



**SPARSHA**

**A TEAM FOR BETTER SOCIETY**

Annual report

**Sparsha Trust**

**2022-2023**



**Dear well-wisher,**

In the history of Sparsha Trust, no year was as challenging and also as rewarding as 2022-2023.

The year was challenging because we had to face financial constraints caused by the two waves of COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from funding issues, the guidelines on construction during COVID-19 and large-scale migration of workers affected the construction of our flagship project, Makkala Dhama at Devanahalli. Makkala Dhama was planned as a residential multi-dimensional development centre for 450 girls.

At the same time, the year was rewarding because we successfully witnessed the journey of Makkala Dhama from the blueprint on the architect's board and to a beautiful reality in front of our eyes. Mid 2022-2023, about 150 girls moved into Makkala Dhama, with dreams of a new and better future. We express our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters and well-wishers who reposed great trust in us, and stood by us and supported us through thick and thin. I also want to thank and congratulate the Governing members of Makkala Dhama's core committee and our staff for making this possible.

Childline 1098 continued to strengthen the foundation of child rights through awareness and rescue of children, especially of girls who were victims of under-age marriage and children who were engaged in different forms of work or were into begging and rag picking. Our Mobile Creche program made a significant impact on the children and families of construction workers,

municipality cleaners and migrant families by ensuring a safe and nurturing environment, and providing them with learning opportunities and health care services. Many parents informed us that they are able to attend work with assurance that their children are in good hands. Their overall financial status has improved due to better attendance at work places.

Our project – We Care For You - that we had started during COVID-19 pandemic, helped children to mainstream in schools and supported women who lost their husbands to start a new life through counselling and economic support. Our project, Annadata Sukhi Bhava, is continuing to support aged persons and families lacking support with essential groceries each month.

We are happy to share that the children living in Nisarga Grama, our flagship project at Hesarghatta not only got good marks but also improved their physical and mental wellness given the infrastructure in the campus. We initiated innovative activities that is helping them to learn and develop a positive attitude in life. We are also happy to share that we more than met the target for our programs for women, youth and persons with disabilities through our My Quest and MAST programs. As part of our Women Lead project, women vendors doing petty businesses, made full use of our services to expand, upgrade and streamline their businesses. Next year, we will focus on governance, accounts, and streamlining the organizational systems.

At the end of the day, I believe that Sparsha Trust has proved itself once again and made good the trust that its stakeholders, donors and beneficiaries reposed in it. It proved that it was capable of turning into reality and achieve all that, which was not considered possible, and ensured a life of dignity, courage and empowerment to those who lacked the means.

**Dr. D S Krishna**

President, Sparsha Trust



**Dear well-wisher,**

The financial year 2022-23 has been a milestone year in the sense that post-Covid and post-completion of Makkaladhama, girl children have moved into the campus and started settling down. Many developmental activities to make these children stronger academically, in arts and crafts as well as in their skill-sets were initiated. During the year, children also learnt to step up in terms of self-governance and take on responsibilities related to managing the community of children.

Makkaladhama's infrastructure, including facility for rain water harvesting was completed.

Overall, the year has been an eventful one and I am sure this has been a foundation for supporting and nurturing hundreds of children in the years to come.

For this, I, on behalf of Sparsha Trust, express my gratitude to the generous donors who made Makkaladhama a reality. Special gratitude to Bangalore International Airport Limited and Kempegowda International Airport Foundation.

**G Raghavan**

Governing & Advisory Committee Member,  
Sparsha Trust



# SECTION 1

## About Sparsha Trust

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

## Vision

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



## Objectives



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



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



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



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



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



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

# Sparsha Governance Body

The organization has a management board of **9 members** and **24** Governing & Advisory Committee Members who are leading, guiding and mentoring the Nisarga Grama and Makkala Dhama projects.

## Board of Directors (2022 - 2023)



**Dr. D S Krishna**  
President



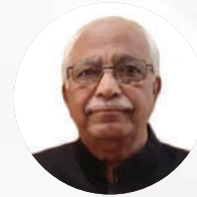
**Mr. Gopinath R**  
Managing Trustee



**Mr. Ranganatha GR**  
Treasurer



**Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram**  
Trustee



**Wg. Cdr. R Srinivasa Murthy**  
Trustee



**Mrs. Rupa Mahajan**  
Trustee



**Mr. Shashidhar M. Kotian**  
Trustee



**Mrs. Prameela SR**  
Trustee



**Mr. Ramakrishna AB**  
Trustee

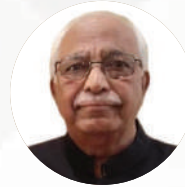
# GOVERNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



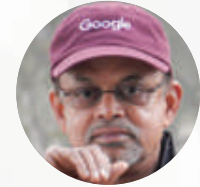
**Mr. Rajendra Hinduja**  
Managing Director, Gokuldas Exports Ltd



**Dr. DS Krishna**  
President, Sparsha Trust



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



**Mr. Raghavan G**  
Chief Executive Officer, Bhartiya Urban (Real Estate) and  
Independent Director Amrutanjan Health Care Ltd.



**Mr. Chitbhanu Nagri**  
Director, Human Resources, Moonfrog Labs



**Mr. Eric Sall**  
Vice President,  
Marketing Services Centre Asia, IBM



**Mr. Chittaranjan Narayana**  
Area Vice President, Netscout



**Mr. Shambulingayya Swami**  
Chief Executive Officer, Parikrama Pesticide Pvt Ltd.



**Mr. Srikanth Ekambaram**  
Chief Financial Officer, Terex India

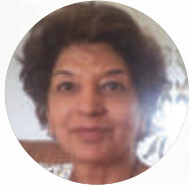


**Mr. Varun Vijay Rao**  
President India, CIRCOR International Inc.



**Mr. Ajay B Thete**  
Proprietor, Ameya Marcomm Services

# GOVERNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Mrs. Heera Brauner**  
Major donor, Sparsha Trust



**Mrs. Rupa Maharajan**  
Trustee, Sparsha Trust



**Mr. Shivprakash**  
Head of Engineering, KSSPL



**Mr. Shashidhar Kotian**  
Manager, KSSPL and Trustee, Sparsha Trust



**Mrs. Tina Rstogin**  
Volunteer, 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



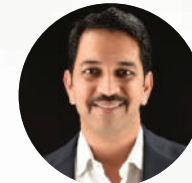
**Mr. Raghavendra Totamane**  
Sr. Manager Technology, Sapien



**Mr. Asim Kumar Mandal**  
Program Manager, Persistent



**Mrs. Sunitha Satish Kumar**  
Senior Business Analyst, Bilagos AS



**Mr. Ravi Shankar Denduluri**  
Committee Member, Makkala Dhama

# CORE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



**Mr. Gopinath R**

Managing Trustee - Sparsha Trust



**Mr. Manjunath S P**

Head - Child care projects &  
Government liasoning



**Ms. Revathi Krishnan**

Head - Corporate Partnership &  
Donor Communication



**Ms. Chitra K N**

Head - Admin and Mentor  
Makkala Dhama &  
Nisarga Grama



**Ms. Mamatha B**

Head - ECCE  
(Early Childhood & Child Care Education)



**Shrikanth B**

Head - We care for you & Women Lead

## Human Resources

There are **251 persons** associated with Sparsha Trust as full time and part time staff as well as consultants. Around **800 volunteers** are associated with Sparsha Trust in various ways.

## Certifications

- Registered under Sections 80G and 12A of Income Tax Act, has FCRA, PF, ESI, PT, CSR 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).



*Congratulations!*



Hema B M 89%  
Science (PCMB)  
Urakundamma T 74%  
Science (PCMB)  
Nandini S 77.60%  
Science (PCMB)  
Indu M 61.60%  
Science (PCMB)



Meenakshi N 76%  
Science (PCMB)  
Varshini 61%  
Science (PCMB)  
Ganganashtree R 50.83%  
Science (PCMB)  
Pavithra J 50.38%  
Commerce (HEBA)



Shreya 66.50%  
Commerce (EBAC)  
Mamatha P 64.50%  
Commerce (HEBA)  
Arbiya Banu 79%  
Commerce (HEBA)  
Koushya 61%  
Commerce (HEBA)



Nakshatra M 65%  
Commerce (SEBA)



*Congratulations*

for clearing SSLC Examination with good marks

100%  
Results



Venkatesh K R  
93.92%



Shiva Kumar  
89.76%



Akashi Amodh  
85.92%



Nethravathi  
84.96%



Mahalakshmi  
78.56%



Nikhil  
78.08%



Suraj  
76.48%



Deepak  
74.56%



Manjunath G  
74.24%



Tulasi  
73.44%



Sudeep  
72%



Ragavendhra  
70.4%



Bharath  
64.48%



Ganavi  
60.48%



Mounesh  
58.56%



Mallika  
58.56%



Pavan  
54.88%



Ankitha  
52.96%



Lakshmi K  
52.48%



Nithin  
50.08%



A TEAM FOR BETTER SOCIETY

**Sparsha Students  
featured in the  
news for their  
outstanding  
achievements**

Deccan Herald 09-05-23

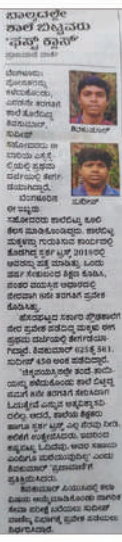
**Orphaned siblings who had dropped  
out clear class 10 in first class**

BENGALURU: Dropping the SSLC exams was not an easy thing for these siblings, who were school dropouts. Shiv Kumar and Sudeep from Bengaluru lost their parents when they were seven years old. During a lockdown (identity dropped), Bengaluru-based Sparsha Trust found these boys in 2019 and gave them shelter. "I was not having confidence when I joined Class 10 directly. But the school and the Trust supported me and helped me to excel," said Kumar, who wants to take up Arts in PUC and aims to clear the NEET.

Sudeep, who scored 72% in SSLC, has decided to pursue commerce in PUC. His brother Sudeep has decided to pursue commerce in PUC.

Migrant boy shines: Venkatesh, a migrant from a poor family, has scored 87 out of 93. He wants to study science and become a software engineer.

09-05-23





# Child Protection





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. Childline 1098 works with NGO partners in various cities to rescue children found in different forms of abusive and exploitative circumstances, and creates awareness on child rights through various activities. It is partnering with Sparsha Trust since 2015 to implement the program.

## Project starting year and location

**2015**

### Bangalore Rural District

Doddaballapur, Nellamangala,  
Hoskote and Devanahalli

**2020**

### Kolar District

Kolar, KGF, Bangarpete,  
Mulbagal, Srinivasapura, Malur

## Number of direct beneficiaries

**1264**

April 2022 to March 2023

## Number of indirect beneficiaries

Approx

**2970**

## Key activities conducted in Bangalore Rural and Kolar District

1. Outreach and awareness programmes
2. Open house programmes
3. Participation in Taluk Advisory Board meetings, children Grama Sabha, Grama Vastavya (Village Stay) organized by the District Commissioner, Karmika Adalath Auto Rickshaw Announcement program organized by the Department of Labour
4. Training programmes
5. Organizing events such as Child Helpline Day, International Girl Child Day, National Girl Child Day, Anti-Child Labour Day and Childline Se Dosti week, Jathas on International Day against Child Labour
6. Collaborating with the Department of Women and Development, District Child Protection Unit to conduct Makkala Sahayavani Masacharane

# 1. Outreach and awareness programmes

Attended by a large number of school and college going children, communities, youth, women (mothers in particular), parents and members of the public, the sensitization sessions were conducted in strategic places such as bus stands, market places, schools and Anganwadi centres.

## Agenda of the sessions

- Childline 1098 • Child rights
- Adverse impact of child marriage, children engaged in labour and begging, drop-out from schools and violation of child rights
- Importance of public participation in protection of child rights and calling Childline 1098.

Reach	Bangalore Rural	About <b>18000</b> children	About <b>32000</b> adults
	Kolar	About <b>16000</b> children	About <b>14000</b> adults

As a result, in Kolar District, 25% more cases are coming to Childline every month and now, there are around 495 volunteers for Childline.

First American India volunteers and the project staff created awareness regularly about Childline 1098 and child rights in schools across Bangalore Rural. The volunteers appreciated Sparsha Trust's rapport with the school authorities.

The project works closely with stakeholders to create awareness about Childline 1098 and child rights in order to strengthen the network for child protection. The

Childline 1098 team creates awareness among priests and marriage halls managers to check age proof of the bride and to inform them or the police in case any girl is found to be underage.





## 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 Open House programs held in Bangalore Rural and Kolar successfully addressed the following issues:

- Infrastructure facilities in schools related to teaching, drinking water, sanitary facilities, safety and security of students, play grounds and bi-cycle parking facilities
- Identifying school dropouts and children engaged in labour and facilitating their enrollment in schools
- Providing information on the importance of reporting cases of child marriage, child labour, children into begging and situations of child rights violation
- Providing information to participants about the legal action that can be taken against child labour and child marriage cases. They understood the importance to be alert and report about any cases related to violence against children, and in particular against girls.
- Awareness about Childline 1098 , Child Marriage Prohibition Act – 2006, toll free helpline, importance of education, scholarship schemes.
- Participation of parents in the studies and lifestyle of their children.

### Participants of the Open House Programs

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, Child Development Protection Officer (CDPO), District Coordinator

14

Open House Programs were organized  
**Bangalore Rural**

4

Open House Programs were organized  
**Kolar District**



After a Open House Program was conducted in Karahalli High School, the CDPO, Panchayat members and BDO worked together and repaired the toilet, constructed separate toilet for boys, and installed a water filter. Proper seating space was created for the students to have their meals.



After the Open House Program at Shankanipura Government Urdu School, there is regular police patrolling outside the school leading to increased safety of the students. The public is now not throwing trash and bottles inside the school. Given the minority community where under-age marriages are relatively common, the sensitization spoke about importance of completing education. In this very village, the Childline team has stopped 4 child marriages.

### 3. Taluk level Childline Advisory Board (TAB)

The Taluk level Child Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Tahsildar, brings together the Taluk level officers from different Government Departments and reviews the status of action taken on various child related issues.

The following are the key decisions and action points taken after TAB meetings:

- Notifying the officers about the confirmation of submission of Preliminary Investigation Report
- Conducting raids to identify child labour
- Creating awareness about Childline 1098 in all the Government and private offices
- Create Whatsapp Group which has Taluk level officers as members
- Wall painting on Childline 1098 in all Grama Panchayat premises
- To improve the coordination of Panchayat Raj and other Departments to prevent child marriages in all Taluks of Bangalore Rural District and Kolar

### 4. Training programmes

3 training sessions were conducted for 21 staff members of Childline1098 (from all the sub-centres) during which they were updated on new strategies and ways to improve the effectiveness of Childline 1098 implementation.

6 training programs were conducted for 275 school teachers and members of District Child Protection Unit on POSCO Act-2012, Child Marriage Act-2006 and JJ Act-2015. The sessions helped them to understand the ways to make use of the Act and to interact with the children in the appropriate manner.

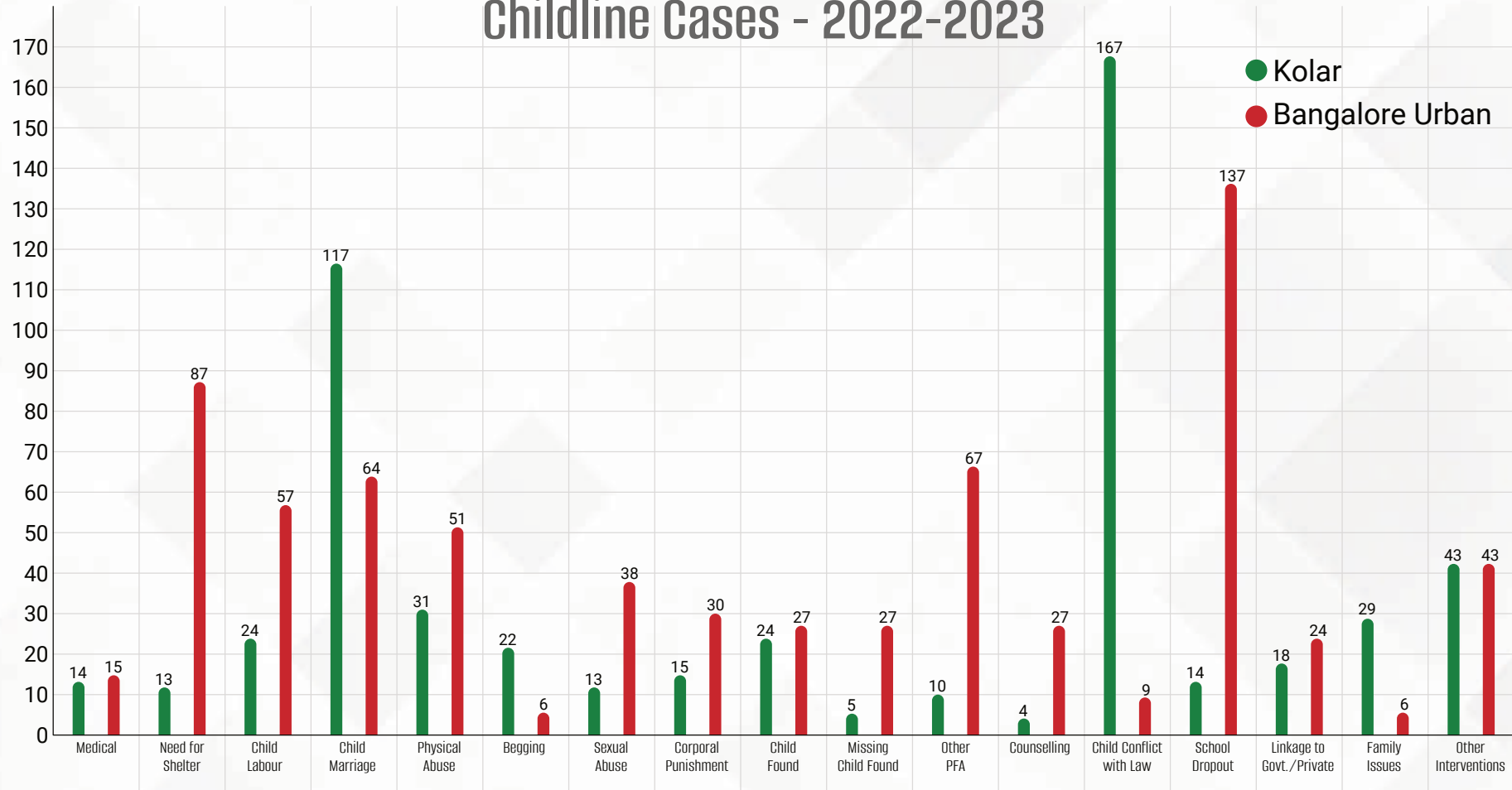
Mr. Naga Simha of the CRT took a session for our staff on Juvenile Justice Act and Child Marriage Act, and clarified their doubts on various issues related to project implementation



Mr. Gururaj took a session on child psychology, which helped the Childline team to improve their interaction and communication with the children.

