

# 2017-18

## ANNUAL REPORT





## Letter by the Managing Trustee Shri Gopinath. R

**Dear Friends and well-wishers,**

The year 2017-2018 was a period of excitement for Sparsha Trust. Our children did us proud and we were happy to get recognition from reputed organizations/companies and institutions.

Looking back at the last thirteen years since we started, we have grown from scratch, gone from strength to strength, overcame many constraints and survived many challenges. This was possible only because of the faith and support of individuals, corporates, and Government Departments. Your trust keeps us going. We also acknowledge the hard work of our team members, who played a big role in the organization earning a good reputation in the sector. Lastly and most importantly, we acknowledge the enthusiastic spirit of the beneficiary children.

It gave us great joy when we saw Kanaka, a girl whose education Sparsha is supporting since 2011, speaking in Parliament on November 20th, 2017 on the occasion of World Children's Day. The same day, another of our child beneficiaries, Hanumantha was one of the team members who won the National Relay Championship at the school level for children below 16 years in New Delhi.

We completed the building of Nisarga Grama which means Nature Village, a residential multi-dimensional development centre for children who are in need of care, protection and development. The building, which can house upto 300 children, is well equipped, and provides all the necessary facilities. While most of the centre was completed last year, the remaining portion was completed in this year with the kind support of Walmart and Kennametal.

### **Recognitions**

During this year, I got the opportunity to be one of the three state convenors of Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's Bharat Yatra. Sparsha Trust got the honor to receive him and his supporters in our Open Shelter at Hoskote. In our own way, we strengthened the movement for a safe childhood for children across India. Other recognition included Youth Award given by



Shri Raghubar Das, Honorable Chief Minister of Jharkhand, and Shri Suresh Raina, renowned cricketer on 2nd December 2017 in Ranchi. Sparsha Trust also got the State Best NGO award from The Department of Women and Child Welfare from Shri VajubhaiVala, Honorable Governor of Karnataka on 14th November, 2017. I was also invited to speak at the International conference for Youth on Human Rights, Ernakulam in December 2017.

### **Expansion to new areas of work – development of model school, children friendly villages, model anganawadi and Alumni for Village Development**

Even as we continue our regular programmes, we decided to enhance our contributions to welfare of children through three initiatives viz. Model School, Model Anganwadi, and model children friendly villages upscale the work by initiating model school, model anganawadi, (crèches or early child care community centres) and model children friendly villages. By entering into these activities, we can mobilize the integrated support of parents, community and other stakeholders to participate in children welfare and development.

Many of India's successful men and women are from the villages. Often, they want to give back to the society, especially to their hometown"/ village. We initiated the AVID programme (Alumni for Villages' Integrated Development) where we will contact the alumni of the villages and mobilize their support for village development.

### **Organizational development and structuring**

We have moved to a new office, which has the required space for different activities. The organization is more streamlined now as different teams are working on specific responsibilities, and a second-line of leadership is being nurtured.

During this year, by partnering with various stakeholders as well as on our own, we rescued more than 150 children through our Childline project (1098), prevented many child marriages, and rehabilitated children who were into begging and in labour work. Children referred from CWC (Child Welfare Committee) were rehabilitated into school. Many of our beneficiary children have scored good marks in their 10th Class and are attending Pre University College classes.

### **Stakeholders and Corporates – strengthening existing relationships and forming new ones**

We thank the officials in the Karnataka Child Protection Commission, Department of Education, District Collector, Department of Women and Child Welfare for their continued guidance and support. We also thank Toyota Kirloskar, United Way and Quest Alliance for their support in our Model School Project, Model Anganawadi Project and MAST project respectively. We thank Walmart, Kennametal, First American India, Infinite Computer Solutions, Netscout, Terrex India, Amruthanjan Health Care Pvt Ltd, Persistent Foundation. We also thank all the volunteers, within India and those came through FSL volunteers and ICDSS. We are also grateful to the Sparsha Board members and Committee Members of Nisarga Grama.

### **Future Plans - To work on prevention strategies and construction of a boys' shelter**

The growing crimes on children, especially the younger ones, are horrifying and a blot on our society. We need to work at different levels to prevent this. Keeping this in mind, and given the need to scale up children welfare and development activities, Sparsha will be focusing on prevention mechanism as well as strengthening its existing care and protection mechanisms. We are focusing on the construction of a boys' shelters titled Kishora Grama for 300 children in Devanahalli area and hope to complete it by 2019.

Once again, I thank you all for the support during all these years. Your association is very important to making the society a better place. Please feel free to write to us at [sparshmarg2020@gmail.com](mailto:sparshmarg2020@gmail.com)

On behalf of Sparsha,  
Gopinath  
Managing Trustee





# About Sparsha

Sparsha Trust has been working since 13 years for underprivileged children and youth. Started in 2005 by a group of Master of social work (MSW) students, its vision is to create a society that is free of exploitation of children, and children are supported to discover their potential and given opportunities for comprehensive development.

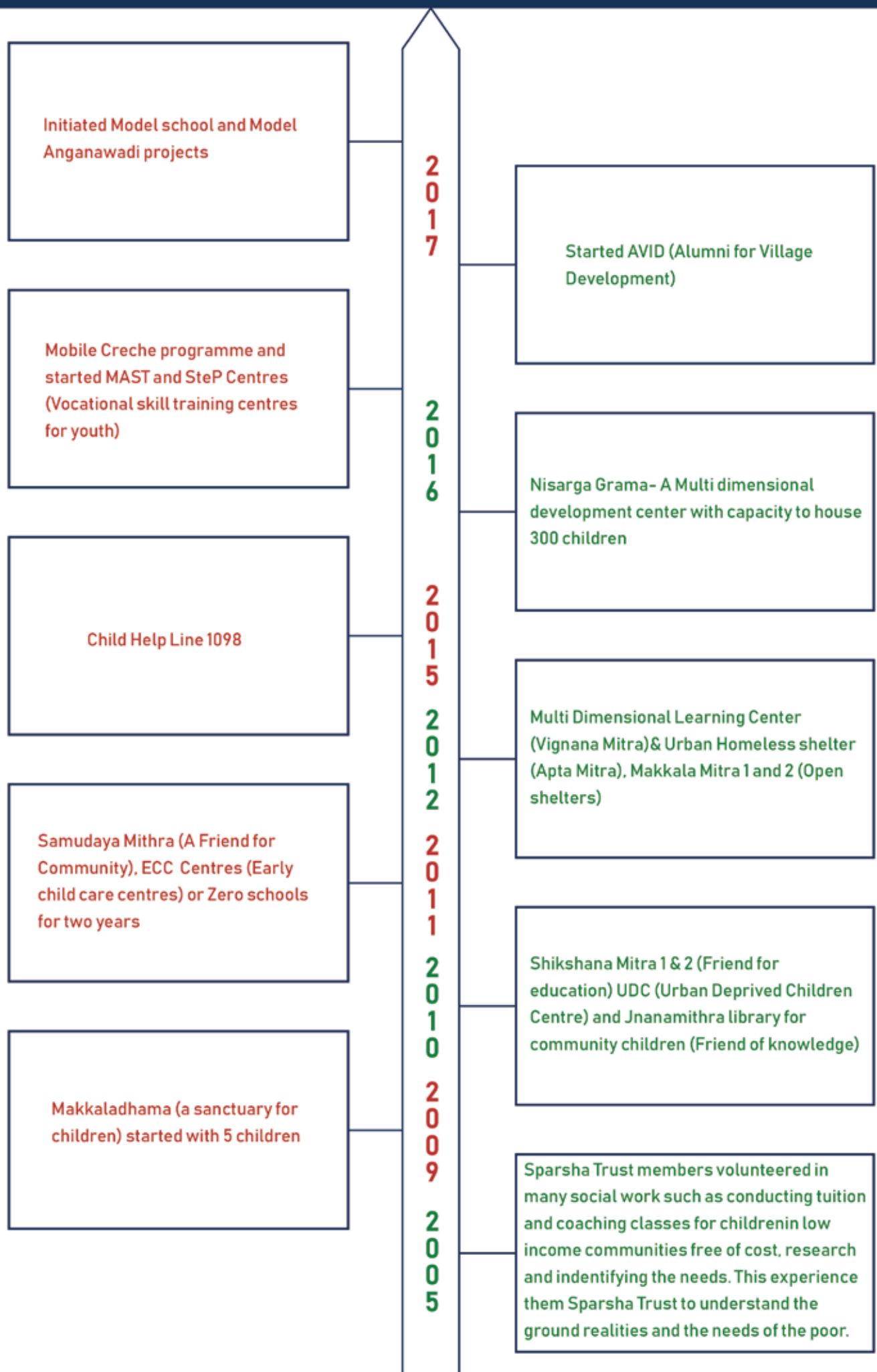
## Objectives

- Create a safe home for every child with a free access to basic facilities (food, health, clothing)
- Ensure that children enjoy their constitutional rights and eradicate 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 of responsibility and solidarity in which every child has her/his own place
- Raise public awareness about Child Rights: care, protection, development and education

