



# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2021-22







**Mahita**  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2021-22





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown that followed have brought to the fore societal fault lines across the globe. In a country like India, where economic inequality is being added to a society already fractured along the lines of caste, gender, religion and region, the pandemic and its accompanying policies have intensified these fault lines. If anything, the lockdown has disproportionately affected one large section of the population sans any social safety net, the 'circular' migrant workers. In India, the lockdown witnessed one of the largest exoduses of migrant workers from the workplace to their homes. The agriculture workers were also one of the largest affected class of people who were left high and dry during the pandemic. COVID-19 second wave has left many children orphaned and vulnerable across the country. The State of Telangana also witnessed a severe second wave. Many agricultural workers – waged and self-employed were left facing mounting issues of poverty, malnutrition and poor health and suffered from abuses such as lack of safety and labor protection. With low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, many of them are spurred to continue working, often in unsafe conditions, thus exposing themselves and their families to additional risks.

Mahita in collaboration with many donors took it upon themselves to come up with interventions to help these needy agricultural and migrant workers in their hour of need. Several interventions viz. Distribution of Dry Ration Kits, Supporting Communities, Healthcare System and Facilities in Telangana State, and Vaccination interventions in Tribal Areas of Adilabad District and Urban Slums of Hyderabad were planned and implemented with aplomb. The programs resulted in providing the desired support to the front-line workers towards their capacity building in their fight against Covid -19. The programs also promoted behavioral changes in communities, influencers, and functionaries on importance of vaccination, service delivery by government, and basic hygiene and safety protocols to prevent infection and to be safe during the pandemic.

Several programs were implemented by MAHITA during 2021-22 towards upliftment and providing support to the worker community. These programs included activities such as distribution of dry ration kits, education kits, extension of healthcare support, awareness program on COVID-19 protocol and distribution of care kits to frontline workers of COVID etc. Important programs such as creation of Network Digital Learning Center have been successful in creating job opportunities for young students. Further, employability skill development program has made several children financially independent and have given them a voice in front of their families to choose their future. In one of the program three STEM Labs were set up in three Government Girls Schools in Adilabad District of Telangana to pursue the girls' education and career in science and Technology. Approx. 700 students from the 3 Govt. schools will be benefitted through this project.

Another project in Gopannapalli Thanda, Gachibowli, aimed at mitigating the prevalent vulnerabilities with the provision of early childhood care and education services, nutritional supplements, immunizations, and healthcare to children in the age group of 0 - 6 years from deprived families whose parents work at construction/building sites in the city of Hyderabad. Another program with the support of UNICEF and Department of Women and Child Welfare Department attempted to strengthen routine gestational weight monitoring in pregnant women in 20 urban wards of Secunderabad, reaching around 1600 pregnant women. Mahita takes this opportunity to thank all the donor partners without whose help the above interventions may not have been possible. We sincerely hope to continue this association to bring positive changes in the life of people of the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

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; Ajim Premji Foundation, Plan India, BENEVITY, UNICEF, Manos Unidas, DKA Austria, Charities Aid Foundation, NASCOM Foundation, Mobile Creches, HSBC Software India Pvt. Ltd., Sandvik Mining and Rock Technology India Private Limited and many volunteers.

on Behalf of Mahita  
**RAMESH SEKHAR REDDY .P**  
Program Director





## COVID – II RELIEF INTERVENTIONS

### Background:

The second wave of COVID-19 has left many children orphaned and vulnerable across the country. The State of Telangana also witnessed a very bad second wave situation. Many agricultural workers – waged and self-employed – faced poverty, malnutrition and poor health, and suffered from a lack of safety and job security as well as other types of abuse. With low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, many of them have been spurred to continue working, often in unsafe conditions, thus exposing themselves and their families to additional risks.

Women agricultural workers are particularly vulnerable, because they face risks while in commute, at working as well as in living spaces. They struggle to access support measures put in place by governments. In the COVID-19 crisis, food security, public health, and employment and labor issues, in particular workers' health and safety was majorly compromised.

### The Program:

Mahita with support from Benevity through NASSCOM Foundation and Online Foundation initiated Dry Ration Distribution Program in some tribal areas of Adilabad District and Hyderabad Slums where the majority of residents belong to the most marginalized communities. The volunteers have been recruited locally and they identify the needy families to whom the dry ration has been distributed.

The program reached 940 vulnerable poor and marginalized families who have directly or indirectly been adversely impacted due to COVID. Dry ration was provided to the 540 needy families in Adilabad, 335 families in Nirmal and 65 families in Hyderabad. The dry Ration provided to these families helped them for survive a month and also addressed the nutritional issues among children.

### The Dry Ration Kit

The following is a list of items that were distributed as part of the Dry Ration Kit to each family.

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



## Tiding through COVID-19 Wave-II: Supporting Communities, Healthcare System and Facilities in Telangana State

The increasing spread of COVID-19 has led to a public health emergency, especially for the elderly and children (below 10 years of age) and has severely impacted the livelihoods for the entire state. The workers in the unorganized sector and agricultural sector have been especially impacted.

The recent pandemic has created enormous pressure on healthcare systems and livelihoods. It has brought even major economies almost to a standstill. The second wave lockdown of 30 days (full lockdown was 20 days with relaxations of 10 days) in Telangana and shutting of non-essential services caused a tremendous upheaval in the daily lives of people and unleashed a wave of reverse migration.

In such adverse circumstances, Mahita with the support of Charities Aid Foundation India and GPay has undertaken interventions in 3 districts i.e., Hyderabad, Nirmal and Adilabad.

### The interventions have been in the following areas of concern:

- i) Creating awareness on COVID protocols with special emphasis on vaccination,
- ii) Supporting frontline workers and other essential workers to provide COVID Care kits,
- iii) Support the most marginalized communities by providing them with dry ration kits.

