

Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India

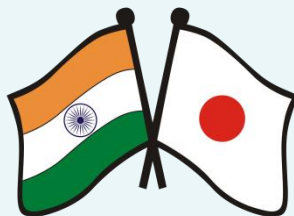


Country Report 2020



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Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India) completed fourteen years in 2020.

The COVID-19 Pandemic in India is part of the worldwide Pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019. The first case of COVID-19 in India, was reported on 30 January 2020 in the state of Kerala. Lockdowns were announced in Kerala on 23 March, and in the rest of the country on 25 March by Government of India. By mid-May 2020, five cities accounted for around half of all reported cases in the country. Daily cases peaked mid-September 2020 with over 90,000 cases reported per-day.

Due to this emerging scenario SWYAA-India took an active role in the community and especially with children to firstly raise awareness, giving correct information and taking immediate measures to reach out to families with dry ration kits containing wheat, rice, pulses, salt and oil items to tide them through the grueling period of lockdown. COVID19 and resulting economic shock continues to have a huge impact on livelihoods.

No one was prepared for such a catastrophe that struck so mercilessly. At the height of the pandemic, SWYAA-India made sure to not give up on any little vulnerable girl who needed support and care. Sometimes it was a meal, sometimes access to a digital device or tuition support, sometimes access to sanitary pads, or sometimes access to a caring teacher who will not let her fall.

Earlier in the year, SWYAA-India organized seminar lecture tour of Sri Lanka on Mahatma Gandhi messages of universal Peace, Non-Violence, and Brotherhood. This event was very well appreciated as it fulfilled the objectives of furthering friendly exchanges and people to people contacts.

SWYAA-India was acknowledged by the Embassy of Japan in India for effectively promoting people to people contact, cross-cultural exchange, and nurturing the spirit of international cooperation while serving the disadvantaged sections of the society. The social development activities undertaken as part of the post-program initiatives made an impact and helped in changing the lives of the underprivileged sections of the society through the SWYAA-Open Schools.

SWYAA-India was acknowledged by the various cultural and educational institutes in India and Japan for effectively promoting people to people contact, cross-cultural exchange, and nurturing the spirit of international cooperation while serving the disadvantaged sections of the society. The social development activities undertaken as part of the post-program initiatives made an impact and helped in changing the lives of the underprivileged sections of the society. SWYAA-India expresses warm greetings to all friends of the SWY program in Japan.

The post-program social development activities undertaken by SWYAA-India during 2020

1. Education of children in SWYAA-India Open Schools
2. Online education for children of Open Schools
3. Collaborative programs
 - Digital education, computer training program and Child sponsorship program in collaboration with SWYAA Norway
 - Opportunity Without Discrimination (OWD) project in India in collaboration with SWYNZAA
4. Seminar Lecture tour for Promoting International Peace, Leadership, Compassion and Non-violence based on the Ideology of Mahatma Gandhi in Sri Lanka.
5. Community meetings and door to door contacts for raising awareness and giving correct information about the Covid-19 Pandemic.
6. Creating awareness about Covid-19 Pandemic with slum community and children of Open School.
7. Distribution of food packets to family of children of Open School during the period of lockdown.
8. Distribution of dry ration kits containing wheat, rice, pulses, salt and oil items for needy families.
9. Virtual seminar and talks on promoting Peace, Nonviolence, Wellness and Nature Cure.

We are thankful for the cooperation and support received from the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Culture Government of India, International Youth Exchange Organization (IYEO) of Japan, Indian Embassy in Tokyo, Universities in Japan, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, DISHA and the Discover Japan Club, New Delhi.

BASIC FACTS	
Basic facts about your country's Alumni Association:	
Country	INDIA
Name of the organization	SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION-INDIA (SWYAA-INDIA)
Organisational structure	Officially registered with the Government of India as an NPO
Board members (Name/batch)	President: Mr. Ravi Chopra, SWY6 Vice President: Ms. Samrita Gill, SWY6 Treasurer: Mr. Rupesh Gupta, SWY6 Secretary: Mr. Pradip Somasundaran, SWY6 Chief Executive: Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna
Number of members	Total number of ex-PYs: 179 Active members: 89
Annual membership fee	Yes → Indian Rs.500 or US \$ 8
Basic facts about your country's participation in SWY:	
Which batches has your country participated in?	16 Batches (SWY2, SWY4, SWY6, SWY8, SWY12, SWY14, SWY16, SWY18, SWY20, SWY22, SWY24, GLDP27, SWY28, SWY29 & SWY30)
Which institution has conducted the selection process?	Government of India
Which institution has conducted the pre-departure training?	Government of India and SWYAA-India
How many days was the pre-departure training?	5 days
Communication:	
How does your AA communicate internally with members & externally with non-members?	Website → https://www.swyaa-india.in Newsletter → Wave of Friendship (Yearly) Facebook page → https://www.facebook.com/swyaa.india Face book group: SWYAA GA India → https://www.facebook.com/groups/916385851772576/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/SWYAA10GA E-mail: swyaaindia@gmail.com
NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS WITH JAPAN AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY	
Important associates and collaborators?	Embassy of Japan in India JICA- India office Japan Foundation, India