## Impact at a glance

- 8000 children have benefitted through our activities and 3000 enrolled in schools
- About 2500 families have benefitted
- About 310 youths have benefitted through our MAST and STEP centres.
- About 350 homeless families have benefitted through our shelter for the homeless programmes
- About 25000 persons have got social entitlement or security schemes
- About 100 creches reached out to nearly 5000 children from families who are migrants or belong to unorganized sector.
- Established early care centres for these children
- From 2015 till date, about 54 cases of child marriages came to our notice, of which we have stopped 41 marriages in 2016-2017
- Counselling about 19 children who were sexually abused, produced before CWC, and filed FIR through the person concerned (parents) 2016-2017

# Journey of Sparsha – timeline of projects





# Calendar of Events (2017-2018)

**APRIL 2017**



**MAY 2017**



**JUNE 2017**



**JULY 2017**



**AUGUST 2017**



**SEPTEMBER 2017**



**OCTOBER 2017**



**NOVEMBER 2017**



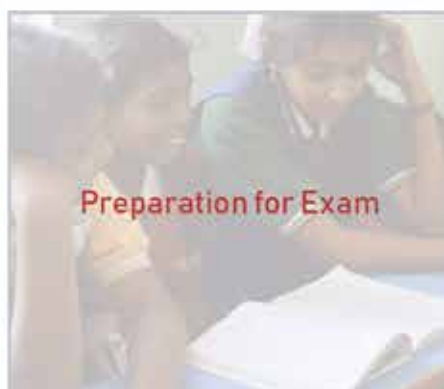
**DECEMBER 2017**



**JANUARY 2018**



**FEBRUARY 2018**



**MARCH 2018**



# Introduction

The various projects/programmes of Sparsha Trust have the common focused objective to identify children who are living a life of neglect, abuse and exploitation and to improve their lives through its various residential or day care centres. The projects, which are funded either by the Government or by private institutions, have their respective specific objectives based upon the agreement with the sponsor and/or sponsoring organization. Additionally, there are several projects which Sparsha Trust is implementing with the personal funds from the Trustees) in order to support those children who are in dire need.

The various projects or programmes celebrate various events and functions as well as the children's birthdays at their respective locations or at times in a common location. These events helped the children to learn about the great leaders of India, and helped them to enjoy their childhood. Various centres also observed important days like Environment Day, World Anti- Child Labour Day which helped the children to understand about the critical need to save the environment, and their Rights.

## Activities during the year

1. On April 14th 2017, Sparsha children celebrated Dr. Ambedkar Jayanthi at various centres with the support of staff members. The children learnt about the life history, struggles and achievements of the great leader.
2. On May 1st 2017, May Day was celebrated, where there was a discussion about issues related to workers, employees and the employers. This discussion is important in the context of sharing of experiences, identifying issues of concern related to working conditions and workers' rights.
3. June 06, 2017 was the World Environment Day – Sparsha's Trust children were sensitized about eco-friendly practices such as not using plastic bags, reusing items, recycling materials, reducing waste, and importance of plants and trees. They also learn about proper usage of water. Thanks to the regular sensitization during the year, children are naturally careful about usage of water, avoiding plastic and reusing materials.
4. World Anti- Child Labour Day was observed on 12th June, 2017. Two children – Raghu, an ex-child labourer rescued by Sparsha Trust, and Janakiram, a school dropout– were supported to enroll in schools in 2012. Now both the students have scored goodmarks in 2nd PUC. On this day, the Government of Karnataka felicitated them as they had derived maximum benefit from of the opportunity given to them by working earnestly .
5. On 15th August 2017, Independence Day was celebrated at across different Centres. The children learnt about the struggles and sacrifices of various leaders who fought for India's Independence.



6. August 15 is also the birthday of Krantiveera Sangoli Rayanna, a great son and leader of Karnataka. Sangolli Rayanna (15 August 1798 – 26 January 1831) was a prominent warrior, and the army chief of the Kingdom of Kittur ruled at the time by Rani Chennamma and fought the British East India Company till his death.
7. Gowri Ganesha festival photos
8. On September 5, 2017, Sparsha Trust observed Teachers Day. It is a significant day for the organization, given that its main focus is on children's education. The children were informed about Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, an Indian philosopher and statesman who was the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and the second President of India from 1962 to 1967. When he became the President of India, some of his students and friends requested him to allow them to celebrate his birthday, on 5 September. He replied, "Instead of celebrating my birthday, it would be my proud privilege if September 5th is observed as Teachers' Day." [His birthday has since been celebrated as Teachers' Day in India.
9. Celebration of Gandhi Jayanthi
10. Celebration of Deepawali
11. Children's Day celebration – sponsored by Infinite Computer Solutions, a company at ITPL. On 14th November 2017, Sparsha Trust was given the Best NGO award by the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka. The Honorable Governor gave the award. WgCdr R S Murthy and Ms Rupa Mahajan received the award on behalf of Sparsha Trust. Our children enjoyed the day in Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park.
12. On 1st November 2017, Kannada Rajyotsava was celebrated in a grand manner signifying the importance of understanding and preserving Karnataka's heritage and language. Children came from different centres (Javaregowda and Nayandahalli). Sparsha Trust's Managing Trustee, Gopinath R and the head of Saivarna organization, Dr. Manjunath addressed the children. The children were given a special lunch on the day.
13. Childline se Dosti week on 14th November
14. On 26th January, 2018, Republic day was also celebrated.
15. Shivarathri, Ugadi and Srinamanavami celebration
16. Children birthday celebrations



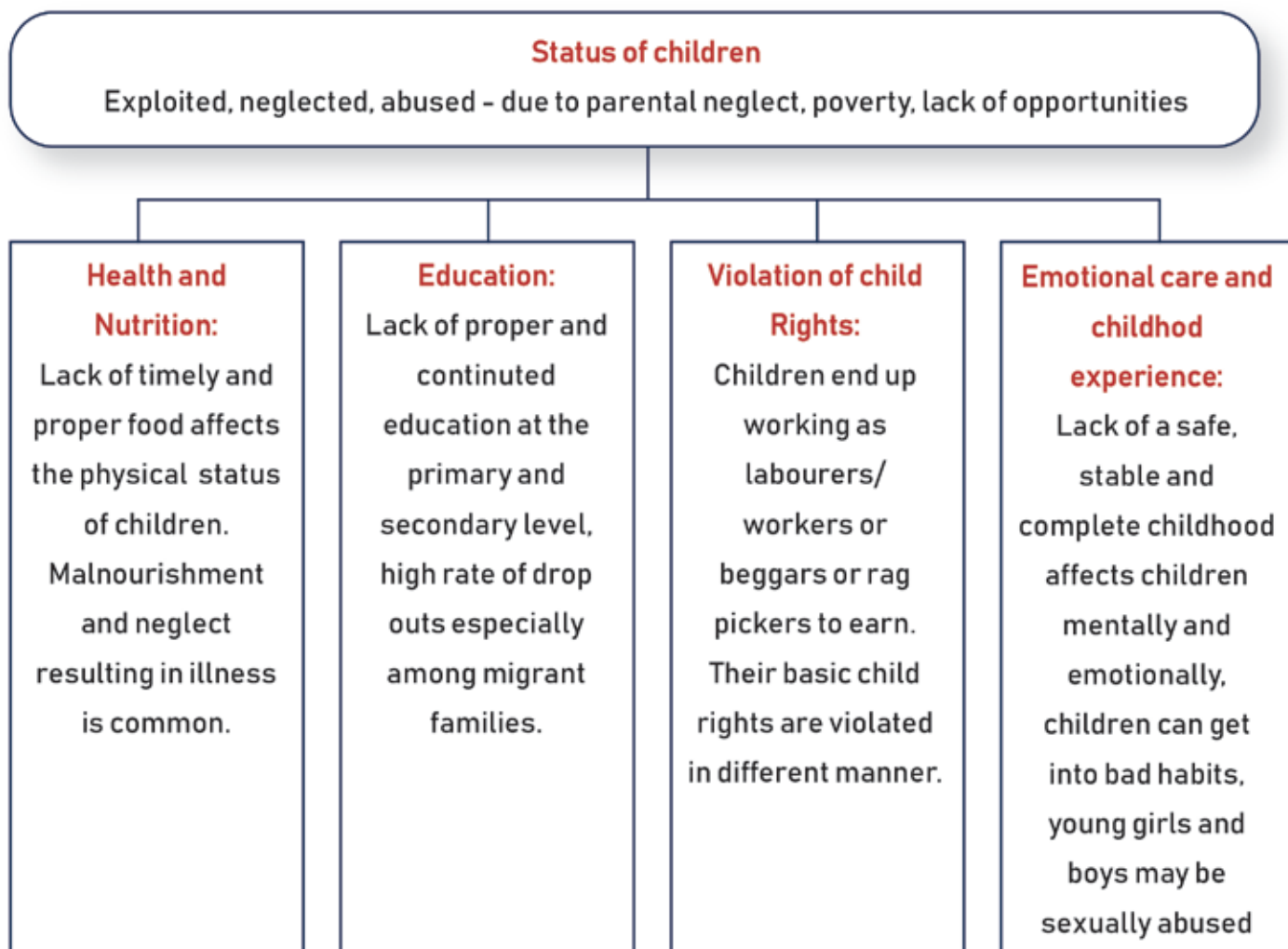
# A complete cycle of care and service (from identification to mainstreaming)

## Introduction

There are many children from economically challenged families who are living on the streets, deprived of food, shelter & care, and out of school. At a young age itself, some are pulled into drug abuse and other addictions while some others are victims of sexual abuse or are trafficked, several children are coerced into begging and rag picking. Many are forced to work in order to increase the family income..

