

Live Happy



Discover The Message Within And Share

# Newsletter

No.5

January - June 2021



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 an 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 children of the community. 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 a 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 the 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.

We are on our journey to create a child centered sustainable village module. We are happy to share with you all that we successfully completed our Green Champions Project the final round of which was held in the month of February.

Just when the situation started to get better, seeing the second wave hitting Goa was a very challenging time for all of us. The number of Covid-19 cases in Assagao started to rise at a rapid rate, because of which we were forced to stop all our offline activities. Our team shifted to the online mode of delivering sessions to the children and staying in touch with them, there was very less scope for us to work on the field this time.

I am grateful to our funders for their constant financial support to help us continue our work during these difficult times and also to our team of volunteers who have come to work together and help us in our journey,

We are trying to reach out to our children and their families if they need any help in any way. We believe this is just a phase and it will pass, we look forward towards to the bright future hoping things get better soon.

This newsletter is a glimpse of reality done by us in the last months. There's much more to achieve in upcoming projects. Let us work together to protect, preserve and restore our motherland!



**Felly Gomes**  
**Founder**



**Beatriz Contreras Milla**  
**Co-Founder**

Education enables upward socioeconomic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty. Over the past decade, major progress was made towards increasing access to education and school enrollment rates at all levels, particularly for girls. In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe, a majority of countries announced the temporary closure of schools, impacting more than 91 per cent of students worldwide. Never before have so many children been out of school at the same time, disrupting learning and upending lives, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. The global pandemic has far-reaching consequences that may jeopardize hard won gains made in improving global education.

We thrive on aligning with UN goals, forinstilling basic humanitarian rights and according the ODS 4 Quality Education we want to protect the well-being of children and ensure they have access to continued learning, this is why we have created a Intercultural educational program for diversity management called TWO LIVES. It is an educational program that promotes intercultural dialogue and a meeting space based on the principle of equal opportunities and inclusion. It is inspired by the theory and practice of integral education advocated by Rabindranath Tagore, arduous champion of the dialogue between cultures and peoples. Tagore strived for a closer relationship between the Western civilizations and India, as he was convinced that East and West could cooperate.

The methodology we use, "learn by experimenting", allows participants to get in touch with the realities of India-Europe, facilitating encounters between people, a deeper knowledge of the culture and society of India in diversity, a space for the exploration and practice of such knowledge and values in an environment of respect and freedom. We propose a direct involvement of the participants and we introduce them to everyday life of India and Europe, the gastronomy and the various festivals, the different religions, customs, and traditions, etc., discussing interesting facts and any queries that may arise.

The team that directs the activities is composed of a group of experts from India and Europe with extensive experience in intercultural education.

The new year 2021 came with a new hope, we resumed our holistic learning classes, Bookworm sessions and also started with offline tuition classes for few of our children. We had 18 children coming in regularly for the sessions. Our Creative Arts and Mindfulness Facilitator Sasha Braganza conducted Activity hour on Monday, the Bookworm team came in every Friday with funfilled sessions, our tuition teacher Lourdes Machado, our volunteers Philomena Machado and Joseph D'Souza have provided constant academic support to our children as well.

During the first three months of the year we had many offline activities along with proper precautions taken to keep ourselves safe from Covid-19, however, from the month of April we had to put a hold on our offline sessions and switch to the online mode.

Since most of our students come from challenging backgrounds, not all of them are currently able to benefit from the online classes. However, we have been in constant touch with our children and their families inquiring about their health and rations, as well as giving them the ability to seek assistance with anything they need.

We hope that things will soon improve so that we can resume back our offline sessions with our children!

I would also like to extend our gratitude to all our sponsors and supporters who have helped us in many ways to help us continue with our work.



