

SPARSHA

A TEAM FOR BETTER SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT — 2020



Contents

Letter from the Managing Trustee Shri R Gopinath

Dear friends and well-wishers,

We look back at 2019-2020 with immense pride and satisfaction.

One of the cherishing moments for us that gave us great joy and pride was when we got the opportunity to welcome Mr. Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro Limited, to Nisarga Grama in October 2019. During his visit, he interacted with the children and staff members and appreciated the Nisarga Grama campus for its maintenance. He was happy to note that the children are living in a positive atmosphere with access to the amenities required for their holistic development

Our dream project, Makkala Dhama, took the first step towards becoming a reality in December 2019. Makkala Dhama is planned as a multi-dimensional development residential facility for 300 children. In this month, we performed the auspicious bhoomi pooja (ground breaking ceremony) and sought divine blessings to help us make the project realize its objectives. Located at Devanahalli, the project is being guided by a committee of 24 members, each of who are successful in their respective area of work, and who are committed to bring about a positive social change.

After observing the good work done by our team, the Labour Welfare Board mandated us with the responsibility to manage an additional 5 new Mobile Creche centres. As far as our Born Learning Programme, supported by United Way Bengaluru is concerned, we have expanded our interventions from 10 Anganwadi Centres to 75 Anganwadi Centres. We are also happy to share that we have been appointed to implement the Childline 1098 in Kolar district as well.

Our staff is working wholeheartedly to implement all the projects that come under the purview of our Child Protection, Child Care, Child Development and Youth Development programmes. This how we are able to ensure a robust and efficient delivery of services for our beneficiaries. Our team is also taking on leadership roles resulting in the strengthening of a second line leadership. With an attrition rate of 5%, we are happy to see the staff evolving in their work. I am happy to share with you that two of Sparsha Trust's core team members, Mr. Shashidhar and Ms. Rupa Mahajan were awarded for their work in the social sector.



Our children not only did well in their exams but also participated in several cultural, art and sports events. This is keeping in line with Sparsha Trust's philosophy to encourage children to participate in extra-curricular activities and experiential learning, so that they learn on their own.

Of the 20 children who wrote the 10th standard exam, 18 children passed. Rekha, one of our students, scored 92%. Many children got admission to private and professional colleges.

Life is unpredictable! Yes, that is an important lesson that we learnt from 2019-2020.

Although the year had started like any other year, it ended with Covid 19 pandemic related lockdown. This made us pause all activities. During lockdown, working from home became the new normal for our staff, who otherwise used to spend major part of their working time in the field.

We contacted families and asked them to pick up their children from our shelters. We also dropped many children to their respective homes.

We thank all our funders and supporters without whom we would not have been able to come this far. We are now in our 10th year of functioning and we take great pride in growing as an organization with ethics, commitment, dedication and hard work.

Our biggest sense of satisfaction is to see the gradual change in the parents of our children. Many of the families who were into rag picking, begging, construction work and who struggled for their next meal have now started small businesses. They are saving the money that otherwise would have gone for raising their children. They are feeling assured after seeing their children access educational opportunities and multi-dimensional development services through our different programmes. Now, a few of the parents, having earned saved money, are ready to take back the children as they are not only financially capable but ready to give time and care to them.

The trust that persons have in Sparsha Trust often leaves us at a loss for words. A few years ago, a student from the US worked with Sparsha Trust as a volunteer during her visit to Bangalore. She owned a 60 feet by 40 feet site in Yelahanka, a prime area of Bangalore. After returning to the US, she informed us that she was donating us the site. We are very grateful and thankful to her. We are now making plans to construct a multi facility centre which include a skills development centre.

Thank you once again.

With regards
Gopinath, R
Managing Trustee

Special moments of the year

- Gopinath R, Managing Trustee, selected as a Syndicate Member of Bangalore University, a role that brings with it several responsibilities and expectations.
- Gopinath and Sparsha Trust selected among 30 shortlisted social change leaders across India to participate in the SALT workshop, conducted jointly by Toyota, KPMG and Common Purpose in February 2020.
- Gopinath is one of the members of IIC, (Impact India Consortium) working for the urban homeless in Bangalore. Sparsha Trust is the lead organization to implement the urban homeless centres in collaboration with APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives) in Bangalore.
- Mr. Shashidhar, Board Member of the Sparsha Trust, awarded the “Yuvavahini Sadhakar Prashasthi” award in October 2019. He was awarded for his welfare work with children and for creating and managing a 200-member strong volunteers group from different corporates.
- Ms. Rupa Mahajan honored by with the Kalasha Award in February 2019, instituted by the Inner Wheel Club West. She has been awarded for Helping Underprivileged Children with English Learning.
- In December 2019, United Way, which is supporting the Born Learning Programme, appreciated Sparsha Trust for its performance. Mamatha B, Cluster Manager of Sparsha Trust received the Star performance of the Year award.
- The Wisdom Award, constituted by Quest, was given to Sandhya Rani, Lead Trainer of My Quest Training Programme which is being conducted in partnership with Quest Alliance at Mathikere, Bangalore.



About Sparsha Trust

Started in 2005, Sparsha Trust is a registered Charitable Trust working towards a protective environment that promotes Child care and development. In the process, we work on a number of projects related to child protection, child care and development, and youth skills development in Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural.



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 the child labour system
- Develop the children's creativity and strengthen their self-confidence
- Provide quality and 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 about Child Rights: care, protection, development and education

Governance, staff and certifications

1. The organization has a management board of 10 members, 8 advisory members at the organizational level, and 24 experts who are leading, guiding and mentoring Nisarga Grama and Makkala Dhama projects. There are 98 full time and part time working members. Around 700 volunteers associated with Sparsha Trust in various levels.
2. It is registered under 80G and 12A of Income Tax Department, and has FCRA of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. It also has PF, ESI Registration, TDS and Service Tax etc.
3. The organization also has Financial Policy, HR Policy, Child Protection Policy, Policy against Sexual Harassment at work place, Procurement and Selection Policy, Volunteer Policy.
4. Organization has developed a Standard Operating Procedure and a strategic document for 3 years (2020-2023)

Board of Directors 2019 - 2020

President:

Dr.D.S. Krishna

Managing Trustee:

Mr. Gopinath. R

Members:

Wing Commander R. Srinivasa Murthy

Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram

Mrs. Rupa Mahajan

Mr. Shashidhar M. Kotian

Mrs. Prameela S.R.

Mr. Ramakrishna. A.B

Mr. Ranganatha GR



Our advisors and core committee members



Mr. Rajendra Hinduja
MD Gokaldas



Dr.D.S.Krishne
President Sparsha Trust



Wg. Cdr. R.S.Murthy
Trustee Sparsha Trust



Mr. Raghevan G
CEO Bharthiya Urban (Real Estate)
& Independent Director
Amrutanjan Health Care Ltd



Mr. Eric Sell
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. Shambulingeyya Swami
CEO Parikrama Pesticide Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Srikenith Ekamberam
CFO Terex India



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



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



Mr. Nikhilesh K. Reddy Myleveram
GM Zwilling Kitchen India Pvt Limited



Mr. Chitbhanu Negri
Director HR - Moonfrog Labs



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



Mrs. Heera Brauner



Mrs. Rupe Mahajan
Trustee Sparsha Trust



Mr. Shiveprakash,
Head of Engineering,
KSSPL



Mr. Sheshidhar Kotian
Assistant Manager, KSSPL
& Trustee Sparsha trust



Mrs. Tina Restogi
Volunteer of Sparsha Trust



Mr. Gopinath.R
Managing Trustee Sparsha Trust



Mr. Suresh Babu
General Manager - IndiGEO



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



Mr. Raghavendra Totamane
Senior Manager - Technology



Mr. Asim Kumar Mandal
Program Manager Persistent

Our executive members

Mr. Gopinath R

Managing Trustee, Sparsha Trust

Mr. Pramod Kulkarni

HR Manager

Mr. Manjunath S P

Head, Child Care project

Ms. Revathi Krishnan

Head, Fund raising and Skills development

Ms. Chitra K N

Head, Administration and Communication

Ms. Mamatha B

Head, ECCE (Early Child Care and Education)

