and gave the kit. We also had volunteers from donor companies who supported in the distribution.



“

R. Saravanan, 14 years, is a member of Arunodhaya children sangam, he identified 5 families in his area and supported them. “I know 5 families in my area who were suffering for food. Their mother was supporting the families. I gave their names to Arunodhaya and I was able to support 5 families. I felt happy when I heard that children in these families are having good meal. Even in my house, we had tough times. My father was drinking and he was causing more trouble than supporting us. The provisions we got prevented us from taking loan.

”



There are 35 families who came from Rajasthan for livelihood. We used to sell dolls made with clay and we were taking care of our family. Due to lock down we couldn't get any income. All of us were starving. Now and then some people came and gave us rice. We used to make porridge for all the families together and eat. We didn't think of going back to Rajasthan as the situation is even worse there. It was in this situation Arunodhaya sent volunteer to enquire about us. We were relieved and we had hoped that we will get something. For all 35 families, rations, mask and everything was given. That day everyone went, cooked in their house and we ate.

S.Rakha

48 years, Migrant, Korukkupet, Chennai



Sanitary Napkin Distribution

100 cloth sanitary napkins were distributed to adolescent girls in the communities. In the difficult times, it gave an outbreath to these adolescent girls. Each child was explained about its usage and benefits through videos prepared by children. Follow up was done with these girls.





Economic Support

We were able to provide cash benefit to 51 very deserving single women to compensate for the loss of wages. Single women who were the most affected struggled from financial crisis. These women gathered their strength, got motivated and were earning doing some coolie work to take care of their children. With no savings, the lockdown put them back to the former situation. They also struggled emotionally.

Arunodhaya with the support of Ms. Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi and Mr. Lakshman Narayan extended support to 51 single women who were having a tough situation during the lock down. These women were coolieworkers and domestic workers. They did not have any income and some have lost their job.

“ I used to sell fish in my area. After the lock down I couldn't go to the market to get fish. There was nothing in my house. I couldn't take care of my son. I was so confused and depressed, in that time volunteer from Arunodhaya called me and asked how I am. The call itself gave a great relief”.

S. Anmani
44 years, Ennore.



Anmani has a son who is studying in 4th std. Anmani husband was alcoholic and she faced domestic violence which pushed her into depression. Arunodhaya counselled and supported her for treatment. After her husband's death in 2019, she started selling fish in Ennore and she was taking care of her son. This lock down left her without any income. The support came as a great relief to her.

Most of these women did not have bank accounts. Hence volunteers were identified for every 5 women. They took in charge of distribution of money, follow up and video recording the beneficiaries.

I thought of committing suicide, I was crying from morning because I didn't have any money. My neighbours came, consoled me and gave my children some food. That afternoon volunteer came from Arunodhaya and gave cash. I was so happy. Even today when I think of that day I feel like crying. It was so helpful for me. I am yet to get job. But my children are having good food. It is because of your support. I bought everything needed to feed my children.

R. Mala
40 years, Korrukkpet



All the women spent the money buying provisions, cooking fuel and medicine. Families suffered without money to buy fuel. They used kerosin but it was costing them more money. The money we gave helped them a lot in this difficult situation. Each and every woman was very thankful.

Stories of Happiness

The support given left everyone with joy and happiness due to the bounteousness of the provision given. Women cherished it, filled their empty jars and slept peacefully.

M. Yamuna, 35 years has two children studying in 4th and 2nd std. They stay in Thiruvotriyur. Her husband was a coolie worker and he lost his job due to COVID 19 lockdown. Yamuna suffers from wheezing problem and she couldn't go for work. The family did not have much saving. They paid rent with the money they had as they feared of being vacated if they didn't pay rent on time. They didn't have any money to buy provisions.

Yamuna used to go to Amma canteen run by the government and collected food from there. Yamuna was afraid of going out three times a day but she didn't have a choice. More than two weeks the family was eating from Amma canteen. Children refused to eat and they become malnourished.

Arunodhaya volunteer identified them and she was supported with the provisions. She took the bag with tears. She and her children are having food at home safely and happily.

