

Live Happy



Discover The Message Within And Share

Newsletter

No.4

July-December



Introduction
of the Live
Happy staff

Activities with
the children at
Happy Home



Discover The Message Within And Share

Who we are

We are LIVE HAPPY NGO, from a small village- Assagao, Goa- India.

We strive towards bringing about eclectic solutions to societal problems through a Sustainable Development model.

Therefore our motto is to promote and achieve social empowerment by implementing a child-centered community approach.

Aligned with this mission we have a number of projects that run simultaneously to achieve this goal.

These are manifested into three main projects:

1. Live Clean

- Hosting regular clean up drives and waste awareness programs in public/ tourist spots for a clean environment, in a effort to promote responsible tourism.
- Aid in waste management techniques and provide materials for awareness, within the community, in collaboration with different government organizations and public welfare bodies.
- Permaculture project, providing a medical herb garden and awareness for the rich biodiversity of Assagao

2. Live Empower

- Learning classes, addresses the need for quality education among underprivileged children. This venture is an attempt to fulfill the UN development goals for third world countries, for nurturing of the child's holistic growth.
- Awareness programs that seek to educate the masses about relevant topics in society like basic human rights, hygiene issues and empowering the girl child, to name a few. This is done by approaching local organizations like schools and colleges in aiding them to achieve this goal.
- Organizing and executing heritage walks through promotion of heritage tourism. This is an attempt to preserve and protect the essence of Goan-ness, teaching people about culture and tradition to be implicated in business models.

3. Two Lives project

- Providing cultural exchange programs for students from around the world to volunteer with our NGO for long term projects.
- Approaching different institutions abroad and at home to be trained and involve themselves in Social Welfare/Work.

Post lockdown we were observing and analyzing, what happened during the lockdown that gave us a clear idea in what way we can help. Especially the children and their education. We don't know how much they are grasping what is being taught online.

Hence we started our Green Champions Project, to keep our children engaged by learning more about the biodiversity of Goa, through a fun contest. This project has been going on for over six months and will be coming to an end soon. Through this contest, the children not only learn about our rich natural heritage but also things like a sense of responsibility, patience, etc.

And while the citizens of the country and the world were introspecting on how we can further protect our environment amidst all the destruction through wildfires, gas leaks, floods, and moreover human greed, the government of Goa permitted three projects that threaten the forests in and around Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and Mollem National Park in Goa these projects.

The Mollem National Park is recognized by UNESCO as a biodiversity hotspot. The current massive Save Mollem Movement is a fight between the economy and the environment, this kind of massive movement is the first of its kind. I have seen so many people come on the street to fight for what they believe in. I personally participate in most of the events and movements, to show us. I make sure to cover these events on my social media platforms since we have a large following of people from across the globe. My hope is that this time our environment wins over the economy and that this biodiversity hotspot remains pristine for our future generations.



Felly Gomes
Founder



Beatriz Contreras Milla
Co-Founder

Greetings everyone to the first edition of this 2021. Indeed! What an extraordinary year ensued!

We must thank our international partnerships because now more than never we need to ensure strong international cooperation to recover from the pandemic, build back better, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Live Happy is following the guidelines of AGENDA 2030 from our local level to build upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people and the planet at the center.

We are working and looking forward to encouraging and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships around the world.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and inspiring year!



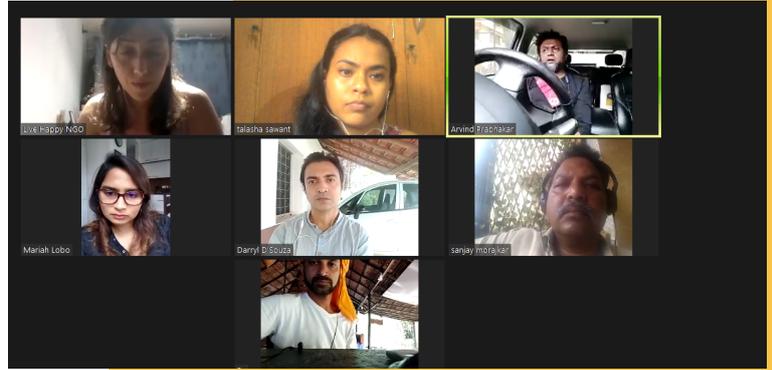
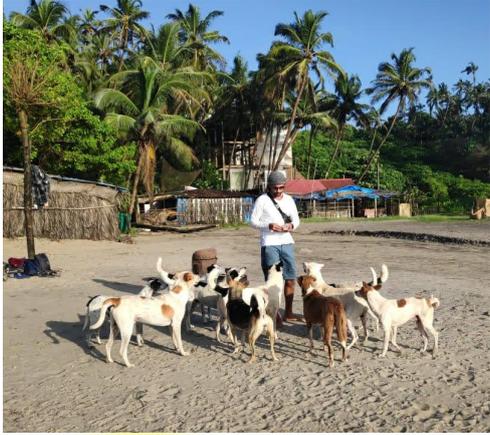
Talasha Sawant
**Project Coordinator &
Counselor**

2020 has been difficult and transformational for so many of us. And, so it has been at Live Happy too. The entire team has adapted to this new way of learning and connecting. I have to admit that it was challenging in the beginning but we have finally found our rhythm. We are currently working in a hybrid fashion in our school, we have tuitions conducted online and our activity hours are conducted offline twice a week.