The interventions also supported the district health department especially the frontline workers in distributing medical equipment such as, PPE kits, N95 masks, shield, gloves, sanitizers. Capacities building trainings of frontline workers have conducted during the process. The program also initiated interventions of promote behavior change in communities, influencers, functionaries on importance of vaccination, service delivery by government, basic hygiene and safety protocols to prevent infection and to be safe during the pandemic.









# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2021-22





## **Background:**

India was one of the world's worst-affected countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By August 2021, more than 30 million Indians were infected and almost half a million died of COVID-19 infections ([Thiagarajan, 2021](#); [World Health Organization, 2021](#)). Similar to many other countries, COVID-19 vaccines were granted emergency use authorization in India in early 2021. However, vaccine rollout in India faced complications with issues such as political polarization, vaccine shortage, misinformation and rumours, challenges with registration and appointments, just to name a few. The Telangana government kickstarted its vaccination drive on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 for citizens above the age of 18, nearly three lakh vaccination slots opened up on the CoWin portal.

However, the response to the COVID vaccination from the communities were very poor in the tribal areas of Adilabad District as well as urban slums of Hyderabad and Adilabad District. There are a number of reasons for vaccination hesitancy. Some of them are as follows: i) side-effects due to vaccination, ii) process of getting vaccination itself is an obstacle for people who cannot afford to lose 2 days wages, iii) minorities lack of trust on the vaccination given by the Government (as a result of miscommunication through social media & religious groups) iv) The notion of the minorities that they will lose their fertility in.

It was also understood that majority of the vulnerable urban communities have to take the vaccine, but that did not happen due to misconceptions around vaccines and some deep-rooted anti-vaccine beliefs.

## **The Program:**

Towards achieving 100% Covid Vaccination in the hotspots of Tribal areas of Adilabad and Urban habitations in Adilabad and Hyderabad, Mahita initiated a

## **COVID INTERVENTIONS: VACCINATION INTERVENTIONS IN TRIBAL AREAS OF ADILABAD DISTRICT & URBAN SLUMS OF HYDERABAD**







program to focus more on the mobilization of the communities. The need to cover 30% of the vulnerable population in the selected hot spot areas was where the number of cases were very low. The program worked hand-in-hand with the Health Department in both the districts and strengthening the Primary and Urban Primary Health Care services with regard to reach out more communities for getting the 100% vaccination. Mahita with the support of Azim Premji Foundation initiated the works in 3 Rural PHCs in Adilabad, 3 Urban UPHCs in Adilabad Urban and 3 UPHCs in Hyderabad Slums, where the vaccination hesitance was more.

**Achievement: 100% Vaccination in Adilabad**

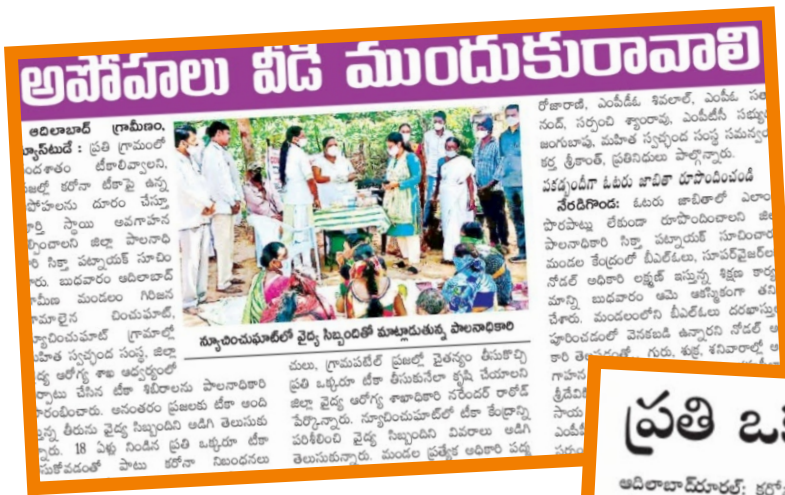
- o The interventions successfully administration of 56,583 doses/first and second to take the 82 Villages in 3 Mandals and to 100% coverage across both doses.
- o The interventions successfully administration of 68,687 doses/first and second to take the 16 slums in Adilabad Urban and to 100% coverage across both doses.
- o Support the 6 Health Centres for provided the 3 Health Workers/Vaccinators (3 per each PHC), Data Entry Operators support extended to the PHCs for online registration as well as offline registration and covered all the households.
- o Organized Vaccination 84 Camps, 92 Vaccination awareness campaign, interface meetings with Tribal Heads and other religious leaders.
- o Reached 21,482 Households in Adilabad Rural and 15,567 Households in Adilabad and Urban slums in Hyderabad.

#### Hyderabad Vaccination Support Program:

One of the most at-risk groups of COVID-19, are the urban poor as they live in overcrowded conditions with very limited access to public infrastructure. In Hyderabad, while the percentage vaccinated is high at 65%, the vaccination percentage amongst the slum population and the vulnerable is significantly lower, as has been found out through ground studies. Based on the above reasons, Mahita selected 3 Urban Health Posts in Hyderabad which covered 58 Slums and aimed at administering 1,33,237 doses over a period for six months.

#### Outcomes of the Program:

- o Coordination with Doctors, frontline workers of the particular Urban Health Posts as well as support from the DMHO Office is the key strategy for this program as part of convergence of the Departments.
- o 47 Local community Volunteers were recruited in Hyderabad for coverage of 68 Slums and in Adilabad 17 Volunteers were recruited for 18 Slums. Each volunteer has been responsible for 500 Households on an average.
- o As part of the interventions, 1,75,552 doses/first and second were successfully administered in 68 slums and 100% coverage across both doses was achieved.
- o Support was provided to the 3 Health Centres and 9 Health Workers/Vaccinators (3 per each PHC), 3 Data Entry Operators were recruited to extend support to the PHCs for online registration as well as offline registration and covered all the households.
- o Organised Vaccination 408 Camps, 522 Vaccination awareness campaign, interface meetings with religious leaders. Reached 94,921 Households in Hyderabad Urban Slums and successfully motivated 98,640 community members.



