



# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2021 to March 2022



**SPARSHA**

A Team for a Better Society



## FOUNDER'S NOTE

**Dear well-wisher,**

The year **2021-2022** will be remembered in India's history as a year of unprecedented turbulence and loss. The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic caused devastating loss across the country. Cutting across age and socio-economic class, members who tested COVID-19 positive spent weeks either struggling to survive or unfortunately, lost their lives.

At Sparsha Trust, not only did many staff members lose their loved ones but we also had to say our final goodbyes to a few employees. These are Ansari Begum, core faculty for Fashion Designing, Rebecca, teacher at Mobile Creche Project. We pray for peace for their soul and courage for their families.

However, despite the 6-8 months of lockdown, caused by the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to overcome challenges and remain steadfast in our mission. With the support of our long standing and committed well-wishers, we resumed the construction of our flagship project Makkala Dhama, at Devanahalli. In the first phase, we completed the construction of Ashwada Dhama, a multi-facility space containing a dining hall, library and administration segment, by December 2021, and started the construction of Chinnara Dhama, located in the campus of Makkala Dhama. Chinnara Dhama is planned as a residential facility for about 300 girls between the age group of 6 years to 16 years.



We also initiated '**We Care for You**' and '**Annadaata Sukhi Bhava**' which was designed to meet the critical needs of the society today. Given that many children lost either one or both parents to second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, we initiated 'We Care For You'. The aim of this project, in the first stage, was to identify and support 2000 children affected by the pandemic. Accordingly, nearly 1000 children and more than 500 widows benefitted from this project by March 2022. On the other hand, there are many aged persons, who lack the required financial and physical means to take care of themselves. Away from their children, these aged persons, some of whom have lost their life-partners are not just ill but their morale is also down. In this context, as part of the Annadata Sukhi Bhava project, Sparsha Trust is ensuring essential groceries kit every month to about 30 households in Kolar area.

While we are ever grateful to our donors, funders, volunteers, committee members of different projects of Sparsha Trust, for being with us during our 13 years old journey, we acknowledge the efforts of our dedicated staff members, both full time and part time. Despite the risks of the pandemic, they were committed and fulfilled their responsibilities to the best extent possible.

With regards

**Gopinath R**

Managing Trustee, Board of Trustees &  
Governing Members of Sparsha Trust



# About Sparsha Trust

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

## Vision

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



## Objectives



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



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



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



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



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



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



## Governance Body

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

## Board of Directors (2021-2022)



**Dr. D S Krishna**  
President



**R Srinivasa Murthy**  
Trustee (Wing Commander)



**Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram**  
Trustee



**Mrs. Rupa Mahajan**  
Trustee



**Mr. Shashidhar M. Kotian**  
Trustee



**Mr. Gopinath R**  
Managing Trustee



**Mr. Ranganatha GR**  
Treasurer



**Mrs. Prameela SR**  
Trustee



**Mr. Ramakrishna AB**  
Trustee

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROJECTS

## Makkala Dhama & Nisarga Grama Core



**Mr. Rajendra Hinduja**  
MD Gokaldas



**Dr. DS Krishna**  
President Sparsha Trust



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



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



**Mr. Eric Sall**  
VP Marketing  
Service center Asia at IBM



**Mr. Chittaranjan Narayana**  
Area Vice President  
at NETSCOUT



**Mr. Ranajit Victor Sen**  
Senior VP  
Insurance Operations AXA



**Mr. Shambulingayya Swami**  
CEO Parikrama Pesticide Pvt. Ltd.



**Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram**  
CEO Terex India



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



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



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



# Committee



**Mr. Chitbhanu Nagri**  
Director HR - Moonfrog Labs



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



**Mrs. Heera Brauner**



**Mrs. Rupa Maharajan**  
Trustee Sparsha Trust



**Mr. Shivprakash**  
Head of Engineering KSSPL



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



**Mrs. Tina Rstogin**  
Volunteer of Sparsha Trust



**Mr. Gopinath R**  
Managing Trustee Sparsha Trust



**Mr. Suresh Babu**  
General Manager, IndiGEO



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



**Mr. Raghavendra Totamane**  
Senior Manager - Technology



**Mr. Asim Kumar Mandal**  
Program Manager Persistant

## CORE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



**Mr. Gopinath R**

Managing Trustee - Sparsha Trust



**Mr. Manjunath S P**

Head - Child care projects



**Ms. Revathi Krishnan**

Head - Fundraising and  
Skills Development



**Ms. Chitra K N**

Head - Administration and  
Communication



**Ms. Mamatha B**

Head - ECCE  
(Early Childhood & Child Care Education)

## Human Resources

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

## Certifications

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





# Child Protection Programmes

- **Childline 1098**

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

- **Mobile Creche Programme**

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

- **Contact Points**

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



# 1. Childline 1098

Childline 1098 is India's first emergency toll free helpline number, launched by the Childline Foundation of India, for children in distress. Operational for 24 hours a day and on all days of the year, 1098 is the phone number that any citizen can call if he or she sees any child in distress or feels a child is in danger. The Childline 1098 responds immediately and takes action such as rescue of the child or connecting the child to agencies for his/her short term or long-term care and rehabilitation. In addition to rescuing children found in different types of abuse and exploitative circumstances, it also creates awareness on child rights through open house programs and outreach activities. Childline 1098 works with NGO partners in various cities to implement the programme. Accordingly, it is partnering with Sparsha Trust since 2015 to implement the programme.

## A. Project starting year and location

**2015** - Doddaballapur, Nellamangala, Hoskote and Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural

**2019** - Mulbagal, Srinivaspura, Bangarpet, Malur, Kolar District

## B. Number of direct beneficiaries – Approx 850

## C. Number of indirect beneficiaries – Approx 3000

## D. Key activities in 2021-22

- 1) Awareness programmes
- 2) Open house programmes
- 3) Childline 1098 activities - observing important days and celebrating key functions
- 4) District Child Advisory Board
- 5) Training programmes

### 1) Awareness Programmes

(i) The awareness programs conducted in 175 locations of Bengaluru Rural and Kolar were successful in sensitizing the participants about child rights, the ill-effects of child marriage and child labour, and motivated them to report any abuse or exploitation cases related to children. It also informed them about Childline 1098, COVID-19 safety guidelines, and importance of vaccination.





(ii) These awareness programs reached out to about 7000 persons located not just in slums, communities and public places but also in sessions conducted for various stakeholders such as schools, childcare institutions, public health centres, self-help groups, adolescent groups, youth and children groups, and Anganwadi workers.

## 2) Open House Programs

Open House programs, which are among the important interventions of Childline 1098 project, are conducted to bring together various Government stakeholders, academic representatives, children and their parents. The 8 open house programs held in Bangalore Rural and 2 in Kolar were successful in identifying and resolving the following issues faced by the children:

- Infrastructure facilities in schools related to teaching, drinking water, sanitary facilities, ensuring safety and security of students by police patrolling near schools, play grounds, and bi-cycle parking facilities
- Dropouts among children and their engagement in house work, or becoming child labourers by working in shops, fields and garages
- Trends in child marriage in different areas - occurrence and ways of prevention.
- Cases related to harassment, abuse and neglect of children
- Engagement of parents in children's education



### **Participants of the Open House Meetings**

Police personnel at different levels, Panchayat officials, Development officers, Government school headmasters, teachers, representatives from District Children Protection Unit, and Child Labour Planning Society, parents, children and other Government stakeholders.

### **Impact of Open House Programs**

- The audience came to know about the legal action taken against child labour cases and child marriage cases. It felt motivated to be alert and report about any cases related to violence against children, and in particular girls.
- Parents and other community members became aware about Childline 1098, importance of education and about taking an interest in the studies and lifestyle habits of their children.
- Children realized the need to be courageous and report any form of harassment or abuse or problems faced by them. They also realized the importance of focusing on their studies and not to indulge in excessive or wrong usage of mobile phones, and to stay away from bad habits.

### **3. Childline 1098 activities – observing important days and celebrating key functions**

- Conducting or participating in key programs such as International Child Helpline Day, Anti Child Labour Day, Girl Child Day in which 620 children actively participated.
- With the help of the Department of Education and Government officials, the walls of 224 schools, 6 government hospitals and 6 police stations have been painted with information about Childline 1098.
- Conducting Resource organization meetings in which organizations such as Gamana Mahila Samoocha, Mahila Samakhya, Young India Development Society, Farmers' Association, Sangama Samsthe, Swarna Bhoomi Foundation, and other NGOs participated.
- Mobilizing of volunteers at Devanahalli Taluk to inform about Childline 1098, the profile of authorities to report in cases of child abuse so that the process of immediate action can be facilitated.
- The Childline Se Dosti week, which was celebrated every day in November 2021, created awareness about Childline 1098, and engaged the children in relevant activities.





#### 4. District Child Advisory Board (CAB)

The objectives of Child Advisory Board, which is chaired by the District Commissioner, are to bring together all the officers working on issues related to children on a single platform and review the status of actions taken on various child related issues. The review meetings identify the support required in order to improve the program and issue various circulars accordingly. During 2021-2022, the CAB sustained the momentum of activities at the administrative level, and shared the feedback and experiences with the District Commissioner. It also coordinated with officers of Panchayat Raj and other departments to prevent child marriages in Kolar district and Bangalore Rural.

#### 5. Training programmes

- 5 staff training sessions were conducted for 21 staff members of Childline 1098 which not only updated them on new interventions but helped to discuss ways to improve the project.
- 7 training programs were conducted for 395 schoolteachers and District Child Protection Unit on Foster Care educating them on POSCO Act and Child Marriage Act.

## ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಮಾಸಾಚರಣೆ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಕುಂದಾಣಿ (ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು): ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಚಾರಿ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಮಾಸಾಚರಣೆ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ದೀರಸಂದ್ರದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನದ ಮುಂಭಾಗ ಅರಿವು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಯಿತು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ವಿಜಯಾ ಈ. ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರತಿಜ್ಞೆ

ವಿಧಿ ಬೋಧಿಸಿದರು. ಬಳಿಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕುರಿತ ಕರಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಸುಜಾತಾ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಧಿಪತ್ಯ ಕೋಶದ ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕಿ ಶಾಲಿನಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಘಟಕದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಜಗದೀಶ್, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ನಾಗೇಂದ್ರ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಸುಜ್ಞಾನಾ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಯೋಜಕ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್ ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದರು.



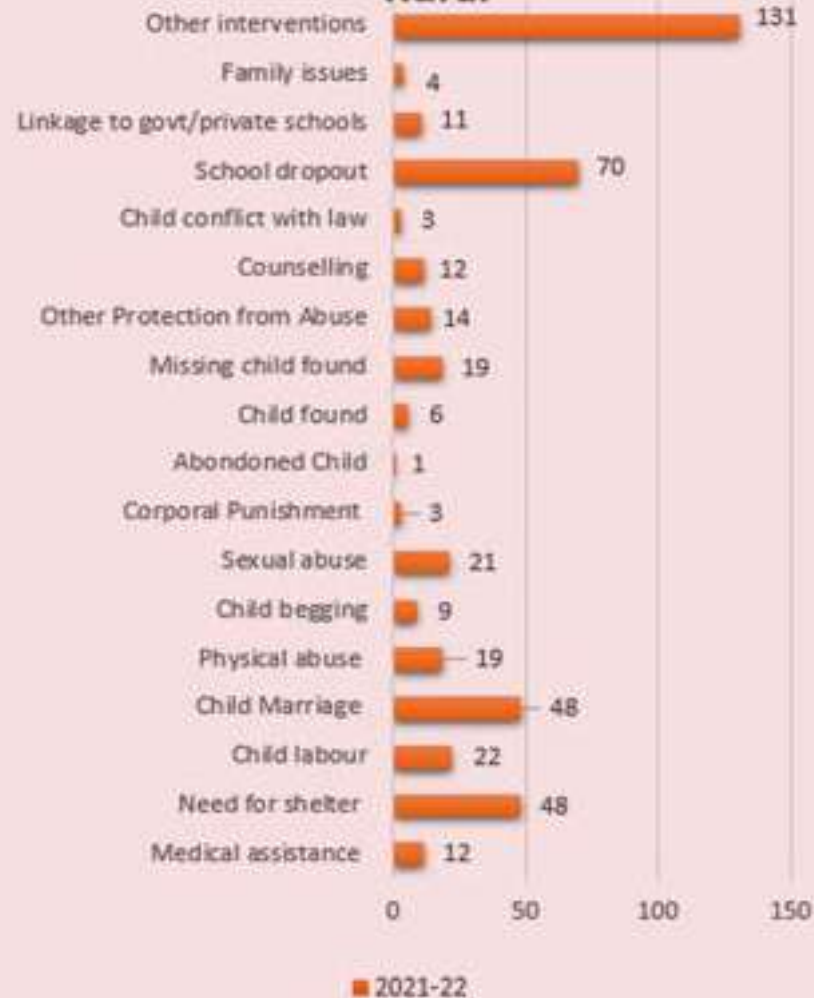
ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕುರಿತ ಕರಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ವಿಜಯಾ ಈ. ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು



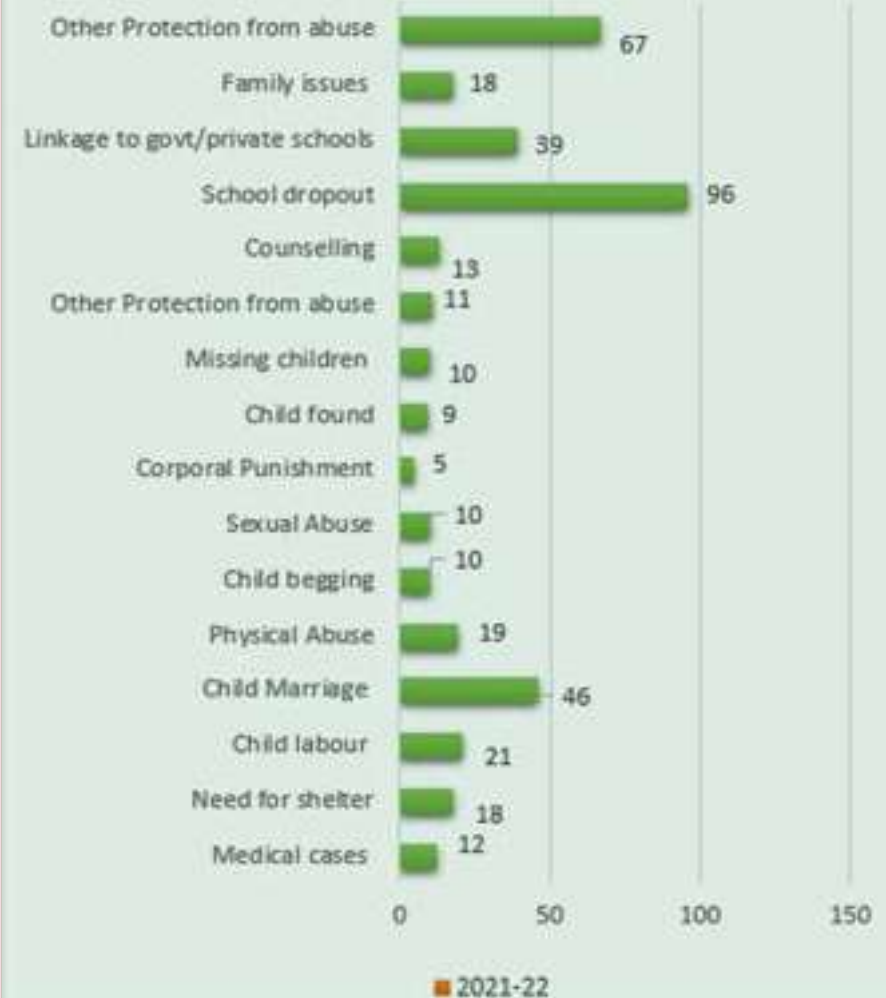
## E. Impact of the Project :

