

## Current Status of Vonisha Programs and way forward in 2020-21

First of all, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to **ABC & A4C** for handholding the underprivileged *children of Vonisha Bridge Program* in the last three academic years since 2017 to empower these children through education. What is more heartening is being with us during the turbulent times of ups and downs when faced with various ground level challenges which saw us going from one place to another place. In spite of all the uncertainties your rock solid support has helped us navigate through, to fulfil the aspirations of these children which is close to both our hearts.

When the pandemic hit this country, the most affected were the underprivileged as their livelihood was at stake and we realised it early on and started our counter measures to handle the situation which we had kept you apprised during our interactions and earlier reports. To recall, (refer March to May 2020 report) we initiated livelihood support measures like providing of dry ration to the families who stayed back in the slums even though some of them went back to their native places. We also ensured that the staff provide emotional support by being in regular touch through phone calls and slum visits.

Post lockdown of 60 days when the team visited the slums, taking all personal protection like social distancing, hand hygiene and facemask, they observed that the children were longing for going back to School and even their parents realised the value of the support provided by **Vonisha** in terms of education and otherwise. The consistent presence of Vonisha team in the community made a huge difference in terms of strengthening the bond with the families and children. When random assessment of the current status of children knowledge was done by the staff, we realised that even though the children had the intention and urge to study, the constant guidance and the environment of education which was missing in these two months period made them vulnerable and lose touch with the learnings they achieved through hard work in the past. It is understandable as they were all first generation learners. This is when we came out with the concept of onsite teaching to address in keeping alive their educational needs and keep them motivated and focussed.

It was a calculated risk worth taking as we realised that if we don't do that, then all the efforts of the past three years in being a catalyst of change in the lives of these underprivileged children would go waste. So **onsite teaching became our USP** to keep the flock intact and keep going during this unprecedented situation. Thus, all our actions were centred on this.

It appears that the Government does not want to take a chance for this academic year in terms of opening Schools. However they are ok with online teaching by the private schools. They are not enforcing it in Government schools as they know that the parents of Government School Children may not be able to afford the paraphernalia required for online teaching. So they have not made it compulsory. So the Government has let the management of Schools decide the best course of action suited for them with support from the parents.

In this background, our mainstreamed children coming from the underprivileged background need crucial support from us in continuing their education. We look forward for your

continuous support for our initiatives in this challenging times for running the *Bridge program, after school program and the mainstreaming program*. The uninterrupted payment of Staff salary, supply of educational material and nutri bars(supplementary food support) will be the crucial support needed to keep going in this period. We need to continue the current bridge program up to August 2020 and start the next year program from Sep 2020. We have given our action plan for the same in the later part of this document for your perusal and favourable consideration. Please find below the each program and its status report in detail. It is important to consolidate the gains and not let the children drift back into child labour, child marriage or get corrupt by anti- social elements.

### **I. STATUS OF 2019-20 BRIDGE PROGRAM (3<sup>rd</sup> Batch)**

In keeping with the ethos of Vonisha focussing on a solution oriented approach, once the lockdown was partially relaxed, on 11<sup>th</sup> May we began with **customized plan** incorporating **all Covid 19 safety precautions** to enable **learning possibility for individual learners** by constituting **small group of children through onsite teaching at various communities to compensate for the learning losses** that had happened **since mid-March**.

**Our team of teachers and Community workers** started **meeting children with appropriate self-protection, inter-acting with them, giving worksheets to solve, correcting and guiding them** to move further by **continue providing basic education at their doorstep. It was well received by children and appreciated by parents**. We could realize that in Post COVID lockdown, due to the vacuum created, there is a natural interest for learning and our interventions have also been meaningful and are much deeper and insightful .we are sure that it is a force multiplier and will help the children to continue their education.

**This pilot study** about Onsite teaching gave us the confidence that it will be very effective means to impart education and we continued the same concept to bridge their Gaps in education since 11th May till today. Our parents those who rushed to their hometown are gradually coming back to Bangalore from the month of June as there is no livelihood for better living at their home towns. So we believe that as they are coming back, through onsite teaching we can **compensate the academic loss .We decided to extend and complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> Batch Bridge program by August 2020** in utilising the window of opportunity provided by the Government in delaying the start of the new academic year. **Till 31<sup>st</sup> August, through on-site teaching, our teachers can support them to compensate the learning losses that had happened while bridging their gaps in education of 3<sup>rd</sup> batch.**

There are **12 communities** which is merged into **10 onsite teaching centres**. Teaching staffs will visit two different centres in a day, 6 days a week. So they visit on alternate days to each centre and spend 2 hours at a stretch. Everywhere it is held between 9am -11am in a centre and 11.30am -1.30 pm in another centre by the same staff. Time table has been made and followed strictly. After the classes, staffs will reach the main Bridge centre and they ll report to the project manager and do documentation work like lesson plan ,attendance work , attending meetings etc till 4pm and windup for the day. Community mobiliser will co-ordinate for smooth execution of the onsite teaching in all the centres.

