

# From Sparsha Trust Annual Report for years 2017-18

## Child protection projects–Summary of activities and impact

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### A. 1. Childline 1098

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Childline 1098 is implemented in Bangalore Rural by Sparsha Trust which is a nodal organization along with other NGOs. It is supported by Childline India Foundation, Ministry of Women and Child Welfare – Central Government. Four types of activities are undertaken under Child Helpline which includes rescue, outreach and awareness, phone testing and open house.

- (i) **Rescue:** During 2017-18, 442 cases were reported, of which Devanahalli had 106 cases, Hoskote had 111 cases, Doddaballapur had 108 cases and Nelamangala had 97 cases. There were 217 cases under phone testing activities. Of the 111 cases in Hoskote, 20-25 children have been rescued. And of the 106 cases in Devanahalli, about 20 cases have been rescued.
- (ii) **Open House programme:** 5 Open house programmes were held during the year
- (iii) **Outreach and awareness:** About 6680 children from 130 schools and Anganawadi (early child care centres) attended the outreach and awareness programmes.
- (iv) **Phone testing** - 217 cases were reported during the year

#### Other activities under Childline 1098

- (i) 3 staff training programmes were organized during the year
- (ii) **Training on POCSO Act for staff members in Jan 2018**

A training programme on POCSO Act was conducted for the staff which is regularly getting cases of child sexual abuse. The session guided on proper handling of such cases including correct way of communicating with police and what type of cases should be considered as sexual violence cases etc. The resource person was Nagaraj Simhaji Rao from Child Rights Trust. The programme, conducted in Nisarga Grama, was attended by 272 members from ChildLine across Bangalore.

#### (iii) **Childline se Dosti Week (Friendship week with Childline) activities**

The activities under the Childline se Dosti included the following:

- Press Meet

- Inauguration of Childline se Dosti week (who inaugurated it)
- Activities for special children (children with mental retardation and cerebral palsy)
- Games such as breaking the pot
- Awareness session about misuse of the internet
- Silent rally to create awareness about sexual abuse
- Spoke to owners of hotels, garages and carpentry work units about employing children and young adolescents, sensitized them about child labour rules and regulations
- White campaigning – sensitization to the public about sexual abuse in public areas such as bus stands through banners and posters
- Essay writing competition in Devanahalli Girls High School on their knowledge about Child line

Childline Se Dosti week events were conducted at different colleges, schools, offices, hospitals, Grama Panchayati offices and other public places.

### **Case study**

As mentioned earlier, 5 open house programmes were held in the year. Among them was the open house programme on 31 Jan 2018, at Moodiganahalli, Karahalli, Grama Panchayati, Devenahalli taluka, Bangalore Rural District.

About 8 school drop-out children (about 7 from higher primary school and 1 from lower primary school) from Moodiganahalli work in the grape farms and local eateries. These children are also into smoking, paan/tobacco chewing and consuming liquor left over from the bottles in their homes. Due to parental neglect, the children lost interest in studies, and dropped out from school.

The issue of school dropouts is the responsibility of not only the parents but also the Grama Panchayat, which has to maintain the database of all school going children of all the villages under its jurisdiction.

### **Sparsha's interventions**

In this scenario, Sparsha Trust organized an Open House Programme that was attended by 30 students, 20 parents, school teachers, Child Protection Unit's officer at the district level, Inspector from the Department of Labour, Secretary of Grama Panchayati and its members, SDMC (School Development Management Committee) members, and Block Resource person from the Department of Education. The session discussed the following:

- the status of the school drop outs were brought to the notice of the Grama Panchayat

- parents were urged to take better care of their children and ensure that they are attending school.
- children and their parents interacted directly with the stakeholders present and discussed their problems.

## **Impact**

- After the open house programme, five of the eight drop out children are going to school. Follow-up is being done for the other three students.
- Grama Panchayat got support from Sparsha to implementing the Right to Education Act in a proper manner.
- The parents realized that the future of their children would be affected if they dropped out from school, and understood their own role in their development of the children.

## **A. 2. Right to Education (RTE) Task Force**

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RTE Task Force is a coalition of NGOs that is working for children's Education Rights on a voluntary basis. Sparsha Trust, which is one among the NGOs, supports the process of children getting financial aid to fund their education. During this year, Sparsha Trust create awareness about RTE in Bangalore Urban and Rural along with the other NGOs in schools, colleges, and in the communities to reach out to parents.

