



We are grateful to have had a significant start to this year, with our team at Sahaitha working to serve communities in South Delhi. We are grateful for the new relationships we are building, both in existing and new areas.

Shanti Colony

The community work continues to grow in Shanti colony, where we have now worked for over a year. There is a regular inflow of students to our education and nutrition programme. Twenty children are enrolled for education every morning and are given a hot meal after the lesson time. They look forward to the days we give boiled eggs, milk, kichdi (mix of rice and dal) and paranthas! These children are being supported with their basic learning so that they can be enrolled on to nearby government schools. They are picking up basic concepts, and their understanding of English is improving. With the recent pleasant weather, we had a lovely picnic with them at a nearby park with swings and other play equipment, followed by food and a fun time. These times enable us to build better relationships with the children that help us to input into their daily lives.



Teaching children at Shanti Colony



Tailoring Training – Shanti Colony

In the afternoons, around 30 children seek after-school support and are tutored on the subjects in Maths or English. They come in two batches, at two time slots based on their grade levels. We use audio-visual tools to build their English language skills, with this being a key focus area. The children also love to paint. Five women also come to learn, and are being tutored to pass NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) levels. Two of these women had not been able to continue their education since the pandemic and enrolled for 8th grade last year, after migrating back from their villages. We are glad they have passed (which is quite an achievement for them!) and are now enrolled in 10th grade, and are due to take exams in October this year.

During community outreach, we found many women enquiring if we could offer a tailoring training course. In response, we started a basic tailoring program to connect with them, with the help of a staff from a sister NGT project who is skilled in tailoring. This work is at a nascent stage with four women currently enrolled.

Twenty-four women are also enrolled with us to receive antenatal and postnatal care. We do health awareness sessions regularly with them, monitoring their health and the health of their newborn babies. We give them regular counselling input to cope with the pressures of family expectations and stresses during their



Session for ANC/PNC Shanti Colony

pregnancy period. The women have started opening up with us about their concerns. Many have been victims of abuse and carry deep individual struggles. So we take time to speak individually counsel and input into their situations.

Nearby Colonies

We also have regular community engagement with the nearby colonies/villages around Shanti colony (Bhim Basti and Viru camp) through medical work, building on existing relationships there. The government health workers call our community nurse (who is now known to a lot of women in Shanti and nearby areas) once a month to set up a health camp for the general public. Those attending get their blood pressure, blood sugar and weight checks done. Recently, we started medical outreach at a new location: Bapu Camp, a ten-minute walk from the Shanti Colony centre.

We have attended to 386 medical cases through the last 7 months, in the Mandi Pahadi area (Shanti Colony, Bhim Basti, Bapu camp and Viru camp). We have been reaching an average of 50 new patients each month.

Saidulajab

We have been working at Saidulajab for nearly 20 years now and have a deep connection with many families here. Some of our students have succeeded in their education, moving into the next stage of getting jobs. In the last few years, the demographic of the area has changed. Large expanses of open slums have been replaced by tall buildings and many of the poor aren't always able to afford the higher rents, moving further away. These displacements affect our existing relationships and the economic situation of families, with both parents having to work difficult jobs to meet higher living costs. In some cases, young adults have had to drop their studies and look for jobs. This season, we are focusing on restructuring our work around the community that is currently staying in the area. To build new relationships, we do regular outreach, spreading the word by distributing pamphlets and putting up posters for the locals. We walk to the colony locations that are 10 minutes away from the centre and the commercial area behind the centre, to meet people.

25 children and 13 women come regularly to the centre. The children are from very poor backgrounds, with families having limited earnings and many household needs to meet. We teach them basic Maths, English and Hindi, building their comprehension levels, and making them more comfortable with English. We also speak to their mothers regularly. They appreciate the love and support we show towards them and their children.

Two women recently had their 8th grade exams under NIOS and got promoted to 10th grade. Four more have their 10th grade and 12th grade exams this month. We are helping the students with exam preparation.

A new team member, Esther, joined us in January 2024. She has taken on many aspects of the education work with the women in Shanti colony and Saidulajab. The women enjoy learning from her. With Esther joining the work, we have more time to visit the colonies to meet new women and children, conduct workshops and spend more time on individual counselling needs. We're glad to have this opportunity to build new relationships, and reach more people through our work.



Children learning at Saidulajab

Vinesh & Pavan's Story*

(*name changed)

Vinesh and Pavan are brothers, aged 9 and 6. Both have developmental disorders. Their two sisters go to a government school. Their mother Meena is the only earning member in the family and is out for work all day. Their father is an alcoholic and doesn't support the family much. The boys do not have further opportunities to learn amidst their difficult conditions. They have been coming to our Centre regularly for the last one year to learn and receive meals.

Due to their low immunity, the boys fall sick and miss lessons. We are supporting Meena on ways to help her care for the boys during these phases and teach her the importance of hygiene to help prevent sickness in the family. We are also in the process helping the children secure their Aadhaar cards. Meena feels very grateful for all the help she receives from us. Our hope is to see the boys grow in their learning, their health and find opportunities for occupational therapy.

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

