



2020 - 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Ph: [6360709332](tel:6360709332) | contact@diyaghar.org

63, 2nd Floor, Kalkere Main Rd, Rajkumar Layout,
Horamavu, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560043

www.diyaghar.org



Table of Contents

0 3 LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

0 5 MANAGEMENT & TEAM

0 6 WHO WE ARE

0 7 PROGRAMS

0 9 THE COMMUNITY CLASS ROOM

1 0 IMPACT

1 3 STORIES

1 4 SCHOOL EVENTS

1 6 TESTIMONIALS

1 8 COVID RELIEF

1 9 VOLUNTEERS

2 0 PARTNERS & FINANCES

2 2 GOALS

Founders Letter

Dear Friends,

What a challenging year 2020 has been. Nevertheless, each one of you has given us every reason to keep pushing harder and overcome every challenge thrown at us.

We began the year amidst a heavy lockdown with thousands of daily wagers stranded without income. But as an organisation we learned to quickly pivot to a new model during the humanitarian crisis that the migrant labourer communities faced. From being an NGO that ran preschools for the migrant community in Bangalore, we expanded our range of work to include Covid19 care, food relief, nutrition, healthcare and parent empowerment. We also expanded our board and welcomed Ms. Aparna Ponnappa to continue the work she was already doing without a seat at the table.

Today, we have shifted our mode of operation from bringing children to our preschool centers to running centres right within their communities where children have a safe space to learn and grow. We have built community centers within blue tent settlements, continued our education & nutrition program at the community level, empowered parents, provided food security during lockdowns and provided vaccinations to migrant families. We now reach 600 children and 700 of their siblings through 12 Diya Ghar community centers across Bangalore. And our work is still in its infancy. We still have a long road ahead of us!

As you might already know, we partnered with XLRI Alumni, the Bangalore Jesuits Educational Society and several individuals to set up 'Covid Relief Bangalore'. Through our collective effort we distributed over 76,500 dry ration kits to families of migrant labourers across Bangalore. Over 3,50,000 people were impacted in 2020 alone.

During the 2nd wave in April 2021 Bangalore again went into a total lockdown. Once again there were thousands of daily wagers stranded without income. Many of you would know that during this period we were already raising funds for the next batch of children to join us. As an organization we decided to divert part of those funds towards food relief as keeping families alive and well was the priority at the time and we are so grateful that all of you supported this decision unanimously. With all that was going on we kept our primary focus on children at all times.

During the lockdown, we continued to provide learning kits, nutrition kits and ration kits in all 12 communities supporting every family and child. We provided children with masks, hygiene kits and constantly kept teaching families how they could keep themselves and their children safe through videos made in many languages. Making sure migrants get vaccinated was very important and so we partnered with corporates and the BBMP to conduct vaccination drives in our communities.

In July we renovated and reopened all our community centers, resuming classes for our children in person. The children and parents were thrilled to see the classrooms being set up again and couldn't wait to come inside and study!

All the children in our communities have several challenges. But for some of them, our program has made a huge difference. Five year old Narsimha lives in the Muneshwar Nagar community. His legs were not developed well and he couldn't stand without support. His parents are BBMP workers and he is the youngest of 3 children. His parents were not able to take him for any medical treatment. They were overjoyed when we told them that we would support his treatment. They said that they had given up all hope of him ever being able to use his own legs. Within a few months, Narsimha was fitted with new shoes and with weekly physiotherapy sessions he is now able to walk, jump and even run! Narsimha enjoys school and wants to no longer live in tents when he grows up!

We would like to thank all our Corporate partners, our generous donors and our passionate volunteers for their unwavering support in making our work possible. A special appreciation for our staff that has put the good of others ahead of themselves and served with unparalleled passion and commitment. While we are uncertain of the challenges that lie ahead because of the pandemic, we are continuously improving our community-based model so that children can continue to learn and grow. 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. Shymal 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.



Aparna Ponnappa

Trustee

Aparna is a bundle of ideas, energy and enthusiasm. The rare ingredient which accompanies that cluster is her ability to see things through from cradle to adulthood. (Most of the projects haven't died, so graves are not her thing. The few that haven't culminated are work in progress). She is a great facilitator, coach and of late an activist and social worker too. She is the go to person if you want leadership development at a team level or you want to be coached individually. She puts her heart and soul and more into whatever she undertakes. And delivers value every time. I recommend her whole heartedly.