## **A. 3. Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR)**

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KSCPCR is a statutory body set up under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005, an Act of Parliament. Working with KSCPCT as an advisory member, Sparsha Trust creates awareness about Child Rights and works on strengthening Child Rights policies. The main activities of 2017/2018 included:

- (i) **Nanna Nade Shale Yedege event in May 2017:** As one of the active member of KCPC, in Bangalore North, Sparsha Trust conducted awareness jathas (rallies) in Yelahanka, K R Puram and other Bangalore north along with BEO (Block Education office), Department of Education, Department of Labour, Department of Social Welfare and Department of Women and Child Welfare. The impact of these rallies was that Sparsha Trust reached out to school drop-out children, identified them and enrolled them into school.

KCPCR has identified more than 160000 children who are not going to school across Karnataka.

- (ii) Bharat Yatra – state convenor for Bharat Yatra, organized by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.
- (iii) The Chairperson of KCPCR nominated Mr Gopinath as a member of a team to implement a school development programme in Bangalore Rural and Kolar District under District Collector. Through this programme, the team has mobilized support from different corporates for the development of Government schools.
- (iv) Initiated AVID (Alumni Village Integrated Development) in Manchiganahalli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District.

#### A. 4. National Child Labour Programme (NCLP)

The Government of India had initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 1988 to rehabilitate working children in 12 child labour endemic districts of the country. In Bangalore Urban, Sparsha Trust is supported by Department of Labour, Government of Karnataka, since 2012 to identify child labourers and rehabilitate them into mainstream education. As many of the identified child labourers have either never gone in school or have studied only upto primary classes, there is need to prepare them to join the regular schools.

Sparsha Trust provides educational sessions and learning activities to these ex-child labour children aged between 9 years to 14 years in two levels. The children in Level 1 know basic alphabets and can very simple words while the children in Level 2 have no literacy skills at all. At present, there are 45 children in the NCLP programme of which 27 children are old and 18 new admissions during this year. The children are engaged in sessions on songs, dance, paper craft, drawing and other activities.

##### **Highlights of the year**

- (i) **Participation in singing competition at the Taluka, Zila Level:** 6 talented NCLP children were trained in songs and became proficient enough to take part in singing competitions organized by the Department of Labour at the Bangalore South Taluka level (January 28, 2018) and the Zila level (February 06.02.2018) The children stood first at both the level. The judging panel included Director and the Labour Officer from the Department of Labour.
- (ii) **Monthly craft activities**
- (iii) **Volunteering by Cognizant employees:** Employees from Cognizant volunteer conducted post school coaching classes for the children.
- (iv) **21 Children opened bank accounts:** The details of 21 children who opened their bank account in March 2018 have been given to the DC office. After their papers get processed, the children will get a monthly stipend from the Department of Labour as part of the children labour rehabilitation programme.

- (v) **Health check up for the children:** A Health check up was organized for each child every three months during the year. During the check up, the growth parameters were assessed, children who were under-weight and malnourished were identified and diseases were diagnosed. The children are receiving treatment accordingly.

### **Signs of positive change/impact**

Earlier, there were 14 children in Level 2 (children with no literacy skills) and 27 children in Level 1(children with some literacy skills). After these classes, 10 children have gone from Level 2 to Level 1. The 37 children in Level 1 are ready to join school.

### **Case study**

Chanda Saab, a 7 years old boy with speech and hearing impairment, is staying with parents who are from Raichur. The family learnt about NCLP as it stays close to the Centre (Mestripalya). Chanda Saab's three siblings are staying in the hostel. Between his father, who is a construction worker, and mother, who is a house maid, the family's earnings range between Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 7000/-. (name of the father to be got). His father, an alcoholic, met with an accident. Given the above personal circumstances, Chanda Saab's speech and hearing impairment was neglected.

### **Interventions by Sparsha staff**

Sparsha Trust identified Chanda Saab during a home visit, and after learning about his condition, informed the MAIS (Mallya Aditi School) which often extends support for children from low income families. NCLP staff member convinced the parents initiate the treatment for Chanda Saab.

MAIS extended support to get basic tests done for Chanda Saab including a CT Scan. However, as Chanda Saab was unwell on the day of the test, the same could not be conducted. At present, the status is that MAIS is awaiting the report results. There is hope of curing Chanda Saab's speech and hearing impairment through treatment.

The people in the area appreciated the work done by NCLP. The parents are feeling supported in this process of treatment as NCLP staff is taking the lead and networking with medical authorities and MAIS. The community realized that there is more to NCLP than providing food; and that they also help in other ways.