



SPARSHA

A TEAM FOR BETTER SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 24



Mr. Gopinath R

Managing Trustee and founder, Sparsha Trust



Dear friends and well-wishers of Sparsha,

At Sparsha Trust, our mission is to create meaningful, lasting change for the communities we serve. Each year, with the support of our dedicated donors and well-wishers, we make strides in empowering vulnerable groups and building a brighter future. Here's an update on our key initiatives and milestones this year:

CHILDLINE 1098 Transition to Government of Karnataka

This year, we transferred the CHILDLINE 1098 project to the Government of Karnataka after years of impactful work. Since 2015, we have safeguarded the rights of over 7,000 children in Bangalore Rural and Kolar, rescuing them from trafficking, abuse, neglect, child labor, and child marriage. This transition ensures continued protection and brighter prospects for these children.

Realizing the Vision of Makkala Dhama

In July 2023, we proudly inaugurated Makkala Dhama, our flagship program serving over 200 girls in Devanahalli. Paired with Nisarga Grama in Hesarghatta, which supports boys, these centers collectively nurture around 400 children with a focus on holistic development, made possible by the generous contributions of our supporters.

Kids Kingdom Expansion for Early Childhood Care

Our Kids Kingdom project, which began in 2015, has grown from two centers to 47, reaching over 10,000 children of construction workers between 6 months and 6 years of age. We currently operate 12 centers, and our goal is to make this program self-sustaining through partnerships with CSR, builders, and community donors.

Empowering Youth Through Skills Development

Since 2018, our Youth Skills Development Program has consistently delivered life-changing results. Through the MyQuest and MAST initiatives, we have placed over 3,300 young adults in jobs, indirectly benefiting nearly 10,000 families. We are particularly proud that 90% of those placed are young women, advancing gender empowerment in our communities.

Honoring Wg Cmdr Shri RS Murthy's Legacy

In June 2024, we lost a valued board member and dear friend, Wg Cmdr Shri RS Murthy. Since 2011, his vision and commitment helped shape Sparsha Trust's growth, from building campuses to establishing relief programs. His legacy endures through a scholarship program for higher education and continued support for our communities.

Refocusing on Child Care and Development

To maximize our impact, Sparsha Trust's Board of Directors has made the strategic decision to focus solely on child care and development. We are implementing new systems and processes to ensure the organization's long-term sustainability and effectiveness in serving our mission.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Our achievements are a testament to your continued faith in Sparsha Trust's mission. With your support, we are moving closer to creating a brighter, safer tomorrow for those in need.

Mr. Ranganatha. G. R
Board Member, Sparsha Trust



Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

I would like to begin with a heartfelt thank you for your unwavering support of Sparsha Trust over the years. The 2023-2024 year has been vibrant and meaningful, embodying the essence of Sparsha's mission and vision. We are profoundly grateful for the trust you have placed in us throughout this journey.

As we celebrate our achievements, it's essential to look toward the future. By 2030, India's population will be predominantly young, with nearly 70% in the working-age group, creating a unique opportunity to drive economic growth and national development. To harness this potential, we must prioritize equipping young people with skills for high-growth sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, technology, financial services, healthcare, and renewable energy.

For Sparsha Trust, this means deepening our commitment to the holistic development of children and adolescents. We take immense pride in the achievements of our young learners, especially the growing number of girls excelling in public exams and continuing on to higher education. These young pioneers are setting new benchmarks, inspiring their families and future generations.

Beyond academic success, Sparsha Trust instills in our children the values of respect, compassion, and service. We teach them to care for their communities, support elders with dignity, and embrace eco-friendly practices—growing vegetables, fruits, and trees to foster environmental responsibility.

With the invaluable support of our donors, volunteers, and well-wishers, we are dedicated to preparing adolescents for entrepreneurial and career opportunities, helping them become resilient, workforce-ready individuals.

Once again, thank you for your steadfast support and belief in our mission. Together, we will continue our journey to uplift the lives of children, youth, and communities through values-based education and training.

With deepest gratitude,
Ranganatha G R
Board 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



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

CORE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



Mr. Gopinath R
Managing Trustee - Sparsha Trust



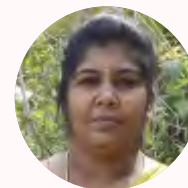
Ms. Chitra K N
Co-founder - Sparsha Trust



Mr. Manjunath S P
Head - Child care projects &
Government liasoning



Ms. Revathi Krishnan
Head - Corporate Partnership &
Donor Communication



Ms. Mamatha B
Head - ECCE
(Early Childhood & Child Care Education)



Mr. Nitin Iyer
Head - Youth Skills Development



Mr. Joy A M
Head - A Behavioral Change Demonstration



Mr. Anil
Head - Avani & 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).



NG BOYS

SSLC RESULT



Goutham
89.12



Narahai
82.04



Huligesh
79.04



Shivasharanappa
72.64



Urukunda
71.36



Tarun
68



Gokul
60.64



Joshva
62.56



Hemanth
77.06



Ramesh
44.48



Akash
48.48



Nagesh
71.36



Purushotham
72.32



Hari kumar
48.32



surya
49.44



Abhijith
35.84



CONGRATULATIONS, PUC STUDENTS, ON YOUR RESULTS! KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!



Sonu N
87.66%
Science(PCMB)



Poojashree
83.5%
Science(PCMCS)



Lakshmi S
77.3%
Science(PCMB)



Spoorthi
76.3%
Science(PCMB)



Gowri
64.8%
Science(PCMCS)



Shyamala
83.5%
Commerce(HEBA)



Niveditha
80.3%
Commerce(SEBA)



Meera
77.3%
Commerce(HEBA)



Rakshitha
75.3%
Commerce(HEBA)



Leelaveni
71%
Commerce(EBACS)



Lavanya
69.3%
Commerce(HEBA)



Yashavini
65.3%
Commerce(HEBA)



Swathi
58.6%
Commerce(HEBA)



Viandhini
52.16%
Commerce(HEBA)



Bheemaraya
68.83%
Commerce(EBACS)



Channabasappa
57.16%
Commerce(EBACS)



CHILDLINE 1098, India's inaugural emergency toll-free helpline number, was launched by the Childline India Foundation with the objective of providing assistance to children in distress. Operational 24 hours a day, every day of the year, 1098 serves as a lifeline for citizens to report instances of child distress or danger. Immediate response and action were taken upon receiving calls, including child rescue operations and coordination with relevant agencies for short-term or long-term care and rehabilitation.



CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) is the nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development acting as the parent organisation for setting up, managing and monitoring the CHILDLINE 1098 service all over the country. As on 31st May, 2021, CHILDLINE services are now available to children across 598 cities and districts, covering over 83% of the Indian landscape. This is made possible through a well-integrated network of 1068 partner organisations and 141 Child Help Desks operating at railway stations. CHILDLINE operates centralised call centres from 6 regional locations.

Since its inception, CHILDLINE 1098 has been instrumental in collaborating with NGO partners across various cities to rescue children from abusive and exploitative circumstances. Additionally, it conducts awareness campaigns and activities to educate communities about child rights.

Partnering with Sparsha Trust since 2015, CHILDLINE 1098 operates tirelessly to rescue, safeguard, and protect children engaged in illicit activities such as begging, rag picking, child labour, trafficking, and child marriages. Close collaboration with government bodies ensures swift intervention, while participation in state and national-level dialogues with officials and stakeholders aims to address systemic issues affecting vulnerable children.

Objective:

To provide immediate assistance and support to children in distress, rescue them from abusive and exploitative situations, and collaborate with stakeholders to advocate for and protect the rights of vulnerable children across India.

Project starting year and location

2015

Bangalore Rural District
Doddaballapur, Nellamangala,
Hoskote and Devanahalli

2020

Kolar District
Kolar, KGF, Bangarpete,
Mulbagal, Srinivaspura, Malur

Number of
direct beneficiaries
(overall)

7116

189 till August 2023

Number of
indirect beneficiaries
Approx

2970

567 till August 2023

Key activities conducted in Bangalore Rural and Kolar District

1. Our Intervention

- We have verified caller statements, through follow-up calls and on-site visits with allied departments like DWCD (Department of Women and Child Development, District Child Protection Unit, Police, Department of Labour, Department of Education, Department of Health and Child Welfare Committee, Department of Social Welfare.
- **In the Bangalore Rural region, we successfully resolved a total of 103 cases.** For children requiring assistance, we facilitated their rescue and presented their cases to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), ensuring all essential documents were submitted.
- **In the Kolar region, we addressed 86 cases,** providing timely interventions with the support of allied departments.

2. Outreach and Awareness

- Conducted awareness activities, and through the outreach **we reached around 398 children and 274 adults** in the month of August, 2023.



3. Special Programs

- Conducted awareness program on Child Abuse with allied departments, involving 142 children.
- Observed World Day against Child Labour program in collaboration with District Administration and Labour Department, engaging 200 children.

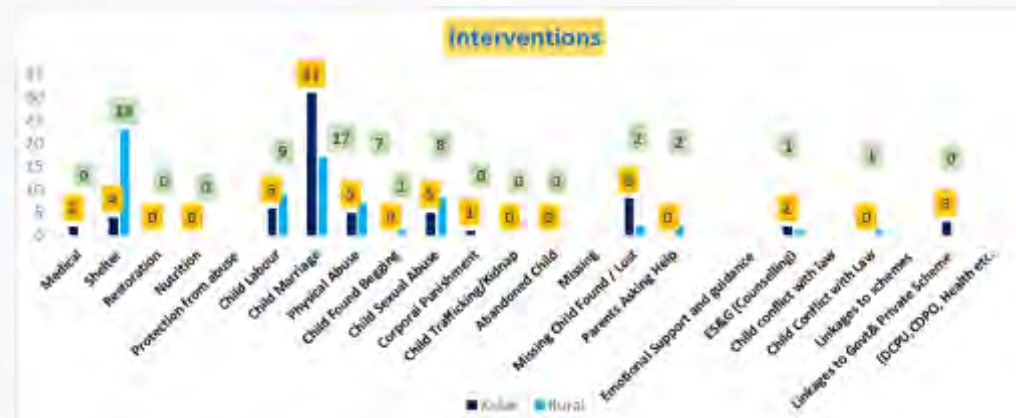
4. Activities at Project Level

STAFF MEETINGS

- The CHILDLINE 1098 team consistently organized both monthly and weekly meetings at the central level within the office premises.
- These meetings served as crucial platforms for fostering communication and collaboration among all staff members.
- Through these regular meetings, the team aimed to enhance coordination, share insights, and collectively contribute to the success and effectiveness of CHILDLINE operations.
- Staff Development: Staff Training on ICP (Individual Care Plan) and SIR Report (Social Investigation Report), making them more trained to handle cases well.
- Infrastructure: Shifting of CHILDLINE -1098 Sparsha Trust Collab Centre (Bangalore Rural) office from Devanahalli to Makkala Dhama, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural, for better facilities.



Impact of the project



Categories of interventions

Interventions	Kolar	Rural
Medical	2	0
Shelter	4	23
Protection from abuse		
Child Labour	6	9
Child Marriage	31	17
Physical Abuse	5	7
Child Found Begging	0	1
Child Sexual Abuse	5	8
Corporal Punishment	1	0
Missing		
Missing Child Found / Lost	8	2
Parents Asking Help	0	2
Emotional Support and guidance		
ES&G (Counselling)	2	1
Child conflict with law		
Child Conflict with Law	0	1
Linkages to schemes		
Linkages to Govt & Private Scheme	3	0
(DCPU, CDPO, Health etc.)		

CHILDLINE - 1098 Handover

The initiative was successfully concluded, and on August 31st, 2023, the operational responsibilities were officially transferred to the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU).

Throughout the closure process, all relevant documentation, project insights, and necessary details were meticulously shared with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the initiative's history, objectives, and outcomes.



Case study

Shivani (name changed), a 16-year-old student at Govt P U College, Maluru, expresses her gratitude to CHILDLINE 1098 for rescuing her from the clutches of forced marriage. In her own words, she shares the impact of their timely intervention:

“I extend my heartfelt thanks to CHILDLINE 1098 for being my lifeline when my parents were forcing me into marriage. In a moment of fear and helplessness, I reached out to CHILDLINE 1098, and they responded immediately. Their team visited my home, engaging with my parents and invoking the CHILD MARRIAGE ACT 2006, which protects children like me from early marriage. Their intervention stopped my early marriage, relieving me of immense stress, and now, I can pursue my college education without the burden of worries.”

She added, “I want to say thank you to the entire CHILDLINE 1098 Team for being there for me and for helping me continue my education. Every child deserves the chance to dream and grow, and CHILDLINE 1098 made sure that I could do just that.”

Donors/stakeholders of the project

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

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 Taluka Level and Panchayat level, Bangalore Rural and Kolar.

Project Implementation Team

Bangalore Rural	Kolar
Mr. Gopinath R Project Mentor	Mr. Gopinath R Project Mentor
Mr. Manjunath S P Project Coordinator	Mr. Shankar Gowda K C Coordinator
Mrs. Sahana Counsellor	Mrs. Sujata. G Counsellor
Mr. Murali Mohan M Team member	Mrs. Sunandamma Team member
Mr. Ratnamma Team member	Mrs. Manjula. S Team member
Mr. Manjunath A R Team member	Mr. Vishwanath. H. L Team member
Mrs. Sumalatha Team member	Mr. Ashok. R. K Team member
Mr. Naveen R Team Member	Mr. Ravikumar. K. R Team member
Mr. Chethan H Devkar Team Member	Mr. Shivaji Team member
Mr. Sanna Kariyappa Team member	

Team feedback

Since 2015, I have been a dedicated member of the CHILDLINE 1098 project, working for the welfare of the children in rural Bengaluru. I feel deeply content knowing that I have played a role in intervening and rescuing children from child marriage, sexual abuse and other critical issue.

I have also been fortunate to help these children rebuild their lives. Through this work, I have gained valuable knowledge about child rights, child laws, handling trauma and addressing various child related challenges.

Throughout my journey, Sparsha Trust has consistently encouraged and supported me in my efforts to help children in the best possible way. The collaboration with various allied departments, especially the Department of Women and Child Development, Police, Departments of Education and Labour have been instrumental in rescuing and supporting these children. Our teamwork, communication and collaboration, both within our team and with these departments – have been strong, making our efforts more effective.

- Muralimohan M, member of CHILDLINE 1098



Rescue of early marriage vulnerable/under age married girls



Childline 1098 poster being placed outside schools



**Capacity building activity for the staff at Devenahalli
Resource person Mr Narasimharao**



Child Labourers rescued by authorities



Child marriage rescue drive



Outreach activity - posters on Childline 1098 awareness



INITIATED IN THE YEAR : 2022

Sparsha Trust launched the Kids Kingdom project with the aim of improving the lives of children of construction workers, migrant families and safai karmacharis aged between 6 months to 6 years. Based in Bangalore, the project initially started with 2 centres in collaboration with Mobile Creche Delhi. Over the years, the project has expanded significantly to 47 centres, with support from various donors and Government Departments. Of these 47 centres, 35 Government supported centres functioned till August 2023 after which they were closed down due to various reasons. As of now we are managing **12 centres** across various areas in Bangalore.

Objectives of the project:

The overall objective of the project is to offer a secure atmosphere for the children of construction workers, migrant families and safai karmacharis and provide them with protection, nutrition, immunization support, and a stimulating environment to foster their comprehensive development. The objectives include:

- Care and protection for each child enrolled in the centres
- Proper health care and nutrition for their growth
- Access to basic educational/developmental learning
- Community awareness for the parents of these children



Location for the Project Implementation



1. Bangalore Rural & Bangalore Urban
2. Ramanagar
3. Tumkur
4. Chikkaballapura

Impact through the Project

Number of direct beneficiaries

(Children - overall)

3532

1773 In the year 2023-24

Number of indirect beneficiaries

(Families of Children - Overall)

10,596

5319 In the year 2023-24

Key Activities

A. EDUCATION

1. Age-appropriate education

The project follows the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) recommended syllabus for the children, due to which, the essential cognitive, physical, socio- emotional, language and creative developmental skills of the children were nurtured and developed. Through interactive library book reading sessions, various play activities and teaching methods, there has been a positive overall growth in more than **1500 children**.



Nanna Nade Shale kade – My steps towards schools – rally to create awareness about a child's right to education

2. Bala Sabhas

Bala Sabhas were conducted not just to improve the leadership qualities among the children, but also to assess their level of understanding of the topics taught to them or about any event that was conducted in that month. During Bala Sabhas, the children had a one-to-one discussion and presented their viewpoints on a selected topic, due to which they became more communicative and responsible. In past one year, around 1500 children participated in more than 300 **Bala Sabhas**.



The Bala Sabhas give the children a forum to develop their communication and leadership skills.

3. Introduction of digital learning

Digital learning was introduced in the educational centres which helped more than 1600 children to better understand alphabets, numbers, songs and stories. This also helped the children to keep pace with the evolving educational trends.

4. Cultural and Creative Engagement



More than 1500 children were engaged in activities such as singing, dancing, and hands-on crafts like clay work, drawing, paper cutting, paper bag making, and flower crafting. These activities not only fostered creativity and self-expression but also promoted cognitive development and social interaction, contributing to the overall well-being and happiness of the children served by the project.



5. Indoor and outdoor games



The children were encouraged to participate in physical activities and games such as running races, badminton, lemon & spoon race and many more and given prizes in order to motivate them. This helped to improve their physical and emotional health.

B. HEALTH

1. Health check ups

Monthly health check-ups, immunizations, personalized dietary plans, and growth monitoring activities were done to ensure the well-being of every child. **314 regular health check-ups** were done in the last one year at all our centres. It includes growth monitoring of around **5319 children** (this includes existing children and new enrolments, after taking into account children who have left the centres) and **immunization of around 168 children**.