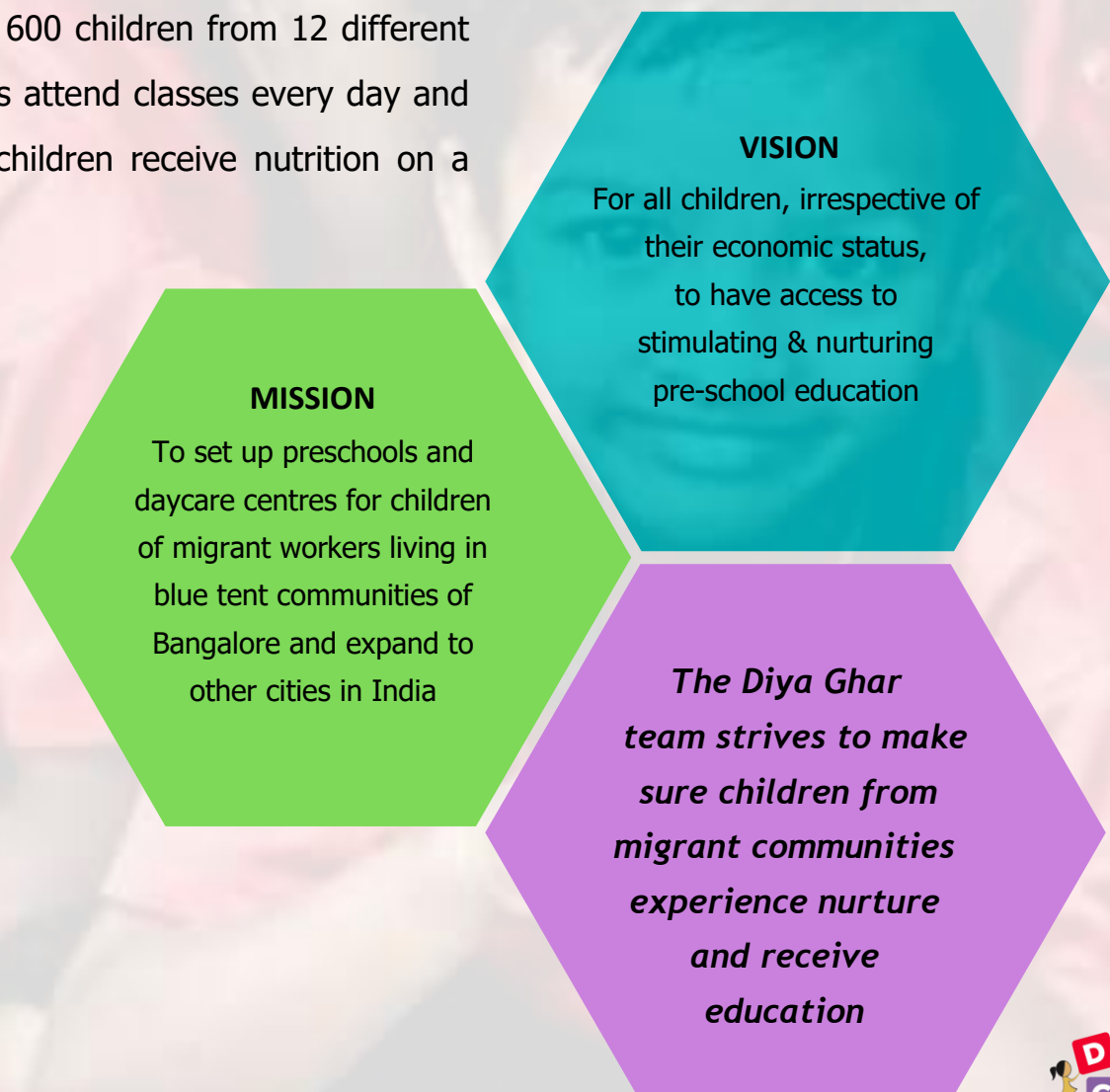
Standing - L-R: Thelma, Bright, Rita, Padma, Preethi, Mala, Saraswathi, Grace, Sathya, Sunitha, Nancy, Poornima.



