



Moving Forward Together

An STCI Quarterly | October 2020 – December 2020

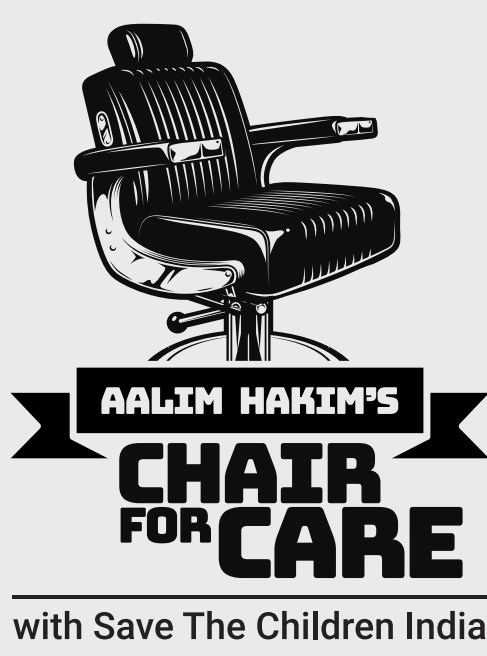
From The CEO's Desk

Despite all the chaos it brought with it, 2020 has cleared up one thing – rallying together is the only way to bring about social justice, quality education & ensure the rights of the underprivileged and vulnerable. Every government, state, private organization, NGO, individual donor and supporter will need to step forward, if we are to truly make a difference.

It is with this inherent understanding, that STCI has continued exploring collaborations over this past quarter. We went from providing remote counselling to girls in shelter homes across Maharashtra, to educating Anganwadi workers about hearing impairment in children. We also helped skill young women to work in hospitals so as to help them live independent lives.



We engaged with government systems & institutions with a renewed focus on early interventions. As the quarter drew to a close, we remembered fondly our Founder, the late Mrs. Vipula Kadri on her birthday, the 25th of December. The ever-giving Mrs. Kadri would have been 84 years old and we think that she'd be very proud of how each member of our staff continues to put children first, and at the center of all our initiatives here at STCI.



Chair For Care

This quarter saw celebrity hairstylist, Aalim Hakim step forward and join hands with us, by providing haircuts through the inspiring 'Chair For Care' initiative, proceeds of which now help fund our Disability Programs.



Child Rights Interrupted

In India, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), is the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of child rights & the responsibilities of states towards the same. On September 24, 2020, the NCPCR took note of childcare institutions (CCIs) in eight states that were violating the basic tenets of institutional care. Their directive, released on the same date, required that children in CCIs be returned to their families within a hundred days.

