

## IDENTITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 will forever be remembered for the Covid-19 pandemic and the havoc it created for humanity the world over and continues to do so even now. The pandemic is not just a health challenge but also a social and economic one too. For Identity Foundation too, the pandemic brought forth new sets of challenges and our staff had to find new ways of handling them while making sure we continue to support our children in these dire circumstances. When the lockdown was announced in March'20, people had to go through many hardship with basic food being the most important need. Many parents of our children who worked as daily wage earners lost their only means to earn a livelihood and were exposed to starvation. We reworked our intervention priorities and supported these families with basic food supplies. Furthermore our teachers needed to monitor that restrictions and norms of social distancing, always wearing a mask, washing hands frequently, restricting movement etc. were followed by our beneficiaries.

With physical learning environments not possible our teachers had to make use of mobile technology to reach out to parents and children for continuation of their education. Online groups were formed and education material was shared online and over smartphone. Our staff and volunteers made good use of extra time available working from home by developing new skill sets in usage of digital tools and participating in online courses. As a result audio and video learning aids are created and used now. Furthermore, they also received training for online teaching methods which they have immediate and practical use for.

Diwali in November brought some cheers to our children and families as Identity Foundation distributed Diwali kit consisting of sweets, lantern, and oil lamps along with the Diwali Anka. With the Covid-19 situation showing sign of easing off, this new way of working and interacting with people through technology has become the new normal. This will continue until the situation is tolerable. These are testing times for our children and there will be long-term impact on their mental and emotional wellbeing. They are more vulnerable and exposed to antisocial elements without the support, guidance and bonding which our teacher provided them daily. We are striving to find ways and means to maintain personal connect as best as we can with digital tools. We will go back to the physical interaction as soon as we can.

On behalf of our children, teachers and staff, a big thanks to our patrons, TietoEvry and Yardi Software for their continuous support, especially in these difficult times. Most importantly, our heartfelt gratitude to individual volunteers and donors (Full list of Donors available at the end of report). A big salute to our staff, teachers and volunteers for the care and hard work!

All data of the various activities conducted last year in this report. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions...

Yours Sincerely,



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- **About Identity Foundation**

Since September 2003 **Identity Foundation** has been working to support underprivileged children improve their lives and thus strengthening the community. We are working upon various social causes related to children like their education awareness, child marriage, labour, and sexual abuses. Our vision is to have a society where every child will have a safe, secure, and healthy childhood along with equal opportunity for education and overall social development.

- **An overview of the activities undertaken during period Jan'2020 to Dec'2020**

For the first two months of starting 2020 all work related to Schools, Vasti varga, Khelghar, kindergarten was functioning smoothly. We conducted reading class project with 2500 children from 700 vastis's and with 1200 children from kindergarten. Then Covid-19 struck in the month of March bringing with it new set of challenges never seen or experienced before. Our all projects needed to be planned and executed keeping in mind the precautions needed to deal with this pandemic.

**Conditions of Covid-19:** Considering the Covid-19 situation, it was important for all of us to take appropriate preventive measures for the safety of everyone. Identity Foundation started raising awareness about Covid-19 and took preventive measures suggested by WHO. Children and their parents were told about importance of always wearing a mask, keeping social distancing, and washing hands often. Our workers were following up on this preventive measures regularly and telling the parents about the importance of staying at home during the lockdown, not travel by any type of public transport, to stay safe, and avoid crowds. The parents were sceptical at first but when they realised the seriousness of the situation started taking the required preventive measures and even came up with their own ideas of how to cope with this pandemic. Activists from Ecological Foundation also came and informed the residents about Covid-19.

**March'2020 and April'2020:** It was period of lock down and volunteers had to work from home. By making good use of this available time, a lot of work and projects were completed. These projects included reading of various books, report writing, attending trainings and online interaction with each other.

Following activities were conducted during this period.

