At Make-A-Wish India, we believe in the power of hope!

In these challenging times of the Corona Virus pandemic, we are convinced that our mission — and the hope it represents — will continue to shine in the lives of Wish children, families, and the larger community. We also recognize the importance of keeping safety in mind and, hence, we have chosen to strictly follow the guidelines prescribed by the various authorities to prevent the spread of the virus.

For Make-A-Wish India, the year 2020 is its Silver Jubilee Year. We have granted wishes of 67,389 children so far, and we were looking forward to granting the wish of the 75,000th child this year. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and with a lot of uncertainty ahead of us, we feel that our goal would be a little difficult to achieve, but will definitely be possible with your help.

A lot of challenging questions need to be answered. Since Make-A-Wish India interacts with children and their families, how do we mitigate the risk of infection? How do we budget for months of uncertainty? How do we prepare for weeks of isolation from others? What can we look forward to, once that isolation period is over?

Due to the shutdown of offices till the end of March 2020, or even longer, we have had to cancel many wishes and are not sure when we can begin to grant them again. In this FY alone, we have 2,185 wishes to be granted and another 2,198 wishes pending of last year. Wishes of children such as... To have a battery operated car or a laptop, To be a doctor or a police officer, To meet a Sports/Bollywood celebrity, To travel to a religious place/ scenic location... all seem so difficult to fulfil.

To add to our woes, the income we generate for granting these wishes, comes from generous individuals and corporate donations. We receive no government funding. Our active fundraising programmes engage many people in different ways but, due to the current pandemic, these fund-raising events are being postponed or cancelled, resulting in a potential loss of an estimated Rs. 5 crore of fundraising income.

As a charity organisation, we need to make robust financial decisions that will not only serve our mission, but will also serve the children who, will turn to us in the future. There is no escaping the reality that cancellation fees, sunk costs and the costs of rebooking wishes will have on us.

In these difficult financial times brought about by the Covid-2019 pandemic, we look forward to your assistance in helping us grant the wishes of our children.