

## Asha Mumbai Covid 19 Resilient Educational Program

- Name of project

**Asha Trust- Asha Mumbai Center**

- Mode of education before and after COVID

**Digital Learning (Desktops, Smart Phones and Tabs)**

**Mini Classes with Social Distancing**

**Digital and Book Library**

- Approximate number of children being supported

**47 (Middle-High School) and 27 (Age 3-6)**

- A few supporting images and videos



Asha Mumbai Sai bangoda Center Mini classes with Social Distancing



Asha Mumbai Main Center Digital Learning



Asha teachers in action from home



Education on Smart Phones

### **Project Summary:**

Asha Mumbai team was very quick in its Covid 19 response in last week of March and began the action immediately as the city entered its sudden lockdown.

First, we called all our students and ensured their well being, discussed the Covid 19 safety practices in brief and arranged for food supplies to needy students' families.

As the successive lockdowns extended and the number of cases was observed to be on rise:

- We began the educational activity through digital medium with whatever gadgets we had. The digital learning program is lead by our 8 enthusiastic teachers and volunteers and 47 students are enrolled. The changed mode has created more keen participation by students.
- As next step, we worked with the community to organize mini classes for very young children in age group 3-6, created two groups of 12-15 students each.
- We are addressing problems of students who came from migrant laborers families and went back to their villages due to uncertainty in the city with special focus. We focused on continuity in their education through online connect (As described in 8thstandard student Kapil Sharma's story.)
- The Health education and Covid -19 awareness has naturally become another priority. We have taken up the program of educating students, their families and communities on Covid 19 safety measures - social distancing, use of masks, sanitizing –washing hands and health tracking through our community oxygen and telemedicine center.

All Asha Mumbai Covid resilient educational programs are likely to expand in the coming months. Since all Asha Mumbai Covid relief programs are happening right before students, they are learning how to cope with the situation very fast. Asha Mumbai's actions for resilience are inclusive for all members of our learning community.

### **Asha Mumbai Book and Digital Library: Holding on to Positive Changes in Education!**

Even when classroom instructions begin again in few months, we want to hold on and expand on positive changes through our Asha Covid 19 resilience program. Asha Mumbai is now working to create a permanent facility by means of our renewed 'Books and Digital Library' with this objective.

In lockdown, the easiest program to start was book circulation as children had time off. Asha Mumbai plans to extend this activity to encourage more reading and we are expanding our shelf of books.

We are using digital educational contents to complement our teacher's live online instructions; the library will broaden the access to these tools.

With advance of technology, we are working to curate additional online contents for our children. The simple beginning of this most enjoyable digital learning is happening by guiding them on what to surf online (like Specific General Knowledge or History, Discovery and Animal Planet channels). We want to build our content access further and further with help of experts and students themselves. It will be Asha Mumbai's own 'ever evolving learning resource'. At present, we are taking up small useful creative content creation projects for children, Covid 19 being the most obvious topic at present.

The library model also encourages activities through several workshops. Before Covid, we were already offering students some fun of 'making and learning' through activities like 3D printing, Skills in woodwork, crafts, digital animation. These programs will be absorbed library programs.

The purpose of library is to provide guided self learning and introduce the children to pertinent and entertaining channels of learning. Asha Mumbai students might be confined within the walls due to Covid 19, but education must break the boundaries and Asha Mumbai team is trying its best to ensure the same.

### **Karan Sharma's 'Asha' continues online with Asha classes even from Varanasi**

Karan's family decided to migrate back to Varanasi from Mumbai as the lockdown got extended into third phase. Karan Sharma is in 8<sup>th</sup> standard and enjoys learning in Asha Mumbai classes. His father runs a small hair cutting salon, one typically seen in Powai slums. Since facilities like Salons were hit most by stringent lockdown, all family members decided to travel back to Uttar Pradesh.

Karan was contacted by Asha Mumbai team and fellow students as soon as he settled down in Varanasi. They asked him to join the digital classes. He was happy and relieved to be part of his peer group in Mumbai from distance, once again.



He attends classes from 1.30 to 2.30 pm every day with different teachers teaching different topics and then explores the concepts and ideas on his own. He wants to come back to 'his home' soon, but the family may take months or even a year to get back to their normal working life in Mumbai.