And I have to say thank you to our tuition teacher Lourdes Machado, our volunteer Philomena Machado and our creative arts and mindfulness facilitator Sasha Braganza for being so supportive through this process. And not forgetting the Bookworm team that has continued working with our children throughout the lockdown and even now. I am also happy to inform you that the Bookworm library is now open to not only the Live Happy children but to all the children of Assagao and the neighboring communities!

Since most of our students come from challenging backgrounds, not all of them are currently able to benefit from the online tuition classes, we are hoping in this new year we are able to find the required help to ensure that these children can join our online classes too. I would also like to let our readers know that those children who aren't able to attend online classes are given the option to only attend our activity sessions, this way we are still connected to them. With your help, we are hoping to reach out to them

Wishing all of you a fantastic year ahead.



July



Bookworm Sessions - Sharing Stories while Social Distancing

Due to an increase in the cases in the state, the Bookworm sessions had to be organized with a lot of care and caution. We had two book exchange sessions on the 7th and 14th of July. The number of students coming to exchange their books was limited between 6 to 10. Shortly after, to a COVID positive case found in Assagao, we had to put our sessions completely on hold. Nevertheless, our Bookworm team continued to send stories to the children via Whatsapp, and group discussions were conducted via Google meet.



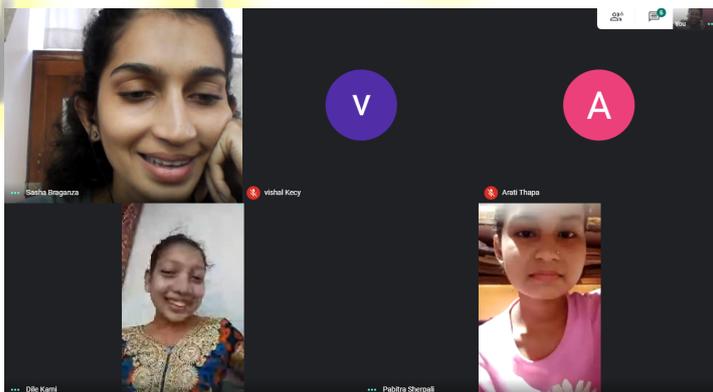
Completion of the first successful month - Green Champions Project

The month of July marked the successful completion of the first month of our Green Champions Project. We had 15 children who participated and took home the saplings out of which 12 children sent their entries. As promised there was a prize distribution conducted for these participants. The topic for this month's video/ write up was: in whose remembrance have you planted the sapling? Our participants sent us heartwarming videos and write-ups, all of which are published on our social media.



Overcoming barriers - Online interactions

The pandemic has drastically changed the way all of us live. This time has been particularly difficult for some of our students as they had to deal with difficult conditions such as the loss of jobs of family members, limited interactions with people of their own age, switching to the online mode of study, and learning to navigate the new online applications. Keeping all these factors in mind, our Counselor Talasha Sawant, and our Mindfulness and Art-based therapist Sasha Braganza, conducted their first online session with 10 of our students. The children were extremely happy to interact with our staff and also their friends. It was decided that we would meet every Monday between 4 to 5 PM to catch up and check in on each other.



Spreading happiness

Live Happy had previously connected with the Don Bosco Orphanage for boys and ASRO home for children with HIV/AIDS when we had organized a pizza party for these children in collaboration with other organizations. We had yet another opportunity to reach out to them by donating 15 Tins of Milo to each institute and 60 packets of sanitary napkins to ASRO. Our volunteers Anushka and Cleophas accompanied our coordinator while visiting Don Bosco and ASRO.



Expansion of the Live Happy Team - Internship program for Green Champions Project

In the month of July, our Green Champions Project was in full swing and there was a ton of work that needed to be done in the background! This work does not only help us take forward this project but it is also a step towards creating our own interpretive center. Interns and volunteers are the backbones and we are extremely thankful to all the alumni that have helped us build so many of our projects. We put out a post seeking out new interns to help with our project on social media on 29th July and a selection process were conducted soon after to find new members to join our team.