### Protection from Abuse - Bengaluru

#### Rural



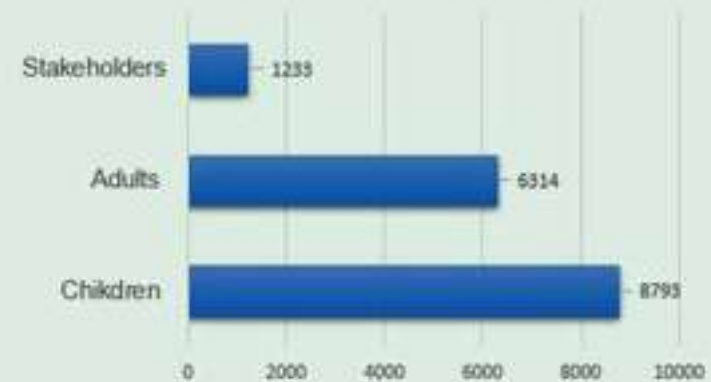
### Protection from abuse - Kolar



### Target groups contacted during outreach banalore and rural

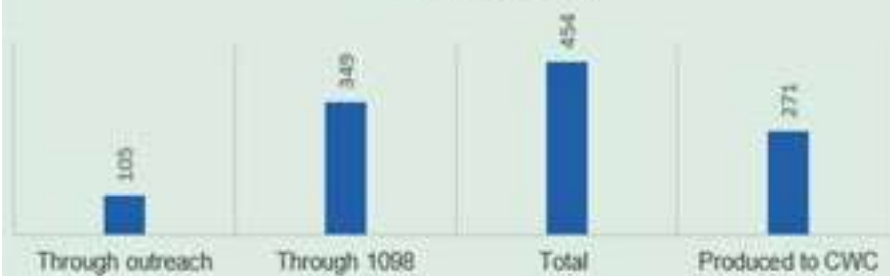


### Outreach in numbers

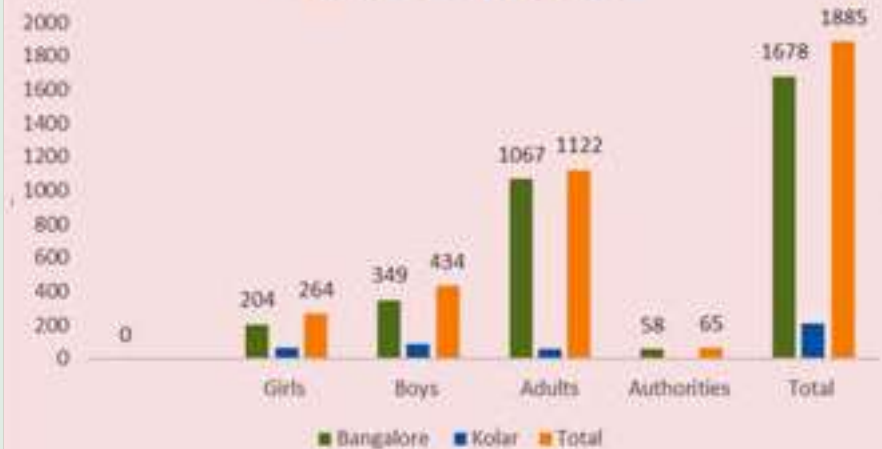


### Total Interventions Handled By Childline 1098 (Bir Rural And Kolar)

■ Number of children



### Open House Programs



## F. Proposed Plan for 2022-23:

1. Creating awareness about Childline 1098 to around 15,000 members in the public, 20,000 children, and in religious places.
2. Reaching out to all the Government and private schools of both the Districts and ensure that every student is aware about Childline
3. Ensure the enforcement of laws related to child marriages and make the Districts Child Marriage Free. 1098 and its relevance.
4. Conducting Open House programs in all the taluks to identify and understand the problems of children, and discuss them with the Departments concerned to resolve them at the earliest.

## G. Donors/stakeholders – Acknowledgement

**Funder:** Childline India Foundation and Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, Government of India

### Acknowledgements:

1. District Commissioner, District Child Protection Officers, Child Welfare Committee, District Health Officers, Labour Department Officers at the District level, and other Line departments at the Taluka level and Panchayat level, Bangalore Rural and Kolar for their regular support, participation and guidance to the project.
2. First American India for their employee volunteers for their ready efforts to spread awareness about Childline 1098.





## H. Case study

**Manjunath and Manjula**, residents of Bullahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural, fixed the marriage of their 16 year old girl daughter Rakshitha with Manjunath, a 27 years old resident of Hoskote Town.

### Interventions by Childline 1098

After learning about the marriage, on 04-09-2021, the Childline 1098 team visited Rakshitha's school and observed that in her age proof, given at the time of admission, her birth is given 07-09-2005. This makes her a minor at the time of marriage. The Childline 1098 team gave the photo of child's marriage and child's age proof document to CDPO (Child Development Protection Officer) and informed them through a letter about the child marriage on 06-09-2021.

Afterwards, the Childline 1098 team, CDPO and DCPU (District Child Protection Unit) visited Rakshitha's in-laws house on 09-09-2021 and rescued her from there. They also informed the Hosakote Police Station about this issue. As per the guidelines, Rakshitha was enrolled at Sarvodaya Service Society's Open Shelter, Chandenahalli Gate, Vijayapura, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District for temporary shelter.

Later, the CDPO of Devanahalli filed the case in Channarayana Pattana Police Station, Devanahalli under FIR No. 0061/2021, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act-2006 (U/S – 9, 10, 11) against the boy and his mother and father and the girl child's father, mother and the priest of the temple. The team subsequently produced the child and parents before CWC on 13-09-2021 during which the committee members counselled the parents to take back Rakshitha to their home, re-enroll her in college so that she can continue her education. At present, Rakshitha is living with her parents who have understood the repercussions of child marriage on the girl.



## I. Testimonial

### Parents of Premraj, Childline 1098 beneficiary

Our son Prem Kumar was studying in 10th standard at Government High School, Kambalahalli during the year 2021-22. In spite of our efforts to send him to school, he seemed to be more interested to involve himself in farming and taking care of our shop. The Childline 1098 team visited our house and counselled Prem Kumar about the importance of education. It also produced in front of Doddaballapur Child Welfare Committee. Now he has resumed schooling, and has passed 10th standard. I am grateful to Sparsha Trust who facilitated the process of Childline 1098 taking interest in our child and guiding him.

## J. Project Implementation Team

### Bangalore Rural

1. **Manjunath S P** – Project Coordinator
2. **Sahana**- counsellor
3. **Murali**
4. **Ratnamma** - Team member
5. **Manjunath D** - Team member
6. **Manjunath A R** - Team member
7. **Meghana** - Team member
8. **Navin** - Team member

### Kolar

1. **Shankar Gowda** – Project Coordinator
2. **Sujitha** – Counsellor
3. **Sunandamma** – Team member
4. **Roopa** – Team member
5. **Harish** – Team member
6. **Nagappa** – Team member

## K. Team feedback

### Murali Mohan, Member of Childline 1098

I am a member of the Childline 1098 project since 2015 and I work for the welfare of children in the rural part of Bengaluru. I have personal contentment to have intervened and rescued children from child marriage, sexual abuse and other child issues. I have also helped the children rebuild their lives. I have learnt about child rights, child laws, ways to deal with child's trauma and several other child related problems. In every step of the way, Sparsha Trust has encouraged and supported me to help children in the best possible way.



### Manjunath S P Project Coordinator

During the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic (April 2021 to June 2021), the work under Childline 1098 was declared as part of essential services. The reasons for this could be that, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, many cases of child abuse, and child marriages were reported. We did the field work including rescue cases under very challenging circumstances but because we maintained safety guidelines and were vaccinated, we felt protected. We did not neglect any case and worked accordingly as our work came under essential services.



## 2. Mobile Creche

The construction industry, which is one of the oldest industries in India, employs a large number of workers belonging to BPL and low-income families. Most of them are daily wage earners, and most of their incomes go towards meeting essential daily expenses. Due to poverty, lack of time and awareness, their children, especially those under 6 years, tend to suffer from malnutrition and inadequate care. These circumstances adversely impact their physical and mental development.

With the objective to improve the lives of children from migrant and construction sector families, Sparsha Trust initiated on-site creches or childcare centers in different districts of Karnataka. In 2016, Mobile Creche Delhi, who evinced a keen interest in Sparsha Trust's work, came forward to support the interventions for children of construction labourer at 2 construction sites in Bangalore.

In 2018-2019, the Joint Director of Women and Child Development visited the mobile creche centers that was managed by Sparsha Trust with support from Mobile Creche Delhi. Impressed by its work, the Department decided to work with Sparsha Trust to initiate and implement mobile creche centers at different construction sites across Bangalore. Since the programme was to be implemented at construction sites, the project got transferred to the Department of Labour. This initiative also got the direct support of builders, other organizations and departments like Karnataka State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Mobile Creche Delhi, and First American India Foundation (Light a Life).

### **A. Project starting year : 2016**

### **B. Location : Bangalore Urban**

Govt of Karnataka : 10 centres

Fairy Land : 1 centre

Mobile Creche Delhi : 3 centres

Bangalore Rural

Ramnagar : 2 centres

Tumkur : 3 centres

Chikkabalapura : 2 centres

**Total : 21 Centres**





### C. Number of direct beneficiaries

Project Name	Boys	Girls	Total	No of MC Centres
Mobile Creche Delhi	82	81	163	3
Fairy Land	36	33	69	1
Kitthuru Rani Chanamma Shishupalana Kendra (Government Project)	397	459	856	17
Total number of children	515	573	1088	21

### D. Number of indirect beneficiaries : 2500 families

### E. Key activities

1. Educational support
2. Food security for families and meeting nutritional requirement of children
3. Health care
4. COVID-19 safety guidelines
5. Community Engagement
6. Special events



## 1. Educational support

### (i) Enrollment of children from mobile creches to Government schools

In alignment with Sparsha Trust's core objective to enroll every child in school. Accordingly, the Mobile Crèche project enrolls children upto 14 years are enrolled. Among these enrolled children, it facilitates the enrollment of children of 6 years of age in nearby Government schools. This ensures the start of their formal educational journey. Children above 6 years also benefit from age appropriate education. Based on their age, we facilitate the process of enrolling children upto 14 years of age in schools, upto 5th standard.

Project Name	Number of children enrolled in government schools	Name of the school
Fairy Land	5	Mathikere Government school
Kittur Rani Chennamma Shisupalana Kendra	75	Nearby Government school
Delhi Project (Mobile Creche)	21	Rachenahalli Government school
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	

(i) Distribution of educational kits and toys to children that encouraged age appropriate development and fine motor skills. These include academic learning, playing and self-care. This intervention also helped the parents to save money.

(ii) Creating awareness about COVID-19 safety guidelines and ensuring continuity in learning for children through online classes during lockdown and physical classes after lifting of lockdown. These classes engaged the children in creative activities, physical activities, learning by playing, art, craft and painting and music

(iii) Mural paintings on the walls of mobile creche centres helped to make the learning experience more enjoyable and effective. Themes like vegetables, colours, flowers, environment, rhymes, stories were used to teach kids

(iv) Daily activity plans helped to have a systematic schedule for the children.



## 2. Food security for families and meeting nutritional requirement of children

The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic hit the low income and BPL families very intensely, resulting in widespread loss in work and income. At that time, the Mobile Creche project ensured food security for the families of the children by providing comprehensive essential dry ration kits during the pandemic. Additionally, bananas and eggs were distributed on a weekly basis to the children, ensuring that their nutritional requirement were met. Even after the lockdown was lifted, when parents began to go to work, the children used to be left behind as schools had not commenced for many of them. In such a time, parents were provided with nutrients enriched powder and vegetables in the meal fed to the children.

Given that parents were construction workers and had to report to work early in the morning, they were unable to provide food on time to their children, leading to malnourishment among many. The mobile creche's centres provided the much needed nutritious breakfast like kheer and halwa, kichadi and daliya in the afternoon, and banana, chikkies, boiled channa, milk and egg for the children.

## 3. Health care

### (i) Organizing health check up camps for children and families

Given the hectic schedule of the construction labourers, lack of awareness and financial constraints, the health of the children often get neglected. In this context, the project organized 630 regular health checkups for all the children in the mobile creches. Not only did this help in timely diagnosis and treatment of any illnesses or growth related disorders but also provide supplementary nutritious food to the children. The parents also attended the regular health checkup camps which benefitted them as their health status was usually neglected due to work pressures and financial constraints.

### (ii) Improvement of health status for women

The health check-up camps were of great use to the women in particular, as they could talk about their menstrual and reproductive health concerns with the doctor. They got the opportunity to be sensitized about adverse effects of repeated and frequency of pregnancy. Women were counselled to entertain healthy food habits like including greens, seasonal fruits, and vegetables on a regular basis to improve vitamin and mineral level and iron content especially for women with HP deficiency. The women were prescribed free medicines to be collected at the mobile creche centres.

Camp Details	Number of Camps	Number of Beneficiaries
Vaccination camps	4	611
General Health Camp	3	277
Eye camp	2	178





#### 4. Ensuring COVID-19 safety guidelines at the mobile creche centres

Given the intense second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project ensured proper sanitization of the centres prior to resuming the activities. The centres were sanitized before and after the centres started their daily operations. The nearby PHC (Public Health Centres) the centre locations were highly cooperative by arranging COVID-19 vaccination drives at all our centres. To ensure additional safety, masks were made mandatory, social distancing and hand wash/sanitization was made compulsory.



#### 5. Community Engagement

Community engagement is an important intervention that connects the parents and other stakeholders to the project and encourages their participation in various activities. It also strengthens the foundation for sustainability. During this year, as part of community engagement, the following activities took place:

- parents were informed about the nutrition food distribution schedule, about the importance of various social entitlements, social security schemes, importance of education for the children, child rights and repercussions of child marriage
- discussing the educational progress of the children with the parents, age appropriate nutrition for not just the children but also for parents, care for malnourished children, importance of health and hygiene, and child safety
- meetings of the Saathi Samuha, which acts as a bridge between community, beneficiaries, and Mobile Crèche centres. A group of 5 is formed at Saathi Samuha consisting of influential members of the community and the parents. During this year, the Saathi Samuha members supported in proper functioning of the centres, and providing information of the newly migrated families to the teachers so that their children could be enrolled in the centres.
- Focus group discussion members, that included local public health centres representatives, Anganwadi teachers, school teachers, community leaders, ASHAs, parents, members of SHG groups, and builders, discussed about care for pregnant and lactating mothers, enrolling to Bhagyalakshmi scheme and enrollment of children in schools and centres.
- 50 women participated in the mask making training and learnt the skill of stitching using just cloth, thread and needle. The training helped the participants to make the masks in bulk and sell them to the general public.

## Capacity building for teachers

During the inception of the centres, a 12 day training program was arranged to upgrade the capacities of the teachers. The activities included using creative and participative techniques to promote creative learning and teaching, as well as maintenance of reports and documentation.



## 6. Special events

All the national events like Children's Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, World Health Day, World Women's Day, World Father's Day, Teachers Day are celebrated.

Many events are organized at the Mobile Creches centres to engage students through participation. These events help the students discover their talents. It gives the students an opportunity to indulge in different activities. Children are also introduced to a special word of the day and its importance. The children are taught values that make them into better humans and citizens of the country.



**Graduation Day:**

Children above the age of 6 are motivated to go to school by celebrating graduation day at the centre spreading joy and pride among themselves. Children are dressed up as graduates imbibing a sense of pride in the children.

The parents of the neighbourhood show immense interest in enrolling their children to our centres rather than private care centres. The added trust the parents have on the centres gives more energy and strength to the centre and the teachers at the centres.

**World Environment Day:**

June 6th is celebrated as World Environment Day to create awareness on environmental protection by planting trees, cleaning the public places, seed doll making etc.

**Nutrition Day :**

On Nutrition Day, awareness programs are given by doctors to parents and community to make them aware about the importance of nutrition.

150 children of the Mobile Creche projects participated in Joy of Learning Programmes.





## **F. Impact**

- In May 2021, of the 105 children eligible for school admission, (those who were enrolled in our 21 centres), 101 children were admitted to government schools nearby.
- The admission of children to our centres has increased drastically since Sparsha Trust established centres all over Karnataka. The quality of education at our centres is no less than any private day care centres. Even the admissions at Anganwadi centres have declined since our centres became more preferable. Parents began trusting our centres enough to send their children to our centres.
- Parents were relieved of monitoring the children and could easily focus on earning a livelihood for their families.
- Since only workers with labour cards were given entry to our centres, the workers began giving preference to avail themselves of a labour card to become eligible.
- The training provided to the teachers before the start of their tenure has had a positive impact on the teachers enabling them to effectively manage the centres.
- Builders' response to starting a centre at their building locations has had a drastic change since they saw the changes in the health of the children and the productivity of the workers firsthand.

