



***STORIES OF BUILDING
RESILIENCE
THROUGH
SPORTS AND LOCAL GAMES***

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Contents

• Preface.....	4
• Making communities safer: An act of bravery.....	5
• Price of greatness is responsibility.....	6
• Combating gender discrimination.....	7
• Survival of the fittest: A courageous act.....	8
• A journey of self awareness.....	9
• Street-connected children being more responsible citizens.....	10
• A winner in all odds.....	11
• Turning problems into happiness.....	12
• An act of cleverness.....	13
• Sharing is caring.....	14
• A brave heart saving lives.....	15
• Knowledge increases by sharing.....	16
• Self Empowerment: An act of leadership.....	17
• Spreading happiness.....	18
• Hope never dies.....	19
• Turning shyness into boldness.....	20
• Life is a struggle.....	21
• Better plans leads to better results.....	22
• Help those in need.....	23
• Together we are stronger.....	24

Preface

Life is unpredictable and it is full of difficulties. It is utmost importance to build resilience to overcome any odd situation in life. Childhood Enhancement through Training and Action (CHETNA) and Toybox joined hands in the year 2019 to build resilience in street-connected children through some popular sports and local street games and came up with a pilot project SURE (Sports for united resilience). Since then both the reputed organizations are relentlessly working in the West district of Delhi to provide better life skills to the street-connected children.

The purpose of sports and games is to enlighten the mind and build up personality. CHETNA executed its SURE (Sports for united Resilience) project with 400 street-connected children with a major focus on games like Cricket, Kho-Kho (a popular Indian tag game), Kabaddi (the most popular traditional game of India), and local street games. Children with great zeal and enthusiasm participated in these games. But then the world went through a tragic situation. The pandemic was the testing time for the whole world, and majorly for the street-connected children. This book is a representation of how the street-connected children build resilience in overcoming the obstacles that they faced in their daily lives during the span of lockdown that was imposed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

This book contains twenty real-life case studies that not only depict how these children overcame the hurdles of meeting out their basic needs but also shows how they helped in spreading positivity in their communities during these turbulent times, how they took big strategic decisions for the maintaining the harmony and bringing justice for the unjust. Beneficiaries of SURE have tactfully overcame the unforeseen situation of pandemic, thus becoming the real-life warriors.

Making communities safer: An act of bravery

“A leader is someone who knows the ways and shows the ways”, 15 years old Mohini proved it right by her act of bravery and leadership. She belongs to a small town in Uttar Pradesh, 13 years back her family came to Delhi to have a better life. They are settled in the slums of West Delhi. Her father works as curtain seller and her mother stitches clothes to support the family financially. Mohini studied in school till class 9th, she fell extremely sick, and then her health did not allow her to continue her studies.



Her family consists of 5 members including her, her parents, one brother, and one sister. She is associated with our SURE project, but it took a lot of effort and hard work for our educators for her association. She was shy and very inactive; she did not like to come to the education club and study. After a few requests, she started showing up in the education club and later developed an interest in studying and playing so much so that she has been selected as a leader of Kho-Kho team.

During the span of lockdown, her community became highly unsafe and frightful. There were incidents of murder, kidnapping, and harassment. A 4-year-old infant was brutally murdered. After a few days, a 6-year-old girl was harassed. The community members were anxious and did not allow their children to step out. But again after a few weeks, a group of children was playing when somebody tried to kidnap them, they screamed and ran away. All of this made Mohini furious and anxious, she was more furious about the fact that elders of her community were not paying enough attention. So she convinced her parents and reported these cases to the police station. A complaint was filed and the community was guarded, more street lights were installed in the community. Since then there has been no more case of kidnapping and harassment to date.

Currently, Mohini has become not only a warrior of COVID but also a warrior of her community. She is being praised, loved, and appreciated by everyone for her bravery.

The price of greatness is the responsibility

A few years back, Sumit's family came to Delhi in search of employment and since then they settled in the slums of West Delhi. Earlier they lived in a small town of Uttar Pradesh where he was studying in class 3rd. There are 6 members in his family including him, his parents, one brother, and two sisters. His father works as a labourer and his mother works as domestic help. Sumit stays at home and looks after his siblings. He is one of our beneficiaries of SURE project, before our association he showed great interest in studying but later he developed a fondness for sports and games also.



The family saw a rough phase during the regime of lockdown. Both his parents lost their jobs and there was no source of income. His family was completely grief-stricken as his mother was expecting and there was adversity of money and ration. Sumit handled these turbulent times with great patience and maturity. Her mother's delivery was due in April, and all the nearby dispensaries refused to admit her. The family had to borrow money from their relatives to get the delivery done in a hospital. After a lot of difficulties, they were able to admit her to a hospital in Moti Nagar where she gave birth to a baby girl. His parents were in the hospital for ten days, while Sumit stayed at home and took care of his younger siblings and did the household chores. His parents were happy to see him transformed into a responsible son. Games and sports helped him to develop qualities like leadership, responsible, patience, and a better decision-maker.