Who we are

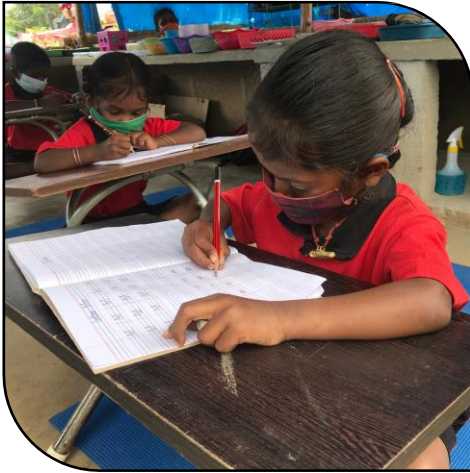
Diya Ghar is an NGO with a heart for the migrant community. Diya Ghar started in 2016 with a vision for all children, irrespective of their economic status, to have access to stimulating and nurturing pre-school education. Our mission is to set up pre-schools and daycare centers for children of migrant workers specifically those living in blue tent settlements) in the city of Bangalore, and expand to other cities in India. In March 2020 we operated 3 Preschool and Day Care centres serving 135 children with our focus being preschool education, nutrition and community development. Since then we have adapted a community based model that has led to us building make-shift classrooms within the community itself. Our education, nutrition and healthcare programs continue to be provided at the community level. We have impacted over 500 children and 50 children have graduated and enrolled in Primary schools.

Today over 600 children from 12 different communities attend classes every day and over 1300 children receive nutrition on a daily basis.



PROGRAMS

EDUCATION



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! The pandemic related school ban only made matters worse. So we started building classrooms within communities and continued to 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).



NUTRITION

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. This program was never put on hold even during the peak of lockdowns. Moreover at the community we even provided nutrition to all the older children.





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 empowered parents from various communities to do activities with their children by sending them weekly videos along with the activity video for the child to follow. Parents were more than willing to send children now as the classrooms were within the community. 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.



Our Community Classroom

My name is Babu and I am 5 years old. I live at the Horamavu blue tent community with my Amma, Appa, and Anna. I go to Diya Ghar school and every day a van would pick me and my friends up from our community and we all would go to school together with our aunty. But she suddenly stopped coming with the van to pick us up. Our aunty spoke to my Appa and told us all to stay safe indoors and start wearing masks. I never saw anyone wearing a mask before. It was funny and confusing. I kept asking Appa and Amma when school would start and they kept telling me that everything will be fine soon. I missed seeing aunty so much. She loved me so much and taught me so many things in class. We even got to eat so many yummy things and play games every day. A few days later, Appa showed me his phone and I saw aunty on it. She was teaching us things we used to learn at the school. I was so happy to see her! Everyday I would see videos that aunty would send and learn at home. She also sent me a learning kit that had pencils, rubbers, a desk and activity papers. It felt good to be doing these activities again. Aunty called every week to talk to Appa and me so I could tell her all the things I did that week. She also started coming once a week to give us milk, eggs and my favorite raagi mix for the whole week. It was nice to see aunty again.

Weeks later, I saw aunty again at the community talking to parents and gathering children together. While distributing masks to us, she said that they will start classes at the community as our school was closed. We all just wanted to scream, as all of us were so thrilled that we can now continue learning with our teachers in front of us. First we just found a place under a tree to sit on the ground and study. We sang songs with actions, learnt with flashcards and were told why it is important to wear masks and stay far away from each other. They kept asking us to wash hands frequently and gave us each a hand wash soap bottle too. This continued for a few weeks. Then one day Anna saw some people building a larger tent at our community. All of us ran to this place to see what was happening. Aunty was there too. She had a big smile on her face and told us that soon we can study in our brand new 'Community Classroom' so close to our homes. We couldn't wait for the classroom to be built and classes to begin.

Classes started at our community classroom and we all were so happy. It almost felt like I was at school again. Many more children from my community now started coming to school and we all enjoy learning from our aunty!

IMPACT

Preschool Education

In June we developed a Community Based Model under which we created videos and shared it with parents. We gave children individualised learning kits every month and followed up with calls and community visits. In August we started hiring Community Champions (women in the community) to show the videos to children especially because not all families had smartphones. Then in September we started training the Community Champions (through videos) and they started taking sessions for children in small groups. Soon thereafter, in October we started building Community Centres. The Community teachers started taking classes for children in small batches. By February we were doing almost all school activities at the community classroom and had already started classes in the afternoon for graduating children.



IMPACT

Nutrition

78,500 Eggs
78,500 Milk packs
1,333 Protein Bars
2,920 Porridge packs

Over 2 major lockdowns we provided 77,000 ration kits to migrant families, making sure that children would not starve or become weak.

Daily Nutrition for 610 preschoolers
700 older children
All pregnant mother

From June 2020, we distributed weekly packs of milk, eggs and monthly packs of high protein mix for preschool children and their siblings. In October we started boiling eggs in the community and distributed milk and eggs every day. From November we started giving fruits everyday and protein bars once a week. Every child was well fed!



Community Development

We created videos on parenting topics and on activities to do with children at home. Every week we send 2 videos to parents with smart phones (about 50% of the total). In February we started conducting Parent-Teachers-Meetings in the communities.