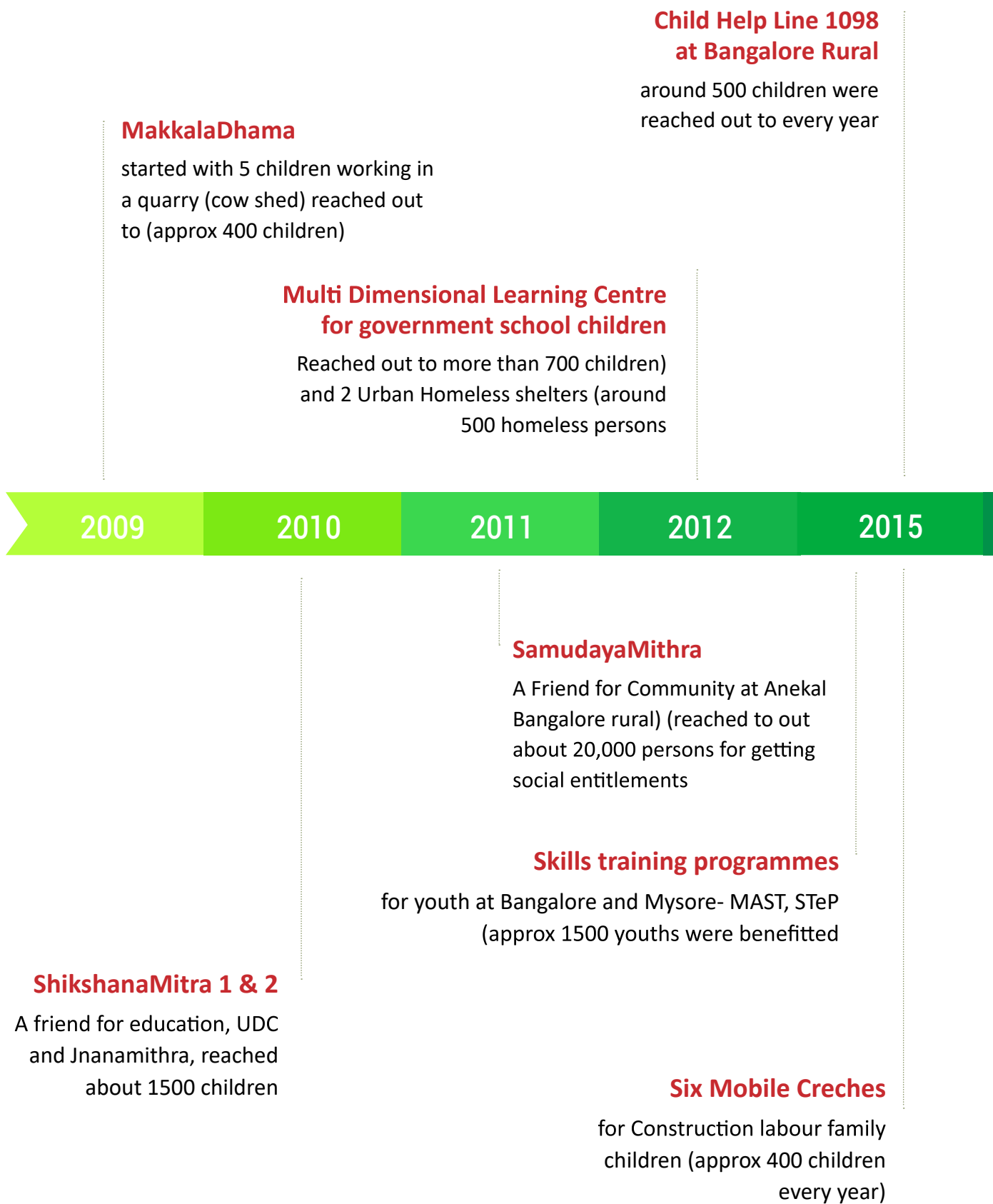
Mr. Santhosh

Accounts Manager

Working Model –Process

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES AND NETWORKING





Model Schools

Developing
4 Government
schools as Model
Schools

NisargaGrama

A Multi dimensional
development centre for
300 children who need
care and protection

MakkalaDhama

Bhoomipooja for a
Multi dimensional
development center
for 300 boys at
Devanahalli

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

AVID

for youth at
Bangalore and
Mysore- MAST,
STeP (approx
1500 youths were
benefitted

Scale up of
Child Help Line
1098
to Kolar

Scale up of Model Anganavadis

50 Early care centres for children
below 6 years at Doddaballapur
Bangalore Rural (reaching out to
1000 children)

Model Anganavadis

75 Early care centres for children
below 6 years at Bangalore)
(reaching out to 700 children in
the first year)

About the programs – (2019-2020)

Sparsha Trust works through the following four core initiatives



Child Protection



Child Care



Child Development



Youth Skills Development

Child Protection

- ChildLine 1098, a 24-hour, toll free, emergency phone service for children in need of care and protection. Sparsha Trust is implementing this project, that serves nearly 500 children each year in four Talukas at Bangalore Rural - Doddaballapur, Nellamangala, Hoskote and Devanahalli and in Kolar District
- Partnerships with various stakeholders such as Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), Right to Education (RTE) Task Force, Operation Smile, and Human Trafficking Abolition Coalition
- Mobile Crèches: 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 are located at different places in order to identify children, contact their parents and enroll them in the contact points.



Child Care

- **Shikshana Mitra (A friend for education):** Enrols children aged between 6 to 14 into formal and non-formal schools. Located at Sanjeevininar ,Hebbal , reaches to about 50 children are enrolled each year.
- **Makkala Mitra 1 and 2 (A friend for children – Open Shelters):** 24-hour residential shelters for children who need care, protection and development opportunities. The shelters serve about 120 to 150 children in a year. Located at Hoskote & Raja Rajeshwarinagar.
- **Apta Mitra (A friend of those in need):** A night shelter for people who are homeless and live in the street. Located in Murphy Town, Ulsoor, the shelter takes care of 60 to 80 persons each year.

Child Development

- **NisargaGrama (Nature village):** A residential multi-dimensional development center located at Hesarghatta to support and take care of neglected, abused and exploited children. With a capacity to house 300 children, it is currently supporting 135 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 Programme, supported by United Way, Bengaluru:** Sparsha Trust is presently implementing the Born Learning Programme at 75 Anganwadi Centres across Bangalore. Its objective is to provide comprehensive child care and development services. At present, it is reaching out to about 1800 children.
- **AVID (Alumni for Village Integrated Development):** Facilitates the process for persons to support development in their native villages. At present, we are working in Kolar and Bangalore Rural District.
- **Development of Government Schools into model schools:** Partnered with funders and alumni in order to upgrade the infrastructure of Government schools in Hejjala, Bijjwara and Manchiganahalli, and improve levels of teaching, education and community engagement
- **New Project – Makkala Dhama (A sanctuary for children):** A proposed multi-dimensional residential development centre for 300 boys in need of protection, care, education and development, located in Devanahalli. After purchasing the land, a Core Management Committee has been formed and the bhoomi pooja has been done.

Youth Skill Development

- **Smile Twin e-Learning Programme (STeP)**: Supported by the Smile Foundation, STeP trains 160 youths every year in Yelahanka, Bangalore, providing placement friendly vocational courses as well as internship and referrals to employment opportunities.
- **MyQuest**: supported by Quest Alliance
- **Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST)**: Provides vocational skills training in areas that are employment and entrepreneurship. MAST, located at Mathikere, Bangalore is supported by Quest Alliance and helps 120 youths per year, and while the MAST Centre at Mysore, supported by America India Foundation reaches out to 300 youths per year.

Impact at a glance



Child Protection Programmes

Summary of activities and impact

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 programmes which are:

- Childline 1098
- Mobile Creche programme
- Contact Points



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. Childline 1098 not only responds to the emergency needs of children but also links them to relevant services for their long-term care and rehabilitation.

Since 2015, Sparsha Trust is implementing Childline 1098 as a hub NGO in Bangalore Rural district covering the four talukas of Doddaballapur, Nellamangala, Hoskote and Devanahalli. Given the effective impact of its work, Sparsha Trust has also been given Kolar District as an additional project implementation area during this year. The Childline 1098, which Sparsha Trust is implementing along two other NGOs is supported by Childline India Foundation, and Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, Government of India. Apart from creating awareness about Childline 1098, Sparsha Trust responds to call on Childline 1098, rescues of children found in different types of abuse and exploitative circumstances, organizes open house programmes as well as outreach and awareness programmes.

Highlights of 2019-2020

During this year, apart from its regular activities, Sparsha Trust organized and participated in events of national and international importance which helped to create awareness among the children and the public about Childline 1098, different forms of child rights violation and the importance of protecting children from different forms of abuse and exploitation. Various stakeholders, including corporates, Government departments, and local governance officials, came forward to support and participate in these events. Some of key activities and events include:

- (i) International Child Helpline Day on 17 May 2019 in Hoskote
- (ii) World Anti Child Labour Day in July 2019 which was organized in collaboration with the Department of Labour, the taluka's legal service authority and Child Helpline.
- (iii) International Girl Child Day in January 2020
- (iv) The World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse on 19th November 2019
- (v) Cycle Jatha in February 2020 with the support of First American India Company: About 250 volunteers from First American India Have participated, 300 children, and officials from the Department of Labour, Education department, Department of Women and Child Welfare and Police participated in this event.
- (vi) Wall paintings giving information about Child Helpline 1098, and Sparsha Trust's contact details: Almost all the 90% of schools in Hoskote are having wall paintings on Child Helpline 1098.
- (vii) Sensitizing parents and shopkeepers, garages and other small businesses about not engaging child labour
- (viii) Children parliament programmes with the support of Unicef and CRT with the collaboration of education department and local authorities
- (ix) Open house programmes: Sparsha Trust organized open house programme in various schools to identify and resolve issues faced by the children, with the support of stakeholders. Some of the issues successfully resolved were:
 - a. Addressing scarcity of water in schools, restoring supply of water, repairing of toilets, creating a playground, ensuring protection for children from fast moving vehicles by building speed breakers outside schools, identifying school drop outs and children engaged in labour and enrolling them into school,
 - b. Regular patrolling of the area by police personnel
 - c. Discussion about online safety

Summary of impact of activities during the year

1. Increase in reporting of child marriage cases
2. Reduction in cases of child labour and school drop outs
3. Increased reporting by public about issues related to child rights violation
4. Very good response to wall paintings
5. Good rapport and support with different local stakeholders

