

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



Empowering communities since 1994

From Director's Desk

I look back at 2018-19 and the one word that describes Mahita's work in the year is "Excellent". The year has witnessed the commendable work of Mahita in Networking and Advocacy and achieved the great results for influencing the major stakeholders towards development children. The year 2018-19 has given the opportunity to Mahita to venture new areas and increased 50% of the operational growth rolling out the new programs and maintaining the stringent management information system for tracking the progress of the deliverables. The untired efforts of the team on strong advocacy with the government for policy reforms and strong networking building of CSOs and that help us to reach around 300 CSOs in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

In the year 2018-19, Mahita worked with over 12384 children and 29127 adults, training 360 CSOs, a total of about 41513 reachout. Apart from this, the Organisation reached 218 Government Schools and reached 9167 children who are studying in the government Schools. As closely associated with the Government Departments and developed a qualitative IEC content and take a lead for many campaigns, Mahita has established itself as a credible think tank in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. I feel extremely proud of the team for giving their very best to do more than we imagined. The strong networking of Mahita influenced 118 CSOs in both the States to adopt and practice the Child Protection Policies and Anti Sexual Harassment policies. Mahita become as a Mentor for these organizations for adopting the Institutional policies. As a Lead Network Agency, Mahita also taking the lead for campaigning the Sustainable Development Goals in 18 Mandals with 18 CSOs and that rigorously working with 850 Young Girls and Boys in 6 Districts of Telangana and 3 Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Big thanks to all our co-travellers, donors, advisors, board members, volunteers, friends and committed team members of Mahita.

2018-19 was a year of opportunities that opened new doors for us. I am excited to see the future and try our best to scale through training and partnerships with the Government and large NGOs to reach as many children as we can. This year was also witnessed the variety of publications and research studies on Child Marriage, Secondary Education and IEC Content on various issues that have been integrated with Government and Judicial System. The Videos on Child Marriage and Child Trafficking developed by Mahita was endorsed by Ms.PV Sindhu, Olympac Medalist and that have been reached 17.00 lakhs adolescent girls in the State of Andhra Pradesh is, remarkable!.

Quality, credibility and transparency are not just the technical jargons for us. We make sure that they are observed in our day-to-day practices. Various external and international financial and programme audits have praised the good and transparent practices in financial systems and that have been loudly appreciated by the external agencies. We at Mahita are very confident that the good work will continue as we are accountable for the Communities and our Donor Agencies. In the coming year, we look forward to expanding our work and services to new potential locations with the same values and spirit.

Ramesh Sekhar Reddy. P
Programme Director
Mahita

INTRODUCTION

Mahita is a Civil Society Organisation working in the state of Telangana. The organization came to existence in the year 1994 with the objective to protect the rights of children and women. Currently Mahita is focusing on alleviating poverty and social injustice through programs targeting Advocacy with the government, providing Educational support and encouraging youth especially young women from marginalised communities to undergo Skill Development programs to improve their social and economic status.

In the year 2018-19, Mahita has implemented a total of 11 projects which can be classified under the heads of Advocacy, Education and Livelihood. Through these programs Mahita has reached out to more than 40,000 people directly covering 20 Mandals, 10 Districts and 2 States (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana).



EDUCATION

Reach : Telangana State

Total Projects : 4

Total Beneficiaries : 35151

Project 1:

Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women



G. Ramya is a 21 year old young women. Her family migrated 18 years ago from Ongole. She was brought up in Borabanda area a suburb of Hyderabad; and studied up to 8th class in a Government school. One day her father, a construction labor, fell down from third floor and fractured his backbone. Her mother's salary alone was not sufficient to sustain the family and take care of her father. Hence, the circumstance forced Ramya to drop out of school to take care of him.

Due to family circumstance, she was married off at the age of 17. Today, she is mother of three year old child. One year after the marriage she separated from husband due to domestic violence and came back to live with her parents. She lives with her father and mother along with her sister, who is differently abled. Without any educational qualification and skills Ramya and her child were once again economically dependent on her mother.

