

SPARSHA

A TEAM FOR BETTER SOCIETY

Registered
in 2005

Organization
functioning since 2009

12 years of working as a
Team for A Better Society



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2020 to March 2021





Dear friends and well-wishers,

The year 2020-2021 changed the lives of human beings all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic affected lakhs of individuals and families all over the world. After the initial Janata curfew, Karnataka imposed a complete lockdown in order to prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus. After assessing the risk of the pandemic, the Government extended the lockdown in phases, due to which professional and educational activities were affected for most of the year.

In this situation, Sparsha Trust prioritised the safety of its children beneficiaries and staff. As the lockdown was imposed at short notice, it could not send many of its children to their families. It ensured immediate shifting of children living and studying at different residential and open shelter projects such as Makkala Mitra, Shikshana Mitra, Chinnara Dhama to Nisarga Grama, its residential facility for multi-dimensional development of children. Many staff members, including me, along with my family, shifted to Nisarga Grama so that care giving for the children could take place under one roof, and in adherence to safety guidelines.

In the true spirit of Sparsha Trust, the staff and children transformed the challenging times of the lockdown into opportunities to learn and engage. Apart from studying, doing yoga, and playing, the children took the lead in construction and art related activities. With the guidance of the elders, they constructed the compound wall of Nisarga Grama. Additionally, they constructed a fish pond, a skills development centre, built nests for birds, and painted on the walls of Nisarga Grama. Rainwater harvesting units were constructed in order to connect them to the existing bore wells for storage of water for daily use.

At the same time, Sparsha Trust also faced many challenges.

About 12 staff members and 70 children tested positive to COVID-19 and had to be quarantined in dedicated COVID-19 care facilities and hospitals. However, the children faced this difficult time in a brave manner. They started the day with a prayer and spent their time painting cards and playing indoor games. They presented hand-painted thank you cards to the Doctors and para-medical staff, who appreciated the gesture. The lockdown also forced our staff members to work from home. The staff members made full use of online messaging and meeting platforms such as WhatsApp, Zoom and Google Meet to conduct meetings and training programmes. We feel sad to share that some of our dedicated staff members and teachers succumbed to COVID-19 in the first lockdown. Also, many of the girls who went home during the lockdown got married before the legal age.

The construction of Makkala Dhama, which is a flagship project, had to be put on hold as per the Government's safety guidelines. On account of new FCRA regulations, many donors stopped their funding due to which we faced huge financial constraints. We were forced to retrench 40 dedicated staff members. Our Mobile Crèche program had to be terminated in January 2021. 20 staff members working for this program were about to be retrenched but Sparsha Trust retained and paid them salaries till 31st March 2021, along with other benefits.

Sparsha Trust also mobilized support to provide essential groceries to families whose livelihoods had been affected by the lockdown. It thanks various donors and individuals whose support helped in ensuring food security for the families. Despite the pandemic, Sparsha Trust continued to work as per its mission. In accordance with its plans to go international, Sparsha Trust formed a core committee of well-wishers based in the USA. The committee members of the proposed Sparsha Trust Foundation, USA are meeting regularly to discuss the various activities related to its establishment such as registration.

We express our gratitude to all our donors, well-wishers, staff members and stakeholders for being with us and being strong during this difficult year. We are proud to say that the Sparsha Trust family went through this difficult time with dignity, courage and in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support.

Thank you once again

Shri R Gopinath

Managing Trustee Board of Trustees
& Governing Members of Sparsha Trust

SECTION 1

About Sparsha Trust

Started in 2005, Sparsha Trust is a registered Charitable Trust which is working for the holistic development and rehabilitation of children living in difficult socio-economic & personal circumstances. Sparsha Trust's various projects are providing the identified children with food, support in education, learning facilities, accommodation, medical care, life-skills training, vocational training and reintegration with parents.

Vision

A society free of exploitation of children, where children are supported to discover their potential and given opportunities for comprehensive development.



Objectives



Create a **safe home** for every child with **free access to basic facilities** like food, health, education and clothing



Ensure that children enjoy their **constitutional rights** & Eradication of the child labour system



Develop the children's **creativity** & strengthen their **self-confidence**



Provide qualitative skills-oriented **education to empower** underprivileged children and youths



Create a community that feels responsible towards children and social issues and ensures that every child has their own place



Raise **public awareness** and their sense of responsibility towards Child rights, care, protection, development and education

Governance Body

The organization has a management board of **9 members**. There are **10 advisors** at the organizational level, and **24 experts** who are leading, guiding and mentoring the Nisarga Grama and Makkala Dhama projects.

Board of Directors (2020 - 2021)



Dr. D S Krishna
President



R Srinivasa Murthy
Trustee (Wing Commander)



Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram
Trustee



Mrs. Rupa Mahajan
Trustee



Mr. Shashidhar M. Kotian
Trustee



Mr. Gopinath R
Managing Trustee



Mr. Ranganatha GR
Treasurer



Mrs. Prameela SR
Trustee



Mr. Ramakrishna AB
Trustee

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Makkala Dhama & Nisarga Grama Core



Mr. Rajendra Hinduja
MD Gokaldas



Dr. DS Krishna
President Sparsha Trust



Wg. Cdr R S Murthy
Trustee Sparsha Trust



Mr. Raghavan G
CEO Bharthiya Urban (Real Estate) &
Independent Director



Mr. Eric Sall
VP Marketing
Service center Asia at IBM



Mr. Chittaranjan Narayana
Area Vice President
at NETSCOUT



Mr. Ranajit Victor Sen
Senior VP
Insurance Operations AXA



Mr. Shambulingayya Swami
CEO Parikrama Pesticide Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram
CEO Terex India



Mr. Andrew Tanner
Ex. Director - Global Solutions
Engineering Kennametal



Mr. Varun Vijay Rao
President India at
CIRCOR International, Inc.



Mr. Nikhilesh K Reddy Mylavaram
Senior VP
GM Zwilling Kitchen India Pvt Limited

Committee



Mr. Chitbhanu Nagri
Director HR - Moonfrog Labs



Mr. Virenderkumar Garg
Senior manager sales,
kennametal India Ltd.



Mrs. Heera Brauner



Mrs. Rupa Maharajan
Trustee Sparsha Trust



Mr. Shivprakash
Head of Engineering KSSPL



Mr. Shashidhar Kotian
Assistant Manager, KSSPL &
Trustee Sparsha Trust



Mrs. Tina Rstogin
Volunteer of Sparsha Trust



Mr. Gopinath R
Managing Trustee Sparsha Trust



Mr. Suresh Babu
General Manager, IndiGEO



Mrs. Mahalaxmi Bhat
Associate Director - HR
IBM India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Raghavendra Totamane
Senior Manager - Technology



Mr. Asim Kumar Mandal
Program Manager Persistant

CORE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



Mr. Gopinath R

Managing Trustee - Sparsha Trust



Mr. Manjunath S P

Head - Child care projects



Ms. Revathi Krishnan

Head - Fundraising and
Skills Development



Ms. Chitra K N

Head - Administration and
Communication



Ms. Mamatha B

Head - ECCE
(Early Childhood & Child Care Education)

Human Resources

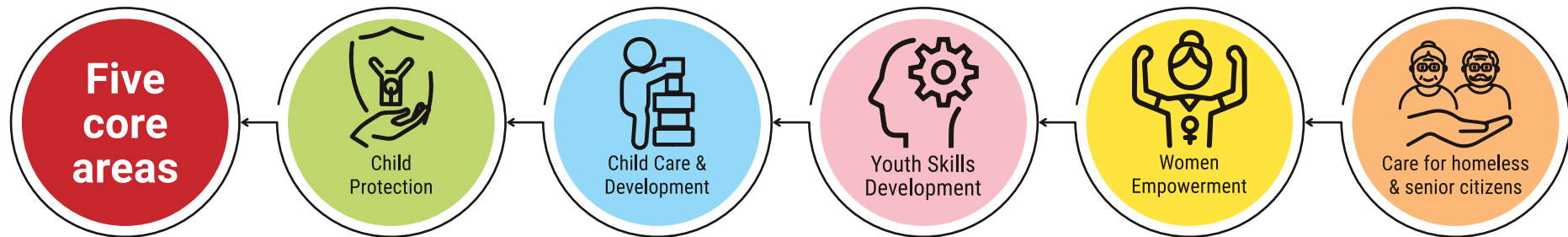
There are **98 persons** associated with Sparsha Trust as full time and part time staff as well as consultants. Around **700 volunteers** are associated with Sparsha Trust in various ways.

Certifications

- Registered under Sections 80G and 12A of Income Tax Act, has FCRA, PF & ESI Registration.
- The organization has a Financial Policy, Human Resources Management Policy, Child Protection Policy, Policy against Sexual Harassment at workplace, Procurement and Selection Policy & Volunteering Policy.
- The organization has developed a Standard Operating Procedure and a strategic document for 3 years (2020-2023).

SECTION 1

Core working areas of Sparsha Trust (2020-2021)



Child Protection

- **Childline 1098**

This is a 24-hour, toll free, emergency phone service for children in need of care and protection. Sparsha Trust is implementing this project in four Taluks at Bangalore Rural (Doddaballapur, Nelamangala, Hoskote and Devanahalli) and in five Talukas of Kolar District (Kolar, Bangarpet, Srinivasapura, Malur and Mulbagal).

- **Mobile Creche Programme**

Sparsha Trust is managing 9 Mobile Crèches Centres across Bangalore with the support of Mobile Creche Delhi and Karnataka Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Board of the Department of Labour.

- **Contact Points**

Contact points are located at different places in order to identify children living in difficult circumstances, and enrol them into the centres so they can be safe and benefit from basic learning opportunities and nutritious snacks.

Child Care & Development

- **Shikshana Mitra (A friend for education)**

Enrols children aged between 6 to 14 years into formal and non-formal schools. Located at Sanjeevini Nagar, Hebbal, it reaches about 50 children each year.

- **Makkala Mitra 1 and 2 (A friend for children)**

Makkala Mitra are 24 hour residential shelters for children in need of care, protection and development opportunities. Located at Hoskote and Hesaraghatta, these shelters reach out to about 120 to 150 children in a year.

- **Nisarga Grama (Nature village)**

A residential multi-dimensional development center located at Hesaraghatta to support and take care of neglected, abused and exploited children. With a capacity to house 300 children, it is currently supporting 160 children.

- **Chinnara Thangudhama (Urban Centre for Deprived Children)**

A shelter for 40 boys aged 14 years to 18 years located at Thindlu, Bangalore.

- **Born Learning Campaign, supported by United Way Bengaluru and Save the Children**

Sparsha Trust is implementing the Born Learning Campaign in 175 Anganwadi Centres (Govt managed creches for children in communities) across Bangalore. Its objective is to improve the infrastructure, early childcare education, and community participation in Anganwadi Centres in order to prepare the children to join mainstream schools.

- **Development of Government Schools into model schools**

Sparsha Trust is being supported by funders and alumni to upgrade the Government school at Bangalore Rural, Kolar and Ramnagara.

- **Makkala Dhama (A sanctuary for children)**

Located at Devanahalli, Makkala Dhama is a residential centre for multi-dimensional development of children in need of protection and care. After purchasing the land, a Core Management Committee has been formed. Construction activities began in December 2020 after obtaining the required approvals. Makkala Dhama, which has capacity to house 300 children, is expected to begin its activities in June 2022.

Youth Skills development

- **Smile Twin e-Learning Programme (STeP)** - Supported by Smile Foundation, STeP trains 160 youths every year in Yelahanka, Bangalore in different vocational courses. It also refers the students to internship and employment opportunities.
- **My Quest** – Supported by Quest Alliance, this program trains about 180 students in life skills, career guidance, soft skills, and digital skills.
- **Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST)** - Located at Mysore, and supported by American India Foundation, MAST provides training in three vocational skills (Fashion Designing, DHART and beautician) and reaches out to 300 youth per year.

Women Empowerment

Avani

Avani is designed to support women who are lactating mothers and pregnant women, especially those living on the streets, and working as rag pickers and construction labourers. At present, around 60 women, in and around Bangalore, are benefitting through counselling, nutrition kits, health kits and health care.



Women Lead

Designed to empower women who are street vendors, small vendors (fruits, vegetables) petty shop managers, unorganized sector workers. We are reaching out to about 200 women by training them in business development, digital marketing, social entitlements, and banking and financial support.



