



#5
2020 September

Dear Supporters of Pustakaar,

Welcome to our fifth newsletter. We sincerely hope that this newsletter finds you in good health, staying positive, and hopeful for better days ahead. It is still unbelievable that we have made it to September 2020. So much has changed this year, and continues to do so. Pustakaar is working hard to share the joy of reading with children, and finding new and different ways to connect with students.

WHATSAPP ASSIGNMENTS FOR PUSTAKAAR SCHOOLS

Pustakaar reached out to its schools in July, and was able to connect with staff at VPS Banjara Hills, IPS Filmnagar, and Vikas Model School Kondapur. We were able to get phone numbers of students in Grades 5, 6, and 7 at these schools, and fortunately many of them had smartphones in their families. We created Whatsapp groups with students and teachers in each group, and started sending out short story videos along with assignments to these grades. It has been a nice way to interact with students, and we enjoy reading their submissions. We hope to add more school groups to our Whatsapp and engage the children virtually.

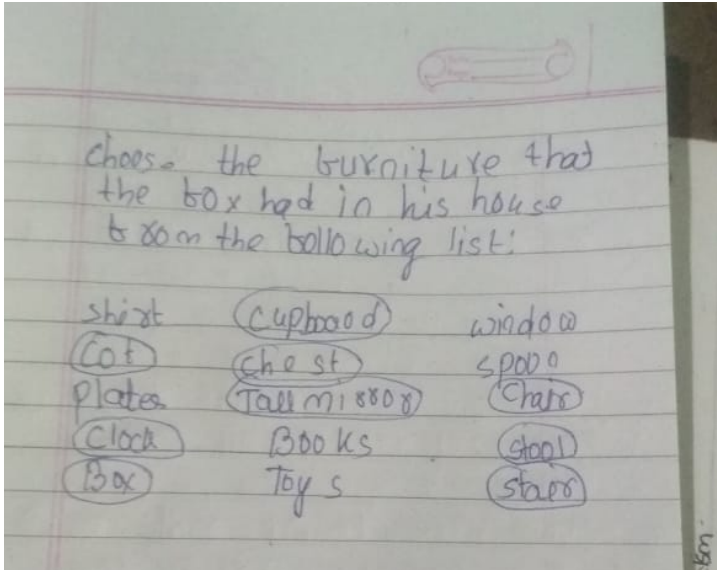


Photo above from Sanketh, Vikas Model School Kondapur, Grade 6

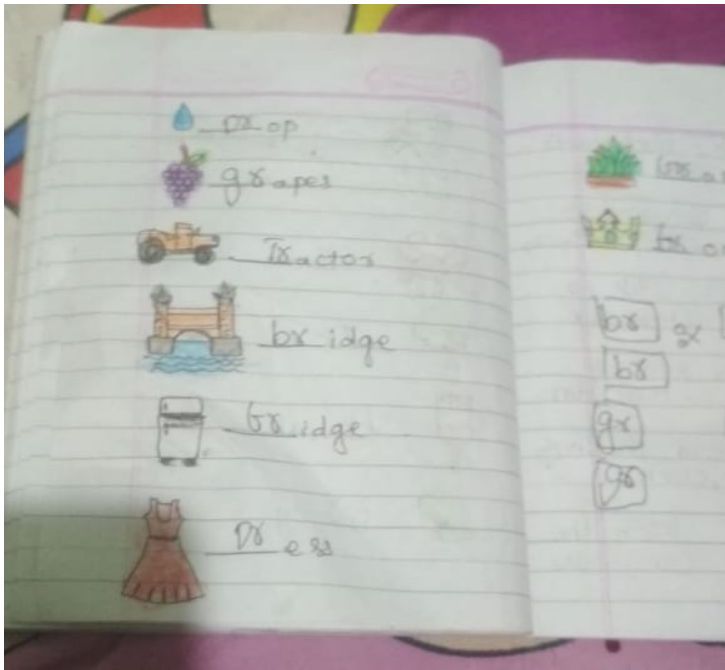


Photo above from Pratiusha, VPS Banjara Hills, Grade 5

RAINBOW FOUNDATION

After successfully implementing our program at seven girls Rainbow Homes orphanage locations in Hyderabad, we have now expanded the program, adding seven boys-only orphanage locations. We have continued our Zoom sessions with the coordinators in each Rainbow home to answer questions about the books, and offer additional support.

From Sandhya Rani, teacher in charge at RFI Girls Home – Falaknuma:

By reading the Pustakaar books children are improving their reading and writing skills. They are doing activities [related to reading] and are able to express some stories themselves. Thank you for providing these types of books to our children.

From Shekhar, teacher in charge at RDF Girls Home - Asritha:

The children enjoy Pustakaar books and stories. Their listening skills have developed, and letter and word identification has improved. We are even having group discussions after reading the books.

BOOK DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone that donated books over the past few months! We posted on social media and in our last newsletter that we desperately needed books. Many of you reached out and sent new and used books to Pustakaar. International School of Hyderabad donated seven large cartons of books for us to use. We spent quite a bit of time sorting and organizing these books that we will be able to send out to the new orphanages we are supporting. We are grateful to have such supporters in our community, a big thank you to all of you! Please do continue to donate new/used primary school storybooks to Pustakaar.

SCHOOLS AND CONNECTIVITY

We have been having conversations about what underprivileged schools are going to look like in India post-Covid. In our discussions with colleagues at Teach For India, United Way, etc. we have found that many organizations are working to get schoolchildren digital tablets and online connectivity. We are also creating videos of story reading, and working on a Pustakaar digital library. Telangana State government schools have opened at 50% capacity as of 21 September. We are in touch with our Pustakaar schools and NGO partners to stay current on any new developments happening with schools.

LOOKING AHEAD...

We are unsure when we will be able to resume our former volunteer sessions in schools, and will keep our volunteers updated. We are exploring online platforms such as Read Along/Google Bolo, more teacher training, and different ways to get books safely to our students. We thank you for all of your support!

Your donation will really help Pustakaar. We are asking our supporters to donate funds to Pustakaar online.

Warm regards,
PUSTAKAAR by ANSH FOUNDATION

Karuna Koripella Shruthi Hegde Shobha Bhansali

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Ansh Foundation Bank Details for Donations:

Account Name: Ansh Foundation

Account Number: 111405000966

IFSC Code: ICIC0001114

****Kindly write your name in the reference line so we can track donations****