

Mahita

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As far as human history is concerned, 2020 was one of the most disastrous years across the globe due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The increasing spread of COVID 19 has led to public health emergencies, especially for the elderly and children (below 10 years of age) and has severely impacted the livelihoods for the entire nation, especially for the workers in the unorganised sector. Despite the pandemic, followed by the lockdowns, the Mahita team remained committed to providing humanitarian support for marginalised communities who lost their livelihoods during the pandemic. Apart from COVID 19 relief activities, Mahita has also extended support to children and adolescent girls during the heavy floods in Hyderabad. It has reached 1600 children and young girls through various relief interventions.

Due to the economic shutdown, many daily wage workers were left jobless and were dependent on the government for their survival. Left with little or no money, food, or shelter migrant workers and their families were the most affected. With no help coming and lack of availability of public or private transport, the migrant workers took matters in their own hands. They decided to travel back with their families to their respective native places on foot despite the government's strict orders of not venturing outside.

During the lockdown which caused the post-COVID economic disaster, Mahita extended supporting hands to many marginalised families. Mahita distributed nutritional essentials (dal, rice, oil) and hygiene essentials (soap, personal hygiene products) to 12, 096 individual family members in Hyderabad, Nalgonda and Adilabad districts. Mahita also established a Migrant Help Centre in Adilabad to support the migrant families who were living in Hyderabad and helped them to reach their destination states. The Centre supported nearly 1500 migrants by providing food and other material. This was jointly organised by Mahita and UNICEF in collaboration with the Government of Telangana State.

The digital divide between the urban and rural communities has caused the rural communities to lag behind in accessing vaccinations due to many factors, both sociological and logistical. There are a lot of community apprehensions due to social media rumours and lack of awareness on the issues. Mahita has conducted several Whatsapp meetings with young boys and girls through its MIS System and provided the appropriate information and reached 2000 youth members in Hyderabad.

When schools closed down during the COVID 19 lockdown in Hyderabad, children were upset and unhappy. Suddenly, they were confined to their homes; they could neither play nor could they study all on their own. The new method of education was a mystery to them. Mahita's Digital Educational Centres swung into action during this period in 16 slum areas in Hyderabad . The team of Mahita successfully motivated the parents to give their smart phones to children to continue with their education. We have successfully reached 1500 girl children to conduct the online digital classes in 16 localities in Hyderabad. It is a matter of pride that this transformation has taken place among academic and non-academic girls through Networked Digital Learning Centres, which have benefitted them in improving their life skills, as well. These are the stepping-stones for these girls to achieve their aspirations.

We are also proud that all major programmes related to education, skill development, and COVID relief activities were carried out in accordance with government guidelines. We were able to reach out to those members of the community who were in dire need during the lockdown and provide ongoing assistance in a variety of formats.

We have achieved outstanding results as a result of our coordinated activities with the Alliance for Child Rights' NGO partners in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. We have organised many virtual meetings for coordinating with CSOs and the Government for undertaking the COVID relief activities.

We have been overwhelmed by the support extended by our donors, government officials, and Mahita board members.

We believe that Mahita has both commitment and support from its partner NGOs and Government departments to make sure its goal of enrolling every child especially girls in school and empowering women can be realised. Mahita appreciates the constant support of Board members, funding partners and its friends and well-wishers. Taking the opportunity, we thank to our donor agencies; Plan India, BENEVITY, UNICEF, HSBC Software India Limited, Manos Unidas, DKA Austria, Charities Aid Foundation, NASCOM Foundation, DXC Technology, Sandvik Mining and Rock Technology India Private Limited and many volunteers.

On Behalf of Mahita
RAMESH SEKHAR REDDY .P
Program Director



COVID RESPONSE AND HYDERABAD FLOOD HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

POCO
SHOT ON POCO F1

COVID RESPONSE

The corona virus outbreak is affecting all of us, but only some of us have access to essential services, hygiene facilities and the safety of our homes. The poor and marginalised urban, tribal and fluorosis-affected families in the project areas are facing severe problems in terms of getting the food/ration. The lockdown in the State of Telangana as well as in the project villages and slums has adversely affected the poor families, who did not have any means of income to feed their families during this long lockdown period. In context of the above vulnerabilities and challenges, Mahita reached out to various vulnerable communities and collaborated with the government and various networks to ensure the effective distribution of materials to support the most in need communities. It also raised awareness about the spread of the coronavirus during the first and second wave periods. Migrants from various states and within the state, children, slum communities, women and girls were all included in this effort. In total, Mahita served 12, 096 individuals and provided a variety of food items, dry rations, and medical and health supplies to them.

Mahita took relief measures on high priority basis during this period. The team identified the various marginalised families of migrant construction workers in the slums of Hyderabad, tribal communities in Adilabad and Nalgonda and started to extend the ration support to the families. Mahita successfully adapted its programmes to support their community during the pandemic.



POCO
SHOT ON POCO F1



Providing respite from hunger and depravity

Mahita responded immediately to the most pressing need of the community – hunger. This immediate adaptation in Mahita’s programmes not only helped people to survive when incomes and access to food plunged, but it also helped to build a strong relationship with the communities based on care and trust.

Distributing Relief Items

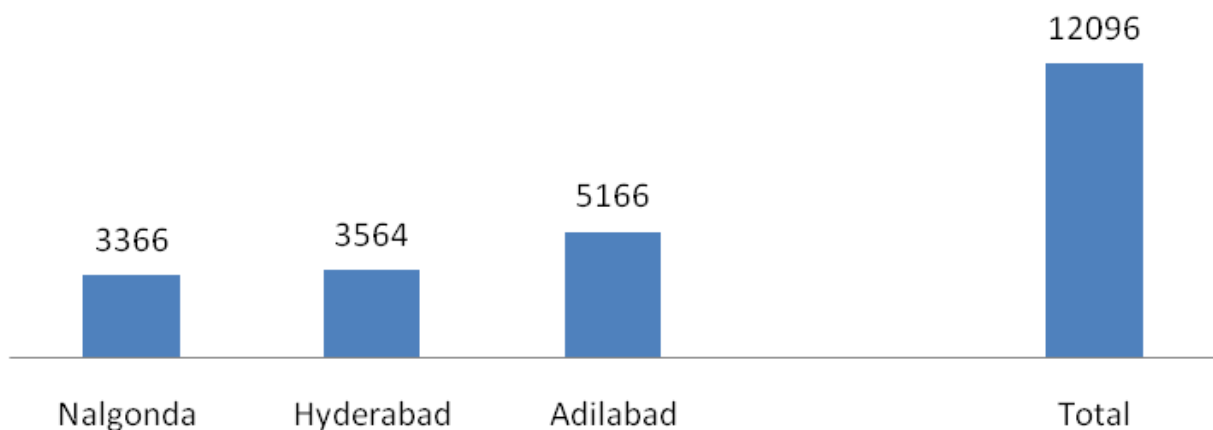
The following is a list of items that were distributed to each family:

- 1) Rice – 5 kg,
- 2) Dal – 1 kg,
- 3) Soaps – 3
- 4) Masks Cloth -10,
- 5) Sanitary Napkins – 20,
- 6) Salt -1 kg,
- 7) Oil – 1 Ltr,
- 8) Tea Powder – 1 kg
- 8) Hand Sanitiser



Dry Ration Support to Individual Family Members

■ Reachout Individual Members





MIGRANT HELP CENTRE - ADILABAD

Mahita has established a Migrant Help Centre in Adilabad with the support of UNICEF, as many migrants from Telangana state took the route home through Adilabad. As a result, Adilabad became a major transit point for migrants. During the lockdown, the government did not provide any assistance to migrants travelling to their respective states. No public or private transportation was available, so the migrants had to return on foot, taking the dangerous highways. The Migrant Help Centre provided the migrants with the assistance they required. Kits with nutritional and hygiene support were distributed to the migrants. Washrooms, resting places, and refreshment kits for both children and women were also provided. Lactating mothers were provided a separate feeding area for their children.

COVID RESPONSE IN HYDERABAD

In collaboration with the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare Development (DWCD), Mahita organised a relief camp at the bus boarding point in Medchal, Hyderabad, and assisted 1,532 migrants from Odisha, Bihar, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and other states who travelled back to their destinations.

The assistance included a rest area with separate freshen up and refreshment kits for children and women, a separate area for was provided to lactating mothers to feed their children, masks, first aid kits for drivers etc.