She came to know about Mahita's initiative with the UNICEF and Mythra "Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women" to support education and skill development needs of adolescent girls and young women from poor and backward communities. She joined Mahita's center to complete secondary school. Despite her family issues and being a single mother she was regular to the classes and with the support from teachers and peers at the center she was able to successfully graduate secondary school.

With the new found confidence and a school degree Ramya wanted to work to support her family. She now aims to pursue higher education in economics.

Impact:

Over the project year, 300 adolescent and young women like Ramya benefited from the program. Majority of the participants who have successfully completed are in a position to take up vocation courses to improve their skills for better job opportunities. The project has provided a platform to the adolescent girls and young women who are struck working in unorganized sector with low pay and long working hours or unemployed to hope for better future, economic independence there by leading to improved self-confidence to face the world.



**Project 2:
Education to Empowerment – Pillars of Learning**

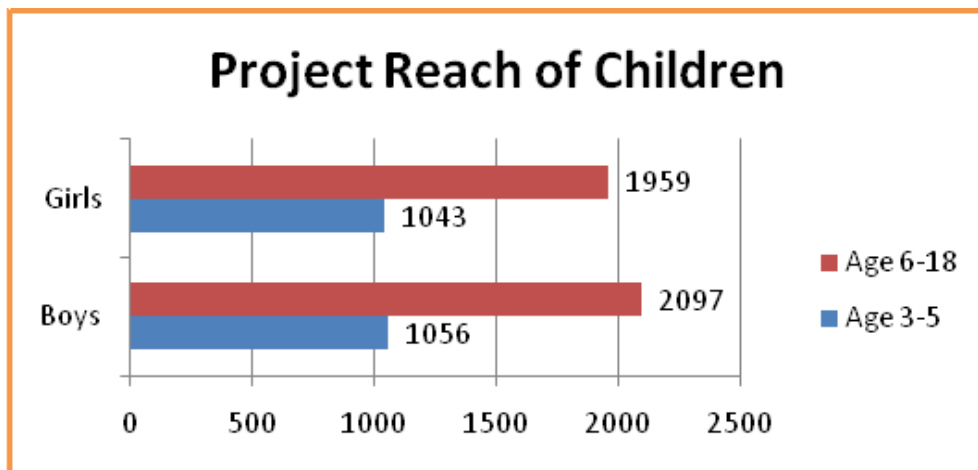


Laxmi is a 13 years old girl from Bangaruguda village, Adilabad rural Mandal, Adilabad District. Laxmi's parents are daily wage laborers. She studies at Adarsha Pathashala an upper primary school in Adilabad rural Mandal in grade 7th. She actively participates in school activities and is good in academics. During one of the regular School Management Committee(SMC) meetings, it was found that Laxmi has been not regular to school. Suspecting dropout the SMC immediately took action and spoke to Laxmi's parents. It was found that Laxmi's father become ill and bed ridden and hence to economically support her family Laxmi was forced to drop out of school and work as a labourer. Mahita staff, Child club and SMC members explained to her parents how lack of care and attention can negatively impact children overall development, how she is losing her rights by working as labour instead of going to school. The SMC, Mahita staff counselled the parents and Laxmi on Child Labour and importance of education. Initially, Laxmi's parents were not willing to send laxmi to school due to financial crisis. After counselling, parents of Laxmi, realised their mistake and agreed to send her to school. MAHITA team helped Laxmi to get the admission in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in Adilabad.

To support children like Laxmi, Mahita is implementing "Education for Empowerment: Pillars of Learning" supported by Save the Children in 50 Government Schools and 50 Integrated Child Development Centers (ICDC) covering 50 villages in the district of Adilabad, Telangana state with an aim to strengthen the education system by developing and showcasing inclusive quality education models, working in partnership with parents, communities, duty bearers and taking forward the advocacy asks through civil society networks, state-level Right to Education (Rte.) forum, National Rte. forum, Mothers' group and Childrens' group.

Impact

- Anganwadi workers and helpers have improved skill sets on Early Childhood Care and Education and make the children transition to school easy.
- About 2099 Children in the age group of 3-5 years are school ready.
- About 4056 children form schools have improved learning abilities and are regular to school.