C. NUTRITION

Those children who were found to be malnourished and anaemic during health check-ups were given nutrients enriched food / diet after which their overall health improved. This was of great support to the parents as well as they usually did not go in for health check-up of their children. As a result of the project, there was timely diagnosis of any deficiencies in the children. They were also provided with dietary supplements or medicines to address the same.

Children who were identified as being malnourished were given nutrients enriched food including egg, bananas, boiled grams, fried gram, milk, anaaj mixture and barfi. In addition, in order to boost their overall wellbeing – the children were given multi-vitamin syrup.

Approx 159 Children were identified as MUW (Medium Under Weight) and 59 Children as SUW (Severe Under Weight).



D. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

Regular activities related to mothers meetings, parents meeting were organized due to which the involvement of the community in the project increased.

1. Graduation Day - Support in enrolling 6 years old children to Government and private schools

One of the key interventions of the project is enrolling children aged 6 years and above to nearby Government and private schools. Last year, a Graduation Day was organized in a grand manner during which the children, the parents, teachers and headmasters of Government and private schools were invited. In this event, those children who had attained 6 years and above were given a warm 'send-off' and also enrolled into formal schools. About 81 (Except 17 & 22 centre) children were given educational kits. On this day, 81 children were enrolled in various Government and private schools. Additionally, during this initiative children who are out of school were identified, and their parents were counselled on the importance of education and to enrol them in various schools.

2. Community engagement

The project actively strengthened the bonds with communities by conducting around 1800 house visits and parent and community meetings during the year. These initiatives facilitated meaningful interactions between parents, teachers, and the broader community, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding. By promoting dialogue and engagement, the project cultivated a supportive network that enhanced the overall development of the children and their families.



Meeting with parents in the communities

Case study

Aged around 14 and 12 years, Rekha and Ganga, who are daughters of construction workers, are unable to walk properly due to a polio attack. They are also living with mental retardation.

In collaboration with the Rotary Institution, the project successfully obtained wheelchairs for Rekha and Ganga. This intervention has brought about positive changes in their lives, easing their mobility and enabling them to participate more fully in daily activities and outings. The parents expressed immense gratitude for the support provided, as it has significantly improved the quality of life for their children.

3. Poshak Shala committees

The Poshak Shala committees, formed in each centre, have 5 to 7 members consisting of parents, ANM worker, representatives of Department of Health and Education, and an adolescent among others. The regular meetings of the Poshak Shala helped to monitor the activities of the centre.

4. Social entitlements

In addition to creating awareness about various social entitlements to the communities, the project also facilitated the process for families to access them. Not only were they useful for the beneficiaries but also ensured that the schemes of the Government reached out to those who needed them the most.

✓ PAN CARD - 2	✓ ABHA CARD – 27
✓ AADHAR CARD – 156	✓ MOTHER CARD - 34
✓ LABOUR CARD – 38	✓ WHEEL CHAIR - 2
✓ BANK ACCOUNT – 3	✓



A child being photographed for her Aadhar Card.

E. CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAFF MEMBERS

Comprehensive training sessions were organized for teachers and helpers focusing on enhancing their understanding of the Management Information System (MIS) and evaluating progress in implementing action plans. The training also included management of children, hygiene and health, ensuring clean and hygienic practices while cooking food for the children. In these sessions, the staff members were recognised for their contribution in effectively implementing the project. These sessions empowered our **153 staff**, teachers, supervisors, caretakers and helpers to improve their overall efficiencies in implementing the project.



F. SUMMARY OF IMPACT

1. **Parents are keen to get their children enrolled in centres managed by the project:** At times, migrant families would shift from one site to another site in search of work. There have been cases where migrant families, whose children were part of Kids Kingdom, were shifted to another place due to work. In a few places, either childcare centres did not exist or were not found to be satisfactory.

In this situation, a few families asked their employers to transfer them back to their old area as their children could continue to study in Kids Kingdom centres.
2. **Good feedback about our children by schools:** After the children reach around 6 years of age, the project facilitates their admission into regular schools. We are happy to say that the teachers or headmasters of such schools (where our children have got enrolment) have given a good feedback about our children. They have said that our children already possess a basic level of learning which helps them to understand better and also felt that these students are quick learners.
3. **Improvement in nutritional levels of children:** As the children were served nutrients enriched food, there was an improvement in their overall health status. Many of those children who were diagnosed as Severe Under Nourished improved to Moderately Under Nourished and also to normal.
4. **Basis for sustainability through a participative approach and support of the builders:** In a few areas, where the centres closed down due to various reasons, the builders (Adarsha, Nandi Woods and PES College) took an active interest in the management of the centres. They ensured that the children got nutrients enriched food and paid the salary of the teachers.
5. **Timely diagnosis of deficiencies or illnesses and treatment due to the regular health check up:** Given the hectic lifestyle of the parents, the children's health care is often neglected. The monthly health check-ups kept track of the health status of the children, and which helped the parents to save time, money and effort.

Best practices

1. **Monthly health checkups** for the children and maintaining the growth card and files of the children. As a result, the parents are able to track the health status of their children and are taking their children regularly to the health checkups.
2. The Karnataka Welfare Board provides several benefits to children having the labour card. Our staff **helped the families in getting the labour card for their children** which may help them get laptops and scholarships for higher education. Through the project, the officers from the Department of Labour helped in making labour cards for the construction workers and labourers from the community.
3. The **community is informed in advance about the monthly health checkups**, due to which it became possible for almost all the pregnant and lactating mothers to come in for immunization and vaccination.

Events

During the year, the project celebrated many festivals and events. The children and their parents took part in many of these functions. Not only did they enjoy these events but also understood their significance. Among those events that were celebrated during the year included:

Dr. Ambedkar Jayanthi which was celebrated at all the centres, where approximately 1,359 children, parents, and community members participated.

Breastfeeding Day was celebrated on August 8, 2023 at all the centres and which emphasized the importance of breastfeeding for the overall development of the child. Breast feeding is of special relevance for this project because about 200 nursing mothers visit the centres from the place of their work to breastfeed their children.

The project celebrated International Girl Child Day in January 2024. Posters were prepared, and awareness sessions were conducted for community members. Teachers organized an awareness session in their respective centres to emphasize that every child, regardless of gender, should be given equality. The session highlighted that girl children also have the right to freedom, education, life, and all other aspects of a fulfilling life.

World Water Day was commemorated on 22 March 2024 at various centres where about 179 children were educated about the diverse uses of water and its significance not only for humans but also for animals and birds. The children were reminded not to engage in unnecessary water play and to use water only for essential tasks such as bathing and watering plants.

DONORS

1. Kid's Kingdom - Anugraha Project, Born Foundation & Parents.
2. Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Workers Development Cooperation.
3. Mobile Creche Delhi
4. First American India Foundation (Light A Life)
5. Karnataka State Building and other construction workers welfare board.

Case study

Name of the child: DP Sukan

Date of Birth: 10-10-2019

Date of Admission: 01-06-2023

Gender: Male

Age: 4 Years

Father Name: Dinakaran

Mother Name: Prabhavathi

DP Sukan, originally a resident of Bengaluru, has autism which means that the child understands but will not respond.

When DP Sukan's parents brought him to our center for enrolment, they notified about his have autism with the teachers. It seemed as if destiny brought him to our project. After he entered the Centre , the teacher of the Centre and one of the MSW Student named Srinidhi informed the Project Manager about his condition.

Subsequently, the project Manager advised the parents to take the child to a hospital. With the help of the parents, the Centre Teacher and the MSW Student took the child to Ramaiah Hospital for examination, where an ENT specialist assessed the child.

The specialist revealed that the child has lost his hearing ability and recommended hearing aids for him. The cost would be about Rs. 30000/- for the hearing machines.

As Sukan's parents could not afford the hearing aids, the Doctor recommended them to go to KC General Hospital. Here, after the due process, the Hospital gave the child hearing aids. Regarding his autism, the teacher and the MSW recommended to enrol Sukan in a Special Speech class. They suggested to enroll the child in Ashankara School which is near BEL Circle. However, the Principal of the school expressed his inability to enrol the child in the school as it accepted only children with mental health issues.

Following this, the teacher, the MSW student and the parents went another Speech School near Hebbal where Sukan was thoroughly evaluated. Finally, he got registered in the school but the parents were informed that the training would be provided for one hour each day at a cost of Rs 800 per day. When we sought the opinion of the parents, they informed us that they couldn't afford this daily commitment, citing numerous problems in their family, making it very difficult for them. For the well-being and future development of the child, we are making our best efforts to search for donors.

PROPOSED PLAN FOR 2024-2025

- **Proposed increase in enrolment of children by 15%**
- **Increase in school enrolment (mainstreaming) by about 20%**

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Mr. Gopinath R

Project Director

Mrs. Mamatha B

Project Head

Mrs. Lakshmi

Supervisor

Mrs. Leelavathi

Supervisor

Mrs. Geetha PK

Supervisor

Mrs. Karuna

Supervisor

Mr. Vinay

Supervisor

Mrs. Roopa

Supervisor

Mr. Murali

Supervisor

Mrs. Kavya

Documentation

Teachers and Helpers

TESTIMONIAL

Leelavathy, Supervisor, Kids Kingdom program

I joined the Kids Kingdom (Mobile Creche) program as a teacher when it first started in 2016. Children as young as six months to around 3 years were enrolled in the creche. I love being with children. Those children who were around 6 months old and older, their mothers would come in a couple of times to feed them. As I used to look after them and manage the creche, I often felt like a child. We used to give different nourishing food to them, such as khichdi and milk. It is very satisfying as this work is of great use to working mothers.

I get the same joy with the children when I am with my own children. The team has provided me with opportunities of growth and all the support required. Recognizing the efforts I put in, Sparsha Trust promoted me from a creche teacher to a supervisor. I have also learnt a lot. For example, did not know anything about operating a computer. Now I have been given a laptop and I have gradually learnt to work on Excel and Word. I have got good support from Mamatha madam and all others. I like my work very much.



Mrs. Leelavathy being felicitated by the staff members for her experience and contribution towards the project.

PHOTO GALLERY



Role play



Krishna Janmashtami celebration at various centres



Celebrating Independence Day



Visit by donors

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT



Shishu Palana Kendra

A centre for nurturing young children

24.09.2022

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.

A.

Project starting year
2022

B.

Location
Chokkahalli, Hoskote Taluk

C.

Number of direct beneficiaries
44

D.

Number of indirect beneficiaries
44 families

Key activities

During this year, the children were provided with the following facilities and services

- Nutritious food that is appropriate for the requirement of growing children
- Health check-up for timely diagnosis and treatment of any illnesses
- 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 to discuss the growth of the children
- Training programs for the staff

Impact

01

The parents of the children are able to go on time to their respective work places, are able to work without feeling anxious about the well-being of their children in their absence.

02

The parents are happy to note that the children are being given nutritious food on time, and also get the opportunity to learn and play during the day.

03

During this year, 8 children are supported to enroll in regular schools (private and Government schools). In fact, the schools gave a feedback that the children who got enrolled are more prepared given their basic learning in the Shishu Palana Kendra.

Feedback

My name is Prakruthi and I have a four year old daughter whose name is Karunya. My family, consisting of my husband, my four year old daughter, Karunya and myself, came from our native to Bangalore. After coming here, I was not going out to earn as I had to look after my daughter.

We visited Shishu Palana Kendra after learning about its services. We saw that there were many other children here. With a hope that our daughter, Karunya, will be safe and looked after well, we too enrolled our daughter here.

After that, I began to work and start earning. Now, we have no fear about leaving Karunya in the Shishu Palana Kendra. As a result, to an extent, our financial condition has improved.

As far as our child was concerned, earlier, she was keeping mostly to herself. She would not mingle much with other children. Now, after joining the Kendra, she is much more outgoing. She is interacting with the other children, and eating and playing with them. Even after coming back home, she informs us about what she has learnt and repeats some of the activities.

The Shishu Palana Kendra is not only very convenient to us but also good for the children as well.



DONOR

Department of Women and Child Development

Mr Gopinath R.
Project Mentor

Mrs. Sushma - Teacher

Mrs. Danamma - Helper

Mrs. Indramma - Helper

Project
Implementation
Team

Team feedback

I am happy to have got a chance to Shishu Palana Kendra as a helper. After coming here, while personally, there has been an improvement in my financial condition, I have learnt many aspects about child care and development. I learnt about the importance of nutrition, health and hygiene and protection in the lives of the children, and ways to manage the children. I am engaging the children in various activities. This place has helped me a lot and I am happy to be a part of this project.



PHOTO GALLERY



Children benefit from timely and nutritious food



Children participating in various games and activities



Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration



Visit by officers from Dept of Women and Child Development



Health Check up

NISARGA GRAMA

A village in Nature

INITIATED IN THE YEAR 2016



Nisarga Grama, a flagship project of Sparsha Trust, is a multi-dimensional development residential centre for boys who are in need of protection. It is dedicated to giving a safe and loving childhood and development experience to boys who have experienced abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

With a capacity to house up to 250 children, Nisarga Grama provides a supportive environment to boys who have lived in difficult socio-economic and personal circumstances. It is a place where the boys can grow and reach their full potential. By working with various partners and stakeholders, Sparsha Trust is committed to ensuring the well-being and bright future of every child in its care.

Objectives

- Provide a safe and nurturing environment for underprivileged boys.
- Ensure access to formal education.
- Foster holistic growth by nurturing diverse skill sets, confidence, and independence.
- Offer multi-dimensional development opportunities tailored to individual needs.
- Promote community integration and environmental stewardship.

Impact through the project

Direct Beneficiaries - Children

1016

Overall

153

In the year 2023-24

Indirect Beneficiaries - Families of children

694

Overall

459

In the year 2023-24

Number of
children as on
April 1st 2023

74

New
admission
during the year

79

Home
placement
during the year

24

Number of
children as on
March 2024

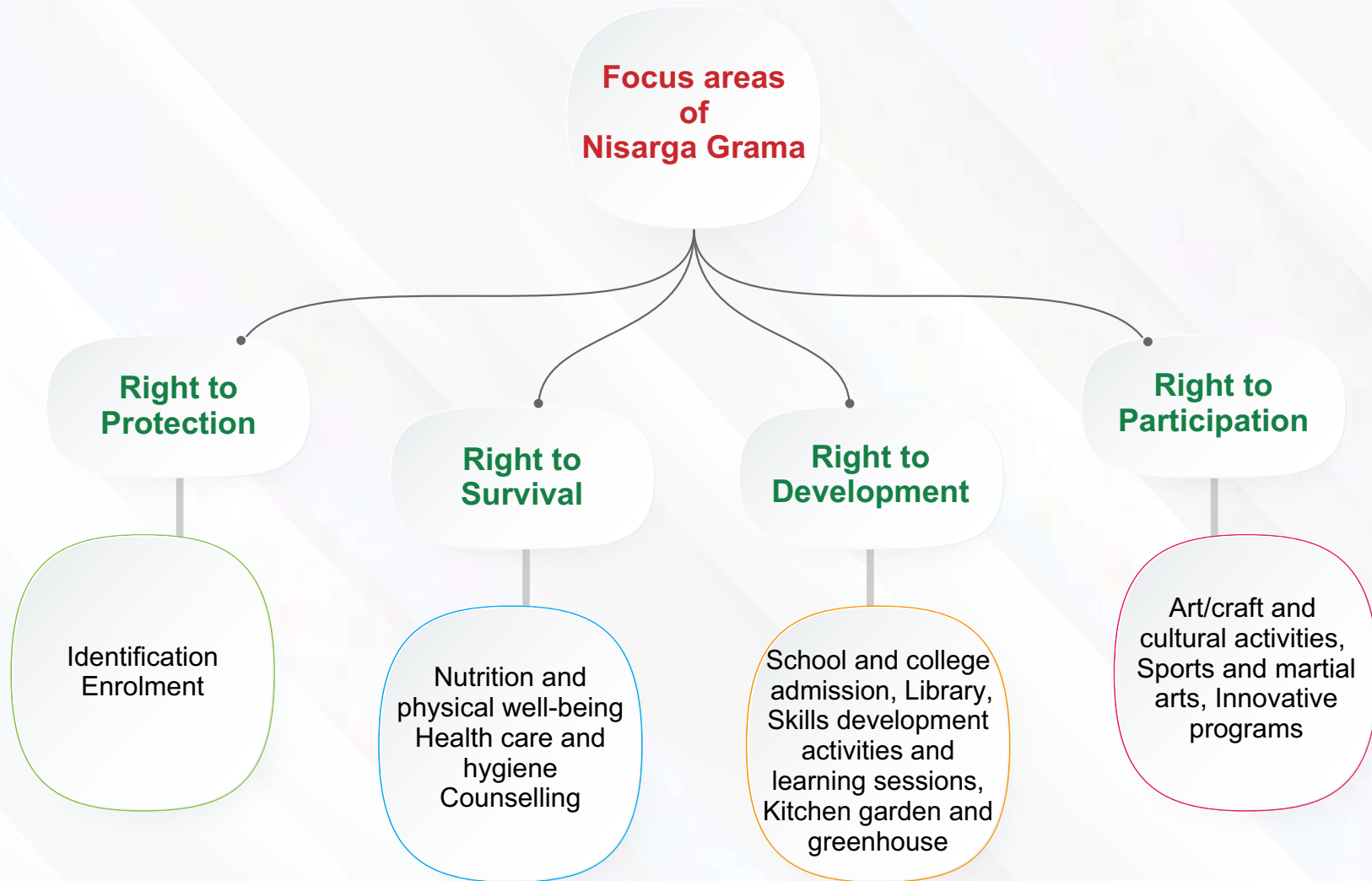
129



**Hesaraghatta,
Bangalore, Karnataka**



Introduction



A. Right to Protection

1. Referrals of boys from Child Welfare Committee

Children who have faced different forms of abuse, neglect and violence in their respective homes or in any other place are in need of rescue and protection. After such children are identified and rescued, the Child Welfare Committee refers them to an appropriate Child Care Institution. Accordingly, Nisarga Grama enrolls boys referred to it by the CWC and from there on, provides them with amenities, facilities and services required for a safe and holistic childhood development.

