

APR - JUNE 2021

NEWSLETTER

“ **DEAR READER,**

As always, thank you for your continued interest in Ashray Akruti.

As the nation slowly limps back to normalcy after a horrific second wave, we at Ashray Akruti are deeply aware of the collective grief and loss. Disadvantaged families everywhere are struggling to make ends meet as they grapple with healthcare costs, job loss, and the death of loved ones.

Hope carries us through dark times. At Ashray Akruti, our sincere efforts to help Covid-affected families and the continued progress of our talented students are providing us with a ray of hope. And by learning about our activities and programs, and contributing to some of them, we wish the same for you.

COVID RELIEF

Covid has left no one untouched. And the poor have been the worst-hit. If you know of any underprivileged families in your neighbourhood who have lost their chief wage earners to Covid, please refer them to us. We will do our utmost to help them with groceries and finances.

Our efforts in this direction began at the start of the second wave. We partnered with GiveIndia to support 28 Covid-affected families like Chandrakala's. A poor, hard-working lady from Mahbubnagar, Chandrakala lost her husband to Covid-19. Without her spouse and no source of Income, she felt overwhelmed by the prospect of having to care for and support her two young children all by herself.

We are humbled to say we were able to help her during this difficult time, The Ashray Akruti team guided her in submitting her documents to GiveIndia, and she received financial aid to the tune of INR 30,000/- from them. She is now relieved that she has some support. She says she will use the money to repay her debts, pay her children's school fees and buy a sewing machine so she can earn a living.

Ashray Akruti has also been able to supply groceries to more than 8613 Covid-affected families through generous donor support.

We humbly request you to contribute to this program so we can continue to help families during this difficult time. For more details on our Covid Relief Services kindly visit our website.



THE YOUNG CREATE HOPE

As we said earlier, our students continue to be a source of inspiration for us during these challenging times

The entire class X at our school passed with distinction for the academic year 2020-2021. Despite the government cancelling final exams, the children scored well in the formative assessment, since they had worked hard through what has been a challenging year for everyone. We are very proud of our toppers, Bharath, Anjali, Simran, Navya, and Farhan who scored a complete GPA of 10, and Areeb Ali who came a very close second at 9.8.



Bharath, his parents, and his older sister are all hearing impaired. Bharath joined Ashray AkruTi in 2011 and has never let his profound

deafness stop him from excelling in academics and sports. He and his family are very happy with his perfect 10 GPA. He now plans to join a polytechnic en route to becoming an engineer. Bharath cherishes the time he spent at Ashray AkruTi and the care and attention he received from the special educators. We wish him all the best for his future successes.

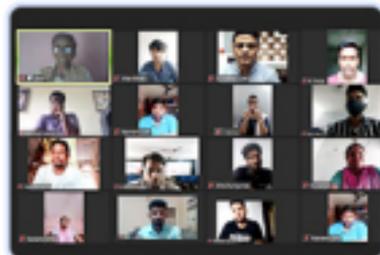


Navya, another of our toppers, was born in Kakinada. She was diagnosed with profound hearing loss at the age of 5. Her family then shifted to

Hyderabad for her treatment. Navya's father works as a watchman and her mother is a domestic helper. A student at Ashray AkruTi since 2013, Navya draws great determination from her parents' strong work ethic. She is accomplished in academics, as well as art & crafts, and has many plans for her future.

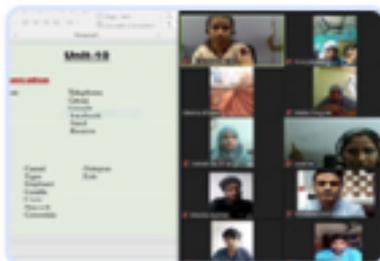
A LOOK AT OUR PROGRAMS THIS QUARTER

With ample support and guidance from the Teach Mahindra Foundation – Akshara Education Project, forty-two hearing-impaired children from the Government Residential School and the Government High School have completed their Class X examinations with good GPAs. These families of these children will continue to receive support such as essential groceries. Employee training in areas like stress management and cyber-security will also continue.



Coming to our **Multimedia and Animation team**, they adapted to the new normal by moving to online training and also played their part in Covid relief. The team is now training a new batch of twenty-seven disabled youth. We are also happy to have the support of some individual volunteers as well as corporates such as HSBC in training these young people in areas such as life skills, English communication, and personal etiquette.