# Impact of the project

## Childline Cases - 2022-2023



## Overview of impact

- Identification of issues related to children such as child marriage, child labour, school drop outs, abuse, violence and neglect of children, violation of child rights
- Identifying ways to resolve the issues through a collaborative approach.
- Preventing child marriages, enrolling drop outs and children engaged in working into school, and taking action against violators of child rights
- Increased participation and support by key stakeholders including police, district level child protection related officers, school principals and teachers, parents, panchayats, and representatives from the Department of Labour, Education and Health.



# Donors / Stakeholders

Childline India Foundation with the support of Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, Government of India

## Case Studies

### Anusha (Name Changed)

Anusha, a 15 years old girl studying in the 10th Standard is a native of Bangarpete Town, Kolar District. In June 2022, a member from the public made a call to the Childline 1098 from M. Vapanahalli (V), Srinivasapura (T) and informed them that Anusha's parents had fixed her marriage. The Childline 1098 staff gave this case information to DCPU (District Child Protection Unit), CDPO (Child Development Programme Officer) and Rayalpadu police station. It also visited the child's home and came to know that the police of Helpline 112 had already stopped the marriage. The staff then gave information about Child Marriage Prohibition Act-2006 to the parents. The parents gave an undertaking in a letter stating that they will fix Anusha's marriage only after 18 years. On follow up in June 2022, Anusha's father informed that she is attending college. The case follow-up was given to CCC and the case was closed.

## Acknowledgements

District Commissioner, District Child Protection Officers, Child Welfare Committee, District Health Officers, Police, Labour Department Officers at the District level, and other Line departments at the Taluk level and Panchayat level, Bangalore Rural and Kolar

First American India for their employee volunteers for their efforts to spread awareness about Childline - 1098.

### Divyashree (Name Changed)

Divyashree, a 13 years old student of 8th standard, is a native of Srinivasapura Town, Kolar District. In June 2023, Divyashree's father made a call to Childline 1098 saying that the teachers of Sri GG Venu High School are making his daughter to stand outside the class. They claimed that he has not paid the school fees of his daughter and that the school management is not ready to give 10 days' time for him to pay the fees. When the Childline 1098 team visited the school to enquire about the issue, the teachers said that they made Divyashree stand outside the class as she was not wearing the school uniform and that the child's father had given the school fees. Now Divyashree is not facing any problem while attending school.

## Testimonial

### Mr. Ashwathnarayana

Headmaster, Mahathma High School, Vijayapura

Many of our students were not coming to school properly. And those who did come would avoid attending classes, and roam in the villages. Some of them would be on the lookout for work opportunities. At that time, when the Childline 1098 team visited our school, we informed them about the problem. The team members of Childline 1098 took prompt action by visiting the homes of the children, and counselled them and their parents about the importance of education and discipline.

Due to their intervention, the children began to attend school regularly, and have even successfully completed their 8th and 9th Class. We thank the Childline 1098 team and appreciate their efforts in creating a better future for the children.

### Team feedback



I am a member of the Childline1098 project since 2015 and I work for the welfare of children in the rural part of Bengaluru. I experience a high level of 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.

**Sanna Kariyappa, Member of Childline1098**

## Project Implementation Team

### Bangalore Rural

### Kolar

### Gopinath R

Project Mentor

### Manjunath S P

Project Co-ordinator

### Sahana

Counsellor

### Murali Mohan M

Team Member

### Ratnamma

Team Member

### Manjunath D

Team Member

### Manjunath A R

Team Member

### Meghana

Team Member

### Naveen R

Team Member

### Chethan H Devkar

Team Member

### Sanna Kariyappa

Team Member

### Shankar Gowda K C

Co-ordinator

### Sujata G

Counsellor

### Sunandamma

Team Member

### Roopa

Team Member

### Nagappa T

Team Member

### Manjula S

Team Member

### Vishwanath H L

Team Member

### Ashok R K

Team Member

### Ravikumar K R

Team Member





Conducting of the TAB meeting in Hoskote and Devenahalli, where representatives and stakeholders discussed various issues related to children welfare and protection. Circulars were issued by the Tehsildar to extend support to Childline 1098.





# Photo Gallery



Reaching out to women in order to make them realize their role in bringing about a positive change in the future of their children, especially daughters.



Open House in (Vara Siddi Vinayaka school) where police personnel, stakeholders and students were sensitized about the importance of education and POCSO. In these places, many of girls experienced ragging but would not talk about it. Now after the awareness, girls are immediately informing their teachers or principal about any incident of ragging or eve teasing and action is being taken accordingly.



As part of Childline se Dosti week, the project conducted an activity for children with disabilities, along with a session on Childline 1098.



Training programme for Anganwadi workers facilitated in the CDPO's office in Mulbagal and outreach program for SHG members (Self Help Groups).



Celebration of Independence Day, which was as part of a Jatha in M G Road, Kolar which created awareness among the public about Childline 1098 and related issues.



Given the incidences of child marriages, the project conducted a session on the importance of education, repercussions of child marriage for both boys and girls at the Government High School in Avani.



# Photo Gallery



After the awareness session in schools and PU College on International Girl Child Day, many of the participants reported about school drop-out cases and children engaged in work. After the jatha in Budikote, Kolar, many members of the public called the police to inform cases of child rights violation and school drop outs.



Awareness campaign by using mobile vans and wall posters



The Project team learnt about children who were into begging at a bus stand. On visit, the team found these children, who were mostly girls, were from Andhra Pradesh. They would come to the bus stand, divide themselves into groups and earn by begging. The team members informed the police, who contacted a person who knew these girls and families. He said that the families stay in the outskirts and in border area, and said who knew their parents and will inform them. Accordingly, two of these girls were enrolled in schools and while is staying with her family.



After the sensitization session in Sharada High School in Mulbagal, conducted by the CDPO, and the project staff, the participants which included parents said that they got clarity about Childline 1098 and said that they will report child marriage cases.



In Chikkatirupathi, banners were used effectively to create awareness about Childline 1098 during a jatha.



In the Govt Girls college in Mulbagal, senior stakeholders such as representatives of the Department of Labour, Block Education Officer, and CDPO advised the girls about focussing on their studies, and not to get misled into leaving their homes in case of strangers offering them work in cities. Given the increasing reporting of crimes against adolescent girls, the girls appreciated the session and said that they will also inform their parents, relatives and friends about Childline 1098 and various guidelines.

**4**  
Gram Sabha  
meetings in  
Kolar

**14**  
Gram Sabha  
meetings in  
Bangalore Rural



With the objective to improve the lives of children from construction sector and migrant families, Sparsha Trust initiated on-site Creches or childcare centers in different districts of Karnataka. Starting with two centres for children of construction laborers with the support of Mobile Creche Delhi in 2016, the project has grown to now managing 48 centres in 2022-2023.

During 2022-2023, in addition to children of migrants and construction workers, the project also reached out to children of municipality cleaners (pourakarmika) and other vulnerable groups.



## Project starting year

2016

**Delhi Mobile Creches**  
3 centres in Bangalore  
Urban in 2022-2023

December

2021

**KSBOCWB**  
17 Centers

August

2022

**KSBOCWB**  
22 Centers

November

2022 in 2022-2023

**KSSKDC** (Karnataka State Safai Karmachari  
Development Corporation)  
5 Centers

## Location of implementation

Bangalore Rural & Bangalore Urban, Ramanagar, Tumkur, Chikkaballapura.

## Number of direct beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Funder	District	Number of Centres	Admissions	Male	Female	Returned to native place or migrated	School enrolment 2022-2023
1	Mobile Creche Delhi	Bangalore Urban	3	243	46	44	132	21
2	Karnataka Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board	Bangalore Urban	26	1794	461	493	762	78
		Bangalore Rural	2	73	35	36	1	1
		Tumkur	5	345	89	98	125	33
		Ramanagar	4	276	84	76	87	29
		Chikkaballapura	2	189	40	40	97	12
3	First American India Foundation	Fairy Land	1	104	25	27	46	6
4	Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation	Bangalore Urban	5	215	117	95	3	0
Total			48	3239	897	909	1253	180

## Number of indirect beneficiaries

**About 10,596**

persons including families  
and community members



## Key Activities

### 1. Creating a safe environment

Prior to enrolment in the project's centres, children would roam around their homes while their parents went to work. This increased their risk of accidents or physical harm. As the Anganwadi centres would enroll children only after the child was three years old, often the elder siblings took care of the younger ones.

Comparatively, the project's Mobile Creche centres enrolled children aged between 6 months to 6 years from across 48 communities. They successfully provided the children with a safe, comfortable and nurturing environment from morning to evening. Now they are protected from accidents and are taken care of properly, be it in terms of food, learning, rest and play.



### 2. Monthly health check-ups

During this year, the project organized health check-ups before the 10th of each month to assess the children for their height, weight and growth. Depending upon the health status, follow up was done for children who were diagnosed as SUW (Severe Underweight) and MUW (Moderate Underweight). Now, the extent of malnourishment has decreased from 839 children with SUW to 372 children and from 234 children with MUW to 91 children. The rate of normal weight children has increased from 511 to 1130. In the 373 health check-ups that were conducted, 7931 beneficiaries attended the same.



### 3. Community level health check-ups

Health camps were conducted every quarterly and half yearly in accessible locations which helped the beneficiaries in timely diagnosis of diseases and treatment. Given that the construction workers were vulnerable to eye related disorders due to the intense exposure to dust, the eye camp was particularly useful for them. Community members and parents got tested for blood pressure, diabetes, hemoglobin and general health. These camps saved them considerable effort, time and cost, as they did not have to lose daily wages in order to get the check-up done.

During this year, 33 health camps were conducted and which were attended by 1590 beneficiaries.



## 4. Nutrition

The Mobile Creche centres provided with nutrients enriched food thrice a day such as kheer in the morning, kichhidi in the afternoon and snacks in the evening, children who were SUW and MUW were provided with foods with extra nutrition such as eggs and banana. These helped to promote age-appropriate growth.

The children are now more active as their overall stamina and energy levels have improved. About 96 SUW and 197 MUW were provided with special food designed to reduce malnutrition. More than 2000 children are regularly getting nourishing food according to the time table.



## 5. Education

Engaging children in educational and art and craft related activities and sports helped to develop the fine motor skills, improve physical well-being and stamina, encourage self-expression and develop their confidence and self-esteem.

The children are formed into groups and engage them in age-appropriate learning, which also included digital learning. This was a milestone as it was the first ever initiative of its kind for the project. More than 1700 children were provided with educational kits, drawing books, storytelling books, and indoor and outdoor games accessories.



**Children of Mobile Creches spending the day in useful and productive activities, helping them to bond with each other and develop a positive attitude**



Learning and enjoying through digital means (above right) playing with building blocks helped to develop concentration and fine motor skills



## 6. Community Engagement

Key stakeholders, officers from Government Departments, corporate representatives and parents engaged actively in various activities and supported in the effective implementation of the project. During this year, about 373 parent meetings were conducted and in which 4663 parents participated. 373 community meetings were conducted in which 5147 members participated. As a result, the beneficiaries applied for schemes designed especially for construction labourers, benefitted from the health camps and sensitization sessions on nutrition, education and child rights.

## 7. Teachers Training

With the objective to improve the quality of the training, capacity building sessions were organized on a monthly basis for teachers on child rights, ECCE, documentation, development of fine motor skills, and code of behaviour while dealing with children.

During this year, 37 teachers and 7 supervisors attended training program on Early Childhood Education (ECE) and other issues. Veteran Ms. Udaya Shree, who has 30 years of experience, conducted an innovative training program where story telling was done by the use of puppets.





## 8. Special events

### Sports Day

Recognizing that sports is an important part of a positive childhood experience, the project organizes different forms of sports and play activities for the children. During the annual sports day in March 2023, the children participated with great enthusiasm and a spirit of competitiveness.

During the Annual Sports Day conducted in March 2023 in Thanisandra centers, NR Greenwood and Tata -1 unit 2, Rachenahalli and Mestripalya centers, the chief guests were Mr. Gopinath (Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust) Mr. Manjunath (Mobile Creche Delhi) Ms. Mamatha (Project Head, Mobile Creche Program) Ms. Shalini, Mr. Nagarjun, Mr. Krishnarjun (volunteers) and Mr. Bikas (Volunteer from IBM).



### Women's Day & Independence day

International Women's Day was celebrated by conducting different activities in various centres. In the Safai Karamchari Project, senior pourakarmikas were honored at a function.



### Participation in Joy of Learning

From Mobile Creche Centres across Bangalore, 285 children participated in the Joy of Learning program conducted at the campus of Nisarga Grama, Sparsha Trust's flagship project in January 2023. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Gopinath R, Managing Trustee, Sparsha Trust, Mr Ventatesh, Labour Inspector Tumkur, Ms Chithra and Mr. Shashidhar Kotian.



**Mr. Siddanth Jain of Play Simple Games giving prizes to Mobile Creche children who won in sports and cultural events. Mr. Venkatesh, Labour Inspector, Tumkur District at a Mobile Creche stall**



**Children participating in various competitions in Joy of Learning**

## Visitors

Recognizing that sports is an important part of a positive childhood experience, the project organizes different forms of sports and play activities for the children. During the annual sports day in March 2023, the children participated with great enthusiasm and a spirit of competitiveness.





## Facilitating the access to social entitlements

A team from Government Labour Welfare Association performed a role play to explain the benefits of social entitlements such as the Eshram card and Labour cards.

The project organized Labour card enrollment camps during which the staff from the Department of Labour helped the community in applying and issued more than 350 Labour Cards. As a result, many workers are now benefitting by getting ration kits, labour kit and nutrition kit. About 9 children have applied for scholarship.

Mr. Yuvaraju, Bangalore One Officer, visited our all centers and issued 150 Aadhar cards and 23 ration cards to the eligible beneficiaries.



## Enrollment in

## Nisarga Grama

## Makkala Dhama

From the Mobile Creche program, several families visited Nisarga Grama and Makkala Dhama for enrolment of their children, so that they could benefit from a safe and nurturing atmosphere, and holistic development opportunities, which they are not able to get in their own homes due to various reasons. About 4 children were enrolled in Nisarga Grama while 25 children were enrolled in Makkala Dhama.



## Impact

Usually, the construction workers and migrants live in very poor conditions, such as in make shift tarpaulin tents, with no access to proper sanitary facilities, safe drinking water and lack protection from the weather. Also, the workers need to start work early in the morning and return late at night. They are themselves not able to maintain proper food and hygiene practices. In the process, the overall health and caring for their children is neglected. If the mother stays home to take care of the children, then the family loses out on her share of the earnings.

The Mobile Creche Program, which is specially designed keeping the requirement of the construction workers, migrants and pourakarmikas in mind, are of great benefit to the community in the following ways:



**Safety, security and comfort for children aged 6 months to 6 years:**

Anganwadi centres enroll children only between 3 years to 6 years. Many of the construction workers are not able to access them due to distance and logistics issues. The Mobile Creches, which are established at accessible locations, enroll children from the age of 6 months itself, due to which they are able to get a safe, comfortable and nurturing atmosphere.



**Continuity in education for siblings of young children:** The Mobile Creche Model ensures continuity of education for the elder children of families, who otherwise are expected to drop out of school to do sibling care and look after the house.



**Improved financial status for the families:** As children can be enrolled in Mobile Creches from the age of 6 months itself, the mother can start earning much earlier and supplement the family income.

All the 48 Mobile Creche centers have been established as per government norms, and providing good care due to which enrolment of children is increasing regularly.

## G. Donors/ Stakeholders Acknowledgement

Mobile Creche Delhi

Karnataka Building &  
Other Construction  
Workers Welfare Board

First American India  
Foundation

Karnataka State Safai  
Karmachari Development  
Corporation



## Case Study



The story of Deekshitha and her family is both heartwarming and tragic. They originally hail from Mandya District but moved to Bangalore in search of work. Deekshitha's family faced significant challenges as her father passed away from a heart attack, and her mother tragically took her own life. This left Deekshitha's grandparents as the main caretakers for the family.

With the loss of both parents, the family struggled to afford proper food and shelter, putting their well-being at risk.

Fortunately, Mobile Creche identified Deekshitha's family during this difficult time and enrolled her in the Mobile Creche center. The child was always punctual and attended the classes regularly.

Being a part of the Mobile Creche brought about positive changes in Deekshitha's life. The Early Child Care Development services offered at the center played a crucial role in improving her health and weight. The center provided nutrient-rich food, contributing to her overall well-being. Additionally, the grandparents found solace in the fact that their grandchild was being well taken care of. This assistance not only had a positive impact on Deekshitha's development but also alleviated some of the financial burdens faced by her grandparents.

Overall, Deekshitha's story highlights the importance of support systems and organizations like Mobile Creche. Through their efforts, Deekshitha and her family found a glimmer of hope amidst their hardships, showcasing the significance of early childhood care and community initiatives.

## Testimonial •

Josephine has been working in the Rachenahalli Mobile Creche centre for the past 3 years and keeps the children engaged in creative activities with the support of TLMs available in the centre. During the pandemic, all her family members were affected with COVID-19. During this difficult time, Sparsha Trust provided her and her family with food and financial help. The organization supported other program staff as well. She is very thankful to the Trust for helping her out during the most difficult time in her life. She has been awarded the 'Star of the Teacher' by the Trust.

### Team feedback



My name is Lakshmi, and I joined Mobile Creche as a teacher in 2016. Since the time I joined, I have learnt a lot. The organization recognized my aptitude to do different types of work, and encouraged and appreciated me. I was promoted as a supervisor. Initially, like many other teachers, I did not know the way to use WhatsApp for giving information about the children, but now we are all using it well. Now I can maintain the financial documents. I also did not have the knowledge to use the computer to enter the data or do the updates, but now I can write emails, raise a request, work on Powerpoint and MS- EXCEL, submit the bills and even communicate with the builders. I am happy to help the other staffs by training them or by giving guidance. I have been supported a lot by the Managing Trustee Mr. Gopinath and Ms. Mamatha, Program Head.

## Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**  
Project Director

**Mamatha B**  
Project Head

**Lakshmi**  
Supervisor

**Leelavathi**  
Supervisor

**Geetha PK**  
Supervisor

**Karuna**  
Supervisor

**Vinay**  
Supervisor

**Roopa**  
Supervisor

**Murali**  
Supervisor

There are total of 57 teachers & 47 Helpers in our Mobile Creche Team



# Child Care & Development



# Makkala Mitra

## Hesaraghatta (A friend of children)

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.

**2012**  
Project starting year

Location  
**Hesaraghatta**  
**Bangalore Urban**

**60 Children**  
Direct beneficiaries

**110**  
Indirect beneficiaries

## Key activities

Makkala Mitra provided the children with that space where they could play, study, use and engage themselves in creative activities such as music, dance, cultural activities, yoga & meditation, computers, indoor and outdoor games. They also include agricultural activities, taekwondo, and celebration of festivals. Health camps were also organized for timely diagnosis and treatment. Bridge learning classes conducted for the children prepared them to enroll in government schools.

## Case Study •

Manjunath, the father of 14 years old Kishore, left his home without informing the family. Kishore's mother, Lakshmi Devi passed away. He then had only his 12 years old young brother Keshava as his immediate family. Given the situation where there was no one to take care of him, Kishore was admitted in the open shelter of Sparsha Trust. The boy was given non formal education in the open hostel and mainstreamed in the GMPS School at Hesaraghatta.

## Testimonial •

My family consists of my parents and younger sister. My parents worked as rag pickers in Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural. I was studying in 1st standard in a nearby Government school. My father, an alcoholic, would physically and verbally abuse my mother. He wouldn't even let us eat food in peace. Only on those days, when my parents went rag picking, were we able to have food, else we would starve.

The Childline 1098 team rescued me and my sister and took us to Praspara Adoption Centre in Arisnakunte, Nelamangala Taluk. After the expiry of the time period at the adoption centre, I was produced in 2021 at the Rural Child Welfare Committee who referred me to Sparsha Trust's Open Shelter. I am happy here. I am taken good care of 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

## Team Feedback •

I have been in Sparsha for 4 years now and I never want to be anywhere else. It is a very satisfying experience to teach the children. Sparsha Trust takes good care of me and the children at the center. I am very happy to be as a bridge course educator of the children here. As long as I am with the kids, I am always happy.

**Bhagyashree**  
Bridge Course educator

### Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**  
Project Mentor

**Manjunath SP**  
Co-ordinator

**Malappa**  
Outreach Worker

**Sunil**  
Outreach Worker

**Ramamurthy**  
Outreach Worker

**Chitra**  
Social Worker

**Bhagyashree**  
Bridge Course Educator

**Vaishalini**  
Bridge Course Educator

**Sannamma**  
Cook

# Makkala Mitra

## Hoskote

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.

**Department of Women and  
Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka**  
Funder

**2012**  
Project starting year

Location  
**Hoskote**  
Bangalore Rural District

**24 Children**  
Direct beneficiaries

**72**  
Indirect beneficiaries

### Key activities

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

### Impact

**24**  
Total new admissions  
during the year

**03**  
School  
Placement

**08**  
Home  
Placement

**24**  
Referred to Child  
Welfare Committee

### Proposed plan for 2023-24

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

### 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.

### Case Study •

Bhuvan Kumar (Name Changed) is a resident of Doddabalapur Taluka, Gowdahalli village. His mother passed away during his childhood, due to which now he stays with his father and two sisters. His father works as a labourer and is away from home most of the time. As he comes home late, there is no one to look after the needs and safety of the children at home. Without a mother to look after, the children's overall development, protection and nourishment got adversely affected. Bhuvan became very stubborn and would not listen to his father, and did not attend school regularly. Often, he would bunk school and be found roaming in the vicinity.

After being identified by Sparsha Trust, the project staff of Makkala Mitra counselled Bhuvan about the need for good education and that it would be for his own good if he joined school. Accordingly, he joined the GKBM school, Hosakote. On follow up, the Head Master told that now there are many positive changes in Bhuvan. Both in the classroom as well as in the hostel, the child is behaving in a proper manner and gets ready for school on time. The change in him is that he is willing to go to school alone, concentrates on his studies and is interested to become a soldier.

## Testimonial

My name is Varun Kumar and I belong to Tulugnuru village in Chinthamani Taluk, Chikkabalapura District. My father comes home very drunk and is abusive towards my mother. Though I and my siblings were in school most of the day, due to constant fight at home, it was becoming difficult to study.

Therefore, my grandfather and mother felt it is best to enroll us into Sparsha Trust's shelter at Hoskote. Here, I also got enrollment in 6th standard. Apart from my studies, I am able to also engage in other activities such as painting, drawing, singing and kabaddi sports. All this was not possible at home. Now, I am feeling positive about my future. I want to be a police officer, because the injustice we suffered by my father's hands, I do not want to happen with other children.

### Team feedback



I have been in Sparsha for 4 years now and I never want to be anywhere else. During this time, I got a good experience educating children. Sparsha Trust took good care of me and the children at the center. I am very happy to be as a bridge course Educator of the children here, they show so much of love to me. As long as I am with the kids, I am always happy

**Ramya**

Bridge course educator

## Project Implementation team

**Manjunath**

Project Mentor

**Sanna Kariyappa D**

Co-ordinator

**Huleesha C**

Social Worker

**Ramya**

Bridge Course Educator

**Sahana**

Bridge Course Educator

**Manjunatha A R**

Outreach Worker

**Ramesha**

Outreach Worker

**Rathnamma B V**

Outreach Worker

**Renuka**

Cook



# Shishu Palana Kendra

A centre for nurturing young children

With the collaboration of the Department of Women and Child Development, Sparsha Trust started Shishu Palana Kendra with the objective to take care of children of women labourers and the children are of age group 6 months to 6 years from morning to evening.

**2022**  
Project starting year

Location  
**Chokkahalli**  
**Hoskote Taluk**

**32**  
Direct beneficiaries

**28 families**  
Indirect beneficiaries

## Key Activities

- During the year, the following services were provided to the children
- Nutritious food      • Health check-up      • Providing the pre-school education
- Child care      • Enrolment of children into regular schools
- Celebrations of various festivals and important days such as Independence Day, Children's Day, Republic Day and Gandhi Jayanthi, World Environment Day and Teachers Day
- Parent staff meeting      • Training programs for the staff

## Impact

- The parents of the children are able to work with the assurance that their children are being taken care of properly. Hence, they can focus better on their livelihood.
- Health care and nutritious food ensure the overall physical wellness and age-appropriate development for the children.
- Children develop a positive attitude and close bond with each other, and access all those activities which is otherwise not possible in their homes, such as opportunities for cultural activities, learning various forms of art, craft, songs and dance.

## Donors / Supporter Department of Women & Child Welfare

### Case Study •

Manoj, a 4 years old boy belongs to Hosa Venkatapura (V) of Hosakote (T) His parents have come and settled in Chokkahalli because of their work. As the child's mother goes for work, the child has been admitted to our childcare centre.

The child did not get sufficient nutritious food at home and used to be alone without mingling with other children. After the child came to our centre, the child has made progress mentally and physically. The child has grown according to its age and as the child is getting good nutritious food, health has been improved and changes have been noticed in the weight and height of the child. The children get nutritious food, health, and protection from this centre.

## Project Implementation Team

**Manjunath**  
Project Mentor

**Sushma**  
Teacher

**Danamma**  
Helper

**Sharanavva**  
Helper

### Team feedback •

"I am working as a teacher at the Childcare Centre of Chokkahalli. The mothers of children who go for work leave their children in our centre and this centre helps them to go for work. We conduct many activities every day for the children enrolled to our Childcare Centre. These activities help the children to grow mentally and physically. The children play by themselves and mingle with other children. Activities are conducted in such a way that the children make progress in language, communication, mental and physical development.

The children are provided with nutritious food like milk, egg, and bananas. The cleanliness of the centre is maintained in view of children's health. The doctors visit our centre regularly to do health check-up of the children. After coming to this centre, I have learnt so much and this centre has helped me a lot to enhance my knowledge."

**Sushma. N**



A village in natural surroundings  
A multi-dimensional development centre  
for under privileged children in Bangalore

Recognizing the need for a 24/7 facility to ensure protection and development of children who have faced abuse, neglect and exploitation, Sparsha Trust built Nisarga Grama (nature village) a multi-dimensional residential development centre. Started in October 2016, Nisarga Grama is located in a lush surrounding of about 3 kms developed by IIHR (Indian Institute of Horticulture), has the Hesarghatta lake in its proximity. With a capacity to house about 250 children, Nisarga Grama is a residential centre providing multi-dimensional development opportunities for children, and helps them to access a safe place to live, study and grow.

#### 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 garden, Fruit Orchards, and greenhouse
- Dairy Farm • Security System
- Rainwater Harvesting • Children's Museum







**Oct 2016**  
Project starting year

Location  
**Hesaraghatta**

**91 Boys**  
Direct beneficiaries

**273**  
Indirect beneficiaries

## Key Activities

### • Education

After enrolment in Nisarga Grama, the children were admitted to nearby schools which ensures continuity in their education. After school, they were helped in their homework and exam study through tuitions our in-house team and part time teachers. Thus, having understood the lessons, the children began to feel enthusiastic about studying, be it any subject. The children followed a systematic lesson plan which helped them to lead a balanced life between studies, sports and recreation.

We are happy to report 100% pass results for children who appeared for the SSLC and PUC exams. Of the 12 children who appeared for SSLC, 8 children got above 75% to 95%, while the remaining got between 50% to 75%. The student who took the PUC exam got 55%.

At present, the 91 children living in Nisarga Grama have benefitted from the various facilities and schemes designed especially for their welfare and development.



Class/ Standard	No of students
1	2
2	6
3	5
4	7
5	6
6	8
7	9
8	10
9	20
10	12
PUC	5
ITI	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>

- 12 children wrote SSLC exam and among them, 2 students got distinction
- 7 children got 1<sup>st</sup> class.
- 3 children got 2<sup>nd</sup> class result



## ● Health and physical development

In order to strengthen their overall physical and mental well-being, the children start their day with yogasanas and usually have warm water for bathing, which protects them from any illness. Children with illness were checked by a Doctor and given medicines. They were kept in isolation in order to speed up their recovery and protect the other children. Given the importance of nutrition for age-appropriate growth, nutritious food like grains, vegetables, milk, fruits, eggs, meat and ragi malt were given regularly to the children.



During this year, 4 health check-up camps were conducted. During an eye check-up camp, 20 children were identified with eyesight issues. The organization mobilized support from Bhoominakshatra to provide 20 spectacles for the children. 4 children had scabies which was addressed by regular cleanliness (bathing), and by giving proper medicines time to time.

During this year, two children were hospitalized due to typhoid and lung related disease. The child with lungs disease was admitted in ICU at Saptagiri hospital and then shifted to general ward after adequate recovery. The child with typhoid also recovered adequately. Both were taken care of our staff after their discharge at the centre and are now in good health.

## ● Multi-dimensional development

### Library

Nisarga Grama has provided library facility where there are more than 8,000 books. This year, proper time table has been made for children and as a result of running the classes properly, children have cultivated the habit of reading.



During this year, after reading the books of their interest stocked in the library, the children often shared what they had learnt. This led to improvement in their vocabulary,

expression and in their learning level. As the books are arranged level wise, the students also register their names in the level wise register books along with library registers.

Students are categorized according to the level of the books they read. Green level -15 students, Red level - 20 students, Orange level - 20 students, White level-15 students, Blue level - 5 students, Yellow level - 5 students. Overall, the children have read more than 1000 books during the year, where on an average each child has read about 25 books a year. In order to progress from one level to another, each child has to read a minimum of 10 books. This is because each level progresses to the next in terms of content, subject, level of language etc. and this will help the child to understand the stories or content of the books more effectively.

### Science lab and park

Among the highlight of this year, was the inauguration of the science park and science lab on 21st January 2023. Sparsha Trust has established the indoor science lab with about 400 science related models and with the guidance of Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, we created science park. Both the science lab and the science park were created with the support of PlaySimple Games.



By using the science lab and science park, the children were able to effectively understand the concepts of different sciences such as Biology, Physics and Chemistry. It also made them feel enthusiastic to explore the world of science on their own. About 14 children are learning the experiments, and innovating models on their own. Children have improved their marks in science subjects in schools and participated in science fairs at inter-school competitions. Usually, the children studying in 5th class onwards are using the lab at least twice a week.



## Multi-media studio

A well-equipped multi-media studio in the campus is supporting the children to learn digital media skills including photography, videography, and editing. Most of the videos of the organization have been filmed by the children, under the guidance of Bharath Revankar, an experienced professional. The children, who are creative in nature, are always eager to showcase their talent. A few children have written and recorded a song in the studio.



## Museum

Children are collecting art objects of different countries and understanding the value of art, history and craft, and antiques.

## Career guidance class

Career guidance classes conducted for SSLC students and current 2<sup>nd</sup> PU students gave them a good understanding about the courses and job options available. This helped them to take decision based on their interest. About 35 students benefitted from the career guidance sessions.



## Dance /theatre / music - vocal & instrumental training

About 75 children participated in various forms of performing arts with enthusiasm. This opportunity, which they did not have while they were living in their homes, helped them to develop a positive attitude. Nisarga Grama's focus on holistic development includes training the children in various forms and arts and crafts. Given the growing expertise, the children gave various shows in Dollu Kunita, Djambe and Yakshagana in various companies. The programs also gave the children an opportunity to interact with top management of various companies and volunteers. Now, 20 children are learning Dollu Kunita.



**Dejambe:** 15 students are ready to give the Dejambe music show in any stage and remaining 20 students are learning. Children were taught with rhythm beats along with beating drums. During the year, about 6 to 8 stage performances were given in various corporate companies and during government programs. Our children are learning different craft forms including flower making, dream catchers, and coconut shell-based crafts.

## Sports and swimming pool

We have learnt that routine sports activities help children to perform better even in academics. Sports ensure good physical, mental and emotional health of children. When it comes to children and especially boys, they love sports activities so, We focused on playground development. In the month of January playground was inaugurated.



For the children day starts at 6 am where all of them are assembled in the ground along with the sports master. Early morning, children do Yoga, running and various exercises. These facilities have made the children physically and mentally fit.

They start with warm up and continue their activities till 7 am again between 4.30 pm to 5.30pm they are in the ground practicing the games as per the time table. Our children are good in indoor and outdoor games like Chess, carrom board, Snake and Ladder, Kho-kho, volley ball, Kabbadi and we are giving practice every day. Year 2022-23 we have focused on developing the sports ground at Nisarga Gram.

In order to improve the stamina of the students and keep them healthy, students are given the opportunity to indulge themselves in sports. Accordingly, children are made to identify their individual interest in particular sports. As a part of it, Shuttle cock, carrom, kho-kho, Kabadi and volleyball many more sports are being trained in the centre.



When compared to previous year, this year the children have seen development in many departments especially in sports. At school level sports event, 47 children had participated in various competitions.



## Taekwondo

About 78 children were trained in taekwondo during this year. One belt exam was been conducted after which 6 children got the Green belt, 45 children got the yellow belt and 27 children got the white belt. Ms.Bhuvaneshwari and Mr.Penchalaiah is a master who are teaching various techniques and also preparing to participate in the competition. In the month of December children participated in District level competition and won the championship trophy. The children are always keen on learning self-defense techniques. It helps to keep the children physically fit, practice competitive spirit, increase self- esteem, gain confidence and defend themselves. Children learned techniques like Parade, kicking, block combination.



## ● Vocational training

### Areca nut leaf plate making

Given the growing demand for eco-friendly plates, it is being regarded as a lucrative activity. At Nisarga Grama, 20 students were trained to make areca plates using the leaf plate making machine. They prepared around 1000 areca nut plates and bowls during this year.



### Greenhouse

During this year, all 91 children are trained and involved in farming activities during which they learnt to grow about 6 to 7 varieties of vegetables including greens. The vegetables were used for preparing food for the children, thereby enhancing their physical health. 30% of the requirement of vegetables are being grown at the campus itself.



## Electrical training

32 children learnt about wiring, connection to switchboards, and MCB among other things. Vignesh, one of the children at Nisarga Grama, aspires to become an electrical Engineer. He said that feels proud when he is asked to do some work at Nisarga Gram under the supervision of his trainer. The competency of the children is now at such a level that they are able to manage any minor electrical repairs on their own in the campus. They are doing so willingly and voluntarily.



## Electronics training

Mr. Nagesh, a retired teacher from M S Ramaiah engineering college, trained upto 35 children in basic electronics, Resistors, Capacitor, Inductor, Ohm's law, Voltage law, LED mini projects like alarm , automatic lights , circulation. The classes included both theoretical and practical. The training helped them not only as a learning activity but also will come in handy as a basic training in the future in case they wish to get into electronic gadgets sales and repair business.

## Tailoring class

During this year, 54 children learnt about the basics of training from an experienced resource person Mrs.Rajeshwari. They learnt about measurement, cutting, tailoring and finishing of various garments. Given the constant demand for tailors, especially during the festival season, these classes will be an advantage for those who want to become professional tailors.





## Highlights

- a. On 30th of October 2022, Nakshatra competition was held at New Horizon College, which was organized by BHOOMI NAKSHATHRA organization every year for various NGO students. 24 students from Nisarga grama had participated in 12 various competitions. Students have bagged awards in 11 competitions. Nisarga Grama of Sparsha trust emerged as a FIRST RUNNER UP of NAKSHATHRA arts program of the year 2022-23.
- b. Around 36 students are engaged in spiritual learning classes, which they learnt with great devotion and interest. It also helped them to overcome their negative emotions and past experience to quite an extent and understand the importance of living in the present.
- c. Yuva Spandana program was held for the students above 8th standard from May 1st to May 7th. This program was held for the students of NISARGA GRAMA by the sponsors of youth empowerment and sports department along with NIMHANS. Around 40 students had participated in this program which involved various kinds of interesting activities.
- d. On 25th of November 2022, which was the Impact Day, a team of volunteers from the Deloitte had organized various events like sports and entertainment along with learning. A team of 25 members was in this event. Around 82 children had participated in various activities like painting, quizzes, craft, dance, drawing, mono acting, etc.
- e. Celebration of National & Others various festivals

## Impact

Over the years, as the children are getting enrolled and living in Nisarga Grama, many positive changes can be seen in them. This is very important given that many have undergone different forms of abuse and neglect in their lives. The care by the staff and timely access to food, safe drinking water and comfortable lodging helps them to quickly adjust. However, apart from this, they gradually began to overcome their negative emotions and depression. For example, initially many of the newly enrolled children had problems mingling with the others, and not interested in studying or playing, and also felt home sick. They were given counselling on a regular basis and now are able to concentrate on education, take part in all activities and mingle with others. They have healthy food too.

