

# The Good Sight

Issue 8/ February 2020  
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## SUSTAINABLE & STAINLESS

**JSL's  
initiatives  
towards  
community  
development**

**ONCE  
DEAD NOW  
ALIVE**

**AROH  
Foundation  
infuses life in  
dying ponds**







## Aao Badlein Bharat



# ...wherein the communities are capacitated to work for themselves

### Team TGS

#### Editor

Asit Srivastava  
Bhesaja Choudhury

#### Creative Head

Rajnikant Sinha

For contribution, feedback or queries,  
reach us at

[contact@thegoodsight.com](mailto:contact@thegoodsight.com)

#### Content in arrangement with:

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Sangath

Solidarity Foundation

Vasudha Foundation

Dear Reader,

Like always we are excited to share a new issue of The Good Sight. We hope it turns out to be an engaging one. We have tried to pack it with some of the most promising development initiatives—from different spheres—across different geographies in India.

Stories of change and development undoubtedly makes interesting reading. And such stories wherein the communities are not just mere beneficiaries, but partner in the process of development, tend to get more engaging. We wish to focus more on such stories wherein the communities are capacitated to work for themselves.

True development lies in co-engaging with the communities and enabling them to contribute to the greater good. More and more organisations need to practice this model of development that is sustainable, impactful and, of course, catalyses growth.

Editors

Asit Srivastava  
Bhesaja Choudhury



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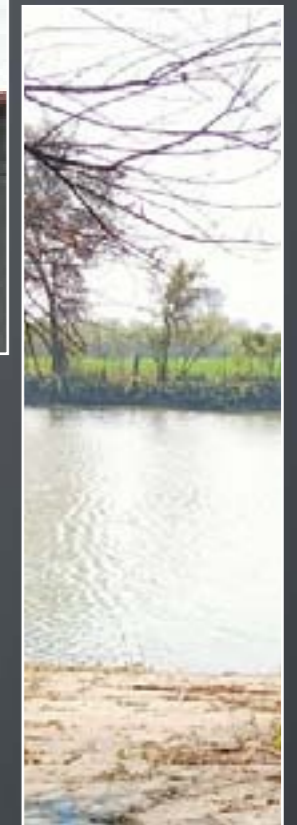
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# UNSHACKLING THE MIND

Sangath's primary goal is to innovate solutions that reduce the treatment gap for mental disorders

Pinaki R. Mitra

▼ Sangath team members and schoolchildren commemorating Autism Awareness Day



▲ Tea workers of Assam

Sangath is a not-for-profit organisation committed to improving health across the life span by empowering existing community resources. It took its first steps as a small NGO in Goa in 1996, with the limited ambition of providing a child guidance service. The areas of health Sangath chose to focus on were not-so-fashionable in the mid-1990s. Many people had asked Sangath's founders whether child development and mental health could be considered as socially relevant causes for an Indian NGO. In those initial years, several people had suggested that Sangath should shift its focus to more critical health problems that were plaguing India's population. But within Sangath, people not only showed patience and tenacity of purpose but also recognised the value of science in demonstrating why Sangath's chosen domains were critical issues that needed to be addressed.

## The core problem

A report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) states that 7.5% of the Indian population suffers from some form of mental disorder. Mental illnesses constitute one-sixth of all health-related disorders and India accounted for nearly 15% of the global mental, neurological and substance abuse disorder burden. The treatment gap, which is defined as the prevalence of mental illnesses and the proportion of patients that get treatment, is over 70% in India. WHO also predicts that by 2020, roughly 20% of India will suffer from mental illnesses. As per 'Global Burden of Disease' report, mental disorders account for 13% of total DALYs (Disability Adjusted Life Years), with Depression being the leading cause (Source: National

Mental Health Survey of India, 2015-16). Moreover, persons with mental disorders are also known to be associated with a wide range of societal problems, if their illness is unrecognised or is inappropriately managed.

An even more troubling fact is that there is an extreme shortage of mental health workers like psychologists, psychiatrists and trained nurses in India. For example, there are only 3 psychiatrists per million people in India, while the corresponding figures for the USA and China are 105 and 22 psychiatrists, respectively. Moreover, a huge majority of the mental health professionals are located in urban areas. Hence, the shortage of trained mental health specialists in rural India is more severe.

## Task-sharing approach

In resource-poor settings or low-income countries, the task-sharing or task-shifting strategy has often been proven to be beneficial, especially in the management of some chronic conditions like AIDS. In a task-sharing strategy, usually the community or lay health workers provide 'front-line care' (with oversight from primary healthcare practitioners and specialists), instead of physicians and trained nurses. This strategy appears particularly attractive in low-income countries, where the number of physicians and trained nurses are simply inadequate. Sangath was one of the first institutions in the developing world to train and utilise the services of laypeople to deliver research evidence-based psychosocial interventions for mental health problems. The institution's primary goal has always been to continuously innovate solutions to improve access





▲ A child playing with Sangath's mobile app on problem solving therapy

to interventions or treatments so that the treatment gap for mental disorders is significantly reduced.

Today, Sangath's task-sharing model of care has won plaudits around the world, and this model has also been applied in other developing countries. Some of the main features of Sangath's model are:

- **Designing** interventions based on global evidence of effectiveness and local evidence of cultural acceptability
- **Involving** diverse stakeholders, in particular people affected by the target mental health problems, in shaping the content and delivery of the treatments.
- **Recruiting** and training available human resources from the local communities to deliver mental health interventions. They can be lay counsellors or ASHA workers, but can also be teachers or parents, in the case of childhood disorders.
- **Embedding** the interventions in established healthcare platforms, most commonly those run by the

government and the private sector, to ensure scalability.

- **Disseminating** the findings in a variety of ways, ranging from scientific papers to audio-visuals and social media.
- **Simplifying** the messages to convey mental health issues, and trying to replace psychiatric labels which may

▼ Sangath's school health promotion programme



cause shame or misunderstanding.

### Programmes at a glance

Sangath's work spans across various domains in mental health and well-being, for example, designing interventions for children with neuro-developmental disabilities, sensitising school managements and teachers on various aspects of child development and learning, promoting mental health of adolescents and young people, designing treatments for alcohol addictions, innovating effective psychosocial treatments for depression in adults, designing strategies to prevent depression in late life, promoting the mental health of people living with HIV, and spreading mental health awareness through youth-friendly activities like street plays, "Mann Melas" (mind fairs), and through Sangath's "It's OK to Talk" online campaign.

Some of Sangath's significant achievements include the development of HAP and CAP. HAP (Healthy



▲ Counsellor team building exercise in progress

Activity Programme) is an extremely useful counselling treatment for helping people overcome moderate to severe Depression. CAP (Counselling for Alcohol Problems) is a psychological treatment for harmful and dependent drinking, based upon successful methods used in the West and the experiences of working with patients in India.

An integral part of much of Sangath's work is the use of information and communication technologies, examples of which can be seen in interventions like (i) assessment of children for ASD (Autism spectrum disorder) through portable eye-tracking technology, (ii) a self-help app designed like a game, which is part of an intervention for school-going adolescents, or (iii) using telepsychiatry for patients identified

with mental health problems in government primary health care centres.

Sangath's training programmes like Leadership in Mental Health (LMH) course are designed to develop leadership capacity in the context of the emerging global mental health movement. Today, LMH is widely viewed as one of the most important short programmes in the world in the mental health domain, especially from the public health perspective.

### Partnerships and collaborations

Almost all of Sangath's projects are collaborative in nature and in partnership with reputed national and international organisations and stakeholders. Sangath's past and current partner institutions include

Harvard University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, King's College London, MacArthur Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, Wellcome Trust, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Public Health Foundation of India, Governments of Goa, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, National Institute of Mental Health (USA), and World Health Organisation (WHO). Sangath is also a member of the "Movement for Global Mental Health", a virtual network of individuals and organisations.

### The journey continues

Sangath's work in the mental health domain has been recognised by several governmental and other institutions. Sangath was awarded the MacArthur Foundation's International Prize for Creative and Effective Institutions



in 2008. Sangath also received the WHO Public Health Champion award in 2016, for its contribution to public health in India. Sangath's co-founder and Harvard Medical School Professor Dr Vikram Patel has received numerous accolades in recognition of his groundbreaking work in mental health. In April 2015, he was listed as

one of the world's 100 most influential people by TIME magazine.

Today, Sangath is widely viewed as one of the most influential organisations in the global mental health sector. And yet, Sangath's vision to make high-quality mental health care accessible and affordable for all remains

unfulfilled. Till Sangath achieves its core mission of eliminating the mental health treatment gap, this journey based upon the strengths of community resources and innovation is unlikely to pause. ■

