

Dussehra Special | RISE Update | October 2020

RISE

Remedial Innovation in School Education



This Dussehra, RISE pledges to kill the 'Corona' Devil



Gandhi Jayanti



The birthday of the Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated in India every year by the name Gandhi Jayanti or Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti. It falls yearly on 2nd of October when there is a gazetted holiday all over the India. On second of October a great person Mahatma Gandhi was born in the year 1869 at Porbandar in the Gujarat to the Karamchand Gandhi and Putlibai. Mahatma Gandhi is also known as Bapu in India for his unforgettable contributions and struggle for the freedom of India. On October 2, 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an ambitious cleanliness programme – the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan with an aim to fulfil the dream of Clean India as envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi. A deadline was set of making India 100 percent open defecation free (ODF) by October 2, 2019 by Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. Since then a lot has changed, Swachh Bharat Mission has achieved significant milestones in both the rural and urban front and has triggered a nationwide flurry of activity to improve sanitation and cleanliness in the country. The government has repeatedly described it as one of the biggest people's movement. In last few years, 9 crore toilets have been constructed in India and more than 4.5 lakh villages, 450 dis-

tricts, 20 states and Union Territories have been declared open defecation free successfully.

Moreover, every year Gandhi Jayanti on October 2 is celebrated as Rashtriya Swachhta Diwas, and on the occasion more regions of the country are declared ODF. The aim of celebrating Gandhi Jayanti as the International Day of non-violence is to distribute Bapu's philosophy, believe in non-violence, principle, etc. all over the world. It is celebrated through theme based proper activities in order to enhance the public awareness worldwide. To support this day RISE children celebrated it in their own ways. As the whole world is practising social distancing, thus, RISE children dressed up like Mahatma Gandhi Ji came into the communities and told the community people to follow all the norms that support social distancing. Children also told everyone to keep their surroundings clean as it's the time of COVID in the whole world. So just to keep everyone informed & aware children took the stand and educated all the people about health, hygiene & sanitation. RISE students AROH dirty materials and unwanted plants &

weeds were collected & removed from the plantation site and the wasteage was disposed in to the dumping yard. The students also cleaned their surroundings & asked other to do the same and keep the nearby areas clean and tidy. The main purpose of this programme was to create awareness among the students and people regarding Cleanliness and its benefits.

Even RISE educators engaged themselves in awareness drive. They informed the community people about Mahatma Gandhi & unforgettable contributions and struggle for the freedom of India by him.



World Mental Health Day



Mental health is one of the most neglected areas of public health. Close to 1 billion people are living with a mental disorder, 3 million people die every year from the harmful bad habits and one person dies every 40 seconds by suicide. And now, billions of people around the world have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is having a further impact on people's mental health. To overcome from this very serious issue World Mental Health Day is observed on 10th October every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide. This year's World Mental Health Day, on 10 October, comes at a time when our daily lives have changed considerably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The past months have brought many challenges: for health-care workers, providing care in difficult circumstances, going to work fearful of bringing COVID-19 home with them; for students, adapting to taking classes from home, with little contact with teachers and friends, and anxious about their futures; for workers whose livelihoods are threatened; for the vast number of people caught in poverty or in fragile humanitarian settings with ex-

tremely limited protection from COVID-19; and for people with mental health conditions, many experiencing even greater social isolation than before. And this is to say nothing of managing the grief of losing a loved one, sometimes without being able to say goodbye. For RISE-AROH every event is important to celebrate but with the theme of **Mental Health for All Greater Investment – Greater Access World**, Mental Health Day 2020 became the most important one yet. The months of lockdown and loss have had a huge impact on us all, and prioritising mental health has

never been more important than it is now. That's why this year RISE students decided to bring everyone together to mark the day by each doing one thing for better mental health. Making positive change can seem so hard, especially during uncertain times. AROH has a responsibility to children's health and wellbeing — including their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing — and to support parents and caregivers as they, in turn, support children and young people. AROH-RISE Educators acted to gather and mobilize public and private resources to support the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of the world's most vulnerable children and young people at this extraordinary time. RISE educators continuously kept themselves in contact with their students and their parents, solving their educational & life problems. They made students' routine learning at home and helping them engaged into indoor & a bit into outdoor activities. Educators are even performing YOGASANAS with their students' through Whatsapp video calls to help them get rid from anxiety, stress and anger. AROH-RISE educators are also visiting communities keeping social distancing in mind to provide assurance when needed. This somehow helps the students & parents to assure that someone is there to help them, make feel safe & care.



