

**INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

PROJECT NOOR



ANNUAL REPORT (2021-2022)

INTRODUCTION

Project NOOR is a Community Outreach Programme of Indraprastha College for Women and has been working towards the education and holistic development of children from socially backward classes. By instilling virtues of equality and fraternity along with eliminating social evils such as discrimination among children, the Project strives to promote inclusivity. The Project has been working with the children living in slum-areas in two fields, the Khyber Pass area and the Vidhan Sabha area that lie in Civil Lines and thus in the vicinity of the College.

Due to the pandemic, which put a rather abrupt pause to our daily lives, the NOOR team adapted itself to the possible ways and methods through which its work could continue. While the field work was discontinued for some time, to boost the morale of the volunteers, social media campaigns were organised to create awareness about various social and environmental issues along with testimonials of the team members. As soon as the college opened physically, the team was ready to head to the field. Many new members joined the team over the online mode and Project NOOR team expanded to reach greater heights. The situation still remains uncertain but Project NOOR team would like to start offline classes as soon as possible to help the students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

EDUCATION

The team, under the guidance of their mentor, planned to take classes through phone calls and video calls. Children who had access to the internet were connected through video calls,

Project NOOR

Indraprastha College for Women

otherwise the volunteers connected with them over normal voice calls. The volunteers were able to teach 23 children online on a regular basis and remain connected with almost 60 other children. Since the student volunteer ratio was low, sibling pairs were made. Each volunteer called a particular child at least thrice a week. The volunteers helped the students of higher classes in the preparation of board exams.

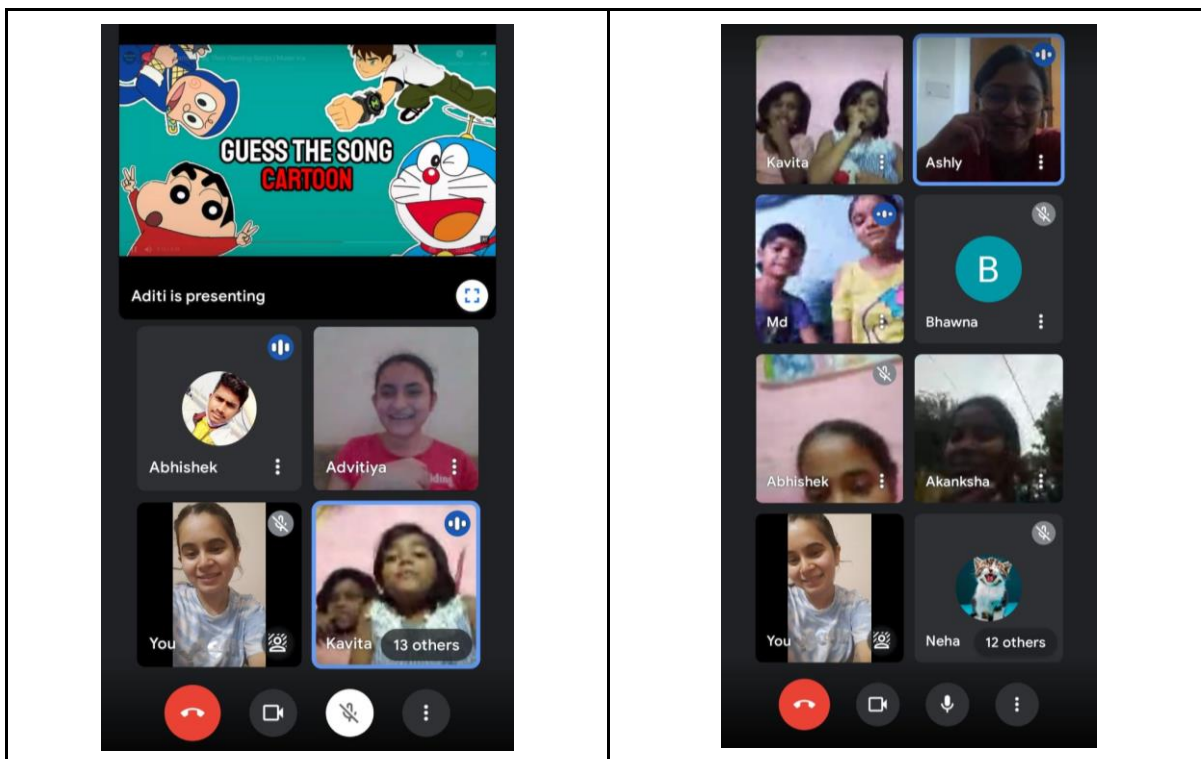
Additionally, to engage the children in their studies and carry forward the Project's holistic approach, a particular theme was decided for every week there and volunteers tried to teach them accordingly. These themes included hygiene, environment, sustainability, good habits, etc.