Similarly, Mahita worked with the Railway Department and the Station Director to secure emergency quota seats for 88 migrants at the Secunderabad Railway Station. Over an eight-day period, several services such as providing train information, food and water were extended to approximately 1600 migrants close to a railway station. Children of migrants were given biscuits and snacks and masks were given to them as well.



Dry Ration to Migrant Construction Workers

During the COVID lockdown, daily wage workers and migrant workers suffered as they lost work and employment. Mahita identified the most marginalised communities among construction workers and provided the dry ration to these families.

CREATED VIRTUAL PLATFORMS

Mahita also created Whatsapp groups of youth members, teachers, NGOs and anganwadi workers and disseminated authentic information to all these groups. Apart from disseminating the material, Mahita also facilitated virtual discussions with these groups and requested these groups to disseminate the proper information to the communities. There were a lot of community apprehensions due to social media rumours and lack of awareness on several issues. Mahita has conducted several Whatsapp meetings with young boys and girls through its MIS System and provided them the appropriate information. It has managed to reach 2000 youth members in Hyderabad.

Mahita also facilitated various organisations and networks and ensured greater participation by disseminating authentic material sourced from the Government of India and disseminated it to 220 CSOs in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Mahita also facilitated discussions on the issues of migrant construction labourers with CSO networks in Mahaboobnagar, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Karimnagar in Telangana, Krishna and Vizag in Andhra Pradesh.



HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT EXTENDED DURING HYDERABAD FLASH FLOODS



Heavy rains and flash floods struck Hyderabad between the 10th and 18th of October. 81 people were killed and over a hundred colonies and slums in Hyderabad got submerged due to the continuous rainfall in the previous two days. Overflowing water bodies inundated the surrounding areas, leaving people without food and water.

To mitigate the impact of floods, UNICEF and Mahita established 10 child-friendly centres for the children and young girls. Hygiene kits were also distributed to the young girls and children at these the child-friendly space centres.

In total, 1,168 kits were distributed, benefiting 1100 family members. Each kit consisted of Face Mask (5 per adolescent x 1000), Bathing soaps (5), Sanitary pads (2), Hand Sanitiser (1). In total 5000 masks, 5000 soaps, 2000 sanitary pads and 1000 sanitisers were distributed. 85 Children between the ages of three and five have been identified and given nutrition food. Because these children visit the centres on a regular basis.

Mahita conducted a study to assess the flood situation in 75 localities in Hyderabad. Sphere India conducted online meetings with all stakeholders, and a tool was developed and administered with the help of volunteers and non-governmental organisations to assess the flood situation. This has helped to address the challenges and gaps in disaster management.



PROGRESS OF THE PROJECTS



Awareness Campaign for fluorosis-mitigation and socioeconomic empowerment of indigenous (tribal) women in Nalgonda District of Telangana State, India – Phase II

Overview of the Project:

Mahita with support from Manos Unidas implemented the above project in Nalgonda District. The Project has taken in 30 fluorosis affected villages from the remote rural area of Nalgonda District towards empowerment of indigenous women through access to safe drinking water, sanitation and other livelihood support. 17 people suffering from skeleton fluorosis and 165 people suffering from bone fluorosis are considered as the direct beneficiaries of the project. Mahita along with officials from the Health Department and District Administration have identified people suffering from bone and skeletal fluorosis. These people suffer from various levels of disability.

During the period the project key strategies such as, I) Community/Social Mobilisation, ii) Capacity Building and Ownership Building, iii) Community Collective Actions to leverage government resource for the socioeconomic empowerment programmes through enhanced women participation in all the aspects, were adopted with an aim to mitigate fluorosis and empower the women members, the project adopted skill building of women and extended livelihood alternatives to tribal women. This created lot of visible impact during the project period, especially during the lockdown as many families depended upon their kitchen gardens for vegetables. The project enhanced the livelihood skills of the tribal women in the project area.

The project successfully reached its set objectives of creating livelihood opportunities of the most marginalised and neglected communities who have been affected with skeleton fluorosis and provided them with livelihood opportunities.

Based on their socioeconomic background, 17 beneficiaries suffering from skeleton fluorosis were identified after consulting the Health Department and District Administration and village sarpanch (village head). Based on the guardians' capabilities and capacity of the beneficiaries' livelihood support was provided. About 8 beneficiaries suffering from skeleton fluorosis were provided with a herd of 3 female goats each. Rearing goats is one of the ways to enhance the financial independence for the poor beneficiaries since goats are easy to raise and maintain. They do not require any particular care, also their reproduction rate is higher (8 months) than other animals.



Case Study

Work from home for better life

Smt. Laxmibhai w/o Shankar is part of the SHG group named Tuljabhai self-help group for 10 years. She is 55 years of age and lives with her husband. Her son migrated to Hyderabad from Narayanpur for better opportunities. With no one to support them economically and few job opportunities for the elderly, she struggles to feed her family.

The Field Coordinator and Community Mobiliser attended the SHGs meeting in her village along with the District Rural Development Authority officials and informed the villagers about schemes and services. The officials motivated the SHG group members about the livelihood opportunities at villages in addition with their regular agricultural labour work. The SHG members have taken loans earlier as well but had not utilised them for the purpose of investment for the business. She inquired about the details of the SRINIDHI loan from the community mobiliser.

The field coordinator identified her craft of producing shells which are used by tribals in their traditional dresses.

She took a loan of Rs 25000/- to purchase material such as shells, bells, stamps and other material under the SRINIDHI Scheme from the bank. She started her own business from home. The material she creates can be used on dresses by tribal people. She produces the material and sells it in nearby villages. People from surrounding villages buy this material from her for designing their dresses. Today, her husband also supports her in her work.

With financial guidance from Mahita, she is able to earn sufficient money for the maintenance of her family. Now she wants to extend her business as per the demand.

She said, "I am very happy now and thankful to Mahita and Manos Unidas organisation for supporting and providing me the financial guidance to support my family."



NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR CHILDREN FROM 30 ANGANWADIS IN THE PROJECT AREA VILLAGES



The Problem

The COVID 19 pandemic has also impacted the health of children particularly nutrition. Majority of the children from government schools and anganwadi centres are dependent on Mid Day Meals with schools and anganwadi centres closed and anganwadis and other frontline workers have been directed to address COVID 19 issues the children access to nutrition has been affected. Due to closure of schools and anganwadi centres, children are forced to stay at home without access to education and nutrition food. This led to severe malnutrition issues among the children, as the directly or indirectly effect the health of the children. As per the government



instructions some dry ration is to be distributed to the children through their families and due to many administrative reasons, the food is not reaching the children. Around 350 children need the nutritious food as this is one of the major gaps that we have identified from April 2020 to the present.

Beneficiaries of the Programme

With the support of Manos Unidas, Mahita had initiated a community-based prevention programme to address the issue of fluorosis. The project has taken in 30 fluorosis-affected villages of the remote rural area of Nalgonda District. It aims at empowering of indigenous women through access to safe drinking water, sanitation and other livelihood support. 17 people suffering from skeleton fluorosis and 165 bone people suffering from fluorosis affected people are considered as the direct beneficiaries of the project. The victims who have been affected by bone and skeletal fluorosis have been identified by Mahita along with officials from the Health Department and District Administration. Fluorosis-affected people suffer from various levels of disability.



EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN HYDERABAD CITY



Mahita-Plan India with the support of Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited (PNBHFL) has initiated a project in 2019 and continued up to March 2020, to support the children of migrants in spheres of education, nutrition and health at 14 centres at 7 construction sites in the outskirts of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts. Over the period, the project supported 1,538 children (758 boys; 780 girls) in the age group of 3 to 14 years (who otherwise have no access to any education or recreation and were completely denied a childhood). 160 lactating mothers, and 37 pregnant mothers also received support as part of the project. Out of the total children, more than 80% have never enrolled into school and 13% of the children have dropped out of school between 1st and 3rd grades.

However, the good impact created by Mahita-Plan India and PNBHFL had a major setback due to the COVID 19 pandemic. During the pandemic, the entire gamut of economic activities including construction came to a halt leaving the migrant workers without work and money. The crisis reached its zenith when chaos, confusion, and uncertainty-like situation arose among the migrant workers. Due to the lockdown, there was no work and a majority of the workers left the sites.

Hence, the centres were shut down and did not function from April 2020 onwards in strict adherence to COVID protocols. However, the team visited the sites and created awareness on COVID-related activities.



