



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVqvTZUKU4M>

The time between April- June is very crucial for students in India as this is the period when most of the school examinations and higher competitive examinations are conducted. Like in several parts of the world, India started experiencing a massive surge of COVID-19 cases and deaths. As a result, the examinations were postponed for an indefinite period. This caused feeling of anxiety among our children. Hi-5 focused on guiding these children with their online classes and helping them overcome their feelings of confusion and fear.



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## Celebrating 6 sporty and fruitful years

In April' 21 Krushi Home children, in Medchal near Hyderabad, celebrated the anniversary of 6 fruitful years of HI 5 Youth Foundation. Our Hi 5 children as well as the orphanage children celebrated the day with the Hi 5 coaches and the orphanage Head Mr. Samuel Kumar.



Despite the pandemic, Krushi Home is our only center where basketball has not stopped ever since March 2020. This has been possible by keeping the children in a safe “bubble” wherein the coaches stayed with the children within the campus following all necessary protocols. The center enjoys the benefit of a basketball court with no external access. This has helped the children learn, grow and stay active for the past 13 months.



## Let's train while we can!

When the state of West Bengal saw a drop in COVID cases and the number reached relatively low, Kolkata's Parivaar school opened for a brief time. The children were called back to the campus. Hi 5's senior coach Arafat Memon was sent to Kolkata to train the coaches and children as they were all on a hiatus for 12 months.

However, this was short lived. The dream of going back to the hoops fell apart with the second covid wave. At the end of April, following the norms, the campus was closed indefinitely and the children were sent back to their homes.

## An hour of anxiety and confusion - Cancellation of BOARD exams

With the onset of second COVID wave in India, there was a massive surge in covid cases. Owing to the safety concerns, most states cancelled the 10th & 12th grade board exams. "Will the exams be held at a later date?" "How will we be evaluated?" "What will become of our future?" Such questions grappled parents, children and teachers all throughout the country.

## Surge in COVID-19 - Return to the hamlets

In March 2021, we had called our 12th grade tribal children back to the hostel so that they can take online sessions and prepare well for their exams. Most of these children come from a no-network zone. Hence, it was difficult for them to attend online sessions. Staying in the hostel worked really well, the children were put into crash courses to compensate for the lost time. However, with the surge in the COVID cases the children were asked to return to their hamlets. What came in as a temporary relief, was the cancellation of exams.

## COVID Financial assistance- A helping hand to the children

The second wave in India put daily workers back in limbo, though it was not as brutal as the first wave in 2020, many families were severely affected, once again. Some never returned back to villages for the fear of losing their job. But living in an expensive city like Mumbai was a nightmare. Due to the ongoing financial conditions, children were on the verge of dropping out of school or enrolling in a village school. Many of the senior children who stayed back in Mumbai, did not want to jeopardize their exams.

Hi 5's management team reached out to such families and again did follow up chats with families and students to understand the financial situation of each one. In this process, we reached out around 300 families. About 200 families were qualified for financial assistance. Hi 5 decided to help the families with groceries and other support, every 2 months, till the end of the year on a case-by-case basis.



## Online College Exams- Dilemma for tribal youth



Our first-year undergraduate Tribal college youth had to complete their semester exams online. But their life was thrown out of gear as they had not attended any physical class this entire year.

Vishal Khare, the Hi 5 coordinator for tribal children made sure that each and every student finds a network area in their vicinity. Otherwise, the college students had to walk up the hill or near a highway or a small area in the end of their town to find the network. The students realized that if this continues their course work would pile up and even worse, they will not be able to give exams and would fail to clear the semester. But, With Vishal's efforts and help, all students completed their first-year undergraduate exams.

Kudos to Vishal Khare! Without such dedicated people like Vishal, this was next to impossible.

## Book a smile brought a smile to all our faces- 3 new basketball courts - an update:

We are really grateful to Book a Smile (a book my show initiative) for sponsoring 3 courts to Hi 5's basketball program. With schools closed since March 2020, this was the best time to build courts for the program.

**Court No. 1** at Poonam Nagar Mumbai Public School at Jogeshwari is 90% completed and waiting for the final acrylic coating after the monsoon in September.

**Court No. 2** at Motilal Nagar BMC school is 90% completed and waiting for final acrylic coating after monsoons in September.

**Court No. 3** at Vasind, Shahpur Taluka of Thane district in Sant Ghadge Maharaj Ashram school is underway and is expected to get completed in September, after monsoons.

We are looking forward to the exciting times of inauguration of these courts later this year and hopefully seeing the children back on the courts.

Supported by

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## Welcoming the Virtual era in sport - Miles 2 Smiles Virtual Event - Planning Phase

The event Hi 5 virtual run / walk / bike event is exclusively driven by 2 high school student volunteers Richa Kondapally & Janvi Lingaiah in the San-Francisco Bay area to raise funds for devices for the Hi 5 children in India who have difficulty continuing education during covid. The planning of the event started in mid-May.

Staying home in remote villages and not being able to learn or take online exams are major hurdles for Hi 5's basketball youth in higher

education programs. Hi 5 Youth Foundation started the "pathways to success" vertical for children beyond 10th grade who tend to drop out of school. Our Hi 5's basketball players unique talent and their drive to complete their 15- years of education helped us launch this program, in addition to the "Hope thru Hoops" program. Under this program, this year, we are campaigning to help the youth with 250 learning devices. Miles 2 Smiles campaign is to raise donations for learning devices for underprivileged youth.



## Bring a smile for every mile - Launch of the Miles 2 Smiles Virtual Event

The Miles 2 Smiles Hi 5 USA virtual event was launched successfully on the Run signup platform on June 15th with 228 registrations. The registrants were given an option to walk, run or bike for 1 whole month. There was a total of 8 challenges. The registrants had to pick one of the 8 challenges from 50 miles to 500 miles.



**Thank you Shastha Foods**  
for supporting the Miles 2 Smiles Event.

We welcome all **Shastha Foods** fans to lend their support to register for this Run/Walk/Bike event.

**SIGN UP!**  
Race starts June 15th, 2021

Register @ <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/SanJose/Miles2Smiles>

The main motive behind the campaign was to bring a smile on the face of the underprivileged youth, for every mile an individual walked, ran or biked. We had registrants from all over USA from NY, NJ to AZ and CA. Many enthusiastic registrants also formed groups and competed against each other in a friendly manner. Being a virtual event, anyone who signed up could walk, run or bike at their own pace and convenience in their neighbourhood or hiking trail and still could compete against a peer on



the other side of the country. We would also like to thank **Shastha Foods** (<https://shasthaonline.com/>) for sponsoring the event and encouraging the people for this noble cause.

## Stepping into new beginnings from home - Start of the academic calendar 2021-22



The month of June marked the beginning of the new academic calendar 2021-22. However, the students had to step into these new beginnings through the online mode. Our Hi 5 children in the “Hope thru Hoops” program have not been to attend school for the past 15 months. They want to return back to basketball, but considering the scenario there is no hope of them returning anytime soon. However, children are keeping in constant touch with the coaches Class 10 & 12th grade children are awaiting results in July.

Our Hi 5’s coordinators Vishal Khare and Arpan Ghole are counselling tribal and urban slum children on their next steps for higher education. The 11th grade tribal children were given mobile phones for the new school year as part of their online learning program.

## Stay Safe; Stay Healthy and Do your Part - Let’s get vaccinated!

Our Hi 5 staff and tribal youth (above 18) got their first shot of covid vaccines when the drive commenced for the 18-45 years category. And we can say with pride that, “We did our part!”

### Our Partners & Supporters



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