

# **IMPACT 2019-20**

**Mahita's Annual Report**







# MAHITA

## TOWARDS BUILDING

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## SINCE 26 YEARS

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### OUR VISION

1. To protect and promote access to quality education to vulnerable children especially girls and to bridge the digital divide to keep children learning and safe ; ensuring that a health crisis does not become a child rights crisis.
  2. Advocate and support social protection measures by the government and others to communities struggling to maintain their livelihoods and help prevent them from sliding further down into poverty or hardship and ensuring that hundreds of children are protected from hunger, malnutrition and lack of education .
  3. Advocate and support government, families, communities to support remote and home learning, access government schemes, and support innovative education and skill learning programmes to develop self esteem and dignity among young adolescents especially girls who are at greater risk.
  4. Provide and promote peer to peer learning, sharing of information between children, young people and others to address mental health , discrimination and stigma issues affecting their development.
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### MISSION

To contribute efforts and actions to a world where all children but especially girls are supported to realize their fullest potential and growth and be safeguarded from exploitation and abuse







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## VALUES

Transparent and accountable practices, a good governance structure ensuring gender equality, non-discrimination and protection policies, towards achieving the objectives of the organization.

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# MAHITA'S

## CORE COMPETENCIES AND VALUE

Mahita fosters strategic alliances for collaboration to increase the scale and impact of community-focused Child Protection development programs.

Mahita promotes technically sound community ownership approaches that are flexible, responsive to local needs and influences and protect the rights of children

Strengthening the Networking and Advocacy Strategies towards influencing the government, policy makers and NGOs on Child Rights.

## FOREWARD

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In the Year 2019-20, we added another meaningful chapter of our social development journey – a journey towards exploring new paths, setting new benchmarks, rising the challenges, charged with the determination to bring all real and long-lasting change in the lives of the vulnerable and deserving children and families.

Many networking and advocacy interventions have been taken this year with a focus on Gender-based Violence and Education for the Children in the context of Sustainability Development Goals. The focused interventions involved: Developing the manuals on the Safe School Campaign for Teachers, Child Marriage Free Gram Panchayats, Creating child-friendly schools and train the teachers on Child Protection Issues.

Networking and strong linkages developed with Women Development and Child Welfare, Police Department, Endowment Department, Telangana State Institute of Rural Development, Education Department, during the reporting period. Much focus has been given towards developing a lot of IEC material on Child Marriages and Education and successfully integrated with Women Development and Child Welfare Department. Several research studies on Child Marriages and Education have been undertaken as part of knowledge sharing and evidence-based research studies towards advocating on behalf of the Children.

It gives me immense pleasure to see that we have successfully initiated the dialogue with Corporate Agencies and initiated the dialogue on Girls Education investment, especially on secondary Education. Networking and strengthening the NGOs in both the States are an ongoing process, and we have successfully taken the Sustainable Development Goals Campaign in both States. Mahita had captured the young boy's and girls' suggestions and aspirations on SDG goals in their working areas.

The Skill Centres at Mahita are providing livelihood skills to Young Men and Women, and enhance the career development that leads to improving the family income levels are very encouraging. The Livelihood Units for fluorosis affected families are running successfully and creating new hopes for the families. The Early Childhood Education and Nutrition support to the Children from Migrant Construction Families in Urban Habitations of Hyderabad is running successfully and creating many hopes for vulnerable children in holistic learning spaces.

The year's learning and challenges will definitely be taken to the next level in the coming year. They will upscale the good practices to other vulnerable areas where there is a need to work or serve more vulnerable communities and children. With the end of this successful cycle, please join me in appreciating and recognizing the contribution made by our frontline workers, donors, government functionaries, and the board members of Mahita.

We are extremely thankful to all our supporting agencies and have shown a lot of trust in us. Their continued support and strategic direction have provided our work the much-needed reinforcement. We heartedly laud their valuable support of every agency and individual.

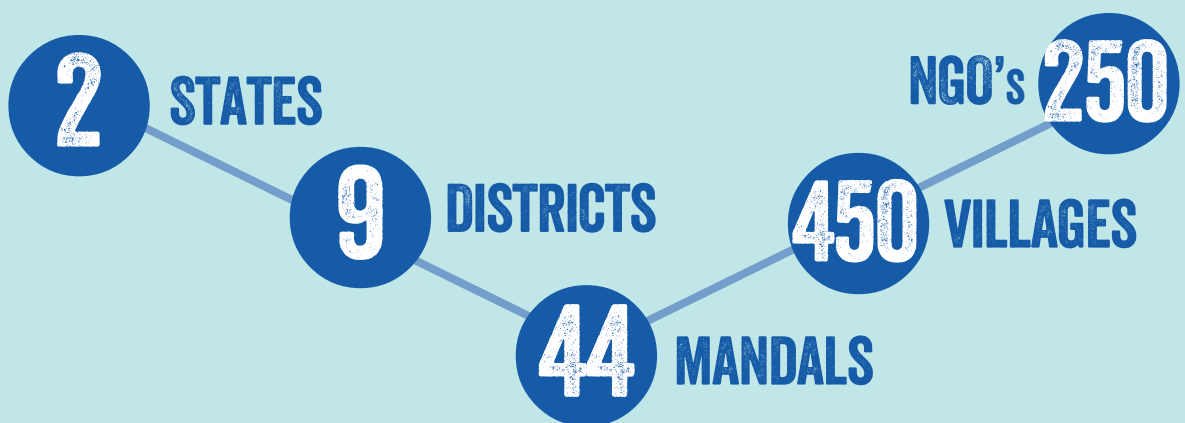
**Ramesh Sekhar Reddy. P**

***Program Director***





## 2019-20 : REACH-OUT AT A GLANCE







**NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

**3-5 YEARS 1800**

**6-14 YEARS 22500**

**18 + YEARS 1850**







# 2019 – 20 : PROJECT REFLECTIONS





## **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR FLUOROSIS MITIGATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER, SANITATION, NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT**

Mahita has implemented '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 erstwhile Nalgonda district with the support of Manos Unidas, Spain. It has been implemented in 30 Fluorosis-affected villages of Nalgonda District's remote rural areas towards empowering indigenous women through access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and other livelihood support. 17 skeleton Fluorosis and 165 bone Fluorosis affected people were considered as the direct beneficiaries of the project.

