

## Haadibadi Community Library

During the initial days of the month, we at Haadibadi were able to complete some of our routine tasks necessary. The library has remained closed from the 9th of the month to avoid the grave risk of infection among the members and our staff. Due to the unexpected partial lockdown enforced by the state in the following days, most of our work came to a standstill for a while. Learning, however, cannot come to a halt. Keeping this in mind, we recommenced our online library sessions- an array of vivid storytelling hours, reading practices, arts and crafts projects, discussions, video screenings and comprehension exercises.

## Shifting of the Library

With the onset of monsoon, the walls and roof of the library started showing heavy leaks due to which the library was moved from its old location to a new one- an airy and well-lit room in the building next door, on the 10th with the help of volunteers from VFC who dealt with the shifting of books and the other items. However, we are still searching for a new and permanent space to relocate the library.



## Lockdown & Library: Challenges for Learners

Keeping the safety of the young members as a priority, Haadibadi decided to close the library during mid-April even before the official announcement of lockdown. This indefinite period of stillness hadn't been easy before and isn't easy now as well, as it comes with its own set of conflicts for our members. One such being the lack of space for our young readers and the paralyzing boredom they are left to face which does not allow the young minds to tap into their creative energy. This prevents them from being stimulated- both physically and intellectually especially in their growing years, which can dampen their spirits and may potentially take a huge toll on them mentally. In addition, this year's partial lockdown has resulted in the lack of resources (mostly, on the tech front) for most of our readers who find themselves unable to attend our online Library sessions; the reason being they don't have access to smartphones or internet services while they wait on their working parents, at home. Since many government and aided schools have stopped functioning, the only form of visual engagement for the young minds is through television. Additionally, they don't have the space to read at home nor do they (necessarily) have an elderly person who can assist them with reading.



This has become a matter of concern to many parents as their children were getting addicted to television and digital gadgets. One of the parents approached the library and suggested that we conduct sessions related to academic learning. "We have seen our children actively participate in storytelling and art and craft sessions. It would be helpful if you could incorporate the topics related to the subjects they are taught in schools as this would also help them recall the basic lessons and keep them updated with current events", a parent said. One of the youngest members of the library who studies in a primary class requested to conduct revision of some topics, especially that of Science and Mathematics.

Along with this, the library had been a study space for 10th and 12th standard students but with the lockdown and the postponing of the exams, the students feel the frustration of the uncertainty and are anxious about the future as it seems unclear. In congruence this month (the month of May) being the Mental Health Awareness Month, we, at Haadibadi, are striving to provide safe spaces for our members to allow them to learn how to dissipate their mental stress organically, which will prove to be invaluable in the long run.

[www.haadibadi.org](http://www.haadibadi.org)

## Library Practices & Read Aloud Training Programs

On 17th and 18th, The Community Library Network (TCLN) and The Community Library Project (TCLP) offered free library practices and read aloud online training programs. This was attended by Suriya R, the library coordinator, the members of our library, school teachers and volunteers. This program taught them how to tackle different topics and situations, how to captivate the audience while speaking and how to make sessions more interactive by the strategic use of pauses and questions and an improved sense of delivery.

## Digitization of Library

With the second wave of COVID lockdown staring at us, it became a necessity for Haadibadi library to go online. Hence, the process of digitization of library has begun in mid- April with the first step of cataloguing of books and will continue in the following months.

