



Mission Samriddhi

SOCIAL IMPACT ENTERPRISE

Issue 5 April-Sept 2020

THE QUIET GOOD NEWS

A revival edition

CELEBRATE • CONNECT • CATALYSE

”

*No matter how complex
global problems may seem,
it is we ourselves who have
given rise to them.
They cannot be beyond
our power to resolve*

- Daisaku Ikeda

Stories of change have their roots in self - belief.

Mission Samriddhi is a social impact enterprise focusing on something fundamental to change - the belief system. Belief in oneself. Belief in the community. Belief that change is possible if we put our mind to it. If we can dream it, we can do it!

The cover story of this issue focuses on the post COVID challenges and "**Living through the New Normal**". How Mission Samriddhi as an organisation has adapted to this "**New Normal**" and having adapted, what innovations have we come up with. We cover this and other stories of change that have sprouted during these challenging times.

Hope you enjoy this issue of The Quite Good News. If you would like to know more about or participate in any of our programmes, do connect with us at info@missionsamriddhi.org. We would love to hear from you.

Team **Mission Samriddhi**

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Cover Story



LIVING THE “NEW NORMAL”

The pandemic has been on us for over half a year now. It is an opportune time to reflect on what has been our contribution as a social impact enterprise, to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable and marginalized segments of our society. This is to introspect on how Mission Samridhi infused hope in these times of uncertainty.

It is a tough ask, but then ‘when the going gets tough, the tough get going’. The pandemic, as we know, is a global crisis, the impact of which cuts across the geographical boundaries. Usually, there are two stages of how the human societies at the micro and macro levels address a crisis of a scale and magnitude of the current pandemic - the stage one is a reaction and stage two, the response. This is how, we at Mission Samridhi, reacted and responded to the challenges posed by the pandemic, which hit us like a demented hurricane.

The lockdown 2.0, announced by the Indian government as a response to the pandemic, witnessed the great exodus of migrant workers which, from a trickle turned into a deluge within days. Everyone was caught unawares by the extent of this movement. The real priority was to assist the workers

wanting to return home. We at Mission Samridhi, coordinated with the Jharkhand state administration to assist the migrant workers from the state, reach the rescue shelters. We assisted the stranded migrants in getting accommodation until they were allotted reservation in the Shramik Special trains or the buses, taking them back to their home states.

The next priority was to ensure that everyone remained safe, followed physical distancing, used a mask (which was not mandatory at that time) and practised hand hygiene. Funnily, within a few days after the lockdown, our entire team was comfortable with the ‘long-distance’ online working schedules and was holding emergency digital meetings, webinars and taking forward the social impact programmes at the grassroots level.



Vaishali, MSHARP fellow, Maharashtra conducting a meeting with SHG women on poverty reduction plan.

Our MSHARP Fellows, attached to various panchayat clusters in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Assam were guided and supported to assist the locally elected village representatives to implement the government guidelines on coping with the pandemic, to follow through the social distancing and social isolation norms in their respective villages.

After this was the more difficult part of 'responding' to the crises. The power of the digital world soon unfolded in front of us. Our key tenets of Celebrate – Connect – Catalyse, showed us the way forward. Our first real task in the cyber world was to update our Compendium of Development Accelerators – CoDaCo that we first unveiled during our Mission Samridhi Summit in January this year. We set about revisiting each of the entries, looked at details of our interaction with each Development Accelerator verified their contact details as well as their areas of work and published the second edition of CoDaCo online so that anybody who wanted a copy could access the same.

Our online team meetings metamorphed into meetings with our partners, and when we saw that there was a demand for more of what we could offer, it set us thinking. The choice of webinar tool, the ability to present slides easily during webinars and



Zeba telling about her story as a haqdarshak on Samridhi Samvaad

number of other infrastructure issues were quickly put to rest. With the number of webinars being hosted online, we initialized our series – christened Samridhi Samvaad – with the first edition examining the work of Haqdarshaks – enabling the rural population to discover and take advantage of the numerous Central and State Government schemes. In fact, given the plethora of these schemes, many of



MSHARP in Chhattishgarh

them overlapping, the Haqdarshak tool and its methodology become a critical portion of our outreach towards Holistic Development. This has become particularly useful given the slew of schemes announced by both Central and State governments during this pandemic.

The requirement for physical distancing and the need to stay safe has governed all our actions over the past 6 months. This was a phase of constant innovations and discovering solutions. There was a felt need to “get going” as it were and to attempt to bring back a semblance of “normal” life so that all our stakeholders could also embrace the new normal. We realized the need to bring in the warmth of real-life in our digital discourses and interactions. Samridhi Yatras, an annual exposure visit for the village sarpanches had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. However, we wanted to ensure that the new set of ‘yatris’ should not be deprived of the exposure and enrichment provided by Samridhi Yatra. Virtual Samridhi Yatra emerged as a solution.



Dharmraj, MSHARP fellow in Chhattishgarh training women on nutrition garden.



Mondip, MSHARP fellow Assam training PRs on GDP

Recreating various components of the 'real' Samridhi Yatra, a virtual Samridhi Yatra was designed by the Mission Samridhi team. Though, the virtual Samridhi Yatra is yet to be launched, the process of designing it was an invigorating experience for all of us at Mission Samridhi.

