



JAN 2021, VOL.35

# DCCWConnect



**Wishing all our Donors & Well-Wishers a Very Happy & Blessed 2021.  
Thank you – and Happy New Year!**

## Re-starting the Vocational Training Programme

Like all other such training programmes in Delhi - as well as in the country – our Vocational Training programme, which typically equips over 500 young girls annually with income-generating skills, had to be suspended in end-March 2020 with the announcement of the national lock-down. Since then, we have not been able to run it until the Delhi government permitted skill training facilities / institutes to be reopened in mid-September 2020.

The first thing we had to do in preparation for starting the courses again, was to define and implement processes and practices aligned with government protocols and standard operating procedures. Accordingly we have split up the batches into smaller groups to ensure social distancing, and stringent sanitisation regimes have been put in place. We are also ensuring that workstations are at adequate distance from each other, and posters of the protocols have been placed prominently in the classrooms. All staff are in overalls, and participants as well as faculty wears masks.



We also held counselling sessions with the parents as they were initially apprehensive about sending their wards, though at the same time they wanted the courses to be resumed. They were informed about all the protocols that would be followed as required by the government. Several of them waited for a while after the re-opening and then registered their wards after gaining confidence about their safety and well-being. All participants can attend only after their parents have given consent.

The programmes were initially started at two centres only in the beginning of October. After gaining experience of running the courses effectively in the new environment, courses have started in four more centres. Today we have over 280 participants across six centres, with plans of re-opening the remaining six centres in a phased manner.

Apart from attending the regular courses, beneficiaries from our Trilokpuri centre got the additional opportunity of attending an online learning session conducted by subject experts, which was conducted by the Reliance Foundation on 12th December, focusing on job opportunities in the retail sector.

Some comments from parents of Vocational Training programme participants:  
(translated from Hindi)

Mrs Rajkumari : “My daughter Anjali is a student of the computer course at DCCW. As corona is still prevailing, I was hesitant to send my daughter outside, but we were called to the centre and were counselled about all precautionary measures being followed here at the centre, which I liked very much. Anjali tells me that all rules implemented are followed by each staff, instructor, and beneficiaries properly. I send a towel and sanitizer with my daughter which I had been told to. I also visited the centre in between and observed cleanliness, thermal scanning of the girls to check their temperature and girls following social distancing in the classrooms”.

Mrs Babita : “My daughter attends beauty culture class at DCCW. Due to Corona, classes were stopped earlier but now the classes have been re-started. I drop and pick my daughter every day from the centre. I observed hand sanitization and temperature scanning at the gate. My daughter told me that everything is sanitized properly in her class and the girls follow social distancing in the classroom. Her instructor also takes care of each child, and focus is on self-oriented activities instead of group activities.”

## Spotlight - Nikita Garg

Nikita visited PALNA in November and found it overwhelming as it was a homecoming to her very first home. She made a very generous donation of clothes, toys, and other goodies for the children, besides a cash contribution. A great way of giving back, and she is determined to come back to spend time with the children once the current disruptions due to the pandemic settle down. We welcome our little girl – now a lovely young woman - in our nest.

*This is Nikita's journey, in her own words:*

My name is Nikita Garg. I am a 24-year-old, working as a financial analyst in a reputed organization. Besides this, I am a budding entrepreneur and have started my own start-up.

Like every child, I had also dreamt of having a lavish and peaceful lifestyle. However, it is not always as easy as it seems to be. Let me begin with my journey.



I had a perfect family, and everything was perfect till the time I lost my father. He was such an amazing person, and then suddenly, when I was thirteen years old, he passed away.

Losing my father was terrifying for me. My worst fears had become a reality. However, I tried to cope with the loss, just keeping in mind that his blessings were always there. My Mom and I faced several challenges. We have gone through various hardships together. I could not ask for anything I wanted because we had to bear the daily expenses.

Then in 2013, when I was in 12th standard, I got to know that I was adopted. And I got to know this not from someone in my family, but from outsiders. It makes a huge difference when such topics are discussed by family or outsiders. I was not upset over the fact that I was adopted, but I was petrified at the thought that what if I had not been adopted. What if my parents had not adopted me? I would have been deprived of the wonderful love that they have given me.

I completed my graduation in 2017, and that period too had its share of problems. When I look back, all the years after losing my father have been full of struggle and hardship. After graduating, I completed my internship, and then I got a job as an analyst. Now - three years later – I feel I am stable enough, I have started my own start-up.