	Japan Chamber of Commerce in India Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Indian Embassy, Tokyo Japanese Universities: Keio, Sophia, Tokyo University and Tokyo university for foreign studies Universal Peace Federation, Japan SWYAA's at Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, Greece, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Russia and Norway DISHA, New Delhi Discover Japan Club, India
Do you organize events with the Japanese Embassy?	Yes → How often: Six-monthly → What kind of events: Seminar, meeting, and events
Do you organize events with the Japanese community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes → How often: Six-monthly → What kind of events: Networking, Educational classes, cultural exchange programs, festival & voluntary work
ACTIVITIES IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR	
International reunions (Please write your AA has hosted an international reunion)	
Name of the event	Yes, Get together with Ex-PYs from SWYAA-Sri Lanka
Date of the event	7th March, 2020
Hosting city	Colombo
How many participants? From which countries?	Number of domestic participants: 2 Number of international participants: 12 Names of the countries that participated: India and Sri Lanka
Please write a summary of the event	In Colombo, a reunion was organised to discuss more such events in future as collaboration with Ex-PYs, representative of Embassy of Japan and National Youth Services Council (NYSC). Tentative plan for collaborative programs for youth and community leaders was discussed.
National reunions (Please write your AA has hosted a national reunion)	
Name of the event	Get together and meeting were organized by SWYAA-India
Date of the event	March and December 2020
Hosting city	Delhi
How many participants?	16
Please write a summary of the event	In this get-together Ex-PYs shared information about their experience in SWY program and the post-program activities at the individual level for building peace and brotherhood, environment, volunteerism, and education. It was decided to take up state wise activities in their respective areas.

Receiving ex-SWY participants	
How many SWY visitors did you receive in your country?	4 Visitors from New Zealand and Turkey referred by Ex-PYs
Did you organize a “Homestay + 1” project for the visitors? If yes, please write in detail.	No
OTHERS	
<p>Mrs. Upma Chaudhary, IAS, Members SWYAA-India has posted as Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. (Sr. Bureaucratic posting in Govt.)</p> <p>Ms Ramya Haridass SWY24 got elected as Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (MP) from Alathur, Kerala, in May 2019</p> <p>Mr. Ravi Chopra, SWY6 President of SWYAA-India became the President of the Discover Japan Club, India</p> <p>Mr. Atulya Misra, IAS, SWY4 Members SWYAA-India became the Principal Secretary in Government of Tamil Naidu (Sr. Bureaucratic posting in Indian Government)</p> <p>Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, SWY6 Vice President of SWYAA-India promoted to Joint commissioner in the Government of India</p> <p>Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of SWYAA India also took on the responsibility as the Chief Functionary of the Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance for Public Sector Enterprises</p> <p>Mr. Rituparna Baruah, GLDP27 was elected as Member in Assam Legislative Assembly election in 2016.</p> <p>Mr. Satya Ranjan Swain SWY29 was appointed as senior panel counsel to represent Government of India in Delhi High Court</p>	

