

Newsletter July 2019 to January 2020

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Message from the Founder

2020 is here and there is much in the pipeline for the Samiksha Children. The 4th Tranche of the Samiksha Scholarships Program (SSP4) was successfully conducted on 12th January 2020, with 63 children receiving the award certificates. It was a joyous event. Since the opening of the New Samiksha Foundation Learning Center at Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Center at NH, in April this year, a new perspective in our work emerges. A quieter set up means more personal attention is given by our volunteers and teachers for the children at NH. The support of the Psycho Oncology Staff at NH has been invaluable in the process. At both centers, reaching out to the Children under Maintenance continues to be a challenge, even as our resource partners such as Prafull Orja for Yoga and Thousand Cranes for Craft based Learning are stepping up their efforts every session. As we successfully increase our reach to more children in distress as per the National mandate of 'Right to Education' for All Children, we still feel the urgent need to focus more of Quality of Education delivered and are working toward this in many unique and innovative ways. As a start we are currently testing a new Ed Tech Product for English Language Training both for teachers and children. If the Test results are satisfactory for effective results in Learning and Delivery, we hope to develop this at both centers involving Corporate CSR going forward both for volunteer engagement and funding. My appeal to Corporates is to look at this CSR engagement for 2020, when we are planning to launch the newer more modern initiatives as Samiksha 2.0. Come, join hands with us in this exciting journey. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of Children with cancer and other Non-communicable diseases in India. Looking Forward with Gratitude.

Key Milestones @ Samiksha:



10TH Year completion at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) Samiksha reached its 10th year milestone. It was celebrated at the JSS auditorium on 28th Jun, 2019. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Founder of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled Mr. Mahanteesh, Director of KMIO Dr. C. Ramachandra, and other oncologists from KMIO Dr. L. Appaji, Dr. Aruna, Dr. Padma. M, Dr. Ramesh and Dr.Nuthana graced the occasion with their families. The celebrations included enthralling performances by singers(Little Idol) Anjana Padmanabhan and Smt.Sromona Chakraborty. Several of the children, patrons and volunteers, who were part of the Samiksha journey over the years were also part of the occasion.



10th Year Annual Exhibition at KMIO – The annual exhibition of the children’s work was hosted at the Kapur Pediatric ward, on 18th June 2019. It was attended by the doctors, staff other NGOs and several patrons of Samiksha and was very well appreciated.

THE INPATIENT CHILDREN AT THE WARD HAD A FIELD DAY DANCING, SINGING AND ENJOYING ALL THE ATTENTION FROM GUESTS!



Samiksha formally launched its operations at Narayana Health – Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre (NH – MSCC)

on 5th Jul, 2019. It was inaugurated by Dr Sunil Bhat and other doctors at MSCC. The children undergoing treatment and part of the Samiksha learning centre along with their families attended the inaugural session. The report of the pilot session at MSCC was presented followed by a magic show which was enjoyed by the young and the adults alike.

Samiksha Scholarship Program continues

The Samiksha Scholarships Program series 4, preceded by the 1st series on 25th March 2018, the 2nd series on 23rd June 2018 and 3rd Series on 6th January 2019, was organized on 12th January 2020, at the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Auditorium, Bangalore. 63 Scholarships were disbursed to 15 eligible students from the 1st series, 8 eligible students from the 2nd series, 16 eligible students from the 3rd series and 24 newly identified students of The Samiksha Alumni.



Details of the Program are available on our website: www.samikshafoundation.org

New and Old Corporate Partnerships

- Ronit Sen and Friends from Informatica Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd. contributed as individuals for the SSP fund.
- Accel Partners LLP continued to provide Financial support for the 4th Year. Thank You Anand Daniel.
- Groupon India Pvt. Ltd. – CSR volunteers and Funds
- Let’s Do Some Good through the Devjani Pillai Scholarship Fund - Thank you Shoma Bhakre!
- “WeWork” actively engages in volunteer support leading to Fund matching the volunteer hours too by the company.
- User Experience Design Consulting (Peepal Design) continues to contribute for the Scholarships Program
- Kabbage India are exploring other CSR engagement with us.

Among the 15 Corporates supporting us through The Bounceback Fundraiser at The Mallya Aditi International School are Smita and Nilesh Foundation and Bagaria Public Welfare Trust, Himalaya Drug Foundation, all donating to the Corpus of The Education Program and Creative Activities. 200 other individual donors continue to believe in us and contributed in the last 6 months

Thank you all for your generous donation and volunteer help!