## **G. Proposed plan for 2022-23**

Mobile Creches team has planned and started the process of approaching the Karnataka Building construction workers welfare to begin 22 new centres across Karnataka. Sparsha Trust has also planned to start creches for Safai Karmachari workers children across Bengaluru.

## **H. Donors and stakeholders – Acknowledgement**

1. Karnataka State Building and Other Constructions Workers Welfare Board,
2. Mobile Creche Delhi,
3. First American India Foundation (Light a Life)
4. Public health Centres
5. Anganwadis
6. Government Schools
7. Builders
8. Communities
9. Department of Labour (Welfare Board)

## I. Case Study



**Name: Sonu Kumari**

**Age: 6 yrs.**

Family background: Sonu's family consists of her parents, two elder siblings and one younger sibling. Her family, which is a native of Bihar, came to Bangalore in search of work.

Here, in Bangalore Sonu's parents joined TATA Construction Company as mestri and worker. The couple would take their 3 children to the construction site since they had no other option. Sonu Kumari had an eye problem which made it impossible for her to see. The treatment for the same was already done but the problem still persisted.

### **MC team intervention:**

While the Mobile Crèche conducted its survey, it noticed Sonu and her siblings playing on the sand. It informed her parents about Mobile Crèche facilities and their advantages. The parents were happy to enroll their children in the Mobile Creche centre as they would be looked after well.

### **Impact :**

At time Sonu kumari admitted our TATA-2 center she wasn't able to speak and understand kannada. After a few months at the mobile creche, she is now active and participates in all the activities. She has also learnt to speak Kannada very well. During one of the eye camps, the doctor suggested for an operation. After thorough discussion with her parents as well the Tata builder she was admitted to Vani Vilas hospital. She is perfectly alright and has also recovered her eyesight.

The second son is now admitted in the Government school for 1st std through Mobile crèche support. During the first COVID -19 lockdown, Sonu Kumari's mother Neelam Devi was pregnant. Her mother gave birth to a 4th child and the mother and child are healthy. At the same time TATA construction stopped work due to financial constraints. At that time of need, Sparsha Trust distributed essential grocery kits to families in need. Sonu's family not only benefitted regularly from the grocery kit but also nutrition kit as Sonu's mother is a lactating mother. After this intervention from Sparsha, Mobile Crèche is distributing dry ration, education kit, Anaj Mishran, and hygiene kit for this family.

**During the pandemic, Sonu's father had fever,** cold, cough and vomiting. As he tested positive for COVID-19. The Doctor recommended home quarantine for 14 days. Sonu's mother panicked as they did not have a separate room. At that time, the staff of Mobile Creche discussed with the Tata Group subsequent to which he was provided a separate room for quarantine. After a month, Sonu's father tested negative to COVID-19. The family is very thankful to the project and Sparsha Trust for helping them in times of need and taking care of the family.



## J. Testimonial

I, **Shailaja** and my husband Banappa struggle as daily wage workers to make ends meet. Our two children attend the Mobile Creche centre at Rachenahalli. After joining the My younger son was given nutrition kit while my older daughter was provided with education kit, uniform, shoes and other necessary school items. I have noticed that my daughter used to skip meals when she was at home but that doesn't happen anymore. I can see that her eyes sparkle whenever I talk of taking her to the mobile creche centre every morning. She tells me about all her teachers, recites poems, alphabets, months of the year at ease. She would hardly speak at home prior to this. My son was malnutrition before the intervention of Sparsha Trust but the nutrition kit has helped him improve his mental as well as physical health. When the children were left at home, I would constantly worry about their safety. But the mobile creche teachers and helpers take utmost care of our children from 9am to 4pm everyday leaving me stress free about the kids' safety and development. My children have improved ten folds. I owe a huge thanks to Sparsha for their support in our life.

## K. Team

- **Mamatha B** - Overall Coordinator / Project Head
- **Sangeetha** - Supervisor (FairyLand)
- **Lakshmi** – Supervisor



## L. Team Feedback

2021-22 was a challenging year for all of us at Sparsha. Much more challenging than 2020-21 because people got negligent and stopped using masks and social distancing with the assumption that everything was normal. The second wave of COVID took a toll on our own staff members whom we unfortunately lost to COVID. It really shook us to the core. But “United we stand, divided we fall”, everyone at Sparsha united and fought against COVID. We also introduced the We Care for You project to support other families who lost their loved ones. I am proud of Sparsha. It was difficult to manage children during COVID-19 pandemic second wave, difficult to make them maintain social distance, as parents were going for work, it was necessary for them to get care and protection. We could not shut the centres but on opening, we had to follow the protocol. In January 2022, at that time, we uploaded videos on education to the parents, which was not reaching them effectively. It was very difficult to reach out to them. we used to make plans but we reached 50%. We used to give meals to the children three times a year, and at time we gave ration kits to the families, but it was not reaching on time to the children as the parents were going for work, so many children became malnourished. Then after we got back the children to the centres in February, then it took two months to regularize all activities.

– **Mamatha B**



### 3. Contact Points

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

#### A. Project starting year: 2011

**B. Location:** Virupakshanagar, Nayandahalli, Jawaregowdadoddi, Cheemasandra and Vivekananda Nagar.

The children enrolled in the contact points, as mentioned in the above locations, were provided with the following services:

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

#### C. Number of direct beneficiaries

Sl.N o	Description	Beneficiaries
1	Thindlu	38
2	Nayandahalli	24
3	Jawaregowda Nagar	23
4	Cheemasandra	25
5	Hoskote	26
	Total	136



## D. Key activities of the year

As per the Government's guidelines to protect the people during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the activities of the contact points had to be stopped during the lockdown (April 2021 to June 2021). By July 2021, Sparsha restarted the contact points at all the centres.

**(i) Outreach activity:** These activities included making home visits, reaching out to students to create awareness about contact points and the need to educate children.

**(ii) Bridge course:** Bridge courses were organized for the students in order to prepare them to join school. These courses, that is usually between 6 months to 1 year, taught the children the basics such as mathematical calculations, alphabets etc

**(iii) Health checkup:** Every 2 months health checkup camp were organized to check the health status of the children, and to ensure timely identification of any diseases and provide the treatment accordingly.

**(iv)** Facilitating the enrollment of children in schools.



## F. Impact

The kids were protected from any kind of neglect and abuse at the contact points, and got the required care and attention, which could not be given by their parents primarily due to work and time constraints. The children felt more prepared to join the mainstream education system, as after attending the contact points, their interest in learning activities increased. The outreach programs helped the parents understand the importance of basic care and protection for children as they themselves saw several positive changes in the children after their enrollment into the contact points.

## G. Acknowledgement and thanking donors / stakeholders

Azim Premji Foundation



### H. Case study

**Devaraja's** parents are laborers who had migrated to Bengaluru in search of work. In this child's family, there are two children and the father has passed away due to ill health and then, the mother had to take the whole responsibility of her family. If she skipped a day at work, it would become difficult to run the family. Therefore, she started taking the children along with her for work.

During a survey, information was collected about this family and the mother was told to send the children to school. She said that she is struggling hard to lead life by doing labour work and she wants her children to study well. The children were then admitted to school, complete information was collected and the children were admitted to the local Government Primary School at Nayandahalli. Her second son Ashoka has been admitted to 1st standard and first son Devaraja has been admitted to 2nd standard. The mother of the children expresses her gratitude to Sparsha Trust.

### I. Testimonial

We are a poor family of six members and only I work to feed all six of us. I was not able to send my eldest daughter Ashwini who is 7 years old to school because she had to take care of my younger sons and daughters. Sparsha Trust intervened and convinced me to admit Ashwini to 2nd standard to the Government Primary school at Cheemsandra and I was reluctant at first but later, I obliged. I am grateful that atleast my children are being educated at the Sparsha contact points and at school rather than becoming labourers like me and I am grateful to Sparsha Trust for it.

- **Amruthamma**

Ashwini's mother, Cheemsandra



## **J. Team**

**Manjunath S P** – Project Coordinator

**Nagarathna** – Teacher, Cheemsandra

**Manjunath S.P.** – Project Head

**Nagarathna** – Teacher, Cheemsandra

**Pallavi**- Teacher, Jawaregowda Nagar

**Deepa**-Teacher, Nayandahalli

**Manasa** – Teacher, Thindlu

**Sharavathi** – Teacher, Hosakote



## **K. Team feedback**

The contact points were paused for a few weeks during the second wave as well to ensure that the kids were safe. But our constant efforts to introduce new activities and better experiences for the children never stopped. As soon as the contact points centre operations resumed in the month of September, we ensured that all the staff members were vaccinated, masks were worn by children as well as the staff.

- **Manjunath**

Project Head

# Child Care & Development Programmes

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

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

## **Makkala Mitra (A friend for children)**

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

## **Nisarga Grama (Nature village)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## 4. Shikshana Mitra

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

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

**A. Project starting year: 2010-2011**

**B. Location: Sanjeevini Nagar, near Kodigehalli, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore North**

**C. Number of direct beneficiaries: 35 to 50 children**

**D. Number of indirect beneficiaries: 100 to 120 children**

**E. Key activities of the year**

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





## F. Impact of the project :

Total new admissions during the year - 2

School Placement - 5

Home placement – 6

A significant impact of the project is that the volunteers and supporters, living in the nearby areas, have taken the responsibility to manage all aspects of the centre. As indicated earlier, despite the lockdown due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project ensured that the children got enrolled to school and that various activities helped them to overcome the adverse impact of the lockdown, and engage them in learning and playing related activities. This was of great relief to their parents as well, who were able to attend to their work without having to worry about their children.

## G. Proposed plan for 2022-2023

- Increasing the beneficiary coverage from 20 children to 40 children
- Aiming for state and national level participation of children in different competitions related to sports, cultural and academic activities.

## H. Acknowledgement and thanking donors/stakeholders

Individual contributions, and support from families living in Sterling Apartments, Bearys Apartments, Godrej Apartments, Sahakar Nagar and other families in the area.

## I. Case studies

**Durgesh** is a student studying his 7th standard and it's been 7 years since he's been a part of Sparsha. Durgesh came from a family where they couldn't afford education. They had to work to earn a living. So Durgesh initially was admitted to Hoskote, Makkala Mitra. Durgesh was introverted initially. But slowly he started learning to read and write and found a family among his Sparsha friends. He actively participates in sports, and he is grateful Sparsha supports him in all ways so that he becomes a better human. He loves to read moral story books and he loves that he is leading a healthy life.

## J. Testimonial

My name is **Sumangala**, I have been a part of Sparsha for 9 years and I am so grateful that I came to Sparsha. During the Covid Sparsha ensured my safety and sent me home. Though I felt like I was missing out on education, I knew Sparsha always had my back. After I was back from home, my seniors educated me and I soon could stay updated with the completed syllabus in schools.





## K. Project Implementation team

- (i) **Rupa Mahajan** – Board member
- (ii) **Manjunath.SP** – Project Head
- (iii) **Ramesh** – Warden
- (iv) **Prabhavathi** – Cook
- (v) **Suvarna** - Caretaker
- (vi) **Kanaka** – student lead
- (vii) **Rekha** – Student lead
- (viii) **Bhavyashree** – student lead

## L. Team Feedback

The second wave of COVID proved to be harder than the first wave because we were only recovering from the first one and the second wave hit us again. The children were missing schools again and we were attending college classes online but had issues with understanding online classes. All of Sparsha children were at Nisarga Grama during the second and when we returned to Sanjeevini Nagar, we repainted our centre in order to start afresh. The senior students at the centre helped the juniors study and catch up with the syllabus in their respective schools.

- **Kanaka**, Student Lead



## 5. Makkala Mitra

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

### About Makkala Mitra

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

Funder: Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of India.

**A. Project starting year: 2012**

**B. Location: Hoskote, Bangalore Rural and Hesaraghatta, Bangalore Urban**

**C. Number of direct beneficiaries: 121 children**

**D. Number of indirect beneficiaries : 60 to 70 children**

**E. Key activities of the year**

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





## F. Impact of the project

Total new admissions during the year – 82

School Placement – 28

Home Placement – 24

Referred to Child Welfare Committee – 30

Despite the year being full of challenges, caused primarily due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project ensured that most of the activities were conducted as regularly as possible after the lockdown lifted. During the lockdown, the children and parents were at home for several weeks, leading to the children becoming dull and depressed. As the regular activities resumed after the lockdown, the children became active and eager to come to the centres, to learn, play and bond together. This helped to remove any negativity in the children, caused by the pandemic.

## G. Proposed plan for 2022-2023

- To enroll about 60 children next year through awareness in the community.
- To increase the number of school enrollments from the centres.
- To develop the bridge course curriculum.

## H. Acknowledgement and thanking donors/stakeholders

- ICPS (Integrated Child Protection Scheme) – Department of Women and Child Welfare.
- DCPO and staff ( District Child Protection Office)
- Volunteers.
- Community stakeholders (Panchayat leaders, School Monitoring and Development Committees), Childline 1098.



## I. Case studies

**Varshal's** father was an employee at a footwear store and his mother was a housewife.

3 years ago, his mother passed away due to a heart attack. His father got addicted to drinking and gave up all responsibilities. Varshal started staying in his aunt's house who took full responsibility of him. But that didn't last long because Varshal was forced to join a hostel to continue his studies after 4th standard. Covid pandemic did not allow him to continue his education. Varshal was reluctant to join a hostel. In the interest of continuing his studies, he agreed to join a hostel.

During 2021, Varshal was produced in front of the CWC to decide his further course of studies and stay. It was decided to admit Varshal into Sparsha Open Shelter Hoskote. Initially Varshal was reserved and wouldn't interact with any of the students in the shelter home. He did not know alphabets, tables, letters even though he had completed 4th standard already. The bridge course program in the shelter has set him on the right track and helped him learn letters and alphabets. Slowly, Varshal started showing interest in dancing, singing and other activities held at the shelter home. He made progress in academics as well as social conversations. Currently, Varshal is studying in GKBMS Government school in 5th standard.



## J. Testimonials

My father Ambreesh and mother Kolaveri were rag pickers in Nelamangala colony, Bengaluru Rural. My parents, my younger sister and I were staying in Nelamangala. I was studying in 1st standard in a nearby Government school.

My father was a drunkyard. He used to get drunk, psychically, and verbally abuse my mom. He wouldn't even let us eat food in peace. Only one days, my parents went rag picking, we were able to fill our stomach, otherwise we would starve.

The rural ChildLine team rescued me and took me to Praspara Adoption Centre in Arisnakunte, Nelamangala Taluk. Me and my sister were accommodated there, and we participated in all the activities, I also finished my 2nd standard there in a nearby Government school. My mom would visit us every now and then and enquire our well-being.

Since the time period at the adoption centre expired in 2021, I was produced to the Rural Child Welfare Committee who helped me join Sparsha Open Shelter. I am happy here. I am taken good care and I love the activities that I take part in. I am thankful I am studying and being educated.

- **Kumar**, 3rd Standard  
Makkala Mitra, Hoskote

## K. Project Implementation team

### Implementation Team

#### Rural (Hoskote)

1. **Pradeep** – Co – ordinator
2. **Divya Kumari** – Bridge Course teacher
3. **Ramesh** – Outreach worker
4. **Pramod** – Outreach worker
5. **Renuka** – Cook
6. **Sahana** – Bridge Course educator
7. **Ramya** – Bridge Course educator

### Hesarghatta

1. **Manjunath S.P.** – Project Coordinator
2. **Chitra** - Counsellor
3. **Bhagya** – Bridge Course educator
4. **Shalini** – Bridge Course educator
5. **Ramamurthy** – team member
6. **Naveen** - team member
7. **Patil** - team member
8. **Sanamma**- Cook



## L. Team Feedback

I have been in Sparsha for 10 years now and I never want to be anywhere else. During the second wave of COVID, Sparsha Trust took such good care of me and the children at the centre. I am very happy to be cooking for the children here, they show so much of love to me. As long as I am with the kids, I am always happy.

