



**SPARSHA TRUST**

**2015-16**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



# About Sparsha

Sparsha Trust started in the year 2005 by a group of Master of Social Work (MSW) students with a vision to create a society free of exploitation of children and help children manifest their inherent potential and talents. The Trust started with only 5 children and so far, it has rehabilitated more than 2500 children and enrolled 1362 children into formal schools i.e. school dropouts, street children, beggars and child laborers, through non-formal residential educational bridge centers.

Sparsha runs 5 residential educational rehabilitation training centers in different locations of Bangalore. Currently, around 250 children are making use of this facility. Sparsha runs 5 children's community libraries, 1 children's multidimensional learning center, Nodal Child Helpline 1098 Centre at Bangalore Rural district, 1 night shelter for more than 50 houseless elder citizens and Market Aligned Skill Training (MAST) livelihood program for poor migrated youths. Sparsha Trust has constructed '*Nisarga Grama*', a Nature Village for 500 street and working children, with currently 80 children making use of this center.

Many children who were not attending school but instead were on the streets begging and rag picking, have now completed 10<sup>th</sup> standard, with some children continuing on to complete their graduation.

## 1. Child Protection:

### CHILDLINE 1098

In recognition of Sparsha's capability in reaching out to children in need, shown through their effective intervention services, the Government of India selected Sparsha to set up a ChildLine Hub Centre (Nodal). It was initiated on 01<sup>st</sup> February 2015, situated in Devanahalli taluk of Bangalore rural district. ChildLine is an active member of DC committee in Bangalore rural district and handles all child related issues.



ChildLine is India's first 24-hour, toll free, emergency phone outreach service for children in need of care and protection linking them to long-term services for their care and rehabilitation. Any child and concerned adult can call 1098 and access the ChildLine service any time of the day or night. It is particularly aimed at helping children who are being violently treated or sexually abused by adults.

ChildLine is a totally confidential service for children and young people up to the age of nineteen. It goes beyond counselling over the phone, using this initial medium to provide children in need with the rehabilitation services available in the community.

**In From its inception in February 2015 till June 2016, 186 cases have been addressed.** ChildLine has been successful in rescuing many children from disastrous situations with key figures mentioned below:

Child related Issues	Number
Child Marriages	14 child marriages have been stopped
Physical Abuse	08 children have been rescued
Rescue from Begging	02 children have been rescued
Run away Children	04 children have been rescued



Dropout Children	31 children have been re enrolled
Need for Medical Help	04 children have been linked to medical facility
Sponsorship	21 children have been provided with sponsorship
Child Labourers	23 children have been rescued

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ChildLine has conducted outreach programs all over Bangalore rural district, visiting **419 schools and reaching out to 16,007 children** to create awareness about ChildLine and Child Rights.

On behalf of '**World Day against Child Labour**', ChildLine conducted a Jatha (Awareness rally) at Vijayapura of Devanahalli taluk in the month of June to raise awareness against child labour, reaching out to more than 2500 children and other community members through this initiative.



ChildLine also conducted a '**ChildLine Se Dosti Week**' campaign in the month of November-2015 to create awareness among children and all the stakeholders about ChildLine and protection of Child Rights. A Jatha was conducted in Devanahalli and '**Komal**' video was shown in many schools. For mentally retarded children, an essay writing competition about child related issues was conducted in a special school. The children even tied '**ChildLine Raksha Bandhan**' to the officers and staff in police department and DC office.

#### a. Operation Smile/Rakshana

In collaboration with the police, DWCD, Education department and Labour department, Sparsha participated in the 'Rescuing the Begging children' initiative in August-2015. Collaboratively they rescued more than 194 children who were begging in the streets and rehabilitated few with their parents and others in childcare homes. Sparsha has been the Nodal Organization for Bangalore North district and in collaboration with other NGOs and the police department, we have actively participated in 'Operation Muskan' program in the year 2016.



#### b. RTE Task force

RTE Task Force is a coalition in Bangalore between Sparsha Trust and other NGOs working collaboratively towards the aim of the Right To Education (RTE). This has been done through the organisation of awareness programs, attending child cases in schools, taking immediate actions against the violation of Child Rights, etc. Sparsha has been an active member of the committee since 2011.

