

From receiving the opportunity to enrol in American school, to, securing tuition assistance, these 3 months have been be happiness - packed for our Hi 5 children. These opportunities are a great stepping stones enabling our children achieve all their dreams.



### Important Updates

- Hi-5 Children and Corvuss American Sports Academy - A Happy Story!
- Dealing with emotional distress - An important lesson in self-care
- Radhika Memorial Scholarship - A boost to learning!

### Hi-5 Children & Corvuss American Sports Academy - A Happy Story!

We've all heard stories of "How just one call can change a life", and, we at Hi-5 find ourselves to be really fortunate to have been able to experience it first-hand. One fine Sunday morning, we received a call from the founder of an American school. 7 children received the opportunity to enrol themselves via tuition assistance and play basketball at Corvuss American Sports Academy, a high-end international boarding school in Karjat, Maharashtra. Upon completion of their high school, if the children maintain good grades, then they might even be able to attend universities in the United States.

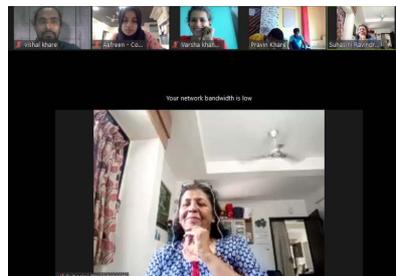
We are really grateful to Corvuss American Sports Academy and its founders for identifying our talented children and uplifting them from urban slums to such a great facility. Our mission at Hi5 is "Changing young lives through play", and seeing our kids move to the boarding school, we feel we have been successful in our mission. The joy of seeing these children bloom was beyond amazing.



## Dealing with emotional distress - An important lesson in self-care

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected children's world in many ways. Closures and restrictions, have made a tremendous impact on their mental health. From schools being closed to family incomes draining out, many kinds of such family issues were brewing from all fronts. As a result, some children had emotional outbursts. Some even had suicidal thoughts. But the major issue was there was no one to address their emotional distress, since they were not able to come to Hi 5's new tutoring centre. Life had become really tough for the tribal children in their hamlets.

However, our children found help at the right hour! We are deeply grateful to our associate partner Connecting NGO who came forward to help our children with this emotional distress. A total of 5 sessions, each 90 minutes long, were conducted for both boys and girls of our Jawahar centre. These interactive sessions really helped them identify their stress causing issues. The session also helped children in developing their own coping strategies to tackle the distress while being confined to their homes. These counselling sessions proved fruitful for our children; they opened up to the counsellors and were able to receive the much-needed help for their mental health and wellbeing.



## Radhika Memorial Scholarship - A Boost to learning!

The month of December had an amazing surprise for Hi-5's 10th Board Toppers. For the first time ever, a scholarship fund has been instituted for 10th grade board exam toppers. Hi-5 USA's board member, Mr. Ravi Padmanabhan, started this fund, in the fond memory of his wife Mrs. Radhika, who'd always felt a special connection with our Hi-5 children. For this scholarship program, every year on the 17th of December we will be spreading the joy of funding the education of 2 boys and 2 girls from Hi 5 who will top the school board exam. For the year 2020, toppers Nikat Ali, Ayushi Pandey, Abhishek Pal, Taslim Sheikh, Meraj Shah received Rs. 10000 towards their first-year junior college fees. Parents of these children are really touched by this move. They feel that finally they also can dream big for their children. Our toppers Abhishek Pal and Meraj Shah have set an example for all other students. These students have not only secured more than 90%, but also, have proved their excellence in basketball by playing in over 20 plus tournaments, thereby proving to the world that, one can excel in both studies and sports simultaneously”.

Moreover, the month of December also saw our coaches return to the training from the Covid-imposed hiatus. Senior coaches Mr. Kevin Francis and Mr. Vigesh Iyer developed the entire training program. Also, a 10-day intense training program was developed for both on and off the field to set the standards back at Hi 5. The training was commenced pertaining to all the SOP's as per the Covid-19 guidelines. We are also hoping to see a major kick-restart of our “hope thru hoops” program in the new year!



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**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