**Elizabeth Paul**  
**Program Co-ordinator**



## January



### Induction of our new Program Co-ordinator

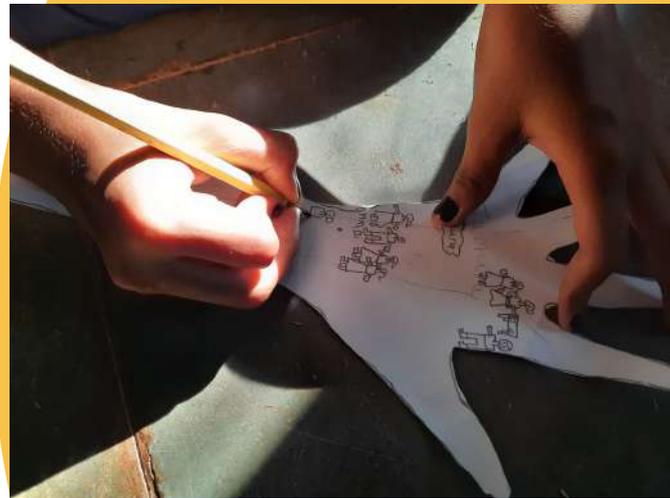
The New year began with the induction of our new Program Co-Ordinator, Elizabeth Paul on 2nd January 2021. She completed three months of online internship with Live Happy after which she was recruited as the new co-ordinator. She is from Mumbai and has completed her Masters in Social Work (MSW) from the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai. Elizabeth was trained under the guidance of our previous coordinator, for one month after which she took up full responsibility of work although Talasha came once a week in the month of February to check up with Elizabeth if everything is going well.

### Home Visits- Introducing our new co-ordinator to the families

The last year was difficult but it was also a year that helped us forge strong bonds with the families associated with Live Happy. Our coordinator Talasha, was the person who was always in touch with the children and their families, she ensured that we provided support and relief to the families in whatever way we could during Covid. Which is why, it was important for us to let our Live Happy families know that she was leaving and introduce Elizabeth as the new coordinator. We had a lovely day of home visits on 28th January. It was mesmerizing to see immense joy on the faces of our children and their families. They welcomed us with lots of love. This is a bond we would cherish for lifetime.

## Activity hour with Sasha

To help the children start the new year on a positive note, our creative arts and mindfulness facilitator Sasha Braganza started the first session of the month by asking the children to share how had the year 2020 been for them. This facilitated a cohesive group feeling. The children were also told to write down their wishes for the new year. This gave them a reason to have a bright vision for the year 2021. The second session focused on team building by conducting outdoor activities. It was a day for parachute activities. The parachute is a wonderful addition to the play equipment in any school, organization or child care center. The children went under the parachute when it blew up and exchanged their places as per the instructions of our facilitator. They had a wonderful time and learned to be cooperative rather than competitive since this activity reinforced turn-taking and sharing. During the third session, our facilitator conducted an activity called “All About Me” wherein the children had to share something about themselves in the form of visual art. They were divided into groups and given art materials like chart paper and colours. They were asked to draw outlines of their hands and cut it out. Then our facilitator asked them questions to which the children had to draw the answer on the cut out of their hand. They then colored their drawings. The end product of this activity was absolutely beautiful and unique. We’ve collected all their art work and displayed it at the Happy Home.





## Informative session on Cyber Crime

One of our former intern of the green champions project, Ms. Chanda Pereira (District coordinator, State Resource Center for Women), along with her colleague Ms. Neha Talaulikar (Women Welfare officer, Agnel Entrepreneurship Development Institute) organized an insightful session through their resource centre on 'Cyber Crime'. This session was given by police inspector, Mr. Vidyanand Pawar, from the cyber-crime police station, Ribandar. Mr. Pawar spoke to our children about the definition of cyber-crime, the types of cyber-crime, causes, and how they can stay protected online. He gave a list of sections that will help the victim to file a complaint against the accused. This session was open to the children as well as to the community of Assagao. We showed our appreciation to the organizers and facilitator of the session by giving them each a 'Kator', which is a heritage monument of Assagao, which was made of clay by our children.



## Interactive and fun reading sessions by Bookworm

Our Bookworm facilitators Anandita and Seasha, have been doing a fantastic job in keeping our children engaged in stories through various fun activities. They conducted three sessions in the month of January. Each session was designed in such a way that it be interactive. To make the day even more livelier, each session started with the children singing few action songs. Fun activities were also conducted like making a birthday calendar and having informative games for older kids using an atlas, dictionary, a thesaurus and an encyclopedia. These games helped our children to understand the difference and uses of these books, they also got to learn some new words. Our younger children made paper planes and decorated them.



## Community Mobilization for Bookworm

On the 28th of Jan 2021, our team spread awareness about our community library in the village of Assagao. We visited Assagao Union High School and spoke to the Principal, Ms. Elizabeth Azavedo, about our Bookworm sessions and asked her to convey to the students to participate and be a part of our library. The principal, Ms. Elizabeth Azavedo has always been very helpful with regard to reaching out to the student community at her school and this time it was no different. We also visited shops and put our Bookworm flyers around to create awareness. While we said our hellos and goodbyes, we also took the opportunity to introduce the community library program to the friends and neighbors of our children.