Extreme hardships in their own lives can force parents to neglect their children and subject them to various kinds of abuse and coercion. Many families, including single parent families, are dependent on their daily wages for survival. Their income is not enough to feed the family, leave alone taking care of their health, education, clothing or any other basic requirements.

Alcoholism, frequent domestic quarrels, violence and abuse are common in these families, and have terrible impact on the children. All these hardships and dreadful influences rob them of a proper development opportunity through their childhood and adolescence. As a result, these children spend their entire childhood and adolescence without experiencing the joys of growing up, be it through sports, recreational games or creative activities.

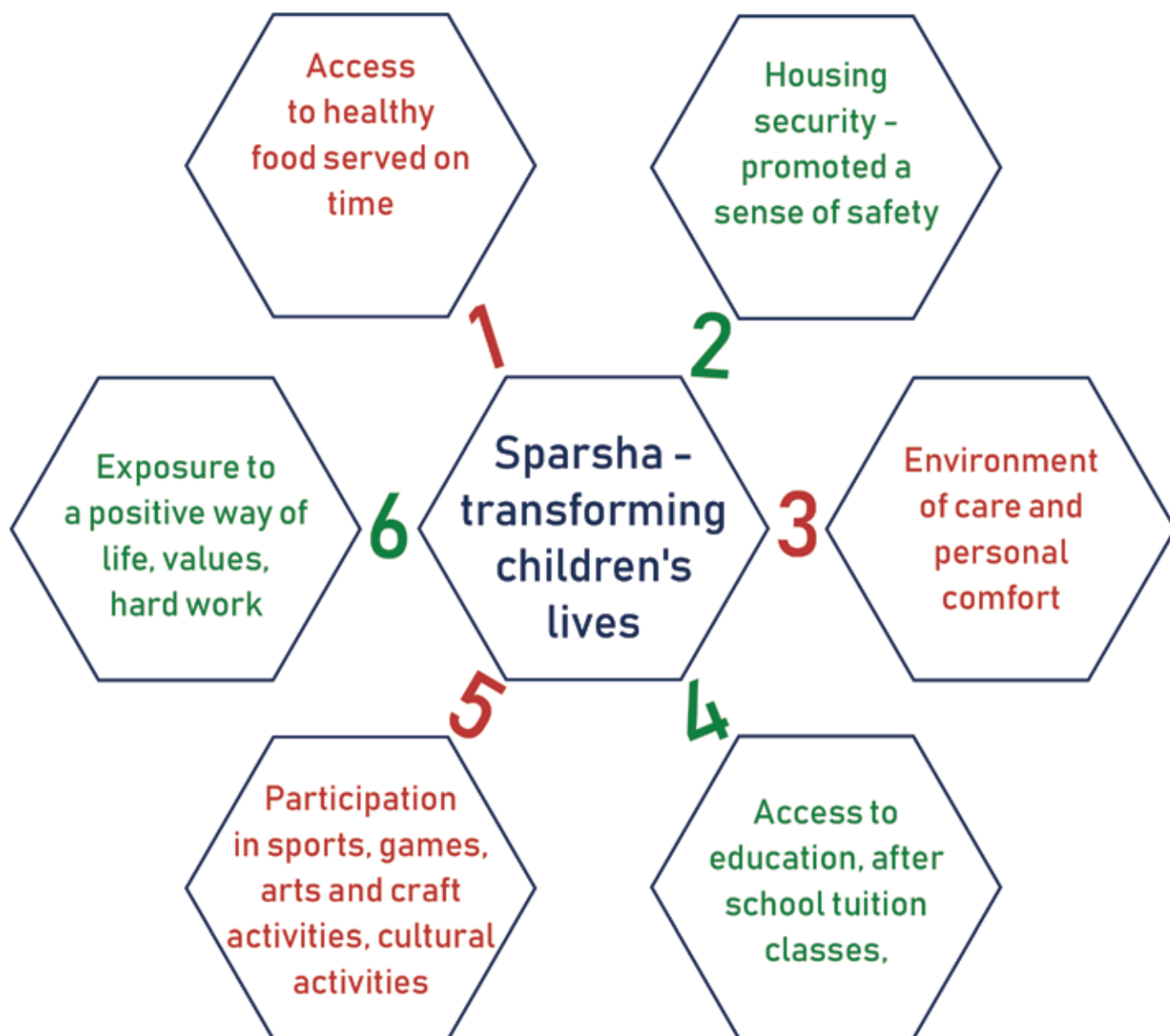




### Sparsha's interventions at a glance

Through its various projects, Sparsha Trust is transforming the lives of children, helping them to live a life of safety, security, dignity and opportunities to do their best. While some of these projects are residential in nature, others are day care projects and open shelters (where children have the option of spending the whole day in the centre and can either spend the night there or return to their homes.)

As a result, for the first time in their lives, from morning to night, the children are able to eat, study, play and express themselves and sleep without any fear of becoming victims of neglect or abuse.



## Photos of daily routine at different centres



Yoga by Sparsha Children



Lunch time!



Children are studying



Budding artists



Children are Playing



Chess match in progress



Children entering the world of Science



"Scientific temper"





**Children exploring the world of Books**



**Computer class in progress**



**Ganesha festival celebration**



**Our children getting ready for Yakshagana**



**Christmas celebration**



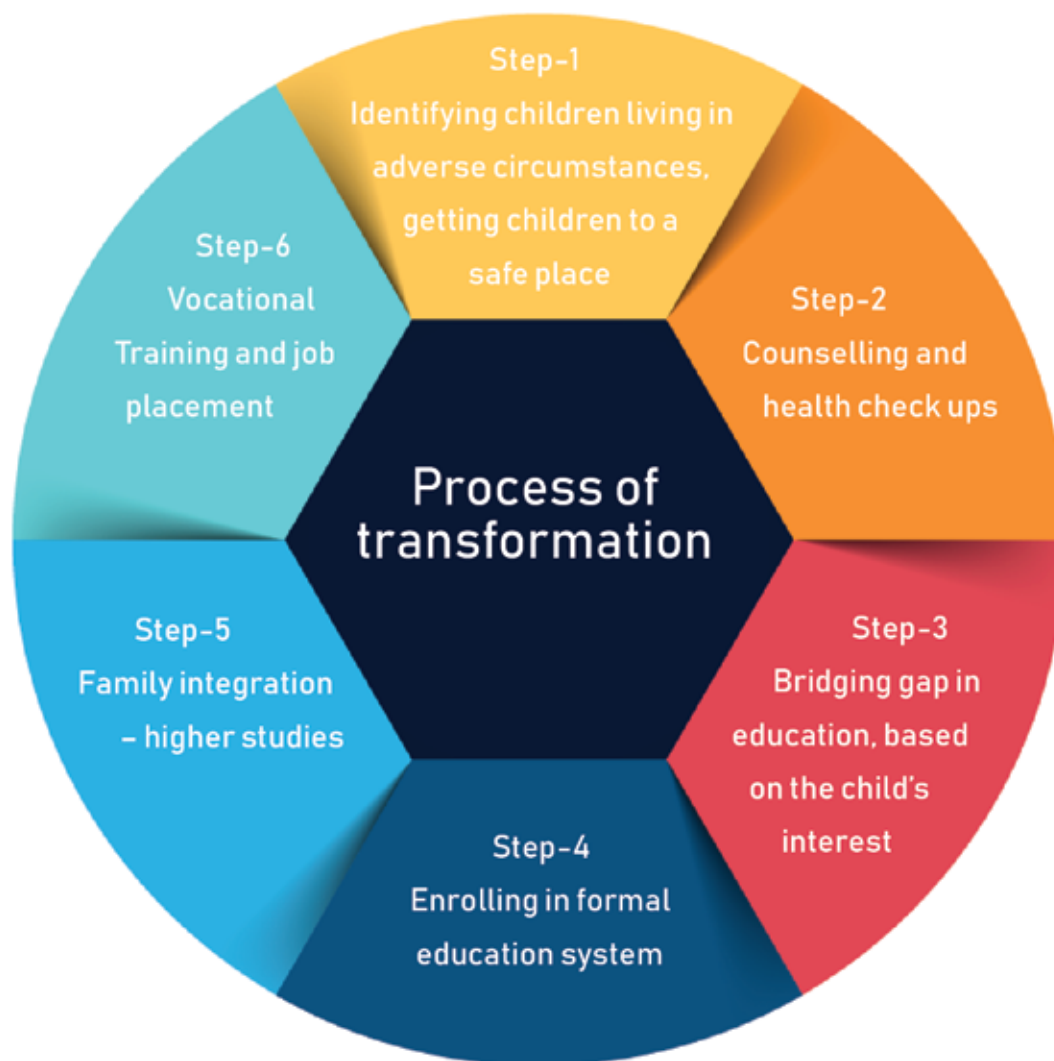
**Science exhibition at Jawaharlal nehru planitorium**