Care for Homeless & Senior Citizens

Sparsha Nammane

A residential shelter for homeless persons, especially those who are vulnerable, aged, living with illness, and not having a steady source of income. Sparsha Nammane provides about 60 men and women with a life of dignity and comfort, by providing them with basic essentials and reintegration support. Sparsha Trust is the lead NGO that is responsible for financial management of five Nammane Shelters managed by three NGOs. The Nammane Project is funded by APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives). The programme is being managed through Impact India Consortium, which has about 30 NGOs).

2.A Child Protection Programmes

Sparsha Trust's Child Protection programmes have been designed to protect children from different forms of abuse and exploitation, as well as to reduce and prevent cases of child rights violation through awareness and field-based interventions. Under this, there are three projects which are:

- **Childline 1098**
- **Mobile Creche programme**
- **Contact Points**

2.A.1. Childline 1098

CHILDLINE 1098 is a helpline for children across India. It is a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. If any citizen sees a child in distress or feels that the child is in danger, then he or she can dial 1098 and report the condition of the child. From there on, Childline 1098 responds and takes action accordingly, be it rescue or linking the child to agencies for his or her short-term/long-term care and rehabilitation. In addition to rescuing children found in different types of abuse and exploitative circumstances, it also creates awareness on child rights through the open house programmes and outreach activities.

IMPLEMENTATION AREAS

Year	Taluks	District
2015	Doddaballapur, Nellamangala, Hoskote and Devanahalli	Bangalore Rural
2019	Kolar, Mulbagal, Srinivaspura, Bangarpet, Malur	Kolar

Funder

Childline India Foundation and Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, Government of India



Highlights of 2020-2021

Awareness programmes

- We have conducted awareness programmes in 16 locations of Bangalore Rural district and 11 locations of Kolar district during the year.
- The objective of the awareness program was to sensitize all stakeholders on ill-effects of child marriage and child labour, COVID 19 safety guidelines, importance of vaccination for children, overcoming vaccine hesitancy etc.
- We were able to reach out to 2500 participants that included children, teachers, parents, community-based organizations, youth & Self-Help Groups.

Open House programmes

Open House programmes are regarded as one of the best practices of the CHILDLINE 1098 project. It brings together various authorities, academic representatives, children and parents on a single forum to identify issues related to children and resolve them. During this year, 3 open house programmes were conducted in Bangalore Rural, and 7 cases were resolved in the program itself.

Some of the issues discussed during this year's open house programmes include:

- Discussing dropouts among children
- Trends in child marriage in different areas – occurrence and prevention
- Cases related to harassment
- Drop out children engaging in household works, working in shops, fields and garages
- Lack of playgrounds, lack of proper teaching infrastructure in schools and lack of bicycle parking facilities
- Engagement of parents in children's education
- Improving the teaching and learning atmosphere
- Misuse of mobile phones by the children
- Patrolling of police near schools



Participants of the meetings

Authorities who attended the meetings included police representatives at different levels, Panchayat officials, Development Officers, Government school headmasters, teachers, representatives from District Child Protection Unit, Bangalore Rural District, and Child Labour Planning Society.

Overview of Open House Programme meetings

- Authorities informed the audience that legal action can be taken against those employing small children or against parents who have fixed the marriage of their daughters before the legal age.
- Asking the public to be alert to violence against children especially girls and to call the CHILDLINE 1098.
- Motivating the children to focus on their studies and not indulge in bad habits or addiction.
- Motivating the involvement of volunteers due to which in this year about 33 volunteers came forward to support in case intervention
- Mass awareness programme in collaboration with various stakeholders such as the Department of Education, Police, District Child Protection Unit, Department of Labour. Through distribution of hand bills, auto loudspeaker sensitization, posters and speeches, the public was made aware about not just child rights, but that it is the responsibility of each and every citizen to safeguard them.
- Special programmes were conducted on Anti-Child Labour Day and National Girl Child Day, around 250 children & 100 adults got benefitted.

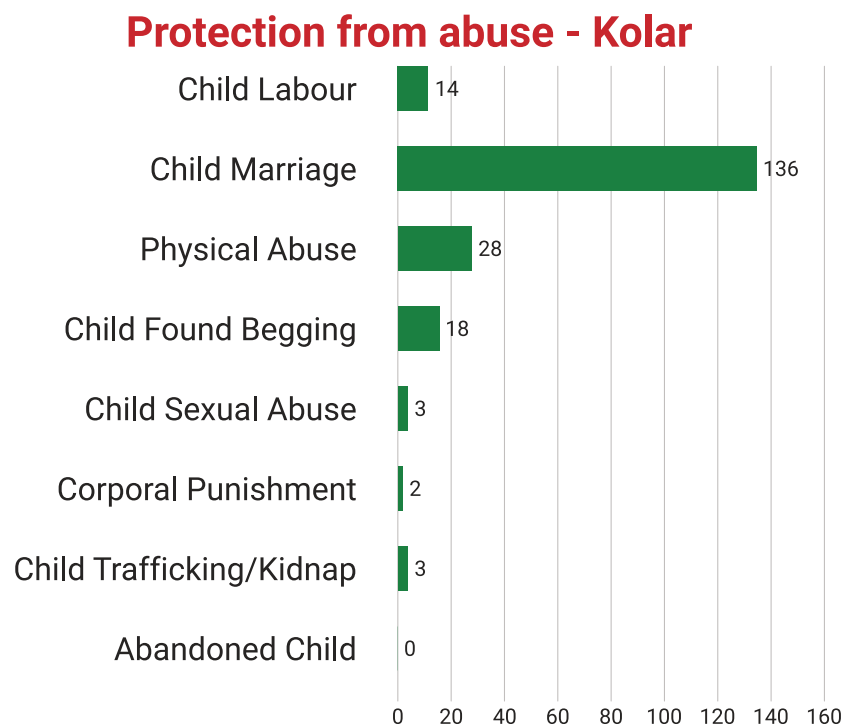
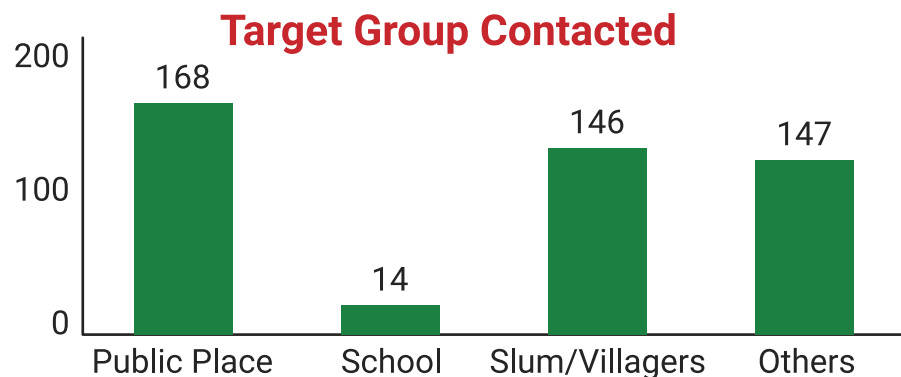


- **CAB (Childline Advisory Board):** The objective of Childline Advisory Board is chaired by District Collector to bring together all the officials working on issues related to children on a single platform and review the status of action taken on various children related cases. Apart from this, the review meetings identify the support required in order to improve the programme, and issues various circulars. The CAB has proved to be very useful in keeping the momentum in the administrative level, as officials share their experiences with the District Collector, who chairs these meetings.
- Three Training programmes were conducted this year for around 80 schoolteachers and District Child Protection Unit on Foster care, POCSO Act, Child Marriage ACT.
- **Other highlights:** CHILDLINE of Bangalore Rural district has made a team of 8 local women, Anganwadi teacher and 2 children in 5 villages of Devanahalli taluk. The objective is to strengthen this team as a resource unit, so that they can create awareness to the people of villages about the repercussions of child labour, child marriage and school dropout issues. The team will also play the role of a watchdog and inform Childline 1098 about any cases and try to resolve issues at its level. The formation of such teams contributes to the sustainability of the programme.
- **Child Friendly Grama Panchayaths:** With the objective to create Child Friendly Grama Panchayath, Childline 1098 conducted five awareness programs for adolescent children in all the 5 schools of GP. The topics include COVID-19 vaccination for children, ensuring all children have birth certificates, and are made aware about repercussions of child marriage, child sexual abuse, child labour, dropout and other issues

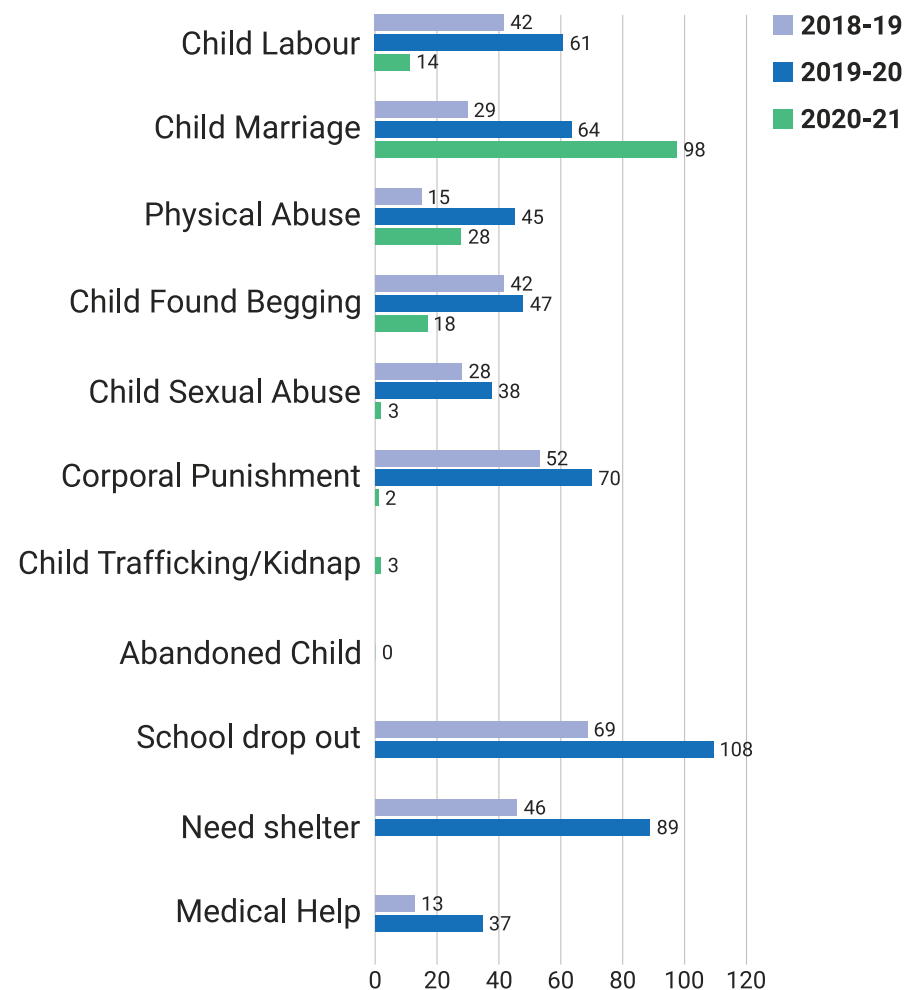


Key Statistics

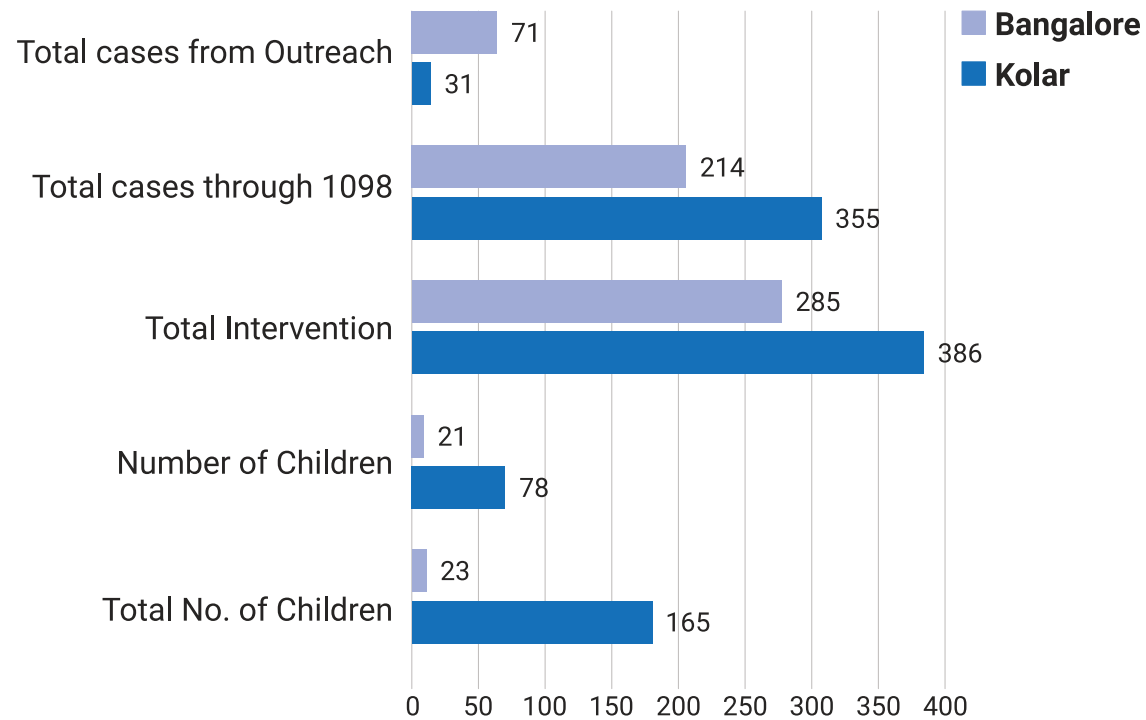
Grassroots level outreach with children and concerned adults



