

In the darkest of corners, there is a ray, fighting against all the struggles to shine brightly and gloriously. For our Hi 5 children, Basketball is this ray of light, enlightening their dark lives, opening the gateway to a new and better world! From knowing nothing about basketball to competing with the outside world, these hidden gems of Vajreshwari Tribal school are writing a new history.

Watch their journey as they work hard to conquer their quest against their fate.



Ring in the New Year with Something New!

As Covid-19 still continues to impact our lives, Hi 5 decided to utilize this time to build back better. We started off with construction of new courts so that we can bring more children into the umbrella of the program.

We are hoping for the start of a full-blown program, with the best of facilities, by the mid of year.



Important Updates

- Food! no more a bottleneck in Education.
- Training and Certifications- A medicine for success.
- New Courts, New Hope, by Book A Smile.
- Students return to colleges and hostels.
- Kickstart to training in Krushi Home.
- Hi 5 goes Green!
- Opening of Telangana schools; Basketball back in action!
- Return of the Children- Kolkata Updates.
- Coaching classes for children- Its Board time!

Food! No more a bottleneck in Education

The Jawahar tutoring center was started off by Hi 5, in September 2020, with the aim of helping tribal children in 11th and 12th grade and even first-year college, to continue with their education. Tutors helped them with course materials; bus fares were also provided to them so that they can attend the sessions regularly. The center also ensured the availability of WIFI so that the students could complete their online tests.



But despite all the efforts, suddenly we saw few children not showing up for sessions, every few days. The tutors enquired to discover that these children did not have food to eat, still there were no jobs in the family; Many stayed hungry and hence, could not travel back and forth to tutoring center. On receiving this report, Hi 5 headquarter acted immediately and gave away basic grocery, every month, to all the children family.



We learnt an important lesson from this - That as an organisation, if we want to see these children to continue walking on the learning curve, we must first focus on fulfilling their basic underlying needs such as food and travel needs

Training and Certifications- A medicine for success

Our Senior coaches Kevin Francis and Vignesh Iyer designed the curriculum for coming year. December 2020 onwards, full-fledged training sessions were organised for all senior coaches. The sessions were executed as a 10-week module, with senior coaches training the mid-level coaches. All the training sessions were done in small batches, pertaining to Covid -19 related SOP's. Finally, tests were conducted and coaches got their certifications.



Efficient curriculum design, training and certification of coaches are the core components for the success of our "Hope Thru Hoops" program and our organization. We see our teams excel in tournaments and perform beyond expectations because of these annual trainings. This year being an exception, we reflected on our past coaching standards and tried to get better, as we scale to many cities in India.



New Courts, New Hope, by Book A Smile

We are extremely grateful to our big donor -Book A Smile (a book my show initiative) for funding us in construction of 3 brand new courts in the Mumbai region.

Since 2016, Book A smile has been one of our big donors, supporting 1000 BMC (Bombay Municipal Corporation) children every year. But when Covid struck, our “Hope thru Hoops” program stalled. However, Book A Smile decided to support the construction of our courts for the year 2020-21. These three courts are:

- Poonam Nagar BMC School in Jogeshwari East- is the first CBSE school of the municipal corporation. With this model school, BMC wants to provide free high-quality education to underprivileged children in the area. The construction started off in January 2021 and is expected to be complete by April 2021.



- The second court is the court for Motilal Nagar BMC school in Goregoan West. The construction of the court is underway. This will be the second court in Motilal Nagar school, enabling Hi 5 to host district and state tournaments in the future. BMC school and Hi 5 can now be a proud host for many tournaments in the city.



- After our successful journey with Ghadge Maharaj tribal residential school in Vajreshwari, we have identified a similar school by the same trust in Vasind, Thane district. This tribal school houses 400 children. In the upcoming academic year of 2021-2022, Hi 5 will be recruiting 150 children in the program. The Bhoomi Poojan was completed in late March and construction would soon start in this facility.



Hi 5 believes in creating an impact in the lives of tribal children, through basketball and residential schools. For these children, basketball is a passport to higher education.

Students return to colleges and hostels

Fighting all odds these tribal children received an opportunity to learn, but this pandemic apathy has become a big threat for their education. However, the government announcement asking the 12th standard students to continue their education from hostels, came in, as a big relief for our children.