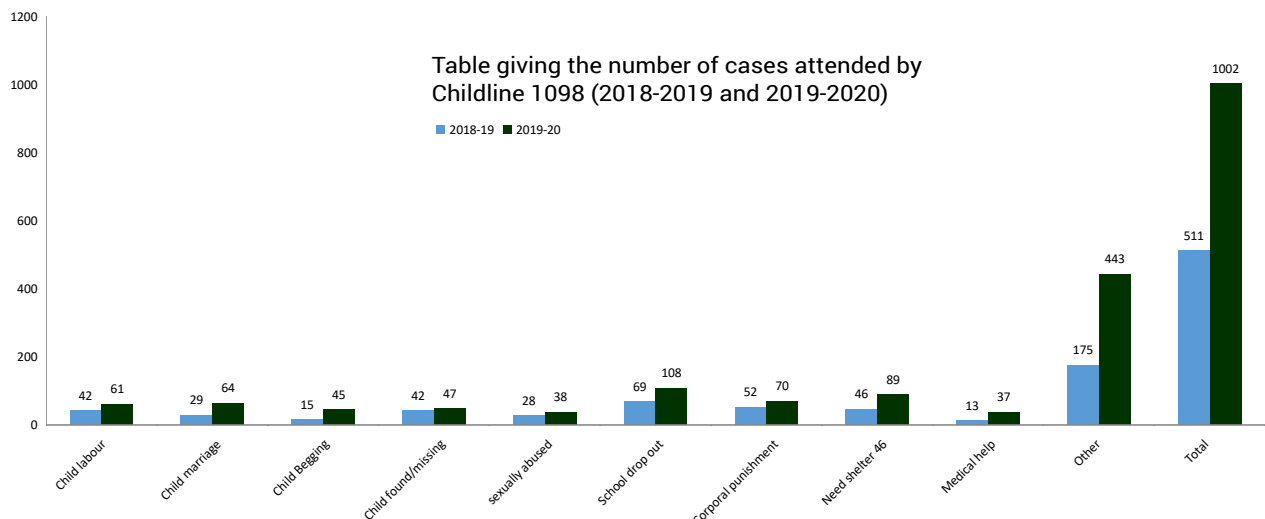
Challenges

Despite increased reporting of cases and sensitization of parents and community, and despite reduction in numbers, under age marriage of girls are continuing in different places of the project implementation area. We need to focus on this issue in the future.

Supporting stakeholders

- Officers from Municipality
- Officials from the Department of Education and Department of Labour, Department of Women and Child Welfare,
- Social workers,
- SDMC members (School Development Monitoring Committee), BEO (Block Education officer)
- officials from the police Department,
- parents and local administrative officials.
- Child Welfare Committee

Sparsha Trust thanks all the stakeholders for their support and prompt response during the implementation of Childline 1098.



Case study

(all names have been changed)

Sneha, a 17 years old was found in a well by her foster mother Venkatamma when she was three years old. A resident of Chikkaballapur Taluka, Sneha was brought up by her grandmother. She studied till 10th standard but thereafter dropped out of school due the ill-health of her grandmother and financial constraints of her foster parents, who worked as daily wages labourers. After the death of her husband, Venkatamma, Sneha's foster mother arranged her marriage with a 28 years old man from Devanahalli Taluk. At the time of fixing the marriage, Sneha was 17 years old, which is below the legal age of marriage.

ChildLine intervention and impact:

The Childline 1098 received a call informing about the fixing of the child marriage on 08-06-2019. After cross checking the authenticity of the information and getting details of the location of the marriage, the Childline team passed this information to the CDPO and rushed to the location with members of the Channarayapatna police station. The team explained the disadvantages of child marriage and about legal action to the guardians after which the marriage was stopped. Later the guardians were called to the police station and a covering letter was taken from them that they will not get Sneha married till she reaches the legal age of 18. On 10-06-2019 Sneha and her guardians attended a meeting of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which passed an order to enroll Sneha into a girl child care Centre. On 14-06-2019, Sneha's guardians submitted all the required documents and letter on stamp paper, after which it released Sneha to her guardians.

Currently Sneha, who is staying in a relative's house is training in tailoring. This will help her to earn in the future and enable her to take decisions about her life.

Sl No.	Description	Number
1.	Number of children reached out to during this year	11844
2.	Number of females/girls reached	5411
3.	Number of males/boys reached	6433



Mobile crèche programme

Mobile Creches is a pioneering organization working for the right of marginalized children to Early Childhood Development. Its work spans from grassroots level interventions to policy advocacy at the national level. One of its objectives was to create model crèches which was to serve as replicable and sustainable models. The objective was to showcase these models to the Karnataka Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Board of the Department of Labour. The Department wanted proven models that it could implement for the benefit of children of construction workers. After extensive discussions, the Department officials, including the Joint Director, DWCD (Department of Women and Child Development) , visited the mobile crèches managed by Sparsha Trust. As they were satisfied with the work being done, they took a decision to work with two NGOs to implement a pilot project with 10 mobile crèche centres. Sparsha Trust is one of the two NGOs shortlisted to work with 5 mobile crèche centres. It was eventually planned to scale up the programme to cover 100 mobile crèche centres. However, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the expansion has been put on hold.

So as of now, Sparsha Trust is getting support from both Mobile Creches Delhi and the Department of Labour. At present, it is reaching out to children at 9 Mobile Crèches across Bangalore. It is reaching out to more than 1700 children and 2500 beneficiary families by providing them with the following services:

- Providing protection and care services for the children of construction workers
- Providing the children with health and educational services and nutrients enriched age appropriate food.



Expanding the scope of the programme in 2020-2021 - reach out to pregnant women and lactating mothers

Sparsha Trust is planning to reach out to pregnant women and lactating mothers in 2020-2021 as they are very vulnerable to malnutrition, lack of proper medical care and information about health related issues. This has been done on the basis of our learning about their key requirement and experience in the field.

Overall impact of Mobile Creches

- Interest of children in learning activities has increased; attendance has improved and is regular
- Parents became more responsible and involved in their children's learning as they are bringing their children to the centre on a regular basis.
- Access to nutritious food three times a day has helped in the physical and emotional development of children. This is very useful as their parents, who leave home early to work at construction sites, were unable to take out time for cooking and packing food as per the requirement of the children.
- The children with malnutrition were identified and given a nutritious diet of milk, eggs and bananas. This not only improved their health but also saved money for their families.

Support to pregnant women

Pregnant women were guided to visit the Primary Health Care for regular check up, and being given information about importance of nutrition, and about the nutrient content and benefits in different types of food.

Nutrition kit distribution programme to pregnant women

1. Pregnant women and lactating women require special nutrition given the special needs of their bodies. With the families just coming out of the lockdown, they are not financially equipped to buy the essential nutrients such as fruits on their own.

2. Sparsha Trust identified the number of pregnant and lactating women in the working area of Hebbala, Mestripalya, Tanisandra, Cheemasandra and Ramiah labour colony and contacted them about the distribution programme. They informed them about all safety guidelines of mask and maintaining physical distances.



Health

During the year, Sparsha Trust ensured timely health care for the children through health check-ups, diagnosis and treatment of various types of diseases, follow up on timely immunization. Deworming tablets and multivitamins supplements were given to the children.



Education

In order to make the learning process more effective, 3 groups were created which were as follows:

- a. Crèches 0 to 2 years,
- b. Balawadi 3 to 5 years,
- c. 6 years and above children group for enrolling in Bridge course as per the curriculum we are teaching

Activities

- The children were taught as per the ECCD which prepares them to eventually mainstream in regular schools. The mobile crèches prepared the children to become prepared to join formal schools. The exposure to experiential learning and holistic support gave the children a lot of confidence. The parents were also delighted to see the change in their children.
- BalaSabhas: The BalaSabhas helped the children to revise and share all that they have learnt. Due to the BalaSabhas, the children learnt to take initiatives and developed their communication skills and leadership qualities.



Feedback from the builders on whose construction site the mobile crèches are located

The builders gave a positive feedback about the impact of the project stating that now their labour force is able to work without worrying about their children. The labourers are able to concentrate much better on their work, which is showing in the result. As mothers are given time off to breast feed, it has improved the relationship between builders and the workers. In fact, the builders have stated that in the future, if they start new construction in any place, they will call Sparsha Trust to start a crèche in the premises.



Major events at a glance

Breastfeeding Day, August 1, 2019:

Those mothers whose children are in the breast-feeding age work for long hours at construction sites and are not able to breast feed their children as per the requirement. Sparsha Trust facilitated the process of permission from the builders so that mothers can breast feed their babies. Babies as small as 4 months are present in the centres, and it is very important to breast feed them.

Nutrition food week:

The Nutrition Food Week that was initiated by the Department of Women and child welfare is usually observed in all the anganwadicentres. Given the benefits of the week, the MC programme also observed the same in all our centres. Parents were explained about the nutrient content and health benefits of various types of food.

Strengthening link with the community:

Earlier, the MC Centres did not have that much of a link with the community and the networking was limited to parents, builders, teachers and the children. Now, an increase in the attendance of community members in various functions. The members are involving more in the issues related to the centre, children, identifying drop outs, enrolment, improving the facilities of the centres.

Yoga Day:

The builders, volunteers, children and parents participated in Yoga Day, which helped them to understand the importance of yoga to improve their physical and mental health.

Visit by the Joint Director of Department of Women and Child Welfare to the mobile crèche centres.

Celebration of major functions and festivals in all the centres such as Independence Day and Deepawali.



Sl.No	Description	Number
1.	Number of Mobile Creche centers	9
2.	Number of families	441
3.	Number of children	608
4.	Number of youth	250
5.	Number of girl children	320
6.	Number of boy children	288
7.	Number of families reached out to	2140

Contact Points

Across Bangalore, there are various low income communities where the children of the families staying there are often found idle or playing around the houses. Due to various time and financial constraints, and lack of proper learning facilities in the area, the parents are not able to enroll their children in child care facilities.

Location of contact points

The age group of the children who attend the contact point centres are usually 4 to 14 years. At present, Sparsha Trust is managing three contact points – 1st one at Nayandahalli, located at Mysore Road, 2nd one at Cheemasandra, and Vivekananda Nagara, Hoskote, 3rd one at Mestripalya Near hebbal.