The online classes were held throughout the period to ensure the impartment of education to the children. Though the notion of hybrid mode was considered, the rising pandemic didn't allow for the same. The education team was in constant touch with the students and helped them in all ways possible for them, to ensure that learning continues. It was a challenge to continue with online classes for so long, but even the new members took immense efforts to put the students at ease. They took classes through online meetings, video calls and telephonic conversation as well. Students who did not have access to internet connectivity were provided with study material and worksheets by volunteers. Volunteers did everything in their capacity to give full attention to Grade 10 students, clearing their doubts, as their board examinations approached.

TEAM BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOFT SKILLS

Three informal sessions were organised to make the interaction between children and volunteers more holistic. In these sessions children were involved in various fun activities like dancing, painting etc. and were regularly motivated by the volunteers to express themselves. The volunteers also gauged the basic knowledge of the children through various quizzes and games in order to give apt attention to them according to their cognitive abilities.

These sessions also gave a chance to the volunteers to take initiative and exhibit and hone their leadership skills. For each session, four volunteers took the responsibility for hosting, organising games, coordinating for music and media, and ensuring majority participation.



ONLINE WORKSHOPS AND OFFLINE DRIVES

1) 'A career in Social Services' - Online workshop with Mr. Dev Tayde

The Project organized an online interactive workshop on 'A career in Social Services', an interactive session to make NOOR volunteers aware of the core values of the NOOR family. It was a three day long workshop conducted online through the Google Meet platform from 24th June 2021 to 26th June 2021. Mr. Dev Tayde, Executive Director of Indicorps, was the speaker of the session who carries a decade-long experience and his volunteer stints with numerous organisations across India have enabled him to channelise his passion for social service.

Overall, the session threw light on the importance of awareness. It highlighted the need for all the volunteers to be aware of the values and use them to the maximum potential so as to achieve the greater goal of propagating education. The hurdles that the volunteers face can only be overcome by understanding, empathising and bonding with the children over time which will in turn build resilience to solve novel problems.



2) ACT SMART - Online workshop in collaboration with CSRBOX

The Project organised an online interactive workshop ‘ACT SMART’ with CSRBOX, India’s leading CSR knowledge and impact intelligence driven media platform for the development community, on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. The ACT SMART initiative was focused on empowering teenagers with the right set of life skills and helping them navigate through peer pressure, saying ‘no’ to uncomfortable situations and understanding the role of friendships in life via interactive activities. The purpose of this workshop was to equip the volunteers in guiding their students to learn these skills.

3) Offline Stationery Distribution Drive in collaboration with Leo Club Eternity Service

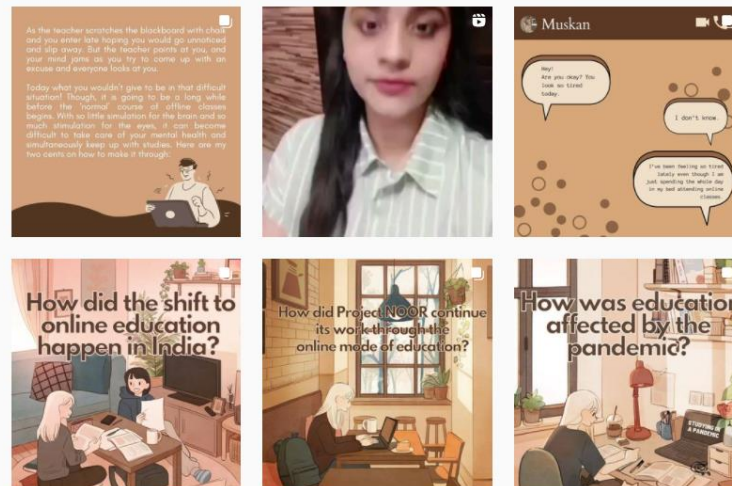
The Project organised a stationery distribution drive for the children of its community in collaboration with Leo Club Eternity Service (Delhi Chapter) on 21st November, 2021. The drive took place outside the Vidhan Sabha metro station which is at a walking distance from the Project’s community. The team was able to offer stationery to 20 children of various ages (3-17 years), including not only Noor’s students but a few other children from the slum as well.