We also utilized this opportunity to expand the scope of our Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to clusters we are already working in – Sonbhadra, Sitapur, Pratapgarh and Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh; Betul in Madhya Pradesh; Wardha and Yavatmal in Maharashtra and Aravalli in Gujarat. Orientation of the team in these clusters was done in separate, 3-hour sessions helmed by both National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) Mission Samridhi, along with our development partners Gram Panchayat Organization Development from Anode Governance Labs and Village Development

Programme from Gramin Samasya Mukti Trust in Yavatmal. The participants presented their understanding of these models, mentioning what was most critical in their cases. Using these inputs, a Unified Cluster Development Model emerged, which was shared with the participants from all clusters. The Operating Plans were sharpened following an interactive discussion with all the participants. These plans are now in the first stage of implementation. We trust that these clusters will develop in consonance with the other clusters in Assam, Chhatisgarh and Maharashtra.

The pandemic is here to stay and while our scientists fathom the depths of it, we as a social impact enterprise have been doing our bit. Mission Samridhi's responses to the 'new normal', are constantly evolving and we are continuously trying to design solutions which will celebrate human endurance and optimism, bringing hope.

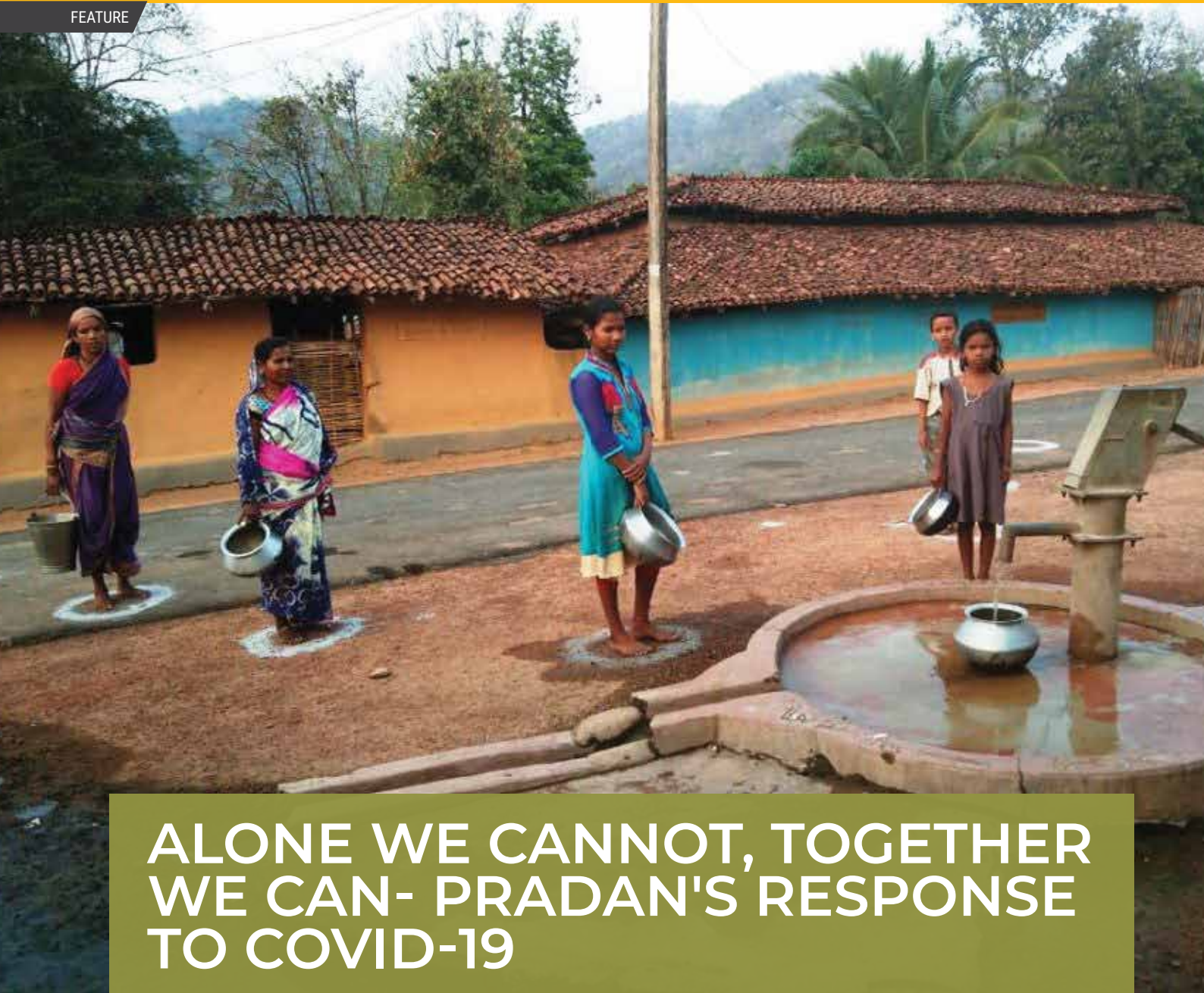


Recreating various components of the 'real' Samridhi Yatra, a virtual Samridhi Yatra was designed by the Mission Samridhi team



Parag MSHARP fellow, Maharashtra explaining villagers

FEATURE



ALONE WE CANNOT, TOGETHER WE CAN- PRADAN'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) was founded in 1983 by young professionals inspired by the belief that well-educated people, with empathy towards the poor, must work directly with them at the grassroots to alleviate mass poverty in rural India.