Post-program social development activities undertaken by SWYAA-India during 2020

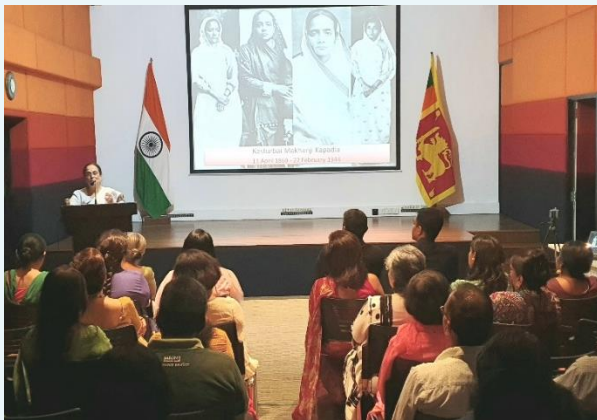
1. SWYAA Open school program: SWYAA-India worked with 180 underprivileged children for educating them in open schools. The main aim was for inclusion and improvement of quality education based on the goals of SDG4. In the schools, we taught two subjects - language and Arithmetic. In addition to that children were engaged in many activities like sessions on introduction to Japanese culture, language and customs from SWYers from other countries too.
2. Online educational classes for children of Open Schools was taken up and continued throughout the year.
3. During the emerging scenario due to Covid-19 Pandemic, SWYAA-India took an active role in the community, especially with children by undertaking following activities:
 - Community meeting and door to door contacts for raising awareness and giving correct information about the Covid-19 Pandemic.
 - Creating awareness about Covid-19 with slum community and children of Open School.
 - Distribution of food packets to family of children of Open School during Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown period.
 - Distribution of dry ration kits containing wheat, rice, pulses, salt and oil items for needy families.
3. Lecture tour on peace, harmony, and global leadership: A series of lectures were organised in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Indian Embassy by Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna and Dr Ravi Chopra. During this Ex-PYs from Sri Lanka also participated.
4. Volunteering in open schools: During the year visitors from New Zealand and Turkey had come to the open school and volunteered in the educational program.
6. Distribution of Education material for the open School: The volunteers also brought stationery items and other gifts for the children which were distributed in a function organised by SWYAA-India.
7. The Campaign against Discrimination and Digital education and computer training program continued in collaboration with SWYAA Norway & New Zealand.
9. Celebration of UN International Peace Day and UN International Day for Nonviolence 2020: In an event organised at the open school 100 children took part in the celebration. They made paintings and slogans and took out a rally around the open school to inform the community.
10. Virtual seminar and talks on promoting Peace, Nonviolence, Wellness and Nature Cure were conducted.

Initiated collaboration between by SWYAA-India and Other SWY Alumni Associations

One of the post-program activities of SWYAA-India is of inspiring youth to work for leadership, peace, nonviolence, conflict resolution, and interfaith harmony in today's strife driven and violent world. SWYAA-India has been organizing talks on the life and thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, who has inspired people across the globe to work for peacebuilding.

During 2020, SWYAA India collaborated for joint events with SWYAA's in Sri Lanka, Peru and Fiji for the holding lectures physically or virtual platform on Mahatma Gandhi's leadership in Global peace and Harmony.

The lectures were conducted by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive and Ravi Chopra, President of SWYAA-India. The talks were very well received in the first of its kind collaboration between SWYAA's for bringing the greater impact of the SWY program.



The lecture tour was conducted in Sri Lanka during March 2020. We had organized two lectures at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in the High Commission of India Colombo and the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies in University of Colombo in which Ex-PYs and other dignitaries also participated.



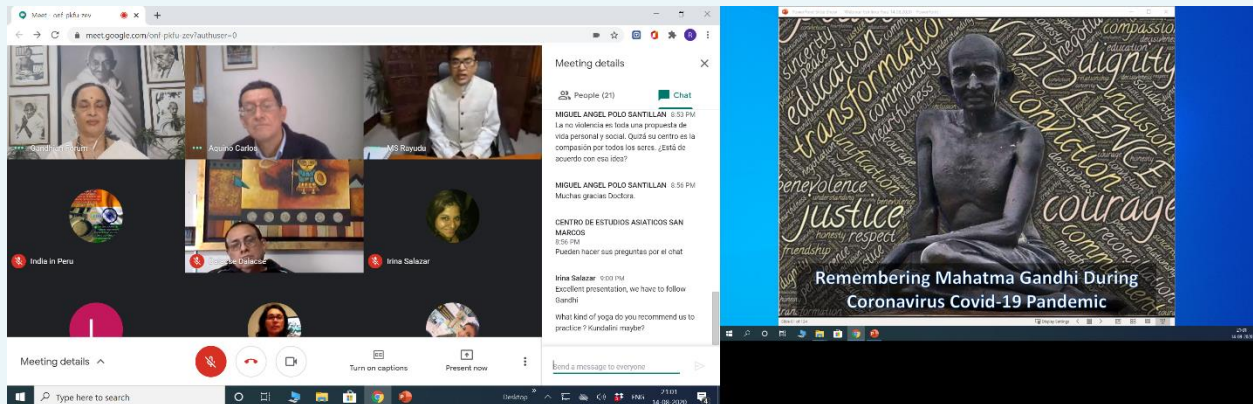
SWYAA Sri Lanka also organized a get together of Ex-PYs of various batches in Colombo for meeting and knowing each other.