Project 3: Educational Centers for Children from Migrant Construction Workers

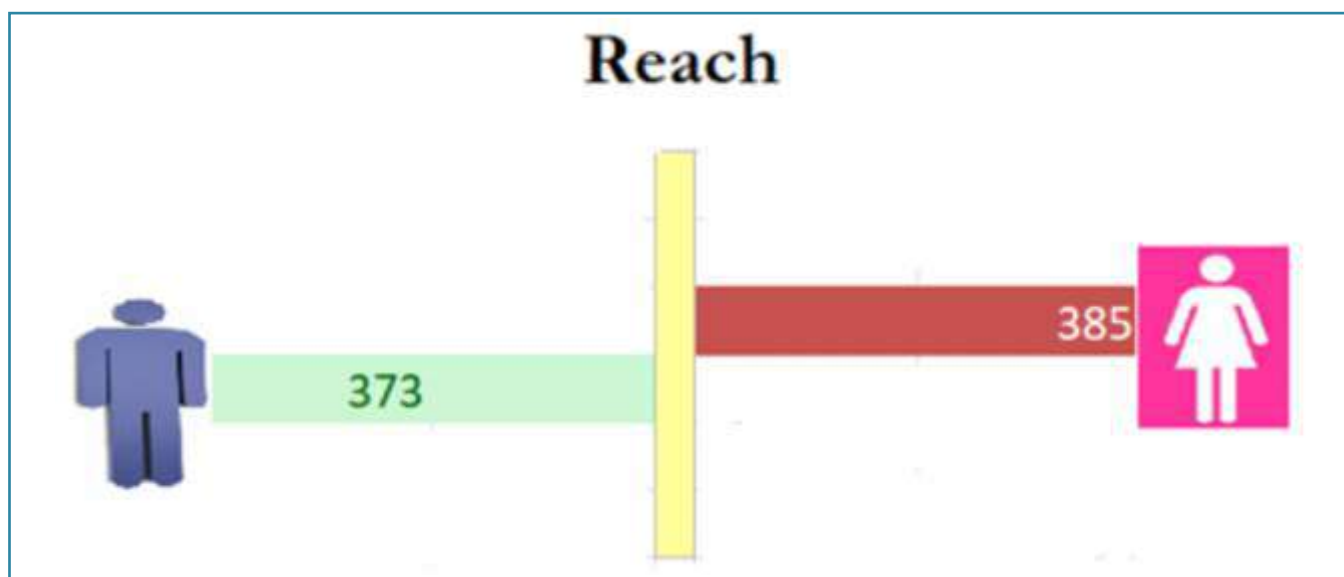
Plan India in collaboration with Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited has initiated the project “Education for Children of Migrant Construction Workers in Hyderabad City”. Mahita is implementing the project in among children of construction workers in seven locations in the outskirts of Hyderabad.

The objective of the project is to provide education to the children of Migrant Construction Families at seven construction sites by setting up Educational Centers for the children in the age group of 3-5 years and transit educational centers for 6-14 years age group.

The project provided nutritional, health & educational support to 758 children. At the same time the project also catered to health and nutritional needs of 22 pregnant women and 77 lactating mothers.

Impact

- About 758 children are in school instead idle at homes or on the streets.
- About 758 children are not going hungry and have improved health condition due to daily nutritional support and regular health check-ups by doctor.
- About 99 pregnant or lactating women have improved health condition.





Project 4: Digital Learning Centers

Digital Learning Centres, set up by Mahita with the support of Plan India and DXC Technologies, utilise technology solutions to provide a quality education to young women in the age group of 15-25 years within their own communities, thereby overcoming the challenge of limited mobility.

The programme aims to ensure increased access to opportunities for self-development for 3611 girls across Hyderabad. So far, 17 learning centres have been set up at 3 geographic clusters where girls can attend classes.

In order to encourage girls on the path of empowerment, they are taught on three subjects – English, Math and Science. The content has been developed after consultations with them and incorporating components of personality development, gender equality, reproductive sexual health, vocational skills and career counselling. Classes are scheduled on the basis of duration and complexity of content on specific issues.