## Case Study

*A Family with full health complications is now fully vaccinated!*

Somalaxmi is a 60-year old woman from Anna Nagar and her family consists of her husband, son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. Somalaxmi is working as a vegetable vendor for the past 45 years. Her husband met with an accident 2 years ago. Somalaxmi's granddaughter has been suffering from a problem of fits and the daughter-in-law recently had a head surgery. The entire family depended on her daily income and add to that they have been having health complications..

In the process of line listing and conducting survey, Somalaxmi family has been identified. In the beginning, Somalaxmi refused to take the vaccine due to fear and loss of wages for her work on that day. The volunteer and vaccinator explained to her that since she was a vegetable vendor, she was bound to come in contact with many people every day while selling vegetables. They explained to her that if she remained unvaccinated you may get infected and the coronavirus would spread to the people around rapidly". Somalaxmi realized the serious consequences of not being vaccinated and immediately got herself vaccinated at the static camp near the UPHC. A timely second dose has been given to her at the doorstep.

To vaccinate Somalaxmi consulted the UPHC Medical Officer and Doctor and said that she wanted to get that both her husband and granddaughtervaccinated. She expressed reservations against getting her daughter-in-law vaccinated since she had a major head operation followed by a lot of complications. As per the guidance of doctor,volunteers followed up on this and the very next day, the vaccine was given to her husband and the granddaughter in keeping with the Medical Officer's advice. Now her entire family is vaccinated except her daughter-in-law.





# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22

### Delivering Essential Nutrition Services in Urban Wards of Telangana

#### Background:

Telangana is among the youngest states in the country, with a population of 35 million (Census 2011). Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is at the 'middle-income countries' level, but this economic development is skewed and masks several inequities. This is visible in the nutrition indicators related to Stunting, Wasting, and Anemia. 53% pregnant women in Telangana are anemic, 18.8% women in the reproductive age group are thin (BMI <18.5kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and 32.3% women are overweight/obese (BMI >25kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Telangana also displays a higher prevalence of diabetes and hypertension among population groups of reproductive age. As per NFHS-5, 88% of pregnant women in Telangana register during the first trimester, but only 70% avail 4 ANCs, while only about half of them have their weight regularly monitored (ICDS MIS, 2021).

Despite rapid urbanization and improved access to quality food, many children in the slums of Hyderabad do not get the required nourishment. The ongoing pandemic has further worsened the situation with the supplemental nutrition schemes being slowed down in many areas. The loss of incomes has aggravated the nutrition deficiency among people. This calls for urgent public health interventions to tide over the crisis.





# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2021-22

#### **The Program:**

Mahita with the support of UNICEF and the Department of Women and Child Welfare Department has attempted to strengthen routine gestational weight monitoring in pregnant women in 20 urban wards of Secunderabad, reaching around 1,600 pregnant women. Towards addressing the service delivery mechanisms and to see the impact of various programs initiated in ICDS Centers, a strategic action plan is proposed in 20 Urban Sums. The overarching objective of the Action Plan is to promote and establish an enabling environment within health and other sectors for effective implementation of nutrition interventions. The Project interventions in the 20 urban slums include ensuring monthly growth monitoring for 85% of children under 5 years in the intervention area and counselling for caregivers based on the nutrition status of the children. The project successfully reached 1,600 pregnant women and ensured gestational weight-gain monitoring of pregnant women and monthly counselling on appropriate weight gain/diet diversity/rest/ANC/breastfeeding practices which was the objective of the partnership.

#### **Outcomes of the Program:**

- o The gestational weight monitoring has been active in the 20 urban slums since May 2021 and in the last six months, 1,600 pregnant women have been reached through the 'assess-classify-counsel' model.
- o Data on the age & height of the pregnant women, gestational age, and weight is collected, along with obstetric history and other ANC details, captured from the MCP card.
- o Women at nutritional risk receive additional counselling sessions as a group at the AWCs or through home visits, which are made to monitor their eating behavior and to hold discussions with spouses about critical areas of concern.
- o Providing improved capacities of FLFs for early identification of severe wasting cases among children and complication (nutritional) among pregnant women & immediate referral of all such cases.
- o Ensuring availability of IFA at 100% service delivery points; 90% consumption compliance of IFA among children, and women in required dose & 100% compliance on deworming.

About 3,995 (980 male and 3,015 female) participants have been reached out to with messages and sensitized about program objectives.







**“Mapping makes it easy for me to follow-up with beneficiaries.”**

*Anganwadi Center: Annanagar-III Slum Name: AnnanagarArea: Rasoolpura*

I am Shobha, and I work as an *anganwadi* teacher in Annanagar area of Rasoolpura slums. I am working for the improvement of maternal nutrition among the pregnant women, lactating mothers and children up to 6 years of age.

Mahita is implementing a project called 'Delivering Essential Nutrition Services in Urban Wards of Telangana' As part of this 20 *anganwadi* centers of Trimulgherry Sector area of Secundrabad ICDS project of Hyderabad district have been selected. My *anganwadi* center is also part of the selected centers. We have got so many skill development trainings from the resource persons from Mahita on Growth Monitoring. Monthly Growth Monitoring drives have been conducted for children under 6 years, a gestational weight monitoring program for pregnant women has been conducted and monthly counselling on appropriate weight gain/diet diversity/rest/ANC/breastfeeding practices, early identification of severe wasting cases among children and nutritional complications among pregnant women has been conducted. Immediate referrals of all such cases, consumption compliances of IFA among children and women in required dose, and one-on-one counselling sessions during home visits and group counselling has been conducted as well.

Previously, the target beneficiaries did not visit my *anganawadi* center regularly. After these trainings we have motivated them to do so by using various techniques and followed-up the vulnerable target communities by using maps. I have learnt to use vulnerability mapping to identify specific target groups. I am following-up many times so as to help pregnant women to improve their HB levels. Mrs Ruthu, Community Volunteer has been supporting in the follow-up of anaemic pregnant women and malnourished children. Thanksto the Mahita team for making this a model center in Rasoolpura.