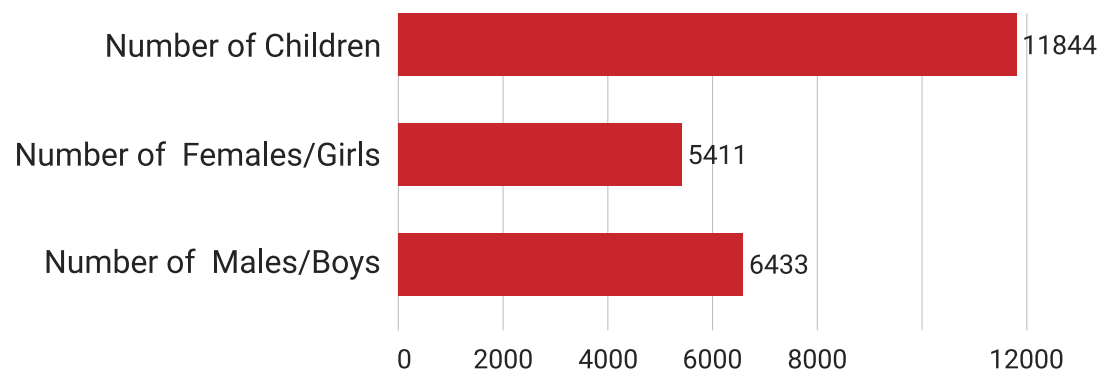
No of children Protected from Abuse
Bangalore Rural



Key Highlights



Number of children who are benefitted



Supporting stakeholders

- Deputy Collector and District Administration
- Child Welfare Committee
- Department of Education
- Department of Labour
- Department of Women and Child Welfare
- Gram Panchayat
- Social workers of the area
- SDMC members (School Development Monitoring Committee),
- BEO (Block Education officer)
- Officials from the police Department
- First American India (volunteers)
- Volunteers from schools and colleges

Sparsha Trust thanks all the **Stakeholders** for their support & prompt response during the implementation of **Childline 1098**

2.A.2 Mobile Crèche programme

Introduction

The construction industry, which is one of the oldest industries in India, employs a large number of workers from low-income families. These workers live in poor housing conditions that often lack basic sanitation, electricity and water supply. Additionally, they lack awareness about the importance of health care and are unable to often proper medical health services. Their children, especially those under 6 years, fail to reach their potential because of poverty, poor health, malnutrition, and inadequate care.

Background

With the objective to improve the lives of children from migrant and construction sector families, Sparsha Trust initiated on-site creches or childcare centres in different wards of Bangalore. Initiated in 2011, these interventions were part of the organization's non-formal education and contact point centres. In 2016, Mobile Creche Delhi, who evinced keen interest in Sparsha Trust's work, came forward to support the interventions for children of construction labourers at 2 construction sites. This support which has continued since then, scaled up to 9 locations by 2020- 2021. The reach of services to children scaled up from about 100 to about 800, and benefitted about 500 families in the process.

In 2018-2019, the Joint Director of Women and Child Development visited the mobile creche centres managed by Sparsha Trust with support from Mobile Creche Delhi. Impressed with the activities, the Department decided to work with Sparsha Trust to initiate and implement mobile creche centres at different construction sites. Since the programme was to be implemented at construction sites, the project got transferred to the Department of Labour. Accordingly, as part of a one-year pilot project, Karnataka Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Department of Labour, supported Sparsha Trust to implement 5 more mobile creche centres. This initiative also got the direct support of builders and other organizations.



Objectives of the mobile creches

- To provide day-care facilities for children from 0 to 14 years of working mothers at construction sites.
- Provide a safe and conducive environment for the children
- Provide early learning and playing materials to help children's (cognitive, psychological, social, Language fine and motor skills)
- Community mobilization through mothers' committee meetings, Bal Vikas Samithi (BVS) meetings and home visits and Volunteer activities.
- Undertake and admit children of 6 years and above at local government schools under the Right to Education Act.



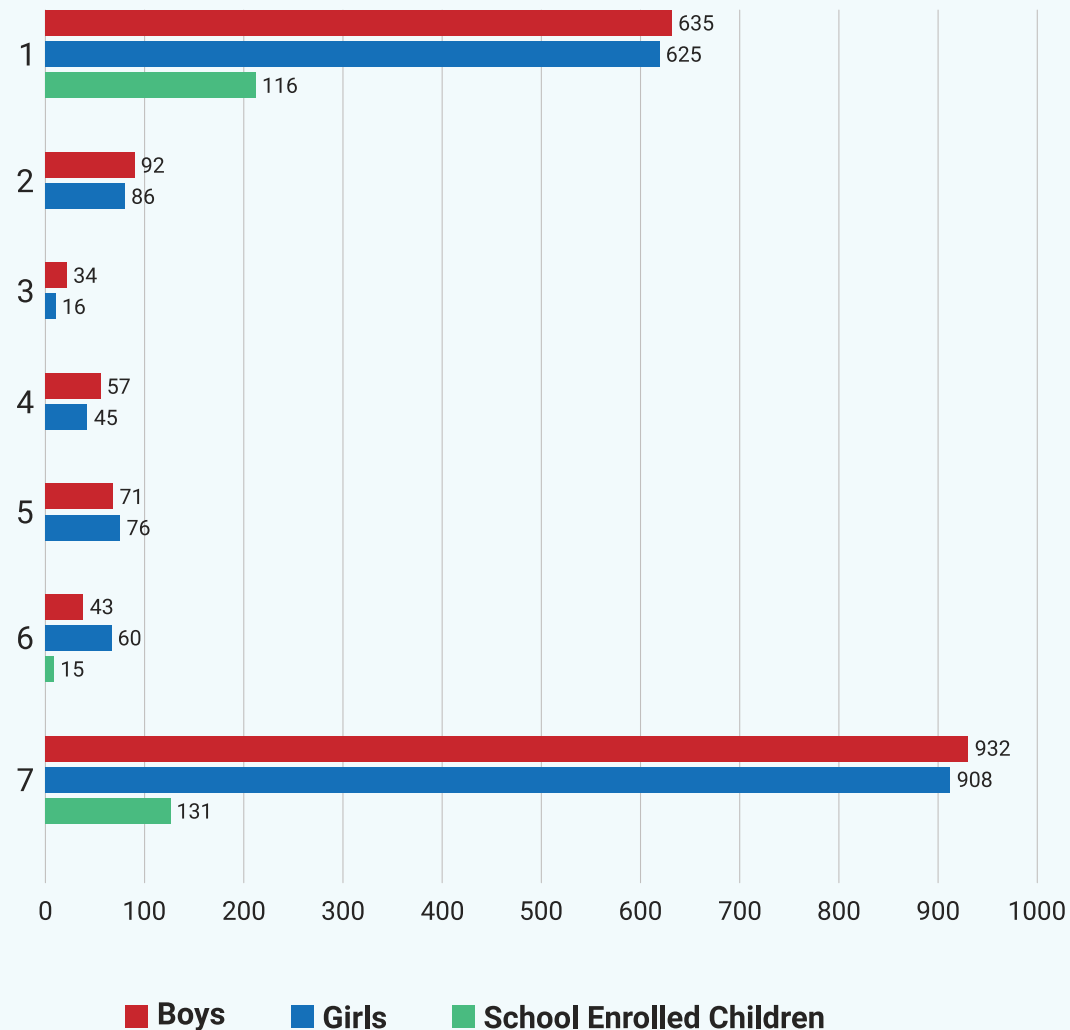
Funder

Mobile Creche Delhi, Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Board

Mobile creche centres with details about location & children related statistics

Sl. No.	Funder	Builder	Location	Number of Mobile Creches	Enrolled Children Male	Enrolled Children Female	Children passing out from Mobile Creches
1	Mobile Creche Delhi	Tata 1 & 2	Mestripalya	3	635	625	116
		N R Greenwood	Rachenahalli	-	92	86	
		Hombale	Kommaghatta & Hoskote	1	-	-	
2	Karnataka Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board	Adarsha Premia	Banashankari	1	34	16	15
		BWSSB 1	Hebbal	1	57	45	
		Ramaiah 1 & 2	Mathikere	2	71	76	
		Multiple Builders	Cheemasandra	1	43	60	
					932	908	131

Children in Mobile creches



Activities during 2020-2021



Learning & Play Activities

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government ordered all learning and educational centres to close till the situation normalizes. Accordingly, the mobile creches had to be closed down. However, the staff of Sparsha Trust made door to door visit to families in the communities, and after following all the COVID-19 safety guidelines, interacted with the children and parents. During their visits, they trained the parents on various activities with which they could keep their children engaged. They also recorded videos related to various play activities and shared them through whatsapp. The parents, equipped with ideas to engage their children, appreciated the initiative taken by Sparsha Trust. Many felt as if they were reliving their childhood by engaging in various games and activities with the children. It gave them the opportunity to bond with their children, who in turn spent their time productively throughout the day.



Food Security

- Groceries kits and vegetables were distributed to the families about three times during the lockdown.
- Children were provided with nutrients enriched food so that they could be prevented from malnourishment. This also helped the parents as their livelihood had been affected by the pandemic.



Health Care

- Distribution of masks and sanitizers.
- Awareness through calls and whatsapp on safety guidelines to protect from COVID-19.
- Counselling to keep the morale of the communities high, and to motivate them to take care of their physical health, and be strong and positive.



Post Lockdown Activities

- Awareness sessions for mothers and parents on Right to Education, and importance of childcare, early childhood development and child upbringing techniques.
- Health camps and eye check-ups for mothers and community members.
- Resumption of learning activities in the mobile creches with strict adherence to safety guidelines.

Outcome (Impact)

- The productivity of mothers and families at construction sites increased as they were able to focus on their work without worrying about their children, or taking breaks at work to look after them. Accordingly, 1838 mothers and 500 families were able improve their attendance and productivity at work, leading to an increase in family income. Males: 931, Female: 907.
- Improvement in reading, writing and language related skills of children. The online initiatives taken during the lockdown had ensured continuity in learning, and this helped the students to be prepared to join classes after the unlock.
- 262 children were admitted in local government schools thus ensuring Right to Education (between November 2020 to March 2021 when the schools re-opened after the lockdown). The enrolment process had got affected due to the lockdown else more number of children could have taken admission during this academic year.
- Health and nutritional status of enrolled children showed improvement.
- Builders at the construction sites became aware of importance of Mobile Crèches, child development practices and importance of formal education.
- Risk of child kidnapping and trafficking, especially girls reduced drastically

2.A.C Contact Points

Introduction

Across Bangalore, children from low-income families (aged 6 to 14 years) are often found idling their time while their parents go for work. Due to financial constraints, lack of accessible learning facilities, and lack of awareness about proper childhood care, many parents neglect to fulfil the needs of their children. As a result, during an age which requires activities to develop them in a holistic manner, the children end up losing their time. This not only affects their overall development at an early age but also adversely impacts their preparedness when it comes to enrolment in regular schools. The education of girls in particular is impacted as they are trained at an early age to do household chores and look after their younger siblings.



