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Dear Friends,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our work with you during these tumultuous times. In the midst of the global pandemic, we deep dived into food relief for migrant families. We also pivoted and established new ways of providing early childhood care and education for our migrant children. 2019 began with the launch of the 3rd centre for 45 children.

In the four years since our founding, we have learned more impactful ways to reach children from our communities. We now reach 135 children who enjoy learning and receive nutrition across 3 centres. We are proud to report that in the last four years we have impacted the lives of over 500 children aged 2-6 years with foundational preschool education. 50 children have graduated and have enrolled in private and government primary schools.

Yeresh, is one of our very first students to complete 3 full years at Diya Ghar and has now enrolled in Class 1 at the government school in his village. Yeresh's family comes from a village near Raichur. They stayed in Bangalore for 7+ years and have recently moved back to their village. We are glad that his parents have enrolled Yeresh and his siblings in the Government school. They are the first generation learners in their family. Yeresh wants to become a doctor when he grows up! We are so proud that he has taken the first steps in that direction! Like Yeresh, there are thousands of children who have dreams but no means to reach them. Our vision is to see our children continue their education after graduating from our preschool. Parents who once believed that school was not an option for their children, are now eager to send children to school and see them succeed. This is absolutely transformational!
March 2020 turned everything upside down for all of us. Pre-schools were the first to close on March 10th and the following week, it broke our hearts when we saw 2 of our children begging on the street corner! We immediately started distributing fruits and biscuits everyday for our children. In 2 weeks the first lockdown was announced. The migrant communities were deeply affected - they lost their source of income, they were stuck in Bangalore with no way to even feed themselves. We immediately distributed dry ration kits for our 200 families. Within days, we got together with a few XLRI Alumni, the Bangalore Jesuits Educational Society and several individuals to set up ‘Covid Relief Bangalore.’ As a relief team we raised over 4.5CR from around the world, got hundreds of volunteers and distributed over 76,500 dry ration kits to families of migrant labourers across Bangalore. The Azim Premji Foundation was our single largest donor. It truly shows what can be achieved if a few of us come together and are committed to a common outcome.

With lockdowns constantly extending and the dark cloud of starvation hanging over their heads, many migrants decided to go back home, while many others stayed back. We distributed 2850 food packets to migrants waiting outside police stations and in train stations.

While doing the relief work, we continued to figure out how to care for our young children. We provided weekly nutritional kits consisting of milk and eggs for not only our preschool children but all their siblings. We called parents every week and sent educational videos via WhatsApp. But this was not enough since less than 50% of the children had access to a WhatsApp phone! In July we recruited women from the community, trained them and started open air classes at the community itself.

We would like to thank all our CSR and NGO partners, our generous donors and our passionate volunteers for their unwavering support in making our work possible. While we are uncertain of the challenges that lie ahead because of the pandemic, we are working on a community-based model that will help us continue to support our students. Nothing gives us more confidence than the fact that you stand with us as we continue to spread the joy of learning.

With thanks,
Saraswathi Padmanabhan
Founder & Director
The Team

Saraswathi Padmanabhan
Founder & Director

Passionate about investing in the lives of children, Saraswathi embarked on this journey in the beginning of 2016. A trained Montessori teacher and Counsellor, Saraswathi has a deep understanding of child development. Saraswathi also holds degrees in accounting and worked as an auditor in California. She completed her undergraduate in BITS, Pilani, and her graduate studies at California State University.

Shyamal Kumar
Trustee

Living in Bangalore, Shyamal could not escape witnessing the challenges migrant workers had in providing primary education for their children. Together with his wife, Saraswathi, he was inspired to take the Montessori system of education to children from such backgrounds. Shyamal holds degrees in electronics engineering and management from BITS, Pilani. He serves on the Board of Yuvalok Foundation, and is a visiting teaching faculty on Leadership at St. Andrews Center for HRD, Coonoor.