Impact

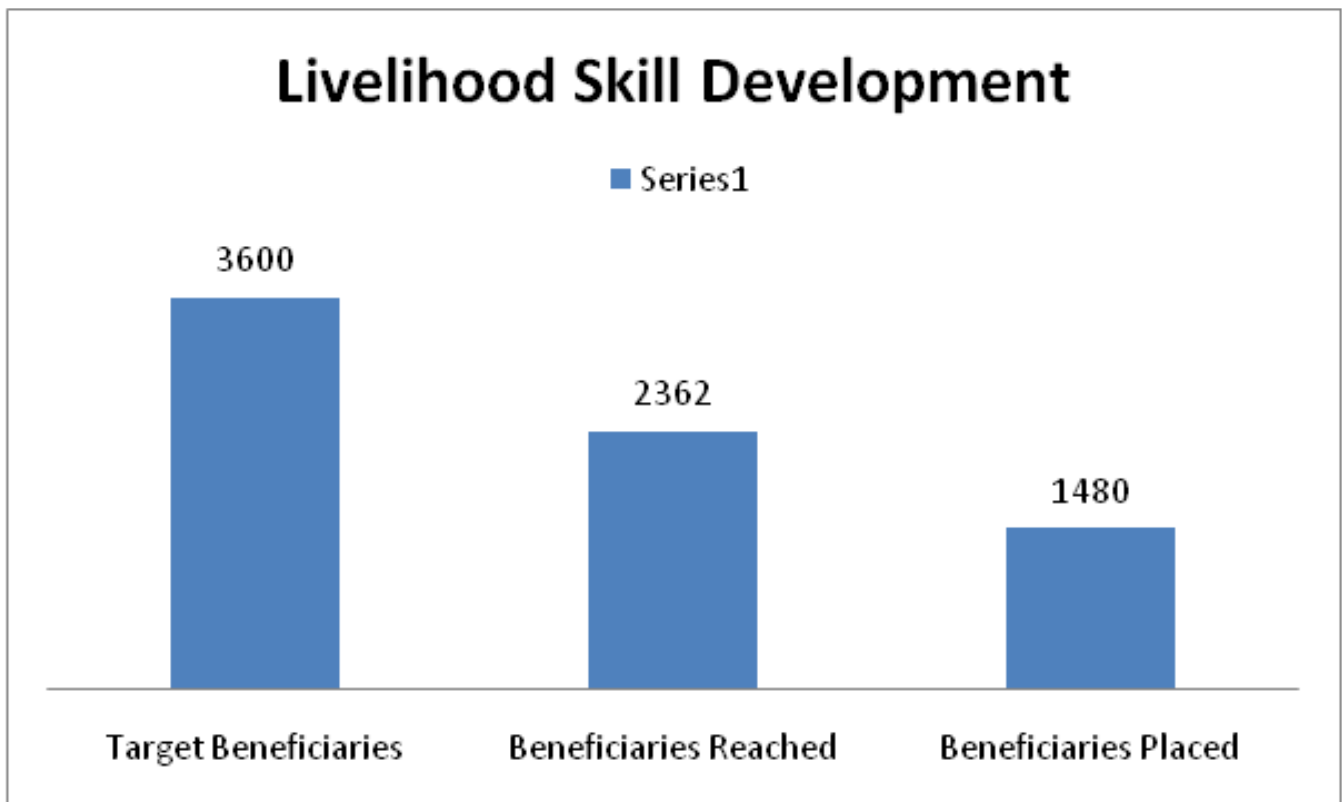
- About 3611 girls accessed ICT (Information and Communication Technology) enabled learning centres.
- About 3611 girls accessed age appropriate education opportunities.
- About 934 families sensitised on importance of girls' education.





LIVELIHOOD

Reach : **Telangana State**
Total Projects : **4**
Target Beneficiaries : **3600**
Beneficiaries Reached : **2362**
Placement Provided : **1480**



Project 1: Saksham

Nikht Irum age 20 comes from a conservative family. She was not allowed to go out alone. Due to various socio-economic reasons she was forced to discontinue her education by her family after completing intermediate (10+2). During this period, Nikht was staying at home and supporting her mother in household chores. Her mother was looking to marry her off as soon as possible. However, Nikht wanted to support her single mother economically and gain vocational skills to improve her income earning prospects. Through her friends, she came to know about the Saksham program. With lot of struggle, she was able to convince her mother to allow her to pursue vocational course in computers offered by Mahita.