Sparsha Trust's Interventions

In 2011, Sparsha Trust initiated contact points in low-income settlements, identified children aged between 6 to 14 years, mobilized and enrolled them in these contact point centres. These contact points are located at Virupakshanagar, Nayandahalli, Jawaregowdadoddi, Cheemasandra and Vivekananda Nagar. The enrolled children were provided with the following services at the contact points:

- Nutritious snacks
- Learning and recreational activities
- Engaging indoor and outdoor games & cultural activities

Activities and Impact

During 2020-2021

Most of the activities was impacted due to the lockdown related to COVID-19 but after the lockdown lifted, the children began to visit the contact points. The children were happy to come out of their homes and spend time in a productive manner. They were protected from any type of abuse and neglect which they could face at home from their parents, many of whom were out of work as the pandemic affected their livelihoods.

The children felt more prepared to join the mainstream education system, as after attending the contact points, their interest in learning activities increased. Various games further helped to improve their concentration and confidence.

SL. No.	Description	Beneficiaries-19-20
1	Virupakshanagara	45
2	Nayandahalli	52
3	Jawaregowdadoddi	57
4	Cheemasandra	50
5	Vivekananda Nagara	45



2. B.Child Care & Development Programmes

2.B.1.Shikshana Mitra

Introduction

Started in 2010-2011, Shikshana Mitra (Friend of Education) is a residential centre for children aged between 6 to 14 years. Working from a Government school in Sanjeevini Nagar, near Kodigehalli, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore North, it reaches to about 50 children each year. These are those children who are deprived of educational opportunities due to their family's poverty, neglect or migrating patterns. Sparsha Trust identifies children in need of care and protection and motivates their parents to enrol them in Shikshana Mitra.



Operational model of the centre

The center is completely run by volunteers and families from neighbouring apartments which includes Sterling Apartments, Bearys Apartments, and Godrej Apartments. Volunteers engage the children in various activities such as music, dance, cultural activities, skits, yoga, story telling meditation, computers and in different indoor and outdoor games. The bridge learning classes and tuitions conducted at the centre prepare the children to get enrolled in schools.

Funder

Individual Contributions, managed by families of Sterling Apartments, Sahakar Nagar

Overview of Activities and Impact

- The space of the centre and the engagement with volunteers help the children to play, study and spend their time in a productive manner.
- The training in various dance and sports activities have given the confidence to participate in various cultural competitions and sports tournaments, where many have gone ahead to win prizes.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

Till the COVID-19 pandemic related lockdown affected the project's activities, Sparsha Trust was catering to about 50 children annually. However, during 2020-2021, due to the lockdown, activities could not take place from March 2020 to about November 2020. Many of the children staying in the shelter returned to their homes while others were shifted to Nisarga Grama. Even when the lockdown was lifted, the Government notified that schools and learning institutions should continue to be closed as a precautionary measure. However, the children were shifted to Nisarga Grama, a residential facility managed by Sparsha Trust for multi-dimensional development of children and benefitted from the activities conducted there.

Update on 2020-2021

42 Number of
Children in
the centre

18 Admission of new
Children during the year
(after the lockdown lifted)

11 School
enrolment of
children

05 Home
Placement



2.B.2.Makkala Mitra

(A friend for children – Open Shelters)

Introduction

In Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural, children living in low income and BPL (Below Poverty Line) families are vulnerable to different forms of abuse and exploitation. Children are made to drop out from school and made to work as child labourers. Others are forced to beg at public places, or pick rags and waste for selling to waste collectors. Many children work in hotels, garages and other places from morning to night. The lack of proper housing and basic services like sanitation, safe drinking water, education, electricity, health care, recreational facilities, adds to their lives of deprivation. Victims of neglect and different forms of exploitation such as physical, sexual, emotional as well as economic, many of these children enter the world of crime, and turn into criminals and exploiters themselves as they become adults. This cycle has an adverse impact on the future of not just the child, but also their families and the societies at large.

Interventions by Sparsha Trust

Keeping the needs of children living in above mentioned circumstances in mind, Sparsha Trust initiated Makkala Mitra in 2012. Located at Hoskote and Hesaraghatta, Makkala Mitra is a 24-hour residential shelter for children who are in need of care, protection and development opportunities. An initiative of Sparsha Trust, Makkala Mitra is managed under sub-section (1) of section 43 of the Juvenile Justice Act (2015). Its objective was to provide childcare & child development services to about 60 children each year.

Funder

Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka

Summary of activities in **Makkala Mitra**

Makkala Mitra aims to provide that space for children where they can play, study, use their time productively and engage themselves in creative activities through music, dance, cultural activities, yoga & meditation, computers, indoor and outdoor games, etc. Bridge learning classes are also conducted for the children so that they can feel prepared to enrol in government schools.

18

Total admission
of children in 1 year

11

School
Placement

05

Home Placement

01

Referred to CWC



2.B.3 Nisarga Grama

Introduction

Recognizing the need for a 24/7 facility to ensure protection and development of children who have faced abuse, neglect and exploitation, Sparsha Trust built Nisarga Grama (nature village) a multi-dimensional residential development centre. Started in October 2016, Nisarga Grama is located in a lush surrounding has the Hesarghatta Lake in its proximity. With a capacity to house about 250 children, Nisarga Grama, multi dimensional development residential centre of the children, provides enrolled children with a safe place to live, study and develop.



Nisarga Grama's Facilities

- A large multi-functional dining hall, 8 dormitories, 2 libraries (one for younger children and one for older children), a playground and big backyard, gardens, a computer lab, science lab, multiple classrooms, an admin block and staff quarters
- Eco-friendly (Solar energy) campus
- Vegetable garden and greenhouse
- Dairy farm
- Fruit bearing trees
- Security system
- Rainwater harvesting
- Children's museum



Nisarga Grama Development Committee

A core committee of Sparsha Trust's Board Members, corporates, academic experts, staff members and children has been formed specially to initiate, implement and monitor the various activities of Nisarga Grama. This includes taking care of the needs of the children including food, lodging, education, recreation, sports, and health care.

Funder

- Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
- Kennametal India and Kennametal Shared and Services
- Netscout India
- Light a Life, First American India
- Himalaya Wellness Company
- Consero Global
- United Way Bengaluru
- Persistent Foundation
- New Horizon Educational & Cultural Trust
- Individual Donors

Summary of Activities during 2020-2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic related lockdown, the children living in various residential shelters of Sparsha Trust were moved to Nisarga Grama, The Managing Trustee, Shri Gopinath R moved in to Nisarga Grama with his family along with other staff members to ensure proper care taking for about 140 children, both boys and girls, aged between 7 years to 20 years. As the immediate priority was to protect the children and staff from COVID-19 pandemic, Sparsha Trust's top management designed an intensive framework of safety guidelines in the campus of Nisarga Grama.

These included:

- Providing the children with multi-vitamin tables enriched with vitamin C, vitamin D, and zinc in order to improve their immunity.
- Ensuring that the children drank only warm water boiled with various spices and medicinal leaves, and inhaled steam regularly in order to protect themselves from cold and cough.

- Restricting entry of visitors to Nisarga Grama and restricting exit of children and staff members from the campus (unless it was essential)
- Ensuring safety guidelines related to COVID-19 Handwash, wearing of masks and physical distancing was strictly maintained.

While health and safety were given top priority, the Managing Trustee and the core committee of Nisarga Grama felt that it was important to keep the children engaged in constructive activities. Else, they may become lazy, or give in to anxiety and depression, as it was the first time ever that they were facing the threat of an unknown virus. As the Government had directed the schools to be closed as a precautionary measure, there was a need to engage the children in a holistic manner. Accordingly, a strategy was taken to divide children into groups, based upon their age and interests, and plan various campus related activities. These activities were not only useful for the campus but also provide a good experiential learning for the children.

And it is only because of the constant support and encouragement of supporters and stakeholders that Sparsha Trust was able to convert the 8 months of lockdown into a daily opportunity for learning and self-development.

Grateful Acknowledgement to Supporters

While Sparsha Trust is thankful to all those who stood by it during this difficult time, it specially acknowledges the support of APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives), First American India, Kennametal, and Dr. Pallavi Akurathi, IAS, Director, ICPS. Despite her demanding schedule, Dr. Akurathi and her staff were constantly in touch with us and helping us during the hospitalization of the COVID-19 positive members.

A. Interventions for children

① Priority to health of the children

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the menu chart of Nisarga Grama was modified in order to improve the immunity levels and stamina of the children. Children were given more vegetables, dals, fruits, buttermilk and eggs.

Lunch and dinner consisted of rice and sambar, ragi ball, butter milk, curd, vegetable curry and papad. The children were given kheer, banana or any other fruit thrice a week. Evening snack time consisted of ragi porridge, milk with snacks like fried ground nuts, mixtures, biscuits on a rotational basis. The children enjoyed fruits like gooseberry, guava, butter fruit, jack fruit, and papaya which were grown in the campus itself.

③ Educational activities

Educational activities, as per the syllabus for different classes, were conducted both in an online manner as well as through physical studies on a daily basis and often extended till late night. Volunteers from the corporate sector tutored the children online to ensure that their studies did not get impacted. The elder students often coached the younger ones in various subjects, which in the process inculcated a sense of responsibility and bonding between children of various age groups. Learning was not restricted to mere academics as the children improved their general knowledge by reading books in the well-stocked library in the campus.

② Creating a positive atmosphere in the campus through experiential learning, with opportunities to engaging in various activities

The day would begin with prayers, followed by yoga, campus maintenance and development activities such as gardening, cleaning the campus clean and maintaining personal hygiene.

④ Building a skills development Centre

Sparsha Trust established a skills development centre in the Nisarga Grama campus with the objective to train the children in employment and entrepreneurship friendly skills. The construction was done in an eco-friendly and cost effective manner as used tiles (in a good condition) were purchased at low rates and used to construct the skills development centre. During the construction, the children enjoyed cleaning the tiles and checking for any broken tiles. Subsequently, one the best of tiles were used for the construction.



⑥ Campus maintenance and development – a hands-on learning experience for the children and staff

Under the guidance of experienced labourers and the staff, the children worked on various campus maintenance and development activities. This is in accordance to Sparsha Trust's objective to make Nisarga Grama a self-reliant, eco-friendly and sustainable eco-friendly campus.

Some of the initiatives include:



Developing an arts and Crafts museum in the campus

Dr. Padmini, ex director UNICEF, had collected various types of art objects during her travel across the world. She donated many beautiful art and craft items from her collection to Sparsha Trust, and encouraged the children to develop a museum. With the additional guidance of CRT (Child Rights Trust), the children formed a core team and developed a museum

in the campus of Nisarga Grama. Prior to the pandemic, Sparsha Trust had encouraged these children to visit various museums so that they could learn from them and set up the museum in Nisarga Grama. At present, the children are themselves taking the initiative to develop and maintain the museum.



Construction of poultry farm in April 2020 with chickens, ducks & turkeys farms

Sparsha Trust purchased 30 chickens for the poultry farm, and thanks to the care of the children and staff, the population increased to 100 by the year end. The eggs from this farm provided much of the nutrition required by the children, and also saved money for the organization. More importantly, the children learnt the entire process of construction of the farm, maintenance, caring for the poultry, cleanliness and using the poultry waste for the bio gas fuel unit. They also learnt to hatch chicks from eggs.



Maintenance of the Dairy Farm

During the lockdown, children with interest in dairy farm activities, took care of the four cows, cow shed and other related activities such as milking

the cows. The children benefitted from the nutrients enriched milk and curds of the dairy farm, which is essential during their growing years.



Cleaning the Campus on a daily basis

The children and staff kept the campus clean, and collected the dry leaves and flowers, vegetable and fruit peels. The organic waste was then converted to manure through composting.



Constructing of Rainwater Harvesting pits in order to Feed the borewell to upgrade water availability for the campus

With the support and guidance of the staff and labourers, the children dug a pit of 10 by 15 feet around the borewell for nearly 15 days. The children designed the rainwater pit, about which they had learnt in their textbooks. During the rains, the pit started to fill with water, which then fed the borewell. This increased the water security for the campus. The children take pride in their work and are happy that their efforts led to a meaningful contribution to the campus.



Mural art on the walls of Nisarga Grama

The talented children did mural art on the walls of Nisarga Grama, an activity that not only made the walls look attractive but helped the children to express themselves creatively. The girls stood on high ladders and painted the name of Nisarga Grama on the walls along with decorative motifs. Artist Shiva and his team helped the children to outline, sketch and paint in this

activity which took 10 days to complete. The children planned the nature of sketches, the location, and various color schemes. Their work helped the campus get an aesthetic look which was very much appreciated by all.