- **Sanamma** - Cook



## 6. Nisarga Grama

Recognizing the need for a 24/7 facility to ensure protection and development of children who have faced abuse, neglect and exploitation, Sparsha Trust built Nisarga Grama (nature village) a multi-dimensional residential development centre. Nisarga Grama campus, which is located in a 2 acre campus, amidst lush surrounding developed by IIHR (Indian Institute of Horticulture), is near to Hesarghatta Lake.

### **Nisarga Grama's facilities include the following:**

- A large multi-functional dining hall, 8 dormitories, 2 libraries (one for younger children and one for older children), a playground and big backyard, gardens, a computer lab, science lab, multiple classrooms, an admin block and staff quarters
- Eco-friendly (Solar energy) campus
- Vegetable and fruit garden and greenhouse, and honey bearing honey combs
- Dairy and poultry farm
- Security system
- Rainwater harvesting
- Children's museum
- Tailoring training units
- Training units on electrical and electronic appliances

**A. Project starting year: October 2016**

**B. Location: Hesarghatta**

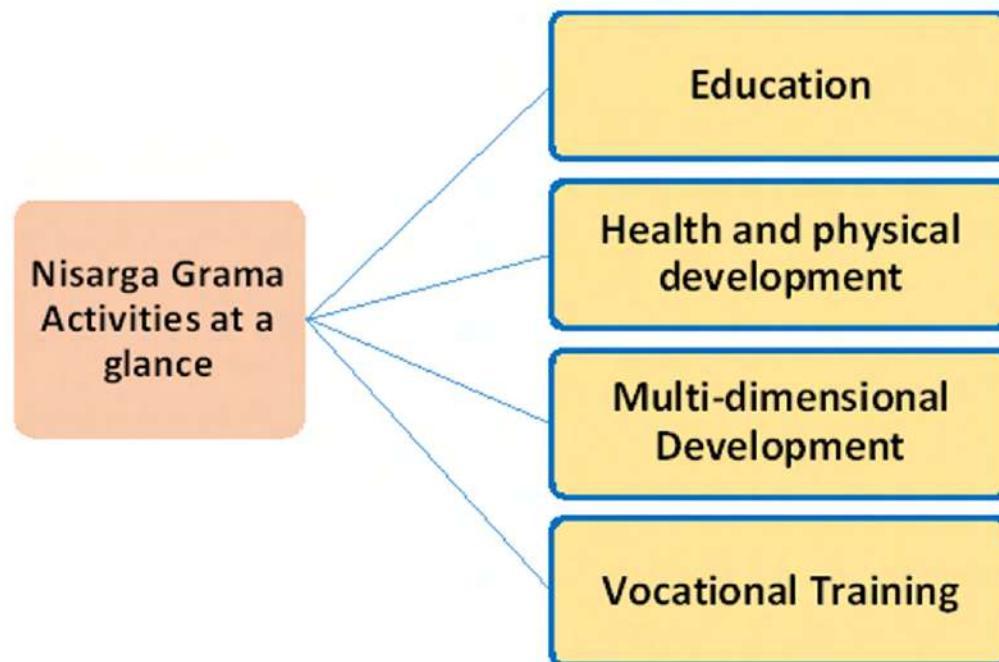
**C. Number of beneficiaries**

- Direct beneficiaries: 210 children
- Indirect beneficiaries: 630 persons



## D. Key activities of the year

As of April 2021, 119 children were staying at Nisarga Grama. Of these, while 23 returned to their families during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, 96 children remained at the centre. Due to government restrictions, admission to Nisarga Grama was put on hold from March to August 2021. However, from September 2021 onwards, till March 2022, 39 new admissions took place, taking the total to 158 children, thus helping the new enrollment benefit from Nisarga Grama's services. Of these 39 new admissions, 19 were from bridge courses managed by Sparsha Trust, while 20 were direct enrollment.



### **Sparsha Trust's interventions to manage the lockdown**

Sparsha Trust gave top priority to the safety of the children, and to ensure this aspect, it shifted children from different residential projects to Nisarga Grama. It then took steps to ensure that the education and recreational activities of the children did not get adversely impacted. For this, the project team, with guidance from senior management, planned a daily schedule that kept the children engaged in studies and promoted their multi-dimensional development.

### **1) Education**

A milestone in educational activities was achieved during the year as Sparsha Trust initiated the E- Digital platform, which utilized the power of technology to help students have access to classes and learning modules through an online mode. A group of 6 volunteers were trained on using the E-Digital platform before they went on to teach the children. The children made use of the digital platform to enhance their subject knowledge and learning experience. Apart from this, the children engaged in off-line learning as well. As a result, they were able to cover much of their syllabus despite the schools being closed for most part of the year, not just due to the lockdown but also due to regular vacations and festivals. As a result, the children felt more prepared to take the annual exams.

### **2) Health and physical development**

Guided by the staff members, the children made the best use of the lockdown and focused on growing vegetables in Nisarga Grama's greenhouse. Apart from a variety of leafy vegetables, several other vegetables are grown in quantities that are adequate for three meals a day for the staff and the children at Nisarga Grama. The time spent by the children to cultivate vegetables taught them the importance of soil, proper watering and harvesting practices. At the same time, the children also engaged in various activities at the cattle and poultry farm, yielded milk and eggs which are important for the health of growing children. Apart from five cows, the farm has hens, duck, honeybees and rabbits.

### **3) Multi-dimensional development**

**Martial art:** 63 children are being trained regularly in Taekwondo. 15 children participated in District level competition and 10 children have won prizes. The confidence levels of the children increased, and the health issues of the children has reduced substantially due to regular training.

**Performing arts:** About 120 children engaged themselves in different types of performing arts such as learning songs and folk dances such as devotional songs, djambe and dollu kunita.





**Art and craft:** About 60 children at Nisarga Grama involved themselves in learning one or the other of the following art and craft activities:

- Painting, drawing, flower making out of cloth, arecanut leaf, making different products from coconut shells, bottle painting, wall hanging and embroidery,
- Quilling paper jewelry
- Soap making
- Plantation and nursery forming
- Madhubani painting and framing



**Museum maintenance:** During the year, the children maintained the well curated museum at Nisarga Grama. The children plan to develop the museum at a larger level so that they can invite the general public to the museum visiting.

**Library:** the children made good use of the lockdown to read the well-stocked library at Nisarga Grama. On the whole, the children spent about 3 hours a week in the library.

**Studio and Digital lab:** 16 children are being trained in Photoshop, video editing and photography. Every weekend the children involved themselves in a program titled 'Weekend with Sparsha', where the eminent individuals are invited as guests to interact with the students and impart knowledge, share their experience and journey of their life with the children which is also broadcasted on the YouTube channel.

#### 4. Vocational training

**Tailoring:** 42 children have learnt fixing button, cutting blouses and chudhidhar pants. Children have implemented their learnings by stitching torn clothes and altering clothes.

**Electrical and electronic appliances repair and maintenance:** Electric training has been initiated for children who are disinterested in studies and also as an additional skill for their better future. 36 children have enrolled for the training.



**- Training and production of areca nut plates:** Making of Areca nut plates, being one of the most unique activities at Nisarga Grama is carried out with care and interest by the children. The areca nut machinery is purchased, and the raw material available in and around Nisarga Grama is being used to make the plates out of the areca nut plants. One of the in-house staff has been trained by the vendor and 5 children are receiving training from the in-house staff.

### **E. Impact of the project**

Nisarga Grama is managed and run by children. leadership quality is been developed by involving the children in all the initiative . Developed a children core team (leaders) . These children are involved in the daily activity planing meeting and along with the team members children are been involved in all the responsibilities. In the center responsibility is been divided into different category like Clean and maintenance department, Educational development department, cultural development department, time and discipline management.

In the year 2021-22 we could able to tell the trial of core team initiative was great success. Children were able to take up the responsibilities very well and it is continuing the 2022. Children are able to managing the center as well we can see the great result in their academic result. They are also managing the donors who visit the center. They are able to run the program like joy of learning, national festival, Week End with Sparsha.

### **F. Proposed plan for 2022-2023**

- Developing ground for organizing sports activities and tournaments with adequate facilities, equipment and coaching support
- Developing science park
- Sustainability interventions
- Documenting best practices

### **G. Acknowledgement and thanking donors/stakeholders**

- Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
- Kennametal India and Kennametal Shared and Services
- Netscout India
- Light a Life, First American India
- Consaro Global
- United Way Bengaluru
- Persistent Foundation
- New Horizon Educational and Cultural Trust





## H. Case study

**“Sonu, the daughter of an alcoholic father found ray of light at the end of the tunnel”**



**Sonu** is one of the bright students residing at Nisarga Grama shelter. Prior to this, her parents and family were living in Yadagiri city, North Karnataka. Her father was working as coolie in Markey yard and lived in small hut. Sonu lost her mother at a very young age. With no livelihood to depend on, Sonu was forced to migrate to Bangalore along with her father. With no qualifications and skills, Sonu's father did not find a proper job and was unable to meet family basic needs. Due to stress and anxiety caused due to unemployment, Sonu's father became a victim of alcoholism. As the result of this, Sonu dropped out of school at a tender age. Neither were her cries for education heard, nor was she able to live a peaceful life

One of the friends of Sonu's father told Sonu about Sparsha Trust taking care of poor and under privileged children. Her father admitted Sonu to Nisarga Grama shelter to keep up with her studies. After a few days of admission, her father passed away due to excessive drinking. Her extended family was not willing to take care of her and responsibilities. Sonu also expressed her unwillingness to stay at her relatives' house even during her vacations. At present, Sonu is residing at Nisarga Grama Shelter from where she started her 3rd standard studies. Sonu excels at drawing, sketching, and painting. Sonu is also into solo and group dance.

She is appreciated and well known for her multi talent. During this academic year 2021-2022, Sonu passed her 10th Standard promotional examination with distinction. She scored 96% in her exams. Her success is one of the milestones of Sparsha Trust. Sonu aspires to be an IAS officer.



## Once a beggar, this girl is now an achiever

Yadgir girl emerges as a role model by coming out in flying colours in SSLC examination

JAYANTHI R.  
BENGALURU

N. Sonu has not had an easy childhood. Only eight years ago, she was found begging with her father in front of the Gaudanjaneya Temple at Sanjeevanagar, Hebbal here. On Thursday, as the results of the SSLC exam were announced, Sonu had scripted a success story, scoring 96.32%, taking her a step closer to her dream of becoming a software engineer.

As a five-year-old, Sonu migrated to Bengaluru from Yadgir in north Karnataka with her father after her mother's demise. They stayed on the outskirts of the city and depended on



N. Sonu.

construction work to make a living. Her father, under the influence of alcohol, would assault her, leading the neighbors to file a complaint with the police. After a police warning, her father mended his ways and they shifted to Sanjeevanagar. They would

begin in front of the temple till the evening, and then take shelter in the same temple at night.

A volunteer from the Sparsha Trust, which works with children, found the girl in front of the temple while she was begging and rescued her. They convinced her father and took her to the trust's residential home at Hesaraghatta. Then, they got her enrolled in Class III in the Government Higher Primary school at Sahakarnagar and she studied there up to Class VIII.

Tragedy struck again when she was in Class VIII as her father died. The trust

took complete care of Sonu and put her in the Vivekananda Vidyaardraka School for further studies. She studied IX and X here and in the SSLC exam, got a total of 602 marks out of 625. She managed to score 125 out of 125 in Kannada (first language), 96 in English, 99 in Hindi, 98 in Maths, 86 in Science, and 98 in Social Science.

Along with a good academic track record, Sonu is also good at painting, Kathak, and tennis, her caretakers said. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sonu said: "I will take computer science in PU and want to become a software engineer. It is the biggest

dream of my life."

Recalling Sonu's journey, Sparsha Trust managing trustee Gopinath said:

"When she came to our residential home eight years ago, we never imagined that this girl will make such an achievement. Because of factors including habits of parents, family's financial condition, some social evils, etc., children become casualties. Every year, we rescue nearly 100 to 150 orphans. Sonu is a real achiever and role model for everybody. We will completely take care of her up to her higher education. Then, will help her with employment and settling down in life."





## I. Testimonials

**Name:** Sujatha

**Age:** 19

**Background:** Studying in B Com (Hons) Second year at Reva University. Prior to coming to Sparsha Trust, Sujatha lived in another hostel and studied from nursery to 8th standard. However, after Sujatha completed her 8th standard, the hostel owner stopped her studies and sent her to work in a factory. She requested the factory supervisor to allow me to continue my studies and reach my goal. Fortunately, she was supported by CWC (Child Welfare Committee) with the help of her supervisor and through CWC, she came to Sparsha Trust.

“At Sparsha Trust, I could enhance my skills and knowledge and show my talent. I am happy that I am continuing my education. I want to become a CA (Chartered Accountant) and work in an MNC. My dream is to teach children. I want to reach my goal and help children who come from poor families. I am thankful to **Gopinath Sir** and **Chitra Madam**. I am always grateful to the supporters for giving me a great opportunity to reach my goal.”

## L. Team Feedback

The Sparsha staff were extremely supportive even during the COVID difficulties. The children were close to 150, a few children were even sent home to avoid complications. The “Weekend with Sparsha” initiative was started during the second wave of COVID itself and the children made the best use of the opportunities given to them. To keep the children engaged, various activities were planned inside separate dormitories itself like researching about a particular topic and preparing presentations. The dormitories were divided with 20 students each and the outdoor activities were scheduled in different batches to ensure social distancing. To ensure good health of the children, hot water was provided and vitamin tablets were also provided. Safety and health of the children and the staff was not compromised.

- **Hulish**

Centre Head

## J. Project Implementation team

- a. **Manjunath.SP** – Program Head
- b. **Hulish.C** – Centre Head
- c. **Kamalavva** – Counsellor and health care worker
- d. **Priyanka** – Caretaker
- e. **Shruthi** – Caretaker
- f. **Sunil** – Field worker
- g. **Aruna** – Creative trainer
- h. **Nagaraju** – Driver, gardener
- i. **Narayanamma** – Cook
- j. **Sumithra** - Cleaner
- k. **Lakshmi** - Helper
- l. **Vandana Rao** - Teacher
- m. **Ashwath Narayan** - Teacher
- n. **Pradeep** - Teacher
- o. **Venkatrao** – Teacher
- p. **Penchalaiah** – Trainer (Taekwondo)
- q. **Nagaraju** – Trainer (Electrical appliances)



# 7.Makkala Dhama

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

A core management committee of about 24 members working in senior positions in corporates and ex-defence personnel was formed. The members are channelizing their energy and contributing their valuable expertise in making this vision a reality. They are mentoring various activities such as design, construction, and financial management of Makkala Dhama. In November 2019, land was purchased for Makkala Dhama. All necessary approvals were obtained from the Government and Local authorities, with exemptions that is being used for education purposes. Makkala Dhama is designed by VBHC Value Homes Private Limited.

**A. Project starting year: 2019**

**B. Location: Devanahalli**

**C. Number of direct beneficiaries : To be enrolled from June 2022 onwards**

**D. Key activities during the year**

**Aswadha Dhama:** The construction of Aswadha Dhama started in July 2021 and completed by December 2021. It has a dining hall, Kitchen, Library Computer lab, Training Hall, and Administration area. The sponsors are Walmart, Terrex and Consero, First American India. The building was inaugurated on 18th December 2021 with distinguished personalities representing Terrex and Consaro.



**Chinnara Dhama block for children between 6 to 15 years age (300 children):** Construction started on 15th December 2021. The construction of this block is expected to be completed by July 2022. Formation of partnership with Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL) has helped the construction of Chinnara Dhama so far which is funding 85% of finance for the construction of Chinnara Dhama. The balance 15% of finance is funded by Kennametal and First American India. Despite financial and other difficulties, the construction was successfully completed in July 2022. The proposed block Chinnara Dhama block is being planned to have 11 dormitories, 6 classrooms, 1 office, 6 caretaker rooms, 3 counselling rooms, a health care room and an open air stage for functions.



## **E. Proposed plan for 2022-2023**

To identify children, especially girls belonging to single parent families, or who have lost one or both parents due to various reasons. We will enroll those who are most in need in Makkala Dhama. Also, one of the key objectives of Makkala Dhama was to consolidate the interventions of Sparsha Trust as it is managing various centres at different places. Many of these centres were rented, and had both girls and boys as beneficiaries. As the Juvenile Justice(Care & Protection) Act indicated that boys and girls cannot be housed in the same building, Sparsha Trust planned the construction of Makkala Dhama. Accordingly, in the forthcoming year, Sparsha Trust will identify girls from various project locations and enroll them in Makkala Dhama.

