

# THE CHANGE

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue IV

## The Transition



The only constant in life is the change. A state of change is consistently and invisibly present in our everyday life. When it becomes visible, we experience the transition. In the year 2020, the state of change in day to day life was visible to a large extent, people experienced all-together different lifestyle during the lockdown phase. Slowly, towards the end of the year, the transition started to happen. Post lockdown phase, a phase of re-establishing oneself in the same field or in a different one, a phase of re-learning the lessons learnt earlier and for some a phase of new beginning. People all over the world welcomed the New Year with new hope of health, happiness and well-being.

Almost a year long wait of CSC kids came to an end in the New Year and happy learning phase started again at CSC but with some changes. CSC volunteers expressed their interests to start online sessions with kids and facilitated necessary infrastructure at CSC for online ses-

sions. Teachers, students, and adult learners got themselves trained to adopt the new methods of learning, a transition from black board learning to laptop learning, offline to online, actual to virtual. CSC managed its resources to help children getting used to the new environment, with mask, sanitization and maintaining distance. The beginning of the quarter was all the more exciting for CSC as it carried along the celebration of CSC's Foundation Day. This time CSC celebrated the third foundation day. Three years, the change is visible at CSC, the transition is taking its time to get acceptance and motivating people to accept and appreciate positive changes around. People's participation was at its best at the Centre for Social Change during the quarter.

Dr.Bani Bora  
Founder

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# CSC's Third Foundation Day



The journey which literally started from the open park of Barola, Noida with few children and their mothers on 5th February, 2018, completed its 3rd Foundation day on 5th February, 2021. The day started with full enthusiasm and visible discipline amongst the children. Children were repeatedly trained to be in the best of their appearance and behavior, as the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Vrinda Shukla, IPS was to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest, DCP Vrinda Shukla was welcomed by the CSC team members and children to an ambience of joy, vigor and gratitude. It was an immense pleasure for Dr. Bani Bora, Founder Director-CSC, to introduce the Chief Guest to the children and their mothers, especially emphasizing on her hard work towards receiving the best of education and her dedication to serve the Country by becoming an officer in the Indian Police Service cadre.



DCP Vrinda Shukla congratulated the Centre for Social Change: CSC on completion of its third foundation day. While addressing the gathering, DCP Vrinda Shukla appealed to the mothers to encourage their children, especially the daughters to learn and continue with formal education. Importance of education as well as measures taken by Noida Police to ensure safety of children and women were the areas of importance during the discussion. She also shared her vision of having a police force who would be empathetic in their approach to understand the pain and sufferings of common people.

Mahesh Verma, a mute youth, whose association with CSC started from the first year itself through his talent in art work, honoured Vrinda Shukla by presenting a pencil art sketch of her. CSC honored two of its team members for their enormous service to the CSC families and people in need, during the lockdown phase of Covid 19. DCP Vrinda Shukla, presented Certificate of Appreciation to both the team members: Abhilasha Hayaran and Anamika Pandey. CSC acknowledged the continuous support of another two team members, Chunnu Devi and Neetu for being with CSC to carry out its activities successfully at the centre and awarded a memento of appreciation to each one by the Hon. Chief Guest. Children participated in rapid fire quiz session, song, group dance, drama and story-telling activities while celebrating the day.

Presence of esteemed guests and well-wishers of CSC added fervor to the event. Hiranya Kumar Das, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Defense (Retired), presented a book, 'Music Legend Bhupen Hazarika', authored by him to the Chief Guest. Ashish from CBAS Films, Puneet Sharma, Group Executive Vice President, YES Bank; Nisha

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Rai, Social Activists, Karuna Bhalla, Educationists, Dr. Pranab J. Patar, Chief Executive-Global Foundation honored CSC with their presence and awarded prizes to the winners of various competitions organized during and post lockdown phase. CSC put on record the volunteering support of Puneet Sharma, Nisha Rai and Dr. Pranab J. Patar to reach out to CSC families by providing dry rations, raw materials for mask making and mask distribution during the lock-down phase. Post lockdown, Karuna Bhalla supported CSC children with learning material and nutritional food. On this day CSC fondly remembers all its contributors and supporters, especially Rupam Barua, Kishore Das, Hemen Goswami, Amar Gupta,



Prof. S. Y. Shah, Rony Sahai, R. S. Engineering Works, Bidhan Baruah, Taazaa Tech Pvt. Ltd, Alay Barah, Fair and Sustainable Support Foundation and Dr. Mridula Seth. The concluding highlight of the event was cake cutting to celebrate the birthday of Puneet Sharma. CSC warmly recognized this kind gesture of Puneet Sharma to celebrate his birthday with CSC Family on its Foundation day.