Construction of Bio Gas Unit

The labourers present in the campus constructed the bio gas unit in the campus with the help of the children. The children regularly put the bio waste collected from the poultry, dairy farm and from the campus into the bio gas unit pit. The fuel from the bio- gas unit helped was used for cooking activities in the kitchen.



Construction of mud-lined and concrete lined fish pond

For nearly one month, the elder boys and girls dug the soil for creating a fish pond along with a water channel. In the process, they learnt about the techniques of aqua culture, introducing fish into the water, and maintenance of the farm.



Recreational Activities

The day was not all about only studies and experiential learning but also about fun, relaxation and enjoyment. The staff and the children celebrated various festivals that came during the lockdown such as Varamahalakshmi, Guru Purnima and Independence Day. Apart from this, the children enjoyed the nutritious and delicious snacks by the Aaji Angadi unit. Fancy dress programme, team tasks as part of the Big Boss game and many others kept the children going.



B. Distribution of dry ration kits

Dry essential ration kits consisting of nearly 20 essential household items including rice, dal, oil, spices and soap were distributed to the families of children staying in Nisarga Grama as well as others in the community. In this activity as well, the children were engaged in categorizing and packing the items, and then were also involved in distribution of dry ration kits to communities whose livelihoods had got affected due to the pandemic. The distribution took place four times during the year, by ensuring COVID-19 related safety guidelines.

Challenges

● Staff and children tested positive to COVID-19

On 18th and 21st of August 2020, BBMP conducted COVID-19 test for all children and staff at Nisarga Grama. 56 children and 7 staff members tested positive. Initially, all were in a state of panic. There were many questions in our mind such as how this could have happened given that many precautions were being taken. The Board members of Sparsha Trust discussed with the Nisarga Grama team about this development. As per the BBMP guidance, the COVID-19 positive patients were shifted to different Covid Care Centers. Other children (who tested negative for COVID-19) were kept in quarantine in the shelter. All the safety measures were taken care of including daily sanitization of the campus. During this difficult time, Dr. Pallavi Akurathi, Director, ICPS and her team helped Sparsha Trust by ensuring that the children got timely treatment. Sparsha Trust once again expresses gratitude her for her very valuable support during this time. With the blessings of God and every one's prayers, all affected persons were discharged from care centres after about 12 days. They were in isolation for another 14 days.

● Other challenges faced were the following

- Care had to be taken to manage adolescent boys and girls
- Security of the children
- Ensuring children did not slip away from the campus
- Adolescent girls who had gone home due to the pandemic had got into under-age marriage, which caused much disappointment for the staff
- A few staff members who had gone to their native decided to leave the job and take up new work in their respective villages or towns itself

Unlock related activities

After the phase wise unlock process began in September 2020, several children who had returned to their homes started calling for re-admission to Nisarga Grama. After a meeting within the management, it was decided to allow children studying in 9th, 10th and PUC students to return. These children were kept in quarantine for 15 days. By the first week of August 2020, 127 children were enrolled in the campus without any health concerns.





Funder

- Terex India Pvt Ltd
- Moonfrog Labs Pvt Lit
- Kennametal India Pvt Ltd
- Light a Life, First American India
- Consero Solution India Pvt Ltd
- Ankit Jain
- QSFT India Pvt Ltd
- Dalmia Bharat Foundation Trust
- Kennametal Shared Services
- Venugopal Puvvada

Introduction

Sparsha Trust is consolidating its interventions in order to provide more focused care to the children staying in different shelters. This move is also in accordance with the regulations of Juvenile Justice Act (Board) that boys and girls cannot be housed in the same complex or building. Also, as rentals and frequent shifting from one rented premise to another was disrupting the programme activities, Sparsha Trust planned to construct a permanent multi-dimensional residential development centre called Makkala Dhama for 300 children at Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural district. Makkala Dhama is being constructed with the support of Bangalore International Airports and other corporate donors.

Formation of Committee

A core management committee of about 24 members working in senior positions in corporates and ex-defence personnel has been formed. The members are channelizing their energy and contributing their valuable expertise in making this vision a reality. They are mentoring various activities such as design, construction, and financial management of Makkala Dhama.

Activities till date

- Purchased of 2 acres land in Devenahalli in 2019
- Conducted a grand bhoomi pooja (ground breaking ceremony) to launch the project in December 2019
- Planted saplings of trees to ensure greenery
- Obtaining all the permissions from the Government
- Design of the building prepared by VBHC

Activities during 2020-2021

- Although the lockdown affected the construction of Makkala Dhama, Sparsha Trust resumed work on the construction of Ashwatha Dhama (dining hall, admin block, library and computer lab) and Chinnara Dhama (residential facilities) once the lockdown was lifted.
- About 60% of construction of Makkala Dhama was completed by March 2021.
- Tree plantation: In July 2020, Sparsha Trust planted 280 saplings in Makkala Dhama and 45 saplings at Nisarga Grama. The saplings were purchased from Hesaraghatta. 30 children of Nisarga Grama and 5 staff members went to Makkala Dhama and spent the entire day planting the saplings. The support for tree plantation was given by Persistent Foundation.

Future plans

About 150 children are expected to move into Makkala Dhama by June 2022. The campus will have well-designed and well equipped learning and living infrastructure and facilities.



2.B.5 Chinnara Thangudhama (Urban Centre for Deprived Children)

Chinnara Thangudhama, which is an Open Shelter for children deprived of care and protection located at Thindlu, started in December 2010 and was implemented till 2013 with the support the Department of Education. From 2010 to 2013, Chinnara Thangudhama, also known as UDC (Urban centre for Deprived Children) had three centres located at Kanshiram Nagara, Tarahunase, and Gadenahalli. These centres were eventually closed as the Government withdrew its support across Karnataka.

In 2013, Sparsha Trust, on its own initiative, initiated a residential centre for boys at Shivaji Nagar for around 40 to 50 children living in critical conditions. These were children who were into begging, child labourers, children of migrant and construction labourers, rag pickers and those with different addictions. The UDC again moved to Thindlu in 2018 with about 40 boys between 14 years to 18 years. With the support of various companies and individuals, Sparsha Trust is providing these children with nutritious food, health care, learning and activities, evening tuitions, as well as opportunities to learn computers.

Funder

Contributions from individuals and Sparsha Trust's employees

Activities during 2020-2021

On 23rd March 2020, the children were shifted to Nisarga Grama of Hesaraghatta as a precautionary measure to protect them from COVID-19 pandemic. There, the children benefited from various learning and recreational activities, as mentioned in the segment on Nisarga Grama.



2.B.6.Born Learning Campaign

Introduction

The Government managed Anganwadi centers are of great help to the families in the low-income group which consists mostly of laborers, daily wage earners and unorganized sector workers. However, as the staff of these centres have to fulfill multiple responsibilities, the Government Anganwadi centers are not able to function properly.

In this situation, as part of the Born Learning Campaign, Sparsha Trust initially worked to improve 5 Anganwadi Centres in 2018, which gradually increased to 175. This was done with the support of both United Way Bengaluru and Save The Children.



2017 - 2019

10 Anganwadi Centres

2019 - 2020

45¹⁰⁺³⁵ Anganwadi Centres

2020 - 2021

75⁴⁵⁺³⁰ Anganwadi Centres



2020 - 2021
Bengaluru
Rural District

100 Anganwadi
Centres

As per the Born Learning Campaign, about 3500 children and more than 12000 families benefited from the project's interventions till 2020, after which both United Way Bengaluru and Save the Children had to withdraw their support due to the modified FCRA guidelines. These projects were then handed over to the authorities and the community for continuation. In addition, due to the COVID-19 related lockdown, the project had to stop several of its activities.

Funder

United Way Bengaluru, Save the Children

Activities during 2020-2021

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Anganwadis centres were closed to the children most of the year. Only around January 2021 did the activities start but they were low grade ones, given that many of the parents had migrated or were focussing on their livelihoods. However, during the lockdown, the staff trained the parents to teach and engage with their children through WhatsApp. Essential groceries kits were distributed to parents in various clusters as the livelihood of families had been affected during the lockdown.



Overall impact of the programme since implementation

► Infrastructure Upgradation

- Infrastructure upgradation through construction of toilets, upgrading or repairing rooms, kitchen spaces, paintings on wall, providing furniture and teaching materials. As a result, safety and comfort has increased and teaching spaces have become more effective. The revamped Anganwadi centres are now more noticeable to the community due to its attractive and effective renovation. Children, teachers, parents and the community are now experiencing a sense of pride in the centres.
- Kitchen gardens were initiated in many Anganwadi Centres.

► Learning Activities

- Children corners created for the development of five motor skills in children (physical development, motor development, language development, social development, emotional development and cognitive development).
- Training programmes for Anganwadi workers and helpers improved the teaching processes and engagement with the children.
- Increase in enrolment and attendance of children
- Enthusiasm among the parents and the staff members.

► Community Engagement

- Health camps for general check up as well as for screening for cancer.
- Planning and celebration of various important days and festivals (World Environment Day, Nutrition Week).
- Improved health of children as well as family due to sensitization on importance of nutrition for children, mother and families.
- Awareness in the community about early childhood development and childcare practices.

Action Plan for 2021- 2022

- Replication of the model Anganwadi project in Bangalore Rural by other Anganwadis. This will increase the reach of beneficiaries through Anganwadi centres located at different places.
- Seek funding from CSR initiatives of corporates and donor agencies for supporting administration cost, infrastructure development and other activities of the Anganwadi centres.

2.B.7 Developing of Government Schools into Model Schools

Although government schools are very important in ensuring education for children from low-income groups across the country, they face various problems which include dropouts, especially among girls and lack of good quality education and learning methods/techniques. Sparsha Trust is working with the following schools in order to upgrade the quality of education and infrastructure so that the children can learn in the best possible atmosphere and do their best:

Funder

- Government Higher Primary School at Hejjala, Bidadi, Ramnagara District with the support of Toyota Kirloskar Motors
- Government Higher Primary School at Bijjwara, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural District with the support of Jai Shivshakti Health and Education Services and the village alumni

Sparsha Trust aimed to develop these schools into model schools through various interventions including infrastructure upgradation, capacity building programmes, participation from families, community and stakeholders. Sparsha Trust facilitated the processes for good quality education and holistic development of the children, which was sustainable, replicable and scalable. The activities included setting up science lab, computer lab, libraries, deputing teachers to address gap and improve quality of education, experiential learning, workshops and eco-friendly models. The students learnt to plant seeds, maintain soil and grow their own food in the school. Vegetables like brinjal, ladies finger and greens are being grown regularly and being used in the mid day meals. The students also participated in various competitions and won prizes. As a result, there was an increase in the enrolment of children in these schools.

Overview of activities in the schools

- Basic amenities – Mid day meals with the support of Government of Karnataka, Uniforms and shoes to the students, and learning materials
- Advanced learning facilities – Computers, tabs and projectors and E learning materials
- Capacity development for teachers and deploying of teachers with experience from the Department of Education
- Health and safety care: Health check ups, behaviorial change programme
- Eco friendly environment – rain water harvesting, green school concept and solar energy installations
- Extra-curricular activities – Sports, cultural activities, yoga, drawing and arts
- Exposure trips – participation in various competitions and going on educational trips
- Stakeholder engagement – involving parents and community stakeholders in the school's activities, Department of Education and engaging like-minded groups and companies
- Created alumni groups
- Awareness about safety guidelines about COVID-19 among the children and families
- Teachers would conduct home based learning and play activities, as well as doing community based teaching activities (segregated on the basis of the classes)
- Online teaching through whatsapp on a daily basis (sharing of learning materials, demonstration videos etc)
- Essential dry rations were distributed to families who were in dire need

Outcome of the three years project of GHPS, Hejjala

The Model School Project initiated in GHPS has shown remarkable results in all aspects of the school infrastructure, administration, teaching and learning methodologies, and processes. Below is the overall outcome of the project observed over the past more than three years (2017-18 to 2020-21).

Infrastructure

- From a temporary 3-classroom school, it has been upgraded to a 2-storeyed building with all facilities.
 - 100% improvement in comparison to the conditions that existed prior to the project.
 - More spacious and well-designed classrooms that can accommodate up to 150 children.
-

Student Enrolment

- Increase in enrolment from 27 students to 67 students in two years.
 - School upgraded from Lower Primary School to Higher Primary School.
-

School Attendance

- Attendance has improved drastically from 60% to 90% on an average.
-

Mode of Teaching: Digital Curriculum

- Technological intervention in the teaching system.
- Introduction of digital curriculum.
- Better concentration during class.
- Improved classroom performance.