- 1) Weekly Google meetings of all the workers of the organization
- 2) Special initiatives were taken for capacity building of teachers who were teaching pre-primary and primary groups
- 3) New plans were chalked out and books about executing them were read.
- 4) What care to take while teaching children from home and how much time the class would be was planned
- 4) Each volunteer took a specific topic and worked on it as a project
- 5) Making of educational materials
- 6) Writing reports of various activities
- 7) Trainings of how to use the technology for online teaching were conducted. All teachers got certificates while undergoing various trainings.

All Communication with the children and their parents took place over phones and mobiles from March onwards. The residents were asked about the aid given to them from the local corporator and various social organisations. An old worker of the organization helped some parents of the slum class with their own food kits. Our activists were constantly in touch with the parents, asking about their well being and making sure all preventing measures were taken during this period.

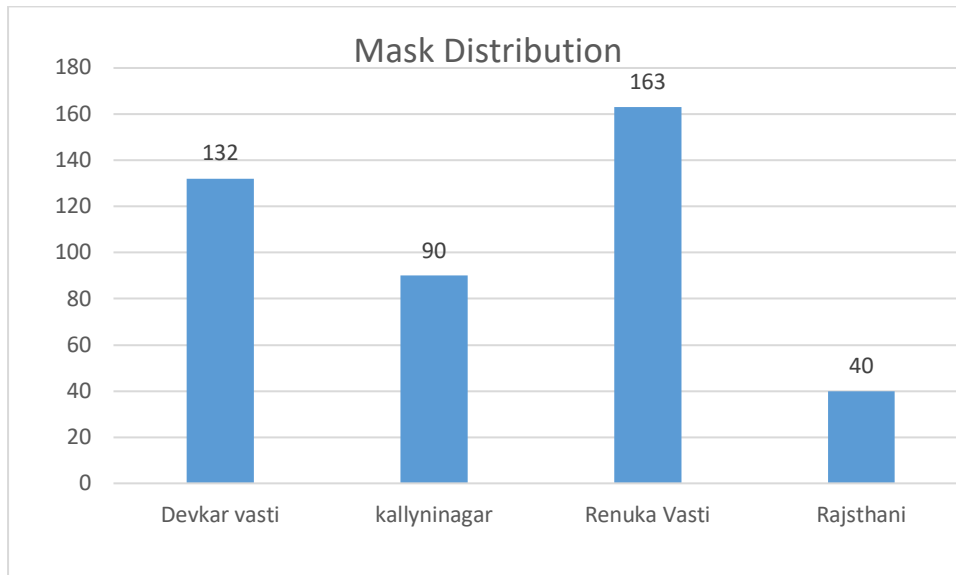
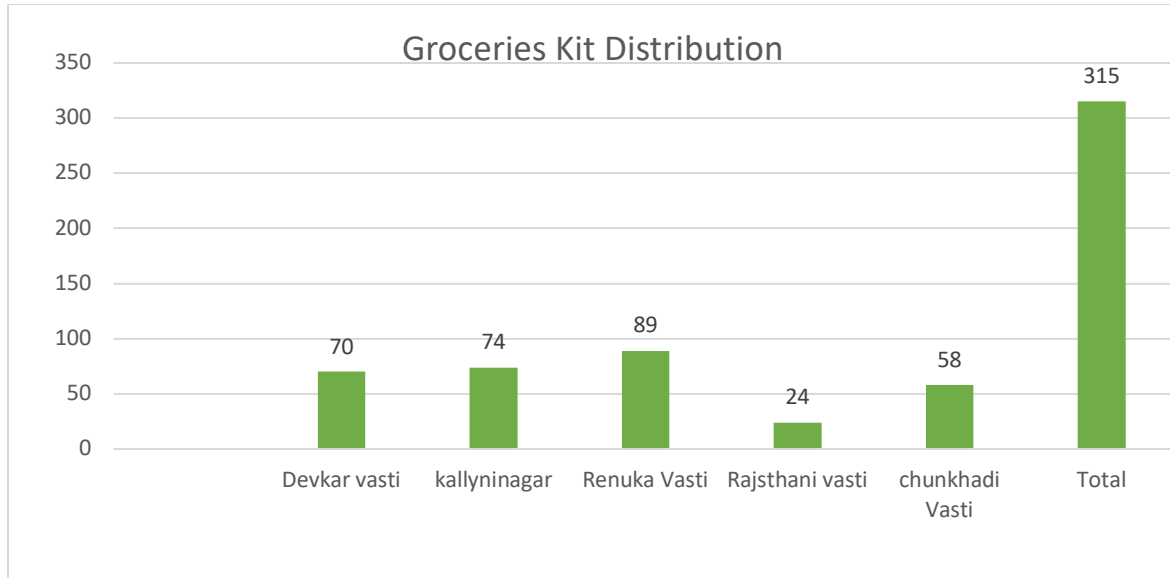