The project adopted key strategies like:

1. Community/Social Mobilisation.
2. Capacity Building and Ownership building.

3. Community Collective Actions to leverage government resource for the social-economic empowerment programs through great women participation in all the aspects.

Towards mitigating the Fluorosis and empowerment of the women members, the project adopted skill building of women and livelihood alternatives amongst tribal women created a lot of visible impact during the project period especially during the lockdown many families have been depending upon the kitchen gardens and got the vegetables and nutritional food during the lockdown.

The project enhanced the livelihood skills of the tribal women in the project area, and linking them for the government programs is creating a lot of impact on their lives.





## PROJECT IMPACT ●●●

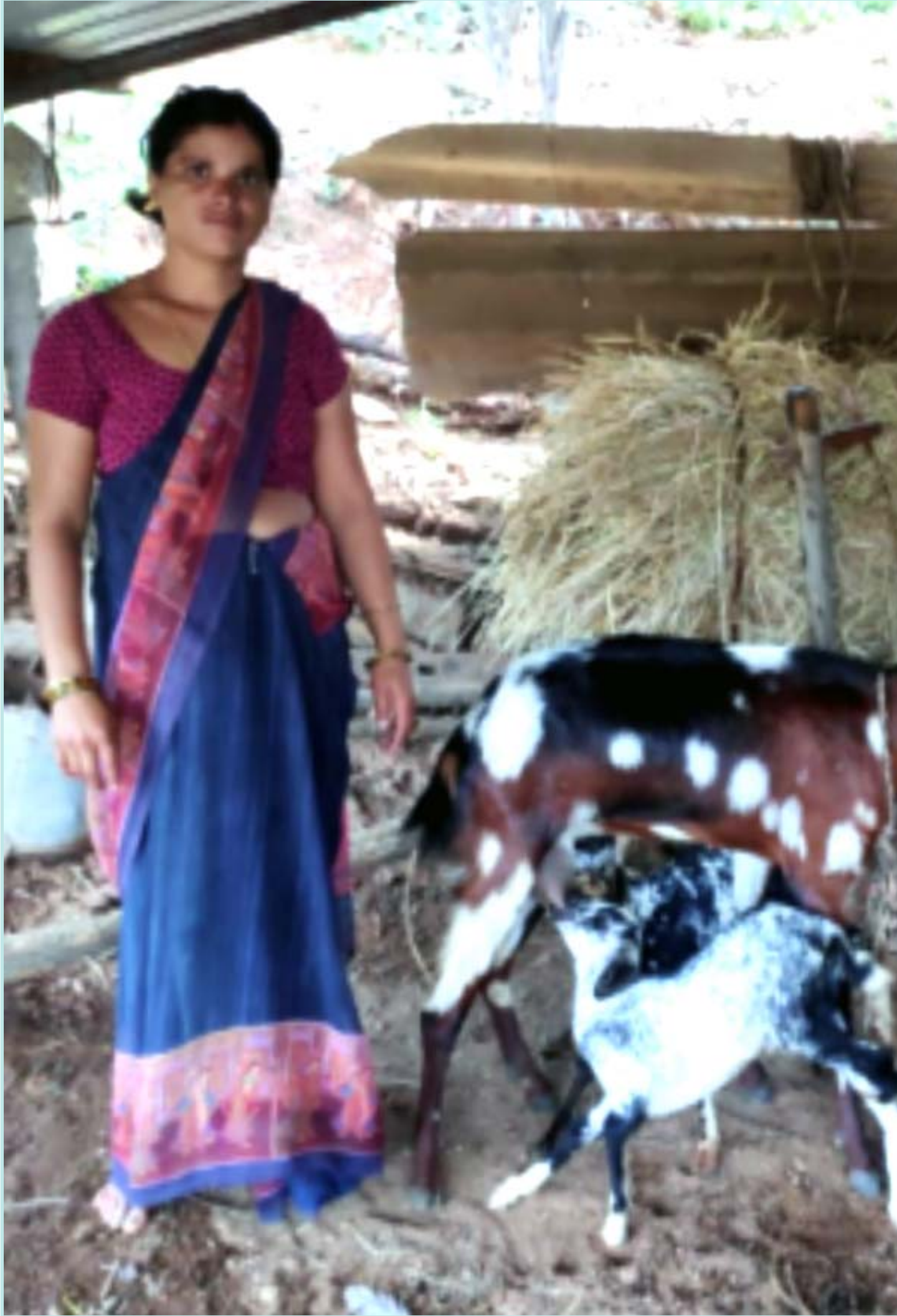
- ▲ The Project provided livelihood support to 17 Skeleton Fluorosis affected children.
- ▲ The Project provided kitchen gardens to 165 beneficiaries who are suffering from Bone Fluorosis so they can have access to regular and continuous nutritional support.
- ▲ The Project successfully reached 267 Women Self Help Groups in the region and created awareness to SHG members on available schemes and loans by the government.
- ▲ 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 sectorial government departments.

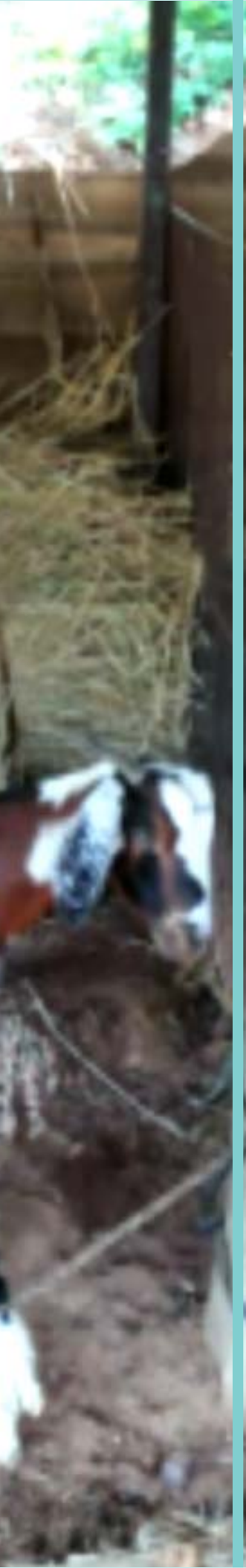
- ▲ In the first year, the project also provided the 33 Purify Water Filters to the 33 Anganwadi Centres and which benefitted by 620 (2 years) children and drinking the safe water through the Filters. It was also understood that the Water Filters have also been changed by the local Gram Panchayats through their local funds created a greater impact.











