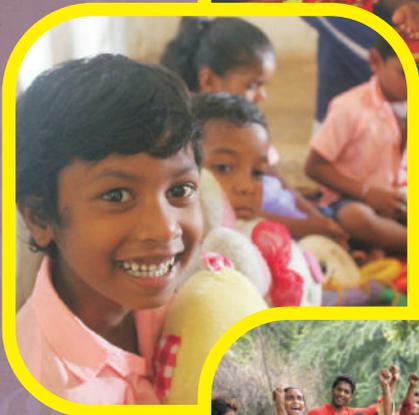


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017



From the Director's Desk



Let me begin by giving out greetings for Diwali! By the time this newsletter reaches you, I am sure all of you must be celebrating the festival of lights. And also let me wish all the children in advance a Happy Children's Day!

Though I feel everyday should be children's day. And it is high time we include children from all strata of society. We are so bound by the image of children's day celebrations in school that we conveniently forget about the children who are not being sent to school. We also forget about the Shelter Homes, Day Care Centres, and Orphanages where thousands of children are awaiting to be heard.

In the last quarter we have tried to set up Toy Libraries focusing not only on the rural and tribal areas but also abused, rescued and run-away children.

When you dissect the word 'underprivileged', it is equivalent to opening a Pandora's Box. Caste, class, gender and able-ism play a definitive role which creates different layers of underprivileged. One of those is also used to justify child labour. I am taking this opportunity to draw your attention to the dangerous nexus between the cracker industry and child labour. I believe it is our collective responsibility to end any kind of physical, emotional or sexual abuse against children. We need to strive for a child friendly environment.

My work gives me immense pleasure as it gives me a chance to interact with children from all walks of life. And with every smile that I try to spread, I am aware of the fact that the child has been through a lot.

Therefore, this Diwali, I would urge you all to think about the children who are working in hazardous conditions in cracker factories in absolutely inhumane conditions.

Let us spread love, peace and laughter this Diwali.

Have a safe one!

Vidyun Goel
Director.

Play Session with 100 girl children in Uttam Nagar, Delhi

Since The Toy Bank advocates play and games as a necessary aspect for the growth of a child, we conducted playful sessions with 100 girl children in Uttam Nagar, Delhi. Preeti, the Project Head, told The Toy Bank team that the children were extremely excited to have the toys. She continued, “When the boxes arrived, the children were pleasantly surprised that these for them. We didn't tell them what it contains, but asked them to unbox it themselves.”

Preeti also told us that the children cleaned up their almirah and created space for the toys to be kept carefully. She added that it was extremely heartening to see them jump up with delight after looking at the toys.

The Toy Bank team had a wonderful interaction with the kids wherein they shared with us which are their favourite toys and why.



Creation of 10 Toy Libraries in Kalahandi District, Odisha for 250 children

We created Toy Libraries in 10 Anganwadis in Rayagada District in Odisha. Siddharth, who was overlooking the project, told us that the children loved the toys and were very excited to receive them.

Siddharth also told us that the team was extremely happy with the kind of toys that they received. Most of them were educative toys which would help the children in their overall growth and development.

The Toy Bank ensures that the Toy Kits given out to children are age-graded. In this process, we make certain that we focus on toys and games that help in the growth of children. We gave out educative toys like puzzles which will help increase their concentration as well as their cognitive skills. Memory can also be enhanced with the usage of increased indulgence in puzzles and board games. In fact, Fine Motor Skills which help in specialized hand movements, handwriting etc. can be bettered by indulging in these kind of games.



12 Toy Libraries in for 405 children of Construction Workers in Day Care Centres and Shelter Homes in Bangalore

Striving to uphold our vision and mission, we try and reach out to every underprivileged child to ensure they get their Right to Play. We recently were able to successfully create Toy Libraries for children in six Shelter Homes in Bangalore which are run for abused, runaway children, and rescued children etc. Along with that we were also able to create six more Toy Libraries in Day Care Centres which are run mostly for children of construction workers in Bangalore. The total number of children impacted was 405.



Toy Libraries for 233 Differently – Abled Children in Jaipur

Play is essential for a holistic development of a child. It becomes even more important in the case of children with Autism, Learning Disability, Down Syndrome etc. For them it is not just 'play' anymore, it becomes also a part of therapy.

During the sorting process, toys/games are also separated on the basis of whether they would be suited for therapy for differently – abled children. The Toy Bank was able to create four Toy Libraries for 233 differently abled children in schools in Jaipur.



Creation of Toy Library for 376 children in Jaipur

We were also able to create a Toy Library for 376 children in one of the schools in Jaipur. The Toy Library consists of different kinds of toys which help the children develop their Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills. For babies, every new shape, color, texture, taste and sound is a learning experience for them. Giving your baby toys that are safe and stimulating will help him discover his senses. Toddlers might still enjoy some of the toys they played with as babies, and that's fine. The same blocks they played with a year or two ago can provide them with new and different educational opportunities as their knowledge expands.