Currently, his family's condition has slightly improved, his father has rejoined his work. His mother did not start working because of the infant child. The family survives on the handful of income earned by his father. However, he has continued his studies with great zeal and enthusiasm. He has been enrolled in class 5th by our educators.

Combating Gender Discrimination

16 years old Kunti hails from Rajasthan. Her family consists of 8 members including her, her parents, and five siblings. 20 years back her parents came to New Delhi in search of employment. Her father spends all the money on consuming alcohol. Her mother and brothers have to bear all the financial expenses of the family by begging and selling toys on traffic signals. Kunti is associated with our SURE project and she actively takes part in all the activities conducted in education club. She is fond of playing Kho-Kho (a popular Indian tag game).



Kunti's parents' work was put on hold during the span of lockdown. The family was in hand to mouth situation; her father became violent during the lockdown as he was unable to consume liquor. Her mother and she become the victims of domestic violence but Kunti is a brave heart, she managed to bring food for the family from a nearby Gurudwara (a worship place of Sikhs). Sports and games made her so courageous that she came out as a strong woman by blurring the line of gender; she made her father understand that this period is crucial and he should support the family instead of being violent. After a few days, her father was in control and she along with her community friends played many indoor games to keep her and her friends entertained. She was also in contact with our educators during the whole span of lockdown and continued her studies.

After unlock, the family's condition has not improved much but their work has been resumed and they can earn a meager amount. Kunti handled the situation with great shrewdness and showed good leadership and communication skills that she learned from her favorite sport Kho-Kho. She has developed a resilience to overcome any odd situation. She has also set an example of being a responsible elder daughter by making her father understand his responsibilities. She was successful at combating gender discrimination at least in her family.

Survival of the fittest: A courageous act

Om Kara 15 years old boy lives with his 8 family members including him, his parents, 2 younger brothers, and 3 sisters in the slums of West Delhi. Twenty years back his family came to New Delhi to resolve their financial problems since then his father is working as a cement truck driver and his mother is a housewife. He sometimes used to work in a factory. He likes studying but due to the financial crisis, he did not get enrolled in school. He constantly comes to the education club to study and play. He is the leader of Badhatekadam (*Badhte kadam is a unique fed-*



eration of street-connected children and established to empower them to together have a collective voice and fight for their rights.) and also a captain of Kho-Kho team.

The crucial time is the best time to execute learning. As the whole country stood still for a month during the pandemic, some people found it difficult to meet their basic needs especially the street-connected families were the worst sufferers. Om Kara's family lost all the source of income, there was a drought of food and ration. Like his favorite sport Kho-Kho teaches not to quit in any given circumstances and also builds leadership, he executed these qualities extremely well during these difficult times. His father was extremely anxious in search of employment and his mother stayed at home to look after his younger siblings. Om Kara took the responsibility of standing in long queues under scorching heat to collect a one-time meal for his family that was being distributed free in school through the Government. Every day was a struggle for him, he patiently had to wait in the queues for his turn, sometimes he used to receive a little amount of food and some days were so worse that he had to return home with empty vessels. But even during these gloomy times, he did not lose hope and build resilience to overcome the obstacles. Whenever he couldn't get any food from the school, he used to borrow some ration from a local shop and feed the hungry stomachs of his family.

After unlock, his family condition has improved vaguely. His father has restarted working and he has also joined a factory to help his family financially. They are able to meet their basic needs. Meanwhile, he is also in constant contact with our educators, he has learned many games through the videos that our educator sent him. He has started focusing on his studies as well.

A journey of self-awareness

A 16-year-old Sohel belongs to a small town in Uttar Pradesh. Around 12 years earlier, his family came to Delhi in search of work and since then they have been residing in the slums of New Delhi. His family comprises seven members including him, his parents, three younger sisters, and one brother. Due to his father's poor health, he is unable to support the family financially; his mother is a housewife and looks after the household chores. Sohel and her sister work day and night to meet the basic needs of the family and the medical expenses of his father. He works in



a nearby factory and his sister works as domestic help. He is a beneficiary of our SURE project as well as he has completed class 8th and 10th with the help of CHETNA's intervention. He is a very studious student and extremely passionate about playing cricket. He is a leader of the cricket team in the education club.

The lockdown created havoc in everyone's life and the people of the vulnerable community are the worst sufferers. Sohel too had to go through a difficult phase. His sister and his work were put on hold because of which there was a financial crisis. It became difficult for the family to meet out the medical expenses. His father's health condition was depleted day by day due to a lack of food and medicines. But Sohel tactfully overcame this situation. He was informed by our educator about the E-ration coupon form; if all the family members have Aadhar card (unique identification number) then they can fill this form and avail free ration from the Government. Sohel followed the instructions and received ration for his whole family.

Sohel also narrated an incident where he saved his community members from fraud and helped them to receive ration. He stated, "One day, in our community two unknown people, came and they were charging Rs.50 from all the families to fill the E-ration form to avail free ration. Upon seeing this, I asked everyone not to give any money because it is free of cost. Later, I helped everyone to fill the form." This incident shows how he has turned into a strong and self-aware person. It also highlights the leadership qualities that he has derived from his favorite sport cricket.

