



THE TIDINGS

Arunodhaya centre for Street and Working Children
19/9/2 Bazaar Street, Royapuram, Chennai 600013.

Ensuring Education amidst lockdown

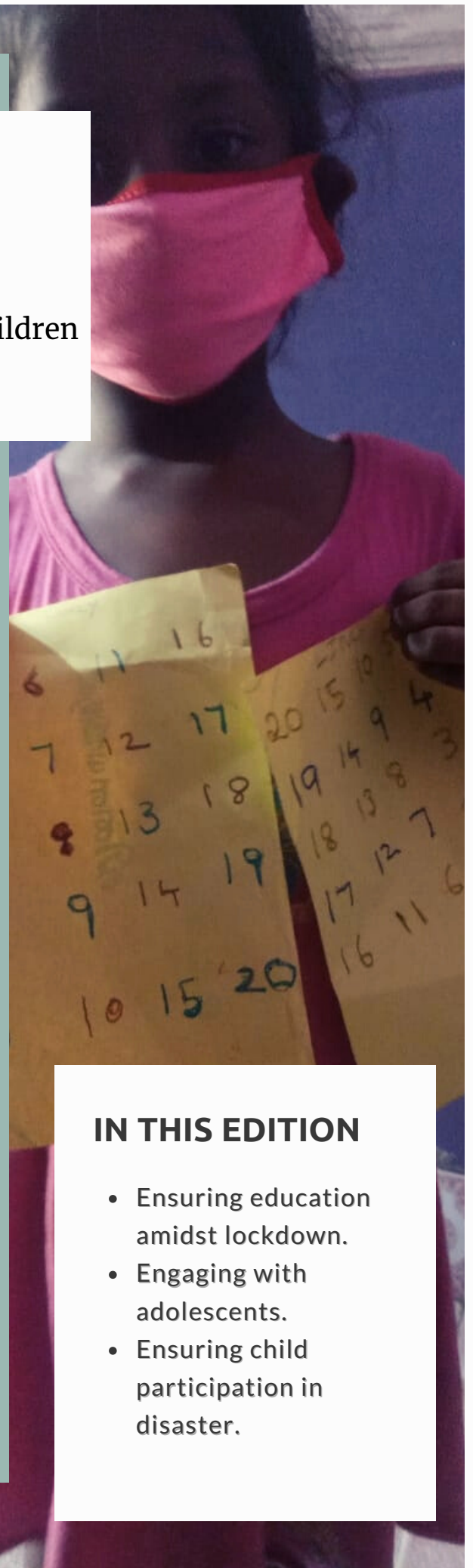
- 24 children involved child labor were rescued
- 113 children enrolled in school.
- 20 Micro learning centres functioned with the support of volunteers
- Volunteers visited 19 schools and did follow up on drop outs.
- Career guidance was given to 367 children who were studying 10th and 12th std.
- Children who lost hope on their dreams were motivated and enrolled back in school.

“There are 6 members in my family, due to lockdown we didn't have enough food to eat. So I started working in a near by sofa making shop which paid me Rs.500 per month. I wanted to go to school after school reopens but not sure. My aim is to become a police” R.Parthiban, 12 years.

He was identified by Arunodhaya children sangam member and volunteers from Arunodhaya rescued him. He was motivated to continue his education and enrolled in 9th std.

IN THIS EDITION

- Ensuring education amidst lockdown.
- Engaging with adolescents.
- Ensuring child participation in disaster.



Story of Inspiration

Micro Learning Centre

K. Mary, (16 years) is one of the volunteers who supported in starting micro classes in her area. She is studying in 10th Std in Jaigopal Garodia school. She comes from a family of 10 members. During the lockdown her family struggled without proper work. But amidst the difficult situation she was determined to study and share her knowledge with other children. She identified 18 children from 1st std to 8th std from her street and used an empty ground near her house to conduct learning centre.



“During the lockdown my family went through a difficult situation. I was very depressed seeing the financial crisis in my family. This learning centre not only helped me to study but also relieved me from my stress. I ensured safety precautions during the class. Many children coming to my class were facing similar situation. I helped them to overcome it through fun filled learning”.

K. Mary, (16 years), Thiruvotriyur.

Like Mary there are 24 volunteers and children who started similar free evening learning centres and supported 248 children to continue education during lockdown.

ENGAGING WITH ADOLESCENTS



Engaging adolescents through life skills

One of the consequences of lockdown was that adolescents were ignored and they were not engaged in a positive way. Access to smart phones lead to online addiction.

Arunodhaya conducted life skill trainings on relationship values, self-awareness, self-esteem, personality development, self awareness, goal setting and decision making, stress management and awareness on drug abuse. 312 participated in these trainings. It developed coping skills for adolescents in this challenging situations.

The activities in the sessions enabled adolescents to be relieved from stress and gave them an experience of playing safely and meeting their friends.