Sparsha has admitted 12 children to school under the RTE act and is continuously creating awareness among the parents in the community about the RTE act. Sparsha is actively involved in the implementation of acts, regularly attends to all cases brought to our attention, sending information to the education department periodically.



### c. Human Trafficking Abolition Coalition (HTAC)

Sparsha Trust is a district convener of the campaign HTAC in collaboration with IJM, the police and other NGOs. It was initiated in 2015 in Bangalore rural district to conduct awareness programs and to act against Human Rights violation, human trafficking, child and women abuse cases.

In 2015, a program called '**Justice for Human**' (**Nyayothsava**) was conducted in 4 taluks of Bangalore rural district and this program enabled us to reach every corner of the district (schools, villages and panchayaths, taluk centres, etc.) to provide awareness about human trafficking. District collector, district magistrate, all the taluk tahsildars, local leaders and schools participated together in this program. **Around 15,000 families have been reached and more than 20,000 children have been informed.**

### d. Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR)

Sparsha Trust is an active member in the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights



(KSCPCR) to conduct awareness programs about Child Rights, organize child-related events, participate in advocacy and bring policies in place by acting as an advisory member within the grassroots level.

Since January 2016, Sparsha Trust has participated in an event called '**Nanna Nade Shale Kade**' ('**My steps towards school**') at all levels to provide awareness about the program and to identify the children who are out of school, bringing them into school. Sparsha is an advisory member at the state level and is in charge of Bangalore Yalahanka block, North District. Sparsha has also assisted other NGOs to give awareness in K. R. Puram and Yelahankaa and N-3 blocks.



In order to attend the '**Enrolment Drive**' launch program, a **100 children of Sparsha Trust were taken to Vidhana Soudha on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016** with all being admitted to a school on the inauguration day. Sparsha also actively involved the local MLA, BEO, CDPO and other department officials in the program. Sparsha is playing a pivotal role in Bangalore rural district and has been a member of the DC Committee at district



level which includes the District Magistrate. We have conducted many awareness programs in Devanahalli and Hosakote taluks on the same issue.

Sparsha with the support of KSCPCR conducted '**Children's Festival**' (**Makkala Habba**) on April 2015 at Cubbon Park for 400 children.

Sparsha also conducted state level consultations with the people and organizations who are working with the ChildLine.

## 2. Child Care:

### a. Nisarga , a nature village

**Nisarga Grama** (Nature Village) is a dream project of Sparsha Trust. This multi dimensional rehabilitation centre for 500 street and vulnerable children. The project was initiated 3 years ago at Hesaraghatta and nearly 90% of the construction has been completed with the help of supporters, corporate and individuals. **Nisarga Grama** will have all kinds of facilities like dormitories for boys & girls, Learning center, Kitchen & Dining, multipurpose hall, multi dimensional learning centre, Library, computer lab, science lab, theater training centre, art and craft centre, vocational training, staff quarters, service centre, open air auditorium, cow shed, agricultural activity, solar & bio-gas and also play ground for children etc. All the children will receive a nutritionally balanced meal, individualized education, and will have access to many developmental activities. It will be a state of the art rehabilitation center, playing a significant role in molding vulnerable, underprivileged and deprived children's lives.



Now, 80 children have been moved to '**Nisarga Grama**' in the month of June and they have been enjoying their time amongst the nature. This centre will be inaugurated on **22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016** and will accommodate nearly 250 more children.



**Kanaka at Nisarga Grama says** "I am very happy to be here. After coming to **Nisarga Grama**, I have been elected as VC and I am looking after other children. I am taking all the responsibilities and have learnt how to lead a team."

The children are making use of this center, for example growing vegetables in the farm. This centre will be converted into a Multi Dimensional Development Centre soon after the inauguration, with all activities beginning for the children.

### b. Shikshana Mitra – I, II (A friend for education)

Shikshana Mitra, "A friend for education" was initiated to reach the children who are deprived of education. **Shikshana Mitra I** was initiated in September 2009 and situated in the Sanjivini Nagar area of Bangalore. At present, 58 children attend this centre. Many regular volunteers from **Canadian International School, Mallya Aditi**



**International**, apartments within close proximity and dedicated volunteer like Manisha Didi have been teaching English, maths and science to the children. Library activities and creative art and craft classes are conducted here. Mrs. Roopa Mahajan consistently dedicates 5-6 hours every day to develop the centre and takes care of overall development of these children from 2 years old.