Standing - L-R: Darathi, Padma, Pinky, Naomi, Sunitha M, Bright, Nancy
Sitting L-R: Sapna, Nemy, Sunitha, Saraswathi, Preethi, Poornima
Who we are

Diya Ghar is an NGO with a heart for the migrant community. Diya Ghar started in 2016 with a vision for all children, irrespective of their economic status, to have access to stimulating and nurturing pre-school education. We currently operate 3 Preschool and Day Care centres serving 135 children. Our focus is preschool education, nutrition and community development.

We have impacted over 500 children and 50 children have graduated and enrolled in Primary schools.

VISION
For all children, irrespective of their economic status, to have access to stimulating & nurturing pre-school education

MISSION
To set up preschools and daycare centres for children of migrant workers living in blue tent communities of Bangalore and expand to other cities in India

The Diya Ghar team strives to make sure children from migrant communities experience nurture and receive education
Migrant labourers, most of whom live in blue-tent settlements, struggle to make ends meet. They can afford only minimal food which often lacks proteins and vitamins which impairs the growth of their children physically and cognitively. The Diya Ghar nutrition program covers two meals of the day, ensuring that the children get well-balanced daily nutrition from the food we provide. Additionally, we also provide daily snacks, milk and eggs to all our children.

Most of the children in the migrant communities do not go to school. The families do not think it is even possible for their children to get an education! We use the Montessori method of education to lay a strong foundation. We focus on holistic development – physical (fine and gross motor skills), emotional, social and cognitive (Math, English, Kannada).
CHILDCARE
In addition to education and nutrition, we also provide children with warm clothes and blankets for the winters, footwear, hygiene kits, toys, etc. We conduct regular medical camps to ensure that the children are in good health and that anyone needing treatment receives it. We also celebrate their birthdays with cakes and singing.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
We actively search for new blue tent communities and encourage migrant parents to send their children to our Preschools. We educate communities on the benefits of education, nutrition and proper hygiene. For already enrolled children, we share each child's progress during Parent Teacher Meetings to encourage parents to continue their children's education further, even if they have to travel back to their villages. Parents now can foresee a better future for their children.
WHY I LOVE GOING TO SCHOOL

My name is Abhishek & I love going to Diya Ghar school. I wear my uniform each day and wait for the school van to come pick me up. After enjoying the ride to school, we all get a stomach full portion of nutritious Ragi porridge with Milk and a fruit for breakfast. My favorite fruit is the Orange.

Then our Aunties help us learn many things like Math and Language (English and Kannada) in simple and fun ways. They call it the Montessori way. I don't know what that is yet, but I like it, as its easy, fun and the teachers never scold me.

I can't wait for lunch time to come, as we all eat a hot & tasty lunch with boiled eggs and I'm told eggs help me grow stronger. If that is true, I wonder how strong the chicken in my house is..

After lunch I and the other kids are allowed to play with colors and make things with paper. Arts and crafts I believe.. It's so much fun to dip your hands in paint and make palm prints together. Have you ever tried it?

After that its Story time! My Aunty is the best story-teller. When she tells us stories we all just listen and imagine we are in the story too! I thought school is only for studies but can you believe our aunty makes us sing and dance after story time?

Pretty soon we are given a glass of milk and snacks and then I know its evening and time to go home in the van again.
IMPACT

Preschool Education

With an average attendance of 55% in 3 centres we had 95 children at the beginning of the year and 135 children at the end of the academic year. School attendance from migrant communities is a big challenge for us as families keep moving back and forth between the village and the city. Families are out of town for 1-2 months during festival seasons. Yet, parents were encouraged to support their children's education. All Parents who attended PTM's are now fully committed to support their children's education and we work around the challenge of children going back to the village.

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<th>Emotional Development</th>
<th>Hygiene</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spoken English - 54%</td>
<td>85% of our children greet each other and say please, sorry and thank you.</td>
<td>90% identify feelings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written English - 84%</td>
<td>Kannada - 58%</td>
<td>80% are self confident</td>
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<td>Math - 73%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oral Hygiene - 9X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General Hygiene - 10X</td>
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The percentage of children who met and or exceeded expectations through assessments.