As we said earlier, the MMA team is finding time amongst all these activities to help out with Covid relief. It has supplied groceries to the BPL families of twenty deaf youngsters with support from the **Persistent Foundation**



The SLT project team continued to offer **Sign Language training** to the parents, siblings, relatives, and friends of deaf children with support from the team at HSBC. The project team is also actively involved in disseminating and sensitizing the corporate sector on the hearing-impaired community and address the communication gap between the hearing-impaired community and the normal community.

As a corporate, you can also explore conducting sign language classes to your employees to help them communicate with differently abled persons. This is especially important if you do have people with speaking or hearing disabilities employed at your firm. Encourage employees to take this up as a new language and build a more inclusive culture at work.

Hearing Clinics has also been working tirelessly by identifying disabled children suffering from various disabilities, primarily paying more attention to speech and hearing impairment, a cause that Ashray Akruti has been relentlessly working on.

Ashray Akruti has been extending its operations by setting up Hearing Clinics in Chandrayanagutta, Hyderabad & Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh in the recent past. Free Ear & Hearing screening Camps are being offered across all age groups.

Total of 410+ cases were screened across three Hearing Clinics from Apr 2021 – Jun 2021.



Ashland India Private Limited and International Specialty Products India Private Limited donated Impedance Audiometer and AUDERA BERA equipment to Ashray Akruti as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Procured Audiological equipment (Sruthi Intraview Kit & Sohum AABR Screener) with Basaid-Association support which will help us to do mass screening at government hospital. And will identify children at early stage. If we identify them early we can able to give early intervention and can support the child for cochlear implantation.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the below organizations who have provided us with hearing aids for the children in need. Regular supply of these hearing aids will help the children adapt and learn better. Since these hearing aids are often very expensive, many children either don't use them at all or use their old ones as long as they can. This generous contribution will help them make the shift to new, effective ones and truly feel the difference.



For children with hearing disabilities therapy sessions are one of the most important resources that help them cope with everyday life and learning. This is especially true for their families as well who receive regular counselling on how to care and guide children with special needs. As the second wave of COVID-19 hit the country, an inevitable lockdown followed. This affected the therapy sessions being conducted leaving several families handicapped. The team at our **Multidisciplinary Centre** has proved equally capable of helping the community during these challenging times. During the second wave, most of the children who used to come to the centre continued to receive therapy online. Counselling sessions were also provided to the parents to help guide them on how to engage the children at home effectively. Fifty-eight children from BPL backgrounds are availing of therapies offered by our MDC team,

A total of 3278 therapy sessions have been offered across speech therapy, physiotherapy, behaviour modification, and occupational therapies.

Our MDC team is also fully aware that many of our children come from backgrounds of great hardship, and that Covid has made things worse for their families. With the support of **Tech Mahindra Foundation, Persistent Foundation, and Sneha Seva Samsta**, the MDC project team also distributed essential grocery kits to 40 below poverty line families whose children receive therapy at the centre

THE DIGITAL FUTURE IS HERE

And we want our children to be ready.

As you know, the pandemic has not just shifted education online, but also made clear the importance of technology skills in today's world. In light of this, **The Inclusive Education Project** at Ashray Akruti invited Sri A. Rajender, Asst Director Welfare of Disabled & Senior Citizens on 27th April 2021. He distributed tabs to thirty students with hearing impairment and addressed their parents on the importance of digital skills for the future. He also appreciated the services rendered by Ashray Akruti. The parents who were present also thanked the Ashray Akruti management for services rendered.

We want to provide all our students with tabs, to not only continue their studies now but also ensure that they are fully equipped with the digital skills needed to become successful professionals tomorrow.



For this, we request you to contribute to our tab distribution program. You will help a child overcome disability and poverty. Every child who uses a device donated by you will gain an education, and grow up to be a contributing citizen of society. They will not just support themselves and their families, but also help and inspire many others.

As part of our continued initiative in Covid relief services, we wish to partner with you to support the communities under following criteria-

If you are aware of any underprivileged families in your community, requesting you to refer them to us who have lost their sole income earners in the pandemic.

Refer a Covid patient from a poor family background who incurred medical expenditure for covid medical treatment.

Refer a Covid patient for free home isolation kit who are from marginalized background. Please do refer them to us. Our team can help reach out to them and provide adequate support.

Remember, every contribution, no matter how big or small, makes a difference. Help us make the world a better place for all.

For your share of contribution please speak to our team

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