India is a male dominated society and hence gender equality is still a distant dream. Indian society is divided into caste system and people belonging to lower castes are still discriminated. The challenge doubles for women from lower caste, as they have to fight discrimination at many fronts. Sunitha (24), belongs to Schedule Tribe community (Lower Caste) from Pallagattuthanda, Narayanpur Panchyat, Yadadri Bhuvangiri district. Her family is poor and majority of the children from the village drop out of schools and work as child labourers.

As part of Manos Unidas funded project, SHGs were identified from Narayapur mandal and provided training with the support of government departments. Competent SHGs were linked to Stree Nidhi scheme or banks depending upon their project idea and repayment capability. Sunita along with the SHG members attended the sensitisation and orientation program on available schemes for SHGs. Based on the credibility and competency their SHG was identified as a beneficiary of the Stree Nidhi scheme that provides a monetary support of INR 25,000/-.

**SUNITA** was identified by her group to be the rightful beneficiary for the scheme based on her need. With the monetary support, she has decided to rear goats and purchased about five of them. Today, she rears goats and the little money she receives after selling the grown-up animals will help her poverty-stricken family. The money proves beneficial as she can now financially support her family and her children can continue their education. She is very much thankful to Manos Unidas and Mahita for their support.

## ECCD AND EDUCATION CENTRES FOR CHILDREN OF MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Hyderabad is a metropolitan city, and the rapid pace of development in the city has led to an influx of migrant labour in search of livelihood. Most of the construction laborers in urban India are migrants from rural areas. Often they reside in temporary and slum-like housing near the construction sites or in slum areas. Many migrate along with their families, including children, and their habitats do not have the essential services like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, health facilities, and schools. Children of migrant construction workers are deprived of a healthy and enriching childhood, which should be theirs as per the Child Rights Convention (CRC). The children living in these areas' general situation requires serious interventions as they often suffer from **malnutrition, accidents, and innumerable health problems.**

Towards addressing the issues, Mahita with the support from Plan India and Punjab National Bank Housing Ltd initiated a programme in 7 Construction sites in Hyderabad. The main objective of the project was to provide safe spaces for the children of the migrant families in which children would be meaningfully engaged through activity based learning, nutrition support, growth monitoring, games for the 3 – 6 years children through the ECCD centres and non-formal education for children of 6 – 14 years.

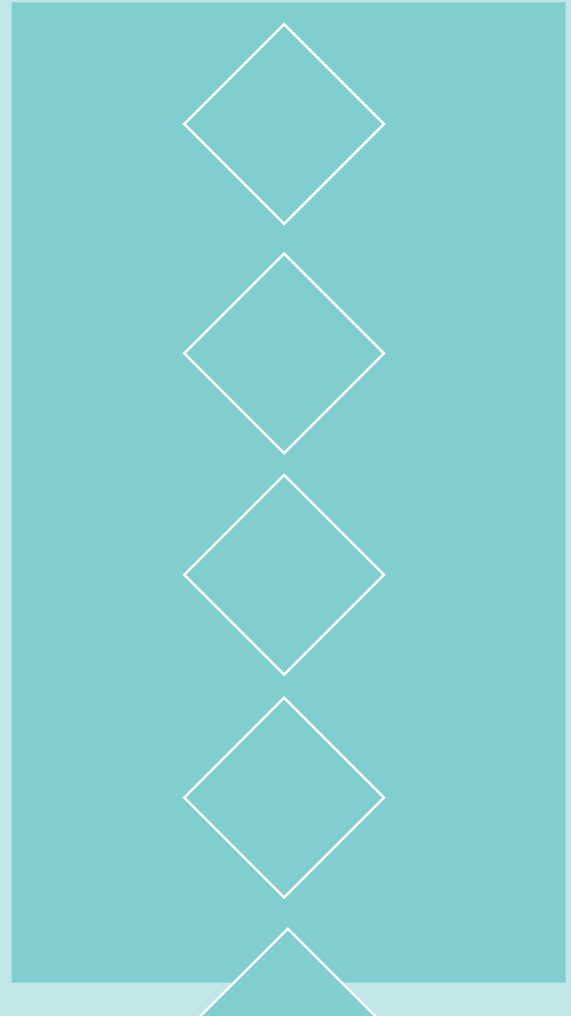




## IMPACT ●●●●

- ▲ 669 no. of children (Boys: 342; Girls: 327) were provided daily nutrition food and additional nutritional snacks
- ▲ Providing Early Childhood Education for the Children in the age group of 3-5 years and Education to the children in the age group of 6-14 years through established Worksite Centres in the Construction sites.
- ▲ Catering to medicinal needs of children which includes growth
- ▲ Monitoring/immunization/health checkups were conducted monthly once by a doctor on a regular basis.
- ▲ Regular immunization drives were undertaken of children in the age group of 0-18 months and were administered Penta Violet, DPT, Polio, Oral Polio and anti-measles vaccine based on their ages. Tetanus shots were given to pregnant women along with Iron and Folic Acid tablets. Family planning was another issue that the ANMs discussed with the community during her visits. Children were periodically given Vitamin A syrup as well. Health education was one of the core activities undertaken to raise awareness on the importance of immunization for both pregnant women and children in the early years of life.





Children of migrant workers often travel to various states along with their parents. They are not provided education, ration support and health amenities due to non-portability system in the country. Caring such children and taking responsibility of their needs is a top notch priority to build a strong nation.

**MS SWATHI** works as a Teacher for 'Education center for children of migrant construction workers', project supported by Plan India through Punjab National Bank Housing and Finance Limited (PNBHFL) and implemented by Mahita.

The center is at 'My Home', construction site where hundreds of migrant families come to work along with their children who are otherwise left to lurch in hazardous surroundings.

