



Parivaar Newsletter (June 1st to July 15th)

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share with you that we have not just restarted all our Seva Kutirs, but have also opened 6 new Seva Kutirs recently in Sheopur district. This takes the total number of Seva Kutirs to 163, thereby serving more than 16,000 children across 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh. The restarting process involved taking the local government authorities and the community in confidence. Our teams in all the 5 districts met with the local government officials and briefed them about our plans to restart the Seva Kutirs. As Mandla and Sheopur districts were declared Green and Orange Zones, respectively, in the month of May by the state government, we restarted the Seva Kutirs there in May. Seva Kutirs in the remaining three districts (Dewas, Sehore and Chhindwara) were restarted in the month of June.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of our supporters, well-wishers, volunteers and mentors. Without your support this would not have been possible. Regards, Vinayak Lohani Founder & Chief

Parivaar MP Seva Kutirs : Restarting & Repurposing

To address the various challenges faced by the children and the community as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, we have repurposed our services in the Seva Kutirs, modifying certain aspects and even enhancing some services. The key features of Seva Kutirs running at present are:

- **Lunch & Dinner:** As government schools are closed and the service of free Mid Day Meal at schools is not available, we are serving 2 full cooked meals daily: lunch as well as dinner. Our 16,000 children belong to extremely poor tribal families, who were already malnourished, and this situation has become worse in the present times
- **Safety Measures:** We are taking all the necessary safety measures during the present times. Some of these are :
 - Children are divided into small groups of 20-25 and they come as per their allotted time slots so that there is no congestion.
 - They sit at specially marked spots to ensure proper physical distancing
 - They wash their hands frequently with soaps provided at the Seva Kutirs (this was in fact a usual practice for them).
 - Those children who show COVID-19 symptoms or if anyone from their family is showing that, then they are advised to remain quarantined in their homes for at least 14 days. Similarly, children from families where anyone has come from outside, are advised to stay quarantined for 14 days.
 - As far as possible, children bring their own water bottles.
- **Catering to Migrants' Families:** Hundreds of migrant families from cities and different states have come back to these villages. Their children are also now getting meals and education in our Kutirs.
- **Filling the Education Gap:** There is no educational engagement for these children as their schools are closed. At this time, Seva Kutirs are the only medium through which their education is going on. Daily home-study time slots have been fixed for children. Seva Kutirs teachers visit their homes, ensure that they are engaged in studies, give them various fun- filled educational tasks and also help them perform these tasks.

- **Serving the Sick & Elderly:** The COVID-19 crisis has brought to light the problems faced by the sick and the elderly in the villages who have no adult members to take care of them. We are now serving them as well. If someone is sick and not able to come to the Kutir, we serve them food in their house. Thus, in addition to 16,000 children, we are also serving around 2000 needy elderly people of these villages.
- **Coordinating Health Checkups by the Government Officials:** We have a team of more than 800 grassroots workers who live and work in the communities which we serve. After the COVID-19 crisis, they keep a watch on all cases of sickness, and inform health officials about any cases which require medical attention. Information about all such persons are given to the health officials and they do a routine checkup. If any person shows symptoms of fever, cold etc then he/she is quarantined.
- **Keeping Track of Implementation of Government Schemes:** Government has announced various schemes and benefits for people as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. Our team is actively coordinating with the government officials and the villagers and making sure that all the help (in cash and in kind) as decided by the Central & State Governments reaches the villagers.



Sheopur



Mandla



Chhindwara



Dewas



Sehore



Education in Seva Kutirs

COVID-19 has generally affected children's education, and for children in remote, tribal pockets, it has meant no school education for more than 3 months. However, because of Seva Kutirs, there has been no gap in children's learning. Daily home-study time slots have been fixed for children (morning 8 to 9.30 am; afternoon – 2 to 4.30 pm). During this time, children study in a group of 3-4 in their homes. Seva Kutirs teachers visit their homes, ensure that they are engaged in studies, give them various fun-filled educational tasks and also help them perform these tasks