“I, my husband and my two children used to go to canteen 3 times day. I was so afraid of getting affected. My children also didn't eat properly. The canteen refused to give parcel after they announced free food. There were few times that we went late and the food was over. But thanks to APPI and Arunodhaya, My children have biscuits, mask for my family and more than what we needed for a month's provision. My children were having the biscuits on the way back home after receiving the parcel. Few days after we got your provisions, politician group gave vegetable to us. Now I am making good food for my children and they are healthy”.

M. Yamuna
35 years, Tiruvotriyur





Creating Awareness On Covid-19

Arunodhaya with the help of support groups and community volunteers ensured that all families are safe and reach to doctor in case of COVID-19 symptoms. 178 Community volunteers, women members and youth members volunteered with Greater Chennai Corporation through Arunodhaya to raise awareness on COVID-19 in 49 slum communities.

Door to door intervention, awareness through IEC materials, rally, street play and mime was done to promote best practises. 38 awareness campaign has been conducted. The team also supported in mobilising community members for 420 health camp conducted by Greater Chennai Corporation in these.

Street play, rally, rangoli competition, drawing competition, storytelling competition, flash activities, demonstration, role play, paraiyattam, oylattam, street play, auto propaganda and drama were some of the strategies adapted to create awareness among the community.

Through these intervention community members followed best practices like wearing mask, staying indoor and improved self-care. Fear on COVID 19 decreased and they volunteered to get themselves tested. Attitude and behavioural changes were brought in the community and this reduced stigma. 6002 COVID cases was identified and treated. The program was done with the support of Greater Chennai Corporation covering 26,135 families.



Success Stories

Nithya (24 years, Korrukupet) shares her experience after testing positive for coronavirus in her 9th month 5 days before her delivery. Her experience is different from other coronavirus patients as she was worried about herself and her child.

“I got pregnant after 2 years of marriage. My family was happy on hearing the news that I was pregnant. I was expecting my first child. I got to know that the virus is spreading in the country through the media. I was also afraid because there was no medicine for treatment of coronavirus. Sec 144 was imposed to stop the spread of the virus. My husband is a daily wager, he lost his job due to lockdown. This affected my regular life. My relatives could not attend the Valaikappu (9th month pregnancy celebration) function. I got disturbed when my relatives could not attend the function.

I went to the Government maternity hospital for 9th month check-up. I was tested for coronavirus. The doctors informed me that the results would be known in 2 days and asked to return home. The next day at 7pm I got a call from the hospital saying that I was positive and the ambulance would reach my home at 8 am the next morning. On hearing that news, I became agitated and confused. I was confused as I did not have any coronavirus symptoms yet I was tested positive.

I was afraid that the virus might have affected my 9 month child. Ambulance reached my home at 8.30 am. I was terrified. All my neighbours watched me in horror and no one came near me. This saddened me. I was admitted to the hospital on 14th May and there were 23 women who were tested positive and their children in the ward. I was relieved when I saw the women who were also tested positive. I was able to tell myself that I was not alone and there were also other women. I gave birth to a baby girl after four days on 18th May. I am happy about when the test results of my child returned negative. My husband was quarantined in Loyola College. My husband could not be there at the happy moment when I delivered my child as he was in quarantine. I was given vitamin tablets and healthy food. Peas and eggs were given as part of the diet. I was tested again after 15 days, the results came back negative. I was discharged on 23rd May along with my baby. My husband also returned home after quarantine. I was relieved to be at home and return to my normal life.

When we returned home our house was blocked with tin sheet and we were not allowed to go out for another 14 days. Even when we casually stand outside for some time our neighbours would look at us in distrust and tell us to go inside as they feared we would spread the virus to them. My relatives have not been able to visit us and bless the child. My mother is the only one who could go out to buy essentials. It is circumstances like these that make me sad and I have to tell myself to understand their point of view. It is at times like these that right information should be given every day as this is the only way discrimination will stop. It is also necessary that the people who have tested positive to stop worrying and access medical help at the right time”.



Vocational training.

Vocational trainings were organised for youth and women to enhance their employability skill and move towards a sustainable livelihood. In February 2020 a new skill development training centre was inaugurated in Manali to reach out the rural population in Kondakarai panchayat.

The following courses were organised.



The pandemic posed a great challenge in conducting the courses. For the first two months i.e. April and May classes could not be held. But the team planned to conduct the classes online and online sessions were prepared. The students were informed and online classes were started from 24th June 2020 onwards.

