

2020/21

South Kolkata Hamari Muskan

ANNUAL REPORT

PAMPERS
NURTURE

BREAKTHROUGH
DIGNITY



LOCKDOWN SNAPSHOTS



2020 HIGHLIGHTS 1, 2, 3...

01

NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHED

2020 saw the launch of PAMPERS which focuses on "Early Childhood Care and Education" (ECCE). ECCE means wholesome nutrition; solid sleep-cycle; easy education; and plenty of play time for all children between 0-6 years. PAMPERS is the first-of-its-kind creche service for working women within the red light area. For now there are 30 children in the 2 red light areas.

02

NEW CENTRES ADDED TO EXISTING FOUR

2020 saw 2 new centres (1 in Bowbazaar + 1 in Sonagachhi) added to the already-existing 4 centres (2 in Bowbazaar + 2 in Sonagachhi); one centre is for PAMPERS kids and another is for DIGNITY' Alternative Livelihood Skill Development. Like always, the centres are in the middle of the red light area, accessible to all community members.

03

TEACHERS' ASSISTANTS RECRUITED

In 2020, 3 new Teaching Assistants + Assistant Teachers were recruited to take care of PAMPERS + NURTURE (0-18 years) students. The teachers are responsible for taking classes and outreach and home visits. SKHM youth member Sangita Das, SKHM youth member Kabita Ghosh constitute SKHM new teachers' team in Bowbazaar while in Sonagachhi, Amisha Singh, from the community was recruited.

04

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD COURSES LAUNCHED

In 2020, SKHM's "Cooking & Canteen Management Course" saw an addition of a "Food Processing" department responsible for teaching the making of jams, jellies, poppadoms, etc.; the course also received a sweet boost with a "Chocolate Making Course" being introduced; GOYNA, formerly SKHM's Costume Jewellery Making Course, was re-christened and SKHM tied-up with two Kolkata boutiques to display and sell wares; a "Tailoring Course" was added to DIGNITY's roster, taking the count of skill-development courses to 4.

05

MEN FORMALLY JOIN SKHM'S DIGNITY GROUP

Babai Das, Mahabir Singh, Prabhat Das, Somnath Das and Rathikanta Bittar became formal members of the DIGNITY group—making the previously women's-only entity into an inclusive all-genders program.



Escaping unwanted attention, a member of PAMPERS seeks a place to peacefully doodle under her favourite teacher's chair. Pampers kids come to SKHM Centres to primarily relax, sleep, eat on time, listen to rhymes and songs, play, learn a little bit about shapes / colors / numbers / alphabets and primarily to stay within a safe environment where they are cherished and respected.

Quality pre-primary education is the foundation of a child's journey: every stage of education that follows relies on its success. Yet, despite the proven and lifelong benefits, more than 175 million children - nearly half of all pre-primary-age children globally - are not enrolled in pre-primary education.

(<https://www.unicef.org/education/early-childhood-education>)

There is a system called Bachha Dhora in the red light area. It is practised by women who have exited prostitution due to (1) advancing age (2) infirmities. Bachha Dhora means "holding babies" (literally) on a per hour basis while younger (still working) mothers attend to clients or work. The so-called "care" that babies receive in this system is questionable at best. Such informal nannies have no background in child care. Many of them are addicted to substances or alcohol. Several have little to no income apart from what they earn as nannies. A child growing up within the Bachha Dhora system is usually managed by an adult who (in turn) received very little care growing up / have little to no income to support themselves and often prioritise their needs over that of the child. Often, SKHM receives reports of nannies feeding alcohol to crying babies / falling asleep without feeding babies / using inappropriate language in presence of children / running illegal professions (doubling up as a lotto den or as a alcohol seller) and inviting strangers where these babies are kept. To sum up, Bachha Dhora often makes a vulnerable child even more at-risk to abuse, neglect and violence. To combat these, SKHM had been planning to start the PAMPERS program for babies of the red light area. It focuses exclusively on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

The broad objectives of the ECCE are to: Ensure that each child is valued and respected, that s/he feels safe and secure and develops a positive self-concept. It is to enable a solid foundation of physical and motor development, as per each child's potential. In India, children from economically-backward families are least-likely to attend ECCE programs. Those who do have access, have a tough time due to poorly-trained educators, overcrowded environments, and unsuitable curricula. If a child does not receive quality early childhood education it limits children's futures by denying them opportunities to reach their full potential. Alongside, this impacts the futures of countries, robbing them of the human capital needed to reduce inequalities and promote peaceful, prosperous societies.