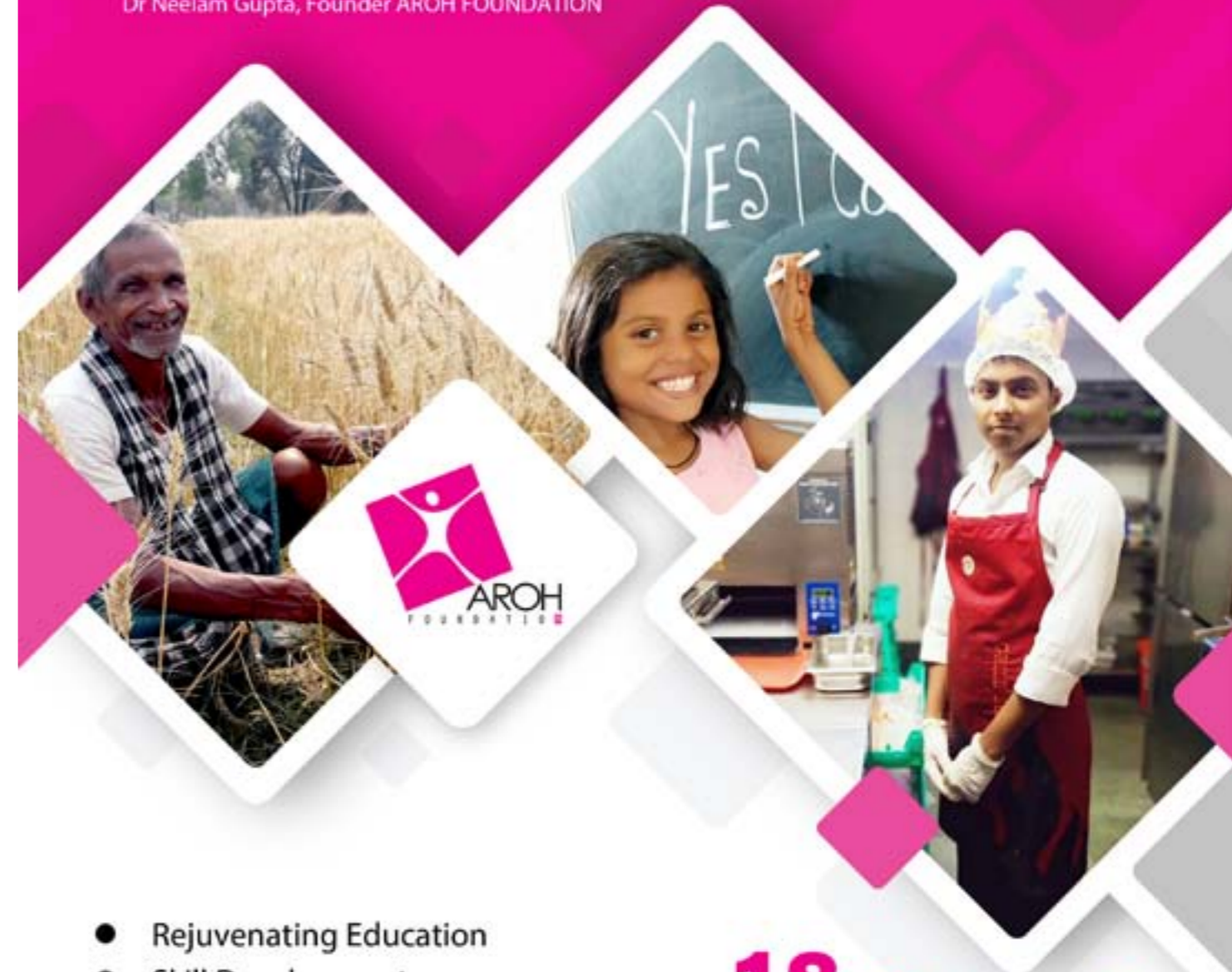
*(Pinaki R. Mitra is the Executive Director of Sangath)*

▼ Children at a school-based intervention programme for promoting adolescent health



# “We Catalyse Changes at the Grassroots...”

Dr Neelam Gupta, Founder AROH FOUNDATION



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- Holistic Rural Development
- Natural Resource Management
- Renewable Energy Management
- Women Empowerment

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**1200 villages**

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▼ Agriculture is one of the core interventions of Jindal Stainless Foundation

# STEELY DETERMINATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Jindal Stainless Foundation is improving lives and empowering communities through trustworthy and innovative stain-less solutions





▼ Premalata with her team

**P**remalata Behera, aged 29 years, from a tribal community of Odisha lives with her parents and three siblings. Her father is a small marginal farmer and provides for the family with his meagre income. Due to economical reason, he could not take care of his daughter, Premalata, who suffered a stroke of polio when she was seven years. With a firm resolve she struggled her way and on learning about the Jindal Stainless CSR interventions around her village, volunteered to join the tailoring classes being conducted approximately two kilometres away from her village. This was a huge challenge for her and the family who encouraged her to move on and the young lady travelled each day on her wheelchair and did not feel embarrassed to be helped into the classroom. After struggling for over six months, she completed her training in April 2016 and sought help to open her tailoring shop at her village, Koitha in Jajpur district.

The CSR team saw her entrepreneurial spirit and rendered all help to her to start her venture in her small dingy one-room house. After struggling for six months with this venture she was encouraged with the 'walk-in' orders she received and during the next six months was capable of expanding her one-room shop to a larger space which she hired from her resources. With the income she accrued, Premalata bought five machines and added more as she progressed. Besides the income generated from her tailoring venture, Premalata opened a tailoring centre of her own on the same premise and encouraged other girls in the area to learn and start to support the project. With the fee charged at the centre, she expanded her business and the



area buzzed with activities, bringing about a social change in the local environment.

She currently earns over Rs. 30,000 per month and manages to save approx

Rs. 20,000 after regular payouts toward salaries and maintenance of the equipment etc. Today she is a proud woman, empowered and confident to make a difference in the community she resides. She is a role

model in her village and has shown the prowess of a good human being, a good leader.

Another beneficiary is Annapurna Dei, a resident of Gholapur village,

who has a landholding of 6 acres where she cultivates vegetables year after year following the traditional practices. She was not able to reap the optimum value of her produce as some vegetables were affected by

the fungal plant disease for which she did not have any cure. When Gram Unnati Foundation (GUF), the partner NGO engaged in the development of the farmers, visited her field, she had already suffered a huge loss.



▼ Annapurna Dei improving her life with better agricultural practices



With the continuous support and recommendation of GUF field staff, Annapurna used *Trichoderma Viridae* (5gm/Ltr of water), Nimastra and Handi Khata. It is an organic pesticide which is very cost-effective and can be made by the farmers themselves. Annapurna was surprised to see the outcome. There was an increase in flowering and plant health. Her income increased by Rs 12,000 per acre, time of yield increased up to 1.5 months and her yield increased by 35 kg per 2 decimal cultivated land. Additionally, her production expenses were cut down due to the use of "Handi Khata" (herbal manure) as she no longer had to rely on costly pesticides from the market. After seeing the results herself she is not only motivating and encouraging her fellow farmers to go organic but also teaching them the process.

Numerous such individuals have been benefitted by the initiatives of Jindal Stainless Foundation (JSF). Toward its efforts in mitigating the woes of communities, as a responsible corporation, Jindal Stainless Limited, through its CSR has been engaged in various social initiatives around its plant locations. These initiatives have been crafted after due consultations and getting the communities involved in the decision-making process. A detailed baseline survey is always conducted and needs of communities become the basis on developing projects.

It is equally important for employees to contribute their talents and resources and that is an essential component of Corporate Citizenship. Hence through the volunteering platform, efforts are being made to sensitise employees on social

issues and get them engaged in community work. This has given the stakeholders including the employees, the community, and others in the supply chain, an opportunity to get connected with each other, especially in the immediate operational space. The Jindal Stainless Foundation was established to implement various social and environmental initiatives through direct and indirect methods. In JSL it is believed that CSR is the direct connection between "Head and Heart" and can only be achieved when the professional understands and speaks the "Language of Heart." Jindal Stainless Limited, one of the largest stainless steel manufacturers in Asia and India carries out various CSR projects, under the major thematic areas i.e. rural development with a special focus on agriculture, environment and ecological sustainability, education and skill development, integrated health care, water and sanitation, promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

Through self-help groups (SHGs), it has engaged with women empowerment activities, income generation, rural community development and other social welfare programmes. In the field of education and health care, JSL has opened non-formal education centres for out-of-school children and runs computer literacy programmes for the poorer section of the society. Toward health, JSL runs mobile clinics and programmes addressing issues around 'female feticide'. A well-designed HIV and AIDS programme, cancer care programme and preventive vector born disease programme has been extremely beneficial to the community, especially the remote communities of

Jajpur and Hisar.

Rural entrepreneurship development is also a key area and the initiative has facilitated a number of people in the community. The steady growth of 'Project ASMITA' with the opening of a boutique managed by community women has given a voice to the rural women and showcases their prowess in entrepreneurial development. Such case studies and stories need to be shared and replicated across geographies. This project, with a small number of women has trained other women in various technical processes from sourcing to product design to product development and marketing. Such processes are great indicators in explaining project outcomes. 'Project SAHAJ', managed by a self-help group, is a mini sanitary napkins manufacturing unit is a great example of promoting good health and hygiene practices amongst women in the community.

It is through such intervention that the community understands a corporation's responsibilities toward communities who are immediately impacted by their businesses. JSL has from the beginning understood the community-first approach and through its philanthropic activities been engaged in supporting the people around its plant location. However, with the advent of sustainability being built into the charity, the philanthropy element was converted into a more strategic endeavour of strategic CSR, which is the base of all efforts toward Corporate Citizenship. ■

*(With inputs from Brig Rajiv Williams, Corporate Head CSR, Jindal Stainless Limited Group.)*



# TRANSLATING CLIMATE CHANGE ASPIRATIONS INTO ACTION

Through various programmes and projects, Vasudha Foundation intends to promote the sustainable consumption of earth's bounties



The question of whether climate change is real or not has been rendered meaningless. Peer-reviewed papers, high-level scientific studies and severe anomalies observed in natural climatic conditions prove that climate change (now widely termed as climate crisis) is one of the major global concerns of our times. Although, international conventions with legally binding instruments and national level action plans/schemes are in place to address climate change, yet very little action has been taken to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and avert (mitigate) climate change. Several factors can be attributed for this shortfall, like lack of integration of climate change action with development agenda; political unwillingness and lobbying; lack of regional-level plans and such others.

With an earnest spirit to contribute to fill this lacuna and to work towards sustainable development, Vasudha Foundation was set up in 2010 as a not-for-profit organisation. The core mission is to conserve Vasudha, which in Sanskrit means the Earth, the giver of wealth. Through various programmes and projects, the Foundation intends to promote the sustainable consumption of earth's bounties. Over the years, Vasudha Foundation has collaborated with a number of multi-lateral organisations and state governments on three programme verticals, namely: putting India on a climate-friendly and resilient pathway; energy access solutions, and scaling up renewable energy.

