



**SRI RAM GOBURDHUN
CHARITABLE TRUST**

Project WHY

**Annual Report April 2021 to
March 2022.**

MISSION

"Creating spaces to dream, learn and transform lives".

VISION

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

The need of the hour is to tailor our programmes to the new challenges and we will strive to do that in 2022 in the light of the directions given by the authorities.

In 2022, we will:

- Strive to ensure that every child makes up for the loss incurred in the past two years when schools were closed and online education practically non-existent for underprivileged children.

- Strive at giving every child the best opportunities for career development, computer and life skills in keeping with Covid restrictions

- 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

In April 2022 I turned 70. A milestone in any life. A time when you feel the need to pause and look back at the years gone by. A time to look at your life with utmost honesty: the ups and downs, the successes and failures, the joy and sadness. Seven decades is a long time and I do not intend to subject you to lifelong reminiscences. Today I just intend to look back at the last two decades.

2000 is a watershed moment in my life as that is when Project Why began its work on the field. Project Why is undoubtedly the sum of my existence as I poured into it all that I had learnt and experienced over half a century as well as my hopes and dreams: be it the lessons learnt at my parents' knee, the joy of becoming a parent, the challenges faced at the workplace, the anger felt at all injustice, the desire to change things and so much more.

Project Why became the new challenge I embraced in my 50th year. As my thoughts travel back I remember the little street and tiny mud house where it all began. I remember how Manu's plight seared my soul and compelled me to find the first answer to that very resounding why. That was the beginning of an exhilarating journey where the sky was

the limit. From a mere 20 we became 40 then 100 and reached 1000 in no time. We opened new centres in different locations, each to answer yet another why. Our enthusiasm was almost hubristic but somehow the Universe helped us in extraordinary ways bringing us support from the world over. I look back at the wonderful family we became: the children, the teachers but also the plethora of people from many lands who came and volunteered with us and left an indelible mark in our hearts. Some even came back many times! A very precious legacy.

But it was not just a fairy tale. Project Why brought to the fore the many social inequities, the injustices and the ever growing gap between the privileged and underprivileged. This compelled me to raise my voice. This is how I began to blog.

This walk down memory lane is meant to be honest and I would be failing if I did not look at the failures, the biggest one being our inability to seed a proper sustainability option. It is not that we did not try. Our biggest attempt was Planet Why. Alas we were unable to raise the funds needed. If I look back with brutal honesty one would have to admit that the 'success' of our hand to mouth existence clouded our

ability to see the writing on the wall. What we resorted to was crisis management. Not the best way to go.

Once again we face a crisis. True we will need to go into crisis management mode, but it is time we looked beyond. It is time to build our sustainability model. That is what I pledge to do as Project Why deserves to live beyond me.

So much for reminiscences. Time to look at the year gone by. In a nutshell 2021 was the year we seeded Project Why 2.0. It took a while as the situation on the ground kept changing. Schools barely opened and online teaching was here to stay. However the past year had taken its toll on the education of children from underprivileged homes and it became imperative for us to work a hybrid model that would address the situation. Project Why 2.0 aimed at bringing back children to school. That is what we are in the process of doing.

2022 dawned. Somehow once again the Universe chose to come to our rescue and we are happy to share that we were able to secure 2 grants that will enable us to carry on our work.

Schools have finally reopened after two years. The challenge to ensure our children do well is daunting but we will leave no stone unturned to see that every child is taken care of.

I end this message it with abundant gratitude to my team, the Board, and our supporters and funders who stayed with us in these harrowing times.

Without them Project Why would not be.

Anou

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

This Report is a consolidated account of the progress and activities of Project WHY Centers from April 2021 to March 2022. During this period, due to the 2nd wave of COVID-19, all our centers had to close again and everyone was working from home but the lockdown was lifted and activities inched to a new normal. It was a challenging time as we had to remain flexible to the need of the day. We had to adopt a hybrid model with online learning and face to face learning.

Currently, the situation has improved and we hope that the coming year will see us returning to normal activities.

I. AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMME – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY IN ALL SIX CENTRES

In this period schools were mostly closed. They opened for short periods but then closed again Our teachers strived to

keep education on the anvil by taking online classes – even from their homes during lockdown – but the lack of resources and the quasi absence of meaningful online teaching in Government schools made the task daunting.

The reality was challenging to say the least. A child in class VI in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic was catapulted to class VIII in March 2022. With the practical absence of any meaningful learning, that child finds himself at a complete loss. It was our challenge to bridge the gap and that is what we are engaged in doing.

Anjani Rawat

Anjani Rawat is a new student. She joined Project WHY in the month of June 2021. She studies in class 4th at Giri Nagar Centre. Her family is from U.P. Varanasi. Her father moved to Delhi 20 years ago for earning. She belongs to a very poor family. She has one brother. Anjani and her brother are studying in Semi Government. School.



Her father is running a little tea shop where his monthly earning is just Rupees 8500/-. He is the single earning person of his family. Her mother is a housewife.

Anjani is a slow learner so our resource persons teach her in more fun and easy ways, such as helping in book reading by using story books, showing learning videos. Now after just 1 month, she can read her Hindi book properly.

She is weak in mathematics so we are trying to help her. Now she can do addition, subtraction and multiplication. She is trying to learn division.

She is a regular student. Due to COVID, she was taking online classes.

She does her home work regularly and now she is showing her interest towards studies after joining us.

She likes to play ludo and she is also interesting in drawing.

She scored 54% in internal assessment and attended 15 out of 25 classes.

PINTU I want to study and become a doctor

Pintu, a class 4 student lost his father due to Covid. Now he is back at the centre but unfortunately due to this pandemic, he has forgotten everything he learnt and has to start from square one.

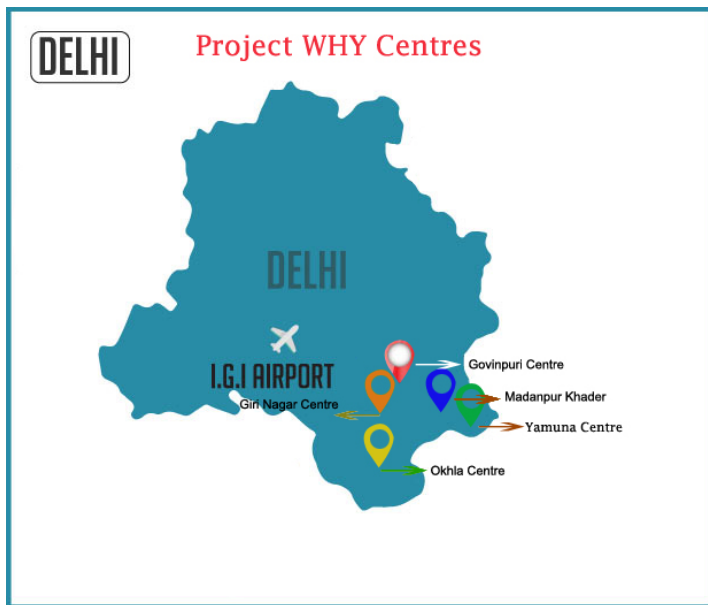
Most of our children were not able to attend online classes as they did not have access to smart phones and network. Hence their level has fallen. We at Project WHY, will do everything necessary to ensure that they make up for lost time and integrate the school system again



Online teaching was carried out from all Project Why's six centres.

During lockdown when schools were closed teachers came to each centre and established contact with every student in the best way possible: online, through WhatsApp groups, home visits, telephone calls etc.