In Nisarga Grama, a core committee consisting of children has been made where there are 12 members in it. They take up the responsibilities of discipline during the assembly lunch hour etc. Class wise leaders monitor the children to move in a proper line, while going to Yoga class and during lunch in the dining hall.

## Proposed Plan for 2023 – 2024

- Preparing children in various sports, Developing Science Park and museum
- Preparing children to compete in state level sports.
- More focus on science related subjects

## Acknowledgement - Donors/Supporter

PlaySimple Games

Persistent Foundation

Azim Premji Foundation

Neralu Foundation

New Horizon Education Trust

Kennametal shared services pvt Ltd

United Way of Bengaluru

## Case study •

Shivakumar, a 16 years old boy, is studying in the 10th Class in the Government High School, Hesaraghatta. Shivakumar is not only good at his academics but has participated in Inter School and won first Prize in Quiz Competition. It is a pride that he is been selected for State Level as well. He has participated in other activities at the center and also secured many prizes and certificates. These include winning the first prize in Prathibha Karanji, and first place in quiz competitions in Taluka and District level. He also won the first place in an event conducted by Department of Electronics, IT BT, Science and Technology where he secured the first place again in Quiz Competition.

## Testimonial

Bhavani, a woman aged about 32 years is a native of Uttar Karnataka, and a mother of two. After her husband passed away, she was in a state of complete shock. She came to Bangalore with the hope to start a new life as a single parent. She joined the Adobe digital learning class managed by Sparsha Trust in 2017. Although she began to earn by working in a garments factory, she struggled to manage her two children, house and expenses of living in a big city like Bangalore.

At that time, about 5 years ago, seeing her condition, Sparsha Trust counselled her to enroll Narahari in Nisarga Grama. Now Narahari, who is now 14 years, is very happy to stay here and is studying well. He also has bonded well with the other children.

On the change in her life after Sparsha's intervention, Bhavani said, "I had a challenge to take care of my children who were very young. I was forced to work extra time for extra money. My child was not going to school properly and was always on the road after the school till I returned home from work. I was worried about his safety. Later when I got to know about Sparsha Trust's Nisarga Grama, I enrolled him. Now I am so happy to see his progress. He is not only good in studies but has learnt many things like craft, art, electrical, dance many more. He is dreaming to become a software engineer. I am very much thankful to Sparsha Trust to make giving the ray of hope about my child"

### Team feedback



I got the opportunity to work with Sparsha Trust and have been in Nisarga Grama for the past 6 years. Before coming here, I was working in a school where I used to manage 25 children.

However, here, in Nisarga Grama, I work with 150 children. My day begins at 5:45 a.m and ends around 10 p.m. but need to be available as per the requirement.

Here, I have learnt a lot and improved my skills so that I can cater to the needs of the children. I try to focus mainly on children studying in SSLC as it is an important year for them. I train children to actively participate in various activities and competitions. Every year new children are enrolled. I believe that I am doing my work well, even though there are both failures and successes. I am satisfied and happy with my job here.

**Huleesha**, Centre Co-ordinator

## Project Implementation Team

### NG Team members

**Gopinath R**

Project Mentor

**Chitra K N**

Program Head

**Vandhana Rao**

Part Time Subject Teacher

**Manjunath SP**

Project Co-ordinator

**Venkob Rao**

Part Time Subject Teacher

**Huleesh C**

Center Co-ordinator

**Ashwath Narayan**

Part Time Subject Teacher

**Kamalavva**

Health Care and Counselling

**Pradeep**

Part Time Subject Teacher

**Premnath**

Care Taker

**Nagaraj**

Skill Trainer

**Nagesh**

Skill Trainer

**Aruna**

Skill Trainer

**Murugesh Dhanakoti**

Skill Trainer

**Sunil**

Care Taker / Teacher

**Rajashree**

Skill Trainer

**Penchalaiah**

Skill Trainer

**Bhagyalakshmi**

Care Taker / Teacher

**Sanamma**

Head Cook

**Nagaraj**

Center Supervisor

**Malamma**

Cook

**Narayanamma**

Art & Craft Teacher

**Sangappa**

Security



A Sanctuary for the Children

Makkala Dhama's Residential Program for girls was established with the objective of providing comprehensive care, education, and support to disadvantaged children in the community. The facility includes separate dormitories, skill and vocational training center, dining hall, classrooms for educational activities, Library, Computer lab, Science lab and park. The living spaces are designed to provide a comfortable and nurturing environment for the children.

July 3, 2022 was a milestone day for Makkala Dhama and Sparsha Trust as on this day, 142 girls moved into the newly constructed Ashwadha Dhama and Chinnara Dhama, which was part of the planned campus of Makkala Dhama. This was the day which transformed a vision into a reality as Sparsha Trust believed that residential facilities can help the girls to have 24/7 access to a holistic childhood experience. At the same time, part of the construction was in progress in the campus, with construction materials and a mini labour colony. The boundary walls had not been built and much of the infrastructure facilities were not in place. The monsoon season also had started. Yet, with confidence and commitment, the girls moved into the campus and gradually, things started falling into place.







## Facilities of Makkala Dhama

A large multi-functional dining hall, 10 dormitories, 1 Sick room, 6 Staff room, 1 work station , 1 store room, 5 class rooms with digital class facility, 1 large library, Computer center and Training hall, 2 open stages, Well equipped kitchen with store room and wash area, and an admin block

Eco-friendly (Solar energy) campus

Kitchen Garden

Security system

Rainwater harvesting

Tailoring units set up and training

Training units on electronic appliances

Hygiene room

Yuva Dhama- 150 girl children from standard 11<sup>th</sup> till job placement

Science park and lab, play area

**2022**  
Project starting year

Location  
**Devanahalli**  
**Bangalore Rural**

**147 girls aged**  
**6 years to 18 years**  
Direct beneficiaries

**375**  
Indirect  
beneficiaries

**July 2022 to March 2023**  
28 children home placed

**147** Children as on March 2023

## Key objectives

Protecting 4 key rights of children

**Right to Protection:** Identification, rescue and enrollment to Makkala Dhama

**Right to survival:** Food, lodging, health care, and counseling

**Right to development:** School & college admission, tuition, library activity, science lab activities, vocational and skill training, computer class

**Right to Participation:** Recreation and Extracurricular Activities (Art, craft, dance, exposure, creation of a core committee consisting of children and staff)

# Key Activities

## Right to Protection

### Admission to the center

After identification and rescue, the children enrolled in Makkala Dhama, which is managed as per the Juvenile Justice Act, are those impacted by COVID-19 pandemic, school dropout, never enrolled to school, children of single parent, orphaned children, street/homeless children, children who have run away from home, children into begging and rag picking and those living in difficult circumstances. During 2022-23, 147 children were enrolled to Makkala Dhama. Most of the girls enrolled are those from families affected by COVID-19, and in particular where one or both parents passed away due to the pandemic. Those girls referred by Child Welfare Committee, and or identified by our staff while they were into rag picking or drop outs, were also enrolled.

## Right to Survival

- a. Healthcare:** A trained medical staff is available on-site to provide first aid, and necessary medical assistance. There is a separate room for the children who fall sick where all required care is given. The children are taken first taken to nearby government primary health care centres, and if required, then to the Taluka level at Devenahalli. Depending upon the case, the children are also taken to the District hospital at Chikkabalapur or Victoria Hospital at Bangalore. 147 children attended the 3 health camps organized during the year, and benefitted from timely diagnosis and treatment.
- b. Counseling:** Individual counseling sessions were done for the girls. Separate files are maintained for each girl. 2 to 3 group counseling sessions are conducted as per the children's needs, helping them

navigate through any personal or academic difficulties they may encounter. The counselors work closely with the children, building trust and rapport, and offering guidance on various aspects of their lives. Counseling sessions aim to enhance their emotional resilience, improve interpersonal skills, and promote healthy coping mechanisms. After the initial stage of the counselling, two girls were referred to NIMHANS for professional counselling and mental therapy, and among them one was admitted for about 15 days.

- c. Nutrition:** Children are provided meals three times a day and a one-time snack along with milk or ragi malt . Every 3 months, the children meet to discuss and decide a new menu. The dishes prepared are those which are cooked in the households of the children, due to which they enjoy them and feel comfortable. For example, dishes such as puliogare, pongal and dosa are very much liked by the children. The menu also includes chapati, vegetables, dal and ragi so that the overall food menu is balanced.
- d. Kitchen Garden:** Children are directly involved in the process of growing vegetables. They learn about various aspects, such as preparing the soil, sowing seeds, watering, weeding, and nurturing the plants. This program serves multiple purposes, including teaching the children about the value of vegetables for their good health, promoting a sustainable and healthy lifestyle, and instilling a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Core committee members purchase vegetables once in a week. These supplement the vegetables grown in the centre. At times, surplus vegetables are sold and items required for the centre are purchased. About 30% of the vegetables required by the children are grown in the campus – carrots, greens, radish, ladies fingers, bottle gourd, brinjal, and tomatoes.

# Right to Development

## • School and college admission

We admitted 147 children to the nearby schools and colleges.

- Enrolled 65 children to Class 1 to 7 at Government Primary & Higher primary school, Bettakote. BIAL has adopted this school in order to provide infrastructure upgradation and overall development.
- 39 are into Class 8 to 10 at Devanahalli Girls Government School
- 33 are in 1st PUC & 2nd PUC to Pragathi College, Vijipura
- 7 students are enrolled to graduation in various colleges in Bangalore
- 3 students are enrolled to post graduation in various colleges in Bangalore
- Tuitions are conducted in the evening by our in-house teaching staff

## • Impact

- During this year, all the 8 girls who appeared for SSLC (10th Class) passed the exams with above 60%. The highest score was about 80%. This is a remarkable achievement given that the girls had come from families living in difficult financial and emotional circumstances.
- Akanshi, Nethravathi and Mahalakshmi has scored distinction in Class 10.
- Among the 14 students who appeared for the 2nd PUC examinations, 12 have scored between 60% to 90% marks, while 2 girls failed in their exams.

## • Library Activities

- 250 books were got from Nisarga Grama in July 2022.
- With the support of Rotary Club, a well-equipped library was furnished by September 2022.

- We also have 12 tabs which has content related to all the subjects studied by students from Class 1 to Class 10. Students of Class 10 are benefitting by regularly using this facility
- Activities in the library are in accordance with the training got from ILP (India Library Project). A time table is made, where each child gets 2 periods in a week to visit the library.
- Makkala Dhama is following the GROW BY reading model developed by HIPPOCAMPUS. GROW BY reading which stands for different color-coded levels – such as green, red, orange and white.
- Regular reviews were conducted to assess the level of the children, and accordingly the books were issued. 46 children were in red level, 52 in orange level, 26 in green level and 18 in white level.
- All the 147 children have accessed the library.
- Girls bagged 2nd place in the book reading competition during the Joy of Learning event.

## • Vocational Classes

Vocational classes such as tailoring, electronics and computer classes were conducted in order to empower the children to explore potential career paths and develop their talents.

Classes	No. of children enrolled	No of classes per week	Agenda
Tailoring	23 children	3 days	Basic, paper cutting, button stitching, hamming
Electronic	26	2 days	Basic introduction
Computer class	81 (above Class 8)	6 days (Batch wise)	Basic computer, MS Word, Ms Excel, how to Google



## Right to Participation

- Recreation and Extracurricular Activities**

In order to encourage the children to explore their talents and interests, various activities related to arts and crafts, music, dance, cultural events, exposure visits are conducted regularly. These activities helped in the personality development of the children, and enhanced their skills in different areas.

Classes	No. of children enrolled	No of classes per week	Remarks
Art, craft	80	4	Artificial flowers making, Dream catcher, painting, printing on bag, Bottle painting, decorative item with paper
Dollu Kunitha	15	2	The children performed in 18 shows in various government, corporates and in internal programs of Sparsha.
Free style dance and songs	43	4	The children performed 12 times at different corporates and cultural events
Core Committee	18	Meetings organized twice a week	The Core Committee monitors the daily activities and management at Makkala Dhama, and focusses on children growth and development. It looks into campus maintenance, procurement of food items, groceries, vegetables, health care, and planning of various activities.

- Volunteer Activities**

Every weekend, volunteers from diverse backgrounds engaged the children in online or offline activities during which they shared their knowledge and expertise. These activities, some of which were online, included workshops, interactive sessions, and career guidance programs, enabled the children to learn about various career options and inspired them to explore their interests. The volunteers were from Deloitte, spiritual classes, personal hygiene classes.

- Learning Exposure Visit to International Airport**

50 children of Makkala Dhama visited Bangalore International airport where they got the unique opportunity to observe and understand different activities of the airport. In November 2022, 25 children were taken to Indigo's CAE training centre where they underwent the flight stimulator experience. It was very thrilling experience for the children.

- Science Exhibition at Palace Ground:**

36 children studying in Class 8 to 10 visited the Science Expo at Palace Ground on 28th Jan 2023 and on 4th March 2023, they visited the OPEN DAY at Indian Institute of Science. During their visits, the children got to observe various scientific models and experiments.

## Impact

In just a short span of less than a year, the staff of Makkala Dhama, with the support of the Core Committee and senior management of Sparsha Trust, successfully planned and implemented various activities for the children.

Throughout this process, there were certain girls who had previously gone unnoticed, but they flourished under the guidance of the core team. These girls blossomed into exceptional leaders and, as a result, are now at the forefront of running the center, effectively nurturing and guiding the children towards a brighter future. The dedication and perseverance of the young staff, coupled with the management's support, have transformed the center into a place where these girls can thrive and achieve their full potential.

## Proposed plan for 2023-24

- Preparing children in various sports, developing Science Park and museum.
- Starting the children bank which will focus to teach the children in saving concept.
- Develop a good indoor and outdoor sports/games
- More focus on education
- Staff development programs through training
- SOP (Standard Operating Processes) – development and execution

## Donors / Supporters

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United Way of Bengaluru

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Ms.Pooja Hinduja
Ms.Ruchitha Sharma
Ms.Srimathi Swamy
M/S Xceed Toolings Private Limited
Ms.Pariala Srihari
Capt Sandeep Mukhedkar
Mr.Vishwantha Yallappa

## Case study

Salma (Name changed) is a 17 year old girl child who belongs to a Muslim family. Her father is an auto rickshaw driver. She has a brother and sister. Salma, who is a very active girl, liked to go to school. She became a victim of her father's sexual needs and she informed her mother about this but her mother was not ready to accept it. Instead she only blamed Salma and told her that she should not tell this to anyone. Salma was confused and depressed. One day, the staff of Child Helpline 1098 gave awareness in her school.

Then, Salma told the teacher everything and the teacher informed Sparsha Child Helpline 1098 and action was taken immediately. Her father was jailed. But Salma's mother refused to keep her at home and hence, CWC sent the child to Nisarga Grama. When Salma came to the center, she felt lost as this was the first time she was on her own and without her family. She was enrolled in a nearby school. However, her mother kept coming near the school and insisted that Salma withdraw her Complaint as only then the family members would avoid starvation. The child was in confusion and could not judge as to which path to take, the truth or the family.

She struggled within herself every day and then, she decided to choose the path of truth. Now, her father has been jailed for 14 years. Even though she made her mind to take such a strong decision, she is very much worried about her family (mother, brother, sister) and the family is against her. She is anxiously waiting for one phone call from her family.

With all the hurdles she has shown interest in studies and takes up the responsibility in the center which gives her more strength. She is a core member in the home. Happy to share that she has passed her 12th grade by obtaining 79% in commerce. She had a strong desire to study LAW.







## Testimonial

I'm Sujatha. I'm living in Makkala Dhama, pursuing final year B. Com in Reva university. I'm Happy to say

that I have completed 5 years in Sparsha trust. I am so grateful to be here. In Sparsha I have found a huge family with care, love and support. I have learned so many things here. Sparsha is helping towards my goal. Apart from my academics I have also learnt craftwork, teaching skill also to play the Dollu Kunita which represents our State[Dance]. And I have become more

Confident in speaking with gathering. Thank you Sparsha for motivating me always. I hope that I will be benchmark to all my juniors in Sparsha.

THANK YOU SPARSHA

## Team feedback

★★★★★

I (Sumalatha) joined Sparsha during the implementation of the WE CARE FOR YOU project. At that time, I was grappling with the loss of my beloved husband due to COVID-19, and I found myself in a state of confusion. I had always been a homemaker, with little exposure to the outside world. My life was centered around my loving husband and our two children, and we were a very happy family.

In the midst of this challenging period, my maternal family offered their support, but it became clear that their assistance wouldn't be sustainable in the long run. I had a strong desire to secure a better future for my daughters, which led me to consider admitting them to Sparsha Makkala Dhama. During the interview, I expressed my willingness to work and assured the organization that I would give my best to any responsibility entrusted to me. I understood that relying solely on family or others for support wouldn't be a lasting solution. My goal was to provide my daughters with financial independence and shield them from unforeseen hardships.

Sparsha offered me a role as a caretaker, and this opportunity has transformed my life in remarkable ways. I've gained a range of new skills, from caring for the children to managing important documents. I even learned how to use a computer and improved my communication skills.

I'm truly thankful to Sparsha for not only providing me with a job but also giving me the chance to acquire valuable skills. This experience has filled me with confidence, and I am now able to provide my children with a quality education and a promising future. I always say, 'Thanks to Sparsha, I now live with confidence and can give my children a good education.'

## Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**

Project Mentor

**Chitra K N**

Project Director

**Manjunath SP**

Project Co-ordinator

**Kariyappa**

Center Incharge

**Shruthi**

House Mother

**Lavanya**

Care Taker/Accounts

**Vishalini**

Care Taker/Teacher

**Sumalatha**

Health Care Taker

**Sushma**

Counsellor

**Emilia Diniz Silveira**

Part Time Counsellor

**Diksha**

Art and Craft

**Naveen**

Documentation and  
Children Transportation Incharge

**Manjunath**

Team Member

# Namma Shikshana

Bangalore International Airport limited (BIAL) through its implementing arm of Kempegowda international Airport foundation (KIAF) and knowledge partner Sparsha (An Association Organization) as part of flagship initiative “Namma Shikshana” conducted academic activities from May 2022 to May 2023.

## Key Academic Activities Conducted

### a. Thinking hats

Thinking Hats session was conducted in the April-2022 at Govt Higher Primary School(GHPS) Bettakote by. Professor R. Nagarajaiah. All Subject Resource Person (SRP) who were part of the session benefitted as they learnt the ways to inculcate all six hats in the teaching learning process.