Her day starts by motivating children in the homes to come to the center. "They are then groomed and taught rhymes, poems, songs that fill their mood with excitement and fun", says Swathi sharing the same spirit. Then children are served Sesame laddus, chikki that are rich in iron content as snacks for the interval.

She makes use of innovative 'Teaching Learning Materials', to teach stories, vocabulary, mathematics and games that stimulate their physical and mental abilities. Children are then served with lunch after following proper hand washing etiquette, she further adds.

**MS SWATHI**



"Once in a month, Parents meeting is organized to educate them about the importance of Early Child Hood Education and Nutrition of Children along with nutrition and the importance of hygiene", she says. Women and children are also given special care to address their physical problems. "Lactating mothers, pregnant women, children are encouraged to regularly meet with ANM workers who administer immunization and vaccination", she says. Further they are linked to nearest Primary Health Care centers for further assistance.

Pre-school education is also teaching values to children and play way method such as love of learning, curiosity, discipline, team work, independence, communication that makes children enjoy learning, shares Swathi.

She has learned to balance both personal and professional life without any disturbance. "Patience is one of my biggest achievements through which I was able to deal my job", she says.

Swathi feels privileged to have a chance to teach children and is happy to see their excitement through her services.







4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION









## EDUCATION FOR EMPOWERMENT PILLARS OF LEARNING

The Project “Education to 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.

The programme is directly contribute to; SDG 4 - ‘ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’ a which again puts emphasis on ‘quality education’ and ‘learning outcomes’ of children.

The Project successfully implemented in all the target areas and various strategies have been adopted like; i) Building the School Community Relationship, ii) Improving teaching learning process, iii) Onsite and Offsite support to children, iv) Enhancing the classroom environment, v) Strengthening the Community structures like School Management Committees and Protection Committees.





## IMPACT ●●●

- ▲ 425 children (227 girls & 198 boys) were transited from Anganwadi centres to government primary schools.
  - ▲ 264 (139 boys & 125 girls) out of school/irregular to school children were back to school through our interventions. Majority of these were missing school to economically support their families.
  - ▲ **50 Child Groups formed with 1190 children in 50 schools** and actively functioning
  - ▲ QLE training to 66 teachers resulted in all the children, especially children with Marathi and Gondi as mother tongue are able to understand and take test in Telugu language.
  - ▲ Formation and strengthening of Innovative teachers forum, these innovative teaching ideas was demonstrated during the education fair and at the time of annual review conducted at Directorate of school Education (DSE) Hyderabad.
  - ▲ **50 Mothers groups** were formed with **500** mothers and strengthened. These mothers are attending
- anganwadi centers and the mothers committees were able to influence ALMSC to improve facilities at anganwadi centres.
- ▲ Reached 50 Schools, 20 KGBVs and 4500 children have been used the services of Mobile Resource Van. The Mobile Resource Van (MRV) equipped with reading and learning materials has been attracting the children and school teachers. The Mobile Resource Van is not only supporting children in enhancing their learning level but it has been creating awareness in the communities on various issues related to child protection and child rights.
  - ▲ **418** children were paired with reading buddies. The concept has been helpful to children to learn from each other and improve their knowledge.
  - ▲ **6671** students from **50 schools** are benefiting from the libraries established.
  - ▲ ***Early Child Learning Kits provided 50 Anganwadi Centres and largely benefitted by 2600 children..***

**BAKKI NIKHITA**, studying 8 class in Zilla parishad high school, Ankoli is a member of the Child Club formed by Mahita. “I’ve learned about the Rights of the Children and the Right to Education. I also understood that children are the future citizens of the country and that it is better to start early to learn how to be a part of the change in the society”, she says.

The Club has given her the confidence to speak in front of elders and to play a part in improving the school facilities. “All my child club members are raising their voices with lot of confidence, I think this is a major positive change that never happened before”, she adds.

The change happened because of the Child Club and she got support from it. “We learned a lot through our child club meetings about our rights and how we can participate in school affairs”, she says.

Nikitha has taken part in the School level Dance competition and got appreciation certificate. She has participated in school games and sports. She aims to become a doctor. Her passion reflects in her enthusiasm in school activities as well as she takes part in Child club taking a leadership role within the school.

Nikitha has taken active part in all the School level activities. She follow ups the children who are irregular to the school. She was given the responsibility to monitor mid day meal scheme. In the school safe drinking water is not available. She has reported to the head master of the school and local leaders of the village. The school management cleaned the water tank and covered the cap, a major trait of a leader in the making.



*“We learned a lot through our child club meetings about our rights and how we can participate in school affairs”*



## THE DICTIONARY INITIATIVE

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Telangana stands low on education. At 72.8 percent, Telangana has the fourth-lowest literacy rate in the country among large Indian states. Further, it has the second-lowest literacy rate — a meager 53.7 per cent — among rural women in the country as per ‘Key Indicators of Household Social Consumption on Education in India’, report by the Ministry of Statistics. While families and communities are enrolling their children into schools they are not able to retain the child in school due to many reasons – the child is not supported in learning needs as parents are illiterate, distance of the school from home, violence against adolescent girls, discrimination in class rooms, and economic pressure at home which leads to child dropping out .

### DICTIONARY INITIATIVE

The dropout rate from secondary education is high at 37.92 and it is a 18.48 percent at

elementary school level according to government data (UDISE). In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for English as a medium of instruction by both parents and young people who are eager to explore opportunities and access information.

Mahita works in partnership with 40 government schools of Adilabad Rural and Bela Mandal where children from indigenous communities, and other disadvantaged sections study. The dictionaries especially for children in the upper primary and secondary is a critical need in government schools. In language learning /teaching process a bilingual dictionary can provide important support and be a quick reference book. It helps children appreciate the feel and use of a resource like the school dictionary on their own and the delight of learning new words.





## IMPACT ●●●

- ▲ Raised individual resources for purchase of 600 dictionaries
- ▲ Collaboration with Oxford University Press India provided dictionaries at subsidied rates.
- ▲ 600 Children received the Dictionaries and using the same.
- ▲ The District Administration, District Educational Officer launched the Dictionary Movement in the District.

