



IND-SMI-EFO-P02, Indore, India
Reporting Period: July 2019 - June 2020

Education for Outcasts

Budget: \$12,000 for Year 2 – fully funded.

The project:

This long-term project to establish a government-accredited primary school in a snake charmers' community is in a new 3-year phase. Our partner continues to work with the whole community including livelihood skills training for the women and medical camps which provide free pre-natal check-ups and educate the community about illness and its correlation to hygiene and cleanliness.

Outcomes and impact:

- 141 students registered and attended school on a regular basis. Bridging school was provided for a further 27 children.
- Parents attended monthly meetings where they were given information about the curriculum and were encouraged to invest in their children's education. The parents also took responsibility for and attended many more school programs during this period.
- Children participated in extra-curricular activities such as arts and crafts, outdoor games and sporting competitions to enhance their skill and interest in learning. The community participated in the End-of-Year Celebration run by the students (below, left).
- Adolescent girls attended a puberty related awareness program to discuss any concerns or problems they were facing and 2 staff members have been trained to support and guide these girls physically and emotionally.
- Four handwashing and hygiene awareness programs were conducted throughout the year; all children under 5 received a general check-up, de-worming and vitamin A tablets. Pregnant women received a comprehensive pre-natal check-up and iron, calcium and multi-vitamins were distributed.
- 2 groups of 35 women continued to make toiletries, cosmetics and handicrafts. These activities have been suspended since the COVID19 lockdown.



COVID19 update:

There are many challenges in this community because of the pandemic. People are struggling with lack of employment and therefore a shortage of basic food supplies and medical facilities. Many people are only eating one small meal a day. Our partners have been able to distribute a special nutritionally rich energy drink and dry rations as part of a feeding program to 120 families helping to prevent malnutrition and starvation. Teachers are trying to set up WhatsApp sessions with students who have access to smart phones.



Before Nikita, 9, started attending school she would go begging in the streets with her grandparents to help meet the needs of her family. At first, she refused to wash and so she could not join school activities. Eventually, the desire to participate was stronger than her stubbornness. She easily grasped new ideas and now performs well academically and is an example to the other children (above, right).

Thank you for helping to transform this community through education, livelihood skills and a health and hygiene program.