The plan is also to raise funds to construct various facilities and amenities required for equipment, interiors, and other purposes.



## **G.Names of the team members or Core Committee Members**

1. **Mr. Rajendra Hinduja**, Managing Director, Gokuldas Exports Ltd.
2. **Dr. DS Krishna**, President, Sparsha Trust
3. **Wg Cdr R. S. Murthy**, Trustee, Sparsha Trust
4. **Mr. Raghavan G**, Chief Executive Officer, Bhartiya Urban (Real Estate) and Independent Director Amrutanjan Health Care Ltd.
5. **Mr. Eric Sall**, Vice President, Marketing Services Centre Asia, IBM
6. **Mr. Chittaranjan Narayan**, Area Vice President, Netscout
7. **Mr. Shambulingayya Swami**, Chief Executive Officer, Parikrama Pesticide Pvt Ltd.
8. **Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram**, Chief Financial Officer, Terex India
9. **Mr. Varun Vijay Rao**, President India, CIRCOR International Inc.
10. **Mr. Chitbhanu Nagri**, Director, Human Resources, Moonfrog Labs
11. **Mr. Shivaprakash**, Head of Engineering, KSSPL
12. **Mrs. Heera Brauner**, Major donor, Sparsha Trust
13. **Ms. Rupa Mahajan**, Trustee, Sparsha Trust
14. **Mr. Ajay B Thete**, Proprietor, Ameya Marcomm Services
15. **Mr. Shashidhar Kotian**, Assistant Manager, KSSPL and Trustee, Sparsha Trust
16. **Mrs. Tina Rastogi**, Volunteer, Sparsha Trust
17. **Mr. Gopinath**, Managing Trustee, Sparsha Trust
18. **Mr. Suresh Babu**, General Manager, IndiGeo
19. **Mrs. Mahalaxmi Bhat**, Associate Director HR, IBM India Pvt. Ltd
20. **Mr. Raghavendra Totamane**, Sr. Manager Technology, Sapient
21. **Mr. Asim Kumar Mandal**, Program Manager, Persistent
22. **Mrs. Sunitha Satish Kumar**, Senior Business Analyst, Bilagos AS
23. **Mrs. Chitra K.N**, Committee Member, Makkala Dhama

## **F. Acknowledgement and thanking donors / stakeholders**

- Kennametal India
- Walmart
- Terrex
- First American India
- Kempegowda International Airport
- Consero

## 8.Chinnara Thangudhama, (Centre for Urban Deprived Children)

Located at Thindlu, Chinnara Thangudhama is a residential shelter for children deprived of care and protection. Started on December 2010, the shelter, also known as UDC (Urban Centre For Deprived Children) was managed till 2013 with the support of Department of Education. As part of the project, there were three centres that were located at Kanshiram Nagara, Tarahunase, and Gadenahalli. These centres were eventually closed as the Government withdrew its support across Karnataka.

In 2013, Sparsha Trust initiated a residential centre for about 40 boys at Shivaji Nagar. These were those children who were into rag picking, begging, or working as labourers in different places. A few among them were into different forms of addictions, and belonged to migrant and construction labourers families. The boys enrolled in the Centre spent their time learning, playing and developing good habits. The UDC again moved to Thindlu in 2018 with about 40 boys between 14 years to 18 years. At present, with the support of various companies and individuals, Sparsha Trust is providing these children with nutritious food, health care, learning activities, evening tuitions, as well as opportunities to learn computers.

**A.Project starting date: 2010**

**B.Location: Thindlu, Bangalore North**

**C.Number of direct beneficiaries: 40**

**D.Number of indirect beneficiaries: 120**

**E. Overview of activities and impact**

As was the case with other projects, the lockdown related to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Centre's activities. After the lockdown lifted, the children began to attend schools, and returned to the Centre for evening tuition and lodging. The children, who maintained safety guidelines, were provided with nutritious food and opportunity to engage in learning computers and play activities.



## F. Proposed plan for 2022-2023

- Moving the children staying in the shelter to Nisarga Grama
- Creating more opportunities for the physical, mental and academical development of the children
- Developing the inherent potential of the children based on their personality

## G.Funders

Contributions from individuals and Sparsha Trust's employees





## H. Case study

**Name:** Sathish J

**Age:** (to get the information on this)

**Personal background:** Sathish does not have a father and his mother works as a construction labourer. The family, which was a native of Mysore, moved to Bangalore. At that time, during a survey the project team identified Sathish and found that he was not attending school. He was then enrolled in UDC where he was supported in his learning activities. Initially he was not interested in studying but later he started showing interest in studies. He then went on to study 10th Class and Pre-University. At present, he is doing his B.Com in Sheshadripuram college.

Had he not come to the Centre, then it would not have been possible for him to get to the graduation level. Being a single parent, and a daily wages earner, his mother would not have been able to afford his education. A NCC member, he has set goals for his future.

## J. Names of the team members

1. **Manjunath** - Team Head
2. **Hemant Gowda** - Caretaker
3. **Vanaja** – Caretaker
4. **Devamma** – Cook

## I. Testimonial

I am **Kupendra Kumar**, and belong to a family of flower sellers. We have been staying in Ambedkar Nagar, Bangalore since 15 years. We observed that my daughter, Hemashree K, who is now 3 years and 4 months old, was underweight as she weighed about 6 kgs. She was going to the Anganwadi centre near our house. Sparsha Trust's project staff counselled the parents of children going to the centre about various options low cost yet highly nutritious food recipes. We brought Hemashree's condition to their attention. At that time, they informed us about nutritional needs of growing children and about the kind nutrients present in different types of food. So accordingly, we started giving her fruits and vegetables. Now many positive changes can be seen in her. Not only is she gradually increasing in her weight but also becoming more active and content. Now her weight has increased to 10 kgs after four months of intervention.

## K. Team Feedback

I worked as a caretaker at Thindlu. I feel happiness in seeing the children active, and doing various activities as per the plan. All the students would attend schools or learn various skills throughout the day and later have a study hour in the evening. My Sundays with the children were reserved for playing cricket and having fun. I am grateful to Sparsha for the opportunity to work with such innocent souls.

- **Hemanth Gowda**

## 9. Born Learning Programme

Families belonging to the low income group are dependent primarily on the Government managed Anganwadi centers to take care of their children when they go to work. Most of these families work as daily wages earners, employees in the unorganized sector or as vendors. However, as the staff of these Anganwadi centres have to fulfill multiple responsibilities, they are not able to devote complete time or attention to the children. This often impacts adversely on the education and overall development of the children in the crucial stage of their lives. Additionally, the physical infrastructure of many of the Centres were in need of renovation or repairs.

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



About 3500 children and more than 12000 families benefitted from Born Learning Campaign project's interventions till 2020, after which both United Way Bengaluru and Save the Children had to withdraw their support due to the modified FCRA guidelines. These projects were then handed over to the authorities and the community for continuation. In addition, due to the COVID-19 related lockdown last year (2021-2022), the project had to stop several of its activities.



**A. Project starting year: 2018**

**B. Location: 10 centres located at Hebbala and Yelahanka**

**C. Number of direct beneficiaries: 300**

**D. Number of indirect beneficiaries: 250 families**

**E. Key activities**



The activities that were implemented in 2021-2022 aligned with the following objectives of the project:

- (a) Safe and conducive learning environment through infrastructure upgradation**
- (b) (Early Childhood and Child Care Education)**
- (c) Community engagement**
- (d) COVID-19 interventions (special interventions for beneficiaries)**

**a) Safe and conducive learning environment through infrastructure upgradation**

At first sight, the ten Anganwadi centres in Hebbala and Yelahanka clusters did not have many of those facilities and amenities that were appropriate for childcare centres. After identifying the needs, the Born Learning Campaign worked from around June 2021 to December 2021 to conduct repairs and renovation across the 10 Anganwadi Centres. Based on the guidelines given by United Way Bengaluru, Sparsha Trust renovated the Anganwadi Centres, and painted the walls as per the stencils, map blocks, and color schemes.

**b) ECCE (Early Childhood and Child Care Education).**

**(i) Training of the Anganwadi workers and helpers**

The Born Learning Campaign organized different cycles or schedules of training programme to train all those associated with the project – right from the Cluster Manager (Fellow) to the Anganwadi helper. This helped them to understand the importance of early education for children, and ways to improve the effectiveness of teaching.

**(ii) Home visits**

The project staff visited the homes of the children and interacted with their parents. During the interaction, they counselled them on the importance of the education, nutrition and health care.



### (iii) Kitchen Garden

With the objective to introduce the Anganwadi workers, helpers, and mothers to the concept of kitchen garden, the project organized training programmes on ways to grow vegetables and herbs at home. During the training, the participants learnt about various ways to utilize limited space for growing different vegetables in a cost-effective manner, and by using home made manure. Many of the participants are now having the satisfaction of growing different vegetables and fruits in their homes.

### c) Community Engagement

#### 1. Mothers meetings:

About 40 mothers' meetings, attended by over 500 beneficiaries, were conducted. Through these meetings, the mothers learnt about the importance of nutrition, hygiene, and education in the lives of the children.

#### 2. Awareness on importance of breast feeding

**3. Celebrations of various festivals** such as Krishna Janmashtami, Independence Day, Teachers Day, Girl Child's Day, Gandhi Jayanthi and Christmas, New Year's Day, Republic Day, and Women's Day. Overall, more than 1300 participants participated in the above.



## F. Impact

The transformation was there for all to see and experience. The lady staff members got the much-needed accessibility and privacy to use the upgraded washroom facilities within the centre. Illustrations of flowers, animals, fruits, and vegetables were painted on the walls of the centre, making it easy for the children to learn from them.

Spaces were effectively designed for the children to play, relax and rejuvenate. Children, mothers, and staff members felt more motivated as the upgraded infrastructure brought in the much-needed positive energy. The attractively renovated Anganwadi Centres began to be noticed in the communities as well. Despite the fact that the Anganwadi Centres opened much later in the academic year (given the COVID-19 lockdown), the children did regularly attend the centres, and new enrollments also took place.

1. Children who were reticent and stressed became emotionally stable, more social and friendly.
2. The children became more vocal and took the initiative on their own to learn and explore the world around them.
3. The children are more enterprising and picking up key skills - basic literacy (identification of letters of alphabets) which will help them to prepare for the more rigorous literacy requirements in a regular, language development by listening and story hearing, motor skills such as drawing shapes and forming words using crayons or pencils, recalling activities or events, colour identification, social and emotional skills which encourages children to make friends, and take part in group work.
4. Children narrate about their activities to their parents after reaching home.
5. Children are punctual and more well groomed.

The activities conducted in the community engagement programme not only strengthened the processes of sustainability but brought in the much-needed fun yet meaningful and useful activities for the mothers, community members and stakeholders. These events were primarily designed to either to enrich the learning of the participants or to improve their lives and the environment around them. They also enriched the bonding between the mothers and the Anganwadi Centres.

## G. Acknowledgement and thanking donors / stakeholders

United Way Bengaluru





## H. Case study 1

In **Manorayanapalya** of the Hebbala cluster, the Anganwadi Centre was situated on the 2nd floor of the building and the lavatory was on the ground floor. It was the condition since it was built 14 years ago. The teachers and helper of the center tired out as as they had to escort the children down and up the stairs in order to use the toilet. The children also faced the risk of tripping while using the stairs. Considering this situation, a toilet was constructed on the 2nd floor and a gate was fixed in terms of protection of children falling down from the stairs.

## I. Team

**Mamatha B** - Cluster Head

**Vijaya** - Project Facilitator



## J. Team Feedback

During the lockdown in the second wave of COVID-19, we were not able to have a face to face engagement with the students and parents. As a result, we created a community whatsapp group, where we were able to successfully reach out to 70% - 80% of the members. These members reached out to others in the community whom we could not get through by whatsapp due to various reasons. Through whatsapp, the parents were guided to ways to teach their children to do various activities during the lockdown. The parents gave the feedback that the guidance through whatsapp was effective and useful. Through various activities, they not only taught their children but also bonded with them. This is an important tool for sustainability. The team worked hard to strategize and conduct this activity as effectively as possible. While a few of the migrant workers had returned to their native, we visited the homes of several community members who remained in the areas and motivated the parents to send the children to the Anganwadis.

- **Vijaya**

Project Facilitator

## I. Testimonials

My name is **Bhagya**, and have studied till SSLC. I am the mother of Thanvi, who is about 5 years old. My husband passed away due to illness in December 2020. We pay a monthly rent of Rs. 6000/-. As I was not able to maintain my child and house, I came to my father's house, where my aged father worked as a tile placing labourer. However, he suffered a brain stroke and became bedridden. At that time, the earnings of my brother sustained the family. I began to earn tailoring orders but it was not enough. I was feeling very low and worried about the way in which I will manage the present and the future.

### After intervention by BLC

Sparsha Trust counselled me to not give up and to face life with courage. It also suggested various ways through which I can earn. The interaction gave me the much needed confidence to face and overcome personal problems. Now I am earning through tailoring. Gradually, I am stabilizing in this work and opening a new chapter in my life.



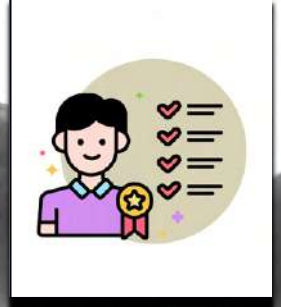
# Youth Skills Development Programmes

Youth from poor families lack opportunities for getting employment or starting their own enterprises due to financial constraints, lack of adequate and relevant qualifications, essential skills and preparedness. As a result, many of them, especially those from the villages and migrant families, end up taking any work which comes their way.

Therefore, the youth need affordable vocational courses that are not only of interest to them but also enable them to enhance their employability. Sparsha Trust, with the support of like-minded organisations, bridges the gap between the needs of the youth and the market by organizing courses which are employment friendly. Through its youth skills development programmes, it reaches out to school and college drop outs, housewives and other youth aged between 18 years to 35 years.

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

During 2021-2022, when almost 4 to 5 months were spent in lockdown, Sparsha Trust ensured continuity in classes by organizing online sessions for the students of its youth skills development programmes. The staff followed up regularly with the students in order to motivate them and ensure proper understanding of the respective courses. Although, to an extent, the courses were impacted as they could not have adequate practical training during the lockdown months, the staff ensured good and effective videos, which gave clarity on the practical aspect. Also, as the staff continued to network with various companies even during the lockdown, the placement and employment related base work was in place, by the time the lockdown was lifted.



## 10. My Quest Program

My Quest program organizes three-months long course to mentor students between 18-35 years of age in basic and advanced English speaking, career preparation skills, life-skills, skills at work place, digital literacy and customer retail interaction.

**A. Year of starting: 2018**

**B. Location: Mathikere, Bangalore**

**C. Number of direct beneficiaries: 303 students**

**D. Number of indirect beneficiaries : Approx 300 families**

**E. Key Activities of the year**

In accordance with the safety guidelines of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, a hybrid model of training, that included both online and offline classes, was conducted. Additionally, several other activities were conducted in order to enhance the effectiveness of the program. Some of them are the following:

### **(i) Alumni Engagement Program**

About 8 alumni programs were conducted during the year, which gave an opportunity for the students of various batches to interact with their seniors and feel motivated by their experience and success stories.

### **(ii) Parents Engagement Program**

About 5 meetings with the parents were arranged in order to update them about the purpose of the training, content of the courses, the teachers, and progress of their children in their courses. This made the parents feel more connected with the training, and

### **(ii) Parents Engagement Program**

Guest lectures by domain experts, corporate sector employee volunteers and life skills coaches were organized in order to expose the students to the current industry trends. A team from Wells Fargo, Nithin Iyer, Manager, Skills Development Program, Sparsha

### **(iv) Job Drive/ Virtual job fair**

The project organized 4 job fairs in partnership with Mr. Rahim, HR Manager from KFC, Mr. Mahesha, HR Manager from Axis, & members of the Quest team. These job fairs helped the student learn about job opportunities, understand the scope of the market, and secure jobs.