Recognising the fact that there are no universal solutions for climate change,

Vasudha Foundation has endeavoured to develop regionally appropriate action plans to tackle climate change. It was part of a consortium that helped to develop State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC) for the states of Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli in collaboration with GIZ and other consortium members. These SAPCCs were well received and also approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, (MoEFCC), India.

Moving a step ahead and to promote a bottom-up approach for climate change planning, Vasudha Foundation has now initiated the project of developing District Climate and Environment Action Plans (DCEAP) for multiple districts of India. DCEAP is one of the first district-

▼ Talking climate change



level planning projects in India that would help to identify district-specific climate change drivers and provide recommendations for mitigation. This project intends to work closely with the respective district administration and other relevant stakeholders to understand the development priorities and propose smooth integration of climate change action with the district aspirations. Besides enabling the districts to address climate change, this project would also contribute in the state climate change action planning and implementation process. Overall, these efforts would make concrete contributions for the national emission reduction aspirations as indicated in India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submitted under Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as help India to meet the Sustainable Development Goal-13 i.e. "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".

Vasudha Foundation is also an integral part of the pioneering work called the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Platform India. The GHG Platform - India (GHGPI) is a collective civil-society initiative providing independent estimation and analysis of India's GHG emissions across key sectors such as Energy, Waste, Industry, Agriculture, Forest and Other Land Use (AFOLU). The platform was jointly conceptualised by Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation and Vasudha Foundation. Vasudha Foundation also acts as the Secretariat of the platform, besides estimating and preparing reports for the AFOLU sector. The other partner organisations for GHGPI are Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW); Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP); ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability - South Asia; and world Resources Institute - India.

GHGPI has completed three phases and currently hosts national estimates

for GHG emissions from 2005 to 2015 by accounting CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O gases. It now also has sub-national (i.e. state level) GHG emission estimates. It strictly follows the methodology guidelines as given by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and sources the activity data from government published data. Overall, GHGPI acts as a repository of information on the process of GHG accounting and estimations (emission estimates, methodology reports and back-end calculation sheets have been uploaded on the GHGPI website). GHGPI has been recognised by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in the Second Biennial Update Report (BUR) submitted to the UNFCCC.

Vasudha Foundation has carried out several projects in the energy sector as well. Some of the initial projects pertaining to energy were: 1) Preparation of District Energy Plan for the districts of Mandla in Madhya Pradesh and Moradabad in

Uttar Pradesh; 2) Detailed assessment of rural electrification in India and coming up with a campaign on 'Universal Service Obligation' for rural energy services, and 3) Bhutan Energy Cooperation Agreements and the Implementation of Hydropower Projects in Bhutan. One of the ongoing energy sector projects is the 'Energy Mapping Initiative'. It is a web-based reservoir of analytics, data and interactive information on power generation in India. At present, the energy mapping platform offers information on operational and proposed thermal power plants (TPPs) in India which is based on an extensive database put together by the Vasudha Foundation team.

On the community front, Vasudha Foundation also forayed into working on providing "energy access" solutions to rural communities. One such project that it ventured was to set up a "community biogas plant" in the village of Lalpur in Madhupur Taluk of Jharkhand. As a pilot and in order to build awareness the village women were also trained and oriented on biogas plants for meeting heating and cooking energy demands. Vasudha also installed two household-level biogas digesters in the village and this helped to build awareness of the communities on bio-gas. While the community bio-gas plant did not succeed due to a number of reasons, many individual biogas plants were installed in households in the vicinity.

Climate change invariably impacts all the sectors and regions (although to a different extent). Therefore, climate change adaptation and preparedness is also crucial. For one of the climate change adaptation projects, Vasudha has worked with the farmers and other

stakeholders (in the state of Punjab) on water conservation practices of agriculture, particularly rice cultivation and also addressing the issue of straw management, from the perspective of the burning of rice straw.

Through its ongoing and future projects, Vasudha Foundation is

determined to endeavour towards addressing climate change and the different cross-cutting issues by developing implementable and achievable action plans; providing region-specific solutions; adopting the decentralised approach and bottom-up method and ensuing stakeholders' participation. ■

▼ A woman carrying cow dung cakes in Madhya Pradesh



▲ Straw management in Punjab



# Voices in Solidarity

Solidarity Foundation not only supports Jogappas through collaborative and stand-alone musical concerts but also help them access social entitlements

Shubha Chacko and Shubhangani Jain

▼ *Jogappas are one of the least known transgender communities of South India*



**H**istory was created when the maestro of Carnatic music, T.M Krishna, and the folk music attuned Jogappas graced the stage together. The fusion of folk and Carnatic music, seamlessly knit into a one-of-its-kind musical concert, is an unmissable treat! Transgressing the gates of ‘high’ and ‘low’ art, gender and sexuality, caste and location, the performances not only are pleasing to the ear, and get the feet tapping but also makes us question our preconceived notions of culture, performance, gender and sexuality.

Who are the Jogappas? Jogappas are one of the least known transgender communities of South India. ‘Transgender’ is a broad term used to describe people whose gender identity does not match the one assigned to them. Jogappas are considered male born, but become transwomen once ‘Goddess Yellamma possesses their bodies. Jogappas’ lives are closely intertwined with Yellamma. They are specific to some regions of north Karnataka, south Maharashtra, and west Telangana. They become associated with the goddess Yellamma through the act of ‘dedication’, a ceremony that marks their official transition by the tying of the ‘muthu’, a string of red and white beads that marks their marital status. Though the Jogappas belong to different caste and religious backgrounds, they together forge a strong community: their ability to dissolve differences and build solidarity to promote social change holds lessons for all of us.

Jogappas narrate Yellama’s story through their music





▲ Jogappas narrate goddess Yellamma's story through their music and dance

and dance when they are invited to perform during certain festivals like Diwali, Dussehra, etc. Music, performance, and faith are intricately linked. Most performances include at least three instruments: the chowdiki, the suttagi, and the tala. Songs are used to enter a state of trance and to express 'their' story; "I sing a few songs before I fall under her (Yellamma) spell," says Jogappa Ranjini. The first few lines of one of their songs, "Eshtu vodurali amba ninaga" translates to, "How much do I call out for you, dear mother! How loudly do I beseech you to come Renuka mother."

The collaboration between T.M Krishna and the Jogappas (Siddappa Algod, Rakhi Basare, Lakshman Karbar, Sagari Walaki, and Dawal Saab), is one of our initiatives. Solidarity Foundation's many efforts resulted in its first concert, Aikya, literally meaning "coming together" in 2016. The concert was attended by more than 500 people in Bengaluru's Unnati centre paving way for more concerts to follow. The group has since performed at organisations like Accenture, LinkedIn, various colleges and music sabhas, and more recently at Delhi's Awam ki Awaz, a cultural programme initiated by the Delhi

government to decentralise arts and culture.

The songs sung usually are structured as a conversation between Krishna and the Jogappas: there are duets on god Vitthala, songs like 'Baara Tangi' urging people to come together and sing praises of Yellamma.

Solidarity Foundation supports working class (largely low income, rural area based, non-English speaking and from disadvantaged backgrounds) sex worker (female, transgender and male) and sexual/gender minority (LGBTIQA+) leaders and groups/

organisations. It builds collectives (i.e., strengthening a coming together of these marginalised communities), capacities (sense of self, knowledge and skills), and connections (linking them to various experts, organisations etc). Solidarity Foundation, therefore, is like a bridge aiding the flow of resources, ideas and knowledge, while prioritising a human rights and social justice approach.

The transgender identity/community in India is not homogeneous and comprises of various groups like the kothis, jogappas, hijra, aravani, shivsakthis, etc. The Jogappas are

mostly rural based, and have few livelihood options (other than seeking alms, singing and dancing at informal gatherings). They are powerful storytellers who use the medium of music and dance to tell Yellamma's story, the goddess who was wronged and consequently attained divinity. They see themselves in her and in some ways feel that they are singing about their own lives.

As a community that largely exists in the rural and peri-urban spaces, they get very little mainstream attention. Conducting events such as these, the foundation realised, brings much-needed attention to the Jogappa community, allowing for a better understanding of their concerns and realities. These concerts are also instrumental in showcasing the talent of the community, thereby reducing some of the stigma surrounding trans people in general. This sentiment is echoed by T.M Krishna who, on his collaboration with the folk attuned Jogappas, said, "I have been interacting with them for three or four years. It has been a great learning process for me because I came with my own preconceived notions and my own baggage. I wish we didn't have to talk about their sexuality. I wish their sexuality is as normal as mine and yours. It is irrelevant. We have to get there and that's not a short conversation. It is a long, generational conversation and we are taking baby steps in that direction". (1)

After a performance in Mumbai, organised by Solidarity Foundation and curated by the Mumbai based First Edition Arts, Siddamma, one of the performing Jogappas, mentioned with pride, "We are grateful to the Foundation for bringing us together.

They chose the songs from my repertoire and we collaborated. All of us rehearsed for eight days and a team was formed and now you have heard us sing." (2)

Jogappas are linked to religious traditions that allow some space for gender non-conforming behaviour for those considered male at birth. This is a community in transition. Their perceptions of themselves and society's perceptions of them are changing rapidly. From a way of life that appears to have remained largely unchanged for ages, the past decade and a half have created a set of conditions that have posed serious challenges to the Jogappas. At this particular point in history the traditional spaces are fast shrinking and modernity has no value for them.

Solidarity Foundation recognises this and not only supports Jogappas through collaborative and stand-alone musical concerts but also in accessing social entitlements. Jogappas play a critical role in keeping alive rich, complex and alternative traditions that seamlessly integrate religion, gender and sexuality in a manner that's hard to find anywhere else in the world. ■

1. <https://www.deccanherald.com/metrolife/metrolife-cityscape/t-m-krishna-s-duet-with-transgender-jogappas-728602.html>

2. <https://www.dnaindia.com/lifestyle/report-a-voice-for-the-jogappas-2281392>

(Shubha and Shubhangani work with Solidarity Foundation set up to provide support to sex workers and sexual minorities by offering fellowships and grants.)