CSC was immensely grateful to the Chief Guest DCP Vrinda Shukla for sparing so much of her time to be with the children and members of CSC family and encouraging them to have a better life by educating themselves. CSC profusely thanked all the guests for their presence. CSC congratulates all the children, their mothers and all the team members for a successful completion of the programme.



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# CSC Advisors

Dr.Mridula Seth and Dr.Shankar Chowdhury were invited as advisors of Centre for Social Change and the invitation was honoured by both the dignitaries by accepting the same with effect from 29th January,2021. A brief profile of both the advisors are as follows:

## Dr. Mridula Seth



Dr Mridula Seth was teaching for 25 years in the Lady Irwin College (Delhi University) and took voluntary retirement to join the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India as Technical Adviser (Adolescents & Youth) for 9 years.

She is volunteering with NGOs in the area of adolescent drug abuse and mental health. Her special interest is in capacity building of field level functionaries for building life skills for empowerment of various group with special needs.

Dr Seth strongly believes in promoting partnership between academic institutions and grassroots organizations involving youth as advocates for mental health and substance abuse. She is recipient of Fulbright post-doctoral research fellowship and Tagore Literacy award.

## Dr. Shankar Chowdhury

Dr. Shankar Chowdhury has more than thirty years of experience in health, education and development sector. He worked closely with Government and Civil Society Organisation in national programmes, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Sakshar Bharat Abhiyan, Technical & Vocational Education, Adolescence Education, AIDS and Life skills Education.

Dr. Chowdhury superannuated from UNESCO Cluster Office (for Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) located in New Delhi. As Senior Program Manager in the Education Sector, he engaged with the Governments of the above mentioned countries for advocacy and program implementation of UNESCO flagship programs such as,



‘Education for All’, ‘Literacy and Adult Education’ and ‘Preventive AIDS Education in Schools’ among others.

Prior to his UN tenure, Dr. Chowdhury was a Faculty member (Addl. Prof) at the Centre for Community Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, where he

taught health behavior and health promotion to medical and nursing students. In 1992, even before the Government’s response to HIV prevention (NACO), Dr. Chowdhury and team started NGO-AIDS Cell at AIIMS for spread heading HIV prevention with Civil Society partners. The focus was on capacity enhancement of CSOs to dovetail HIV and life skills related issues into their existing agenda.

Dr. Chowdhury holds a PhD degree and is currently a freelance consultant - technically supporting national and International Civil Society Organizations in ending violence against children including child marriage.

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## Contributors of the quarter:

Rupam Baruah  
Rony Sahai  
R.S.Engineering Works  
Kishore Das  
Bidhan Baruah  
Megha  
Neeru Abrol

Suneel Kapur  
Mridula Seth  
Nirmal Gupta  
Usha Agrawal  
T.R.Chadha Foundation  
Ms. Poonam  
Fair & Sustainable Support Foundation

Karuna Bhalla  
Amitabh Jindal  
Nisha Roi  
We Care NGO  
Swati Sinha  
Ms. Poonam

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## Khilta Bachpan reopens: Happy Learning at CSC

Post lockdown, CSC re-started its activities from 15th August, 2020, only for senior students through peer learning and stitching classes for women. From 15th January, 2021, learning sessions for young children also started. Children were happy to be back to CSC almost after a year.

## National Girl Child Day

CSC celebrated National Girl Child day on 24th January, 2021 at its centre. National Girl Child Day aims towards promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and to increase awareness on the importance of girl education, and their health and nutrition. Nisha Rai and Ms. Charu were the guests present on the day, who had informal interactive session with the girls and presented stalls to each one of them, which were sponsored by Vinita Jagdish Singh, referred by Karuna Bawa. CSC team members Abhilasha Hayaran and Anamika Pandey ensured smooth conduct of the event.



