

Pocketful of Sunshine

Annual Report 2020-2021





A prevention-based approach that leads to
A Safe, and Happy childhood.

Vision

A safe society for children to enjoy childhood and get opportunities to grow up to become responsible humans.

Mission

To prevent child abuse and provide a child-friendly environment for at-risk children who deserve it most, by establishing Daycare Centers for the children of daily wagers, along with working with children in different unprotected situations.

Objective

To prevent, protect, advocate and ensure human rights with a focus on prevention of child rights abuse.

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Letter from the founder

Our Annual Report for 2020-21 presents an account of the progress made during this extremely challenging and unusual year. A year when the need to bridge the large divide between the opportunities available for children coming from starkly different sections of our society, became even more pressing.

Sunshine Daycare had just begun to take shape when the first lockdown was announced in Delhi on 25th March 2020 in wake of the COVID-19 spread. With time it was evident that the pandemic and lockdown-like situations will continue to present a challenge for quite some time. Work from home and remote teaching and learning, thus became the new normal.

But the idea of a Daycare is much more than just the teaching and learning process, which by no means can be achieved through the distant mode. Another setback for the team was the realization that almost none of these families had smartphones let alone the IT gadgets like laptops & IPads that almost every middle class child has access to. A massive digital divide needed to be addressed rather quickly.

The team accepted the challenge and evolved ways to remain in touch with the children, monitor their wellbeing, ensure positive engagement and carry on with the teaching and learning process through the 2G handsets that the families could afford. This has been a year of immense learning for the Sunshine family.

Children have emerged as the worst hit section of society during this period and more than the pandemic it is the apathy of our system that has pushed the underprivileged children back, by decades.

With the hope and resilience to fill sunshine in the lives of children who have been widely ignored by mainstream society, our team is learning and adapting innovative ways as we proceed to the next year.

Good health and safety to all,
Tasneema Zaidi

Introduction

Who We Are

PFO Sunshine was established in September 2019 in response to an alarming rise in child abuse cases, ranging from physical, sexual and emotional abuse to human trafficking and substance abuse in children.

The primary concern of every working mother is to leave her child in safe hands at a safe place while she goes out to work. However migrant workers within the domestic, construction, industrial sectors and daily wagers often have to leave their children unprotected in high density residential quarters or on the streets due to lack of a support system in place.

Understanding the need to fill this crucial gap in caretaking, the 'Sunshine' group works for the prevention of child abuse and to ensure a safe and happy childhood for the children of daily wagers, by providing clean and accessible Daycare facilities.

The focus of PFO Sunshine is on the prevention of child abuse, so that the need for rehabilitation after abuse/harm has taken place is reduced.

Governing Body Members

President | Ritu Sinha

Visiting Professor of Sociology,
Ambedkar University

Treasurer | Asma Zaidi

Family Psychologist, School Leader,
Teacher trainer and Author

Vice President | Azra Naqvi

Fiction writer & Poet,
Editor, 'Rekhta' Foundation

Secretary | Tasneema Zaidi

Child Rights Campaigner,
Former member of Child Welfare Committee

Project 1

Sunshine Daycare Center

Objective: To prevent abuse of the most marginalized children and ensure that they do not get pulled into harmful activities.

The Okhla Vihar Daycare provides alternative care during the day to children of domestic workers, rickshaw pullers, construction workers and other daily wage earners. Sunshine Daycare provides a range of activities throughout the day, centered on children's emotional, mental, and intellectual development.

Facilities Provided:

Sunshine DCC runs from 9 AM to 5 PM by a team of well-trained staff. Children drop in after school hours and stay until evening. Many infants are also taken care of, and dropped-off to the daycare by the mothers as per their need and work timings.

- Children up to 12 years of age are taken care off in the daycare
- It has a total capacity for 30 children
- Infants are dropped-off and picked-up by mothers as per their need
- Older children are enrolled in regular schools
- They join DCC before/after school hours
- Fresh cooked food, milk & fruit etc. are served
- The daily routine includes exercise, games, singing, activities, study and rest
- Especial care is taken of children's hygiene, daily routine, habits, language and value systems
- Children are taught about how to keep oneself safe
- Parents meetings are conducted periodically to discuss issues pertaining to child safety and wellbeing



After overcoming initial resistance and gaining the parents' trust through various stages we witnessed an enthusiasm among Okhla Vihar families in getting their children admitted in the Daycare center.

Children were happy and the mothers expressed their relief. The staff also learnt to find a balance between engaging with the children about issues of personal safety and responsibly managing their independence which they had learnt the hard-way while growing up in the bastis.

COVID 19 Pandemic

While the Daycare had just started taking shape the first lockdown in wake of the COVID 19 pandemic was announced on 25th March 2020. The daily wage families got severely affected by the lockdown and exodus towards rural areas started simultaneously in almost all the cities of India. Although none of the daycare families moved back to their villages, the situation in cities was no better.

With time it was evident that things are not going to improve soon. Private schools took no time to switch over to e-learning. The challenge was for children coming from weaker sections of the society.

Addressing the massive Digital Divide

Break of the COVID 19 Pandemic and frequent lockdowns exposed a huge digital divide between the children of two sections of society. Almost none of the Daycare families had smartphones, leave alone laptop and iPad.

Project 2

Reaching out during the Pandemic

Online education is a privilege. We had to produce innovative ways to teach them and ensure that they remain in a positive spirit. It is also important to remain in their touch as in most cases, the abuse of children and women happens at home.