Street-connected children being more responsible citizens

In the slums of West Delhi resides Afzal with his eight family members including him, his parents, two younger sisters, and three brothers. His father works as a truck driver and his mother is a housewife. He also works as a plumber, to provide financial assistance to the family. Along with his work, he also studies, and recently he has passed class 8th form OBE (Open Basic Education). He is a beneficiary of our SURE project, and his favorite game is cricket and he is also a very good cricket player. He is extremely active and participates in all the games conducted in our education club.

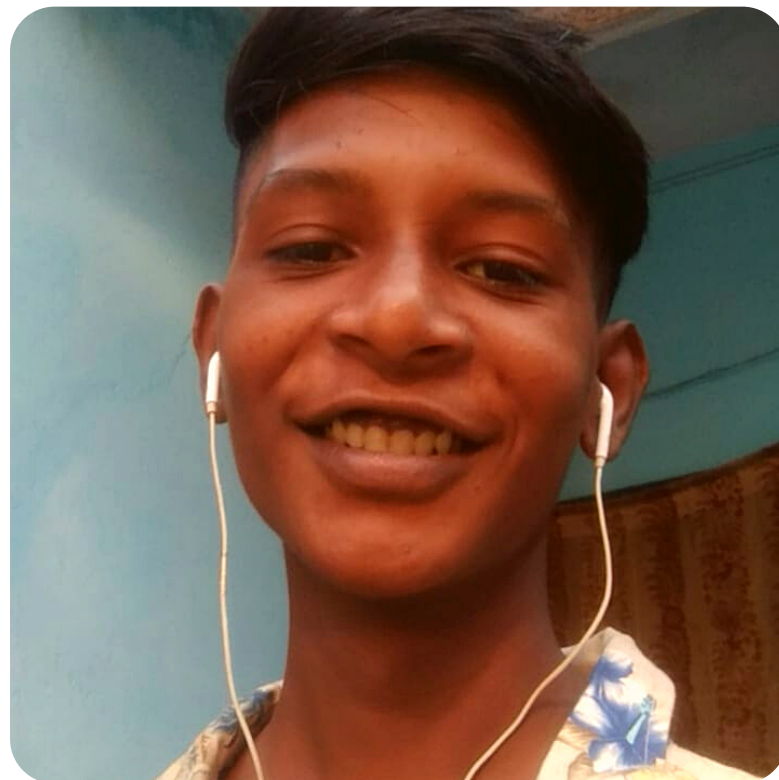


Afzal and his family witnessed a grueling time during the span of lockdown. Both the bread-earners of the family lost their jobs. The family was in a hand to mouth situation. His parents were extremely anxious, and seeing them in trouble made him feel depressed. One fine day, he went to a nearby railway station in search of some work. When he reached there he saw a crowd of people who were there to collect food and no social distancing was being followed. He asked everyone to maintain a distance of 2 meters but nobody paid attention. So he went to the food distributor and stated, “it’s good that you’re giving food but please also follow the guidelines and preventive measure of COVID.” Upon hearing this food distributor asked all the people to stand at a distance of 2 meters and rewarded Afzal with food packs. He also shared his family condition with the food distributor. Later, the food was also distributed in his community, which not only helped his family to satiate their starving but it also helped all his neighbors to feed their stomach for which they are thankful to him to date.

Presently, his family condition has improved. His father has resumed his work and Afzal is also able to get some work. Meanwhile, he also studies and completes the work given to him by our street educators. From the above incident it is best to claim games and sports have instilled a lot of life skills in him, he has become a self-aware person, and he has developed good communication skills and leadership qualities.

A winner in all odds

Raj and his family are residing in the slums of New Delhi for the past 15 years, they hail from Gujarat. A long time ago his mother passed away; there are 6 members in his family including him, his father, and siblings. They all sell steel utensils in places of old cloths. He is associated with our SURE project and he actively takes part in all the sports and games, his favorite sport is cricket. During the span of lockdown, his family saw a tough time. They lost their source of income. There was a scarcity of ration. Initially, they survived on the savings, and then he had to borrow some money from relatives.



After a lot of days of struggle for a two-course meal, Raj with his great leadership skills discovered about the free ration that was distributed in schools. Without anyone's support, he managed to arrange a staple diet for his family. Apart from this, the environment of his community was intense as people in slums live near each other so he ensured to keep the environment of his community jovial. He used to play indoor games like ludo, stapu, seven stones, etc. with his friends and also informed them about the preventive measures of COVID which was informed to him by CHETNA's educators. His act not only distracted the children from the uncertain situation but also made adults reminisce about their childhood and they also enjoyed watching their children play. He spread positivity around his community and gave everyone a ray of hope of good times ahead.

Presently, the situation of his family has not improved remarkably. However they have restarted working but due to the fear of COVID, nobody buys things from them. Raj has been a great help to our educators in connecting them with children of his communities for sharing worksheets and conducting meetings. Sports and games have helped build resilience in Raj to overcome the barriers of any situation. From a timid boy, he has transformed into an optimistic and bold person. His presence made the environment of his community joyous and uplifted everyone's spirits. He also in a very subtle way taught a lesson to everyone that no matter what we should never get disappointed in life and always strives to look for bigger and better things in life.