**Grocery kit distribution**

In one instance when all shops were closed during the lockdown, one vendor was serving people illegally and hence crowding was taking place in the slums. Parents were concerned as more people will cause trouble and more chances of spreading Covid-19. So, we immediately contacted local police to close that shop. Parents and family had to go through various hardships for getting their daily food rations. Some parents said that despite the ration card being issued to the people in the slums, food grains were not being distributed from the government food shops.

A survey about vulnerable children in the context of Covid-19 was conducted by the Child Rights Action Committee. In this, 22 children of Nagar Road Vasti participated online. The survey questionnaire and the report in this regard has been submitted.

When the lockdown ended in May, parents had to go out for their daily work. Many had lost their jobs and those having their daily work were told that their wages won't be paid immediately. This created a shortage of funds to buy food grains for many families. Identity foundation recognised the need to provide help in this situation and contacted other organisations and managed to provide food grains to about 315 families. Keeping in mind the safety precautions needed we also spread the awareness of using mask on face to avoid spreading of Covid-19 and distributed face mask to children.



- **Educational activities with children:**

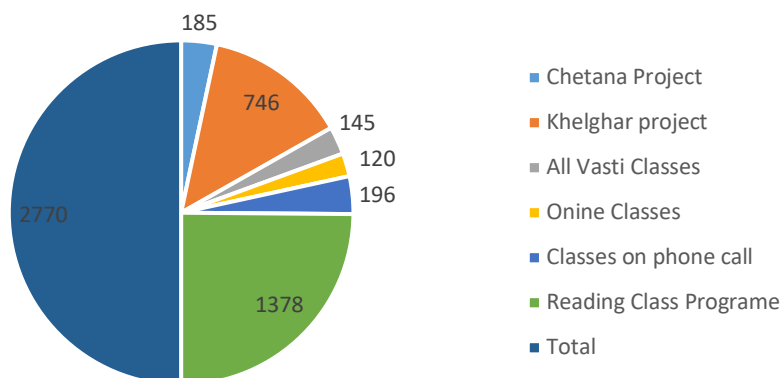


Due to the pandemic schools did not open in June and it was very difficult to reach the children in the slums. We conducted a survey to find out which parents had a smart phone and collected their phone numbers. Our teachers then created WhatsApp groups for children from Junior KG to 7<sup>th</sup> standard and started sharing educational activities with them. Parents were told to make sure all the activities were done by their children. We tried to reach maximum children and teachers also conducted classes through phone calls, zoom call, Google meet & WhatsApp.

Online class with children

We managed to reach 2770 children and parents through this process.