### **(v) Market Scan**

In accordance with the safety guidelines of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, a hybrid model of training, that included both online and offline classes, was conducted. Additionally, several other activities were conducted in order to enhance the effectiveness of the program. Some of them are the following:

#### **(vi) Mock Interviews:**

About 50 mock interviews, both for individuals and as a group, were conducted virtually and physically to prepare the students attending interviews with confidence.

#### **(vii) Personalized learning engine:**

As a new initiative, the Quest Alliance introduced a new method of learning named 'Personalized Learning Engine'. In this initiative, the trainers of the skill development program went through a week-long training programme to enhance expertise and hone their

## **F. Impact**

Of the 303 students who attended the course, 208 students were placed in various sectors such as the IT, education and training sector with an approximate starting salary of Rs. 10000/- to Rs. 18000/- per month.

Even during the lockdown, the project team continued to network with organizations and domain experts resulting in the identification of potential job opportunities. The scope of the work was explained to the students. As a result, the students felt prepared to join work after their courses got completed.

The program is happy to state that about 80% of its students are adolescents girls and women, many of whom are from the minority community. This is paving the way for improved exposure, learning and development, both at the individual level, family and society. Many of them are housewives, who have come out of their homes for the first time after marriage to enroll in the training.

During lockdown, there was a demand for persons trained in computer softwares such as Word, and Excel. As a result, many of the students got work even during the lockdown itself, and were able to work from home and earn.





## G. Proposed plan for 2022-2023

- Improve the quality of the training based on the industry trends
- Aim for increased starting salary for the students from the present approximate Rs. 10000/- per month to about Rs. 12000/- per month
- Aim for 80% placement of the trained students

## H. Donor

**Quest Alliance, Bangalore**

## I. Case study

**Darshan**, one of the students of My Quest program in Bangalore, believes in the quote "Believe in yourself and you can achieve anything". As he had completed only his 10th Standard, it was difficult for him to secure a job. He was happy to enroll in My Quest program as it not only enrolled school drop-outs but also supported them to get work. After training, he was able to get work in ( ), earning a monthly salary of ( ). He is now financially secure, and can take care of his family needs. He is grateful to the program and Sparsha Trust for making it possible to get work.

## K. Team members

1. **Ms. Revathi** - Programme head
2. **Mr. Nitin Iyer** - Project manager
3. **Mr. Gopinath** - Project Mentor
4. **Ms. Jayashree** - Trainer
5. **Ms. Sandhya Rani** - Coordinator
6. **Mr. Mervin** - Mobilizer



## J. Testimonial

I am Nagendra Babu. I believe in the quote, "If you chase anything in life, chase the things that get you excited about living"

'My Quest program', As I think, it is a platform for inspiring youths like me. After I lost my father, I was quite concerned because I had to support my family completely. This program has encouraged individuals to build their career. It helped me to discover myself, my strengths, and weaknesses. I acquired skills after enrolling in the 'My Quest program' which made it easier for me to be employed. The continual support and motivation from the trainers have enlightened me throughout the 3 months program.



## L. Team Feedback

Working with young people in real need is a great opportunity and experience. Teenagers can be difficult to manage, but we can also keep up with the new generation by updating our skills. Each team member was incredibly cooperative and encouraging. I acquired reporting skills, enhanced my interpersonal and communication abilities, and, most importantly, I have learnt how to balance my personal and professional lives and have become more accountable.

- **Sandhya Rani**  
Coordinator

# 11. Smile Twin E Learning Programme( STeP)

With the support from Smile Foundation, Sparsha Trust has been organizing classes for the students from low income families in Healthcare (GDA Training) and Core Employability skills. This training opens up a huge potential for employment as General Duty Assistant. Given the pandemic, there was a growing demand for health care assistants for the elderly, for patients who underwent surgery, and other kind of patients requiring assisted living.

**A. Year of starting: 2016**

**B. Location: Bangalore**

**C. Direct beneficiaries - 146 students trained | 107 students placed**

**D. Indirect beneficiaries - 100 families**

## **E. Key Activities**

### **Career Counselling**

Awareness about “Omicron Virus” was provided to the students to prepare them for the worst. The speaker Dr. Sheron shared motivational tips on being independent. He encouraged students not to miss any opportunity that comes their way and to handle rejections maturely. The interactive session helped the students to boost their confidence.

### **Employee Engagement Program**

Mr. Arun, an employee of Ramaiah Hospital working in the HR Department explained about aims, responsibilities and hiring process of GDA and also about salary structures. He also explained about routine work to be done from morning till evening, about home care facilities, what kind of facilities they are providing. It was an interactive session where students clarified their doubts with him.

## **F. Impact**

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic presented an opportunity of working for the students of GDA (General Duty Assistant). Due to high demand for medical support by patients, the students were hired as medical attendants to cater to those with different forms of illness.

## **G. Donor**

Smile Foundation, Bangalore





## H. Case study

**Reeta, a 21 years old lady**, comes from a family of five members. While her father is a carpenter, her mother is a home maker. Taking care of the family's basic needs and supporting the education of her two brothers was difficult for her father.

Reeta came to know about the GDA course during a field mobilization drive by project members. She enrolled in the course with the expectation of getting work. She is currently working as a GDA assistant in Ramaiah Memorial Hospital with the skills she acquired at Sparsha's Youth Skill Development classes.

### Experiences through STeP:

Reeta feels happy about learning about many useful para-medical practices during the course such as the importance of patient care, proper patient care practices and bed care. She became proficient in writing effective notes, emails, designing resumes in different templates and also learnt to create powerpoint presentations, as part of the CE session (Core Employability). She also learnt to use MS-Excel and word templates.

### First job through STeP:

After completion of the GDA training, Reeta got work as a GDA assistant in Ramaiah Memorial Hospital with a starting salary of Rs. 14000/-. She is elated that she is leading an independent life and also helping her mother to maintain her house. She takes pride in herself being the backbone of the family by meeting the daily needs and wants. Reeta expresses her gratitude towards Smile Foundation and Wadhwani Foundation for helping her build a life through the STeP program. She says, “ **Even though there was an ongoing pandemic, I could build a life for myself because of Sparsha Trust. Thank you so much.**”

## E. Testimonials

I got my first official job in Kavya Medicals only because of Sparsha Trust. I am so content that I am able to support my family because of the job. I am always grateful to the Smile Foundation, Wadhwani Foundation and Sparsha Trust for teaching me even the simplest of skills like email writing, CV making, PowerPoint and others. I am living a happy and independent life.

- **Gayathri**  
STeP student



## K. Team Feedback:

I taught the students core employability skills. Although the students were interested and attentive during the class, they were hesitant to join work as nursing is not an easy job. After a lot of motivation, the students did join the jobs after the course. Overall, I had the best experience of teaching the motivated students.

- **Jayashree**  
Trainer



## 12.MAST (Market Alliance Skills Training) Mysore

Organized by Sparsha Trust, the MAST program, (Market Alliance Skills Training) involves conducting a three-month course, conducted four times a year to mentor students between 18-35 years of age, and those who have completed their SSLC, PUC, or are college dropouts or housewives. Since its inception, Sparsha Trust has trained around 780 students and placed over 606 students in different job sectors. The following are the courses:

- Fashion Designing
- Beautician
- Dhart (Domestic Home Appliance repair technician)
- General Management (Core employability and advanced Excel)

**A. Year of starting: 2018**

**B. Location: Mysuru**

**C. Direct Beneficiaries: 560 students**

**D. Indirect Beneficiaries: About 450 families**

**E. Key Activities**

- **Guest lecture program**

Guest lectures are one of the important activities conducted throughout the year to encourage and motivate the students. Guests for the year were Dr. Ambika, correspondent of Little Infant School, Mysuru and Miss Ashika, correspondent of Vibha Trust and Model.

- **Placement drive**

387 students have got work including those who got into self-employment. The students found job openings in various companies like Magic Mirror beauty parlour, Chandana Tech Career, Kohana Professional Beauty Salon, Touch & Glow, JC Tech, Shahi Exports etc.



- **Graduation day**

The graduation day, conducted on 20th April 2022, was organized and anchored by the students themselves. Students shared their experiences and showcased their talents through cultural programmes. Certificates confirming their successful completion of the course were awarded to them.

## **F. Impact**

Of the 560 students trained, 340 students have been placed in places such as garments factories, boutiques, beauty parlours, electrical and electronics shops and call centres, BPO (Business Process outsourcing). Some students opted for starting their own enterprises and worked as tailors, beauticians, and electricians.

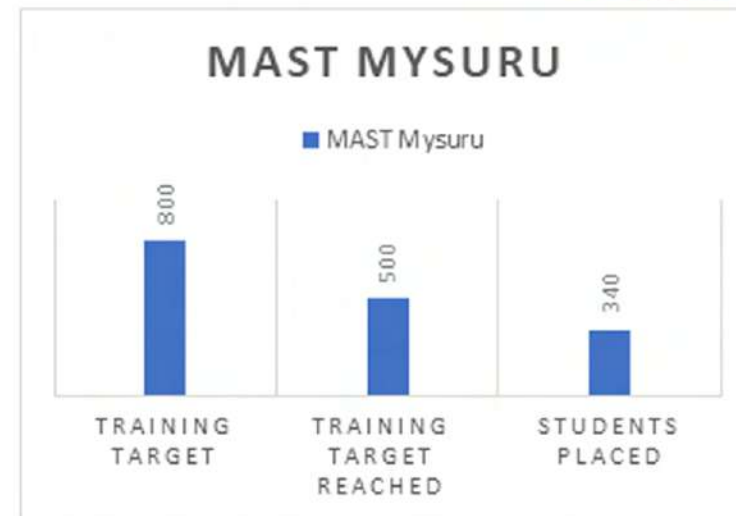
During the lockdown, the families of many of the students could not earn as their offices or factories were closed. However, many of the students, especially those who had learnt tailoring, took orders and earned about Rs. 4000/- to Rs. 6000/-, per month which ensured food security for their respective families.

## **G.Funder**

American India Foundation

## **H: Proposed plan for 2022-2023**

With the support of American India Foundation, a special course on 'Advance excel and Core employability' for about 300 women students is being planned, with the aim to train and place them in tech jobs. With the support of American India Foundation, courses in Advance excel and core employability are being planned for Persons with Disability (PWD). The planned target is to train 100 students and place about 75 students in various job sectors.



## I: Case study

Divya, who comes from a family of 4 members, was married at the age of 16 and had to discontinue her education. Divya's husband, who works as a painter, was facing financial constraints in managing the house and paying the school fees of their two children. As Divya was a school drop out, she was unable to get work.

During the project's awareness and mobilization drive, Divya came to know about the various courses under MAST and enrolled in a fashion designing course. A highly dedicated student, she grasped the stitching skills with ease. The brightest student of the batch, Divya excelled both in theory and practical classes and secured the highest score in the final assessment. She passed the course with flying colours and got placed in AN Garment Factory with a starting salary of Rs. 11000/-. Initially employed as a helper, she was promoted as a senior tailor. Currently, she earns Rs. 13000/- per month, which helped her to pay off all her debts.

Divya truly believes hard work never fails; there is no limit to success. She renders her heartfelt gratitude to AIF and Sparsha Trust for making her life worth living.



## J. Testimonial

Sparsha Trust's skill development team were the friendliest people I have ever met. My skills were not up to date when I joined Sparsha. The team taught me everything from basic computer skills to core employability skills. I am grateful to Sparsha.

**- Salma**

MAST Mysore student

## K. Team Members:

**Gopinath R** - Project Mentor

**Revathi Krishnan** - Programme Head

**Nitin Iyer** - Project head

**Janani** - Trainer

**Maruthi** - Mobilizer

**Adarsh** - Trainer

**Azra** - Trainer

**Zaiba** - Trainer

**Simran** - Trainer



## L. Team Feedback:

The second wave of COVID-19 came as a shock to us but since we had already carried out classes online during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, it did not prove to be that hard. We used to share recorded audio and video classes to the students. When the lockdown was lifted and life became normal, the students put the theory taught during the online classes into use in the practical labs available at the centre. 80% of the classes were online while the 20% were divided into batches of less than 50 members. Thankfully we could still use online resources to conduct classes in spite of the pandemic.

**- Nitin Iyer**

Program Manager



# 13. We Care For You

During 2021-2022, Sparsha Trust witnessed the large-scale damage caused by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic to families across Karnataka. The second wave, in particular, affected young and middle aged adults, many of whom had young children. The low income group and those below the poverty line suffered the maximum, as many could not access critical medical help on time. With one or both parents succumbing to the pandemic, several young children were left with hardly any support or care. It was during these troubled times that Sparsha Trust initiated the We Care For You (WCFY) project. Its primary objective was to help those families, especially children, affected by COVID-19. The project was designed to not just support affected children to start a new chapter in their lives and mainstream, but also guide them to become responsible citizens. The project was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister For Women and Child Welfare, Ms. Shashikala Annasaheb Jolle, Honorable Ms. Uma Mahadevan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat Raj, and Ms. Pallavi Akurathi, Director, ICPS and Mr. Hari Marar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Kempegowda International Airport in June 2021.

This project's primary objective is the rehabilitation and resettlement of 2000 children who lost their parent(s) during COVID-19 pandemic across Karnataka.

## Interventions of the project

- Providing emotional and psychological support to the children and immediate family members impacted by the pandemic
- Fulfilling their basic survival needs.
- Ensuring the impacted children continue their education.
- Facilitating the process of getting social entitlement for children and immediate family members.
- Imparting skills and providing opportunities for job placement or self-employment for financial stability.

**A. Project start date: June 2021**

**B. Location:** 9 Districts (Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Kolar, Mysuru, Bellary, Bidar, Koppal, Raichur and Vijayapura)



**C. Number of direct beneficiaries : 995 children**

**D. Number of indirect beneficiaries: 539 families**

### **E. Key Activities of the Year:**

**(i) Data collection and needs assessment:** After collecting the data about children and families affected by COVID-19 through networking and from District Child Protection Units of 9 Districts, the same was assessed in order to check if they met the criteria for beneficiaries to access the project's services. As a result, we got case studies of 1650 children of which 995 children were shortlisted.

**(ii) Food security:** In order to support those families who had lost their bread winners and those who could not earn due to the lockdown, the project rushed essential grocery kits to their homes. As part of the intervention, We Care For You distributed 1677 (60 kits for Non Eligible families) ration kits to affected families. Ration kits worth a total value of Rs.27.79L were provided 5 times (once in two months) to above mentioned families.

#### **(iii) Educational support**

The burden of losing a breadwinner and coping with the challenges of the lockdown was difficult for low income families. In this context, the project worked towards reducing the financial constraints for families and also ensuring education for children by paying school fees worth a total value of Rs.46.10L for 325 private school going children. WCFY also provided education kits to 375 children, which helped their families to save money.

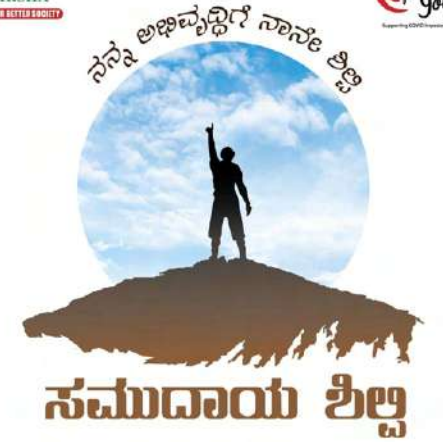
**(iv) Counseling:** By regular counseling and follow up, about 123 families and 134 children felt motivated to gradually rebuild their lives. The counseling helped different members of the family to cope with any loss or difficult circumstances and to start making plans to move ahead in life.

**(v) Interventions to engage children and youth in useful and meaningful activities:** In order to assure the children and youth of support during the critical times of their lives, the project designed various interventions to keep the children engaged and their morale high. Some of the interventions are given below.

### **Nimmondige Naavu – We are With You**

Experts belonging to different walks of life conducted monthly virtual sessions on various topics for the children and their family members. This created a sense of bonding and assurance for the children that the project is there for them. They learnt the importance of being together and helping each other in various aspects





### **Mussanje Maathu (discussions at dusk)**

A fortnightly session was conducted for the children studying Class 10th & above to guide them in their studies and create awareness about career options.