**Clay modeling**



**Enjoyed at park**



## A. Child protection projects–Summary of activities and impact

### A. 1. Childline 1098

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

- (i) **Rescue:** During 2017-18, 442 cases were reported, of which Devanahalli had 106 cases, Hoskote had 111 cases, Doddaballapur had 108 cases and

Nelamangala had 97 cases. There were 217 cases under phone testing activities. Of the 111 cases in Hoskote, 20-25 children have been rescued. And of the 106 cases in Devanahalli, about 20 cases have been rescued.

- (ii) **Outreach and awareness:** About 6680 children from 130 schools and Anganawadi (early child care centres) attended the outreach and awareness programmes.
- (iii) **Phone testing** – The childline number 1098 is the number which people call to



report cases of abuse or violence against children, and about any issue related to their safety. It is important for this phonenumber to be in working condition. In order to ensure this, the staff members regularly test this phone number by making atleast 10 calls a day. 217 cases were reported during the year.

- (iv) **Open House programme:** Open house programmes are organized to bring together different stakeholders in the area to discuss children related issues. During the year, 5 Open house programmes were organized.



#### Other activities under Childline 1098

- (i) 3 staff training programmes were organized during the year
- (ii) Training on POCSO Act for NGO staff members in Jan 2018 partnering in Childline.  
A training programme on POCSO Act was conducted for staff members of Childline's partner NGOs which is regularly getting cases of child sexual abuse. The session guided on proper handling of such cases including correct way of communicating with police and what type of cases should be considered as sexual violence cases etc. The resource person was Shri Nagaraj Simhaji Rao from Child Rights Trust. The programme, conducted in Nisarga Grama, was attended by 272 members from ChildLine across Bangalore.
- (iii) Childline se Dosti Week(Friendship week with Childline) activities  
The activities under the Childline se Dosti included the following:
  - Press Meet
  - Inauguration of Childline se Dosti week (who inaugurated it)
  - Activities for special children (children with mental retardation and cerebral palsy)
  - Games such as breaking the pot
  - Awareness session about misuse of the internet
  - Silent rally to create awareness about sexual abuse
  - Spoke to owners of hotels, garages and carpentry work units about employing children and young adolescents, sensitized them about child labour rules and regulations



- White campaigning – sensitization to the public about sexual abuse in public areas such as bus stands through banners and posters
- Essay writing competition in Devanahalli Girls High School on their knowledge about Child line

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

### Open House Programmes

As mentioned earlier, 5 open house programmes were held in the year. Among them was the open house programme on 31 Jan 2018, at Moodiganahalli, Karahalli, Grama Panchayati, Devenahalli taluka, Bangalore Rural District. 8 school drop-out children (about 7 from higher primary school and 1 from lower primary school) from Moodiganahalli work in the grape farms and local eateries. These children are also into smoking, paan(betel leaf)/tobacco chewing and consuming liquor left over from the bottles in their homes. Due to parental neglect, the children lost interest in studies, and dropped out from school.

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

### Sparsha's interventions

In this scenario, Sparsha Trust organized an Open House Programme that was attended by 30 students, 20 parents, school teachers, Child Protection Unit's officer at the district level,

Inspector from the Department of Labour, Secretary of Grama Panchayati and its members, SDMC (School Development Management Committee) members, and Block Resource person from the Department of Education. The session discussed the following:

- the status of the school drop outs were brought to the notice of the Grama Panchayat
- parents were urged to take better care of their children and ensure that they are attending school.
- children and their parents interacted directly with the stakeholders present and discussed their problems.

### Impact

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





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

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

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

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



- (i) **Nanna NadeShale Yedege event in May 2017:** As one of the active member of KCPC, in Bangalore North, Sparsha Trust conducted awareness jathas(rallies) in Yelahanka, K R Puram and other Bangalore north localities along with BEO (Block Education office), Department of Education, Department of Labour, Department of Social Welfare and Department of Women and Child Welfare.

The impact of these rallies was that Sparsha Trust reached out to school drop-out children, identified them and enrolled them into school. KCPCR has identified more than 160, 000 children who are not going to school across Karnataka.

- (ii) The **Bharat Yatra** was led by Nobel Peace Laureate **Mr Kailash Satyarthi**, along with committed marchers and change makers joining him and **Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF)**. The Yatra went through seven routes touching cities, towns and villages in 22 Indian states and Union Territories, and through its journey, engages with policy makers, implementers, teachers, local leaders, women's groups, law enforcement personnel, the media, business leaders and most importantly with children and their parents. Using the traditional and time-tested technique of social mobilisation by walking and connecting inter-personally on the streets and in the galis, the Yatra had KSCF as the national coordinator for the Yatra and partnered with several civil society organisations for this purpose (source- website of Bharat Yatra).
- (iii) Gopinath, Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust was one of the state convenors for Karnataka. He also participated in the concluding programme of the Yatra in New Delhi on September 24 2017. Subsequent to the Yatra, an Anti Child Anti child Trafficking Bill was passed in 2018.
- (iv) The Chairperson of KCPCR nominated

Mr Gopinath as a member of a team to implement a school development programme in Bangalore Rural and Kolar District under the District Collector. Through this programme, the team has mobilized support from different corporates for the development of Government schools.

- (v) Initiated AVID (Alumni Village Integrated Development) in Manchiganahalli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



monthly stipend from the Department of Labour as part of the children labour rehabilitation programme.

(v) **Health check up for the children:**

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

**Case study**

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

**Interventions by Sparsha staff**

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

MAIS extended support to get basic medical tests done for Chanda Saab including a CT Scan. However, as Chanda Saab was unwell on the day

of the test, the same could not be conducted. At present, the status is that MAIS is awaiting the report results. There is hope of curing Chanda Saab's speech and hearing impairment through treatment.

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



**Prohibition of Child marriage Awareness Programme**



**Inaguration by Planting a sapling**

## B. Child Care projects/programmes

### B. 1. Shikshana Mitra 1 (Friend of Education), Sanjeevini Nagar, Bangalore

Started in 2010–2011, Shikshana Mitra (Friend of education) is a residential centre initiated to reach out to young children who are deprived of education opportunities due to their family's poverty, neglect or migrating patterns. Shikshana Mitra 1 is being managed by Ms Rupa Mahajan with the support of Sterling Apartment, Beary's Lakeside Habitat Apartment, and other local residents. Run by individuals and local residents, Shikshana Mitra 1 model centre, Sparsha Trust is playing a supportive role in the Centre. Reaching out children from 6 to 14 years old, the Centre is in Sanjeevini Nagar, near Kodigehalli, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore North. Twenty eight (80%) of the present 35 children in the Centre are girls. Shikshana Mitra 1 (Friend of education) ensures that the most important years of the children are spent in a meaningful and safe manner. At the Centre, they are given proper nutritious food, personal hygiene items, bridge classes, mainstreaming in school, opportunity to play and relax and celebrate functions and events. Children can stay here upto 8th Standard after which they can be rehabilitated at any Government hostel or Nisarga Grama. Depending upon the case, the children are supported in higher education opportunities or rehabilitated back in their homes. During this year, the following activities took place:

- 15 children have gone back to their homes of which 6 are boys and 9 are girls.
- 1 boy was rehabilitated to Sparsha Trust's Nisarga Grama



- 4 children were new admissions to the Centre – 2 girls and 2 boys
- 50 supporters celebrated their birthdays at our centre.
- 150 people sponsored dinner and lunch to the children.
- Children of Shikshana Mitra1 have given more than 20 performances in events organized by companies and the Government.
- The children have done very well in sports, arts and crafts. 3–4 children are regularly attending tennis practice, while 15 children are training in Bharatnatyam.
- More than 15 children participated in inter-school competition and won prizes at different events
- The children participated in various learning sessions, exposure trips and recreational activities and also participated in cultural performances. The events included Summer Camp, exposure trip to Beluru, Halebid, Sravanabelagola, Murudeshwara and Dharmasthala. The children also performed over Radio Akashvani, inauguration function of companies viz.