She joined IT classes and learnt basics in computers, tally and excel. By attending life skills classes she learnt effective communication, time management and how to face interviews. Nikht's mother was not allowing her to work. Hence, Nikht requested Mahita team to counsel her mother to allow her to work. Mahita team spoke to her mother and counseled her on the benefits of her daughter working and how this will improve their family's economic status. Nikht's mother agreed to allow her to work.



Today, Nikht is working in a private bank as a telesales person and earning a salary of INR 10,000. She is happy to support her family economically and more importantly she is independent to make her own decisions and confident to take up any challenges.

Like Nikht, there are 500 beneficiaries under Saksham project supported by Plan India and DXC Technologies. The project provides job oriented vocational skills in Retail, IT and Beautician course. After completion of the course, more than 70% of the project beneficiaries have been placed in various companies. The project aims to improve the earning capabilities of young men and women from minority communities especially women.

Project 2:

“Mithra” – from skills to success – livelihood training to adolescent girls in the old city of Hyderabad

I have become confident and self-dependent after attending the training and there are many institutes which charges fees and do not show personal interest but here trainers take personal interest and explain in convenient languages which is very unique about this centre. My mother is very happy and thankful to Mahita team & CAF-Accenture and wishes to continue the same as it changes thinking of the youth.

Asra Sultana (Project Beneficiary)



The project is implemented in the old city of Hyderabad to empower the adolescent and young women through skill training programs (Computers, Tailoring/Fashion Designing, Beautician & Embroidery) thereby creating employment opportunities for their overall development. The project aims to reach 2000 adolescent and young girls by August 2019.

The project has reached 1007 girls till February 2019. More than 65% of these girls have found a job or have initiated a small business unit.



Project 3:

Awareness Campaign for Fluorosis mitigation and socio-economic empowerment of indigenous (Tribal) women through access to safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition and livelihood support services in Narayanpur Mandal of Nalgonda District of Telangana State, India – Phase II

Mahita has been implementing the project in 30 Villages in Narayanpur Mandal of Nalgonda District of Telangana State. During the first phase of the project, Village water and sanitation committees were (VWSC) formed in each of 30 villages and members have been capacitated on drinking water and sanitation topics. The collective community actions, created a significant impact on the lives of the communities affected with fluorosis. An effective linkages are yielding the results to provide the toilets and safe drinking water to the affected communities and due to the efforts of the project, various linkages have been developed with the inter sectoral government departments. A Strong community mobilisation approach initiated towards reaching the set goal of the project and various campaigns and awareness meetings created lot of impact among the communities in terms of social behaviour and developing their knowledge levels on safe drinking water as well as personal hygiene and sanitation.



In the Phase II, the project aims to address socio-economic empowerment of tribal women, bone & skeleton Fluorosis effected persons. The project therefore proposes opportunities for the livelihood promotion for women especially from Lambada community and bone & skeleton Fluorosis effected persons in all the 30 villages/habitations in Narayanpur block. The project is directly benefiting 3175 person the target area.

Major Outcomes:

- 17 persons affected with skeleton fluorosis have been provided economic support to start a small business unit. All the 17 beneficiaries have started the business like petty store, cattle rearing, tea stalls etc depending upon their capabilities of their care takers.
- 50 persons suffering from bone fluorosis have been supported with kitchen garden. The objective is to support them with regular nutritional support.
- 33 anganwadi centers were supported with water purifiers to support children with clean and healthy water.
- 3 SHG groups have been linked to Srinidhi schemes.