Turning problems into happiness

“If someone throws a stone at you, turn them into a milestone” this is correctly quoted by famous Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, and our 15 years old Rehan Ali has implemented it in his life. He hails from a small town in Uttar Pradesh but resides in Delhi for the past nine years. His family comprises six members including him, his parents, his two married sisters, and two brothers. His father is blind due to which the financial burden of the family is carried by him and his mother. He works as a rag picker nearby station and his mother works as domestic help.



Due to his miserable family condition, he quit studying and started to financially support his family. However, he is a beneficiary of SURE and is an extremely good player of kabaddi (the most popular traditional game in India. It combines the characteristics of wrestling and rugby).

Before the lockdown, his family went to their village and got stranded over there due to the lockdown. Fortunately, they had their savings, and also his mother started working on a farm. But Rehan was anxious and skeptical about coming back to Delhi. The house in which they were living was in a destitute condition and they had an issue of waterlogging since the rainy season was approaching. So he tactfully convinced his mother and he revamped his house by constructing a good drainage system and provided a comfortable living for his family. As the game of Kabaddi teaches us to never give up in life in any condition and turn every move into a winning situation, similarly Rehan also turned his destitute home into a comfortable adobe and helped his family to effortlessly spend the span of lockdown.

Presently, he and his family have returned to Delhi. His mother has not resumed working, whereas he has started working in a carpenter shop. The family can survive on their savings and the handful of income that Rehan earns. From his strategic planning and right decision making, he saved his family from many troubles and developed a resilience of overcoming any obstacles.

An act of cleverness

“Faiz is a 14-year-old boy, who hails from Bihar but resides in the slums of West Delhi. He has a large family of 11 members including him, his parents, five sisters, and three brothers. Around seven years earlier, his parents came to Delhi in search of work. His father works in a cement factory and his mother has opened a small general merchant shop in the community. He helps his mother in the shop and household chores. Before his association with SURE, he was a timid boy who lacks confidence in communicating with others.

But now, after SURE’s intervention, there has been a significant change in him. He constantly

comes to the education club and actively participates in all the games but cricket is his favorite sport. Imposition of the lockdown took a heavy toll on his life. His father’s work was put on hold and there was nearly no sale in his shop leading to adversity of ration and money. It became difficult for the family to meet their basic needs. About the present situation, they did not have enough materials for maintaining hygiene and cleanliness. His confident nature helped him to overcome the obstacles faced during corona regime. He once saw a crowd of people who were collecting hygiene kits from a distributor without following the Government guidelines, the distributor in anguish was about to end the drive when Faiz asked him to inform everyone to go to their homes they will get their kits there and he assured to help him. The distributor told everyone to head back to their homes as suggested by Faiz. Later that day, he along with the distributor, personally went to each house in that community and distributed the hygiene and health kits. The distributor was grateful to Faiz for his clever idea and his help in distributing the kits; he was also rewarded with one. Faiz also told him about his community and after a few weeks, a distribution drive of hygiene kits was organized in his community where the distributor appreciated him and his courageous act.

Currently, the situation of the family has improved slightly. His father has still not resumed working, however, his mother can earn a handful of income from her selling’s. He has turned into a strong and fearless person.



Sharing is caring

A strong, self-independent Kajal is 16 years old. She lives in the slums of south Delhi along with her eight family members including her, her parents, and her 5 siblings. Her elder sister is married. To support her family financially, she and her brother sell toys on red lights. She is a beneficiary of our SURE project and she actively takes part in Kho-Kho (a popular traditional tag game of India). Before her association with CHETNA, she lacked interest in studies as she thought she has surpassed the age of studying and playing. But as she joined our education club, she developed interest not only in playing but also in studying.



Since then she constantly comes to the education club, she is eager to learn new things and has shown a considerable fondness for studying. She actively takes part in sports and games as well.

The impose of lockdown made her family's situation terrible. Due to a lack of finances, they faced obstacles in meeting their daily requirements. This made the whole family anxious about their survival. Initially, for a few days, they survived on the savings but gradually as the days progressed it become very difficult for the family to meet their basic needs. But Kajal with her positive behavior effortlessly overcame the hurdles. She not only uplifted the spirit of her family but also lighten the environment of her community. She played games that were taught to her in the education club with her friends and spread positivity around everyone living in the community. She also helped in the studies of those children who lacked access to smartphones. Through her help, our educators were able to connect with other children easily and were able to give and receive homework. The game of Kho-Kho inculcated a positive attitude in her and also instilled leadership qualities.

After unlock, her family's condition has slightly improved. She has restarted working but she can earn only a handful of income as people are afraid of buying anything due to COVID. However, she has continued doing the good work by connecting our educators with children through her smartphone and also by teaching them.

