



WHEN THE TIMES GET TOUGH THE TOUGH GET GOING...

The afternoon of 24th May, 2020 took a heavy toll on us all as our beloved volunteer Satyam Parkar breathed his last at the age of 32.

Satyam's early life was full of struggle but he overcame it all and became a graphic designer on his own merit. His self-reliance and selflessness stood out just as brightly as his radiant smile!

He joined Ankur Pratishtan in 2012. As a person who had lost his parents at the early age of 10, he was naturally empathetic and dedicated to our cause. He had a profound impact on countless lives, particularly on the lives of children at Anand Kendra, Worli. He even taught 3D-rendering and graphic designing to 2 children to make them financially self-reliant.



Throughout his journey with Ankur, he served in various positions. Starting out as a volunteer, he became Ankur's HoD of Fine Arts, then Centre Head at Anand Kendra and finally, Treasurer (Mumbai Region). Satyam's actions spoke louder than his words and his presence itself was enough to give us all the support to continue working at all times...

He is survived by his wife and 3 year old son, a younger brother, 2 uncles and aunt; however that wasn't the only family he had, he also had us. You learn to live with some losses but never truly recover from them; Satyam's early demise is one such loss.

Satyam was a lot more to us than words can possibly describe. Satyam wherever you are, know that we all love you and you will never be forgotten.

May Satyam's soul attain sadgati.

SAMVAD

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

The initial months of lockdown brought great sorrows upon family Ankur. Several of our volunteers and their close ones came down with COVID-19. The passing of our loving brother Satyam Parkar dealt a great blow and left us in tatters. We were all griefstricken. However, we overcame it all through sheer willpower and our familial bonds. It will not be an exaggeration to say that our volunteers' bonding and resolve are tougher than steel because all we ever heard our volunteers say was, "Come what may, **THE SHOW MUST GO ON!**"

Our partner CCIs faced their own set of challenges during this period. After all, caring for all of our beloved children does not come easy! However, as any good partner would, we stepped in to support them wherever they stumbled. From survival essentials such as food & clothing to video conferencing solutions for continuing children's education, we provided all the help we could where needed. We extend our thanks our donors whose selfless donations made all this possible. In the mean time, our volunteers directed their undivided attention to long term planning, and also

researching & developing activities. Training sessions were conducted for our volunteers to further hone their skills. The internship programme we conducted for students from IIT-B was another major highlight of this period. When the dust began to settle, we decided to reconnect with our beloved children via digital platforms and reached out to our partner CCIs accordingly. When digital activities started, our children were just as happy to see us as we were to see them!

Our take-away from the lockdown was not all bad. Trust, positive mindset, the drive to rebuild & family values were all firmly reinforced in our hearts.

The times are trying,
The struggle is long,
But we'll all triumph
For we stand strong!

- Prof. Prasad Parulekar
(President, Ankur Pratishtan)



A Friend In Need Is A Friend Indeed!

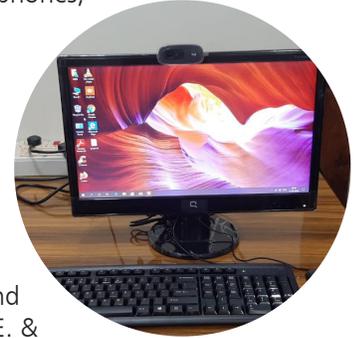
The COVID-19 pandemic posed an unforeseen challenge before Team Ankur. Just as the rest of us, our partner CCIs were also going through a tough time. As any good partner would, we did our best to help our friends in need. We provided assistance to Jeevan Samvardhan Pratishthan (Thane & Titwala), Nandadeep Foudation (Kalyan E. & W.), Maher (Kopar Khairane), Maze Maher (Kala Chowki), Balikashram (Dadar) and Family Home (Dadar) in various forms; to some by supplying fresh fruits & vegetables, to others by providing groceries & clothing.



As the dust began to settle, we reached out to our partner CCIs to see if they had facilities for video conferencing and digital meetings so as to start

schooling and other activities. We found out that some centres had no devices to access the internet and some others had outdated systems without microphones, speakers & WebCams!

We set out to overcome this challenge. A total of 6 new PCs with accessories have been installed by Ankur Pratishthan at Children Aid Society (Mankhurd), Balikashram (Dadar), Jeevan Samvardhan Pratishthan (Thane & Titwala), and Nandadeep Foundation (Kalyan E. & Kalyan W). These systems will go a long way towards increasing the children's digital literacy while also getting them in touch with the rest of the world!



