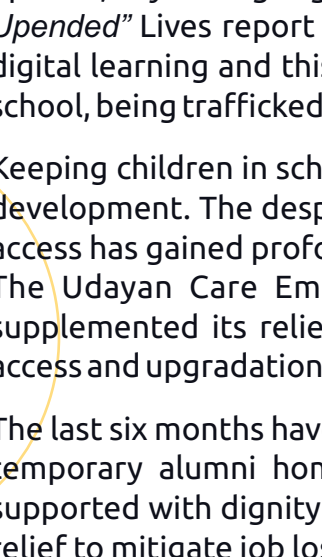


## Bridging the Digital Divide

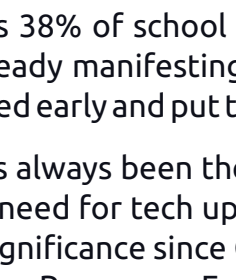
# UDAYAN CARE COVID Response Report

(July to September 2020)

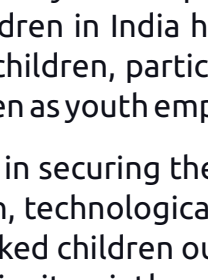
## CONTENTS



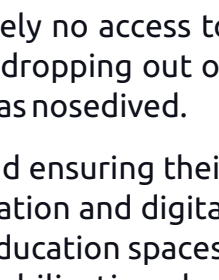
UC Emergency Response Fund



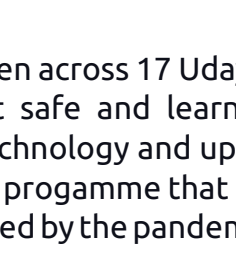
Udayan Shalini Fellowship



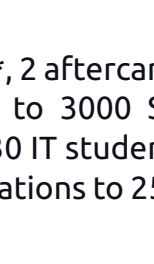
Udayan Ghar Programme



Udayan Care IT Programme



Community Outreach in Delhi



Gratitude

**220 days and counting.**

**The pandemic is showing no signs of abating and the winter is upon us.**

Ensuring food and nutrition seemed the basis of dignity till a few months ago. But as the economy has opened, a yawning digital divide has redefined marginality and deprivation. The UNICEF "Lives Upended" Lives report reveals 38% of school going children in India have absolutely no access to digital learning and this is already manifesting itself in children, particularly, girls dropping out of school, being trafficked, married early and put to work even as youth employability has nosedived.

Keeping children in school has always been the key goal in securing their safety and ensuring their development. The desperate need for tech up-gradation, technological transformation and digital access has gained profound significance since COVID locked children out of their education spaces. The Udayan Care Emergency Response Fund, now in its sixth month of mobilization, has supplemented its relief efforts of the initial pandemic months with equity through technology access and upgradation since July.

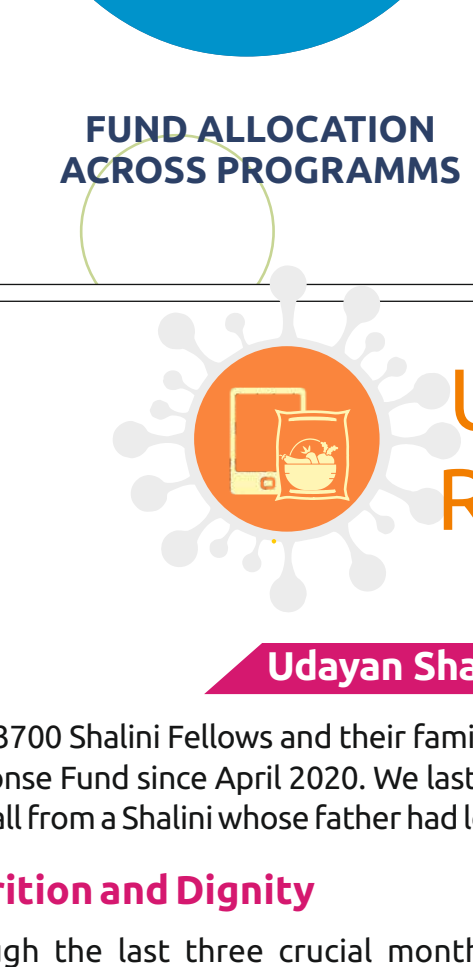
The last six months have seen our 200 children across 17 Udayan Ghars\*, 2 aftercare homes and one temporary alumni home locked down but safe and learning, close to 3000 Shalini\*\* families supported with dignity and enabled with technology and upskilling, 130 IT students provided cash relief to mitigate job losses and an outreach programme that provided rations to 250 families across Delhi, our hometown - those most marginalized by the pandemic.