Total count of childrens on whatsapp group as per project



- **Group planning & number of children attended**

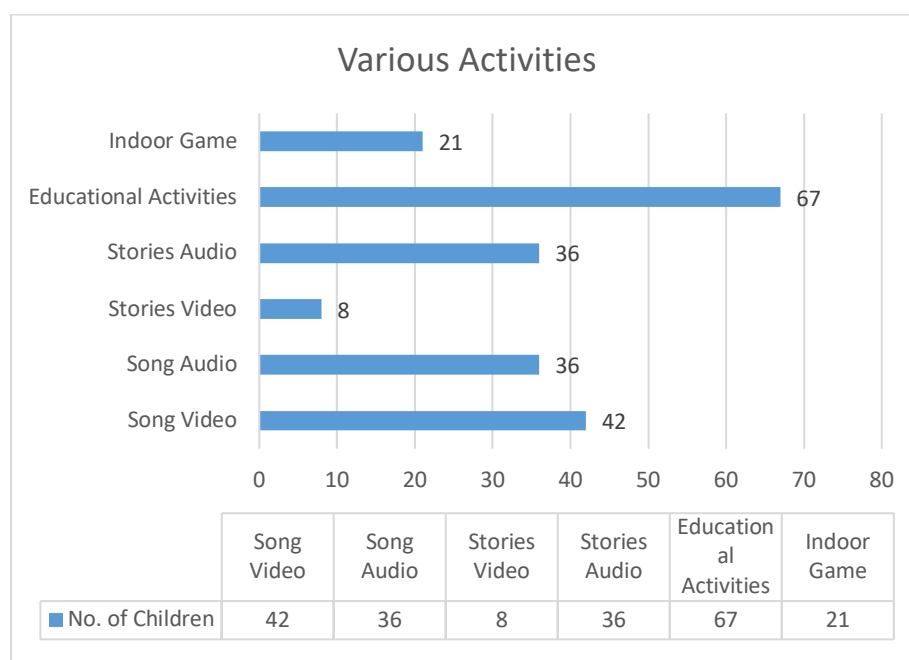
As per our planning teachers would post study and homework material daily along with audio, and study links on WhatsApp. Parents were informed about the same and asked to make sure the children completed their studies daily and posted the completed message back. Teachers also organised various games online to keep the children's mind free from the depressing news of Covid-19. All staff of Identity Foundation were involved in creating the study material like educational videos, audio, activities, games, posters, worksheets for children. Meetings were held three time a week to plan all the activities and study material, and everything was shared across all the networks for the benefit of children.





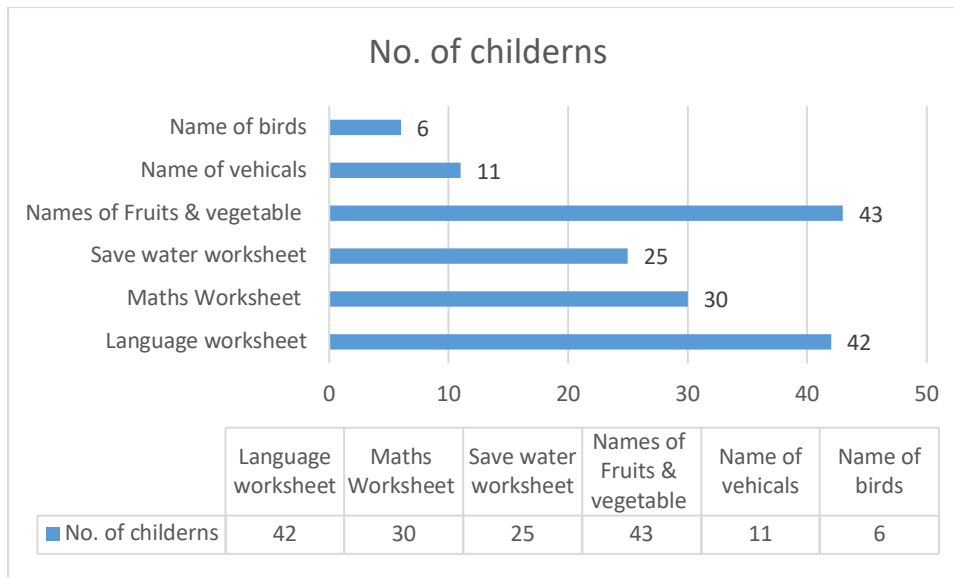
Indian flag making activity

While making the activity videos for children, whatever material was used, it was made sure that it would be easily available in their home for example - showing small and big concepts of mathematics, videos were made using cups, plates, bowls, buckets, notebooks, newspaper etc. Also, worksheets and Covid-19 awareness poster were made according to the subject. All online classes were taken as per school syllabus. All parents of the group were called once in a week to take updates about their child's progress and doing their homework.



