



Piali Ashar Alo

Piali Ashar Alo School

September-December 2020

In India, the situation regarding the COVID 19 pandemic has improved. Shops, businesses, even public transportation are opening up. However, educational institutions remain closed for the time being.

1. How are our children ?!



Due to the better conditions and the fact that there is no major spread of coronavirus in Piali, except in individual cases, we were able to invite our children and their parents in small groups to talk, taking all safety measures. Our purpose was to ask how the children were and also to check

how much they were able to follow the learning materials given at a distance.



We can gratefully write that all of our children and their families are healthy. It is true, however, that many of our parents have lost their jobs. Quite a few girls complained that they quarreled more at home mainly because of financial hardship. Many

fathers therefore went to work in another state. Some of our children moved to their relatives in the country.

The girls followed the learning material to the best of their ability. However, there is a great lack of knowledge. Most children do not have

a quiet learning space in their houses, which proved to be more evident during the long months of quarantine, when all family members were at home. The village atmosphere generally does





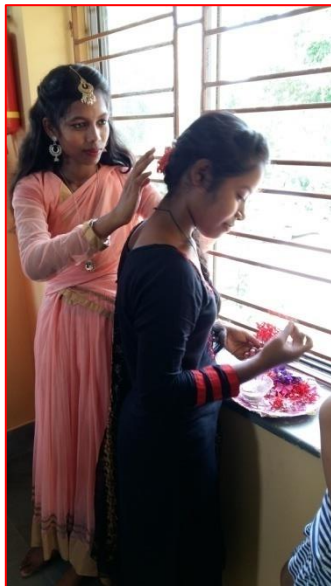
not encourage girls to read, write and learn. Thus, those girls who have a very strong internal motivation progressed, while the other children fell behind quite a bit. It will take months of perseverance, patience and hard work to make up for lost time.

Even during quarantine, our doors were opened and we wanted especially those children who live at home in the worst conditions to come to the school, where we could help them individually or in small groups, as

the school premises are big enough. Many parents were happy about this, because they also want the best for their children and sometimes they feel very helpless because they do not know how or cannot help them. For about two weeks we managed to do so and we were all happy. Then someone reported us to the police and we had to stop our help completely.

Especially in recent months, it has become clear how intensely some of the village community opposes our actions. Even in front of our door, more than 50 people gathered, literally shouting various untrue accusations. It was a difficult time for us, but we decided to persevere as long as we can to help our girls create a different, better life.

2. Childrens Day and Teachers Day



Especially this year, we thought it was all the more important to take advantage of each and every opportunity to celebrate. Therefore we celebrated

Teacher's Day and Children's Day. We got together, had a little party and ate something delicious. We reminisced about the celebrations of years past. No matter what, our girls

keep smiling. They never complain, they rarely grumble. They know how to live every day anew, every day again, which is a quality especially enviable in times of great challenges.





The Ganguly family also remembered us. Their son Aintik celebrated this time for seven years and instead of gifts for himself, he handed out a chocolate cake and winter scarves to our girls. What a kind gesture!

3. Visit



Together with the NGO Pukaar, we were visited by students from a private school in Kolkata. Our girls were gifted with sanitary napkins, hygiene items and school supplies. Unfortunately, there were not enough opportunities for a more personal conversation, but it is still nice that even in private schools they try to encourage mutual help and empathy.

Just as we strive to open the worlds to our girls, on the other hand, it is also important to open the worlds to children who live in better conditions. We certainly wish that there would be more such cooperation.

4. Repair on our school building





Super-cyclone Amphan, which hit us hard in the month of June, also caused a lot of damage to our school building. With the help of you, our sponsors, we were able to repair the damage and make the appearance of the external main entrance even more beautiful than before. We also whitewashed all of our interior walls.

5. Christmas and New Year's Holidays



Since most of our children did not receive birthday presents this year due to the situation, we helped Santa Claus all the more this Christmas and

really prepared something special for our children. In addition to



regularly distributing food, they were also given a Christmas cake, a pack of school notebooks and a bag full of goodies. Especial thanks to Mr Sheo Shankar Bagaria, Slovenian Honorary Consul in Kolkata for gifting our girls with warm blankets.

At the end, let us wish You, our dear Benefactors and Friends, joyful holidays and all the best in the new year. Sincere thanks for staying loyal to us this year as well.



Yours Piali Ashar Alo Family

www.pialiasharalo.org