Standard Operating Procedure

- A Guideline Booklet for Model School Project | 45 SDMC and Parents participation
 - Parents are taking more interest in the studies and progress of their children.
 - 85% improvement in engagement of SDMC members and parents.
 - Parents are regularly interacting with teachers and involving in the school's developmental activities.
 - Parents are more responsible and connected with the school.
-

Extracurricular activities and participation

- Each and every child of the school now participates in one programme or the other.
 - School participated at State Level in Prathibha Karanji competition.
 - Participated in several inter-school competitions and have won many prizes.
 - Children of this school are being recognized by neighbouring schools and communities for their skills and are being invited to perform on various platforms.
-

Library

- Children have cultivated the habit of reading.
- They are able to read English words fluently.
- They are able to confidently read story books.

After successfully completing its mandate to develop the Government school into a model one, Sparsha Trust developed an extensive Standard Operating Procedures guidelines booklet that detailed the processes and strategies developed by the tri-party partnership. To indicate the commencement of taking forward the processes and implementations by the school authorities, trust and other related stakeholders, Sparsha Trust handed over this booklet and the responsibilities of school's management to the Department of Education, school teachers, Community, SDMC & Alumni Trust on 29th March 2021.

2.C Youth Skills Development Programmes

Introduction

Youth from poor families lack opportunities for getting employment or starting their own enterprises due to lack of adequate and relevant qualifications, essential skills and preparedness. As a result, many of them especially those from the villages and migrant families are not able to get proper a job and end up taking any work which comes their way.

Interventions from Sparsha Trust

Understanding the need to equip youth, especially those who come from rural and peri-urban areas with a good quality foundation course in job friendly skills, Sparsha Trust has been organizing vocational skills training programmes for the youth since 2016. This training is supported with exposure visits, internship opportunities and placement support. As a result, youth from low-income group families were able to secure entry level positions in various companies.

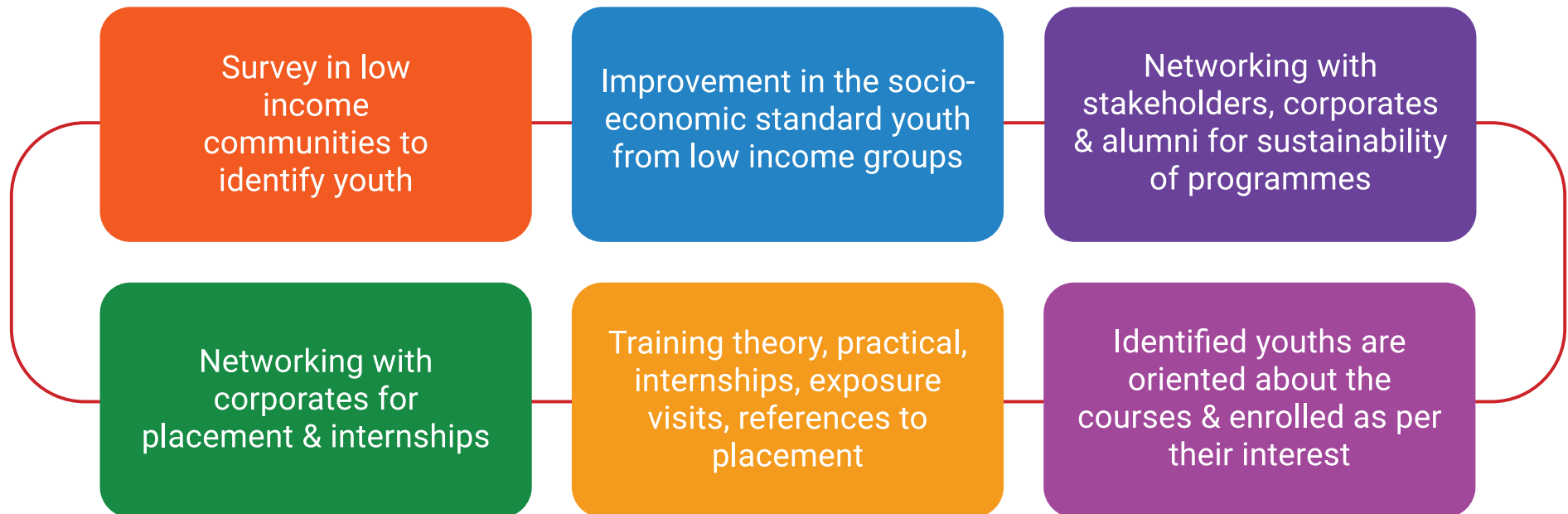


Funder

- Smile Twin E Learning Programme (STeP) at Yelahanka, Bangalore with support from SMILE Foundation
- My Quest Training Programme at Mathikere, Bangalore with support from Quest Alliance
- Market Aligned Skills Training Programme (MAST) at Mysore with support from American India Foundation

Even during this pandemic time, Sparsha Trust's My Quest team put in their best of efforts due to which it was awarded by the donor, Quest Alliance. My Quest was awarded for being a centre of excellence, for enabling effective learning during the COVID crisis, and creating hope and opportunities for young people in India.

Overview of services in Sparsha Trust's youth skills development programmes



Interventions by Sparsha Trust during the lockdown

Organizing online classes

recording the theoretical classes & practical classes for reference

The COVID-19 pandemic related lockdown adversely impacted the teaching of all the courses – SteP and MyQuest in Bangalore and MAST in Mysore. The safety guidelines required the public to remain at home without any particular timeframe on the lifting of the lockdown. In these circumstances, Sparsha Trust decided to conduct online classes for these courses. Although the classes involved practical sessions, the decision to conduct online classes was taken in order to ensure continuity in learning for the students. The staff of the various projects of the skills development programme recorded its theoretical and practical classes and sent them through WhatsApp to the students. Through Zoom and Google Meet, the trainers interacted with the participants as well. As soon as the lockdown lifted, the offline classes resumed.

Organizing extra offline (physical classes) after the lockdown lifted

Extra offline classes were conducted once the lockdown was lifted around August 2021 with strict adherence to safety guidelines of COVID-19 pandemic. Sparsha Trust wishes to thank all the donors for the support & encouragement for organizing special evening classes for the students.

Networking with organization & potential employers during lockdown for **internship & placement opportunities**

The project staff of STeP, My Quest and MAST contacted the prospective employers during the lockdown itself. They informed them about the kind of courses conducted by them, and also ascertained their requirements. Therefore, when the unlock took place, the placement related activities happened without any loss in time.

Employment opportunities

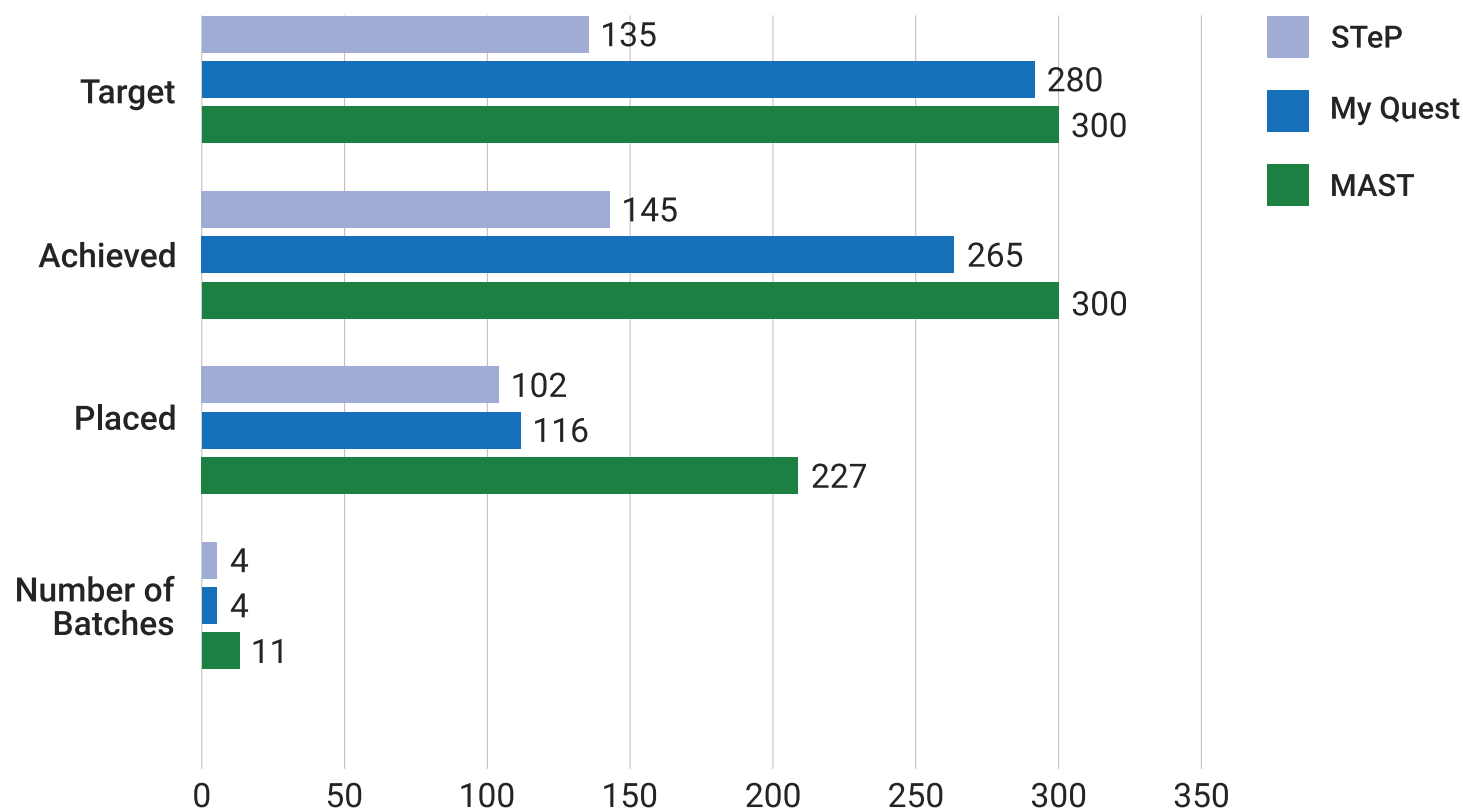
Sparsha Trust contacted many companies belonging to the health care services, retail sector, banking sector, finance and education sector. Reputed hospitals such as Ramaiah Hospital and companies such as Vishal Mart and Axis Bank were among those who employed the students.



Challenges faced

Although conducting digital lessons ensured continuity in classes, there were challenges such as students not having their own smart phones. However, with time, this issue got resolved as the students began to use their parents smart phone and accessed lessons.

Youth Skills Development Programs 2020-2021



2.C. 1. Smile Twin E Learning Programme (STeP) at Yelahanka, Bangalore

With support from Smile Foundation, Sparsha Trust has been organizing the STeP (Smile Twin E Learning Programme) since 2016. The areas of training are Health Care (GDA) and Core employability during which the following is taught to the students:

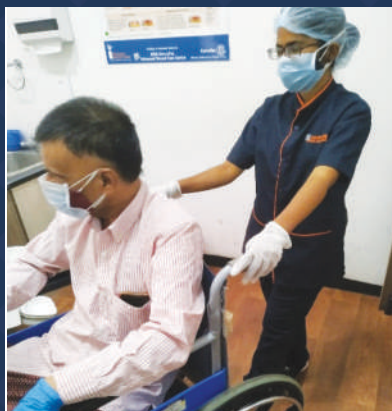
- Dealing with Patient Anxiety
- Cleaning & Maintaining Medical Equipment
- Waste Management
- Bed Bath
- Patients Positioning
- Patient Monitoring and Reporting
- Biomedical Waste Disposals
- Basic information on COVID-19

STeP:

During 2020-2021, 146 students were trained & 102 students were placed in the health care sector.

Students were placed with an approximate starting salary of Rs. 8000/- to Rs. 14000/-

CASE STUDY



Name: Angel S

Age: 21

Qualification: PUC

Company Name: Ramaiah Hospital

Designation: GDA

Salary: 8000/- per month

Summary of student's success story

Angel S is 21 years old she is living in Bangalore, with her family. She is working as a GDA assistant in Ramaiah Hospital.