In effect, during the current pandemic, PRADAN witnessed the operationalisation of collaborative modes of working across state and non-state stakeholders. The pandemic-triggered lockdown manifested overnight in a host of challenges, many of which were multi-dimensional, requiring an immediate response. Some of the initiatives taken by PRADAN were as follows:

1) Awareness Campaigns : Jagrukta Abhiyan

Given the inability to physically visit the communities, the first attempts at awareness were through the community leaders such as women leaders of the Federations, tribal heads (in tribal areas), Gram Panchayat Pradhans, village level government functionaries such as school teachers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, Auxiliary Nurses and other frontline departmental functionaries. The focus was on accuracy of information to minimise rumours, false narratives and misleading news. PRADAN's social capital, built over decades of engagement with the communities at the grassroots proved useful and was leveraged appropriately and extensively, especially in initiating the first critical response: spreading awareness on the Pandemic while negating rumours and misinformation.



Awareness campaign through Jagriti Rath



Distribution of ration kits

2) Identification of the Ultra - Poor : Enumeration and Data collection

While vulnerable sections of society are PRADAN's target groups, the Pandemic foregrounded and made visible the very vulnerable amongst the vulnerable – the ultra-poor. These include daily wage earners, women headed households, differently abled and the elderly, especially those living alone and pregnant and lactating women. Pradan identified such families and the associated vulnerabilities. This was attempted through enumeration and data collection done through community / village level cadres who were trained to undertake the enumeration task. Those who could not access Public Distribution System (PDS) for various reasons – absence of a ration card or linkage with the Aadhaar card – were identified and prioritised in relief and ration distribution as well as the distribution of medicines and safety requirements.



Medicines and safety requirements being distributed

The lockdown and attendant loss of livelihood created a fertile ground for domestic violence and well as increased starvation.

3) Disrupted Practices, Value Chains and Reduced Incomes: Bridging Demand and Supply Gaps

The lockdown led to all major and minor works halting across the rural and the urban. The shutting down of mandis, haats (markets) and other commercial establishments led to the disruption of agriculture-related value chains. On one hand farmers were unable to mobilise labour to harvest the Rabi crop as well as to market it. On the other, there was an unwillingness to hire outside labour to prepare for the upcoming Kharif season.

Pradan's response came in the forms of:

- Marketing assistance for the sale of harvested produce through hiring vehicles to the nearest markets. In some instances, PRADAN teams managed to ensure a better than 'the rock-bottom price' for the produce. In other instances, PRADAN professionals arranged for direct supply to the consumers.
- Ensuring timely and adequate supply of inputs like seeds, fertilisers, manure through a direct interface with the suppliers.
- Several teams across the states have been engaging with the farmers and with state and district administrations to shift the focus from high-investment crops like hybrid vegetables and cash crops to cereals, pulses, millets, oilseeds and pumpkin which are suitable for local agro-ecological climatic conditions.



Demonstration of Trellis model



SHG meetings

4) Stranded Migrants: Leveraging Technology (Control Rooms) and Networks:

The sudden announcement of the lockdown led to several stranded migrants in different cities and states across the country, many without the ability to travel back and still more not being allowed to travel to their homes in the villages. The former was facilitated through App based registrations coordinated through district (and in some locations, Block) level control rooms while the latter was operationalised via PRADAN (and other CSO) networks. In many states, PRADAN professionals played a key role in coordinating the activities of the control rooms. This included coordinating the enumeration of migrant workers, tracking and coordinating the stranded workers, tracking and monitoring those who were making their passage back to the villages, coordinating ration and health relief, setting up, managing and coordinating quarantine centers at the district, block and in some cases, atleast in the initial phase, at the Gram Panchayat level.

5) Lost Livelihoods, Migrant influx and Heightened Insecurities: Data collation Monitoring, Surveillance and Enhancing Employment Opportunities.

Livelihoods in both the rural and urban areas were the first casualties of the lockdown. With the easing of the lockdown, most states witnessed large numbers of returning migrants commensurate with the outmigration. The challenges with the returning migrants were numerous while adding a degree of complexity.

PRADAN staff along with the Panchayats and the block officials as well as community cadres and volunteers were instrumental in tracking the returning migrants in terms of their health and mental well-being. Extensive data on the migrants was collated and shared continuously with the block administration for better management and coordination of relief and ration. In addition, an immediate response to addressing the challenge of lost livelihoods was in opening up MGNREGS works, ensuring job-cards for those who did not



Creating livelihood opportunities

have them and in some cases innovating on how the number of days per family (100 days under normal circumstances) could be enhanced to cater to the immediate requirements of work and stability. In states like Jharkhand, Pradan staff remained actively engaged at the State and the District levels advocating for an enhanced role of MGNREGS while also pitching for relevant works that can be opened up under MGNREGS.



