



IIFL Foundation

Press Release

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Leveraging digital to ensure seamless learning at *Sakhiyon Ki Baadi*

IIFL Foundation team worked relentlessly even during the pandemic to educate out-of-school girls in Rajasthan. All the learning centers of its flagship program – *Sakhiyon Ki Baadi* (SKB) remained closed post the imposition of lockdown. This means that the field staff could not visit the centers or conduct home visits and meetings with the community members. But, the learning continued seamlessly for nearly 36,000 students as well as *Dakshas* (teachers) alike.

How was this made possible? By leveraging the power of digital.

Ms. Madhu Jain, Director, IIFL Foundation said, “During the pandemic, IIFL Foundation focused on turning challenges into opportunities. We revisited our vision and stayed true to our values of integrity and discipline. Lockdown provided us the opportunity to equip 500+ *Dakshas* with the knowledge to use a mobile phone, engage on online platforms, upgrade their English language skills and develop an understanding of basic financial concepts. This wisdom was then passed on to the students enrolled at the SKB centers through continuous online sessions.”

Most of the *Dakshas* belong to tribal hamlets and did not have access to or knowledge of technology prior to the pandemic. One by one, the team at IIFL Foundation successfully removed several obstacles such as absence of gadget (Android phone), poor network connectivity and lack of technical knowledge among *Dakshas*. This was achieved by working closely with the community members. For instance, a community member lent his android phone to the teacher so she could attend training, another community member educated them over usage of mobile app for attending online trainings and so on.

To begin with, the *Dakshas* were brought together over WhatsApp Groups, establishing a two-way communication channel. Thereafter, they were taught to interact and participate in online trainings over virtual platforms such as Zoom and Google Meet.

With the newly built digital connect, video tutorials and PDF documents were prepared to facilitate the teaching activities. These study materials were shared over WhatsApp with the teachers. Live training sessions were conducted over Zoom and Google Meet with the students.



Through this robust system of remote working, the training team was able to co-ordinate with the on-field team. Similarly, Block Managers, District Managers, Trainers and Program Managers were connected remotely through several online platforms.

Working remotely allowed the team to define new objectives of the program (building awareness around the pandemic, ensuring continuity of the literacy programs) and staying connected.

Thus, it was ensured that the learning never stopped at the SKBs.

Media Contact

IIFL Foundation

Sourav Mishra

sourav.mishra@iifl.com

9920285887