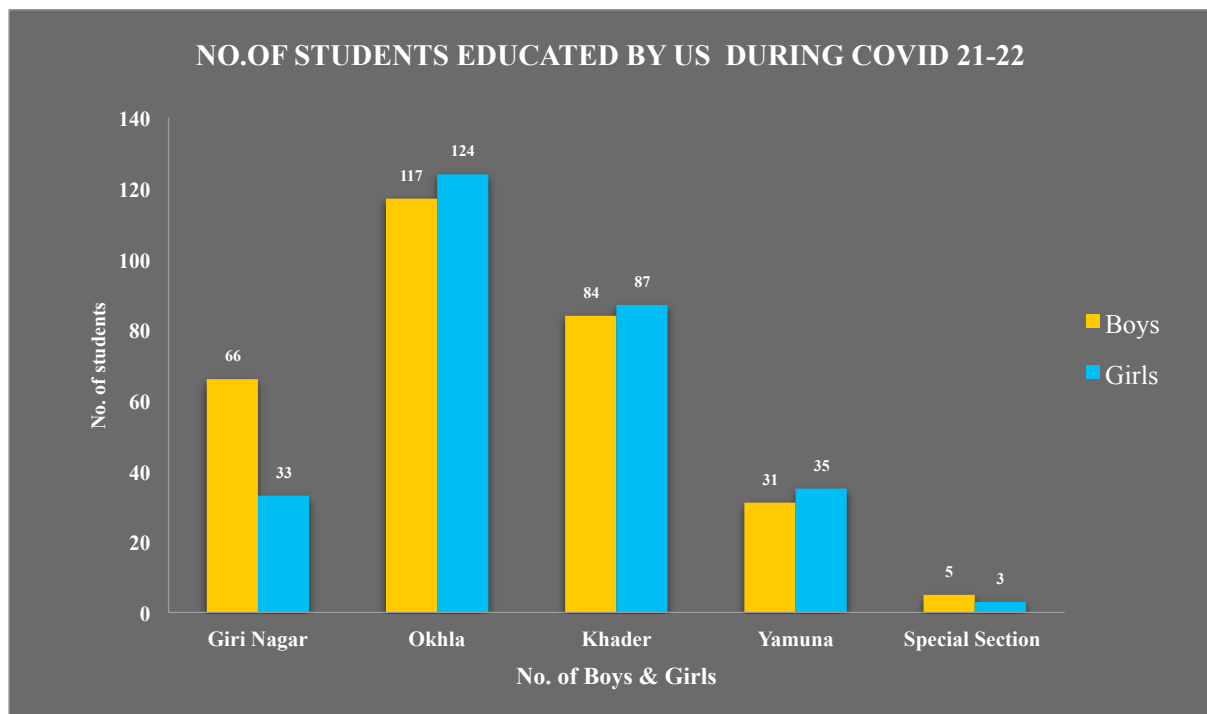
We made every effort to keep in touch with our students.



In March 2022 schools reopened again and we are slowly getting back to a normal routine.

Below are some details about the present situation.

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



The decline in numbers was due to many reasons: older boys put to work due to the financial situation that arose when parents lost their jobs due to Covid lockdowns, early marriage of girls as many went back to villages due to the pandemic. Hence drop outs rates increased as there was no proper schooling for two years.

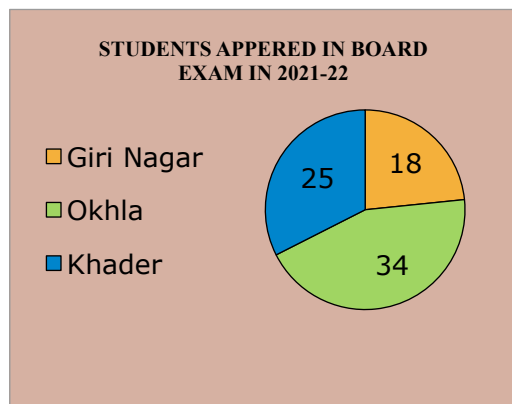
We hope that with the reopening of schools, our numbers will increase in the course of 2022 as new admissions will take place. As Project WHY programme is “free”, parents do not hesitate to send their children.

The year 2021-22 was a difficult year. We strived to the best of our abilities to continue imparting learning to all our students.