Project 4:

Empowering Young Girls through providing Employable Skills for enhancing the Family Income in 15 slums of Hyderabad City, Telangana, India

The livelihood project is supported by Derikonigsaktion Hilfswerk der Katolischen Jungschar (DAK) from Austria. The project aims to support 1800 adolescent women from the slums of Hyderabad, to be trained in Vocational and a life skill which is instrumental in bring about a break in the intergenerational poverty and impoverishment for the girls in the community. The objective of the project is to empower the girls/women with necessary skills to enhance their income thereby leading a dignified life. To achieve this, the project has identified 4 vocational courses such as;

- a. Computer
- b. Tailoring/Fashion Designing
- c. Beautician /Mehndi and
- d. Embroidery/Jute Bag

These courses have high probability of employment and are also popular among female students. The course duration has been defined as 3 months to 6 months, depending upon the class content. By the end of reporting period 66% of the adolescent girls have found jobs or have initiated self-units or free lancing.

Impact

So far 616 adolescent girls have been able to complete the livelihood skill training program of which 66% of adolescent girls have found employment and are economically supporting their families. These girls are earning between INR 5000 – INR 15000 per month. The major outcome of the project was the adolescent girls not only gaining financial freedom but also improvement in their physical mobility as well as gaining decision making power in their family affairs especially concerning their future. This recent economic freedom has resulted in reduction of number of child marriages among minority communities in the slums.

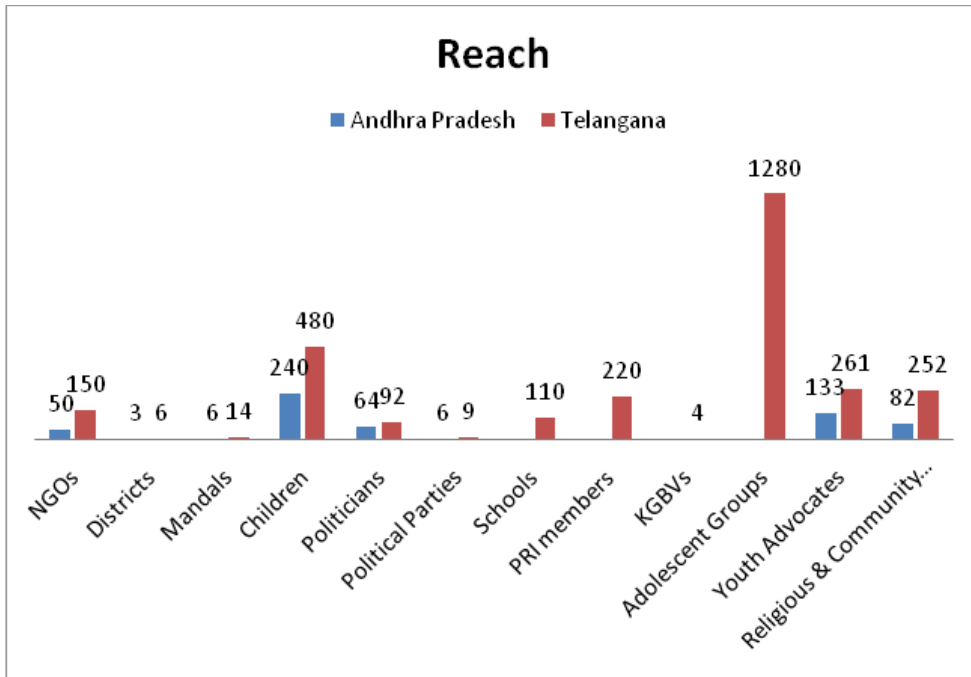


ADVOCACY

Reach : Andhra Pradesh & Telangana States

Total Projects : 3

Total Reach : 4000 (approx.)



Project 1: Girls Advocacy Alliance

The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) is into 3 years of its journey of contributing to equal rights and opportunities to adolescent girls and young women by addressing two forms of gender based violence in the form of child marriages and trafficking for sexual exploitation. As a strategy response to these two issues in the states, Mahita is promoting secondary education and job oriented vocational training for girls and young women.

The project is implemented in 3 districts of Andhra Pradesh and 6 districts of Telangana states with the support of Plan India. It is an global initiative of Plan International – Plan Netherlands, Terre Des Hommes – Netherlands and Defense for Children – ECPAT Netherlands.

