



A creative learning initiative for children undergoing cancer treatment and their caregivers.

Greetings from Samiksha Foundation!

Our work continues in these challenging times during the Covid pandemic, focusing on how soon we can get back to the children undergoing treatment and on maintenance, as school and learning continue to be the anchor for children regardless of their circumstances. We are happy to share this report of our latest activities and achievements with you.

In this newsletter, you will find:

- progress updates from our Centre of Excellence
- steps toward roll out Samiksha 2.0 -Remote Learning
- update on the Samiksha Scholarship Program -Series 5
- A few heartwarming stories

Progress Updates from our Centre of Excellence

Samiksha teachers and four of our education volunteers provided **tailored educational support** to seven I PUC students – those SSLC passed students who now have taken up different streams-Arts, Science or Commerce. These children previously studied in Kannada, English, and Urdu medium, and now are pursuing their higher studies in English medium in Maths, Accounts, Physics, Business Studies and English. Support as and when needed by the students, is being provided through remote teaching methods.

The team is working diligently on The Integrated Learning Program Manual (the **Samiksha Education Manual** and upgraded curriculum). This involved **creating and collating resources to ensure a smooth transition from in-person teaching to virtual teaching** - an essential element of Samiksha 2.0, the focus being on grades 1 to 8, along the lines of the recently-announced National Education Policy (NEP).

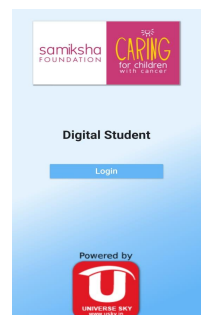
Samiksha **teachers are undergoing training** programs-including enhancing their computer skills and a focused MS Office Tools, Google apps conducted through the Chezuba driven, Tata Proengage volunteering project and English language skills by Learning Matters via Tara-Voice-assisted education with artificial intelligence, so that they can cope with the present demand of virtual teaching.

Work on documenting the impact of our work over the last 11 years continues towards creating a narrative that will reach many more families and increase awareness of the need for non-medical educational support for children with cancer in the country. This is being done by the students and mentors from Mallya Aditi International School (MAIS) as well as a few external volunteers who are working closely on this with our Founder.

Samiksha applauds the work of the externs, volunteers, and coordinators for their amazing enthusiasm and helping us put this all together, especially at these uncertain times of the pandemic. We are also grateful to our donors who continue to support us.

Roll out of Samiksha 2.0-Tech to Teach

Samiksha 2.0, a technology-based remote teaching initiative to enhance the formal education of children with cancer, is all set to roll out in March 2021 at the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre. The digital platform called 'Samiksha-Usky Digital Learning Platform' will host both academic and non-academic content for students across Grades 1 to 10 in English and Kannada. The non academic content is Samiksha's 11 years of work conducted through Art, Craft, Music, Storytelling activities. Through devices and other Technology tools we will henceforth enhance our services to the children on our Integrated education Platform whether at hospital or at home. Our delivery partner U-Sky, India's transformative digital education company (U-Sky Education



Ecosystem), has developed the web and app platforms for us. The academic content is in English. It will also use Meghshala's content (open source) in Kannada for grades 1 to 8 to supplement the online content provided. (The Meghshala app is a 'platform that equips every Teacher to supercharge their teaching potential' and in the process impacts the children addressed). In addition to these, we look forward to our continued partnership with Pratham books for our library program with the online content too made available to the students and caregivers.

Tech to Teach Campaign In November 2020

The No Shave November campaign was kicked off from Samiksha Foundation's office at Koramangala on 3rd November. This month-long fundraiser, called by Bros on Wheels, patrons of Samiksha Foundation, in partnership with Milaap crowdfunding platform, aimed to strengthen our commitment to empower children battling cancer to continue their school and learning using Beneficial technology. Donors and well-wishers from within the country and abroad helped procure 12 Mobile Phones, 50 Tablets, and cover the cost of annual Internet Subscription and Broadband connectivity at Samiksha CoE, which was the need for online classes. The No Shave November Campaign reached their target (Rs.3,07,758) with tremendous effort and dedication which included a match of 5% for each contribution by Milaap.