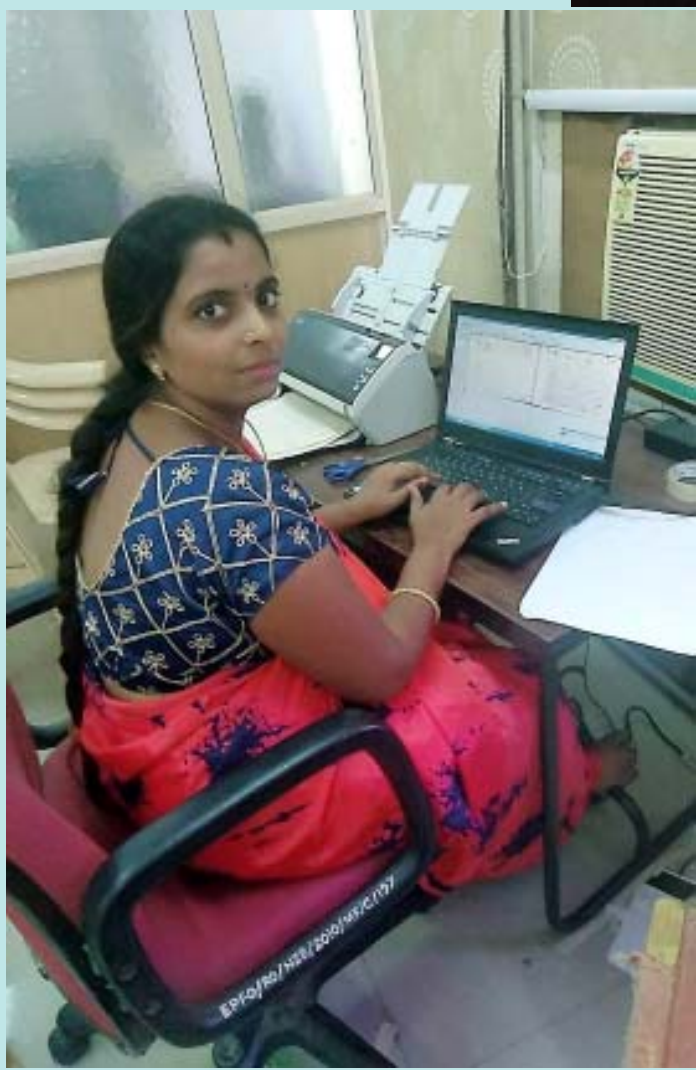


## DIGITAL LEARNING TO ENHANCE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mahita initiated Digital learning to enhance learning outcomes Smart class set-up with support from Plan India and HUWAI. The smart class rooms/digital education was introduced Government School in Pagolu Village of Krishna District to use digital learning as a tool in improving engagement within the classroom, making teaching learning processes more fun and interactive, and reducing drop-outs.

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.

Competency Based e-learning Solution was integrated to transform in to Modernised and add an interesting dimension to the conventional methods of teaching through this game based application.







## IMPACT ●●●

- ▲ 5 Class Rooms converted Digital Class/Smart Class room with all hardware and software support.
- ▲ A computer lab installed with 20 Computers along with NextEducation Software
- ▲ Orientation to the 10 Teachers for using the Digital Class Rooms.
- ▲ 65 Girls and 175 Boys are benefitting from the Digital Class Room and extensively utilized during the 10<sup>th</sup> Class Examinations



## SAKSHAM / JOVT

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SAKSHAM programme aims to impart employability skills to the young women and men from urban poor families to gain job oriented skills along with other soft skills. The programme is supported by Plan India and DXC Technologies.

The target groups under the project are the underprivileged youth between the age group of 18-35 years who are either class 10th or class 12th pass. The programme provides underprivileged youth various options for complete integration into the mainstream industry and market through specialised training programmes leading to gainful employment. 2 Full fledge centres initiated in Athapura area of Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad.

The centres are equipped with hardware and curriculum as well as trained faculty to enable the training. What makes the programme unique is that it addresses the need gap from both demand side and supply

side. Apart from livelihood skills the other soft skills taught in the centres. Soft skills like; gender equality, personal hygiene, communicative English and likes, which enables them to secure decent jobs in the market and thus improve their household economic

The livelihood programme provides the youth with the requisite soft skills needed at the workplace and making the candidates confident through comprehensive training on personality development. Industry Exposure Programme as part of the curriculum, in the form of short visits to premises of potential recruiters and seeing things first hand, makes it realistic. A dedicated Placement Cell under the programme understands the needs of potential employers from varied sectors, analyses them and identifies relevant job opportunities for the graduating youth through placements.





## IMPACT ●●●

- ▲ 495 Young Women trained on Computer Course, Retail Marketing and IT related courses.
- ▲ 342 Young women got the decent employment after completion of the training.
- ▲ 91 Young Men trained on Computer Course and Retail Marketing.
- ▲ 91 Young Men got the decent employment opportunities after completion of the training.
- ▲ 185 Companies and Corporates have been visited the Centres during Job Melas and placement services.
- ▲ 495 Young women and Men trained on communication and life skills and enhanced their knowledge.





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Women's & Men's  
Women's Activewear  
& Trends  
The Drive Store

THE FLOOR

Women's & Men's  
Kids Wear

2

Men's Casual Wear  
Men's Casual Wear  
Men's Active Wear  
& Trends  
The Drive Store





## SNEHALATHA

Time shows you myriad of opportunities to succeed in life. All you need is indomitable spirit and strong will power to transform your dreams into reality coupled with confidence.

Mrs. Snehalatha from Karnataka state studied up to 10th standard. Later, she stopped pursuing further education due to financial constraints.

However, her husband salary was not enough to meet the on growing family demands and she started to feel the pinch. She did not have a fair chance to secure a job in the city, due to less qualification and lack of computer knowledge. This made her job prospects bleak and pale.

At that point of time, she came to know about Mahita's Saksham project through a pamphlet. She inquired about various courses and has mastered skills including Ms- Office, Ms-Word, Ms-Excel, HTML and typing.

Now her family is happy as she is helping every month with a minimum amount for family expenditure and savings. Truly, a woman empowerment leads to family empowerment.

She was very devoted and attended all the classes regularly without fail. Being a very active student, she grasped and interacted with the course faculty well. After the completion of the course, she has attended the interview and secured a job in Reliance Trends for a salary of Rs 9500 in the position of Sales Executive.