Personal & Family Background:

Angel S is living with her family of 5 members. Father is working as welder, her mother, and elder sisters are working in garments. Since her father is not so co-operative & financially supporting the family, she had lots of family problems & quarrels.

Experiences through STeP

Angel S always wanted to be independent and extend support to the family. Due to financial problem at home she didn't want to continue the studies but she wanted to support the family got to know about the STeP course through mobilization. She was not aware about the classes and GDA, but still felt this would be the first step to achieve her desire and joined the course. She feels her decision for joining the course was not wrong. From this training she learnt many things about GDA (General Duty Assistant), and CE (Core Employability). From GDA she got to know the importance of patient care, and she learned many other skills which can be applied in the family. She also said in pandemic she learnt safety precautions and covid guidelines which she also ensured her family members adhered to. She continued stating from CE she learnt how to communicate, maintain good relationship in workplace, how to write effectively, email, etc. She expressed all this knowledge was very useful and she benefited a lot.

After completion of GDA training, through Step program, **Angle S** got a job as a GDA assistant in Ramaiah hospital, with a starting salary of Rs. 8000. Now she is very happy that she is leading an independent life, supporting her family. She also thanks STeP, Smile foundation, Ericsson, Sparsha trust for giving this opportunity and Wadhwani Foundation, for providing courses in learning wise, and making things easier to learn and to build good career and progress in life.

"I'm confident with this course I can succeed in life. Thank you so much for letting me be a part of this program".

2.C.2.My Quest Training Programme in partnership with Quest Alliance at Mathikere, Bangalore

The My Quest Training Programme is being conducted by Sparsha Trust since 2018 with support from Quest Alliance at Mathikere, Bangalore. The focus is to prepare the students in core employment friendly skills. These include the following:

- Communication skills
- Life Skills
- Career Skills
- Digital skills
- Retail & Customer Interaction

My Quest programmes had two centres - Centre 1 (hybrid model) and Centre 2 (online model). Although 4 batches were conducted, the first batch commenced in the last week of the previous financial year (2019-2020) as the schedule of training was planned accordingly.

My Quest: During 2020-2021, 265 students were trained and 116 students were placed in various companies related to retail, banking, finance and education sector. The starting salary for students placed under the MyQuest programme was Rs. 6000/- per month to Rs. 12000/- per month.

CASE STUDY



Name: Vinisha

Location: Bangalore

Education: 1st PUC

Phone: 8310829864

Company Name: Fiori Cloth Shop

Salary: 14,000

Designation: Cashier/Sales Representation

Family Background

Myself Vinisha, I was born on 16th March 1997 in Chennai. My schooling was in Chennai till my 6th grade and then we moved to Bangalore and continued my studies. There are 5 members in my family. My father's name is Mr. Venkatesh Yasudas and my mother's name is Ester Rani. I have 2 elder sisters. They both got married 2 years back. My father is working as coolie he is the only source of income. I always had a desire to support my family.

Change noticed through Sparsha Centre

It was a time when I was looking for some opportunity and guidance. My family was going through many financial problems due to covid pandemic. That time, while Sparsha team was mobilizing I got to know about the quest, and immediately I joined classes. After joining here, I felt encouraged. These classes helped me a lot to build my career.

I learnt how to communicate with others, which helped me to build my confidence. I really render my gratitude to the Sparsha & Quest organization for providing me skills to progress in my life. Learned all the digital content and I am using it in my workplace also. It was Sparsha who helped me to be independent. My career helped me to focus on plan and decide my future. They helped me to join as a Sales Representation in one of the garment shop. With these skills I was able to perform better, now I am being promoted and looking after the billing part. During covid I was given the opportunity to work from home to advertise their products by editing the photo and posting it in social media. Because of covid I am not being paid a lot but still I am very happy that I am able to support my family with whatever I earned.

I feel so happy and privileged that the quest provided me this opportunity to be part of their family. Thanks a lot to all the members of this organization. With their support I am independent today. And my desire is to continue progressing in my life.

2.C.3 MAST - Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST) programme, Mysore

The Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST) programme, which is being implemented by Sparsha Trust in Mysore, is being supported by American India Foundation since 2018. Youth from low-income families can choose among the various employment and entrepreneurship friendly skills to kick start their career in a sustainable manner. The courses, all of which are of three months each, include the following

- Fashion Designing
- DHART (Domestic Home Appliance Repair Training)
- Beautician training

Funder

American India Foundation

All the students had common courses in computer operation, life skills, financial literacy and spoken English. The office, which is located in a low-income group area, is easily accessible to its trainees, especially women trainees. These are those women who are single parents, or belong to broken families, widows, underage married women, or school dropouts. We are happy to inform that that about 90% of the participants are women in the Fashion Designing and Beautician course. Even during the lockdown, the women were taking up tailoring orders and earning when the rest of the members of the families were not attending to work, due to the closure of their respective offices.

Over the last four batches conducted since February 2019, MAST has trained 352 youth members of which 201 persons have been placed or have taken self-employment ventures

227	146	81
Total no of placement	Self Employed	Job Placed

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	No. of Batches	No. of Students
1	Fashion Designing	4	200
2	DHART	4	57
3	Beautician	3	43





CASE STUDY



Name: Sumathi

DOB: 27th July 1986

Qualification: 10th

Donor: MSI & AIF

Implementing Partner: Sparsha Trust

Location: Mysore

Mrs. Sumathi is from a family of 4 members comprising of a husband, and her two children. She was married at the age of 16 to Mr. Ramachandra. Her husband is a farmer; his crops died without proper maintenance during the Covid lockdown. There were a lot of financial issues in her house in spite of which she wanted to educate her children.

She came to know about our centre through mobilization so she got enrolled in fashion designing. She was a quick learner & absorbed stitching skills accurately. After completing the course, she has started her own boutique cum gift shop in which her husband joined hands for support and now they are earning up to Rs 15000 per month on regular basis, and on special occasions like religious festivals she earns up to Rs 20000. She also bought 2 cows and earned through them also. She said, through this income, she not only manages her family but repaid a loan of Rs.200000. She feels so determined and proud of her success. She is very thankful to MSI, AIF, and Sparsha for making her dreams come true. She truly believes that

“When ambition fuels your desire to succeed, you’re virtually unstoppable. There’s this undeniable hunger that leads you to passionate action—and as goals go, it’s the doing that leads to achieving. If you keep pushing toward this reality, you can definitely claim it”

“

She says

I feel so happy & privileged that MSI, AIF, and Sparsha provided me this opportunity to be part of their family.

Thanks a lot, to all the members of this organization. With their support, I am independent today, & I desire to continue progressing in life.

”



2.D Women Empowerment

2.D.1 Avani

Introduction

Started in 2020, Project Avani is an initiative of Sparsha Trust to improve the health care and well-being of pregnant and lactating ragpickers and construction labourers as lack of proper medical care and information about health-related issues affects them adversely. They face serious problems related to their work environments like wage discrimination, health hazards, gender and sexual harassment and safety related issues. Additionally, their menstrual and maternal health, pre-natal and post-natal care is largely neglected. Pregnant women are also not aware about the importance of nutrition, rest and other health related practices that are good both for the to-be mother and child.

The hardships of these women increased during the COVID-19 pandemic related lockdown as loss of income and limited medical interventions restricted their access to their essential needs. As a result, these women faced the risk of malnutrition, delivering under-weight babies, or even losing the child during pregnancy.

Funder

Mr. Surinder Choudhary,
Managing Director and Founder of
Surin Automotive Pvt Ltd.

Interventions by Sparsha Trust during 2020-2021

- Identification of pregnant and lactating women in the working area of Hebbel, Mestripalya, Thanisandra, Cheemasandra and Ramaiah Labor Colony.
- Sensitizing them about the importance of nutrition, hygiene, health care, immunization and good self-care habits. It also sensitized them on relationship management, time and money management as well as life skills.
- Distribution of nutrition enriched food kits on a monthly basis, consisting of Jaggery, Dry fruits, Ghee, Seasonal fruits, Chyawanprash, Chikki, Dry coconut etc.
- Distribution of daily nutrition kit of Milk, Banana & Biscuits.
- Regular on-site health checkups of mother and child including laboratory testing.
- Health checkup services for children till they are 2 years old.

Impact

- 14 pregnant mothers and 46 lactating mothers benefitted from the project (total 60) as there was an improvement in their overall health and weight.
- Increase in consumption of nutrients enriched food, iodine, dairy products, vitamins, folic acid in health pregnancy, as pregnant and lactating mothers understood its importance in healthy pregnancy and preventing birth related defects.
- Timely immunization which helped to protect from diseases
- Improved nutritional status led to more strength, stamina and positive attitude among the women
- Improved breast feeding practices
- Zero cases of infant mortality
- Normal and natural deliveries
- HIV awareness programme,
- Monthly health check up which helped to get details about Blood Pressure, weight, SPO2 of the beneficiaries.

Case Study

Residents of Thanisandra, Shivakanthamma and her husband, who have one daughter, work as labourers at a construction site. Both she and her daughter were under weight as they did not consume nutrients enriched food. She was identified during the project survey, and a health check subsequent to that revealed that she had low immunity, BP and was underweight.

After getting nutritious food, there has been good improvement in her health. Both mother and daughter have gained weight. Their immunity has also increased. Prior to AVANI, the family was not aware about the importance of timely intake of nutrients enriched food and were neglecting their health. Also, they would not have been able to afford the same as the couple is working as daily wage labourers. Now, they are thankful to all the staff and partners for providing these services to them.

2.D.2 Women Lead Project

Introduction

Street vendors are an integral part of Bangalore City around offering easy access to a wide range of goods and services in public spaces. They sell everything from fresh vegetables to prepared foods, from building

materials to garments and crafts, from consumer electronics to auto repairs to haircuts. However, doing business is not easy for these women as they regularly face problems of eviction, demands for bribes, are unable to access various government facilities, lack basic amenities at place of work such as toilets and hand wash facilities.

Statement of need

The street vendors were among those whose livelihood was hit by a COVID-19 pandemic related lockdown. Since many were migrants from other states or residents from rural and peri-urban areas, the lockdown forced them to leave for their native as they could not sustain their daily expenses, rent and medical care.

Interventions by Sparsha Trust

At a difficult time like this, Sparsha Trust initiated Women Lead in order to empower 200 Women managing micro or small enterprises to upgrade and upscale to become entrepreneurs in the Covid-19 scenario through training, referrals, hand holding and linkages

The project's geographical areas are 50 slums/low income communities where Sparsha Trust is implementing the Anganwadi development programme and improving their

systems. Sparsha Trust has not only upgraded the Anganwadi centres in these areas but has good credibility, good rapport with community members and local stakeholders at Bangalore urban and rural.

Funder

United Way Bengaluru

Activities during 2021-2022

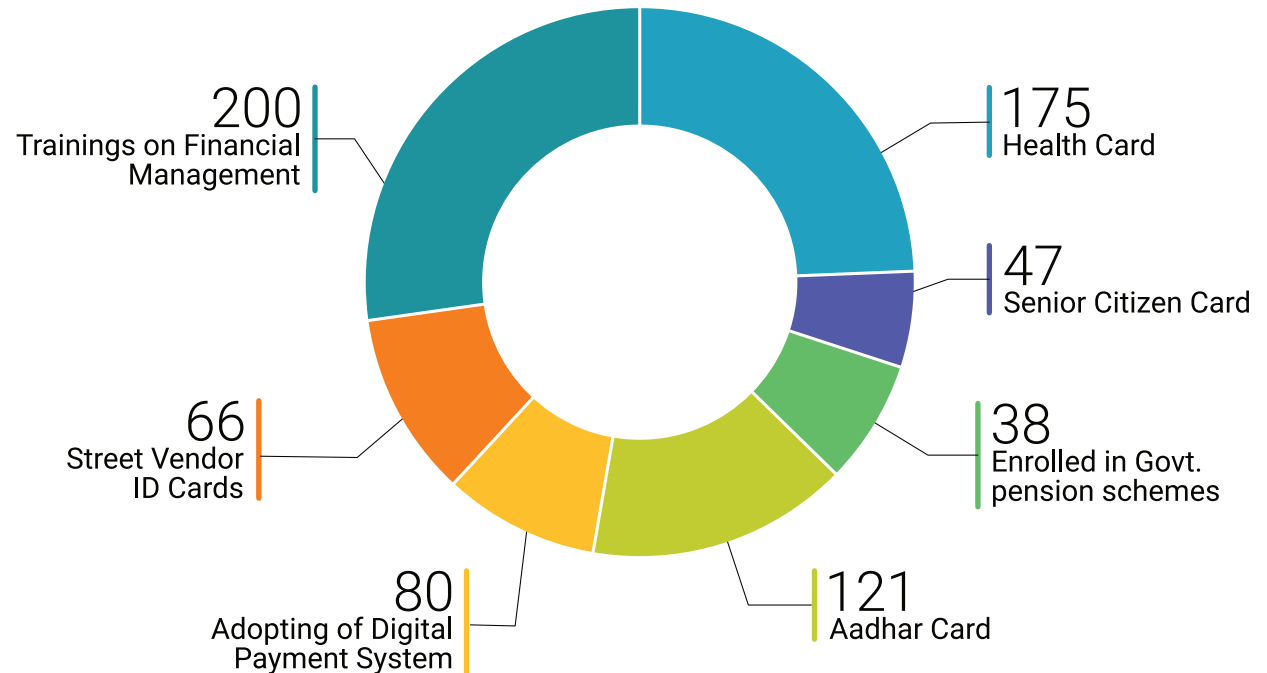
- Awareness on Covid-19 related safety guidelines, especially by making masks. Women were trained on making masks for self use and for production and sale.
- supporting the women to be able to sustain family financially, thereby taking care of children's educational needs and family's health requirements.
- Training the women in financial management and entrepreneurship management to improve sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Linkages to Government schemes, financial institutions, and entitlements.