The boys, who are enrolled here, are aged 6 to 18 and come from low-income families, slums, migrant families and BPL families. These may be boys who are forced into working, or may be into begging and rag picking. Many of them are drop outs and exposed to different forms of addiction, which has a negative impact on their physical and emotional health. They may have faced different abuse, neglect and violence due to which they are in one or the other form of emotional or physical trauma.

2. Enrolment

During this year, 153 boys benefitted from the services and amenities of Nisarga Grama.

B. Right to Survival

1. Nutrition and physical well-being

a. Food

Each day, the boys are served with freshly cooked meals thrice a day as well as nutritious and tasty snacks in the evenings. The menu was planned keeping in mind their nutritional requirement. On festivals, the boys enjoyed the special feasts as per the occasion.



The boys had access to a balanced diet, consisting of vegetables, greens, millets, dal, fruits, eggs and non-vegetarian dishes. Most of the boys were not able to get this kind of wholesome food in their respective homes. This was evident in the weight loss that took place whenever they returned home for the holidays or for festivals.



b. Access to clean drinking water

The regular supply of clean drinking water helped to ensure the boys' overall well-being and protected them from possible water borne diseases and dehydration.



c. Yoga and sports



In addition to being engaged in one form of sport or the other, the boys participated regularly in yoga and basic exercises each morning. The boys are now stronger, active and have more stamina than before.

2. Health care and hygiene

a. Health check ups

During this year, two health camps, facilitated by Shankar Mutt, took place during which the children's basic health parameters were assessed. Shankar Eye Hospital conducted an eye check-up camp for the boys. These camps helped in the timely diagnosis of any illness or disorders in the boys and gave them the required treatment.

b. Washroom facilities

There are an adequate number of spacious washrooms and hand wash facilities in the entire campus to ensure personal hygiene for the boys.

3. Counselling

Regular counselling sessions for the boys helped them get over past traumas, negative emotions or thoughts. All the enrolled boys were counselled at the time of joining and subsequently at regular intervals by a trained and experienced counsellor. As a result, the following improvement in the mental and emotional health could be observed in the boys:

- more outgoing and social than before
- sharing of their feelings and thoughts
- support in adjusting to a new environment
- Improved interest in education and various activities such as sports

C. Right to Development

1. School and college admission:

After enrolment to Nisarga Grama, the boys are enrolled in the nearby schools and colleges in order to ensure their continuity in education. During this year,

Number of children studying in

Govt schools

93

Number of children

15

Attending college

Number of children studying in

Private schools

30

Number of children going to

15

Bridge school

In order to help them with their homework, reading, writing and test preparation, Nisarga Grama organized regular evening tuitions for the boys. In-house teachers coached students studying from the 1st to the 7th standard. Students studying from 8th to 10th standard were supported with subject-specific tutoring in science, mathematics, English, Hindi, and social science by dedicated tutors.



Celebrating an important academic milestone - Students graduating from 10th standard and moving to Pre-University classes being felicitated in a function

2. Library Activities

Children are encouraged to develop the habit of reading. The spacious and well-stocked library with comfortable seating arrangements is gradually attracting an increasing number of children. The books, which include fiction and non-fiction, have been kept in the library keeping in mind the reading ability and interest of the children. As a result, the children's overall knowledge, vocabulary, sense of visualization and focus has improved.



Nisarga Grama follows HIPPOCAMPUS Reading Foundation's GROWBY Reading model, which is a comprehensive activity-based library program. In this model, children are assessed as per their reading levels, where each level is represented by a particular color. The children are assessed on the basis of their progression from one level to another.

3. Skills development activities and learning sessions

Keeping in line with the objective to provide a holistic development and a positive childhood experience to the children, various activities were organized that not only developed the skills of the boys, but also enriched their theory and practical learning in different subjects. During the year, the boys participated actively in various skills development and experiential programs under the guidance of experienced resource persons and teachers.

a. Science laboratory: Equipped with equipment that can help students understand the concepts of various sciences, physics and biology in particular, the laboratory was actively used by about 85 children this year. A teacher mentors the children based upon their grades and helps them to conduct experiments.

b. Life-skills: During the year, about 55 boys of which 16 were from the 7th grade, 21 were from the 8th grade and 18 were from the 9th grade developed their decision-making skills, creative thinking and time management.

Career guidance sessions conducted by Deloitte enabled the students to understand various career options, and the kind of education that is required to get into professions of their choice.

c. Computer operating skills: By learning to operate the computer and MS Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, more than 80 boys were able to expand their knowledge beyond books. They learnt to use the keyboard and shortcut commands in a proper manner. The boys were thrilled to use the computer, as they did not have one in their respective families. Computer operating skills also helped them to keep pace with the demands of learning as they advanced to the higher classes.

d. Electronic classes: During the year, through both theory and practical sessions, about 38 children, aged between 12 to 13 years, learnt about various electronic gadgets and various related aspects. The classes triggered an interest among the boys in the subject which included topics such bridge rectifiers, LED experiments, and transistors. As a result, the boys got a basic understanding about electronic systems. Many stated that they wanted to take up electronics in their higher studies.



e. Areca Nut Crafting: 8 Children at Nisarga Grama were trained in making arecanut plates and bowls. They are involved in the entire production process, from start to finish. These eco-friendly products are then used in various Sparsha Trust programs.



4. Kitchen garden and greenhouse

In the kitchen garden at Nisarga Grama, the boys are engaged in the growing of various vegetables and fruits. As a result, they are now familiar with soil preparation, planting of seeds, watering, enriching by putting manure and harvesting. About 20 to 22 boys are familiar with growing of different vegetables such as ridge gourd, green chillies, beans, brinjal, and various greens such as amaranthus, spinach, and lettuce. About 30% of the vegetables needed for the campus are grown in the kitchen garden and greenhouse.

D. Right to Participation

1. Art, craft and cultural activities

The boys are engaged in the following varieties of art, craft, sports and cultural activities.

Over the year, about 82 boys have learnt the craft of making flowers from areca leaves, crepe paper and from fabric.



a. Djembe Drumming: About 8 boys have developed a good level of expertise in playing the djembe drum. Many companies, such as Quest Alliance, residential welfare associations and apartment complexes invited our children to perform at their events, providing encouragement and a platform to showcase their drumming skills.



Djembe performance by boys of Nisarga Grama

Apart from the above, children have learnt different types of dance, including traditional, folk and contemporary dance forms. They have been invited by companies to perform in their respective functions where they got the opportunity to showcase their talent.

b. Bhajan & Singing Classes: Rajinikanth Guru conducts classes on bhajans, patriotic songs, and devotional Bhakti Geetha songs. A total of 72 classes have been held, with approximately 35 children participating in two batches each month. Some children have also learned to play musical instruments such as the harmonium, dholak, tabla, and thala. These sessions, over the course of a year, helped them develop their musical skills and cultural appreciation.



Music classes



Bhagavad Gita Recitation Program by Dharmika Pratishthan at Mysore

2. Sports and martial arts

Sports and martial arts are an integral part of Nisarga Grama's endeavour to provide the boys with a holistic and childhood and development experience. The boys learnt a variety of indoor and outdoor sports under experienced sports coaches. As a result, not only have they become physically and mentally strong, they learnt about team spirit and coordination. During the year, the boys participated in several sports competition conducted within the campus and externally.

More than 80 children underwent training in Taekwondo under the guidance of Ms. Bhuvaneswari and Master Penchalaiah. The children learnt block and punch exercises, various kicks, and phumse, leading to their overall physical and mental fitness. In Taekwondo, belt colors indicate the level of training (rank), and often acts as an incentive for the student to advance to the next level of training.

During 2024-2025, the number of students under each belt was as follows:

White belt - 36 | Yellow belt - 19 | Green belt - 15 | Green 1 - 9 | Blue - 1

White belt students recently advanced to yellow belts after a belt exam.

About 26 children participated in the Open National Taekwondo Championship at JP Park on December 10th. Many showcased their skills and earned medals for their outstanding performance.





In October 2023, 10 of our children got a chance to play cricket with the Pakistan team in an event organized by UNICEF India in Chinnaswamy Stadium.

3. Innovative programs

a. Children Banking Activities:



Every child who took responsibility towards the development of Nisarga Grama was paid a certain amount on a monthly basis which was then deposited in the children's Bank. This bank is run by the children themselves, similar to how original banks work. Through this, children developed the habit of saving habit, budgeting and responsible spending.



In November 2023, 2 students participated in a kabaddi competition at a college level in Tumkur.



On December 2023, our children participated in the Hesaraghatta Marathon. Out of 400 participants, our children Pavan and Gowtham secured the 2nd and 3rd position.

b. Mentorship Programs - Nanna Mitra and Me and My Home:

The objective of the unique and innovative mentorship programs - Nanna Mitra and Me and My Home – is to inculcate a spirit of mentoring and care giving among the elder boys towards the younger ones. It is also to encourage a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the campus so that the boys contribute in their own way to the development of their campus and hostel mates.

E. Capacity Building

In order to enrich the knowledge and expertise of its staff, various capacity building and staff development programs were organized in the campus. Some of them included the following:

- Gateway App training on home security monitoring process.
- Participation by Manjunath S P and Sunil in a 2 days' workshop organized by UNICEF on preparation of Social Investigation Report and Individual Care Plan, File Maintenance, Child Rights and JJ Act and working with children.
- Participation by Sunil and Ratnamma in a workshop conducted by Mr. Suresh Kulkarni on ways to engage with children, and the type of education that should be provided to them.
- On February 13th, Dr. Vinaya and Dr. Justine from Nightingales Lifesaving Services conducted a First Aid Training program. Four staff members from Nisarga Grama participated in the training session that covered topics such as stroke, heart attack, cardiac arrest, bone fracture, external and internal bleeding, burns, back bone Injury, and CPR. The training increased the preparedness of the staff to take necessary steps in above related medical emergencies until the patient is taken to the hospital.

F. Infrastructural Advancements

During this year, CIDC Pvt Ltd (Calix) supported the construction of toilets at Nisarga Grama. Additionally, maintenance activities took place on the solar electrical system.

G. Summary of volunteering activities

Employees of Indian and multinational companies have been volunteering with Sparsha Trust in various ways. In the context of Nisarga Grama, during last year, volunteers not only from companies but also various institutions continued to engage with the children. This helped to contribute to the children's overall learning and development in various ways. Among those companies and institutions whose employees or staff members volunteered with Nisarga Grama are the following:

1. Deloitte

- Volunteers adding significant value to the educational and personal development programs at Nisarga Grama. A total of 82 boys participated in various classes like art & craft, career guidance, grammar & language skill; benefiting from the knowledge and mentorship provided by the volunteers.
- Impact Day activities by Deloitte
- Supported an Indoor Sports Fest program in its campus and encouraged children to play indoor games such as chess, carrom board, and snake and ladder.



2. Geeta Parivar team

Around 50-55 children attended the Bhagavad Gita classes conducted regularly by Geeta Parivar, which was founded in 1986 with the objective to impart value education among the children.

3. Walmart

Volunteers took classes in basic English, simple mathematics and career guidance for about 65 students.

4. First American India (FAI)

Volunteers organized a series of activities including a quiz competition, making of seed balls, art and craft sessions for kids, cooking without fire, best out of waste projects, and sports events such as kabaddi, kho-kho, and cricket.



5. Participation in Hackathon

Children studying from 8th grade to college level participated in a Hackathon organized by Sparsha Trust, in collaboration with the respective stake holders. The event successfully encouraged the children to contribute to road safety through innovative technological solutions.



Volunteers from First American India at Nisarga Grama



On January 29, 2024, Kennametal India Ltd conducted the first session of the 'Mentor-Mentee Interactions' for PUC and degree students where each mentor guided them on various aspects of life.

H. Impact

- Regularity in home work and school attendance:
- In the beginning of the year, a few of the children were not regular in their homework and in their school attendance. Now, they are more regular in both as the staff and the school is motivating them and supporting them in their studies.
- Good participation by children in development and co-curricular activities: Activities like yoga, bhajans, art and craft, indoor and outdoor activities, electronics etc are being conducted for the children. About 95% children are taking part in either one or more activities. They would not have got such opportunities if they were at home.
- Feeling of bonding and belonging in the campus: Many children have left their home, have lived in difficult situations at home and are from different backgrounds. They have left their friends and relatives to come here to get a good education. Given the caring atmosphere and the facilities, the children were not only able to adjust to the new environment, but also made friends with other children here.
- Preparedness to study and write exams: Children attended tuition classes in Nisarga Grama which helped them to cope with their studies, complete their homework and prepare for their exams. The staff also interacted regularly with their school teachers to check their academic progress and overall development. As a result, there is more chance of continuity in education and decreased risk of the students becoming dropouts.

I. Proposed plan for 2024-2025

1

Will give more emphasis on the academic and personality development of children

2

Upgrade the overall infrastructure and activities related to sports

3

Planning for more educational and experiential learning for the elder children

4

Strengthening the children and staff through various training and workshops

J. Donors

Consero Solutions India Pvt Ltd

CIDC Pvt Ltd (Calix)

Kennametal India Ltd

Netscout Systems Pvt Ltd

PlaySimple Games Pvt Ltd

United Way of Bengaluru

HNIs (High Networth Individuals) and individual donors

K. Case Study

Sridhar, whose parents were no more, was staying with his aunt. He was working in a juice centre and was found by the CHILDLINE 1098 in a bus stop. After that, he was produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). In February 2020, CWC transferred him to Sparsha Trust Open Shelter where he studied for a year in the bridge course. That helped him to cope with his studies.

Sridhar came to Nisarga Grama in 2021 and got admission directly to 8th grade. According to him, Nisarga Grama's staff treated him like family. "I am very happy that I was able to continue my studies. In fact, last year I successfully completed SSLC with 72% marks. Now I am pursuing my Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at M.N. Technical Institute. Sparsha Trust has given me all the care and support I needed."

L. Project Implementation Team

Mr. Gopinath R - Project Director

Mrs. Chitra K N - Project Mentor

Mr. Manjunath SP- Project Head

Mrs. Revathi Krishnan –

Donor communication and corporate partnership

Mr. Huleesh C- Center Co-ordinator

Mrs. Kamalavva- Health Care and Counselling

Mr. Pradeep- Part Time Subject Teacher

Mr. Premnath - Caretaker

Mr. Nagaraj - Skill Trainer

Mr. Nagesh - Skill Trainer

Mrs. Aruna – Skill Trainer

Mr. Murugesh Dhanakoti – Skill Trainer

Mr. Sunil – Care Taker/Teacher

Mrs. Rajashree – Skill Trainer

Mr. Panchalaiah – Skill Trainer

Mrs. Bhagyalakshmi - Care Taker/Teacher

Mrs. Sanamma – Head Cook

Mr. Nagaraj – Maintenance In-Charge

Mrs. Malamma - Cook

Mrs. Narayanamma – Art & Craft Teacher

Mr. Sangappa – Security

Mrs. Kalavathamma – Cook

Mrs. Bhuvaneshwari – Taekwondo Trainer

Mrs. Vandhana Rao- Part Time Subject Teacher

Mr. Venkoba Rao- Part Time Subject Teacher

Mr. Ashwath Narayan - Part Time Subject Teacher

M. Team feedback

My name is Malamma, and I have been working at Nisarga Grama since 2015. Before coming to Nisarga Grama, I worked in the construction sector. I even worked on the construction of Nisarga Grama. Once Gopinath Sir was enquiring about the welfare and education of my children. After this, he offered me a job at Nisarga Grama. I am very grateful because his guidance and support came at the right time for my family. Thanks to him, all three of my children were able to go to school, and now two of them are in college. Without his advice, my children might have ended up as construction labourers.

The opportunity didn't just benefit my children; it also provided me with a stable job at Nisarga Grama, giving me a safe place and helping me become a strong woman. My husband is an alcoholic, and during my hard times, Sparsha Trust always stood by my side and helped me. I am thankful to Sparsha Trust, and I will always be grateful.



MAKKALA DHAMA

A Children's Sanctuary

INITIATED IN THE YEAR 2022

Makkala Dhama serves as a sanctuary for girls who have endured various forms of abuse, do not have access to educational opportunities and face the risk of forced marriages. A multi-dimensional development residential centre, it was established to facilitate the holistic growth and development of 450 girls. Sparsha Trust has streamlined its operations to provide precise relevant support to children residing in multiple shelters, aligning with the guidelines of the Juvenile Justice Act (2018).

The centre aims to create a positive multi-generational impact by breaking the cycle of violence and providing a nurturing environment for the girls to thrive. It offers comprehensive support, including education, and diverse skill training to the girls. This bolsters their confidence and makes them independent. The centre addresses their need for care, protection, and advancement.