### b. Malebillu

Malebillu was a 14 days program planned by government of Karnataka which was to create a platform for children to showcase their talents, accordingly day wise different activities were planned to encourage them to participate. The Malebillu program was successfully conducted by the co-operation of government staff and BIAL SRPS in GHPS Aradeshanahalli, Bettakote and Kannamangala in June 2022 to fill the learning gaps among students by different activities. As a result, the participants acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills.

### c. Action Research

By Using Mentoring strategy, action research was conducted for students studying in Class 5th, 6th, and 7th standard at Government Higher primary school Aradeshanahalli and Government Higher primary school Bettakote. The mentoring program that started from August 2022 to February 2023 benefitted 73 students.

### d. T.C.B Review

Professional development is learning to earn to maintain professional credentials such as academic degrees to formal course work, attending conferences, and informal learning opportunities situated in practice. It has been described as intensive and collaborative, ideally incorporating an evaluative stage. This program started from June-2022 to March- 2023 to check the learning area of the SRP's, Interest of SRP's, strength, needed area to their professional development of Aradeshanalli, Bettakote and Kannamangala. Under the professional development in our project conducted 4 achievement test, 4 terms of professional development record review for all SRP"s. As result, the concept of professional development (T,C,B) was developed and applied in teaching learning process. The SRPs were able to identify their own interest and strength.

### e. Demonstration lessons

In the method of teaching, the presentation of subject matter is very important. The principle of reflecting thinking should attempt to teach the students in such a way that their previous knowledge can be attached to their new knowledge, thereby further enhancing it. In our project, a total of 4 model demonstrations were conducted to enhance the method of teaching among SRP's in the academic year 2022-2023. As a result, the participants learned different methods of teaching, usage of teaching skills in the class, classroom management, and improving presentation skills.

### f. Question paper analysis

Question paper analysis provides statistics on overall performance, assessment quality and individual questions. This program session was held in the month of October-2022 at GHPS Bettakote and all SRP"s of Aradeshanalli, Bettakote and Kannamangala were involved in the session and learnt how to prepare, evaluate and analyse. As a result, the participants of the session learnt about blueprint and its classification along with segregation of questions, marks, and preparation of better question paper.





# Key Highlights

## a. Celebration of International Yoga Day

Our BIAL adopted schools conducted the International Day of Yoga on 21st June 2022, which is celebrated all over the world. International Yoga Day was celebrated by the students and teachers at GHPS Aradeshanahalli, Bettakote and Kannamangala school with great enthusiasm. Students of grade I and VIII demonstrated various yoga asanas and the importance of these were explained simultaneously.

## b. Breakfast program

The breakfast program was organized by BIAL Nammashikshana, CSR from June 15th 2022 with the collaboration of Annapurna Trust. This program was inaugurated by ECO Hanumanthappa, Bengaluru Rural district started by keeping in the mind that eating a healthy breakfast before starting the school day is linked with improved concentration, better test scores, increased energy whose brains use up about half of their body's energy. Three schools took the benefits of this program. A total of 50 Teaching staff and 20 non-teaching staff benefitted from this program.

## c. Uniform and stationaries distribution

Distributed uniform and stationary kit for about 725 students studying in GHPS Aradeshanahalli, Bettakote and Kannamangala in July 2023. School uniform increases discipline, heightens levels of learning and confirms the student to the school rules, which then improves performance.

## d. Prathibha Karanji

Prathiba Karanji is an innovative program where cultural and literary competitions are conducted at cluster, block, district and state levels; our all three BIAL adopted schools participated in Prathiba Karanji in the month of August and won prizes in different cultural and literary activities.

## e. Sports

All three BIAL adopted schools participated in Hobli, taluk, district and state level and won prizes in different cultural and literary activities.

## f. Environmental Day

In all our three BIAL adopted schools we celebrated world Environmental day. Slogans on World Environment Day encouraged and motivated the students to beautify the surrounding areas through plantations, greenery, saving water etc. This day also reminded that we have only one planet to live on, it is our home and only we are responsible to maintain its natural beauty forever.

## g. Colors Day

Colors week was celebrated in all our three BIAL adopted schools by conducting various activities. Students actively participated and enjoyed the colors games. This helped children to sort and classify objects based on colors there by reinforcing cognitive skills. Students learnt the significance of each color.

## h. National festivals

Our schools celebrated National festivals like Independence Day, Republic Day in which the children participated with great enthusiasm.



#### **i. Teachers' Day**

BIAL celebrated teachers' day on September 6th 2022 by organizing a small treat at Nandi Upachar to all the SRPs. A grateful speech was given by Honorable Professor and Mr. Hemanth Madegowda, Vice president of CSR, BIAL. There all the SRPs participated in different activities and games and a token of gratitude was given from BIAL team.

#### **j. Children's day**

Our BIAL adopted schools celebrated Children's Day by conducting many activities like quiz, games, dance and drama. The children enjoyed participating in these activities.

#### **k. National Mathematics Day**

On 22 Dec 2022, on the account of Shri Srinivasa Ramanujan's birthday, BIAL adopted school celebrated National Mathematics Day. As a part of the celebrations, quiz program, special assemblies and talks on mathematics were organized.

#### **l. National Science Day**

All the three BIAL adopted schools conducted science day on 28th Feb 2023 on the birth anniversary of Sir C V Raman. As a part of celebration, we organized science exhibition in which the models were prepared by students, special assemblies and talks on science were organized.

#### **m. Visit to Terminal Two of the Bangalore International Airport**

BIAL organized a visit for a new Terminal 2 in February 2023 for all the students of BIAL adopted schools. It was a great opportunity for the students to understand the activities and functioning of the airport. They also visited the Kempegowda statue and learnt about his contribution to Bangalore.

#### **n. Competitive Exams and NMMS examination**

Creating awareness about competitive exams and supporting them to appear for them.

#### **o. Chintanaprakshana**

In November 2022, our BIAL adopted schools – the GHPS Aradesanahalli and GHPS Bettakote conducted Chintanaprakshana exam in English, Kannada and Mathematics subjects. Initially we conducted school level exam and coached those who got more than 60%, and then conducted Chintanaprakshana exam.

#### **p. Hindi parichaya and Hindi prathaya exam**

In one of our BIAL adopted school GHPS Aradesanahalli. we have conducted Hindi parichaya exam. Of the 110 students who enrolled, 80 students cleared the exam.

#### **q. Sanskritsaralapariksha Exam**

In one of our BIAL adopted school GHPS Bettakote, we have conducted Sanskrit Sarala Pariksha exam. Of the 196 students who enrolled, 129 cleared the exams.

#### **r. Karate**

A total of 26 students enrolled for Karate from class 6 to 7th std. Once a week, a karate educator taught Karate to two classes. Those who took part in karate skills were honored by issue of Yellow belts and Certificates







Supporting COVID Impacted Children  
belonging to financially marginalised families

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 Anna Saheb Jolle, Ms. Uma Mahadevan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat Raj, and Ms. Pallavi Akkurathi, Director, ICPS and Mr. Hari Marar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Kempe Gowda International Airport Limited 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 affected 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

## June 2021

Project starting year

Location

## 9 Districts

Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Kolar, Mysuru, Bellary, Bidar, Koppal, Raichur and Vijayapura

## 1076 children

(2021-2022 - 995)

Direct Beneficiaries

## 604 families

(2021-2022 - 539)

Indirect Beneficiaries

## Key Activities

**1. Re-assessment of Beneficiaries:** Based on 1st year (2021-2022) data, during this year, we visited the families to collect key data such as family income, updating of school records, social entitlements, health and socio-economic status of families and school going children. Re-assessment was conducted in all 9 Districts covering 604 families.



### 2. 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.39.82 lakhs for 342 private school-going children.

WCFY also provided education kits to 324 children, across 9 Districts which helped families to save money.





**3. Counseling:** By regular counseling and follow-up, about 132 families and 143 children felt motivated to gradually rebuild their lives. Counseling also helped members of the family to cope with any loss of life or difficult circumstances and to start making plans to move ahead in life.

#### Beneficiaries of counselling



**Beneficiaries of food kits:** As the lock down was lifted and gradually life started to move on normally many of the families of WCFY started to find their livelihood. So, the quantum of distribution of food kits were slowed down and halted at once. Hence, only 27 needy families were distributed food kits in this year (2022-23)



**4. Social Entitlement:** WCFY facilitated the families to access and benefit from various social entitlements such as widow pension, Prayojitha Yojana and others

- 309 families got a total value of Rs.29.66 lakhs per annum as part of Widow Pension
- WCFY supported 290 families in getting the documents in place for applying for relief under COVID-19 relief scheme (State and Central). Accordingly, the families got a total value of Rs.2.47 crores which helped in the time that they required to re-build their lives. Families where the earning member had passed away made use of this money to meet essential expenses such as rent, food, health, and education.
- WCFY has supported 80 children to apply for the Prayojitha Scheme, which is a state government initiative under which children with a single parent will get Rs.4000/- per month till the age of 18 years. Under this scheme, 38 children are shortlisted and can get benefits from June 2023 (based on approval). The total value is Rs.18.24 lakhs per annum for 38 children.



#### 5. Skills Training & Business Support:

Once the family had lost its bread winner, especially in the case of a male, then the mother and children are dependent upon those family members taking care of them. They are usually not in a position to take decisions on household matters, education or any other aspect. Also, it becomes difficult for supporting families as well to take care of families who lost their only earning member. In this context, during this year, single parent women felt the need to take steps towards financial self-reliance but lacked the required support.

WCFY supported about **45 single parent women** with income friendly skills training and monetary support to start their own business. The project provided a total value of Rs.7.30 lakhs to these women, who got trained in tailoring, Saree tassels, aari work, Kuchu making etc.,

After being equipped with these skills, most of the women are now earning an approximate of Rs. 5000/- per month, which is being used for different purposes. They are investing some of the earnings back into the business while saving the rest after meeting essential expenses. This is enabling them to gradually become financially self-reliant.



Activity	No of women
Tailoring	24
Tuition & Nursery Teacher Training	4
Saree tassels	7
Bangle store	2
Petty shop (Fancy store, stationary shop, ration shop, tea & snacks hotel)	3
Cooking related business (chapati making, Roti, Pickles etc.,)	3
Cattle rearing (Cow, Sheep, Poultry forms, wholesale egg, & animal husbandry)	2

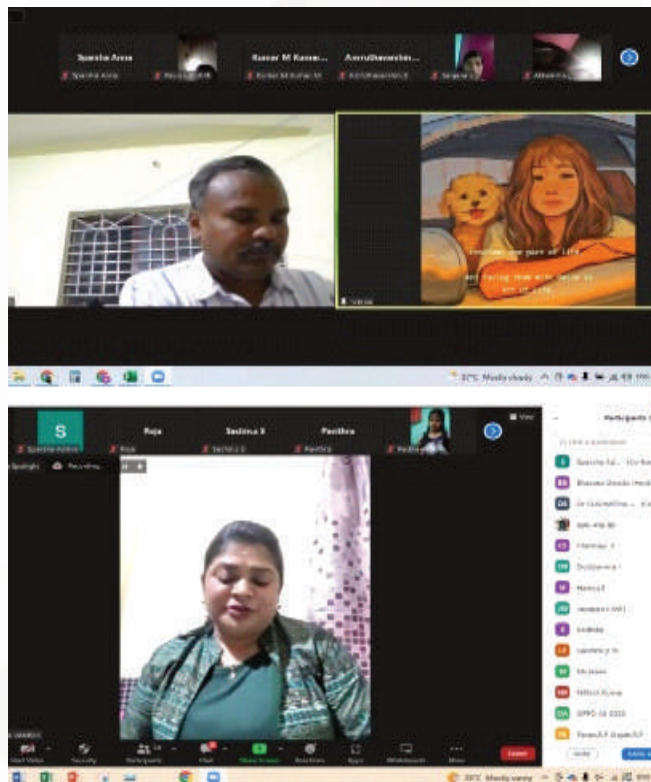
**6. Interventions to engage children and youth in useful and meaningful activities:** In order to support the children and youth during the critical times of their lives, the project designed various interventions to keep them engaged and keep their morale high.

#### Nimmondige Naavu - We are With You

Conducted 11 virtual sessions during which experts from different walks of life shared their knowledge on various topics with the children and their family members. This created a sense of bonding and assurance among the beneficiaries. (Mr. Manjunath Urban Development Welfare Expert conducted session on social entitlements & availing various government schemes. He also guided participants how to check eligibility for various schemes as well as to how to apply)

(Dr.Sushmitha Vamshi Founder Unnati Learn to Lead, Bangalore conducted session on "Professional relationship with child" covering how to identify age related behavioral changes among children by parents. Being member of Karnataka Cancer Society, she also educated the parents and children on need of cellular nutrition & hydration as well as spinal alignment.

A fortnightly session was conducted for about 100 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)

The project conducted 9 virtual sessions with children studying in 8th Standard and above which motivated them to get engaged in different social service activities. About 25 children, who registered as Samudaaya Shilpi (Sculptor of Society), came forward to teach poor children in their locality, conducted painting/drawing classes, dance classes, and got involved in eco-friendly practices in their location (such as plantation, keeping their premises clean and tidy, creating awareness about re-cycling and reusing plastic) protecting the environment in their location, etc. Of these Samudaaya Shilpi, 6 children were identified as the best Samudaaya Shilpis. Sparsha Trust will be issuing a certificate of appreciation along with a monthly fellowship to these children.



#### Impact

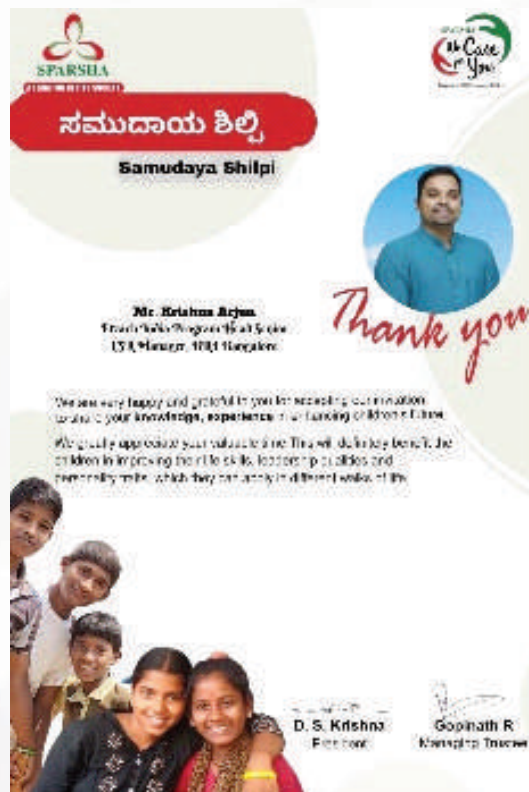
Due to the above-mentioned interventions, children and families who were very much in need of support, began to rebuild their lives. Children and single mothers were able to overcome the most difficult phase of their life, and started going to school or began to look for income generating options.

The project is happy to share that we had a 100% pass record as all of the 77 children passed in 2023. Women are gradually working towards becoming self-reliant in different ways. Akkamahadevi a happy house wife once living with her husband and two children before Covid-19 which shattered her life completely losing her husband and her daughter to the pandemic. Her younger brother stood beside her realizing the importance of getting required support from Sparsha Trust through WCFY project. Today she is running her own fancy store looking after her son and she has kept Sparsha's name to her fancy store in show of her gratitude for the support.



## Proposed plan for 2023-2024

- Continue to support single parent women under 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 through "Nanna Abhivrudhige Naane Shilpi"



## Acknowledgement - Donors/Supporter

CoForge Business process solutions pvt Ltd

Suez water Technologies and solutions India pvt Ltd

Squarepoint Foundation

Mr. Rajendra Jhamandas Hinduja

Ms.Ritu Narang

## Case Studies

### Pavithra H R

After marriage and motherhood, 35 years old Pavithra H R, a graduate in Education, became a house wife taking care of her family, mother-in-law, grandmother and the household. The sudden death of her husband due to COVID-19 shattered the life of Pavithra, a mother of two boys, one who was in 5th Standard and the second who was in LKG.



Her life was not same after she lost her caring husband to COVID-19. Her in laws started taunting her regularly. Without a regular income, she experienced financial difficulties, loneliness, and depression.

On the project's recommendation, Pavithra attended a few sessions with our counsellor. As she began to share her problems, she felt better. The sessions helped her understand the importance of re-building her own life and gave her confidence to stand on her own.

As Pavithra wanted to do a small start-up business, she pledged her gold and started a petty shop business. Gradually, she began to earn. After a while, she rented a house near to her shop and lived along with her father. She then suffered a loss in her business, after which she was forced to close her store.

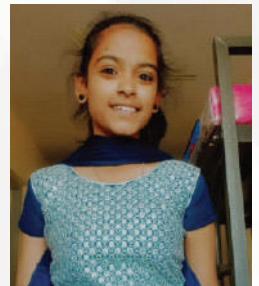
Again, she was at the cross-roads as she did not know how to run her family. She sought help from the WCFY team, which supported her to learn a beautician course. Around this time, another beneficiary of WCFY (Pinky) had already started her

career as beautician at Urban Company. The WCFY introduced the two of them when they came to receive the education kit. Pinky introduced Pavithra to Urban Company. Now Pavithra has completed her orientation with Urban Company and started her career as a Beautician. She is happy and has thanked Sparsha Trust & WCFY team for helping her come out of the most difficult phase of her life.

## Case Studies - 1

### Suvarna

For 17 years old Suvarna, her childhood was like most of those children of her age. She was staying with her parents, being looked after and cared for, and cherishing their affection. Then life changed drastically, as she lost her father to COVID-19. Given that she was very much attached to her father, she went into a state of depression. Added to her grief was the fact that she was enrolled in a hostel in Tumkur in order to complete her 2nd PUC.



Her mother continued to live in the same house but had a very basic standard of living.

Unable to get over the loss of her father, Suvarna used to feel depressed. She lost interest in studies, and was not taking care of herself. WCFY identified Suvarna and her family, and after learning about Suvarna's enrollment in the hostel, contacted her to understand her condition. Seeing her depressed, the project counsellor engaged with her regularly due to which Suvarna was able to come to terms with her loss. She is now taking more interest in her studies and bonding with the other students in the hostel.

## Testimonial

I am Hemavati from Soganahalli village of HD Kote, a tribal area of Mysore District. My husband Anjinappa was working as a daily wage labour, and he was earning Rs.60000 per annum. Ours was a happy family with 2 children. My Elder son's name is Tejaswi who is now studying in 1st PUC and my 2nd daughter is studying in 8th std in Govt School HD Kote.