- Educational Activities**

Different educational activities were conducted, and educational games were distributed to the children. The teachers at the institute were helping children to study online for school. When the online class started daily, parents in vasti would gather all children in one place to study. The teachers found out that every day the number of attendance of children was increasing. Even though due to Covid-19 most of the parents had gone to their hometown, children would attend the online classes from there. Some parents also said that the children already knew about the pdf, video, and audio files required to download in the group, which helped them to know the syllabus of school.



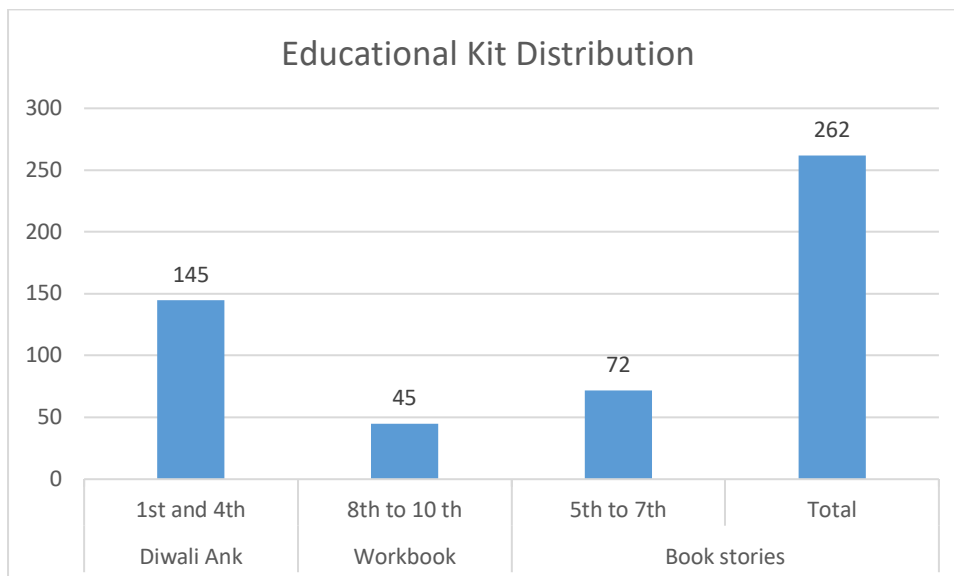
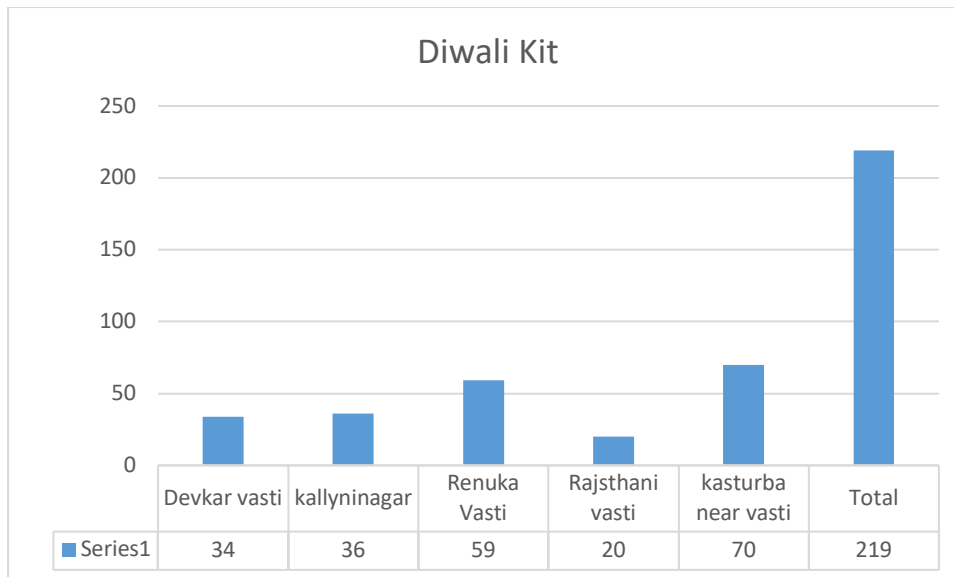
About 120 children from different places were participating in the online class at different times.