In April 2019, 23 children graduated from Diya Ghar’s 3 year Montessori program and joined private and government schools. We couldn’t be more prouder of our children who continue to show so much potential.
IMPACT

Nutrition

12000+ lunches served, 24000+ healthy snacks served this year

Daily supply of milk, eggs, porridge mix for 135 children across 3 centres

Fruits and vegetables served to the children on a daily basis

Community Development

- Teachers visit new migrant communities and spend time convincing parents of the value of education.
- Parents invited to the school for orientation so they get to see the safe environment firsthand and therefore feel at ease to send their children to school.
- Teachers visit communities to meet parents and children regularly in order to assess and encourage hygienic practices within their living environments.
- 4 Parent-Teacher meetings conducted in the preschool centers so parents can see the progress their children have made in their schoolwork and in their level of confidence.
IMPACT

Medical & Healthcare

Diya Ghar partnered with Baptist Hospital, Ambedkar Medical College and Zamindar Microsurgical Eye centre along with Dr. Archana to provide the following for all the children:

2 Medical camps | 1 ENT camp | 1 Eye camp | 1 Dental camp

Childcare

- Warm clothes, blankets, footwear, and hygiene kits were provided periodically to every child
- Teaching children how to brush their teeth and maintain personal hygiene and consistent follow ups with their parents has led to a 9x improvement in hygiene.
From celebrating Independence day to honoring our students and their parents on Annual day, we strive to give these children a proper school experience like any other children in our society.

**SCHOOL EVENTS**

**Sports Day**

**Independence Day**

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

**Learning Lights**

**Annual Day**

During the Learning Lights event donors shared their vision for Diya Ghar, while parents of our alumni spoke about how our intervention has benefited their children. We discussed more avenues through which supporters could get involved and our they visited our communities to gain a deeper understanding of our impact. It was evident that parents had started to value education and we were delighted to hear the dreams they now had for their children! We set out goal to reach 1,000 children through 10 Centres by the end of 2020 on this very day!
6-year-old Devaraj joined our preschool when we opened in 2016. He was one of the handful of children in our first batch. Both his parents are laborers who often struggle to make ends meet. At the start of the year, Devaraj refused to come to school as he was unsure of the new environment and he was accustomed to staying home with his little sister.

But in a short while, there was a remarkable change as Devraj experienced the joy of learning! He was the first to volunteer for any school activity. He had a deep curiosity to learn more. He loved to read and write and, as a result, his vocabulary improved immensely. Devaraj graduated from our Montessori on the 27th of April this year. He now attends Grade 1 at Greenland Public school, Bangalore. We are so proud of him.
6-year-old Raju was born with a cleft lip and clubbed foot which left him shy and withdrawn. When we spoke to Raju’s family about treatment, they were reluctant as they were worried about the outcomes of the surgery. After we took the family to meet the doctors at Trinity Care Foundation, they were reassured that their son would be fine.

The surgery for his cleft lip was successful and his speech had started to improve. Soon thereafter we started treatment for his clubbed feet and his legs were in a cast for weeks. Since he couldn’t come to school our teachers spent time at his home teaching him. He made a quick recovery and was back to school very soon. We are grateful to have been part of his healing journey!
TESTIMONIALS

Hear from a Parent..

"My son had many difficulties talking or communicating with others. He would also throw tantrums when he had to eat or if he didn't get his way. But after joining Diya Ghar, I can see so much improvement. He is very disciplined and eats well. He now communicates with hand gestures and has also begun to use short phrases he learns at school. I am grateful to Diya Ghar." says Sumitra mother of 3-year-old Suman.

Corporate Partners

"Diya Ghar runs a comprehensive program for children of migrant labourers, providing nutrition, preschool education, transport and community engagement. Over the year, 85% of the children in the Mphasis sponsored centre met or exceeded the learning goals set for them. All children reported significant development of motor skills as well as emotional and social development. The children's health improved significantly and this in turn increased the community's commitment to send their children to school. Diya Ghar used the grant as per the proposal and was consistently transparent in reporting project updates."

