

NEWS UPDATE

JANUARY-MARCH 2022

“ Morning light spreads over the Earth, Once again, the sky bows his head in respect,
For the Children are going to school. The Sun, after his morning dip in water,
Dressed up in his golden muslin turban, Waits and smiles on the side of the road,
For the Children are going to school. ”

Nida Fazli (Translated in English)



The recently concluded academic year was replete with crests and troughs, learning and unlearning, triumphs and opportunities as we finally saw schools in the penultimate weeks of the academic session. The educational disruption in school learning and overall dissemination of education has created a massive divide in terms of access to learning among the children. While every nation has had a different response towards this widening inequity, the role of the non-governmental organizations because of its deeper reach and ground-zero connect has come to the fore.

The NGO partners supported by the Max India Foundation (MIF) ensured continued learning for students through hybrid learning models, created capacity building opportunities for educators, assuaged the parents to invest time their child's learning, and worked round-the-clock to strengthen the education system.

The results of this sustained approach superseded our expectations. So, we take this opportunity to express gratitude to our NGO partners in helping us counter the educational inequity in the country.

Celebrating Stories of Collective Hope, Resilience, and Learning

With the COVID-19 restrictions being lifted in different parts of the country, our NGO partners could once again meet their teams and other stakeholders in-person to reflect on their journeys in the past one year. In doing so, they celebrated their stories of hope, resilience and learning.

Foster & Forge Foundation organized a three-day 'MIMANSA' retreat to **gain a new perspective on team building, communication, dream building and setting goals for the coming year.** Kshamtalaya Foundation, one of another NGO partners, put up an exhibition to help stakeholders better engage with the initiatives of the team towards holistic learning among children and reflect on how they play a pivotal role towards a shared goal.



(From left) Glimpse of annual retreat - MIMANSA (Foster and Forge Foundation) and children engaged in a puppet show and storytelling with visitors (Kshamtalaya Foundation)

Parents as Partners

Building a strong partnership with parents **empowers them to facilitate the learning process of their child** by creating a holistic environment in their homes that is conducive to learning. In the last quarter, parent-teacher meetings were conducted by our partners to emphasize the importance of parents' participation in their child's education.

Further, the parents were informed about child safety, hygiene among children, schedule for their annual examination and the importance of regular attendance in schools. They were also given insights into the learning gaps arising from the pandemic and provided training on how to maintain hygiene at home, about government schemes, emotional well-being, nutrition for children, menstrual hygiene, among other things.



(From left) PTM held by Sneha Doon Academy, Dehradun (AASRA Trust); Parent-teacher meetings conducted in Delhi government schools (The Education Alliance); Samvaad session with parents (Kshamtalaya Foundation)

Making Well-being accessible: Happiness Curriculum

Max India Foundation firmly believes in the importance of value-based education. Our NGO partner Labhya Foundation makes **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and well-being accessible to children enrolled in government schools of India**. In this quarter, Labhya Foundation and the Government of Delhi conducted training for 1,030 Happiness Teacher Coordinators across all government schools of Delhi.

The **International Day of Happiness** was celebrated by the entire Happiness Curriculum team on March 20, 2022, through a panel discussion titled 'Happiness Curriculum-The Future of Education'.



(From top) Activities from the Happiness Curriculum Books were conducted with Happiness Teacher Coordinators; Glimpse of "A Happy Classroom" from a government school in Sunder Nagri, Delhi

Routes 2 Roots

Our NGO partner Routes 2 Roots, through its digital cultural education program Virsa, disseminates cultural education to lakhs of students across India through two-way sessions with real-time interaction. This quarter, they organized numerous digital workshops held by Virsa gurus in various disciplines such as arts, yoga, music, dance, etc. A mobile application named 'Routes 2 Roots' was launched for the students to learn performing arts at their convenience on the device of their choice.



(From top) Guitar and Bharatnatyam VIRSA classes; Routes 2 Roots- mobile application available on Google Play Store and the IOS.

