

VIDIVELLI GIRLS' HOME

DR.AMBEDKAR CULTURAL ACADEMY

Mandela Nagar, Madurai-22, TN, India

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

01. CONTEXT

DR. AMBEDKAR CULTURAL ACADEMY (DACA) was extremely happy to reopen its Home (Vidivelli Girls' Home) for the inmates after 10 months of long break due to the Covid 19 pandemic. DACA team was well prepared to welcome its children with proper precautionary measures, since the situation was not completely alright. Though the situation in some parts of the state was still worse, the government had taken a risk of reopening the educational institutions in order to prepare the students for the public exams. As per the guidelines given by the government, we accommodated 124 students from 9th Standard to Post-graduation. They were all mostly from 79 remote villages of 8 Districts from South Tamil Nadu.



DACA Inmates for 2020-2021

The Government had ordered to close down all the educational institutions in the state on 19th March, 2020 due to the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. During the lockdown period, the students had their virtual classes. But the sad thing was that most of our students could not attend the online classes due to various reasons, such as non-availability of mobiles, laptops and network connection in their villages. Same kind of difficulty was faced by our students even in writing their exams conducted online now and then. Indeed it affected the students of 10th and 12th Standards who would appear for the board exam. And the final year university students were uncertain and anxious about their completion of courses. Taking into

consideration of the students' future and their board exams, the government had decided to reopen the educational institutions with some stipulated guidelines. The decision of the government was taken after various meetings with teachers, parents and students to know their opinions in that regard. Though in the beginning, there was some opposition from the public, later they gave their consent to reopen the educational institutions for the students from 9th standard to Post-graduation. Accordingly, the TN Government passed an official orders to reopen the schools and hostels for the students of 10th and 12th Standard on 19, Jan 2021 (G.O. Ms. No. 31) and for the students of 9th and 11th Standard on 8, Feb 2021(G.O.Ms. No.62). The VIDIVELLI GIRLS' HOME was reopened for the girls of 10th Std., 12th Std., and graduation on 18, Jan 2021 and for the girls of 9th Std., and 11th Std. on 7, Feb 2021 to study and get teachers' aid. The students were indeed happy to be here and do their studies. Within a month after reopening of educational institutions, several schools reported positive cases of covid virus. The sudden shoot in the spread of the virus among the students and teachers made the government to reconsider its decision and declare 'ALL PASS' for the students from Standards 9th to 11th without writing exams. Hence we had to send the girls from 9th Std. to 11th Std. back home. After that we had only 30 students of 12th Std., in the Home. They became home-sick, and could not concentrate on their studies. Meanwhile the teachers, parents and other officials of the state demanded the government to close down the schools for the students of 12th Standard too in order to save them from contagion. Yielding to their demand, the state government suspended the classes for 12th Standard, and postponed their annual exam. DACA too closed again its Home by following the government order. It has to be carefully noted that the situation of the students in this pandemic is very pathetic, and their mind-set has been drastically changed.

02. RELIEF WORK

Keeping the economic condition of the poor, especially the Dalits, in mind during the prolonged lockdown period, DACA extended its helping hand to the Covid afflicted people. Most of the children in the villages who were fed by the midday meal scheme in their respective schools on school working days, faced the lack of nutritious food at home as their parent were jobless, and struggling to get even two square meals a day. DACA identified nearly 1500 deserving families in 6 southern districts, and distributed food materials in three phases. Our small gesture of kindness saved those families in a small way from starvation and malnutrition.



Distribution of food materials to the deserving families

03. DACA AWARD

07th March 2021 was a historical day for DACA. On that day in commemoration of International Women's Day, we felicitated Selvi. SNEHA of our home, who secured school first by scoring 544 marks out of 600 in the 12th Public Exam. On behalf of our home, we honoured her with an achievement memento and a cash prize of Rs. 2000/-. We had Mr. Jun Ottani from Japan to give away the award and also motivate our girls to make many more achievements. Selvi. Sneha shared her experiences and the motivating factors with the girls. The entire event was witnessed by the parents of the inmates.



Honouring SNEHA with Achievement Memento

04. THE IMPACTS OF COVID LOCKDOWN AMONG THE STUDENTS

We could see a lot of changes in the life of our girls after the long holidays. We could see changes in their academic, behavioural, biological and spiritual life. To our surprise some of the changes are very vivid in all the girls.

A. ACADEMIC CHANGES:

1. They exhibit lack of interest in studies, in other words, not serious in studies.
2. They find very difficult to read and write correctly, even in their mother tongue - Tamil.
3. They are not able to concentrate, rather very much distracted.
4. Their minds are wandering in different subjects other than their studies.
5. During study hours they are in the dream world, and they need special care and follow ups.

B. BIOLOGICAL CHANGES:

1. They find hard to sit down for long time during study hours.
2. In the study hours, they mostly look drowsy and tired.
3. They don't eat much even though they have healthy food in abundance.
4. As a result they have poor immunity and fall sick frequently.
5. A few of them have same sex orientation.
6. They show no interest for manual works.