ACTIVITIES TIMELINE

1) August 2021 :

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected and changed many dynamics all across the world. Education is one such sector that has been severely impacted by it. Since Project NOOR is closely related with education, we brought an awareness campaign in the month of August about changing dynamics of education during the pandemic.



Additionally, on the occasion of the 75th Independence day, in order to commemorate the celebrations of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsava and to pledge to maintain the independence and help the country excel the Project volunteers took the national pledge. It was then recorded and posted on our social media handles.



2) September 2021:

On the occasion of National teachers' Day, a campaign was organised which discussed the unique teaching methods adopted by the volunteers, their personal experiences with and as teachers. Moreover, the field children submitted various drawings dedicated to their teachers (Project volunteers).

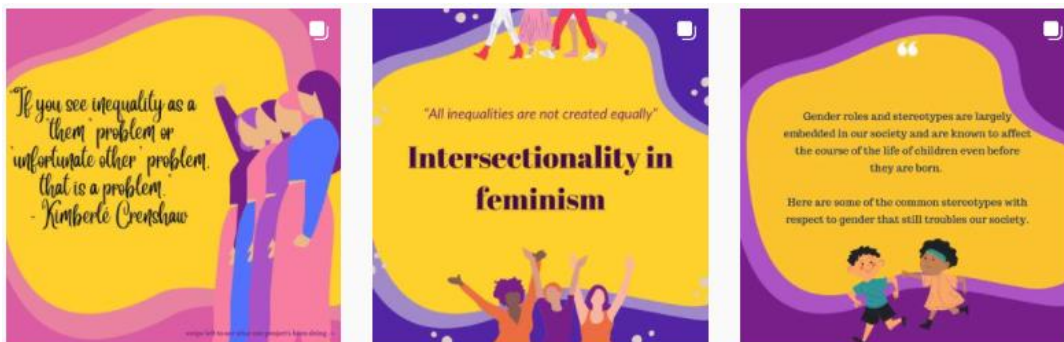


3) **October 2021:**

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, drawings made by the children and poems recorded by the children were posted.



A social media campaign on 'Intersectionality in feminism' was organised in the month of October. Gender roles and stereotypes play a huge impact in our lives and even shape us into the individual that we are. NOOR volunteers strive to help create an impact and provide their communities with all the opportunities that they can.



Additionally, during the Vigilance Awareness Week, a two part campaign was organised explaining what it means and what our Project is doing for it.



4) **November 2021:** Since it was a month of festivals, a campaign was organised on the 'Impacts of festivals' which included its social as well as environmental impact.

A brief visual report was also shared about the Stationery Distribution drive organised by the Project in collaboration with Leo Club Eternity Service.



- 5) **January 2022:** An orientation programme was held by Project NOOR for inducing new members to the organisation. The programme was held on 29 January 2022 through the online mode. Subsequently selections for new volunteers were conducted digitally. The new members were introduced to the project and various online meetings were held. The entire team was able to have an offline introductory meeting in March, when the college opened.



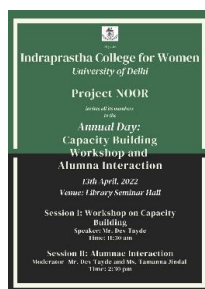
- 6) **March 2022:** With the start of offline classes in February 2022, Project NOOR organized a highly successful book distribution drive. The books were collected pre-pandemic and had an extensive variety from academics to fiction literature. Many activity books were distributed in the slum areas, for different age groups, with the help of many volunteers. The interaction with the students, helped to survey their current academic scenario, such as their ongoing studies, availability of electronic devices, school enrolment and other related queries. The volunteers interacted with the adults as well, enquiring about their identification cards such as Aadhar card, and BPL card. The team could collate their data, and help them in the application procedure for all of the necessary documents that they do not have.



