



Awed by young innovators solving local issues 💡

1 message

Sun, Mar 12, 2023 at 11:02 PM

Dear Friends,

I am writing this newsletter from Udaipur where our program manager Anup Dhaye, team member Alyssa Mehra and I have just finished selecting the winners of the **Udhyam Maker Fest**. We were very impressed by 25 high school students who demonstrated the prototypes of their inventions that help solve local issues. These included a flour mill run with a bicycle, a LED light that can be repaired, solar phone chargers, water conservation tools, and many more bright ideas. Asia Initiatives is proud to have supported 6 maker labs for 700 students in five remote and tribal area schools with our partner **Vidhyalay Udhyam**, with the goal of bringing Maker Labs to all schools in this district. Since this is the **Women's History Month**, I am pleased to report that over half of the inventors were girls! In our **Cascade of Learning program**, children earn SoCCs by tutoring/mentoring younger children, and redeem SoCCs for learning electronics, robotics, coding and other modules at the Maker Labs. These labs have already incubated 3 micro businesses, with more on the way.



Communities Co-create Libraries in Madhya Pradesh



Another local partner we met up with in India is **Mera Gaon Meri Duniya**, an NGO that is using the **SoCCs** methodology to incentivize young people to enhance school education for 35 younger students each in their own villages in Madhya Pradesh. They are also working with Asia Initiatives and local communities to co-create libraries in 10 villages, with parents contributing funds and wo/man power. Coming together for shared goals strengthens **social capital** for all, helping make communities resilient to climate, health and financial shocks such as happened during Covid-19.

Learning Digital Skills the Joyful Way



Our local partner **Karunodya** works in Gaya, the birth place of Buddha, where only 20-30% students had access to digital learning. Using the **SoCCs Cascade of Learning** system in 14 government schools, 280 students are now helping younger students to improve their reading and STEM skills, while redeeming SoCCS for learning digital skills. **SoCCess** is measured through increased attendance and retention rate in school, positive feedback from parents, and the confidence level of the students.

Asia Initiatives Wins the Anthem Bronze Award



In February, Asia Initiatives received the **Bronze Anthem Award** in the Non-profit Responsible Technology Category. Other recipients of this award this year include Dr. Jane Goodall, who also received Asia Initiatives' **Ban Ki-moon Award** in 2020, and Gloria Steinem, who received our **Ban Ki-moon Award** in 2017.

More about our work can be seen at our [Website](#) and our [YouTube Channel](#).

Thanking you for your support, and wishing you a Happy Woman's History Month!

Geeta and the Asia Initiatives Team

Click [HERE](#) to send 100% of your donation to our field sites



Asia Initiatives has special consultative status with the
Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)
of the United Nations



Asia Initiatives has the Platinum Seal of transparency from Guidestar/Candid

Kiindly

You can support our work by selecting Asia Initiatives while shopping at your favorite stores via our partner Kiindly.



Asia Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes sustainable development for underserved communities, with a particular focus on women and their families.

You can contact us at info@AsiaInitiatives.org

Copyright © 2023 Asia Initiatives, All rights reserved.