Regular classes were started from 16th September 2020. Proper precautions were taken to protect from COVID-19. Activities such as temperature checking, hand wash, physical distancing and wearing of mask were carried out.

“

Hi, I am Lisiya. I felt very very lonely after my husband left me. But now things have changed, Tailoring is keeping me occupied. I am happy now and I have developed lot of interest towards tailoring. I never used to notice dresses, after coming to the class I started noticing dresses that were displayed, the patterns, cuts and designs used. It improved my innovation. I am very thankful to Arunodhaya and DP World for bringing such a change in my life. Now I am a confident women” V. Lisiya

”

Sanitary Napkin Unit

The Sanitary napkin production supported by Round Table India Foundation and facilitated by Praise Foundation was inaugurated in March 2020. It is run by Imayam SHG federation in Tiruvottiyur which has a membership of 24 Self help groups.



Story of Change

K.Raj Kumar, age 41, slightly disabled, lives with his father in Thiruvottiyur. He was working in a super market, at Tondiarpet. Due to metro rail project the shop was shut down so he was searching for a job. He heard about Arunodhaya and approached for job placement.

He was given training in spoken english and life skill after which he was placed in a retail stores. Raj is very happy. With the training in spoken english and life skill he says he feels more confident in doing his work effectively. He thanks DP World and Arunodhaya for the guidance.



Story of Change

P.Dhanasekar I lost my job due to Covid-19 pandemic. Through Arunodhaya I succeeded in getting a field executive job with Topswa clearing and Forwarding company on a monthly salary of Rs. 14,000/-

I thank Arunodhaya and CCT-DP world for the support.





ARUNODHAYA RESOURCE CENTRE (ARC)

Arunodhaya Resource centre conducts action based mini research on emerging issues, organises training for the staff and stakeholders at Arunodhaya and is also invited by other NGOs and schools to conduct training programmes.

Research

Rapid Survey Child Labour Pre & Post lockdown

Arunodhaya participated in the State level survey on Child labour post lock down conducted by Campaign Against Child labour- Taminadu and Puducherry (CACL). As part of the study Focus Group Discussion with community members and children was organised to understand the status of children with respect to education and child labour scenario in the community. It was facilitated by Mr. Vidyasagar Ramamurthy, former child protection specialist of UNICEF, Tamil Nadu. Interview was done with 20 children who were involved in child labour.

Survey on status of Education among CACS members

Online survey with members of CACS was conducted to assess their education status. . 302 children participated in the survey. Identified 13 children who were not enrolled in school. Follow up was done and they were enrolled in school. Children who were not able to attend online classes were also identified and actions were taken to enable them to attend online classes.

Study on impact of COVID-19 on children's education and the learning crisis

A Study on impact of COVID-19 on children's education and the learning crisis was conducted by Arunodhaya in collaboration with SDG watch - Tamil Nadu . The survey was conducted in 15 areas. Arunodhaya collected information from 50 respondents.

A Comprehensive report to assess the impact of child participation initiatives of Arunodhaya

A survey was conducted to assess the impact of child participation programmes. The study design was prepared in consultation with children and it was administered by children themselves. 122 children participated in the survey. The key outcome of the survey was that child participation has enhanced their personal development, enabled them to take part in decision making at family and school level. There was a gap in participation of children in local governance since the local body elections have not been held.

A Report on Impact of Covid-19 on Single Women

A survey was conducted with single women in north Chennai to understand the Impact of COVID-19 on Single Women. Totally 200 women from age group 35 to 60 participated in the survey. This report showed that one of the key challenges faced by these women was that they were not able to give proper nutrition and education to their children and have got entangled in debts. We also understood that the psychological state of these women during lockdown was mostly sad and threatened. The study helped us to understand their need and supported us to plan for their rehabilitation.



WHO survey on urban perception on COVID19

Arunodhaya participated in the survey conducted by WHO on understanding the present knowledge, attitude and perception of the people about COVID-19 and strengthen communication of authentic information and community engagement in the fight against COVID-19. 250 members participated in this survey.