- 7) **April 2022:** Project NOOR organized the first annual sale post-pandemic on April 11, 2022. Many produced garments from previous years association with Valmiki Community ladies, residing in Shankar Vihar, were left in stock due to the pandemic. The same were used in the sale. A fashion social media campaign was developed for the clothes, by the volunteers and widely circulated. The subsequent sale was a huge success in the college, generating a great revenue.



The Project NOOR annual day was celebrated on 13 April 2022, in the offline mode. It was a workshop cum alumni-meet. The workshop was held by Mr. Dev Tayde, to introduce the new volunteers to the nuances of community service. It was a presentation of what service meant and how one should go forward with it. The subsequent alumni-interaction was instrumental in providing first-hand experience narratives to the new volunteers. It motivated the new members for the future. The team also had a focussed discussion about the mission and vision statement of Project NOOR.



A book distribution drive was organised by the team in collaboration with the GAEE IPCW chapter. The collection drive ‘Argha’ on April 18, 2022 was instrumental in obtaining many stationery items and books for the students of Project NOOR. The interaction was a joyful moment and helped bond the volunteers with the children. It was one of the few field visits possible in the uncertain period, and helped better understand the work done by Project NOOR, for the volunteers. The children bid farewell to their mentors from third year by preparing painted kurta as souvenirs for them.



- 8) **May 2022:** A field visit was held for the Defence Area and Khyber Pass to facilitate interaction with the students. The education team led a revision of the students and helped them with doubts. The visit helped introduce new members to their students and resolve any queries in actual time. The accompanying research team was also able to get two of the students re-enrolled in their respective, as they dropped out of school due to the pandemic.

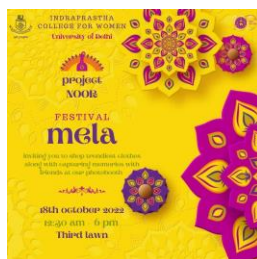
Project NOOR held selections for the new core team members, upon the graduation of the third years. The education team, research team and creative team had their own multi-stage procedure for selection amongst the members. A new core team was instituted to lead the project forward. The team was introduced to all volunteers through an online meet and also had a meet with the faculty coordinator, Prof. Supriya Saha.

Project NOOR re-established its connection with the Safai Karamchari Andolan in May 2022. A formal proposal was sent by the program in a meeting with the head of the institution. Thereby being actively involved with the Valmiki community, Sonia Vihar in acquiring fabrics and selling of clothes as well.

- 9) **June 2022:** A fabric collection drive was conducted in the college for the faculty from 21 June 2022 to 24 June 2022. The event was later opened up to students as well. The drive was attended by former principal Prof. Babli Moitra Saraf and appreciated. The NAAC team also visited the event venue. The collected fabric was recorded and later provided to the Valmiki community for making of garments.



- 10) **October 2022:** Project NOOR also organised a sale at the IPCW Festivals' Mela on 18 October 2022. The stall held a sale of garments of various designs and sizes along with tote bags and cloth masks. The stall was a great success as the project was able to generate a good amount of revenue for the items collected from the Valmiki community workers.



ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE : COVID-19 ASSISTANCE

With a rise in COVID-19 cases seen since April 2021 which resulted in the second wave of the pandemic, the volunteers took proactive steps to create awareness about the precautionary measures, symptoms to monitor and also helped a few of the families by arranging medical

assistance. They also lobbied for the benefits of getting vaccinated and motivated parents of the community to avail the government's facilities.

In addition to this, a number of volunteers worked with SANG, a COVID-19 relief work initiative working in the Delhi NCR region. In collaboration with SANG, the volunteers connected with the community and reached out to them with help in the form of ration items, medicines, and sanitary napkins.

CONCLUSION

The Project continued in its efforts to initiate betterment in the society even after the great setback because of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. With the major work and impact of the Project most prominent in the physical mode previously, turning to the online mode was difficult for the team but not impossible because of the diligent volunteers. The team spent a good time researching online modules and compiling easy-to-understand study material for the children online to ace the engagement with the children. Now that the college reopens, Project NOOR has started taking tentative steps such as field visits and hybrid mode teaching are being undertaken to re-establish the physical classes.

The team stood with its own in times of sickness and health, and strives to reach greater heights in the future while preserving the Project's core values of honesty, hard work, empathy and compassion.