Meanwhile, she was married at the age of 20 years and shifted her base to Hyderabad along with the husband.

Snehalatha says, "My husband Mr.Guruswami is so glad that I got an opportunity to stay independent and support the family financially". She is very thankful to Mahita and Plan India for their guidance.

## EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS THROUGH PROVIDING EMPLOYABLE SKILLS FOR ENHANCING THE FAMILY INCOME

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Women employment is the key and the most essential element which directly influences a women's empowerment. Employment gives the girl's confidence and her status as financial contributor gets a say in the family and her decision is valued giving her more sense of freedom. Women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

To bridge the gap in 15 slums of Yakuthpura, Old city of Hyderabad Mahita initiated project with the support form DKA Austria towards providing the Livelihood skills programme on; i) Beautician Course, ii) Data Entry Operations and iii) Soft Toys Making and iv) Fashion Designing.

Through the proposed interventions 622 Young women benefit from improved opportunities and choice in their lives, with enhanced incomes due to skills learnt and increased physical mobility and exposure by venturing towards developmental opportunities .







## IMPACT ●●●

- ▲ 622 Young women completed their vocational courses on Computer, Tailoring/Fashion Designing, Beautician/Mehindi and Soft Toys making.
- ▲ 262 Young women have started their small beauty parlours in 10 localities of Hyderabad.
- ▲ 455 Young women joined in various companies and agencies as Frontline staff, public relations team, Data Entry Operators, Fashion Designers.
- ▲ Exposure to the Young women have been organized to various establishments like Boutiques and Beauty Parlors for understanding the process and further opportunities.
- ▲ 15 Young women formed as small federation and started to stitch the school uniforms and got a contract from local government schools.
- ▲ Enhanced the family income of 717 Young women and their children are also attending schools.



## SKILLS TO SUCCESS

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Lack of family/ social support mechanisms has stifled development opportunities for many ambitious and capable girls and they are confined to the four walls of their homes in Old city of Hyderabad. This has huge implications for them and future generations as they are trapped in early marriages or child marriages. Adding to it, gender discrimination and violent behavior towards women discourages them from making proactive and bold decisions.

With an aim to empower adolescent girls by providing demand based livelihood skill trainings, create employment avenues for their overall development, provide career guidance and counseling, 'Mithra' – From Skills to Success, project with the support of Accenture was implemented in Kishanbagh, Bhadurpura, Tallagadda, Asif nagar, Moghal Nagar areas catering to the needs of young women (18-25). Six

livelihood centers were established at Karwan, Jhira, Kishan Bagh, Tallagadda, Yakatpura and Bhadurpura which are an easy access to public transport and give safety for women and young girls.

The project was aimed at encouraging women and girls from the slums to enrol for skill training course in Jute Bag Making, Computer and Fashion Designing, to help them have a dignified and independent livelihood. This was to provide a sustainable source of income to families who had under poverty trap and large families.







## IMPACT ●●●

- ▲ 1450 Young Women have been trained on various vocational courses and out of them 1268 got the job opportunities.
- ▲ Girls are financially independent and this has also boosted their self-confidence and living standards. .
- ▲ Girls have begun to have a say in family decision making, especially in the financial/economic sphere. .
- ▲ Attitude change among conservative parents and male family members towards girls' employment.
- ▲ 26 Volunteer Engagement from ACCENTURE and provided their time with the Young women and enhance their skills on communication and English language.
- ▲ Young Women are financially independent and this has also boosted their self-confidence and living standards.
- ▲ Young Women have begun to have a say in the family decision making, especially in the financial/economic sphere.



SUMEET

Mikon Plus

The Original  
KARAN  
KARATI KARI





## WOMAN EMPOWERMENT IS KEY TO FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

A Single woman can be powerful and can stand strong amidst difficulties when she is backed up with necessary skill set and encouragement.

During Mahita's mobilization drive, she showed her interest in pursuing Fashion Designing. She has completed six months course and has learnt all the skill set. She then has started her own business by stitching dresses of her neighbours.

Farzana Begum (26) is the sole breadwinner of her family comprising three children. Her husband passed away at a young age leaving all of them in a the depression. Since then Farzana, a 7 class qualified has been taking care of all the responsibilities and financial situation

During Mahita's mobilization drive, she showed her interest in pursuing Fashion Designing. She has completed six months course and has learnt all the skill set. She then has started her own business by stitching dresses of her neighbours.

Equipped with a robust skill set in stitching, demand for her work has increased that resulted in good number of customers. She currently earns around Rs 10,000/- per month.

In addition, she also stitches school uniforms for Government schools, that helps her earn additional income to support the family and pay children fees.

Farzana shares, "I have become financially independent and support my children, am very thankful to Mahita team".

## VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

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26 Volunteers from ACCENTURE are regularly providing their valuable time and spend in the Centres. The Volunteers take the onus of adding value to enhance the skills of Young Women on communication skills. These young dedicated volunteers not only score high by bringing a more interactive and practical approach and engaging the Young women in different activities. Mostly these volunteers help enhance the communication, personality development, and interpersonal skills of the students.

6 MBA Students from NARSA MUNJI INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT doing their internship in Mahita. The Students have done tremendous work towards working in the centres and mobilising the young women towards livelihood courses as well as identifying the gaps in the teaching and provided their inputs. This includes under take the training programs to the Teachers also, apart form Communication skill program to the young women.







## CHILD PROTECTION ACTION NETWORK

Mahita initiated the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) project in partnership with UNICEF. The programme is a violence prevention programme initiative in the state of Telangana. This is the second. The project was implemented in 2 mandals of Adilabad district. During the project period the focus was on to build on the good rapport and relationship built with SCERT on integrate violence prevention issues into DIETS, integrate violence prevention into Safe School concept and approaches.

At district and mandal level, the interventions focused on strengthening mobilisation and advocacy at district and sub district level

using the good rapport built with communities and children. The interventions built resilience to help children understand and avoid risks and seek support, by providing children and adolescents with information to build positive, non-violent and gender-equitable peer-to-peer relationships.

The project also strengthened the child protection units at the Mandal level and ensured all the departments like DWDC, Health, Judiciary, Police, Education, Labour, Revenue etc come on a single platform to discuss and address the issues of children related to violence.