NETWORKED DIGITAL LEARNING CENTRE - EMPOWERMENT THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR GIRL CHILDREN

As is revealed in a number of studies, the level of learning of children studying in Government/State-run schools is very low and because of this many girls are dropping out from the schools. With a view to addressing this issue and enhancing the level of learning of the girl children who are studying in grades 8th to 10th in Government Schools, Mahita and Plan India with support from DXC Technology initiated a Digital Learning Project. This project is intended to enhance their academic skills through digital learning process. The entire process run through digitalised course content via LAN. It is relayed to the classrooms and contains lessons and solved examples. The idea is to provide the subject matter in audio-visual format. The Digital Learning Centres (DLC) have contributed to accelerated learning opportunities for girls and young women within their own communities. The project was initiated to bridge the learning gap. It also acknowledged that school-based education needs to be supplemented with innovative technology solutions.



The Project started from December 2020 and has been implemented in 14 localities/slums and in 2 State Homes for girl children in Hyderabad. Mahita has taken special permission to run the centres in the State Homes for providing educational opportunities to children in conflict with law. All the centres are connected to the main hub at Mahita Office through LAN System. The hub has been established with all facilities and have qualified faculties for teaching through digital technology. Apart from the academic sessions the programme is focusing more on imparting life skills to the girls who are attending the classes.



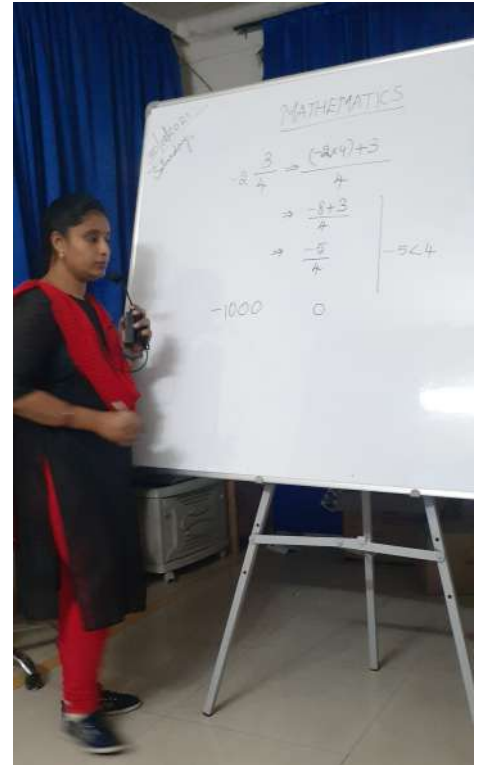
Mahita ensured that all the Government norms and precaution measures for institutions we being followed at our centers when the girls come there. Due to the increase in COVID cases, the Telangana State Government in ordered all the schools & educational institutions to be shut down until further orders in March 2021. We too had shut down all the centers from 24th March 2021.

Due to COVID 19 lockdown based on the increase of the COVID cases from March, 2021, the Centre started online classes for the students having smart phones & internet facility. Since then, girls having smart phones & internet facility had started attending the online classes through Zoom app from their home . Some girls had a smart phone but couldn't afford to have an internet connection and therefore were unable to attend the online sessions through Zoom. Around 691 girls couldn't attend the online session due to non-availability of smart phones & internet facility. The centres successfully enrolled 1,534 girls for both academic & non-academic support from DLC in 14+2 locations.

పేద విద్యార్థినులకు ఉచిత ట్యూషన్ క్లాసులు



అంబర్ పేట (ఆదాల్ హైదరాబాద్): మహిత, ప్లాన్ ఇండియా, డీఎక్స్ టెక్నాలజీస్ స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల ఆధ్వర్యంలో తిలక్ నగర్ చౌరస్తాలోని హెవెస్టీ మస్జిద్ జిమ్ ఎదురుగా ఉన్న భవనంలో పేద విద్యార్థినులకు ఉచిత ఆన్లైన్ ట్యూషన్ క్లాసులను నిర్వహిస్తున్నారు. ప్రభుత్వ పాఠశాలలలో చదువుతున్న విద్యార్థినులకు, డ్రాప్ అవుట్స్ కు ఈ కేంద్రంలో ఉచితంగా క్లాసులను నిర్వహిస్తున్నారు. 7వ తరగతి నుంచి 10 తరగతి వరకు చదువుతున్న విద్యార్థులకు ప్రతిరోజు మధ్యాహ్నం 2 గంటల నుంచి సాయంత్రం 7 గంటల వరకు ఉచితంగా ట్యూషన్ క్లాసులు చెబుతున్నారు. ఇంగ్లీష్, ఫిజిక్స్, బయోలోజీ, మాథ్స్ డీవర్సు ఆన్లైన్ ద్వారా విద్యార్థులకు క్లాసులు బోధిస్తున్నారు. ప్రస్తుతం ఈ కేంద్రంలో 60 మంది విద్యార్థినులకు ఆన్లైన్ తరగతులకు హాజరవుతున్నారని ప్రాజెక్ట్ కో ఆర్డినేటర్ సదానంద్ తెలిపారు. ఉచిత ట్యూషన్ క్లాసులకు హాజరుకావాలనుకునే విద్యార్థినులు తిలక్ నగర్ చౌరస్తాలోని హెవెస్టీ మస్జిద్ జిమ్ ఎదురుగా ఉన్న కేంద్రానికి తమ ఆధార్ కార్డు తీసుకుని వచ్చి పేరు నమోదు చేయించుకోవాలని ఆయన కోరారు.



EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION



The Empowerment of Girls through Education Project started in November 2020. Mahita with the support of Plan India started a project to empower girls through education in 20 government schools and 15 anganwadi centres in Patancheru Block of the Sangareddy District of Telangana. The project is supported by Sandvik Mining and Rock Technology India Private Limited for a period of 3 years starting October 2020 to March 2023.

The project moved in the right direction from its inception onwards. The endeavour is to develop a rapport with the Education Department, DWCD and SCERT and got the official letters to initiate an intensive community campaign for enrolment of 'out-of-school' children. Remedial centres were started for improving the level of learning of the dropout children.

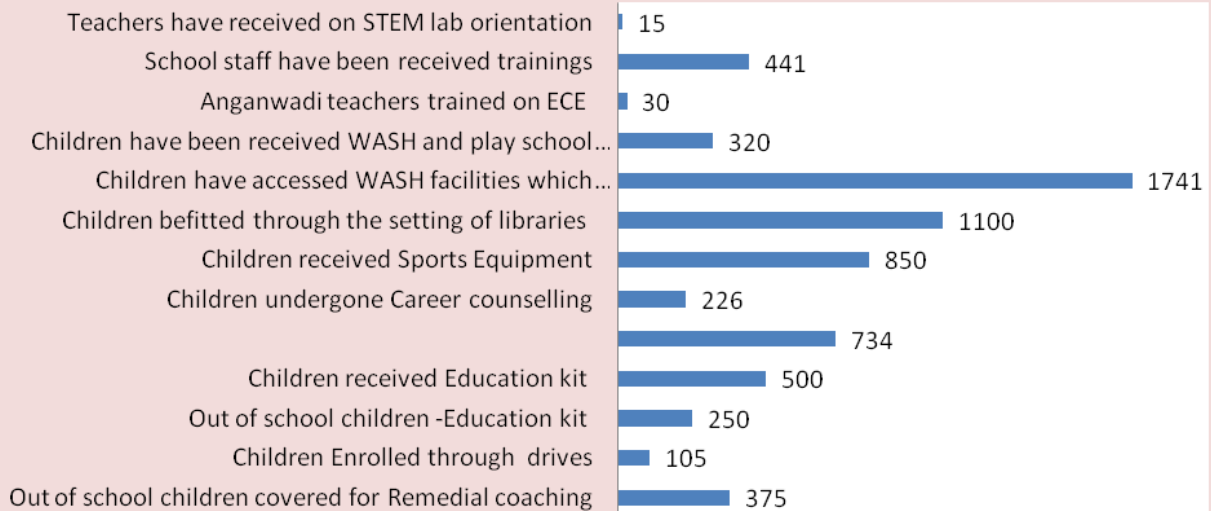
On the basis of the baseline study, the project initiated the Civil works in 5 Government Schools and 4 anganwadi centres for improving the WASH facilities. We have successfully developed the training modules on Life Skills, Menstrual Hygiene Management and TLM. These are high quality resources. The establishment of STEM Labs and orientation of the teachers on STEM Curriculum will yield results in the coming days. The improved WASH facilities in schools will bring back the smiles among the girl children. The beautification of the anganwadi centres will attract more children.

