

SRI RAM GOBURDHUN CHARITABLE TRUST- Project WHY

Annual Report April 2020 to March
2021.

MISSION

“Creating spaces to dream, learn and transform lives”.

VISION

Project WHY strives to provide quality after school support for under privileged children and will make every effort to continue doing the same in Covid times.

We need to tailor our programmes to the new reality and we will strive to do that in 2021 in the light of the new directions given by the authorities.

In 2021, we will:

- strive at giving our children the best opportunities for career development, computer and life skills in keeping with Covid restrictions
- Collaborate with other institutions
- Look to create a stronger and sustainable organisation.
- Increase domestic funding, both individual and through CSR policies
- Give the children the best head-start in life and take their dreams forward.

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ANOU'S MESSAGE

Once again it is the time of the year when I sit and look back at the months gone by and share with you plans for the future. Last year when I penned my dreams for 2020 nothing could have prepared me for what we would encounter. I thought the Project Why ship would cruise on as usual and that our main concern would once again be our search for sustainability. We had some plans in our head. Our Adopt a Teacher initiative had been well received and we were looking at fine tuning and strengthening it. We were also hoping to widen our donor base and looking for new ways to do so. Little did we know that a small invisible virus would turn the planet on its head. Come March and we were all taken hostage by Covid 19! As India went into complete lockdown, Project Why shut all its doors. An eerie silence took over our lives, and the end of the dark tunnel was nowhere in sight.

We watched silently things unfold. The plight of the migrant labour was terrifying as they lost their livelihood and homes and many began a long walk to their homes of origin. For those who stayed back, hunger loomed large. We could not remain mute. We had to do something.

The need of the hour was 'food'! The district administration was urging people to join the effort of feeding those in need. We reached out to our donors and were overwhelmed by the positive response we got. The Savitri Foundation UK accepted to sponsor 1000 meals a day for almost two months. The 7 trustees of Project Why UK took on the '*I will walk 500 miles*' challenge and raised a substantial amount that helped distribute dry rations to families in need. Many individual donors reached out to support this effort.

From April 2020 to end May 2020 we were engaged in food distribution. I am deeply grateful and proud of the Project Why staff who did not think twice before accepting to lead this programme. PPE kits were provided to them, and they braved the scorching heat day after day to fulfil the mission we had set for ourselves. Kudos to all of them!

Nobody would have expected what would befall on us in June. A nagging back pain that refused to go away would lead to my being diagnosed with multiple myeloma. I must admit that upon receiving the news I was devastated. The excruciating pain and the stigma attached to multiple myeloma left me rudderless and at a complete loss. It would take weeks for me to fathom and accept what had happened. It was the overwhelming support from my family, from my project why family and from friends the world over that would enable me to regain control of my life.

The first thing that was on my mind was the future of Project Why. I convened a virtual meeting of the Board and was again deeply touched by how everyone extended their support and pledged to ensure the safety of Project Why. I stepped back from the chair, and Meenal Madhukar accepted to steer Project Why while I regained my health.

Project Why entered its Covid 19 avatar. We soon realised that schools would not reopen and that we needed to find new ways of reaching out to the children. The creche and special needs class were temporarily closed. The teachers began online classes for the older children with limited means. Many children did not have access to smart phones and net connections so the teachers prepared work sheets and created WhatsApp groups. They tailored classes to the needs of the students. Some teachers even took late evening classes as some children could only have access to phones after the parents came home from work. Once again the Project Why team proved its mettle and rose to the occasion. Our aim was to ensure that we reach every child possible. Teachers went to children's home and took classes for them. Sadly some families left Delhi in the May exodus to never return. Older children were put to work by their parents. It was our endeavour to try and have them join classes again.

By the end of the year a steady pattern of online classes had emerged. We also decided to call the weaker children to the centre in small groups and take classes whilst respecting all Covid SOPs. It looks like this will be the model for the coming year too. Project Why has to reinvent itself. That is what awaits us for 2021!

We had to suspend all vocational and skilling activities. However, the ladies of the vocational unit got busy making masks which were sold on the market. We even sent masks to France and the UK.

Funding was erratic. Some of our sponsors continued to help us as usual but some scaled down their donations. We ran 4 online campaigns and they were very successful.

The end of the year brought some cheer as we got some new contacts we hope will bear fruit. On December 20th 2020 we organised a Facebook Live fund raiser. Ranjan, my better half, played a medley of Beatles song and many supporters joined from different parts of the world. This concert opened new funding avenues. We enter the new year with hopes in our heart.