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

**Background:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the children in many ways and the aftermath of COVID-19 has contributed to the development of psychological, mental, physical, social, and cultural disturbances in the lives of children. Since, the parents, neighbouring population and kith and kin have also been affected, naturally the children also have had to bear the consequences of COVID. The COVID-19 pandemic not only affected the physical lives of children, but also caused potential loss to their learning capacities as they were in the process of acquiring and building their human capital. The losses cannot be measured with ease. In order to bring cheer on the faces of the children and among the family members, the children need to be engaged with their peers and resume some sort of activity on a daily basis.



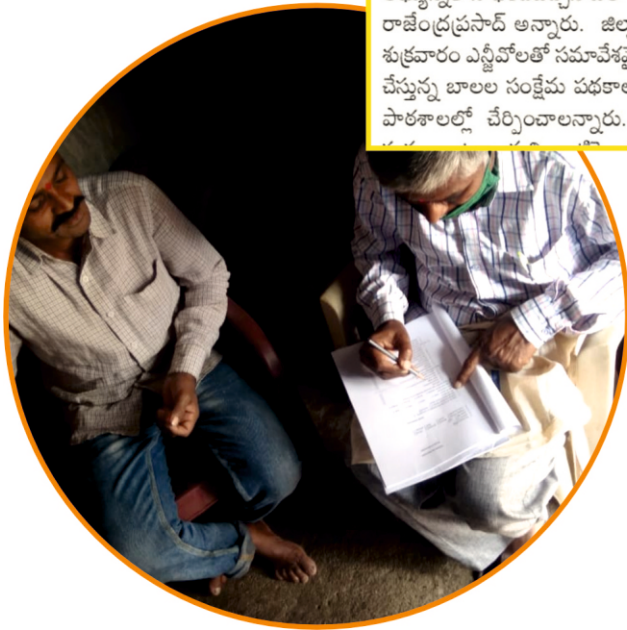




**సమన్వయంతోనే బాలల అభ్యున్నతి**

■ డీసీపీవో రాజేంద్రప్రసాద్

ఎదులాపురం, అక్టోబర్ 22: అన్ని శాఖల సమన్వయంతోనే బాలల అభ్యున్నతి సాధించవచ్చని జిలా బాలల పరిరక్షణ విభాగం అధికారి రాజేంద్రప్రసాద్ అన్నారు. జిల్లా కేంద్రంలోని బాలరక్షక్ భవన్ లో శుక్రవారం ఎన్టీవోలతో సమావేశమై మాట్లాడారు. ప్రభుత్వం అమలు చేస్తున్న బాలల సంక్షేమ చర్యలను వివరించారు. బడిడు పిల్లలను పాఠశాలల్లో చేర్చించాలన్నారు. బాలల కోసం అనేక చట్టాలు



The effects of the pandemic on children may be grouped into the following four categories:

- 1) Children who have fallen into poverty;
- 2) Children who have experienced learning losses;
- 3) Children who have missed out on healthcare and survival is an issue; and
- 4) Children with safety and security concerns.

**The Program:**

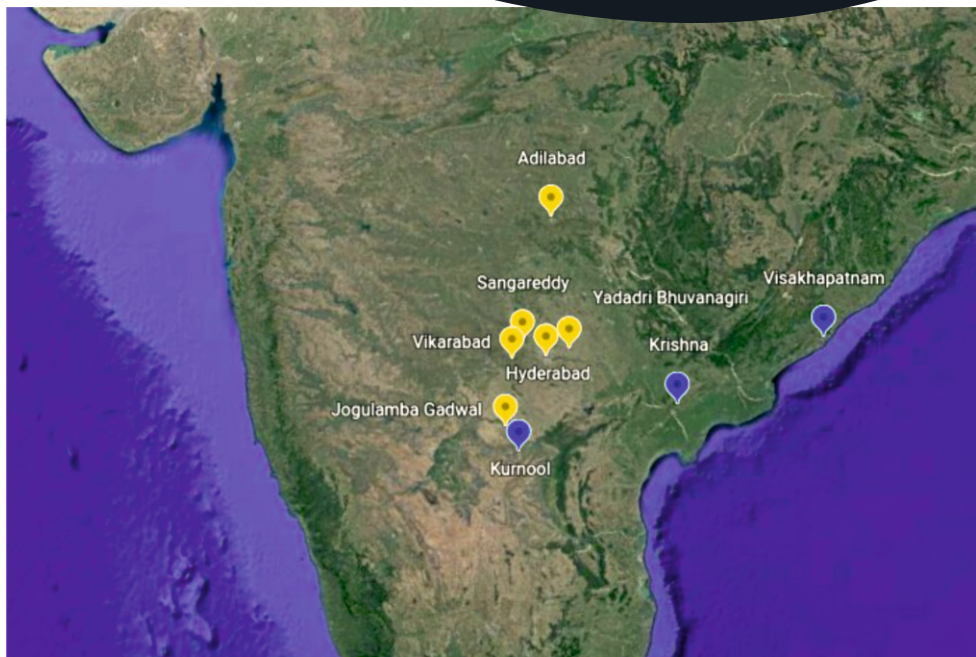
Mahita is the focal point for a larger civil society network and consortium in both the states. It is acting as the Central Secretariat for Alliance for Child Rights working in both the states towards strengthening the CSO movement towards protection and promotion of Child Rights. It is meaningful and important for ACR (Alliance on Child Rights) as a large

# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2021-22

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. To understand the field level situation as well as to capture the children views & experiences, Alliance for Child Rights and their partners across the 2 States have conducted many consultations for understanding the situation of the children from the children's perspectives.



