

SUN FOUNDATION'S "COVID CRISIS CAMPAIGN 4 CHANGE" (SF 3C4C) INITIATIVE

There is no doubt that the pandemic and the resulting lockdowns have been the harshest to the vulnerable and marginalized. From the basic amenities like food and medicine, to livelihood and education, everything was disrupted, with no clarity how long this ordeal will last, or whether the worst is yet to come. With the short-to-medium term future prospects of normalcy being bleak, it is time for us to support those who have been thrown off by the extremities of these disruptions.

VIDYA School, which is one of the schools where we regularly conduct solar clinics (advocacy sessions) and has many SF Ambassadors, has over 15,00 beneficiaries pan-India to support. In the wake of this crisis, their teachers have braved through and worked tirelessly to pivot their entire syllabus to e-learning modules, and they have been fairly successful! The e-classes ensure continuity in their students' education, while keeping them engaged, motivated and connected to their peers and teachers. We at SF as well, conduct regular webinars to help these students deal with the pandemic while continuing climate change related education and advocacy.

However, a majority of these students come from lesser privileged backgrounds, with just one smart-phone per family, making sustainability, engagement and participation in these e-classes and webinars a tremendous challenge.

It is clear that e-learning will become a norm and probably a regular practice, deeming it as a necessity in the modern world. To echo UN Agenda 2030's motto, there should be "no one left behind", and the VIDYA School students cannot be left out of the attempt to adapt to the modern pandemic world. These hard-working, aspirational children, youth and women with the potential and dreams of achievement and social progress need to continue their education seamlessly, as pedagogy too adapts with the changing times.

Therefore, it is my strong appeal to all the Friends of SUN Foundation to help these students by donating second-hand smart mobile phones, tablets and laptops, or donate monetarily towards procuring them, and give the opportunity to these young minds to continue building themselves and being educated for the future, however uncertain the future of the world may seem right now.

Your contribution and investment in these exemplary students will provide them hope, opportunities and learning, and encourage the students and teachers alike, as the world deals with the brunt of covid-19 and the lockdowns.

The contact details are given below, for which pick-ups can be arranged:

Delhi: covid.delhi@vidya-india.org, +919602380111, +918750706069

Mumbai: covid.mumbai@vidya-india.org, +919833850869

Bangalore: covid.bangalore@vidya-india.org, +919980166701

You can also click here to donate directly to their COVID initiatives: www.vidya-india.org/fighting-covid-19-with-vidya

Additionally, we would also request you to offer your time and expertise to mentor and guide these

children, which will go a long way in making a positive difference in their lives. Please do connect on the above numbers if you would like to be a mentor. We thank you once again, and hope you stay safe and take every measure to stay healthy.

Siddhant Sinha
Founder, SUN Foundation