

**STAYING IN TOUCH
WITH PRATHAM
COMMUNITIES IN
ASSAM DURING THE
LOCKDOWN DUE
TO COVID-19**



Pratham

Every Child in School & Learning Well

STEP 1: Internal Planning on Staying in Touch with Volunteers Remotely

Pranjal Sharma (Pratham's field team member) has always been used to reaching out to children either through Learning Camps or the Community Based Activities.

However, due to the lockdown because of COVID 19, he has reworked his strategy in terms of how to contact children as well as community volunteers.

This has changed his perspective on what kind of alternative methods can be used to interact with community members and children remotely.

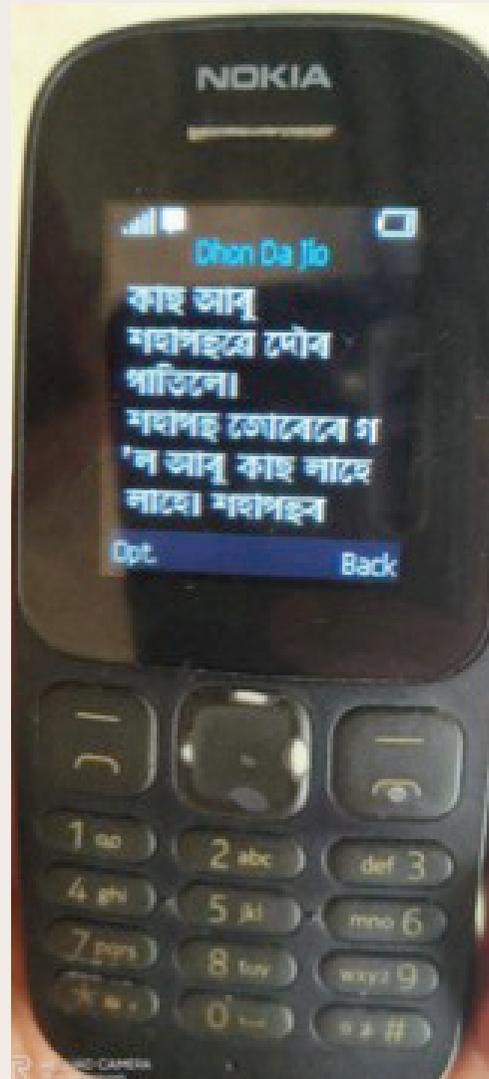
Each day, Pratham team members make a list of volunteers to reach out to in one or two villages in their working areas.

At present there are roughly 5-6 volunteers in every village that are contacted on a daily basis. Most of these volunteers comprise mothers and youth.





STEP 2: Building a Stronger Rapport with Volunteers and Briefing them on Activities to be Conducted with Children



Pratham team members try to contact volunteers with smartphones through WhatsApp video calls and volunteers with non-android phones through calls and text messages.

During the interactions with the volunteers, time is spent orienting them on activities that they can conduct with children that are residing close to them.

Activities that are being conducted include:

- Story telling
- Solving Math Word Problems
- Taking Precautionary Measures
- Drawing and Painting
- Making Science and Math models

We are also relying on our volunteer base to help us expand on our existing network in the communities we are working in.



STEP 3: Volunteers Conduct Activities with Children



The volunteers start their day by interacting with children close to them and conducting the activities that the Pratham team member has briefed him/her on.

During the rest of the day, the volunteers also try and send out messages to community members in their network who might conduct the same activities with children in hamlets that are far from where the volunteers live.

In the evening the volunteers take feedback from children as well as other community members on the activities that were conducted in terms of how useful they were.

STEP 4 : Children Learning Independently



Despite the lockdown, there is an eagerness in children to learn and they are trying their level best to use their time constructively.

They look forward to learning something new each day and wait for the volunteers to reach out to them.

Young girls like Asha enjoy drawing and painting the most. They are also spending time studying with the help of the volunteers that live close to them.