None of this could have happened without the tremendous generosity of our donors across the country and the world. Your contributions as corporate houses, individuals, students, Udayan Care staff, mentors and volunteers have allowed us to keep one child, one girl, one youth at a time, anchored and safe.

Thank you. From the Udayan Care family.

\*Udayan Ghars provide a loving home and family to children growing up without parental care

\*\*Udayan Shalini Fellowships support underprivileged girls' higher education through monetary and mentoring support



**FUND ALLOCATION ACROSS PROGRAMMES**



**DIRECT RELIEF IN RS. LACS**



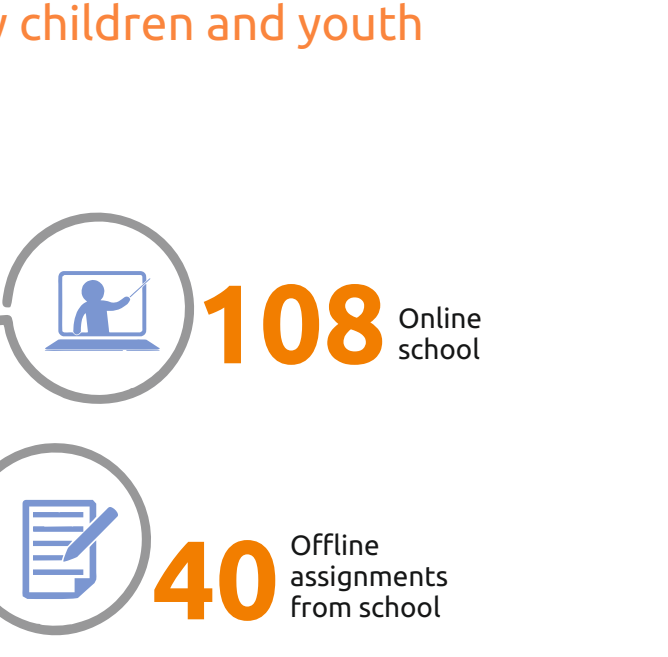
## UC Emergency Response Fund

### Udayan Shalini Fellowship Programme

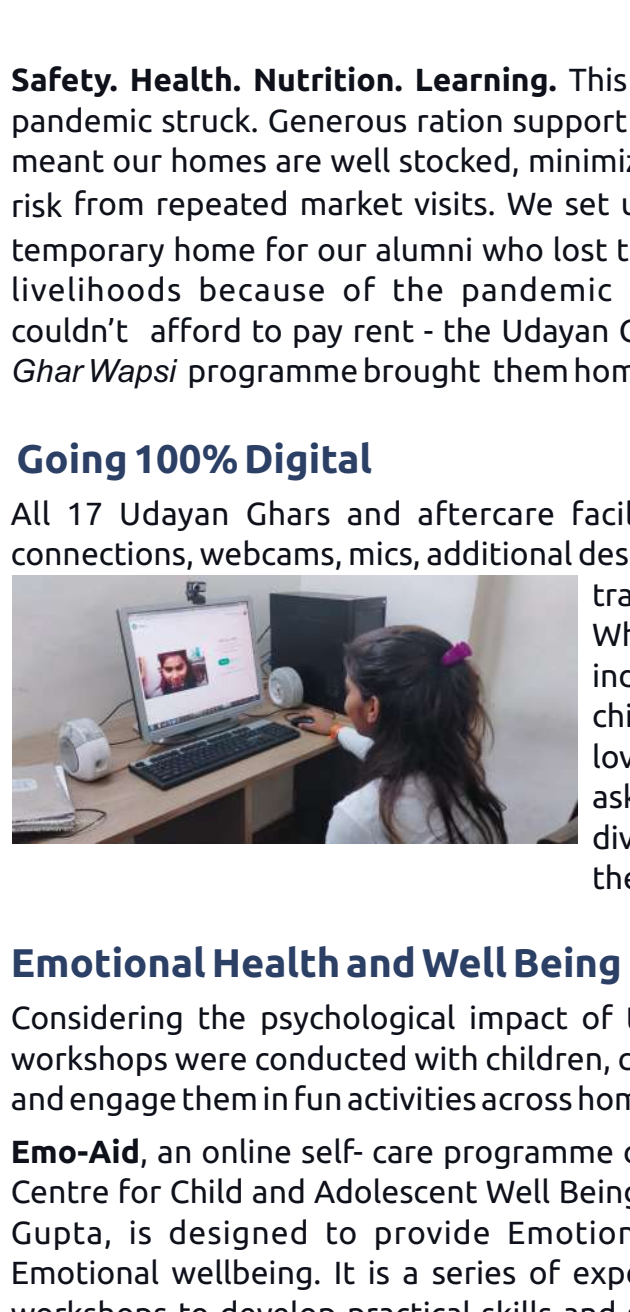
Over 3700 Shalini Fellows and their families have formed the epicenter of the Udayan Care Emergency Response Fund since April 2020. We last shared with you the trigger that helped us institute the Fund, one call from a Shalini whose father had lost his livelihood and with that his dignity.