### Output of the Program:

- o 18 NGOs were directly part of the campaign in both the States while 150 NGOs were indirectly involved in the same
- o 700 children in Telangana and 450 children in Andhra Pradesh were part of the various child consultations that discussed about child protection issues during post-COVID
- o A study was conducted for assessing the present scenario of the nutrition, safety, safe education of the children after COVID-19, in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- o A study was conducted for analysis of social security schemes during COVID-19 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- o A study was exclusively conducted to assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children in the urban slums of Hyderabad
- o Mahita advocated with the State and District Administration on the gaps identified with regard to the service delivery mechanisms and created an impact on children's issues to line departments
- o A Model of Excellence was created in 50 schools and 50 *anganwadis* centers in the Adilabad District of Telangana State and Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh State respectively, and Mahita advocated with the respective Governments for scaling up of the successful models.





**BUILDING LIVES AT BUILDING SITES MOBILE CRECHE CENTER FOR THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

**Background:**

Over the last few years, the outskirts of Hyderabad are undergoing a rapid process of urbanization around the Outer Ring Road which connects the Shamshabad Airport to different parts of the city. The Ring Road is currently emerging as one of the major commercial zones for the mandal with lots corporate, commercial, and residential constructions. Due to the work, the demand for cheap, low-skilled labor in construction and related industries has resulted in the influx of migrant labor into the city. The labor force employed in the building and construction industry in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts largely constitutes of migrants from various parts of India. Local labor is seldom interested in this because of the minimal pay, low status, degrading and dangerous conditions.

The contractors looking for cheap labor generally employ the migrant labor on contract with minimal facilities, leave alone education for children. Ver often, the entire family is engaged in construction, while young children are left behind to fend for themselves. As the laborers have migrated from their native place to construction sites as laborers, the children accompanying them are left without access to their basic rights such as Early Childhood Education, Nutrition, Healthcare etc., as these all not available in the labor construction sites.





**The Program:**

The project in Gopannapalli Thanda, Gachibowli, aims at mitigating the prevalent vulnerabilities with the provision of early childhood care and education services, nutritional supplements, immunizations and healthcare to children in the age group of 0 to 6 years from deprived families whose parents work at construction/building sites in the city of Hyderabad. Given that the children attending the ECCD Center are first generational learners, a method of learning which is child-centric, Teaching and Learning Method ( TLM) was developed; which has been pivotal in engaging children in learning and thereby helping them cope with their inherent challenges.

The playway approach of the TLM is keeping children physically active and is assuring well-rounded physical, social and cognitive development of the children.

**Outcomes of the Program:**

- o Nutritious food is being provided to 50 children placed in the mobile crèche centers safely during the working hours of the labor at the worksite
- o Children are made to participate in the pre-school activities in learning centers and are become active
- o Nutrition levels among the children have improved by utilization of dry ration
- o Growth monitoring and counselling is done by the teachers for parents of malnourished children







### **Case Study**

Title: **SEETHAMMA LEARNS MATHS QUICKLY**

Location: **Honour Homes**, Village: **Gopanpally Thanda**, Mdl: **Sherilingampally**,  
District: **Rangareddy**.

Nutrition is important at every age especially during childhood for children's growth and development. Children need proper nutrients to grow up to be healthy and strong. Nutrition for children can also help establish a foundation for healthy eating habits and nutritional knowledge that your child can apply throughout life.

Early education for children builds the spirit of teamwork and creates a sense of discipline in children, which helps in their growth as well as the growth and development of the nation in their future life. Education acquired during childhood teaches and moulds a child in their communication and helps them to work as a team.

A child called Seethamma aged seven years belonging to Sipur Village of Aribang District of West Bengal State migrated along with her parents and was identified as being in a vulnerable situation in the worksite area.

The parents of the child migrated for work at construction sites as labor. The child's mother Jamutha and Father Meeti having two children, among them the elder boy stays with their grandparents to continue his education.

The background of the parents is very poor and there is no source of livelihood in their native place. Due to these reasons they reached Gopanpally Thanda, Sherilingampally Mandal of Rangareddy District in search for livelihood. The parents received information about the labor work through sub-contractor and started working for a company called Honour Homes Construction Pvt. Ltd.





**Networked Digital Learning Centres for 2350 girls  
and young women in Hyderabad**

**Background:**

As many studies have revealed, the learning levels of the children who are studying in State Government run schools are very low and because of this many girls are dropping out from the schools. Towards addressing the issue and enhancing the learning levels of the Girl Children who are studying between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Standards in Government Schools, Digital Learning Centers, have been set up by Mahita with the support of Plan India and DXC Technologies. These centers utilize technology solutions to provide quality education to young women in the age group of 15-25 years within their own communities, thereby overcoming the challenge of limited mobility.

**The Program:**

The program aims to ensure increased access to opportunities for self-development for 2,350 girls across Hyderabad. So far, 17 learning centers have been set up at 3 geographic clusters where girls can attend classes. In order to encourage girls on the path of empowerment, they are taught 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.





# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2021-22

#### Outcomes of the Program:

- o 2,690 girls and young women access IT-enabled knowledge centres in Hyderabad with an average attendance rate of 70%
- o There is an increase in academic performance amongst girls attending DLCs and those benefitting from academic inputs
- o There is an increase in the number of girls and young women completing Grade 10 [those enrolled for Grade 10 at the DLCs]
- o There is an increase in active participation of girls in empowerment activities and 1,500 girls have accessed the digital online classes during the COVID time.
- o 2000 families are sensitised on the importance of girls' education
- o Educational Kits were distributed to 1,100 students who have enrolled in the 16 DLC centers. This Educational Kit consists of the following items which are very useful for students:
- o Digital equipment such as Computer Systems, Projectors, Speakers and LCD Screens are distributed to 23 Government Schools where the children who are attending the Digital Learning Centers are studying.
- o Modules on non-academic topics such as Life skills, MHM, Spoken English were distributed to 750 girl students these included both academic and non-academic students. This material helps students to understand the different ways of leading life and improving their health, they get to know about the society and it helps in improving communication etc.







**Case Study:**

Vaishali (name changed) is pursuing her 8th Standard in Government School in Goshamahal. She stays in Bathukammakunta Area near Amberpet.