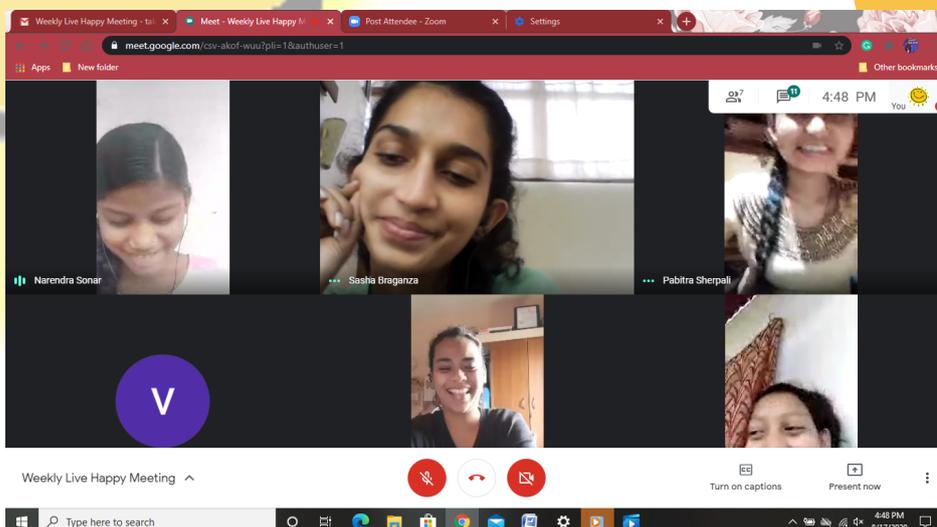
August

Interactive reading sessions by Bookworm

While our regular tuition classes were still at a halt, our students already started their online classes at school. We have been trying our best to provide them with the same facilities as we did before but with technology. The Bookworm Trust has been doing a fantastic job at keeping our children engaged and sending them some great stories that they can watch online.

New Additions to the Green Champions team

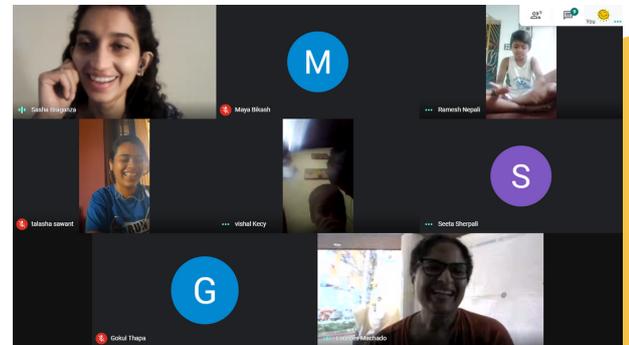
Every project at Live Happy is interlinked- the Green Champions project is interlinked with our sustainable living and Live Empower-Holistic Learning Classes. Our plan for the future is to make Happy Home an interpretive center that will contain information about the rich biodiversity and heritage that Goa and Assagao have to offer. To make this interpretive center come to life we needed display boards to showcase the rich heritage. Luckily our internship program provides us with a lot of help and contribution in working towards this goal. After having a series of interviews we shortlisted three interns: Anuja Mathew, Chandha Periera, and Dhirti Sharma for the internship.



Activity hour with Sasha and Talasha

During our holistic classes, we strive to maintain a healthy balance of work and play and we are trying our best to achieve the same through our online sessions. Activity hour with Sasha and Talasha is a space where the children come together and talk about their day or week.

They share with the group how things they are grateful for so that they also notice the little joys of life during these trying times. The aim of doing these sessions is to help our children know that we are here to listen to them and be there for them.



Distribution of prizes for the Green Champions Project

For the second month of the Green Champions Project, we had 10 participants that submitted their entries on the theme of Medicinal Properties of Indigenous Medicinal Wild Flowers.

For this month's prizes, we collaborated with Mr.Englebert who is a local entrepreneur who provides takeaways and food deliveries. We at Live Happy have always believed in promoting and supporting local businesses.

Our entire foundation is built on the concept of sustainability and supporting small businesses is a very simple but effective way to contribute towards the development of our local community. At the time of the pandemic where a lot of businesses are facing difficulties, it is now important more than ever to extend our support towards the local businesses.

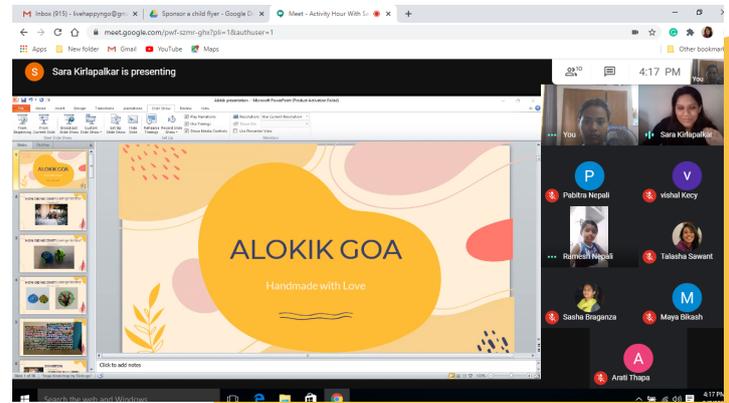


SEPTEMBER

Handmade with love

Our students are transitioning to online schooling which is not easy to do. The Monday sessions are a space where our creative arts facilitator and counselor work on creating a safe space for the children to talk about their thoughts and feelings. Every month has a unique theme. For this month the theme was Gratitude. The children did art-based activities with Sasha- our creative arts and mindfulness facilitator. The activity hour is always conducted on Monday, from 4 to 5 pm on Google meet. We have also decided to include guest speakers to talk to our children so that we continue to expose our students to people from different walks of life, gain insight and inspiration from their experience.

