



kshamtalaya

ISSUE NO. 3 | JUNE 2020

Kshamta Samvaad

On-Air and On-ground news, updates for the month



Surviving to Learn Vs Learning to Survive

Is COVID-19 affecting only the cities? - There is a need to shift focus back to our Villages.

As Anshu Gupta says, "Slums are not an extension of cities but villages."

Have we forgotten our villages? Metro cities have been getting attention and for the right reasons as the crisis unfolded there, but where is this crisis travelling to? Are we solving the crisis or happily displacing the problem? There are more than 6,00,000 villages in India and one of them is *Kotra*. It is a tribal block nestled in the *Aravalis*. It is home to more than 5,00,000 people and has always been media dark. It is called *Kaalapani* for the reasons only known by people who propagated this identity.

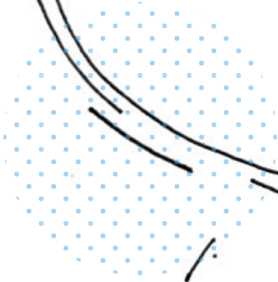
Most of the houses are located on the hills and the only way to make any kind of information available to them is to take the challenge of travelling 4-6 km uphill. There is no other way for information or ration to travel there. They have no idea how to get their name registered under NFSA (national food security act). Most of them are landless labourers and with the lock down- they are mostly left on their own. While we have tried to reach as many possible partnering governments for resources, we have our own limitations.

While comparison can only make people defensive, it is important to do bench-marking and contrasting to share the gravity and build relativity of the situation. Over the last two months, through a radio and integrated audio learning program we have been able to reach more than 500 families. The intention of the program is to cultivate connections through learning and well-being programs. They are also aimed at not letting children slip from the radar of learning. The content has been meticulously designed to cater to the learning requirements of children between age 8 and 14. The program has been running in two tribal blocks of Udaipur and the communities we serve in New Delhi. The encouragement and responses we have received from children has inspired us to take this beyond our geographical boundaries and nurture new partnership.

We are grateful to Akanksha Foundation for supporting and partnering with us to take the program to children in Pune. As we continue to work with teachers to build multilingual content, wonderful things await to happen. While the world is learning to live amidst chaos, we are working with children and teachers towards building muscles for uncertainty. And we hope you all are doing well.

TEAM KSHAMTALAYA





Let us celebrate
1000
Minutes
of air time.



Kshamtalaya is extremely happy and grateful to announce that we completed 1000 minutes of on-air time, on the 24th June 2020. We are very grateful to our team, our partners and supporters, communities and children to have sustained the program till it's present day.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. The *Aapki Awaaz* segment was very well appreciated by the teachers and Akanksha team in Pune.
2. *Kshamtalaya* conducted a workshop with teachers to orient them about the audio program. They were assigned activities focusing on recording to help contextualize the content for children in Pune.
3. An audio learning program for building Social and Emotional competencies of senior secondary and middle school children is being created in collaboration with *Apni Shala*. The launch of the program is awaited with the work on an initial of 5 weeks' content in progress.*
4. The iDiscover Fellowship is in the second round of recruitment for the upcoming cohort. The new batch of fellows are expected to be on-board in the next month to come.
5. A comic book based on the episodes and content of the audio learning program is in progress.
6. *Hausla*, a 21 day well-being program for adults, in collaboration with BRIO will be rolled out in the next month.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Collaboration is multiplication"

