



Quarterly Newsletter
April - June 2018

From the Director's Desk

Recently, I have been pushed to question our ideas about 'boundaries'. The unfolding of events in the USA have quite shook me and made me question the extent of our love for our geographical 'boundaries' that we forget the love for our fellow human beings. The methodology of separating newborns, toddlers and children from their parents is quite inhuman. Each child crying out for their parent is a constant reminder for us how we are failing as humans.

I remember last year we had made a video on Refugee/Immigrants only as a reminder for everyone who forgot or rather chose not to talk about it. Lack of trending hashtags on Twitter, lack of posts on Facebook was a proof to me that we don't care about children. It was the same case this year on the World Refugee Day. And, I feel, that doesn't have to do anything with our geographical boundaries even though it may seem so. If that were the case, The Toy Bank and other numerous organizations working for Child Welfare and Child Rights etc. wouldn't exist in literally every country.

For how long can the humanity survive if it is always about 'us' versus 'them'. Why can't we as a whole feel responsible to create a better future for our children? Putting children in cages, away from their parents is never a solution. We are ending up scarring our children, if nothing else, which only amounts to mental torture. I think we need a constant reminder to ourselves that they are children. Let us not wait for another picture of a refugee child washed up on the sea shore, or children in cages only because they belong from the other side. We need to collectively act and voice out against the atrocities our children are facing.

This reminds me of a quotation by Anthony T Hincks – “Each of us are immigrants if we go back far enough in history”. If we apply this to our own home country, I am sure we also migrated from one state to another in search of better living. Approximately, there are 45.36 crore Indians who are internal migrants. And a lot of them happen to migrate from rural to urban spaces mostly in search of jobs and constitute of our labour force of which the children happen to be most affected.

The Toy Bank has always ensured that children of migrant workers in our semi-urban and urban spaces get their Right To Play. Apart from our regular Toy Libraries, we have created Mobile Toy Libraries as well for children across semi urban spaces in Delhi, Bangalore etc. and hope that we continue to work for the welfare of these children.



Creation of 40 Toy Libraries in Anganwadis in Bokaro District for 890 Children



When it comes to education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan caters to the age group of 6 – 14 years and ICDS caters to the age group of 3-6 years, along with setting up of anganwadis. Now, education is not only about rote learning – the kind that we have in our schools today. Education is about growing, learning, expanding your thoughts. And though a lot of this does come through reading books, overall growth cannot be achieved by doing just that.

Our belief that toys can be used as educational aid stems for the very same reasoning. We believe that toys are extremely essential for the age group of 0-6. Toddlers can play with a wider variety of toys than they did when they were smaller. They might still enjoy some of the toys they played with as babies, and that's fine. But they also need toys that are designed with kids their age in mind. Shape sorters are great for toddlers as it teaches them how to match similar items and provide parents with the opportunity to teach them the names of the shapes. Lego blocks provide an opportunity to learn more about colours and symmetry while they develop their motor skills.

Hence, we ensure that we reach out to as many underserved children as possible. We created 40 Toy Libraries in Bokaro District which will be impacting approximately 900 children.

Jivan, Project Director (DHARA), told us that the some of the toys received were absolutely new for the children. There was a lot of curiosity raised on how to play with the toys. In fact, attendance has also increased in the anganwadis. Once the parents realised that there are toys in the angawadis, they are regularly sending their children.

Creation of Toy Library in Maharashtra for 94 Children

We created a Toy Library in a government school in Bhandara District in Maharashtra. This was done in partnership with D Hive Rural Design Studio. Along with regular toys, we also send across indoor games as well as musical instruments according to the availability. This paves the way to create a Toy Library housing diverse developmental aids.

Devanand of 6th Grade, loves the mouth organ we sent. He said “I like the mouth organ very much and I keep playing it everytime. I had never seen this before but now I am getting used to it”

Another student, Devangana of 8th Grade, said, 'I just love playing this new game of chess. I love to attack my opponents with the queen as it is the most powerful!'

Playing the game of Chess on a regular basis right from the childhood improves the learning, thinking, analytical power, and decision-making ability of the child. Chess makes the child learn how to strategize aspects of the game and life. In addition, a child can also learn the importance of foresight, and planning. Similar is the case with other indoor and outdoor games as well. In order to ensure a child's Right To Play and holistic development, a lot of attention and detail is given to each Toy Kit packed for the each age group.



Creation of 25 Toy Libraries in Delhi

We created 25 Gender Neutral Educative Toy Libraries for 504 children in anganwadis in Delhi. This was done in partnership with Pratham.

Pallavi, Program Head, wrote to us, "Thanks for your continued support and providing excellent gifts for our centres. Children in our centres are always kept engaged with the toys provided by your organisation and they feel involved. We really hope to receive regular support from your side."