Meeting with Sahiya Sathis to develop a shared understanding of the importance of complete immunization.

6) Escalating Gender Violence, compromised nutrition – Gender sensitization and Activating 'Nari Adalats'

The lockdown and attendant loss of livelihood created a fertile ground for domestic violence and well as increased starvation. Under Pradan's Nari Adalat interventions, many women were trained on their rights and entitlements.

The nutrition / kitchen garden intervention pioneered or experimented within the state of Odisha is now advocated across majority states. Communities are encouraged to set up these gardens in their backyards not just from a nutrition and food security perspective, but also to generate employment, retain returning migrants and revive local economies.

To know more about PRADAN check out their website: <https://www.pradan.net/>

CASE STUDY - NATURAL FARMING INITIATIVE

Natural farming in Daula, Uttar Pradesh



Daula is a village in Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh, part of the traditional sugarcane growing belt of the Gangetic plains. The land is still a bit fertile but requires a substantial quantum of nitrogenous and mixed fertilisers, in an ever-increasing cycle, to ensure commensurate yields. Mission Samriddhi had already started work relating to cleanliness and hygiene in the village, so an additional input insofar as natural farming was thought appropriate.

Therefore, in November 2019, we arranged for a visit to Daula by Hemantsingh Chauhan, an eminent natural farmer from Vidarbha, who has been successfully growing vegetables organically near Nagpur. He has also collectivised around 50 farmers in this vegetable initiative, and formed Nagpur Naturals, which arranges to sell organically grown vegetables in Nagpur through an outlet in one of the parks there. Hemant came across to Daula and spent the whole morning teaching around 16 farmers from both Daula and Mavikala (a neighbouring village) the nuts and bolts of natural farming. He went through the details of various “inoculations” like Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Neemastra, Brahmastra and Agniastra, as

the means to fertilise the land and to protect the crops from pests and weeds. He detailed out the application of these various solutions. He discussed with the farmers on the proper planting methods to be used, the distances to be maintained between rows of plants and the advantages of multi-cropping. He had also brought with him 10 kgs of Bansi wheat seed and a kilo of mustard which he said was for distribution to the farmers who were interested.



Farmer using bio-pesticides in crops.

Finally, one farmer – Krishanpal of Daula – agreed to try out this method in preference to the usual chemical-based farming. As the seed was insufficient for the three acres that he wanted to convert to natural farming. Mission Samriddhi arranged for an additional 10 kgs of Bansi wheat seed from another farmer in Vidarbha. We also entered into a MOU with Krishanpal that guaranteed revenue equal to that which would accrue after chemical-based farming, based on the expected yields and sales price in the mandis. This served as a great boost to Krishanpal's morale and he went ahead with the wheat cultivation. However, we didn't really monitor the growth of this crop as well as the frequency of administration of the various inoculums. This resulted in a sub-normal yield of wheat to the extent of around 50%. Although we were able to get buyers for the wheat at higher prices, Mission Samriddhi had to step in and compensate Krishanpal for the shortfall in his revenue.

This experience taught us a very important lesson about ensuring support to the farmer during the production of the crop on a continuous basis. The farmer is basically going into a rather unknown area and he does need guidance on an ongoing basis. The current crop being sown by Krishanpal in three acres is basmati rice of the 1121 variety. This is about the most saleable varieties of basmati. Right from the time of seed sowing, we have had a weekly call with both Hemantsingh Chauhan and Krishanpal, that goes into details of the preparation and utilisation of various inoculums, the analysis of the growth of the organic rice as compared to the chemical-based rice, evidence of comparative growth by looking at



Krishanpal, farmer from Daula assisting in the preparation of Jeevamrit.

pictures, and the actual length and density of the rice saplings. We now have a detailed record of how the crop has progressed over the past three months. At the same time, we have initiated discussions with Go4Life in Delhi for off-take of the paddy. The paddy needs to be milled into rice at a rice mill which has the capability to handle high quality basmati rice. The harvesting is slated to happen around the middle of November. At the present time, the yield seems to be much better as compared to the wheat that was cultivated earlier, and seems very close to 80% of the growth in the chemical-based rice that is in the neighbouring field.

The close handholding that is being done in Krishanpal's case is a necessity in the first couple of sowing seasons. This is really a showcase for natural farming and to prove to other farmers that this type of farming is a viable alternative to the chemical-based farming. This will also help to dispel various myths regarding natural farming like it is extremely labour-intensive, that there are actually higher costs involved, and that the yield is abysmally low. This will then become a flagship farm for the locality, and enable farmers to reap the advantages of a system that is kinder to the earth, and sustainable for us and our environment.

The close handholding that is being done in Krishanpal's case is a necessity in the first couple of sowing seasons.



Baghpat Naturals

UPCLOSE

TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITH Dr. UPMA DIWAN

Dr. Upma Diwan, Director, Institute of Regional Analysis



Dr. Upma Diwan joined the Rural Development sector about 40 years back in 1982, starting her work in Betul District of Madhya Pradesh, India. Women empowerment has been her focus and she has worked in about 20 segments of the Women Empowerment agenda, implementing many large and small projects in more than 80 villages across Madhya Pradesh.