# STATUS OF HOMELESS IN URBAN INDIA:

## Rethinking Perspectives and Practice

Aravind Unni & Sonu Hari

Homelessness is rooted in the lack of access to education and livelihoods of the most oppressed and marginal sections of the society



**H**omelessness is more than mere 'rooflessness'. Homelessness is a symptom of grave economic, social and political disorder. Census of India defines 'homeless' (called as houseless households) as those who do not live in census houses, but rather stay on pavements, roadsides, railway platforms, staircases, temples, streets, in pipes, or other open spaces. The last census identifies close to a million urban homeless in India; which the civil society estimates say is a huge underestimate. As opposed to viewing homeless as houseless, we strive to place importance on the contribution of homeless to the urban and place at the forefront the challenges faced by them. IGSSS firmly believes that homeless residents play a crucial role in running and making of our cities in various capacities – as construction workers, rickshaw pullers, waste pickers and other daily wage earners. The term 'City-Makers', coined by IGSSS, defines them as people who play an integral role in building a city. A home is not just a physical structure like a shelter to protect one from extreme weather conditions and provide comfort. Instead, it also has legal and social dimensions. A home provides identity and a sense of belonging in society. Those bereft of it are most vulnerable and excluded. And identifying this, Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) has been directly working with the homeless across India since 2008. Having played a key role in the policy formulation of NULM – SUH (National Urban Livelihood Mission – Shelter for Urban Homeless) scheme, along with strong engagement with government officials has moved on supporting civil society organisations and various state governments across

six states in India to better understand homelessness and develop measures to support people themselves in coming out of the vicious circle of poverty.

#### THE PRESENT STUDY AND ITS NEED

This study conducted by IGSSS and supported by our partner OFFER (Organization Functioning For Eytham's Respect) in 2019 intended to reach out to the homeless populations across five states (Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu) and 15 cities (Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Vizag, Guntur, Vijayawada, Mumbai, Pune and Nasik), to better comprehend the status of services, entitlements, government policies, access to shelter for homeless. Also, as an added feature women-specific challenges and violence faced by the homeless on a daily basis was also mapped. The primary aim of the study was to understand more the daily challenges of homeless in cities, not with the aim of undermining the existing schemes and policies, but to strive for improvement in policy framework and its implementation. It is also expected that civil society organisations are also informed of the needs and lived realities of homeless to accordingly fine-tune the programmes for improvement in the condition of homelessness in India.

#### KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

**Homeless in India are workers -** The majority of the people surveyed are below 45 years of age i.e., in the most productive phase of their life, contributing the most in the form of various livelihoods that they engage in. The study findings highlight that 53.8% of respondents

▼ The last census identifies close to a million urban homeless in India





were male, followed by 45.9% female respondents. A very small 0.3% of the homeless population reported as transgender as well.

**Homelessness has structural underpinnings** - For the homeless, there is a visible lack of access to education. The study findings highlight that more than half of the homeless population is illiterate (52.9%), followed by a literate population of (47.1%). Further gender-wise analysis of data reveals that within the illiterate category 58.8% women and 48.1% men were illiterate. An overwhelming majority (86.6%) of the homeless population across five states are Hindus. Rest of the religions have a negligible presence. The caste break-up of the sample shows that the backward and reserved classes (Scheduled Castes 36%, Scheduled Tribes 23% and Other Backward Classes 21%) are a majority amongst the people who have been surveyed, much higher than the national average. Thereby signalling that homelessness is rooted in the lack of access to education and livelihoods of the most oppressed and marginal sections of the society. Within which as well, women homeless are the ones who suffer the most.

**Homelessness is not a transitory phenomenon** - Most of the homeless population (60%) were found to be born in the same city as the survey. This indicates that the intergenerational cycle of urban poverty and homelessness of these populations face a continuous struggle to secure their rights and entitlements, and are unable to improve their socio-economic conditions. Among the people not born in the cities were 40%, which highlighted the fact that such people do not find proper employment

opportunities in their native places.

**Livelihoods are the reasons for homeless workers migration**- A large majority of the homeless i.e. 78.9% migrate to the cities in search of employment and livelihood. Close to the 1/4th of the population (25.6%) migrate due to family, which can be further classified as firstly due to family conflict -13.7%, secondly because of family migration -7.2% and thirdly due to marriage- 4.7%. Migrations due to displacement constitute 5% of the population, which further, in turn, reflect the vulnerability of the homeless who are forced to leave the villages and move to cities.

**Urban homeless are primarily working as informal sector workers** - A large percentage of homeless populations are working as construction labourers (23.6). Sections of the homeless population are Waste Pickers (10.7%), wedding/ party waiters/caterers (6.9%), vendors at traffic signals (6.3%), domestic workers (6%), safaikaramcharis (4.1%), and cart vendors (3.6%). A substantial number are also saying that they are dependent on begging (17%). The rest 80% or more are engaged in gainful employment.

**Most homeless have an identity, but a substantial minority is bereft of any**

**identification** - 66.4% of the homeless have valid identification document such as Aadhaar Card, amongst other identities and Voter Card is with only 39.5%. Around 30% of the homeless reported that they do not have any identity documents.

**Lack of rights and entitlements to homeless** - only 14.5% of the respondents are 56 years or above, within that 2.6% of the homeless populations are availing the benefits of Old age pension. Only 18% of the homeless population is availing these benefits, and hence there exists a barrier to secure a healthy and nutritional diet for the homeless

population, especially women and children. ICDS services are meant to address this aspect - however, only 0.9% of homeless populations are getting these benefits. A majority of the respondents 77.7% of the homeless are not receiving any entitlements from the state. The data indicates the need to create more awareness about the social security schemes and programmes among the homeless population and the removal of barriers in accessing them. In accessing health care, the figures were relatively better, where it was found that most of the homeless populations (58.4%) have access to healthcare services. However, a large section of homeless

populations (41.6%) reported that they do not have access to it.

**Lack of awareness and use of Homeless Shelter**- The survey reported a low level of awareness among the homeless population even regarding the shelter and its uses. Due to the lack of awareness, the usage is quite low (Only 12% of respondents were aware of the shelter homes). The gender-wise analysis reveals that within 12% of respondents who are aware of the shelter homes, 9.5% are females, and 14% are males. This indicates a clear need to increase awareness among both the population group. For the

▼ Out in the open





very small number of homeless, who are aware and not use it. Poor living conditions and overcrowding are the major causes for not utilizing the available shelters. People who have experienced the challenges in these shelters refrain from going back to these shelters. Among the categories of the respondents who occasionally or never use the shelters, 87% sleeps in the pavement, railway stations/bus stop/ and under flyovers.

**Eviction or displacement of the homeless is a daily state of affair-**

Data revealed that 38.5% women and 32.4% male have been evicted in last one year. Post eviction they live on the streets with their family including children and face physical, sexual and economical tortures. They are forced to leave their places in the city mainly by local authorities and police for city beautification projects, clearance drives aimed at creating world-class cities.

**Conclusion**

The scale and extent of the study across five states and twenty cities, though not representative of the divergence of Indian cities, reveal starting facts. It is amply clear that homelessness is a part and parcel of the Indian urbanisation process. So rather than attempting to wish away the urban homelessness as an issue of 'visibility of poverty', the state and the civil society should tackle the structural factors causing them. The progressive policy of NULM-SUH requires a rethink in how it can also focus on empowering the urban homeless to lead better lives through employment and life skilling upgradations, linking them to various schemes of the state and central government; hence moving away from the 'shelter' as the 'only solution' model. It is also interestingly clear

▼ Homeless women face physical abuse



that homeless, imagined as unworthy of state support and public empathy, are a structural problem of our society and Indian cities, to address that there must be a strong civil society drive to sensitize the wider public, state and populace to empathize with the homeless. And positively recognizing homeless as 'city makers' and acknowledge their contributions, their struggles and their lives to pave way for inclusive cities that are emancipatory as imagined by Dr B R Ambedkar. It is in this direction that IGSSS and more than 100 CSOs are working together as a network with the government to improve the lives of the homeless in Indian cities.

**ABOUT IGSSS URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS**

IGSSS commenced its urban

interventions with the City makers programme in 2008. And in the last 10 years the programme has gone through various phases both in terms of its reach as well as its evolving understanding of the urban issues. Starting with the issues of homelessness, the program now works with various informal sector groups and communities in informal settlements in Indian cities. The interventions are primarily focused around building community empowerment, leading to people-led actions within an enabling environment developed by IGSSS and its CSO partners for sustainable and inclusive cities. The interventions in the present range from across 35 cities in 15 states, along with more than 50 CSOs organisations across the country. ■

*(Aravind Unni is Thematic Lead, Urban Poverty Reduction, IGSSS. Sonu Hari is Project Lead, Enabling Inclusive Cities for Homeless, IGSSS. This study was supported by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). For more details on the study please refer the complete study. Link to the document - <https://igss.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Baseline-Study-Enabling-Inclusive-Cities-for-Homeless.pdf>.)*

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▼ Trained cab drivers in Jaipur

'Women with Wheels' initiative by Azad Foundation and Sakha Consulting Wings has trained around 2,000 women of whom around 1,000 are working as professional drivers

# Driving the wheels of change





**K**hushi's family migrated to Delhi from Jhansi, a small town in Uttar Pradesh, in search of better work opportunities to pay off their debts. She picked up small jobs as a domestic worker and helper at a parlour for supporting her family along with her father. Khushi heard about professional driving for women in 2008 and the idea appealed to her instantly. She had to battle the concern from family and suspicions of her neighbours during her training and initial years of work as a driver. After completion of training, Khushi worked as a private driver for two years and then as a commercial driver; and helped her family get out of debt. When Azad Foundation advertised for a female driving faculty, Khushi applied and today she proudly trains young women like her to pursue a career as a female professional driver. Khushi today is the primary breadwinner in her family, she has bought a plot of land and built a house for her family, she educates her siblings and inspires more young women who join Azad Foundation to pursue their careers. The project "Women with Wheels", an initiative by Azad Foundation and Sakha Consulting Wings, aims to provide livelihood with dignity to poor women by engaging them in viable and remunerative non-traditional livelihood options like commercial driving. The idea of livelihood with dignity for women emerges from the concept of decent work as envisioned by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In India, despite a growing economy, women's work participation continues to decline and the reason is that a substantial proportion of young women, more than one in five women, not in

▼ Khushi works as a driving faculty at Azad Foundation



employment, education or training (NEET).