Key facilities at Makkala Dhama at a glance

8 dormitories	Training hall
2 acres	Classrooms
No of washrooms: 24	Sick room
Library	Storeroom
Computer lab	Garden
Science lab	Stage area
Dining halls	Kitchen garden
Science Park	Staff room
Playground area	Spaces for skills development

Formal inauguration of Makkala Dhama

Although Makkala Dhama began its functioning in 2022-2023, it was formally inaugurated on July 8th, 2023 in a grand function that had the presence of key donors, stakeholders, dignitaries and local governing and administrative officials. Those who graced the occasion with their presence were the following:

Special Chief Guest

Sri K H Muniyappa

Honorable Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, and District Minister for Bangalore Rural District, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guests

Sri Hari K Marar

Managing Director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL)

Dr R Balasubramaniam

Member – HR Capacity Building Commission, Government of India, New Delhi

Presided by

Sri Rajendra Hinduja

Makkala Dhama Committee Member



**Devanahalli,
Bangalore,
Karnataka**



(Left to right) Mr. Shashidhar, Trustee member, Sparsha Trust, Ms. Rupa Mahajan, Trustee member, Sparsha Trust, Mr. Shambulingah, Member of Makkala Dhama core committee, Mr. Suresh, CFO - Kennametal, Mr. Shivaprakash, Member of MD Core committee, Wg Cmd R S Murthy, Trustee member, Sparsha Trust, Mr. Rajendra Hinduja, mentor of Makkala Dhama Committee, Dr. Ramaswami Balasubramaniam, Mr. Gopinath R, Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust, Mr. Hari Marar, Managing Director and CEO, Bangalore International Airport Ltd, Mr. Raghavan G, member of Makkala Dhama core committee, Dr. D S Krishna, President - Sparsha Trust, Mr. Hemanth Madegowda, Head - CSR at Bangalore International Airport Ltd and and Mr. Srikanth -Trustee, Sparsha Trust

The well-wishers shared their thoughts about their association with Sparsha Trust and appreciated the manner in which it transformed a vision into a reality, and by overcoming challenges posed by two destructive waves of COVID-19 pandemic. The beautiful and well-designed campus wore a festive look even as the speakers spoke about the relevance of Makkala Dhama in empowering girls from low-income group families.

Impact through the project

Direct Beneficiaries - Children

273

Overall

221

In the year 2023-24

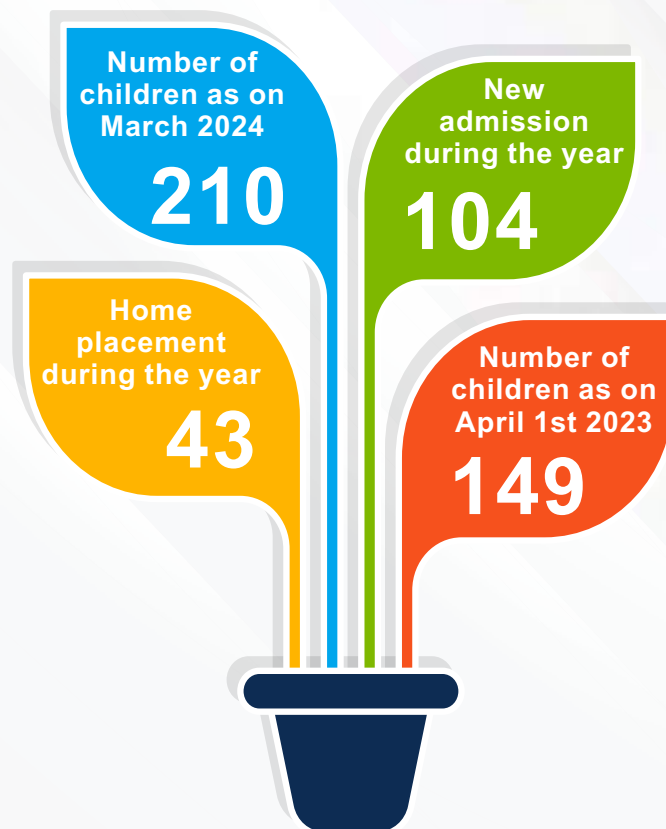
Indirect Beneficiaries - Families of children

819

Overall

663

In the year 2023-24



Focus areas of Makkala Dhama

Right to Protection

Referrals
Enrolment

Right to Survival

Nutrition and physical well-being - Food, clean drinking water, yoga and sports,
Health care and hygiene: Health check up, personal and menstrual hygiene,

Right to Development

Admission in schools and colleges
library, skills development centre, learning activities, kitchen garden

Right to Participation

Cultural and co-curricular activities
Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao

A. Right to Protection

1. Referrals of girls from Child Welfare Committee

The girls who are enrolled in Makkala Dhama (aged between 7 and 18 years) are those who are referred by Child Welfare Committee. In the event where Sparsha Trust comes across girls living in difficult personal and socio-economic circumstances, it refers them to CWC. Depending upon the CWC's decision, the identified girls are then enrolled in Makkala Dhama.

2. Enrolment

In the year 2023-2024, 221 girls benefitted from the services and amenities of Makkala Dhama.

B. Right to Survival

1. Nutrition and physical well-being

a. Food

The girls were served 3 meals a day in addition to tasty and nourishing evening snacks. The girls decided the menu, keeping in their nutritional requirement in mind. Festivals were celebrated with great enthusiasm and one of the most cherished aspects was the special food prepared during them. On the whole, the girls access a well balanced diet, which included vegetables, greens, ragi, rice, chapatis, dal, pulses, fruits, eggs and non-vegetarian items.



b. Access to clean drinking water

Given that, most of the girls did not have access to adequate and clean drinking water, in their respective homes, Makkala Dhama ensured that girls' overall well-being and immunity by supply of clean drinking water. This protected them from possible water borne diseases and de-hydration.

c. Yoga and sports



Every morning, all the enrolled girls participated in yoga and basic exercises including for about 30 minutes. The positive improvement in their physical and emotional health can be seen in various ways. They are now more active and have more stamina than before.

2. Health care and hygiene

a. Health check ups

During this year, Doctors from Primary Health Care centre from Nalluru came in for regular monthly check up. Doctors from Shankara Eye Care centre checked the vision and eye-sight related health of 62 girls. As a result, 6 girls got spectacles and 4 were referred for advanced check up and treatment.

Akash Hospital did a health camp in the campus, after which a few girls were referred to their hospital for advanced check-up and treatment. There, a gynaecologist examined the girls who were having related issues and provided medicines. During the year, about 39 girls were referred to Government hospital while 2 girls were referred to a private hospital. A general health check-up was organized by Rotary Bangalore, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore. They checked the girls for their height, weight and any other health issues.

b. Personal and menstrual hygiene

About 120 well designed washrooms and hand wash facilities are present in the entire campus. These ensured personal hygiene for the girls. The girls were provided with sanitary pads, and guided on proper maintaining menstrual hygiene and pads disposal practices.

3. Counselling

Makkala Dhama prioritizes counselling as a key intervention for girls to get over past traumas, negative emotions or thoughts. All the enrolled girls were counselled at the time of joining and regularly during the year by a trained and experienced counsellor.

As a result, the following improvement in the mental and emotional health can be observed in the girls:

- improved interpersonal skills
- more outgoing and social than before
- support in adjusting to a new environment
- Improved interest in self-care and education
- Sharing of their personal issues helped them to feel relieved

C. Right to Development

After enrolment to Makkala Dhama, the girls are enrolled in the nearby schools and colleges in order to ensure their continuity in education.

1. Admission to schools and colleges

Total number of girls admitted to schools and colleges: **221**

2. Library Activities

Makkala Dhama follows HIPPOCAMPUS Reading Foundation's GROWBY Reading model, which is a comprehensive activity based library program. Core to this program are children being assessed as per their reading levels. Each of the reading levels is highlighted by a color giving the program its' name. During this year, all the 221 girls accessed the library, with about 20 sessions every month. The following are levels of the girls:



Red: 46 | Orange: 52 | Green: 26 | White: 18

3. Skills development activities and learning sessions

Since the year of inception, skills development classes are being conducted in Makkala Dhama. The objective is to introduce the girls to the basics of different types of skills development training, based on their interest. These classes provide practical skills that can empower the children to explore potential career paths and develop their talents. Based on their preference, they can opt for advanced training in these areas and explore the potential of taking them up as profession in the future. During the year 2023-24, the following skills development classes were held in Makkala Dhama

Classes	No. of children enrolled	Impact
Tailoring	8	Having learnt the basics of tailoring, the girls can now alter their own clothes, hem their garments and stitch buttons. The exposure to the basics of tailoring sparked an interest in them to learn tailoring at a more advanced level in the future.
Electronic	12	The children learnt about the scope and utility of electronic items in daily life. They found it interesting to learn the applications of various electronic gadgets. This interest may make them explore the potential of pursuing advanced studies in the subject.
Computer class	69	The girls felt happy to learn about basic computer operations, MS Word, Ms Excel, and about using search engines. Given that the girls do not have a computer at their homes, the opportunity to learn to operate a computer, learning useful keyboard skills, emails, commands and applications was both very useful to them.



A resident with a science model of the human digestive system. Girls conducting experiments in the science laboratory.



Girls in the Electronic class

4. Learning activities

- The girls were introduced to the practical aspects of different streams of science. The science park, which has science models and other equipment, helped the girls to understand the concepts of science and triggered their curiosity to learn more such as Archimedes pump, musical pipe, cycloidal path, resonating pendulum, pulley and weight on inclined plane, inclined plane, and self weight pulley. About 85% of the girls engaged in various science related experiments and learning sessions. They are expressing an interest to take up science as a major subject in higher classes.
- Academic support programs that included tuitions were organized for the girls due to which they were able to keep pace with their homework. Many volunteers, who were experts in various subjects, taught the girls, helping them to understand the chapters and prepare for their exams.
- Initiated a special study program for annual exam preparation where the elder children taught the younger students. Their subject-specific assistance to the younger children helped them towards academic excellence and accessibility to formal education within the community.
- Apart from regular teaching, the girls were also supported to apply for CET (Common Entrance Test) which is a competitive exam conducted for purpose of admission to medical, dental and engineering courses.



5. Kitchen garden

The kitchen garden at Makkala Dhama serves twin objectives of engaging the girls in activities related to preparing, planting and harvesting of vegetables, and of producing a yield that can be used for the campus. About 120 girls participated in various activities related to kitchen garden.

During this year, about 20% of overall requirement of the vegetables for campus came from the kitchen garden. The children enjoyed the fresh and chemicals-free vegetables that included tomatoes, brinjal, radish, carrot, greens, ridge gourd and beans. Market based purchases were also made to supplement the existing requirement of the vegetables. Based on the barter system, girls would also go to the vegetables market on a regular basis to trade the extra produce of vegetables with other vegetable vendors and in return procure those vegetables required for the campus.

On the whole, the kitchen garden unit 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.

D. Right to Participation

A good childhood and teenage experience is incomplete without learning and engaging in one or the other forms of art, craft, sports, dance or song or learning a musical instrument. With its emphasis on holistic development experience, Makkala Dhama organized various types of activities including the innovative waste-to-craft activities for its girls. These are those activities which the girls may not have been able to access in their respective homes given their overall outlook and financial constraints. The activities include the following:

1. Cultural and Co-curricular Activities:

- Multiple forms of dance sessions including folk and western forms, were held twice in a week, where around 50 girls got trained in a month.
- Throughout the year, children learned a total of 7 Devaranamagalu, 6 Bhakthi Geethe, and 2 patriotic songs, showcasing their progress and proficiency in vocal singing.

- **Dollu kunitha:** The girls learnt the traditional Dollu Kunitha and performed the same in many places enthralling the viewers. Apart from performing this popular dance form during the inauguration of Makkala Dhama, the Dollu Kunitha team were invited to perform in about 25 shows at corporate campuses, Government functions, apartment complexes and festivals. An experienced and professional artiste, who curated their costumes and make-up, taught the girls to perfect in this dance form by training them in coordination and dancing to the beat of the drums. Among the places that our children were invited to perform Dollu Kunitha and other cultural activities include offices of various corporates such as Karle Infra, Coforge Business Solutions, Bangalore International Airport Ltd and Kennametal. They were also invited to perform at Government functions and apartment complexes such as Brigade Apartments and Prestige Apartments. The viewers appreciated the vibrant performances of the girls.
- **The girls learnt to make handicraft items from waste and craft pieces such as** dream catchers. Their imagination came to life on the canvas on which they painted and while making mandala patterns. Working on different forms of art proved to be therapeutic and relaxing for them.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao - engaging with Government stakeholders to promote the concept of girl education

Introduced in 2015, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is a scheme of the Indian Government that aims to educate citizens against gender bias and improve the efficacy of welfare services for girls. In this context, Makkala Dhama engaged with the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao program which took place in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development at Devanahalli.

- On 10th March, 2024, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao program at the Taluka level took place at Makkala Dhama and was attended by the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and Supervisor among other dignitaries. In total, 16 science models were showcased at the Taluk level, representing students from 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grades.
- On 17th March, 2024, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao at the District level took place during which Mrs. Anitha Lakshmi, District Child Protection Officer and Sri Mahesh, CDPO emphasized the significance of girls' education and the protection of the girl child.

- On 19th March, 2024, as part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) visited the Makkala Dhama campus. The visit included a plantation drive, specifically dedicated to planting trees in the name of the girl child, aiming to symbolize and promote the importance of girls' education and empowerment.

E. Introduction of innovative programs in Makkala Dhama

1. Mentorship Programs Namma Mitra and Me and My Home

The objective of the unique and innovative mentorship programs - Nanna Mitra and Me and My Home – is to inculcate a spirit of mentoring and care giving among the elder girls towards the younger ones. It is also to encourage a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the campus, which is home for them. The girls are encouraged to contribute in their own way to the development of their campus and fellow mates. For example, the elder girls, especially the degree students, engaged with the younger children as their mentors and caretakers. In other cases, students also helped the staff in different ways. with filing of office documents, or managing the issuing of books and their return in the library.

2. In-house Children's Banking Activities

Initiated in July 2023, the objective of the in-house children's banking activities was to encourage and appreciate the efforts of every girl who takes responsibility towards the development of Makkala Dhama. Accordingly, the girls were paid a certain amount for any work done by them on a monthly basis. This amount was credited to their bank account, which was basically an in-house repository of money. This internal bank, which is similar to the regular bank, is run by the children themselves. During this year, 171 bank accounts were opened.

The girls learnt about money management as they not only saved a part of money earned by them but spent it on essential purchases. One of the girls saved the money earned by her and surprised her mother by gifting her a saree with her savings. The delighted mother said that this gesture meant a lot to her and she felt as if she had got a gift worth a crore.

3. Exposure visits and participation in events/functions

In order to enrich their learning and knowledge, Makkala Dhama organized a number of exposure visits for the girls to different types of places during the year. These visits refreshed the girls and helped them to understand culture, history, functioning of various offices and factories, and nature in a better manner.

- Visit to Lal Bagh, where the girls saw many centuries-old trees and observed many unique sculpture formations.



Visit by about 40 girls from 8th and 9th Class to Gleason India where they observed the functioning of different machines and learnt about safety at work.

- In November 2023- Pooja of 10th grade visited Vidhana Soudha to participate in the children's parliament, where she discussed with the CM of Karnataka State, about Child Rights.
- In January 2024, a group of 16 students from PUC and UG levels visited the Karle Infra campus at Manyata Tech Park. The students showcased cultural performances, shared personal narratives, and presented their artistic creations. The event marked the official announcement of the Karle Group's affiliation with the Sparsha Trust. To place this in the segment where other cultural programs also took place
- In March, 2024, accompanied by a staff member, 14 students from PUC and Degree programs visited Coforge Digital IT Solutions and Tech consulting Services for an interaction and life skills session. The session was facilitated by resource persons, Padmashree and Archana from Coforge.

F. Capacity building of staff members

During the year, Makkala Dhama's staff members participated in various training and capacity building programs. Collaborations with esteemed educators and experts, such as Sri. Suresh Kulkarni provided invaluable insights into areas crucial for staff development, including understanding the capabilities of the human brain and effective teaching strategies. A few of the training programs included the following:

- Gate App training to emergency protocol sessions
- Training sessions on SIR (Social Investigation Report) and ICP (Individual Case Plan) equipped our staff with essential report writing skills and techniques required for any Child Care Institution.
- Computer training by Ms. Sayyad Mehraj to improve the computer literacy among the staff.
- First aid training from Nightingales Lifesaving Services organisation. The topics covered included Stroke, Heart Attack, Cardiac Arrest, Bone Fracture, External and Internal Bleeding, Burns, Back Bone Injury, and CPR. The impact of the training increased confidence among staff to take necessary steps until the patient reaches the hospital.



Capacity building of staff members by Mr. Suresh Kulkarni, an artist, author and educationist from Dharwad.



G. Infrastructure

- To maintain the aesthetic looks of the campus, artistic murals were painted on the wall. Tree plantation drives were done. The campus was cleaned regularly.
- On October 4th, 2023, Coforge Business Process Solutions Pvt Ltd employees volunteered in painting the compound walls of Makkala Dhama, enhancing the overall look of the campus.
- Supported by Persistent Foundation, the construction of a playground was initiated in October 2023. The activities included ground levelling, mud and gravel filling.
- The Mirae Asset Foundation supported in the interior design and furnishing of the Yuva Dhama's student apartments and painting of the campus walls.
- With the support of Kennametal India Ltd, a rain water harvesting system with a capacity to conserve 2 lakhs litres of rainwater was installed at Makkala Dhama. This innovative endeavor aligns perfectly with our commitment to sustainable practices and environmental conservation. In addition, the company also donated a school van for the children of Makkala Dhama, making it easier for them to commute between the campus and their school and back.
- Kennametal India Ltd also donated 3000 books for the library. The library also got 500 books from Persistent Foundation.
- New Horizon College provided two buses for the convenience of the Makkala Dhama children.