Recently she has launched her website which is an effort to consolidate documentation of her work. We are curious to track her work and learn from her experience so far.

Q1: You have completed 40 years working as a development professional at the grassroots. How did your journey start in IRA.

A: My father was a Gandhian which inspired me to start working in SIRD and IRA. I joined these organizations under the leadership of

Dr. D K Sharma. Initially I started working in fourteen villages of Betul, Madhya Pradesh. Most of the initial contributions were in the sector of Education and Nutrition. The major problems in these villages included Scabies, Goitre, other health-related issues, dirty water, and skin diseases due to contaminated water supply. I campaigned in these villages creating awareness.

As there were no Anganwadis present in these villages, I was on my own, I took up lessons of the children daily lasting up to 1-2 hours regarding their food habits, to research and analyse, and finally design the programme on Nutrition. The organisation later started expanding their field in Agriculture and Safe drinking Water. It was based on Integrated Rural Development approach. In every five years, we explored new research and campaigns on different subjects. The idea was to



Dr. Upma Diwan when she started of as a development practitioner

government recognize the issues of the village so that their organization could focus on other immediate issues. The role of the organisation also consisted of advocacy and networking at District level committees.

Q2: In your journey as a social worker what challenges have you faced personally?

A: Initially when I used to work in these rural areas there were no roads in the village, making it hard to commute. There was no electricity adding to the difficulty to live there. There was lack of proper organisations that could help in rural sector. Villagers had no trust in NGOs and they doubted my assistance . It took me more than a year to convince people and build trust. Working with women was very difficult since they were reluctant to come out of their homes.



Women empowerment activities under IRA

Q3: Can you tell us one of your learning from this sector?

A: Whatever you start in a particular village, especially not belonging from the same, you must maintain long-term links with the villagers. It is hard to stick with one village, but, anyone from the organisation must be available, when needed.

Q4: How has IRA evolved over time? What are the future goals?

A: Over time IRA has started working on women empowerment and gender sensitization: empowering SHGs and providing them with more vocational training. Assisting single women on legal fronts, economically, their health, and in case of single mothers, their child's education. Training women for active participation in Panchayati Raj System. Education for adolescents, youth, about english language and gender neutrality.

Other than that we would continue working with farmers on health, generation of standard livelihood and to help in the implementation and advocacy of government schemes in rural parts.

To know more about Dr. Upma's experience check out: www.upmadiwan.org



Dr Upma interacting with SHG women

SPOTLIGHT: NETWORKING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS(NDSO)

Networking and Development centre for Service Organizations (NDSO) is a forum to identify, unite and facilitate networking among service-minded individuals and organizations distributed across Tamil Nadu. Through travels spanning hundreds of villages over the last 13 years, NDSO team has been able to build a network of 1,500+ NGOs and has obtained the goodwill of thousands of individuals.

In whole of India, if there is a distinct community totally backward in all areas, be it education, finance, cultural, status etc it is the community comprising of narikuravas, snake tamers and bird hunters. Considering their pathetic living conditions, NDSO embarked on the task of improving their lives by providing support in housing, livelihood and in the education of their children.

So far, NDSO has been able to cover 181 villages mostly in the districts of Cuddalore, Tiruvallur, and Kanchipuram and help about 7428 rural families in these places touching upon 23000 lives. With the help of representatives (SPOC) from these communities, have been able to run close to 50 Tuition centers covering 1326 school children.

All this while, the focus was on improving the children' education, behaviour, and also address the local community issues through these SPOCs. Now, with more than 4-5 months of lockdown & disruptions to livelihood, we are witnessing severe hunger among rural poor families. With schools closed, children are also deprived of mid-day meal provided at schools & are struggling to get even one meal from their jobless parents.

To address this, NDSO started "A meal a day for a kid" feeding programme from 15-Jul-2020, being the birth day of our great leader Kamaraj. Right now, as a first step, 600 students in 20 villages across Cuddalore district is being covered. These 600 children are registered with Mahatma Gandhi Community Development Centres setup by NDSO. This was managed through getting the groceries supply to the centres, with the support of good hearted Samaritans.

Apart from relief measures, NDSO was also involved in engagement activity with the Community Development Centre students. This was done through conducting an essay writing competition in the topic of " My Dream Village" to the students.



Distribution of food kits

The results were a revelation of the current reality. Instead of big dreams, students were expecting basic amenities like electricity, medical facilities, sanitation facilities, road & transport. Let us not forget that in our Democracy these are the fundamental Rights of a citizen, and it saddens us that still a significant population of our country are deprived of these basic needs.

While they articulated the priorities well, they also mentioned that they will get empowered through education and will obtain those needs. Even though success of imparting their basic education instils this confidence, it also adds to our responsibility to increase efforts to meet their needs very soon.

Apart from their core focus areas & priorities, NDSO has also been in the forefront to support & provide relief measures to the under privileged during the Covid lockdown. This includes daily wage workers including migrants, road-side hawkers, rag-pickers,

physically & visually challenged people, agriculture workers & low income farmers etc. In these troubled times, NDSO strongly believes that it is our collective national responsibility to alleviate the sufferings of those people who were in desperate need of food and shelter.

With the generous contribution of approximately Rs.17 Lakhs, received till date, NDSO has been able to provide the following assistance so far...