"I used to get angry, fight with my mother and my friends frequently. I was little worried about my behavior. I lost my friends and my mom used to frequently scold me. I attended life skill session regularly and it made me realize that I was carrying lots of stress and I expressed it through anger. They gave me counselling and frequently visited me. I wrote all my worries in a balloon and burst it. It was fun but it relieved me from my stress. Now I am able to control my feelings and I am able to communicate with people in a much better way. Thanks to Arunodhaya"
- R. Divya, 16 years

‘OUR ASPIRATIONS AND OUR DREAMS – VOICE OF ADOLESCENTS’ – ADOLESCENTS ANNUAL CONSULTATION 2021.

A consultation was organized on the theme ‘Our Aspirations and Our Dreams – Voice of adolescents’. Adolescents performed cultural programs creating awareness on child protection. Adolescents exhibited drawings and models of house, school and community on the theme “The City I Reimagine” prepared by them. Their dream school, house and the community were very simple with basic amenities and child friendly environment. 186 adolescents participated in the consultation. Adolescents prepared demands highlighting adolescent issues and presented to the guests. These demands were presented to political parties and their candidates by adolescents.

UNDERSTANDING GENDER CRISIS DURING COVID -19



A training on sexual reproductive health, rights and gender equality was conducted for 12 boys who volunteered to conduct these sessions with other boys in the community. They took the sessions covering 200 boys. Boys found it more comfortable to understand about themselves and clarified many doubts relating to reproductive health from a male trainer of their age. They said that such trainings for boys are very scarce and the sessions enabled them to clear many of their doubts.

SRHR sessions were also conducted to girls covering 1500 girls.

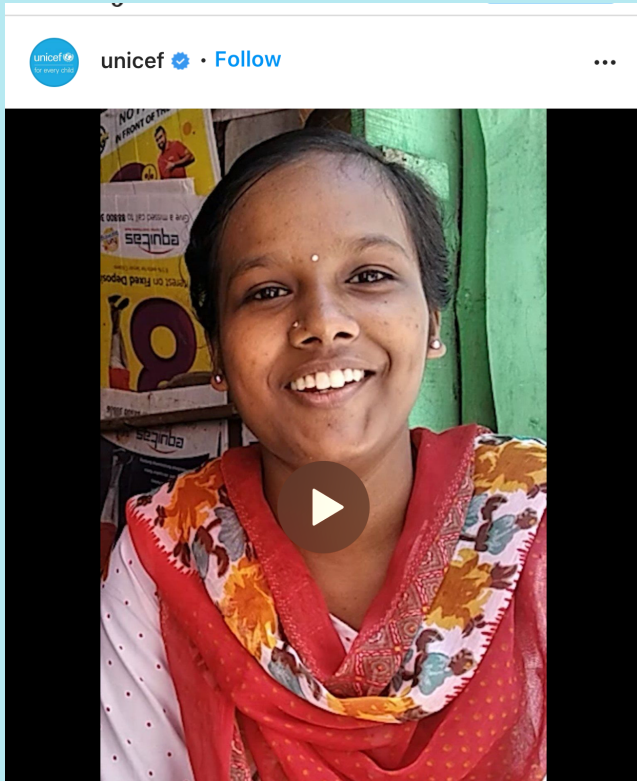
ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS THROUGH VIDEOS AND ENHANCING THEIR CREATIVITY

Adolescents and youth were trained in making videos on child protection issues. They prepared videos with message on overcoming myth associated with COVID-19 and against discrimination and stigma, child labour, child marriage and environment. 110 videos were created and 20 videos were posted in UNICEF social media page and got two million views in total.



“When I went to take video to Madhan’s house, I didn’t notice the dog in his house. I freaked out and ran. It started to chase me but luckily Madhan got it and locked in a room. I got afraid but we laughed and laughed and laughed for a long time. We had great fun taking these videos. We used to laugh for every bloopers. During the shooting we forgot all our worries and problems at home”. S. Swathi, 16 years,

ENSURING CHILD PARTICIPATION IN DISASTER.



Voice of Children

**COPING WITH COVID -19 –
GIRLS AROUND THE WORLD**

Story of Sangamitra (Children sangam Member) was documented with the stories of Girls around the world during lockdown. She expressed how girl children are affected due to lack of child protection. It was nominated in international films by children for her performance, dialogue delivery, clarity in presentation of the children's issues. It was posted in UNICEF portals and UNICEF Instagram page.

Children Election Manifesto

Children prepared their demands that they wanted the candidates standing for State Assembly election to hear and act upon. They presented 22 demands on children's protection at school and in the community. They also met and handed over the manifesto to the candidates during their campaign .

My name is Tanuja, My father is cooli worker. I know how much my parents struggle to feed us. Like my family there are many families in my area. Most of their fathers are alcoholic. They used to sell things and drink, their mother will get money as loan to take care of children. There will be constant fights due to all these. Keeping this in mind I wanted to keep a demand that government should keep standard for the quantity of alcohol given to people living below poverty level. This would minimise the amount spent on alcohol in each family. I am also proud that my voice was heard through this manifesto". Tanuja.S, 14 years, Korrukupet

