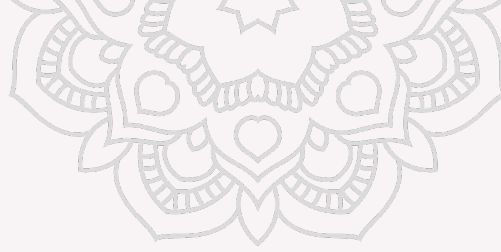


Child Ambassadors of Druk Padma Karpo School, Ladakh

COVID-19 VACCINATION

diaries

Hard-to-reach communities like the locals of Shey village, Ladakh benefitted from the Project's interventions



Located at an elevation of 3,415 metres (11,204 feet), the Shey Village lies in the upper Indus Valley, 15 km east of Leh, the modern capital of Ladakh. When the COVID-19 vaccination program rolled in, the primary challenges for Shey were accessibility to remote locales, lack of medical infrastructure, and poor internet connectivity.

The MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), ensures equitable vaccination to vulnerable, hard-to-reach, and marginalized communities. The state Government collaborated with the Project, and delegated the awareness programs and vaccine dispensation activities to local change agents to increase vaccine uptake among under-represented groups. In Ladakh, the Project has engaged with local non-governmental organizations like Sewa Bharti, TCI Foundation, and HelpAge India to maximize reach amongst the priority groups.



Under the guidance of the State Government and with support from subawardees, the Project representatives organized a creative poster-making competition for the students of Class X of Druk Padma Karpo School to increase awareness in their community about COVID-19 resources, and good practices to combat the spread of the virus.



The results were extremely encouraging. The final posters had a rich assembly of artwork and slogans that reflected the creativity of the children and their enthusiasm for the cause.

Slogans that caught the eye, included – “We are in this together and we will get through this together by vaccination”, ‘Get vaccinated, Save your life’, and so on. Stunning artwork featured popular themes of COVID-appropriate behaviour (CAB), and featured vaccine vials as saviours. The winning poster had the depiction of the youth throwing open their masks and welcoming a COVID-19 free world.



Today, the children of the Shey village are acting as ambassadors. Their young voices are creating a world of difference by changing the vaccine-hesitant attitude in the community.



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