I end this difficult year with abundant gratitude. Gratitude to the team, the Board, the sponsors and supporters who stayed by us in these difficult times. I do not know what awaits us in 2021. I just know that miracles are waiting to happen.

With love

Anou

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

This Report is a consolidated account of the progress and activities of Project WHY Centre's from April 2020-March 2021. During the period, due to the pandemic, all centres were closed and everyone was working from home. Few centres had to be permanently as social distancing could not be maintained. We had to also give a break to some teachers and we were not able to support them financially.

I. AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

Below are some details of our children's assessment through the year 2020:

- A. **Student Percentage:** Through the year due to the pandemic, we have seen the number of students fall within our Project WHY Centres.

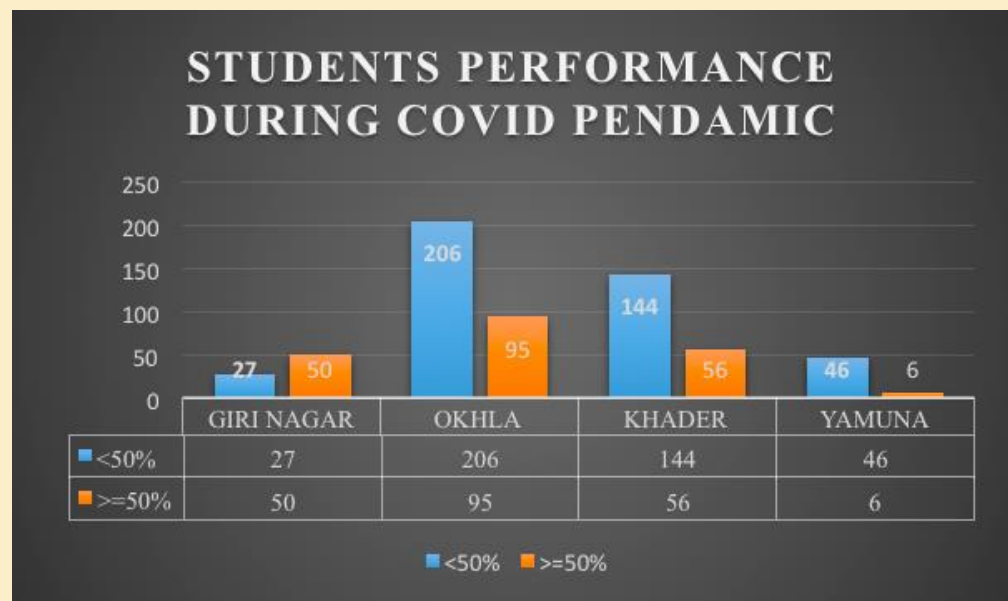
Table 1: Students numbers this year (Girl/ Boys enrolment)

CENTERS	LEVELS	Total No. of Teachers	Total No of students	Girls (G)/ Boys (B)
	Special Needs	2	15	6G 91B
GIRI NAGAR	Primary	2	21	10 G 11B
	Secondary	2	56	19G 37B
OKHLA	Primary	3	102	42G 60 B
	Secondary	5	193	111 G 88 B
KHADAR	Secondary	6	200	106 G 94 B
YAMUNA	Primary	4	52	19G 33B
				313G

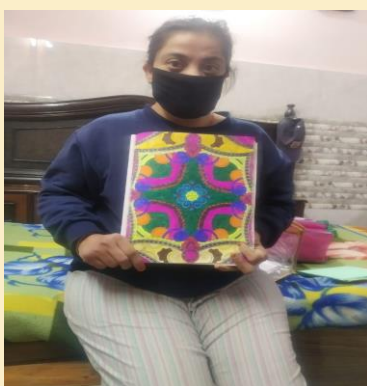
Total	24		332 B
			645

As Project WHY program is “free” at all our Centre’s, the parents do not hesitate to send their children. We also pride

ourselves for contributing to the girl-child education as well as providing the space for continuing their educational pursuit.



II. SPECIAL SECTION AND CRÈCHE:



In March 2020, we had to close the Special Section due to the Covid 19 pandemic as social distancing could not be maintained by the children or teachers, however some of the students did activities at home.

Creche

Unfortunately due to the COVID pandemic, we had to shut down the crèche because with small children it is difficult to follow the social distancing rules and small children will not wear masks.

III. WOMEN SKILL BUILDING – KHADER CENTER

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Women's Centre at Khader had to close down the beauty class as social distancing would not be possible there. The stitching unit resumed in December with keeping in mind the safety norms.