SKHM STARTED PAMPERS PROGRAM FOR 0-6 YEAR OLDS



30

CHILDREN in the
PAMPERS project



2

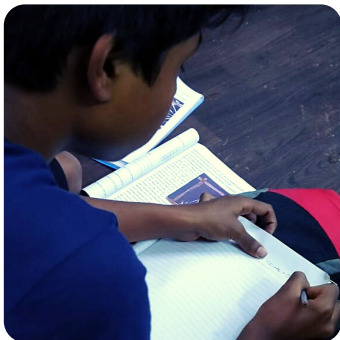
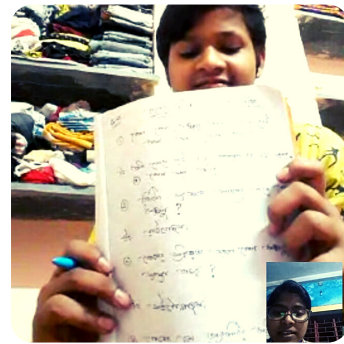
CENTRES in 2 red
light areas





150

Students in
online classes
(phase-wise)



15

teachers in online
classes - 1 teacher
taking 80 classes /
per month



13500

scholastic
classes held
in 2020

NURTURE REPORT

- On March 17, 2020, SKHM took its remedial education classes ONLINE (by means of audio calls/ video calls/ Whatsapp calls, etc.) before any mainstream school in West Bengal or India.

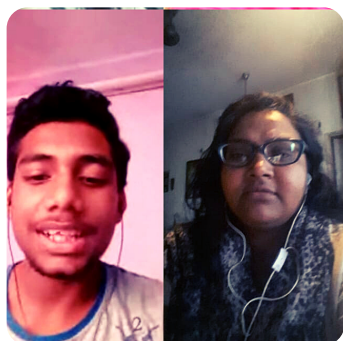
- Online classes started in a phase-wise manner:

From March 2020 onwards for students between Classes V to XII.

From June 2020 onwards for students between Classes I to Class XII.

From October 2020 onwards for students between ages 1 to 6 years.

- Bowbazaar Centre-II formally opened in July 2020. The first batch to come in were the senior students slated to appear for BOARD examinations. They were followed by the most at-risk students. For a week, the centre closed shutters because of a spike in infections.
- Sonagachhi Centre-II re-opened in January 2021 and has remained opened since then.
- In 2020, 5 students passed Madhyamik Examinations (Bowbazaar and Sonagachhi). 4 of them got into Humanities stream while 1 joined the Science stream at Mitra Institution Main
- In 2020, 4 SKHM students passed Higher Secondary Examinations (Sonagachhi)
- In 2020, 1 SKHM student was promoted to Class XII. She is slated to appear for her final school examinations in June 2021.
- In 2020, 1 SKHM youth, Sangita Das, daughter of Caregiver Poornima Das, graduated college. Ms Das joined SKHM as a Teachers' Assistant. She will also continue her education online. She is now waiting for IGNOU to start admissions.
- In 2020, 1 student-cum-youth member, Kabita Ghosh, was promoted to Second Year of College (Vidyasagar College) with A-level grades.
- In 2020, all students between Classes I to IX passed respective school annual examinations.
- In 2020, students managed to continue UJAAN (the wall magazine) online.
- From August 2020, again before any mainstream schools, SKHM started Chemistry and Physics Laboratory Classes for students in Classes VIII, IX, X and XII.





সব ক্লাব থেকে খাবারের সরঞ্জাম দেওয়া হচ্ছে
গরিব মানুষ এবং বাচ্চাদের



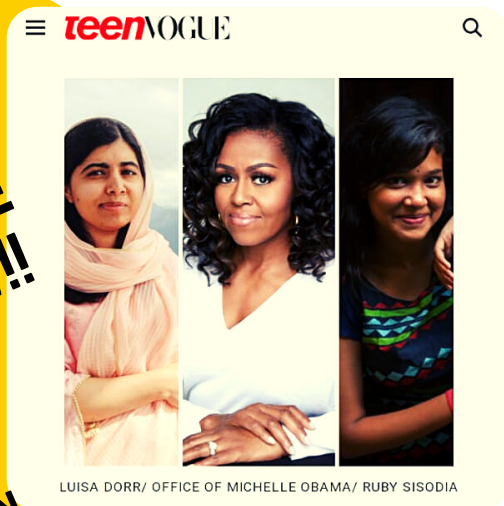
মুখে মাস্ক পরছে এবং সাবান দিয়ে হাত ধুচ্ছে