#### Nutrition and Dignity

Through the last three crucial months as COVID numbers spiked across India and Q1 GDP contracted by 23.9%, SSG Advisors LLP, Ernst and Young, Give India and several others have assured our girls nutritional support as well as cash relief - support that tided the families over till the economy began opening up in September. On an average, each family has been supported twice whilst 100 extremely vulnerable Shalini families have required rations five of the last six months.



#### Bridging the Digital Divide

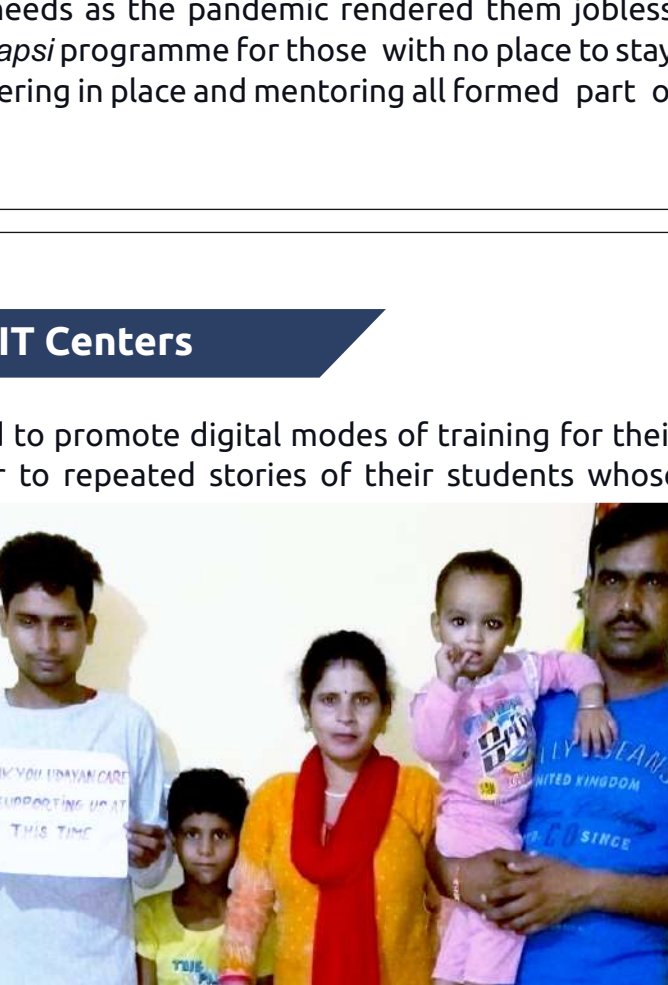


Take home rations, cash relief, mentoring to ensure the girls were safe in lockdown gave way to the dire need to keep the girls learning through online school, college and the Fellowship curriculum. Rapid digital access assessments were conducted across 21 cities by our dedicated USF team and emerging month on month data revealed parents investing in digital devices for their girls, but far from enough. Over 1000 smart phones were needed and we fanned out to source as many laptops, phones, dongles and data to keep the girls from dropping off the education map.

The generosity of Ameriprise Financial India LLP, Pega Systems Worldwide LLP, Kiran Anjali Project, Ernst and Young, several individual donors and well wishers who donated laptops and dongles loaded with data ensured close to 100 girls were connected whilst our ever giving donor Mr Rajiv Jain, our Facebook fundraisers for whom every drop counts, our USF chapter teams and their growing band of supporters will allow us to ensure every Shalini home has at least one smart phone by the end of October. And we empower them to ask for equal rights to use these devices within their homes.