FAI (First American India), Infinite Computer Solutions, PES College, Bal Bhavan, VidhanaSoudha and Cubbon park (DolluKunita). The children were also part of the annual Joy of learning and participated in several other cultural and sports events. They participated in various cultural and sports events organized at the School and Cluster level as well the one by Nakshatr Foundation. Children performed Kathak at Ravindra Kalakshetra and other dances at Dr. Ambedkar Bhawan. Mr Gaurav took the children to Indian Science Institute where the children witnessed various science experiments.

- Apart from this, the Canadian International School sponsored an exposure trip to Ooty and Bandipur. The children of the centre were also taken to a dental health check up camp at Nisarga Grama on 24th July, 2018. The children have done very well in their exams.



## **B. 2.Shikshana Mitra 2 (Friend of education), Mestripalya, Bangalore**

Started in 2010-2011, Shikshana Mitra 2 is a residential Centre that was initially housing about 40-50 children aged between 6 years to 16 years. Located in Mestripalya behind Manyata Tech Park, near Nagawara, Hegde Nagar, the children in this Centre come from families who migrate often from their native to the city, living a life of struggle amidst

housing and financial insecurities. At the time, Department of Education was supporting the Centre. After their support stopped in 2014, Sparsha Trust rehabilitated some of the children in Government hostels and Nisarga Grama.



At that time, Ms. Vanamala Kiran, an individual who was volunteering with Sparsha for two years came in to take care of all needs of the centre with the support of Lodge Sainic. At present, there are 14 children in Shikshana Mitra 2 and what makes it unique is that it is a model centre managed primarily by its resident children. While Sparsha Trust is providing accommodation facility, Vanamala Kiran takes care of the food, clothing, educational needs and the health care of the children. The important aspect is that the children have understood key values such as being self-reliant, balancing work and study schedules, importance of time and work management. Many of the children earn by milk and newspaper distribution above 14 years, take care of the hygiene and tidiness of the centre. At the same time, they do all these work willingly and without any compromise on their studies, as there is a tuition teacher to help them cope with their home work and their exams.

One boy from Shikshana Mitra 2, Kumar has been selected to Rishi Valley school in



Kanakpura for free residential international education.

**B. 3. Makkala Mitra 1 and Makkala Mitra 2**  
Makkala Mitra 1 is located in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Mysore Road, Bangalore, while Makkala Mitra 2, is located in Hoskote. Both the Centres were started in 2011. These Centres are residential open shelter which caters 24 hours to children who need care, protection and development opportunities. The programme is funded by Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka.



In these centres, children have the option of either staying in the Centre or coming in the morning and leaving at night. Facilities such as food, bridge education, school enrollment, health care, sports and games are provided to the children aged between 6 to 18 years. These Centres bring great relief to the parents as their children are safe and taken care of in a proper manner during their absence. Their own work schedule and family circumstances lead to neglect of the children. Children of single parent family or without parents have a shelter to stay in, and are looked after, with attention and care.

Overall, through the contact points (which are day care centres) located in the area, Makkala Mitra 1 and Makkala Mitra 2 usually have 25 to 30

children each, who come in to the Shelter on a daily basis. After children reach above 16 years, they are referred to youth vocational skill training centres. The Centres work closely with CWC (Child Welfare Committee) and Government Departments.

**B. 4. Chinnara Thangudhama (Shelter for children), also known as Urban Deprived Centre for Children**

Earlier Chinnara Thangudhama was known as Urban Deprived Children Centre which catered to boys and girls aged between 6 to 16 years. Since 2014, when the Government stopped funding, Sparsha Trust began to run this residential Centre only for boys above 14 years under the name of Chinnara Thangudhama with the support of Infinite Computer Solutions and individual donors. The boys stay in this centre till they complete their education or get job placement or referred to vocational training colleges. The boys at this shelter get food, educational materials, support in studying, health care facilities and career counseling. The boys are trained in different folk dances and songs including Dollu Kunita, Kamsale, Veeragase, and have performed more than 25 performances in the last one year in programmes organized by corporates and the Government both in Bangalore and outside. The boys are able to put their negative past behind them and focus on their present and the future. At present, 25 boys are staying in Chinnara Thangudhama, located in Government school building in Shivaji Nagar. We need to shift the Centre from Shivaji Nagar to an alternate place and have identified a two bedroom house in Tindlu, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North. The children have done very well in academics, especially the 10th



Standard children and have participated in sports and cultural competitions at the district level.

#### **B. 5. Apta Mitra (Friend of those in distress or need)**

Since 2012, Sparsha Trust is managing a night shelter known as Apta Mitra (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 capacity for 60 persons, located in Ulsoor. The concept behind Apta Mitra is to provide night shelter for those adults living in dire circumstances or in abject poverty for the night. These persons come in to the Centre after evening to rest or sleep and leave in the morning for their respective work.

During 2017–2018, on an average, about 120 urban homeless persons, including a few physically challenged or too ill or old to move used the night shelter at different points in time. They were provided with dinner, personal hygiene accessories, health care and a safe place to sleep in. An inmate called Gracy passed away in the shelter home, after which Sparsha Trust notified the hospital and the police. The post mortem revealed a natural death by heart attack. The cremation was taken care of by Sparsha Trust.

A health check up helped to detect diseases and provide medicines accordingly. During this year, 10 persons have been reintegrated with the family.

Staying away from their children or relatives or the absence of a spouse can make the inmates feel depressed and isolated. Sparsha

Trust regularly counsels them in order to maintain a positive attitude towards life. Recognizing the importance of recreation in the lives of the elderly staying in Apta Mitra, Sparsha Trust organized a one day trip to Mysore. The break from the painful routine brought cheer in the lives of the shelter's residents. All the logistics of travel and food were taken care of by Sparsha Trust.

#### **Case study**

Keshavan, an inmate at Apta Mitra since two years, is a 55 years old painter. Had it not been for the night shelter, he would not have any proper place to sleep in. As he cannot afford a rented house and the rising cost of Bangalore, Apta Mitra provides the much needed shelter for him. His wife is no more, and he is unable to stay with his married daughters who are too far away. Prior to Apta Mitra, Keshavan would sleep on the streets. Here, he gets food, basic toiletries (soap etc), and a cot to sleep on. He keeps his personal belongings under the cot.

#### **B. 6. Mobile Creches**



Migrant couples and labourer families work at construction sites whose working conditions have many health and professional hazards. They usually place their children in a

semi-constructed room for them to eat, sleep and play. Without any one to look after them, the children spend their time without any proper activity, and often wander off to different locations of the construction, sometimes near the road. As a result, the children are very vulnerable to dangers/accidents, and different forms of abuse and neglect.

Some of the adverse impact include the following:

- Malnourishment among the children due to lack of timely and proper food
- Exposure to negative habits like smoking and drinking
- Danger of sexual abuse
- Misusing children for illegal activities and sending them on errands like getting cigarettes
- Risk of child kidnapping and Trafficking, especially girls
- Violation of Fundamental Rights of the children in terms of access to proper development and education (in the case of drop outs or children not attending school)
- Lack of proper sanitary conditions which affects the adolescent girls

Sparsha Trust has initiated 3 Mobile Crèches- two at Mestripalya, behind Manyata Tech Park and one at Hommbale Construction, Kommaghatta, near NICE Road. This project is funded by Mobile Creche, New Delhi. Through this project, children who whiled away their time in a semi-constructed room without proper food or meaningful activity are given food and health care. Although they do not attend school, the project enrolls them in an informal educational system thereby ensuring that the children are able to learn different subjects. Depending upon

the age group, the children are taught alphabets to basic levels of different subjects. The children, aged between 0 to 16 years of age, are relatively safe and secure, which is also a relief for their parents. As they become older, it is possible for them to enroll in regular schools as their basic education is being taken care of. The project is in the process of expansion to different areas with the support of corporate support.

#### **Services and facilities provided include:**

- Teaching activities – learning the basics of Kannada, English and Hindi
- Involving children in many practical activities like Sports, Crafts, Drawing, Music, Yoga, Dance and Other Cultural Activities.
- Providing Nutritious Food Daily (Lunch and Snacks two times a day)
- Proper designated area for the children to relax and sleep
- Taking the children on exposure trips
- Conducting monthly meetings with Parents and Community people
- Regular Medical checkup for Children and Community





During this year, about 500 children benefitted from the project. Sixty children are ready to be enrolled as students in regular schools as they have been mentored in the basics at various locations.

#### **B. 7.Save Me(contact points)**

Started in 2016, 'Save Me' are basically contact points that are present at four places. (one at Nayandahalli, two at Hoskote, and one at Rachenahalli) for the welfare of children of construction workers, and other types of children (rag pickers). During this year, about 150 children have benefitted by getting access to nutrient enriched food, and quarterly health check up. Apart from this, the children have been taken on 2 exposure trips within Bangalore. The parents of the children, who otherwise did not take out time for them, got engaged in the children's development. During this year, 50 children have got enrolled into school. The programme is being supported by Fidelity Company and individual donors.

