

# Project Suraksha

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**Venue:** Uttarahalli lake, Prasanna Jyothi Ashram

**Date:**

**Duration:**

**Volunteers:**

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## Summary

Dheerya started Project Suraksha to raise awareness about Covid-19. We set out with the intent to educate children about sanitary habits for the pandemic. It took place in two phases; Uttarhalli lake is slum-dwelling and Prasanna Jyothi Ashram, an all-girls orphanage.



We started the 'Make Your Mask' activity that encouraged the children to make their masks. We provided them with a piece of cloth with stitched strings on either side. We explained to them why we must wear face masks. We asked them to depict their identity on the face masks since they will cover their faces. Nowadays, face masks are what catches our eyes first. To make things easier, we had them draw a rough sketch on a piece of paper and then trace it onto the mask. We gave them markers of different colours. It also taught them that they could make their face masks using the material with them. At the end of each session, we distributed storybooks to help them improve their language and entertain them.



## How it started



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The pandemic hit the labour class the worst. Families were struggling to feed themselves because of unemployment. Furthermore, very few were able to grasp the concept of a global pandemic and the ones who did, didn't have the resources to protect themselves. A lot of slums fell prey to the debilitating virus. When schools shut down, many lower-class parents faced the question; what now? Children with privileged families can easily entertain themselves with at-home activities, online hobby classes, games etc., but orphans and underprivileged children have fewer options.





We wanted to implement an activity that will be engaging, fun and will also brief the children a little more about Covid-19. It was necessary to keep the activity fun so they would want to know more about the pandemic. Starting the conversation is most effective in raising awareness. The goal of the activity was to get them to wear a mask by eliciting their creativity.



Travel restrictions made it very difficult for us to execute this. We are planning to help more orphanages and slums to the best of our abilities.