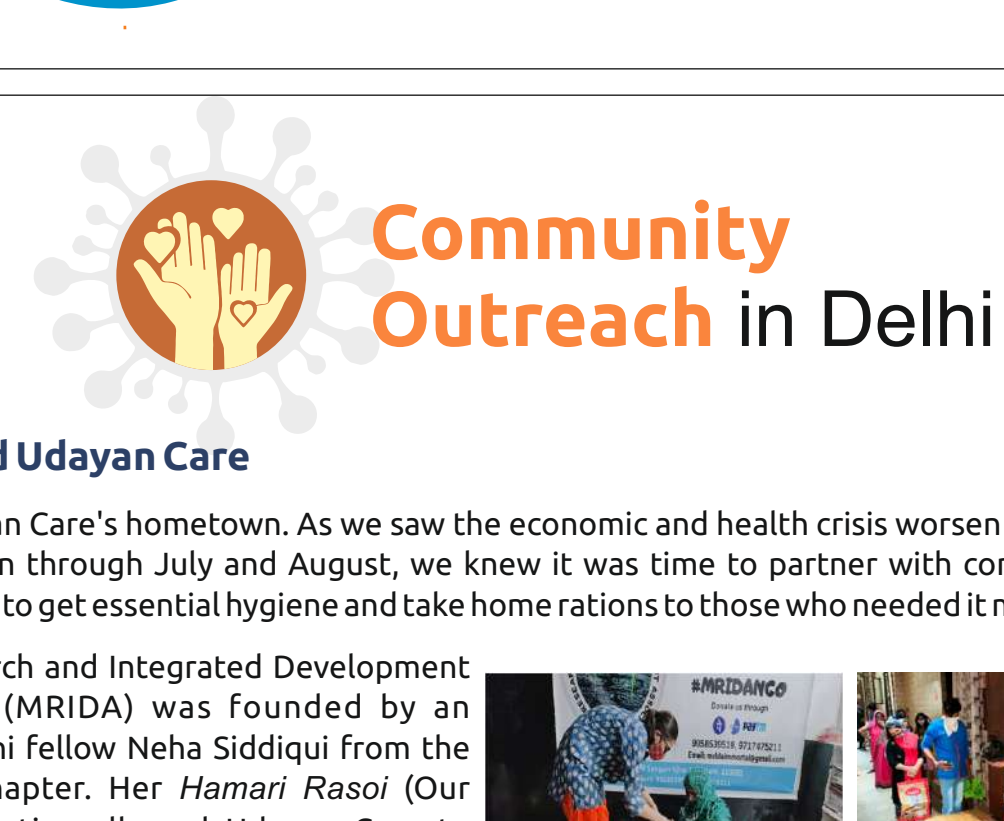
#### Learning and Empowerment

As vital as ration and digital device support, if not more, is the Fellowships unwavering focus on empowering the Shalinis through structured employability workshops, career exposure events and providing windows on the world of higher education. Genpact challenges the girls every Sunday to explore new possibilities whilst mentoring by Teams EY and TATA Pro-Engage, workshops by Deloitte, HCL, ICICI offered a vision of the future to the girls locked down in their homes.



### Udayan Ghar Programme

**200+ safe and healthy children and youth**



**Safety. Health. Nutrition. Learning.** This has been the Udayan Ghar (Homes) mantra since the pandemic struck. Generous ration support has meant our homes are well stocked, minimizing risk from repeated market visits. We set up a temporary home for our alumni who lost their livelihoods because of the pandemic and couldn't afford to pay rent - the Udayan Care Ghar Wapsi programme brought them home.



#### Going 100% Digital

All 17 Udayan Ghars and aftercare facilities were equipped with almost seamless internet connections, webcams, mics, additional desktops and laptops, television sets to conduct workshops, trainings and broadcast schooling; and a smartphone for WhatsApp assignments. The effort felt like setting up 17 independent Small Home Offices but the results have been children in school, learning well and connected to their loved ones - more than any Work From Home pivot could ask for. Our children stand on the brighter side of the digital divide today and that is because of a constant belief that they deserve what all children do.

#### Emotional Health and Well Being

Considering the psychological impact of the pandemic crisis, several training programmes and workshops were conducted with children, carers and social workers to support their mental health and engage them in fun activities across homes as they stay connected.

**Emo-Aid**, an online self-care programme conducted by the Centre for Child and Adolescent Well Being led by Dr Shilpa Gupta, is designed to provide Emotional First Aid for Emotional wellbeing. It is a series of experiential learning workshops to develop practical skills and self care tools to manage the emotional health of our children, carers, mentors and staff. Respite has been a key ingredient in ensuring our care staff is able to cope - art workshops, recognition events and small rewards have marked our well being interventions.