## February

### Final Round of The Green Champions

The Green Champions project began in June 2020 wherein the registered children received a fruit bearing sapling which they had to grow. The children had to give us an update and research on various biodiversity topics that were given to them every month. They presented their work as write-ups and videos. They were rewarded every month for their progress and their work was assessed upon. There were four finalists: - Ms. Prity Sahani, Master Jerome Noronha, Master Hardik Redkar and Master Sudarshan Patra who were asked to learn and speak about 'Kator' and two other heritage places in Assagao of their choice. The internal markings of the finalists were judged by Mrs. Anjaline Jaquies on the basis of growth, condition and survival of the plant. The final round was held on 13th February 2021, at the Live Happy Centre- Assagao. The judges for the day were environmentalist and Live Happy NGO Vice-President Mr. Darryl D'Souza, Independent Journalist and History Enthusiast Mr. Andrew Pereira and, Field Engineer and Live Happy volunteer Mr. Joseph D'Souza. The competition was very close and Master Hardik Redkar was declared as the winner of The Green Champions. He was awarded with a geared cycle that was refurbished by Mr. Ezekiel Fernandes owner of Brake Down. The cycle was sponsored by Mrs. Ilka Muller Patham, a culture anthropologist. Other participants were given gift hampers. All the four finalists also received an Educational Field Trip on ethical nature conservation - a Mangrove Estuary and Dolphin watching Experience sponsored by Terra Conscious.



## Ocean Excursion with Dolphin Watching and Mangroves Exploration

On 28th February 2021 our Green Champion finalists and our tuitions kids were taken on a wonderful dolphin watching and mangrove exploration excursion offered by Mrs. Puja Mitra from Terra Conscious. Terra Conscious is an effort by Mrs. Puja Mitra and Mr. Roshan Gonsalves. It is a marine and coastal conservation based social enterprise. They work towards empowering the local community through responsible nature-based experiences, conservation travel itineraries and integrated environmental education programs conducted through community partnerships. Through their travel experiences, they support social impact work that focuses on creating awareness about conservation issues. Eight of our kids along with six adults were taken for the ride from the Siquerim jetty. The kids were super enthusiastic and curious to learn new facts about nature; they also managed to spot dolphins and jelly fishes in the sea. Besides, the children learned the negative impacts of releasing waste and garbage into water bodies and the importance of protecting our mother earth. Thus, the idea and importance of sustainable living was instilled into them which they grasped quite well.



## Second hand laptop donated to Live Happy

We were in an urgent need of a laptop since the one at the Live Happy office stopped working. We posted a status on WhatsApp and without much delay one of our former volunteers connected us to a computer technician - Ashley, owner of Divine Computers. Ashley along with the Rotary Club offered to donate a second-hand laptop as well as a printer to us. They visited our Happy Home and handed over the laptop and printer to us. We are extremely grateful to the Rotary club for their spontaneous response in helping us out.





## Improving vocabulary- Bookworm sessions

In the first session, we had a 'book hunt' activity. The children were put into groups and given clues to find a certain book. These clues had to be understood by them in order to find the right book. The children were competitive and energetic during the activity. Every session has a book talk by the children and a book reading by our facilitator. For this session since the main character from the book talk had a lot of watermelons, we too had a watermelon party with our children, hydrating ourselves and having a good time. The children also made cards and jewelry for each other.

In the next two sessions the children were divided into seniors and juniors to conduct separate activities for the different age groups. Activities for the juniors in the second session included a game wherein they had to pick an alphabet from cards laid in front of them and then had to name a word with that alphabet. The seniors played 'snakes and ladders' with a twist. If they landed on any part of the snake's body, they would have to pick up a chit and complete a task mentioned in it. The tasks involved activities like acting out the title of a book, counting the number of times a word was written on the book etc. These activities helped children improve their vocabulary by trying to find and know new words.

In the last session we began with singing action songs. The bookworm facilitators then read a book on animals to the juniors and the seniors read about bakery. After the book reading, the children were given clay out of which the juniors were asked to make any animals and seniors any bakery products by referring to the images in the books. The children got quite creative in making objects. The seniors made things like cakes, buns, rolls, etc. and snakes, cats, mouse, etc. were made by the juniors.



## Activity hour and Talasha's Farewell

As always, our creative arts and mindfulness facilitator Ms. Sasha Braganza conducted activity session once every week with our Children. There was a total of four sessions in the month of February. In the first three sessions games were conducted for the children and in the last session we had an activity that was a farewell for our previous coordinator, Ms. Talasha Sawant.

We had the first session on the 1st of Feb where the children played a game called 'Limbo'. Each child had to pass under a pole kept at different heights. The starting height was quite high and the lowest pole was almost touching the ground level. They had to pass through without any body part touching the pole.