✕ MASTER-CLASS



Sarod Maestro



Kathak

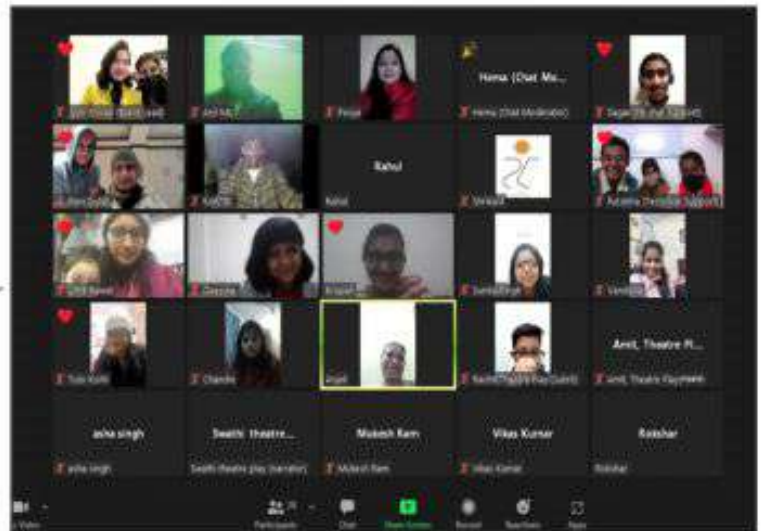


Bharatnatyam

Manzil's Got Talent

Students were encouraged to partake in learning initiatives by our NGO partner Manzil. One such initiative - Manzil's Got Talent - not only provided a platform to our students to showcase their talent but also enhanced their capacity and enthusiasm for their craft through dance, music, theatre, filmmaking or any other forms of art.

While organizing the event, the students learnt how to work as a team, developed decision-making skills, generate constructive feedback, engage in public speaking and technical skills, etc. Students were also encouraged to overcome stage fear to gain confidence for public speaking.



A team of 10 students organized the virtual event- Manzil's Got Talent

Meet Sana*, a grade-3 student, who had moved to Delhi a few years ago from West Bengal. She grew up in a household with difficult circumstances. Despite enrolling into a school, Sana's troubles did not cease to end. As soon as her parents left for work, Sana's grandmother would force her to go begging. At this point, her teacher intervened, imploring her grandmother to support her education by allowing her to attend school. Moreover, she was given insight into the ill-effects of begging, and the punishment that can be meted out for this act. This proved to be a pivotal moment.



Today, Sana attends school every day. The transformation can be seen in Sana's grandmother too, who now ensures that her granddaughter is regular at school. In fact, she even supports the admission process by spreading awareness of the importance and benefits of sending children to school.

Numbers speak

In the fourth quarter of FY22, MIF supported the education of 1.04 lakh students, 2,297 teachers and 41 fellows (teacher leaders). More than 5.4 million students from 42,000+ local government schools were impacted through our NGO partner The Education Alliance partnerships with Tamil Nadu and Tripura Government.

Further, 1.24 million beneficiaries have been supported for COVID-19 relief. Over 19 million beneficiaries have been impacted since 2019 under MIF 2.0.

Enabling learning environment

The New Education Policy (NEP) recognizes the importance of a good physical infrastructure and the emphasis on providing a wide range of learning experiences to children. In line with the recommendations of the NEP, our NGO partners focused on creating an 'enabling learning environment' by setting up a computer lab to aid digital learning, a library to encourage reading, among other initiatives.



(From left) Floor seating replaced with furniture in The Vidyalaya (iPartner India); Computer lab set up in progress in SDMC, Pushp Vihar (Simple Education Foundation); Library being set up in Punjab district government schools (Angelique Foundation)

SEE Learning India Update

CBCT® (CognitivelyBased Compassion Training) workshops are being conducted for educators in India and Southeast Asia by SEE Learning India to help the educators develop their own practice of compassion. These 16-hour workshops are offered by our cohort of Emory University certified CBCT® instructors from India, over a period of 8 weeks in two-hour weekly virtual sessions. SEE Learning India is running three such cohorts with participation from our NGO partners. CBCT® is a system of contemplative exercises designed to strengthen and sustain compassion.

SEQUENTIAL CBCT MODULES

Conditions of Compassion:

- **Module 1: Connecting to a Moment of Nurture**
- **Module 2:** Developing Stable and Clear Attention
- **Module 3:** Enhancing Self-Awareness
- **Modules 4 & 5:** Cultivating Self Compassion, Part 1&2
- **Module 6:** Expanding our Circle of Concern
- **Module 7:** Deepening Gratitude and Tenderness
- **Module 8:** Harnessing the Power of Compassion

SEE Learning India is a collaboration of
MAX India Foundation and Emory University

SEE Learning
Social, Emotional, and
Ethical Learning

CBCT
Compassion Training



For more information please visit: www.seelearningindia.com
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To make a donation towards the COVID19 cause, go to <http://maxindiafoundation.org/Donation.aspx>