Impact

- Women based enterprises are able to customize their work in the Covid-19 scenario by finding new avenues to work and earn.
- Improved women based entrepreneurship as there is demand for products made by them, leading to improved lifestyle of the family.
- Improved business management leads to sustainability and increased profitability in the Covid-19 scenario.
- Women based enterprises contribute to improving the socio-economic conditions in the Covid-19 scenario.
- Women entrepreneurship and leadership will be developed in the country, creating opportunities for employment for others, and contributing to GDP.
- Seed money of Rs 5000 given to 200 women to strengthen business.

Financial Sustainability

80 Women Entrepreneurs adopted a Digital payment system in their business which helped them to increase their sales. The knowledge about individual bank loans helped to expand their business. They also learnt the importance of savings and using it for expanding the business.



Action Plan for 2021–2022

- Replication of WLP Model among other BPL families covering at least 100 women street Vendors for vending activities.
- Awareness sessions and Advocacy initiatives on street vending activities and socio-economic empowerment of women street vendors.
- Need to mobilize funding for Woman Lead Project for program expansion based on a 5 years plan .

2.E Urban Homeless Care & Senior Citizens Care

2.E.1. Sparsha Nammane

Introduction

Since 2012, Sparsha Trust has been managing a night shelter known as Apta Mitra (Friend of those in distress or need) for homeless people in urban Bangalore. Located in Ulsoor, it is funded by Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike and has a capacity to house 60 persons. At present, this shelter houses most senior citizens, who are not having a place to stay. These are those from low-income communities and below the poverty line, who are not in a position to feed or look after themselves.

In November 2019, the support extended by APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives), helped to upgrade the facilities and services in the following ways:

- Fixing of protective mesh on the windows
- Installation of CCTV for security and safety
- Upgrading the dining area
- Painting of indoor and outdoor areas
- Installation of kitchen sinks and tiles
- Upgrading toilet facilities

- Painting of indoor and outdoor areas
- Installation of kitchen sinks and tiles
- Upgrading toilet facilities
- Fresh bed linen was given to the residents
- Taps, pipes and tanks were renovated
- Provision for 24-hour water facility
- Solar facility for providing 24-hour hot water
- Welcome kits to new residents consisting of towel, brush, oil, comb, soap, and shampoo.
- Ceiling fans
- Television for entertainment
- 30 two tier cots,
- Facilities for pure drinking water
- Security staff

Funder

APPI, BBMP & New Horizon College



Summary of activities & impact of 2020-2021

- Strict adherence to safety guidelines through usage of masks, physical distancing, reducing the movement of visitors and senior citizens during the lockdown, ensuring frequent handwash.
- Residents observed the candlelight as an act of strength and solidarity during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Regular food were given to the senior citizens residents thus ensuring food security and protection from malnourishment.
- Free medical treatment and medicines was given to residents who fell ill, who otherwise would not have been in a position to access or afford timely medical treatment and medicines.
- Ninety-one counselling sessions were conducted with the support of 4 qualified counsellors to motivate the senior citizens to live life with a positive spirit, and not give in to anxiety or depression due to separation from their families due to various reasons.
- Counselling sessions conducted were helpful to the members to overcome their anxiety, fear, and trauma related to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Seventy (70) Inmates were assisted to get Social Entitlement Benefits as their Fundamental Right.

- Out of 106 enrolled inmates (male: 59), female: 47), 85 (Male: 42 Female: 43) persons were sent back to respective homes in their native under Family reunion and reintegration.
- Two (2) members were referred to other shelters namely - Sandhya Suraksha Old age Home and Auto Raja) in Bangalore
- Improved physique and health status of 106 members
- Eighty-seven (87) members were sent back to their respective home under Family reunion and reintegration.
- Two (2) members were referred to other shelters in Bangalore
- Seventy (70) members were entitled to Social Security Scheme

Action Plan for 2021–2022

- Work in collaboration and partnership with HUDCO (Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)).
- Replication of Model and establish two more Urban Homeless Shelters in needy areas and as an outcome of need analysis of urban homeless
- Strengthen and improve quality of services of existing urban homeless shelters.

Social Security Scheme	No of Members
Aadhar Card	14
Pan Card	18
Health Card	14
Opening of Bank aAccount	23
Job Placement	1
Grand total	70



SECTION 3

Annual Events of Sparsha Trust

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Sparsha Trust was not able to organize two of its major annual events – which are the Summer Camp and My Steps Towards Education usually conducted around May every year.

Global Friends of Sparsha (Digital Event)

However, given the safety guidelines and other factors, it conducted a very successful digital Global Friends Of Sparsha event on 21st October 2020. This event brought together well-wishers, stakeholders and donors from different parts of the world. During this event, about 200 eminent personalities from different walks of life spoke about their association with Sparsha Trust, and what made them support the organization. They also appreciated the commitment and hard work of the organization in reaching out to children and the manner in which it brought about a positive change in their lives.

This year, the global Friends of Sparsha event focussed on Makkala Dhama, its objective, its capacity, design, as well as the support required for its construction. Various speakers from the organization spoke about the relevance of Makkala Dhama, proposed plans and timelines of construction of the 300-bed hostel for children.

Among the eminent personalities who participated in the programme included

Wg Cdr R. S. Murthy

Mr. Shivprakash

Head of Engineering, KSSPL

Mr. Varun Vijay Rao

Global Chief Procurement Officer at ACETO

Mr. Raghavendra Totamane

Sr Manager Technology, Sapient

Mr. Asim Kumar Mandal

Program Manager, Persistent

Mr. Andrew Tanner

Ex Director, Global Solutions Engineering,
Kennametal

Mrs Mahalaxmi Bhat

Associate Director, HR, IBM, India Pvt Ltd

Mr. Rajendra Hinduja

Patron, Sparsha Trust, Managing Director, Gokaldas
Exports

Mr. Kapil Gupta

Country Head, SA Global

Mr. Ravi Srinivasan

Leadership and Executive Coach

Mr. Chandramouli T

Manager CSR, First American India,

Ms. Rupa Mahajan

Trustee, Sparsha Trust

Dr. D S Krishna
Sparsha Trust

Mr. Raghavan G
CEO Bhartiya Urban (Real Estate) & Independent
Director, Amrutanjan Health Care Ltd

Mr. Eric Sall
Vice President Digital Experience IBM

Mr. Chitbhanu Nagri
SR VP People Ops Razarpay

Mr. Vijay Krishnan
Kennametal India Ltd.,

Mr. Giridhar Rajgopal
Country Manager, First American India

Mr. Eshwar Babu Soppa
CSR, EA State and BIA Division

Mr. Brijesh Kumar Agarwal
AVP Operations, Consero

Ms. Yogitha Apte
Lead CSR, Persistent Systems

Mr. Mohamed Asif Farook
Project Manager, Supply-Chain Walmart, P&G

Mr. Ramesh Rao and family

Dr. Guruaj Karjagi
Educationist & Chairman, Academy for Creative
Writing

Mr. Ajay B Thete
Ameya Marcomm Services

Mr. Shambulingayya Swami
CEO, Parikrama Pesticide Pvt Ltd

Mrs. Mala Anand
Makkala Dhama Committee Member.

Joy of Learning

The **Fourth Annual Event** of Sparsha Trust - Joy of Learning - was conducted on **30th and 31st January 2021** at Nisarga Grama keeping in mind the safety guidelines. By January 2021, much of the lockdown had been lifted.

First Day programmes

The first of the two day programme was Inaugurated by Mr. Vijayakrishnan Venkateshan, the Managing Director of poor children of the state and the program "Aadi Nali, Odi Kali" helps to identify the talent of children and to enhance their learning level. He added that such innovative programs will not only improve the academic capabilities of children but invigorate them mentally and physically. He appreciated the efforts made by Sparsha Trust to develop the intellectual skills of the children in an engaging manner. Mr. Brijesh Kumar Agarwal, the Vice-President of Consero Global, shared that he himself gets enthused after seeing the excitement of the children. Interacting with them is important to know their skills and encourage them further. He told the audience that participation is more important than winning or losing and advised children to take part in various JOL events. Mrs. Anitha Vijayakrishnan, the VP / GM Enterprise Operations, Intel Corporation, Dr. Rathna Prabha, the medical officer of primary health center at Ivara Kandapura, Mr. Gopinath. R, the

Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust and the trustees Mr. R. S. Murthy, Mrs. Rupa Mahajan, Mr. Shashidhar Kotian, Mr. Ajay Thete and others were present in the inauguration program. of Kennametal India Limited. During his address, he said that Sparsha Trust is a hope for the deprived 30 Jan 2021 After the inauguration, various types of sport competitions for the children including lemon and spoon, frog race, gunny bag race, kabaddi, kho-kho, shuttle cock, long jump and chess commenced.



Second Day Programmes

On the second day, that is **31 January 2020**, various academic and cultural programs, began at 9:30 a.m., including **book reading, table telling, drawing the pictures, quiz, nature lover, fancy dress and science exhibitions** were organized. The children participated in all the competitions and exhibited their academic skills. From 2:00 pm onwards, mesmerizing and attractive music and dance competitions, and solo dance and group dance performances took place. Many children exhibited their extraordinary dancing talents and entertained the audience.

The **Green House** was **Inaugurated by Mrs. Padmaja** - President of Inner wheel club of Bangalore west Greenhouse boost the agricultural produce (40 feet by 60 feet) to grow organic seasonal vegetables, fruits and flowers. The produce will gradually scale up and will take care of the nutrition of the children in Nisarga Grama. This will also help the center to save cost and produce in more quantity, we can sell them to the nearby villagers and earn profit for the center. **Skill training center** was **Inaugurated by Dr. Aheibam Swarnamayee Das** - Program Manager of United Way of Bengaluru. In this skill training center, we are focusing on Promotion of local availability material. This training is for the children who are dropouts and children who are not interested to continue further education and also for the college going children the training will be conducted once in a week.

On Sunday, the prize distribution program was organized in the evening and the prizes were given to the children who won sports, academic and music competitions. Mr. Govinda Babu Poojari, the Managing Director of Cheftalk Food and Hospitality Services Private Limited came to this program as chief guest and spoke on the occasion. He told that children should adopt hard work and aim in life to become successful. Then, prizes were distributed to the winners of sport, cultural and academic competitions.

Mr. Tulasi Mouli

The CSR Head of First American India Private Limited

Dr. Aheibam Swarnamayee Das

Program Manager of United Way of Bengaluru

Mr. Bhaskar

Retired professor of IISC

Mr. Govindaraju

The Syndicate member of Bangalore University

Mr. Azim Kumar Mandal

The Program Manager of Persistent Systems

Mr. Raghavendra Poojari

The President of Yuva Vahini

Mr. Praveen

IBM

Mr. Gopinath. R

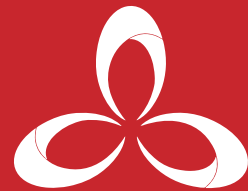
The Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust & the trustees

Wg CDR R S Murthy

Mrs Rupa Mahajan

Mr. Shahidhar Kotian

were also present.



SPARSHA

A TEAM FOR BETTER SOCIETY

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