

# DREAMCATCHERS

SEPTEMBER 2021 TO AUGUST 2022 VOLUME XI

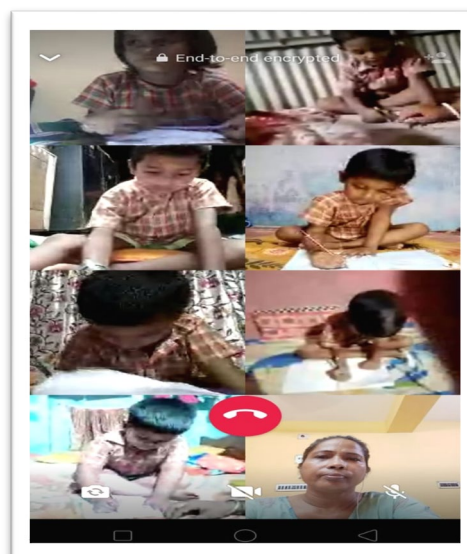
## JAN SEVA

Since the Pandemic was still quite strong, the Crèche activities were non-active. We successfully continued with the Virtual classes for all the crèche children. This was a success and we were able to reach the children through their Smart Phones and education to a large extent was imparted in this way. The children also participated in celebrations in the same way and this was shared with the Members of the Board too.

## VIRTUAL CLASSES OF ECCEC PROGRAM



The classes were mostly held in the online mode for the children. Only the Vocational training students and computer students were coming occasionally to attend their classes in Jan Sava. The children who did not have smart phones were allowed to come with their parents to Jan Sava for an hour a week. Only 3 or 4 students were allowed at a time. The teacher would explain to them what was taught to the children online and assign Home Work for the whole week. The previous weeks Home Work was collected before they went home. In the online classes, we worked with our children to ensure learning was also fun! Storytelling, songs and rhymes , drawing, craft making and educational videos are some of the things that were shared along with the



development of their writing and cognitive skills. No online examination was conducted as the whole concept of online studies was not only new to the parents but also for the teachers. Learning the online technicalities was a new phase for the teachers, students and the parents. In the beginning children only knew that mobile phones were used for watching videos and playing games, so they were not interested to study from the handset. Slowly it became a habit and the families who had a smart phone attended the online classes regularly.



Since Jan Seva was closed except on food bag distribution days, it was decided to celebrate Teachers Day on 6th Sept 2021 when all the teachers and staff of Jan Seva were present. They took this opportunity to get together and have a meal and a sing- song session was also arranged. A gift was given to each member of the staff which was highly appreciated. The entire staff observed the COVID

PROTOCOL very strictly.



Children made beautiful kites through their online classes as they celebrated the Kite festival of Kolkata, which is also known as Viswakarma Puja. Children drew the kites on their drawing paper and also cut it in the shape of rhombus so that it looks like a colourful kite.



The month of October was the festive season for the Indians. Children were mostly staying at home due to the pandemic. Extra ration bags were distributed twice a month in these festive seasons. Special goodies were given for the children like biscuits, jam, noodles, toffees,

cakes, crayons and little colouring booklets. The children were thrilled to receive this. They thanked their teacher's in the online classes and even showed them their colouring books after painting some of the pictures.





In December a program was organised to give recognition to the Passing-out children who were going to mainstream school after completing their pre school graduation. 65 children graduated from this academic year. 56 children got their admission in the Bengali medium schools, 8 children got into English medium and 1 child got admission into Hindi medium



school. The parents of these outgoing children were also present on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 to rejoice the achievement of their wards from Jan Seva. Beside these children, the regular kids who performed well in their ongoing classes were also given awards in this program. Covid protocol was maintained during the whole program.



By January 2022, children were quite fed of their online classes. To make the classes more interesting, various educational videos and drawing of the National flag was introduced. This was also to celebrate the Republic Day of India on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022.



From 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022, Jan Seva opened up for the children to attend classroom education. Children were divided into Batches. Each child would attend crèche every alternate day. Lunch was cooked in the kitchen and nutritional diet chart was prepared accordingly. Dr Mary Acharya, the



paediatrician started the Crèche clinic. Parents were very happy to see their children going to the crèche once again.

## CELEBRATIONS

In February 2022, only staffs were allowed to attend the worship of the Goddess of Knowledge “Saraswati”. Due to the Covid protocol, no children were allowed to attend the program. The deity of the Goddess Saraswati was surrounded by the drawings made by the children. Staffs had their share of sumptuous lunch.



In April 2022, Bengali New Year was celebrated with the children, giving them sweets, a sumptuous lunch and lots of activities.

In May 2022, an online program was launched to mark the celebration of the Rabindra Jayanti celebration with the children. The shooting of the videos were clicked outdoors. The children enjoyed this specially after spending a long time at home indoor during pandemic years. Both the normal and the Specially Abled Children participated willingly, performing recitations, singing songs, dancing merrily to the tunes of Rabindra Sangeet. This program was uploaded online and became popular on YouTube channel of SICW.