Study on access to online classes for 10th std. students and children's views on the Board exam

COVID19 lockdown has triggered in a digital world with an increasing in online activities. This has brought in a digital divide with children who can afford to attend online classes and children who cannot attend online classes. The postponement of the Board exams has put the children in a situation of anxiety. Arunodhaya conducted a study to analyse the situation of 10th std. students on their access to online classes and their views on the exams. 150 children from Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam who are studying in 10th std. and waiting for the Board exams participated in the study.

Marriage age of women opinion with Adolescents parents and women group

When government speculated the discussion on to increase the legal age of marriage for girl children as 21 years, Arunodhaya did a survey among adolescent to understand their idea on the same. (91%) of the respondents said that the minimum age for women as 21 is a constructive decision. They said that it would help girls to study higher education, have better maturity and understanding, promote equality, good for women maternity health and pave way for girls to dream better and big.

Training

M. Ramya, President of CACS participated in a 'online training on child rights – children's club, parliament and movements" organised by Hope. She spoke on how she was able to exercise child participation through Arunodhaya CACS.

The staff team of Arunodhaya was trained on Corona awareness, Stress management, Team building, basic Computer, documentation, child rights, child participation, Ilanthalri modules, spoken English and use of social media.

Activities and interventions carried out during COVID was shared with Snegidhi network (network of ngos working with adolescents in Chennai) through online meeting organised by CWDR. Ms. Selvi shared the issues identified with adolescents during the interventions. It helped others NGOs to adopt new strategies and understand adolescents issues

Training on child rights was conducted for CACL network staff members and MSW students of Stella Maris College.

Training on New Education Policy (NEP) was conducted for young facilitators from FCMRP.



Documentation – Voice of Children

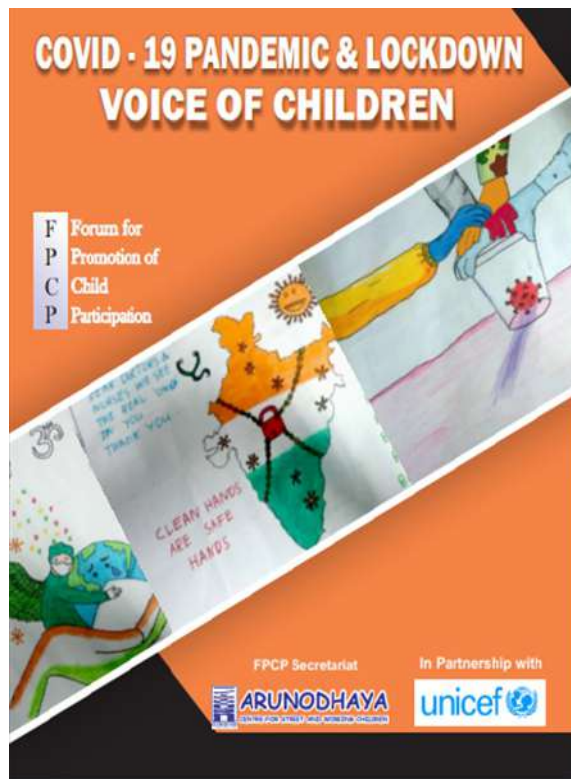
COVID-19 Pandemic & lockdown Voice of children – Book

Arunodhaya in collaboration with FPCP and UNICEF engaged with children by getting their expressions on COVID-19 through drawings, essay writings and songs. Their opinions were documented through case studies, survey forms and videos. Responses were received from 256 children covering 11 districts and 18 NGOs. Children creatively expressed their views, opinions, feelings and concerns about COVID-19. These were collated as a book and released (COVID-19 Pandemic and Lockdown - Voice of Children).

Children's views across the sector and across the state of Tamilnadu were able to be documented. The process enabled to receive 30 recommendations from the children on health, education, migrants and laboures, relief and media.

The process enabled children to express their distress, worries, fear, anxiety and cares for them. Children felt that there are being listened to through this interview.

“I am afraid of this virus. My parents are coolli workers and I am afraid that they might lose their job. They are not going to work now and don't know how we are going to manage these days. I am more afraid of this situation than getting the virus”.





Documentation of case studies

Case studies of children depicting their everyday life during the lock down were documented. 30 such case studies were documented in which children shared about what they do at home each day, what are their happiness, their worries and some of the discrimination. 10th standard children shared about how they couldn't access online classes. It gave them an insecure feeling as children from private schools were attending the session. The interaction facilitated children as a venting experience.