Overview of activities in the contact centres

1. Identifying children who are found idling their time the whole day,
2. Explaining to the families about the benefits of contact points and the importance of enrolling their children in them.
3. Providing the children with nutritious snacks
4. Providing the children with learning materials and recreational activities

Impact

1. The children are engaged in a productive manner and become ready to join the mainstream in early child learning centres at a later stage.
2. The children are protected from any type of abuse and neglect which they may have in their homes.
3. After attending the contact points, the children become more focused and their concentration improves. More importantly, they play with each other and become more positive.

S.No	Description	Beneficiaries-19-20
1	Nayandahalli	45
2	Cheemasandra	52
3	Mestripalya	57

Child Care Programmes

Shikshana Mitra 1

Started in 2010-2011, ShikshanaMitra 1(Friend of Education) is a residential centre for children from 6 to 14 years old. Running at Government model school in Sanjeevini Nagar, near Kodigehalli, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore North, it is reaching out young children who are deprived of education opportunities due to their family's poverty, neglect or migrating patterns..

Statistics related to Shikshana Mitra

- Number of children in the centre as March 2019: 42
- Admission of new children during the year: 9
- Enrollment to other centres during the year :8
 - 7 children have gone to Tindlu centre (Chinnara Thangudhama)
 - 1 child has gone to Nisarga Grama
- Number of children in the Centre as on March 2020: 43

The center is completely run by volunteers and families from neighboring apartments which includes Sterling Apartments, Bearys Apartments, and Godrej Apartments. The volunteers conduct several activities such as coaching or conducting tuitions for the children on a daily basis, and library facilities. We have enrolled many children to dance training centres, and sports coaching centres. We also engage the children in various recreational activities that includes indoor games, storytelling, skits or plays, and songs.

As a result, the children have become confident and skilled enough to participate in various District and state level cultural and sports events, and have won prizes.



Case Study

When 10 years old Lalabi joined the Shikshan Mitra 1 centre at Sanjivini Nagar, she would hardly mingle with the others and not take any interest in any child development activities of the centre. A resident of Doddabommasandra, Lalabi's family are migrants who came to Bangalore in search of work several years ago.

Before enrollment in the Centre, Lalabi, the daughter of construction workers, used to take care of her siblings and help with household chores. Her parents worried about her safety when they went out to work. Lalabi was just not interested in learning and had not learnt even the alphabets properly.

After Lalabi was identified by the Sparsha Team, her parents were informed about Shikshama Mitra 1 centre and the difference it has made to children like Lalabi. The parents agreed to her enrollment as their daughter would not only be safe, but also access learning opportunities and food on time which they themselves could not provide.

After she enrolled in the centre, Lalabi took time to get used to her new lifestyle. Over time, gradually several positive changes could be seen in her. She began to maintain better personal hygiene and kept her belongings in a neat and tidy manner. She also engaged in various activities and took interest in her studies. Lalabi's general health has also improved as she is having access to freshly prepared meals on time, and plays regularly. At present, Lalabi who is studying in 3rd Standard, enjoys participating in plays directed by Ms. Rupa Mahajan.

Lalabi's parents are relieved that their daughter is being taken care of and is able to access all those amenities and services which they themselves could not provide. They are glad to note the positive changes in her.



Makkala Mitra 1 and 2

Makkala Mitra 1 is located in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Mysore Road, Bangalore, while Makkala Mitra 2 is located in Hoskote. Both the Centres, started in 2011, are residential open shelter which caters 24 hours to children who need care, protection and development opportunities. Many of the children who are staying here now were Funded by Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka, these centres give children the option of either staying in the Centre or coming in the morning and leaving at night.



Statistics related to Open Shelter R R Nagar (Makkala Mitra) 1

- Total admission of children during the year: 46 children
- School Placement: 24 children
- Home Placement: 25 children
- Referred to CWC: 26 children
- Every month, health check up is done for all the children
- Within 24 hours health check up will be done for any child enrolled to the Centre

Statistics related to Open Shelter Hoskote (Makkala Mitra) 2

- Total admission of children during this year: 56 children
- School Placement: 23 children
- Home Placement: 27 children
- Referred to CWC: 11 children
- Every month, health check up is done for all the children
- Within 24 hours health check up will be done for any child enrolled to the centre

Contact point activities

Our field workers visit different areas and identify children living on the streets, victims of abuse and exploitation and are into begging and rag picking. After this, they identify a local contact point where all these children are gathered. Our staff members then provide them with nutritious snacks, engage them in learning and sports activities. The staff also conducts various types of indoor and outdoor games. As a result, the children are safe, taken care and get exposed to a positive atmosphere. When the children are prepared, they are enrolled to government schools or Sparsha Trust's residential learning centres.

Open shelter activities

The children in the open shelters come from Sparsha Trust's contact points, referral cases from Child Welfare Committee, police, local volunteers, and those identified by field workers.

We provide the children with basic amenities, health care facilities, learning in clean and hygienic spaces, food, accommodation, clothes, recreational activities, games and sports. We also counsel the children, organize parents meetings, activities that engage the community stakeholders. Subsequently, we enroll the children into Sparsha Trust's residential centres, and Government hostels and schools. This ensures continuity in their learning and development activities.

Challenges or need

- Need to appoint subject wise teachers as the current staff is equipped to teach the only the basics and cover general subjects.
- We need subject experts to teach the children on a regular basis

Sl.No	Description	Number
1.	Number of children from both the places	102
2.	Number of females/girls	43
3.	Number of males/boys	59
4.	Number of families reached out to	432
5.	Approx communities in our working areas	7



Case study

A boy named Chandru, aged about 16 years old, has come to our open shelter in this year. At the time of joining, he was very arrogant, inactive and did not show any interest in learning or activities. He was also rude and would get angry often, and get into a fight easily.

During the Covid 19 lockdown, he was shifted along with other children to Nisarga Grama, Sparsha Trust's flagship residential multi-dimensional centre at Hesarghatta. At that time,

our Managing Trustee, Gopinath R and his family also shifted to Nisarga Grama in order to take care of the children, as many of the staff members had also left for their respective native places.

Gopinath observed Chandru and started to spend time with him, guided him, and engaged him in various activities that helped to bring out the positive side of Chandru. Now Chandru is writing the 10th Class exam and has become responsible. He is doing many activities, purchasing items, helping in maintenance of centre, cow shed, involving in construction activities. Now he is saying that he will complete his studies and go to college.

Like Chandru, there are many other children whose nature and attitude has changed after joining the various centres of Sparsha Trust. We have a successful track record in making the children think positively and to apply themselves with hard work and dedication in whatever they do.

Sparsha Nammamane (supported by BBMP and APPI)

Since 2012, Sparsha Trust was managing a night shelter known as AptaMitra (Friend of those in distress or need) for homeless people in urban Bangalore. Located in Ulsoor, and funded by Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Apta Mitra has a capacity to house 60 persons.

In November 2019, APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives) came in to support not only the existing interventions but also to upgrade the facilities and services of the shelter home. Accordingly, along with BBMP and APPI, Sparsha Trust prepared an action plan to convert the night shelter, located at Hoysala Ward No. 80, Murphy Town into a model shelter, titled Sparsha Namma Mane. APPI's support helped to modernize the shelter which was in need of upgradation of its facilities.

During the year, 78 homeless persons including a few physically challenged or too ill or old to move used the night shelter at different points in time. 22 home placements took place during the year.

Activities and services provided

They were provided with meals thrice a day, personal hygiene accessories, health care, bedding and lodging facilities, in a neat and hygienic atmosphere. The residents are also counselled and rehabilitated. Whenever required, the last rites are also taken care of. We also support them to get social entitlements, refer to various skills development trainings, job development, and business development activities. Namma Mane's regular activities are in compliance with BBMP Regulations..

The following activities place due to the support of APPI:

