



**“To Bridge The
Urban-Rural
Education
Divide”**

Annual Report

2020-21

“To Bridge The Rural-Urban Education Divide”

Our Vision

Our Mission

To improve the quality of education in rural Government schools in India by giving access to better educational infrastructure and resources.

Value Proposition

We help to **increase school enrolment, reduce school dropout, and improve learning outcomes** in underprivileged children’s by sharpening their thinking and learning ability using creative, interactive physical and digital tools.

Our Project

StudyMall[®]

Digital Class

Digital tools for interactive and fun learning.

Modular Library

Wide range of books to improve literacy and develop a love for reading

Computer Mitra

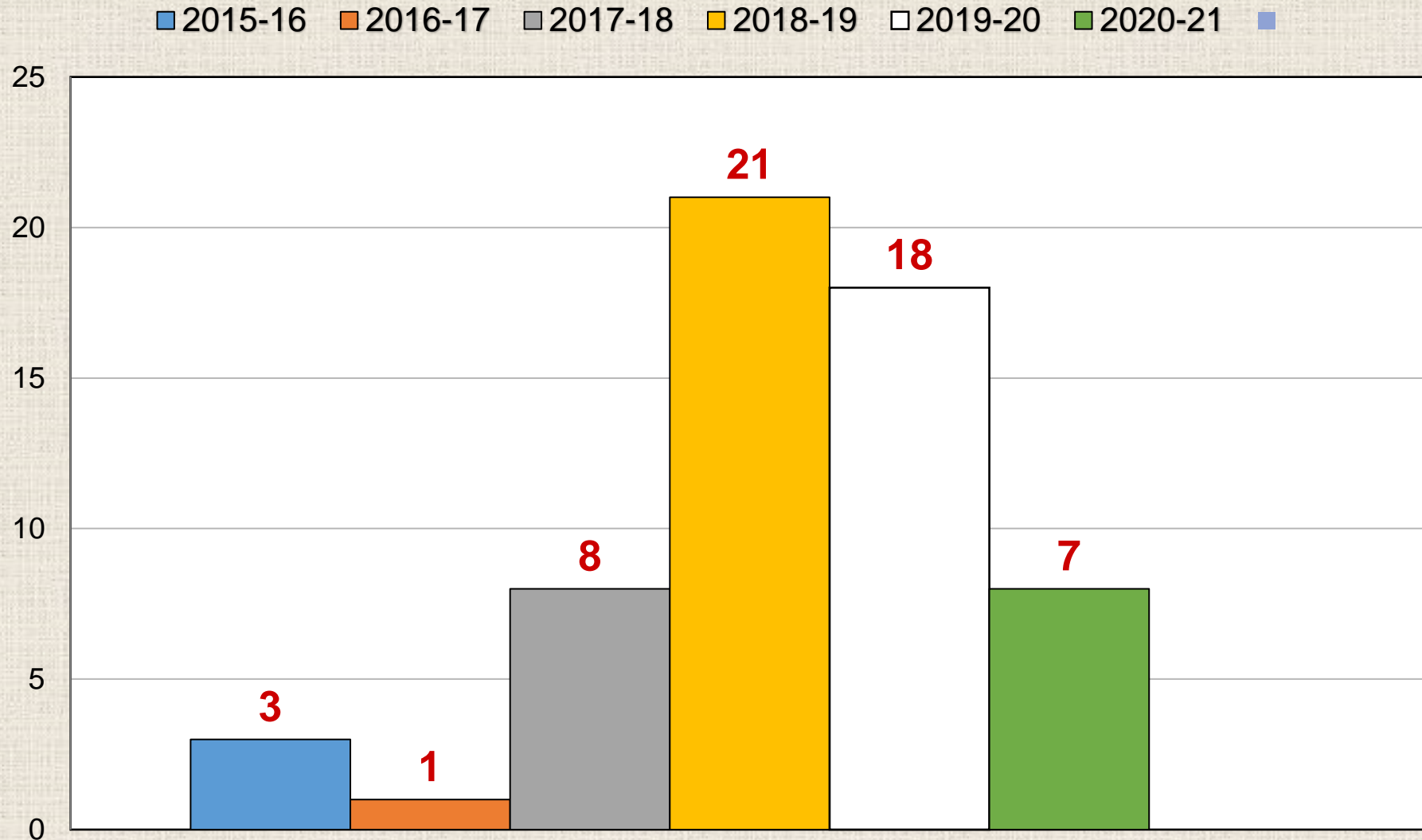
Computer education to develop computer & IT skills