Majority of the women (about 95%) are working in the informal sector which has no social security net and very vulnerable conditions of employment. It is in this context that non-traditional livelihoods can help women expand their economic opportunities to expose them to opportunities that are more remunerative and create enabling conditions within the existing market which is very gendered. The idea of "Women with Wheels" is to help break patriarchal boundaries and

structures so that the women from underprivileged backgrounds can exercise control over their lives, enjoy full citizenship, earn a livelihood with dignity and generate wealth and value for all. This is done through just transformative skill-building that equips resource-poor women with knowledge and skills so that they excel as professionals and entrepreneurs and earn a livelihood with dignity in jobs and markets that are traditionally closed for them.

The project aims to work with resource-poor women, especially women who are from marginalised

social benefits like pension schemes, health schemes etc. The project also involves liaison with local civil society working in the resource-poor urban communities to help in reaching out and working closely at the community level.

The key objectives of the "Women with Wheels" programme are to organise, facilitate and manage a transformative capacity building programme using non-traditional livelihood (NTL) platform and to upscale it to new locations through strategic partnerships; to promote and build the environment for gender equality which supports women to adopt non-traditional livelihoods with dignity and men to challenge concepts of masculinity in their lives; and to undertake action research, advocate & influence CSO, government (transport department) corporate and other policymakers towards a more favourable ecosystem for women in NTL with special focus on "Women with Wheels".

The core activity of "Women with Wheels" programme is to train and prepare women with low economic and social capital to become professional drivers, enhances their awareness of rights, and provides them with opportunities of self-empowerment (this training is undertaken by Azad Foundation). Qualified women drivers are provided employment opportunities in partnership with Sakha Consulting Wings Pvt. Ltd. Sakha, based on the social enterprise for-profit model, provides safe private chauffeur and cab services for women by women.

For resource-poor women to be able to choose and retain non-traditional livelihoods and exercise their rights, Azad Foundation undertakes a range of community initiatives and advocacy efforts to build an enabling eco-system at the community as well as macro level. At the community level, these include strengthening of young women's leadership to work towards positive changes in women

▼ Technical training





at the grassroots level, working with adolescent girls in schools to develop their perspective and life skills and the work with young men towards gender justice.

As structural changes within the wider policy and corporate environment are crucial to dismantling systematic

barriers to women accessing non-traditional livelihoods, Azad Foundation also undertakes action research, advocates and influences CSOs, government, corporate and other policymakers towards a more favourable ecosystem for women in non-traditional livelihoods. This area of work includes establishing

the network of organisations (32 members) involved in non-traditional livelihoods (NTLs) for women in India to strengthen the NTL sector and facilitate collaborative advocacy.

The programme “Women with Wheels” has trained around 2,000 women of whom around 1,000 are

working as professional drivers across Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Indore, Lucknow and Bhubaneswar where Azad Foundation operates in alliance with like-minded partners. In terms of impact, the women drivers who are working with Sakha have been able to generate cumulative earnings of more than 11 crore INR (1.5m \$)

over the years. At an individual level when analysis of earnings is done, young women who were earning before joining the WoW programme had an average income of INR 5,000 but after being employed as chauffers post-training they have been able to earn an average salary which is almost two times their initial salary. Besides,

Sakha which is a transport service for women by women has been able to offer more than 1 million safe rides to woman users. This impact data emerges from ongoing internal analysis of Azad Foundation and Sakha. In addition, more than 6,000 resource-poor women have also been able to challenge their existing structures by claiming their rights, eg claiming citizenship, rejecting violence, reclaiming mobility. ■



### Highlights

- First in India to provide women chauffeurs for private placements
- First all-women cab service in India
- Gave Delhi its first woman bus driver with Delhi Transport Corporation
- First women drivers placed with UNICEF, US Embassy, five star hotels, Delhi Commission for Women and Municipal Corporation of Indore
- Will be soon the first transport service for women by women to be launched at the Indira Gandhi International Airport

◀ Trainee drivers learning how to prepare licence





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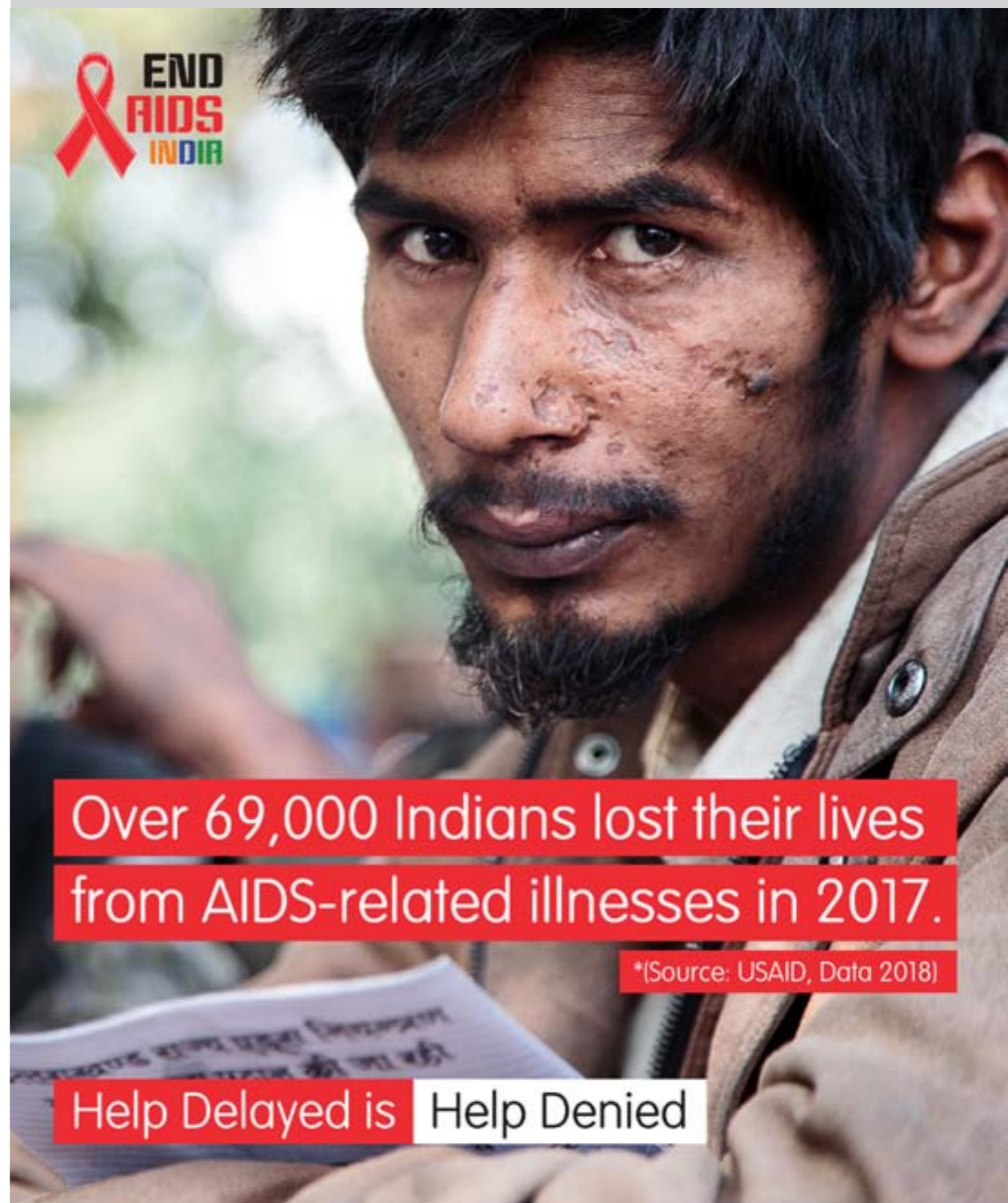
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Over 69,000 Indians lost their lives from AIDS-related illnesses in 2017.

\*(Source: USAID, Data 2018)

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## OUR THRUST AREAS

### EDUCATION AND SKILL TRAINING

CASA believes that every child has the right to education. Child labours – especially girl child - in India do not get the opportunity to complete their education. CASA supports Right to Education (RTE) through its initiatives like Bridge Schools and Supplementary Education - giving a second chance to thousands of children to get liberated from labour and complete their education. This year 1.5 LAC CHILDREN were enrolled in schools through CASA's efforts.

Lack of education & basic skills leaves many rural youths - especially girls - in India with limited job opportunities. CASA initiated vocational SKILL TRAINING ON COMPUTER, TAILORING AND EMBROIDERY to empower youths to develop newer work skills. This has enhanced their chances of securing better jobs and encourages youths to become entrepreneurs, thereby reducing migration.

### LIVELIHOOD

CASA is promoting livelihood options suitable to the eco-system and maintain it sustainably such as organic farming, livestock keeping, pisci-culture, land development and economic enterprises; and ensuring access to rights & entitlement of work and food under different govt schemes and programmes. Livelihood is considered an issue related to land, water, forest, food, health, education and employment. CASA is facilitating and enabling the poor and marginalised community to access rights and entitlements.

### HEALTH

One of CASA's initiatives in health sector is to defeat Lymphatic Filariasis - a disease that causes severe deformity. We provide hygiene kits, conduct door-to-door visits, organise medical camps & training sessions besides conducting awareness on

cleanliness for the communities. 40,000 HYGIENE KITS were distributed to the beneficiaries to ease their sufferings and help restore mobility.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

The effects of climate change can be clearly witnessed in India. The most dramatic effects of climate change will manifest on agriculture, health and forestry. These changes could have profound implication on livelihood and food security. CASA is focussing its intervention on climate change adaptation through soil and water conservation measures, building capacity on disaster preparedness, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and renewable energy measures.

### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

CASA is promoting women led organisations at community, district and state level to bringing about social change and holding decision making positions at all levels. Women leaders are articulating the demand of poor women by convincing the govt officials and political leaders to take defacto measures in protecting their rights which substantially transform their socio-economic conditions.

### HUMANITARIAN AID

Since its inception, CASA has responded to almost every major disaster in India. We have strategically-located resource centres which gives us strength to respond to any emergency WITHIN 24 HOURS. CASA conducts disaster management and training exercises on regular basis in all our project areas to help reduce risks and mitigate the impact of climate change. These programs are mostly conducted in disaster vulnerable areas.

# WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING DIGNITY IN LIVES

Wider outreach of CASA in the form of community - partner organisations and their networks and forums - enable the organisation to fulfil its mission of serving the people in distress and remain relevant in the changing context. All the projects of CASA have been diverted towards Humanitarian Aid and Sustainable Development serving the poor and underprivileged irrespective of their religion, caste, colour and race consideration.

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## OUR MOTTO

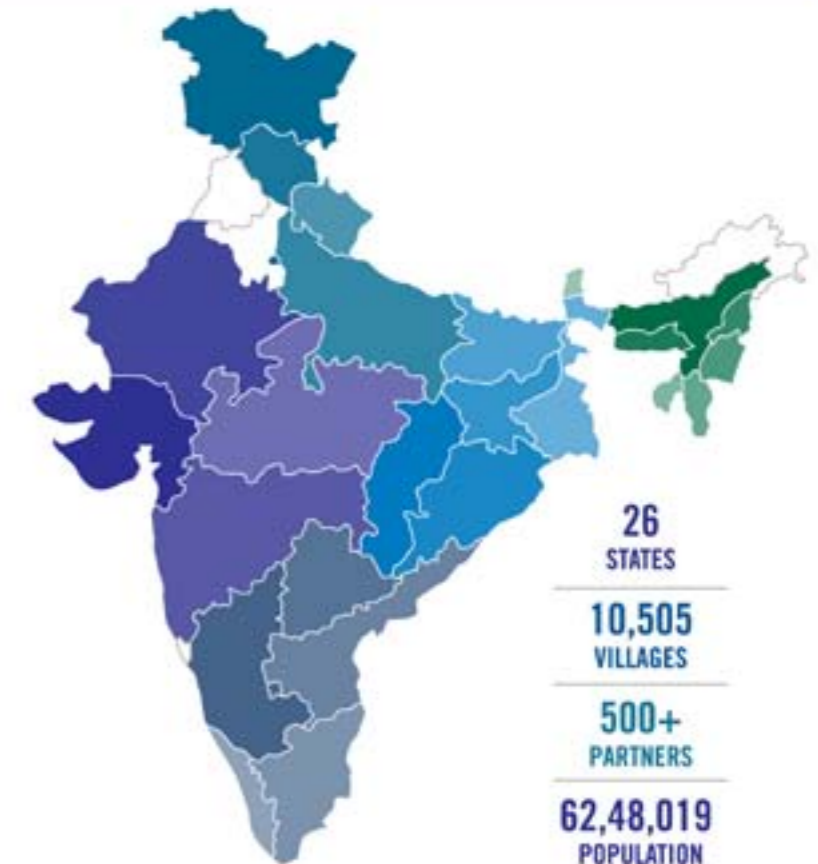
TO CARE  
 TO BRING AWARENESS  
 TO SERVE  
 TO PROMOTE ACTION

## OUR REACH

CASA's registered headquarters is located in New Delhi. We have three zonal offices in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai from where our country-wide programmes are implemented and monitored by more than 220 employees. We work in more than 10,505 villages. Around 500+ organisations work as our partners in 26 states in India. We are a member of ACT Alliance.

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Saniya, mother of a two-year-old left her abusive and alcoholic husband in a pursuit to change her child's life for a better future. All she aspires is to never see her child sleep empty stomach.

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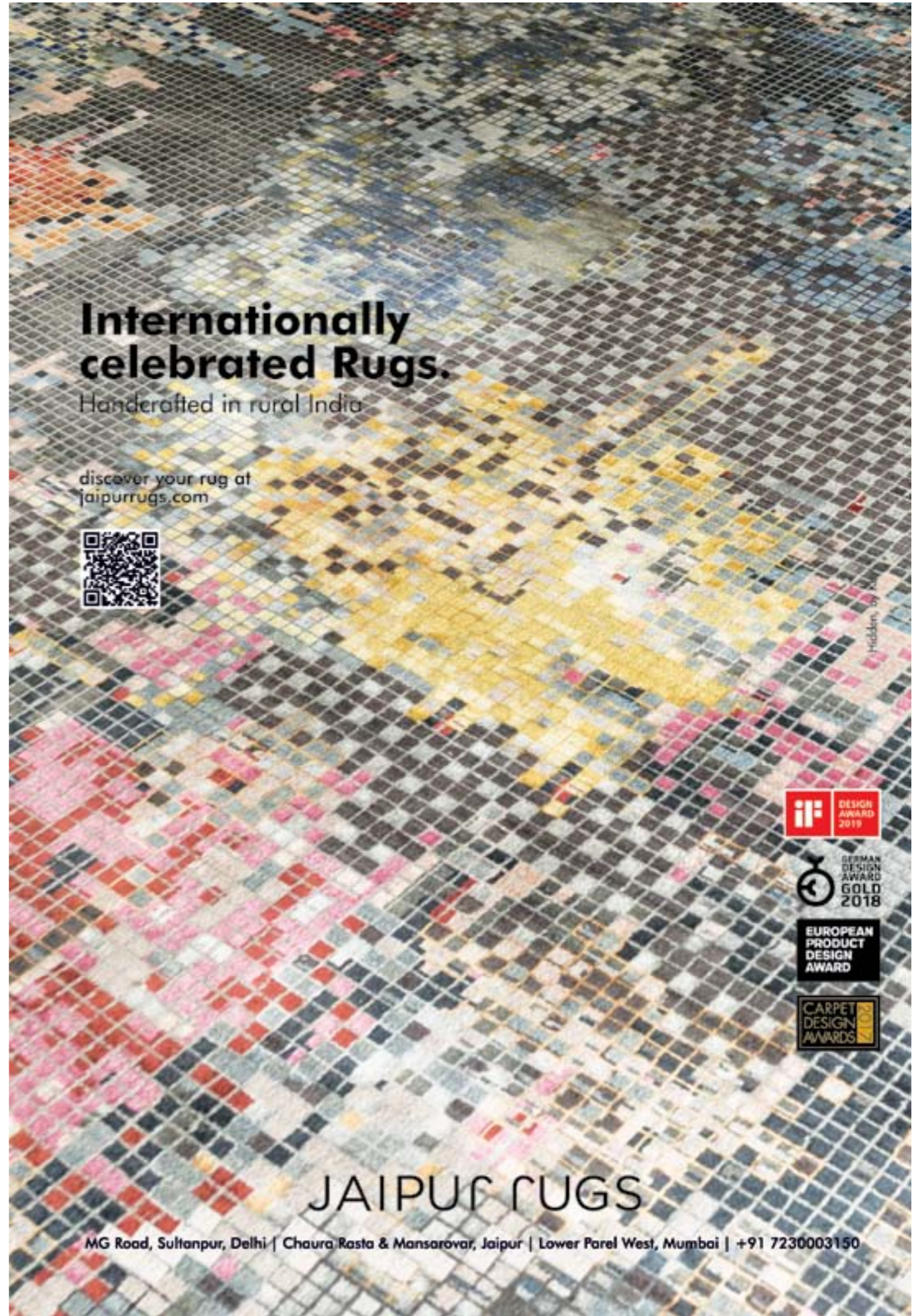
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Account number : 700701707050466 IFSC code : YESB0CMSNOC

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▲ A mobile medical unit providing the community access to basic primary healthcare at doorsteps

# HEALTHCARE AT DOORSTEPS

Deepak Foundation's mobile health unit service has come to the rescue of 3 lakh people from disadvantaged communities across Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Gujarat

The increasing cost of healthcare is one of the major public health challenges in developing countries and India is no different. The extent of poverty, impoverishment and indebtedness due to high out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) is on the rise. In the backdrop of all this, accessing quality healthcare indeed remains a challenge, especially for the disadvantaged communities. Deepak Foundation through its unique mobile health service has been reaching out to such vulnerable groups in far flung and difficult areas across Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Deepak Foundation's mobile medical units generally supplement the existing public health facilities and provide the community access to primary healthcare services at doorsteps. The main goal of initiating the Mobile Health Units (MHU) is to achieve universal health coverage by ensuring access to basic primary healthcare services for the underserved population in remote areas. The concept of Mobile Health Unit was first introduced in 2007 in rural and tribal areas pan India to improve the access and utilisation of health services. It represents an integral component of the healthcare system that serves vulnerable populations and promotes high-quality care at low cost.

"Besides improving the accessibility of healthcare services for underserved communities, the mobile health facilities also have the potential to act as robust preventive and promotive healthcare programmes. MHU can be leveraged for introducing innovative curative and preventive healthcare initiatives, aiming to improve specific health and nutrition indicators of key vulnerable groups like women, children and elderly," shares Ms Archana Joshi, Director of Deepak Foundation. Deepak Foundation has been running MHU projects in different geographies of the country. The initiative covers the disadvantaged groups in Dumri and Pirtand in Jharkhand, Talegaon near Pune, Roha and Aurangabad in Maharashtra; and Dahej, Halol, PaviJetpur, Kawant, Savli and Vadodara in Gujarat.