How We Did It

The Sunshine team and staff of a collaborative NGO had brainstorming sessions and worked out a plan most suitable to the situation of our Daycare children. Every Monday morning the team had a virtual meeting. The team chooses a poem/story and the topic to be taught during the week. The children were called individually over the phone, the teacher listened to their stories, discussed their general wellbeing and taught the content scheduled for the day. Often the calls were made late evening as the phones were available only after parents return from work.

Daycares were opened for the staff from the first week of August. Teachers started giving activity-based homework and worksheets along with some packed snacks, boiled eggs or fruit which were dropped and later collected from the children by the helpers who come from the same basties. Teachers continued following up with the children individually over the phone.

It proved to be a success in spite of the fact that it wasn't an easy task. Children enjoyed doing worksheets and waited desperately for phone calls from their teachers. They sent messages and requests to reopen the Daycare. Undeterred by challenges the teachers made it possible because it was their initiative and they were determined to reach out to the children in this difficult time.

Project 3

Spreading Sunshine & Smiles

Lockdown due to COVID 19 was a tough time for daily wagers across India. A large number of them lost jobs, self-employed like rickshaw pullers and vendors hardly had customers. Domestic help were asked to stay back by the employers and very few of them received wages for this period.

The entire socio-political scenario affected the children gravely, no school, no outings and no outdoor play. Especially the kids living in single room households with no open space to play and literally no gadgets or toys to keep them engaged with. These are the children 'Sunshine' is involved with.

To spread smiles on their face and to keep them engaged Sunshine distributed stationery & toys to the children and rations and other essential items to daycare families.

April 2020

- Ration bags containing rice, flour, pulses, oil, salt & sugar, sweets
- Stationery including drawing books, notebooks, crayons, pencils, sharpener etc

May 2020

- Stationery including drawing books, notebooks, crayons, pencils, sharpener etc.
- Toys and indoor games and sweets

July 2020

- Masks
- Soaps
- Flour
- Stationery



Project 4

Collaboration with NGOs

We understand that Daycare is a basic need of every basti to keep its children safe but the task is tough and requires a lot of resources and funds. It cannot be accomplished by Sunshine alone as it's a new organization with limited resources.

In our view the two possible ways to achieve this goal are:

- To work in collaboration with other child rights organizations to establish DCC in their respective areas
- Public-Private Partnership

It is this collaborative approach that is making it possible for us to reach out to children in different parts of Delhi. Presently we are working in collaboration with a renowned group that has established 2 DCC in South Delhi and talks are on with other NGOs as well.

We have also contacted some citizen groups beside NGOs to work in partnership to achieve this goal. The concept of prevention and the need to provide alternative care is realised by almost everyone so far but funds is a common constraint across lines. A few groups have started working more passionately on this project and expected to workout financial constraints.

Collaborative work with other NGOs during the pandemic:

We provide guidance and support to the partner NGO in planning, implementation and day to day functioning of Daycare centers.

While the 2 Daycares run by collaborative NGO were closed temporarily during COVID 19 pandemic Sunshine facilitated following training programs for its staff and Sunshine team:

- Square Tales Teacher Training
- Square Tales Language Skills
- Child Development, JEC
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Session on Prevention of Child Abuse & POCSO Act. 2012
- Follow up session on Prevention of Child Abuse



Project 5

Other Activities during Lockdown

The staff of all the 3 Daycares were constantly in touch with the children and their families throughout this period. This time was also utilized to carry out following activities:

- Admission of out of school children in the neighborhood Government school
- Essential documents like Aadhar Card, Voter I card and Ration Card of the children and their family members were made
- The families were assisted in procuring rations and other benefits from the government and philanthropists
- The families were helped in every possible way in these hard times.



Project 6

Need Assessment in Jasola Village

Jasola Gaon is an old basti near Jasola Institutional Area. Majority of the adults in the locality are daily wagers and the children are seen on streets during the day in spite of the fact that most of them are enrolled in schools. Often the young boys of the area are seen at Okhla Tank, a spot about a kilometer away from here, a hub of drugs and substance abuse.

A few residents of Jasola Gaon expressed the need for a Daycare in this locality. Thus a survey has been initiated to study demography of the area and needs to start a Daycare center. The survey is conducted by volunteers who will be paid a stipend on a daily basis.

A decision regarding establishing a new Daycare in Jasola Village will be taken on the basis of findings of the survey.

Internship Program

Objective: Child Rights Advocacy & Awareness on children's Issues

A 2-month content writing Internship Program was organized in September-October 2020. A group of 6 students was selected and given orientation on issues related to Child Rights violations and the importance of prevention. It was a paid internship and a small stipend was paid to the students on every article they wrote.

Some of the issues addressed by the interns were 'Prevention of Abuse of Children with Special Needs, Rise in Domestic Violence and Its Effect on Children, Challenges of E-Learning for Children with No Excess to Smartphone, etc.

The interns did good research work and wrote some very informative and effective articles. These articles are posted on PFO Sunshine social media sites every fortnight which are getting good responses from readers.

It was a useful and informative experience for interns. They expressed their willingness to work with Sunshine in future as well. We have also received requests from other students to do internships with Sunshine.



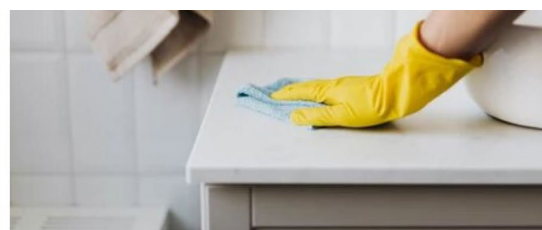
Malnutrition faced by Marginalized Children during the Pandemic



India's long road to E-learning



Rights of Children under the Indian Constitution



Urban Indian Youth and the Conundrum of Household Chores



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