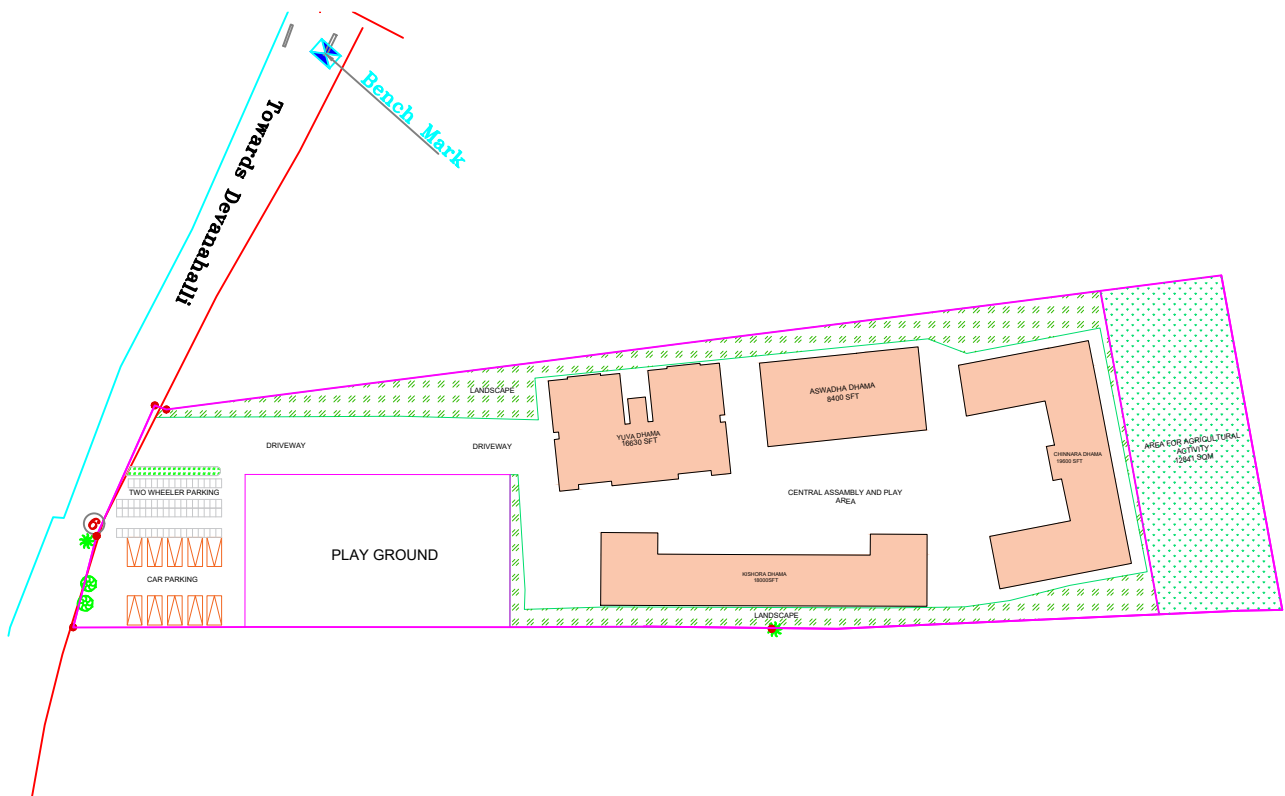
1. Fixing of protective window mesh
2. Installation of CCTV for security and safety
3. Upgrading the dining area and painting of the premise
4. Installation of kitchen sinks and tiles for protection of walls:
5. Toilet facilities were there earlier as well but all the four commodes were Indian. As this was causing discomfort to the elderly residents, we installed two western style commodes and upgraded the toilets.
6. Fresh bed linen was given to the residents
7. Taps, pipes and tanks were renovated in order to provide 24 hour water facility
8. Solar facility for providing 24 hour hot water
9. Welcome kits to new residents: A new resident was given a new toiletries kit which consisted of a towel, brush, oil, comb, soap, and shampoo.
10. Ceiling fans, television for recreational purposes, 30 two tier cots, computer and printer was provided
11. Separate dressing rooms in the first and second floor, which gave the residents, especially the ladies, the much required privacy
12. Construction of 2 rooms for changing the dress (For both men and women)
13. Pure drinking water facility
14. Security staff



Makkala Dhama

born out of the need to consolidate interventions for better impact

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 to 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 can disrupt the programme activities, Sparsha Trust is planning for a permanent multi-dimensional residential development centre for 300 boys at Devanahalli, Bangalore rural district.



Formation of Committee

A core management committee of about 24 persons has been formed. These members are holding top positions in corporates and retired defence personnel who are personally involved in making this vision a reality. They are mentoring all activities related to Makkala Dhama such as design, construction, and financial management.

Activities till date

1. We have purchased the land of 2 acres
2. Did a grand bhoomi pooja (ground breaking ceremony) to launch the project in December 2019
3. Planting saplings of trees to ensure greenery
4. Obtained all the permissions from the Government
5. Design of the building is prepared by VBHC

We will start the construction of Makkala Dhama in December 2020. In the first phase, around 100 children will move into the centre by June 2021. The remaining part of the construction will be completed by 2022. After this, the remaining children (about 200) will move in.



Child Development Programmes

Nisarga Grama

- 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 state-of-the-art multi-dimensional development centre for neglected, abused and exploited children. Started in October 2016, Nisarga Grama can house about 300 children. At present, 133 children (77 girls, 56 boys) are staying in Nisarga Grama. A total of 160 children benefitted from Nisarga Grama this year, which offers them a safe place to live, study and progress. Nisarga Grama's facilities include the following:
- 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 class rooms, an admin block and staff quarters
- Eco-friendly (Solar energy) campus
- Vegetable garden
- Dairy farm
- Fruit trees
- Security system
- Rain water harvesting
- Children's museum

A core committee of children take responsibility for the management, maintenance and various activities of the centre, as per the guidelines developed by Nisarga Grama's management committee



Key activities and impact during the year

1. **Food and snacks** : Taking into account the needs of the growing children, a nutritious and well balanced diet was served to the children 3 times a day as part of their regular food intake. In the evening, children were given tasty snacks most of which are made at home. **"AJJI ANGADI"**, which was introduced a few months ago prepared chow chow, roasted peanuts, boondi, rava onde, maddur vada etc, The snacks, many of which have a high nutrient content, give energy to the children.
2. **Educational opportunities** : The children staying at Nisarga Grama attend the local schools and colleges. Nisarga Grama team members visited them to interact with their respective teachers and principals and discussed the progress of the children, and identified the areas that need improvement.
3. **Leadership building** : We have entrusted the responsibility to take of various campus initiatives such as the dormitories, library, museum, science lab, art and craft, health and hygiene and education to the children. As a result, they are learning to take responsibilities, decisions and bringing their own ideas to the table.
4. **Museum development** : A group of children is learning about the development of the museum and its maintenance. They visited various museums like HMT Heritage Museum, Vishveshwaraiah museum, Kempegowda Museum.
5. **Science lab** : A science lab was developed with the help of foreign volunteers, who stayed at Nisarga Grama. The volunteers helped our children to make science models.
6. **An art and sales gallery corner** : An art and sales gallery corner has been developed in the center. The art work, paintings and crafts made by the children have been exhibited.
7. In February 2020, adventure sports were conducted for the children by Professor Satish and team from Hessarghatta. Also, a Balagokulotsava competition was conducted for the children by Mathrubhumiseva Samiti. Thirteen prizes were won by the Nisarga Grama children in different competitions.
8. **Career guidance class** : Mr. Harish from ILP conducted career guidance to about 20 children studying in Classes 9 and 10. Children were guided to choose a field of their interest and accordingly decide which subject they should focus on during their study.
9. **Personality development** : Many activities were initiated to develop the children's personality. These included Taekwondo classes that were organized 2 days in a week. Heartfulness organization's volunteer conducted life skill and personality development classes. Udayam Foundation is taking classes on developing the children craft and skill into a small production unit.
10. Volunteers visited Nisarga Grama, and conducted activities for the children like mental math, clay modelling, drawing and science activities along with arts and crafts. Volunteers Deloitte, Consera, Walmart, Kennametal, First American India, Netscout. Other volunteers engaged with the children to conduct various activities, and events such as Joy of Learning, summer camp, soft skills training, and other activities.

Covid 19 and its impact on the children

It was only in March 21, 2020 that the Government announced the lockdown. Sparsha Trust contacted the parents and care takers of the children to pick up their children. Many of the children were dropped by Sparsha Trust to their families. However, out of 370 children, only 120 children remained with Sparsha Trust. At that time, many staff members also went to their native place. Some of the staff members, including the Managing Trustee and his family, moved to Nisarga Grama and took care of the centre and the children. They engaged them in multiple activities. In this time, the children could not write their exams, and completely spent the lockdown in the Nisarga Grama campus.

It was left to the management to strategize on taking care of the campus and the children, while keeping them safe.



From a Nisarga Grama student – in her own words

Hello, I am Narasamma, and I am 20 years old. My parents were very poor and survived by begging. Whatever they got by begging, they used to maintain the family with it. We are three sisters, and I am the eldest. My parents were alcoholics and passed away when we three sisters were very young. At that time, I was just 8 years and my younger sisters were about 7 years and 2 years. We had no one to look after us. We too began to beg near temples and used to sleep on streets and outside shops.

At that time, a Sparsha staff member saw us and told us to about the services of sparsha. We got enrolled in a shelter home in Makkala Dhama in Kudregere. We were there for about 2 years but we could not adjust there and we all decided to run away. We took a train to Tumkur but we did not know that the train was going to Tirupathi. We then began to work in a hotel there but we went through a bad time. We were in touch with a teacher who then informed Sparsha about our location.

One staff member came from Bangalore to Tirupathi to rescue us and enrolled all three of us to Nisarga grama. At that time, I enrolled in 7th standard. This time, we liked the place and realized the value of Sparsha. I scored 1st class in my 10th Class. As I was interested in dancing, I am doing my degree in dance from () Academy. I have given Kathak performances in Kerala and Mysore. Had it not been for Sparsha, my sisters and I probably would still be begging.

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 on 4th December 2010 and was implemented till 2013 with the support of Department of Education.

From 2010 to 2013, Chinnara Thangudhama, also known as UDC (Urban centre for Deprived Children) had three centres located at different places at Kanshiram Nagara, Tarahunase, and Gadenahalli. These centres were eventually closed, after which one centre was opened at Shivaji Nagar with consolidated interventions.

The UDC again moved to Thindlu in 2018. Since 2014, Sparsha Trust is managing this residential Centre for about 40 boys between 14 years to 18 years with the support of various companies and individuals at Thindlu.

- Number of children as on April 2019: 42
- Number of new enrollments: 17
- Number of home placements or discharges: 22
- Number of children as on March 31 2020 - 20

Highlights of the year

1. **Access to education and continued learning** : All the children of the centre are accessing education as they have been admitted to different schools and colleges. While majority of the children have been enrolled in Government High schools, others have been enrolled in Pre-university and degree colleges. They were supported in college level education by Guardian of Dreams, Hotel Le Meridian and Concern India Foundation.
2. The efforts of many volunteers benefitted the children. The children's understanding and knowledge of Science, Maths and English has improved after two volunteer teachers, Saiprakash and Renuka are conducting tuitions for them in these subjects. An in-house library with over 300 books was inaugurated in July 2019 with the support of a volunteer, Hima. Another volunteer, Siddharth is regularly teaching yoga to the children. As a result, the overall physical stamina of the children has improved.
3. Health check ups for the children among which one boy was successfully treated at M S Ramaiah hospital
4. The children conducted various science experiments and prepared various models in the Science lab that was inaugurated with the sponsorship of Pragathi Mahila Mandali
5. Participation in different festivals and events –
6. Children participated in cultural activities in a mega event organized by Nakshatra Foundation in New Horizon College. The children of Tindlu, who represented Sparsha Trust, stood second in the overall competition.
7. An organization called Robin Hood and Ms. Keerti sponsored the visit of the children to attend the Food Mela at Freedom Park. The children very much enjoyed the outing.