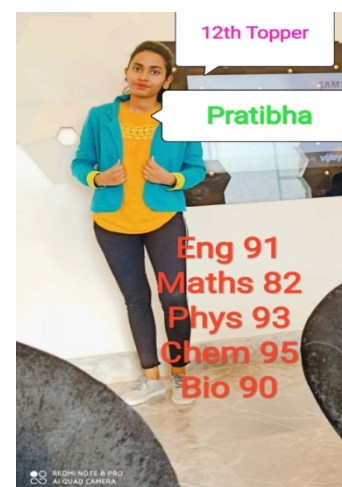
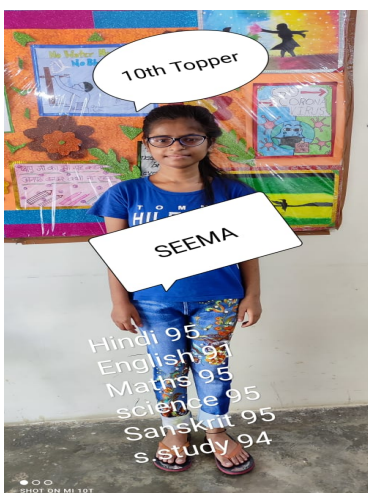
Secondary students faced examinations even with schools closed, and we taught them in small groups with all Covid precautions.

Board examinations were held in two phases.

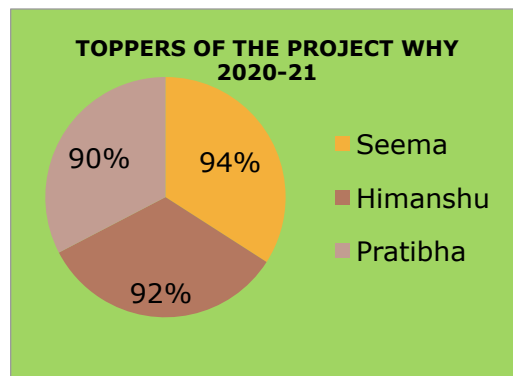
77 students were appeared in Board Exam 2020-21



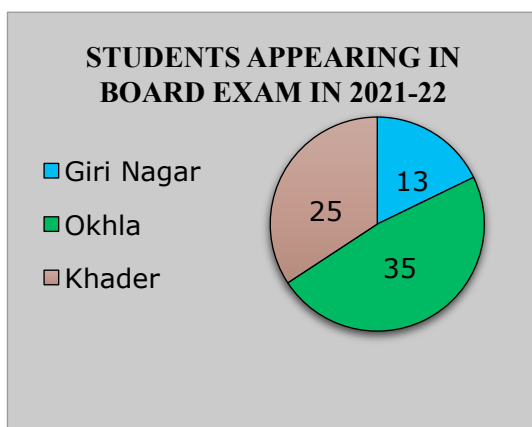
TOPPERS OF THE PROJECT WHY 2020-21 (Giri Nagar)



Name	Class	Obt.Percentage
Seema	10th	94%
Himanshu	12th	92%
Pratibha	12th	90%



This year (2021-22) 73 students will give board examinations.



II. SPECIAL SECTION



The situation of our special needs students was the most

critical. Coming to Project Why was undoubtedly the highlight of their lives as they found themselves in a congenial and happy environment. In their homes they are left to their own devices and often riled by one and all. We tried the online option with them but with not much success. Then we went door to door as that seemed a better alternative.

In November 2021, when the situation was back to 'normal' we started calling them for face-to-face classes in small groups. We hope to enlarge the numbers in times to come.