The closing event held at the Samiksha office on 30th November, was attended by Director Pediatric Oncology (NH) Dr. Sunil Bhat, Ms Rhea Daruvala from Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre, members of Bros on Wheels, representatives from Budli.in-India's first instant online ReCommerce (Reverse Commerce) portal. The tablets procured were showcased at the event, along with the corporate in-kind donation of 25 tablets from KPMG. All covid precautions were observed at the limited audience event.



Of these 25 tablets, 20 tablets were sent by speed post to students and 3 were collected in person. These students were from classes VIII to II PUC - alumni of the Samiksha Foundation Learning Centre (SFLC) at KMIO who are also Scholarship awardees to enable them to access their online school/college sessions and lessons. 22 tablets will be made available to students and teachers for use at the Learning Centre at the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre-NH in March 2021.

Trust announcements

New Trustees Mrs. Ranjani Ramesh and Vidushi Barnalee Sarkar took over actively since April 2020, overseeing and organising the Samiksha Scholarship Program series 5 and Tech to Teach process of Samiksha 2.0. As of March 2021, all the compliances relating to new FCRA rules are also being met as per regulations by the Ministry of Home Affairs. A new FCRA account has been opened at the SBI - New Delhi Branch to continue to allow foreign contributions to Samiksha Foundation Programs in Education and Social space.

The Samiksha Scholarship Program (SSP 5)

The 5th series of the Samiksha Scholarships Program (SSP) was held as a virtual event on 29th January 2021. About a 100 people, comprising dignitaries from the medical and non medical field-including Mrs. Bhavani Nanjundeswaran-retired Trustee to the Foundation; Dr. C. Ramesh, Retired Prof. & Head, Dept. of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, KMIO; student Awardees, their caregivers, volunteers, donors, well wishers and family members of Samiksha team attended this Zoom event, which was also telecast on Facebook and Instagram where 460 viewers followed the program virtually.

The Foundation was represented by The Founder and Trustee -Ms. Sandhya Sharad, Trustee- Ms. Barnalee Sarkar and Director- Dr. Manjari Bhatnagar who also gave the welcome address. The team of Teachers-Ms. Vidyavathi, Ms. Parvathi, Volunteer- Prem Kumar and Ankitha N were also present at the Samiksha Foundation office from where the event was beamed. Linzz Events were our Tech collaborators.



We thank our guest speakers- Mr. Vijay Bhat- Founder and Cancer coach at Cancer Awakens, Mumbai who delivered the Keynote address; Dr. Sunil Bhat - HoD Pediatric Hematology, Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant, Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Center (Narayana Health City), Bangalore, Mr. Yajnanarayana Kammaje- Philanthropist & Chairman and Director Sona Group of Industries, Dr. K.B Linge Gowda- Registrar (Evaluation) Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, Former Director, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore and Mr. Naveen Kumar-alumni student of Samiksha, who shared their experiences and reflected on their association with Samiksha Foundation over the years. Former Trustee Ms. Vijaya Nanjundeswaran-Samiksha Foundation also addressed the audience virtually. The support for young cancer survivors alumni of Samiksha saw the 5th Series conclude successfully where 67 students were awarded scholarships of Rs. 10,000/- each. *All 67 scholarships were disbursed-a total of 6.70 Lakhs from the corpus was released for this- by the first week of February 2021.*

(The video playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRW_TDAIwC2WbhDdfuCL9QQnEMZgM2w5U)

Christmas celebrations and Children’s Cancer Day at NH

Christmas was celebrated at the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre and volunteer Prem Kumar organised gifts to be handed out to the kids in the ward there through the network of volunteers from Samiksha Foundation and others. A wish tree campaign was also launched at the office of Smartworks Bangalore where a Christmas tree was placed at MSCC-NH for children to share their wishes and the tree was then handed over to the Smart works team on 21st December to display at their office till the 1st week of January. Some of the gifts received from Smart works were distributed on International Childhood cancer Day - February 15th.