### **Nanna Abhivrudhige Naane Shilpi (I am the sculptor of my own development)**

This initiative, designed for the children in Class 10th & above to engage in community development activities of their interest. It aligned with that objective of the project, which aimed not just to mainstream the children but also give new meaning to their life by shaping them into good citizens.

### **F. Impact**

On the whole, the interventions of We Care For You made the children and their families feel supported and confident that they will overcome this difficult phase. Be it in terms of getting food kits, or career guidance, the project team was with them every step of the way. It not only provided them with educational assistance but also counseling that gave them the much required emotional strength to overcome their personal trauma, start engaging in their regular routine, and lead life in a meaningful manner. Many of the children, who had no other means of guidance, identified their interest areas and became aware about ways to achieve their desired career path.

### **G. Proposed plan for 2022-2023**

- Skills development training in basic computer operations, tailoring, beautician course and photoshop (basic graphics)
- Training beneficiaries from rural areas and from agricultural background in sheep rearing, fisheries, floriculture, hatcheries and helping them set up co-operative societies.
- Providing technical guidance and support to the beneficiaries interested in starting their small-scale business and assisting them to find a market for home made products such as candles, soaps, pickles and spice powder.
- Raising awareness among beneficiaries about how they can assist a needy family in their community.
- Providing training on the basics of digital platform usage so that beneficiaries make use of the modern digital techniques for communication.
- Create awareness about the importance of education for girls.

### **H. Funders:**

Individual donors and senior members of corporates who came together to form core governing committee to support the project.



## I. Case study 1

**Akkamahadevi**, aged around 31 years, residing in Sangapur, Koppal lost her husband to COVID-19 in May 2021. Her family is taken care of by her brother. A mother of two 2 children, she was a housewife all through her married life, and did not possess any skills or educational qualification. In these circumstances, she was at a loss and did not know about ways to improve her life. It became difficult for her to manage the family.

At that time, Sparsha Trust counseled her to put the past behind her. It contributed to food security for the family by providing them with ration kits. Additionally, it paid the school fee of Rs. 27000/- for both the children. However, in an unfortunate twist of destiny, she lost her elder daughter Yashoda aged 10 years due to health issues. After the tragedy, Akkamahadevi went into depression. Her brother would take her to temple regularly and take care of her treatment. Sparsha interceded to help her overcome the situation with the help of her brother. Being the strong lady that she is, she went on to set up a fancy store in her locality by the name of "Sparsha Fancy Store".

## Case study 2

Aged about 38 years, Geetha, a resident of Vijaynagar, Bengaluru lost her husband Murthy during the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in June 2021. Her three daughters are studying in 5th Standard, 1st PUC and 1st year of degree college. Murthy, a daily wages labourer, was helping people suffering from COVID-19 by supplying vegetables and food to their houses. However, when he died due to COVID-19, the same people who received his help, did not even bother to help his family. It was at this time that Sparsha Trust did a needs assessment of the community and identified Geetha. It supported her by giving a ration kit, education kit and paying school fees to her children. Sparsha also supported the family with regular counselling and involving her children in cultural activities. Sparsha further supported Geetha with social entitlement documents due to which she could avail COVID-19 relief fund of Rs. 1,00,000/- and widow pension of Rs. 800/- per month.



## J. Testimonials

**Ashok Kumar**

Secretary

Amar Jyothi School, Kolar

I received a call from Sparsha Trust regarding their need for the account details of the school to pay the school fees of students who lost parent(s) during the pandemic. I refused to give details with the thought that who in their right minds would pay school fees to someone whom they don't know personally. However, later when the child's mother requested, I obliged and gave a concession in the fees. As promised, Sparsha Trust paid the fee for the children. I am happy and thankful to see that the organization is working for a cause to ensure that the dreams of the parents are fulfilled even if they are not around.

## K. Names of the implementing team

1. **Gopinath R** - Project Mentor
2. **Revathi Krishnan** - Project Head
3. **Hidayath** - Project Facilitator
4. **Hemanth** - Project Head
5. **Sangeeta** - Project Facilitator
6. **Lakshmi** - Tele Caller
7. **Shobha** - Project Facilitator
8. **Sahana** - Counsellor
9. **Annalakshmi** - Tele Caller



## L. Team Feedback

Through this project, I learnt the ways to reach out to the short-listed beneficiaries across Karnataka. Due to the pandemic, many had lost their loved ones. As part of my work as a telecaller, I would call beneficiaries during which each one of them shared their feelings. This helped me to make myself stronger. It is a wonderful project where we know the value of being a human. I really thank our project coordinator and project head and team members for giving me an opportunity to work on this project.

As part of the future plan, I feel that we can conduct sessions on financial literacy, value of education to the children in North Karnataka, awareness of building their own career, and give knowledge of digital marketing and digital banking.

**Lakshmi K**  
Team member

## 14. Women Lead

Pavement vendors, petty shop vendors, and small-scale business owners are an integral part of India, offering easy access to a wide range of goods and services in public spaces, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. Majority of the vendors are women, selling items such as fresh vegetables to prepared foods, from building materials to garments and crafts, from consumer electronics to auto repairs to beauty products. However, doing business is not easy for these women as they regularly face problems of eviction, pressure to shift places of work, and demand for money by unauthorized persons. They are unable to access various government facilities, and lack basic amenities such as toilets, drinking water and hand wash facilities. They are often not protected from weather conditions, be it summer, winter or rains. They are not well equipped to manage their businesses or shops due to lack of logistical support, and information about updated digital trends, marketing and pricing.

The livelihood of street vendors and small business persons, especially that of women, who were often single earners for their families, was affected the most due to the lockdown of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. In Bangalore and neighbouring towns, in particular, many of the vendors were migrants from other districts and states. The lockdown forced them to leave for their native as they could not sustain their daily expenses, rent and medical care.

### Interventions of the project

At a difficult time like this, Sparsha Trust initiated Women Lead in order to empower 200 women managing micro or small enterprises to upgrade and upscale and become entrepreneurs through training, referrals, hand-holding and linkages. The project's geographical areas are 50 slums/low income communities of Bangalore Urban and Rural where Sparsha Trust is implementing the Anganwadi development programme. In these areas, Sparsha Trust has good credibility and rapport with community members and local stakeholders.

**The objective of the project is to empower pavement vendors, petty shop vendors, and small-scale business owners to create a sustainable and professionally managed business model. This will lead to increase in earnings, and improve their overall standard of living.**





## A. Project Starting Year: 2020-21

**B. Location :** Bangalore Urban and Rural (Mathikere, Hesaraghatta, Rachenahalli, Gunjurpalya, Hombegowdanagar, Yelahanka)

**C. Number of direct beneficiaries – 300**

**D. Number of indirect beneficiaries:** Families of 300 women vendors

## E. Key activities

In the first phase (2020-2021), the project supported 200 women to build their skills and mentored them to run their business in a successful and sustainable manner. The year 2021-22 marks the 2nd Phase of the Women Lead program, which focuses mainly on the empowerment of 300 women street vendors or petty shop owners in Bangalore Urban and Rural. During the year, the activities consisted of the following:

**(i) Survey:** Survey to identify women street vendors and petty businesswomen, including those who managed petty shops, tailoring units, beauty parlors, vendors of vegetables, milk, fruits, clothes, and flowers.

**(ii) Training on streamline financial transactions:** A training on ways to streamline and improve the effectiveness of financial transactions was conducted by veterans of banking sector and financial consultants. About 120 beneficiaries were linked to digital payment platform and 54 beneficiaries were supported with PayTm speaker boxes. This made their day to day transactions much faster, accurate and easy to manage. The training exposed them to the concept and practices of digital transactions for the very first time. The women were also trained in banking transactions which will help them to save regularly, avail loans from banks, access various government schemes and private schemes, and get other banking related benefits.

**(iii) Distribution of accounting books to streamline their documentation:** Sessions were conducted for the women to document their day to day transactions in the accounting registers. This helped them to track their daily expenses, sales and profits in the context of their investment. About 10% - 15% of women are benefitting by implementing these book-keeping practices.

**(iv) Distribution of seed money:** On 5th March 2022, Mr. Venkat, Ms. Swarnamayee & Ms. Preethi, SLK Global, along with other corporate leaders distributed seed money to 30 women while the remaining 70 women received cheques from Sparsha Trust team. The total came to Rs. 3,00,000/- (100 women @ Rs.3000/- per woman). This seed money helped them to increase their investment and present earnings.



**(v) Group and personal counseling sessions:** The counseling sessions on mental health were of utmost relevance for the beneficiaries as they were going through a bad phase of life due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The counseling sessions helped them to practice mindfulness, and shift their mindset to the present, rather than living in the past. With a positive perspective, they worked towards resolving their challenges, and utilized their time effectively. This improved their self-esteem and confidence. 69 beneficiaries participated in the group counseling session and 53 beneficiaries came forward for one-on-one counseling session to share their issues. For women who never participated in this type of session earlier, it was a new and wonderful experience.

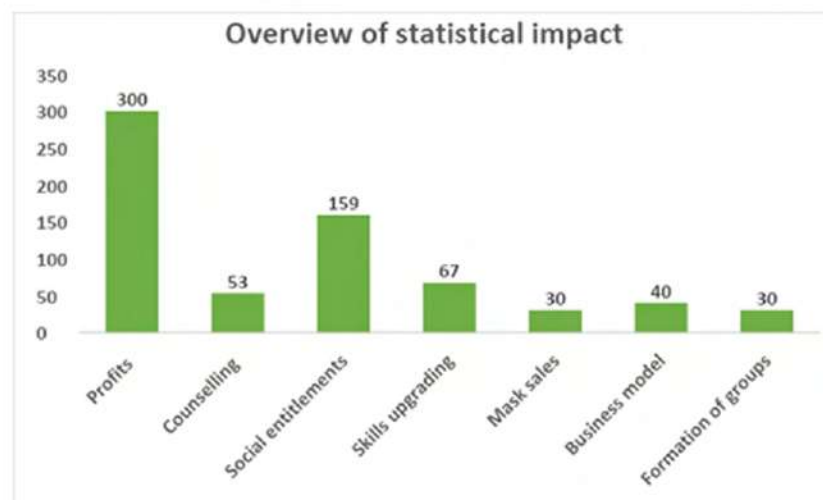
**(vi) Awareness sessions on social entitlements:** The awareness sessions helped many of the vendors and shop owners, who were unaware of the social entitlements, to understand the various types of schemes, their benefits and ways to access them. This benefitted them greatly, as in the process, many of them regularized their basic cards such as Aadhar Card, caste and income certificate, old age and widow pension. They came to know about special schemes formulated especially for women in order to encourage women entrepreneurship. Some of the schemes include PM - Swanidhi, Atma Nirbhar Swanidhi.

**(vii) Training to learn and upgrade tailoring skills and machine maintenance:** Tailoring can be a lucrative activity for women, in which they can earn in the comfort of their homes. The project organized a training where women learnt to measure, cut and stitch different patterns and sizes of blouses, salwars, kurtas, along with making saree kucchus and hand embroidery. They were given fabric and accessories to learn and practice. The training also included sessions on maintenance and repairing of tailoring machines which was very useful as it not only saved cost but ensured continuity in work for the women. As a result, many women began to earn by piece work orders. The women also learnt to make and sell masks, for which raw material was provided to 30 beneficiaries.



## F. Impact

- Women entrepreneurs understood the importance of opening and operating bank account, and about the need for digital transactions to streamline their business.
- Women are beginning to save more as they have understood the importance of regular savings in securing the future of their family, for meeting important needs such as children's education, health or housing. The information about easy saving schemes was also
- 121 Women beneficiaries have gone in for Digital Payment System in their business. useful as earlier many would spend their daily earnings on household expenses.
- The accounting books distributed to women entrepreneurs are helping them to document day-to-day transactions and accounts.
- Women have understood the importance of business planning and various stages of business development.
- Women are feeling more confident as their clarity about various aspects of their business such as decision making, marketing, pricing, streamlining etc has improved.
- The seed money helped them to rebuild their business after the lockdown and develop their business. The beneficiaries have stated that the seed money has increased their day-to-day business by 20% to 30%.
- The counselling sessions were very effective in making the women come forward to share their personal issues which included conflicts in the family due to alcoholic husbands, lack of love and family support, financial constraints, and different forms of abuse,





- Many women have accessed important social entitlements and welfare services, such as Aadhar Card, updating of Aadhar card, PAN Card, Health Insurance card, access to Income Certificate and Caste Certificate. As a result, 3 Family members availed Health Card under Central Government Ayushman Bharath Health Insurance Scheme, 89 members got their biometric updated in the Aadhar Card, 12 members got new Aadhar cards, 52 members got other details updated in the Aadhar card and 3 women got their PAN cards.
- Many women have reported that the training on tailoring skills and machine maintenance led to an increase of about 20% in their business. 40 beneficiaries have come forward to set up a business model and have proposed to purchase a Digital Embroidery Machine to scale up their business.
- The fabric and mask stitching training program, during which fabric and other accessories were provided to 30 beneficiaries led to many of the women earning an additional income.
- Women Lead team had identified 44 vegetable vendors in the year 2020-21 and 29 in the year 2021-22. Out of which 30 like-minded women came forward to form groups and set up business jointly. Shops were identified which were geographically close to their residence (Kodigehalli, Rachenahalli and Hesaraghatta). 3 shops were finalized, which were fully operational by 10th of April 2022.

## G. Proposed Plan: Women Lead - Phase III

- On-boarding additional 50 women to become entrepreneurs through training, referrals, hand holding and linkages
- Supporting 300 women (from phase 1&2) in scaling up their 'Cluster Business' through loans from Bank and Government.
- Increasing the amount of seed money to Rs. 20000/- per person and distributing the same to selected 50 business women.





## I. Case study

For many years, Shobha lived the life of a housewife, with all household matters being managed by Ramesh, her husband. During their married life, she was not allowed to go out of home, due to which she was unable to upgrade her skills and become financially independent. She lost her husband at the age of 45 after which she underwent mental stress due to financial constraints. Shobha went through great hardships to meet the basic needs of the family and support her daughter's education who was studying in 10th Standard. In order to meet the household expenses, Shobha began to earn by ironing clothes. Her monthly earnings of Rs. 5,000/- per month was barely enough to meet the daily needs of the family.

At this point in time, Shobha came to know about the Women Lead Project. She describes it as a turning point in her life as its training helped to empower her. By utilizing the inputs given during the training, she developed her business and managed her finances smoothly and efficiently. The group counseling sessions helped her to become confident and guided her to balance her work and personal life. By utilizing the seed money of Rs. 5000/- given by Sparsha Trust, Shobha gave me the seed money of Rs. 5,000/- to purchase an iron box and later converted a portion of her house into an iron shop. This attracted so much business that she was able to earn up to Rs. 10,000/- per month. She now uses the Digital Paytm speaker box which helps her to accept payment without any issues.

Shobha says, "Sparsha Trust's Women Lead Project helped me to bring out the tremendous potential which was hidden within myself. I am truly grateful to Sparsha for its intervention in my life and for being a support to many women like me."

## J. Testimonial

**Name:** Kalavathi

**Age:** 35 years

**Background:** Resident of Dasarahalli, Kalavathi, who runs a petty shop, stays with her two children and husband who works as a driver. The couple was finding it difficult to manage the house with their meager income.

Kalavathi attended the training on business development and financial sustainability which resulted in improving her family circumstances. "The seed money of Rs. 5,000/- that I got from Sparsha Trust was used to add vegetables to the existing products in my petty shop and also to sell snacks in the evening. This doubled the business profits, and my total earnings became Rs. 10,000/- per month. Also, I received a Digital Paytm box speaker linked to my account and the money reached my account swiftly. I am grateful to Sparsha for being a part of my life. I am truly grateful for the intervention of Sparsha in my life and thankful to Sparsha for being a support to empower me which resulted in the betterment of my family situations."

## K. Project Implementation team

- (i) **Gopinath R**- Project mentor
- (ii) **Yesudas** - Project Head
- (iii) **Abhishek** - Project Facilitator

# 14. Urban Homeless & Senior Citizens

The number of homeless persons, including individuals and families, is rapidly increasing in urban areas across the world. In India, mega cities like Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad are having migrants and other workers coming in large numbers on a daily basis. Living in unhygienic conditions, these persons are vulnerable to threats from anti-social elements, bites from snakes, dogs and poisonous insects, and lack protection from harsh weather conditions. These people, who sleep on pavements, under flyovers and similar places, lack basic amenities including food, shelter, health care and livelihood support. There is a need to rehabilitate them by creating a safe home, and supporting them to either return to their homes or move to rented accommodation through empowering interventions.

