

PRESS RELEASE

DELHI COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (DCPCR)

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

DCPCR in collaboration with Feeding India by Zomato has launched an “*Ed-Tech Intervention - an Educate India Initiative*” for children in Delhi’s Child Care Institutions

26th August 2022

New Delhi

The Commission, currently running the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) program for 1,000+ children across 60+ Child Care Institutions (CCIs), is now expanding these children’s learning horizon by bringing in an Ed-Tech intervention for children in the age group of 10-18 years, residing in government-funded and government-run CCIs.

This intervention is part of the Educate India initiative, which is a nationwide campaign by Feeding India by Zomato and Unacademy. This initiative strives to provide educational and nutritional support to 1,900+ children who have faced irreplaceable loss during the pandemic in terms of food security, losing a loved one, and losing out on opportunities for equal learning.

DCPCR has partnered with Ashoka University through its Child Rights Fellowship for the implementation of foundational literacy and numeracy outcomes for children in CCIs. This Edtech Intervention (part of the Educate India Initiative) will aid and enable the foundational literacy programmes wherein children can learn reading and numeracy through the use of apps, games, and videos.

On 26 August 2022, the program was launched with distribution of **263** tablets, along with stationery kits and dry fruits, to **9** government CCI’s children by the Chief Guest, Hon’ble Minister Shri Kailash Gahlot at the Adharshila, Observation Home for Boys. Moving forward, Feeding India and DCPCR shall explore scaling the project to **17** government run CCIs, comprising **250+** more tablets.

Hon’ble Minister Shri Kailash Gahlot, in his address stated, *“Delhi is the first state where government CCI children are being provided with tablets for learning. This initiative of online learning is not a luxury but a necessity. COVID has made us realize that gadgets are a necessity for us to progress in the near future. I request the children to use these tablets for education and learning. Government and private institutions are two sides of the same coin, and walking side-by-side, we can achieve anything.”*

The event was also graced with the presence of Ms. Garima Gupta, Secretary, Women and Child Development, Shri Kishan Kumar, Director, Women and Child Development and Shri Vineet Gupta, Founder and Trustee, Ashoka University. Shri Vineet Gupta highlighted, *“I am grateful*

to Mr. Anurag Kundu and the DCPCR for partnering with us for setting up the Child Rights Fellowship (CRF) in Delhi. The foundational literacy and numeracy project being run in CCIs by the CRF is very close to our hearts and with sponsors like Feeding India by Zomato, we are now in a position to scale this program even further. When support and services are being provided, the sky's the limit. If Delhi's CCI's children wish to apply to our university, it will be an honor to have them at Ashoka. We are firmly committed to our partnership with the Delhi Government to make every CCI child literate."

Each CCI has teachers who actively work with these children on their foundational literacy and numeracy skills. However, during the classes, proactive and focussed attention on each child's development often takes a back-step. Further, given the grave circumstances and traumatic background that these children come from, it becomes difficult to actively engage these children in the learning process.

With the launch of this program, each child will now have their own digital tablets which will enhance their means to learn and develop upon their foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Combined with the FLN program run in CCIs, these tablets will be leveraged to actively engage children in the learning process and also make it a fun and joyful exercise for them. This intervention will primarily focus on enhancing the current offline teaching mechanism by leveraging online applications such as language and numeracy games and learning tools. These applications will also assist the CCIs and the Commission to actively monitor the children's growth and undertake timely interventions.

Shri Vishal Kumar, Head-Feeding India by Zomato, the program's prime partner organization, stated, *"Feeding India has been at the forefront of relief efforts during the pandemic. With multiple campaigns such as Feed the Daily Wager and India Needs Oxygen, we supported the government efforts during the pandemic. But the battle has not stopped yet. Through our partnership with DCPCR, we aim to support the commission's efforts to improve the learning level of children across various Child care institutions and provide them equal opportunities for a better livelihood."*

Shri Anurag Kundu, Chairperson, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights concluded the event with the following, *"Education begins with Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. If children don't know how to read and write, their education is practically unthinkable. With the launch of the Reading Campaign, in a span of 5 months, CCI children who could read stories increased from 24% to 47%. All children can learn, if they are provided with the right support. Getting the tablets to these children is just the start. The Department of Women and Child Development will now focus on the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy development via digital mediums. By the end of the year, every child in CCI shall be able to read and write. In the 75th year of independence, this is a small dream which we shall achieve."*

ANNEXURE: PHOTOGRAPHS