Solar Shala

A reliable electricity supply through solar

Current Reach

Year on Year Growth - Total 58 StudyMall Centres



StudyMall Set up in 2020-21

1

Z.P. School, Devpada, Karjat, Raigad

2

Z.P School, Eknath wadi, Karjat, Raigad

3

Prithviraj Kapoor Highschool, Linikalbhor, Haveli, Pune

4

Z.P. School Mandave, Alibag, Raigad

5

Z.P. School Zalanwadi, Haveli, Pune

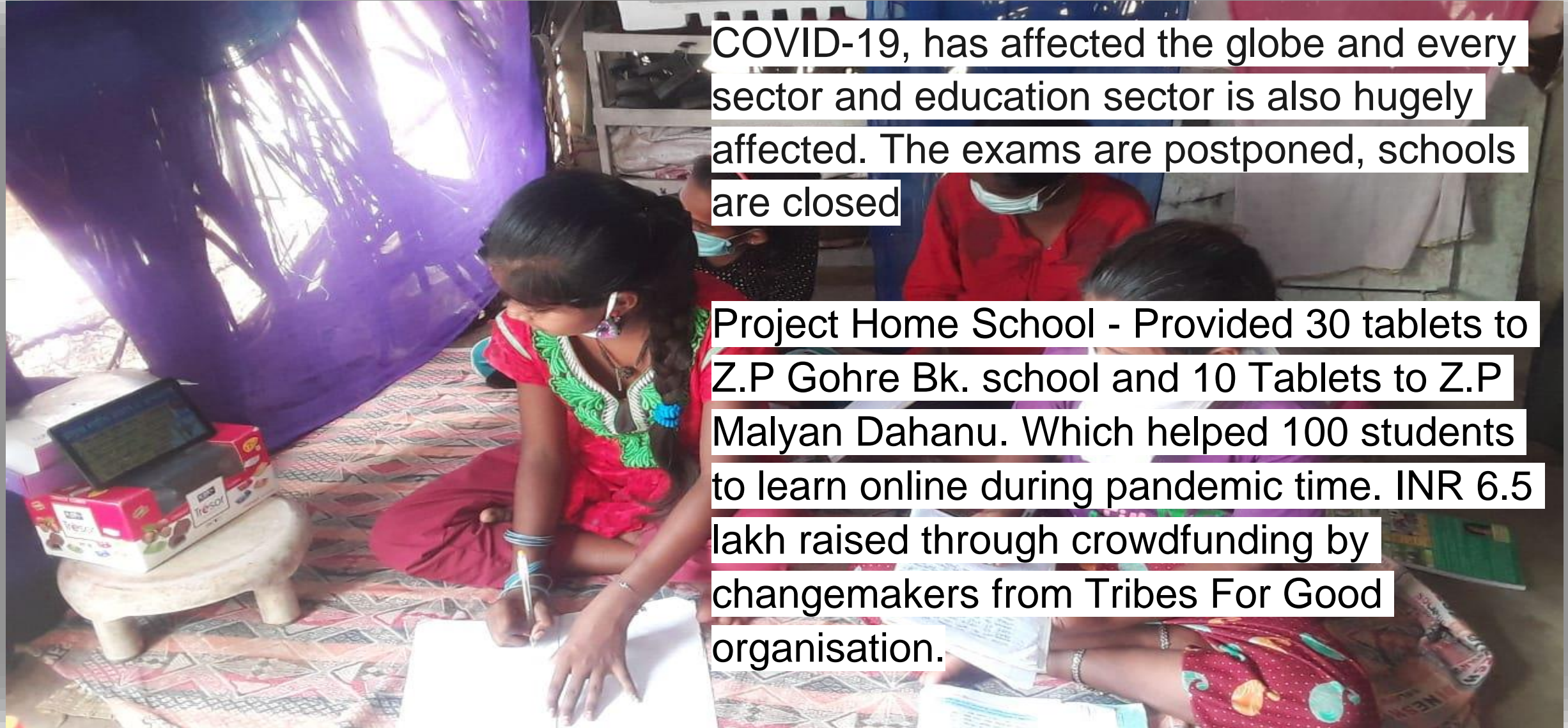
6

Z.P. School, Wakas, Karjat, Raigad

7

Z.P. School Newali, Karjat, Raigad

Home Schooling



COVID-19, has affected the globe and every sector and education sector is also hugely affected. The exams are postponed, schools are closed

Project Home School - Provided 30 tablets to Z.P Gohre Bk. school and 10 Tablets to Z.P Malyan Dahanu. Which helped 100 students to learn online during pandemic time. INR 6.5 lakh raised through crowdfunding by changemakers from Tribes For Good organisation.