The second session was on the 8th of Feb, and this time we focused on dance and movement. The children started by singing an action song. They then played a game called 'Follow the Book' and also grouped them into pairs to mirror each other while music played in the background. At the end, we danced together to the tune of 'Jerusalema' song which we had learned during our Diwali Camp. The children enjoyed this session quite a lot.

In the third session on the 15th of Feb, the children were engaged in story building. They were divided into groups and were asked to create a story together. After given enough time, they were asked to depict their stories on a sheet of white flex using materials from the forest. This activity kept the children engaged throughout the session and they also worked really well together.

The 22nd of Feb, which is the last session of the month, was also the last working day of our Project Coordinator, Ms. Talasha Sawant. For this occasion, the children made a group farewell collage card. They also were given materials to make a card and write a note to her. They made a creative card together and handed it to her at the end of the session. Talasha too had special notes prepared for our children which she gave to them along with a brownie. The current Program Coordinator Ms. Elizabeth Paul then presented a farewell gift to Talasha on behalf of the NGO and the team.



## March

### Introduction of our new Intern

We welcomed a new member to our team Mr. Venancio Rodrigues. He is currently pursuing his Master's in Social Work (MSW). As his classes are going on online he wanted to use his time in a more fruitful manner hence he decided to start interning with Live Happy, he was also a former intern in the year 2016. The duration of his internship was fixed to 2 months. He has amazing digital skills and loves to shoot videos, he has created lovely videos of the events that took place at Live Happy during the last few months.



### Activity hour with Sasha

The first session of the month also happened to be "International Women's Day," so we had a little celebration with our kids at Live Happy. Sasha, our Facilitator, spoke to our kids about gender equality and what Women's Day is all about. Each child spoke about the women who had influenced them. Following that, the children produced cards for the women in their lives. Each child created lovely cards with messages written on them.

We started the second session by playing a game outdoors with two beach balls. We then returned to happy home and continued with the activity "All About Me," which we had begun a few weeks ago. Children assisted in arranging their hand prints in a pleasing order on a black chart paper. We ended the session with a group dance, as the girls had requested it since the beginning. The children enjoyed themselves and had a nice time dancing together.

The third session started with some warm-up games, after which our facilitator led the Dot Art activity. Each child was given a sheet to practice using dot instruments such as toothpicks and ear buds to explore the colors. The children were completely absorbed in the activity and created stunning designs. In the background, soothing and calming music was being played.



## Bookworm sessions

This month we had regular Bookworm sessions on all Friday's of the month. Every session began with energising action songs like the ram sam sam, clap your hands, make a circle, followed by the book talk round where children share about the book that they read at home during the week. The children were divided in juniors and seniors groups for a few sessions. Our Bookworm - facilitators Anandita and Seasha read out books like Crazy Charlie, Lila's Loose Tooth, The Night of the Glowing Sembar, Gobble You Up, The Truth about the Tooth and The Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore. All the sessions were very fascinating and the children learned to make crocodiles with a wooden clip, to draw and colour using only soft pastels, to design their own book, to use a form of zentangle art and convert that to a puppet. The children got to learn about and perform a mine in front of all of us. They also engaged in the activity called Guided Drawing which involved listening to a story, and then expressing on paper the visuals that come to mind, after listening to the story. Each session came to a close with the book exchange where each child exchanged books and took a new book home each week to read.



## Pagaria Welfare Foundation- Toy Donation

The Pagaria Welfare Foundation donated a box of educational board games to our children as part of the Samporna Shiksha Initiative. The main goal is to establish a toy library for the kids. Having a toy library is a fantastic way to teach children new things and encourage them to visit the center on a regular basis. They sent us a total of ten informative and entertaining learning board games that can be enjoyed by children of all ages. The toys are made in such a way that they promote teamwork and group cohesion. To keep the centre open and equal for all children, the toys will stay at the center. Scrabble, Housie, Puzzles, Treasure Hunt, and other games were included in the pack. When we opened the box in front of them for the first time, the kids were ecstatic. We also split the kids into small groups and assigned each group a game to play. They seemed to enjoy themselves and were eager to try out all of the games.



## Yoga Class

Tara, a yoga instructor, offered to lead yoga sessions for our children. Tara used to teach yoga to girls in an orphanage in Kerala, and now that she's moved to Goa, she'd like to continue sharing her knowledge with the local kids. We agreed to divide the boys and girls into two groups. Tara began the first session by doing more yin yoga and meditation. The kids had a relaxing hour. The yoga session seemed to pique the children's curiosity.