This month we had Sara Kirapalkar- the co-founder of a small business called Alokik. Sara along with her friend started this business when they were 17. They make handmade jewelry from unconventional items like beach glass, plastic clay, etc. The children had a lot of interesting questions for Sara and were amazed by the work just the two of them did.

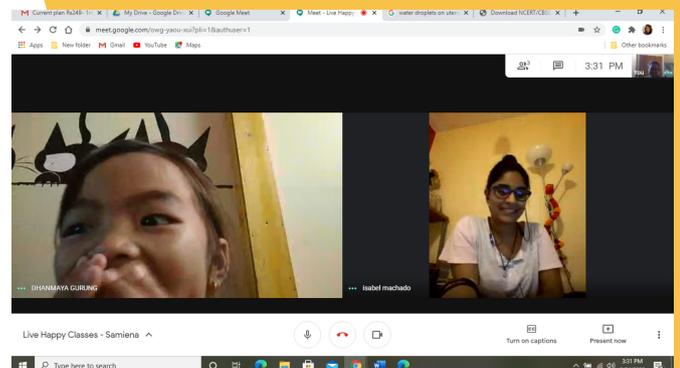
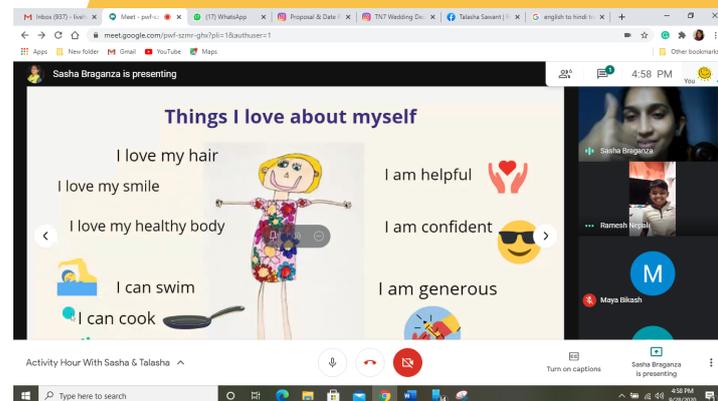


Online classes - the new normal

This year our Live Happy Holistic Learning had 21 enrollments. Unfortunately, only 8 of them have been attending tuition classes online. A handful of our other students only attend the activity hour on Monday and Bookworm Sessions.

A few reasons why our students are unable to attend the classes are: the children do not have smartphones to access classes, network issues or some of the parents do not want their children to do online tuition classes.

For the students that do attend the classes, we have allotted half an hour for each class with our tuition teacher Lourdes. We also have our coordinator Talasha, creative arts facilitator Sasha and our volunteer Philomena that help in taking these classes.



Successful completion of the third month of the Green Champions Project

The month of September marked the third month of the Green Champions Project. We had 10 participants that submitted their entries on the theme of Indigenous Wild Fruits.

The children had to select plants from the list that was provided to them or others too, and let us know which 3 fruits are their favorites, why they like these fruits as well as information about their medicinal properties. Like always, their informative entries were posted on our social media pages. We collaborated with Mr. Englebert, a local entrepreneur from Assagao who provided our children with prizes in the form of sweets and goodies!



Internship Training for the Creative Arts and Mindfulness Program

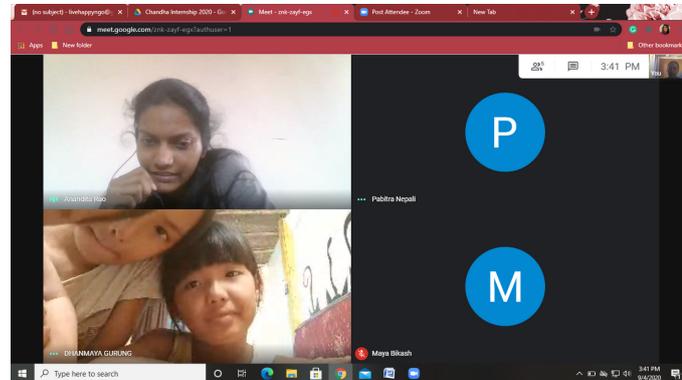
Live Happy continuously strives to ensure the all-round development of our students. We observed that our children thoroughly enjoyed Anapana Meditation sessions as well as Sasha Braganza's activity sessions. So, for the new academic year, we decided to combine these two programs that not only our children enjoy but they will also benefit immensely from. The aim of this program is to facilitate the development of individual expression through various art forms, building self-discovery, self-esteem, self-confidence, emotional intelligence, resilience, and promoting teamwork, group interaction, mindfulness, meditation, environmental awareness as well as inculcating a healthy growth mindset in our children. We planned to conduct a pre as well as post documentation of the progress that each child will make. As the work is very specific and also intensive we decided to provide special training to our interns to help us with this new program. Our intern Adelia Desa will be working with us for 6 months.