## Glimpses of some on-site teaching centres in various slums



In all the communities, Parents started making a separate room for on-site teaching for their children to pursue their education.



In Koppa





**In Bettadasapura**



**In ChikkaBegur**



**In Devarchikkanahalli, we got a separate concrete room for onsite teaching sponsored by the community leader of the locality who has been always admiring our work since beginning and supportive for any endeavours that**



**Doddakammanahalli centre**



**Hulimavu**

## STATUS OF MAINSTREAMING 3<sup>rd</sup> BATCH BRIDGE CHILDREN

From 3<sup>rd</sup> batch, as on today we received 55 parents' consent to mainstream their children into formal schools. By August, we can convince more parents as they are coming back from hometown and joining the onsite teaching centres.

**Low cost Private schools** have started doing new admissions, re-admissions, **collecting fees**, and distributing books. In a Parent teacher meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, they conveyed the parents to start teaching the portions either by themselves or sending those to private tuitions as they cannot start the regular classes until Government allows the same.

They do online teaching only from grade 8-10 as other lower class children cannot understand /access online teaching. Their parents are neither literate nor they can afford smart phones /laptop to their children. They can't be available at home to support their children as they already started going for work.

As per the Government notifications and report, we realised that physically **schools may reopen only from classes 6<sup>th</sup> onwards after October 2020**. So the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch Bridge Children (2019-20) who ll be mainstreamed into formal schools will not be able to go to formal schools until it reopens.

However, the Government schools have not initiated any of these and they are not providing the necessary support needed to their children. This impacts our children studying there so we have included them in the onsite teaching programs.

Readmission of old Bridge children (Batch 1&2) and admission of 3<sup>rd</sup> Bridge Batch are in progress and we will be able to complete as soon as possible. We identified sponsors to support these children and release of funding and payment of school fees are in progress.

As on date, We are going to put around 60 of our children (from all the 3 bridge batches )in St. Ignatius school (English Medium) and they will teach their curriculum to these children through onsite teaching centres from August by appointing facilitators and our Bridge teachers will assist those teachers in the beginning for co-ordinating and supporting children.



On 28th July, 14 children are admitted in St. Ignatius Public school (7 new admissions and 7 re-admissions done)

## IMPACT MEASUREMENT

### Final Outcome data as on 20<sup>th</sup> July of Bridge program (3<sup>RD</sup> Batch)

Year	Total Enrolled during the year	Relocated & gone to Native	Dropped out	Current total students as on mid-March at Bridge	Under 5 years (will Repeat)	Total students that Can Mains tream	Has decide to attend Private school	Has decide to attend GOVT school	Undecided currently on where to mains tream	%confirmed already to mains tream	Maximum % that could main stream
2019-20	122	31	NA	91	8	55	41	14	28	66%	80%

#### Please note that

- 1) We have 91 children.
- 2) Out of which 41 parents had confirmed willingness to mainstream their children at a private school and 14 parents agreed to put their children at a government school.
- 3) There are 8 children who are below five years will repeat the bridge Program.
- 4) There are 28 parents whose consent to mainstream their children are yet to be attained .This becomes challenging due to the impact of Covid 19 pandemic. Some of them conveyed that they will confirm once they reach Bangalore back from hometown. There are possibilities that few may not return back to Bangalore .We were unable to contact some parents due to the non-availability of phone with them. .Anyway we are trying to locate them by approaching their neighbours, friends etc resided in the same community.
- 5) As our team has been tirelessly working on to increase the number of children to be mainstreamed, we expect that we may convince approximately 10-15 more parents as they are reaching back to Bangalore.

#### **SURVEY FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> BRIDGE BATCH AND INAUGURATION OF NEW BRIDGE PROGRAM (September 2020- JUNE 2021)**

So far we identified 60 OOSC in different slums and we expect more as intra state public transport movements starts in a full swing. **Their parents are asking us to support their children's education who are roaming around at slums and join them in the onsite teaching centres that already exists at their communities.** So we decided to provide Basic education through Bridge Program to the lessor privileged.

**Thank you for being with us even during these tough times.**

**Together We Can. Together We Are.**