Sparsha Namma Mane, that began in 2012, consists of 24/7 residential centres being managed by Sparsha Trust at different locations, with a total capacity to house around 60 homeless persons. These centres provide all basic amenities, including 3 times meals a day, to the homeless.

**A. Project Starting Year:** 2012

**B. Location:** Ulsoor

**C. Direct Beneficiaries:**

Admission during April 2021 to March 2022 – 97

Rehabilitated – 67

Home placement – 53

Job placement- 7

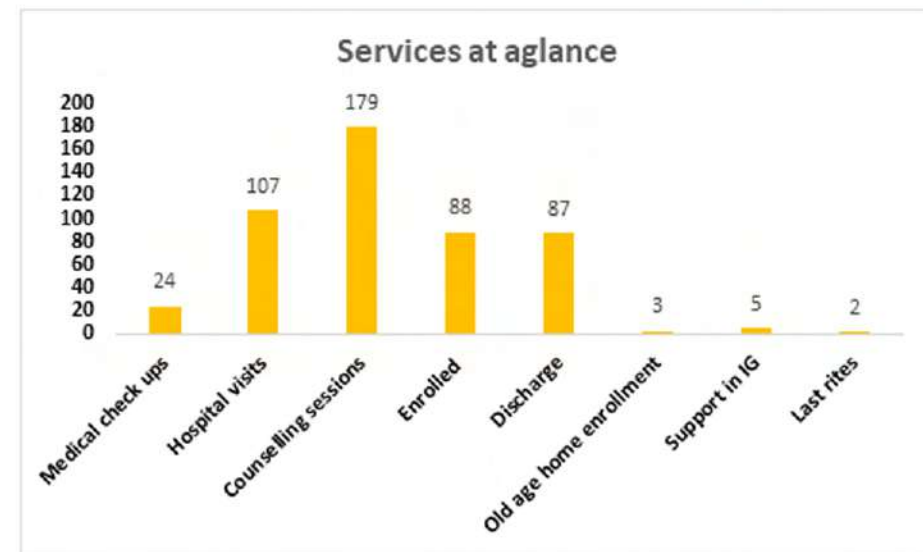
Alternate Accommodation - 1





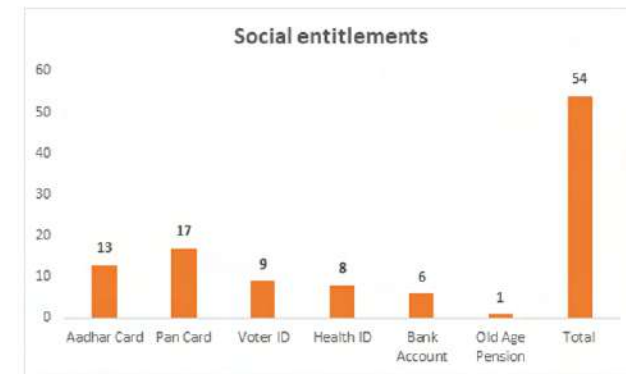
## D. Key activities

- Providing food to the senior citizens residents thrice a day thus ensuring food security and protection from malnutrition.
- The regular health check ups led to timely diagnosis of illness and medical treatment for the senior citizens. This benefitted them greatly as they themselves were not in a position to go to hospitals due to old age and financial constraints.
- The counselling sessions not only helped the residents deal with their daily problems but also supported them to deal with long term anxiety, depression and other mental health issues.
- The residents were supported to get social entitlements which helped them to access key services to improve their lives. In any other situation, the residents may have missed out on availing the benefits of social benefits as they were either unaware of them or were not in a position to access them.
- Almost all the inmates were integrated as they either went back to their families, moved on to rented accommodation after getting work, or were accommodated in permanent old age homes as they needed constant care and protection.
- Those who showed an interest to become entrepreneurs were supported to become street tea vendors. They were also provided with tea flasks to start off their tea business positively.
- The last rites of the 2 residents who passed away during the year were conducted with the help of Impact India Consortium.



## E. Impact

Till date, since the inception of the project, more than 800 persons, primarily the urban homeless persons, including the aged, persons with disabilities and illnesses, are leading a life of dignity with access to basic needs such as



## F. Proposed plan for 2022-23

- Documentation and approvals (structure design) for a permanent home for urban homeless residents with a capacity to house 200 residents at Kolar.
- Support the identified homeless in the project implementation areas to avail welfare services and other essential facilities, depending upon the need.
- Networking with BBMP, NULM, Departments, NGO's, corporates & organizations to find sustainable solutions for urban homeless persons to lead a life of dignity and basic needs.
- Creating vocational skills training centres, referrals to livelihood opportunities, improving work and income security, and supporting in mainstreaming in society.

## G. Partners and supporters

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Azim Premji Foundation, New Horizon College, Impact India Consortium.

## H. Case study

**Ganga Dutt Bhat**, a native of Delhi, had come to Bangalore in search for work but as he was unable to find any, and had no money to rent a house, he took to living on the streets. He was found by the project staff during a survey at a railway station near Shivajinagar. After being explained about the shelter's services and benefits, he got enrolled in Sparsha Nammane. As he got good food, and lodging, he was able to improve his health and also save money. After a few days, he also got work as a security. With the money he saved from his earnings, he moved to a rented house. He is very grateful to the shelter for meeting his critical needs at a time when he had no means of any support.



## I. Testimonial of a stakeholder

With the help of BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), Sparsha Trust has been running an Urban Homeless shelter since 2019 as per the National Urban Livelihoods Mission guidelines. The shelter takes into consideration the sensitivity of the beneficiaries they are dealing with. The staff of the shelter are the best and the most experienced, who give the finest services to the Urban Homeless around the shelter home. I wish them the best to serve the society in more ways possible.

### **Mrs. Usha**

Community Affairs Officer  
BBMP, Bengaluru East, Bengaluru



## K. Team Feedback

As a field worker I had the hardest time during 2021-22 because COVID was fast spreading and people were doubting the authenticity of the organisation and would hardly respond to us. The police wouldn't cooperate with us since they had to ensure the non spread of COVID. But we explained to the police officials that our intention was only to safeguard the people. We coordinated with the local PHC's to get all the members of Sparsha Nammane to get vaccinated.

### **Mahadeva Swamy**

Field Coordinator

## J. Project implementation team

1. **Manjunath** – Manager
2. **Mahadeva Swamy** – Field Coordinator
3. **Desai** - Facilitator
4. **Ranjith** - Counsellor
5. **Dr Yathish** - Doctor
6. **Ganesh** - Care taker
7. **Swetha** - Care taker
8. **Desai** - Care taker
9. **Shekharappa** - Security



## 16. Avani

Women ragpickers, women construction labourers, women into begging, or those who are sole earners of their families lack adequate knowledge or access to opportunities to improve their lives. In this context, those women who are pregnant or lactating are in need of not just information about health related issues but also medical care. These women also face wage discrimination at work, occupational health hazards, harassment in different ways and lack safety and security, at home and at work. Additionally, their menstrual and maternal health, pre-natal and post-natal care is largely neglected. Due to inability to afford nutritious food, pregnant women face the risk of malnutrition, delivering under-weight babies, or even losing the child during pregnancy or post-delivery.

Project Avani was started by Sparsha Trust during 2020-2021 in order to improve the health care and well-being of pregnant and lactating women who worked as rag pickers and as construction labourers. As they lack proper medical care and information about their rights, health and nutrition related issues, they often face problems related to their work environments such as wage discrimination, health hazards, and different forms of harassment. Their menstrual and maternal health, pre-natal and post-natal care is largely neglected. Pregnant women are also not aware about the importance of nutrition, rest and other health related practices that are good both for the to-be mother and child.

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

**A. Project starting year: 2020-2021**

**B. Location:** Adarsh Nagar, Cheema Sandra, Hebbal, Mestripalya, Rachenahalli, Ramaiah Labour Colony, Tata 1 Unit 2 and Veerabhadra Nagar

**C. Number of direct beneficiaries - 129**

**D. Number of indirect beneficiaries – 250**



## E. Key activities

- (i) Monthly nutrition kit was provided to the beneficiaries to ensure good health of the mother and the child. The kit included items such as jaggery, Chyawanprash, Nandini Ghee, dry coconut, dry fruits (badam, dry dates and anjur), Lion Dates and seasonal fruit.
- (ii) Milk and Banana was also provided to the beneficiaries for children upto 3 years.
- (iii) Awareness sessions were conducted on breastfeeding, prenatal and postnatal care, timely immunization, food practices (eating nutritious food on time) and hygiene. This information helped the beneficiaries to plan their future, balance work and family obligations, and foster a positive family atmosphere (Indirect beneficiaries).
- (iv) Monthly health checkups of mother as well as the child ensured timely diagnosis of any illness, its treatment and timely immunization. The check up was done by doctors who would visit the mothers at the centres every month. This resulted in saving time, effort and money for the women.

## F. Impact

Every day, during their pregnancy and postpartum period, women in the programme got nutrition kits. Doctors recommended these kits to beneficiaries in order to meet their daily nutritional requirements, for the growing fetus inside the womb, and to provide the energy required for the process of producing milk for the mother and small children. Monthly health checkups were conducted to pregnant women to monitor their health, guiding them to maintain their weights under control to avoid delivery complications. Appropriate medication was provided by the doctors which developed a high level of endurance among the beneficiaries. We had 39 beneficiaries who had successful delivery for FY 2021-22.

## Challenges faced during implementation

- (i) Migration of workers (If workers shift for native permanently or seasonally)
- (ii) A few of the pregnant and lactating women are not giving much importance to resting during pregnancy and after childbirth, as they end up going to work in order to earn and manage their families. This can have an adverse impact on their health.
- (iii) Breastfeeding gets affected if the lactating mothers start attending work after child birth.
- (iv) Beneficiaries are often stressed as they lack support from their husbands who are more often physically abusive and alcoholic.



## G. Proposed plan for 2022-2023:

To extend the support to 200 beneficiaries and conduct family counselling.

## H. Funder:

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

## I. Case study

**Paddamma** and her husband, who have two sons, earn a living by working as construction labourers. Paddamma became pregnant with the third child, but as she had to work to survive, she was unable to give proper attention to her health and nutrition. As a result, she felt weak and tired. The Doctor examined her during the health check-up and stated that if her health condition continued to be weak, then she may need a cesarian section to deliver the baby.

At that time, during a survey of Avani Project, Paddamma was identified and short-listed as a beneficiary. She underwent a check up, wherein the Doctor advised her to take proper nutrition. She took the nutrition kits provided by Sparsha, after which she showed improvement in her condition in just 2 months. During a follow up check-up, the Doctor was happy to note that her blood rate had improved and both mother and baby were doing well.



*Sparsha Trust is a good organization with trustworthy staff and workers. Through their Avani project, all kinds of quality nutritious food and other benefits are being provided to pregnant and lactating women. We conduct regular health checkups to the women. The children and mothers are healthy, and no child is malnourished. Daily and monthly nutrition kits are one-of-a-kind services to women. Women in those areas are poor and cannot afford good nutritious food from outside during needed times like pregnancy. Sparsha is the provider of this food and we hope they continue this because it is much needed.*

**PHC Doctor and Nurse**





## J. Testimonials:

I am **Bhanu**. My husband Mulasab, my son Abdul Kadar and I have migrated from Bellary district to Bengaluru to make a livelihood and pay back our debts. We were in deep trouble when we arrived here. We did not find anywhere to safeguard our child while we were at work. At that time, we trusted only Sparsha Trust's mobile creches to take care of our child. As a result, we were able to work in peace as our child was taken care of well. Teachers, workers, and helpers have always been supportive.

Then the lockdown related to COVID-19 pandemic was announced, due to which we had to be at home. At that time, we began to run out of money and could not afford even food. At that time, Sparsha Trust distributed essential ration kits which helped us during our difficult time.

During my second pregnancy, nutrition kit was given, and guidance was given for regular checkups with a good doctor. I wasn't even able to afford one fruit, but Sparsha Trust gave fruits and nutritious food through the Avani project. I will always be grateful to Sparsha Trust and its supporters.

- **Bhanu**  
Avani Beneficiary



## L. Team Feedback

During the COVID second wave of the pandemic, Avani's beneficiary criteria changed, and the women started neglecting the COVID guidelines. Now, the nutrition kits were only given to families with 2 or less than two children. The aim of modifying the criteria was to control birth rate. We feared that if we continued helping them with the kits, the pregnancies would increase. Issues in the community arose regarding the distribution criteria. Awareness programs helped us bring women's attention on the right issues and to helped them take care of themselves and their children.

- **Leelavathi**  
Avani project Team Member

## K. Team members:

**Sangeetha** - Project Facilitator

**Leelavathi** - Team member

**Geetha** - Team Member

**Renuka** - Team Member

**Anusuya** - Team Member

**Aarthi** - Team Member

## 4. Events

### Global Friends of Sparsha

Global Friends of Sparsha 2021 was our annual program to speak about various initiatives undertaken at Sparsha Trust targeted towards rehabilitation, education and development of underprivileged children.

In this program we engage our existing and potential supporters, sharing the excitement around and progress of our projects as well as inform our plans for the coming year. Over the years this program has been a key platform to report to our supporters and provide a basis for more supporters and volunteers to get engaged with Sparsha and contribute to the noble cause.

'Global Friends of Sparsha' was organized as a virtual program on 7th November 2021 from 6 PM to 7.30 PM IST. During the program, we presented our dream project "Makkala Dhama" which has a housing capacity of 300 students, residential multidimensional development center being constructed in Devanahalli area in Bengaluru and also gave a glimpse of achievements in other projects. We placed a humble request to support to complete the construction of "Makkala Dhama" project. On the same day many individual and corporate contributed to the funding due to which we were able to raise a whopping Rs. 50 lakhs for the event.

Speaker - **Mr. Hari Marar**, MD, KIAL

### Joy of Learning

#### Introduction

The celebratory Joy of Learning event was organised at Nisarga Grama of Sparsha Trust on 5th and 6th of March 2022. As per the theme, ADINALI ODIKALI (play and enjoy – read and learn) Joy of learning was organised to showcase and explore the hidden talents of the students. The 12th Joy of Learning was organised this year. Around 400 students from different centres participated in the event for 2 consecutive days which included sports as well as cultural activities.

**Day 1:** Joy of Learning kick started on 5th March 2022 by lighting the Kreedha Jyothi (the torch of Sports). Giridhar Rajagopal - President - First American (India), Brijesh Kumar Agarwal - Vice President Operations at Consero Global, Mr. Alangur Srinivas – Leader, the founder of Sparsha Trust Mr. Gopinath and Mrs. Roopa Mahajan were the chief guests of the fabulous event. Meenakshi and Urkundamma who scored the highest marks in SSLC also shared the stage with the chief guests.

Joy of Learning is for the kids, and they are the stars of the event. All the students actively participated in each and every activity of the event which made the kids find the true joy of learning along with the playing.

**Day 2:** Various stall were put up which included Bombay Mittai, fruit stall, Thindi stall (Snacks shop), toy shop, Science Museum, Mask stall, Health checkup stall, first aid center, to entertain the children and visitors. All the children were dressed in colours making it a joyous display of colours. Thousands of children from various shelters, school children in and around Sparsha's operational areas, stakeholders of Sparsha Trust and companies came and participated in all sports, cultural and academic competitions and cheered for the "Festival of Children". After watching all types of activities of children, hundreds of audiences who gathered there felt elated to be around the happy children and even encouraged the children.

The champion trophy of 2021-22 was won by the team Nisarga grama since Nisarga Grama team had the owned majority of the winners in various activities and took the lead in all the competitions organised in the 'Joy of Learning' event.

#### **Eminent personalities and supporters who attended the event**

- **Mr. Hari Marar**- Managing Director & CEO at Bangalore International Airport,
- **Mr.Asim** - Persistent Foundation
- **Wg.Cdr.R.S.Murthy**
- **Mr. Raghavan** - Makkala Dhama Committee member
- **Trustees of Sparsha Trust**