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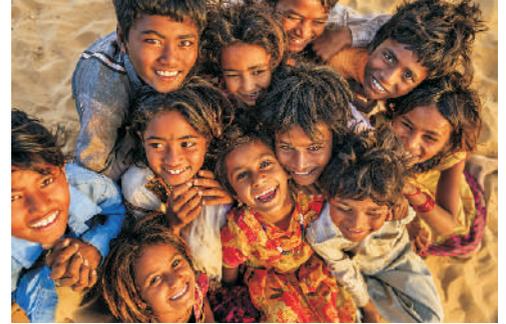


Creation of 10 Toy Libraries in Anganwadis run by Department of WCD

In partnership with Department of Women and Child Development, we have created 10 Toy Libraries in anganwadis across Delhi.

Three Toy Libraries created in Ukhrul District, Manipur

Ukhrul District is a tribal belt in Manipur where The Toy Bank has created 3 Toy Libraries impacting 580 children. This was done in partnership with Library For All.



Yasin Khan, Co-Founder, wrote to us that children are now considering the Library as a new home with toys. It has drawn their attention during the story sessions. He further added, 'Learning with joy is one of the principles we believe in and toys are contributing to it to a great extent.'

Creation of 5 Toy Libraries in Karnal, Haryana

Educative Toy Libraries were created in five government schools in Karnal District, Haryana which would be impacting 816 children. This was done in partnership with Varitra Foundation.

Ayeshna, Co Founder and Director wrote to us "I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you and Toy Bank in making our program more robust and effectual. The material provided by your team is incredible and will be extremely valuable and we are happy to bring the children in our area one step closer to quality education."

Baljeet, Co Founder and Director, also wrote to us "Working in a school where the teachers constantly struggle to establish a positive learning environment and where the children are looking for constant motivation, the learning toys received from Toy Bank were a breath of fresh air. It is safe to say that the teachers and para teachers at each centre and schools had never expected teaching to be a fun and engaging process. The children too were extremely excited when they were told that the toys will be a part of their learning time at the centres and schools. Given that our rural education system doesn't associate playing, activities and learning in school spaces, the learning toys have been welcomed as a positive and fresh change by all. Toybank toys has been very successful in attracting private school children at our centres and now we can proudly say that our centres are inclusive spaces catering to demand for learning of children."



Creation of Toy Libraries for differently-abled children in Hyderabad

The Toy Bank created 2 Toy Libraries in Bahadurpura, Hyderabad. One Toy Library was created in a Shelter Home while another one was created for differently-abled children. These centres are run under the Naye Taleem Project conceptualized by United Way Hyderabad. The project impacts 103 schools and surrounding communities in Bahadurpura mandal.

Vijay Ganesh, Project Head, wrote to us, "Toybank was our magic wand of sorts to create magic in these two spaces.

Schools for differently abled children have a magnetic aura around them. The Toy Bank has aided in magnifying this aura multifold. The children diagnosed with Down's syndrome were the most energetic of the lot and could barely contain their excitement upon receiving toys from the big Toy Kits. The teacher in-charge assured us that she would ensure that these toys are used effectively in the guided play sessions enabling these special children to enjoy as well as focus better. One of the boys walked up to me with a wide grin and gave me a Jaadu ki Jhappi which truly made my day!

The energy in the Anganwadi center was even more endearing. The Anganwadi teacher could hardly contain her happiness when she saw the small children discovering toys of varied kinds for the first time in their lives. She also opined that these toys were attractive and would supplement the existing TLM kit provided by the Telangana government. The center is located in the same premise as the primary school. Hence the primary school teacher also requested us if she could send Class 1 and 2 children to the Anganwadi center for 1 period every day during which time Toybank toys are used. We gladly obliged to her request. The more the merrier!"



Collection Drives in Schools in Delhi:

We had organized collection drives in the schools across Delhi-NCR. One of the most encouraging aspects was that the children were extremely happy and interested in donating their favourite toys and books to the underprivileged children in need, which not just included their used and discarded toys but also their current favourite that they play with.

Since, the school which would manage to collect the maximum number of toys was promised a trophy, we saw an increased interest among the children to organize the collection drive and collect as many toys as possible. However, we thank all the schools which participated in the collection drive and supported us immensely.

Mother Mary School Mayur Vihar	St. Peter's Convent Vikaspuri	Vidya Bharti School Rohini
Maharaja Agrasen School Ashok Vihar	Manav Bharati School Panchsheel	Kulachi Hansraj School Ashok Vihar

Upcoming Projects

Toy Libraries for Visually Challenged Children

Toy Libraries for Underserved Children in Tamil Nadu

Toy Libraries for Children with Developmental Disabilities in Mysore

Statistics For This Quarter

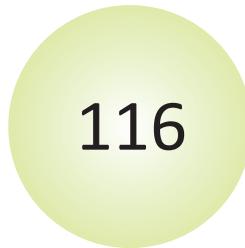
Numbers of Toys Libraries



Number of Children impacted



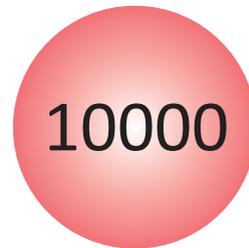
Number of Toy Kits



Number of Partners



Number of Children Sensitized for Toy Giving



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