IMPACT

Medical & Healthcare

Diya Ghar partnered with Baptist Hospital & Philomena's Hospital to conduct 9 medical camps providing treatments for 694 children.



Childcare

- Warm clothes, blankets, footwear, and hygiene kits were provided periodically to every child
- Teaching children the importance of washing hands led to a 10x improvement in hygiene.

Over the last year children have been habituated to washing hands before meals.



STORIES

Vamshi

Five year old Vamshi was enrolled in our Program when we started distributing weekly packs of milk and eggs for him and his siblings. We used to send videos to his parents. These included stories, songs and spoken English. Unfortunately his parents didn't have a smartphone and hence Vamshi couldn't watch these videos.



In October we commissioned Community Teachers and started classes out in the open. Vamshi was very eager to learn and would pay close attention especially when we taught spoken English. In November when we built the Community Centre, his parents were overjoyed! Vamshi has been coming regularly. What surprised us was that he never held a pencil and he was very hesitant to try writing. Instead, he enjoyed doing puzzles. Our teachers introduced him to various activities with cloth clips, tongs, beading that help children develop their fingers for writing. Weeks passed and one day, when our teacher asked him if he would like to write, he happily agreed! Soon he started enjoying writing and would keep asking us for more writing sheets! We are preparing Vamshi in Math, English and Kannada as he will be eligible to enrol in Class 1 when schools reopen. We have been encouraging his parents to admit him in a Primary school once they reopen.

Lakshmi



Lakshmi's parents are BBMP workers and hail from Bellary. Lakshmi (6 years) and her brother Hanuma (4 years) were left in the village with their grandparents. Once we started our Community Centre, Lakshmi's parents brought both their children to Bangalore so that they could come to our Centre and get nutritious food.

Her parents said that they were struggling to make ends meet.

On the first day, Lakshmi came with her friend and she had a big smile! Lakshmi is a quick learner and particularly enjoys learning Math.

In the afternoon we see her helping her mother do the dishes. Once we started classes for graduating children in the afternoons, she was thrilled that she could learn more! We are so glad that her mother encourages her and is keen to send her to school. During our monthly appreciation of parents, we gave her parents a gift in appreciation for sending their children regularly to school.

EVENTS



2021

Learning Lights

DIYA GHAR
THE JOY OF LEARNING FOR EVERY CHILD

 Hashleen Kaur CSR Lead - Gartner	 Arvind T P Founding Member - epiFi	 Bijou Kurien Chairman - RAI	 Anurag Agarwal CEO - Natural Remedies	 Shyamal Kumar Co-Founder - Diya Ghar CEO - Lavelle Networks	 Tanmay Amar VP Legal - Omidyar	 Aparna Ponnappa Board Member - Diya Ghar Founder - REDD Network
---	---	--	--	--	---	---


Saraswathi Padmanabhan
Founder Director

DIYA GHAR
THE JOY OF LEARNING FOR EVERY CHILD

FEBRUARY 27 SATURDAY
TIME: 10:30AM - 12PM
ZOOM ID: 89272276684
PASSCODE: diyaghar





Learning Lights is our Annual Event to bring together stakeholders and share the vision for the year! We hosted this event from our Horamavu Community Centre and we invited hundreds to attend online. We discussed avenues through which supporters could get involved and discussed how we could scale the impact. We shared our next milestone of reaching 5,000 children in Bangalore and the year's goal of reaching 1,000 preschool children!

TESTIMONIALS

Hear from a Donor



My wife and I have had the pleasure of seeing Diya Ghar in action for 4 years now. From the first time we met Saraswathi and Shyamal, we were inspired by their energy and vision for what could be achieved for migrant children. Looking back now, it's truly impressive to see how Diya Ghar has 'scaled the love' - growing quickly from a 30-child centre to actively educating and nourishing hundreds of children across multiple centres. If we needed any additional reminding that this is a special team, what they achieved through the pandemic with their resilience, relentlessness and creativity is the stuff great organizations (corporate or social) are made of. It's been a privilege to know and be associated with Saraswathi, Shyamal and the Diya Ghar team. If you're looking for a social organization that both cares deeply about their cause and knows how to bring about impact, they are it.

Arvind TP - Donor

Founding Member at epiFi

TESTIMONIALS

Hear from our CSR Partners



"Among the many causes we strive to work with, working with migrant communities was the priority in 2020 as they were the worst affected during the lockdowns due to the pandemic. While we all worked from home, a hawker, beggar, construction worker, informal plastic waste collector, etc were stranded without food, water and a source of income. We were already looking for NGO's who are working with migrants and fortunately found Diya Ghar. Not only have they been working with the migrant community for over 5 years now, this team has done a fantastic job changing the mindset of an entire community of parents to educate their children. The nature of migrants itself is to keep moving back and forth and education was never the highest priority for these people. We are very happy with the work Diya Ghar has done so far and appreciate their transparency when it comes to utilisation of funds or any other reporting that CSR's expect from NGO's. Keep up the good work!"