## Feeding our four-legged friends

Live Happy worked with individuals and groups to support animals in need once again as promised in October 2020. Samco Marketing sponsored six large boxes of biscuits to us and we then distributed them to people and groups that provide food to street dogs. These quantities given could feed about 100 dogs.

The biscuit boxes were given to:

- 1) Goa Dog Foundation
- 2) Assagao Union High School
- 3) Noma Alvares
- 4) Komal Naik
- 5) Suzzane Basilico

In Assagao, Chorlim, Badem, and Anjuna, Carol and Neil from the Goa Dog Foundation fed about 55 dogs.

Around ten stray dogs in Assagao were fed by teachers from Assagao Union High School.

Norma Alvares fed dogs at Nofra Vasco and gave biscuits to the dog's shelter house.

In Assagao and near Socorro Panchayat, Komal Naik fed about 15 puppies. Suzzanne fed about 20-30 doggies at Anjuna, hill top area.

This is not a one-time event; we want to continue to support and assist these animal-feeding organizations and people. We continued to send Goa Dog Foundation more boxes of biscuits and will be happy to give them to more people in appreciation of their wonderful work.



## Volunteers meeting

Our intern Venancio organized a group of enthusiastic young volunteers. All of the volunteers present at the meeting expressed their dedication to the planned module about working on the Interpretive Centre and seeking ways to collect funds for our NGO.

## Educational tour by Drishti Lifesavers

We organized an educational field trip for our children on March 27, 2021, in partnership with Drishti Lifesavers. The field trip drew a total of 15 students. The journey from Happy Home to Vagator Beach started at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Joe sponsored the children's transportation on a small bus. He also sponsored fruits (watermelons, oranges and bananas) for the children, volunteers and the life guards. The day at the beach began with the introduction of the children and the life guards. Mr. Elias from Drishti explained to the children the importance of life guards and their role at the beach. He mentioned that it is necessary to greet the life guard before you enter the ocean to swim and that knowing to swim is essential. Mr. Amit from Drishti then explained the risks of not understanding how to swim and showed the basic strategies for entering and navigating in the sea with waves to the kids. With the help of a few volunteers, the team then brought the children into the sea to learn and practice the techniques. The kids were all ecstatic and the majority of them wanted to learn swimming. The children were taken in groups of five at a time. They were all very enthusiastic to get into the sea. A lifeguard gave each child individual attention and instruction. Following the kids, the adults were taken into the ocean for a short swim. The children then spent some time swimming, playing games on the shore and building sand castles in the sand. The day at Vagator Beach came to a close with everyone enjoying the watermelons and oranges that had kept us hydrated on such a humid summer day. Drishti also provided us with samosa and frooti. The children and volunteers thanked the Drishti team abundantly for their time and commitment in educating them about the ocean and marine life.

-Report by Leanne Couto  
(Volunteer)



## April

### Overcoming barriers - Online interactions



Since the number of Covid-19 cases in Assagao is rising rapidly, we've agreed to resume using the online mode of conducting sessions for the protection of our children and families. Sasha Braganza, our Creative Arts and Mindfulness Facilitator, led the first online session of the month on March 12th. The activity of Zentangle Art was the focus of the session. Children were informed in advance to bring a piece of paper, a pen, and a pencil to the session. Our facilitator introduced the session's theme and instructed the kids about how to proceed with the drawing. This new form of art seemed to appeal to them all. Since the session was online, many of our children were unable to participate for a variety of reasons: some of them do not have their own phones, some of their parents take their phones to work, and some do not have internet access. Just six children were present for the session, out of a total of eighteen.

Mira, a new Volunteer, joined us for the second session to observe our session. Only Suman out of all our children was able to join the online session. Suman had a great time conversing with Mira about her hobbies and interests, as well as how much she misses coming to Live Happy. We ended the sessions with a pleasant conversation between Mira, Suman, Sasha and Elizabeth.

The third session on the Zentangle theme was a continuation of the first. Our facilitator asked the children to draw an outline of what they wanted to draw; some chose to draw a butterfly, while others chose to draw a leaf. Then they were told to divide the outlined picture into parts and fill each with a different design.

Despite the fact that our physical classes have been cancelled, our coordinator has been in touch with our children and their families. Inquiring about their health and rations, as well as giving them the ability to seek assistance with anything they need.

## Bookworm sessions

We wanted to try an offline session for Bookworm, but only five children showed up at Happy Home. Despite this, the Bookworm team conducted the session with the same zeal.