II. Women Skill building – Khader center

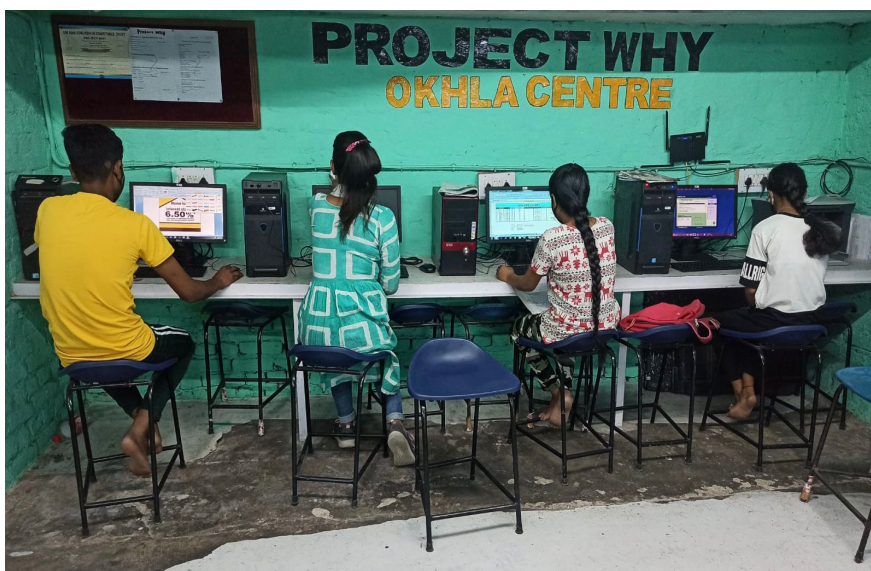
The women skilling programme took a blow as we were forced to close our beautician training due to COVID restrictions.

The stitching programme continued first online then in small groups.

We taught 54 women stitching skill till the end of March 2022. They are now able to earn an income with their acquired skill.



III.COMPUTER SKILL BUILDING – KHADER& OKHLA CENTER



It was a challenge to keep cyber why going but kudos to our teachers who kept classes going ONLINE!

Classes are back to normal now with students making up for lost time.

In Okhla 40 students completed their courses such as basic computer, advance excel, photoshop and corel draw.

In Khader and Okhla school going children also learn computer course twice in a week according to their time table.

RATION DISTRIBUTION

In the month of June 2021, 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 and distributed 1000 ration kits for such families.



PROJECT WHY MILESTONE



This year Himanshu Yadav of class 10 won Medal and Trophy for his excellent performance in Football and Shikha Verma of class 6 won a. Trophy for getting first position in her class in academics.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



Vocational Center

Our vocational center continue 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 they fit the nose and chin perfectly. A soft elastic loop is used in the mask to make it comfortable to wear. Each mask is Rs 30. They are available on order

CELEBRATIONS

In spite of lockdowns and schools being closed we made every effort to celebrate festivals and special days. This was important to keep a sense of normalcy in these difficult times. Festivals were celebrated at home or in the centres.

On 21-6-2021 all teachers celebrated International **“YOGA DAY”** with students ONLINE! Students demonstrated their skills in a novel way.



We also celebrated festivals and events such as Independence day, Teacher's Day, Hindi Diwas and World literacy day.

From the end of August , with the opening of higher classes in schools,we started teaching secondary class children in

offline mode in small groups. On 3rd of September our higher class students taught the junior classes as the celebration of Teachers Day.

In India, we celebrate Dr. Saravapalli Radhakrishnan's birthday on 5th September every year as teachers day. On 4th September Project WHY organised a teachers outing which was a very enjoyable day for our teachers.



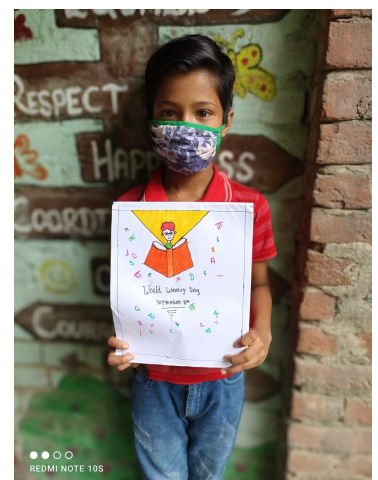
Teacher's Day

celebration: On 5th

September, the teachers went for an outing to celebrate this day. We went to the TGIP (Noida) mall.

