

My Coach My Mentor Guru Brahma Guru Vishnu, Guru Devo Maheshwara..

In India, a teacher is revered as a God by the disciples. At Hi5, our coaches have proved themselves worthy of such workshop, as they devote their passion, time and energy in not just teaching basket ball, but also life skills to our children. They have immersed themselves in the upbringing of these children.



Click here to watch the story of Hi5 Coaches:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-sdVlCd_ZA

**“In order to achieve positive results,
one must work for them, not hope for them”**

Bob Knight

This is exactly what Hi5 management team and coaches decided to do when COVID restrictions kept students away from physical school for second year in a row. The idea of virtual basketball was piloted in two centers of Mumbai urban BMC schools in June. Ideas were put together by senior coaches Kevin Francis and Vignesh Iyer who roped in all other coaches, created content, trained them on how to deliver online and finally launched it in July.

What is Virtual Basketball?



Virtual Basketball helped students continue basketball learning while staying away from physical school. The coach would deliver 2 drills a week online and children had to practice the same. They uploaded their videos back to the coaches for evaluation. Coaches would then hold a virtual video session every Friday with his/her group and the uploaded videos would be discussed and followed up on a weekly basis.



Coaches create Syllabus for
Video Based Coaching



Beginners and
Advance batches



Videos are uploaded online
and link shared with children



Children watch videos,
practice drills accordingly



Children create their practice
videos, and upload for coaches
to suggest / give feedback



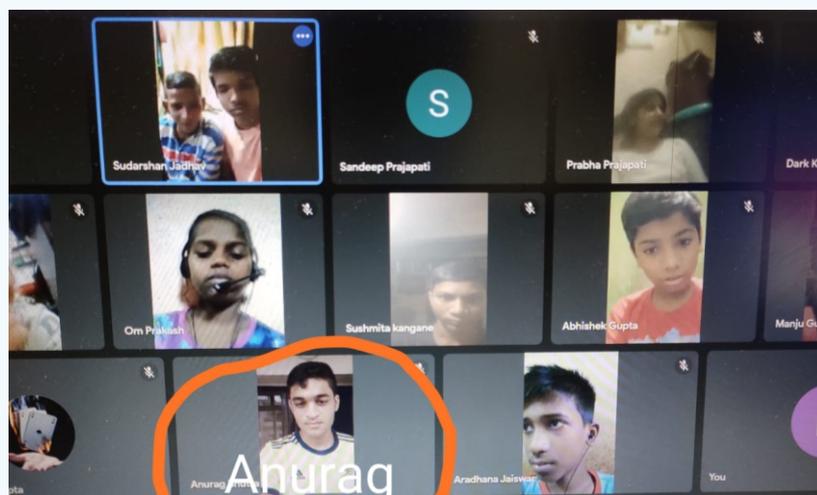
The students were called to their respective schools and given one basketball each to do their practice and drills at home. The children overcame multiple challenges like poor bandwidth, unavailability of smartphone etc. to continue their basketball journey.

In the months of August and September, the virtual basketball gained momentum by adding 4 more centers and about 200 children joined the virtual program.

Children collaborated with each other by sharing devices to upload the videos and troubleshoot issues while making the videos. Even the severe monsoons of Mumbai failed to dampen the spirits of these children. The idea of being able to play again and meet their coaches, albeit virtually was enough to drive these children.



Coaching without borders



Anurag, a high school volunteer from the USA, was spending time with his family in Jaipur, Rajasthan. When he heard about Hi5 basketball, he joined the virtual basketball program and was assisting the coach of our Mulund center. This high school kid won the hearts of many of our Hi5 children and he became a special mentor and coach to our children at Hi5.

Telangana Hope thru Hoops:

Even though the schools reopened in September in Telangana, there was low turnout. The fear of COVID and no vaccinations for children was keeping them away from schools. With just 30% attendance in basketball, the program was conducted in small groups. Our coaches Narayan, Bhupathi and Sahithya in Athawally & Gowdavalli Zilla parishad schools went beyond their regular duties and became classroom helpers and teachers when needed as the schools were short staffed.



“Pathways to Success” Program:

A program that started with just 16 tribal students in 2018 has come a long way with nearly 200 children in the year 2021-2022. The Pathways to Success program is intended for Hi5's basketball children who finish grade 10 and are unable to continue education due to the family's financial situation. This Success program supports them financially until they complete their undergraduate program.

These children are doing fairly well academically and Hi5 ensures that they do not miss a chance at education for lack of finances. In the absence of such support most children tend to drop out to follow their parents by going back as street vendors or doing very low end jobs.

Between July and September, when board results were declared, the Pathways to Success team worked tirelessly to provide all round support to these children by

- Helping children with admissions
- Connect with tutoring centers for academic support
- Provide device support for virtual classes
- Financial aid for college and tuition
- Counselling parents

Pathway teams continue to monitor and track the child's progress in terms of attendance, tests and fees payment. If there is a drop in attendance or test grades, the pathways team meets the parent and child for discussions and further actions.



The tribal children who live in hamlets have greater challenges with erratic electricity supply, network, data plan, device availability besides college admission and tuition support process. In the tribal program, we have children who are currently in grade 11, 12, first year and second year college.



Against all odds, our first batch from the tribal pathways program will be graduating in about 18 months. This first generation of college students from tribal families hope to inspire the younger generation.

Vaccination Updates:

Hi5 staff, coaches and most of the 18+ students are 100% vaccinated. We continue to follow the COVID protocols and encourage COVID appropriate behavior. Upcoming vaccines for children will greatly help in resuming the school and basketball.



Covid support:

Hi5 has helped close to 170 families with financial support for groceries and house expenses, between July and September. With the help of our donor support in India and USA, we have continued our COVID relief work from May 2020 till date.



Hi 5 USA - Miles 2 Smiles Event

Miles 2 Smiles Event was a success in the USA and was completed on July 15 2021. The event saw some spirited participation and enthusiastic competition among groups and individuals in this month long event. Individuals were so passionate about supporting Hi5 children that they continued till the nth hour. Thank you all for signing up! With your support we have managed to buy devices for the children in the pathways program, so that their education continues.



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