A Christmas Miracle 🌲

13-year-old girl, Suraiya, who attended our Learning Centre at one of the hospitals we work in, was battling a relapse of Ewing Sarcoma- a cancerous tumour that grows in the limbs. The doctors had advised Palliative care for the child and given her 2 months to live. She wished for her dreams to come true...All it took was one message for assistance amongst our volunteers and other contacts and help came pouring in from different sources. What followed was a true Christmas Miracle. She was able to travel back home in an airplane, courtesy SpiceJet (free of cost for her and her father), got new clothes, a wheel chair for easy accessibility, a neck pillow, a brand new smartphone, some wondrous goodies and some money for the father to take care of his child.

A big thank you goes out to Ms. Anandini, Mr. Somenath Nag & Ms. Ranjana Nag, Ms. Supriya, Ms. Pratibha Shridhara Metgal, Shomrita Mandal and Shomrita's friend, Mr. Krishnaraj who helped with cash and kind donations, including driving the father and child to the airport, which not only provided material comfort but a wholesome farewell. These kind and generous donations in cash and kind from all donors and the meticulous planning and coordination by Ms Alka (the social worker) and Prem Kumar (our Volunteer) to ensure help at the earliest, had become the source of immense joy to the little girl. Suraiya passed away a few days after she reached her hometown. Her final homecoming was possible with grace and dignity. We are all grateful for the effort toward this.

Student Testimonial February 2021

Siyanath Desai, a very hardworking student was finding it difficult to cope with the online classes during the Covid time and was unable to attend the assisted learning sessions conducted by our



volunteer Dr. Shailaja. When she received her scholarship award in early January and a tablet to help her up with lessons, Siyanath was very thankful to Samiksha Foundation. She told us that the only phone that was in the house was with her father who would be away from home for long hours. Now she has her own device to learn and study and reach out to us.

About Samiksha Foundation:

Cancer-afflicted children who are undergoing long-term, in-patient treatment at hospitals are doubly challenged as they are also unable to pursue their education. Samiksha Foundation (SF) has pioneered the concept of bringing the learning environment to Pediatric oncology wards, thereby ensuring the right to education (RTE) of such a disadvantaged group of children. It continued to support them through the pandemic to bridge their gap in accessing quality education remotely.



Yoga-CV session



Library time



Storytelling session



Academic program



Birthday celebrations



Art program



Craft Program

Some of our Recent Donors :

Alumni of NMIMS, Bangalore, The Himalaya Drug Company, Daksheish Mehta, Parekatt Das, Ravishankar Nanjundeswaran, Savita Subramanian, Global Calcium, G.S Jayaram, Vikram Dalal, Yajna Narayana K, Nasscom Foundation, UK Online Giving Foundation, Y Prem Kumar, Chanchala P Acharya, Shashi Ashok Kumar Gupta, Naveen Kumar G, Monica Vohra, Shruthi Ashok, Sunita Bery Memorial Trust, Pankaj Narain, Anandhi Ravichandran, B S Hajela Education Trust, Sukeet B J, Sunil Thampy, V Venkata Subramanian, Narayan Partha, Tania singh Khosla, Satishchandra R Trasi, Chitra Vaidya, Wg cdr A K Vyas, Sudhindra J, Satish Krishnamurthy, Roopa Ratnakar Kamath, Aditya Sharad, Accel Partners, Sudhindra Jayaraju, Arati, Smitha T R.

Get in touch and support our work

We continue to believe that there are many opportunities to improve the situation for children with cancer and their families, outside formal medical care. The ultimate aim is to increase the happiness quotient of those affected by cancer, notwithstanding their circumstances. The possibilities are endless. The results would be heartening.

We welcome you to be part of this incredible journey. visit us at www.samikshafoundation.org or contact:

Dr. Manjari Bhatnagar (Director): manjari@samikshafoundation.org

Valli Narasimha (Education and Volunteer Coordinator): admin@samikshafoundation.org

To contribute to our corpus funds, please [donate through our website](#).

With sincere gratitude to all our patrons, volunteers, teachers, doctors, children and their families.

Together, we can make a real difference!

Team Samiksha Foundation - Caring for Children with Cancer