The Key Outcomes for the period of October 2020 to March, 2021

- 250 'out-of-school' children are prepared for school enrollment through remedial classes.
- 810 girls and boys (250 'out-of-school' girls & 560 children regular to school) benefit from basic educational support.
- 5 Anganwadi centres have improved WASH facilities and child-friendly atmosphere.
- TLM for foundational learning is developed & 5 anganwadi centres have TLM and play materials.
- 5 government schools have libraries along with improved WASH facilities.
- Conduct of reading and writing activities in 5 schools for improving Maths and reading and writing skills.
- STEM Curriculum is developed in coordination with the State Government of Telangana.
- Children in 2 High Schools have STEM labs.
- Curriculum and materials on Life Skill education for children has been developed.
- Curriculum and materials on MHM have been developed.
- 300 adolescent girls will be trained on MHM.



Impact and Results



MANASA'S EDUCATIONAL STATUS WAS TRANSFORMED BY REMEDIAL CLASSES...

K. Manasa, 14 years old, from Chaithanya Nagar Colony, Patancheru mandal, Sangareddy District, comes from a poor family consisting of father Jangaiah and mother Renuka, as well as two sisters. Since she comes from a poor family, she was unable to obtain access to a television or a mobile phone at home, and due to the pandemic situation, she was unable to attend school and had to discontinue her education in Grade 7 due to the lockdown.

Manasa wanted to continue her studies, but her poor parents couldn't help her because they were financially helpless. She shared her situation with our GEE project staff and frontline workers, who were also aware of her reasons for discontinuing her education. She also spoke with her parents and motivated them to allow her to continue her education.

Manasa was brought to join the remedial classes started by Mahita and Plan India under the GEE Project after the survey was completed. The remedial teacher assessed her in Telugu, Hindi, English, Social Studies, and Math subjects at the outset. It was discovered that she was unable to write basic level questions. Based on the assessment, she was taught the fundamentals such as varnamaala, two-letter words, identification of names using pictures in Telugu, alphabets, writing of small words, reading of small sentences in English in addition to numbers, basic arithmetic operations in Maths reading of small words in Hindi, and basics of Social Studies. To help her improve further, worksheets were given to her as part of daily practice, and she was also required to read and write the paragraphs on a daily basis. Gradually, her reading and writing skills improved as a result of her visits to our remedial classes and then she enrolled in Grade 8 at Patancheru Girls ZPHS.

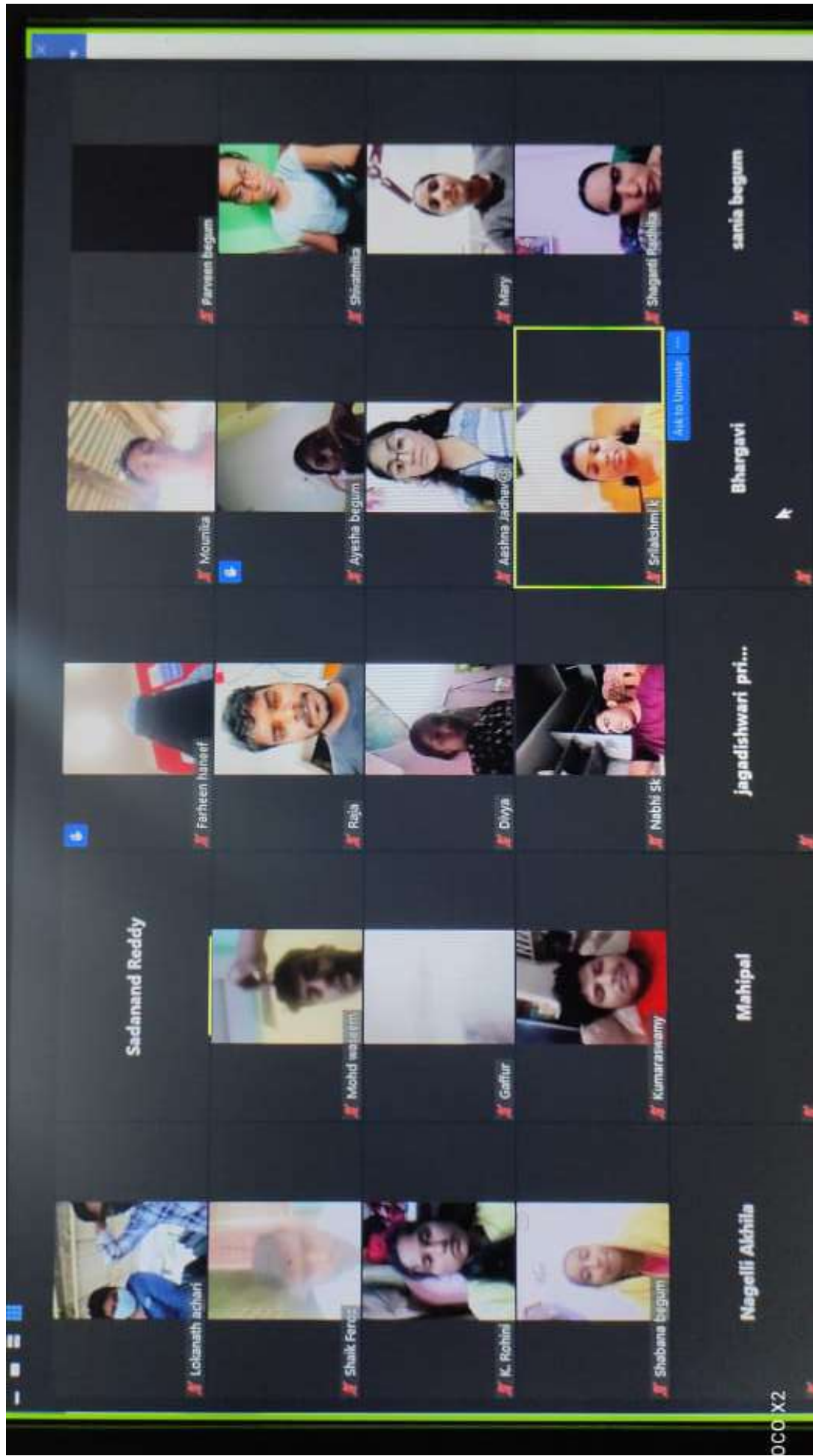


SAKSHAM YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The SAKSHAM Youth Economic Empowerment Project was launched in Hyderabad in collaboration with Plan India, with the stated goal of providing employment opportunities to young men and women from poor and disadvantaged communities through Job Oriented Vocational Training based on the principles of Decent Work (JOVT). It was hoped that this effort would empower 600 young people aged between 18 and 35 from disadvantaged communities in Hyderabad.

The majority of beneficiaries, particularly girls, come from the poorest of the poor/BPL families which have a single source of income and struggle to make ends meet. These girls have earned the respect of not only their family members, but also of their neighbours and friends.







The project covered unemployed youth between 18 and 35 years, living in 91 slums in 6 mandals of Hyderabad District. Majorly, 3 job-oriented vocational training programmes were conducted, based on the need assessment by the unemployed youth. IT/ITES (Tally, Basic Computers), Beauty and Wellness, and Retail Store Management and also impart life skills and soft skills training was imparted to all the candidates.

IT/ITES trainings: In accordance with the current COVID situation, candidates were offered online training. This training covered fundamental computer skills, such as typing MS-Office, Microsoft, Tally solutions, and web technologies. A total of 119 candidates (58 men and 61 women) were trained.

Beauty & Wellness: This course is designed for all females who are passionate about beautifying themselves and sharing their skills with clients. There were 101 female candidates in total who were trained in this programme.

225 young people were enrolled, and 220 were trained in two batches. The online trainings were of a duration of 2 hours per day, six days a week. Lectures, Guest Lectures by special invitees, and presentations were all part of the methodology (by the trainees). Assessment tests were used to track their progress. The placement process is also ongoing, and 101 people have been placed in various private sector companies. 51 candidates (31 male and 20 female) have been hired in the IT sector, while 50 female candidates have been hired in the Beauty and Wellness domain.

The trainings produced positive outcomes and impacts such as improved trainee career prospects, positive change in parents' attitudes towards girls' employment, improved financial security, increased economic independence among the girls, improved budgeting skills, enhanced self-esteem, breaking family stereotypes, and so on. The results of the interventions have been quite positive.

This has benefitted low-income families in particular. They have also started taking part in financial decisions. Most importantly, the social image of the girl child has improved. It is hoped that these changes will last.

During the implementation of the project, Mahita has faced several challenges such as lockdown due to COVID, lack of transportation, which made it difficult to place candidates. A number of candidates were dissatisfied with their salaries and stated that they had expected to be paid Rs 20,000 or more. It was explained to them that such an expectation was unreasonable given that it was their first job and that they would be able to reach greater heights after gaining experience.

