

Nyasa

Social Outreach Program, IITGn

Yearly Report: 2020-21

The present year, too, saw the endeavours to improve the wellbeing of the neighbouring children community by IITGn via the social outreach program Nyasa. Throughout the year, Nyasa conducted various activities including distribution drives, health related activities, furthering educational activities, and looking after the general living standards of the community members. Since the onset of the pandemic, Nyasa has been a key in delivering essentials to the construction workers' families – be it basic sustenance, medical, or enjoyment needs. Nyasa tried to extend the help to all of the workers both on campus, and the ones leaving in any way it could. The few festivities that the IITGn community had the privilege to celebrate were shared with the children by distributing sweets and stationery. Nyasa also introduced reusable sanitary napkins for the workers, providing them with a more environment friendly and long-term budget friendly alternative. Many students of the construction workers will be admitted to the local government school to fulfil the need of formal education. Various vocational activities are also in planning to help the families earn a side income to better their lives. Despite the challenging times, we were able to reach out to the community in many ways. We extend our sincere gratitude to the individuals, donors, organizations, initiatives, (especially NEEV and SKS - Shramik Kalyan Samiti, IITGn) and volunteers that helped us in this venture. This year served as a realization of the impact we can have on the lives of these workers, and how much more there is to be done. We yearn to enter the next year with a renewed vigour to extend our support as much as we can.

Amidst the Pandemic

When the unprecedented COVID situation took the world by the storm, IITGn did all in its power for the community. Nyasa, along with the help from control room had arranged food distributions, DMart and grocery sales, and had looked after the general well-being of labourers who stayed on campus. Food kits were provided for the ones leaving for home during the first wave. We also tried – with the help of SKS – to

increase the morale and general living of the workers staying behind by providing them with carrom boards, TV and mosquito nets for the male workers, and coolers for the guards. Movie nights were arranged for the female workers to make the best of the difficult times. With the support from NEEV and SKS, cloth masks were distributed among all the construction workers families.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

In the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic, team Nyasa came forward to help those in need. Nyasa launched a fundraising event to provide monetary aid to more than 900 construction workers of the campus and their families to recover from the crisis at the beginning of the pandemic. The fundraising, which saw great response from the IITGN community, was led by IITGN alumnus Mr Akash Keshav Singh. Additionally, IITGN provided a matching amount to the total donations received to double the donation fund.

Health-care

Nyasa not only looks after the educational betterment, but also focuses a great deal on health-care of the neighbouring community. Along that path, vaccination for kids was arranged with the help of Palaj Medical Centre. IITGn's own medical centre helped in providing access to all labourers and construction workers for their medical needs. With SKS' aid, we arranged special food kits for Covid positive labourers when the need arose. Sanitary napkins – both reusable and one-time-use were procured for the workers' colony through the assistance of AVNI and Desai foundation respectively along with SKS. Separate dustbins were also placed there for sanitary pads. Menstrual awareness camp and Covid awareness camp were conducted to provide proper medical education. Condom distribution was carried out in labour colonies to create awareness about male contraceptive measures. In collaboration with the welfare council, Nyasa helped in organizing the Blood Donation camp on campus.

Distribution drives

Continuing the past endeavours, Nyasa conducted distribution drives where clothes (including shirts and sarees), winter wears, toys,

etc. was distributed along with other items like umbrella, footwear, belts, bags, purses for on-campus workers and construction workers. This was done with the help of the IITGn community providing with the donations for the drives. Considering the environmental impact on the Environment Day 2021 (5th June), reusable cloth sanitary napkins would be distributed in the labour colony. Apart from these, celebratory distributions were also done. By the generous contributions of *Mr Kaushikkumar Chavda* and *Mrs Sheela Shah* Sweets and kites were given to the children of construction workers on 14th of January 2021, on the occasion of Uttarayan. Similarly, food and stationery were distributed to the children on February 16th 2021 on the occasion of Saraswati Pooja by the Saraswati Pooja Volunteers 2021. We also distributed chocolates with the help of NEEV.

Educational Activities

During the pandemic, we distributed books and stationery amongst the children from Nyasa school. Apart from that, Nyasa has worked hard to formally enrol the children of construction workers in Basan Government School. Invaluable efforts of Basan school principal (*Mr Sunil Patel*), Basan Library (*Mr Ajay Singh*); *Gaurav sir*, *Sharada ma'am*, and *Sanjay Singh* (from IITGn) are greatly appreciated to make this a reality. The children will start their schooling from the upcoming academic year. Special training program is also in pipeline which will help the children to be inducted into the formal education.

Other activities

Nyasa has extended its outreach by increasing social media presence (Instagram and Facebook) through online blogs and motivational stories. In close collaboration with SKS, development of TV and Reading room is under construction at one of the labour colonies. We collected books as donations from the community to be placed there. SKS also helped in distributing food, milk,

mosquito coils; and in looking after the general wellbeing of the community. We are also planning to give token of appreciation for all the on-campus workforce for their continued efforts to keep the IITGn functioning smoothly from construction, to gardening, maintenance, mess facilities, and house-keeping with SKS's aid. Nyasa has also been planning several other activities for the future. We have been experimenting with used plastic and clothes to

upcycle the waste into decorative items like door hangings, baskets, mats etc which can be done by the labourers. IITGn Green Office has been helping in that project, as well as in planning plantation around the TV room in the colony. AVNI has shown readiness in setting up a stitching facility of reusable sanitary napkins for the neighbouring villages to promote sustainable living.







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