Beach cleanup drive

Our founder, Felly Gomes took part in a clean up drive which was organized by Kenneth Rebello and Gaurav Pokhle to commemorate world tourism day. In a state like Goa where a sizeable share of the economy depends on tourism, citizens need to take more responsibility and strive to make a difference. Our Founder set the mood for the event with earthy music and a dedicated ballad for the mother earth.

Online storytime

Our team has been trying its level best to provide the same level of interactive activities it did offline to the students in our online sessions. The Bookworm Team also is striving in the same direction. They send our children a link to a story that they have to watch and then all of them join in on a group call to discuss the story.



Expansion of Live Happy team

Live Happy is continuously trying to adapt to a new way of working. Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to welcome our yearly German Volunteers. These volunteers helped Live Happy carry out a lot of its activities. Due to this, we had to open a new program of online internships to help us achieve our goals.

This month we had Elizabeth Paul added to our Green Champions Internship Program. All our green champions interns were working on designing boards on the biodiversity of Goa for our interpretive center. We also have Sara Kirapalkar who has been working with us since the beginning of July and has been helping us with managing entries and posts for the green champion's project.



OCTOBER



Interactive reading sessions by Bookworm

Our Bookworm facilitators Melcom and Anandita, have been doing a fantastic job in keeping our children engaged in stories through various online activities. Since the children borrow books from the library there is a weekly online book talk organized. Every week two of our students talk about the books that they have read and the others pose questions to them regarding their books.

This is a great way to ensure that children not only read but it also gives them an opportunity to present their work to their peers. The aim of the Bookworm session is not only to encourage the reading of books but also to help the children build confidence to do public speaking. We feel that this is particularly important in the current scenario where all the talking is done by teachers and students are only listeners.



Awareness campaign about the proposed projects at Mollem

From wildfires in California to Australia, a record number of hurricanes in the Atlantic, swarms of locusts in Northern India, we have seen an array of climate-related issues this year that have grabbed the headlines. Climate change has the capacity to unsettle communities and destabilize economies. This month, our fellow Goans gathered at Margao and Immaculate Conception Church, Panjim to highlight the need to combat climate change and protect the world for our youth and future generations. Our founder Felly Gomes, represented Live Happy at the Immaculate Conception Church, Panjim to show our support for the cause.



Activity hour with Sasha and Talasha - What's your story?

In this month's edition of activity hour with Sasha and Talasha, we focused on emotions through storytelling. Every Monday, our creative arts and mindfulness facilitator Sasha picked up a new emotion to discuss. We spoke about anger, fear, and sadness. Before and after each story we had in-depth discussions about the emotion, the story as well as how we can ask or give help when our friends might need it.

We also had our final training session with our intern of the creative arts and mindfulness program on the 23rd of October, via zoom.

In this session, Sasha highlighted the goals that can be set for the group, how behavior can be observed, and how these observations can be recorded.

We also had Adilea Desa, the founder of Table Number 7- an event company, as a guest speaker for our students. She not only spoke to the children about her business but also went step by step as to how they can be entrepreneurs themselves. It was an extremely insightful and interactive session.

Gift a phone Campaign

The Live Happy holistic learning classes had to be put on hold for three months and the online classes finally started in September. However, out of the 21 children who were enrolled, only 8 children could attend our tuitions classes, 11 students attended weekly activity hour sessions and 2 have completely dropped out.

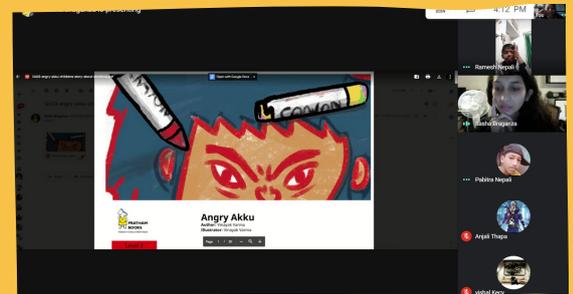
The major reason is because the parents could not afford to keep their phones at home the whole day as they work.

We identified 5 such families that required smart phones to attend online classes and complete school work. We launched gift a phone campaign to help our children. The aim was to collect second hand phones in working condition to give our children this Diwali.

Month four of Green Champions Project

We had 8 participants that submitted their entries on the theme of Butterflies. The children selected three butterflies from the list that was provided to them and shared with us which were their favourites and some other information such as what is unique about them, the seasons which they are found in as well their importance in the eco system.

This month the participants who submitted their entries were gifted goodies made by Anushka Gomes.



Feeding our four-legged friends

The Pandemic has taken a toll on the stray animals that depended on the scraps of food that were given to them by those around. In such times different organizations in Goa have been involved in making sure these stray animals are fed and kept safe during the lashing Goa monsoons.