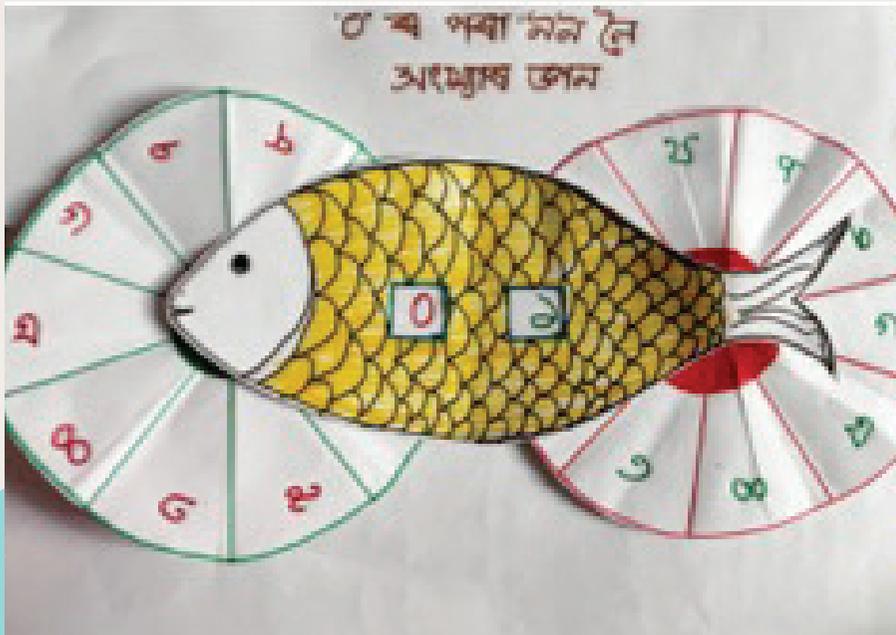


STEP 5: Community Members Joining the Volunteer in their Efforts

Some community members have started developing an interest in conducting teaching- learning activities with their children. They are quite supportive of the work that volunteers are engaging in.

For them this is the only way they can ensure their children are learning now that schools have been temporarily shut.

Community members have also joined in the efforts and are also trying to design teaching learning material at their end to help their children.



Material designed by mothers for their children



A Grandmother is conducting story telling activities with children

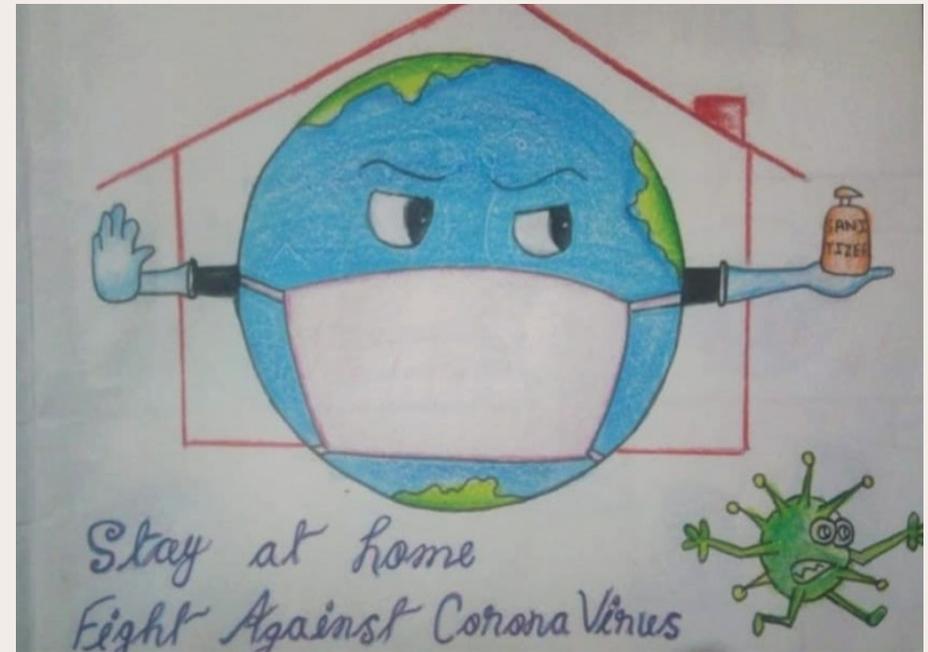
STEP 5: Volunteers Conduct Activities with Children



Pratham team members often try and contact the volunteers while they are conducting the activities so that they can gauge whether the activities are being undertaken correctly.

If the volunteers do not have smartphones then detailed conversations are scheduled in the evening to understand what the children enjoyed as well as what was challenging for them.

The next day's activities are then designed based on the feedback provided by the volunteers.



Glimpses of what children have been sending us from the field





WE WILL CONTINUE TO
KEEP YOU UPDATED ON
THE SITUATION

If you want to contact us,
please write to us at
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