



97 YEARS

**INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

**PROJECT NOOR**

**ACADEMIC YEAR END REPORT (2020-2021)**

**INTRODUCTION**

Project NOOR is a Community Outreach Programme of Indraprastha College for Women and has been working towards empowering the economically and socially weaker sections of the society and securing a rightful place for them. One of the keys to their goal is education along with instilling virtues of equality and fraternity by eliminating social evils such as discrimination among children. 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.

The Project is also working for the rehabilitation of women belonging to the community of manual scavengers, by providing them with alternative employment opportunities in collaboration with the Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA) which is an Indian Human Rights Organization dedicated to the cause of eradicating the inhumane practice of manual scavenging.

Due to the ongoing 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. In order to factor in the schedules of all volunteers and connectivity issues, 20 new field volunteers and 10 new creative team volunteers were recruited to equally share the load.

**OBJECTIVE 1: EDUCATION**

In the span of the past two semesters in the pandemic, 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, otherwise the volunteers connected with them over normal voice calls. The volunteers were able to teach 15 children online on a regular basis and remain connected with almost 30 other children. Each volunteer called a particular child at least thrice a week.

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 children were also involved in various fun activities like dancing, painting etc. during and after the calls and were regularly motivated by the volunteers to express themselves. Students in higher classes were taught about internet surfing, application writing, usage of Google applications and other essential mobile applications. The volunteers also gauged the basic knowledge of the children through various tests in order to give apt attention to them according to their abilities.

As the second wave of the pandemic arrived, the volunteers were in contact with children and provided them moral support. They taught them about the necessary precautionary methods and made them aware about the vaccination process.

## **OBJECTIVE 2: REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS**

The worst hit by the pandemic were the people from the Valmiki Community living in Sonia Vihar in Delhi. Due to lack of proper access to the internet or devices, the volunteers were not able to reach them regularly and efficiently. However, in collaboration with Hindu College's online Diwali Mela - Suruchi 2020, the Project sold the hand-made products as well as the apparels previously made by the members of the Valmiki Community priced in the range of Rs.250/- to Rs.550/- and gained a profit of Rs.1200/-

## **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, though did not have record breaking impact, continued in its efforts to initiate betterment in the society. With the major work and impact of the Project most prominent in the physical mode, turning to the online mode was difficult for the team but not impossible. 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.

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.