A brave heart-saving lives

Mohan hails from a small town in Uttar Pradesh, and from the past 12 years, he is residing in slum, West Delhi. His family comprises of 8 members including him, his parents, four brothers, and one sister. His father works as a labor and his mother is a housewife. He also works in a garage to provide financial aid to his family. He is associated with our SURE project and he is a captain of the kabaddi team (the most popular traditional game in India. It combines the characteristics of wrestling and rugby). The most appealing fact about him is that he knows how to work in a team and he is liked by all his fellow team players.



Before the pandemic, his family condition was good but after that, he and his father lost their jobs and problems increased manifold. Ration and finances were scarce, because of which his family got anxious. But even in this rough phase, he did not lose hope and uplifted his family's spirits. One day he saw a group of people who were going to their village by walking sitting on the railway track, a train was approaching towards them but they were sorrowfully sitting there. Upon seeing this, Mohan hurriedly rushed towards them and told them this is not the end of the life, he moved them to a safe place and consoled them by telling them they are not alone in this battle and moving away is not a solution instead they should stay in their homes and protect themselves from the virus.

This incident left an impact on Mohan and he thought of making the people of his community aware of this situation. He along with his friends went and spoke to the community head about distributing food in his community. After unlock, he and his father has resumed working and the family condition has slightly improved. Mohan through his “never give up” behavior saved many lives.

Knowledge increases by sharing

Samar is a 15 years old boy, who hails from Rajasthan but is residing in the slums of New Delhi for the past ten years. His family comprises 3 members including him, his aged mother, and a brother. His father got re-married and abandoned the family. He works as a drum player to support his family financially; his brother works in a garage and his mother is a housewife. He is one of our beneficiaries of SURE project. He constantly comes to our contact point, and he is fond of playing kabbadi (is the most popular traditional game in India. It combines the characteristics of wrestling and rugby) and participated in all the games conducted in the contact point.



Before this, Samar was not interested in studies and games. He only used to work to support his family financially, but fortunately, when he joined the education club, he developed an interest in studies, and through games, he gained self-confidence.

During the span of lockdown, his family has fallen into hard times. He and his brother lost their jobs and there was adversity of ration, his family was unable to meet their basic needs. Even in these unprecedented times, Samar did not lose hope, he called his friends from the community and played the games that he was taught in the education club and also made better decisions to overcome the persisting problems. He was a great help to the CHETNA educators, as many children in his community lack access to smartphones, Samar took the leadership and acted as a mediator. Through his help educators were able to conduct meetings and impart knowledge to these children even during these turbulent times.

After the lockdown, he has resumed working and his family's condition has improved slightly. Although, due to the chaos of COVID all around, he is getting less work. He is efficiently carrying out the responsibility of connecting educators with the children of his community and helps them in studying. The intervention of games not only served the purpose of entertainment but also inculcated skills like leadership, self-confidence, and better decision-making in Samar which in turn helped so many children of his community to effortlessly continue their studies.

Self Empowerment: An act of leadership

Ram hails from Lucknow, he is 14 years old. For the past 12 years, he has been living in the slums of New Delhi with his six family members including him, his parents, and 5 siblings. Due to his father's ill health, he is unable to do any work, burden of meeting the family's basic needs are carried out by his mother. His mother is a rag picker and earns a handful of income. Ram is a shy person; struggles with his studies but highly active in other activities. He is an amazing player in kabaddi and he has played and won many matches.



Lockdown made Ram and his family's situation miserable. For their survival, they had to depend on the food distributed in their shelter home. For a few weeks, the food which was distributed was properly cooked and was given to everyone in good quantity. Later after some weeks, the quality of food was degraded. It became so worse that the people started having health ailments. Children reported the issues of stomach ache, whereas adults faced digestion problems. The rice was uncooked and the chapattis were half burnt, and in the name of pulses, they served turmeric water. Ram became furious and one day he gathered all his courage and he complained to the distributor but his plight was rebuked by the distributor. He then thought of a clever plan, he along with his friends went to the person in charge of the shelter home and told him everything. He even took the food along with him and showed him the quality, fortunately, his complaint was heard and appropriate action was taken. Through his leadership and communication skills, he saved so many people from getting sick and helped them to get good quality food. He was praised and appreciated for his courageous act by everyone in his community.

Currently, his family situation has improved slightly. His mother has restarted working. He has also started focusing on his studies and he completes the work given to him by the educators. He was provided with the pack of dry ration, hygiene, and stationery kits under the emergency relief support through CHETNA. Through sports and games, he has build resilience in overcoming the obstacles in his life. He has become self-empowered and self-aware. More such Ram are needed to have harmonious communities.

Spreading happiness

Hailing from Gujarat, 14 years old Priya resides in the slums of West Delhi with her 4 family members including her, her two elder brothers, and an elderly mother. Her family history has been distressing. A few years back her father passed away and later due to some chronic illness, her elder sister also passed away. Her mother and brothers bear all the financial expenses, they sell steel utensils in place of old cloths. Priya is associated with our SURE project and she is very fond of playing Kho-Kho (the most popular traditional tag game of India).



