

Editorial

We all have been reeling through pandemic for the past two years. Lives have changed immensely, especially for children. Some were born during this period, some were supposed to step into the schools, have been delayed into this ritual of entering the schools and are homeschooled, while others looking forward to enjoying the time in high school never got a chance to bid goodbye to their friends and teachers. These times have been tough and challenging for the children to be indoors and pursue their dreams and aspirations. As Childline puts it, the calls for 'help' 1098 increased exponentially. These calls were not just for reporting the abuse at home, many more, asking for help for getting the basic needs- food, water, shelter, struggling to survive and queries related to schools.

While most of the families are trying to help their children within homes to engage them in art, craft, online schooling, home works, assignments, good food and nutrition. Large sections of society do not have basic needs, for them, online schooling is a distant dream. The Government and NGOs who have provided food rations in relief have helped some families from the marginalized sections, but many are still waiting to get back to their employment, work and wages.

In this crisis, many organizations are doing their best to reach out to needy people; one such organization is Prayas. Prayas has been doing a commendable job of providing shelter to homeless, orphan children. They have taken additional responsibility to take care of these children in their residential homes across the country during the pandemic. This edition showcases these children's positive motivation, despite the hardships with no immediate family around. Still, the more prominent family 'Prayas' consistently nurtures them without shutting its door, unlike many other institutions. The efforts of some dedicated souls realize their aspirations and dreams. God bless them.

We at AIF look forward to working for children's safety, security, and well-being. We pledge to collaborate, coordinate and make concerted efforts to make this world a little better for the children. An unknown quote says, 'Child's smile is one of life's greatest blessings'. We look forward to joining hands with each of you to bring a smile to children's faces.

Hopefully, this year should see the light of a pandemic-free world, where we can hear the chirpy sounds of children laughing, shouting, and giggling in the homes, neighbourhoods, and school playgrounds.

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