#### **Case study**

Bheemavva (10 years) and Lakshmi (8 years)

are sisters who do not have a mother. Staying at Bangalore Nagar zille, Old Madras Road, Avalahalli, theirs was a migrant family. Their father is a construction labourer working on site from morning to evening. dusk, leaving the daughters at home. After he goes to work, his young daughters cook and do all the household work but stay at home. Often the father used to be worried about the welfare of the girls in his absence but there was nothing he could do about it. (what is the name of the father?) - Huleesh

At this point in time, Sparsha Trust's staff did a home visit on a Sunday when the father was home and discussed the issue about the girls spending their time at home and not attending school. The staff explained about the facilities at the open shelter and its benefits. The father agreed and the girls were enrolled in the open shelter.

The girls, who had never gone to school, started a new life by learning alphabets. They love to sing and participate in many cultural activities. The father, relieved that his daughters are safe, visits them regularly.



## C. Child Development Projects/Programmes

### C. 1. Nisarga Grama (Nature village)

#### Introduction

In Bangalore, there are many children who are living on the streets, as they are either abandoned, or run away from home due to exploitation or deprivation or strained relationships. The lure of good work or good life made them come to the cities from small towns, and here they were forced into work, or were trafficked and became victims of different types of abuse. Some children are school drop outs, drug-addicts, and turn to begging, rag picking, and petty crimes. Many are children of single-parent homes, facing extreme poverty at home.

As part of its work, Sparsha Trust began to identify such children, and facilitated the process of their rescue and rehabilitation of children aged 6 to 18 years old. Recognizing the need for a 24/7 facility to ensure their protection and development, Sparsha Trust initiated work to

build Nisarga Grama (nature village) a state-of-the-art multi-dimensional development centre for neglected, abused and exploited children.

The construction of the multi-dimensional development Nisarga Grama at Hesarghatta, Bangalore began in October 2016. Designed to accommodate 300 children, the Centre was inaugurated in 2017. Presently, 120 students boys and girls are staying there. While boys are permitted to stay in Nisarga Grama till 7th standard, girls can stay till they move out due to higher education, work or marriage. Nisarga Grama is being supported by Individual donorss and corporates which includes Kennametal, Walmart, First American India, New Horizon College, Netscot, Terex, Amruthanjan Health Care Ltd, Persistent Foundation, and Consaro Solutions India Pvt Ltd.





### Impact of Nisarga Grama:

- **Children and families:** Children neglected by their parents have a safe place to live, study and progress, great benefit to single-parent family, and in those families where mother is the sole bread winner, rights of the children are protected.
- **Community:** Children are engaged in productive activities, children have become socially sensitive, respectful towards elders and women, inculcate positive values and discipline.
- **Capacitated youth workforce for the country:** The children are growing up in a proper atmosphere, getting qualified to get proper sustainable jobs, thereby protecting themselves from forced under-employment.

### Case Study

Kanaka was residing in a slum near Rajajinagar, Bangalore. She had lost her mother at early childhood and her father was an alcoholic as well as a patient. Kanaka was a child labourer working as a domestic worker at Rajajinagar. During a survey to identify child labourers, Sparsha Trust found Kanaka and her two siblings and brought them to Nisarga Grama in 2011. Her aunt took the responsibility to take care of her father.



In 2011, Kanaka was supported to enroll in school at 5th standard. Since then, Kanaka has won several accolades, having done very well in school. These include scoring 80% in her 10th Standard exams conducted by Karnataka Secondary Education Board. Adjudged as the best student in her class in 2014-15, she also won an award at a debate competition conducted by IHR. She won the Best leader award from Child Rights Trust, 2016, as well as Art & Craft award in 2016 and a Karnataka State level prize for the folk dance 'Dollukunitha'. With the support of KCPO and UNICEF, Kanaka who is now in 1st PUC got a distinguished opportunity to give a speech in Parliament on November 20, 2017 on the occasion of the World Children's Day.

During 2017-2018, 120 children benefitted by living in Nisarga Grama.

Children are trained in DolluKunita and Yakshagana. The children have given more than twenty performances at events organized by corporates and the Government. Seven children went to Ooty adventure camp. Joy of learning programme and summer camp were held within Nisarga Grama. Oasis, an organization from Gujarat, organized a six-day personality development for 100 children in Nisarga gram. These were children both from Sparsha and other NGOs. Children have planted more than 100 plants and they are taking care of them, and growing vegetables in Nisarga Grama. Some of the children of Nisarga Grama are studying in two private schools and two Government schools, BGS and other colleges. The media has carried reports about the achievement of Nisarga Grama's children in print and on electronic media.

## Academic performance of Sparsha Trust's projects' children

### 10th Class exam:

- 15 children took the 10th standard examinations
- Of these, 3 children have written direct exams (without attending school) and 12 are regular school going students. The 3 children are drop outs
- Of these 15 students, 10 passed their exams, and 4 of them scored 70%, 6 scored below 60% and 5 failed. Now they are being supported for supplementary exams.

### 2nd PUC:

- 4 children wrote the exams, of these 2 children secured 70% and 1 child scored above 50% and 1 failed.

## Case studies of students who have scored 70% and more

### Nagarathna



Nagarathna, a 16 years old girl comes from a poor family living in Raichur, working in Mestripalya, in North Karnataka. Her father is an alcoholic and works along with his wife in the construction sector as labourers. She has an elder sister who is married and 2 younger brothers. Her mother struggled to make ends

meet but eventually, young Nagarathna, who was taking care of her siblings, was forced by circumstances to earn by doing household work in 2 houses.

In 2011, volunteers identified her, and enrolled her in the centre, where she has been staying since then. Sparsha ensured that she got maximum care and support towards her educational requirements. Nagarathna started going to school and really blossomed with all the support she got. A determined child to achieve new heights, she learnt folk music, dance and also concentrated on her studies with great enthusiasm. She scored a 1st Class with 77.92 percentage marks in SSLC.

### Lakshman

Lakshman, a 18 years old boy, belongs to a family of 7 members. He studied up to 6th standard and then discontinued his studies to work as a shepherd in his village. After his sister's marriage, the family migrated to Bangalore for the purpose of employment along with this child. When he was working as a child labourer, he was found by Sparsha staff.

He was admitted in Sparsha's Shikshana Mitra 2, Mestripalya, shelter in 2013 and enrolled into 8th standard in a local government school. Mrs. Vanamala Kiran, a supporter of Sparsha Trust, always encourages under-privileged children to build their future in a better manner. With her guidance and support of Sparsha Trust, Lakshman took commerce in PUC and continued his education in St. Joseph evening college.

During the time he attended evening college, Lakshman used to earn by distributing news



papers in the morning, and work as an intern at Janya Ventures during the day. He became the president of the college students' association and also won the outstanding student award for the years 2016–2018. It's a proud moment for his care takers and teachers to see his success. He has been a great inspiration to other kids at Sparsha. Now, we are proud to announce that he has completed PUC, scoring 78%. His dream is to do MBA.

### **C. 2. Alumni For Villages Integrated Development (AVID), an initiative by Sparsha Trust**

Many of India's successful people belong to villages and small towns. These people, who have made a name for themselves in their respective fields, have a strong social conscience that makes them want to give back in whatever way possible. Through AVID (Alumni For Villages Integrated Development) the alumni of the village will get the opportunity to participate and support in the development in their native village. The development could be that of a school, Anganwadi, community hall and village infrastructure. The project will tap the potential of the alumni, who are living in large cities, within and outside India, and facilitate the process for their involvement in sustainable village development, especially in education, health, environment and infrastructure with the support of local stakeholders.

#### **Outcome of pilot phase implementation of AVID in Manchiganahalli**

In the pilot phase or pre-project implementation phase of AVID, the alumni of Mulbagal aimed to develop the only primary school of Manchiganahalli into a model school. The alumni, mobilized by Gopinath, Managing

Trustee of Sparsha Trust, worked for a year (2017–2018) networked with various stakeholders including the parents, school, Government officials and corporates.

As a result of its work, it was able to bring new energy into the educational system. The number of school children enrollment increased from 18 to 38, while the number of children in the Anganawadi (early child care centre) increased from 8 to 18.



#### **Highlights of the pilot phase achievements (overall)**

- Collected the resources and finance from the alumni members of the village
- set up library with 1500 books, computer lab and study room for all the children at Manchiganahalli. Operational for the past seven months, children have started using these facilities.
- A health camp was conducted on March 11, 2018. During the camp, 10 people were referred for Cataract Surgery, spectacles were issued to 40 people and 6 people were referred for further check up for breast cancer and mouth cancer.
- Increasing the attendance in the school: Presently, there are only 25 children in school up to 5th standard. The

remaining 100 children are going to private schools. The Alumni had a meeting with the village community, where they committed to pay about Rs.5,000/- per year per child, which will go into developing the school. This will attract more students.