Her family consists of 4 members. She is the elder one in her house. She has a sibling brother who studies in 5<sup>th</sup> Standard.

Both her father, and mother are daily wage earners, and their entire family income complete goes only in meeting the daily expenses of the house. That is why she and her brother were enrolled in a government school.

She was not able to understand the subjects taught in school as she had difficulty understanding lessons. She wanted to join tuitions but her parents cannot afford private tuitions.

During door-to-door survey of DLC training centers in Bathukammakunta area her mother came to know about free tuitions and enrolled her daughter.

Vaishali said, "As I am a slow learner, I was unable to catch-up and understand topics thought is school. So, I had decided to join tuitions, but my family could not afford private tuitions. My mother came to know about DXC-DLC free tuitions through door-to-door survey and she enrolled me there.

In DLC, teachers are very helpful and cooperative they explain all topics and clear all doubts and they also guided me about how I could improve my way of understanding and learning topics faster. I thank DXC-DLC program for providing free tuitions to poor students like me."



## ENHANCING THE BARGAINING CAPACITIES OF WOMEN COLLECTIVES TO INCREASE THEIR FAMILY INCOME LEVELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

### **Background:**

The recent pandemic has been a major push back for a majority of families under the debt trap and struggling a lot to enhance their family income. The most burdened are women and adolescent girls. The impact of pandemic created enormous pressure on healthcare systems, livelihoods, and has even brought major economies to an almost standstill. Millions of agricultural workers – waged and self-employed – while feeding the world, regularly face high levels of abject poverty, malnutrition, and poor health, and suffer from a lack of food safety and job security as well as other types of abuse. With low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, many of them are spurred to continue working, often in unsafe conditions, thus exposing themselves and their families to additional risks. Further, when experiencing income losses, they may resort to negative coping strategies, such as distress sale of assets, predatory loans, or child labor.

### **The Program:**

Mahita with the support of Manos Unidas rolled out a project in the tribal areas of Adilabad for enhancing the bargaining capacities of women collectives in 15 villages and improving the health awareness about COVID as well as for preparing the communities to take the government vaccine for prevention of the virus from spreading.

The project interventions provided hope to the women of the vulnerable families by helping them start their own small entrepreneurship units that will enhance their family income. The Project also initiated the Mobile Campaign for sensitizing the communities on COVID protocols as well as the importance of COVID vaccination. Through the various community awareness mobile campaigns, we have successfully achieved the target of creating awareness on COVID vaccination and that has been endorsed by the Government Health Department also.

### **Outcomes of the Program:**

- o 384 women members participated in the Financial Literacy Program were made aware about crucial financial literacy skills.
- o 150 women members were trained on Micro Entrepreneurship and Skill Programs
- o 200 women members were trained on Skill Development and Sustainable Livelihoods
- o 100 women members were extended support for starting their own units and helped them to develop their business plans
- o 20 members have been facilitated to access Bank Loans for developing their own small units 3,000 community members in 15 villages were made aware about the impact of COVID-19 and were facilitated to adopt good hygiene practices.







### Case Study

Name of the Beneficiary : **K.MOTHIBAI**

Age : 34 years

Location : Linguguda GP, Adilabad Rural Mandal

COVID-19 has left the community with huge losses in areas such as livelihood, education, financial and the loss of many lives. Ms.K.Mothibai's husband was a farmer expired due to the stress of being overburdened by debts due to losses in farming due to less yields in 2014. Since then, Mothibai is working as a daily laborer in Adilabad Rural Mandal to sustain her family.

Due to COVID, Mothibai was left with no work. Mothibai's children were studying in High School. Due to the loss of employment and closure of schools due to COVID-19, Mothibai and her children were forced to work as daily laborers to sustain their family and meet their needs.

As part of the interventions Manos Unidas and Mahita team has identified the children of Mothibai and re-enrolled them into school. After the discussions at Gram Panchayat along with the *sarpanch* and ward members, Mothibai has agreed to send her children to school. After enrolling the children to school Mothibai is the sole earning member, and no regular work is available to her. In these conditions, we have trained her through our project interventions and supported her to engage in goat farming.

Mothibai was identified as the rightful beneficiary based on her need. With support, she has decided to continue with goat farming. Now she is earning and the additional money she gets from goat farming will help her poverty-stricken family. This amount is almost compensatory to the earning of the children. The money proves beneficial as she can now financially support her family and her children can continue their education. She is very thankful to Manos Unidas and Mahita for their support.

*She said, "It's a great help to me and my family and definitely this support has helped our family to enhance the family income. Thanks to Manos Unidas and Mahita for this initiative."*

## ENVISIONING THE LEARNING SPACE IN STEM

### **Background:**

Governments and policy makers realise that in an increasingly technological world, a good grounding in STEM is essential for their citizens to compete globally. But the number of students enrolling in science courses in college has remained stagnant or is even declining. There is a recognition that the traditional methods of teaching science need to be replaced by methods that engage and involve children in science from an early age. Rather than emphasising on rote memorisation of facts and formulae, education systems are moving, albeit slowly, to experiential learning, and classroom techniques that are centred on invention, innovation and collaborative problem-solving.



### **The Program:**

The proposed interventions by Mahita with the support of CAF India and Micron Technology Inc focus on accelerating the efforts made by the Telangana Government in ensuring STEM education for girl students in schools. The aim resonates with the Government's agenda of making girls opt for streams such as science and technology, breaking the stereotypes. 3 STEM Labs set up in 3 Government Girls Schools in Adilabad District of Telangana to facilitate them to pursue the education and career in Science and Technology.

The project aims at a comprehensive change initiative that brings Whole School Transformation by developing a STEM-enriched learning environment and tinkering experience for students at middle school and strengthening the abilities of teachers to use STEM learning resources.