World Literacy Day:

On 8th September, we celebrated World Literacy Day, where we explained to the children the importance of education and how it will help in the future and children made amazing drawings to honour this day.





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.

Diwali Celebration: On 3rd of November we celebrated Diwali in project why Okhla cwntrw with students who were coming for classes. Students made beautiful rangolis. All the students and teachers did pooja and distributed sweets.



Children's Day celebration:



In November schools closed again due to high levels of pollution.

On 14th November, we did a little online celebration for the kids as children's day. This time we did not organize any programme, activities and games due to covid-19. Children made drawing and art and craft work in their homes.

Christmas Day:

From mid December as Pre-Board Examinations were to be held, we called students and taught them offline in small groups.



On 24th December we celebrated Christmas day with all students. The secondary students enjoyed Xmas off line as they were coming to the centre. They sang and dances and had great fun.

Students in online mode sent their dance, singing and painting videos and pictures.



On 25th December, our all Staff went to watch a movie: 83 Kapil Dev.

After that they had lunch in a restaurant. It was a memorable day

Drawing Competition:- In December Giri Nagar students participated in a drawing competition with another NGO astha and enjoyed themselves.





Holi Celebration: On 18th March Holi was celebrated in all centres with lot of colors and sweets . Students sang and danced to their hearts content as they were finally back to normal times.

Republic Day celebration: - On 26th of January, students did different performance at their home and send the videos of their activities. Flag hoisting was held with entire staff.



Women's Day:-On 8th March we celebrated International Women's day. Students did drawings on women empowerment and they did a play where they showed different roles of women in life



Farewell Ceremony:-We organized a Farewell ceremony for our class 10 and 12. All students got a badges and their graduation caps. We wish them success and a bright future.





World water day:-March 22nd is world water day where we educate students about the importance of water and spread messages about Saving Water as much as possible.

Teacher's Outing:- Enfances Indiennes organized a teachers outing at Pratap Garh Farms located in Haryana. Everyone had great fun. It was a new experience for all. Our teachers did lot of activities such as shooting, archery, dancing, & having breakfast and lunch together.



DONOR ENGAGEMENT:

Visit of Shri Adish Jain of Asha and Adish Jain Foundation: On 14th of March Mr. Adish Jain visited and adopted our Okhla centre. We are deeply grateful to him for ensuring that our work continues unhindered..



TRIVEDI FOUNDATION: In January 2022, the Trivedi Family Foundation had an online meeting with us regarding Project WHY activities and history. We would like to thank them for adopting the Khader and Yamuna centres.

WORKSHOPS

This year due to the Covid situation and schools being shut, no workshops were held. We hope to resume them in 2022.

VOLUNTEERS

No volunteers visited the Project in the last year. This has been a big loss. We hope to revive our volunteer programme in 2022

DONORS

We would like to thank Enfances Indiennes, Project WHY UK, Project WHY Deutschland, Chopra Foundation, Asha For Education, Maccaferri, Azure Hospitality, Chess without Borders, Omprakash Foundation, Jain Foundation, Trivedi Foundation , N-Teck Group, Reccaro, Sabrina, Kunal Khosla, Shaurya Shandaliya, Ann Booker, Sonali Narasimhan, Arpitha Mahareddy, Ashima Obhan, Melisaa Mialon , Ruchira Malhotra, Damyanti Ghosh, Sudhanshu and Meenal, DV Sridharan, Vikramjeet, Jovie and Marie, Mahua Ghosh, Viren Bhojwani, for their unstinted support .

2022 PLAN

- **QUALITY EDUCATION SUPPORT:** The new education policy 2020, will be implemented in 2022 after Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore we will need to focus on more physical and academic related activities and continue to give our children the best academic support.

- **EFFECTIVE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION:**

An increase in overall communication through social media 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 is located.

- **SUSTAINABLE RECURRING FUNDING SOURCE:** Improve sustainability of funds in the neighbourhood and local areas of the centres. Look for self sustainable vocational programs for our Special section and women's programme. 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**