When children reach preschool age, it's time to start learning about letters, numbers and language skills. There are lots of toys that encourage this type of learning, from simple alphabet puzzles to high-tech electronic gadgets. These can give your child a head start by introducing her to the things she will be learning in school. Kids who are in school can supplement their learning with fun and educational toys.



Creation of Mobile Toy Library for School Run on Footpath in Gurugram

For the first time, The Toy Bank ventured into creating mobile Toy Library for underprivileged children in Gurugram. The 153 children are already a part of a school run on the footpath for them and we were able to add educational toys for them.

Varun, Project Head, wrote to us saying, “When we unpacked this box at Santra market center, children were so curious that gathered in a circle to see the unpacking of toy boxes. And when they came to know that those toys are for them only! They even started marking the toys for them saying “ki ye wala mera, wo wala tumhara, fir hum sath main khelege!” (..that toy for you, the other one for me, and then we shall play together)

This statement from the kids goes on to prove that creation of Toy Libraries creates an environment which encourages them to share the toys. It helps in the bettering of their social skills as they interact with other children and play by sharing. The children also learn the nuances of working within a team and develop leadership skills as well.



Creation of 10 Toy Libraries for 486 Children in Anganwadis in Uttarakhand

We were able to create 10 Toy Libraries for 486 children in ten Anganwadis in Uttarakhand. Anvi, our volunteer told us that the kids in these areas haven't had access to any toys in a long time. In fact, some of them try and make toys from wood. And therefore the new toys create a huge impact on the children. She continued, “For some children receiving the toys is a big deal! I have seen some of the kids get better and better at playing with the board games. They had struggled with the same initially, but them getting better at this is a sure sign that their focus and concentration is getting better day by day!”



Creation of Three Toy Libraries for 120 Children in Schools in Delhi/NCR

The Toy Bank was successfully able to create three Toy Libraries for school going children in three centres in Delhi/NCR. The Toy Libraries were created for 120 children.

Sonia, Chief Academic Officer, told us that the children were super excited to receive the Toy Kits. She also appreciated the fact how The Toy Bank gave out Toy Kits to suit skill sets of various age groups of the children. Continuing, she said, “When the boxes were opened the little ones were literally sitting inside the boxes! It was so exciting to see them! The toys targeted all the skill sets like cognitive skills, motor skills etc. which actually helps me in teaching as well”



Creation of One Toy Library in an NFE centre in Delhi

The Toy Bank created a Toy Library for children in a Non-Formal Educational Centre in Delhi. It was a pleasure to watch the faces of about 90 kids light up when the Toy Kits arrived.

Toys can definitely act as an educational aid for the children who are not in a formal school set up. Toys, as mentioned earlier, aid in the holistic development of a child. Engaging in play and games, helps children to enhance their memory, concentration, motor skills etc.



Toy Collection Drives in Schools

We had organized collection drives in the schools across Delhi-NCR. One of the most encouraging aspects was that the children were delighted and showed extreme interest in donating their favourite toys to the underprivileged children in need.

The Toy Bank had also conducted sessions with few schools wherein the children were encouraged to donate one new toy along with their old toy.

Each child was given a Certificate of Appreciation for their contribution. The section which conducted the maximum number of toys was also given a trophy. Here is the list of schools that collaborated with us in the last quarter:

Mount Abu School

D.L.D.A.V. School

Manavsthali School

Mahavir Senior Model School

Presentation Convent



Talk on Mechanics of Creativity and Innovation at Women's Economic Forum, Delhi

The Toy Bank Director, Vidyun Goel, participated in Women's Economic Forum and talked about how innovation and creativity are important the growth of an organisation. Beginning from how the idea of The Toy Bank was conceived, Vidyun talked about how she brought in changes at every step in the running of the organisation whenever she felt the need. Citing an



example, she talked about how the team realized that it is important to not send out gendered Toy Kits to the children.



Currently, The Toy Bank team is also bringing out a research paper on how children are socialized with gendered behaviour from the very young age. At the meet, Vidyun also said, “Children are not naturally inclined to choose certain kinds of toys. It is we, parents and the society, that come with a preconceived idea and imposes them on our kids”.

She further talked about how as adults, 'unlearning' is also an important aspect to be creative and innovative in our personal as well as professional lives.

Upcoming Projects

The Toy Bank in collaboration with NCPCR and Department of WCD will be installing a Toy Library in a Shelter Home in Delhi to celebrate the International Girl Child Day.

Creation of 151 Toy Libraries in centres run by Pratham in Delhi impacting 4016 children is also in the pipeline.



NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMPACTED



NUMBERS OF TOYS GIVEN OUT



NUMBER OF ORGANISATION PARTNERED WITH



NUMBER OF SCHOOLS PARTNERED WITH



NUMBER OF TOY KITS



NUMBERS OF TOYS LIBRARIES CREATED