They began by playing a game called "photo bingo." Despite the fact that it was a very simple game, everybody enjoyed the thrill of getting the picture card on their sheet. 'The Sweetest Mango' was the title of the book that was read this week. There was also a connection with the mango dishes that were prepared, and the size of the mango (which was larger than a coconut) astounded everyone. We finished with a game of word bingo, where we had to fill in the blanks with words from the novel.

The Bookworm Team then handed out Mango Bite toffee to the kids before concluding with a book exchange.

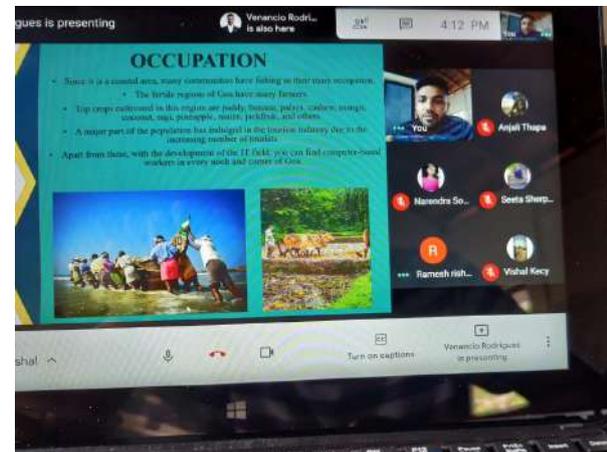


## Volunteers Meeting

An offline volunteers meeting was held to discuss strategic plans, assign tasks, and inspire volunteers to take on leadership roles. The meeting began with an overview of the ongoing work and difficulties, including children who are unable to attend online classes for a variety of reasons. It was also addressed that even though children attend session online, only a small percentage of them can make it. The Interpretive Centre plan and the road map of activities were shared with the volunteers team by Venancio. The volunteers also discussed about ways to raise funds for our NGO by carrying out activities such as producing masks for sale, selling old books, selling saplings, and creating mandala art.

## Informative and interactive sessions with Venancio.

Children miss coming to Live Happy because they are already on summer vacation and are only sitting at home due to the increase in Covid-19 cases. We used to have a summer camp for the kids every year, but we were forced to cancel it this year as well, as we did last year. We do, however, want to keep in contact with our children and show them that we care for them. Mr. Venancio Rodrigues, one of our interns, decided to hold an educational as well as entertaining session for the kids about Goa. Since nearly all of our children are from outside of Goa, he decided to teach them about Goa's history, culture, traditions, attire, language, literature, occupations, food, festivals, handicrafts, and religion. He created a visually appealing PPT to show the kids. The session drew a total of eight children. They even asked questions and took part in the conversation.



## Home visits

It has been difficult to meet and speak freely with our children since the beginning of the month. As a result, our coordinator Elizabeth and intern Venancio went to visit our kids. Our team went to every child's home, inquired about their whereabouts, and advised them about how to stay safe during the extremely dangerous pandemic situation. We also told the kids to let us know if they or their families ever needed anything. We reassured them that we would always be there for them and that they could rely on us in these challenging times. We had a wonderful visitation day. The joy on our children's faces was beautiful to behold. This is a friendship that we will cherish for the rest of our lives.

## May

### Online Activity hour

While the second wave of the pandemic has hit Goa in an adverse manner, it was challenging for us to meet our children physically however, our coordinator Elizabeth Paul has been in regular contact with the families of our children enquiring about their wellbeing.

In this month's edition of activity hour our coordinator Elizabeth spent time with children through google meet providing them a space to communicate and express how they feel and how they spend their time at home. Around 10 out of 18 children were able to participate in the online sessions. Children are in the middle of their summer vacation but due to the pandemic they are bound to stay at home and have less outdoor activities. Children shared that they spent time engaging themselves by doing household chores, playing at home with their siblings, attending online classes and solving worksheets. One of our children went back to her village right after her online exams and from there too she attended a few of our online sessions.

In another session children were asked to draw out on a sheet of paper 'A day in my life' where they had to depict the things they do during the day in a fluid sequence, following which all children then shared their drawing with the group.

In the following session children related their experiences with the Tauktae Cyclone and how it had affected the entire village. They stated that trees had been uprooted and that they had been without electricity and network for around five to six days. They then drew on a piece of paper the day the cyclone hit and how they felt once things were back to normal.