With the tutoring center set up by Hi 5, these students, after the re-entry application process, could finally attend a few hours of lectures, physically with teachers and prepare for their boards. They continued with their online learning in the hostels. Children settled back in and were in good spirits. Thanks to the government for taking this decision



A Kickstart to training in Krushi Home

Krushi Home, our orphanage in Medchal district, Telangana was in a “bubble” for the past one year, since Covid. But now with negative tests and quarantine protocols, Telangana coach Bhupati Rao was called back to Krushi Home to train the children. In Krushi Home, we have over 50 children training for about 4 hours every day. It was such a delight to see the children back on courts with full energy!!



Hi-5 goes Green!

A casual conversation with our well-wisher took a sweet turn- Reforestation around Poonam Nagar BMC school basketball court. Mr. Jai Chatterjee, a Powai resident and an ardent lover of “green initiatives” has developed this initiative for Mumbai.



With many successful projects in his kitty, he came on board to develop this “Miyawaki Forest” around the basketball court. This idea was loved and welcomed by BMC officials, school staff and our donor Book A Smile.

This will be a big boon to the school children and to the environment; Hi 5 is really proud and grateful to have become a part of this beautiful “green initiative”.

Opening of Telangana schools; Basketball back in action!

The month of March brought a great news for our kids in Telangana. The Telangana government finally announced the re-opening of both residential and day schools. Children slowly crawled back to their class rooms, following all covid related protocols. Basketball being an outdoor activity, we at Hi 5 were allowed to restart in small batches. Coaches were called in; a senior coach from Mumbai Narayan Jadhav was also asked to move to the residential tribal school in Jinnaram. Children also started joining in with full energy and valor. Seeing them back in action was a dream come true. However, this was short-lived, and in 2 weeks-time, all schools were closed again, because of covid surge in many parts of the state.



Coaching classes for children- Its Board time!

With surge in Covid cases around Mumbai Metropolitan region, tribal children suffered a loss in their academics for the past several months. There was so much catching up to do. As a result, they were feeling lost and less assured. Hi 5's pathways team took a quick call and enrolled them in private tutoring. With just a month away for the board exams, we put them in crash courses so that the children do not lose their self-esteem and confidence and prepare well for the exam.

Sending our best wishes to these tribal children! We are confident that they will complete their 12th board with flying colours.

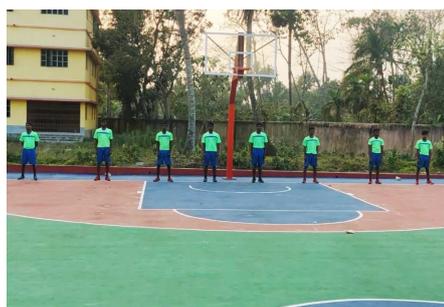


Return of the Children- Kolkata Updates

In Parivaar Bengal Residential Educational Institution, the children were called back in late February. Children from different parts of Bengal, Jharkhand and the city of Kolkata slowly started coming back to the campus. Early March, with 2 new basketball courts in order, children were happy to finally hold their basketball and play in the new courts. Coaches were called in and the sessions resumed in full force.

Our Parivaar institute is a residential school. All staff and children stay in the “bubble”. It is wonderful to see the children in action. We are grateful to our donors Caring Friends Foundation for the Boyscourt and SRT (Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar) Foundation for the girl’s court.

Enjoy some pictures of beautiful courts with floodlights and modern structure.



Our Partners & Supporters



You've received this newsletter because you'd like to be updated about Hi 5 Youth foundation

Hi 5 Youth Foundation USA is a US 501(c)(3) public charity. EIN #82 - 2176193. Copyright © 2020. Hi 5 Youth Foundation. All rights reserved.

Published by - Hi 5 Youth Foundation | Writer & Editor - Reshma Sharma

Hi 5 Youth Foundation, Wing B2 - Unit 204, Kanakia Boomerang, Chandivali Farm Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400072, India

Website: hi5youthfoundation.com **Email:** info@hi5youthfoundation.com

Website: hi5usa.org **Contact:** admin@hi5usa.org