"Deepak Foundation is determined to contribute towards attainment of universal health coverage by providing safe birthing services and affordable healthcare through its facilities and mobile health services," asserts Dr Akash Lal, Deputy Director, Deepak Foundation. Health promotion and prevention plays a vital role in the strategic approach

▼ Deepak Foundation's MHU is a unique approach in healthcare delivery for communities living in far-flung difficult-to-reach areas.



towards healthcare. In line with the National Health Policy 2017, Deepak Foundation's healthcare activities are directed towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal-3. In near future, the Foundation plans to expand its services to other underserved and hard-to-reach areas of Jharkhand, he adds.

More than 3 lakh people are benefitted through the mobile health units of Deepak Foundation annually. MHU provides curative healthcare services for treating minor ailments and first-aid with the referral to complicated cases. It also includes early detection of infectious and non-communicable diseases. MHU also offers services under maternal and child healthcare, treatment for common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea, skin infections etc. The mobile healthcare facility also holds awareness and counselling sessions on varied topics that include family planning, government schemes, healthy lifestyle, sanitation, personal hygiene, nutrition and prevention of infectious diseases.

"Mobile health unit is a key service strategy to reach the vulnerable and marginalised populations living in remote and areas with geographical barriers. The main goal is to achieve universal health coverage and reduce out of pocket expenditure by ensuring access to basic primary healthcare services for the underserved population", says Shardul Acharya, incharge of Mobile Health Unit, Deepak Foundation. ■



# YOUTH-LED LOCALISATION:

## A unique approach to Sustainable Development Goals

▼ *Tapping the potential of youth*

Connecting Dreams Foundation (CDF) is creating a network of youth who work on creation of solutions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) challenges and further enabling the process of localisation for better impact



### Tapping the Youth

The youth today are not only forming the biggest segment of India's population, but they are also the ones with the energy to make changes. Many devote their lives to change the way the world functions, yet there exists a gap between their enthusiasm and the ability to create impact. The youth now are active, aware and voicing their opinions more than ever, for example, the most popular climate change activist today, Greta Thunberg is just 17 years old. Given the power of the youth, it is becoming increasingly important to tap into the potential of the youth and convert into tangible outcomes.

India's undergoing a demographic

transition, wherein the youth population has increased from 168 million in 1971 to 422 million in 2011, as per Census 2011. India's expected to have 34.4% of its population as the youth by 2020. Based on the World Economic Survey on the Youth, it has been found that the Indian youth are interested in the field of entrepreneurship. One of the findings of the survey also indicates that half of the youth respondents have claimed that they do not get the right kind of information regarding the economic opportunities which match their skill set. This is indicative of the clear opportunities and gaps that prevail in the context of the youth. Connecting Dreams Foundation

(CDF), in its endeavour to create social impact has focused on the Potential that the youth carry, trying to fill in the gaps via setting up systemic models of training and providing training to the youth for the same. CDF through its mechanisms has not only utilised the energy of the youth but has also streamlined the activities and created clusters of youth-networks in the urban as well as rural spaces in India. Through its rural and urban programme, CDF aims to connect the youth-network with the local communities and helps create solutions on the lines of systemic models of entrepreneurship. CDF is providing a space to create, innovate while simultaneously having trainings, workshops and



▼ Youth engagement and the SDGs

an online academy 'Idea to Action' which further enhances the skill set of the youth, enabling the process of change-making. Idea to Action (I2A) Academy is an online platform for the youth to learn about theories behind the change, and to understand the execution of key concepts of establishing entrepreneurship for the target community.

**Youth-Networks: The Innovative Approach to SDGs**

Till date, there have been multiple approach to fulfil the SDGs. In India, with the SDG Index mapping as well, the policy framework for SDGs has been developed and worked on. The vastness of the SDGs has necessitated that the macro-level policy be streamlined to focus on India's priority areas. India's key SDG focus areas are: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good health and well-being, gender equality, industry, innovation and infrastructure, life below water, and lastly partnership for the goals.

CDF's main agenda is aligned to the United Nations (UNs) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), wherein the key outcome for which youth-networks are being created is to move towards the Sustainable Development Goals. At CDF, these youth-networks are created within the networks of esteemed colleges and universities, followed by trainings and workshops for the youth-networks, creating solutions of SDG challenges. The youth engaged in the process of creating

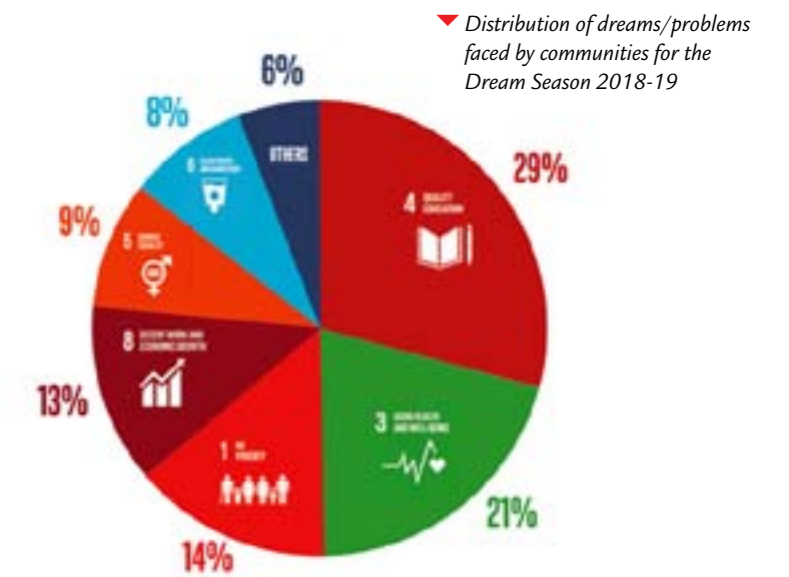


HOW WE DO IT

solutions and having an impact on the lives of many people. CDF works in rural as well as urban spaces and has covered 7 states till date and created multiple youth-networks across the mentioned spaced in India. For change to happen the macro level action and the micro level interventions need to move in tandem with what actually happens at the micro level. For the same CDF not only works on creating solutions aligned with the SDGs but follows a systematic model of conducting in-depth research to identify the problems, and creating solutions aligned with the way the problems exist in the spaces mentioned. Through its youth-networks, CDF enables on-ground research and understands the issues of the rural and the urban spaces via the youth-networks, ultimately to create sustainable solutions for the communities.

CDF has combined two key elements of youth-networks

▼ SDG champions ideate and interact within the youth-networks to create solutions





and systemic approach to SDGs solution creation and impacted more than 4 lakh people. The youth-networks or the SDG champions under the training of CDF carry out in-depth research, understand the problems of the target groups within the SDGs framework. Once the problems have been identified via thorough research, then the SDG champions ideate and interact within the youth-networks to create the solutions and impact the lives of many.

### The Localisation Process via Youth-Networks

One of the core elements of the process followed by CDF is the localisation of SDGs via enabling of youth-networks. CDF's work requires a focus not only on SDGs but what problems are prevalent at the micro level, on-ground and the solutions that can be created for the same. The youth-network of SDG champions go to the ground, in urban and rural spaces for the same.

CDF's most prominent programme, Connect and Change (CNC), trains the youth to become SDG champions under the Idea to Action Academy wherein they are taught how to research, how to identify problems and the final solution creation with regard to SDGs. The same technique is used in the rural program of Social Impact Accelerator.

Utilising the youth-networks has been a dominant in creating localised solutions across SDG themes. One of the key success stories for CDF has been the under

CNC, wherein under the project Kilkari. Under the project Kilkari, the SDG champions formed a youth-network cluster in Kalindi College and worked intensely on the issue of SDG 4, i.e. Quality Education after understanding the core problems in the areas of Todapur in New Delhi. It was ensured that the problem was collected via in-depth understanding of the space and the SDGs. In terms of the solution, the youth-networks created local bridge schools to reduce the learning gap of students who are now enrolling in schools under the Right to Education Act.

Similarly, under Project Aarogya, the Shri Ram College of Commerce youth-network identified the problem of menstrual hygiene. It was followed by a localised solution of provision of entrepreneurship as well as entrepreneurship opportunities to a woman in the community who acted as a supplier for sanitary napkins, as well as sensitised the community regarding the same.

The localisation of solutions has been the most prominent under the Social Impact Accelerator, wherein local product creation under the realm of SDGs have been created and promoted by rural entrepreneurs with the help of youth-networks who are working intensely in the Palghar district in Maharashtra. The products such as Warli paintings, bamboo handicrafts as well as cloth bags have brought to the fore the localised effort under SDGs, enhancing income of many. Many such initiatives are currently

ongoing under CDF's system, with the hope to create more local.

### Scale, Sustain & Impact

The key objective of CDF is to align the work with SDGs and utilise the power of youth-networks in localising the solutions for the community. CDF continues to work on the SDG challenges, hoping to connect 10 million SDG dreams by 2025. ■

▼ Project Kilkari contributes to SDG 4, i.e. Quality Education



▼ Youth-networks assist rural entrepreneurs







# CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY WE ARE 60!



**OUTREACH**  
**20 STATES**  
**102 DISTRICTS**  
**441,552**  
**INDIVIDUALS**

### OUR THEMATIC AREAS:

- Sustainable Livelihood
- Urban Poverty Reduction
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Gender Equity
- Youth Development

2020 is a special year for us as Indo-Global Social Service Society completes its 60 years of dedicated service to humanity. Diamond jubilee celebrations provide us with an opportunity to cherish, reflect on our past and to look forward to our future.

The vision of IGSSS is to, "Help establish a humane social order based on equity, freedom and justice in which human rights and the dignity of every individual is upheld." "Celebrating the Spirit of Humanity", the theme of the diamond jubilee celebration aptly mirrors the ethos of IGSSS. IGSSS' has always based its intervention on these core values for the most marginalized and focused on the expansion of human capabilities, providing them choice, freedom, leading to the fulfilment of human rights.

We proudly reminisce about our work, partners, communities, teams, successes and our failures. The spirit of partnership and collaboration has been a hallmark of IGSSS. Many of the big NGOs still cherish their first support from IGSSS.