Impact and Results



Case Study

Making the correct decision at the correct time empowered Meena navigates a skillful course to keep income alive.

Ms. Meena (name changed) D/o Gundappa, aged 21 comes from a very low-income family. She lives with her parents, three sisters and three sons. She is the youngest member of the family, and both of her elder sisters are married.

Due to the lockdown, her family began to face a slew of issues as a result of her parents' inability to work. She did not want to be reliant on her parents and wished to stand on her own. She has completed Intermediate and wishes to pursue a B. Tech degree. As a result, she decided to work to pay for her higher education and to assist her family financially.



She wanted to learn skill development programmes but they were very expensive and she could not afford them. However, through a friend, she learned about the Saksham Centre, which provides free training and placements. She investigated right away and enrolled in the beautician course. Due to the COVID pandemic, she attends classes on a regular basis through the virtual medium and has learned various beautician techniques such as hair and body spa, hair and body massage, different facials, and so on. She practiced all the techniques at home on a regular basis.

She was hired at Aada Beauty Salon after completing her training. She was offered a salary of Rs 8,000 per month, and she also began taking orders and working as a freelancer to supplement her income and help her overcome her financial difficulties.

Meena stated, "I am very happy because now I can stand on my own two feet without being a burden to my parents and I can also help my family financially." "I am grateful to DXC Plan Saksham for providing free training and placement services. Saksham Training Centre is a blessing for people like me who come from low-income families because beautician training outside costs between Rs 20,000 and Rs 30,000, which people like me cannot afford. Saksham Trainers and Staff are extremely helpful; they have always responded, motivated, and assisted me. I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mahita for providing opportunities for my economic development," Meena said.



EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS BY PROVIDING EMPLOYABLE SKILLS FOR ENHANCING FAMILY INCOME

Mahita with the support of DKA Austria has initiated the project to economically uplift the population of adolescent girls and young women in the old city of Hyderabad. The project targets adolescent girls and young women and provides them skills in any one of the following fields: a. Computer b. Tailoring/Fashion Designing/Jute bag making and c. Beautician /Mehendi.

These girls have little or no opportunity to improve or gain skills and that makes them potential victims to early/child marriages or trafficking for work. Majority of times they get married early and are dependent on their husbands. They do not have the necessary skills to find a decent job and support their family economically. Hence, to address this situation the project aims to provide a platform to the adolescent girls and young women to gain new livelihood skills so that it can make them economically independent and increase physical mobility and exposure to the world.





Till date the project has reached approximately 6036 beneficiaries, of which about 50% have found employment. These girls are earning between INR 5000 and INR 12000 per month. The project has been impacted by COVID 19 lockdown as the training centres were closed for a period of 3 months nearly. This has also impacted the recruitment of new beneficiaries.

There have been many challenges especially during the lockdown and in compliance to the post-lockdown norms, we have closed the centres. Due to COVID 19 lockdown the companies/shops/establishments have not yet opened as the spread of COVID 19 has been increasing in Hyderabad by the day. But in case of girls completed their training to be beauticians and fashion designers have started become self-employed and are taking orders and working independently by taking safety measures during COVID 19.

However, we have successfully completed online courses and taken the support from alumni and children’s parents to provide their smart phones.

These courses have been offered through 3 livelihood centres and all the centres have been set up in such locations that are safe for women and young girls and they have easy access to public transport. These courses are popular among female candidates and those who are taking these courses are highly probable to get employment. The course duration has been defined between 3 and 6 months, depending upon the class content. These girls are earning between INR 5000 – INR 12000 per month. But due to COVID 19 pandemic all over the world and in Telangana all the girls lost their jobs during the lockdown period and are now slowly resuming work. The major outcome of the project was that not only did the adolescent girls gain financial freedom, but there was also an improvement in their physical mobility. They also started having more say in family decisions, especially decisions concerning their future. This recent economic freedom has resulted in reduction in number of child marriages among minority communities in the slums.





Case Study

Ms. SYEDA FOUSIA FATIMA

Ms. Syeda Fousia Fatima, D/o Syed Ibrahim, aged 20 years is from Tallagadda, Karwan. Her father had his own business and they lived happily. But suddenly there were losses in business and quarrels in partnership.

Thus, they had to start from scratch and Syeda could not continue her studies. The family size increased by 2 members as she had a sister and a brother. They were enrolled into a government school in Hyderabad. Her father asked her seek employment in a beauty parlour as she was sitting idle at home. Her father started getting marriage proposals for her at the age of 15. Her father immediately stopped sending her outside and suggested her to continue her studies and enrolled her in tuitions as well. She appeared for the SSC exams as a private student and cleared it in the first attempt. She completed her Intermediate also from Anwar-ulnoom and wanted to study further but could not continue because of family problems.

As she was interested but could not study, she wanted her siblings to continue their education. Her father suggested her to resume her career as a beautician and enrolled her in UrbanClap by paying Rs 3,000. She attended classes for 10 days and they told to pay Rs 30,000 for kit and to get orders. As they could not afford to pay the money she had to quit her engagement with UrbanClap.

She came across an awareness campaign held at Karwan and came to know about free training. She found it to be the best opportunity to get training and placement by doing the beautician course. It became her passion. She learnt many new hairstyles, hair spa, and different types of facials and upgraded her beautician skills. She learnt to communicate effectively with customers with the help of life skill sessions.

With firm determination to support her family she started giving home services to her neighbours, relatives and became popular due to her work quality. She did not want to work in a parlour due to the extended working hours and a fixed starting salary of Rs 5,000. She is currently earning between Rs 500 and Rs 1,500 daily.



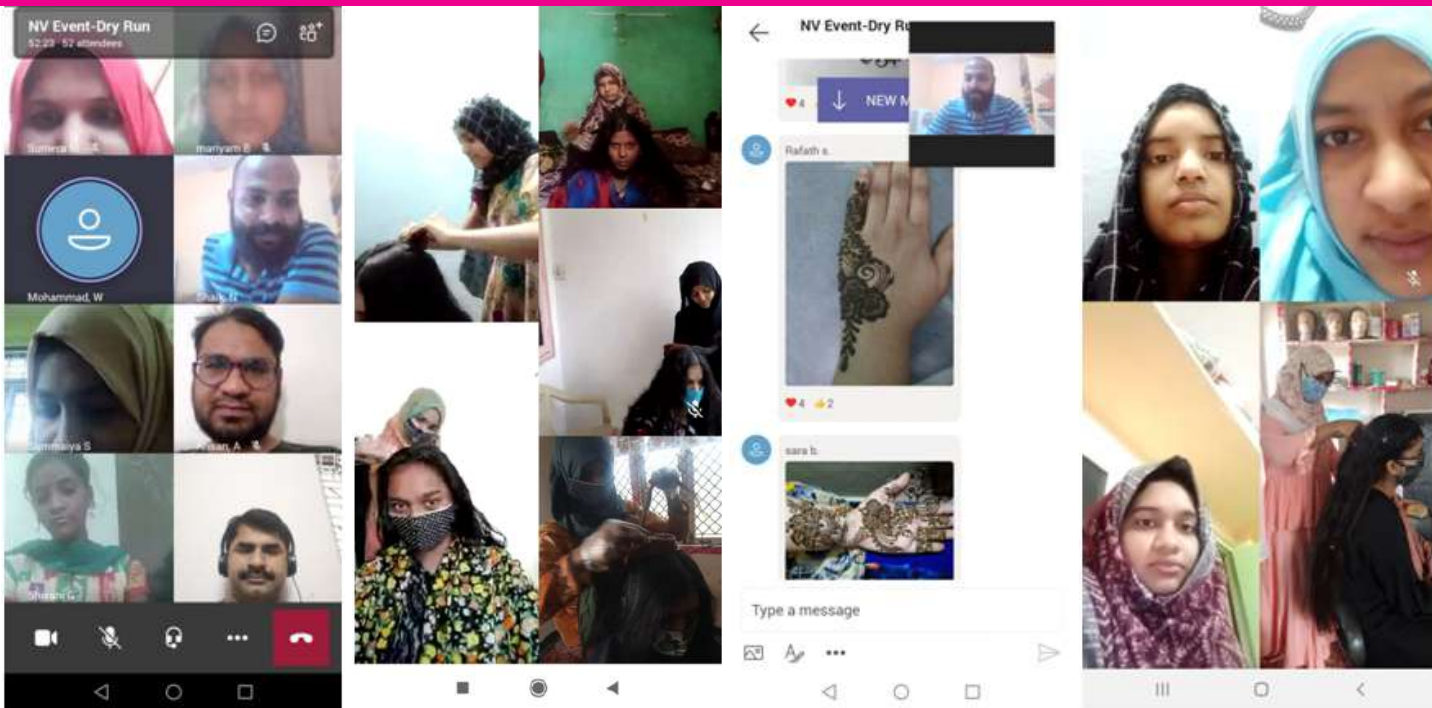
MITHRA-FROM SKILLS TO SUCCESS – LIVELIHOOD TRAINING TO ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN THE OLD CITY OF HYDERABAD



The project supported by Accenture through NASCOM Foundation for providing employable skills to young girls in Asifnagar area of Hyderabad. Girls in their adolescence are growing up in a changing world. Technology, employment, livelihoods, skill enhancement, and conflict are reshaping society, requiring people all over the world to adapt to unexpected changes in their lives and work. The COVID crisis, in particular, has been a challenge for employment, skill upgradation, and earning components, which are necessary to meet daily needs in urban and slum areas alike.