Our founder Felly Gomes became aware of the fact that biscuit companies throw large quantities of biscuits if they are broken or damaged. Similarly, shopkeepers and distributors also do the same. Thus, Live Happy acquired such packets of biscuits and delivered them to the organization that feeds stray animals.

This distribution was carried out on Sunday 11th October where 2000 assorted Parle biscuit packets were given to various organizations namely Welfare for Animals in Goa, I love Goa Dogs, Dog Temple, WVS Hicks ITC, and Goa Dog Foundation. These packets were sufficient to feed about 100 dogs.

Live Happy, also fed 30 stray dogs on the beach on Sunday. This is more than just a one-time thing, we plan to continue to support and help these organizations to feed animals. We had a second distribution that was also carried where the representatives from the organizations came to Live Happy to collect their second round of biscuit boxes.

Celebrating the life of Lt. Mrs. Teodolina

Lt. Mrs. Teodolina, was 97 years when she passed away. She was very dear to the NGO because so much of the knowledge and information we have about Assagao was because of her willingness to share this information with us. She told us stories about the village, its heritage, the era of the Portuguese and so much more. She was always with us for all our events at the NGO and never withdrew her helping hand. To honor her memory and celebrate her life, a rosary was organized in front of her house and her neighbours were invited for the same.



November

Protecting and Preserving Goa for the next generation

People from all over Goa and the world have been urging the government of Goa for months together to halt the massive destruction of the Mollem- a hotspot of biodiversity. And when the people felt that they were not heeded, thousands gathered at Chandor in South Goa and camped along the railway track with candles, beating drums and raising slogans against the state government's move to push through railway expansion through a stretch located between Margao and Sanvordem. Goan traditional music and dance during the entire protests kept the spirit of Goenkarponn high and made people aware of Goa and its heritage.

Felly Gomes, the founder of Live Happy, also represented Live Happy and has been actively raising awareness on the subject through his massive social media platform.

We are all in this together

The opposition to coal transportation which was earlier confined to South Goa also quickly spread towards the North. Mr. Felly Gomes represented Live Happy at the rally organized by the Parish Youth of Assagao and The Oxel Parish, on the occasion of children's day.

The youth and children went about in the village shouting slogans to not only create awareness but also to show their support to thousands of people who are against this unsustainable development. We are extremely proud of the initiative the young generation is taking to protect, preserve, and restore our Goa. And we are happy to support this cause in any way we can.



A trip to the hills

This is the second to last month of the Green Champions Contest. We have a total of 7 participants that have reached this far in the contest. For this month's reward, we gave our participants an experience as a prize. This experience was a nature trail in collaboration with Khoj-ao, an organization aimed to help the community learn more about the environment and understand our interconnectedness with nature so that we can thrive sustainably within it.

Pooja from Khoj-ao led the participants to the hills of Assagao that are still lush green. On the way, Pooja gave them magnifying glasses, asked them to observe anything in the forest that catches their attention. She gave them a lot of interesting facts about the plant, animal, and fungi kingdom. At the end of the walk, the children were given each a Khoj-ao book, this book was part of the task for the month of November. Here they had to make observations about 3 plants, 2 animals, and 2 fungi. Along with it they also had to draw pictures of their observed species.



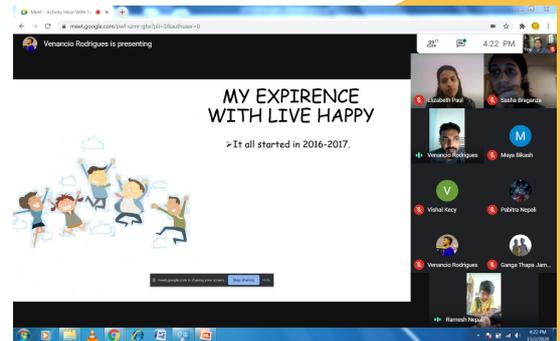
Bookworm Sessions

The Bookworm Library has been conducting Library sessions for our students for almost a year now. And we have seen how much our children are benefiting from these sessions. Almost every child has not been able to go back to school because of the pandemic. They don't thus have access to the same facilities they did at school. So many of them were already spending a lot of time on their gadgets and now with online classes they are doing so even more. Which is why we thought to initiate this project. The Library is open every Friday from 3.30 to 5.30 PM for the children of Assagao and the neighboring villages. This session is free and open for all.



Monday sessions

Every month we have a guest speaker come and speak with our children on their line of work . This is done so that our children are made aware of the array of options they have to choose from as future careers. On November 2nd we had our past volunteer alumni Venancio Rodrigues. He spoke to the children about his experience at Live Happy as a volunteer, the things that he learned here and how his learning experiences at the NGO have helped him grow not only personally but also professionally. On 30th of November, we met 16 of our children for the very first time together after nearly 9 months. It was a joyous occasion to see all of them together . The aim of this session was to help them reorient to the NGO and the activities at Live Happy. We also used this opportunity to inform them that we will be beginning our activity hour in person every Monday and we invited all of them to attend the same.



