



**Monkey
Sports**

**Newsletter
Jan - Mar 2023**

Special Holi Edition

Message from the Founder



Hello Everyone, Hope you are well!

In this newsletter, I am going to share with you some major setbacks and hard-pressed milestones that happened in the last three months.

Some of our game plans were not implemented as planned. **The academic program has failed.** We could not raise funds as per next year's budget. Our employees are getting exploited (not by us) and we do not have the plan to make life better for one of our beneficiaries.

However, we were able to **create a Handbook** and a video of our program. We found better ways to capture data on our work and to meet and see the programs of some other amazing social entrepreneurs.

The inspiration to share failure stories comes from someone who mentioned **that being vulnerable is a feminine trait.** We are trying to build this muscle.

I hope that after reading these **stories** you will not just judge us but also learn something and provide us with ways and strategies to do better.

- Kushal



Failure of Academic Sessions

- As we realized that 1/3rd of the children are not able to read basic text, we decided to start an academic program. As the academic was need-based, it was not possible to design the sessions beforehand. Therefore, we decided to teach our community youth how to **create a lesson plan** and follow general guidelines to teach following activity-based learning.
- During community visits, We noticed that the community youth were teaching using **traditional rote learning**. Even after constant feedback, no one created lesson plans and taught children without planning.
- We realized, that the organization need to better build its capacity before starting to teach children.
- We are now looking to work with **professional teachers who could volunteer** to help us teach the children.

The learning for us has been to try an idea on a smaller scale. Instead of asking all community youth to start teaching, we could have picked 1-2 community youths to try out the idea and iterated based on the response.

Now just focused on sports, We wanted to polish our games by creating a step-by-step process and going more deeply into the discussion with children about different skills.

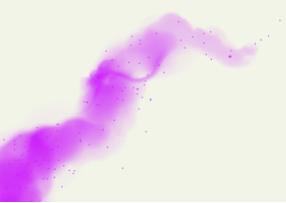
We created a total of 8 sessions for teaching children about **Problem-Solving** that were to be conducted two times a week for the next four weeks.

[Click here to access the handbook](#)



- Each week, we shared two games that had to be implemented by the community youth. Before starting to conduct the session, they also had to a simple baseline. Again, when I started visiting the field and monitoring the sessions, I noticed that though community youth conducted the games as required, the **instruction to be given to children were not followed correctly.**
- All community youth played the game during the training and were provided with a soft copy with clear instructions.

The learning for us is to not complicate the process and keep the execution part easy to implement.





Networking Failures!

- After going through a four-month process of applying for the Acumen Fellowship, we were eliminated in the final round.
- Attending networking events in New Delhi and setting up a table to attract funders to our program has not been successful. **We pitched our ideas to multiple funders and haven't received any positive reply yet.**
- Of all the weird things, we are not able to **access the Monkey Sports Facebook page**. Even after trying different strategies, we are not able to reach out to Facebook support to get our issue sorted.

It is teaching us to build perseverance and resilience.

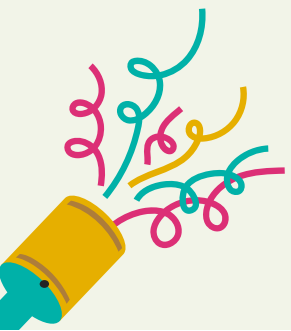


Protecting our employees -Failures!



- Three of our community youth had joined a Prime Minister skill development program Centre to learn Data Entry Skills. The head of the Department of the centre made them sign a document that they need to attend the class for six months and need to find a job, otherwise, they need to pay Rs. 15000. They are treated badly and shouted at. **Even if they don't want to attend the classes, it has become a compulsion for them to go and also find a job they don't want to do.**
- We have tried talking to our community youth telling them that such documents are not valid. However, they want to be averse to any risk or get involved in any conflict. It is just easier for them to just go through the process.
- One of the community youths was doing great work but has now stopped working because of more restrictions at home as the **HOD told her parents about a few of her personal things.**

We feel failed to empower and take care of our employees. If you can help in any way do let us know.