8. In October, the children of the Centre were invited to the office of the Managing Director of (SCHUNK Company) at Yeshwantpura where they celebrated his birthday with much fanfare. While the children performed Djambe for him, he in turn, gifted books and stationery to the children.
9. In November 2019, The children of Thindlu center celebrated Children's Day at a company named AWFIS, located at MG Road.
10. IBM conducted training on a proper usage of social media for Sparsha Trust members. The members learnt about ways to post on social media with regard to content and pictures.
11. Visit by Deloitte on Impact Day - A group of employees from Deloitte visited the Thindlu center and participated in many activities. This visit was part of their Impact Day activity.
12. The children were able to keep warm in winter given the sweaters donated by Wg Cmdr Murthy.
13. A few children got the opportunity to go on tours and exposures to Mysore, Srirangapatna and KRS Dam, and a tour titled Karnataka Darshan, and Ramiah College where the children saw the science lab, computer lab and the college campus.

On 23/03/2020, the children were shifted to Nisarga Grama of Hesaraghatta as precautionary measure due to COVID-19 and outsiders are not allowed to enter the center and all the things which are brought from outside are kept separately outside for 24 hours and later, those things are used. The children provided with proper facility to wash hands 4 times in a day and hot drinking water. Then, 20 children were sent home and 22 children are in the center. Various activities like school syllabus learning, quiz, storytelling, drawing, painting and other cultural activities, planting the saplings and nurturing them and garden activities are being conducted for children every day. The Ration Kits of 20 children who had gone home were sent to the homes of children.

Celebration of Deepawali festival at New Horizon College. Children from various Sparsha Trust's centres participated in the programme.





On 18 October, 2019, about 30 children from both the centres of Shikshana Mitra attended the Food Mela at Freedom Park. The visit was sponsored by Ms. Keerti and Robin Hood organization. The day out broke the routine of the children, who very much enjoyed the food. (top right) Celebration of Kannada Rajyotsava at the Thindlu centre.

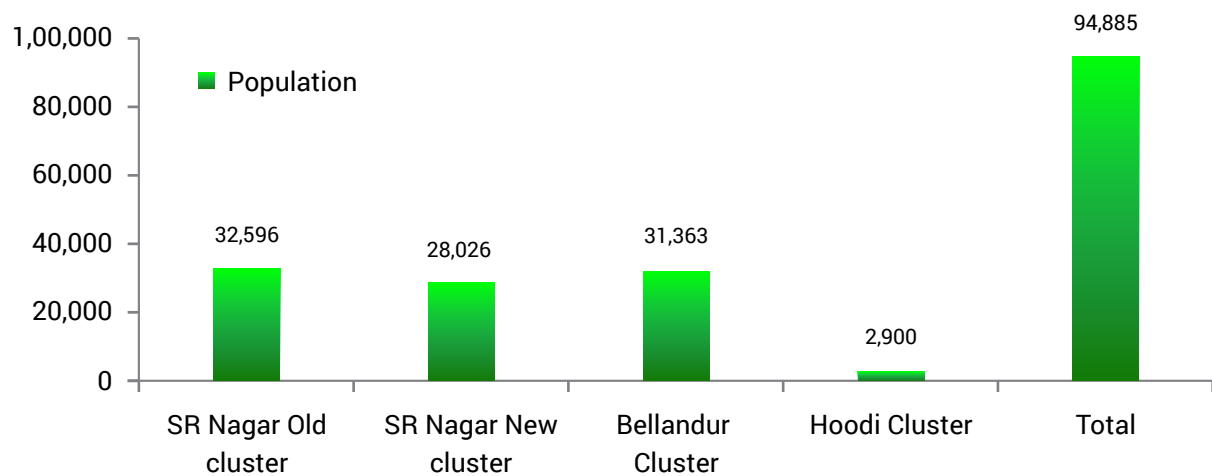
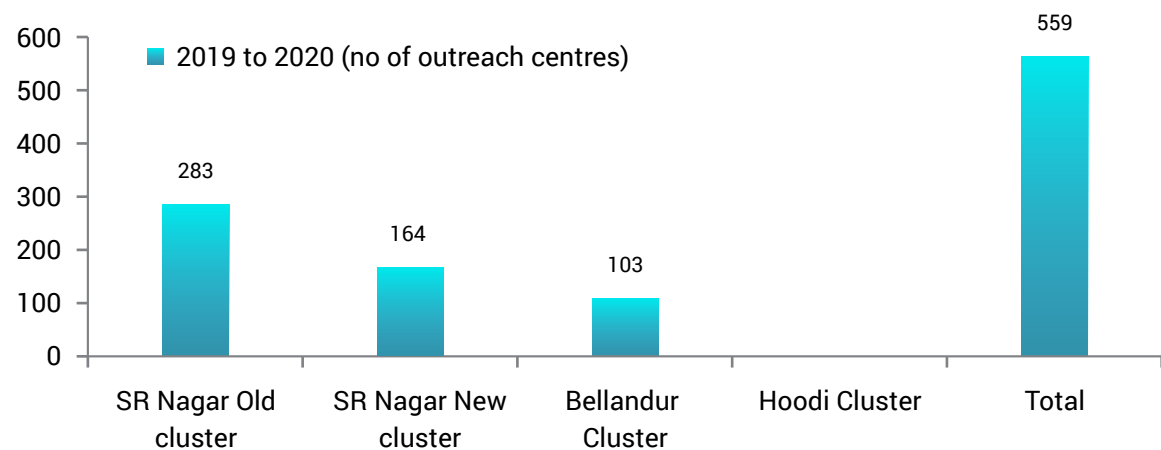
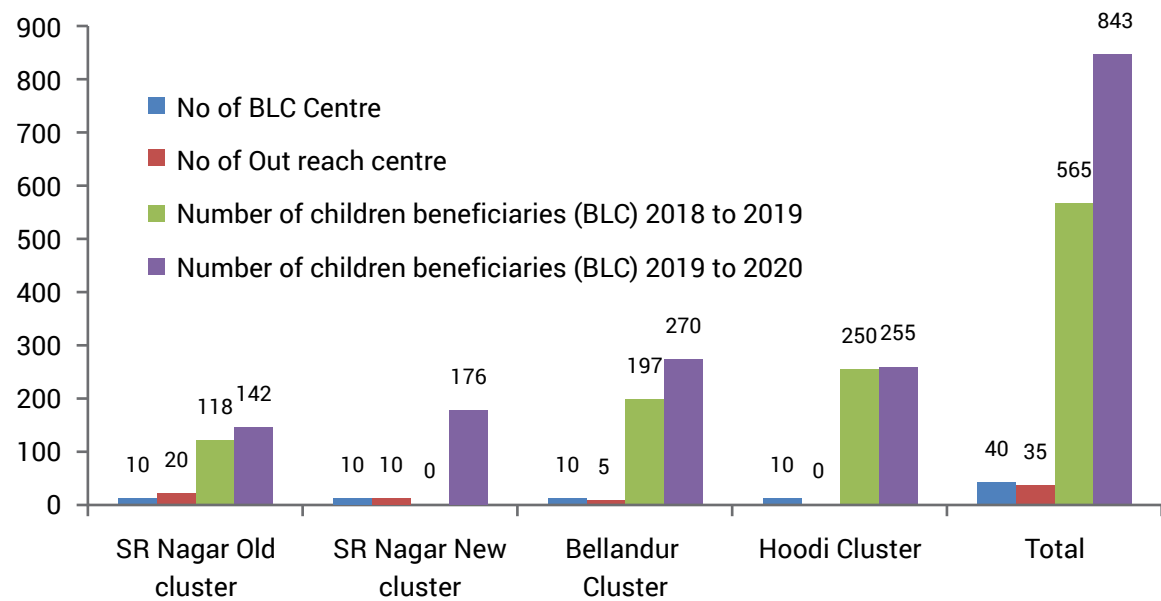
Development of Model Anganwadi Centres (Early Child Care Centres), a project of Born Learning programme, supported by United Way, Bengaluru

The Government managed Anganwadi centers are of great help to the families in the low income group which consists mostly of laborers, daily wages 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, Sparsha Trust initially worked to improve 5 Anganwadi Centres in 2018 which it did very successfully. Seeing the positive impact, Sparsha Trust was given the responsibility to add 10 more centres. At present, Sparsha Trust is presently working with 75 Angandwadi centres across Bangalore. It is reaching out to more than 1875 Children and 12253 Beneficiaries Families through direct and indirect interventions. At present Sparsha Trust is managing 40 centres in 4 Clusters given below under the Born Learning project.