All this was only possible due to the active support of our empathetic donors who know the struggle of the CCIs and have the willingness to help others even in the most difficult times. We shall forever be grateful to them for their generous assistance to us at all times.

Novel Beginnings

The months of lockdown gave us time to introspect and improve our methodologies by developing specialized teaching modules. Just as we began working on the first phase of this development, Abhuday (A Social Body of IIT Bombay) reached out to us.

Every year, Abhuday partners up with various NGOs to provide summer internship opportunities to students of IIT Bombay. The novelty this time was that all the internships this year were confined to the digital space.

We are always on the lookout for novel approaches to skills training as also subject teaching. We decided to utilize the knowledge of students of IIT Bombay for designing and developing subject modules for Science and Mathematics. The other task chosen was development of Mobile Application for Project Vikas.

We received an astounding 93 applications of which we selected 5 interns through screening & interview. The panel of experts included Smt. Shobhana Bhide (Educationist), Shri. Parag Jahagirdar (Founder— Mindworks Education, and Bodhayan Innovation), Shri. Kedar Penkar (Educational Content Developer), Shri. Vivek Parab (Teacher Trainer), Shri. Swapnil Srivastav (IT Expert), Shri. Kundan Sakpal (App Developer) as well as our our President Shri. Prasad Parulekar, Member of Managing Committee Smt. Aditi Patankar, and Chairman of Thane Regional Committee Smt. Jayeeta Saha.

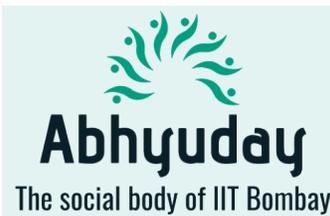
The five selected interns were Kum. Keerthana Prabhu (S.Y.M.Tech.), Shri. Manan Goel (F.Y.B.Tech.), Shri. Hrushikesh Kulkarni

(S.Y.M.Tech.), Kum. Aditi Kadam (F.Y.B.Tech.) and Kum. Labdhi Gandhi (F.Y.B.Tech.).

The internship commenced with a formal Orientation Programme on 2nd July, 2020 and a day-wise schedule was chalked out. A review meeting was held on every Saturday in July wherein the interns presented an overview of the week's development to their mentors and discussed the plan of action for the upcoming week. To mark the end of the internship, a felicitation programme was held on 1st August 2020 via video conferencing. Shri. Sudhir Mutalik (Entrepreneur & Vice Chairman, CII Maharashtra State) was the Guest of Honour for the online felicitation ceremony.

The internship marked a new beginning for Ankur Pratishthan. We are sure that the science & mathematics activities developed by the students will go a long way in strengthening Ankur's hold in subject teaching. The application which Kum. Labdhi was working on is now being further developed by Ankur Pratishthan, and should soon be ready for launch.

What we cherish the most in any partnership is the partnership itself. Working with Abhuday (A Social Body of IIT Bombay) has been a pleasant experience and we are grateful to them for reaching out to us. We thank Abhuday, all the students who applied, the selected students & their mentors, and everyone else involved directly or indirectly in this effort. We look forward to working together with all of you even in future!





Forget The Old, Rule The New

Anubhooti 2020 was concluded in February 2020; by which time the 105 volunteers, 26 leaders of Ankur and 450+ children from our partner CCIs were beautifully harmonised. The thing we missed the most during the lockdown was this symphony. We were sure that this pause was temporary, as if a fermata in well choreographed music. We were waiting for the ripe time and opportunity and we received it through the medium of online education.



Balikhshram (Dadar) and Jeevan Samvardhan Pratishthan (Thane & Titwala). Ankur Pratishthan has been working with renewed vigour, novel methodologies, and a fresh outlook for the last two months the results have been fantastic so far! From listening to first-hand accounts of essential workers' hardships during the lockdown; to a virtual tour of Mayureshwar temple; to live interactions with national & international sportsmen; to understanding the problems of children with hearing impairment by interacting with their teachers; our volunteers have been busy giving the children enough food for thought and development!