Digi Library



Digi Library
Thinksharp Foundation

Open

4.9★
19 reviews

3+
Rated for 3+ ⓘ

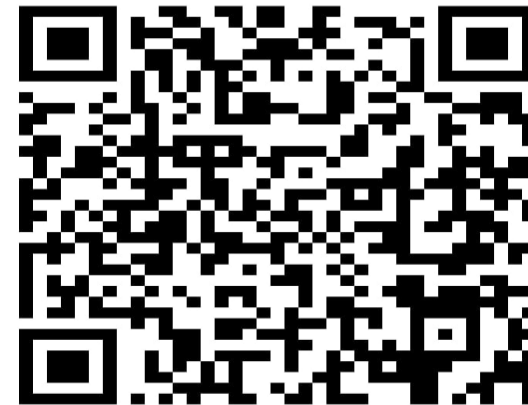
1K+
Downloads



A platform which provides free access to PDF & Video Books to school children

We launched “Digi Library” an android application to provide free access to wonderful books. Our aim is to inculcate reading habit among school children.

Books are made available in PDF and audio/video format.



Digi Library

Yearly Activities 2020- 2021



May-July: 10 Live Facebook Sessions on various topics related to digital education, activity-based learning, stem education, etc by various experts in educational sector.

August : Math with Fun activity conducted by volunteers of TATA CAPITAL & Ivolunteer to the 25 Students from Z.P School Gohre Bk.

September to December: Volunteers from Barclays India conducted 90 hours sessions on Math, Science and English for 50 students.

Yearly Activities 2020- 2021

- **Film Making workshops for 10 students”** in association with Picture Path Shala for children from Z.P School Malyan, Dahanu.
- **Basic Coding Workshop** was conducted in partnership with Tribes for Good changemakers. This workshop is conducted online for 15 students at Z. P. School, Malyan.
- **Environment Awareness** – Students from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management conducted environment awareness session 30 students from Prithviraj Kapoor Highschool and Z.P. School Malyan.
- **January:** On the occasion of Savitribai Phule Janmotsav ThinkSharp Foundation along with Ignited Minds conducted a competition of making play equipment from waste material. This competition was open to all age group and around 60 Ideas we got from this initiative.