#### Plans for the future

- Getting approval from the Government to extend classes from 5th Standard to 7th Standard.
- To enroll an additional 80 – 100 children within a year.
- To increase the staff strength from 2 to 5
- Employing one English teacher, one computer skills teacher and one science teacher.

#### C. 3. Jnana Mitra (Friend of Knowledge)

Started in 2010, Jnana Mitra is a library for underprivileged children that began with about 50 story books for the children to develop their reading abilities. Till last year (2016-17), the ILP (India Literacy Project) was supporting Jnana Mitra library which is running at two places, Chikkajala, Byannahalli, and Sanjeevini Nagar. This year, Sparsha Trust is managing Jnana Mitra on its own so that children can continue to read the book. Apart from reading, the children are also engaging in craft and cultural activities. About 70 to 80 children were taken on exposure trips to Lal Bagh, Cubbon Park, Science lab, museum, art gallery and to Bannerughatta National Park. At present, there are nearly 20000 books in the libraries.

#### C. 4 Model Anganawadi Centres – Early child care centres (0-6 years children)

Sparsha Trust conceptualized the development

of model anganawadi centres or early child care centres by improving their infrastructure and functioning for better care of small children from poor families. Initially, with the aim to improve them, Sparsha Trust, with the support of United Way, Bangalore and Government, identified 10 Anganawadi centres with poor infrastructure and due to which, families were not very keen to send their children to these centres. Located in central Bangalore area, these Anganawadi centres were at Wilson Garden, near Corporation Circle City market and Avenue road area.



With the support of United Way, Bangalore, Sparsha Trust transformed these Anganawadi Centres by upgrading their infrastructure in every way – repairing electricity connections, painting, creating proper spaces for learning, cooking and serving area, rest area etc. Seeing the good response to the upgraded Anganawadi Centres, in January 2018, United Way came forward to support Sparsha Trust to upgrade the infrastructure of 20 more Anganawadis in areas in Belanduru and Oodi. Till date, around 500 children have benefitted through the Anganawadi centres as they are spending their time in a meaningful manner, in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. Sparsha Trust is also engaging with parents and community regularly in order to mobilize their support towards the development of the Anganawadi centres. At



present, survey work is being done. In addition, other activities included, giving awareness in the community, engaging parents in the daily activities, supporting the Anganawadi teachers to maintain the centres etc are being done.

### C. 5. Development of Government school in Devalinganapalya to a model school, supported by Toyota Kirloskar Foundation Pvt Ltd

#### Introduction

Although government schools are very important in ensuring education for children from low income groups across the country, there are many issues of concern. Some of them are:

- Continued drop outs, especially among girls
- Quality in Government schools not considered to be upto the mark
- Qualification, experience and quality of teachers affect the teaching in Government schools
- Vacancy leading to shortage of teachers in Government education system



**About the project: Support from Toyota Kirloskar Foundation Pvt Ltd to develop Government school in Devalinganapalya, into model school**

In December 2017, Sparsha Trust began to work on developing the Government school in

Devalinganapalya, Hejjala, Bidadi into a model school. Supported by Toyota Kirloskar Foundation Pvt Ltd, the project aims to benefit not only the 40 children studying in the school but also the village community. The following are the highlights of the work done between December 2017 to March 2018

#### Baseline survey

Survey of about 613 households in the area, data entry work and analysis were done by the Sparsha team, youth from Nisarga Grama and students of Acharya college. The data was analysed by Sparsha team with the support the staff of Toyota Kirloskar Model School.

#### Social campaign

Various communication material such as banners, admission posters, pamphlets about admission into model school were prepared. Through these communication aids, the community, which is already aware of the model school, is showing interest to contact the school to get more information, and is indicative of their interest to get their children admitted to the school.

#### Children assessment

The children have been assessed for all the subjects in all the classes. It is good to note that the basic foundation or concepts is improving among the children. There has been a marginal increase in the marks scored by children. This is first ever test conducted in English for the children. Overall, children's interest and involvement in studies have increased.

#### English Course

The level of English understanding, reading, speaking as well as writing has improved among



the children. The children are trained in Lion King drama by Rupa Mahajan and have performed at events at District level.

### Curriculum Development

- Created a powerpoint model related to subject and lessons after collecting photos and videos
- Teachers were provided relevant and innovative inputs to improve the teaching approach.
- Involvement of academic experts from ILP for curriculum development in addition to Sparsha staff, Toyota Kirloskar team and teachers of the school.

### Extra-curricular activities and science related activities

The children's theoretical as well as practical knowledge about science has improved as the teaching in the model school focuses on explaining various science related concepts through experiments. The children conducted about 15 science experiments during which they gained clarity about scientific concepts and practices.

The project of model school also involves developing a model community, model village and model anganawadi as part of a 6 years project plan, supported by Toyota Kirloskar.





## D. Youth Skills Development Projects

**D. 1. Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST), initiated by America India Foundation, through Sparsha Trust in a partnership arrangement.**

Youth from poor families lack opportunities for employment and for self-employment due to various causes/reasons. They are in need of a vocational course that is of interest to them and is also enhances employability.

Our mission is to provide Skills Development Training so as to improve the livelihood and financial stability for the youth. Sparsha bridges the gap between the need of the youth and the market by organizing the MAST course, which is employment friendly vocational course focused on graphic and print design to youth aged between 18-24 years. Started from January 2017, Quest Alliance has partnered with us by supporting the project.

Graduate students from arts and science background who are interested in creative fields such as graphic design, film making, and web design will benefit from this course. During the course, the students are provided with internship opportunities.

### Impact of the course

During the Two Terms in 2017-2018, 49 Students have completed the training successfully under MAST. Of these, 35 (70%) students have been placed in Designing Companies like Photo Express, FixxGroup, Digitalizer, Cross digital, Nirathisam, Printo and many more reputed graphic, print and design companies. Some of the students have started freelancing with organizations.



Industry visit to a designing company  
Adv Solutions Pvt Ltd.



Visits from Microsoft CSR & Quest alliance



Parents meet held at Sparsha MAST Center

## D. 2. STeP Center – Yelahanka

In collaboration with Smile Foundation India, Sparsha's STeP (Smile's Twin E learning programme) is a four months course that offers mentoring to students aged between 18–26 years on Computer Basics, Digital Literacy, Spoken and Functional English, Personality Development and Retail management. Students who have completed their SSLC, or PUC, or are college drop outs take up the course. STeP is being conducted in Yelahanka. Till date, about 120 students have passed out of this course.



Fare well Party

### Impact of the course

- The students can take up entry level job positions in different companies.
- They develop confidence in themselves as they have been mentored in a course of their interest, and which also enhances their prospect of employment
- The course has good scope for growth in the future.



Exposure visit to Maruti Suzuki

During 2017–2018, about 120 students have gone completed the STeP Digital Literacy course and 60% of the students have been placed. Rest of the students continue with their studies.

Here most of the students have got the jobs in organizations from the Consumer Retail Sector like More, Reliance Fresh, Health And Glow, Food World, Coffee Day, Data Entry Operator, Office Assistant etc..

## E. Future Projects/Programmes

### E. 1. Kishora Grama – A multi-dimensional residential centre for boys in need of care and protection

Proposed objectives of Kishora Grama

- Sparsha Trust is planning to construct Kishora Grama which is a 300 capacity multi-dimensional residential centre for boys in Devenahalli Taluk.
- Community based interventions such as referrals to schools and colleges, along with support wherever possible, will also be given for children and adolescents living in the area.
- To relocate the boys of the Shivaji Nagar Centre to Kishora Grama where they will live and learn along with other boys.
- (girls of the area will be accommodated at Sparsha's Nisarga Grama in Hesarghatta as Government rules that adolescent boys and girls cannot live in the same shelter)
- AVID – reaching out 50 villages in 2018–2019.
- Initiating a pilot phase of the child friendly villages concept.



# Annual Events at a glance

## Joy of Learning

Sparsha Trust conducted its special event "Joy of Learning" program for the year 2017-18 on 20th and 21st January 2018 at Sparsha Nisarga Grama, Hesaraghatta. Sports competitions were organized on 20-01-2018 and cultural and educational activities on 21-01-2018. Altogether, 260 children from Hosakote, R. R. Nagar, Shivaji Nagar, Sanjivini Nagar, Nisarga Grama and MesthriPalya took part in this program.

## Sports Activities

On 20-01-2018, sports activities were conducted and Wg.Cdr.R.S.Murthy, Sparsha Trustees, Team of 7 members from Neralu – Kennametal India, Mr. Brijesh and team of 15 members from ConseroSolutionsIndia Private Limited and Mr. Azim Mandal from Persistent Systems Ltd., and our shelter child Hanumanthaan national athlete inaugurated the program by lighting sport torch. We conducted 100 m running, 800 m running, long jump, chess, kabaddi and also frog race and sack race were conducted for children. There were several other games such as lemon and spoon race, breaking the pot, shuttle cock, kabbadi etc.