## Inauguration of CSC Library

On 16th February, 2021, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Sawaswati puja, CSC inaugurated its library at the centre, books were contributed by Nisha Gupta, Tanushree Bose and Sushma Pradhan. Children were happy to see numbers of story books easily available for them to read, learn and share. Children and teachers offered puja to the Goddess of Education, Saraswati on the day. Thank you dear contributors for your care and share.





## Know your neighborhood

DCP Mahila Suraksha, Police Commissionerate, Noida Police, Vrinda Shukla - IPS took an initiative to address the reasons behind child beggary in Noida. She visited all the major slums of Noida and talked to the family members of the children why it is important to stop children from begging and child labour. To engage children productively, DCP suggested to keep them occupied with basic education. For this initiative Noida Police invited NGOs and volunteers to implement the work in the field. Centre for Social Change and volunteer Nisha Rai joined DCP Vrinda Shukla and officer Devendraji at four locations in Sector 44, Sector 49 and Sector 76 respectively, on 7th & 8th January, 2021. Follow up of the visit was to discuss implementation plan as per the convenience of the NGOs. CSC is looking forward for a long-standing partnership with Noida Police in the field of children's education and women's safety.

## January 26: Republic day

CSC celebrated 72nd Republic Day of India with joy, sharing and awareness about the importance of the day as well as history and current affairs. Children were also taught to how to pay respect to the National Flag of our Country. CSC celebrated the day at the centre as well as at the rag-picker cluster of Barola. Nisha Rai, volunteered to join the celebration at both the places and distributed refreshments to the children.



# International Women's Day



This year, the theme for International Women's Day (8 March), "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world," celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the gaps that remain.

## CSC celebrated the day by organizing interactive discussion session with mothers and sisters of CSC family.

Awareness, Togetherness and Vision for Tomorrow were the main focus of discussion. Twenty nine mothers were present on the occasion. 72% mothers were illiterate and almost all of them were hesitant to speak out their names by holding a microphone. A year-long challenge of COVID in their livelihood made survival difficult for many of them. All the mothers expressed their wish for a safe and secured future for their children. CSC proposed to start self-help-group with the mothers and facilitate basic and financial literacy learning opportunities for them. The idea was well appreciated by all the participants. A hygiene kit was presented to all the women.

To understand expert views and vision towards achieving equal future, CSC organized online discussion on the theme. Dr. Bani Bora, Founder Director, introduced the theme to the online audience. Dr. Bora also presented the feedback from the grassroots interactive session with marginalized women. Dr.N.Vasugi, Dean, School of Home Science, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, spoke on women in academia: leading and nurturing future citizens. Dr.Mousumi Roy, Director, Medical Services, Sama Hospital, New Delhi, addressed women leaders in medical services and road ahead. Amrita Sarkar, Advisor: Transgender Wellbeing & Advocacy at Alliance India, Delhi talked about Transwomen: leading and empowering

their self-identity. Dr.Priya Bir, Associate Professor, Psychology, AMV, University of Delhi addressed the theme from mothers' perspective. Mothers as leaders: Strengthening psychological needs of children, was the topic of her discussion. Dr. Sue C.Jacobs, Myron Ledbetter & Bob Lemon Counselling Psychology Diversity Professor, CEHS, Oklahoma State University talked about Women in Leadership: International Perspective. Dr. Mridula Seth, Advisor, CSC India, Distinguished Professor, IIALE, New Delhi, spoke on elderly women and their social responsibility. While all the expert reiterated the need for women's full and effective participation and leadership in all areas of life, which will drive progress for everyone in return, yet everyone agreed that women are still underrepresented in public life and decision-making and illiteracy creates huge hindrance in this path of progress. Reshma Nakte, a participant in the Certificate in Counselling Skills programme of CSC, moderated the programme with good number of active participation in the program.