In July 2022, the children celebrated the Chariot festival known as Rath yatra. They decorated a Chariot, placed the idol of Lord Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra with the help of their teacher's. The festival of pulling the Rath gave them a spirit of team effort. A special lunch was served to the children on this occasion.



In August 2022, Jan Seva celebrated Raksha Bandhan or



Rakhi as it is usually called. Rakhi was made by the children under the guidance from their teacher. Relationships between the siblings were highlighted as the sister tied the sacred thread around the brother's wrist.

Children performed on the stage after 2 years on this Independence day. Patriotic songs, dance, drama and recitation was presented not only by the children but also by the Adult students of our Vocational Training unit and the Computer program students. A very successful show was staged by both the normal and especially abled children.



## COVID VACCINATION PROGRAM



The Board of SICW decided to vaccinate the parents of all the crèche children entirely free of cost. This needed a lot of planning which was very carefully thought out and executed with the help of the entire staff of Jan Seva. There was not a single snag during any of the three Vaccine Drive days which

were held in Jan Seva. Twice we were visited by the Kasba Police Station for an “On the spot” check on the Vaccine Drive. They were fully satisfied and also spoke to the

parents of the crèche children present there.



We had arranged with Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences to carry out the Vaccine Drive since they are a licensed body by the Govt of West Bengal.

1st Vaccine doze was given on 24th & 25th June 2021. Total 310 heads were vaccinated.

2nd. Vaccine doze was given on 20th September 2021. Total 319 heads were vaccinated.

Booster doze was arranged for 30th June 2022. Total 307 heads were vaccinated.

## VOCATIONAL PROGRAM



The Vocational Training Centre started making Masks which was the need of the day. Designs were chosen and a quick session was arranged in Jan Seva to collect material for the Masks and make them at home. The VT Ladies were very prompt and produced a large number of Masks. These were then sold to orphanages and also privately. The Masks with embroidery were a big success. Stitching of these Masks became a source of income for the ladies of the VT Centre. This was also distributed among

the staff free of cost.

We also encouraged the ladies to make towel sets with thread-work and this too was another way of earning some income during the Pandemic period. The Innerwheel Club of Kolkata Megacity presented 2 sewing machines to 2 ladies who were selected for their good work. They were Peu Das and Roma Haldar of VT Centre.



They learned to make the three layered mask with soft cotton cloth. The different types of masks and the sizes were specifically taught so that they learn the mask- making measurements perfectly. Other than the masks the ladies were taught to make crèche uniforms, aprons, salwar kameez, saree blouse, towelling sets, napkins, dusters, embroidery masks, saree petticoat, saree fall pico and all types of alteration works. After the pandemic a new

work environment has been set up as we sanitise the sewing machines before the ladies start their work and maintain social distancing while they are working in the room.



## COMPUTER PROGRAM

This program was designed to cater to those students who had completed Class X and who were either pursuing their studies or had dropped out due to poverty. From this year we have also included the students from Class VIII onwards as a lot of computer studies are being done in the schools. These school going students are interested to do their practical classes with us. The course is conducted in collaboration with NIIT Foundation, New Delhi. The students are taught the basic course which includes MS word, Excel, Power point, Internet, Hardware systems and the advance course for these students which helps them to learn the computers and apply for the jobs in the market. NIIT Foundation also tries to conduct a linkage of these students with the jobs available in the other states of India.



This year NIIT Foundation had started a special placement team who are coordinating with the students in participating in various online Job Melas ( Job Fairs) in Pan India so that the students who are willing to travel can move to different cities for work. This team connected the students with the companies in these Job melas and helped them to search for jobs. 7 such Job Melas were attended by our students.

A total of 34 students have studied in this period. 3 online exams have been held in this period where 15 students have appeared for the exam. Four of our students have got jobs after doing the course completion from Jan Seva. The students are Rupa Kumari Patwa, Preety Kumari Patwa, Avijit Halder and Monisha Das.



# UDAAN

With the Covid 19 pandemic continuing till March 2022, Udaan carried out its varied activities in the 'hybrid' mode. All celebrations were conducted in the virtual mode while the other educational activities continued both virtually as well as physically according to the prevailing Covid situation. The special educators continued with their online interventions till the month of October and conducted a few offline classes, on a weekly basis, with groups of 4/5 children, one child at a time. Need-based occasional counselling of parents also continued in the virtual mode. SICW provided bags of ration till December 2022 which were of immense help to the families of our students.

Udaan has been functioning fully offline since April 2022 with a new coordinator joining in the month of June. The children are happy to be back in school, enjoying their assemblies, classroom activities, therapies and meal times and the parents are much relieved.