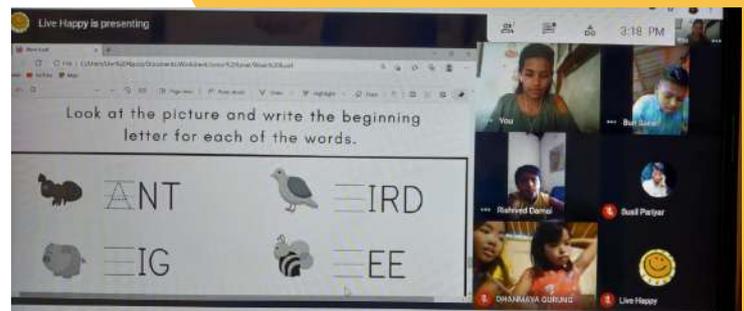
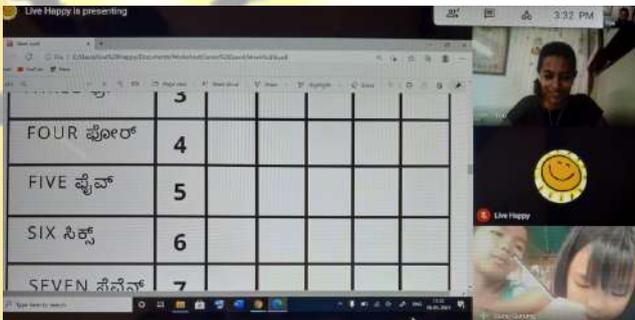
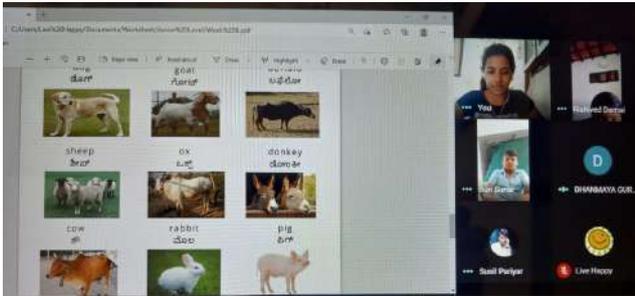
Post cyclone we contacted all of the children to enquire about them and their family and we are relieved to report that all of our children and their family are safe and sound.

In the month's final session, which took place the day following Goa's Statehood Day, May 30, 1987, our coordinator showed a brief movie that depicted the hardships that Goa's elders had to overcome in order to declare the state independent. Following the viewing of the film, the children engaged in a group discussion.



## Online Basic English Class

We decided to engage our children in online basic English class while they are on summer vacation. We decided it would be a wonderful time now to help our kids develop their English skills and build confidence speaking in the language. One Billion Literates Foundation in Bangalore sent us English Curriculum Worksheets. The mission of the OBLF is to provide quality education to underprivileged children in rural Bangalore. Sasha, our Creative Arts and Mindfulness Facilitator, helped us receive simple, entertaining, and engaging worksheets for our kids from OBLF. Junior, Junior High, Middle, and Senior are the four levels of the curriculum. Our coordinator Elizabeth conducted a one-hour online class where she presented the worksheet to the children and they discussed, learnt, and solved the worksheets together in their notebooks. Although not all of our children are able to attend the online class, seven of them do so on a regular basis. We hope to meet all of our children in person soon and provide these worksheets to them for their benefit and development.



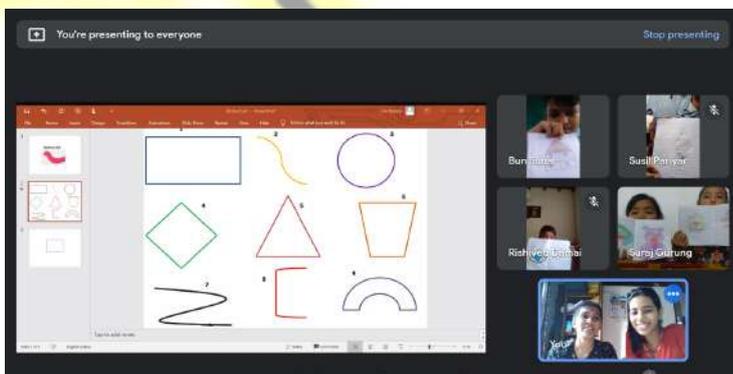
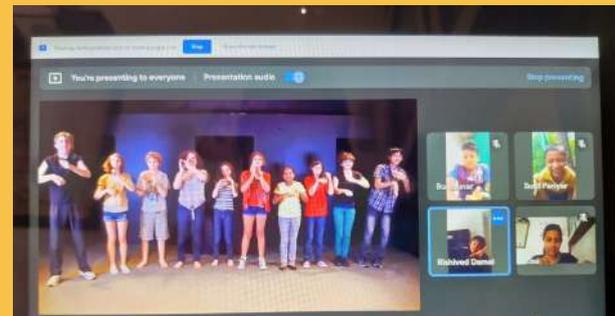
## June

### Activity hour

To mark the occasion of 'World Environment Day' which is ideally celebrated on 5th of June, we conducted an online session on poster making for the children. We also watched interesting videos. Children participated actively and made creative posters to spread awareness about environment protection.