Singing away the pandemic blues

Soul Fry is a business of food and entertainment based in Mumbai, India, that promises a warm Goan Hospitality. During the pandemic the The Soul Fry Community has made use of their Facebook page to bring to the masses the joy of listening to Live Goan Music virtually. Very eminent artists are a part of these virtual shows.

One such dazzling session was a tribute that the Soul Fry Community paid to Chris Perry, the legend of Konkani music, who left a legacy of songs and music that people enjoy globally, even today. The highlight of this show is the singers who originally worked with Chris Perry. The line-up for the evening includes the ever popular playback singers Usha Uthup along with Hema Sardesai, also joining in this tribute were well-known singers Lulu Fortes, Sarita Vaz, Seby F., O'luv Rodrigues, Cyril Ferrao and Irineu Dias. The show was hosted by the President and Founder of Live Happy Mr. Felly Gomes.



November

Celebrating the festival of lights together

The Live Happy Diwali Camp was held over 2 weeks at the Happy home. To ensure the safety of we tried our best to sanitize our hands regularly, maintain distance and wear masks for each session. The camp was attended by ten children. In week one each child got to pick their own diyas and paint them as they pleased. They were extremely happy to take home their newly painted Diyas and a few of them shared pictures of their lit diyas on Diwali Day.

In week two we decided to plan activities in support of the Save our forests movement that is currently gaining momentum in Goa. The group was previously unaware of the save Mollem movement. They were made aware through videos and an open discussion about the forests. We watched videos of what is happening in Goa at the moment and learned about all the youth led movements across Goa aiming to raise awareness for the preservation of Goa. The children shared their own thoughts and opinions about what they felt about deforestation. Their messages were clear, wise and simple. "The forest is home to animals, birds and reptiles, if we destroy their homes they will die" "If trees are cut how will we breathe?" "A tree that has taken 100 years to grow cannot be replaced by a small sapling" To join this movement in our own way we learned moves from the jerusalem dance challenge to #danceforchange with the rest of Goa and raise awareness to save our forests. The group was divided into pairs and they were asked to create a forest on a chart paper using collage materials including dried leaves and twigs from outside. Beautiful collages were created with equally beautiful messages from the children.





Imagining my future community

Rhea Dsouza is a Goa based architect and artist is a volunteer at the Bookworm Library. Rhea in the past has also been a volunteer at Live Happy and we were happy to have her back in our new Happy home. She conducted a workshop over the span of two Fridays. The Theme of which was: " My community in the Future" : An exercise where the children plan and imagine their community. On day 1 the children explored paper by making a 2D collage using different techniques. They then moved to making 3D collages using paper. Rhea then guided them towards planning for " My community in the Future" Rhea and the children began talking about specific things in their community that they like, the problems they notice in their community (e.g. garbage, no street light, bad roads, etc.). They then wrote on a piece of paper what they like, dislike and hope to see in the future in their community. On Day 2 the students broke into groups, used their write ups from the previous session as a guideline to make their Models. Once the model was completed all the groups began telling their story of "My Community in the Future". This activity helped the children learn to problem solve, think flexibly, investigate, take creative risk, persevere, close observation , collaborate and coordinate.

Empowering women by providing them a source of livelihood

This month we took the first step towards a new project. A project that is very dear to everyone at the NGO, but it is most close to the heart of our co- founder Beatriz Contreras Milla. This month we employed Jyoti to test out this new project prototype. She is a mother and a housewife . Jyoti has a disability and has never had a job. Her work consisted of polishing coconut shells so that the shell could then be used either as a décor piece or as a mug. Jyoti spent 5 hours a day polishing coconut shells. The timing that was given to her was selected by her based on her convenience and was working in the comfort of her home. At the end of the month Jyoti managed to polish 30 coconut shells. The work she did for us helped her earn her first income and we are extremely proud of her.. We are working on further developing this model prototype with the mothers of our students as well as other women in the village.





Revival 2020

Revival Festival, was a joint initiative by Sensible Earth and CCP. The three-day festival began on November 6 at Garcia de Orta Garden, Panaji celebrated stories of sustainable coexistence and was also an opportunity to economically support local businesses, professionals, communities, artists, and musicians impacted by the lockdown. For this festival, Live Happy NGO also had a stall at the festival.

At this stall, we not only promoted our sustainable business i.e. our Assagao heritage walk, and spread awareness about the work we do. But, we also promoted two other local artisans. One of the local craftsmen is Mr. Anthony from Dhuler, Mapusa, who makes Ghumots, the heritage instrument of Goa. The other local craftsman that we promoted was Mr. Vijaydatta Lotlikar, from Parra, who makes very intricate designs and crafts pieces out of coconut shells. Apart from selling ghumots and articles made from coconut shells, we also sold local organic honey.