Tidings- E newsletter

Two editions of E-newsletter Tidings were published.

Media

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/fears-of-child-marriage-domestic-violence-abound-among-children-in-parts-of-tamil-nadu-survey-shows/article31794965.ece>

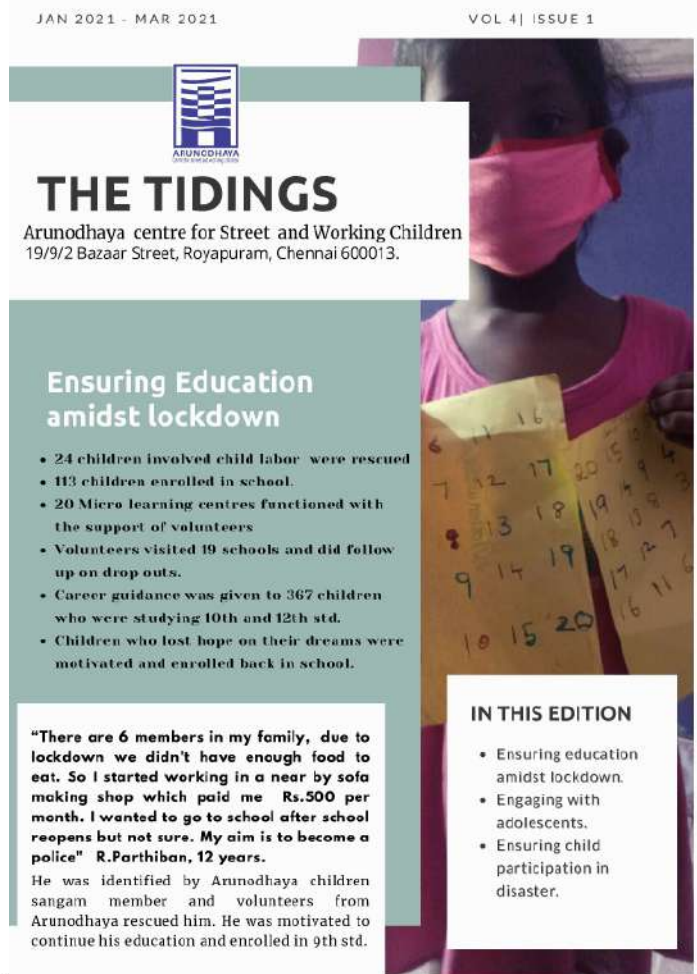
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2020/may/12/call-to-care-chennai-women-volunteer-to-call-a-girl-to-check-up-on-them-during-lockdown-2142089.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/covid-19-ngos-reach-out-to-underprivileged-children/article31232979.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/hardship-pushes-16-year-old-student-into-doing-odd-jobs/article32644733.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/child-labour-on-the-rise-among-vulnerable-communities-in-tn-study/article33987590.ece>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/lalgudi-siblings-do-live-performances-online-to-raise-funds-for-the-needy/articleshow/75013075.cms>





NETWORKING

Arunodhaya worked in collaboration with other networks to bring awareness and engage with the stakeholders in the development and protection of children.

Forum for Promotion of Child Participation

A Youtube channel was opened to share the views of children and encourage their creativity and talents. Children did videos, poems and song for this channel

Federation of Children Movement for Right to Participation

As part of FCMRP petitions were submitted to 6 ministries and CM to fulfil the needs of children. Petitions were sent to ministers and secretaries through email and twitter.

Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL- T.N. and Puducherry)

Arunodhaya collaborated with CACL in conducting survey and awareness programmes on child labour in the context of Covid-19 situation. Gave special address in the webinar on impact of Covid19 on child labour-need to protect child rights more than ever.

SDG Watch- Tamilnadu

Arunodhaya led the Education team and facilitated the study on Learning gap among children. Engaged in creating awareness among the stakeholders.

Tamilnadu Child Rights Watch (TNCRW)

Involved in preparing children manifesto State assembly elections preparation of Child protection policy in schools and engaged with the education department. Covid-19 Learning lab

VOLUNTEERS

We had students from the following colleges who came for their field work/internship

- Madras School of Social Work
- Madras Christian College
- Vivekananda college
- Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calvala
- Patrician college of Arts and science.