ACTIVITIES DURING LOCKDOWN:

Food Distribution: In the month of April – May 2020, it became evident that some of the families daily wage workers, informal workers and others – were severely impacted by the prolonged lockdown. Food was the main need. Our staff and center managers identified vulnerable families within the community where our centers are located.

Dates	Center	No. of families covered	Sponsored by
2 nd April to 31 st May 2020	Yamuna	300 60000 meals (800 meals per day)	Project WHY, UK Savitri Waney Trust/ Azure Hospitality
28 th April 2020	Govindpuri	72	Project WHY, UK
29 th April 2020	Okhla	50	Project WHY, UK
30 th April 2020	Khader	55	D.V Sreedharan
09 May 2020	Giri Nagar	28	Project WHY, UK

Food Distribution at the Yamuna Center.

The kit contains Wheat flour, dal, rice, Vegetable Oil, tea, sugar and channa that would last the families for 2-3 weeks. We also distributed cooked food regularly to the Yamuna center farmers till 31st May 2020.



IV. BOARDING SCHOOL CHILDREN

Due to lockdown, the boarding school were shut and they all were taking online classes from home. However in January, classes for 10th and 12th resumed and in February, class 8th onwards resumed too. Now all the children are attending CSKM, following all the safety norms.

No latest group pic*

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Vocational Center - Our vocational center for the protection of our children, staff and community started making face masks for protection against COVID 19. These are Reusable, Comfortable and Durable. These face masks are non-surgical, layered, assorted colours and printed fabric masks. They are designed creatively so that it fits the nose and chin perfectly. A soft elastic loop is used in the mask to make it comfortable to wear. It is reusable and easily washable. Each mask is Rs 30. The vocational unit is also making diyas for Diwali time which are for sale at Project WHY



This year there were no outings that took place and no melas to attend

CELEBRATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Looking at the memories we made before the lockdown – Thanks to XAVIER Sir and Enfances Indiennes who organized an outing, on March 17, 2020 to Lodhi Garden, for the staff of Project WHY. We are grateful for this beautiful moment just before the lockdown happened.





Hand Wash Day: To reduce germs and frequent sickness among the children, our Centres 'Hand-Washing' day for all kids; has become a ritual at the centre every Saturday's. These practices are coming in handy especially at the time of COVID when hygiene and handwashing prevents spread of sickness. Children and their families continue to practice hand washing even in their homes.

- ❖ Covid Safety posters: As part of the online creativity, children made posters on Covid - spread and prevention.
- ❖ Earth day and World Environment Day: On 22 April 2020 and June



5, 2020 Project WHY children celebrated Earth and World Environment Day. Despite the lockdown and home confinement, the children celebrated Earth day by making posters showing the importance of our Earth and the environment we live in.



❖ Mother's and Father's Day:

Our Centre children celebrated Mother's Day (May 10 ,2020) and Father's Day (June 21, 2020) at the Centre's. The children were encouraged to draw and write a few lines about their parents and what they liked about them.

- ❖ Yoga Day: On 21 June 2018, the Project WHY Children celebrated International Yoga Day. Through Facetime both children and

Project WHY Staff had fun practicing various yoga positions and challenging one another.



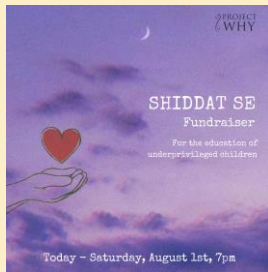
- ❖ In the month of August, we celebrated Independence Day. Students perform online dances and recited poems and the teachers decorated the classrooms.



As the lockdown was extended till August 2020, it was hard for us to celebrate events in the centres but we did manage to have virtual

celebrations for Independence Day, Teacher's Day (September 5th), etc....

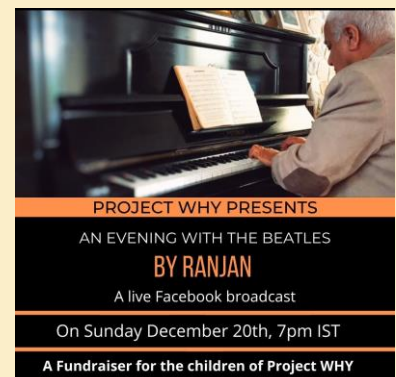
FUNDRAISERS: SHIDDAT SE: This was an online fundraiser organized on August 1st by a young girl Yashasvini Kaushik, whose family has been supporting Project WHY for many years now and a few of her friends where each young person performed their talents on a Zoom event and it was a wonderful 45 minutes to watch.