The founder of Live Happy, Mr. Felly Gomes along with Ketan, a ghumot teacher conducted an encapsulating workshop for the people attending the festival. They were accompanied by Ketan and his troupe on the ghumot as well Keegan D'souza on the guitar.

December

Celebrating our heritage



Live Happy, has always worked towards the protection, preservation, and restoration of Goa. And one way we do that is by creating awareness either through videos, community initiatives, or through our holistic learning classes. One such awareness activity that Live Happy put together for this cause was on the 13th of December, a mini one-day festival.

For this festival we had artists come together to paint a mini tempo, this vehicle is used for the transportation of goods across North Goa, and it will act as a source of information wherever it goes and where ever it is parked. The theme of the art was the biodiversity of Goa. With such large scale destruction of natural habitat taking place in Goa, it is imperative for us to draw the attention of the public to it.

We had 8 artists that dedicated more than 14 hours of their day to ensure that this masterpiece of a project was completed. The artists present were Shrayragi Israni, Divesh Gadekar, Dattaraj Naik, Leticia Alavares, Sanjita Shetye, Shivam Salgoakar, Lina Vincent, and Rajaram Naik. We also had Billy Fernandes who is a very popular cartoonist who goes by the name Billytoons, who visited and contributed to the painting. Aaron Fernandes, the snake expert also contributed to the painting.

Our Green champions also got felicitated at the hands of the artists. We have four finalists and each of them received FC Goa merchandise, sponsored by FC Goa as this month's prize.

The waste management team of Assagao has been doing tireless work they have been doing through rain, shine, and the pandemic. This is why we felicitated them in front of all our guests. And they also had lunch with us.

The food for the day was prepared by Mrs. Conceicao Gomes, and she was helped by Sujata and Cecina . We also had some mouthwatering chocolate éclairs very kindly donated by a newly opened restaurant Alma , based in Vagator.

We ended the day on a musical note with a live music session by various singers and musicians.

A thank you to our volunteers Joe , Anushka and Meloisa for helping us to pull of this event.

Are we really free?

As Goa celebrated its 60th Liberation Day on December 19, more than 30 youths, including minors, were detained in the state for participating in a peaceful protest and a celebration. President Ram Nath Kovind was on a two-day visit to the state for the Liberation Day celebration, the youth protesting against three infrastructure projects were detained from the Panjim Church. Citizens were also detained early afternoon, and driven around in police buses for several hours, and were finally taken to the Ponda police station in North Goa. Many were not allowed to go home till 9 PM. Among the arrested citizens was Mr. Felly Gomes, who had gone to Panjim to witness the liberation day celebration in the capital of the state.

We want a future full of forests

Creating awareness is a very important part of the work that Live Happy does. And with everything happening in Goa in terms of the destruction of our biodiversity this work needs to be done with even greater vigor.

Felly Gomes, Cecille Rodrigues, Tallulah Dsilva, Aldrich Gonsalves along with 7 children visited the site where the 400 KV transmission line is going to come in Mollem. This visit was done so that through videos, awareness could be created for people in the state and across the globe about the large scale destruction happening.



Community Library Project

While Rhea Dsouza from Bookworm was conducting her workshop on children imagining their community in the future we had simultaneously opened up the Bookworm Library which was earlier only open to the children of Live Happy to the whole community.

Slowly but surely we are seeing new faces every week. The Bookworm team not only lends books to the children but also conducts interactive activity sessions with the group every Friday for two hours. We are really excited to see the library grow and have more people take benefit from this really amazing service.

Its the most beautiful time of the year

Following the Diwali Camp, we decided to resume weekly sessions for the children at Live happy in order to keep the festive spirit alive, and given that Christmas was coming closer The aim of the Christmas Camp was to continue engaging with the children creatively through the festive season. Since they spent many months indoors with limited social interaction, these sessions were intended to bring the community of children back together again using creative arts, music, and games. Visual art projects took center stage during these sessions and together we created Christmas-themed community art and decorations including a DIY Christmas tree for Happy home.

Each week the 2hr sessions passed by quickly with the children fully engaged in creating from waste and other materials. With Carols playing in the background, they worked together in small groups to decorate Happy home for the season. The theme for each session was centered around creativity, joy, and togetherness. The Christmas camp concluded with a party for the children where Santa was present and gifts for each child were handed out sponsored by well-wishers.





Sponsor a child!

Live Happy Holistic Learning Classes comes under the Live Empower Project of the NGO.

The Live Happy curriculum focuses not only on the academics but also strives towards helping each student to find, nurture and grow their unique strengths.

With this we hope to generate independent and creative and critical thinkers of tomorrow that formulate change by living with an example.

With your contribution and help we hope to make a difference in a child's life.

Your sponsorship will help us:

- provide tuition
- holistic learning classes
- snack to the child
- cover up expenses of the material for activities and other additional workshops

We will provide a detailed report of the child's improvements at the end of the academic year.

The cost of sponsoring a child for 12 months is Rs 6000

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