APPI

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives

COVID RELIEF

At the beginning of the lock down, Diya Ghar reached out to the communities that we were already serving and provided the families with dry ration kits. We then partnered with XLRI Alumni Association, Bangalore and the Bangalore Jesuits Educational Society to distribute food kits to other migrant communities. Through our collective effort, we were able to reach about 76,500 families with dry ration kits, supporting over 3.5 lakh people in Bangalore.



During the April 2021 lockdown we again distributed over 4600 ration kits to all our communities with the support coming from APPI and Great Galleon Ventures.

VOLUNTEERS

Unfortunately because we had to avoid the number of people entering these communities we were not able to take volunteers to any of our communities. Nevertheless we had a large group of donors/volunteers who took on the role of an Ambassador raising awareness about the needs of a migrant community and helped us raise over Rs. 35,00,000.



FINANCES

**TOTAL DONATIONS -
RS. 2,04,50,428**

CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGNS

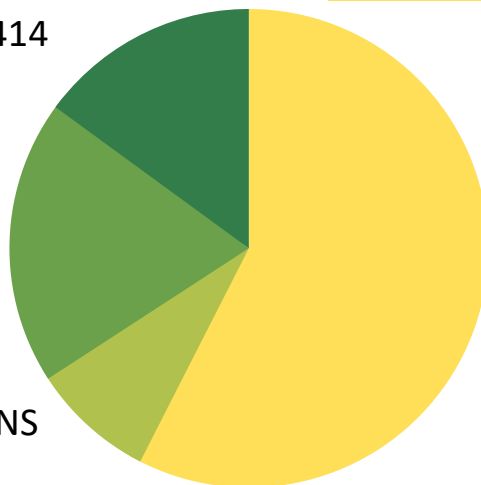
- 15 % RS. 30,59,414

INDIVIDUALS & HNI'S -

19.2% RS. 39,29,510

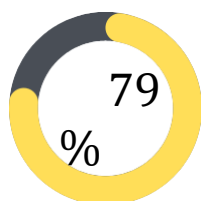
SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS

- 8.3% RS. 17,03,200



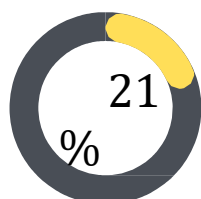
CORPORATES - 57.5%

RS. 1,17,58,304



PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION EXPENSES

RS. 64 , 70 , 617



ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER EXPENSES

RS. 17 , 26 , 617

**EXPENSES -
RS. 81,97,273**

COVID RELIEF WORK DONATIONS

RS. 4 , 48 , 12 , 489

COVID RELIEF WORK

EXPENSES RS. 4 , 52 , 35 , 506

FUNDING PARTNERS

About 50% of our donations comes from Corporates and Social Organizations and the remaining 50% comes from individual donors.

Our top donors - Corporates and Social Organizations:

- Azim Premiji Philanthropic Initiatives
- Qwiksilver
- Gartner
- Yodlee
- Natural Remedies
- Puyvast Maritime Industries
- Utopia
- Saksoft
- Encora
- Accel Ventures
- Khoros
- Flatworld Solutions
- Rotary Bangalore

Crowdfunding Campaigns for Education & Nutrition

- Diya Ghar did 1 crowdfunding campaign on Ketto this year.
- About 30+ Diya Ghar ambassadors joined us in reaching out to friends, family and colleagues in order to raise close to Rs. 32,00,000.

Donations from Individuals

- Monetary donations from close to 1000 individuals
- Ration kits, Masks, Books, clothes and toys were also donated for our children

Donations for Covid Relief Bangalore

- The Covid Relief Bangalore team raised over Rs. 4.5 CR in 2020 and distributed over 76,500 ration kits impact over 3.5 lakh people. People from around the world donated towards this initiative.

GOALS

As we do not know when preschools will be allowed to open, we will continue our Community Centres with a focus on nutrition, preschool education, parent empowerment, childcare, medical care and community development.

We currently serve 600 preschool children and 700 siblings in 12 communities. **Our next milestone is to reach 5,000 preschool children in about 100 communities in Bangalore!** In March we added 250 children from 4 communities. Our goal is to reach 1000+ preschool children by March 2022!

"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