Lunch was organized for all the children and staff members.



Children playing kabbadi



Children playing Chess



Student speech on the stage of JOL



### Cultural and Educational Activities

On 21-01-2018, Mr.Engene Brauner and Mrs.Heera Brauner, Mrs. Ravina Srinivasan and Dr.Ravi Srinivasan, Mr.Sunil Rastogi and Mrs.Tina Rastogi, Mr. Giridhar Country Manager of First American India, Mrs.Sunitha and a team of 12 members of Infinite Computer Solution, Mr. Harish, Mrs.Geetha from ILP, Mr.Naresh Dulam & Neralu team of Kennametal India, Mr.Kiran Shetty and Mrs.Vanamala Kiran participated in this program. We conducted Arithmetic table telling, storytelling, telling English words, drawing, quiz, group dance, solo dance and group song competitions for

children. The last stage of this program was prize distribution which was done by Mr. Giridhar Rajgopal, Country Manager, First American India Pvt Ltd., Mrs.Sunitha of Infinite Computer solutions, Mr.Harish of ILP, Mrs.Roopma Mahajan-Sparsha Trustee, Mr.Naresh Dulham-Neralu Kennametal India, Mrs.Vanamala Kiran, Mrs. Shashikala of DCPU distributed prizes along with certificates to the winners. The children took part in the 2 day competitions and won various prizes, trophies and certificates. Lastly, the children of Hosakote and Shivaji Nagar won maximum prizes and together were selected as Joint Champions and they received the trophy.



### Summer camp

The annual summer camp was conducted by Sparsha Trust for 150 children in the month of April-May 2017. The children who attended the camp included school drop-out children, children from poor families, children from migrant families, child rag-pickers and child beggars.

The main objective of the summer camp was to provide these children an opportunity to

learn skills they do not normally get in their daily life due to their circumstances. Other objectives include:

The summer camp was planned in such a way that the children learnt about various subjects in a participatory manner. The children very much enjoyed all activities that included exposure trip, learning, music and dance. Some of the activities included:



- To enhance the hidden skills of the children.
- Developing the participation of the children in the academics.
- Building self-confidence, self-awareness and self-discipline in each child.
- Inviting experts to conduct the educational sessions like backyard science experiments/innovations, Abacus.
- Sports, Yoga, Meditation, theatre & drama
- Conducting cultural programs – expertise in Yakshagana, Dollukunita, Kamsalay, Garba, Kolata
- Learning musical instruments / folk music

The children were also provided with food and refreshments all through the camp.

The activities in the summer camp that concluded on the event – My Steps Towards Education, included:

- Morning yoga and exercises
- Meditation classes
- Science related activity
- Indoor games
- Garbha dance
- Classical dance
- Keyboard learning and practice
- Craft work
- Clay mask making
- Children Parliament and career counseling
- Visit to planetarium
- Health camp

Some of the supporters of the summer camp were Ms Vicky Tong?, Excaliber Foundation

,New Horizon education and cultural trust, Kennametal team, Mr. Chitbhanu, Mrs. Latha, Ms. Shambulingam, D S Foundation and Cognizant.

### Outcome

At the end of the summer camp, it was very obvious that the children had become more self-confident and disciplined than before. They were enthused as they got a chance to identify their talent and practice their interest – music, art or craft. Being with all other children for a long time in an enjoyable learning atmosphere made them emotionally secure as they could bond with each other. Overall, academically, their skills in Maths, English speaking and general knowledge and increased.



Mr. Subhash and his friends had a interaction with the kids and donated note books to all the children

## Friends of Sparsha

The Friends of Sparsha, an annual event, was held for the third time in Le Meridien Bangalore in November 2017. This event is organized each year to thank and felicitate the supporters of Sparsha Trust, without whose support, the organization and its projects would not have come this far. During the event, that was attended by about 200 well-wishers, Ms. Tina Rastogi, Sparsha Trust's Sponsorship manager, spoke about 'Sponsor a child' a new plan to mobilize educational support for school drop outs, and children from poor families. As many of Sparsha Trust's supporters are individuals, there is a need to ensure that any funding that is sought is within the reach of individuals has the necessary impact. Rajendra Hinduja, MD of Gokuldas Exports has spoken about his involvement with Sparsha Trust, address the gathering, requested everyone to join with Sparsha Trust, to provide best education for the children. Mr Sanjiv Gulati, Vice Chairman of Infinite Computer Solutions, check the designation and company, has expressed that his involvement in the organization and the company, support to Sparsha Trust from 2013, always happy to be part of Sparsha Trust to support the children. During the event, the supporters of Sparsha Trust saw the positive signs of change in the children whom they were supporting. The guests also spoke about the concerns related to child protection and rights. Ms. Kumar Amar Alva, a chairperson and member of the Karnataka State Committee for Child Protection spoke about the need to get every child into school.

Ms. Vanamala Kiran, a long time supporter of Sparsha spoke about the happiness she felt after seeing the positive transformation in the

children she supported through Shikshana Mitra 2. Among those who attended included Mr. B C Rao as well. Sparsha Trust is grateful to M/s Infinite Computer Solutions for sponsoring the event. Through this event, Sparsha Trust thanked each and every one of its supporters.

During the event, Mr Sanjeev Gulati, Vice Chairman, Infinite Computer Solutions, who were also the sponsors of Friends of Sparsha spoke about the company's association with Sparsha Trust since 2014. He donated Rs. 50,000/- from his personal funds for the education of two children. Infinite Solutions is also sponsoring a golf event for fund raising.

Additionally, Mr Suresh, Chairman of Lodge Sainik also spoke about the company's association with Sparsha Trust. Mr Rajan Hinduja expressed his happiness at the work the organization is doing and urged people to come forward and support the cause.



**Inaguration of Friends of Sparsha**



**Yakshagana by Sparsha Children**



## My steps towards education (Nanna Nade Shaale Yedege)

Sparsha Trust identifies and rehabilitates children who are school drop outs, beggars, rag pickers, victims of exploitation (child labourers) and those living in extreme poverty each year. These children then live in different shelters under various programmes. Some of the children are in day care centres as well. During their time in the various shelters, the children are given food, educational support and bridge courses that prepare them to attend school. The children are given a positive environment due to which they feel confident and enthusiastic to attend school.

With the support of various stakeholders, Sparsha Trust organizes My Step towards Education in order to enroll the children of the shelters to schools.

My Step towards Education is an annual event to bring the dropout and out of school children to the mainstream of schooling. Accordingly, the All in One-2017 Summer Camp was conducted on 03rd June 2017 between 10.30 am to 1.30 pm at BalBhavan, Cubbon Park, Bangalore. The objective was to enroll 120 children of Sparsha Trust shelter home to enter formal schools. The staff with the support of Women and Child Development department in Bengaluru urban and Bengaluru rural districts have the children of Open Shelters ready to enter formal schools.

Smt. Krupa Amar Alva, Chairperson of KSCPCR, Sri. Narmadananda, Project Director, Smt. Divya Narayanappa, DCPO, Bangalore Urban DWCD, Smt. Ashwathamma,

DCPO, Bangalore Rural DWCD, Mr. B. C. Rao, MD, Kennametal India Ltd, Dr. Ravi Srinivasan and Sri. Nikilesh Mylavaram, General Manager, Kennametal India Ltd came as guests to this program. Sri. Maheshwarappa, Deputy Director, DWCD, Bangalore Rural, Smt. Narmadanandan, Project Director, Sri. J. M. Maheshwari, Jai Shivashakthi Health & Educational Foundation, Mr. Ranajit Victor Sen, Senior Vice-president & Head of US Life and India Operations, AXA Business Services and Ms. Aparna Sangli, Sr. HR Manager, Netscout Systems Software India Pvt. Ltd were those who graced the occasion.

### The outcome

17 children to 2nd standard, 22 to 3rd standard, 16 to 4th standard, 15 to 5th standard, 18 children to 6th standard, 7 children to 7th standard and 2 children to 8th standard were admitted to nearby government schools. Sparsha Trust has provided learning materials like bag, books, stationery to these children. It will do the follow up of these children going to school.



Entering into the world of Letters

## Concluding Program of "All in One-2017" Summer Camp

Sparsha Trust has been working for street children, without parental care, begging, rag picking and substance abuse and other children who require care and protection and has conducted a summer camp from 14-04-2017 to 14-05-2017 for 30 days and 170 children of Sparsha Trust took part in this.

In this summer camp, the children have learnt many things related to Mathematics, Science, Computers, English and general knowledge through various activities. One boy is prepared to recite tables up to number 100. Children have learnt about conducting 60 experiments in science. Also, they have absorbed more information regarding computer and general knowledge.



Welcoming the guest by giving flowers



Speech by Narmada mam



Dollu kunita by Sparsha Children



Yakshagana by Sparsha Children in My step towards education programme