## IMPACT

- ▲ The Project successfully created child safety protection structures in 52 villages and 20 slums in 2 Mandals of Adilabad District. Around 12000 Community Members, Children, Anganwadi Workers, Gram Panchayat Members were part of these committees.
- ▲ Mobilisation of community stakeholders and children at community level in 52 villages and 20 slums is resulting in increased awareness that violence against children is integral to all social and exploitative issues including child marriage, trafficking , sexual violence.
- ▲ School level interface meetings were organised reaching 70 schools 5000 children and 234 teachers. The children were made aware on violence issues like child marriages, child labour etc in schools and community as well as laws and acts.
- ▲ The TOT module on violence prevention is developed by SECRT in partnership with UNICEF, CPAN. About 32 teachers from 16 mandals of Adialbad and Mahbubnagar districts were trained on the ToT module to be master trainers.
- ▲ At district level, 80 teachers from Adilabad were oriented on ToT module.

## CAMPAIGN ON “ADVOCACY ON CHILDREN’S AGENDA WITH RESPECT TO SDGS” IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA

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Mahita is the focal point for larger civil society networks and consortium in both the States. Mahita is acting as Central Secretariat for Alliance for Child Rights working in both the States towards strengthening the CSO movement towards protecting and promotion of Child Rights. The campaign initiated in the State of Telangana as well as Andhra Pradesh and supported by UNICEF. During the Report period the campaign initiated in 18 Mandals in 9 districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The objectives of the campaign: a) The campaign will address the issues of i) Child Marriage ii) Child Protection and iii) Adolescent Issues – through building of the CSOs/ NGOs capacity building. b) Creating awareness on SDGs and reaching the government machinery and political representatives to hold them accountable

for the target of achieving the SDGs by 2030. c) Form young people’s parliament where adolescent girls and boys would be interacting with the political parties for making children the “first priority” in their election manifesto in 2019.

The target group are young children, adolescent girls, boys, women and gender networks, teachers, elected representatives, communities and government institutions. The whole programme is based on a networking model, the other partners include women and child welfare department, education, DCPU, Police and other important line departments. The one day district/ mandal level consultations to be facilitated the adolescents to express their views and concerns with respect to the selected SDGs and the set questions of each goal.







- ▲ Enhanced the capacities of 250 NGOs on SDGs vs child rights in this consultation workshop. Provided the directions to NGOs for monitoring the child rights vis-a vis SDGs in their respected working areas.
- ▲ 525 Young Boys and Girls oriented on the concepts of Sustainable Development Goals and importance and impact on their lives.
- ▲ Discussed Key Goals and Indicators which is affecting to Children health, education, nutrition, gender etc., and Developed Mandal and District Level Charter of Demands
- ▲ 2 State level Charter of Demands developed and submitted the children's demands to all major parties and explained about the commitments of union and state governments in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in AP and TS.
- ▲ Reached 18 Political Parties and submitted the Children reports to all the parties' leaders accepted to include children issues as first priority in their political party election manifesto.
- ▲ Children submitted their demands to Hon'ble Women Development and Childweelfare Minister in Telangana as well as submitted to SCPCR, Telangana. The Children from Andhra Pradesh submitted their demands to the Hon'ble MLA and Chairperson, AP Assembly Legislative Committee for Welfare of Women and Children, Chairperson, AP Women Commission and Chairperson, SCPCR, Andhra Pradesh.
- ▲ Children's Report on Status of Sustainable Development Goals developed and submitted to the concerned Departments.







### Children Charter of Demands – Andhra Pradesh

We, the children, urge the government to give high priority to issues related to us as stipulated and present our rights and contributions as per the constitution of India and the Sustainable Development Goals, by considering the following demands:

- All girls should be provided with safe toilet and shower in schools to prevent accidents.
- Past sanitary napkin machines need to be installed for girl students in all the residential and non-residential girls' schools/high schools.
- Attention on reproductive health and sexuality need to be included as part of school curriculum.
- Every school must have:
  - Computer with internet access.
  - Separate toilet for boys and girls with running water.
  - Adequate teaching staff and other facilities like library etc.
  - Community participation in all schools should be ensured to strengthen School Management Committees (SMCs).
  - Opening of additional secondary schools within 5 km to enable universal access, especially for girls.
  - Fresh and nutritious food to be provided in all schools.
  - All children till the age of 18 should be provided free, compulsory and quality education. (Extend the provision of RTE Act from birth to 18 years).
  - Ensure availability of regular public transport to schools especially in rural areas.
- The government should invest adequate budget for child protection and implement the relevant policies.
- Girls and boys should be treated equally and to be provided with equal opportunities to maximize gender balance.
- Job-oriented vocational trainings should be provided immediately after school to improve self-reliance and to be independent.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 has to be implemented strictly to prevent and eradicate child marriages by 2030.
- Include tribal language in tribal areas schools.
- We demand a strong child protection mechanism to monitor the children missing cases and do the follow up.
- The government should create a proper database for child trafficking, abuse of children, missing children and missing fully from local weekly/daily bus/pedestrian bus/child tracking system – Track child.





## GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

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The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) is into 4 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 Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states with



the support of Plan India. It is an global initiative of Plan Internaonal – Plan Netherlands, Terre Des Hommes – Netherlands and Defence for Children – ECPAT Netherlands. The advocacy program targets Government, Private Sector, Communities and Civil Society Organisaons.

Mahita is leading the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) in both the States demanding action on key gender issues and creating awareness on key legislative standards, coordination and convergence and interacting with policy makers in both the States. Under this programme, Mahita and partners have ensured the prevention of

child marriages by working with religious leaders and setting up Girls Forums with membership of 320 girls and promoting young advocates. Mahita has worked on ending gender based violence, child marriage, trafficking for sexual exploitation.

In the year 2019-20 the programme successfully reached with many private companies and Corporate consortiums and influenced them on the importance for investing on girls secondary education. Towards creating Child marriage free Gram Panhayats, Mahita developed the Guidebook for Declaration of Child marriage free Gram Panchayats in collaboration with State Institute of Rural Development-TS.