H. Achievements by the children

The girls participated in various inter-school and college events as well as public events where many won prizes and accolades. Some of them are the following:

- 20 children from the primary section participated in the 2023-24 state-level Navodaya Kannada exam, organized by Navodaya Prakashana Chitradurga. Among them, 3 students secured a district rank. 16 students achieved first-class marks, while 1 secured second-class marks.
- 4 undergraduate girls and one pre-university college girl were honoured with Guardian Scholastic Awards, recognizing their performance in PUC and 10th exams, respectively. In recognition of her excellent performance in the 2nd PUC board exams during the academic year 2022-23, Hema, a first-year engineering student, was presented with a laptop.
- In March 2024, the results for the first semester engineering exams were declared, and all four students from Makkala Dhama who were studying engineering passed the exam.
- In February, 2024, 99 students ranging from 8th grade to those in college from Makkala Dhama, along with the staff, took part in a Hackathon organized by Sparsha Trust in collaboration with stakeholders. The objective was to empower the children in road safety by encouraging them to create innovative technology solutions during the event.



Participation by 99 children in Hackathon organized by Sparsha Trust in collaboration with stakeholders. The event empowered the children in road safety by encouraging them to create innovative technology solutions during the event.

I. Donors

Many companies and their employees contributed significantly to the development of the campus and the children in many ways. The employees of many companies volunteered their time to enrich the lives of the children in many ways, be it through learning or recreation. Their interest in the children and engaging them in innovative activities honed their potential and mentoring them improved the learning and knowledge base of the children. We are also grateful to the individuals and HNIs whose support was crucial in the development of the campus and the girls.

Anasuya Foundation
Cartus India Private Limited
Coforge Business Process Solutions Pvt Ltd
Consero Solutions India Pvt Ltd
Deyam Impact Initiatives
Dr. Majeed Foundation
Feeding India
Food for Hunger
Karle Infra Pvt Ltd
Kempegowda International Airport Foundation
Kennametal India Limited
Netscout Systems pvt ltd
Mr.Cooper
Palo Alto Networks India Pvt Ltd
Palo Alto Networks India Technologies
Persistent Foundation
Pooja Power Products
Saraogi Foundation
SMEDC Service Pvt Ltd
United Way of Bengaluru
Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions (India) Private Limited
Vygon India Pvt Ltd
HNIs and Individuals



**CISCO – Right to live
Volunteer program at
Makkala Dhama campus**



**Visit by officers of
Child Welfare Committee**



Visit by UNICEF team



**CIRCOR representatives
at the campus**

J. Visits by Government officials to Makkala Dhama

- Assistant Commissioner of the Doddaballapura sub-division
- District Child Protection Officer (District Child Protection Unit), Bangalore Rural District
- Deputy Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Bangalore Rural District



Assistant Commissioner of Doddabalapur sub-division **Mr. Srinivas** (in purple shirt) during his visit to Makkala Dhama. During his visit, he saw the facilities of the campus and interacted with the children and staff.

Left to right:
Dr. D S Krishna
President - Sparsha Trust,

Mr. Gopinath R
Managing Trustee,
Sparsha Trust

Mr. Sreenivas T Bidari
Principal Commissioner of
Income tax, Bengaluru



Students
from
New Horizon
College

K. Proposed plan for 2024-2025



Increased focus on the academic and personality development



Focus on sports activity



Planning for more educational exposure to the bigger children



Strengthening the children and staff through various training and workshops



Well developed process management in practice

M. Case Study

Maya, (name changed) is a 16 years old girl, who used to live with her father, elder sister and step-mother. Her father and step mother are working as construction labourers while her elder sister works in a factory. Her biological mother left the family when she was just a year-old baby.



Maya's step-mother was in continuous conflict with her father about Maya's dusky complexion and emotionally blackmailed him to abandon her. When Maya was just six years old, her father took her to a bus station and left her there. A police personnel rescued her from the bus station after which the due procedures of enrolling her in a shelter home were followed.

Maya was referred by the Child Welfare Committee to a shelter home but due to some reason, after a while the children of the shelter home were accommodated to other homes. It was then that Maya, who was 14 years at the time and studying in 9th Class, was referred by the CWC to enrol in Makkala Dhama. After enrolment here, Maya joined the Government Higher Primary School at Devanahalli.

Here, at Makkala Dhama, Maya has all that is required to lead a happy and fulfilling childhood. Saying that the food here is good and that she has made friends with other hostel mates, the talented girl aims to be a singer. In fact, she had an opportunity to take part in a singing competition called Sa Re Ga Ma Pa lil champs and was also selected to participate in a swimming competition to be held at Maldives but unfortunately due to COVID-19 pandemic, it was cancelled.

At present, Maya is studying her 1st year PUC at Pragathi Girls PU College, Vijayapura, Devenahalli Taluk.

N. Project members

Mr. Gopinath R -Project Director | **Mrs. Chitra K N**- Project Mentor | **Mr. Manjunath SP**- Project Head | **Mrs. Revathi Krishnan** - Donor Communication and Corporate Partnership | **Mrs. Jayanthi Ambrish**- Centre Manager, **Mrs. Vanishree B**- Admin, **Mr. Manjunath A R**- Centre Incharge | **Ms. Shruthi**- Caretaker | **Ms. Ramadevi** – Teacher | **Ms. Renuka** – Caretaker | **Mrs. Sumalatha**- Health and Caretaker | **Mrs. Hemavathi S N** – Counsellor | **Ms. Narasamma** - Dance Teacher | **Mrs. Aishwarya** - Caretaker | **Mrs. Manasa** – Teacher | **Mrs. Navya**- Caretaker | **Mr. Naveen R** – Transportation logistics | **Mrs. Bharathi**- Social Worker | **Mrs. Prema** - Social Worker | **Ms. Harshitha** – Caretaker | **Ms. Ashwini** – Caretaker | **Mrs. Ranjitha** – Caretaker | **Mrs. Manjula** – Caretaker | **Mrs. Shashikala**- Cook | **Mrs. Prabhavathi** – Cook | **Mrs. Shanthamma** – Cook | **Mrs. Jyothi** – Helper | **Mrs. Raheeba Begum**- Helper | **Mrs. Rathnamma**- Helper | **Mrs. Shanthamma**-Helper | **Mrs. Renukamma**- Helper | **Mr. Ramesh K V** – Gardener | **Mr. Srinivas** - Security

O. Testimonial by a team member

My name is Naveen R and I am working as a driver and managing transportation logistics in Makkala Dhama. I have done my graduation followed by my Masters in Economics. I was always interested in social service, and getting the chance to work in Makkala Dhama has helped me to realize that dream.

I will always be grateful to Sparsha Trust for employing me when I was in need for a job. I will always remember this. After coming to Makkala Dhama, in addition to being a driver, I got a chance to learn many things. Gradually, I began to support in various activities related to the campus such as maintenance and transportation related logistics.

For me, the children at Makkala Dhama are like my family members. The organization has given me not just work and a good working atmosphere but also the chance to be in the social service sector. As long as possible, I will do my best for the organization. I pray for the well-being and welfare of the children and for all.

Naveen R – Driver and transportation logistics

PHOTO GALLERY

Visits by donors, dignitaries, government officials



Left to right: **Ms. Shwetha Chengappa** (CSR team) KIAF, **Mr. Gopinath R** - Managing Trustee - Sparsha Trust, **Dr. Niranjana Radhya** (centre), Esteemed Fellow and Programme Head of Universalization of Education at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore and his associates to Makkala Dhama, **Mr. Hemanth Madegowda** (CSR Head), KIAF,



Visit by a team from **Pearl Academy**, a reputed design institute with domains in fashion, product design and interiors, as well as in other areas, to Makkala Dhama



Visitors to Makkala Dhama



Team from Walmart with the children



Sparsha Team at Karle Infra Pvt Ltd Campus in Manyata Tech Park - where the girls performed the Dollu Kunita dance form.

Training in first aid for the staff members conducted by Nightingale





Karle Infra Pvt Ltd representatives at our campus



Mentor – Mentee Interactions organized by Kennametal India Ltd



BIAL staff members at the campus



Representatives from ICICI Foundation at the campus



Students from Shiksha Nikethan at the campus



Online classes for the children



The MSI team at the MD campus



EisnerAmper team at our campus



Team from Reliance Foundation with the children



Team from Fairfax Financial holdings Ltd and KIAF visited the campus



Impact Day by Deloitte



Girls at the science lab



Independence Day



Medical students from Aakash Hospital –
Exposure visit



Coforge Management team visit



FAI Team



Visit by Coforge Management team



Pooja (second from left) with other children at an event in
Vidhana Soudha to interact with **Mr. Siddaramaiah,**
Honorable Chief Minister of Karnataka



Members from the BT Group interacting with the children



At Coforge Campus



Swachh Bharat campaign



Agastya Foundation members with the girls



Officials from CWC interacting with the children and examining documents



Representatives from ISACA gave stationary kits to the girls



Exposure trip to Isha Foundation, Chikkabalapur



Eye check up camp conducted by OneSight



Compound wall painting by staff members of WIPFLI



Persistent Foundation – Tree plantation day



Bhagavat Geeta Class



Online class by Deloitte

Namma Shikshana

KIAF, with the aim of conducting the CSR activities for Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), has initiated many programs including, educational programs with the primary aim of imparting awareness of education in the society and providing the basic necessity through its flagship initiative called “Namma Shikshana”, in accordance with the CSR policy of BIAL.

For Namma Shikshana, Sparsha Trust (an associate organization) provides backend support which includes human resources and administrative services. KIAF conducted various academic and development activities for children in Government schools as part of its flagship program, Namma Shikshana. These activities were conducted in the Government schools adopted by KIAF during the year 2023-2024.

INITIATED IN THE YEAR : 2022

Objective

Improving education in Government schools adopted by KIAF through holistic interventions

Number of Government Schools Adopted: 4

1. Government Higher Primary School, Aradeshahalli
2. Government Higher Primary School, Bettakote
3. Government School, Kannamangala
4. Government School, Korachanapalya



KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED



Minister of Primary & Secondary Education and Sakala of Karnataka

Academic Sessions:

- ▶ Academic sessions in Government schools started from June 2023 as per the guidelines of the Department of Education.
- ▶ 35 Subject Resource Persons ("SRP") were engaged full time in 3 KIAF adopted schools based on academic requirement.
- ▶ A comprehensive academic timetable was developed and implemented in these schools for enabling students to understand concepts in better manner.
- ▶ Periodic formative and summative assessments were conducted for students to assess their learning outcomes.
- ▶ For enhancing learning outcomes among children, learning materials and stationeries were distributed.
- ▶ Specific sets of learning materials were identified for each grade and the same were distributed. Two sets of uniforms including shoes and socks were distributed to all enrolled students.
- ▶ Model Rocketry sessions were organized for Higher Primary children by inviting ISRO empaneled resource person. This helped the children to get a basic understanding of rockets and satellites, including the Chandrayaan project.



Resource person empaneled by ISRO conducting sessions on rockets and satellites

Co-Scholastic Activities:

Co-Scholastic Activities were introduced to augment the overall development of children in these schools. Accordingly, the project organized karate classes, art and craft sessions, and music classes.

- ▶ Karate classes were conducted for interested children in the morning. More than 30 children took benefit of these classes which were held twice a week in the morning.
- ▶ Special 15-day art and craft sessions were conducted for interested children during the month of April 2023 wherein more than 40 children participated actively.
- ▶ Music classes were conducted in collaboration with Bangalore School of Music on a pilot basis at Aradeshanahalli GHPS. More than 80 children participated in these classes actively.



Karate competition



Music Performance

Sports:

For encouraging sports activities, a separate set of sports uniforms were issued for all children along with shoes. Around 1,000 students benefited from this support.

Financial Literacy Sessions:

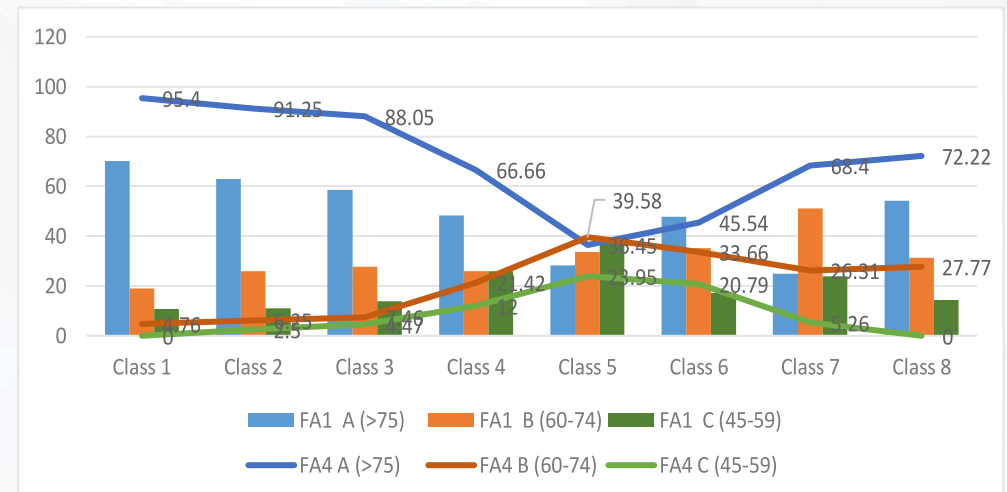
For the first time, Consulate General of Australia supported the conducting of Financial Literacy sessions on a pilot basis in Aradeshanahalli GHPS. The objective was to create awareness among children about financial planning and savings. The sessions received excellent feedback from all stakeholders including the Australian Consulate.



Financial Literacy

Periodic Formative Assessments (FAs) and Summative Assessments (SAs) conducted:

- ▶ Periodic Formative Assessments (FAs) and Summative Assessments (SAs) were conducted for children in accordance with Department guidelines to assess the learning enhancement.
- ▶ Grades for FAs were based on observations of in-class activities and discussions; review of home assignments and responses to set question papers.
- ▶ Students at both schools showed remarkable progress in their FA4 performance as compared to FA1 performance.
- ▶ The percentage of students who scored grade A (>75) in FA4 is higher in all classes (except for class 6, Bettakote) compared to FA1 and collectively, 20% more students scored grade 'A' in FA4 compared to Fa1.
- ▶ This reflects the learning enhancement among students and also the good quality of teaching imparted by engaged SRPs.



IMPACT

Increase in enrollments/admissions:

- ▶ In Aradeshanahalli GHPS, the enrolment for the academic year 2023-24 stood at 541 and for Bettakote GHPS at 320. Prior to the adoption of these schools by KIAL, admissions in these schools were at 92 and 48 respectively.
- ▶ Considering the increasing enrolment, the District Administration has recommended starting 9th and 10th class at Aradeshanahalli GHPS from next academic year (2024-2025)
- ▶ 6 students from these schools were mentored for submitting concepts in the innovative idea competition of the Government of India called 'Inspire Manak Awards'. The INSPIRE - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge), being executed by DST with National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF), is an autonomous body of DST, and aims to motivate students studying in classes 6 to 10.
- ▶ 2 of the concepts of the Government schools adopted by KIAF were shortlisted by Government of India. It has credited INR 10,000/- for each student as a recognition in their respective bank accounts.
- ▶ 16 children won prizes in different categories during competitions organized by Shotokan Karate Association at National level.

DONOR

KIAF

**(Kempegowda
International
Airport Foundation)**





YOUTH SKILL AND INNOVATION

Skills Development Programs

Sparsha Trust's youth skills development programs are designed to empower young individuals (aged between 18-35) by training them in various employment friendly and career-oriented areas. The training programs, whose curriculum is regularly updated, reaches out to youngsters including school or college drop outs, or housewives. They are trained by domain experts in technical skills and soft skills (communication, teamwork, and problem-solving), which are essential for personal and professional growth.

Sparsha Trust partners with institutions and organisations to bridge the youth-market gap by offering employment-centric courses. The two main training programs that help the youth in enhancing their skills include:

- MAST (Market Alliance Skills Training)
- MyQuest Programme

By conducting the training programs in various vocational areas, Sparsha Trust prepares its students to work towards their own financial independence and seek sustainable livelihood options. The training delivery included a hybrid model combining both online and offline classes. Additionally, engagement programs were organized for alumni and parents to foster a supportive network, and also motivate them in contributing to community.

MyQuest

Initiated in the year 2018

Started in 2018, along with QUEST Alliance, MyQuest program is a three-month long course to mentor students between 18-35 years of age in basic and advanced English speaking, career preparation skills, life-skills, skills at work place, digital literacy and customer retail interaction. The hybrid training model combined online and offline classes.



Locations

Mathikere, Bangalore, Karnataka

Mysore, Karnataka

MAST (Market Alliance Skill Training) KEY ACTIVITIES

Initiated in the year 2018

The Market Alliance Skills Training (MAST) program conducted with the support of AIF (American India Foundation), aims to address the skill development needs of individuals aged between 18-35 years.

The training programs encompass a range of courses including Fashion Designing, Beautician, DHART (Domestic Home Appliance Repair Technician), General Management (Core Employability and Advanced Excel), GDA (General Duty Assistant), Digital Literacy and Communicative English, Advanced Excel & Core Employability and Graphic Design.



Locations

Bangalore Urban and Mysore

Impact through the training program

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (Youth)	FROM INCEPTION	IN LAST 1 YEAR
	4886	1311
From MyQuest Initiative		
Enrolled	1400	398
Trained	1214	359
Placed	842	242
From MAST Initiative		
Enrolled	3672	952
Trained	3672	952
Placed	2793	802
Total placed: 1044 for this year Total Placed from the inception: 3635		
INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES (Families of the youth)	9772	2622

1. Mobilisation of students

- The field team conducted field visits to several areas in Mysore and Bangalore in order to mobilize youth and enrol them in the courses. They identified youth staying in low-income groups and spoke to them about Sparsha Trust, the youth skills development program and its benefits. The youth expressed an interest in joining the course as it met with their basic need to get trained in income and job friendly skills.
- Students were mobilized from various areas including Kuvempu Nagar, Nehru Nagar, Sathgalli, Tanveer Sait Nagar, Udayagiri, Rajkumar Road, Sangeetha Corner, K G Halli, RT Nagar, Singapore, MS Palya, Chikkabanavara, Yeshwanthpur, Jnanabharathi, Mahalakshmi Layout, Nagarbhavi and Bhagyapalli.