The children took part in a painting activity for the **diyas, making different handicrafts** using paper quilting materials. This year they had stalls in many companies for **Diwali and Christmas festivals**. The female children have taught **Dollu Kunita, a folk dance of Karnataka** and have performed more than 50 shows in different places across Bangalore city.

Many children have read more than 100 library books and have been able to prepare their own skits for competitions. A girl **named Sonu who is 8 years old**, studying in a Government school is able to read english novels. The children have prepared skits like King Mufasa and Cindrella and have performed 10-15 shows in different companies.

The children along with the Rotary Club conduct '**Swach Bharath**' awareness programs in Sahakar Nagar and creating awareness among local people about health and hygiene. They are also involved in '**Back To School**' programs, helping to make the people understand the importance of education and about sending their children to school.



In the month of May-2016, 12 children attended Oasis Camp (**Leadership Camp**) which was conducted in Bangalore, with 10 children also attending Theatre Training which was conducted in Ramanagar for 20 days.

Apart from these, **15 children also attended Basic Computer and Spoken English** classes, which were conducted by Cognizant Company for the month of May.

Sparsha started a residential centre called **Shikshana Mitra II** in the month of June 2010 at Manyatha Tech Park near Hebbal, especially for the children of migrating families who come here for construction work. At present, 14 children within the age group of 13-17 years old are at this centre. **Mrs. Vanamala Kiran** is providing family care and teaching them about self-dependency. A facilitator from Sparsha assists these children. Sparsha is also supporting them to run the centre.

These children also participated in Oasis Camp which was conducted in Bangalore in the month of May-2016 and also attended Basic Computer and Spoken English classes conducted by Cognizant Company.

The volunteers from **Netscout Company** are teaching Mathematics, Science and Computer to these children for 3 days a week. Evidently, Cognizant Company, IBM and Netscout Company volunteers are committed to taking care of the overall development of these children along with 40 non formal education centre children under the guidance of Mrs. Vanamala Kiran.





*"Hello, I am Narasamma and I am 15 years old. I was brought to the centre by an auto rickshaw driver while begging near a temple with my sister's children. I literally wanted to be on the street begging and roaming here and there. I ran away from our centre three times with my little sister. Still, we were rescued by Manju sir, from Andhra Pradesh. Now, I am studying in 10<sup>th</sup> standard and aiming to score more than 90%. I also help younger children of the shelter in their studies, taking care of them, etc. I am the leader in the school and I have built up confidence and strength in myself. Now, I can talk about myself, my dream and about organization in front of any big and eminent people. Sometimes, I also host programs of the trust and I am fluent in spoken English too. I have learnt dance, songs, drawing, computer, crafts, and would like to become a teacher in future"*



*"Hi everyone. I am Kavitha and I am 17 years old. For me 2015-16 year was very good and a turning point in my life which I had never dreamt. I came with my parents to Bangalore from Gulbarga when I was 12 years. We were working in a farm field for daily wages. I was going to school till my brother was born. After that my mother stopped me going to school as I had to take care of him. As there was no rain, my parents lost their job. So, one of my neighbors told about the construction work at Bangalore. My parents were not in a position to send me to school. But Sridevi Madam succeeded in convincing my parents and brought me to Shikshanamitra centre when I was 13 years. In the center, I was cared so much that I forgot all my bad days and started dreaming.*

In the year 2015-16, there was regular health checkup which was conducted for all the children. The development plan was made by child participation every month and the management used to sit with the elder children and plan about overall development of centre children.

We had lot of learning and exposure like

- Training on computer course
- English spoken class
- Paper and beads jewelry designing
- Personality development class
- Training on health and hygiene
- Folk and western style dance training

*Apart from all the above training, academic learning was focused more. As a result, I could able to score 70% in my SSLC. Now, I have taken up commerce course in one of the prestigious colleges of Bangalore and I am aiming to become a CA".*