We discussed and planned on having more such joint program between India and Sri Lanka in coming days that would try to promote greater contact between Ex-PYs from both the countries.

From May 2020 SWYAA India start conducting online sessions of Mahatma Gandhi due to the changing scenario of Covid 19 Pandemic.

On the occasion of the World Oceans Day on 8th June 2020 a special online session was organized by SWYAA-India and hosted by High Commission of India in Suva Fiji. During this many Ex-PYs from SWYAA-Fiji joined the session.



On 14th August 2020, a conference was organized by Center for Asian Studies (CEAS) of San Marcos University Lima, Embassy of India in Lima Peru and SWYAA India on “Existential Crisis due to Covid-19 Pandemic and the need to live in harmony with nature: The Gandhian Way”. During this many Ex-PYs from SWYAA-Peru joined the conference virtually.

Education Program - SWYAA Open schools



SWYAA-India aims to provide inclusive and equitable quality education to disadvantaged girl children for promoting lifelong learning opportunities as per the UN Sustainable Development Goal-4 (SDG-4). One of our focus areas is inclusive education through innovative approaches for underprivileged children and to advocate for making quality education a reality for all by 2030. According to our experience of working with underprivileged children, educating the girl child would do wonders for the progress of the nation. SWYAA-India aims to play a transformative role in shaping young minds, molding their characters, and imparting right based education.

With this aim, SWYAA-India educated 86 disadvantaged children in the SWYAA-Open Schools set up in two slum clusters in Delhi in physical and also in virtual mode during Covid 19 pandemic. SWYAA-India recognises that education is a must for a better future. Our work with children studying in 1st to 5th classes is by way of imparting primary level education, preparing them for socialisation and mainstreaming in the appropriate classes. At the same time, school dropouts and working children were taught in remedial classes.



This support has enabled the girl students to avail learning opportunity through the pedagogy of activity-based learning in the schools. The classroom-based support with the help of our facilitators has enabled them to learn the language, math, general knowledge, and English in a joyful learning atmosphere and with the aid of attractive teaching-learning materials.

Activities in the Open Schools included teaching multi-level, multi-age and multi-grade children in language, arithmetic and general science. For this, we used a play-based curriculum, child-friendly, joyful activities for their holistic development.

Visitors from New Zealand:

Two visitors from Gisborne, New Zealand visited the open school to have an interactive session with the students on 20th January 2020. Mr. Stephen Donald and Mr. Raymond Pereira told the students about their country New Zealand (NZ) which is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.



It consists of two main landmasses—the North Island and the South Island and more than 700 smaller islands, covering a total area of 268,021 square KM. Students were delighted to learn in-depth knowledge about NZ from the visitors.

Students asked them many questions about their schools, culture, food habits and of course about the games that the children play in New Zealand. After a useful session our students were presented with stationery items and together they had refreshments bought specially for the them on the occasion.

On 20th February 2021, two visitors Ms Gulay Akcay and her friend from Turkey came to interact with the students at Open School of SWYAA India. Children were very excited to meet them as they informed them about his country Turkey and the bonds that India and Turkey have shared over the past centuries.



Children learned that Turkey officially known as the Republic of Turkey is a country straddling Southeastern Europe and Western Asia. Istanbul, the largest city, is the financial center, and Ankara is the capital. Turks form the vast majority of the nation's population, and Kurds are the largest minority.

This added to their excitement as with each of the visitor they get a chance to learn new information. The visitors distributed teaching learning materials to the children during their visit.

Collaborative programs with other AAs

SWYAA-Norway –Digital education and computer skills



In collaboration with SWYAA-Norway, the digital education and computer skills program continued for children of the Open School. In this year 12 students learned digital skills. The computer class was highly valued by the parents of the children who expressed their satisfaction at the progress of their wards. In addition, certificates of completion were given to these bright students who have expressed their desire to continue to learn more next year.

