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pudiyador
times

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Our President's Message

Dear Pudiador family,

You have been stuck with us through this pandemic. Through all the uncertainties, fears, personal losses, and glimmers of hope. We are so grateful for your strength and sustained support through these dark times. Of course, this pandemic is not over yet – far from it. But we are all wiser, more prepared, and dare I say, resilient.

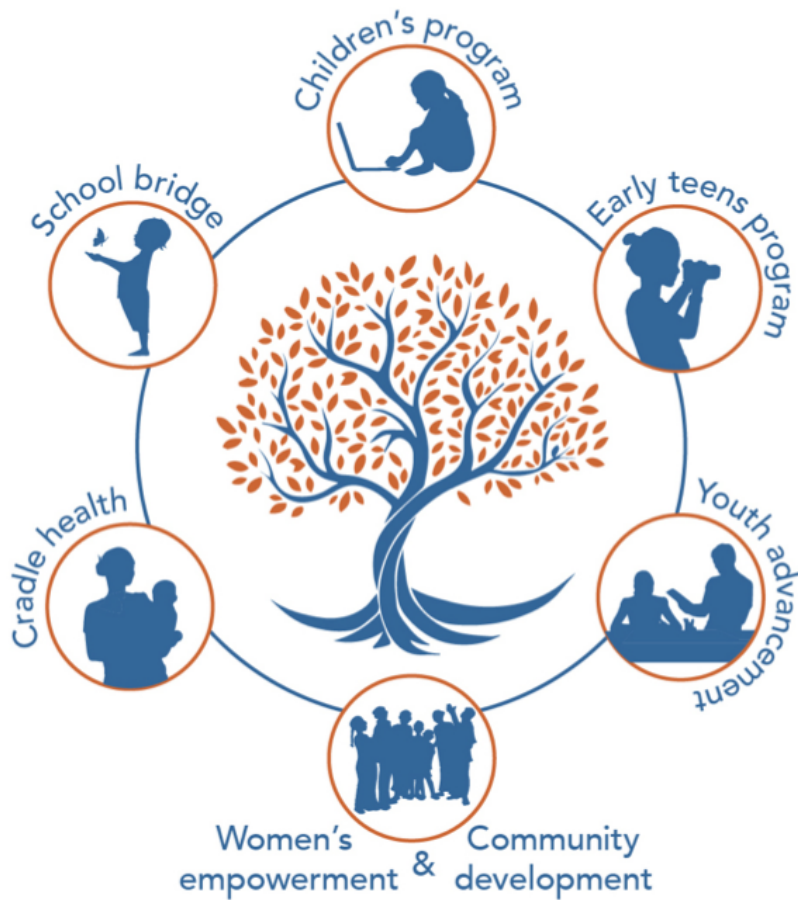
In this issue, you will read about how we have been adapting to the ever-changing ground reality. We have made it easier for you to follow our progress by dedicating a separate page to each of our programs (described in the next page).

As always, we invite you to share your thoughts and suggestions about our programming. Or just drop in a note to tell us how you're doing. We love to hear from you.

Stay safe!

With Love,
Swapnaa

PUDIYADOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Pudiyador is an education-driven child and family organisation that caters to disadvantaged communities in Chennai, India. Our goal is to equip children and their families with experiences and opportunities that will empower them and their communities to break the cycle of generational poverty.

Our programs are meant to serve the entire community, starting from birth and going a full circle:



Cradle Health
(for expectant and new mothers and their infants)



School Bridge
(3-5 years)



Children's Program
(5-11 years)



Early Teens Program
(12-15 years)



Youth Advancement Program
(16-19 years)



Women's Empowerment and Community Development Program
(everyone)

We hire our teachers from within the communities to teach our children. A rigorous training program for our teachers ensures high quality of care and education and a steady source of employment for themselves.

LOCKDOWN RECAP

From August 2020



LOCKDOWN EXTENDED

A general lockdown continues in Chennai due to the increased number of Covid-19 cases.

RELIEF KIT DISTRIBUTION

We completed 4 rounds of distribution directly impacting over 1000 families.

CHENNAI REMAINS A HOTSPOT

Our community centers are still closed but we hope to resume operations soon.

CONTINUING OUR PROGRAMS REMOTELY

We have continued several of our programs remotely in order to engage our communities during lockdown. We have remodelled several programs to address specific issues our communities might face during this period.