*At Shikshana Mitra II, Laxman says "Firstly, I should thank all the supporters who are behind us all the time for showing a hope of ray. I came to this centre when I was 13 years; I had studied till 3<sup>rd</sup> standard in my village. My parents were working in the agricultural field and as there was no rain they lost the work. So, in order to feed the family my father came to Bangalore and started working in construction sites. The income was not sufficient to feed the whole family and therefore, we all came to Bangalore. My mother also started going to work. I stayed at home doing all the house hold work and taking care of my younger 2 siblings. I was not the boy who had dreamt to become doctor or engineer etc. One fine day, Murali Sir discussed with my parents, took me and my brother to the center. He inspired me in such a way that I started dreaming. They enrolled me to 7<sup>th</sup> Std. I got an opportunity to meet so many big people who helped me to learn many things. For me, the year 2015-16 was a golden period in my life because I got an opportunity to learn computer and Spoken English in Cognizant Company.*

*Regularly, many volunteers were visiting and teaching English, computer, drawing and much more. Totally, there were 18 children in the center. Our centre in charge and care taker together had a daily, weekly and monthly plan and accordingly, we were following that.*

*Yoga, reading, going to school, playing, studying, cultural activities and entertainments were our regular daily activities. Apart from these, we have a small library book rack where we used to read story books and we were also doing story sharing time with our friends.*

*Not the least, I am happy to share with all this inputs that I passed my SSLC by scoring 63%. I am aiming to do MBA to get big post in a big company”.*

### **c. Makkala Mitra, Open Centre – I, II (A friend for Child)**

**Makkala Mitra I and II** are two open centers welcoming between 25 to 35 school dropouts, child workers, rag-pickers and other children in need. Since January 2012, the centers are open 24h/7 to provide care and protection at any time to all children. The Women and Child Welfare Department of Government of India also support this project.



We have set up contact points where there are more slums, rag picking and begging children who are constantly moving here and there.

The children will be identified and brought to contact points through volunteers. A facilitator at the contact point will teach them according to a timetable, also giving space for them to play games. Children who need shelter will be brought to open shelter from contact points. Non-formal education will be given to children for 9 months to 1 year and then they will be enrolled into neighboring government schools. Active and interested children are also bridged into vocational training centers.



This year, trips were arranged for these children and they were taken to Wonderla, Bannerghatta and Nandi hills. The children enjoyed the trips a lot and had many different experiences during these trips. Children also participate in all Sparsha trust annual and awareness activities.

### **d. Chinnara Thangudhama (UDC) – a centre for Urban Deprived Children**





This centre was inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010, along with the collaboration of the Education department. It is a centre which welcomes boys who have deviated from the mainstream system due to various reasons, such as the involvement in begging, rag picking and child labouring. In the year 2015-16 69 children were admitted to UDC and out of these 45 children have been admitted to schools and others have migrated to different places along with their parents. All the basic facilities are provided to these children by the education department. Regular health check-ups have been done with the help of a nearby government hospital.

#### e. Apta Mitra – a centre for destitute street people

Due to the changes in the socio-economic conditions in villages, there is an increased migration of people towards cities. There has also been a social change in the urban communities in which the seniors, the children and the physically-challenged citizens are not being taken care of and are left on the side. These people from urban poor families, who do not get family care and societal support, become beggars, rag-pickers and street vendors etc. They become addicted to drugs or are exploited and left to develop on the fringe of society. They don't get access to basic amenities and are forced to live in inhuman conditions.



Sparsha, with the support of BBMP, started a centre in 2011 in order to provide night supper, accommodation, health care counselling and placement to urban homeless, people sleeping in the streets, beggars and elder people. This centre is in **Murphy Town in Bangalore** and takes care of 50 senior citizens and children.



#### f. Save me

With the collaboration of Fidelity National Financial and Woman and Child Development Department, four contact points have been created along Mysore road, in Bangalore urban and Hosakote Bangalore rural areas, in order to connect to every child that needs care and protection, giving him or her a basic education.



At any of these contact points, it is estimated that around 60 to 70 children of labour workers are not going to school. The contact points were set up in the areas where most of the low-waged migrants are working. Here the abandoned, underprivileged children are mostly found. These areas include garbage dump yards, unauthorized slums, quarry working area, railway stations, bus stations and migrated construction working areas.

One social worker works together with one volunteer in these areas every day from morning till evening to identify the street children and bring them to a Contact Point. Their goal is to convince the parents to send their children to contact points and engage them in learning, games, reading activities, providing recreational facilities like TV shows, children motivational movies related to education, provided with snacks to refresh them. Each child has access to educational courses, developmental activities and obtain one warm meal every day. Upon successful completion of the bridging course, these children are admitted into public schools for formal education. Facilitators discuss with the parents about their children's progress, preparing a chart for each child



regarding their learning level, actively doing parents and children counselling. If needed, these children will also be connected to other shelters/care centres.

