



#4
2020 June

Dear Supporters of Pustakaar,

Welcome to our fourth newsletter. We sincerely hope that this newsletter finds you in good health, staying safe, and hopeful for better days ahead.

Before we go through our updates, we would like to take this time to acknowledge the effects that Covid-19 has had on all Pustakaar activities. Pustakaar volunteer sessions abruptly stopped in March without any of our usual end-of-year activities. We were unable to collect many of our books and baskets from the schools that we support. We were not able to start our annual reconciliation and tally of inventory in April. Our annual fundraiser in May was cancelled. We were not able to restart the program in June as all Telangana school campuses are currently closed.

Instead, we spent time looking for new opportunities to serve. We have had team meetings online, reached out to our partners, and spoke to school principals. We hope to pivot from our current platform and forge a new path ahead in a post-Covid climate.

BOOKS NEEDED!

We still have not received all of the almost-8000 books we had loaned out to schools. This is more than half of our library inventory. We are working on trying to replenish our lost books, though sourcing books during this time has been a challenge. Booksellers are not receiving supplies. We would like to support more orphanages that have remained open during this time, but we lack the basic reading level books that these homes need. If you have any English storybooks for young children we would appreciate if you could donate them to Pustakaar. We are asking for only what we name as Level 0 and Level 1 books. These can be board books for toddlers, easy picture books, and simple storybooks to introduce vocabulary to children. Please do contact us if you have books to donate!

RAINBOW FOUNDATION INDIA

We reached out to Rainbow Homes in May (once lockdown ended) knowing that there would still be children staying in their orphanages in Hyderabad. After speaking with them, we were able to send 14 baskets to 7 of their homes in the Secunderabad area. At their request, we also created a training session in Library Studies for the teachers in their orphanages. This was taught via a Zoom session on June 16th. We spoke to teachers, coordinators, and the Hyderabad Rainbow executive team. We shared how to use our baskets along with activities for teachers to use in the homes to help children with their reading comprehension. We hope to extend this program to more orphanages in Hyderabad over the coming months. For more information on the foundation, please go to: www.rainbowfoundationindia.in.

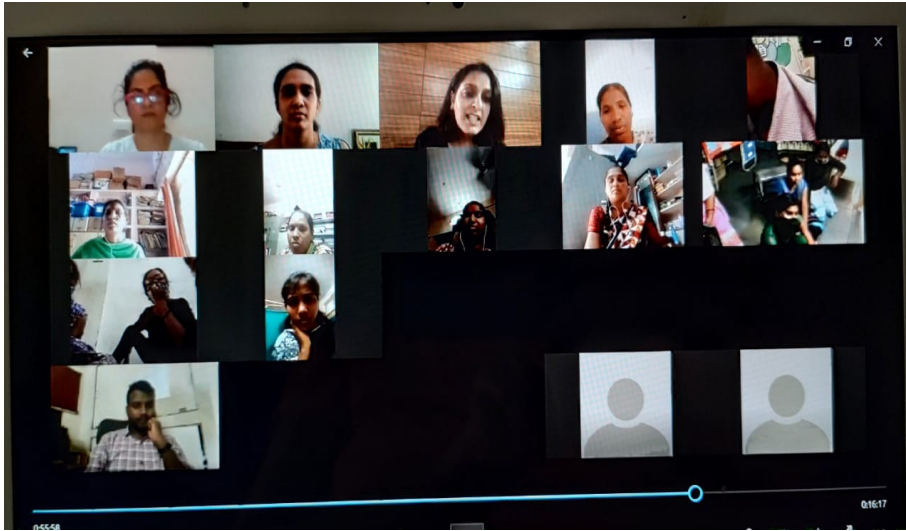


Photo 1: Library Studies training session with Rainbow Homes
Photo 2: Reading a Pustakaar book at SRD Rainbow Home

PROVISION KITS DISTRIBUTION

Pustakaar reached out to our schools in May to see how they were handling the government lockdown. Two schools spoke to Pustakaar about their school's struggles. Indian People School had not been able to pay salaries to 27 of their teachers, while Vikas Model School wanted to help 107 student families that were unable to afford food. We contacted a general store in Secunderabad that was able to make a dry goods provision kit with rice, lentils, cooking oil, salt, and a few spices. We worked

with the school principals to ensure that these kits were delivered in a timely manner during the first week of June.



Photo 1: Principal Shakuntala of Indian People School giving a provision kit to a Grade 6 teacher

Photo 2: Principal D. Ganesh of Vikas Model School giving a kit to a Grade 5 student

LOOKING AHEAD...

We are unsure when we will be able to resume our volunteer sessions in schools. We are actively looking for new ways to share a love of reading. We are exploring online platforms, more teacher training, and different ways to get books safely to our students. We thank you for all of your support!

At this time, your donation will really help Pustakaar. We are asking our supporters to donate funds to Pustakaar online.

Warm regards,
PUSTAKAAR by ANSH FOUNDATION

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