My aim is to bring a change in the prejudices related to adoption. People still have the notion that adoption is something weird, or something which they would keep as a last resort. With this start-up, I am trying to circulate the message to start adopting a child. We need to help children by having the courage to adopt an abandoned child because they too deserve everything that each one of us got. They too deserve parents and a family.

I am inspired by and grateful to my parents, who had the guts to adopt and raise a girl child when it was considered taboo and give so much love that one could not have asked for more. Following in their footsteps, I hope I can also bring about some change.

## Quarterly Updates

Due to the regulations laid down by the government to deal with the Covid-19 outbreak, we are still unable to run the programmes that require young children to come to our centres. As a result, this last quarter, the status on our programmes has been as follows:

- **PALNA**, our home for abandoned children, continues to operate in full force, as both the children and the staff have adapted to the new normal. Also, making up for the delay in adoption processes this year, 12 children were united with their forever families in the last quarter.

The hygiene and other protocols continue to be strictly followed and monitored. The last quarter had many occasions for celebrations including Diwali, Christmas, and Children's Day, and the children enjoyed them to the full! The garden redevelopment continues and the swings, see-saw and jungle gym have been installed, providing much-needed outdoor avenues of recreation for the children.







- **Educational Sponsorship Programme:** This programme is aimed at encouraging parents from underprivileged backgrounds to send their wards to school regularly. This programme has over 1000 beneficiaries. DCCW provides not only financial support, but also guidance and career counselling to the beneficiary children as well as their parents. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a hold on the counselling sessions, and this time only parents are coming for the disbursement as per protocols laid down by the government. The motivation sessions for the parents and children, as well as the health check-ups could not be organised this time.

All safety precautions - thermal screening at the gate, hand sanitisation, marking positions of each parent, maintaining social distance, and wearing of masks - were followed. Parents collected the stipend and submitted documents from their wards as well a drawing made by them for their respective sponsors to show their appreciation. Very few could submit the progress report of last year as many had not received it from their schools. The parents spoke of how their children are struggling to meet the educational challenges in the current situation.

A few observations :

- Children who received the stipend connected with their schools through online classes and WhatsApp subject-wise groups for assignments.
- those who were unable to connect online, parents collected the assignments on a weekly basis from the school, and then submitted the completed ones.
- It was unanimously stated by all parents that their wards were struggling in understanding via the online mode. It is proving a real setback in the education of these children.

- As planned, our **Vocational Training Programme** was re-started in October. More details in our top story.
- The **Supervised Homework Scheme (SHS) and PALNA WeeKids programme** (for pre-school children) continue to be in suspension, and will only be re-started when Delhi government allows the opening of schools.
- We have closed our **Bal Chetna rehabilitation programme** for special needs children, as that is a programme that cannot be run in the foreseeable months ahead, given the age and medical condition of the beneficiaries.

## Appeal

The continuing pandemic has made survival challenging for every organisation, institution and individual. Not unexpectedly, NGOs have found their funding deeply impacted, especially as institutional and corporate funding has come to virtual standstill this year. However expenses are rising, making every-day operations a challenge.

**We are deeply indebted to the generosity of all our well-wishers who have stepped forward during this time to support us of their own accord.** They are our invaluable partners, making our programmes and services possible. **We continue to appeal to you to help us through this difficult time. No amount is too small as every little bit goes a long way.**

You can donate online through <https://dccw.org/donate.php>

(Note : Due to Covid-19 precautions, we are not accepting used clothes / toys at this time)



## Well-wishers Speak

MR. M. THACKER - OCT 2020

*"When we think of PALNA, we think of the amazing people who govern, manage and work at PALNA. Aside of compassion and dedication, it must take an enormous amount of emotional and physical energy and sacrifice. One underestimates the 'day to day' work of 'caring' and the spectrum of stresses that must surround it. It is the work of giants and blessed are those that have the courage to do it."*

Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW) is a Registered NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), established in 1952 to care for children who had been displaced during the riots that took place after the partition of India. Since its inception over 50 years ago, DCCW has grown, its services expanding and diversifying to keep pace with the changing needs of Delhi's less fortunate children. Today, DCCW provides a range of services for underprivileged children living in and around Delhi.



DELHI COUNCIL FOR CHILD WELFARE  
QUDSIA BAGH, CIVIL LINES, DELHI 110 054, INDIA  
[WWW.DCCW.ORG](http://WWW.DCCW.ORG)