We have resumed work digitally at Family Home (Dadar),

Some Unique Initiatives:

- Taking into consideration the adverse psychological effects of the lockdown, we organized the webinar "Mind (is) your business" by Smt. Madhura Bhonde (Counseling Psychologist & REBT Practitioner). Over 54 volunteers were present for this webinar.
- The webinar "Secure your Cyber" was held on 4th May 2020 in which Smt. Aditi Patankar (IT & Data Analysis Expert) spoke about preventative cyber security. 42 volunteers were present for this webinar.
- 'Story Narration' is a simple yet powerful tool for teaching as well as recreation. Therefore it was deemed necessary to seek guidance from experts to refine our narration skills. Accordingly, a Zoom Workshop "Kala goshta sangnyachi" was conducted on 13th September, 2020 in Marathi.

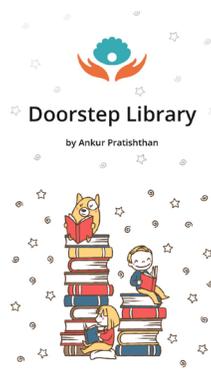
In the first session Shri. Jayesh Mestry (Writer, and Member of Advisory Committee of the Indian Film Censor Board) spoke upon choosing a story & effectively using language, and plot devices to educate and entertain the audience.

The second session was taken by Smt. Neha Khare (Producer, and Programme Officer, All India Radio, Mumbai) who spoke upon the subject of voice modulation, hand gestures and expression for effective delivery of a story.

- A Story Narration Contest has been launched to put the skills learned from the workshop to test!

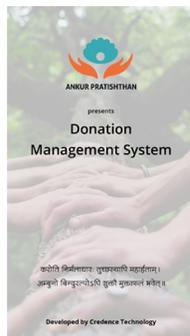
In order to improve the effectiveness of our signature initiatives and ease the tasks of our PR team we have launched the following Android Apps in this quarter:

Mobile Library App



- 1) Provides free access with optimized search functionality to over 750 books of various categories in Marathi, Hindi and English suitable for ages 6 to 16.
- 2) Reviews, thumbnails and basic details of every book are now just a click away!
- 3) Demand and issuance procedure for books is now fully digitized!
- 4) Once a request has been raised, our team will deliver the book at your doorstep!

Donation Management App



- 1) With this singular user-friendly platform for raising and managing donations & 'Celebrate with Us' requests, documentation is no longer a hassle!
- 2) Immediate acknowledgement to donors and volunteers via emails & SMS.
- 3) The app provides a Donors' birthdays feature. Wishing our donors has never been easier!
- 4) Integrated social media buttons and easy access to newsletters & other necessary documents makes this the perfect tool for PR activities!

We express our gratitude to **Credence Technologies** for building these wonderful platforms!



Ankur Pratishthan has completed the process of appointing its Managing Committee for the 5-year period 2020-2025. In view of the planned geographical expansion, PR Team, Administration Team & Regional Committees (for Mumbai, Thane, and Navi Mumbai) for the 3-year period 2020-2023 have also been appointed, the details of which are as under:

Managing Committee:

| Designation | Name | Profession |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| President | Prof. Prasad Parulekar | Academician |
| Vice-President | Shri. Pareshkant Manglik | Industrialist |
| General Secretary | Shri. Pranav Bhonde | Journalist |
| Joint Secretary | Adv. Shaunak Gokhale | Lawyer |
| Treasurer | CMA. Pravin Dalvi | Entrepreneur |
| Member | Shri. Sanket Apte | Commercial Diver |
| Member | Smt. Aditi Patankar | IT Expert |

Mumbai Regional Committee:

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|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman | CA. Pratik Karpe | Service Professional |
| Secretary | Shri. Vijayendra Acharya | Student |
| Treasurer | Shri. Devang Shah | Industrialist |

Thane Regional Committee:

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman | Smt. Jayeeta Saha | Academician |
| Secretary | Kum. Dhanashree Randive | Student |
| Treasurer | CMA. Snehali Dhabugade | Service Professional |

Navi Mumbai Regional Committee:

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|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman | Prof. Kashmiri Pandit | Academician |
| Secretary | Shri. Mayur Dhoke | Student |
| Treasurer | Adv. Aditi Joshi | Service Professional |

Administration Team:

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|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Convener | Smt. Vishalakshi Chavan | Service Professional |
| Co-Convener | Madhura Bhonde | Counselling Psychologist |

Public Relations Team:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Convener (Fundraising) | CA. Nirmal Jadeja | Service Professional |
| Convener (CSR) | Shri. Omkar Sathe | Service Professional |
| Convener (Community Outreach) | Shri. Deepak Palsule | Journalist |
| Convener (Friends of Ankur) | Shri. Manas Gokhale | Service Professional |