My husband, who was the only bread winner of our family, died due to COVID-19, during the pandemic. At time, not just my close family members but even our neighbors did not come to help us.

After a few days a member of Sparsha Trust visited our house and asked the reason for the death of my husband and filled out forms and collected required documents from us. First, they started giving support by providing the ration kit. I received two times once in two months. For my children education they gave stationary items with bag which helped my children to continue their education. So, I thank the team members of Sparsha for lending a supportive hand and also supporting all those needy people like me.

## Team feedback



I am Annalakshmi and I work for 'We Care For You' as a telecaller. I always wanted to work in a hospitality service. I was a student of the My Quest training programme conducted by Sparsha few years ago. My nature of work was to call beneficiaries, conduct needs assessment, collect necessary documents, and manage the master data sheet. I consider my work is both unique and crucial. Our project supports COVID-19 affected families and children in different ways, after understanding their needs.

It's an emotional experience as I heard about women who were once housewives, are now the breadwinner for their families. I have been moved to tears by listening to their stories. I'm glad to work for a good cause and involving directly or indirectly assisting a family. I'm also working hard to improve and upgrade myself to learn more and communicate things better. I would like to thank Sparsha Trust and my team for providing this opportunity and support.

## Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**

Project Mentor

**Revathi Krishnan**

Program Head

**Srikanth B A**

Project Head

**Annalakshmi**

Project Facilitator/Telecaller

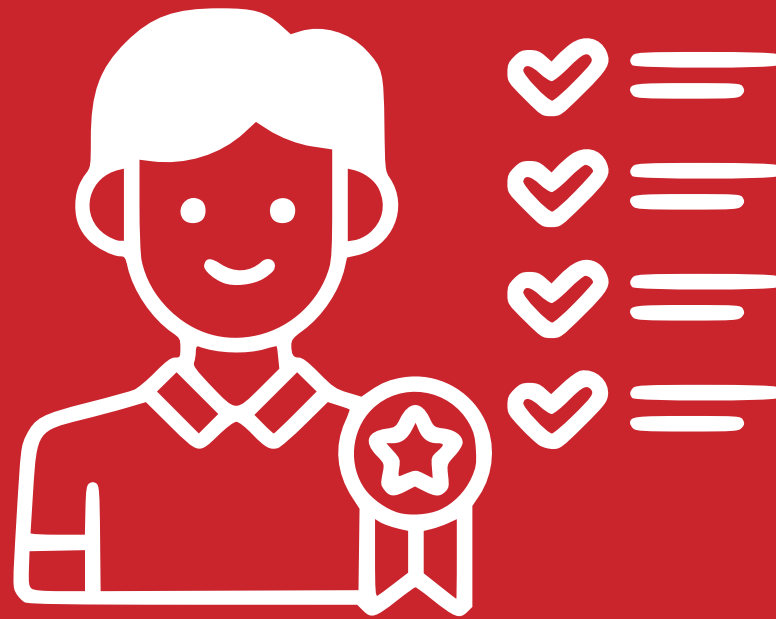
**Lakshmi**

Project Facilitator/Telecaller

**Ajay**

Data Management





# Youth Skill Development

# Youth Skills

## Development Program

Understanding the need to train youth, especially those from rural and peri-urban areas in job friendly skills, Sparsha Trust has been organizing vocational skills training programs for them since 2016. The trainings include 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, where they are able to earn anywhere between Rs. 8000/- to Rs. 18000/- per month as starting salaries.

**2018**  
Year of starting

Location  
**Mathikere**  
**Bangalore**

**240**  
**Students**  
Direct beneficiaries

**Approx 200 families**  
Indirect  
beneficiaries

**1095** Number of direct beneficiaries  
impacted till date

## My Quest Program

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

### Processes and impact at a glance

Networking with stakeholders, corporates and alumni for sustainability of programs  
Networking with corporates for job placement and internships  
Networking with stakeholders, corporates and alumni for sustainability of programs  
Identified youths are oriented about the courses and enrolled as per their interest  
Improvement in the socio-economic standard of life for youth from low income groups  
Survey in low income communities to identify youth

### Courses conducted by Sparsha Trust with the support of the respective funders

- My Quest Program at Mathikere, Bangalore with support from Quest Alliance.
- Market Aligned Skills Training Program (MAST) at Bangalore with support from American India Foundation Trust for Persons With Disability (PWD) and women aged between 18 to 35 years.
- Market Aligned Skills Training Program (MAST) at Mysore with support from American India Foundation Trust for youth from low-income communities aged between 18 to 35 years).



## 1. Conducted 4 batches of the course

During this year, Sparsha Trust conducted 4 batches for 240 students, and wherein each batch was inaugurated in a grand manner with motivational speeches and sharing of alumni experiences.



## 2. Alumni Engagement Program

During this year, 10 alumni engagement programs were conducted during which the alumni shared their experiences and success stories with enrolled students. This not only made them feel confident but also helped them to get clarity on various career options in the future.



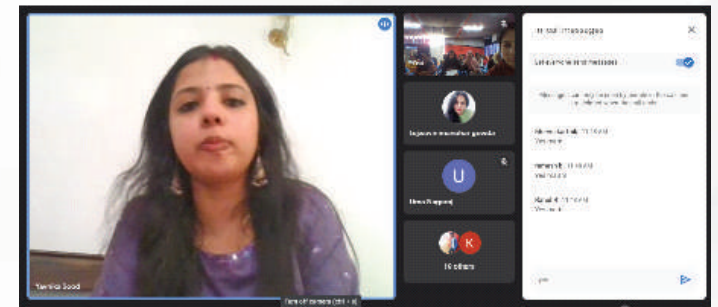
## 3. Parents Engagement Program

During this year, 5 parents engagement programs were conducted in which about 200 parents got an overview of not only the course but also came to know about the profile of the trainers. The parents said that they noted several positive changes in their children due to the training, such as they have become more responsible and dedicated. They felt the course was very useful in helping their children build their careers.



## 4. Guest Lectures

About 10 guest lectures were organized where the speakers spoke about effective communication skills, career guidance and development. Among those who took the lectures included Ms. Yavnika of Accenture, Ms. Ashwini – Jolly Phonics Teacher from Pre-School, and Dr. Sundaresan - Advisor for Sparsha Trust





## 5. Job Drive/ Virtual job fair

The project team organized 4 placement drives this year wherein representatives from reputed organizations interviewed the students. The project also encouraged the students to attend as many job fairs and interviews as possible which helped them to understand the profile of the companies, nature of work, and pay package. It also developed their confidence to attend interviews and make an appropriate choice at a later stage. The job drives took place in the office of Sparsha Trust, Bangalore University and in Peenya. Among those who came for interviews included **KFC, Axis, HMS Host - Kempegowda International Airport Limited and Apollo Pharmacy.**



## 6. Market Scan

We conducted 4 market scan visit in and around a 5 km radius of Mathikere area of Bangalore where the students visited offices and commercial establishments to understand about nature of work done by the company and about vacancies.



## 7. Mock Interviews

Mock interviews were conducted on a regular basis during which the students were asked questions that are typically asked during job interviews.



## 8. Celebrating important days and events

The project celebrated various important dates and functions including World Environment Day, Independence Day, and Teachers Day. Such events gave the opportunity for the students to learn and engage in cultural activities.

### World Environmental Day



### Achievements and Awards



Ms. Jayashree N were awarded for their efforts and dedication during the annual meet of Quest Alliance where more than 100 NGOs participated from different states of India.

## Impact

After the completion of the batches, the project staff contacted the companies of our database which has details of about 400 potential employers. Of the 240 students trained, 171 students got placed, which exceeded our target of placing 168 students during the year. Many reputed companies such as Quess, Medicare, Apollo Pharmacy, and 247 Digitize gave entry level work opportunities to our students in their companies. The approximately monthly salary of the students is Rs. 10000/- to Rs. 14000/-.

The program is happy to state that about 80% of its students are adolescent girls and women, many of whom are from the minority community. Many of our students are young housewives, who have come out of their homes for the first time after marriage to enroll in the training.

## Proposed plan for 2023-2024

- Train more than 300 students and place 70 % of the enrolled students.
- Aim for increased starting salary for the students from the present approximate Rs. 12000/- per month to about Rs. 15000/- per month.
- To reach out to more employers and encouraging students for self-employment / entrepreneurs.

Donor  
**Quest Alliance, Bangalore**

## Project Implementation Team

<b>Gopinath R</b> Project Mentor	<b>Revathi Krishnan</b> Program Head	<b>Nitin Iyer</b> Project Manager
-------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------

### Sandhya Rani

Co-ordinator and Trainer  
(English communication skills, Digital skills & Entrepreneurship)

### Ashwini H S

Trainer (life skills and career skills and understanding gender)

### Jayashree N

Trainer (retail and customer interaction, job readiness skills)

### Mervin

Mobilizer

## Case study

The parents of 29 years old Shashank run a grocery shop, and Shashank's father always wanted him to take up the family business, but he always felt shy to interact with other people. After reading about My Quest program on a pamphlet, Shashank and his parents visited the centre and enrolled him for the course.

Initially, Shashank felt apprehensive about the training and finding employment. However, as he started attending classes and interacting with peers, he began to feel confident, and overcame his weaknesses. After successfully completing the course, Shashank got a job in Ramaiah Hospital as an Office Assistant, which requires him to interact with persons all through the day and guide them to visit different Doctors in the hospital. medical personnel according to their medical problem. Guided on the importance of continuing education, Shashank also cleared his SSLC exam.



## Testimonial

I am Poornima and I believe in the quote, "Your success will be determined by your own confidence and fortitude." Taking the courses at My Quest & Sparsha skill centre has been a great experience. The trainers are very friendly and encouraging. Now I got employment as a cashier in Apollo pharmacy with a monthly salary of Rs 14000/-

## Team feedback



I have had the pleasure of working as a coordinator for the Sparsha Quest skill training program, and I must say that it has been a rewarding experience. It was fulfilling to witness their growth and the positive impact of training on the participants. It was heartening to see how the skills they acquired made them more confident and effective in their respective roles. I am grateful for the opportunity to have played a role in facilitating the program and for the invaluable experience gained from it.

**Sandhya Rani, Coordinator**



# MAST

## Market Alliance Skills Training

Mysore

Organized by Sparsha Trust, the MAST program in Mysore, (Market Alliance Skills Training) involves conducting a three-month course, conducted four times a year to mentor students between 18-35 years of age. Those who have completed their SSLC, PUC, or are college dropouts or housewives can join the course. Since its inception, Sparsha Trust has trained around 789 (1247 if you include students of this year) and placed over 606 students in different job sectors.

**2018**

Project starting year

Location

**Mysore**

**458**  
**Students**

Direct Beneficiaries

**About**  
**400 families**

Indirect Beneficiaries

## Key Activities of the year

The key activities of the year include the following:

- Creating awareness about the course
- Mobilizing students and enrollment
- Conducting courses in the following areas:
  - Fashion Designing
  - Beautician
  - Solar Tech – Green Jobs
  - General Management (Core employability, Advanced Excel and spoken English)
  - Skill Upgradation
  - Facilitating the access to placement for the students.

### 1. Fashion designing

#### Student's Voice

My name is Shahida, and I am from NR Mohalla, Mysore. I discontinued my studies after SSLC due to a family crisis, even though I did not want to. After several years, I got an opportunity to acquire job friendly skills when I joined the AIFT and Sparsha Trust's fashion designing course.

Till the time I joined the course, I had never touched a sewing machine and did not know how it worked. No

w, after the course, I can stitch my own dresses and got plenty of tips to make my dress beautiful. I'm so happy to be a part of this skills training program.



### 2. Beautician

#### Student's Voice

I am Asma, a resident of Udhayagiri. I was interested in working as a beautician since my teenage but when I approached training centres to learn the beautician course, their fee was too high. As I was unable to afford the fee, I gave up on my ambition. A few months ago, I came to know about AIFT and Sparsha Trust's skill training programs through my neighbor. I joined the beautician training which was a free certification course. The training was very useful. Now I am working in a hair and face care salon, earning about Rs. 11000/- per month.



### 3. Solar Tech- Green Jobs

A growing number of domestic and corporate customers are purchasing solar technology-based appliances, thereby creating a growing demand for technicians for their installation, repair and servicing. In this course, the students are taught to service and repair solar water heaters and other small solar appliances.





### Student's Voice

My name is Khaizer and I am from Nehru Nagar, Mysore. I discontinued my education after PUC. Before I joined the Solar Tech – Green Course, I did not have much knowledge about the course potential as I am from commerce background. After joining this course, I learnt about solar appliances and now know to service solar heaters. My parents are very happy to see me trained in this field. Thanks to AIFT and Sparsha Trust for the very interesting course. I got placed in Sun Solar)Mysore and my approx. monthly salary is about Rs. 15000/-

### 4. General Management

(Excel, basic computer skills, and English communication)



### Student's Voice

I am Arbaz, a resident of Rajiv Nagar. I discontinued my studies after 2nd PUC but was very passionate about learning computers. So when I learnt about AIFT supported skills training program, I immediately joined the same. I learnt all that I wanted to and more. I speak to my family in English at home which improves their English language as well.

### Computer, spoken English, Financial Literacy & Life skills

Students at Sparsha Skill, not only learn Beautician or Electrician or Fashion design course but they also learn the basics of computer, spoken English, Financial literacy and life skills. Many of the students say that they have touched the

computer for the first time in our class only.



### 5. Graduation Day

In January 2023, the Graduation day was conducted which turned out to be a day of celebration and special memories both for the staff and students. Students who successfully completed the courses in fashion designing, beautician, solar technology, and general management were awarded certificates.

While congratulating the students, the chief guest, Mr. Chennappaji, Founder of JC Tech, appreciated the efforts of Sparsha Trust and the support extended by AIFT. He encouraged the students, especially the girl students, to make

use of the training and get into the job market or study further.



### 6. Visit by donor

Mr. Ganesh, Project team head, AIFT and his colleague Ms. Rupali visited Sparsha Trust for three days in August 2022, which they observed the various activities at the skill development centre at Mathikere, Nisarga Grama and skills development centre at Mysore. During their interaction with the visiting team, the students shared their experience of the training and ways they are benefitting from the teaching.

Mr Ganesh from AIFT (extreme left), and Rupali (in white jacket and light pink shirt) with the trainers and senior project staff members.





## Impact

- 458 students enrolled
- Placed 295 students
- 100% record in training as there were no drop outs

## Proposed plan for 2023-2024

- Train more than 400 students and place 300 students in different sectors.
- Aim for increased starting salary for the students from the present approximate Rs. 12000/- per month to about Rs. 15000/- per month
- To reach out to more employers and encouraging students for self-employment / entrepreneurs

## Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**

Project Mentor

**Revathi Krishnan**

Project Head

**Nitin Iyer**

Project Manager

**Azra**

Trainer

**Zaiba**

Trainer

**Simran**

Office Assistant

**Vijaylakshmi**

Mobilizer

## Testimonial

My name is Chaya, and I am from Mysore. After I completed my 2nd PUC, I got married and was not able to study further. However, I always had the passion to learn new things. One day, I saw the fliers of the free course offered in Sparsha Trust and joined the skills training program. I learnt the advance features of Excel. Sparsha Trust supported in referrals for work. I attended job interviews with confidence. I am working in Techno Task earning a monthly salary of Rs.12,000/- For someone who could not complete her graduation, being financially self-reliant is a huge achievement.

## Team feedback



“As a Project Head for Skill Development of Youth, I have witnessed the transformative impact of providing young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the workforce and chosen careers. By regularly studying the market trends, we ensure that our training is relevant and accessible to youth from low income families. This ensures that their skills set meet the needs of employers, thus resulting in employment of youth at entry level jobs in companies. Overall, investing in the skill development of youth is essential for the growth and development of any society. The support of our partners and stakeholders, with whom we enjoy a good rapport, has enabled us to enhance their employability of youth through training, and contribute to the economic growth and development of the country.”

**Revathi Krishnan, Project Head**

# MAST

## Market Alliance Skills Training

for People with Disabilities and Women, Bangalore

Families from the low- income group and BPL families need support to access vocational training programs and employment opportunities. In this context, persons with disability (PWD) and women find it even more hard to access opportunities for training and employment, given various limitations. Recognizing this, Sparsha Trust, with the support of American India Foundation Trust initiated the Market Aligned Skill Training (MAST) Center at Bangalore for people with disability (PWD) and women. During this year, 3 batches of two months each trained students between 18-35 years of age in Advance Excel & Core Employability.

**2022**  
Year of starting

Location  
**Mathikere  
Bangalore**

**728**  
students  
Direct beneficiaries

**Approx 700 families**  
Indirect  
beneficiaries

**500 students at a starting monthly salary of Rs. 12000/- to Rs. 18000/-**  
Number of students who got placed

### Key Activities



#### 1. Inauguration of first ever batch of Sparsha Trust's MAST batch for People with Disabilities and women

The first ever batch began with an orientation session on Sparsha Trust, AIFT and the course. The PWD and women, who had faced many challenges faced till date, shared their expectations from the course, and hoped that it would support them to become self-reliant.

#### 2. AIFT's team to Sparsha Trust

In May 2022, Mr. Kamesh, Mr. Salil and Mr. Ganesh from American India Foundation Trust visited Sparsha Trust's office at Mathikere to discuss ways to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations in the future. They also visited Nisarga Grama, a flagship project of Sparsha Trust and appreciated the various activities conducted for the children due to which positive changes could be seen in them.

#### 3. Lectures by experienced development sector professionals and members of academic fraternity

Students of Bangalore based Christ college, (Deemed to be University) conducted a session on team work and its significance in a work place.





Session by Mr. Srikanth, Program Head, Women Lead, Sparsha Trust on entrepreneurship and business development skills

Ms. Bandana Rai, Lead - Strategic Initiatives, AIFT (right) with Mr. Gopinath, Managing Trustee, Sparsha Trust (left). During her visit to Sparsha Centre, Bangalore, she explained the importance of women being independent. This had a deep impact on the students, especially the girls, many of whom came from low-income families.

**A team from WIZ Business Solutions** visited Sparsha Trust's skill development centre during which they explained the career opportunities in their company and conducted a campus interview in our Centre.



### Job fairs and placement drives

Apollo Pharmacy, a leading pharmaceutical company, which manages pharmacies across Karnataka and Wiz Business Solutions (right below) conducted a placement drive in our skills development centre in November 2022.



In November 2022, the project's staff members took around 40 students for a job fair at Peenya, which gave them good exposure to interviews and companies profile. Companies including Swasthik Properties, Jet Vins, UTL Technologies Pvt, ESSVEE Requirement were present at the job fair.