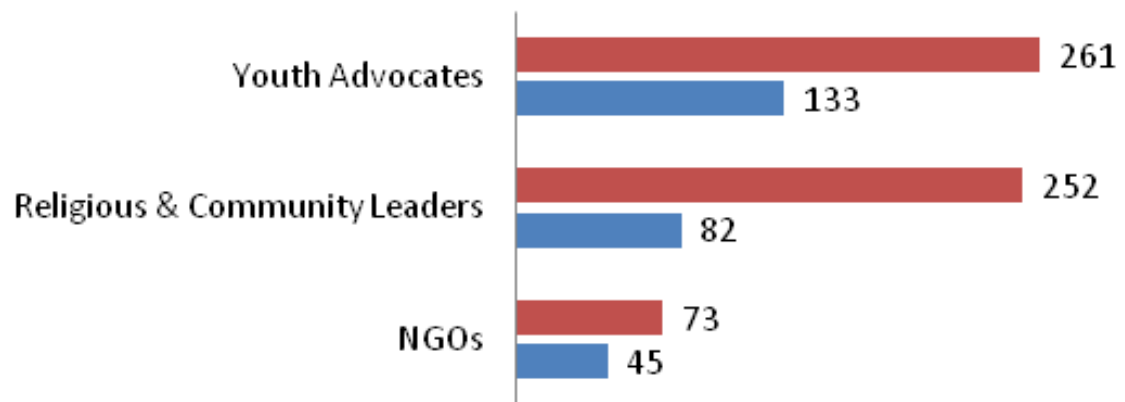
The advocacy program targets Government, Private Sector, Communities and Civil Society Organisations. Through its advocacy activities the project has reached more than 90,000 community members such as religious and caste leaders, youth advocates and women form Self Help Groups.





Project Reach

■ Telangana ■ Andhra Pradesh



Impact

- Mahita under GAA project collaborated and provided technical support to Department of Women and Child Welfare, Andhra Pradesh for the launch of Kishori Vikasam – Phase II as state government for holistic development of adolescent girls. Mahita supported with development of 5 posters and 2 videos which have been reached to 1.5 million adolescent girls from 11000 schools across 11 districts.
- Olympic Gold Medalist and Ace Shuttler PV Sindhu endorsed the videos on Kishori Vikasam developed under the project by Mahita.
- Mahita has been identified as Technical Partner for Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- In the year 2018- 2018, GAA initiated the process of reviewing and reframing the state rules of PCMA 2006 (GO MS 13) in the state of Telangana. About 75 CSOs from 6 districts inputted on the state rules and have been collated with the help of NALSAR University and Center for Law and Policy Research(CLPR), Bangalore, and the same has been submitted to the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Telangana, who are in turn now reviewing the same.
- Similar process was adopted in the state of Andhra Pradesh, wherein the state rules and principal act of PCMA 2006 were inputted and the recommendations for re framing have been collated with the help of CLPR. The same is being reviewed by Department of Women and Child Welfare, Andhra Pradesh and Law Department, Andhra Pradesh.
- Released research study on “Facing Constraints and Seizing Opportunities: Child Marriages in Telangan State & Andhra Pradesh”. The research was commissioned to Center for Economic and Social Studies, Telangana.
- Telangana State Legal Service Society and District Legal Service Society have been collaborating with Mahita under the project to address the issue of Child Marriage and Child trafficking.

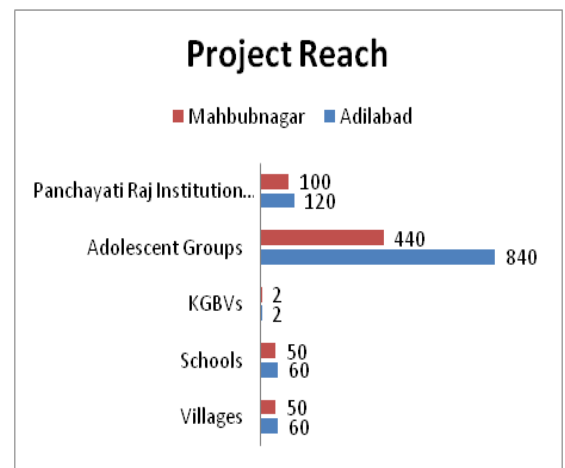


Project 2: Child Protection and Action Network

Child Protection and Action Network (CPAN) is an advocacy program implemented by Mahita to prevent violence against children (VAC) in 2 mandals each from Adilabad and Mahbubnagar districts in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The project is supported by UNICEF. To implement the project Mahita is also collaborating with Telangana State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) by developing modules on issues related to children violence and developing the capacities of teachers to prevent violence at schools and communities. To ensure safety of children, the project is aiming to ensure all the safety standards are in place among all the government schools.