Mobilizing students from different area

2. Enrolment of students and launch of new batches

- After enrolment and the launch of the new batches, the students went through an orientation session, where they were informed about the various projects of the organization, about the course and its content. Some of the alumni students, who were also present on the occasion, spoke about the advantages of enrolling in these courses and shared their rewarding experience they had with the project.

3. Lectures by domain experts

Domain experts, corporate sector employees, and life skills coaches took lecture sessions due to which the students gained an insight into the current industry trends. Some of the lectures were on the following topics:

- Age of social media where **Mr. Bharath** introduced the students to diverse landscape of social media platforms, elaborating on strategies for monetizing one's presence in this digital realm.
- Financial Management- where **Mr. Joy A. M** informed the students about finance management, and its potential to significantly impact their financial well-being.
- Financial Literacy- The students learnt about budgeting, prudent investment, debt management, and financial planning. The lectures were given by a renowned authority in the field **Mr. Suresh Shetty** of ICICI Foundation.
- Life skills – wherein **Mr. Anil M** emphasized the vital role life skills play in personal growth, career advancement, and overall well-being. The sessions enabled the students to understand the importance of life-skills to navigate life's challenges and make informed decisions.
- Guest Session from AIIMS Interns - Interns from AIIMS College (which location) organized a session on crucial life skills related managing relationships, handling emotions, and time management.
- Regular career counselling sessions: **Conducted throughout the year, these sessions were facilitated by three exceptional internship students who volunteered their time and expertise.** The sessions aimed to guide our students towards success by providing valuable insights and mentorship.
- Effective Communication – Volunteers from Christ University spoke about the importance of effective communication and its role in negotiating through personal and professional life.



4. Placement Drive

During the placement drives, the project organised interviews for the students in various companies including stores, garments, malls, and retail establishments in both Bangalore and Mysore. A **total of 1044 students** secured placements across diverse employment opportunities. The dedicated placement team ensured that each student was connected with position that aligned with his or her acquired skills. **The average income of those who placed was around Rs. 12000/- to Rs. 15000/- a month.**

- Representatives from various companies, including COLEEN, Future World, Aspirin Solution Pvt Ltd., and Green Life Health Centre, conducted placement sessions for our youth.



On August 11, 2023, we hosted a campus interview at our Mathikere Skill Development Centre. Ms. Divya, acting on behalf of Parikrama Pesticides Pvt Ltd, oversaw the interview process for our students.



Mr. Bharathan V. of HMS Host, a highly accomplished professional in the field of Hotel Management, offered invaluable insights on critical aspects of career development, including strategic career planning, adaptability, effective networking, and strategies for overcoming challenges.

5. Alumni & Parents Engagement Program

The project facilitated interaction between current students and former graduates during which the latter not only shared success stories but also gave valuable guidance on making the most of the course and preparing for interviews.

Alumnus discussed how they initially learned about the course, the changes they experienced after joining, and the remarkable improvements in their confidence and ability to communicate without the fear of language barriers. They conveyed to our current students that they are now gainfully employed and actively contributing to their families' well-being.



6. Donor's Engagement

Donor engagement is a crucial aspect of our project, as it ensures sustained support and involvement in our mission to empower youth. The project prioritized building meaningful relationships with donors by providing regular updates on project progress, sharing success stories, and demonstrating the impact of their contributions. Donor visits and engagements to both the MAST and MyQuest courses in Bangalore and Mysore included the following:

- May 27th 2023 - Mr. Kamesh, Director of Livelihoods, AIF
- July 10th 2023 - the MSI team visited our Mysore Sparsha Skill development centre.
- July 19th 2023 - Mr. Abhilash, Advocacy Manager, AIF
- 29th August 2023 - A virtual meeting between the Quest team and Bajaj FinServ was conducted as part of our stakeholder engagement efforts. Mr. Bony from Quest Alliance joined us physically at our centre to participate in this virtual gathering, primarily to gain insights into the MyQuest Program.
- January 27th and 28th 2024 - Mr. Atanu, the Placement Head of AIF, visited both our Sparsha Skill Development Centres in Mysore and Bangalore. During his visit, he inaugurated the new Schneider Electrical Lab and took the time to interact with both alumni and current students from the Fashion Designing and Advanced Excel batches.
- February 19th 2024 - The project had the pleasure of hosting Mrs. Jaya Laxmi from Quest Alliance of LEM (Learning Experience Matrix) at our Sparsha Trust Skill Development Centre. She observed the sessions, motivated the students to put in their best and gave them valuable suggestions.
- March 28th 2024 – The project had the pleasure of hosting Mrs. Apoorva from Quest Alliance at our Sparsha Trust Skill Development Centre. During her visit, she interacted individually with 6 students and got feedback about the course and Quest App. The students appreciated the course for its holistic approach due to which they got not just domain related knowledge, but also learnt about life- skills and preparation for interviews.



On May 27th 2023, Mr.Kamesh, Director of Livelihoods, AIF visited our Mysore Sparsha Skill development centre and interacted with the students and resource persons



On June 9th 2023, Ms. Sona Grover, Manager, Grants Reporting, AIF visited our Bangalore & Mysore Sparsha Skill development centre

7. Market Research by students

Regular comprehensive market scan sessions were conducted during which students learnt about the significance of market scanning within the classroom setting. Students formed groups and visited nearby shops, offices and services related establishments to understand the nature of their work and the kind of human resources they employ. As a result they got first-hand experience and information about various employment positions and the kind of qualification or experience required.

8. Job Mela

On February 28th 2024, we conducted a Job Drive at Sparsha Youth Skill Development - Mathikere Centre.

We are proud to announce that successful job drive happened with active participation from 6 distinguished companies:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Shakthi Group | 4) Algo Achievers |
| 2) Dream Solution | 5) Silver Sky |
| 3) Sunbiz Solution | 6) V Catch |

60 talented students demonstrated their skills during the interviews and 42 outstanding individuals were shortlisted for potential job opportunities.



On June 14th 2023, Mr. Ganesh, Project Manager of Livelihoods, AIF visited our Bangalore & Mysore Sparsha Skill development centre.



On July 10th 2023, the MSI team visited our Mysore Sparsha Skill development centre.



On July 19th 2023, Mr. Abhilash, Advocacy Manager, AIF visited our Bangalore Sparsha Skill development centre & Nisarga Grama.



Student attending interview in Mathikere centre

9. Graduation Day

Finally, it was time to celebrate the successful completion of the training programmes in Mysore and Bangalore. Graduation Days, organized in both Mysore and Bangalore, were attended by senior dignitaries from various companies and institutions. During the Graduation Days, which were celebrated in a grand manner, the students were awarded certificates.

Graduation Day in Mysore (AIF Sponsored)



Mr. ATANU KUMAR MISHRA - National Placement Manager, AIF (in the centre - seated) Mrs. Yashoda HM - CEO, Sparsha Trust, Mr. Mahesh MN - Branch Sales Manager, Heritage Honda Mr. Anil M - Asst. HR Manager, Muthoot Finance, Ms. Vanishree Bhinge - HR Executive, Xentricx Technologies PVT.LTD, Mr. Mir Enayath Ali - HR Executive, Aspiring Solutions and Mrs. Rashmi - District Coordinator, Global Institutional for Education and Research



Students with their certificates

Graduation day in Mysore - 8th January & 15th February 2024



Left to right: Mrs. Revathi, Program Head, Mrs. Chitra, Co-Founder – Sparsha Trust, Ms. Yashoda, CEO of Sparsha Trust, Mr. Afanan, HR of Shakti Group, Nitin Iyer, Project Manager, Mr. Gopinath R, Managing Trustee, Sparsha Trust, Mr. Bharathan V, Executive Chief – Terminal 1 from HMS Host, Mrs. Mamatha, Head of Early Childcare Education, and Anil, Head of Women Lead



Mr. Afanan and Mr. Bharathan with Mr. Gopinath at the function.

Graduation Days in Bangalore (Quest Sponsored)



The team of Quest along with Ms. Kavya, Managing Director of Voxweb, (first from left) and Mr. Lokesh, HR Manager from Apollo Pharmacy (lighting the lamp). Also in the picture are Mrs. Revathi, Mrs. Mamatha, Mrs. Yashoda, and Mrs. Sandhya.



Nitin Iyer, project manager
with Mr. Lokesh



A memorable day - Graduating students with members of Sparsha Trust

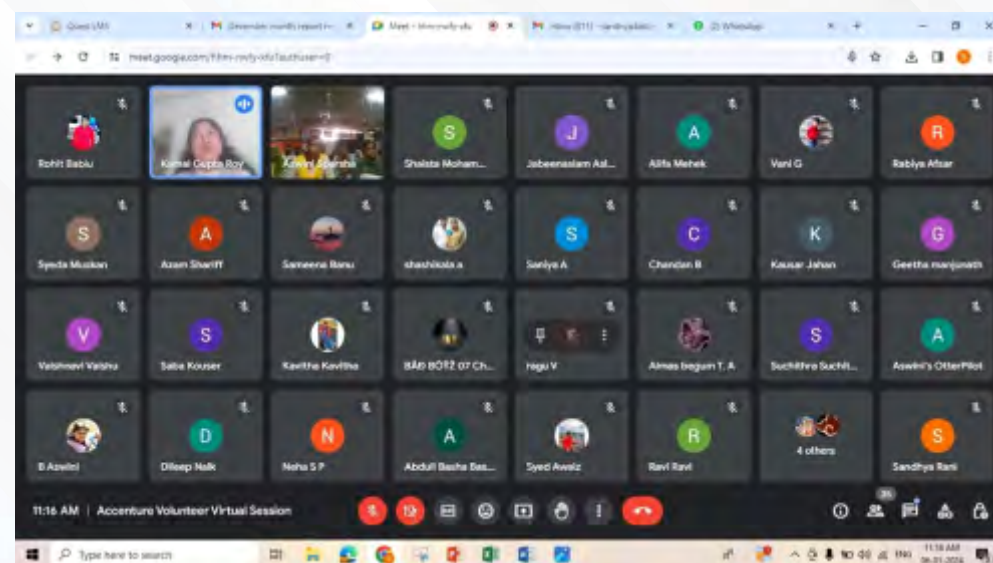


Students getting their certificates – a proud moment celebrating their hard work and dedication

10. Special Events and Celebration



On September 23, 2023, we hosted a Recreational Competition for Sparsha Skill Development students in the Centre, showcasing diverse talents and fostering creativity through engaging activities like essay writing, public speaking & ping pong games.



In January 2024, a virtual session on Gender Equality was conducted by Ms. Komal Roy from Accenture. During this session, she emphasized the importance of equal opportunities for individuals of all genders, transcending traditional stereotypes that have confined men to the role of breadwinners and women to homemakers.



On November 1, 2023, Sparsha Trust Mathikere Center celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava in the presence of esteemed guests, Mrs. Dr. Vijayashree and Mrs. Aarthi, adding prestige to the occasion. Founder Mr. Gopinath delivered an inspiring speech and a melodious song on unity and cultural diversity.



The Teachers' Day celebration was held on 5th September at the Mathikere Skill Development Centre. The students organized the event to honor their teachers. The celebration was filled with joy, fun games, dances, and speeches by the students. Additionally, Mr. Nitin delivered an inspiring speech about the significance of Teachers' Day.

This year, the Sparsha - skill team achieved a milestone by training 1311 students and successfully placing 1044 students in various jobs across Bangalore and Mysore.



Dasara celebration by the students

CASE STUDY (MYQuest)

Kavya- Got placed in Dial HEM Company as a Tele caller

Kavya, a 30-year-old married woman residing in Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore, had to put her education on hold after completing the 12th grade due to her marriage. Although she wanted to study further after marriage, her husband, who struggled with alcohol addiction, did not support her aspiration.

Meantime, Kavya took up a job in a garment design company to provide for her family, which included her baby girl. In her quest for personal and professional development, she enrolled in the MyQuest Program at Sparsha, encouraged by a recommendation from a fellow alumni.

Kavya's journey at Sparsha

On her first day of class, Kavya harboured concerns about being a married woman and a young mother pursuing the course. However, the support of her trainers and fellow students gradually helped her overcome those fears and she developed a friendly rapport with everyone. The course improved her English communication skills and motivated her to participate in various activities. Mock interview sessions helped her to prepare for interviews with confidence. In addition to MS Office, she also learnt about various keyboard and shortcut commands which improved her efficiency. She learnt resume building, poster making and editing skills while preparing invites.

Earlier, Kavya would face difficulty in taking decisions but after the course, she takes decision with clarity and confidence.

In this journey, Sparsha played a pivotal role in motivating her to engage with society, build networks, and refine her leadership skills through the MyQuest Program. Her aspirations include becoming an independent woman post-course completion, and utilizing her earnings for her daughter's education. Grateful to Quest Alliance and Sparsha Trust, Kavya now works as a tele-caller, earning a monthly salary of Rs.12,000 plus incentives. Kavya is committed to challenging societal notions about girls being a burden and aims to inspire change.

CASE STUDY (MAST)

Unissa - Got placed in Xcentric Technologies company as a Customer care support executive

Unissa, who is 28 years old, had studied till her 10th Class. Married for the past six years, she and her husband did not have children, due to which they were isolated by their relatives and personal circle. This led to her feeling anxious and emotional. Her husband, who works as a welder, was trying to cope with meeting the responsibilities of a large family.

Determined to overcome these challenges, she decided to acquire skills and knowledge that not only honed her talent but would also be suitable for getting work. Unissa struggled to find the right platform for learning until she discovered MSI-AIF supported Sparsha's MAST Mysore Centre. Seeking guidance on the course right for her, she enrolled in the Advance Excel and Retail Management course.

Unissa's first step towards success

A quick learner, Unissa learnt various aspects of the course such as basic etiquette and preparing for interviews through participative and activity-based methods, which made the learning much more enjoyable and interesting.

A notable transformation in Unissa is her newfound confidence in expressing her opinion. Successfully completing the Advance Excel and Retail Management Training, Unissa underwent three interviews before securing a preferred position with Xcentric Technologies as a Customer Care Support, at a monthly salary of Rs.12,000/-. Her current income now plays a crucial role in supporting household expenses. Gratefully, Unissa acknowledges MSI, AIF, and Sparsha Trust for the invaluable training that significantly contributed to her success.

“Enrolling in this course has not only enhanced my essential skills but has also provided me with financial empowerment. I am currently employed at the Xcentric technologies, with a stable job, I am now able to assist my husband, and his pride in my achievement is evident.

– Unnisa

Donors and Stakeholders of the Project

QUEST ALLIANCE, Bangalore
AIF (American India Foundation)

Project Team Members

MYQuest PROGRAM	MAST PROGRAM
Mr. Gopinath R Project Mentor	Mr. Gopinath R Project Mentor
Mrs. Revathi Krishnan Program Head	Mrs. Revathi Krishnan Program Head
Mr. Nitin Iyer Project Manager	Mr. Nitin Iyer Project Manager
Mrs. Sandhya Rani Co-ordinator and Trainer (English communication skills, Digital skills & Entrepreneurship)	Mrs. Jayashree N Co-ordinator and Trainer
Mrs. Aswini Trainer (life skills and career skills and understanding gender)	Mrs. Priya Mobilizer
Ms. Sayyed Meharaj Trainer (retail and customer interaction, job readiness skills, Computer Skill)	Mrs. Ashwini Mobilizer
Mr. Mervin Mobilizer & Placement officer.	Ms.Likhitha I D Portal Operator
	Mr. Harsha Manjunath G Centre In charge
	Mrs. Shruthi J Trainer
	Mrs. Azra Fathima Trainer
	Mrs. Fouziya Mobilizer
	Mr. Prajwal Mobilizer & Placement Officer
	Mrs. Summaiya Mobilizer

Trainers of the project

- Chandrakala B N
- Chandra Shekara D R
- Manjunath B N
- Baby Nirmala M A
- Srikanth B S
- Shahbaz Khan S
- Ravi Kumar C
- Arun Kumar S
- Sumitha S

Feedback from a team member

My journey with Sparsha began as a student in the MYQuest program. Through unwavering dedication and relentless effort, I ascended to the role of a core employability trainer for GDA, and eventually, I transitioned to becoming a soft skill trainer for the Quest project.

In 2023, my journey reached a pinnacle as I was honoured with the promotion to the esteemed position of AIF project coordinator. Our project, spanning across centres in Bangalore and Mysore, holds specific placement targets. In Bangalore, our aim was to place 792 students, while in Mysore; we set out to place 250 students. With immense pride and gratitude, I am thrilled to announce that we have surpassed our goals. A total of 1311 students were skilfully trained across both centres, and our efforts culminated in a historic achievement – the placement of 1044 students in various job roles, all made possible through the support of compassionate employers. This milestone, this triumph, stands as a testament to the relentless dedication, hard work, and invaluable support from our generous donors.

Today, as I stand before you, I do so with immense pride, knowing that together, as a team, WE ACHIEVED IT.

