



## **Updates and Appeal during COVID-19 Crisis and Lockdown**

Dear Patron,

We hope that you are safe and secure and coping well with the current situation of uncertainty created by the pandemic.

We are happy to write to you about all that has been happening at Purkal over the last few weeks, despite the lockdown.

We were lucky that the Government shut down schools a few days before the lockdown, because of which we were able to send the children home in an orderly manner. This was especially important, given that several of our hostel children are small and from remote areas and it takes them more than a day to reach home.

We now have five children in the hostel for whom we are the only family. Two of the wardens are staying over, two cooks and a few cleaners are also present, so they are well fed and looked after. The Principal has visited them twice to ensure their comfort and safety taking the opportunity for a good interaction and lunch together.

With several schools all over the country being able to conduct online teaching/learning, we felt incapacitated for some time as most of our children do not have internet accessibility at home. However, within a week of the shutdown, teachers and children grew restless finding the thought of missing classes for an indefinite time unacceptable. They took up the challenge of engaging with each other with whatever facility was available. Teachers congregated on Zoom and worked out plans to interact with students in order to facilitate their learning in the best manner possible. This was communicated and enthusiastically received by the students.

As a consequence of this, we have succeeded in commencing teaching/learning with students of classes IV to X and XII. Students currently in class X are being encouraged to select their streams and subjects so that their courses of class XI can begin. All this is being done using the limited facility of mobile phones as the medium of online instruction.

Unfortunately, a number of our children do not have access even to a dedicated mobile phone connection. We are working up a plan for providing them with remedial classes once the school reopens, and are confident that we will be able to

cover this lost time with them quickly.

The school was to embark upon a re-engineering of the curriculum for primary classes (I-III) in the new Academic Year beginning April 1, 2020, with the first month being devoted to an intensive training program for primary teachers. Post the shutdown and without losing any time, the group rose to the occasion and got itself ready to receive this training online. We are glad to mention that this training is proceeding well, and are optimistic that our primary teachers will be well equipped to start implementing the revamped curriculum with classes I, II and III as soon as the school reopens.

We would like our children to establish a relationship between different subjects that they are studying, making such learning more meaningful than when they study these subjects in isolation. Towards this end, a training program for teachers of classes IV, V and VI had been scheduled for the month of April. This training too is being done online.

On a broader plane, we are working up revisions in the time table to ensure against a drop in academic learning and performance for all of our classes, despite the impending loss in teaching days during the Academic Year.

Also, post reopening, classes XI and XII will receive additional focus by way of preparatory classes in the afternoon. This is to ensure that their Board results and college admission prospects do not suffer.

The appointment of our People and Performance Manager from within has been expedited. She has begun establishing direct contact with all the staff keeping them well motivated.

We would like to mention that the quarterly progress reports of our children are ready to be shared with their Sponsors but regret that they can be dispatched, only once the school reopens and we have access to our records. Our apologies for this delay.

Last but not the least, thanks to our steady stream of Donors till mid-March, we have been able to disburse our staff salaries for March in full and on time. In the current time of uncertainty, this gesture has been much appreciated by our team.

Consequent to the lockdown, our collections have fallen off sharply in the last few weeks. While this is to be expected, it is placing constraints on us in respect of salary payments for April and beyond. As our valuable friends and donors, we request your help at a difficult time for us, indeed for yourselves as well. Advancing your planned contributions will help us alleviate this emerging situation.

We understand that stepping out of homes and visiting a bank might not be possible at this point. Hence, you can use the payment gateway for sending in your

contribution. [Donate here!](#)

In conclusion, we thank you for your attention, generous support and patronage and wish you and your family all safety and good health.

**With regards,  
Anoop Seth**



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