Relief Measure	Amount
Support to Migrant workers	52,000
Food Distribution to road-side people	72,000
Sanitary Masks Supply to Health workers	1,25,000
Groceries Distribution to 3500 families	15,00,000
	17,49,000

The Journey continues.....



Grocery distribution by NDSO

PROMOTION OF DIGITAL EDUCATION IN INDIA DURING COVID-19 BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Digital Education



COVID-19 has spread across the world and has impacted almost all the sectors at an unprecedented scale. The need for social distancing along with self-hygiene measures for preventing the spread of the pandemic has disrupted the day to day functioning and human interactions. Education is one such area that has been severely impacted across the globe. COVID-19 pandemic has led to an education emergency at an unforeseen scale. Over 190 countries closed schools and learning spaces in response to the health emergency impacting 94 per cent of the world's student population. Almost the entire world's education systems were caught unprepared. As a result, countries have been struggling to implement immediately, wide-scale distance learning as an alternative for the centuries old chalk – talk teaching model.

The story of India has been no different. With the Government of India announcing nationwide lockdown from March 23, 2020 all the schools and teaching institutions across the country came to stand still. As per the UNESCO report it has impacted more than 32 crores of students. About 14 crores of

primary and 13 crores of secondary students are affected while the remaining consist of the pre-primary and the tertiary students. As with rest of the world, India education too was caught off guard. The challenges due to COVID-19 for a country like India has been enormous but the resilience of the system kicked in and measured in form of distance learning came to the fore front. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the state governments encouraged education through online medium to supplement the teaching learning process across the country. The pandemic has transformed the traditional model of within the school boundary education to a virtual mode education driven by technology. This disruption has pushed government to figure out how to drive engagement at scale while ensuring equity and inclusivity.

However, there are several constraints related to access, technology, appropriate platform, content, examination, fees, etc. It is estimated that less than 30 percent of Indian households have an internet facility and for rural India it drops down to almost 15 percent. The crisis is aggravating pre-existing education

inequalities by reducing the opportunities for many of the most vulnerable children, youth, and adults – those living in poor or rural India. Central government along with the State governments being fully aware of these ground situations have taken measures to ensure that online education takes place effectively. Government has been moving step by step and is putting efforts to minimise the impact arising due to these constraints and has been successful in some while for other will have to strategize innovatively to address optimally. This write up intends to capture in brief the endeavours of Ministry of Education (MoE) to ensure online education in India. MoE along with related institutions has been promoting digital education through online platforms and through medium of TV and radio covering primary, secondary, higher education, and teacher development. The various resources are listed below:

DIKSHA - **DIKSHA** is “one nation one digital platform” for school education. It is available as digital infrastructure to enable coherent access to continuous learning for the whole country. It offers teachers, students and parents engaging learning materials relevant to prescribed school curriculum. The platform houses more than 90,000 e-content items, available in 18+ languages and catering to classes 1-12. DIKSHA provides access to many curriculum linked e-content through several use cases and solutions such as QR coded Energized Text books (ETBs), courses for teachers, quizzes and others. The content is in the form of video lessons, worksheets, textbooks, and assessments. This app is available on Google play store and iOS. Website: <https://diksha.gov.in/>

e-PATHSHALA - A web portal and mobile app designed and deployed by the NCERT in multiple languages. More than 600 digital books including 377 e-textbooks (grades 1 to 12) and 3,500 pieces of audio and video content are available in the public domain in various languages (Hindi, English, Sanskrit and Urdu). Website: <http://epathshala.gov.in>

National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER): is an open store house of

e-content on diverse topics in multiple languages for students, teachers, teacher educators and parents. NROER is a collaborative platform which brings together everyone interested in school and teacher education. Nearly 17,500 pieces of e-content of NCERT and other collaborative partners are available for all grades for various school subjects. E-content is also available on NCERT’s official YouTube channel. Website: <https://nroer.gov.in/welcome>

SWAYAM: This is the national online education platform hosting 1900 courses covering both school (class IX to XII) and higher education (both UG and PG) in all subjects including engineering, humanities and social sciences, law and management courses. A unique feature of SWAYAM is that, it is integrated with the conventional education. The courses are interactive and prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available free of cost to any learner in the country. Credit transfers are possible for SWAYAM courses (max 20%). Website: <https://www.swayam.gov.in>

SWAYAM PRABHA - The **SWAYAM PRABHA** is a group of 34 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite. These channels are available for viewing all across the country using DD free dish set top box and antenna. Now even the private DTH operators are telecasting these courses through their channels. The channels cover both school education (class IX to XII) and Higher Education in a wide range of subjects like engineering, vocational courses, teacher training, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, law, medicine, agriculture and many more. Website: <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in>

All these platforms have seen multifold increase in their access during the COVID lockdowns. This shows the potentials of these platforms in reaching out to all during the pandemic through online, TV and Radio medium. What started on a wobbly ground out has slowly started taking firm shape and in coming days would provide greater benefit as the limiting factors are worked upon and mitigated.