**CSC CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**  
www.cscindia.org  
Centre for Social Change: CSC India

**"Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"**  
Happy Women's Day

An international web-discussion on Women's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021  
Registration link: <https://meet.google.com/fur-omnh-pud>  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

 <b>Dr. Bani Bora</b> Founder Director, CSC India, Noida, UP Women leadership at grassroots: Challenges and triumph	 <b>Dr. N.Vasugi</b> Dean, School of Home Science, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, TN Women in academia: Leading and nurturing future citizens	 <b>Dr. Mousumi Roy</b> Director, Medical Services, Sama Hospital, New Delhi Women leaders in medical services: Road ahead	 <b>Amrita Sarkar</b> Advisor: Transgender Wellbeing & Advocacy at Alliance India, Delhi Trans women: Leading and empowering self-identity	 <b>Dr. Priya Bir</b> Associate Professor, Psychology, AMV, University of Delhi Mothers as leaders: Strengthening psychosocial needs of children	 <b>Dr. Mridula Seth</b> Advisor, CSC India Distinguished Professor, IIALE, New Delhi Elderly women and social responsibility
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# Ma ki Pathshala

An initiative of CSC since 2018, with the support of Prof. S.Y.Shah, Director, International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Learning, New Delhi, successfully created awareness amongst mothers of CSC children on the importance of literacy, nutrition, health, hygiene, safety measures for self and daughters. As any other adult education programs, 'Ma ki Pathshala' also had its challenges, when it came to actually learning literacy. Out of 12 willing mothers, two self - motivated mothers continued with the learning and practices, Nimrana and Shamsadi. Nimrana successfully completed her learning with fluency in reading, writing and numeracy. Shamsadi was able to identify the alphabets but faced problems in remembering the same.



Follow up of the International Women's Day discussion at CSC :

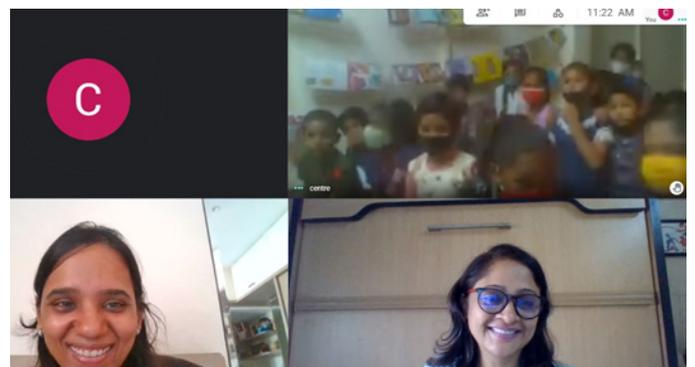
CSC initiated another set of discussion on mother's literacy on 19th March,2021, followed by online training of teacher coordinators on 22nd March,2021 by Dr. Mridula Seth. Fifteen participants expressed their willingness to take up sessions on literacy. Dr. Mridula Seth co-ordinated with Dr. Aparna Khanna, Dept. of Communication and Extension Education at Lady Irwin College, Delhi University for the literacy primers, which will be used at teaching learning manual for Ma Ki Pathshala programme at CSC. Dr. Seth prepared audio recording of lessons to use it through WhatsApp and to facilitate online learning for the participants.



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## Volunteering by WhiteHat Juniors

Swati Sinha from WhiteHat Jr. initiated online volunteering activity with CSC children from 3rd March, 2021 along with Roopam, Harpreet and Ranu. After overcoming few operational challenges, the sessions were well received by the children. Towards the end of the month, Mumbai Zone teachers also joined. Anjali Kadam and Rashmi Nemani delivered a session on soft skills on 30th & 31st March. The session covered topics like time management, anger management, team work, problem solving and self-motivation. Both the teachers worked on making the session as interactive as possible and the kids enjoyed it. Thank you Mansee and Vasuda for leading the project.



# Certificate in Counselling Skills, Batch IV

16th January -12th March, 2021

Centre for Social Change increased program duration from 6 weeks to 8 weeks, from Batch IV onwards, based on feedback received from the participants as well as experts feedback. There were 24 participants from Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnatak, Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh and one international guest participant from Ghana.