## OUTCOMES

- ❁ 108 GAA Network CSOs incorporated GAA themes in to their programme priorities and are raising awareness among not only in their target operational areas/communities but also in schools and colleges on the ill effects of child marriages and child trafficking including its legal provisions of penalization. In addition, they are involving in stopping/preventing child marriages along with the CMPOs and child trafficking cases with the support of police.
- ❁ 334 religious and community belonging to various sects and councils from Hindu and Muslim religions have been advocating against solemnization of marriages with their peers as well as creating awareness amongst the larger community on the perils of child marriages.
- ❁ GAA has closely worked with the Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) in Andhra Pradesh in bringing out Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLPCPC)





Manual for the state. The manual has been adopted by the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare, Andhra Pradesh and is in the process of being rolled out by the DCPUs of the 13 districts.

- ❁ The Commissioner, WDCWAP sent to circulars to District Collectors of 13 districts of AP to screen GAA Videos in all cinema theaters as part of increasing awareness on prevention of child marriages and child trafficking among general population in the state of Andhra Pradesh

- ❁ In 2019, Mahita identified 16 Teacher's Unions across both the states so as to strengthen the Convergence with Teachers union helped to put the pressure on the government to increase budgets for secondary education to ensure quality education.

- ❁ In the last two years, we have been working with 394 Youth advocates who have been advocating on behalf of themselves and their peers on issues that affects them the most. They developed a charter of




demands related to their safety, security and accessibility to secondary education such as

- ⚙ Availability of secondary education schools as per stipulated radius
- ⚙ Safety at schools and during transportation is essential
- ⚙ All schools to have sanitary napkins and proper disposal system.
- ⚙ All schools should have separate toilets for girls with running water
- ⚙ Availability of quality vocational training which would ensure that they are employable and are able to have a decent livelihood.
- ⚙ Religious leaders to report any child marriage cases that they are in knowledge of.
- ⚙ Youth advocates have had interface meeting with three main actors- District Administration, CSOs and Religious Leaders and shared their recommendations.
- 🌐 9 Youth Advocates of GAA took over various embassies and Corporates in New Delhi as part of the

International Day of the Girl (IDG) 2019 celebrations. Similarly 18 Youth Advocates took over the positions as Panchayath Sarpanchas (Village Presidents) on the day of IDG. The YAs were able to share their journey as peer leaders and the issues that girl's specific to their geographies face at various embassies and Corporates.

- 🌐 We organized an interface with youth advocates and Corporates in which 110 youth from operational districts participated in the Conclave and interfaced with corporate representatives from the major corporate conglomerates. This gave the youth advocates an opportunity to be able to put forth issues and the aspirations that they face their own initiatives and their own constraints.
- 🌐 In collaboration with GAA, Telangana State Institute of Rural Development (TSIRD) has developed a manual to declare Child Marriages Free Villages and trained village Sarpanches on how to roll it out to ensure child marriage free villages. The manual has been able to reach to more than 500 members of the Panchayat across the state of Telangana



♻️ Mahita and Plan India in collaboration with Media academy of Telangana State, developed Media Protocols Guidebook for sensitive reporting on issues of women and children. About 400 senior journalists in Telangana have been oriented on the protocols. MediaAcademy appealed all the 5000 journalists in the state to carry the media protocol guidebook and encouraged them to report as per the guidelines. In Andhra Pradesh, the guidebook was released in collaboration with the Press Academy and about 120 senior journalists were oriented on the same.



## IMPACT ●●●

- ▲ The Commissioner, WDCWAP sent to circulars to District Collectors of 13 districts of AP to screen GAA Videos in all cinema theaters as part of increasing awareness on prevention of child marriages and child trafficking among general population in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Minorities Welfare Department in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana has sent circulars to Waqf Board, imams, Kazis to address the incidences of child marriages in the Muslim communities.
- ▲ Endowment Department of AP and TS has sent circulars to Executive officers and Archaka Sanghas to display boards declaring that no child marriages will be solemnized in the temples as well as verify age proof of bride and bridegrooms before issuing permission to solemnize marriages.
- ▲ Chairperson, APSCPCR has requested Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to bring out a specific state action plan on child marriages during the consultation

held on 17th Oct 2019. She said that the exclusive Plan of Action on child marriages will help all the departments to work in a synergy to end child marriages in the state of Andhra Pradesh. After followed with WDCW of AP and TS, they have positively responded to have state plan of action on child marriages. We are currently developing the



state plan of action for both the states.

- ▲ Surge Impact was brought on board as a strategic partner, based on their experience and rapport with corporate companies and influencing their CSR activities. With the collaboration with Surge Impact, GAA able to reach out to 40

Corporates, who were also part of the CSR. Of the 40 Corporates approached, only 22 Corporates after a yearlong interface have in principle agreed to invest in activities that would promote Secondary Education and Job Oriented Vocational Trainings for girls and young women in Telangana.



## OUR PARTNERS & COLLABORATIONS

The vision and work of Mahita is aligned and contributes to UNCRC and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as adopted by the United Nations. Towards bringing the quality education among children, gender-transformative outcomes for every girl and the young woman in Mahita's working areas, Mahita had focussed in the year 2019-20 on 6 SDGs out of the 17 SDGs, i.e. No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Quality Education, Gender Equality and Decent Work and Economic Growth.

The target that MAHITA achieved this year sounds quite stupendous. This could be made possible only because it got significant support from a wide range of partners, donors, and other organizations.



# KEY SUPPORTERS

## (PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING )

### 2019-20

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**Plan India**

**Save the Children**

**UNICEF**

**Charity Aid Foundation**

**DKA Austria**

**Manos Unidas**

**ACCENTURE**

**Volunteers (ACCENTURE)**

**Media**

**Women and Child Welfare**

(Govt. of Telangana, Govt. of AP)

**Education Department**

(Govt. of Telangana and Govt. of AP)

**AP Women Commission**

**SCPCR – Telangana**

**SCPCR-Andhra Pradesh**

**Endow Department,**  
Government of TS and Andhra Pradesh

**BC Commission,**  
Government of Telangana

**SC and ST Commission,**  
Government of Telangana

**State Legal Service Authority**  
Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

**Media Academy**  
in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

**Interns**

**NGOs and Networks –**  
**Alliance for Child Rights –**  
AP and TS



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