Mr. Srikanth Karra, CHRO, Mphasis
TESTIMONIALS

Hear from a Donor

“Diya Ghar is doing amazing work as there is a dire need for preschool facilities for children of migrant labourers. There are so many preschool age kids in the construction sites, unsupervised and whiling away their time when the parents are busy working. I felt that it would be worth sponsoring a child for a year, if I could make a difference in the life of even one such child.”

Ms. Anitha Kurien - Child Sponsor

Hear from a Volunteer

"Diya Ghar has been a great experience for our middle school students at CIS. I was looking to partner with an NGO that served children so that my own students could join in the effort and serve! Visiting Diya Ghar has helped my students become more aware of the needs of other children like them. It is possible to be someone who makes a difference in the lives of others!"

Lara Lindeman - Math teacher
Canadian International School
COVID RELIEF

In the last week of March when the lockdown was announced, Diya Ghar reached out to the communities where our school children lived and provided the 200 families with dry ration kits. Very soon we partnered with XLRI Alumni Association, Bangalore and the Bangalore Jesuits Educational Society to form Covid Relief Bangalore (CRB) with a goal to distribute food kits to other migrant communities. In the last week of March 2020, through our collective efforts we raised INR 21 lakhs and distributed 3,429 dry ration kits. This was followed by a city wide ration kit distribution plan.
Many dedicated volunteers visited our centres through the year supporting us in various ways including children from schools like Legacy School, Canadian International School, Happy Feet Montessori, Anweshana Montessori House of Children and Touch Internationale.
FUNDING PARTNERS

About 60% of our donations comes from Corporates and Social Organisations and the remaining 40% comes from individual donors.

Our top donors – Corporates and Social Organisations:

- Mphasis F1 Foundation
- Qwikcilver Solutions Pvt Ltd
- J And S Charitable Trust
- Gartner India Research Advisory Services Private
- Flatworld Solutions
- Accel Partners India Llp
- Anuchitra Education Llp
- Math Works India Pvt Ltd
- Omidyar Network India Advisors Pvt Ltd
- Polycab Premiers Pvt. Ltd

Crowdfunding Campaigns for Education & Nutrition

- We did 3 crowdfunding campaigns on Ketto & Milaap this year.
- About 10 Diya Ghar ambassadors joined us in reaching out to friends, family and colleagues in order to raise close to Rs. 11,00,000.

Donations from Individuals

- Monetary donations from close to 1300 individuals
- Books, clothes and toys were also donated for our children

Donations for Covid Relief Bangalore

- The Covid Relief Bangalore team raised over Rs. 21 lakhs till March 2020 and people from around the world donated towards this initiative.
FINANCES

DONATIONS - RS. 1,19,72,932

COVID RELIEF - 17.5%

CORPORATES - 31.7%

CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGNS - 9%

SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS - 4.4%

INDIVIDUALS & HNI'S - 37.5%

EXPENSES - RS. 79,83,451

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION EXPENSES
RS. 46,45,007

ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER EXPENSES
RS. 9,05,521

COVID RELIEF WORK
RS. 24,32,923
GOALS

Over 50,000 preschool aged children living in blue tent communities in Bangalore do not get access to education or nutritious food. During our Learning Lights event in February, we unveiled the plan to reach 1,000 children through 10 Preschool centres. On March 10th, preschools were asked to close and the COVID pandemic ensued. We therefore got involved in relief work - providing dry ration kits for migrant and vulnerable families. In order to continue providing early childhood care and education, we will conduct classes in the Communities until Pre-school centres are allowed to open.

“Start by doing what’s necessary, then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” – Francis of Assisi

"We continue to press forward in our support for migrant families and their children to have an opportunity for a better life!"

THANK YOU

WWW.DIYAGHAR.ORG