Victory of Good over Evil on Dusshera



The festival of Dussehra is also known as Vijaydashmi, celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm by Hindu people all over the India. It is one of the most important religious festivals of the India. According to the historical beliefs and most famous Hindu scripture, the Ramayana, it has been mentioned that Lord Rama had performed a chandipuja (holy prayer in order to get blessings of the Goddess Durga Mata to kill the powerful demon, Ravana. Ravana was ten-headed demon king of the Sri Lanka who had kidnapped the wife of Lord Rama, Sita to take revenge of his sister, Shurpanakha. From then, the day Lord Rama killed Ravana was started celebrating as the Dussehra festival. India is a country which is very famous for its culture and tradition, fair and festivals. It is a country of fairs and festivals where people celebrate and enjoy every festival with great belief, joy and faith. The festival of Dussehra has been declared by the Government of India as the gazetted holiday to allow people to fully enjoy this festival as well as giving importance to the Hindu festival. In various parts of country Garba and Dandi is organized and this culture has been adopted from Gujarat, West Bengal celebrate this day by saying Kali puja. As we see India is a vast country but still we celebrate same festival but in different ways according to their respected culture. The meaning of Dussehra is the victory of Lord Rama

over the ten headed demon king Ravana. The real meaning of the word Dussehra is the defeat of ten headed (Dus head) demon on tenth day of this festival. Tenth day of this festival is celebrated by burning the Ravana clones by the people all over the country. But with COVID-19 pandemic casting shadow, the Government had decided to organize Dussehra festivities in a "simple" way, by and large restricting it to keep up with the traditions. The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday issued detailed guidelines for celebrations amid the coronavirus pandemic. Although the COVID-19 curve in India appears to be bending downwards, the ground situation is still delicate in several states. Wearing face masks and maintaining 6-feet distance is must at all times to prevent any chances of transmitting the viral disease.

Well RISE never stops when it comes to the celebration of events & festivals. No matter if it is COVID-19, RISE children find ways to celebrate every each day with their creative minds & efforts. On the occasion of Dussehra RISE children dressed up as Lord Rama & Ravana

enacted small skits at their home and shared creative pictures & videos of their enacted acts. Being at home children prepared speeches on Dussehra and presented to their RISE teachers through Whatsapp Video calls. Even the educators informed the children by saying that we should follow the part of truth and should always be positive toward our work this may take time but in the end the result will be in your favour. Educators also explained the children about the strength of being true in your discipline and work one should always follow the right path despite of any struggle. Through the medium of Whatsapp children took oath & promised their teachers that they shall not involve in any wrong things & help their friends & family in every situation. They even said that they will study harder and help each other lift in academics.



International Girl Child Day



Every year on 11 October, the International Day of the Girl, UNICEF launches an annual campaign with girls to amplify their voices and stand up for their rights. This year, under the theme, **“My voice, our equal future”**, it seized the opportunity to reimagine a better world inspired by adolescent girls – energized and recognized, counted and invested in. As adolescent girls worldwide assert their power as change-makers, International Day of the Girl 2020 will focus on their demands to: Live free from gender-based violence, harmful practices, and HIV & AIDS, Learn new skills towards the futures they choose/ & Lead as a generation of activists accelerating social change. As COVID-19 tears through communities across the globe, children have become the hidden victims of the

pandemic. School closures and other lockdown measures adopted to stem the spread of the virus have cut off millions of children from quality learning, critical vaccines, and nutritious diets. For girls, disruptions also come at the cost of their safety. The risk of gender-based violence and harmful practices soars during an emergency – especially for girls living under restricted movement and socioeconomic decline. Many girls kept from school today will never return, their childhood stolen by child marriage or pregnancy. As their schools close and their families struggle to stay afloat, girls especially in India grapple with social isolation and the threat of poverty and child marriage.

As we talk about International Girl Child Day, RISE gives equal importance to girls and boys without being gender bias. As it is the time of COVID-

19, we at RISE organised a survey keeping the social distancing in mind which included teachers' interaction with kids and parents. The survey was an opportunity to the parents to share their views about their daughters which was actually fruitful. Girl students were so happy when Educators told the importance of daughters to their parents. Educators even shared positive stories and views about their kids. This was basically to educate the parents to not to be gender-bias against their daughters. It taught them to send their daughters to schools every day to turn them into successful persons. They were taught the importance of the daughters in their families. The parents were made aware of the topics called save girl child, child sex ratios and creating a healthy and safe environment for a girl child. RISE educators helped the parents understand that when a family decides to kill a female foetus in the womb, they decide to kill a daughter, a wife and a mother. As a society which worships goddesses like Saraswati and Lakshmi, it is a shame that such hypocrisy exists. It is time we pledge to always go against this practice because every girl has a right to be born, to study, to succeed and to live. *“The day today was such a good initiative for us to help parents understand the importance of daughters in their lives which might change the mentalities of parents to*



World Student Day



The birth anniversary of former President APJ Abdul Kalam on October 15 is observed as World Students' Day. Dr Kalam was a great teacher, an eminent scientist and a great statesman. For his unique quality of being close to common people, especially youngsters, he is lovingly referred to as a 'people's president.' After completing his term as the 11th President of India, Dr Kalam went back to teaching on the very next day. On World Students' Day, we remember how he encouraged students to dream big and never be afraid of failure. Dr Kalam was a role model for teachers

also. *Good teachers make great human beings*, Dr Kalam believed. The Missile Man of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam's role in teaching and his dedication can't be explained in words. In 2006, in the President's address at the presentation of the National Award to Teachers, he said that, *"Teachers have to realise that they are the builders of the society. A good society can be built when students have the knowledge and are proficient in their subjects. They have also to provide a vision for life to the students and to inculcate the fundamentals of values which should be prac-*

tice in the years to come"

