



NEWSLETTER FROM SNEHA TRUST

A TIME TO ADAPT

At **Sneha Trust**, supported by Rotary NITK Sneha Junction Club, our vision is to have a **transformative impact in the area of education for the underprivileged**. This past year was a reminder of just how urgent that mission is.

As schools turned to Zoom, and classrooms moved online to chatrooms, the very students we aim to help were among those badly affected. Loss or regression in learning was a serious concern. According to a study by the Azim Premji University of 16,067 children surveyed across five states in classes 2-6, 92% had lost at least one specific language ability and 82% had lost at least one specific mathematical ability.

Our challenge, working along with our education delivery partners **Dream School Foundation**, was to quickly recalibrate and find solutions for how best to protect our high-school students from this loss to their development. There's plenty yet to be done, but thanks to the efforts of a dedicated team of students, teachers and volunteers, we were able to make a start.

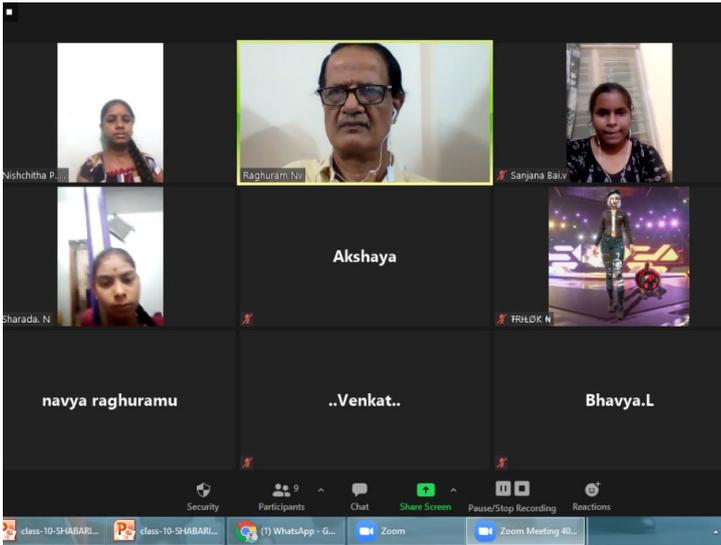
BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Through a **smartphone/tablet collection drive**, we put safe, internet-enabled devices in the hands of our students. Used and new smartphones and tablets helped ensure that students didn't slip through the e-learning crack for want of a device.





E-LEARNING TO PLUG THE GAP



We conducted **online classes** for 10th graders in **Kannada and English**. A special shoutout to NITK alumni NV Raghuram, a former employee of KPTCL and distinguished Kannada poet, whose classes in Kannada are a big hit with the students!



Did you know: Only 28% of government schools in India in 2018-19 had computers and only 12% had an internet connection.

ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING

What careers do the boys and girls want to pursue? Who is their favourite cricketer? Do they need help with a maths problem? Do they face any issues with their families? Everything from the mundane to the profound is a conversation in **one-on-one sessions** between **Sneha volunteers**



and **high-schoolers**. Mentors have been able to build trust with their students and even identify cases where more professional intervention or counselling may be helpful for children in need. As always, the best learning happens in both directions.

SIGN UP TO BE A MENTOR!



COMPETING WITH CONFIDENCE

TAPAS and SAADHANA are two programmes conducted by the NGO Rashrotthana Parishat, which prepare qualified boys and girls from socially and economically backward demographics to compete in exams such as IIT-JEE/NEET/CET/IISER etc. The selection process for these programmes is very rigorous and competitive. At Sneha, we strongly advocate these programmes to our students and instil the belief that they are academically equipped to apply for and succeed in these programmes.

We conducted an orientation and motivational programme for the children along with their parents, to encourage them to follow their dreams of careers in science and engineering, or medicine.

We are happy that four of our students cleared the first round of the examinations.



ENGLISH CAN BE FUN!

All year, our volunteer trustee worked to improve English learning by making the language fun. As part of the sessions, there were books to read, stories to tell and board games to play. Students were also given English dictionaries.



**SNEHA TRUST AT
NITK BANGALORE'S
UNLOCK RUN 2021**



A NOTE FROM THE SNEHA TEAM

"Sneha" embodies the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship we experienced during our formative years while at NITK. As successful engineers, managers, entrepreneurs, academicians and, most importantly, family members, we have the knowledge and experience to draw on for giving back to society. With **Sneha Trust**, we hope to build a sustained and scalable social project with transformative impact.

What began in 2007 as a small effort to support the family of a dear friend and batchmate after his passing, was in 2018 repurposed into a larger education initiative for underprivileged children. As of 2021, we support the learning needs of around 80 children, through an after-school programme for classes 8, 9 and 10 in Bengaluru, run by our partners **Dream School Foundation**.

Through the **Sneha Sandesh** newsletter, we want to share our stories and learning on this journey. Please get in touch with your ideas and expertise. As that timeless prayer goes, *Tamaso ma Jyothirgamaya* - lead us from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge!



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Thank you also to all our individual donors. Your support is invaluable!

HOW TO SUPPORT

Be a **Principal Donor**:
INR 10 lakh over 3 years

Be a **Platinum** (5L), **Gold** (3L) or **Silver** (2L) donor; be a **Smaranartham** (IL) donor in memory of a loved one

Adopt a student: INR 12,000 per year

Become a **mentor**

Contributions may be made online via the [Sneha Trust website](https://nitksneha.in/) or by cheque.

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