



DCCWConnect



Coping in the times of Covid-19



“When the going gets tough, the tough get going” proved apt for PALNA, in the difficult prevailing situation due to the virus outbreak and the ensuing lockdown. Most of our programmes were shut down as soon as the Delhi government announced the closure of schools in end-February / early-March. These include our PALNA WeeKids, Supervised Homework Scheme / Working Children's Programme, Bal Chetna Outreach and Vocational training programmes. Our Orthopaedic Centre also stopped operations from the beginning of March.

However, **PALNA, our home for abandoned children, has to continue operating** and ensuring that all the resident children – several of whom have special needs – continue to be safe and well taken care of.



To make this happen, we have had to make many changes and take even more precautions regarding hygiene and sanitisation. The effort has been led ably by the Director, Dr Bhalla, and key staff members, with the full support of the Executive Committee.

The PALNA ambulance and our van pick up and drop all critical attending staff. All personnel get fully sanitised before entering PALNA. All the rooms in PALNA are sanitised twice a day. No unauthorized person is allowed inside. We are happy to say that all operations are being conducted very well under stringent monitoring, and the children are safe and well. Since donations have reduced - including donations in kind – and our expenses have increased, we sent out an appeal for support to meet the children's needs. We are truly thankful to those who responded immediately and stepped up generously to support us at this critical time. To name just a few, our deepfelt gratitude goes out to the Sarojini Triloknath Trust, Tiara Charitable Foundation, the Acharya family, Mr Jonathan Kingsman, Mr Sridhar Pydah and Mr Ashok Taneja. Prayers and blessings from all our little PALNA children go out to each and every one of those who are supporting us at this difficult time.

The staff of our other programs and centres have also used this time creatively and productively to update all records and reports, and also brighten and spruce up the centres through their handiwork. Some of them have started **using digital means to connect with the children** and work with them in the absence of classroom sessions. These have been particularly successful in the Computer training (part of our Vocational Training programme) as well as our Supervised Homework Scheme. Our best wishes to all of you to take care and be safe – we will pull through this together with our combined care and determination.

Spotlight - Sidharth & Kiran

Sidharth is a student of Class V who is enrolled in our Supervised Homework Scheme programme. He lives with his parents and elder sister. His father works in a small company, and his mother is a housewife. His sister who is in Class IX also attends our centre regularly.

When Sidharth enrolled in April 2017, he was extremely unmotivated and unresponsive. With sustained effort from our instructors, Sidharth slowly started participating in the class activities at our centre, and soon started enjoying the time spent there. His mother also observed the changes in him and made it a point to attend the parent-teacher meetings every month. Now Sidharth participates in all the functions and celebrations at the centre. He is a creative and intelligent boy. His learning power and memory are strong, and he always does his work on time.

In his last annual examination he scored 65%, a vast improvement from two years ago. Recently he participated in competitions held at the YMCA NGO mela. He is eager to learn and always ready for new challenges, and is quite transformed from when he first joined our programme.



Kiran is an undergraduate student of Mata Sundari College. She lives as part of a family of five living in the Trilokpuri area of Delhi. Her father has a job in small enterprise and earns Rs 10,000/- per month, while her mother is a homemaker. Her two siblings are also studying.

Out of her own interest, she got herself enrolled in our Beauty Culture programme at Trilokpuri in 2018. The things taught at the centre interested her so much that in no time she learnt the art of Make-up very well. She is also very good at henna application. Now she is getting bookings to do henna applications which earn her enough money to meet her expenses.

In Oct 2019, she organised a Henna stall at Malviya Nagar and earned Rs 6000/- in one day. Her keen interest made her decide to join our six-month advanced course and now she is a fully trained beautician. Kiran is a true example of one who taken the

initiative herself to better her life. Her endeavours are giving her the means to a bright prospect for her future. We wish her best of luck going forward.

Quarterly Updates

The **Beauty Culture units** of our Vocational Skill Training programme got a new look with support from our partner company **Godrej**. The units have been equipped with the latest parlour equipment. Further, five new advanced training courses have been started with their support, giving our beneficiaries an edge when seeking employment. A session on personal hygiene and care was also organized, an essential tool for beauty care.



Quarterly Updates

Helping our efforts to spread **Digital Learning** among young underprivileged children, our partner **International Adoption, Italy** helped DCCW set up three new learning centres, which will empower and equip these young girls for the future.

Smart boards were installed at Madipur and Trilokpuri-2 centres, to enable easy learning techniques.



Expanding the scope of our current **Bal Chetna program** for special needs children, skill training was made an integral part of their therapy program. The end goal was towards employable skills or items which have a market and give a return. To facilitate this, parents of the older children are being brought together as a support group to discuss and deliberate on items which could be made and sold by the group, promoted and supported by DCCW.

600 school-going children received their **educational sponsorship stipend**. Health checkups and career guidance sessions were also organised for these children.



Workshops

- Dental check and awareness sessions were held at both our centres in Trilokpuri.
- Zariyaa conducted workshops on mental health and hygiene at several of our centres.
- Parent-teacher meetings were held as per schedule at the centres.
- Career counselling sessions were conducted for the older children.
- Sessions on Personality development and sex education were organised at Trilokpuri by Magic Bus foundation.
- Parent support group meeting for all Bal Chetna centres was held at Janakpuri.

Educational trips were organised for children of various programmes – they visited National Science centre, India Gate, Waste of Wonder Park.

Birthdays, Republic Day and Lohri were also **celebrated** at all centres.



Anjulika (ex-PALNA child) February 2020

“Emotionally very intense for Anjulika and the family to come to her origins. Thank you all”

All donations to Delhi Council for Child welfare get tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income tax act of India. To donate, do visit our website <https://dccw.org/donate.php>