We are targeting to operate 4 contact points at 4 locations, in which every day, approximately 100 children receive our services. Out of these, we expect 80% of children will be admitted into mainstream education and settled in a public school within 12 months after joining the programme.

We have also partnered with other organisations to raise awareness among our other stakeholder groups in order to have a greater impact on the community.

### 3. Child Development:

#### a. Vignana Mitra – a Multi-Dimensional Learning Centre (MDLC)

Sparsha has initiated a MDLC centre at Mathikere which has been designed to enrich the learning experience and holistic development of the children. MDLC aimed to provide focused educational support in terms of computing education and science training through demonstrations of experiments in the science labs. We also offer spoken English training to the children.



The project has had a long lasting impact on the community. In this centre, Sparsha also focuses on other aspects, such as teaching the children life and soft skills, strengthening their confidence and preparing them to be able to open themselves to a world of knowledge. Since 2011 we have been able to reach more than 150 children enrolled in government schools every year.

#### b. Gnana Mitra – a child friendly library

Sparsha Trust collaborated with ILP to initiate Gnana Mitra, a library aimed to provide the children living at the Sparsha centres with unrestricted access to information, benefiting around 400 children within the community. Information is available in many formats (books, newspapers, dictionaries, etc.) and from many sources. **We believe that in this library learning is about joy, educational enlightenment and the welfare of the children.**



In Gnana Mitra, children can also participate in various activities, such as art, painting, crafts, CD based learning and computing, etc. A handful of children have read more than 200 library books.



The librarians and volunteers are committed to assisting the children in developing their reading skills. Several members of the community have been involved in running the library, with some of the older children also take on responsibilities. All of this is supported by Sparsha.

Sparsha Trust has also initiated mobile libraries, supporting the neighbouring government schools in order to help teachers have access to books, consequently increasing children's interest in subjects. Another goal we achieved was to inform and convince government agencies about the need for good libraries in government schools. This initiative helped the 3 following government schools:

- Government Higher primary school, Chennahalli, Bangalore





- Government primary school, Kuduregere, Bangalore
- Government Model higher primary school, Sanjivini Nagar, Bangalore

### c. Our Creativity

Creativity has always been one of the strengths of Sparsha's work with the children. For many children, performances are a way **to express themselves and to gain self-confidence**. Our work in this field covers a variety of disciplines, including street plays, handicraft, folk dance, documentary videos, short movies, ad concepts, etc. Over the years, Sparsha Trust has built up a well-grounded reputation in terms of the quality and commitment to developing creativity. Boys and girls from the centres learn folk dance and music from famous artists and play a significant role in developing or adapting the script, designing costumes, etc.



### Kamsale Dance and Veera Gase

In Shivaji Nagar, in the Chinnara Thangudhama centre, the children perform Kamsale dance and Veera Gase very professionally. For the last 3 years, they have enthusiastically performed this dance at more than 60 to 70 events for Government and private companies.

Kamsale is a famous folk dance of Karnataka. It is named after the instrument held in the hands of the dancer. The instrument is composed of a cymbal held in one hand and a bronze disc in the other. The main element is the rhythmic clang, which blends with the melodious music of the Mahadeeshvara epic. The instruments, in the course of the vigorous rhythmic beatings, are moved around the body of the dancer in innumerable patterns manifesting both skill and art. In a group movement, the dancer provides the vision of a series of offensive and defensive manoeuvres.



Veera Gase is a dance form prevalent in the state of Karnataka. It is a vigorous dance based on Hindu mythology and involves very intense energetic dance movements. Veera Gase is one of the dances demonstrated in the Dasara procession held in Mysore. This dance is performed during festivals and mainly in the Hindu months of Shravana and Karthika.

### Dollu Kunitha

In *Nisarga Grama*, girls learn how to perform Dollu Kunitha. It is a famous folk drum dance of Karnataka. Whilst generally performed by men, the girls of Nisarga Grama enthusiastically do their best.