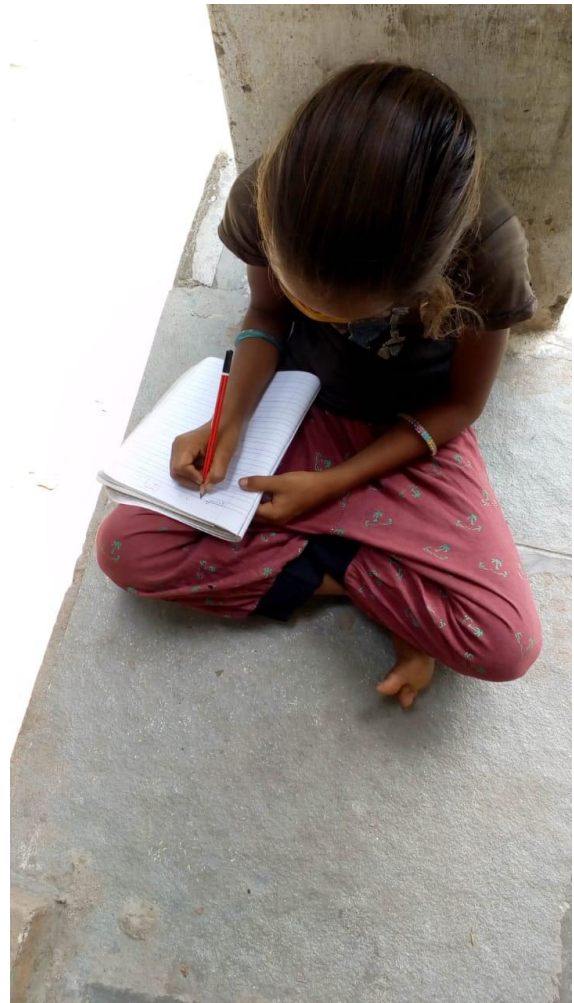
- John Maxwell

A SCHOOL IN THE SYSTEM

As children we are taught to aspire,
As adults we perspire,
And after we die and expire,
Our legacies shall inspire,
Yet by following this rule,
And chasing life's non-existent jewel,
We are mired in disappointment, like fools,
For no one accounted for the roadblock that is school.
A few teachers say, school is the process in which we are to "grow",
A few teachers say, school is the students time to glow,
A few teachers say, school is the greatest transformation we know,
But it is time for the students to say no.
It is time that these misguided institutions come face to face with the fact that they are not the solution
But there is still a chance for resolution
Which should begin with this current system's dissolution.
Our schooling is based on the fact that everyone is the same,
Forcing intellectuals and jocks to be taught under the same frame,
It is high time we let student choose their claim to fame,
Whether that be pursuing math, or getting their head in the game.
School is a system of false tests of success, In which students no longer are driven to do their best,
In which life's future course can be determined by a grade on a test,
And many must pay the price by keeping their true potential suppressed.

**Correction - Due to an error in communication, the previous version has been edited. The program is to build social and emotional competencies and is inspired by the SEE Learning curriculum. The earlier version mentioned that we were creating a SEE Learning framework and this was a miscommunication from our end. We apologize for the same.*

When a student goes home to his parents after receiving a "C",
How well will they take it, regardless of the student's valiant plea? "I studied, I studied!",
in vain the student may shriek,
And this negativity has often pushed students to the brink.
Is it worth partaking in a system in which reward may never arrive? Is it worth watching students work in vain when they have so much potential unrealized?
Is it worth the screaming from parents who wonder whether their child is mentally deprived?
Is it worth the suffering that we see from society, all for an unattainable prize?
Let's think about this again.
Each passing day, it pains to watch individuality suffer,
As inevitably, the competition will get stiffer and tougher,
This is the time, when we must realize the horrors of education's status quo,
This is the time, when we must realize that we must stand together to say no,
This is the time, when we must realize that there are changes this system must undergo,
This is the time, when our current school's system has to go.



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Kshamtalaya is delighted to announce a partnership with Akanksha, an organisation working with children from low-income communities in Mumbai and Pune. The established network and connection with communities is helping us scale the audio learning program.

OUTREACH*

RAJASTHAN

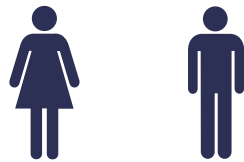
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CHILDREN



21

TEACHERS



979

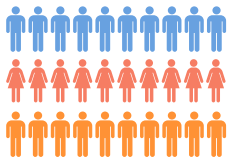
COMMUNITY MEMBERS



DELHI

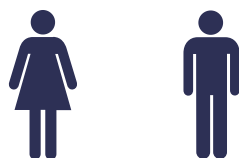
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CHILDREN



28

TEACHERS



545+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS



*cumulative total of the first quarter 2020

CONTENT DESIGN AND PRODUCTION*

21
HOURS

of content created

42
EPISODES

40
EPISODES

broadcasted

*cumulative count for the first quarter 2020

PARTNERSHIP

04
PROPOSALS

worked on

03
NEW
PARTNERSHIPS

INDIVIDUALS

3356*



provided with food relief
and masks in Kotra and
Gogunda

*cumulative count from April-June 2020

CHALLENGES & CONCERNS

- 1.To mitigate the risks of community transmission of the coronavirus, ensuring the safety of every participant of the learning circles by taking required precautions and wearing masks.
 - 2.A batch of iDiscover fellows are graduating, temporarily reducing the number of on-ground facilitators.
 - 3.With the unavailability of public and private transport, the movement of facilitators between communities poses a significant challenge. Using public transport which, at times are available in limited numbers, is a major health risk to the facilitators and fellow travelers.
 - 4.The phones which most of the beneficiaries/stakeholders have, do not support accessibility to viewing worksheets.
 - 5.With safety guidelines in place, orienting the community/parents posing a significant risk.
 - 6.Consistent feedback from the ground is significantly hindered due to the present circumstances.
 - 7.The COVID-19 virus has started to surface in the villages causing a significant risk and uncertainty towards organising learning circles.
 - 8.A new batch of fellows is currently being recruited. The design dilemma of balancing between an online and offline fellowship is a thought which is grappling each one of us. We would really be interested and welcoming in thoughts, ideas around the same.
 - 9.Planning the upcoming year comes with a significant uncertainty and adversity.
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