Jayashree. N
(Coordinator & Trainer for AIF Project)

PHOTO GALLERY



Donors visit On January 27th and 28th, 2024, Mr. Atanu, the Placement Head of AIF, visited both our Sparsha Skill Development Centres in Mysore and Bangalore. During his visit, he inaugurated the new Schneider Electrical Lab and took the time to interact with both alumni and current students from the Fashion Designing and Advanced Excel batches. Mr. Atanu actively sought feedback from the students, and we also arranged visits to some of our employer partners, where he had the opportunity to meet working students.



Independence Day celebration



On June 9th 2023, Ms. Sona Grover, Manager, Grands Reporting, AIF visited our Bangalore and Mysore Sparsha Skill Development Centre



Republic day celebration

National youth day



On June 14th 2023, Mr. Ganesh, Project Manager of Livelihoods, AIF visited our Bangalore and Mysore Sparsha Skill Development Centre



On July 10th 2023, The MSI Team visited our Mysore Sparsha Skill Development Centre



On July 19th 2023, Mr. Abhilash, Advocacy Manager, AIF visited our Bangalore Sparsha Skill Development Centre



Kargil Vijay Diwas is an annual celebration held on the 26th of July in India. It commemorates India's triumph over Pakistan during the Kargil War in 1999, when the Indian forces successfully expelled Pakistani troops from their occupied positions on the mountain tops in Northern Kargil District, Ladakh. In honor of the brave warriors, the Sparsha Skill Development Team organized a special event filled with patriotism, where we paid tribute to the great heroes. The program included heartfelt speeches, soul-stirring songs, and impressive chart creations, all dedicated to the spirit of the valiant soldiers. The day concluded with a sincere vote of thanks, expressing gratitude for the sacrifices made by these remarkable individuals.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

WOMEN LEAD

INITIATED IN THE YEAR 2019

Sparsha Trust initiated the Women Lead Program in collaboration with United Way Bengaluru in 2020. With the primary objective of empowering women, this ground breaking initiative aims to uplift women street vendors, small shop owners, and individual women from low-income groups, empowering them to enhance their businesses and lives and contribute positively to their communities.

The project addresses barriers faced by small scale women entrepreneurs such as limited access to credit, and upgrades their skills through industry-specific training, essential information, and networking opportunities. By providing tailored support and fostering partnerships with women street vendors and small business owners, Sparsha Trust aims to break down these obstacles and enable them to achieve financial independence and self-sufficiency. Through this project we aim to:

- Empower female street vendors, small shop owners, and entrepreneurs
- Establish a sustainable and well-managed business framework for women in businesses
- Increase their income levels and improve their quality and standard of life.



Location of Implementation

Bangalore Urban

Mathikere	Bombay Dyeing road	Thindlu
Hesaraghatta	Triveni road	Hebbal
Rachenahalli	Nethaji circle	Yeswanthapura
Gunjurpalya	Muthyala Nagar	Vinayakapuram
B K Nagara	JP Park	

Impact through the project

Direct Beneficiaries - Women



Indirect Beneficiaries - Families of beneficiaries



Impact through the project

The program implementation followed a systematic and structured approach beginning from assessing the needs of the women vendors and small-scale entrepreneurs, analysing their findings, and organizing training programs to improve their skills and upgrade their domain knowledge. The program goes beyond training to provide financial support by way of seed money and facilitates social entitlements and formation of Self-help groups for greater benefit and sustainability.

Needs assessment and findings

A total of 707 needs assessment surveys were conducted in two phases during April 2023 and January 2024. These assessments aimed to gather information and opinion from selected women beneficiaries regarding their businesses, including their activities, income, expenditures, and any issues they face. They were useful in getting valuable insights into their business activities, financial situation, and challenges faced by them. The analysis of the surveys helped to design the targeted interventions and support programs which aimed at enhancing the economic empowerment of the women vendors and small-scale entrepreneurs.

Types of business the women were in

Break-up of the businesses in which the women were engaged in	
Type of Business	Total
Street Vendors	311
Petty Shop	98
Special skill	44
Cloth	44
Beautician	12
Tailoring	198
Total	707

Subsequent to the baseline survey and analysis, the project onboarded 550 beneficiaries.

1. Empowering through training

- Business development training: A total of around 550 beneficiaries who participated in this training learnt about ways to increase business efficiency, enhanced their marketing knowledge, understood about business growth and networking opportunities, and job creation. Our trainers assisted women participants in developing strategies for long-term sustainability and resilience in their businesses.
- Financial management and literacy training: A financial management and literacy training was organized for around 550 women beneficiaries, aiming to enhance their financial knowledge and decision-making skills. The training covered aspects such as debt reduction, savings, investments, and overall financial literacy.
- Our programs supported participants to design strategies to reduce and manage existing debt, ultimately leading to improved financial well-being. Additionally, we have encouraged individuals to prioritize savings and investment for future goals, such as retirement, education, or business expansion. As a result, they felt more confident and better equipped to make informed and prudent financial decisions for themselves and their businesses.



- Digital platform training: 40 business women attended the digital platform training conducted at the Sparsha head office on November 6th and 25th 2023. The training introduced them to 'Mera Bill,' a user-friendly app that helps them track their daily income, expenses, outstanding amounts, and enables them to print reports.

2. Vyaapara Mela

The Vyaapara Mela, organized by Sparsha Trust, took place on 5 February 2024 at Srinivasa Kalyana Mantappa, Mathikere. Esteemed guests included Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan, Honorable Member of Legislative Assembly from the Malleshwaram Constituency, Mr. Madhilizagan from United Way Bengaluru, and Mrs. Shilpa Videya Belgode, a social worker. It was very encouraging to hear Dr. Ashwath Narayan reiterating his support to Sparsha Trust in assisting street vendors and other beneficiaries.

Over 500 small-scale women entrepreneurs and vendors participated in the Vyaapara Mela, during which 80 women set up stalls that sold a variety of products ranging from vegetables to clothing and homemade food. The motivation amount of Rs. 5,10,000/- that was given to 400 businesswomen increased their enthusiasm.



Vyaapara Mela inauguration by MLA Dr. Ashwath Narayana



Individual counselling sessions were conducted to evaluate their readiness for starting a business, identify any potential health issues that might impact their capabilities, and gain insights into their business plans and resource utilization.

3. Capacity-building program for the staff

A capacity building program was organized for the staff to help them implement the project more effectively. The subjects included business planning and profit and loss analysis.

4. Seed Money Distribution

During the Vyaapara mela, the project distributed seed money of the amount of Rs. 10 lakhs to a total of 300 beneficiaries where 250 of them received Rs. 3000/- each and 50 of received got Rs. 5000/-. The following were the outcomes of the seed money distribution program:

- **Business Continuity:** The seed money has contributed to the continuity of the businesses supported by women beneficiaries.
- **Enhanced Confidence:** Women entrepreneurs have gained confidence, empowering them to scale up their businesses.
- **Increased Income and Purchases:** The program has resulted in higher income levels and increased purchasing capacity among the businesswomen.
- **Savings Habits for the Future:** Businesswomen have developed a saving habit, fostering financial resilience for both future business endeavors and their children's education.



From left Rajeswari, Mr. Madhilizagan, Manager CSR at United Way Bengaluru, Dr. Ashwath Narayana, Honourable MLA of Karnataka representing the Malleshwaram constituency presenting seed money to beneficiary



From left: Mr. Anil M, Project Head, Mrs. Yeshoda CEO, Sparsha Trust , Mrs. Yashoda from BBMP, Beneficiary, Mr Gopinath Managing Trustee, Sparsha Trust and Mr. Honnappa, Resource person

5. Facilitating Social Entitlements:

- We have **facilitated 19 women to receive Rs 10,000 each under the PM SVANidhi scheme** to develop their businesses. This benefit was provided in two phases, in the months from October-December.
- A **notable accomplishment is the registration of women under the PM SVANidhi Scheme**, which offers working capital loans to empower street vendors, fostering business stability and growth.
- **Ayushman Health Card Distribution** – A total of 550 beneficiaries have received the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) card, which is a government initiative in India aimed at providing health insurance coverage to vulnerable and economically disadvantaged families.



Street Vendor Approval card certificate PMSVANidhi Scheme Rs 10000/- Mrs. Latha HB



ABHA card of a beneficiary

- **Individual Counselling:** Individual counselling provided to around 600 women entrepreneurs helped them to develop and progress in their businesses in the last 6-10 months. The topics covered during the counselling included maintaining good health, effective planning of business, time management, account keeping & maintaining, banking transaction, analysing profit and loss, and proposing new ideas for businesses.



Counselling sessions for vendors

6. Formation of SHGs and common groups

We have successfully **established 8 self-help groups (SHGs)** with the active **participation of around 53 women**. In March 2024, we established **six common groups** in Hebbal, where members were encouraged to engage in discussions on various topics, including money-saving techniques. These groups provided a platform for open dialogue about personal challenges and collaborative problem-solving, which greatly resonated with the participants.



SHG formation at Hebbal

7. Volunteering Impact

We involved **a total of 34 MSW (Master of Social Work) students** from various institutions to work as volunteers in field work and document verification.

CASE STUDY



Sundramma, a grateful beneficiary of the Women Lead project, expresses that joining Sparsha Trust marked a pivotal moment in her life and business journey. She recounts how firsthand experiences with the program's benefits motivated her to introduce two friends, also small business owners, to Sparsha.

The seed money of Rs. 3000/- provided to Sundramma by the Women Lead project played a crucial role in scaling up her saree kucchu (saree tassels) business. With the guidance of the Women Lead team, she received support in improving her shop's setup. Their visits and assistance significantly contributed to her business's success. Through these sessions, Sundramma honed her communication skills, enabling her to engage with customers more effectively. Moreover, she learned how to leverage government schemes and banking facilities to further enhance her business operations.

Today, Sundramma proudly asserts that her business is thriving, attributing its success to the unwavering support and guidance provided by Sparsha Trust. Before joining the Women Lead project, she earned Rs. 300/- daily from her business. However, with the seed money support and various trainings received through the project, she has been able to double her daily business income to Rs. 600/- Sundramma highlights that Sparsha Trust not only supported her in becoming a successful woman entrepreneur but also empowered her to realize her full potential.

DONOR

United Way Bengaluru, Bangalore

Acknowledgements

Ms. Pallavi (CO), BBMP,

Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan,
Member of the Legislative Assembly
(Malleshwaram Constituency)

Proposed plan for 2024-2025

- Follow up with women vendors and SHGs of the project
- Referrals to various exhibitions and events for the women vendors to exhibit and sell their products

Project team members

Mr. Gopinath R. - Mentor

Mrs. Chitra - Project Head

Mr. Anil M - Project Manager

Mr. Joy A M - Business Development Facilitator

Mrs. Revathi Krishnan - Donor Communication & Corporate Partnerships

Mr. Harish Gowda B - Facilitator

Mr. Manjunath S P - Facilitator

Mrs. Rajeswari - Facilitator

Mr. Muniraju - Facilitator

Mrs. Karuna - Facilitator

Mrs. Geeta - Facilitator

Mrs. Goutami - Facilitator

Testimonial by a team member

I thoroughly enjoyed my time working on the Women Lead project, and my team was incredibly supportive throughout. I regularly visited the homes and businesses of beneficiaries, In the Women Lead project, I assisted by organizing and conducting training programs, conducting house visits, and monthly business check-ins. Additionally, I was responsible for preparing various documents related to the project.

- Harish Gowda B. (Project Facilitator)

AVANI

Meaning: Mother Earth - who sustains life

INITIATED IN THE YEAR 2020

Sparsha Trust witnessed the hardships faced by pregnant and lactating mothers working at construction sites or earning by working as ragpickers or by begging during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these women are engaged in labour-intensive occupations such as rag picking and construction work, facing barriers to accessing adequate medical care and awareness about their rights, health, and nutritional needs.

Through this project, it provides them with nutrition kits, access to medical care, and sensitizes them about the importance of nutrition, hygiene, pre-natal and post-natal care. It also creates awareness about financial sustainability and government schemes and support them to access them. .

Additionally, our initiative extends to providing healthcare and monitoring for children up to the age of 2 years. Moreover, the project focuses on raising awareness about crucial topics like nutrition, hygiene, prenatal, and postnatal care.

Location of Implementation Bangalore Urban

Hebbal

Kadirenahalli

Thindlu:- Ganesh Nagar, Thindlu, Saptagiri

Rachenahalli:- Mestripalya, Srirampura, Thanisandra, Saraipalya

Mathikere:- Ramaiah Labour Colony, Devinagar, Poornapura, Netaji Circle, Chikkamarenahalli, Devasandra

Yeshwanthpur:- Vinayakapuram, Akkiyappa Garden, Ambedkar Nagar, B K Nagar, Muneshwara slum, Sunnadagudu slum



Impact through the project

	Overall	In the last one year
Direct Beneficiaries		
Pregnant women	104	83
Lactating Women	288	179
Total	392	262
Direct Beneficiaries		
Families & Children	906	609

Key Activities

1. Need Assessment Survey

A comprehensive survey was undertaken to identify the number of pregnant and lactating women working in the construction sector and as daily wages workers in the project implementation area. In collaboration with project staff and 11 dedicated volunteers, a questionnaire with 45 questions was designed to gather data on critical issues such as

Breastfeeding and related practices
Maternal health
Emotional well-being
Lifestyle and habits
Access to healthcare
Personal information
Social entitlements



About 307 pregnant women and lactating women were covered in the survey.

2. Key findings of the survey

- 20% of pregnant and lactating mothers were not getting proper nutrition through consumption of food.
- 1 mother who had an infant below 6 months of age was not breastfeeding due to health related reasons.
- 41% of the mothers were not following the recommended breastfeeding schedule.
- 2% of pregnant and lactating mothers were not receiving guidance on importance of breast feeding and proper breast feeding practices from local health workers as per the guidelines.
- 2% of pregnant and lactating mothers have a very low emotional rating.

3. Enrolment of pregnant and lactating mothers in the project

Based on the findings of the survey, the project then enrolled 262 pregnant and lactating mothers. In order to improve their health and lifestyle, the following interventions were planned for the beneficiaries:

- Counselling
- Training on child care, self-care and hygiene
- Providing of nutrition kits
- Linkages to health care services
- Make the beneficiaries aware about various social entitlements, and their benefits, and then, facilitating the process for them to apply and obtain them

4. Counselling sessions (individual, group and family counselling)

- 100% of the beneficiaries (262 lactating and pregnant women) and their family members have been counselled by a professional and experienced counsellor on emotional health. The sessions also sensitized on breast feeding practices and institutional deliveries.



Impact and behavioural change:

- **Improved understanding and implementation of breastfeeding practices among the beneficiaries.**
- Facilitated positive behavioural changes in lactating women regarding breastfeeding.
- **Around 89 pregnant women understood the importance of institutional delivery and felt motivated to go in for the same.**

5. Field visits and house visits

The project staff regularly visited the houses of the 262 beneficiaries during which awareness was created on the following:

- the importance of breastfeeding, proper breastfeeding techniques, health and hygiene, health care and cleanliness of their personal surroundings.
- Saving practices so that the beneficiaries could have savings for any essential expenses
- Follow up with family members to check whether the beneficiaries were adhering to healthy food practices, hygiene and breast feeding practices

Impact and behavioural change:

- The home visits and field visits helped to build trust and rapport with the beneficiaries, their families, and the community at large.
- The beneficiaries emotional well-being improved as they felt guided and supported by the project staff.

6. Regular health check-ups

- The project organized regular health check-up for its beneficiaries wherein a Doctor visited various areas and assessed them in a designated location in the communities.
- During the year, 10 health check-up sessions (which included checking weight, BP and other illnesses) were organized in the communities, and which were attended by 100% of the beneficiaries. Based on the need, they were referred to Primary Health Care centres for further check up and treatment.
- The beneficiaries understood from the Doctor about preventive healthcare, importance of nutrition and breast feeding practices, institutional delivery, and spacing between child births.
- Awareness was also given about the importance of Postnatal Care (PNC) and Antenatal Care (ANC)
- Follow-up initiatives were in place to track and ensure positive behavioural changes among beneficiaries.



7. Distribution of nutrition kits

- **All the 262 beneficiaries, including both PNC and ANC,** were provided with essential nutrition kits. This kit, which had a health drink specially formulated keeping the nutritional requirement of pregnant and lactating mothers, improved their overall health, and also helped them to save money.



8. Social entitlement

- 85 beneficiaries were successfully supported to obtain ABHA cards, facilitating their access to various healthcare services.
- About 25 beneficiaries were linked with the Anganwadi centres (for getting the benefits of various Government schemes) and the primary health care centres.



9. Training on childcare, self-care and hygiene

Awareness was created among the beneficiaries and their families on caring for infants, timely vaccination and immunization, physical and mental well-being. Mothers were also equipped with knowledge on effective self-care during pregnancy and lactation through visually aided materials.

Impact

- 100 institutional deliveries
- Improved breast feeding practices (Feeding the baby every two hours)
- Pregnant and lactating mothers going in for regular health check up which is helping in timely diagnosis of illnesses, if any, and taking treatment accordingly
- Compared to before, the women are having more support from their families

PHOTO GALLERY

Training on Child Care, Self Care and Energy



Training Sessions for Staff and Beneficiaries



Dr. Bhagyalakshmi Awareness Session at Sparsha Office

Nutritious Kit Distribution

Case Study

During a visit to the field, which included screening of households, our project facilitator identified Mrs. Sahithya, a second-trimester pregnant woman, and a lactating mother who had not yet registered at the hospital or ICDC but intended to do so after delivery.

Our counsellor provided counselling on not just the importance of ANC registration to her and the secondary caregiver but also on adopting a healthy diet, focusing on iron-rich foods. Mrs. Sahithya then went in for registration and also began to take IFA supplements as per the Doctor's recommendation.