In the Dollu Kunitha dance, large drums are adorned with coloured clothes and hung around the necks of the dancers. The songs used in this dance usually have underlying folk and battle messages. The main emphasis is on quick and light movements of the legs and feet.



### Handicraft

Apart from the dances, the children also take part in making handicraft items such as earrings, flowers, diyas using paper quilting, artificial jewellery, mehendi, boutique design, paper bags, etc.



Every year, during the summer and the winter holidays, the children engage in art and craft activities. The products they make are sold in companies, institutions and residences like Kennametal, AXA Business Solutions, Walmart, Infinite Computer Solutions, Inteva, Actuant India, Mallya Aditi, Beary's Lakeside Habitat, Canadian International School, etc. Sales are also done during other events hosted by Sparsha.



- **Documentary Video, short movies, Ad concept**

Our children receive a basic knowledge in various creative fields, such as concept preparing, film making, script writing, editing, camera handling, etc. We are glad to be supported by the AYV; who enable the children to make their own documentary movies about Sparsha Trust.

### **3) Multi-Dimensional Development Program**

#### **a. Market Aligned Skill Training (MAST) – Adobe Youth Leadership Program - Youth Voices and Graphic & Print Design Course – A livelihood training centre**

In collaboration with America India Foundation and ADOBE software, the MAST centre at Mathikere is able to provide breakthrough learning experiences to 50 young adults (18 to 24 years old) every year. They take part in using video, multimedia, digital art, web, animation, audio tools and comic strips.



This program takes place over six-months, focusing on graphic and print design. In job-oriented lessons, students learn how to use the most important software in this field: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Acrobat and Adobe Light room. In addition to this, they take part in a English communication course, soft skills development and financial literacy.

This program enables youth to explore and participate in social changes both within their communities and within the wider world, igniting young people's creativity and confidence. Adobe Youth Voices is a program with three guiding principles: Engage, Enhance, Exhibit.

#### **b. Step program to youth skill development- STeP Program**

The Smile Twin e-learning Programme (STeP) is a 4-month program for 120 students each year (18 – 25 years old) it is organized by Sparsha Trust and the Smile Foundation at Yelahanka New Town. These students have come from financially constrained families and are provided with an opportunity to learn new skills for their future.

The program teaches them basic computing skills, Basic English speaking, retail and basic management, personality development and soft skills in order to provide placements (entry level job) to a minimum of 80% – 85% of the beneficiaries trained.



## Statistical overview of the year 2015-16

Sl No.	Activity	Total no of children rescued	No of children enrolled to centres	No of children Enrolled to formal school	No of children Re-integrated with the parents	No of children Migrated
1	Open shelter Hoskote, Bangalore Rural	95	89	42	42	11
2	Open Shelter Rajarajeshwari Nagar	89	64	28	44	6
3	ShikashanaMitra, Sanjeevininagar	68	58	57	18	
4	ShikashanaMitra, Mastripalya	16	18	13	5	3
5	Chinnara Thangudhama, Shivajinagar	69	45	45	5	19
6	Child Help line	186				
7.	Day Care Centre	122	122	68	36	18
	<b>Total no of children</b>	<b>645</b>				

### ANNUAL EVENTS

#### 1) Joy of Learning- *An event to explore the talents of deprived children*

In 2012, the Team of Sparsha initiated a special event called “Joy of Reading” for the Sparsha Trust children and government school children. The initial idea was to make learning joyful to children, understood through the events motto (learn by reading, understand by doing). The Joy of learning program is an opportunity for children to show their parents, the community and members of Sparsha, what they have learnt over the course of the year.



In order to take part, the children have to read a certain amount of books from the library and to know their multiplication tables up to 20 or 50, depending on the child's age. The event is mainly conducted to develop interest in reading books and to ensure that it becomes a knowledgeable and joyful act.



This year, ‘Joy of Learning’ program was conducted on the 06-Feb-2016 at Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park with more than 300 children participating from our centers and the community libraries.

The children from all the shelters assembled at Bal Bhavan early in the morning and decorated the venue for the day. Each shelter was made for them to exhibit their various pieces of art and craft material which they had prepared at the centres.

Volunteers from Consero Company actively took part in the program and involved themselves in organizing and serving food to children.