Taking that into consideration, Mahita has extended support to 'Mithra From Skills to Success – Livelihood training to adolescent girls in Hyderabad's old city.' The key aim of the programme is to empower adolescent girls through skill trainings, thereby generating employment for their overall development, and to provide adolescent girls with need and demand-based livelihood skill trainings, career guidance, and counseling.

84 girls in total have received training in basic computer operations, and a majority of them are interested in working in private establishments as Front Office Executives, Data Entry Operators, Tele Callers, Receptionists, and so on, and are attending interviews.



During the past year, 112 girls have completed Tailoring/Fashion Designing training, and many have started home-based work on their own. They have begun taking orders from local entrepreneurs and are able to meet basic family needs with their earnings. Girls have shown a strong interest in fashion designing as well. Both of these courses allow students to work from home and start their own businesses, so enrollment is done through alumni referrals.

During the one-year course, 124 girls successfully completed the Beautician Course/Mehndi training, and some of them have gone on to work as beauticians in beauty parlours. Many of the girls who did the fashion designing course intend to open their own boutiques. Mahita has been working on facilitating loans for the establishment of such businesses by linking them to government schemes.

Because of COVID, many people, including parents, were afraid to send their daughters to the centre. Gender discrimination against girls/women, violence, and so on have consequences for them as well as for the future generations. Mahita addressed these apprehensions by establishing Self Units. Imparting lifeskills, communication skills, and facilitating exposure visits could help girls not only to improve their career prospects, but also prepare them to face life's challenges with confidence.

All these measures could boost their confidence levels and enable them to negotiate and navigate the ways of life with greater ease and self-assurance. Also, by contributing to the family income, these girls are able to carve out a place for themselves in their family and that was previously unattainable.



Case Study

GAFOOR BEE'S LIFE HAS TRANSFORMED BY THE BEAUTICIAN COURSE

Gafoor Bee was interested in doing the beautician course and enrolled in it. She began by learning mehendi and then progressed to learning the other aspects of being a beautician. She started her own parlour after successfully completing the training. In addition she also provided home services which provided her with an additional income. Gafoor is currently earning between Rs 5,500 and 6,500/- per month. Her husband supports her and she did not face any major challenges. All her customers were courteous and paid on time. She has learnt to communicate with customers, negotiate prices, and deal with credit-paying customers so that she receives the money on time.

She says, 'I am very happy that with my earnings, I can pay my children's fees, and my husband is very proud that I support my family.' She also stated, "We would like to thank Mahita for assisting me by providing me with skills and changing my family situation and helping me resolve my problems gradually."





COVID-19: CHILD RIGHTS IN AP & TS: STATUS AND ACTIONS

There is uncertainty of future actions concerning children and the situation is still very unclear due to COVID 19. This has made the children more vulnerable. Routine service delivery has also been disrupted as the focus of all healthcare functionaries is on COVID activities leading to preventive healthcare, ECE, and anganwadis services have taken a back seat. With a view to capture the in views and aspirations of children, a network programme has been launched in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by Mahita and Alliance for Child Rights with the support of UNICEF.

Mahita is the focal point for a larger civil society network 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. It is meaningful and important for ACR (Alliance on Child Rights) as a large CSO Platform with UNICEF support, to address COVID issues across the two states. ACR/Mahita initiated a campaign in the two states to understand the situation of the children with relation to their nutrition, education protection and other vulnerabilities.



REACH OF THE CAMPAIGN

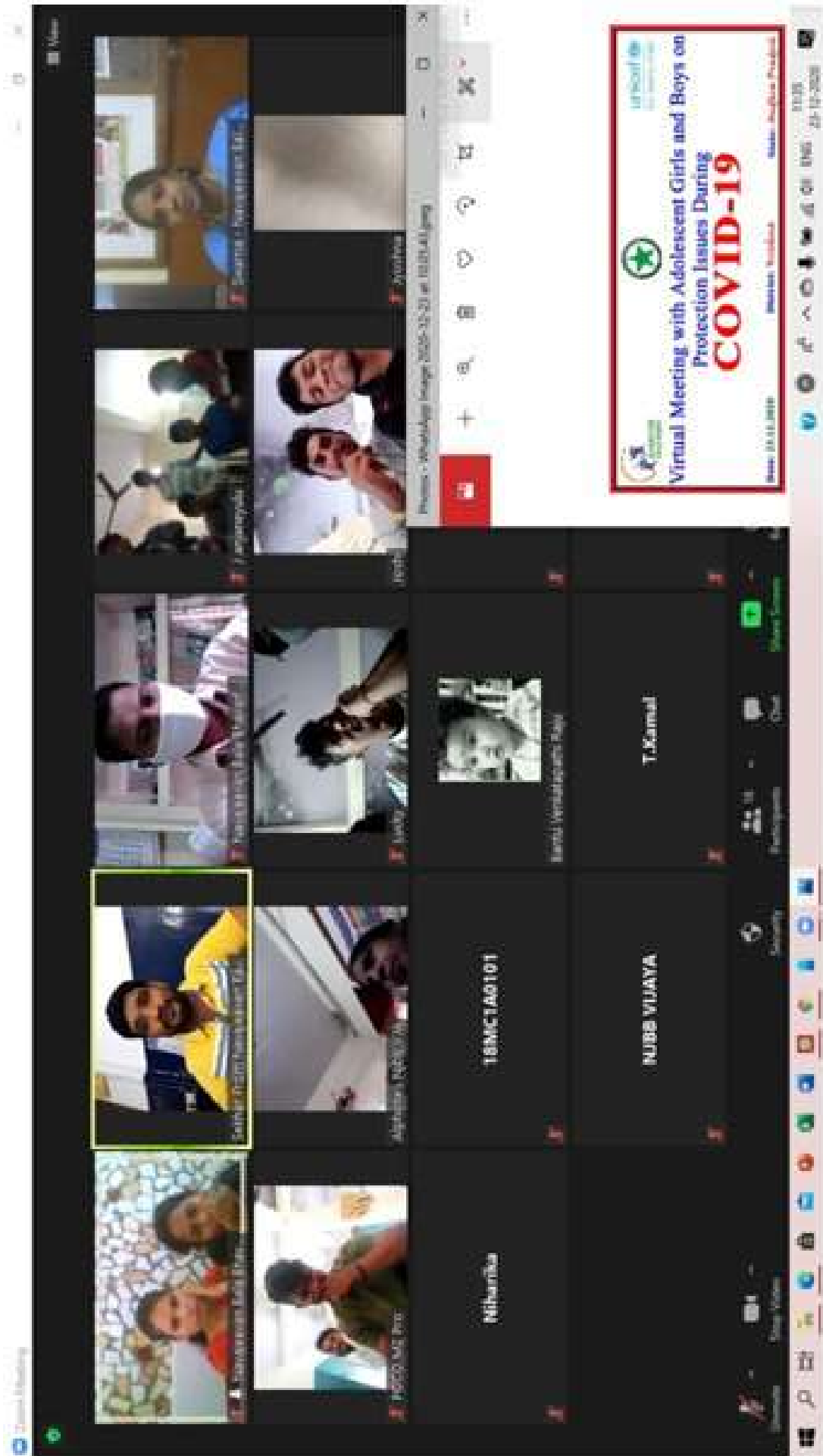
Largely in two States i.e., Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and intensively in 6 districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with ACR partner NGOs.