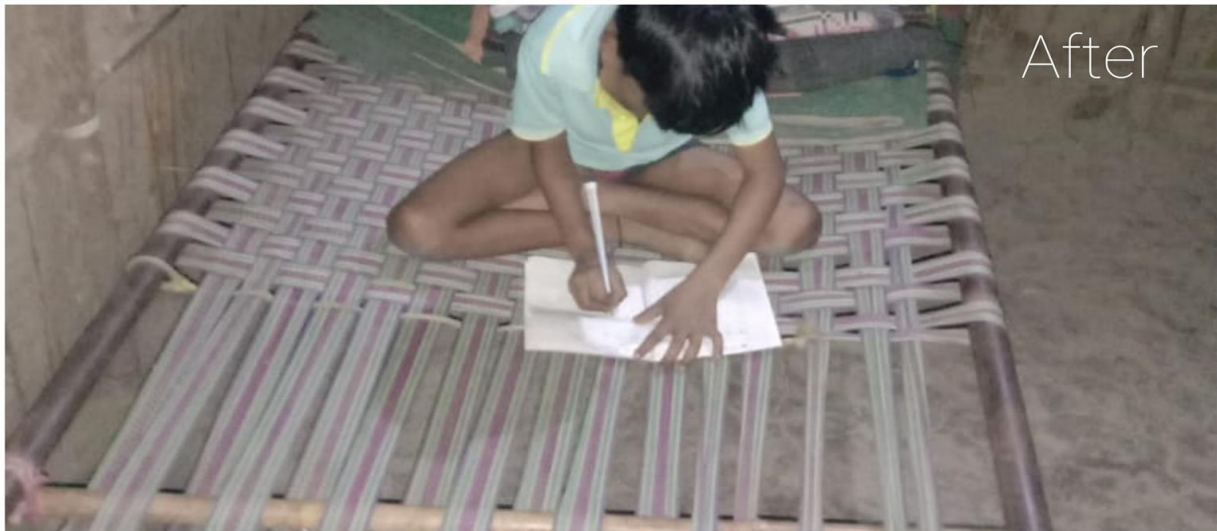
Covid-19 Relief Work



Before



After



- Grocery distribution and direct financial aid worth of 1.5 lakh aprx. 50 families in rural Maharashtra.
- Distribution of LED bulb to 55 tribal families from Varur, Palghar during Diwali so that children from these families can study during night-time and families can perform household work.
- Provided Scholarship of 22,000/- to 3 underprivileged students.

In The News



How this NGO brought the joy of learning to thousands of underprivileged children pan-India during the pandemic

Santosh Phad's ThinkSharp Foundation is taking smart devices equipped with free books and learning material to villages, so that underprivileged children are not left out during the pandemic

BY ANAVI KAUL
3 min read
PUBLISHED: Apr 28, 2021 01:04:53 PM IST



Santosh Phad, Founder, ThinkSharp Foundation

For far too long, education for children in rural India has been set aside; for far too long, it has been brushed away as an after-thought. The start of the COVID-19 pandemic only made this situation worse. Sickness,

THE HINDU App helps bridge educational divide in Maharashtra

'Digi Library' offers quality books for all primary level students from rural, lower economic backgrounds

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE PUNE

Social entrepreneur Santosh Phad (35) is on a mission to bridge the yawning educational chasm between rural and urban India.

The pandemic-induced lockdown, which cast a long shadow on the continuation of education of children from the social margins, has thrown up just such a challenge for Mr. Phad, founder of Thinksharp Foundation (TSF) - a non-profit organisation that has been working to bridge the rural-urban divide for nearly a decade.

TSF, which has been doing yeoman service by helping enhance modern educational infrastructure in rural schools and facilitating its access to underprivileged students, has now launched a free app titled 'Digi Library', providing quality books on myriad topics for all the primary level students from rural and lower economic backgrounds.

"With physical classes coming to a stop due to the pandemic, these children could not avail of the benefits of online education. Being the children of daily wage workers and migrant labourers, they couldn't af-



Santosh Phad, founder of Thinksharp Foundation, with children from a zilla parishad school in Maharashtra. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ford smart phones or tablets. Erratic power supply in such areas was a further challenge," Mr. Phad told *The Hindu*.

As a result, there was a fear that these children would drop out and ultimately lose interest and get involved in income generation activities along with their parents.

"Hence, we launched this app with the objective to ensure that children could continue their reading even during the lockdown and that their interest in books could be sustained in the absence of physical classes. The app was targeted at students of Class IV and above. It is con-

ceptualised as a 'modular library' with one bag having the capacity to hold 30-40 books. Often, it is observed that there is no space in these schools and the books remain in the teacher's cupboard. This app obviates physical storage as one doesn't need any cupboard to store books," Mr. Phad explained.

The books are divided in seven-eight categories as are presently available in three languages: English, Hindi and Marathi.

Currently, TSF, through 'Project StudyMall', work with 51 zilla parishad schools in 13 districts across Maharashtra, including Buldhara, Beed, Ahmednagar, Jalgaon, Aurangabad, and Raigad Palghar, Pune, Kolhapur Sangli and Satara in western Maharashtra. By February end, the foundation will have tied up with 60 such schools.

"We are currently working on e-learning, through braries beyond the textbook curriculum to include sci-

ence, history, culture and wildlife among others. We are also encouraging students, parents, teachers a volunteers to write and publish stories, which we make available on the app," Mr. Phad said.

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INDIAN EXPRESS
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020

edex

When kids say 'Tab', you're it!

Rashmi Patil speaks to Santosh Phad, Founder of the ThinkSharp Foundation about their initiative to provide tablets to children to help them access education online instead of dropping out of school

After school hours
The StudyMall After School project is meant to provide computer literacy programmes, indoor and educational games, workshops to develop soft skills and offer career guidance for children

600
Children impacted by the StudyMall After School programme

Send that helpin' hand
StudyMall is meant to support financially disadvantaged children by providing secondary education from Class IX to XII. ThinkSharp offers ₹2,000 per year, until they complete their course

6

Tablet Dosage: ThinkSharp aims to give these tablets to at least 70 kids in the next five months

ben Santosh Phad was pursuing his post-graduation in Mumbai, he noticed a huge gap between the urban settings in terms of access to various facilities to the children from rural areas. Included: teaching glish, providing computers and other tools f technology, so that they are equally competitive when applying for a job or a seat in some of India's prestigious institutions. Fast forward to 2020, when he Corona pandemic:

has taken control of everything. ThinkSharp has been crowdfunding in order to provide tablets to school children, so that they don't miss out on online classes and fall behind.

