



Quarterly Newspaper 2018

From the Director's Desk

On September 6th the Indian Supreme Court in a historic judgment decriminalized the LGBT community. Nationwide celebrations with allies and members of the LGBTQI+ community sprouted on this day. The Supreme Court while upholding the rights of the community said that they have been wronged in the history and it is time to correct that.



I was extremely elated to read this. I think it is time we try to teach our children similarities instead of differences. Most importantly, let us teach our children how to be accepting of people who may seem different than them. Inclusivity, in fact, should be looked on importantly.

This is what we do at The Toy Bank too. We practice inclusivity at all levels. Firmly believing that we don't hold the license to decide what specific toys our children should play with, The Toy Bank introduced the concept of Gender Neutral Educative Toy Libraries. In fact, we don't hesitate twice in sending out kitchen sets to boys!

Another way we ensure our practice of inclusivity is by creating Toy Libraries for children with any kind of disabilities. This came after the realization that the impact of toys is greater with these kids. In fact one of our partners wrote to us, "For special needs children Toys are used as teaching learning material. We are able to teach colours, the concept of small vs big, object counting and many other activities through toys."

It is in fact, these stories of change and love that keeps me driven. I feel that if each one of us practices the mere act of accepting how similar we are as humans, we are half way on the path to development.

Creation of Inclusive Toy Libraries for 16 Visually Challenged Children

The Toy Bank has always strived to be inclusive in its approach in reaching out to the underprivileged children. In the past we have worked with children with psycho-social disabilities like Autism, Cerebral Palsy etc. In centres run by Inside Me, we created Toy Libraries for children who are partially or fully visually challenged.

The Toy Bank also creates Toy Kits comprising of toys, stationery and Braille Boards. The stationery and Braille boards will be used to help children draw and learn. These Braille boards were provided with the help of Modern School in Faridabad by doing a fundraising campaign with the children.



Shivani, Founder wrote to us, “I would like to thank The Toy Bank for giving drawing materials to visually impaired children. They were excited to receive pouches, colours, toys and stationery. Thank you so much for helping us.”

Creation of 2 Toy Libraries for 100 Children with Psycho – Social Disabilities

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 created Educative Toy Libraries for children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy and other developmental disabilities in Mysore. The Toy Library will be able to impact 100 children in centres run by Reach India.



Creation of 2 Toy Libraries for 84 children in Noida, UP

Lily Tigga, Director, MSWT told us, “Word Puzzles have helped create a sense of curiosity for the children. They are eager to learn the English Language now and have started concentrating in classes too.”

Very often, the fact that toys can be educative across all ages is ignored by people at large. This misconception usually happens because toys are seen only as medium of play. However, it develops cognitive skills as well as motor skills in the children. And more often than not, they are also potent sources for education and learning.

We created one Toy Library for 84 children in Noida. This was done in partnership with Mamta Social Welfare Trust. In order to continue our work in the direction of inclusivity, we decided to create partners working for children of rag-pickers as well. The Toy Library will impact children of rag pickers along with school dropouts.



Toy Library for 45 Children in Noida, UP

In order to understand the impact of Toy Libraries on children, The Toy Bank team visits the Libraries regularly. One such visit was done to the Toy Library created in partnership with Bhartiya Micro Credit. The Toy Library impacts 45 children.

Piyali, Project Coordinator, told us that the toys are having a calming effect on the children. They go back home after a fun filled day and look forward to coming back the next day. She further adds, “They have learned how to make friends and how to be in groups, which I feel, is a big step.”

The reason for creation of Toy Libraries and not just merely distributing toys is to encourage children to play in groups to enhance their social skills and leaderships skills. Toy Libraries give the children the space to engage in group play rather than playing alone.

39 Toy Libraries in Tamil Nadu impacting 1708 tribal children

The Toy Bank created 39 Toy Libraries in partnership with Dhan Foundation and an SBI Fellow, Akshatha. The Educative Toy Libraries are being accessed by the tribal population in the area. The children accessing the toys belong to migrant families and farmers.

Akshatha, SBI fellow told us that it is the first time the children have seen or played with teddy bears and Barbie dolls. She added that she felt extremely happy looking at their gleeful faces.

She also added that children are very much fascinated with the toys. The toys have now motivated the children to come to school regularly. Several toys are used by the teachers to impart knowledge in the classrooms. “We are using these toys for creating various learning experiences for our kids. This is something which we always wanted but could have never afforded ourselves.”



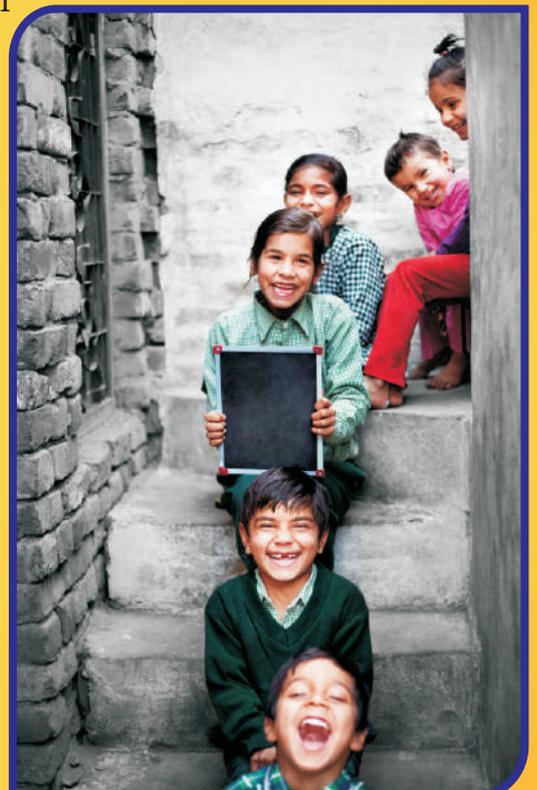
Appreciating The Toy Bank's work on careful packaging of Toy Kits, she added, “We were all very delighted to receive the bags carefully packed making sure every toy donated reaches our kids safely. Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those involved in this wonderful job”.

Creation of 2 Toy Libraries for 71 Children of women prisoners in Delhi

In a bid to continue striving for inclusivity, The Toy Bank has created 2 Toy Libraries for 71 children of women inmates in prisons in collaboration with India Vision Foundation. We consider this as a big step forward in the right direction. Our work is to ensure that all underserved children have their childhood restored. Working for the children of women who are in prisons is one such initiative.

INCREASING OUR REACH: The Toy Bank entering Punjab

The Toy Bank has been present in 21 states until now. We feel proud to announce that we have entered Amritsar, Punjab to create 10 Toy Libraries impacting 1090 children. This is done in partnership with S.H.E. Society.



The Toy Bank entering Mizoram

The Toy Bank will be creating 1 Toy Library for 12 orphaned/abandoned children in Mizoram. This is our first project in Mizoram. However, we have been actively present in Sikkim and Manipur. Soon, we'll be creating Toy Libraries in Arunachal Pradesh as well. This is done in partnership with Sunshine Society.

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.

Cambridge School,
Rajouri Garden

Arwachin International School,
Dilshad Garden

Bluebells International School,
Kailash Colony

Sachdeva Global School,
Dwarka

Shiv Nadar School,
Faridabad

Upcoming Projects

We are happy to announce that we are entering Arunachal Pradesh. We'll be creating Toy Libraries for 374 children who are orphaned and/or abandoned.



Statistics for this Quarter



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