### **Outcomes of the Program:**

- o Setting up of 3 STEM Labs in 3 schools for a practical Science and Technology-based teaching-learning atmosphere.
- o Approximately 700 students from the 3 Govt. schools will be benefitted through a STEM education project and it has increased their curiosity and interest in STEM Subjects.
- o 550 girls have shown their interest in Science and Maths subjects and have secured good marks in these subjects.
- o Higher attendance percentage in schools after introduction of STEM Education, especially of girls.



## Towards Freedom – Empowerment, Education and Employment of Youth (*Shakhsiyat Azadi*)



### **Background:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted normal lives, and largely impacted health, economy, and wellbeing of individuals. History has shown the world that a crisis like COVID-19 can have protracted and severe consequences for younger population who are already termed as 'lockdown generation'. Studies are highlighting that the pandemic has brought multidimensional challenges before the young generation, disrupted their education, trainings, increased their vulnerability, and dependency. It has been particularly hard on the youth, in particular women and youth in lower-income countries. Young people are concerned about the future and their place within it.

### **The Program:**

The Project 'Towards Freedom – Empowerment, Education and Employment of Youth (Shakhsiyat Azadi)' was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 in Hyderabad in collaboration with HSBC Software Development India. The basic aim of this intervention is to 'empower youth by embedding employable skills such as – vocational skills, and lifeskills and improve their self-confidence to gain better employment through entrepreneurship.' The expected outcomes are well capacitated youth, both girls and boys, who can contribute to their family income and ensure overall well-being of the family.

Three different courses have been initiated in the Centers i.e., 1) IT training, 2) Beautician and well-being expert and 3) Retail Marketing. Mahita is proposing a Livelihood Skill Training for young women from most-deprived families. The training aims to create economic empowerment of women with decent employment and develop their leadership skills and communication skills resulting in decent and better economic and social opportunities, enhanced income and networking spaces, resulting in an increase in their family income.

### **Outcomes of the Program:**

- o 364 youth have been trained on MS-Office/Web Technologies, Accounting Package. Out of which, 221 are females and 143 are males.
- o 141 youth have been trained on Retail Marketing and Warehouse Operations.
- o 362 young women have been trained to become Beauticians and Well-Being Experts.
- o 800 youth from the most disadvantaged Urban Communities have been successfully undergone trainings in the above courses along with training in LifeSkills.
- o Out of 750 beneficiaries, we have successfully placed 70% (525) of the young people into different companies and they are earning good income and continue to improve the quality of their life.
- o 529 youth have been placed in the companies and are drawing a minimum salary of Rs.10,000 and maximum of Rs. 28,000 per month.



# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



### Case Study

Vijaya is 29 years old, and she has completed her SSC in 2021. She has 4 members in her family. Her husband is a daily wage laborer and she belongs to the below poverty line category. Vijaya came to know from her friend that Mahita is offering free courses in different fields. She came to the institute and took details and joined the Retail Course at Rajendra Nagar. Vijaya was very focused on her training as she had plans to help her husband in running the house by doing job. She regularly attended classes to gain knowledge about the sales and retail sector. She also attended Life Skills sessions conducted by Mahita to build her confidence. Presently, Vijaya is working in MAX outlet as a Sales Executive at a monthly salary of 12,000/-. She has landed this job with the help of Placement Officer.

Vijaya says, "I am very glad to say that through the course conducted by Mahita in partnership with HSBC I was able to get a job. I'm also thankful to the trainers and Placement Officer for training me & helping me in getting a job."



## GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



### **Background:**

The Empowerment of Girls through Education Project successfully completed its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementation by end of April 2022, the project was supported by Plan India and Sandvik Mining and Rock Technology India Private Limited. The Project is to empower girls through education in 20 government schools and 15 *anganwadi* centers in Patancheru Block of the Sangareddy District of Telangana. During the second year of implementation, irrespective of many challenges due to COVID and close down of schools and *anganwadi* centers by the Government, the team at GEE had initiated many community level interventions such as online classes for children in the remedial centres during COVID. These interventions created lot of impact among the children. The team successfully motivated the parents to give their smartphones and internet time to their children for attending the classes.



### **Outcomes of the Program:**

- o During the second year, many interventions have been planned especially after the reopening of schools. Capacity building training conducted for primary caregivers on stimulation activities in 15 *anganwadis* in which 436 participants benefitted.
- o We have successfully established 9 libraries as well as completed the painting of these libraries. The beautification through the paintings has been done in all 10 *anganwadicenters*.
- o The WASH interventions initiated in 7 *anganwadicenters* and 12 Government Schools are progressing in a rapid

# Mahita

## ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22

manner irrespective of the ground-level challenges.

- o The Project team has been conducted 20 extensive enrollment drives. A basic education kit has been distributed to 2,250 regular school-going children and 750 OSC children from 20 schools to encourage and support them.
- o During this year, we have also successfully oriented 1,722 girl children on Menstrual Hygiene Management and completed 15 career guidance sessions in 14 high schools for 946 children.
- o The other important intervention in this year was conducted by way of the Reading and Writing, Math, and Science Activities for the children in 20 schools in which we have completed 221 reading, writing and 220 math, science activities through which a total of 3,696 children (1,612 boys and 2,084 girls) have been engaged in reading and writing activities and 3,496 children (1,596 boys and 1,900 girls) have been engaged in Maths and Science activities.
- o Play Material Kit has been distributed to the 10 *anganwadis* centers and distribution of the Sports Material has been done to 15 Government Schools.
- o A Science exhibition was conducted and the children of 5 schools participated enthusiastically and demonstrate their skills during the exhibition.
- o 3 STEM Labs have been established and successfully used by 1,200 children.





**EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS THROUGH PROVIDING  
EMPLOYABLE SKILLS FOR  
ENHANCING THE FAMILY INCOME IN 15 SLUMS OF HYDERABAD CITY**

**Background:**

COVID-19 has not only posed to be a universal health pandemic but has also caused massive disruption of economies and livelihoods. One of the communities to be impacted disproportionately have been the scheduled castes/tribes and minority communities. Migrants have fled from the cities and returned to their remote villages thereby putting an additional burden to the household income. The pandemic has affected the poor globally and in India too it has left already vulnerable families in a poverty trap. As girls drop out of school, parents get them married excluding these young people from participating in the workforce and trapping them in labor or low skilled jobs dependent on male support and direction. It is therefore essential that young women are given employability skills which not only help them to get an income but boost their confidence and decision making. These skills also give them a larger perspective and worldview. Young women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

**The Project:**

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.