After a campus interview conducted by Human Resource Unit of HMS Host in our centre, a few of our students got selected in entry level positions at a salary ranging between Rs. 15000/- to Rs. 20000/-







Mr. Kathirvan (8th position from the left) (designation) of HMS Host, after an interaction with PWD candidates. His motivational talk helped to address their apprehension about travelling to work and work place preparedness.



Students who attended the job fair came from different socio economic backgrounds and felt hopeful about a bright future.

It was a special day for students who attended the Graduation Day which was conducted on three different days. This would pave the way for improving their financial status and career growth. More than 100 students got certificates for their successful completion of Advanced Excel and Core Employability course. 100% of those who enrolled completed the course, as there were no drop outs.

Mr. Gopinath, Managing Trustee, Sparsha Trust, presenting the certificate of course completion to a student.



Skill students' interaction with Dr. Ashwath Narayan – Minister for Skills Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood, Government of Karnataka (Centre – in a white shirt). With him are senior staff members of Sparsha Trust and the youth skills development programs, and students.



## Impact

Enrolled 728 students between October 2022 to March 2023, of which 500 students were placed, and of these 76 students are PWD. PWD candidates got placed in different positions such as cashiers and computer operators – starting salary like – Rs. 14000/- onwards.

## Proposed plan for 2023-2024

- Training more than 900 students and place 600 students in different sectors.
- Aim for increased starting salary for the students from the present approximate Rs. 12000/- per month to about Rs. 15000/- per month.
- To reach out to more employers and encouraging students for self-employment / entrepreneurs.

**Donor**  
**American India**  
**Foundation Trust**  
**Bangalore**

## Case Studies

### Muttappa Majjur- Cashier, Mitti Café

Muttappa, a 21-year-old boy from Bangalore District, was orthopedically handicapped. His dream of being a sports person was shattered because of his disability and financial crisis at his house. Muttappa's father is a coolie, while mother is a homemaker. Due to financial constraints, he discontinued his education was in search of a job to share the family burden. He came to know about the MAST course through the panchayat awareness camp, and after learning about the

details of the course and that it was free, he joined the training.

### Muttappa's first step towards success

After the training, Muttappa, who was a quick learner, was appointed as a cashier in Mitti Initiatives foundation (Mitti Cafe) for a monthly earning of Rs. 9500/- along with incentives.

"Taking the course at AIFT & Sparsha skills development centre has empowered me socially and financially. I work at the Mitti café and my younger sister Ammu is going to school every day. Now that I have a job, I am eager to buy Ammu her favorite pink bicycle!" – Muttappa

### Shashi-Guest Service Executive, HMS host, Bangalore Airport

Shashi, a 19-year-old girl's life in Bengaluru District became miserable when she lost her father at the age of six. With three children, her mother did not know what to do after the sudden loss of her husband. For daily bread and butter, her mother started to work as a maid and later started to work as a house keeping staff in a factory. Due to financial crises at her house, Shashi discontinued her education after SSLC. She wanted to support her family, as her mother often felt sick. She always wanted to give three times meal to her family as they starved in the days when her mother did not go to work.

One day, when she visited a construction site for working as a coolie, she saw the mobilization pamphlet of AIFTT and Sparsha Trust's skill training program. She joined the morning batch immediately after learning that the courses, offered to girls from the age group of 18 to 35, were free. She also did part time jobs in the afternoon for less wages.

### Shashi's will to find the way to success

An alert and fast learner, Shashi was very interested in airplanes and jets. A top performer in all assessments, Shashi learned digital literacy skills and gained the self-assurance to work efficiently. She was successful in getting employment in HMS host company in (Kempegowda International Airport Limited) as a guest service executive, earning a monthly salary of Rs. 17,000 plus incentives.



"Taking courses at AIFT & Sparsha skill centre has been a great experience. The trainers are very friendly and encouraging. I learnt a lot and now I am able to earn up to Rs. 17,000/- per month. My family is having good food every day. I enjoy seeing planes taking off and landing in the airport. One day, I wish to take my family in a flight to America!"

## Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**

Project Mentor

**Revathi Krishnan**

Program Head

**Nitin Iyer**

Project Manager

**Ayesha**

Trainer

**Shabana**

Mobilizer

**Priyanka**

Portal Operator

## Testimonial

I am Saritha, from B K Nagar Yeswanthpur. After completing my 2nd PUC, I could not study further and wanted to go for the work, but due to lack of skills, I did not get work anywhere. Then I saw the fliers of the free course offered by Sparsha Trust and joined the General Management Course. I learnt the advance features of Excel and computer operation. Now I am working in HMS host in Bangalore International Airport at an approximate monthly salary of Rs. 17000/- I am now able to meet my own expenses and also contribute to my family's income levels.

## Team feedback



In this whole year, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of investing in the development of young people. By providing opportunities for youth to gain new skills, we are not only helping them to become more employable but also empowering them to succeed in all aspects of their lives.

In addition to developing technical skills, we also prioritize the development of soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. These skills are essential for success in any career and help young people to become well-rounded, confident individuals. We also work closely with employers to ensure that our training programs are aligned with the needs of the job market. By providing opportunities for skill development, we are empowering the next generation to succeed in their careers and become active, engaged citizens.

**Nitin Iyer**, Project Manager





# Women Empowerment

# WOMEN LEAD

A project to strengthen women street vendors and small scale business women

## Interventions by Sparsha Trust

At a difficult time like this, Sparsha Trust initiated Women Lead in order to empower 200 women managing micro or small enterprises to upgrade and upscale 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.

## 2020-21

Project starting year

Location

## Bangalore Urban and Rural

Mathikere, Hesaraghatta, Rachenahalli, Gunjurpalya

## 350

Direct Beneficiaries

**2020-2021** = 200

**2021-2022** = 200 + 100 = 300

**2022-2023** = 300 + 50 = 350

## About 1750 members

Family members of 350 women vendors

Indirect Beneficiaries

## Key Activities

During the first year and the second year, the project supported a total of 300 women to build their skills and mentored them to run their business in a successful and sustainable manner. The year 2022-23 marks the 3rd Phase of the Women Lead program, which focuses mainly on the empowerment of total 350 women street vendors or petty shop owners in Bangalore Urban and Rural. During the year, the activities consisted as following:

**1. Needs Assessment:** Needs assessment was conducted in and around Mathikere and Yeshwanthpur locations. Out of 156 primary data scrutinized to identify 50 more women for the year 2022-23 among whom street vendors and petty business women, petty shop keepers, tailors, beauticians, vendors of vegetables, milk, fruits, clothes, and flowers etc.,



**2. Training programmes on financial sustainability of businesses managed by women:** To streamline and improve the effectiveness of financial transactions 8 training programs were conducted by veterans of banking sector and financial consultants. About 160 beneficiaries were trained on 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 training session on financial sustainability taken by Mr. Shastri of ICICI Foundation





**The training session on financial sustainability taken by Mr. Channakeshava. Mr Channakeshava “better skills better idea is the success mantra of business women”**

**3. Business Development Trainings:** With the objective of improving the self-appearance, business premises, communication, customer relationship continuity, managing day to day business etc., 12 training programs were organized. These sessions also helped the women to maintain their day-to-day transactions in the accounting registers which helped them to track their daily expenses, sales and profits in the context of their investment.



**Mr. Raghavendra Prasad, expert in Business Development Training: Mr. Raghavendra Prasad “Financial freedom of a women is the real women empowerment”**



**Mr. Kannan expert in textiles: Mr. Kannan “A successful business will have a proper plan as its backbone”**



**Dr. Sundareshan expert and freelancer in Business Development Training**



**Mr.Srikanth B A Program Head Women Lead**

#### **4. Distribution of seed money under Business Development Fund:**

Suma and Radha who are Women Lead beneficiaries, Mr.Madhizghan UWB (United Way of Bengaluru), Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan, Honorable Minister for Higher Education, Skills Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, IT and BT sector, GoK, Mr.Gopinath R. Managing Trustee Sparsha Trust, Wg.Cdr.R.S.Murthy Trustee - Sparsha Trust, Mr.Jayapal ex-corporator Mathikere & Revathi of Sparsha Trust.



The project, which is supported by United Way Bengaluru, achieved a milestone when on 3rd February 2023, Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan, Honourable Minister for Higher Education, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, IT & BT sector, Government of Karnataka presided as the chief guest at a function organized by Sparsha Trust. Distinguished guests from the donor, United Way, and Department of Women and Child Development among others were present on the occasion.

During this event, the Honorable Minister distributed seed money Business Development Fund to the beneficiaries. He also unveiled a model cheque of Rs.10 lakhs which represented the seed money meant for distribution.

Dr.C.N.Ashwathnarayan **“To empower our women in business we need to strengthen them financially, provide proper training and guidance are most significant areas, this is been very well understood by team Sparsha under the able leadership of Mr.Gopinath and Mrs.Chithra”**



**Wg. Cdr. R.S. Murthy sir “It is this one man Gopinath, who pulled all of us people like me into Sparsha to empower our marginalized community members and more importantly children and women”**



**Mr. Madhizghan from UWB “We need to work very hard to bring changes among desired community. We feel proud to join hands with Sparsha in uplifting women in small business through Women Lead project”**



**Mrs. Vijaya (beneficiary women Lead project) “I am from a poor family background and today my heart is so heavy and eyes are filled with tears no words to speak because no one had supported me like this earlier for my business growth.**

**Today I feel like a family member of Sparsha not just because they have given me Rs.20000/- because of their support and guidance. Let us all grow together along with our fellow business women”**



The Project’s selection committee had shortlisted 156 women in small business through individual interactions out of which 50 most deserving women were selected. Dignitaries of the program distributed cheques worth Rs. 20000/- each to 50 beneficiaries.

In addition to Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, the other dignitaries included Mr. Madhizghan from UWB (United Way of Bengaluru), Mr. Jayapal ex-corporator Mathikere, Sri. Wing Commander R.S. Murthy, Trustee, Sparsha Trust, Mr. Gopinath R Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust.

**5. Group and personal counseling sessions:** The counseling sessions helped the women, who were going through a difficult time after COVID-19 pandemic, to practice mindfulness, and shift their mindset to the present, rather than living in the past. 200 beneficiaries participated in the group counseling session and 65 beneficiaries came forward for one-on-one counseling session to share their issues.

**Counsellor Sushma mental health counsellor with beneficiaries.**



**6. Social entitlements:** Regularizing basic cards of beneficiaries such as Aadhar Card, caste and income certificate, old age and widow pension helped the women to keep their records ready for applying any eligible government or bank related schemes. Schemes like PM - Swanidhi, Atma Nirbhar, Udyogini, Mudra yojana and Prayojitha Yojana were introduced to beneficiaries.

- **Prayojitha Yojana:** supported 40 families to apply for the scheme. 18 children were shortlisted and who will have Rs.4000/- deposited in their bank account each month till they attain 18 years of age
- **Aadhar card updation:** 50 members
- **Prime Minister’s Swanidhi Yojana:** Supported 10 women to apply of which 5 women got Rs.10000/- loan sanctioned for upgrading or setting up business.

**7. Digital Platform:** All 4 locations of the project, (Mathikere, Rachenahalli, Gunjurpalya & Hesaraghatta), conducted training sessions to educate and empower beneficiaries to utilize digital platform in order to improve their business. 50 women learnt and installed digital payment apps and expressed their happiness that their business earnings have increased at least by 5% per month. (Rs.5000)

Mr. Ranjith, Bank Manager, SBI, Branch Mathikere conducted session on various business related bank loans & schemes Mr. Ranjith **“A good bank transaction is the reflection of a good business practice.”**

Mr. Chandraprakash, Cyber Crime Specialist – conducted session on utilization of digital platforms, their advantages and disadvantages Mr. Chandraprakash **“Focus on your business, money will follow, if you focus on money you will lose business.”**





## 8. Skills Upgradation Training

60 beneficiaries, selected out of the total of 350 beneficiaries, underwent a training session of 5 days on skills upgradation. The sessions, conducted by reputed experts and business management trainers also included leadership skills, advanced business development sessions, intense digital platform exposure, and advanced financial literacy sessions.



(5 days Skills upgradation training session – Mr.Ranjith Manager SBI Mathikere, Mr.Sundaresh Expert Financial Literacy & Business Development training – Ms.Saniya & Ms.Pooja Effective Business Management, Ms.Aruna Utilisation of Art & Craft in Business location, Ms. Sumathi Expert Tailoring techniques)

## Impact

Given that the genuine beneficiaries were identified, the project ensured their capacity building which helped them to streamline their business. It also exposed them to user friendly digital technology based practices for the very first time, which also helped them in their daily transactions. Going beyond training, the project also gave them the much needed seed money indicating a trust in their capabilities. As a result, the women began to save regularly, avail loans from banks,

access various government schemes and private schemes, and get other banking related benefits. With a positive perspective, they worked towards resolving their challenges, and utilized their time effectively. The project helped to transition from small or petty vendors or small scale business women to entrepreneurs.

## Proposed Plan for 2023-24

- On-boarding 350 women of which 30 who are specially skilled, may be active in social platforms running their business successfully.
- Supporting 350 women (from phase 1,2&3) in scaling up their 'Cluster Business' through loans from Bank and Government.
- Introducing sustainable model by introducing these 700 women in to larger market.

## Donor / Supporter: United Way Bengaluru

## Case study

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was very difficult for Lavanya, a 34 years old resident of Rachenahalli, to take care of her family and her business. Due to the safety regulations, fear of contracting COVID-19 and reduced earnings for most household, the tailoring business had got adversely impacted. Customers were not coming forward to give fabric for tailoring. As a result, Lavanya had to face financial difficulties.

"After I joined the Women Lead Project, the project team supported me in many ways. It provided me with different types of training and seed money of Rs.5000/- during the first wave of COVID-19 lockdown. Now, last year, I got Rs.20000/- which I used to improve my business as well as to grow as a small time entrepreneur. I would not have been able to get this money from the banks, and had I approached a private money lender, there would have been high interest rates".

"I also learnt basic stitching, saree kucchu work, aari work, and embroidery work after learning I started to stitch various designs. I would not have been able to attend these classes on my own. These products have a good demand in the market."

## Testimonial



**Mangalamma**  
Mathikere

I am a tailor and I used to do the work in my own way. I had the least idea on improving my business and ways to attract customers. I joined Sparsha Trust and Women Lead project through a fellow beneficiary and I attended training sessions have helped me a lot. In one of the sessions, a retired bank officer educated all the beneficiaries on the different facilities a bank provides and how to make use of it. Digital marketing, online transactions, insurance, banks were some of the topics taught. I attended the 5 days skill upgradation session it helps me a lot to gain knowledge and improve my business.

## Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**

Project Mentor

**Manjunath S P**

Project Facilitator

**Srikanth B A**

Project Co-ordinator

**Ajay Andrew**

Project Facilitator

**Harish Gowda B**

Project Facilitator

# Avani

(Mother Earth - who sustains life)

A project that is supporting pregnant women  
And lactating mothers in the Construction site

Sparsha Trust witnessed the hardships faced by pregnant women and lactating mothers working at construction sites or earning by working as ragpickers or by begging during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to improve their health and wellbeing, Sparsha Trust launched Project Avani in 2020–2021. Through this project, it provided them access to nutrition kits, medical care, sensitized them about the importance of nutrition, hygiene, pre-natal and post-natal care, financial sustainability, confidence building, and guidance to use their government securities. During 2022-2023, it supported 50 pregnant and 80 lactating mothers for the betterment of the mother and child.

**2020-21**

Project starting year

Location

Adarsh Premium Labor Colony, Cheema Sandra, Hebbal, Mestripalya, Rachenahalli, Ramaiah Labor Colony and Veera Bhadra Nagar

**130**

Direct Beneficiaries

**260**

Indirect Beneficiaries

## Key Activities

1. Providing nutrients enriched food kits to the beneficiaries in order to improve their maternal health and fetus development. The kits included items such as dry fruits, ground nuts, dry coconut, ghee and seasonal fruits. Milk and banana were given to children up to 3 years on a daily basis.
2. Given their lack of awareness on these issues, sensitization sessions on prenatal and postnatal care, infant care, food practices (eating nutritious food on time) and hygiene was very helpful for the beneficiaries.
3. Monthly health checkups of mother as well as the child at the centres by Doctors ensured timely diagnosis of any illness, its treatment and timely immunization. This resulted in saving time, effort and money for the women.
4. Community health camps were conducted in all the operational areas
5. Celebration of Nutrition Day and Navaratri celebrations during which beneficiaries were invited to celebrate. Many of the beneficiaries wore the Navaratri colors during the celebration, creating an atmosphere of happiness and cheer across our centres.
6. Awareness session on Importance of Education: On November 11, 2022, which is marked as National Education Day, we held a session in each of our operating locations to discuss the importance of education with the mothers. A total of 87 mothers participated.

## Impact

- 100% women had institutional delivery.
- Monthly health checks reduced their risk of birth abnormalities and low birth weight, as well as prevented possible complications such as gestational diabetes and anemia.
- Monthly check-ups aided lactating women in successfully treating any postpartum issue and monitor the health of both mother and child.

- Building mothers' confidence through nutrition, infant care, financial sustainability, breastfeeding, and self-care education has improved infant health outcomes.
- Financial sustainability education has helped women learn how to manage their finances and reduce financial stress.
- Community free health camps assisted the community in increasing access to healthcare without financial stress, illness prevention and early detection, improved health outcomes, and fostering the abilities of the community to take care of their own health.

## Challenges faced during implementation

- Migration of workers
- A few of the beneficiaries are not giving much importance to resting during pregnancy and after childbirth, and lack support from their husbands, and especially those who are abusive and alcoholic.
- Difficulty in following up with beneficiaries who did not have phones.
- A few beneficiaries could not access government schemes due to lack of necessary documents.



Areas	Pregnant Mother	Lactating Mother
Ramaiah Labour Colony	2	19
Mestripalya	6	14
Rachenahalli	10	42
Cheema Sandra	0	5
Adarsh Premium Labour Colony	3	7
Veera Bhadra Nagar Center	0	5
Hebbal	0	17
Total	21	109

### Proposed plan for 2023-2024

To extend the support to 300 beneficiaries (Slum Dwellers)

### Donor / Supporter Mr. Surinder Choudhary

Managing Director, founder of Surin Automotive Pvt. Ltd.