Outcomes:

1. The programme 'COVID 19 & CHILD RIGHTS IN AP & TS: STATUS & ACTIONS' was launched in both the states on 11th November, 2020. Around 191 CSOs were part of the virtual launching in both the States. The programme was launched by Ms. Pragna Parande, Hon'ble Member, NCPCR. Ms. Shabha Rani, Member, Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Ms. Shailaja, Joint Director, DWCD, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Ms. Meital Rusdia, Chief of UNICEF, Mr. Prosun Sen, Communication Specialist, Mr. Ashok Reddy, Senior Faculty Member, SCERT, Govt. of Telangana, Ms. G. Sunanda, Secretary, Telangana State Women Commission were part of the launching programme.
2. CHILDREN TAKE OVER CAMPAIGN: 14TH November to 20th November, 2020: The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Week – celebrated between 14th and 20th November – is a global occasion of action for children, by children and is celebrated every year to mark the adoption of the Convention on 20th November 1989, the World Children's Day. World Children's Day 2020 was observed under very different circumstances due to the Coronavirus pandemic. During the Kids take over, the children raised many issues.

These included: i) School Safety, ii) Digital Divide for online classes, iii) Child Marriages, iv) Nutritional problems during the pandemic, v) Issues pertaining to Girl Children, vi) Right to Play, v) Right to Health, vi) Child Labour, vii) Women and Girls Safety, viii) School Infrastructure, ix) COVID 19 health support from Government, x) Climate Change and impact on children and finally xi) Establishment of Safe Schools across both the states. Around 1200 children were part of the campaign through participation of 250 NGOs in 450 villages.







COVID 19 Impact Tool:

This survey has been taken up by 10 partners in Telangana and 6 partners in Andhra Pradesh. And this has been taken up even in Model of Excellence villages. 50 formats to conduct survey with the children and parents of the same household have been shared with each ACR partner. Initially it was planned to reach 360 children in both the states, however, after discussing with the ACR partners, the intent was to reach more children. Hence, we have covered 900 children.

Social Security Schemes:

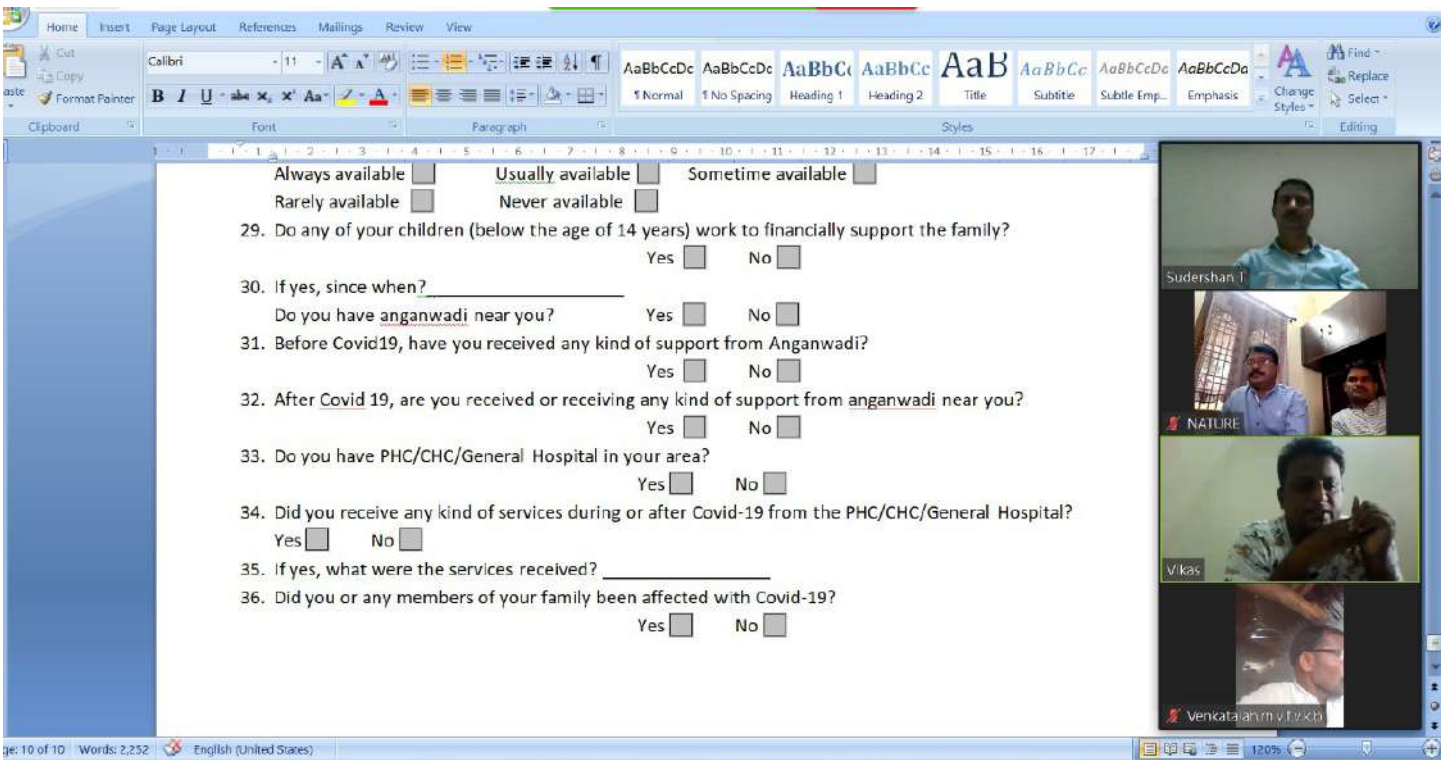
In order to find out the magnitude of impact and benefits to the community we administered this survey in the Gram Panchayat. Each ACR partner has been given 10 Gram Panchayats/Gram Sachivalayas in their respective areas. A separate schemes tool has been developed for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as there are different schemes being implemented by the state governments. Initially it was planned for 90 Gram Panchayats in both the states, however, after reviewing and discussing with ACR partners, we have selected 180 Gram Panchayats and administered the tool in all of them. Consolidation work is currently in progress.

Protocols Developed for Anganwadis and Schools with respect to COVID

A simple Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed for safeguarding children and capacitating communities and practitioners of childcare personnel. The purpose of this SOP is to continue to support communities, local leadership in education, health and other line departments collaborating with schools in creating policies for safe schools during the COVID 19 pandemic that foster the overall health of children, adolescents, educators, staff, and communities and are based on available evidence.

Network with other NGOs in the District

COVID 19 & CHILD RIGHTS IN AP: STATUS & ACTIONS PROJECT is being implemented by Alliance for Child Rights in collaboration with APACR & TSACR. In Andhra Pradesh, the APACR in collaboration with its network members from 13 districts nearly 260 NGOs, are advocating for child safety as schools are reopening, they are ensuring compliance of safety protocols that are necessary in reaching out to the social welfare schemes, implementation of midday meals is regularly monitored by these NGOs. The alliance partners are also regularly taking up awareness programmes to the community members and distributing masks, sanitisers and other necessary protection equipments.



GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) is into the 5th year 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 a global initiative of Plan International – Plan Netherlands, Terre Des Hommes – Netherlands and Defence for Children – ECPAT Netherlands. The advocacy programme targets government, private sector, communities and civil society organisations. 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 forums for girls 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 many private companies and corporate consortiums and brought out the importance for investing on girls' secondary education. With an aim to create Child Marriage-free Gram Panchayats, Mahita developed the Guidebook for Declaration of Child Marriage-free Gram Panchayats in collaboration with State Institute of Rural Development-TS.



Due to the new FCRA Amendment, the programme has been stopped from 1st October 2020 onwards and the following outcomes are from April 2020 to March 2021. The lockdown started from March 2020 onwards in India and post-COVID protocols came into play. Mahita has not initiated physical activities but has initiated many virtual meetings with the partner NGOs and other stakeholders.