Case Study - Failures

Rani is an eleven-year-old tribal girl who lives in a Chirapani community in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. She is one of that people who always has a smile on their face. Rani has a very unique personality and you will immediately like her. **However, Rani has never been to school.** She spends most of her time doing household work and taking care of her niece. She lives with her older married sister. Her sister never felt the need to send her to school. **Even her own daughter Balen who is 9 years old has also never been to school.**



We met her sister multiple times trying to tell her about the importance of education. We also informed the school headmaster whose responsibility is to ensure that all children are admitted to the school. Even if she is admitted to school, the current school system will not be able to meet her need emotionally and academically. She requires many years of continuous support and for her to cope with the school environment.

We had to meet her sister several times just to convince her to send Rani to our sports sessions. She gets beaten up by her sister for missing work, every time she comes to our sessions. **We are not sure what to do anymore.**



Impact Success

- We have built a better system to keep children's attendance, conduct surveys with children and measure the working hours of community youths.
- We now can accurately tell the number of hours, and sessions spent with children, parents and teachers.

Total no. of SEL Sessions with Children

75

No. of visits raising awareness with parents

12

No. of visits meeting teachers

5

No. of Academic Sessions

52

No. of Reflections' by community youth

8

- We have been selected for the **Villgro IMMpact program** which will help us to learn how to efficiently measure and manage the impact.



Networking Success



- Engaged and learned from other social entrepreneurs during the Huddle events organized by **Unltd India**.
- Attended a two-day CSR meet organized by **Samaavesh CSR**
- We were a part of online consultation for providing input for Developing 21st-century life skills through sports organized by **PSD** and the **Commonwealth Education Media Center for Asia**.



Thanks to **Vivek** from **Claylab Education** for hosting us at your place during our visit to New Delhi.

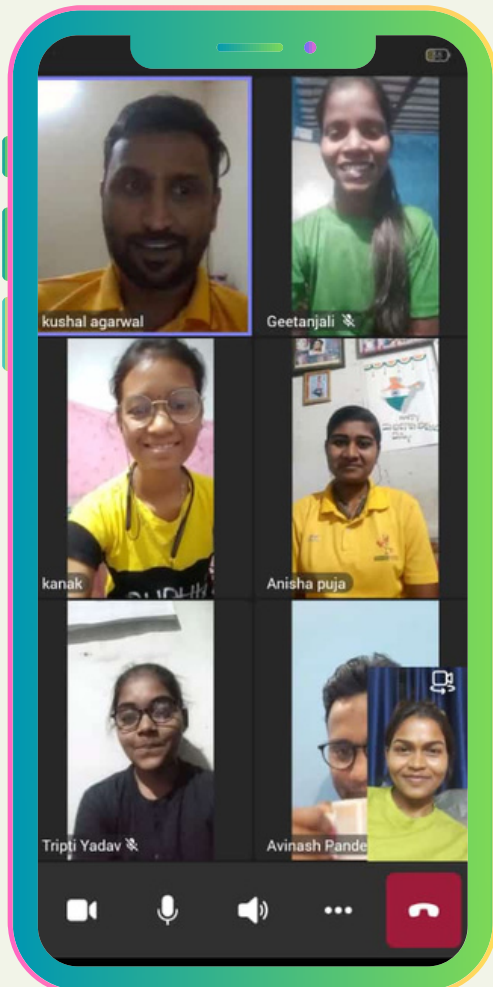
Thanks to **Benoy** from **Y-Ultimate** for engaging us in the game of frisbee and providing an opportunity to meet with the youths.





Employee Success

- Two of our members attended a Fit for Life Funshop in New Delhi. It was the first time they travelled on a Flight. Thanks to Pro Sport Development and **UNESCO** for providing this opportunity.



- One of our ex-employees Anisha joined online to share her experience with the fit for life workshop.
- She also shared her experience working in the Sport For Development sector for the last 7 years.
- Her journey was an inspiration for other community youths.

