



**Asha** for Education  
Bringing hope through education

# Asha Minnesota Chapter 2021 Year End Update

By Asha Team Minnesota

Greetings everyone!

2021 has certainly been a challenging year for everyone, but we are glad to report that Asha's projects have remained as resilient as ever! They continued to put the education of their children first and foremost, and it clearly shows. This year for Asha MN's supported schools was a test of recovery and adaptability, as well as allowing for the children to learn while keeping their safety in mind. Once again, we would not have been able to get this far without the continued support of the project stewards (Advait Deepak, Rushil Khadilkar, Sanjali Subash, and Vaid Parakkuth) as well as the contributions made by you! Now, here are some quick updates for our projects of what has occurred over the past year!



**Balavidyalaya-** The Balavidyalaya school for young deaf children, located in Chennai Tamil Nadu, is an urban non-residential, private and non-profit educational center for hearing-impaired babies and pre-school children, ages 0 to 5 years. This year, Balavidyalaya made the safety of its children the school's absolute priority. By successfully vaccinating all its staff and introducing guidelines to limit contact and socially distance children, they were able to bring some vaccinated children back to the classroom! The school also was able to celebrate their 51st Annual Day of the School online in its first ever virtual ceremony, with over 100 participants joining from around the globe. Finally, multiple students were admitted to colleges including Azim Premji University and IIM-Bangalore, and others completed their diplomas in subjects like applied data science and computer science.



**Tiyas-** Another one of Asha MN's successful projects is Tiyas. Tiyas is a small non-governmental, not-for-profit registered voluntary organization established in the year 1999. The aim of the society is for the development and uplift of the poor of the poorest community members living in rural areas of Kankura Masat through a variety of development programs. This year, Tiyas also took protective measures to ensure the health of their students. For instance, 3 oximeters, 3 vaporizer machines, and 1 oxygen concentrator machine were installed, and the school staff were trained in how to operate these machines. In addition to the pandemic, Tiyas also provided significant aid to those around them who had suffered as a result of Cyclone Yaas. They launched a team that helped supply 145 households with dry rations, drinking water, masks, and sanitary napkins. Finally, Tiyas was also able to celebrate events like Children's Day and Independence Day, which helped boost morale during difficult times.



**Parner-** The Parner Project supports three preschools in rural Ahmednagar. The children are members of the Bhil and Thakkar Indigenous tribes. Asha Minnesota

partners with the MASUM (Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal) to support the project. MASUM also has several support groups aimed to empower women and raise awareness in the Bhil and Thakkar communities. This year, Parner was able to safely reopen several preschools, showing their commitment to their children. Asha was also able to fund disbursements covering teacher salaries and educational supplies, which allowed them to set back up sooner.



**Bhumi-** Bhumi aims at bridging the societal gap through quality education and provides a platform for socially conscious youth who want to contribute towards the nation's progress and molds them into tomorrow's leaders. Even though classes were online, Bhumi still stressed that their kids learned independence with math and reading skills, and all students performed well in their subjects. Bhumi also was able to celebrate Children's Day and Independence Day virtually, and many children attended. Finally, Bhumi was able to host Nakshatra (an Arts & Talent Fest for 800 children participating PAN India) and Ignite (Community Centers focusing on education and tutoring for children).

We are very thankful for having been able to share the progress of our schools this year, and it wouldn't have been possible without all of you. Once again, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a more hopeful and promising 2022!

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