Experts and resource persons were: Dr. Shankar Chowdhury, Dr. Mridula Seth, Dr. Priya Bir, Dr. Dimpy Mahanta, Antony Nellissery, Gaurav Malhotra, KVJ Dr. Sumitra Prasad and Transgender speakers Rihana Yadav and Kashish. Bidhan Baruah, Taaza Pvt.Ltd and R.S.Engineering Works were partial sponsoring partners for Batch IV.

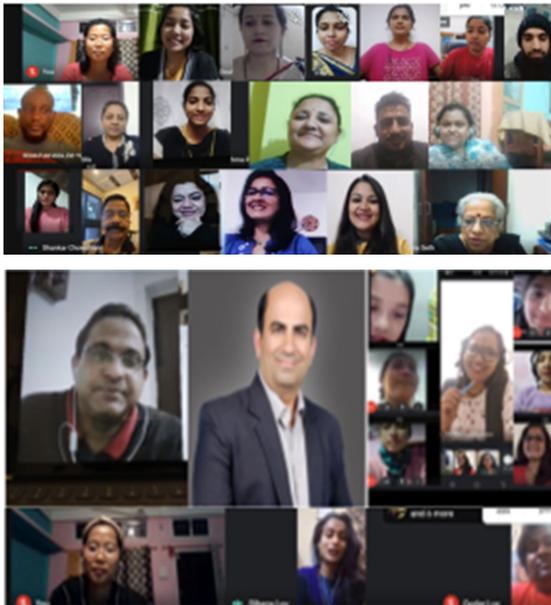
## Feedback

Describing the overall experience in one word would be outstanding. Every other day was an opportunity to learn things, to grow oneself. I happily end the overall course with a positive mindset. I used to look forward to the sessions. The selection of excellent resource persons in their fields had been the strength of the course. The engagement and the founder's effort to unite people from different backgrounds must be appreciated. Can't believe it ended up so soon. I wouldn't mind continuing the course for a year or two.

**Disha Tamuly, CCS Batch IV, Assam**

I am extremely happy to share my learning experience. I always wanted to get into some solid counseling course and I was in search of it. When I saw the poster of CSC I was happy and immediately spoke to Dr. Bani ma'am regarding the course. Her response and the curriculum made me to join immediately without even having a second thought. This course has an immense impact on me as an individual. I felt it is important to understand our own self before we understand any extended relationships and society as a whole. I have personally modified myself on various emotional issues. The course content and the way in which the eminent resource persons handled it, was amazing. Priya ma'am experience as a counselor and the cases she shared with us was just like a practical session. Her classes helped us to understand the real life situation in a broader perspective. As a whole it was a brainstorming course for me to get into the field. I am planning to do MA in psychology to understand the field more scientifically and presently I am doing six months counseling course on children and Mental health. I thank Dr. Bani Bora from bottom of my heart for providing such a fruitful platform. I wish you all the best for all your courses in future.

**Dr.Mamtha,  
Karnataka, CCS Batch I**



## Birthday celebration of Jigyashu

Ms.Poonam and her family celebrated second birthday of Jigyashu with CSC children. We wish a very happy birthday to Jigyashu and many happy returns.



## GUESTS AT CSC

Devender Singh, officer at Noida Police visited CSC on 20th January with his colleagues.



Nisha Rai and Charu visited CSC on 24th January, 2021 and shared happy, interactive time with girls.



Upashana Baruah and S. Borah visited CSC on 13th February, 2021 and distributed sweets to children.



They expressed their willingness to visit CSC once a month and volunteer to interact with children once a month.

Nisha Malhotra, visited CSC on 23rd February, 2021 to understand our ways of working and possibilities of extending support to CSC.



Priya Sharma from Aseem's Library visited CSC on 15th March, 2021 to share information about their working model. She also had a brief interaction with the children.



Swati Sinha from White-Hat Jr visited CSC on 26th March, 2021 to share goodies and spent happy learning moments with the children.



## CSC Winners

CSC Children participated in online competitions organized by Youth For Sewa in February, 2021. Winner for the Variour Competition are



## Together We Change @CSC

Centre for Social Change, <https://www.cscindia.org/>

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