Mrs. Dr. Krupa Amara Alva, the president of KSCPCR, Mr. Mahadevappa, the Deputy Director of Women and Child Development department of Bangalore Rural district, Mr. Venugopal Puvada, VP, Engineer of Quelcom, Mrs. Puvada, Mr. Brijesh from Consero company, Mr. Wg, CDR and R.S. Murthy, Trustee of Sparsha Trust inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp.



The guests were surprised to see the talent of the children and expressed in their speech that they had not learnt this many multiplication tables and stories in their lifetime. All the guests wished the children all the best and the competitions started once the judges had taken their places.



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Activities such as a book reading competition, Super Minute games, drawing competition, multiplication table reciting, English words competition, group songs contest, as well as solo and group dances were conducted.

Mr. Rajendra, the community relation manager of IJM also joined us. The Child Welfare Committee member Mr. Srinivas, Vanamala Madam, Mr. Brijesh from Consero and Mrs. Archana, theatre artist distributed the prizes to the winners.

Sanjivinagar centre won the most prizes in all categories and consequently was awarded the Rolling Trophy.

## 2) Friends of Sparsha

The team of Sparsha initiated the event “Friends of Sparsha” for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2015 at Actuant, Bangalore. All the committee members of *Nisarga Grama* were present for the program.



Mrs. Mahalakshmi Bhatt gave a welcome speech, having anchored the program. The program was inaugurated by Honorable guests Mr. Rajendra Hinduja, MD-Gokuldas Warehouse Corporation, Mr. B. C. Rao, MD-Kennametal, Mr. Anjani Kumar, Board of Director of Kennametal, Mr. Vinodh Adwani, JSS, Dr. Prabhakar Balla, MD-T3Plus Solution, Mrs. Heera Brauner and Mr. Regis, VP-Canadian International School by lighting the lamp.



Wg. Cdr. R. S. Murthy explained the problems and struggles that they faced during the construction of *Nisarga Grama*, but most importantly how they overcame and resolved these issues leading to the current status of Sparsha’s dream project, *Nisarga Grama*.

Mr. Varun Vijay Rao, MD-Actuant India who hosted this program in his esteemed office premises welcomed all the dignitaries and shared his happiness about how Sparsha has grown from 5 children to 200 children.

Mr. Rajendra Hinduja, MD-Gokuldas Warehouse Corporation Pvt. Ltd. expressed his happiness in joining Sparsha Trust and congratulated all the supporters of Sparsha.

Both the girls and boys from Sanjivinagar centre performed separate group dances which was positively received by the audience.



## **Acknowledgement**

**No words can express our gratitude to the team of supporters who have been behind Sparsha at every stage, playing a large responsibility in the growth of the organisation.**

After observing the successful performance of Sparsha, both in its project implementation and documentation, many companies have chosen Sparsha to partner with and have followed through with us to attain our goal.

Our special thanks goes to the committee of *Nisarga Grama*, which is composed of 14 members from various backgrounds: Retired Air Force personnel, Corporate, Social Workers, heads of Educational institutions, Chartered accountants etc. They have been associated with a lot of activities taking place at Sparsha Trust since its inception, and are responsible for the completion of *Nisarga Grama*. Achieving our dream would not have been possible without the hard work of many, placing every brick and working on the construction of the building. All the workers and generous supporters have contributed what they can just to see the smile on the faces of the vulnerable children, knowing this centre will provide them with a better life.

### **Nisarga Grama Construction partners:**

- Kennametal Shared and Services India Ltd.
- Jai Shivashakti Health and Educational Foundation
- AXA Business Solutions
- Sitaram Jindal Foundation
- Mrs. Heera Brauner and Mr. Eugene Brauner Family
- Excalibur Foundation
- Light a life, First American India
- Gokaldas Warehousing Corporation
- Value Based Housing Corporation (VBHC)
- Walmart Bangalore
- Lodge Sainik 196 Bangalore
- Infinite Computer Solutions
- Wg. Cdr. R.S. Murthy & Family
- Mr. V. Narasimhan and Mrs. Rajalakshmi
- Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore West
- Canadian International Schools
- Mallya Aditi International student counsel and Laxmi Mittal Foundation
- Residents of Beary's Lakeside Habitat
- Sreerama Super Surfactants
- Individual supporters