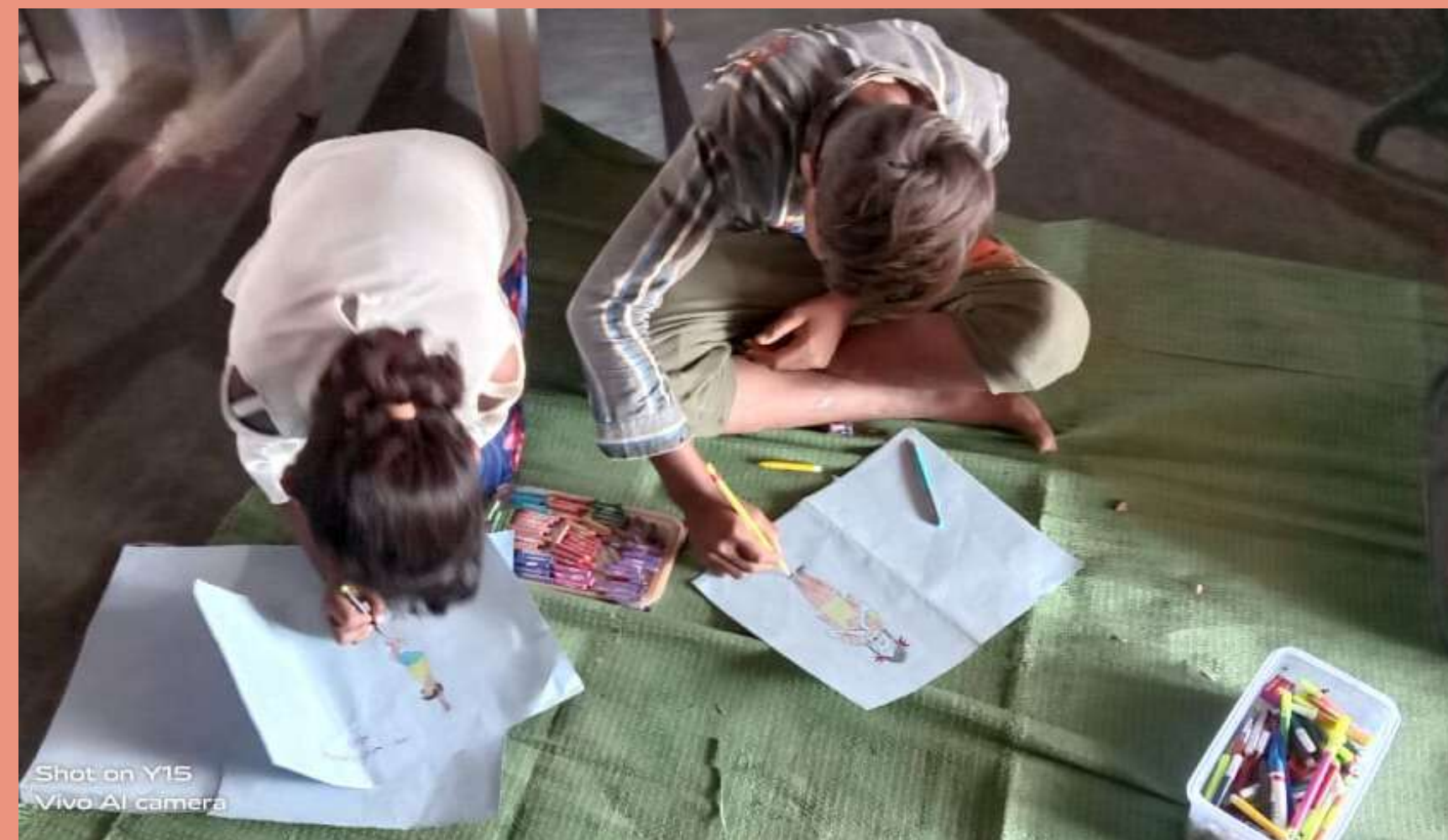


Teachers' Training

Our Education Resource persons have been continuously holding online training sessions with teachers during this period. We are using whatsapp Groups, Read Along (Bolo) App, The Teacher App for these purposes. Teachers are being given tasks regularly, which they have to complete and share, in word documents or through audio/visual methods. These tasks relate to reading, writing, pronunciation, solving problems etc. Teachers have to present their completed tasks on 'Bolo App' through video calls.

Collaboration with Toybank (www.toybank.org)

We have collaborated with TOYBANK, an organization working towards building fun & play spaces for children from underprivileged backgrounds. During present times, they are creating PlaySheets, focusing on the behavioral and mental growth of children. They are sharing these PlaySheets with us daily which are then being shared by us with all the children of our 163 Seva Kutirs. These PlaySheets have interesting educational activities on a wide range of areas such as languages, arithmetic, simple games etc.



Pratham Books Mini Libraries

We have mini-libraries of Pratham Books in all our Seva Kutirs. These are portable, foldable, wall-mounted collections (120 books in each) carefully curated by us with Pratham Books. Children in our remote, tribal villages who do not have access to any reading materials apart from their textbooks, are now using these books with great interest and enthusiasm.



Monetary Relief Of Rs 1.20 crores : Rs 3000 each to 4,000 families

In addition to the work of Seva Kutirs, we are also continuing our relief efforts. Through extensive field surveys by our team, we have identified 4000 tribal families across 5 districts who are extremely poor, have none or very few earning members, or with specially abled members, to whom we are giving monetary relief of Rs 3,000 each. Till 15th July, 2020, we have deposited money into the bank accounts of 917 families, and will make the transfer to the remaining 3083 families soon. This is in addition to the monetary relief provided to more than 2,125 families in the months of April and May, 2000.



Parivaar Bengal Residential Institutions

Our Bengal residential institutions are functional, though with around 100 children as the remaining children have been sent to their homes. The state government has announced lockdown till at least 31st July (which is likely to continue in August as well) and we expect that it will be possible to bring all children only after a few months. In the meantime, the resident Sevavratees are performing their duties courageously and selflessly and, despite concerns about their families etc, have stayed put and remained focused at our campuses. We are following all the advised practices like safe distancing and greater watch on any symptoms etc. We have also started online classes for the children who have gone back to their homes. Our teachers come to the school and conduct online classes with all these children. This is continuing for children from Grade VI onwards. We have also helped our staff and the local villagers, many of whose houses got damaged because of Cyclone Amphan. We gave monetary relief up to Rs 1 lakh to 157 families. We are also distributing monthly food stocks to poor people in the nearby villages.

Your support is extremely valuable to us. It enables us to go further in our mission to transform the lives of deprived children.

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YOU