



Shishur Sevay

To Not Feel Alone in the Universe

# LIFE AT SHISHUR SEVAY

Quarterly Activity Report January – March 2021

## From the Founder

31 May 2021 It 's taken two months to finalize this report covering January to March, and we are once again back in lockdown. We are OK, healthy, and resilient, having so far avoided first-hand the devastating effects of COVID.

Somehow this time it seems more like a lock up than a lock down. Streets are deserted; public transportation is locked up; jobs are locked up; and children are locked up. Our planned school, designed to give the very poor a level playing ground when they enter school is also locked up. Children are suffering, some from isolation, the poor ones from hunger, and their parents are helpless because they cannot work.

I am not discounting the toll of COVID lockdown "for the common good." It requires some to sacrifice for the good of others, the winners and the losers. The poor, the powerless, the children of the poor somehow always become the losers in these equations.

- New Year's Day begins the year with a birthday party for Ganga, Bono, Sonali, and Masum - a great way to start any year!



In the first quarter we were beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel, and in the second quarter it is dimmed even more. We talk about it, the girls and I, about how we hope and pray we all stay well, and that if not, we will stand together and get through it together. The girls of Shishur Sevay understand too well that not all stories have happy endings, but in this time, we have each other.

We really are fine, but others will not fare so well.



## JANUARY

Birthdays are always special, but also a bit complicated. The girls came here without much paperwork, for most, just one line in a list, rarely a title or second name, and an approximate age, as in "3-4 years" or "7-8 years," etc. Only two had any health records. However enrollment in the local government school required names, ages, dates of birth, and eventually birth certificates. There were tight age restrictions to enter school. We solved the problem with "algorithms," and everyone was given a full name and a birthday.

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- Our pillows became flat over time, so we had new covers and additional foam filling added. Jelly, our dog was also interested.



Masum enjoying her new pillow

- Once again we started planning to open Children's Smart Centre in April, but the second wave of COVID dashed those hopes.



- Vesuvius India Ltd has again supported Children's Smart Centre and we are excited about this growing relationship.



- Five fire extinguishers were installed at Children's Smart Centre building in all the rooms as safety is our first priority.



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**CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

This is to certify that we have supplied and installed the following type, capacities and numbers of Portable Fire Extinguishers at M/s Children's Smart Centre, Address – 37/4, S. N. Roy Road, Sahapur, Kolkata – 700038, invoiced to M/s Childlife Preserve Shishur Seva, 17/2/7, Sahapur Main Road, Kolkata – 700038, vide our Invoice No. FNPS/196/2020 – 21, dated 20/01/2021.

Sr. No.	Item Description	Quantity	Delivery Date	Fire Extinguisher / Refilling Warranty valid upto	Next Refilling Date due on or after
1.	New ABC Powder MAP 50 (Stored Pressure) Multipurpose Fire Extinguisher 4 kgs. Capacity, ISI (15683 - 2006 Spec) & CE marked, CEASEFIRE Brand	01 No.	20/01/2021	18/01/2027	30/01/2027
2.	New ABC Powder MAP 50 (Stored Pressure) Multipurpose Fire Extinguisher 2 kgs. Capacity, ISI (15683 - 2006 Spec) & CE marked, CEASEFIRE Brand	04 Nos.	20/01/2021	18/01/2027	20/01/2027
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>05 Nos.</b>			

Now, this is to confirm that all the above mentioned 05 Nos. of Portable Fire Extinguishers are in good and working condition as on date & this Fire Extinguisher model are valid upto the dates, as mentioned above.

For M/s FIRE & SECURITY PRODUCTS & SERVICES.

(PARTHA SARATHI DEWAR)  
 Authorized Signatory  
 Dated : 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2021







- On Republic Day the girls wanted Pizza and TV and Ganga wanted a new hairstyle.



## FEBRUARY

- Debasree Bhattacharya has joined our Board. She is Founder of Discover a New Dawn (DAND). Active in advocacy for persons with disability, making her an important addition to our Board.



- Another NIOS Board exam under her belt, bringing her closer to completion of Class X.



- Goddess Saraswati is the goddess of knowledge and Saraswati puja is one that the girls look forward to. They dressed up in basanti colour (yellow - the colour of spring) and offered their prayers to the goddess.



*Preparing prasad for puja*





- In the brief let down of lock up, we were able to take the children to the park. Yes, we had masks, but no we didn't use them much. We do not wear masks in the house, nor do we social distance. We can't! The house is a total of 1500 sq.ft. with currently 23 people living here. At night, the six wheelchairs are moved into the dining room and 18 of us sleep on mats in the big room. Caring for children with disabilities, requires a lot of carrying, positioning, bathing, and feeding, all of which require close contact. When we went to the park, it was just us, the same people who live together. If others approached, we would mask up. Coming and going we would mask up. We explain all this because we worried about putting up the pictures of our unmasked happy girls getting their first chance in a year to run and play in the open space.



- Karate and Kalahi classes moved offline with strict rules of social distancing. The classes were all being held outside in the open in a park. Two of the girls who gave their belt tests in Karate moved up a belt higher. The Kalahi students also received their belts.



# MARCH

- March saw the evolution of an idea that has been developing around long term sustainability. We are looking at business models that would allow us to sell the art and creations of the girls, for their benefit and the future of Shishur Sevay. This is just the beginning. More will follow in the months ahead.



## THE IMPACT

- Surviving pandemic and lock downs without harm to physical or mental health of the girls or their caretakers.
- Building for the future, continuing in Shishur Sevay's refutation that "nothing can be done." Studies and activities continued to develop each child individually, while future plans were a constant reminder that there will be a different and better tomorrow.



**14 June 2021 is our 15th Foundation Day. Though under lock down we will still CELEBRATE our journey together.**



New government rules for foreign donations required we open an account in State Bank of India in Delhi. This is relevant only in donating foreign funds directly but does not affect donations for Friends of Shishur Sevay or our website payment portal.

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**[Indian Donation : shishursevay.org](http://shishursevay.org)  
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