### **OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO**

- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Ravi Srinivasan of Beary's Apartment who have helped us whenever we were in need and supported us to plan and execute our activities properly including finance, accounts and administration. They have also helped a lot for the development of the Sparsha organization as a whole.
- ✓ Mrs. Vicky Tounge, Asia Head-Astrogenerica who has been actively involved with Sparsha since January-2016 and helped us in designing the calendar of Sparsha. She is a key member, along with Mr. Ravi Srinivasan, and has given us full support during her visits to India. She also helped to guide us in planning and implementing *Nisarga Grama* activities, to bring policies in place, to maintain the safety and security of the children and also trained Sparsha's staff to strengthen our activities
- ✓ Ms. Camilie, a volunteer from France who helped us to develop our website and worked hard for the development of the children

- ✓ Ms. Julica, a dedicated volunteer from Germany gave her full time for the development of Sparsha's children and to improve their skills and knowledge. She also worked for the development of a playground at *Nisarga Grama*
- ✓ Ms. Madi from the Om Prakash Foundation in the US. She has brought tremendous changes in Sparsha, giving a lot of love and affection to our children. She also helped us to develop the library of Sparsha
- ✓ Mrs. Neena Murthy who is the back supporter of Mr. Wg. Cdr. R. S. Murthy making sure he is involved in all the activities of the *Nisarga Grama* project. She has given her full support in designing Nisarga Grama, visiting the site every week and dedicating her precious time to develop this dream project
- ✓ Mrs. Hilda, wife of Mr. Andrew Tanner from the UK. She has been behind Mr. Tanner to involve him in social activities. She cries if the children cry and laughs if the children laugh. She has always been concerned about the children and wants to see that the children are always happy
- ✓ Mrs. Jayanthi, wife of Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram, has for the past 4 years been working for the development of Sanjivini Nagar centre without expecting publicity, dedicating herself to providing a better life to the children
- ✓ Mrs. Vanamala Kiran has been with us for the past 5 years and her whole family has been working towards the development of the children at Mesthri Palya. She has taken on the overall responsibility of the centre without expecting anything from the community
- ✓ Ms. Divya and Ms. Tina Rasthogi are actively involved in Sparsha's activities for 3 years and they are the main pillars working with Canadian International school to strengthen the learning skills of our children, also providing facilities to our children
- ✓ Mrs. Anu, wife of Mr. Arun Vijay Rao, has been supporting Sanjivini Nagar centre children. She has trained the girls in different activities and worked hard to develop their learning abilities
- ✓ Ms. Manisha Didi and Team have been with us for the last 2 years. She has dedicated herself to the development of mathematical and science knowledge of the children at Sanjivini Nagar centre
- ✓ Mr. Vasanth, who is around 75 years old, is very passionate in helping the children learn mathematics and science, spending 3 hours every day to see that the children score good marks in all subjects
- ✓ Ms. Jayashree and Ms. Kavitha started working with us individually and have built a team of big hearted people to strengthen children's activities at R. R. Nagar centre. They have created a large network to support the centre
- ✓ Mrs. Bhavana and family started their journey with Sparsha as an individual and now, they have become an organization to strengthen Sparsha's goal
- ✓ MCK, Feed the Hungry Foundation has been working with us for the past 2 years. They mobilise rice from individuals and corporate to feed the children who need care and protection. For 2 years they have been able to fulfill the requirements of Sparsha's children
- ✓ Mr. Srivatsa and Mrs. Lalitha Srivatsa from Sampoorana Trust have taken care in providing groceries to the children of Sparsha for the past 2 years. They are very passionate about supporting needy children.
- ✓ FSL India is the main partner with Sparsha Trust in providing foreign volunteers in order to support the activities of Sparsha. Since 2010, they have been a part of Sparsha's vision and mission and regularly send volunteers to support various programs of Sparsha
- ✓ Om Prakash Foundation has supported us for the past 4 years. We are a partnering member of Om Prakash Foundation in receiving European volunteers for developing various activities of the organization
- ✓ Mr. Siddarth Bangar is an active volunteer who has been with us for the past 5 years. He always likes to see smile on the faces of the deprived children
- ✓ Mr. Shailesh and family have dedicated themselves to spending their time with our children and have given a different dimension to the children. He is very keen to fulfil the special needs of children at Sanjivini Nagar centre

**Thanking you,**

**SPARSHA TRUST (R), Bangalore**