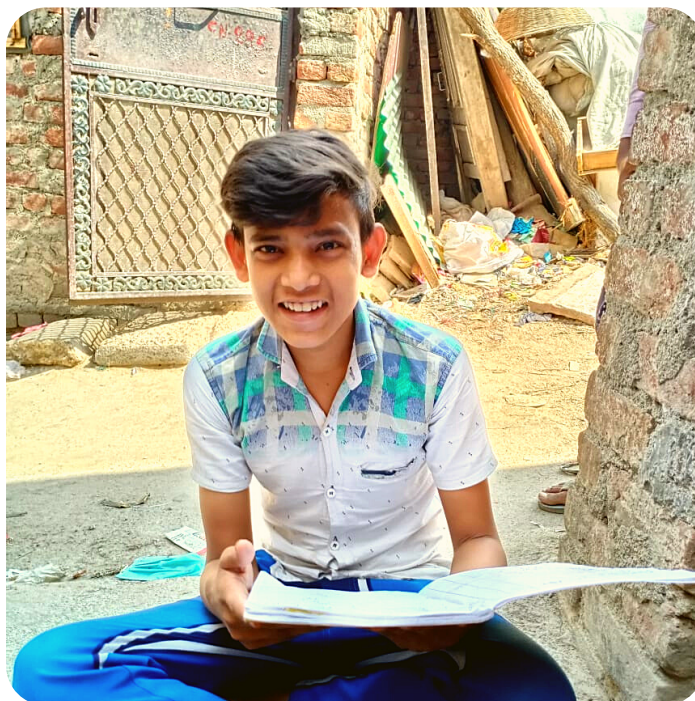
Before her association with us, she was very shy, due to a lack of self-confidence she hesitated in talking to anyone. She has built self-awareness and self-confidence through her participation in the activities conducted by CHETNA, moreover she also undertook the training of self-defense.

Priya's family's condition became worse during the span of lockdown. Both her mother and brothers lost their job which leads to a meltdown of finances. Even in these disturbing times, she did not lose her hope. She along with her community friends played games that were taught to her in the education club to keep them entertained, and she also motivated them to stay strong during this pandemic. Since she has a smartphone, she helped other children in their studies and also helped our educators to get connected to these children. Like her favorite sport Kho-Kho teaches her to work in a team and take the lead, she successfully implemented that in her personal life too and overcame through turbulent times in a better manner. She not only helped other children in continuing their studies but also built resilience in her family members to tackle any situation.

In the present scenario, her family condition has not drastically improved, however, her mother and brothers have resumed working and soon they are hoping for better days to come. Through the intervention of sports and games, it has been noted that children have developed a skill to stay optimistic even in worse situations. We are in need of these skills at this time; it should be acquired by everyone irrespective of age.

Hopes never dies

Viram is a 14 years old boy who hails from Bihar. His family constitutes of only three members including him, his one elder brother, and his father. Childhood is a period that everyone cherishes but for Viram, it has been full of struggles and complexities. Seven years back his mother passed away. He says she was a victim of some chronic illness. His maternal grandmother who is 55 years old told our street educator that “after the demise of his mother, his father was not in a condition to take care of him, so I took him along with me and came to Delhi.



They live in a slum area of West Delhi and his grandmother works as domestic help. He also works in a tailor shop to bear the financial expenses of the household.

He spent his life in great difficulties but he was unaware of the grueling times that were coming forward. Viram’s life went upside down and his struggle of survival became more complex. Viram’s and his grandmother’s work was put on hold. Initially, they survived on the savings of his grandmother, but as days progressed he and his grandmother were having difficulty in fulfilling their basic needs. “I bring some food from the school, which I and my grandmother share”, he stated. Our educator informed him about the e-ration coupon that he can avail by filling a form through Aadhar card (Unique Identification Number). He told us that neither he nor his grandmother has an Aadhar card because of which they were devoid of getting any Government aid.

After the lockdown, his condition has slightly improved. His grandmother’s health is better now and she has resumed working, they are surviving on the meager amount that she earns. So, he is only anxious about the rent, the landowner did not take rent during the lockdown but now he wants them to pay rent. Whereas, Viram is still searching for work and simultaneously he has also started focusing on his studies.

Turning shyness into boldness

Pinky, 14 years old resides in the slums of West Delhi with her 8 family members including her, her parents, and 5 siblings. She belongs to Gujarat, but like many others, her family also came in search of a livelihood 12 years back to Delhi. Her family earns a handful of income by selling steel utensils in place of old cloths. She is a beneficiary of SURE project. She is fond of playing kabaddi and actively takes part in all other activities. Prior to her intervention with SURE, she was an introvert. She remained in her own nutshell and did not talk to anyone. She used to only work and do household chores.



Yet through the activities of SURE project, she began to become more courageous and friendly.

The span of lockdown took a heavy toll on Pinky's life. Her family was going through an extensive financial crisis and on top of that, her father had an accident. He was in a vegetable market when he was hit by a bike. They immediately took him to a nearby Government hospital and got him treated. The expenses of the family increased drastically. She pleaded for help from everyone but nobody stood up to support her.. So she bravely used to stand in long queues under the scorching heat to get food that was being provided free by the Government. She also started working to keep the wheels of life turning. She worked in a nearby shop as a helper and was able to earn a meager amount. But her earnings were a big relief in these uncertain times for the family. All the savings of the family was invested in treating her father, and by God's grace he soon recovered.