CRADLE HEALTH



Our Cradle Health program has bloomed during lockdown with more than 30 mothers joining the program from all our communities

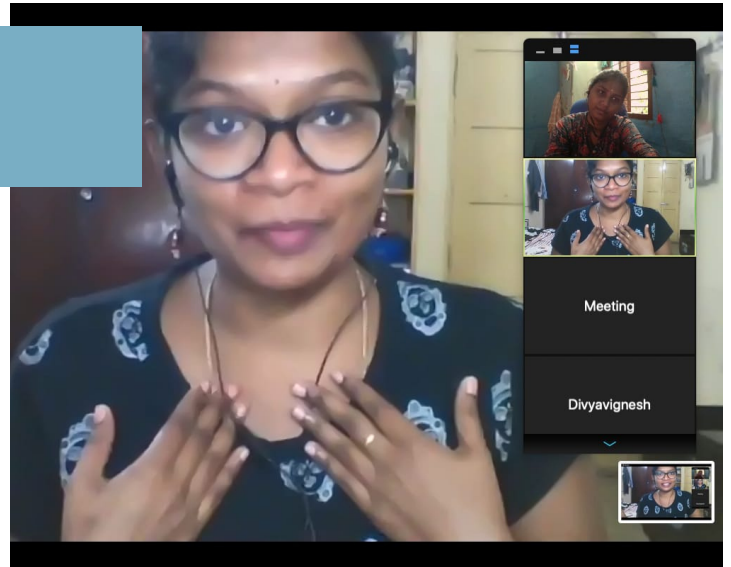


CRADLE KITS

Our cradle health kit, is a weekly kit designed to provide a variety of healthy and nutritious supplements which supports one mother and child. Currently, 30 women from our communities have been receiving these kits and have benefitted immensely from them.

MOMMY TALKS

We resumed Part 2 of our Cradle Health Workshop with Mommy Talks. Mommy Talks are lactation specialists that have helped our mothers understand different aspects of pregnancy and parenting. 22 cradle mothers from all of our communities have participated in these weekly online sessions.



TECH SAVVY MOMS

During the lockdown as most of our sessions were online, we have taught our mothers basic skills like how to use the internet, functioning of different online applications etc. Our mothers have become technology savvy and are learning something new everyday!

SCHOOL BRIDGE



HOW ARE WE REMOTELY ENGAGING OUR TODDLERS

The pandemic has been difficult for us to engage our toddlers. We decided to structure our program to focus on 3 primary skills; **Gross motor, Fine motor and Cognitive development.**

We came up with several activities and storytelling sessions to ensure we continue our educational engagement with our toddlers.



STORYTELLING

Our toddlers look forward to our online storytelling sessions and they learn something new everyday through the stories we share.

FUN ACTIVITIES

The activities focused on skill development have allowed our parents to bond more with their toddlers during the lockdown.

TEACHERS' INVOLVEMENT

Our teachers have followed up with the parents of our toddlers to ascertain their progress during lockdown and to ensure their participation.

ENGAGING OUR PARENTS

Parents' participation in a child's development is important to us at Pudiyador. We have ensured that our sessions involve both our parents and children.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM & EARLY TEENS PROGRAM



SNACK KITS FOR OUR CHILDREN

In addition to relief food rations, Pudiyador is now distributing snacks on a weekly basis to all our children and youth attending our after-school programs in our four communities of operations.

**OVER 1500
KITS
DISTRIBUTED**

We have successfully completed over 9 rounds of distribution within our communities.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Our community volunteers have helped us coordinate the distribution of our snack kits and have followed all safety protocols.

NUTRITIOUS SNACKS

Our snack kits are designed to provide a variety of nutritious snacks to one child for one week. Each kit has six different snack items (one for each day of the week) that are prepared packed and ready to eat.





CHILDREN'S PROGRAM & EARLY TEENS PROGRAM



MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY TEACHING

We piloted our *Interaction Over Telephone* Project during lockdown in the month of August. Our project involves our Pudiyador volunteers teaching English to our children remotely everyday for 20 minutes. Over 130 volunteer hours have gone into this project and both our volunteers and children have enthusiastically participated everyday. We are soon to launch the second batch of ITP!



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM & EARLY TEENS PROGRAM



OUR TEACHERS DURING LOCKDOWN

The pandemic has been rough for us at Pudiyador especially in terms of continued efforts to support our communities. Despite our challenges, we have continued the basic salary for our teachers with no salary cuts whatsoever and have retained all of our teachers.

Teachers from our School Bridge Program, Children's Program and Early Teens Program are engaging our children remotely to continue Pudiyador's programs with our communities during Lockdown.



BOOK REVIEW SESSIONS

We came up with the Teachers' Book Review Session which was piloted in May of this year. The purpose of the session is for teachers to read one book and share their reflections to all Pudiyador members in a common discussion. We believe the skill of reading will improve their creative thinking skills, and we want to inculcate the habit of reading to all our teachers and staff.

YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGAM



PUDIYADOR SUCCESS STORIES: *OUR YOUNG GRADUATES*

The youth from our communities come from families where they happen to be the first generation to enter college. Caste, class and gender, in different ways, still stand in the way of our youth deciding their future careers, and fulfilling their aspirations.

This year one of our proudest accomplishments at Pudiyador involves our youth graduating from high school. 5 of our youth have moved on to college, while 8 of our youth have moved on to begin their higher secondary school (12th grade).

This has given our youth so much hope and created a ripple, inspiring more children in our communities to continue studying and working towards their future.



**"EDUCATION IS THE
WAY WE CAN BREAK
THE CYCLE OF
GENERATIONAL
POVERTY AND
EMPOWER OUR
COMMUNITIES"**

YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM



College Bridge is a new initiative under the Youth Advancement Program



What issues does college bridge address?

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- Skills for employability (spoken English, Computer skills, Organisational skills)

MENTORSHIP

- Provide exposure
- Guide professional development
- Help them make informed decisions

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

- Discussions on career options
- Personal Development

ENGAGING OUR YOUTH

We have started engaging our youth regularly with weekly discussions during the lockdown. As the college bridge curriculum is still on the works, we use the feedback given by our youth to structure the program.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Mask Project Update

3 women in our community received training under Pudiyador's Tailoring Skills Training Program. Pudiyador supplied them the material and they have stitched 196 double-layered masks. Now this is a method of income generation for the women as we are buying the masks from them and then supplying it to vendors.

Micro-Finance Project

Our Micro-Finance project is a new project that we are to pilot soon! We are offering soft loans with 0% interest to pairs of women to start a business of their choice, either in the areas they have received training from Pudiyador, or some other area of interest. We give a 6 month time period for the women in order to ascertain their progress.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OUR URBAN FARMING PROJECT



URBAN FARMING KITS

During the lockdown, we provided the urban farming gardening kits to our communities. The kits have all the required gardening materials, soil and seeds. The purpose of these kits is to teach our communities how simple it is to grow their own produce.

HARVESTING

Some of our beneficiaries have already harvested their spinach and vegetables. They have understood how simple it is to grow and harvest their own produce which is clean, green and delicious!



PARTNERSHIPS

Resilient Chennai has supported us in evaluating and monitoring our Urban Farming Project. **Sempulam Sustainable Solutions** have helped assemble our Urban Farming Gardening Kits, making this project a reality for our communities. Thank you for your support!

MAGALIR MATTUM



Our Women Empowerment Program



WHAT DO WE DO IN OUR SESSIONS?

- 1 Share what we feel
- 2 Laugh Out Loud
- 3 Support each other

MAGALIR MATTUM SESSIONS

Why did this program grow exponentially during lockdown?

Once the lockdown was imposed, our Magalir Mattum sessions shifted over conference call. In our sessions, women reflect about deep social issues like gender roles and stereotypes, but also laugh over games, riddles and such.

This session has become an outlet for women to share personal anecdotes and discuss their feelings about certain issues to a larger group of women. This has not only benefitted them personally, but has supported other women who are facing a similar situation in their personal life.

The demand for this program was so high that we have had to divide our women into batches and conduct multiple sessions to ensure everyone is accommodated.

Our women are so happy and attend our sessions regularly!



THANK YOU TO OUR PUDIYADOR TEAM!



TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

The pandemic has been a challenge for our entire team to keep operations running remotely and continue working with our communities. Despite our difficulties, our entire Pudiyador Team have worked so hard in remodelling programs, helping in relief distribution, monitoring existing programs and the list goes on.

We are all in this crisis together. Even though our team is working from different corners of this planet, it makes the world of a difference to our communities at Pudiyador. We hope to continue our efforts throughout the pandemic and keep doing what we do!



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Our biggest challenge during the pandemic has been to maintain a reliable source of funds to support our community empowerment efforts. Contribution by our donors have helped us continue our programming remotely during the lockdown.

We are so grateful and we sincerely thank you for your support!

We need your help now more than ever before!

This is how you can help..

Volunteer with us!

Dedicate a few hours of your week to help teach our children remotely.



We need learning devices

Know anyone who might have a laptop, tablet or phone. Let us know so we can reach them.



Follow us on social media

Support us on social media and see what we have been up to!



Help mentor our youth

Our youth need help. You can become a mentor and help create a difference in their lives.



Help conduct educational workshops

Volunteer to conduct workshops for our teachers, our cradle mothers, our children and youth.



Connect us with Organisations you know

Help us partner with organisations you know so we can conduct events and start new projects!



Donate and empower our communities!

Your contributions ensure that we reduce uncertainty in feeding families, paying teachers, and conducting our ongoing programming.



Reach out to us at outreach@pudiyador.org