

**BEACONS OF HOPE A SHOT OF HOPE**

# Teacher sets up night school for migrants

[ARDHRA.NAIR@TIMESGROUP.COM](mailto:ARDHRA.NAIR@TIMESGROUP.COM)

## **Pune:**

Zilla Parishad (ZP) school teacher Rohini Lokhande, who travels 25km every day to reach the school, always keeps an eye out for out-of-school children nearby. Since 2018, Lokhande has been teaching children of sugarcane cutters, who have migrated to villages near her school.

When lockdown struck in 2020, the 46-year-old realised that poverty was forcing parents to choose work over education for their children so she set up a temporary night school.

She paid a local volunteer from her own pocket, so the kids could have basic competency in reading, writing and arithmetic. She also sponsors the education of a girl from Solapur, who had to drop out and work after her father's death.

Three years ago, Lokhande had joined the ZP school in Nandor, Daund, when some children came to fetch water at the school. "They told me they had come from Aurangabad and other districts as sugarcane cutters. I saw that a huge ground held makeshift tents and the workers would stay there," said the teacher.

"From teachers to outsiders, I've found help everywhere. When I wanted mobile phones for these kids, a Kothrudbased society donated five phones. People can do wonders," she said.



**Since 2018, Rohini Lokhande has been teaching the children of sugarcane cutters**

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