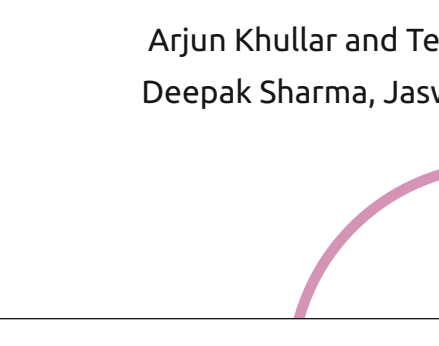
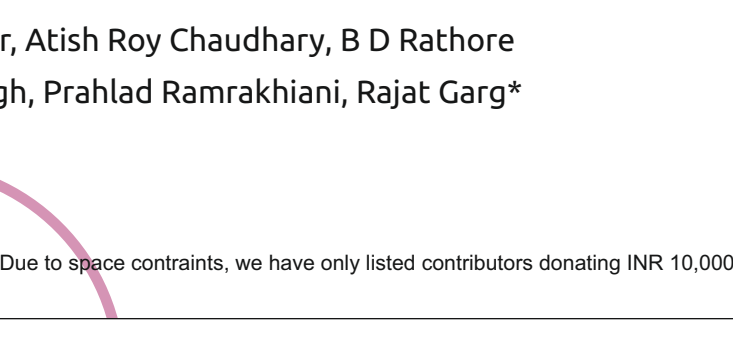
#### Caring for our Care Leavers

21 Udayan Ghar alumni, well settled in their careers in hospitality, retail and travel found themselves unable to pay rent and support their nutritional needs as the pandemic rendered them jobless. Udayan Care's children are ours for life, so a Ghar Wapsi programme for those with no place to stay, support for groceries and cash relief for those sheltering in place and mentoring all formed part of our efforts to leave no Care Leaver behind.

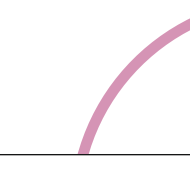
### Udayan Care IT Centers

Even as our Udayan Care IT centre staff continued to promote digital modes of training for their courses, their strong community inroads gave ear to repeated stories of their students whose families had been rendered deeply vulnerable due to the pandemic, lockdown and loss of livelihoods.

In July 2020, IT team conducted a survey of 636 families of IT students to assess their economic situation. This survey revealed 72% of families had earning-members working in the private sector, of which 62% of people lost their employment or faced deductions in their monthly salaries. Udayan Care IT team extended financial support to 133 families who were on the weaker side of the survey.



**Employment status of IT students Families**



## Community Outreach in Delhi

#### MRIDA and Udayan Care

Delhi is Udayan Care's hometown. As we saw the economic and health crisis worsen in the National Capital Region through July and August, we knew it was time to partner with community based organisations to get essential hygiene and take home rations to those who needed it most.

Macro Research and Integrated Development Association (MRIDA) was founded by an Udayan Shalini Fellow Neha Siddiqui from the USF Delhi chapter. Her *Hamari Rasoi* (Our Kitchen) initiative allowed Udayan Care to support 150 families from South Delhi's most densely populated slum and often home to multiple containment zones - Sangam Vihar.



Ration and hygiene kits were distributed and a Shalini that gives back was given further purpose.

### Ummed Ki Udaan and Udayan Care



The resettlement colony of Madanpur Khadar houses some of Delhi's most marginalized communities, devoid of basic amenities like water and hygiene access. In partnership with Ummed Ki Udaan, a community-based organization, 100 families were provided ration and care kits to tide them over the worst pandemic months.



## Gratitude

We have been fortunate to have a supportive brigade of donors, who are providing immense hope and support to our COVID response despite the vulnerabilities of the pandemic. Your selfless contributions, have kept 3000+ girls in education, the dignity of almost as many families intact, and 250 children and youth safe, nurtured and learning. Close to 400 families from Delhi's most vulnerable communities were provided cash relief for dignity.

Thank you for mentoring, training, and supporting our girls, children and youth. And for keeping your faith in us.



### A big shout out to each of our Facebook Fundraisers and their donors\*

Anupama Saigal	Huzefa Khairullah	Sanjeev Agrawal
Durriya Bhatri	Ishdeep Anand	Shaival Vora
G P Panwalkar	Manasi Pradhan	Sujeet Macker
Gloria Joseph	Mrunmayee Padhye	Supreet Basra
Gurleen Anand	Prajay Dutta	Veena Katdare
Harish Gupta	Pranali Padhye	
Huned lokhandwala	Rachit Gupta	



## Cognizant SSG Advisors LLP

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M T Madon Exports	Navy Wives Welfare Association	Pegasystems	Robinhood Army
Rotary Club of Bombay	Sangeeta and Gunvant	J Hemari Foundation	Transpek Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Arjun Khullar and Teeny Khullar, Atish Roy Chaudhary, B D Rathore

Deepak Sharma, Jaswinder Singh, Prahlad Ramrakhiyani, Rajat Garg\*

\*Due to space constraints, we have only listed contributors donating INR 10,000+