Outcomes

- 100 Gram Panchayats have come forward to pass a resolution against VAC in the communities .
- Criteria, follow up and verification details need to be worked out .
- 60 Teachers and 40 Youth have been trained on Violence issues.
- 240 Functionaries (Teachers from 35 schools, Anganwadi workers & Social welfare wardens from 120 villages) oriented on violence and its impact on children , prevention approach.
- Mobilization resulted in increased awareness that violence against children is integral to all social and exploitative issues child marriage, trafficking, and sexual violence.



Project 3:

Campaign on “Advocacy on Children’s Agenda with respect to SDGs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana”

For so long the issues of children have been neglected by the policy makers. Hence, Mahita with the support of UNICEF has initiated a project to bring forth the issues of children to the policy makers. Under the network of Alliance for Child Rights, a consortium of NGOs working on the issues of children, Mahita has been implementing the project in 3 districts of Andhra Pradesh and in 6 districts of Telangana state.

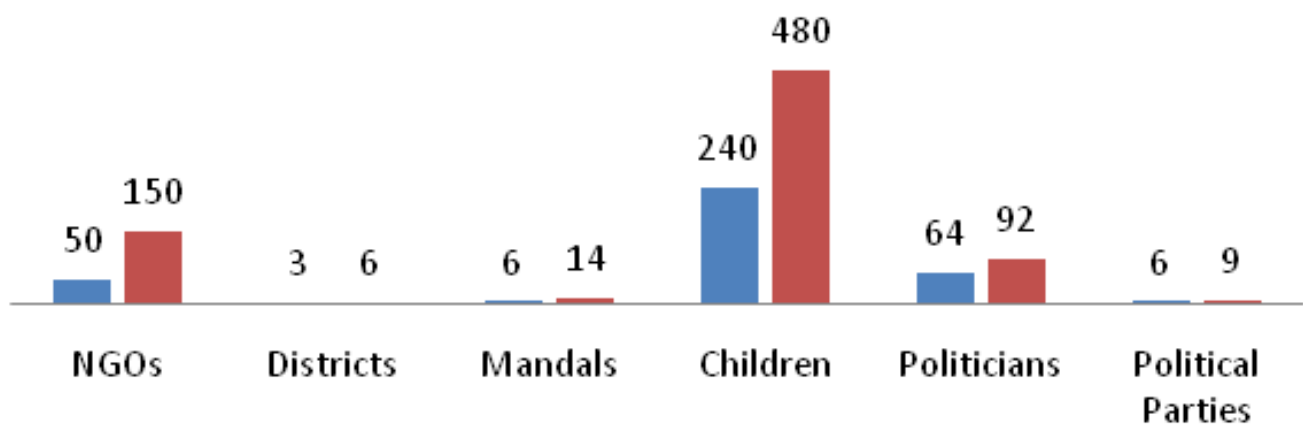
In the year 2018-19 the campaign was implemented by Andhra Pradesh Alliance for Child Rights & Telangana Alliance for Child Rights in their respective state among 18 Mandals of 9 Districts (each District 2 Mandals), engaging 720 Children/Adolescents between the age group of 10 to 18 years. As part of the campaign, the children/adolescents were oriented on the first 6 goals of the SDGs. The campaign armed children with knowledge and awareness on their rights and entitlements vis-a vis SDGs. This has helped them to discuss among themselves and identify issues classified under Education, Health, Equality and Protection to be hindering their growth as well as the growth of the state. Children have submitted the issues to all major political parties and contesting politicians in both the states and requested them to make these issues as part of their election manifesto.





Project Reach

■ Andhra Pradesh ■ Telangana





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