1. SR Nagar Old cluster
2. SR Nagar New Cluster
3. Bellandur Cluster
4. Hoodi Cluster





Overall impact of the programme

Process/ Activities	Outcome
1. Infrastructure activities – survey and assessment of the condition of the infrastructure, identified repair and renovation needs, call for quotes from vendors and selection of vendors, monitoring the activities and third party quality checks	• Infrastructure renovation (flooring, plumbing, electrical works, painting, water supply, sanitation) • Improved attendance and interest among the children • Parents felt more confident in sending the children to the centres.
2. ECCE : 1. Usage of specially designed kits kit, early learning and play materials an 2. Upgrading the skills of the teachers 3. Focus on play, art and craft, 4. Awareness about health, nutrition and hygiene 5. Conducting various events involving parents and children 6. Training programmes for teachers	- School readiness among the children - Development of age appropriate skills, cognitive, psychological, social, language fine and motor skills) - increased participation of mothers, parents and the community - improved eating habits among children - energy and enthusiasm among the children and parents, awareness about the importance of various functions. Improved quality of teaching
Community Engagement 1. Formation of mothers committee 2. Formation of Poshak shala committee BalaVikas Samiti meetings to discuss and resolve the issues of the children and the functioning of the Anganwadi centres 3. Regular training on various subjects (kitchen garden, cooking)	Children, parents and the community learnt the significance of various issues or themes (World Environment Day, Nutrition Day) Learning experience for mothers and parents Foundation for sustainability of the anganwadi centres as teachers, parents and stakeholders take responsibility for maintenance and continuation of various activities

Activities and events were conducted all through the year

All through the year, the programme celebrated important days such as World Environment Day, Independence Day, International Women's day, Children's Day, Christmas, New Years and Teacher's Day. These events strengthened the connect of the parents and stakeholders with the programme. Various activities related to creating awareness about health and access to health and medical care also took place. The key among such events included the nutrition month, de-worming day, eye check-up camp, Pulse Polio Programme, and regular immunization drives. As a result, the parents appreciated the work done by Sparsha Trust in not only creating awareness but also in providing opportunities to improve their children's and families' health.

Parents participation

In order to enthuse the mothers by doing something new and interesting, Sparsha Trust organized various unique activities for the mothers. This included organizing a cookery training programme, financial advisory sessions, and a kitchen garden training at Doddakaneli and Devarabisanahalli. These were very new experiences for the women.

Apart from this, the following activities also took place

- Child rights month-November 2019
- Sports day- children's day –November month
- Birthday day celebration- Nov-Dec – Jan Month
- Poshakashala Exposure –November 26 2019
- Volunteer activity-November 29th and January 29, 2019
- Pulse Polio Programme-Jan 2nd week, 2020

Given the growing incidences of cancer, and the lack of awareness about the importance of regular check up, Sparsha Trust organized a cancer health camp on 8th and 28th Jan 2020. This camp, that had cancer screening facilities, also provided information about various forms of cancer such as oral, breast and cervical cancer.

April-2019 to March-2020					
BLC Project					
1.	No of Anganwadi Center	75	5.	No of Female children	1790
2.	No of Families	3649	6.	No of male children	1811
3.	No of Children	3601	7.	No of Families reached out to	3668
4.	No of Youths	185	8.	Householdes in the Communities of at our working Areas	10803

Developing of Government schools into model schools : upgrading the educational system and infrastructure in Government 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 drop outs, especially among girls and lack of good quality education and learning methods/techniques. Sparsha Trust is working with the three Government Schools in Karnataka order to upgrade the quality of education and infrastructure so that the children can learn in the best possible atmosphere, and do their best. The Government schools are :

- Government Higher Primary school in Devalinganapalya, Hejjala, Bidadi, Ramnagar, Bangalore Rural – with support from Toyota Kirloskar Pvt Ltd.
- Government Higher Primary School at Bijjwara, Devanahalli with the support of Jai Shivshakti health and education and the village Alumni.
- Government Lower Primary School – Manchiganahalli with the support of Village Alumni

1. Government Higher Primary school in Devalinganapalya, Hejjala, Bidadi, Ramnagar, Bangalore Rural – with support from Toyota Kirloskar Pvt Ltd.

From around early 2018, TKM engaged with Sparsha Trust to implement activities to improve the functioning of the school. Sparsha Trust worked extensively, based on baseline surveys, to engage with the community, school teachers, school authorities, students, parents and other stakeholders. Many positive developments took place for the very first time in the school

As far as infrastructure is concerned, there is 100% improvement in comparison to the conditions that existed earlier. The school is more spacious and can accommodate upto 150 to 200 children, compared to 50 children earlier. Through door to door visits, parents were sensitized about the importance of sending their children to school regularly. As a result, attendance has improved drastically from 60% to 90%. The enrollment increased from 33 students to 67 students.

During this year, the focus was mostly on handing over as Sparsha Trust has mentored and guided the school and facilitated the involvement of the stakeholders. The year was full of various events in which the children planned and participated in with enthusiasm.

Children are participating in various inter-school, taluka and district level activities – dance, cultural and sports, yakshagana, dollukunita, environmental awareness, kamshale, jambe, khokho, kabbadi and athletics.

Apart from the regular activities, a team of 40 participants (selected senior members and Managing trustees of various NGOs across India,) who were selected to be part of the Social Academy of Learning by Toyota visited the school in February 2020. SALT is a learning program which is a vital part of the business DNA of Toyota. It focuses on the holistic development of Community and the NGO partners to ensure large scale impact at grassroot levels.

Sparsha took the lead role in explaining the strategies and activities which helped in enhancing the overall progress of the students since inception.

Sl No	Description	Number
1.	Number of children/youth	67
2.	Number of female children	34
3.	Number of male children	33
4.	Number of families reached out to	67
5.	Approx households in the communities of our working areas	200

2. Government schools in Bijjawara, Harohalli, Vkote and Holerahalli – supported by JSS.

Sparsha Trust partnered with JSS and AVID (Alumni for Village Integrated Development members) in 2018 to upgrade the Government Higher Primary school at Bijjawara. Since then, it has successfully improved and upgraded all aspects of the school including infrastructure, quality of teaching and scope of learning, and improving skills.

The activities in the GHPS, Bijjawara with the partnership of JSS, Alumini members and Sparsha Trust was noticed by the the neighboring schools. They placed a request to start our interventions in their schools. JSSFEH agreed to extend support and we also started working with Govt Lower Primary School – Holerahalli, Govt Higher Primary School – Harohalli and Govt Higher Primary School – V Kote

Apart from this, along with new activities, other interventions that were started in the previous year also continued. Some of the activities included :

- Setting up a library with around 3200 books
- Computer lab set up
- Science lab in place/ Science Experiments
- Newspaper reading
- Digital classes
- Quiz Saturday
- Parents & Teachers meeting
- Special recreational classes were conducted such as writing with both the hands, learning mathematical tables, story telling and revisions of that day's lessons.



Achievement of the school

1. Increase in the enrollment of students from 50 children to 60 children
2. 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.

Competitions

Participation in cluster level Prathibha Karanji and winning 20 prizes.

9 students who were selected for taluk level completion got 2nd prize in clay modeling.

Govt Higher Primary school – Harohalli

With the support of JSS, a Hindi teacher through Sparsha has been placed in the school. He teaches Hindi to all classes as per the school time-table. We have distributed computers here.

Govt Lower Primary school – Holerahalli

With the support of JSS, a science teacher through Sparsha has been placed in the school. She teaches Math to all classes as per the school time-table. Computer lab has been set up in the school.

Govt Higher Primary school – Venkatagiri Kote

With the support of JSS, a science teacher through Sparsha has been placed in the school. She teaches Math to all classes as per the school time-table. Computer lab has been set up in the school.



Sl No	Description	Bijwara	Holerahalli	V Kote	Harohalli
1.	Number of children/youth	64	27	76	56
2.	Number of females	25	15	17	30
3.	Number of males	39	12	39	26
4.	Number of families reached out to	64	27	76	56
5.	Approx households in the communities of our working areas	180	163	560	360

Youth Skills Development Programmes

Introduction : Youth from poor families lack opportunities for earning due to lack of inadequate academic qualifications, lack of retail marketing skills, vocational skills, spoken English skills , computer operating skills and financial literacy. As a result, many of them especially those from the villages and migrant families are not able to get proper job and end up taking any work which comes their way.

Understanding the need to provide them with good quality basic foundation in job friendly skills, Sparsha Trust has been organizing vocational skills training programmes for the youth in market friendly skills along with life skills support.

As a result, youth from low income group families are able to join entry level positions in various companies with confidence. Apart from jobs, Sparsha Trust has facilitated internship and placement opportunities for many youths. The objective of these skill development training programmes is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

Long term impact of the youth skills development programmes

Sparsha Trust is facilitating the process of creating entrepreneurs and reducing the level of under-employment and unemployment by reaching out to more number of youths each year.

In this segment, Sparsha Trust is managing the following three programmes:

1. Smile Twin E Learning Programme (STeP) at Yelahanka, Bangalore
2. My Quest Training Programme, in partnership with Quest Alliance at Mathikere, Bangalore
3. Market Aligned Skills Training Programme (MAST) at Mysore, supported by America India Foundation

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

With support from Smile Foundation, Sparsha Trust is organizing the STeP (Smile Twin E Learning Programme) where students get trained on skills like Basic computers, Communicative English, Retail management, Personality Development, Hospitality and Financial Literacy training.

Initially, Sparsha Trust's staff members conducted surveys in various low income communities to inform the families and youth members about the courses, and their benefits. After the youth indicated their interest to join, they are oriented about the specific details and enrolled in the programme. During this year, we interacted with more than 500-550 members, visited about 300-350 houses and collected more than 350 contact numbers.

STeP enrolled 135 students for academic year 2019-2020 aged between 18 years to 28 years. Most of them were SSLC dropouts, PUC dropouts, and housewives interested to make a sustainable career for themselves. Of these, 70% have been placed in different offices including call centres and retail sectors like malls. They have been placed in different positions such as event manager, sales Executive, data entry operators, BESCOM office Assistants, Accountant. The approximate starting salary for the placed students is Rs. 8000/- per month.