The following are the outcomes of the Interventions:

- Since COVID 19 is spreading relentlessly, GAA has started a WhatsApp group for the youth advocates to educate them on prevention and safeguard of COVID 19. Through this digital group, authenticated information on COVID and information related to GBV is being shared. 83 youth advocates are part of this digital group and they have shared information with 747 people in which family members and peers are included.
- With an aim of honouring the frontline workers including law enforcement officers, Police, health personnel, psychologists, government officials and several others who directly and indirectly invest efforts in saving women and children from being trafficked either for bonded labour or sexual

A WEBINAR WITH YOUNG GIRLS ON THE OCCASION OF **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY**

CHIEF GUEST



Ms. PRAGNA PARANDE
HON'BLE MEMBER
NCPDR

KEY SPEAKERS



Mrs. C. ANASUYA
DY. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Cyberabad Police Commissionarate



Dr. SUCHARITHA
PRESIDENT
Nalgonda Obstetric Gynec Society



Smt. Dr. M. SUNEETHA
PROGRAM MANAGER
Sakhi-PMU

SPECIAL GUESTS



Mr. J. SRINIVASA RAO
HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON
TSCPCR



Ms. AILA BANDAGI
ASSOCIATE- INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
Institute for Transportation and
Development Policy (ITPD),
Chennai



Ms. MYTREYI KONDAPI
CO-FOUNDER
Startoon Labs Private Limited
Hyderabad



Mr. P. DAVID RAJ
SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER
CPRC-UNICEF



Mr. SAMARTH PATHAK
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
(South Asia) and Regional
Focal Point-Education for
Justice-UNODC



Mr. RAMESH SEKHAR REDDY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Mahita Organization



Dr. SHALINI PRABHATA
MANAGER
PlanIndia



Mr. T. SUDERSHAN
STATE COORDINATOR
Mahita Organization

exploitation, a webinar with stakeholders was organised by Mahita – Plan India under the aegis of Girls Advocacy Alliance on the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30.

- Observation of the International Day of the Youth in the states of AP and TS on 12th August 2020. In AP, the International Youth Day State Level observed the day very meaningfully, where the speakers and the YAs, CSOs deliberated their views perspectives around the theme 'Youth Engagement for Global Action' given by the UN. The participants had expressed the theme was appropriate in a given pandemic situation. The guests on the occasion were Smt. Seetharatnam, Professor, Vishakapatnam. Sr. Sahaya Mary, HOD, Social Work Dept. Maris Stella College, Vijayawada. Shri Jonathan Wycliff, Professor, Youth Trainer, Kurnool. In Telangana, the guests were Ms. Pragna Parande - Member, NCPCR, Mr. Srinivas Rao -



A WEBINAR ON



ROLE OF CSOs ON CHILD PROTECTION

DATE : MAY 28



J Srinivas Rao
Chairperson
TSCPCR



K Ashok Reddy
Faculty Member
SCERT



P David Raj
Senior Program Manager
Child Protection, CPRC, UNICEF

Session 1

LINK 1: <https://bit.ly/2LZIpXn>

Meeting ID: 799 5959 2153

Password: 3ZzJg9

Time : 11 am

Session 2

LINK 2: <https://bit.ly/3d2ZnAd>

Meeting ID: 720 1120 5308

Password: 9Hi6qa

Time : 11:40 AM

Chairperson TSCPCR, Mr. Samarth Pathak, UNODC, Mrs. C. Anasuya- CDP- Cyberabad Commisionerate, Dr Sucharita - Nalgonda Obsteric Gynaec Society, Aila Bandagi- Inclusive Development - ITPD, Ms Mytreyhi Kondapi- Co- founder of Startoon Labs Pvt Limited.

The State Plan of Action for the state of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was revised and the third draft of the action plan was submitted to Plan for review. Currently, the PLF team with inputs from Mahita and Plan are working on the Andhra Pradesh State Plan of Action.

Discussion with PRI and community leaders on creating Child Marriage Free Gram Panchayat especially with an additional challenge of COVID 19 were conducted in the districts of TS in this quarter. Community leaders discussed child marriages in COVID pandemic situations which are increasing in this period especially with schools and colleges are closed. By their own admission, government monitoring on this situation of child marriage is low in COVID pandemic situation, lockdown period rural area parents are doing child marriages and hence the need for grassroots authorities to be more vigilant.

Youth advocates have been involved with the GAA process even during the lockdown. They have been part of a digital platform from wherein they are sharing information to their peers. Youth advocates from all the 9 districts very enthusiastically took part in Zoom meetings as stakeholders in the proposed increase of marriageable age from 18 to 21. Active youth advocates joined this Zoom meeting, shared their views and perceptions on the proposal to increase the legal age for marriage.

INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH (IMI) - Campaign

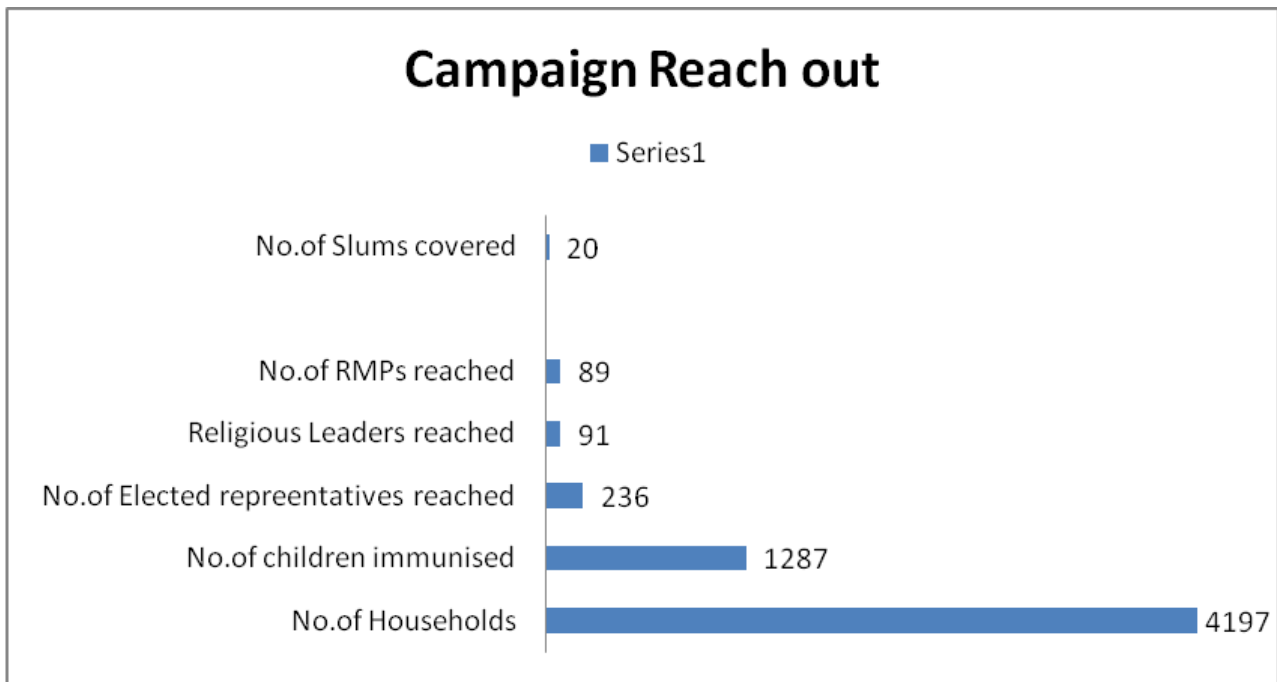
An intensive 'Social Mobilisation for IMI Campaign' initiated by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Telangana with the support from UNICEF and collaboration with Mahita in 20 urban slums in the old city of Hyderabad. The main objective of the campaign is to vaccinate the children who have missed out on immunisation. Hence, it was decided to initiate an intensive campaign called Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 to achieve 100% immunisation and to cover all the missed out children. The campaign was initiated in the old City of Hyderabad to cover the children aged between 0 to 3 years of age with a target population.

The 10-day intensive campaign reached out to many religious, political and like-minded community leaders for motivating the parents and community towards immunisation of the children. Multiple strategies have been adopted for reaching the parents who are not interested to immunise their children. Parents were motivated by religious leaders and communities were sensitised through elected representatives. Audio messages in vernacular languages were recorded and broadcast. These created a visible impact among the communities and 1,287 children got immunised within span of 10 days. The campaign created lot of buzz and generated lot of interest among the communities on the importance of children's immunisation and in the long run more and more parents will come to the urban healthpost for their children's immunisation.



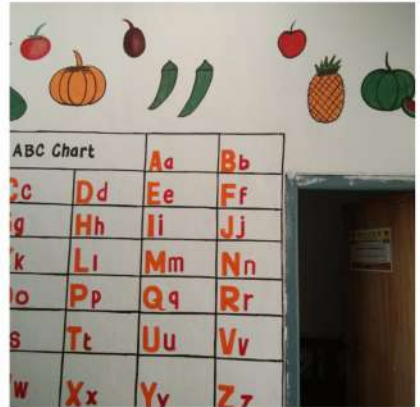


Campaign Reach Out:











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MahitaNGO



MahitaNGO1