সকাল এবং সন্ধ্যার ছবি
সকালে পাঁচ থেকে ছয় জন মানুষ দেখা যাচ্ছে
সন্ধ্যাতে কেউ নেই

**CORONA
DIARY
TEEN VOGUE
INTERVIEW!!**

**MADAM
CHAIRPERSON
FOR A DAY!**



LUISA DORR/ OFFICE OF MICHELLE OBAMA/ RUBY SISODIA

Identity

Michelle Obama and Malala Yousafzai In Conversation For International Day of the Girl

The pair talked to a 17-year-old student in India about education, and changing the world for the better post-COVID.

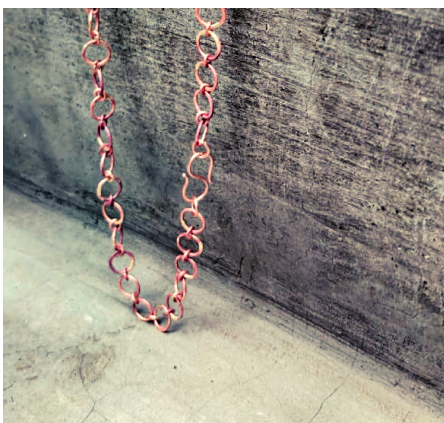


NURTURE SHEET

- SKHM student Priya Mandol (Class XI) interviewed Nobel Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai, and Former First Lady of the USA, Michelle Obama, virtually for the **Teen Vogue** magazine.
- December 2020, 11 SKHM students won Kata medals. They sent exhibition videos online to the karate federation. The federation returned with their response a few weeks later and SKHM students did well in most categories: **SKHM received the second prize in boys' white belt Kata category; it won third prize in the boys' orange belt Kata category; SKHM won the third prize in the red belt Kata category (girls), we won first and second prizes in girls' yellow belt Kata category and came a joint-third in the girls' purple belt Kata category. Finally SKHM won first and second prizes in the boys' brown belt Kata category.**
- SKHM's senior and junior students and their mothers made seconds-long puppet-show videos for the entertainment of little ones within the community with help from Subhashish Sen (SKHM's Drama Teacher and Professional Puppeteer)
- In 2020, SKHM students stuck at home began **Corona Diary** that has now (2021) transitioned into a series of **VLOGS** for peer and community members.

DIGNITY

INTRODUCING GOYNA



- SKHM is proud to introduce GOYNA; its jewellery brand
- The name was decided on a participatory manner by the team
- Goyna means "jewellery"



20

...community-based
women and men
received **DIAGNOSTIC
CARDS** enabling free
lab tests

120

...community
members accessed 4
HEALTH CAMPS

HEALTH SHEET

- In 2020, SKHM held **FOUR HEALTH CAMPS** (2 general camps + 1 for gynaecological conditions + 1 for pediatric care) within Bowbazaar. SKHM felt this need as community people had stayed away from medical centers fearing COVID-19 infection.
- In 2020, SKHM tied-up with a reputed Kolkata-based Diagnostic Centre which issued "**DIAGNOSTIC HEALTH CARDS**" for 20 women and men of Bowbazaar. Card-holders can avail free lab tests for the 2021-2022 Year. Tests will include general ones such as LFT/ Hemoglobin/Thyroid/Diabetes, etc.
- In 2020, women from BPL families were given **HORLICKS** to carry back to their families.
- In 2020, families were given extra food allowance if the family was facing severe food crisis.
- In 2020, all centres were fumigated once a month. SKHM would like to take the opportunity to thank (Bowbazaar) Ward Councillor Shri Satyendranath Dey, for enabling the process in Bowbazaar Centre II.
- In 2020, after a gap of 5 months due to the lockdown, free breakfast was reintroduced for 36 students who hail from BPL families. This was made possible thanks to a specific funder.

Finance:

SKHM has received FCRA renewal in 09.09.2020 after one and half years from due date. SKHM did not receive FC fund till September 2020. Afterwards, SKHM received funds from Foreign Donors.

In 2020 SKHM received local funds and ran the program on that basis (May 2019-September 2020).
Audit is in process.