IGSSS acknowledge the valuable contribution of partners, associates, communities in its 60 years' journey of growth and learnings. As we celebrate, we like to say "Thank You" for your support and wishes always!



# ADDRESSING INDIA'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

## EMPOWERING INDIA WITH STEM



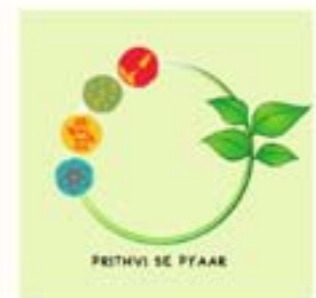
Empowering girls to embrace STEM



Training 100,000 STEM teachers in the next 10 years



Lighting up lives with clean energy



Environment solutions for a green and a sustainable earth



# NSDC and Salesforce Partner to Help Bridge the Skills Gap in India

NSDC and Salesforce aim at empowering learners and educators, regardless of socioeconomic background, to skill up for the jobs of tomorrow with innovative content, presentations and training resource

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has announced its partnership with Salesforce to enhance NSDC's skill development and capacity building initiatives through Trailhead, Salesforce's free online learning platform that empowers anyone to skill up and increase one's job prospects in the digital economy.

The explosion of technological innovation in the Fourth Industrial Revolution is creating a massive demand for new-age skills. By 2022, more than 120 million workers will need reskilling due to advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and automation. According to the World Economic Forum, on average, an Indian worker today needs about 100 days for re-skilling to be ready for future jobs by 2022.

Through this partnership, NSDC and Salesforce aim at empowering learners and educators, regardless of socioeconomic background, to skill up for the jobs of tomorrow with innovative content, presentations and training resource. The partnership

also entails reaching out to colleges and universities to be able to adopt NSDC's wide array of courses and curriculum and engage with students through the Trailhead platform.

Announcing the association, Dr. Manish Kumar, MD & CEO, NSDC said, "Preparing for the future workforce requires active collaboration from private and public players. This partnership is an endeavor to offer continual learning opportunities via digital platforms to the youth across the country."

"Trailhead's mission is to remove barriers to learning by empowering anyone to skill up for the jobs of tomorrow," said Sarah Franklin, EVP and GM, Platform, Trailhead and Developers, Salesforce. "We're pleased to partner with NSDC in bringing this new paradigm of workforce development to India: one focused on learning in-demand skills and achieving real-world outcomes."

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill

Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, has been driving the national skill development mission – the Skill India Mission. NSDC is mandated to fulfill the growing need in India for skilled manpower across sectors and narrow the existing gap between the demand and supply of skills.

Salesforce has been pioneering skilling efforts, by providing every job-seeker, an opportunity to skill up, learn, network and gain hands-on experience through its Trailhead platform. A recent report by IDC estimates that Salesforce and its ecosystem of partners will create 548,400 new direct jobs and \$67 billion in business revenues by 2024, and this partnership will be a step towards developing a future-ready, skilled workforce. With Trailhead, anyone, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity or socioeconomic background - can access the online platform across the country and build the skills to match up with in-demand jobs in technology, both within and beyond the Salesforce ecosystem. ■

(Source: Business Wire India)



▲ L to R - Mr Srinu Tallapragada, Chief Engineering Officer, Salesforce; Mr Parker Harris, Co-Founder and CTO, Salesforce; Mr Praveen Kumar, Secretary MSDE; Dr Manish Kumar, MD & CEO, NSDC; Ms Sunita Sanghi, Sr. Ad





### Catalysts for Social Action

Is an Indian NGO

(Non-governmental, social development organization) with a mission to create a brighter future for children under institutional care.

### AREAS OF WORK

There are 7500+ Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in India with 250,000 children residing in these CCIs. These CCIs suffer from different bottlenecks –

LACK OF CLEAN FACILITIES	POOR INFRASTRUCTURE	MALNOURISHMENT	LACK OF BASIC HEALTHCARE & HYGIENE	DE-INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ADOLESCENT CHILDREN BY THE AGE OF 18
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#### KNOW ABOUT US

Catalysts for Social Action (CSA), an Indian Not-For-Profit organisation with a mission to create a brighter future for children under institutional care (orphanages).

#### OUR GOAL

To nurture children through a holistic child care program, develop & improve the standards of care of CCIs that will enable a bright future for these children and develop them into independent and contributing members of society. We achieve this through our programs in the following areas

<b>3400+</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>
Number of Children Supported	Number of Children's Homes	Number of Districts

			
Health & Nutrition	Education & Development	Livelihood & Aftercare	Capacity Building & Advocacy

### HOW CAN YOU HELP

- Sponsor our Programs – Adopt a Home @ INR 10 Lakhs per annum
- Sponsor Basic Needs in our Homes @ INR 3.5 Lakhs per annum
- Support – Education Program | Health Program | Livelihood & Aftercare Program
- Be our Ambassador and help us connect to likeminded individuals



### Grow-Trees Testimonials



#### Roland Folger, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India

"Mercedes-Benz has always been an environmental conscious automotive brand. We want our customers and citizens in general to be aware about the environmental challenges like global warming and ecological changes. We have planted 50,000 trees that will offset the carbon footprint of our production process. The plantation will bring significant changes in the lives of the villagers who will not only find a livelihood, but will also benefit from the increased vegetation in the area. This initiative will further create awareness about the ecological benefits of afforestation, thus contributing to environmental sustenance."



#### Dia Mirza (Bollywood Actress)

"Celebrating occasions has become so much more meaningful for me personally because I get to do so now with Grow-Trees! The gift of nature to loved ones is the greatest gift one can share. And I am truly grateful for this opportunity to Grow-Trees that aid in conservation, empower livelihoods and contribute to a healthy future."



# BREATHING LIFE INTO DYING PONDS

AROH Foundation shows how a thoughtful alliance of people, resources, systems and policymakers can come together to mitigate the water crisis

▼ A rejuvenated water body



▲ Dressed up with fencing

For hundreds of years, water bodies, both big and small, have played an integral role in our lives. But spurts in urbanisation and decline in agriculture and allied activities in the recent past have resulted in the neglect of natural water resources. Many have been encroached upon or transformed into a dumping yard. Depletion of the water table and groundwater contamination make the situation more alarming. Attending to this global issue at a local level, AROH Foundation has engaged with communities to revive dead water bodies in villages of Uttar Pradesh.

AROH Foundation, which was engaged in implementing Holistic Rural Development Project in 18 villages of three districts—Budaun, Bulandshahr and Firozabad, in western Uttar Pradesh, stepped in to revive

dead water bodies of the region. AROH along with CSR partner HDFC Bank explored all opportunities to restore water bodies for posterity and involved local community, government departments and policy makers as an imperative stakeholder for sustainable success of the intervention.

Under the course of strategic actions, six ponds were identified, pond profiling was done, encroachments were demolished, soil and water testing were conducted by AROH's experts. The ponds were dewatered and desilted, increasing its depth considerably, capacitating them of holding adequate water. Given the downward penetrating root system, perennial compost composition was used as a natural bund-strengthening and stabilising agent. The overflow

from the ponds was designed to flow into the irrigation channel which irrigates fields in and around the village.

This massive drive of water conservation and augmentation, which was aligned to Jal Shakti Abhiyan, has rejuvenated 10 acres of pond, increasing recharge for around 298496375 cubic mtrs of groundwater. It also supported sustainable livelihoods, benefiting around 25700 people.

The areas around the ponds are dressed up with fencing. Saplings are planted, benches installed and staircases built. Such areas have now become a popular meeting place.

Rejuvenated ponds not only counter the water crisis, but also offer alternate livelihood opportunities that come in the form of composite fish and duck



farming. Committees of landless men and women were created and registered under Fishery SHGs. The members underwent capacity building training programmes. Simultaneously, in an attempt to increase water footprints within “Jal Shakti Abhiyaan”, AROH installed 18 solar run water pumps in every village, set up water posts in schools, tested

around 200 hand pumps for their water quality, introduced lesser water consuming crops and farming techniques. AROH Foundation has been conducting advocacy of water augmentation and mass awareness programmes by forming “JalSamooh”.

“Due to dry ponds, farming had become very difficult for us. The

situation changed only after the water bodies were revived,” says Leela Devi, one of the members of an SHG trained in fish farming.

AROH promotes the thought that revival of existing water bodies, revamping water conserving structures can be seen as the most economic, effective and fast measure in the water

conservation drives. A thoughtful alliance of people, resources, systems and policy makers can come together in mission mode to mitigate the water crisis. We as a planet are already blessed with abundance on water with us.

Just forethought and small efforts can help us mitigate water crisis at various levels and can create ripple effect towards the mission of water conservation. We should remember that now is the time and every bit shall count. ■

▼ Reaping benefits from ponds





## Can solar power more than just lanterns?

India's vulnerable and poor communities are now using solar energy to improve their lives in more ways than one

Tailor in Karnataka using a Solar Powered Sewing Machine



By purchasing technologies and solar energy systems through bank financed loans, individuals are improving their incomes, setting up businesses and providing employment to others

Solar energy, energy efficient health appliances and appropriate delivery models are helping health personnel provide vaccination, diagnosis and treatment at very last mile



Solar Powered Boat clinics in the Brahmaputra in Assam's Riverine Islands



Schools, day care centres, teachers and village leaders are making use of televisions, offline, appropriate content, interactive technologies to engage children better, improve their quality of education and make teaching easier



Solar Powered Digital Education in Government High Schools in Karnataka

Innovations in technology, financing, ownership and delivery models can only exist and be implemented with a co-existing and symbiotic ecosystem of stakeholders, from varied industries and points of view

**Do engage with us to know more, exchange ideas and collaborate. You can reach us by email at [info@selcofoundation.org](mailto:info@selcofoundation.org) and by telephone on 080 2649 3145**



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For contribution, feedback or queries, reach us at  
**[contact@thegoodsight.com](mailto:contact@thegoodsight.com)**

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