C. BEHAVIORAL CHANGES:

1. They have developed an attitude of not respecting the elders.
2. Some of the girls like to be introverted.
3. It is hard for them to follow the rules and regulations of the home.
4. A good number of them long for parental care and affection.
5. Many of them have forgotten the behavioural conducts learned earlier.
6. They are not genuine in their friendship with others.
7. They are always playful and disturbing others.
8. Some of them are addicted to mobile games and virtual displays.

D. SPIRITUAL CHANGES:

1. Most of them are unable to calm their body and mind. .
2. They don't spend time in prayers.

05. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN THE CAMPUS:

In this Pandemic scenario, the following precautionary measures, by keeping to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for health, Hygiene and Safety Protocols given by State Government, are being observed in our campus.

1. Wearing of Mask is compulsory for all the students and Staff in the Campus.
2. Frequent cleaning of hands should be followed.
3. Children should follow the social distancing (six feet away from each other in study hall and dinning tables).
4. Sharing of books, toys and food are strictly prohibited.
5. All washrooms in the hostel are opened up for the present inmates, so that there is no crowding.
6. All dormitories are opened, thus the inmates are spread across.
7. A thorough disinfection of the hostel premises is carried out when the students are out for attending classes.

The major challenge for us is to ensure the physical distancing norms outside the campus when they go out to School.

05.1. THE EFFECTS OF THE PRECAUTIONARY METHODS OBSERVED:

1. We have zero percent infected case among our girls in our premises.
2. The girls are very healthy and safe.
3. Whenever Students fall sick they are sent to hospitals immediately, if needed to their homes.
4. Some of the students are given extra care because they are very weak from the day of their entry into our campus.

06. NEW PLANS:

- a) The students will be motivated to have their own personal time table for study. And the Staff in-charges would be encouraged to monitor them.
- b) Regular special classes for the subjects of Maths and English language will be conducted by the efficient Jesuits and teachers from Jesuit schools.
- c) Special talks on study methods, facing the exams without fear, cultivating interest to study, etc., would be arranged periodically.
- d) On regular basis with the support of experts, counseling would be offered to our girls to overcome their mental stress and other psychological problems.

- e) Weekend Exams will be conducted, and the slow learners would be identified and given extra attention.
- f) Questions of the previous years will be collected from the net and given to the students as model question papers.
- g) The play way method of learning will be followed for enhancing the students' involvement in their studies.

07. SHARING BY THE STUDENTS

A. RAMYA



I am Ramya doing 9th Standard. I am new to DACA. I had heard of DACA from my elder sister. So I longed to study in DACA. But I was not fortunate to be in DACA for longer days due to the Corona pandemic. But I could use the opportunities given by DACA in a short period of time. The pandemic made us struggle a lot in many ways. At home I was always watching TV, and had enough time to play with my friends. There was no one to control me. But we were struggling to have nutritious food at home. But in DACA, we were given good and healthy food, and we could follow the precautionary measures strictly.

I learned many good habits, like early rising, punctuality, study habit, good manners, etc., during this short period of time. The sad part of my stay at DACA was that we were not given opportunity for extra-curricular activities. Otherwise we had enough time to study and learn a lot.

B. HEMALATHA

My name is Hemelatha. I am studying 10th Standard. I was very happy to be back to DACA after a long vacation. Because, in my home holidays I lost my peace of mind. Most of the time, my parents were quarrelling between them, and did not care for their children. we were not given good food at home. I was not able to attend the online classes, since there was no android phone at home. So, I was happy when was called back to DACA to study; I had good meals thrice a day and free atmosphere to interact with others. And every day we were asked to play and keep ourselves clean. In the beginning we had an orientation by fathers and brother, which had set a right tone for me to study. Here in DACA, we were having special classes and weekend tests, and we were



prepared for the board exam. In the beginning, I didn't have interest and motivation to study, but later I was motivated and encouraged. But the board exam was cancelled.

C. PRIYA



I am priya. I am studying 11th Standard. I am in the Bio-Maths group. It is my 4th year in DACA. During this lockdown period I was able to attend the online classes, but I could understand nothing. And the method they followed was not proper. But when I came back to DACA, I got a chance to attend the special class for English and Maths. Since we were given special training and I could do well. At home I was regretting for having taken Bio-Maths group. But now I feel a bit relaxed, and I have now some kind of foundation for the next class. I am sure that I would do well in my 12th standard. Here in DACA, we get all the facilities to study and are given all the trainings.

I am thankful to DACA for all that it has been to me and to my elder sister who is doing her 12th standard. I will be ever grateful to DACA.

D. GOWRI

This is Gowri doing my 12th Standard. I am here at DACA from my 6th Standard onwards. I love to be in DACA. DACA has taught me many things over the years. I believe that I have received a holistic formation. Here in DACA we are encouraged and motivated. I had struggled a lot at home during this lockdown time. I was asked to work in the field, and so I was not able to attend the online class regularly. My parents also struggled a lot to feed me and my three siblings during the lockdown. I found it difficult to understand the class due to lack of continuity. And also there was lack of interest in me to study. After my 10th board exam result, I had a dream of becoming an IAS. But this lockdown somehow decreased that interest. But when I came again to DACA and stayed there for about three months, I was once again motivated and I had a chance to read extra books and daily newspaper. Though I struggled a lot to concentrate on my studies in the beginning, later I could pick up and put a lot of efforts in my studies. I feel at home in DACA.



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