We all are aware of the fact that students are the future of the nation. These are the people and the minds that are going to take our countries forward. World's Students' Day is the perfect opportunity for us to pay honor to our former President APJ Abdul Kalam & the students of the world. From all corners of the globe, students are working hard to achieve their career goals and make a difference. Some students leave their families and travel far and wide to have a place in a university that will help them to have a better life and provide for their loved ones. This is something that we should definitely honor and celebrate. Thus, being quarantined at home & schools closed during COVID-19, RISE students & their teachers along with them celebrated World Student Day on their own.

As told by RISE Educators the theme of World Students Day 2020, **'Learning for people, planet, prosperity, & peace'**, students spent more time with their students, their younger siblings to lift one and other up. Teachers asked their students to make sure they let their friends & siblings know that they have noticed how much work & efforts that they have put in! It is always good to be there to support one and other. We at RISE believe





that no matter what their background or their field of study is, we should always celebrate those who want to furthiis their knowledge, with a lot of students going to great lengths to do so.

Rising Again ... Divya

Divya, a resident of Bakkarwala village, lives in Delhi. Born in a middle class family of 5 members. His mother, Mrs Birma is a housewife & father, Mr ShyamLal works as a Driver & both his elder brothers are pursuing higher Education. In the family of 5 Divya's fathis is the only bread earner which was actually hard for the family to survive. In such a situation it was very difficult to run the expenses of the house and for the studies of his children. Thus, a year ago when RISE project started in the communities of Ghevra & Mundka, this was dire need of the Educators and we found Divya to be the perfect one for that. Talking to Divya about project RISE, He immediately said yes to join RISE-AROH as He was in need of financial help. As soon as He joined RISE as an Educator, He started contributing an amount of money in his home and now Divya is a helping hand in the expenses of the house. He now gives home tuitions to many of the children which has helped his gain a well-known personality amongst the community.



Divya shares, *"I always felt that I should do something which shall help me improve my knowledge, information and my aim to become a teacher in my life, and then being introduced to RISE, my life has got a ray of hope of doing something better & bigger. With the help of RISE I not teach children but I've also resumed my Education. RISE has been a great support to my knowledge which is helping me perform best in every area of work. In the past year my personality has been advanced & condition of my home is stable. I made myself a lot better and also learnt how to put my thoughts & suggestions in front of someone. I am grateful for everything I have achieved in the past year. A big thank you to RISE who recognized the potential inside me and helps me keep going."*

New beginnings for Pranit

Pranit, a 9 year old boy, from one of our RISE centres studies in 4th grade and hails from U.P. from the village named Itava. His father, Mr Harish used to farm in the village long ago but due to lack of proper livelihood, his father shifted to Delhi as he got permanent job over here. Pranit was struggling hard in his scholastic front due to large family, so was forced to get engaged into household chores where he used to take care of his siblings. Thus, there was not enough opportunity to study.

As Pranit was so smart he once came out his house & got special attention of our RISE Educator Babita. Pranit narrated the whole family background to Babita and she counselled him & his parents. She explained the role of Education in Pranit's life. His parents got to understand the role of Education & agreed to send Pranit to RISE.

Joining RISE, in few months, Pranit was able to read & write efficiently at RISE & now he loves to study in RISE. Pranit now keep his studies at priority & considers that after getting admitted into RISE he is totally grateful for the support provided by RISE. Since he began studying in RISE, there has been a lot of positive improvement in his life. Pranit's parents also review that Pranit has shown remarkable growth in only a short span of 12 months.

Pranit's mother says *"After only few months in RISE, my son can now study efficiently. He has shown improvement both scholastically and also improved his dancing passion too."*



Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC) was incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956 on 20th December, 2002 with an authorized share capital of INR 15 billion and paid up capital of INR 2 billion. AIC commenced business from 1st April, 2003. AIC has taken over the implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which, until FY 2002-03 was implemented by General Insurance Corporation of India. In addition, AIC also transacts other insurance businesses directly or indirectly concerning agriculture and its allied activities. AIC also works towards upliftment of marginalized sections of the society. Project RISE is CSR initiative of AIC which aims to provide better educational opportunities to underprivileged children.



AROH Foundation is a leading national-level NGO, strengthening government programmes and CSR initiatives of several corporates and PSEs by providing total integrated solutions - consulting, planning and implementing - for sustainable, inclusive development and growth of the needy and marginalised communities in several states of India for the past 12 years. AROH is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified organization, registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.

RISE is a pioneering initiative designed by AROH Foundation, which recognizes the nation's concern of improvement of learning outcomes and universalisation of elementary education as of paramount importance, and strives to bring the deprived and marginalized or educationally backward children in backward villages and slums under the safety net of education through an innovative approach and Project-Based Learning Methodology.