Events at Samiksha – July 2019 to January 2020

CSR Activity:



Clean-up activity at SFLC at KMIO, Jun 2019: A group of 8 volunteers from WeWork, India arrived with cleaning material to spruce up the learning centre area and get it ready for the Annual day (Open day) on the 18th of June 2019. They worked diligently cleaning the tile walls and floors, scrubbing the mats that the children sit on and cleaned the walls of peeling wall paper as well as put up new curtains in the learning centre area.



Stationery, Colours and Crayons, Nov 2019: NMIMS Wishtree team donated stationery, colours and crayons in kind for the use of the children at KCI and help spread happiness.

EK PRAYAS- The initiative of the residents of Prestige Ferns Residency at Haralur Road coordinated by Priya Raghavan is one of our largest contributors in kind for our regular activities.



Carnival, Games and Fun, Dec 2019: A team of 30 volunteers from Informatica spent some time with the children at KCI and organized a carnival filled with fun, games and music for the little children at KCI. There were various fun activities like paper-plane making, boat making, cup games etc. There was an impromptu singing competition as well and those who sang well, got tokens of appreciation as well. All the children in the ward were given a flask and a smiley stress ball. The Informatica team also provided these to students attending SFLC at MSCC, NH.

Other Events:

International Yoga Day, Jun 2019: was celebrated at KCI by engaging the children in yoga and creative visualizations by the Praful Oorja team and the teachers.



Fundraiser - Bounceback, Aug 2019: The annual BounceBack fundraiser was organized by the Mallya Aditi International School. The student organizers did a wonderful job of coordinating and organizing the Annual event to raise awareness and funds for Samiksha through Sport, raising over 11 lakhs this year.

Janmashthami Celebration, Aug 2019: On the occasion of Janmashtami, there was a story telling session conducted by Ms. Ambika on the life of Krishna. It was celebrated at KCI where two of the children, Ahmed and Tausiya dressed up as Krishna and Radha.



Teachers' Day Celebration Sept, 2019: To commemorate Teachers' Day, various games and a magic show was organized for the little children at KCI. This was organized by Kanishk Gupta and was thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Kanishk is a 11th grader at Indus International School, Bangalore.

Diya Painting for Diwali, Oct 2019: Colourful Diyas were painted by the little children on the occasion of Diwali. The young ones thoroughly enjoyed the event and participated enthusiastically to paint the diyas which were planned as gifts for their treating doctors.



Art Exhibition on Children's Day Weekend- Nov 2019:

A One of its kind exhibitions of the childrens' artwork was held at the Chayya art gallery at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre between 15th to 17th Nov, 2019. This was an immensely successful event due to the unstinting patronage of the donors, sponsors, friends, well-wishers and patrons of Samiksha. Supported by Architects from Kumaraswamy Associates, Thousand Cranes Team, and curated by Yugashri and Samiksha Volunteers

Ongoing Academic activities @ KCI (Tue to Sat) Learning through fun

Academic Sessions:

- Continued Academic Sessions – Regular academic classes are being conducted by the teachers and volunteers at KCI and MSCC for the children on an ongoing basis.
- One to One mentoring & Tutorials are being conducted for all the kids from 5th grade and above.



Thousand Cranes:



Continues its monthly "Learning through Craft" where several Topics are being explored like the Animal Kingdom using cardboard, fish making, puppet making, origami, creating animals like Elephant/Giraffe – using creative methods to teach Science and other subjects. This time, the children were engaged in making 3-D birds, festive lanterns and friendly monsters.

Creative Visualization and Yoga:

Regular Yoga and Creative visualization sessions continue every Thursday for the children at KCI by the Praful Oorja group. Thanks to the continued support of Swamini Yogaratna of Shankar Prasad Foundation.

The Art Project: Regular art classes were held by Artist and Curator Yugashri at KCI for 3 months. Each class focused on a specific theme like primary and secondary colours, shapes, hands, portraits, crumpled paper and so on. The little children enjoyed the classes thoroughly and was amazing to see the masterpieces emerge at the end of each class. This culminated in a first of its kind Art Display at the Rangoli Art Gallery at M. G. Road on Children's Day weekend.

Storytelling: Ambika has been conducting the regular story telling with hands-on activities like puppet making, origami and creative writing for children at KCI, every Tuesday.



Audio Visual session: As part of the continuous improvements in teaching methods, a trial AV session was organized for the children at KCI. The children enjoyed the lessons via the audio-visual medium immensely.

Fruit Distribution: Regular fruit distributions is ongoing in the Pediatric ward at KCI on a weekly basis. This is being sponsored by Naveen Jagannathan and his team.

Birthday Celebrations:



Birthday parties for children continue to be held on the last Saturday of the month. Entertainment and activities range from singing groups, magic shows, dance performances, pottery workshops, skits and songs by the children. Several of the gifts are sponsored by regular patrons of Samiksha.