After the unlock, her family's condition has not improved drastically. Still every day looks like a battle for them. Nonetheless, they have restarted working but they are only able to earn a handful of income. Meanwhile, Pinky is working hard day and night and also she has started studying. She completes all the work given to her by the educators and she also helps her friends in studying. She also takes care of her siblings and father and does all the household chores.

Life is a struggle

Neha hails from Gujarat. Her parents came to Delhi almost 10 years ago in search of work and since then they are residing in the slums of Delhi. She has 6 members in her family including her, her parents, 2 brothers, and 1 sister. For their survival, Neha's parents exchange old cloths in place of steel utensils. Neha is associated with SURE project and she comes to our education club and is fond of playing Kho-Kho. Due to the lockdown, Neha's family had fallen on difficult times. Ration and money were scarce in her family.



The family had to face many problems; they were unable to fulfill their own needs, and pay house rent. Neha's family was going through a hand to mouth situation. Her family doesn't have Aadhar (Unique Identification Number) or Ration Card (an official document that is used for availing ration at subsidized price) because of which they were devoid of availing any Government support.

The whole nation is waiting for the pandemic to end soon, but our little Neha more eagerly wants it to end. ***“As soon as this pandemic will end I would like to roam freely, play with my friends, and go to the education club”***, stated Neha

After the lockdown uplifted, our street educator communicated with Neelam's mother, she informed that there has been no drastic change in the family's condition. However, her parents have resumed their work, but there are no earnings because people are afraid of buying things from them due to corona. Neha has started going to CHETNA'S education club, where she can meet her friends, play, and study. Our street educators also motivate her to stay positive during these difficult times.

“Neha's siblings are young they demand food, we can't make them understand the current situation but God is always there to show a path. The help that we have received from various people and organizations has given us the strength to survive”, stated Neha's mother.

Better plans lead to better results

Better plans lead to better results 15-years-old Kishan hails from a small town in Uttar Pradesh, but he resides in the slums of Delhi with his 5 family members including him, his parents, one elder brother, and one elder sister. His father is an auto-rickshaw driver, mother works as domestic help and his elder brother works in a factory. Kishan also used to work as a helper in a shop. He had to leave his studies when he was in class 3 due to a financial crisis; his siblings completed their studies from Open Basic Education. Now, Kishan has also been enrolled in OBE in class 5.



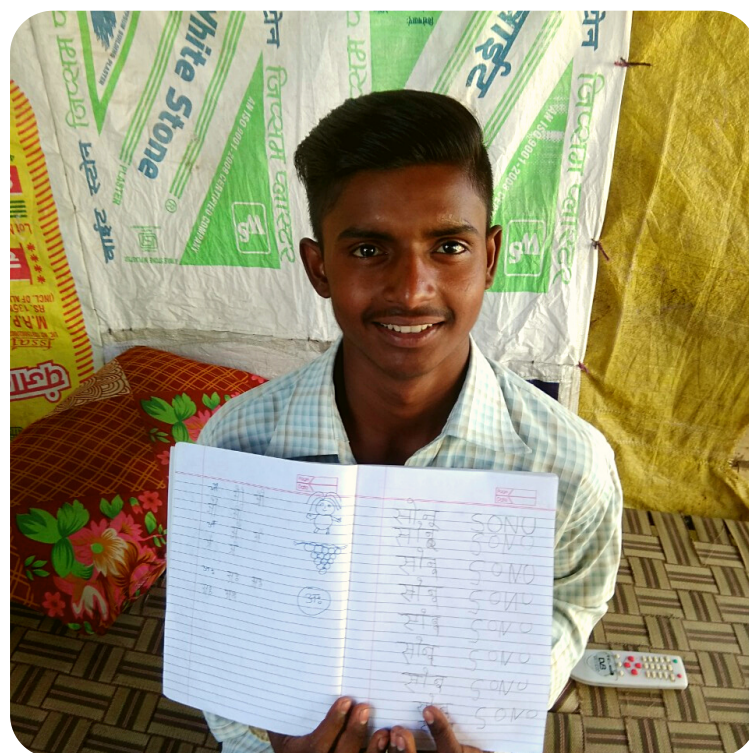
He is a beneficiary of SURE, he actively participates in all the games and sports conducted in the education club but he is more inclined towards Kho-Kho. He is also the leader of Kho-Kho team.

During the span of lockdown, his family has fallen on hard times. They lost all the sources of income and were struggling to meet their basic needs. Initially, they survived on the savings but as the days progressed the survival became difficult. There was adversity of ration and they were devoid of availing any Government support as they did not have the required documents. A lot of people from his community were dealing with the same issue. Although a food distributor came into his community to distribute food nobody was able to get it as people from outside his community used to form a crowd without following the norms of social distancing. This made Kishan furious and as he learned planning from his favorite sport Kho-Kho he made a plan with his friends. He noted the time of food distribution and assembled all his friends at the place of distribution before 30 minutes. This helped him and his friends to get ample of food for their families.