During Covid-19 epidemic many individuals volunteered and contributed their human resource to motivate and energise the children, supported in education and organised motivation sessions. We are thankful to the volunteers from Bhumi, Ladies club, Praise foundation, ivolunteersand Chennai volunteers for organising online sessions. Chennai volunteers initiative of organising English classes online was very helpful and greatly appreciated by the children. Violin artist Ms. Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi conducted an online show and raised funds for supporting single women who were greatly affected by the lock down.



COLLABORATORS

Altrimetric
Amazon
Azim Premji Foundation
Wind dancers
Asmae
Childline India Foundation
Chennai Volunteers
Ecofemme
Greater Chennai Corporation
Ladies Circle
Mailbox
Praise Foundation
Ramboll
Rotary club of Madras southwe
Transformational sports
UNICEF
Vidya Vidhaigal
WHO
Wind dancers

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AACEP	Adolescent Awareness, Counseling and Empowerment project
CACL	Campaign Against Child Labour
CACS	Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam
CCRMC	Community Child Rights Monitoring Committee
ECC	Early Childhood Care Centre
CHDK	Child Help Desk
CHG	Child Help Group
CHU	Counseling and Healing Unit
CWO	Child Welfare Officer
FCMRP	Federation of Children Movement for Right to Participation
FPCP	Forum for Promotion of Child Participation
RCL	Railway Childline
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
APPI	Azim Premji Philanthropy Initiative

TARGET AREAS

CHENNAI DISTRICT

Kodungaiyur

1. MGR Nagar
2. Ezhilnagar
3. Kanangi Nagar
4. RR Nagar
5. Karunanidhi Street
6. Dr. Ambedkar Nagar
7. Annai Sathya nagar

Korukupet

8. Dr. Ambedkar Nagar
9. Bharathi nagar
10. Jeeva Nagar
11. Kamaraj Nagar
12. Meenammal Nagar
13. Sikkirindapalayam
14. Karumariamman Nagar
15. Moopananar Nagar
16. Rajiv Gandhi Nagar
17. JJ Nagar
18. Anna Nagar
19. Stanley Nagar
20. Cannal Street
21. Nehru Nagar
22. Chandrasekar Nagar
23. Govindhasami Nagar
24. Railway Colony

Washermenpet

25. Model Line
26. Chetty thottam

Tondiarpet zone 4 tondiarpet

27. Tamilan Nagar
28. Rajasekar Nagar
29. Patel Nagar
30. Navalar Nagar
31. Kumaran Nagar
32. Indhragandhi Nagar
33. Vinoba Nagar
34. Nethaji Nagar

T. Nagar

35. Didir Nagar
36. RajapillaiThottam
37. DhanakottaiammalThottam
38. Muthureddythottam
39. Kodambakkam
40. Akkbarbad
41. Arubathukudisai
42. VathiarThottam
43. VallaiammalThottam

THIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

Tiruvottiyur

44. Rajaji Nagar
45. Balakrishna Nagar
46. Kargilnagar
47. Annamalai nagar
48. Kamarajar Nagar
49. NatarajarThottam
50. VetriVeenayagar Nagar
51. Raja Shanmuganagar
52. Ambedkar Nagar
53. Poonga Nagar
54. Poongavanapuram
55. NTO Kuppam
56. Thiruchinnakuppam
57. Gomatha Nagar

58. Shanmugapuram

59. MastanKoil

60. Ondikuppam

61. Kannikovil

Ennore zone 1 Tiruvottifyur

62. AIR Site

63. KasikoilKuppam

64. Sivanpadaiveedhi

65. Kattukuppam

66. Chinnakuppam

67. Valluvar Nagar

68. RS Road

69. Indhra Gandhi Kuppam

70. JJ Nagar- Near KasikoilKuppam

71. JJ Nagar- Near Kattukuppam

72. Appar Nagar

73. ThulukathammanKoil

74. Chinnakuppam

75. Periyakuppam

76. AnnaiSivagami Nagar

77. Lakshmipuram (AIR Site)

78. Sundhandhirapuram (AIR Site)

79. TKP Nagar

80. Sathyamoorthy Nagar

81. Ellaiammankoil – Kattukuppam.

82. Sadayankuppam

83. Athipet



ARUNODHAYA

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