



As we near the end of this year and look back, we are very grateful for the relationships we have built in Saidulajab and Mandi Pahadi areas of South Delhi, that have helped us to serve vulnerable communities in our city.

Saidulajab

We continue to regularly teach basic English, Maths and Hindi to 25 children at Saidulajab. Of them, twenty who are above the age of eight and are taught basic computers and typing. We are developing relationships with their families and are supporting them to see their children's education as a priority. Some do not go to any school, and so we are working to enroll them into the government education system, either through government schools or through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Of the children, ten are from a very poor community and are weak in their studies. We are working to ensure they continue to study with us, by building relationships with their parents through outreach visits.



Preparation for New Year's programme at Saidulajab

This year has been one of transition for our women at Saidulajab. Many who have been with us for several years, even from pre-Covid times, are now graduating from Sahaitha. Five have finished their graduation from college. Some are going through the next phase in their lives, as they get married while some now have children. Others are seeking secure jobs. As we have said goodbyes to some, we have begun to enroll other women in the centre and build relationships with them.

A common thread between the women who graduated, and the new women is that they all come from highly dysfunctional families. Coming to our centre gives them a place to be themselves, to see a new world of opportunities, where they can hope for their future. Currently, 15 women come to us at Saidulajab.

Shanti Colony

In Shanti colony, we now have around 50 children and 5 young women coming every day for education support. Of them, the 15 children who come to us in the morning are those unable to enroll into government schools due to lack of legal documents, or having migrated from their village in the middle of their school year. Many have their mothers away for long hours of work, and so there is no one to ensure they eat all meals in a day as they come home very late. To bridge their gap in nutritional



needs, we have started a nutrition program where a hot meal is provided for them after their classes with us every day. We support this group of children with basic maths, English and Hindi, using various digital methods to teach concepts. Rhymes and stories help them pick up English. The general comprehension of English at Shanti Colony, being a semi-urban area, is low. We are trying to build on this gap very early on in our children, as we continue our after-school educational program with 35 children in the afternoons. We help them mostly by following their school syllabuses and support them in their exam preparations.



Young girls in Shanti Colony doing their English worksheets

In February 2024, five women from Saidulajab and Shanti colony will appear for NIOS exams. They are scared and excited at the same time. For some, this is their first public exam. As we help them prepare, they realise this is an opportunity to show their families, who generally underestimate them, that they are capable of much more.

Community Health

Our community nurse, Alon, continues medical follow-up visits to the homes of pregnant women and young mothers at Shanti Colony and checks on their newborns. We invite the women to our centre, doing sessions with them on basic hygiene, the importance of vaccinating their children and other crucial community health topics, and relate with them over snacks and chai. There is a misconception in communities around us that vaccination leads to ill health. We are slowly building awareness among people here and collaborating with government health workers in the area to raise awareness against this misconception. Additionally, in the last two months, we assisted four elderly people to the nearby government health facility for free medical check ups and medicines, which they normally wouldn't travel to because of the distance.

Viru Camp and Bhim Basti

In Bhim Basti and Viru Camp, which are the two poor neighborhoods close to Shanti Colony, we are building relationships with more women and children through our recent visits there. Two children and one woman from these two locations started coming to our Centre at Shanti Colony for educational and health needs. We continue visits to both areas, offering medical support and connect with the women and children there.

Thank you for your loving support!

Sahaitha is a project of the New Generation Trust, a charitable trust Reg. No 1859/2005, at New Delhi, India. We use pseudonyms to protect the identity of our women and children. To know more about us, please visit www.newgenerationtrust.org



Sheetal's Story*

(*name changed)

Sheetal recently became a young mother at Shanti Colony. We have been involved with her pregnancy in these last four months as she took part in our sessions for pregnant women and young mothers. We now support her and her newborn son with regular medical check-ups and through psychosocial and medical counsel in areas she needs help. Recently she shared about how she finds it difficult to live with her husband and her in-laws.

She feels broken in many ways and carries no hope for the future. We encourage her to not lose hope and to continue taking care of herself and her child. We advise her to pursue her studies, so she can grow to take on a job, and is not solely dependent on her family. She feels encouraged that we are very close by, and that she can share her difficulties with us.