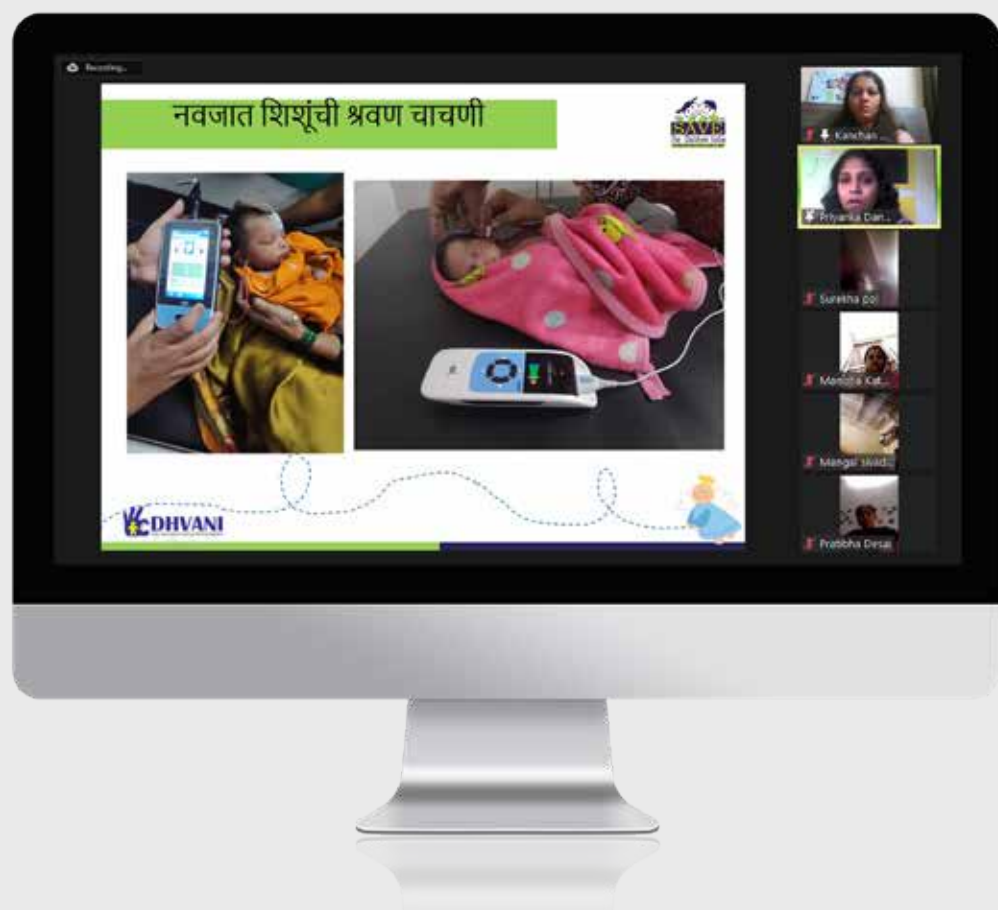
This sudden move raised several concerns on the practicality as well as the capacity to create suitable and safe restoration plans for over 1,80,000 children.

At STCI, we were determined to be more than bystanders. Our experience, from our anti-human trafficking initiatives, indicates that the restoration of a child to their natural environment, is beneficial only when the child's wellbeing is not endangered and their rights upheld. We drafted a position paper in response, that articulated our concerns regarding the oversimplification of the process.

You can read our full response below.



[Read Our Response](#)



Keeping An Ear Out For Children With Hearing Impairment

STCI's Dhvani programme focuses on children with hearing impairment in the age range of 0-3 years, since early identification & intervention can significantly improve their chances of being able to join regular schools by the age of 6. To drive awareness about hearing impairment across more communities, our Dhvani team trained 37 Anganwadi supervisors and 32 Anganwadi workers in two separate online sessions.

During the sessions, Anganwadi supervisors and staff were educated about basic ear hygiene. They were trained to identify children with a high risk of hearing impairment. Additionally, they were given a hearing, speech & language milestone-checklist which could be shared with parents/caregivers in the community. As a result, these Anganwadi workers can now build awareness in communities and refer at-risk children for hearing tests, making sure that families can give children with hearing impairment timely support.

Chalking out the future

Save The Children India's persistent endeavours to engage with government institutions bore fruit when our Balwadi Program was granted permission to train all the teachers of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). This will include training all 817 teachers along with 817 assistant teachers, from January 2021-March 2021 as part of a consortium with Pratham & UNICEF.



Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

Acknowledging that learning gaps are set to widen, if much needed interventions are not devised, STCI's Balwadi program has trained 502 teachers in the past one year and has supported 116 Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation Balwadi teachers. They in turn, have successfully reached out to 1800 of their preschool students, even during this uncertain academic year.

Our collaboration with MCGM will further enable these teachers to provide support to 24,000 preschool children who are currently confined to their homes, and have received little to no educational input through 2020. These teachers will also be trained on how to enable parents into becoming partners in the education of their children. This training will ensure that children are engaged with holistic, developmental readiness activities, every day.

We are all in this together!

Yes, you too...

Whether it be fundraising for us on your birthday or anniversary, volunteering a specific skillset or using your social currency as an influencer, there are a number of ways you can contribute towards our shared dream.

If you feel like you want to read more about our initiatives, have a suggestion that will make our newsletters even more interesting, or, have a bright idea that can help us reach more inboxes, we are listening...

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