As a result, Mrs Sahithya and many others like her became aware about proper postnatal care (PNC) practices. She also became aware of not only Mathruvandana and Bhagyalakshmi Yojana, but also other schemes. She expressed appreciation for AVANI project's role in providing a brighter future for pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The entire family expressed gratitude to Sparsha Trust and SURIN Automotive Pvt Ltd.



PROPOSED PLAN FOR 2024-2025

Scale up of the project to reach out more number of beneficiaries, who are in need of the project interventions

Acknowledgements

Doctors who supported the project: Dr Harish, Dr Bhagyalakshmi and Dr Ranjitha.

The Doctors examined patients not just in the head office but also in the communities.

Eight Anganwadi Teachers, from the project implementation areas, supported the project by informing and mobilizing mothers about any event, and helped in the logistics at the Anganwadi centres. They supported significantly during various events and health check ups, and were very cooperative. These are the teachers from various centres including Munishwara Nagar, Sunkadkatte, Ambedkar, Rachenahalli, Thanisandra, Akkiappa and Thindlu.

The ASHAs helped by accompanying our facilitators at times during home visits due to which the beneficiaries got information more effectively about Government schemes and their wellness.

Project Team Members

Mr. Gopinath R Mentor
Mrs. Revathi Krishnan Donor Communication and Corporate Partnership
Mr. Anil M Project Manager
Ms. Goutami Counsellor
Mrs. Karuna Project facilitator
Mrs. Geetha Project facilitator

DONOR

Surin Automotive Pvt. Ltd.

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.

in India, the homeless include those living in open spaces, such as pavements, roadsides, railway platforms, temples and so on.

“This narrow definition impacts enumeration and diminishes the magnitude and complexity of the problem in the country,” according to a survey report by Project Smile Trust and Azim Premji Foundation.

To address the issue, the Supreme Court directed state government to set up shelter homes across India under NULM (National Urban Livelihood Mission)

The Directorate of Municipal Administration is the nodal agency to coordinate urban homeless programmes in city corporations and BBMP. In Bengaluru, there are 48 such shelters run by different NGOs on the BBMP's land. Of this, five are run exclusively for women.

Sparsha Trust is one of the NGOs that is managing 4 residential centres for the homeless under the project titled Namma Mane. These centres provide all basic amenities, including 3 meals a day, to the enrolled residents, who were identified from the homeless.

A. Project starting year: 2012

B. Locations and the year in which the respective shelters homes for the homeless began

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

C. Number of direct beneficiaries

Ulsoor - 2012
Ganganagar 1 - 2022
Ganganagar 2 - 2022
Dasarahalli
(Chokkasandra) - 2021
Total - 204

Impact through the Project

Year	Overall	In the last one
Direct Beneficiaries	658	111

D. Number of direct beneficiaries: 594

E. Key activities

- Surveys in designated areas to identify the homeless (surveys on streets, under bridges/flyovers, railway stations and bus stops)
- Informing the homeless identified during surveys about Sparsha Namma Mane, and its services.
- Enrollment in Sparsha Namma Mane.
- Residents access different services - Food, lodging, health care, counselling
- Recreation activities and celebration of festivals
- Rehabilitation - social entitlements, referrals to job placement, home placement, support in setting up petty businesses

Expected impact after enrollment

- 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.
- Urban homeless are mainstreamed, leading a life of dignity and respect, as they are able to stand on their own feet.

Output during 2024-2025

Sl.No	Activities	Halasuru	Ganganagar-01	Ganganagar-02	Dasarahalli	Total
1	Surveys	24	24	24	14	86
2	Persons Identified Male	95	72	92	76	335
3	Persons Identified Female	15	0	0	4	19
4	Homeless Persons Rescued Male	20	10	20	19	69
5	Homeless Persons Rescued Female	14	0	0	0	14
6	Total Rescued	34	10	20	19	83

Sl.No	Parameter	Halasuru	Ganganagar-01	Ganganagar-01	Dasarahalli	Total
1	No of medical checkup	12	12	12	11	47
2	No of times persons have undergone health checkup	316	185	213	298	1012
3	Food					
	Breakfast	13094	6981	6365	4980	31420
	Lunch	6716	3547	3385	3320	16968
	Dinner	13093	7060	6448	4984	31585
	Total	32903	17588	16198	13284	79973
4	Social Entitlements					
	Adhar card	16	4	10	2	32
	Pan card	0	0	0	0	0
	Voter id	0	0	2	0	2
	Health card	2	0	0	0	2
	Bank account	0	0	0	0	0
	Old age pension	0	0	0	0	0
	Eshram card	0	0	6	0	6
	Total	18	4	18	2	42
						161089

Key activities conducted

- **Field Visits:** Shelter staff conducted around 80 field visits in the last year, to identify the urban homeless in nearby areas. These visits led to interactions with around 190 homeless people, informing them about the shelter's services and benefits, out of which around 80 of them joined the shelter.
- **Providing monthly Hygiene Supplies & welcome Kits:** Newly registered homeless individuals receive welcome kits upon admission to the shelter. Around 70 (or 83) new beneficiaries were admitted to the shelter homes.
- **Food Facility:** In accordance with BBMP regulations, beneficiaries of the 4 Sparsha Nammamane" shelters receive free morning breakfast, afternoon lunch, and night dinner. In the last 1 year, about 80,000 meals (3 times a day) were provided to shelter beneficiaries, ensuring their nutritional needs are met.

- **Regular Health Check-Up:** Dr. Kavan from Dream India Network, and Dr. Rahman from Project Smile visited the shelter homes every month and did the health check-up of all the inmates. Following the doctor's recommendations, necessary medications were provided to those in need. Last year, 1012 enrolled residents participated in the 42 health checks ups conducted during the year.
- **Social Security Schemes:** Sparsha Nammane has linked many homeless people to various social security schemes like Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Voter ID, Ration Card, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Health Card, Labour Card, Bank Account, E-Shram Card. Last year, the project facilitated the access for 42 beneficiaries to get social entitlements.
- **Regular visits by key stakeholders:** Among the many stakeholders who visited the shelter homes managed by Sparsha Trust include the following:
 - Mrs. Usha. D, CAO from BBMP,
 - Mrs. Snehal. R (Zonal Commissioner)
 - Mr. Sampath from BBMP
 - BBMP CRP Mrs. Shweta
 - CRP, BBMP Priya
 - BBMP Officer C.O Mrs. Savithri, Mr. Manjunath, and Mr. Nagaraj

F. DONORS

Sl. No	Name of the Center	Donor
1	Murphy town	Bruhat Bangalore Mahalagara palike (BBMP) East Zone
2	Ganganagar 01	Bruhat Bangalore Mahalagara palike (BBMP) East Zone
3	Ganganagar 02	Bruhat Bangalore Mahalagara palike (BBMP) East Zone
4	Dasarahalli	Bruhat Bangalore Mahalagara palike (BBMP), Dasarahalli Zone New Horizon Education and Cultural Trust

G. Proposed plan for 2024-25

- 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

H. Funders

- BBMP (Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike)
- New Horizon College

I. Case study

Name: Prem Kumar
Age: 44 years

Family background: Prem Kumar is unmarried. He was left without support after his elder brother's demise, as his sister-in-law and elder sister refused to care for him.

Enrollment in Sparsha Nammane: Ravi Kumar came to know about Sparsha Nammane through a friend and came to the project on his own to seek shelter.

Ravi Kumar joined the Murphy Town shelter home on May 16th, 2022, and stayed on until May 2nd, 2023. During counselling sessions, Ravi Kumar disclosed that he worked as a painter but due to fall from a building six months ago, he sustained nerve damage.

The project facilitated the required treatment for him at NIMHANS. He began taking treatment regularly and even began to resume work as a painter. However, his alcohol consumption escalated over time, leading to conflicts with other residents. Staff advised him to cease drinking or vacate the shelter. Subsequently, as he earned enough to secure rental accommodation, he left the shelter.

Thus, after joining the shelter, Prem Kumar the required facilities related to treatment. He was also able to save money during his year-long stay here. The counselling helped him to set goals for himself which was to improve his health, seek work and start earning.

J. Project Implementation team

- Overall project mentor: Mr. Gopinath R
- Overall project co-ordinator: Mr. Manjunath S P

Ulsoor

Mr. Mahadevsamy - Manager

Mr. Arun Kumar – Caretaker

Mr. Manjunath K P – Caretaker

Mrs. Daisey D – Caretaker

Mr. Shekappa – Housekeeping

Dasarahalli

Mr. Dileep Kumar A P – Manager

Mr. Anandamurthy – Caretaker

Mr. Sunil – Caretaker

Ganganagar 1

Mr. Arjun Naik B – Manager

Mr. Sathish J – Caretaker

Mr. Ramesh – Caretaker

Mr. Vijay Kumar – Caretaker

Dasarahalli

Mr. Rajesh D S – Manager

Mr. Mansu – Caretaker

Mr. Malappa – Caretaker

Mr. Sachin Patra - Caretaker

H. Team feedback

I am happy to get the chance to join a good organization. It has been five months since I joined. I really enjoy my work. The work environment is good as colleagues are helpful and cooperative. I have learnt to manage people and communicate more effectively with them. I have improved in many ways.

Sagar

PHOTO GALLERY



Celebration of Independence Day



Facilitating the process for residents to get social entitlements



Yoga for the residents to keep them fit



Serving food to the residents



Identification of the homeless from different places



Residents with welcome kits



Health check ups



World Health Day



Meeting of residents in shelter home to discuss issues



Distribution of bags



Survey to identify the homeless



Annadatha Sukhee Bhava

May those who feed be blessed

Started in June 2021

The rural and semi-urban areas of Karnataka witness large scale migration of the youth from their respective villages and towns to the cities in search of work. Those who stay behind are their parents, who are unable to work and earn for themselves as they age over the years. Among them are also those who do not find work or lack the required physical and emotional stamina to work. The aged, often neglected by the children, lack the means to purchase essential groceries and daily use items.

Initiated by Wing Commander RS Murthy, Annadata Sukhi Bhava, (Board member of Sparsha Trust) Annadata Sukhi Bhava project aims to be of service to those aged people who do not have regular access to food and basic facilities. By taking the essential groceries and daily use items to their door step, the scheme provides them with the much deserved dignity and respect.

Objective

The main objective of Annadata Sukhi Bhava is to provide food security and a sense of well-being to low income and BPL families by providing them with essential groceries and daily use items every month for at least 3 years.

The origins of Annadata Sukhi Bhava can be traced to the time when it began to support a single family residing at Manchiganahalli village, Sonnawadi Grama Panchayath, Mulabagil Taluk. At present, (2023-2024), it is supporting 31 families in 12 villages with essential groceries and daily use items.

Location of Implementation

12 villages coming under Sonnawadi and Hanumanahalli Grama Panchayaths of Mulabagil Taluk.

Sonnawadi Panchayat

- * Sonnawadi
- * Kavathanahalli
- * Sangandahalli
- * Keelagani
- * Manchigenahalli
- * Chikkabandahalli
- * Khadripura



Hanumanahalli Panchayat

- * Bettagerahalli
- * Anantpura
- * Bhimapura
- * Hanumanahalli
- * Bandahalli

Direct Beneficiaries : 31 Families

Key Activities

1. Identification of potential beneficiaries

At that start of the project, with the support of the local Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers, the project identified low income families with aged persons staying in them. The beneficiaries were carefully selected on the basis of the criteria which includes taking into account their current financial condition, health status and their ability to earn.

2. Providing identified families with essential groceries and daily use items

During 2023-2024, the members of the scheme/project went to the homes of the selected beneficiaries and provided them with essential groceries and daily use items on a monthly basis. Those who went to the homes to personally to distribute the items included **Wg Cdr RS Murthy** (Member, Board of Sparsha), **Mr. Gopinath R** (Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust), **Mrs. Revathi Krishnan** (Donor Communication and Corporate Partnership), **Mr. Nitin Iyer** (Project Head, Youth Skills Development), **Mr. Harish** (Facilitator in Women Lead project).



**Wg Cdr R S Murthy
and Ms. Revathi
with a beneficiary family**

DONOR

**Wg Cdr R S Murthy's personal contribution
Support mobilized by Wg Cdr R S Murthy
Support mobilized by Sparsha Trust**



Impact

As the essential groceries kit were given to the 31 beneficiary families month on month, they experienced a sense of food security after a long time. They were able to get the required age appropriate nutrients which helped to maintain their physical and emotional well-being. They felt happy that distinguished and senior members of the Sparsha Trust's core team visited their homes and interacted with them with love and respect.



Team Members

Mr. Shankar Gowda

Mrs. Sunanda

Mrs. Shashikala

Feedback From A Team Member

As we go every month to give rations to the 31 families, we have become very familiar with them. Whichever house we go to, we are treated like family members and we also feel that we are close to them. Many say that their own children do not look after them the way we do and that our support is helping them to have food thrice a day.



Apart from regular groceries, at times, we either give more items or more quantity of the same item during festivals. We felt very happy when we distributed sweets and khara mixture during Dussehra to them. Even though some of them are getting old age pension, much of their income goes into medical expenses or house related expenses.

I feel happy to be able to get this chance to serve the aged persons.

Proposed Plan For 2024-2025

To continue with the present support to the selected beneficiaries families

Feedback From A Beneficiary

Munilakshmmama, is a 58 years old lady staying in Sonnewadi Grama Panchayat. Her husband passed away about 30 years ago and since then, she has been staying on her own as she also does not have any children. She has no close relatives staying near her.

"I don't have the support of any close relatives. I also underwent two major surgeries. I am trying to survive and maintain myself with the old age pension I am getting but it is difficult. Earlier, it used to be difficult to have proper food for even one meal but now after I was included by Annadata Sukhi Bhava, I am able to eat food thrice a day.

Earlier, since I did not have proper nutrition, I used to be anemic and unable to move around easily. Now as I am getting ration every month, my health has improved and I am able to do my work much more easily. I am grateful to Wg Cmdr R S Murthy and Sparsha Trust for this very important support.

PHOTO GALLERY



Events

1. Inauguration of Makkala Dhama

Although Makkala Dhama began its functioning in 2022-2023, it was formally inaugurated on July 8th, 2023 in a grand function that had the presence of key donors, stakeholders, dignitaries and local governing and administrative officials.

Those who graced the occasion with their presence were the following: Special Chief Guest Sri K H Muniyappa Honorable Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, and District Minister for Bangalore Rural District, Government of Karnataka Chief Guests Sri Hari K Marar Managing Director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) Dr R Balasubramaniam Member – HR Capacity Building Commission, Government of India, New Delhi Presided by Sri Rajendra Hinduja Makkala Dhama Committee – Member



2. Installation of a rain water harvesting system at Makkala Dhama

With the support of Kennametal India Ltd, a rain water harvesting system with a capacity to conserve 2 lakhs litre of rainwater was installed at Makkala Dhama. This innovative endeavor aligns perfectly with our commitment to sustainable practices and environmental conservation. In addition, the company also donated a school van for the children of Makkala Dhama, making it easier for them to commute between the campus and their school and back.



3. Mega event conducted in the TSEP HACKATHON project

Toyota Hackathon brings together young minds to brainstorm, innovate, and develop implementable solutions in the form of prototypes and models that will contribute to promoting road safety and reducing the frequency and impact of road accidents.

A mega Hackathon event was conducted on 3rd and 4th February 2024 at RV Institute of Technology and Management. More than a 100 schools and PU Colleges participated in this event, during which 31 teams submitted their ideas on ways to solve road safety concerns. After the initial round of presentations in front of an internal jury comprising of dignitaries from Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Sparsha Trust, KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services and Indian Road Safety Campaign (IRSC), the top 10 teams were short-listed.

4. Vyaapara Mela

The Vyaapara Mela, organized by Sparsha Trust, took place on 5 February 2024 at Srinivasa Kalyana Mantappa, Mathikere. Esteemed guests included Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan, Honorable Member of Legislative Assembly from the Malleshwaram Constituency, Mr. Madhilizagan from United Way Bengaluru, and Mrs. Shilpa Videya Belgode, a social worker. It was very encouraging to hear Dr. Ashwath Narayan reiterating his support to Sparsha Trust in assisting street vendors and other beneficiaries.

Over 500 small-scale women entrepreneurs and vendors participated in the Vyaapara Mela, during which 80 women set up stalls that sold a variety of products ranging from vegetables to clothing and homemade food. The motivation amount of Rs. 5,10,000/- that was given to 400 businesswomen increased their enthusiasm.



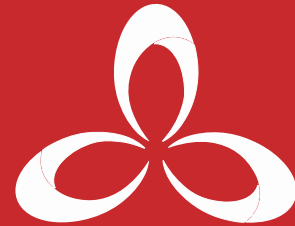
5. Conducting of a successful annual event at Krushi Vignana Kendra (ABCD project)

The Toyota A Behavioral Change Demonstration (ABCD) program significantly contributes to India's Sustainable Development Goal of ending open defecation, focusing on the Swachh Bharat Mission. Launched in 2015 as part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan,' ABCD has effectively raised awareness about health & hygiene among students, families, and the community.

Sparsha Trust is the implementation partner of TKM's ABCD program in Raichur District.

In January 2024, the annual event at the Krushi Vignana Kendra auditorium in Raichur featured quiz and drawing competitions, providing a platform for children to showcase their talents and understanding of the ABCD program for health and hygiene. Distinguished guests, including local officials and representatives from TKM and Sparsha Trust, praised the positive impact of the program on children and communities, pledging continued support for its success.

The event included vibrant activities, such as magic shows and experience sharing sessions, highlighting the importance of sanitation behaviour and promoting hygiene practices among children. More than 20000 participated in the drawing program and quiz program.



SPARSHA

A TEAM FOR BETTER SOCIETY

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