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

In the My Quest Training Programme, which is conducted by Sparsha Trust with support from Quest Alliance, at Mathikere, the focus is to prepare the students in key employment friendly skills. These include Communicative English, My Career, Life Skills, Digital literacy and Retail and customer interaction.

The course structure, which integrated classrooms and practical sessions, prepared the students to converse and market with confidence. The various sessions developed the skills of the students in a comprehensive manner and equipped them with techniques and tools which did not have access to in their personal lives.

In the last year, 120 students from 2 batches have passed out from this course of which 21 and 17 students have got internship/placement opportunities. These students were mobilized during surveys in (name of the areas). During the surveys, we visited about 750 houses and collected more than 550 contact numbers.

The participants, who joined entry level positions are earning Rs. 4500/- for a part time job and Rs. 8000/- onwards for a full time job.

17 students attended an interview in G7 CR Technologies and in that 7 students got selected. And 10 students attended interview in Axis Bank in Sahakarnagar, in that 2 students got selected.

The workshop on Career Guidance and career readiness helped the students to understand the various work prospects, and how they needed to prepare for their preferred area of work, based upon their interest.

The parents of the students were involved in the programme as we updated them regularly about their ward's progress. Gradually, the parents began to encourage their children to attend regularly and learn with hard work and commitment.

3. MAST - Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST) programme, Mysore– Supported by American India Foundation and implemented by Sparsha Trust

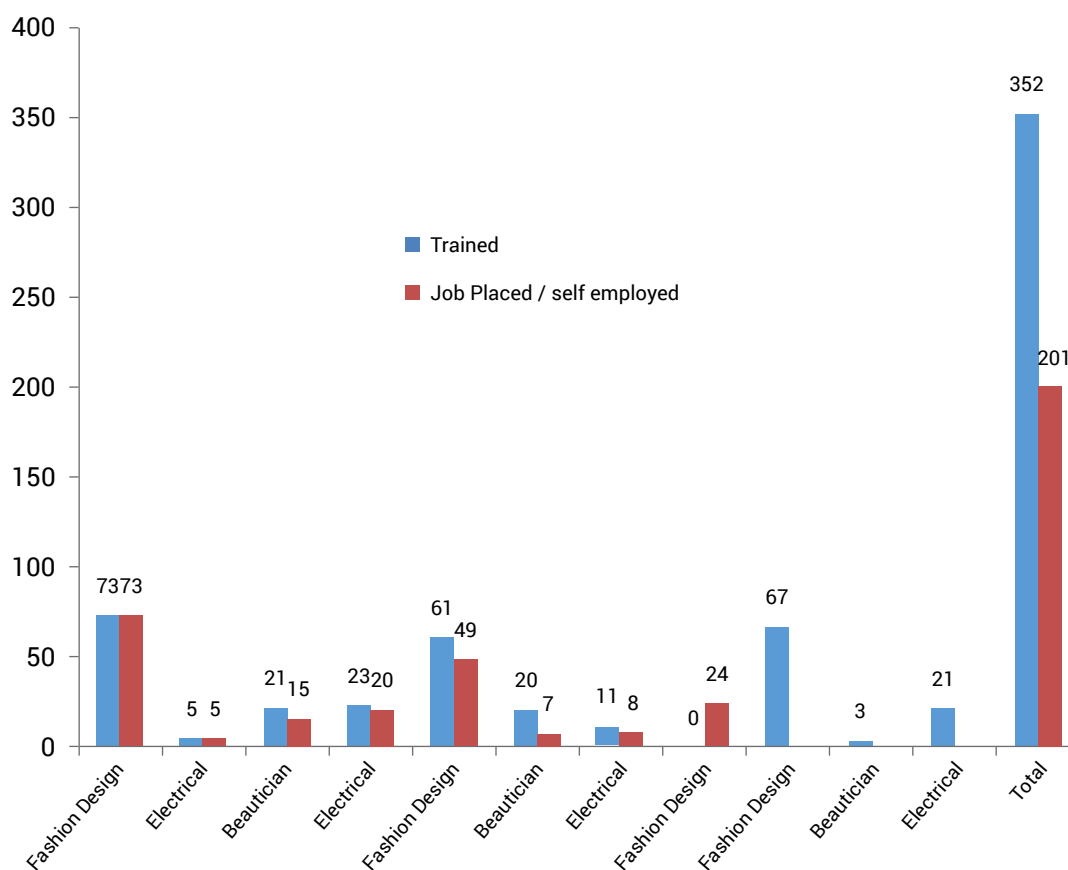
The Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST) programme, which is being implemented in Mysore, is being supported by American India Foundation and implemented by Sparsha Trust. Youth from low income families can choose among the various employment and entrepreneurship friendly skills to kick start their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

- Electrician training
- Beautician training
- Fashion Designing

All the students had a common course in computer operation skills, lifeskills, financial literacy and spoken English.

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.

It is interesting to note a change in the gender ratio between the batches. In the first batch, under the Electrician Course, all the candidates were men. While in the second batch, we had 3 women candidates along with the male candidates. In the first batch, under fashion designing course, all the candidates were women. While in the second batch, we had one male participant studying with the female participants.



Pl note that the figures related to batch wise course conducted in Fashion, Electrical and Beautician training respectively.

Case study

32 years old Asma Banu got married while she was studying her 10th standard. Her My husband used to sell flowers in the market. She would be unhappy and scared during the early days of marriage, and her world was restricted to her in-laws, my husband and 4 daughters. She was not aware about the earnings of my husband. About a year back, her husband passed away due to illness.



After his demise, Asma's in-laws asked her and the 4 daughters to leave the house. Asma came to her father's house, who is now supporting her entire family. Asma has 3 brothers, of whom one is blind, one is mentally disturbed and the other one is disabled. Asma's father sells idly (a South-Indian food) by home delivery and earns Rs.100 to Rs.150 every day. That is the only income to our family.

In Asma's words:

I was completely lost and was cursing my life. I had no courage to fight back in my life. At this point in time, I got to know about the Fashion Design course at 'AIF-Sparsha MAST Mysore center' through my cousin sister, who attended the same course. She forced me to join the class. I was scared as I had never been out of the house. I visited the center, met the trainers and the students, which gave me the confidence to pursue this course. I joined the afternoon batch as it had lesser students than the morning batch, this is because, I was nervous to face people, as I feared that they may talk ill about me. With lot of difficulties I used to come to class every day.

Life changing moment :

My trainer observed that I was silent and reserved. She advised me to be bold and strong. With her support and others in the center I started interacting with everyone. First time ever I realized there are good people too. Gradually, I gained confidence and interacting with everyone. This increased my interest in learning and gained necessary tailoring skills.

My Future plan :

I want to be a role model for my children. I have joined TPC (Training and Production Unit) under 'AIF-SparshaMAST Mysore center'. I will be earning about Rs.5000 per month. My financial situation is very bad at present. I want to have a boutique of my own in future, and I will work towards it.

Number of students benefited in 2019-20

Name of Center	Quest	Step	MAST Mys
Number of Children/ Youth	103	136	354
Number of Females	82	92	294
Number of Males	21	44	60
Number of families reached out to	103	136	354

Annual events of Sparsha Trust

Joy of learning :

Sparsha Trust conducts Joy of Learning for the overall development of children, to enhance the interest of children in learning and to support brotherhood, love, trust, physical stability, and mental stability. This program helps identify the learning, creativity, and innovation hidden among children and also provides a platform for children to exhibit their talents.

This year, '**Joy of Learning**' was conducted on 18 and 19 January 2020 at '**NisargaGrama**' where more than 450 children came together to participate in various competitions and showcase their skills. With the support of all the staff, volunteers, guests, sponsors, and well-wishers, this program has become a huge success this year as well like any other previous years.

Makkala Santé

Sparsha Trust is grateful to all its partners for their support in helping us to improve the lives of children and ensure their access to education. The support, extended by way of monetary assistance and guidance, is enabling us to provide them with basic amenities, care and protection. Over the years, as the association with various companies, government departments, individuals, forums and institutions is growing, we are able to reach out to more and more children and youth each year. It is not only the children, but also their families, who are benefitting from the multi-dimensional development services. Their support is having a significant impact on the society.

Corporate Supporters

SI No	Child Care and protection Programmes	Child Development	Youth Skills Development	Innovation projects
1.	Childline, Mobile Creche, contact points, Makkala Mitra 1 and 2,	Shikshana Mitra, Nisarga Grama, Chinnara Thangudhama (UDC), Makkala Dhama	My Quest, STeP, MAST	Model schools, Model anganwadi, Nammane

SI No	Child Care and protection Programmes	Child Development	Youth Skills Development	Innovation projects
2.	Department of Women and Child Welfare ChildLine India Foundation, Mobile Creche, Delhi Department of Labour	Inner Wheel Club, Bangalore West Kennametal Shared and Services India Ltd. New Horizon College Excalibur Foundation Light a life, First American India Walmart Bangalore Sitaram Jindal Foundation Gokaldas Warehousing Corporation Netscout Amrutanjan Health Care Pvt Ltd. Consero United Way, Bangalore	America India Foundation, Smile Foundation Quest Alliance	Jai Shivshakti Health and Educational Foundation IBM support Toyota Kirloskar Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike

Sparsha Trust wishes to thank all its supporters and volunteers and staff who have engaged the children in understanding and celebrating these important days and festivals in its true spirit.No festival or celebration is complete without delicious food and refreshments. Sparsha Trust likes to thank many of its volunteers and donors who have sponsoring the food or have prepared and served them at the venue.

Thank You!



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