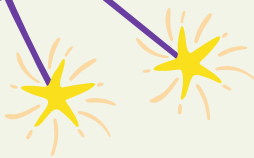
Program Success



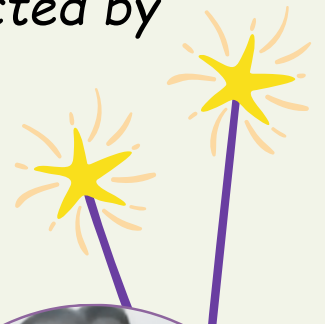
Children and Youth have good things to say about our work. Here are a few testimonials.



"All teachers in our school stay in their office. They tell us to play by ourselves. I really enjoy the sessions conducted by Monkey Sports."



"We learned a lot during the session. In our school, we do not get to engage in such activities. We learned about different communication styles such as passive, passive-aggressive, assertive and aggressive."



The training and the session with children helped me to improve my communication and critical thinking skill. Engaging with children, I learned about the problems they face at home and in the school.



Milestone Achieved



We were finally able to **create a video** for our Sangwari Program. The video entails the problem statement, theory of change and the impact of the work so far.

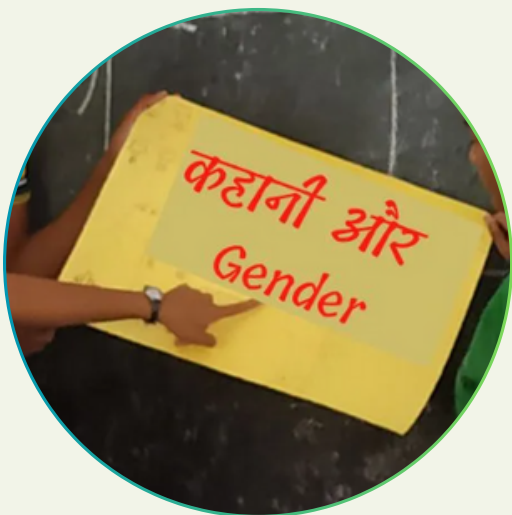
[Click here to watch the video](#)

We have been able to create a Handbook that has **social-emotional learning games** on different topics such as problem-solving, education, gender, communication, teamwork and managing emotion

[Fill in detail here to access the Handbook.](#)

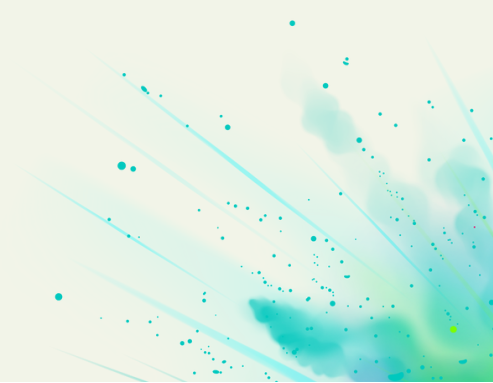
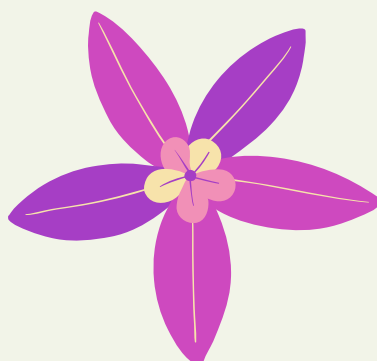
Monkey Sports Handbook

Using Sports to build Social-Emotional Learning in Children



We published a blog on gender and stories that highlight that many of the childhood stories were male-dominated. The name of all the animals are males.

[Click here to read the blog.](#)



Special Thanks

- **Ayushi Garodia** for providing us with Monthly Financial Support. You are very kind. :)
- Thanks, **Ravindra ji** for providing a free space to conduct our training.
- Thanks to **Vidya** from [Vidhyavidhai foundation](#) for suggesting ways to engage children in academics through technology means.

Thank you everyone for reading this document!



If you would like to donate, please [click here](#).

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