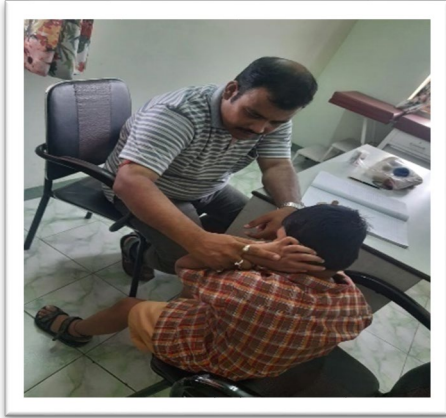


A much-needed Parent-Teacher interactive session, the first after the pandemic, was conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> June attended by the parents of 22 students.





The speech and physiotherapy sessions resumed from June 2022.



Udaan has added another feather to its cap by opening an Occupational Therapy Unit. It was inaugurated on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and has been fully functional since 11<sup>th</sup> July. Therapy sessions are conducted twice a week for 6 students for 2 hours per day. Every session is conducted in presence of the respective parents, where they are guided and advised by the therapist about how and what can be done at home. Presently children are being attended to by the therapist, most of them having difficulties in concentrating, communicating along with other mobility related issues which can impact greatly on their learning and rehabilitation. Various devices and equipment are used to attend to issues with motor movements, attention, eye-hand co-ordination, hypo and hyper sensitivity, vestibular disorders, etc. For example:

1. Swings, Bolsters and balance-boards facilitate proper balance and reduce disequilibrium and dizziness.
2. Standing frames and gait-trainers improve posture, strengthens muscle-tone in children with Cerebral palsy and other cognitive or developmental disabilities.
3. Ladder-climbing, Trapeze, Tunnel, Disc-swing, T-swing improves gross-motor skills, strengthens muscles and reduces gravitational insecurity.
4. Coloured rings, cones, blocks, puzzles, etc. are fun and engaging devices used to stimulate senses through visual, tactile and auditory pathways, enhancing sensory skills while also improving gross and fine-motor skills.





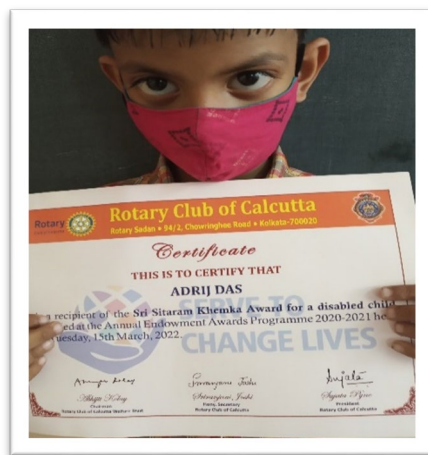
Our children have been enjoying these sessions and are making gradual overall progress. The parents also appear to be a lot more aware and assured about the positive outcome and benefits of these therapies. These therapy sessions are of utmost importance to our children and help them overcome multiple challenges affecting their day to day physical and cognitive abilities. Udaan also celebrated its first offline cultural program for Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> of August. SICW Board Members and the entire staff attended the program.



Parents and staff of Udaan received their Covid vaccines during this period at Jan Seva.

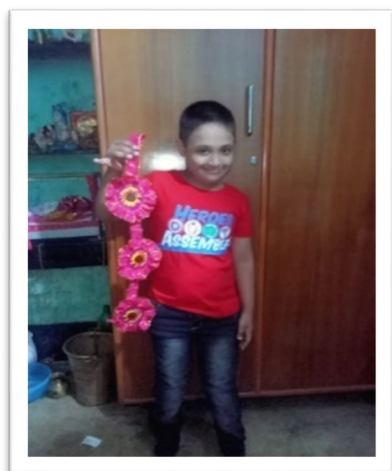


One of our students received the 'Sri Sitaram Khemka award' and a cheque of Rs.10,000 in the category of 'Remarkable overall performance by a child with special needs.'



Presently Udaan has 29 students with 10 admissions in the months of July and August 2022. During the period September – August’2022 and nine (9) students graduated to either mainstream or other special schools.

## UDAAN ACHIEVERS



**Rohan** (name changed), with Down Syndrome had come to Udaan in July’2016 with poor motor, communication and academic skills. He is now independent in most of his activities of daily living, loves craft work, recites poems, enjoys dancing, can write 3 or 4 letter words, can count and write numbers up to 30. He can now communicate well, follows 2-step instructions and answers questions in short sentences. He has moved on and enjoys his education in Noble Mission (a special school).

**Mohini** (name changed), had been sent to Udaan from ECCEC in January’2020 for special intervention in speech and communication skills. She had difficulty in following instructions and lacked basic academic skills. She has shown a lot of improvement in her personal and social skills in the past two years. She can now communicate well, greets her teachers on her own, recites poems, writes alphabets and numbers, can draw and colour well and loves to play and dance. She has been sent to ECCEC again in July 2022 for inclusive learning.