TASTESUTRA: Taste sutra is an online cooking school. This year Tastesutra celebrated its 5th birthday and on this happy occasion, they organized a 5 day online



AN EVENING WITH THE BEATLES: Ranjan Bakshi was kind to do a small virtual concert on Facebook on 20th December to raise money for Project WHY. We did manage to raise a good amount and also make new contacts.





Christmas was celebrated in all the centers, due to Covid 19, children were not able to come to the centers so we did an outing with the teachers to Lodhi gardens

WORKSHOPS

This year due to the pandemic, we had no workshops in 2020. We had a virtual workshop on Zoom in February on how to improve our social media contents. This was taken by Erika from Ajanta Vihara.

VOLUNTEERS

No volunteers visited the Project in the last year

PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORTERS

Quality after-school education and life skill development has been able to attain focus due to the effective partnerships with like-minded institutions and community based organization over the years. Through the year SRGCT – Project WHY has forged and sustained partnerships with CSKM, Modicare, Mamagoto, Chopra Foundation, Asha for Education and others. We are also in the process of building new partnership.

CSKM

A noteworthy highlight of the year was collaborating with public school - **Colonel Satsangi's Kiran Memorial (CSKM) School**- for overall students and

teacher's enrichment. ... Similar linkages will be developed in the coming year with other institutions such as Aser, Katha and others.

MODI CARE GROUP

The Modi care group organization have been associated with Project WHY since long. They conduct free workshop at our Khader and Okhla Centre's for 12+ age children on life skills. Their four-days workshops, cover a range of issues and subject like changes in adolescence, peer pressure and bullying, drugs and good-touch-bad-touch.



Enfances Indiennes—This year in March 2020, Xavier Ray of Enfances Indiennes came with a new group of members to visit Project WHY and spend time with the children and the team. This year he came as always, bearing gifts of stuffed toys and shoes for the children, he distributed winter

caps and sweaters for the Special section, Yamuna and Early Education classes. This year, EnfancesIndiennes sponsored an outing for the resource persons of Project WHY.

Japanese Group

Every year, the Japanese Women's group visits the Yamuna Centre and does many different activities with the children such as origami, stories, etc..... They also bring lots of clothes and some sweets for the children.



Delhi Network: Delhi Network is an association of expat women in India who do social work in different NGO. This year they donated tables and mats to our centre.

School Supplies and support to our Children continuous learning supported by the Chopra Foundation, Asha for Education Foundation, Project WHY Deutschland and United Kingdom, Savitri Waney Foundation and our various individual donors - With the generous donations and support, the children have been provided with school supplies, learning aids, opportunity for educational outings and others that have contributed to continuous learning process.

We would also like to thank **all our Board Members** for their time, advise, monitory support. A big gratitude to **Hans, Xavier, Sabrina, Mitali and Kiran Frey** for the continued support to our Boarding school children so that they can continue their education.

Inde et Vous les Enfant de Dehradun– Project WHY

Dehradun Centre – It has been one year since Sri Ram Goburdhun Charitable Trust has taken responsibility for the after-school Centre at Dehradun, which is fully supported by



Inde et Vous. It caters to 60 underprivileged children. It also has the stitching course, beautician course and adult education for women and girls.



KHM –KHM has been a long-standing supporter for our Yamuna and Khader Centres. With their support, we have been able to make a fun and safe learning environment for our children. The employees

have also participated in our celebrations activities.

2021 PLAN

- **QUALITY EDUCATION SUPPORT:** Per subject we need specialized teachers. To continue relevant quality-focused educational support that we were not able to provide between 2015-2020. We would like a strong result based approach that gear towards more opportunities.
- **EFFECTIVE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION:** An increase in overall communication through social media presence and continuous interaction with our student alumni, volunteers and donors. Reach out to companies in our local centres to make them aware of Project WHY in the neighborhood. Do more publicity in the areas where Project WHY ins located.
- **SUSTAINABLE RECURRING FUNDING SOURCE:** Improve sustainability of funds in the neighborhood and local areas of the centres. Looking for self sustainable vocational programs for our Special section and women's program. Target more institutionalized, individuals, domestic and CSR companies.
- **SUCCESSFUL WORKING BOARD:** Involvement of the Board members in all the centres (twice a year visit). Take individual responsibility for funding.



PROJECT WHY

GIRI NAGAR . OKHLA . KHADER .
GOVINDPURI . YAMUNA . KALKA MANDIR