**Outcomes of the Program:**

Computer training over a period of 6 months for 81 girls has been successfully completed. Majority of them are interested to take up jobs such as Front Office Executive, Data Entry Operators, Tele Callers, Receptionist etc in private establishments to support their families. Mahita is in the process of helping them with the same.

- o 121 candidates have completed the Tailoring and Fashion Designing Course and majority of them have been engaged and are earning a decent income.
- o 75 girls have completed training in Beautician and Mehendi Courses. During COVID time they have taken up jobs or are making home visits to increase their income.



# Mahita

ANNUAL REPORT  
2021-22

- o In certain sectors, such as Beauty and Fashion Designing, the beneficiaries have been able to start small businesses from their homes and are able to get clients. During the lockdown there was a lot of demand for face masks and the beneficiaries who have been trained in the centers have stitched face masks and sold the same and have succeeded in earning a decent income for sustaining their families.
- o The major outcome of the project was that not only did the adolescent girls gain financial freedom but there was also a marked improvement in their physical mobility as well as gaining foothold in decision making power in their family interactions, especially concerning their future.





## CASE STUDY : Computer Course

**Ms. Vemula Mani Chandana**, 20 years of age with 5 members in the family. She is pursuing B.com computers from LB College. Her father was plumber who feeds the family with 3 member's children's and their education. She was the first girl in their family who wants to contribute towards her family by doing job. But she didn't get job with sufficient salary. I was very scared to talk to anyone.

Her friend suggested computer training center of Mahita NGO at Karwan. She got details and joined immediately through it is online classes. She learnt MS-OFFICE in 3 months training and got certificate. With certified course she got job easily.

Presently she is working for M/s BRAND FACTORY shopping mall as a cashier with a salary of Rs11,500/- per month. Now she is able to support her family. Now I feel very confident after attending life skills classes by volunteers I feel confident and communicate freely without any fear.

She conveys "Due to the training provided even during the COVID situation both offline/online which helped the youth like me to get trained and find jobs to support our families. We would like Thanks to DKA and Mahita for supporting us by establishing the training centers with 3 months training by offering me eligible jobs to help my family with my income. "



## WAY FORWARD

Mahita plans to expand its activities and streamline its operations by leveraging relevant technologies. The idea is to enable each program team to employ technology to fill in data for monitoring, reporting and assessment. Mahita would like to expand activities in Adilabad so as to reach more tribal villages. Mahita is well-aware that this will require higher professionalism as well as resources. It has already got consent from the donor agency to expand the plans in Adilabad for restoring the rights of children.

The economic empowerment projects will focus more on youth, especially young women in order to amplify the impact. Mahita will attempt to build their confidence, facilitate greater mobility, and improve their lifeskills. In addition, Mahita will facilitate better livelihoods and improve vocational skills of the women and young girls and facilitate the meaningful employment which will lead to economic empowerment. Mahita would like to replicate the successful model which it is implementing in the urban slums, in the other areas of Hyderabad as well.

Towards creating safe schools and Child Protection Policies in the schools, Mahita will scale up their outreach and build the capacities of teachers and children on child protection issues. This program will also engage in advocacy with the Education Department, Women and Child Welfare Department and other key line Departments.

As a highly accredited organization, Mahita is well-positioned to take a lead in raising issues of child protection policy and also partner with CSOs in both the States. Mahita is leading the network in the name of Alliance for Child Rights and the activities of this network will be streamlined and further strengthened in the coming years.

During this time of great uncertainty, we've been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from Mahita staff, donors, Board Members, associates, advisors, and volunteers. For this, we express our gratitude.





## **ABOUT THE ORGANISATION**

**MAHITA** is a non-profit social development organization working in the state of Telangana in southern India. The Organization was established in 1994 to initiate development interventions in the urban slums of Hyderabad and various parts of Telangana State. Since then, MAHITA has developed expertise in a wide range of development initiatives acquired through 28 years of devoted work and professionalism.

It has broad geographical coverage of 82 urban slums of Hyderabad and Rural areas of Ranga Reddy District and Nalgonda and Adilabad Districts. Since the inception, the organization has adopted the right-based approach for work towards socially just and empowered society, that reflect the local cultural values and practices. From inception, Mahita is working towards a protective environment that promotes childcare and development. As part of the process, we work on a number of projects related to child protection, development and welfare, as well as youth skill development.

### **Mission**

- o Every child, especially the girl child, is a potential adult who contributes to society. A child therefore needs to be given all opportunities and resources for overall development and growth.

### **Major Objectives**

- o Protect fundamental rights of the poor and marginalized communities to ensure an enhanced quality of life.
- o Provide and facilitate opportunities for all the children to access quality and relevant education without any discrimination and social, economic, or cultural obligations.
- o Promote and facilitate equal opportunities for girl children and women for enhancing opportunities of development.

### **Major Thematic Areas:**

- o Quality Education for all Children
- o Child Protection / Gender Equity / Human Rights
- o Livelihood Empowerment / Humanitarian/Networking and Advocacy

### **GOVERNANCE, STAFF AND CERTIFICATIONS:**

- o The organization has a management board of 8 members, 3 Executive Committee Members, experts who are leading, guiding and mentoring the organization. There are 70 full-timers and 25 volunteers associated with Mahita at various levels. It is registered under 80G and 12A of Income Tax Department, and has FCRA of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. It also has PF, ESI Registration, TDS and Service Tax etc.

The organization also has the following policies in place-Financial Policy, HR Policy, Child Protection Policy, and Policy against Sexual Harassment at the workplace, Procurement and Selection Policy, Gender Policy.