### Case Study - 1

With her husband and mother-in-law, Srushti migrated to Bengaluru near Mestripalya from a small village in Bihar. In Bangalore near Mestripalya, her husband earned around 8000/- as a coolie, so they could afford daily essentials. Due to Covid 2019, construction stopped, and her husband lost his job, but Srushti had conceived for the second time and was worried about expenses for herself and her family and often felt like ending her life. Fortunately, she was able to speak with the Avani facilitator during the survey and shared her past story, that, she had lost her first child in Bihar when it was 5 months old because not been able to care herself during the gestation period due to the financial constraints.

Srushti signed up for Avani and received ration kits (provided by Sparsha), monthly kits, timely nutrition kits and monthly health check-ups, which was a lifesaver for both the mother's health and the unborn as well as for the rest of the family. Srushti has been receiving aid for three years; she gave birth to a healthy girl child who is now two years old and now both mother and child are healthy, and her hubby has got his job back and they are leading a good life.

Srushti first met Ms. Shruti Choudhari, the donor for Avani Program, in the month of September 2022 at Rachenahalli, Bengaluru and she felt fortunate, and she warmly expressed her gratitude for all support she received during the tough times in her life.

**Ms. Shruti Chowdhari (Avani Program Donor) from [Right 4] and Ms. Srushti (Avani Beneficiary) from [Left 3] during the donor visit.**



## Case Study - 2

Roopa, who works as a labourer, is a lactating mother from a low-income household. Married to Vasant kumar, an auto driver, they lived in a rented home with a basic monthly income of Rs. 9000/- . Unfortunately, Roopa's husband was imprisoned because of a murder investigation for a year. During that time, things got worse for Roopa because she had to pay for the family's entire budget, including rent, food, and other expenses for the mother-in-law, who had vision problem and two young children (first child is a daughter aged 9 years and second child is son aged 1.8 month) and was unable to focus properly.

She felt unable to move forward in life and frequently felt like committing suicide. She found a ray of light when the Avani Team spoke with her during a survey at the construction site in Hebbal. She was encouraged to enroll for the Avani program since she was eligible for it and use the monthly and daily nutrition kits that supported her in consumption of essential supplements for good health. She also attended the routine health checkups. Counselling from Avani facilitator helped to boost her confidence level and face the difficult circumstances in her life.



**Ms. Roopa (lactating mother) along with husband and two childrens.**

## Testimonial



My name is Rita, and I come from a small village in Bihar. We belong very poor family and we could not afford single meal. When our neighbors told us about a job opportunity to work as a coolie in Bengaluru, we chose to relocate to Bangalore with only two pairs of clothes. We slowly managed to buy things which is required for living. After a few days, I became pregnant for the second time and became concerned about how I would manage the costs for consuming nutritious food and paying for the doctor. Fortunately, I came across the Sparsha trust, which was offering free monthly nutrition kits containing Ghee, Jaggery, Dry coconut, dates, Anjur, Badam, dry grapes, horlicks and hygiene kits, as well as milk and banana as daily nutrition and free doctor checkups. I was delighted to see such support from them, and I joined for the Avani. Given that I could not afford a single meal, so I felt extremely blessed to have such help during my pregnancy. I was blessed with a healthy girl child. I am especially grateful to Sparsha for assisting countless women like me. May God reward all who are responsible for such outstanding service.

## Project Implementation Team

**Gopinath R**

Project Mentor

**Mamatha B**

Project Head

**Tejaswini**

Project Facilitator

**Suman and Aarthi**

Team members at  
Ramaiah Labor Colony

**Josephine and Geetha**

Team members at Rachenahalli Labor Colony

**Karuna and Indra**

Team members at Hebbal

**Rekha**

Team member  
at Adarsh Labor Colony

**Jyothi**

Team member  
at Mestripalya

**Nagarathna**

Team member  
at Chimmasandra

**Veena**

Team member  
at Veerbhadra Nagar





**Care for homeless  
and senior citizen**

# Sparsha

## Namma Mane

our home

Home for the homeless

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 consists of 24/7 residential centres being managed by Sparsha Trust at different locations, with a total capacity to house around 120 persons. These centres provide all basic amenities, including 3 times meals a day, to the homeless.

**2012**  
Project starting year

Location  
Ulsoor - 2012  
Ganganagar 1- 2022  
Ganganagar 2 - 2022  
Dasarahalli (Chokkasandra) - 2021

Direct beneficiaries

Ulsoor - 53

Ganganagar 1- 50

Ganganagar 2 - 59

Dasarahalli (Chokkasandra) -42

Total - 204

Indirect beneficiaries

**594**

## Key Activities

1. Surveys - homeless are identified
2. Enrollment in Sparsha Namma Mane
3. Services - Food, lodging, health care, counselling, recreation and celebration of festivals
4. Rehabilitation - social entitlements, referrals to job placement, home placement, support in setting up petty businesses
5. The residents of shelter homes are equipped mentally, physically and vocationally to move into rented premises or return to their homes as they are able to save money or get work and start earning
6. Urban homeless are mainstreamed, leading a life of dignity and respect, as they are able to stand on their own feet.

SI No.	Activities	Ulsoor	Dasarahalli	Ganganagar 1	Ganganagar 2
1	Surveys	24	12	20	17
2	Persons identified male	198	83	88	93
3	Persons identified female	18	8	0	0
	Total identified after surveys	240	103	108	110
4	Homeless persons rescued male	43	44	15	12
5	Homeless persons rescued female	4	0	0	0
6	Total rescued	47	44	15	12



SI No	Parameter	Ulsoor	Dasarahalli	Ganganagar 1	Ganganagar 2	Total
1	No of medical check up	24	12	10	9	43
2	No of times persons have undergone health check up	587	314	97	98	1096
3	<b>Food</b>					
	Breakfast	12687	1438	12459	6211	32795
	Lunch	9147	787	2547	3626	16107
	Dinner	11433	4635	5458	6579	28105
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35103</b>	<b>6860</b>	<b>20464</b>	<b>16416</b>	<b>78843</b>
4	<b>Social Entitlements</b>					
	Aadhar Card	19	0	4	5	9
	PAN Card	15	0	1	1	17
	Voter ID	2	1	0	0	3
	Health Card	8	1	1	0	10
	Bank account	0	2	0	0	2
	Old age pension	0	0	0	1	1
	Eshram Card	0	0	8	5	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55</b>

**Food security:** Before enrollment in the shelter, the persons living on the streets did not have access to food on time, and would have street food at different times. Often, much of their hard-earned earnings would go to purchase food. Prepared in unhygienic conditions, often these persons would fall ill. After enrollment, the residents' got the satisfaction of timely food, prepared fresh and in a hygienic manner. This helped them not only in saving money but also prevented them from falling ill.

**Access to washroom and bathroom facilities:** When the

persons were living on the streets, they did not have access to proper washroom and bathroom facilities. This would made them feel uncomfortable. They were unable to maintain proper personal hygiene as a result. After enrollment in the shelters, the residents, especially the ladies, felt very happy to access clean and hygienic washroom and bathroom facilities with adequate water. They got the privacy and dignity of using well-maintained sanitary and wash infrastructure.

**Health care:** Prior to enrollment, the persons living on the streets neglected their diseases and the concept of health

check up was missing. At the shelters, they got access to regular health check up, due to which various diseases have been identified on time and treatment has been given accordingly. Any advanced illnesses are referred to hospital for further consultation, tests and treatment.

**Lodging facilities:** After enrollment, the residents got access to clean and comfortable bedding and living facilities. They were protected from harsh weather conditions. As a result of the above, they began to gradually get over the past and look at life more positively. The lodging facilities helped them to save money, and look out for alternative accommodation or return to their families.

**Other services include:**

- Counselling
- Social entitlements
- Referrals to job placements

### Proposed plan for 2023-24

- Support in self-employment related schemes (starting micro enterprises)
- Increased referrals for job placement
- Opportunities for skills development
- More focus on health care for residents (urban homeless)
- More focus on home based rehabilitation
- Increased focus on identification of vulnerable urban homeless during surveys, and to refer them to appropriate care services and centres
- Strengthening the process of social entitlements
- Awareness programs for residents of shelter homes on health and hygiene, keeping premises clean

### Funders

- Azim Premji Foundation,
- BBMP (Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike)
- New Horizon College

## Case study

Magesh Babu, a 42 years old resident of Tamil Nadu came to the Namma Mane shelter located at Murphy Town, Ulsoor after coming to know about its services from an acquaintance. After interacting with him, the staff learnt that he was working as a driver, is unmarried and that his usually unwell mother was staying with his younger sister. Without work, he was unable to live in a PG or get accommodation, so he began to live on the streets. After enrollment in the shelter, Magesh Babu benefitted from various facilities. He was counselled to start life in a new manner, and supported to get a bank account and Aadhar card. He also got a job as a driver. As he began to earn, he also started saving money. Gradually, he could afford to take a room on rent and get this mother and younger sister to live with him.

Magesh Babu is very grateful to Sparsha Namma Mane, as it took care of him when he had no money or a place to live. It gave him the courage to take up work again and reunite with his family after about 12 years.

## Testimonial

Anitha, 31 years old is a resident of New Lingarajpura, Janakiram layout. Hers was a love marriage, but after a few years of marriage, her relationship with her husband became bad as they had three daughters and so on. Fed up of the fights, Anitha left home and started sleeping at Ulsoor temple at night. Seeing her all by herself, the police took her and dropped her at Namma Mane. When she first came to the hostel, she was very disturbed as she had left her three children. She was weak and behaved abnormally. As she felt ill one day, she was taken to a hospital by the staff. Only after several rounds of counselling, she gave details about herself, only after a while she gave her address. The staff members gave the details of her family to the police who tracked and contacted her husband. Her husband then came to pick her up. About her stay here, she said that she was looked after with care and respect. There were times when she did not want to live, but the staff always counselled her and motivated her. Anitha thanked them for looking after her when she did not have any money.

## Project Implementation Team

Sl No	Ulsoor	Dasarahalli	Ganganagar 1	Ganganagar 2
Project Mentor – Manjunath				
1	<b>Mahadeva Swamy</b> Manager	<b>Dileep kumar A P</b> Manager	<b>Arjun naik B</b> Manager	<b>Rajesh D S</b> Manager
	<b>Arun Kumar</b> Caretaker	<b>Anandamurthy</b> Caretaker	<b>Sathish j</b> Caretaker	<b>Mansu</b> Caretaker
	<b>Manjunath K P</b> Caretaker	<b>Sunil</b> Caretaker	<b>Ramesh</b> Caretaker	<b>Malappa</b> Caretaker
	<b>Daisey D</b> Caretaker		<b>Vijay Kumar</b> Caretaker	<b>Sachin Patra</b> Caretaker
	<b>Shekappa</b> Housekeeping			

## Team feedback



In the starting, I did not know anything about homeless, got a chance to meet them, came to know about the project, so many persons sleep on the roadside, I did not know that, here, I learnt a lot. Now I am able to do lot of activities. I have lot of satisfaction, helping the people, guiding them.

**Mahadev Swamy**

Manager, Ulsoor shelter home



# Annadatha Sukhee Bhava

## Introduction

The director of our Sparsha Trust, Wing Commander Murthy came to know about a family comprising of a 69-year-old woman named Changamma suffering from illness, her two sons and two daughters suffering from multiple organ failure in Manchiganahalli of Sonnavadi Grama Panchayath, Mulabagil (T), Kolar (D) and started this scheme "Annadatha Sukhee bhava" in the month of June-2021 in order to help the people in distress.

## Objective of the Project

The main purpose is to help the aged people who do not have food or shelter and basic facilities and suffering at their old age and enable them to lead life happily and peacefully at the last stage of life.

The purpose is being met by providing food items and daily use items every month for at least 3 years to the families who are very poor and may or may not have shelter facility, parents and grandparents (senior citizen), persons with physical, visual or mental challenges. These are those who do not have energy or the means to work and earn. In this case, they can benefit by getting food items and daily use items, leading to food security, which also gives them peace of mind.

## Scope of the Project

32 families of 12 villages coming under Sonnavadi and Hanumanahalli Grama Panchayaths of Mulabagil taluk. In the same manner, this scheme aims to provide the food items and daily use items to around 50 families of aged people who are suffering in Mulabagil taluk.

## Project activities

- A grama panchayath of a taluk will be considered and how many villages come under that grama panchayath will be identified.
- Villages are selected and with the help of Anganawadi and ASHA workers, the houses of poor families having only aged people will be selected and the facilities available from the government will be analyzed.
- Analysis about the condition of the families and final shortlisting to select the beneficiaries.



## Impact

- Food security
- Improved health due to regular access to essential pulses, rice and other nutritious items
- Daily use items are aiding improved way of life
- Elimination of hunger and anxiety among the beneficiaries
- Families and individual living with more contentment and feel cared for

The beneficiaries of this scheme who are from 32 families express good opinion about Sparsha Trust and the public, government organizations and few non-government organizations also appreciate our scheme. The beneficiaries who have used our food items and daily use items say that no government or private organizations have provided such a good service and through this scheme, they have received light in their dark lives and the organization has given guidance to change their mindset and provided courage to build their lives and by looking at our scheme, other organizations are getting motivated and coming forward to provide such service.



## Response of the Beneficiaries

**Beneficiary 1:** A person named Hyderabad of Chikkabandahalli (V), Sonnewadi Grama Panchayath says "The government has given me a house to live but every day I was going to any one house in the village to have meals and now, you have given me food items and I am using them to lead a peaceful life and you have helped me so much."

**Beneficiary 2:** A woman named Salamma of Sonnewadi Grama Panchayath says "My son was ill and his wife threw him and me out of the house. At that time, we both started living in a ruined tiled house and Sparsha Trust came to our doorstep and began to provide food items and daily use items for the past 18 months. Let Sparsha Trust help more people like us in coming days."

**Beneficiary 3:** A woman named Gopamma of Bhandarahalli (V) of Hanumanahalli Grama Panchayath says "I was living in a hut besides the temple of our village and I lost the hut during the reconstruction of temple. Then, the villagers gave me a small tiled house and I was suffering from illness. I did not have energy to go for labour work and I was suffering from hunger every day. At that time, Sparsha Trust people came to my house and asked about my problems and now, they have been providing food items and daily use items for the past 11 months."



## Testimonial



**Wg. Cdr. R S Murthy**

Trustee - Sparsha Trust

"Annadata Sukhi Bhava" is a program I had a dream of serving the needy, have initiated with the goal of ensuring that no one in the villages of Mulbagal Taluk goes to bed hungry. After personally witnessing the struggles faced by underprivileged families, senior citizens, and those with physical and mental challenges in one particular Panchayat in Mulbagal Taluk, I was deeply moved. This experience motivated me to utilize my retirement pension to make a difference.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my family members, friends, and well-wishers who have joined me in this endeavor to provide food and sustenance to 30 families in the Sonnewadi Panchayat of Mulbagal Taluk. Their support and dedication have been invaluable in making this project a reality. This initiative has been a tremendous source of motivation and fulfillment for me as I enter my 80s. I am deeply thankful to each and every individual who has contributed to this noble cause.





# Events

## JOY OF LEARNING

Joy of Learning is one of the largest program conducted by Sparsha Trust every year and the organization organizes this event for the overall development of children, to enhance the interest of children in learning and to support brotherhood, love, trust, physical and mental development. This program helps identify the learning level, creativity and innovation hidden among children and provides a platform for children to exhibit their talents.

The event joy of learning was organised on 21st and 22nd of January at Nisarga grama. All the centres of Sparsha trust had participated in various events. One of the highlight of Joy Of Learning was the inauguration of **Science Park and Science Lab**.



## PLAYGROUND

As children's need some entertainment and amusement after their school, A Playground was constructed for this purpose and named after **Heera Brauner** and it was inaugurated by **Mr & Mrs Heera Brauner**. The Playground consists of Kabbaddi court, Kho-Kho court, Kids play ground, Shuttle Badminton court, Long Jump and running race Tracks etc., are being facilitated for the children for their fitness.



## SCIENCE PARK AND SCIENCE LAB

Along with learning and playing children have a very good Science Lab are been facilitated where we all can see Technological based experiments which can improvise the scientific knowledge of the children. In the Science Lab we can see three different fields related to Biology, Physics and Chemistry. All the topics and Experiments related

to Science are been displayed in the science lab. At the same time in the Science Park we can see different models pertaining to Physics and Chemistry. **Science lab and Park supported by PlaySimple Games**





**DAY 1:** On 21st of January, that is the day 1 of the event was full of sports and games. The day was inaugurated by eminent guest like **Mr. & Mrs. Heera Brauner, Mr.Siddharth Jain-co-founder PlaySimple Games, Mr.ChandraShekar Sharma- Independent Director & Corporate Advisor, Mr.Brijesh Agarwal- Vice President Operation, Consero Solutions India Private Limited**, Individual volunteers from Kennametal, Consero Solutions India Private Limited and many more and from different projects had participated. The sports conducted are Kabbbadi, kho-kho, volley ball, throw ball, badminton, chess, three leg races, lemon and the spoon, sac race and long jump. The highlight of the day is the fields and tracks for sports activities were inaugurated in the name of Mr & Mrs Heera Brauner, along with this, the newly built science laboratory and the science parks were also inaugurated by Mr.Siddharth Jain-co-founder PlaySimple Games,. The children enjoyed all the sports activities with joy, fun, and excitement.

In the evening, children had various competitions like drawing, group songs, painting, essay writing and both hand writing. In which children participated with the same enthusiasm.



**DAY 2:** The 2nd day of the event was the day for cultural and academic activities like storytelling, environment lover, tables, globe quiz, science models, drama and solo dance. Children participated and encouraged in all the activities with great enthusiasm and excitement. Children were provided with various snacks in the particular counters and tokens were also given to each and every child.

The event JOY OF LEARNING was a great success which came to an end through prize distribution. By winning prizes in a total of 25 categories, Nisarga Grama won the champion trophy. And Gautham of 9th standard from Nisarga Grama, Afreen of 7th standard from Makkala Dhama received the best student award of the year. Varshini of 2nd std from Makkala Dhama received a special trophy as runner up under the category "Best Student Award".

Children enjoyed the event completely with all the fun, joy and excitement and looking forward to the next year.

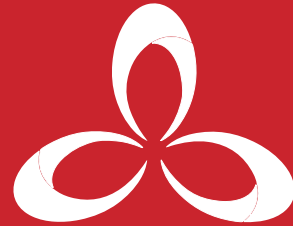


**Chief Guest distributed the prizes to the children Mr. Venugopa Puvvada**, Vice President, Engineering, Qualcomm, **Dr. Bhaskar**, Profesor Indian Institute of Science, **Mr. Brijesh Agarwal**, Vice President Operation, Consero Solutions India Private Limited.









**SPARSHA**

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