



REACH

Empowering Girls Through Education
by The Visram Foundation



EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

To all our Donors, Sponsors and Well-wishers.

On behalf of the Visram Foundation and staff, we are very happy to share with you the highlights of our summer term. On Monday January 4th, the Maharashtra government announced the reopening of schools for grade 10 and 12. We were very excited to receive this news and diligently started preparing for the reopening of the Institute. Our girls arrived on campus the second week of January to a new set up. In accordance with health and safety regulations, we enforced the following protocols on campus:

- Temperature screenings and oxygen level checks for all staff, faculty, and students each day upon arrival.
- Physical distancing protocols of 6 feet.
- Frequent hand washing and mask-wearing.
- Regular sanitization of dormitories, bus, van, and campus.

Just as we were adjusting to this situation, we received some more good news; the government announced that schools would be reopening for grades 8, 9, and 11. We were all excited to have more of our girls back and things slowly moving towards a form of normalcy.



Physical distancing on campus



Bus being disinfected



Physical distancing on campus

Once all the girls permitted to return were on the campus, we reached a total count of 34 girls.

Since then, however, Covid-19 cases started rising in Pune and as such, schools were mandated to close once again the last week of February. We sent the grade 8, 9, and 11 girls back home after their final exams in March as there was no possibility of schools opening again anytime soon. On Wednesday April 21st, we were informed that the grade 10 board exams were cancelled and students would be evaluated on their assignments alone. Furthermore, grade 12 exams have also been postponed until June.

Ideally, we would like every student to be able to attend onsite education daily. However, safety is our top priority and it is simply not possible to have the girls attend regular classes at this time. In an attempt to ensure the safety of our students, all girls from grade 1 to 9, as well as those in grade 11, are currently attending online schooling. Due to the circumstances, the government has announced that all children from these grades will be able to progress to the next grade without sitting for their final exams.

All students partaking in virtual schooling are attending online classes. As most of our children are presently living with their families in remote areas of Gujarat, power failures and

Internet issues present a challenge for both students and teachers. We are diligent in communicating with the parents and children twice a month to ensure they are able to attend online classes and keep up with their assignments. We look forward to the prospect of welcoming the students back to REACH in the future so they can enjoy the human interaction and the community of traditional classroom environments.

Six grade 12 students will continue to reside at the campus and appear for their board exams which will be held sometime in June. It has yet to be determined whether these will be held in person or online. We are hopeful schools will be allowed to reopen in time for the new academic year, however, this decision ultimately rests with the government of India.

At the time of this writing, the Covid-19 situation in India has unfortunately grown increasingly severe, resulting in a largely unpredictable, precarious situation. I am sure all of you are well aware of the rampant spread of the virus due to the new variants in various pockets of India. Sadly, Pune is no exception.

As such, we are continuously monitoring the situation closely so we can act quickly and effectively to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

Mrunalini Nelge
Administrator - REACH

Social distancing and other protocols:

Social distancing and other protocols like wearing a mask and hand sanitization is strictly followed in the dormitories, during tuitions, and when attending online classes. All the children are closely supervised to maintain safety and hygiene.



Social distancing in dormitories



Studying between classes in the library



Online classes in the computer room



Kitchen staff are exercising extra caution



Social distancing during math tuitions with Mrs. Sathe



Frequent cleaning protocols

Activities

Republic Day was celebrated on January 26th, 2021. A flag raising ceremony was conducted by the girls. It was a short and simple ceremony, with just the girls and staff.

Navroz was celebrated on March 21st with prayers followed by a tasty traditional meal.



**Your generous gift will keep our children's faith alive.
Dreams will become realities!**

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