Presently, his family condition has improved slightly. His mother has resumed working in a few households; his brother has also restarted his work. His father is not keeping well so he stays at home and Kisha has also not started working. However, he studies and completes all the work assigned to him by our educators. The incident has proved that he has build resilience to overcome any odd situation in his life with great strategic planning and quick decision making.

Help those in need

Residing in the slums of West Delhi, 16 years old Suraj has transformed into a courageous leader. His family consists of 6 members including him, his parents, one younger sister, and two younger brothers. His parents work as a caretaker of a public toilet. He also works as labor to support his family financially. Due to a financial crisis in his family, he was never able to attend school, but he is passionate about studies. He is a beneficiary of SURE, he constantly comes to our education club to study and play. Since he is a good player in Kho-Kho, he has been selected as a captain of his team and he is also a leader of badhate Kadam.



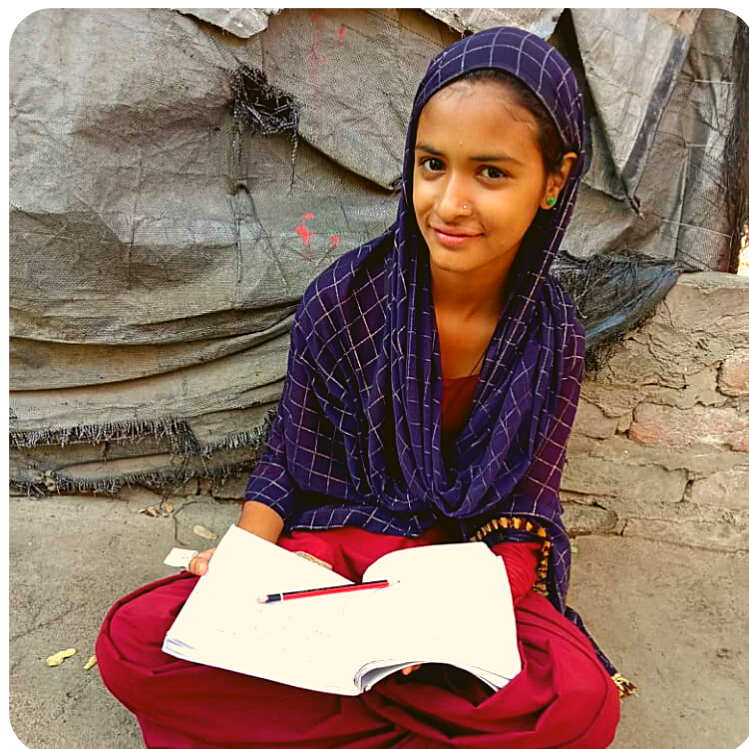
Through CHETNA's initiative, he was also enrolled in OBE (Open Basic Education) in class 5. Fortunately, his parents were working even during the lockdown as they are the caretakers of public toilets. Suraj lost his source of income. The family was unable to buy ration as there was a hike in the prices of everything. However, they were able to meet their basic needs.

Suraj through his leadership helped CHETNA's educator in distributing ration in his community and later he was also rewarded with a pack of ration. Suraj's parents used to regularly go to work, so he ensured their utmost safety. He informed his parents about all the preventive measures of COVID that he learned by our educators. Due to his awareness about the preventive measures of COVID, his parents followed all the measures and fortunately, they did not become the victims of the coronavirus. His parents were happy to see him turn into a responsible son and a citizen of this Nation.

Presently, everyone is safe and sound in his family. He has also resumed working and he continues his online studies as well. He completes the work assigned to him by our educators and also helps to connect with other children of his community. The family is now able to bear the expenses as well.

Together we are stronger

Fourteen years old Anu lives with her family in a slums New Delhi. She has a big family of 9 members including her, her parents, and 6 siblings. Her father is a truck driver, whereas her mother is a housewife and looks after her children. She and her elder sister, also associated with our SURE project. They both actively take part in all the activities conducted in the education club. She is fond of playing seven stones. Both the sisters look after the household chores and take care of their younger siblings. Her family lives with great difficulties as there is only one bread earner for the family.



She has given OBE (Open Basic Education) class 8 class exams this year. Impose of the nationwide lockdown had taken a heavy toll on the economic and social condition of society. Anu's family had fallen on hard times. Her father lost his job and there was a drought of financial resources in the family. Her parents were extremely worried about their survival. The family had to survive on the food that they received from outsiders and school. Through sports and games both the sisters build resilience to overcome any odd situation in life. They became courageous and being young females of their family they took the responsibility on their tender shoulders. Anu and her sister had to stand in long queues under the scorching heat for a handful of meals but they never complain. Their act of bravery and hard work made their family satiate their hunger.

Our street educator communicated with Anu's father, he told that "There is no drastic change in the situation. I have resumed working but I am not working regularly, because of which the financial problems are persistent." On contrary, Anu has received a hygiene and stationery kit, and upon receiving the kits she was extremely happy. "Now I can study, and wear a mask while stepping out and I can also keep my hands sanitized", stated Anu.



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