Background:
Sankalp Ek Prayas was founded in 2012 with the aim to provide remedial education to children in Bhilai/Durg from marginalized communities. This NGO was one of the winners of the Asha SV Edu Impact Contest in 2019 for their e-merge program, an intervention program in 15 government schools to educate school students via laptops/projectors and activity kits to improve science, math and language skills in primary school children.

Current Status (During the Pandemic):
- Sankalp is operating in 30 village community centers with Asha SV’s support
- During the lockdown, Sankalp reached out to communities in rural areas where underprivileged people don’t have phone for online education
- Approx. 60 teachers are engaged as community resources.
- There are 8 master trainers.
- Approx. 2250 children are being supported through this endeavor.
- Activity Based learning
- Integrations of E-Learnings and Mobile Based Learnings
- Foundation Program – SEEKH with UNICEF
- Navodaya Preparation for Class V Children

Site Visit Details
On August 4th, Asha Silicon Valley’s volunteers performed a virtual site visit via zoom for Sankalp Ek Prayas, an NGO based in the district of Bhilai in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Attendees from Sankalp Ek Prayas:
- Project partner - Parimal Sinha (founder)
- Priya and Lalitha (volunteers/ teaching staff)
- Village/ Community center location: Gabara village
- Children in Current Center: 102 children

Grade of the children- currently class 1 and 2 kids

Highlights:
- Activity based teaching techniques were adopted. On the day of the site visit children were learning basic arithmetic. The teaching staff demonstrated the use of activity kits for learning
- The children were generally enthusiastic and spoke to Asha SV volunteers via zoom, though initially they were a bit shy. They sang songs and shared some thoughts on how they liked going to school.
- The teachers expressed their sincere thanks to Asha SV and expressed their commitment towards maintaining continuity of education through these mini schools.
There was a laptop and projector present in the classroom, however during the site visit, there was a disruption in power supply so the laptops could not be utilized. We learnt that power cuts are rare but occurred that day possibly due to heavy rains in the area.

The classes were being held indoors in a large room and all teaching staff and students were wearing masks

Hand sanitizers and drinking water was available in the classrooms

Blackboards, learning charts, were hung on the walls

The students sat on mats on the floor

Teachers indicated that projectors are often utilized for teaching and keeps children engaged

Teachers also dedicate some time to play games outdoors

Currently in some villages, govt schools provide the premises to teach, in other villages community center are utilized. In most cases no rent is charged

Attendance is taken daily and the average attendance rate in the last year has been over 96%

Children are evaluated on a timely basis baseline and a baseline is measured prior to the intervention

Q&A with Sankalps Founder/Teachers

Q. How many kids can count Has there been an improvement in the level of math?

- All kids who regularly attend the mini schools can count

- Govt. schools don’t provide any solution for kids who don’t do well in their class

Q. Sankalp prepares students for Navodaya Vidyalaya admission, how many kids can successfully get through?

- On a yearly basis we identify kids and select kids and prepare them for this

- 3-4 or 5 who made it

- screening now at class 4 and 5, and hoping the number can increase to 10 who can get through

Q. What is the biggest challenge in your project?

- running 82 centers

- 550 kids are either orphan or have single parent

- Main issue is how to provide them with basic stationary, material etc.

- Families can’t provide much support