Birthday Celebrations for July & August, 2019 for 18 children were celebrated in KCI. The doctors participated in the birthday celebrations and gave away the gifts to the birthday boys and girls. The gift was a flask that was sponsored by Namitha Narasimha which would be very useful for the children as they undergo treatment at the hospital.

Birthday Celebrations for September & October, 2019 for 15 children were celebrated at KCI. This was sponsored by Kanishk Gupta of Indus International School

Birthday Celebrations for Nov, 2019 for 13 children were celebrated at KCI. This was sponsored by Nandita R.



Ongoing Activities at NH - MSCC:



Academic Sessions: The academic classes are being held by the teachers. Children and caregivers at MSCC participate with great enthusiasm and look forward to the Samiksha Team every time.

Craft Activity Diwali: The Thousand Cranes conducted the craft activity of building festive lanterns. The children participated enthusiastically and was a big hit with them.

Christmas Celebrations: Christmas was celebrated with the children at NH-MSCC. A magic show was organized for the children. In keeping the magic of Christmas alive, Santa arrived and distributed gifts which included woolen caps, a smiley stress ball and a fruit. Parents and staff participated with great gusto here, bringing smiles to their eager anxious faces during the event.



Testimonials

Volunteer Testimonials

To be honest, I experienced different emotions when I went there. In the beginning, when I saw small kids, I feared how and what am I going to talk to them, and I felt very bad for the kind of life situation these small kids are in. But in just few minutes, I realized that I developed some bond with these children. I saw happiness on everyone's face, the way they interacted with us, the way they played with us, is unforgettable. Kids played better role than us, they actively and happily participated in all the activities. Those smiling faces, curious and brilliant minds with the zeal to do great things, inspired me to create difference in someone's life. I was really overwhelmed, satisfied and I returned from there with a feeling of accomplishment.

-Priyanka, Informatica

It was a great opportunity to meet those little angels who are suffering from such big problems in life still they are so cheerful and happy. And seeing them I also forgot my life problems. I really pray they all will get cured soon and live their life happily and enjoy their childhood. After meeting them, I feel like going there again and again doing something so that I can help them like Samiksha Foundation is doing. They are really doing a great job and such a noble deed which help the children. I really feel thankful to Informatica and Samiksha Foundation to help me doing this noble task along with my colleagues.

- Himadri, Informatica

Reflections from SSP4:

- Reflections by Akshatha, Scholarship recipient: <https://youtu.be/8TRSDoVgd38>
- Reflections by Naveen Kumar, former Scholarship recipient: <https://youtu.be/wp3fnpl0fr0>
- Speech by Dr. Prabha: <https://youtu.be/toFuBiO5kCI>
- Speech by Dr. M. Padma: <https://youtu.be/wql6a7G3PhI>
- Speech by Dr. C Ramesh: https://youtu.be/KNdL3r3a3_E

Upcoming Events – Please participate!

- **1ST ANNUAL DAY AT SAMIKSHA LEARNING CENTER AT MSCC@NH - APRIL**

We are Hiring!

The Foundation has now crossed an impact number of over 6500 beneficiaries. Every Year about 800 to 1200 children attend the Learning program and caregivers participate in the activities at Kidwai Cancer Institute alone. Our Fund collections have also increased by 30% each year. Hence the Administrative work requires full time staff.

We are looking for:

- 1 Full time Administrative Assistant with IT capabilities at our Offices at Koramangala,
- 1 Part time Accounts Manager and
- 1 Full time Education Coordinator onsite for our new SLCs.
- 1 qualified ART teacher with capabilities of working with children with special needs
- Yoga collaboration for MSCC @ NH

We need REGULAR VOLUNTEERS and INTERNS:

We also accept Interns for year around project proposal work and Happiness Research Work minimum of 8 hours a week (1 day's work)

Tutors and volunteers on SUNDAYS at SFLC @ MSCC - NH. Please contact Valli or PremKumar

For details please contact us on email: admin@samikshafoundation.org

A visitors' observation on our work at the Children's Day Exhibition:

"Life is not about the number of Breaths you take; it's about how many times your Breath is taken away! - This is one such moment."

Glimpses 2019



Making a Difference

We strongly believe that one can always do something to improve the situation for children with cancer and their families, outside the formal medical atmosphere. The ultimate aim is to increase the happiness quotient of those affected by cancer and such Non-Communicable Diseases with Life Limiting situations, notwithstanding their circumstances.

The possibilities are endless. The results will be heartening. Together, we can make a real difference. – Team Samiksha

Be a volunteer: <https://www.samikshafoundation.org/volunteer-page>

Be a donor: <https://www.samikshafoundation.org/donate-page>