- **Diwali Kit Distribution: -**



**Diwali Kit Distribution**

In November during Diwali festival a Diwali kit was distributed to families. A weeklong Diwali program was organised for the children. Teachers posted videos of various activities like making lanterns, rangoli, greeting card and colouring of oil lamps. Information was also provided about pollution free Diwali celebration and social distancing. We distributed new Diwali anka books for 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> standard children and gifted educational games to them. A Diwali kit consisting of sweets, lantern and oil lamps were gifted to the parents. The parents were happy and thankful of celebrating Diwali festival with them.



- **Training for teachers**

Online trainings provided teacher the much-needed effectiveness in executing their duties and helped them maximize their potential and learnings. Many online self-paced learning solutions helped the teachers and students achieve their scheduled targets. Technological advancement has brought a great change in learning process and students felt more comfortable learning through this medium which was also time saving and a safe method.

Following were some of the trainings and activities for teachers

1. Conducting training through the Zoom app and the Google Meet app.
2. How to create excel sheets on mobile, create reports, and fill in data.
3. Save photos to Google Drive, mail
4. Create audio and video
5. Different methods of preparing educational materials
6. Created a poem based on the story of 'Gattu'
7. New Learning Strategy Training



- 8. Free game training
- 9. Language and mathematics training
- 10. Training on king Master App

- Other works



Crown making activity



Raksha Bandhan activity



Activity shared on WhatsApp group



Online Activity class

An organisation 'Abhay Abhiyaan' has created a book for teachers called 'Discipline is an Experiment through Child Participation' in which Identity Foundation was involved.

- Various webinars were conducted related to Covid-19 pandemic situation such as: - How to work in this situation, what to teach children, how to redesign a project, how to view funding organization, diff. indoor games for children's, how to use mobile etc.
- Parents were helped to fill out the school admissions forms.
- In the online class, care was taken to make sure every child from the vasti could participate. Also, in the WhatsApp group a follow-up was taken about studies. Teachers interacted with parents to include all their numbers in the WhatsApp group.
- Various activities were being carried out to ensure that children were not deprived of education.
- A survey was conducted to find out whether child labour or child marriage was taking place anywhere during this lockdown period. Teachers also explained the child labour laws to parents in the vasti who are sending their children for labour work.
  
- **Problems and solutions:**
  - Special grocery stores were selected who would distribute the grocery kit to families and make sure the families would not exchange it for money. Each family got one grocery kit and we made sure via tracking that no misuse of the kit was done. Teachers communicated with each family to make sure they got the kit after the distribution.
  - Sometimes children would not have mobile phones for their online classes, as parents would take mobile to their work. Hence classes were taken as per availability of parents at home. It was very difficult for teachers to plan these online classes and had to make sure of the timings of the class much before the day started.
  
- **Response from parents, teachers, and children:**
  - Planning was good and useful
  - The age group of the children was considered in the planning
  - Children love songs and stories
  - Audio and video in planning make the topics easier to understand
  - It is understood that children learn a lot from daily work
  - It is easy to do the given activity from things available in the house
  - Teacher's planning was very useful and helpful in the current situation of Covid-19 for online learning. We got to learn a lot of new things
  - Parent planning shows the overall development of the child
  - The participation of teachers in the group formed by the organization is high.
  
- **Challenges faced:**
  - Parents and children need to be convinced of importance of education
  - Children will have to work harder to get to school now
  - If there is fear in the minds of parents and children, they must be motivated to move towards learning and going to school.
  - After this Covid-19 period, there is a strong possibility that the basic concepts of the studying subject would be forgotten, for which major actions need to be taken.
  - We will have to work from the beginning to develop the skills required for writing, reading, and learning

- List of Donors

<i>Corporate Sponsorships</i>	
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