OUR PILOT CLUSTERS: BAGHPAT

ADK Jain NetraMitra Community Outreach Programme



- NetraMitra Community Outreach Programme, ADK Jain Eye Hospital:** The primary focus of Netra Mitra programme, is to prevent blindness. Through their community outreach programme, Netra Mitra provides appropriate medical services, creates awareness and disseminates information to the communities in the remote and inaccessible regions to prevent blindness.
- COVID-19 relief measures:** Meetings were held with the members of Self Help Groups (SHG), to create awareness regarding Covid-19 and its health implications. The capacities of SHG members were built, equipping them to deal with the pandemic, through various trainings. New SHGs were formed and community meetings were held in villages around Daula, to facilitate the formation of new SHG. Face masks were distributed in villages and awareness programmes were held regarding appropriate handling of the masks. Recognizing the issue of unavailability of essential goods, specifically food during the lockdown, distribution centers were opened to provide food to the communities in remote villages.
- Sanitation meetings** (Ward sabha, Mohalla sabha) were held to convey the importance of hygienic environment in the prevention and spread of corona virus. The exceptional work done by the community members in the times of pandemic was acknowledged and appreciated. The efforts of change agents like Yusuf was recognized through these meetings. In Daula, eighty four cleanliness campaigns were held. Much was achieved through the relentless work by our grassroots teams.



Sanitation drive in Daula

OUR PILOT CLUSTERS: WARDHA

Nutrition garden in Wardha, Maharashtra



- **Facilitation for access to ration:** The period between March to May 2020, was very difficult for the labourers, farmers and marginalized communities in the rural areas owing to the lockdown.

Mission Samridhi, collaborated with the block officers and made rations available through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Mission Samridhi encouraged the locally elected representatives of the village panchayat, to monitor the distribution of ration and to ensure it reaches the poorest and the most vulnerable sections of the village. Special care was taken that the old, the destitute and differently abled are not excluded. The Government regulations and circulars were made available to the Sarpanches through whatsapp groups, informing them of government schemes, policies and constantly changing government protocol for managing the pandemic .

The Wardha team ensured that all the 20 villages in the cluster received the ration as per the rule. Around 50 migrant workers were provided food and other essential goods in collaboration with

Nirman Foundation for two days. In an unfortunate incident a migrant worker from Jharkhand died while on his way home. Last rites were performed for him and his body was cremated in accordance with his religion.

Mission Samridhi arranged to send the death certificate and the postmortem report to the deceased wife. The PRADAN team was requested to help the deceased family in Jharkhand. The PRADAN team, in turn, supported the wife to avail widow pension and other benefits she was entitled for.

- **Nutrition Garden Programme:** The programme started in Wardha, with the creation of 110 nutrition gardens in the year 2018. In 2020, the number of nutrition gardens created have reached to 10000. Mission Samridhi, had entered into an agreement with Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM), to create 9011 nutrition gardens in Wardha district, in the year 2020-21. Accordingly 9000 nutrition gardens have been successfully created , covering 320 villages, in 8 blocks of the district. Virtual as well as on the spot

trainings cum demonstrations were given to Krishi Sakhi, CTC, BMM by Mission Samriddhi. The beneficiaries were given training in their villages by MSRLM. In order to have accurate data on the project, eight data entry operators working with MSRLM were trained on data management, monitoring and evaluation of the project at different levels.

In addition to MSRLM, Mission Samriddhi has partnered with two other NGOs namely Isha Foundation and Sahara Bahuddeshiy Sanstha, in Yavatmal district in implementing the Nutrition Garden programme, covering 600 households in 3 blocks of Yavatmal district. Mission Samriddhi is directly implementing the programme covering 400 households in 10 villages across four blocks of Wardha district.

- Agriculture Tool Bank:** The bank is ensuring timely availability of the agricultural tools to the farmers. Even during the lockdown the farmers could get the farm implements and tools when they most needed them. Mission Samriddhi has looped in the sanchalan samitis to explore the possibility of giving farm implements on credit to the farmers. They helped many farmers by doing this. Between April – August 2020 all three centers at Lonsavali, Dhamangaon and Kelapur functioned smoothly. They earned Rs. 15000, Rs. 13000 and Rs. 12000 respectively, in spite the lockdown.

Sustainable Agriculture: As a part of this intervention farmers were given two organic advisories on pest control through Whatsapp. Demonstrations on waste decomposer were conducted in 25 villages of Wardha, Arvi, Ashti and Karanja block .MSRLM also helped in coordinating these demonstrations in some villages. Since this technique is low cost it's a hit amongst the farmers.



SHG women giving out agricultural tools to farmers on credit

Anemia Free Village Initiative: Mission Samriddhi has introduced Anemia Free Village Initiative in Kelapur village in collaboration with UMED and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Ayurved, Salod. As of now Mission Samriddhi has provided seeds to 237 households. The baseline and endline hemoglobin test for all the people will be conducted by the Institute which will also provide ayurvedic medication through health camps.



Demonstrations on waste decomposer



Preparation of seed kits under nutrition garden programme

NEW PROJECTS

Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials(CULP)



1. Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials (CULP)

Mission Samridhhi has partnered with Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials (CULP) to support the education of girl child.

Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials (CULP) is a not for profit organisation working in education and related development aspects, in Rajasthan. It is registered under Societies Registration Act of 1958 since 2001. The organisation has received Dasra Girl Power Award in 2014, India NGO Award in 2015. It was also one of the finalists in the Polestar Social Impact Award, 2019.

The project 'Pehchan' is the flagship programme of CULP focusing on the education of adolescent girls. It was initiated in collaboration with Rajasthan state government, in 2002. Through Pehchanshala, CULP is imparting age-appropriate learning competencies to out-of-school adolescent girls from vulnerable and denotified communities ('Banjara, Kalandar, Luhar, Mirasi, Kalbelya and Fakir Muslims and others) which are socially ostracized and economically deprived communities. The learning happens through a curriculum designed for multi grade multi-level teaching. Materials are designed keeping local

context and age appropriateness in mind. All the teachers are female who work with these girls on academic as well as life skill education. Covid-19 adversely impacted the education of the girls from these communities. Post the pandemic, more than 80% girls from these communities were found to be out-of-school. Mission Samridhhi reviewed the strategy of CULP for mainstreaming of 200 such girls and is now supporting the project in enrolling them in government schools once they re-open.

Currently, the project is being implemented in 10 Pehchanshala in Niwai block in Tonk district (Rajasthan) since January 2016.



Project 'Pehchan'

2. Sampurna Bamboo Kendra

Melghat, in district Amaravati of Maharashtra is notorious for high rate of infant and child mortality due to malnutrition. Nestled in the Satpuda mountain ranges, Melghat, is remote and inaccessible. Heavy rains during the monsoons cuts of the mostly tribal communities in the region. Most the region is heavily forested and 70% of it falls within the Melghat Tiger Reserve Forest. The population in 317 villages is mostly tribal. The Korku, Gond, Bhilala, Gawalis are the indigenous tribes from the area.

Sampoorna Bamboo Kendra is a not for profit organisation working in the region for over 25 years. The organisation promotes the local bamboo craft by training the artisans in the region, providing them with design inputs and market linkages. All production and marketing activities are carried out through a Venu Shilpi Audogik Sahakari Santha. Mission Samridhhi provided livelihood support for 300 + bamboo artisans in Melghat.



Bamboo Handicrafts



Bamboo rakhi

3. Samarpan

Samarpan was founded by a group of young IRS officers and doctors. Mission Samridhhi supported Samarpan in the procurement and the distribution of 800 bottles of Hand Sanitisers to Mumbai Police, 1000 bottles to Gujarat Police, and 2500 masks to security guards, domestic helpers, vegetable vendors and frontline workers.

Post lockdown, initiatives were taken to support the daily wage earners who lost their jobs due to the lockdown, by providing them the essential goods, food and sanitary kits to last at least a month. Further, they we collaborated with Mumbai Police and MCGM to help identify the right beneficiaries and distribute these kits to them. Around 100 workers who did not have a kitchen to cook were provided with cooked meals twice daily. Samarpan, with the support from Mission Samridhhi, distributed survival kits to 425 families as part of their targeted support to 10,000 families.



Distribution of food kits in collaboration with Mumbai police



Identification of beneficiaries

4. We the people Abhiyan

There is a widespread lack of awareness among citizens of their rights as enshrined by the Constitution. This has stalled full empowerment and perpetuated exploitation, especially in rural areas. Thus, the current interest opens an opportunity but points to the urgent need to invest in extensive constitutional education across the country so that citizens take ownership of their role, fully understand their rights and fulfill their responsibilities.

We the people Abhiyan has been working towards constitution and citizenship education since last 10 years with significant success achieved with citizens in varied contexts. Mission Samriddhi provides the opportunity to scale this effort. With this common understanding to use constitutional education as a critical foundational block to empower people on scale, this programme is being proposed.

The objective is to develop simple and scalable solutions that are easy to use and can reach maximum number of citizens through various networks. Recent discussions with important Mission Samriddhi

partners have opened up enormous scope of opportunities for this intervention especially with rural local self-governance institutions. This includes not only the GPs but also Gram Sabha members. With NIRDPR, We the People Abhiyan aim to reach around 1900 Gram Panchayats (GP) in 375 clusters and key government functionaries through state level orientations. With MOPR, they aim to reach out all 2,50,000 GPs through Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan as well as various training programmes at state level. There is also high potential for this intervention with Mission Samriddhi Development Accelerators. Beyond the Mission Samriddhi networks, there are potential opportunities with MHRD in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Panchayat schools and State Centers for Adult Education. There are also opportunities with the Ministry of Youth Affairs Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through their various programmes.



We the people Abhiyan creating awareness on constitutional education.

NEWS

India Panchayat Foundation



India Panchayat Foundation was registered officially as a trust on July 1, 2020. India Panchayat Foundation (IPF) is an independent non-partisan, pan-India multi-stakeholder platform to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). IPF will focus on harnessing the strength of the Government backed Institutions, engage these Institutions for leveraging resources and will also extend support to further strengthen its strategic and operational reach. It will acknowledge and celebrate the work being done by Panchayats, NGOs / CSOs and promote cross learning across States and Regions.

To know more about IPF check out: <https://indiapanchayatfoundation.org/>



Mission Samriddhi

SOCIAL IMPACT ENTERPRISE