Relief work during Covid 19 Pandemic

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic which was reported globally in 2019, India witnessed a massive surge of cases in the 3 weeks starting from March 2020. As of 30 April, 33 610 confirmed cases and 1075 deaths have been reported from 32 states/union territories in India. Apart from the nationwide lockdown, India had increased its testing rate and has markedly strengthened the health care sector to combat Covid -19. With India's population of more than 1.3 billion people at a significant population density compared with the rest of the world, the lack of universal access to clean water and overall poor socio-economic status, all have posed a major challenge to India's fight against Covid -19. Unabated spread of the pandemic could make India the next COVID-19 hotspot; hence the World Health Organization had stated that the "future of the pandemic will depend on how India handles it."

Due to this emerging scenario SWYAA-India took an active role in the community especially with children to firstly raise awareness, giving correct information and take immediate measures to reach out to families with dry ration supply to tide them through grueling period of lockdown and resulting economic shock continued to have a huge impact on livelihoods.

For a lot of families at the bottom of the pyramid, going back to pre-covid jobs seemed massively far-fetched still. Our endeavor had been to constantly reaching out to families of thousands of children we work with in need of medical care and dry rations in 6 communities in Delhi to make sure they got through these trying Covid19 times. In these families, none of them get a monthly pay cheque or bank transfer. Their cash flows are dependent on them working.

No one was prepared for such a catastrophe that struck so mercilessly. At the height of the Pandemic, SWYAA-India made sure to not give up on any little vulnerable girl who needed support and care. Sometimes it was a meal, sometimes access to a

digital device or tuition support, sometimes access to sanitary pads, or sometimes access to a caring teacher who will not let her fall.



At a time when girls faced a risk of dropping out of school system forever - lack of digital devices, shutting down of school routines and long gaps in learning, our volunteers reached out to hundreds of girls with constant access to quality education.

During lockdown period the risk of sinking into poverty and dropping out of school was real for many affected families. However, our adolescent girls still continued their education even in lockdown, completed homework, studied for exams, in the digital platform.

The Open school was converted into humanitarian assistance hubs to provide critical food supplies for families of children, adolescent girls we work with in communities in Delhi until the lockdown lifted. Food is a basic human right for survival for any child or adult. Our Open school doubled up as relief workspaces for 30 days of ration distribution to 330+ families of daily wage workers, rickshaw pullers and the fathers of our girls in the direct communities where we have been working for last ten decades with support from Indian Development Foundation.



Our teams of volunteers reached nooks and corners to provide sanitary supplies to girls and women along with ration essentials. The food relief work during covid-19 continued unabated for families of children and adolescents who are not left with any resources as the families sink deeper into poverty and children face a real risk of ending up as child brides, child laborers and falling out of the education system. Our community learning centers transformed into relief hubs till July end.

Every day, our team came across many stories from the ground that were heartbreaking during our Covid-19 relief work. Hunger is a real problem. Coronavirus Pandemic exacerbated inequalities for women. The current public health emergency meant a disproportionate economic impact for women, who often work in unorganised service sector hit hard by Covid-19 as they additionally tended to take on the bulk of unpaid family care at home, a burden that has become even more all-consuming amid physical distancing and self-isolation.

Our staff and partners worked with all precautionary measures for about 12-hours a day to make sure relief reached the unreached. We directly provide dry ration support for a month to about 330+ families in deep crisis after sudden job losses.

Networking and Linkages

SWYAA-India strengthened the linkages with the Embassy of Japan in India as well as with the Embassy of India in Japan. The strong relationship was forged with Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India, Japan Foundation, Nippon Vedanta Kyokai-Tokyo and Sophia University. Meetings were held with the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for the International cultural exchange program.

Profile of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India)

Head office	:	13/88, Block C-4/B, Janakpuri, New Delhi -110058, India
Telephone	:	+91-11-41570597 (M) +91-9810078620
Email	:	swyaaindia@gmail.com
Website	:	www.swyaa-india.in
Legal Status	:	Registered under societies registration act XXI of Government of India <i>Registration No.:</i> S/58262 <i>Registration date:</i> 02/04/2007 Registered under section 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961, Government of India
Geographical coverage	:	All India
Executive committee	:	
▪ President	:	Dr. Ravi Chopra
▪ Vice President	:	Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, C.C.S
▪ Treasurer	:	Mr. Rupesh Gupta, C.A.
▪ Secretary	:	Mr. Pradip Somasundaran
▪ Chief Executive	:	Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna

“An eye for eye only ends up making the whole world blind”. -Mahatma Gandhi