Santosh, who has worked in several finance corporations across India, says, "We had to make sure that these children's academic year didn't go waste. Being in lockdown for nearly five months, there were possibilities that these children would either drop out of school or get into jobs that generate some income for their family. The infrastructure that we provided at the schools have had to be shut down. Therefore, we thought of bringing this infrastructure home through tablets. Hence, this initiative is called Ghar Ghar Padshala. Meanwhile, we found that only 20 to 25 per cent of kids have access to the internet or gadgets in the 31 schools that we work with. Thus, tablets became an advantage for these kids as they could now access classes and the curriculum. We have provided these tablets in rural areas of Maharashtra, Aurangabad and a few other districts in Maharashtra."

So, what can they do with these tablets? ThinkSharp Foundation's tablets come with 4G internet connectivity with the academic syllabus, a digital library that has over 1,200 books, applications like Zoom through which students can attend online classes and make a video call to their teachers.

Budget talks for tablets
ThinkSharp has already raised ₹6 lakh through students and employees from various cities and they have distributed tablets to a school in Gorbe Budruk, Pune. They have taken to Mission, an online fundraising platform, to raise some more funds. Their total project cost stood at ₹13,70,000. Each tablet costs ₹18,000.

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hindustantimes

ONLINE CLASSES

Zilla parishad students get their 'click' to the digital world

Dheeraaj Bengru
@dheeraajbengru

PUNE: Covid-19 pandemic has changed the dimensions of education. With schools shut, teachers have started with the new academic year through online classes. However, students from rural areas are facing a setback because of no access to electronic gadgets which can facilitate their need to attend online classes.

To solve this issue, Pune Zilla Parishad education department along with ThinkSharp Foundation has started a pilot project, Home School, at Gorbe Budruk village in Haveli taluka of Pune district. Under the project, all students of Class 4 to 7 from Gorbe Budruk village have been given educational tablets and other necessary facilities to enable them to attend online classes.

"We have planned to implement a home-schooling model which will provide educational tablets and other facilities to all 75 children from Classes 4 to 7 of the Zilla Parishad school in Gorbe Budruk village. These tablets will help students connect with their teachers and attend online classes and will also have a library of 1,200+ books to read along with other educational apps. This will allow them to study online and offline," said Santosh Phad, founder of ThinkSharp Foundation.

Rajnikant Menamra, zilla parishad teacher from the village school, said, "In rural areas, disinterest in studies accounts for 20-24 per cent of schoolchildren. An issue like Covid-19, forces parents to take their kids to work to earn money and as soon as money starts flowing in, parents become reluctant to send their kids back to school. Children that could attend online classes, even for a short period of time, showed interest."

The ThinkSharp Foundation has raised ₹4 lakh along with the help of students of an international school for the project. Minister Varsha Gaikwad also acknowledged the project. Apart from the regular curriculum, due to digital learning, children are also getting the opportunity to learn foreign languages through volunteers. One such volunteer is Mansi Mehta from Mumbai who has now started online sessions on German language learning.

Magzter
Magzter
Clipped from • Hindustan Times Pune - July 28, 2020
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2016 finalist for “SWAG (Social Welfare & Growth)” award by CSR Journal

2016 - Digital Trail Blazer Awards 2016 (State and National) by India Today, HP India and KPMG.

2018 - Best NGO in India for Rural-Urban Education by Hope awards.



**Awards
&
Recognitions**

2019 - 10 top social organisation
By Bala Vikasa International Center, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

2019 - KarmaVeer Chakra Award & Global Fellowship by REX and United Nations.

Team Thinksharp Foundation

Leadership



Mr. Santosh Phad
Founder & Managing Trustee



Mr. Amit Kutwal
Program Manager



Ms. Shraddha Bhange
Trustee



Mr. Sachin Pawar
Trustee

Volunteers Of The Year



Mr. Vinay S
Data Management



Ms. Sheril Sonkar
Graphics design



Mr. Aman Pasricha
Android App Developer

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