In the second and third session of the month, children learnt to draw with numbers and alphabets respectively. A video was shown to the children and the coordinator instructed on how to go about the activity. The children were content with the activities and suggested to have more of art-based sessions.

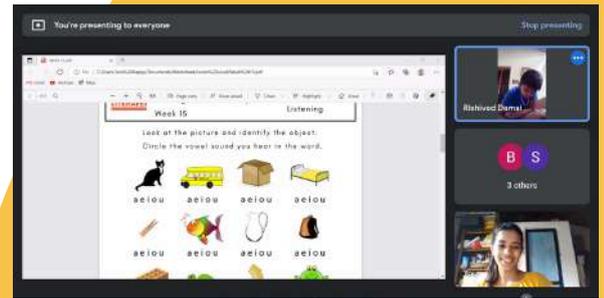
The final session of the month was based on the activity of Abstract Art where children were shown a number of abstract shapes on the screen and were instructed to use any three figures and develop it into a drawing. The objective of this activity was to bring out the creativity of the children and also to develop their creative thinking skill. The children actively participated and used their creativity. Shapes like square, triangle, circle, rhombus were developed into houses, mountains etc.



We will be continuing our sessions online for some time till the scenario with regards to Covid-19 gets better.

## Online Basic English Class

The coordinator continued with the worksheets that we received through One Billion Literaies Foundation. This month children learnt vowels, names of birds, fruits, flowers, vegetables, body parts and solar system. The children seem to have enjoyed the worksheet activities as it was interesting and fun to learn. We have seven children attending these sessions regularly. We observed that children have been putting efforts and learning sincerely.



## Home visit

Due to the on-going pandemic, covid-19, a lot of things has come to a hold. Restricting our movements and activities that would bring joy and learning among us. We at live happy have been missing the joy brought by our children through their active interaction and participation in the various activities conducted for them. As they cannot come to the centre, we at live happy along with our two volunteers decided to visit our children and their families. We kept in mind the covid-19 protocols. We also took some stationery and essential items for the children. We were happy to see our children fit and well as they welcomed us with their warm smiles. We also had a small conversation asking them about their health, online classes etc. we also gave them clothes that were donated at the centre. The visit ended up well. The coordinator also informed students that they are required to come at happy home along with their parents to fill their yearly intake form. Each child was given a specific time to avoid crowding at the centre. Our volunteers helped in distributions of goods and photography.

## Online Student Exchange Program

The Online Student Exchange Program, comes under our third main project- **TWO LIVES** which is an educational program that promotes intercultural dialogue and a meeting space based on the principle of equal opportunities and inclusion.

This year we have one on one online conversation between one of our students, Susil, age 13 years and Nico, age 10 from England. The program consists of a total of six sessions planned by the team of live happy out of which two sessions have been conducted successfully.

The topic for the first session was about '**Me and My Country**'. Here, both the kids prepared a visually impressive PowerPoint Presentation that highlighted a glimpse about themselves, their family, their hobbies and interests and also about their country. The children showed interests in each other presentation and had an interesting conversation. Both the children were accompanied by an adult, the program coordinator hosted the session and Nico was accompanied by his mother.

The second session was based on the theme '**Learn to Speak my Language**'. During this session Susil from Live Happy taught Nico basic Hindi sentences, after which both the children had mini conversations in Hindi. Since Susil was at Live Happy office he showed Nico how the place around looks like, Nico was astonished to see the huge trees all around and to know that there were so many fruit bearing trees in the premises.

Nico and Susil had a lovely time learning and teaching each other about their language and speaking about their surroundings.





# Sponsor a child!

*Take your heart, sprinkle it with a little thought. Add a dash of love and open up your palms. If beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, then happiness indeed lies in the heart of the giver.*

**Live Happy Holistic Learning Classes** is part of the NGO's **Live Empower Project**

Our **curriculum** focuses not only on academics, but **inspires** and **helps** each student to **find, nurture and grow** their **unique strengths**.

## Your sponsorship will help us:

- Provide tuition
- Holistic learning classes
- Snacks for the children
- Cover up expenses of the material for activities and other additional workshops

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

Through our innovative and alternative methods of teaching, we hope to create independent, creative and critical thinkers of tomorrow who will make a change through living by example.

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

**The cost of sponsoring a child for 12 months is Rs. 6,000/-**

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