



ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017



BOARD MEMBERS

The board consists of 16 members and the details are given below:

Office Bearers

Dr. Kiran Rao, President
Ms. Neena Paul, Vice President
Ms. Smita Premchander, Secretary

Board Members

Ms. Chinnamma B.K
Ms. Priyashree Anil Kumar
Mr. Chiranjiv Singh
Ms. T. Sujatha
Mr. R Suresh
Mr. Suryamani Roul
Mr. Sushant Gupta
Ms. Madhu Singhal
Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee
Mr. Mahesh Madan Bhatt
Mr. Reghu Ram Bo

What is your role as a board member of Sampark?



Neena Paul

Vice President,
Sampark

There are two main parts to my role: One is the compliance aspect, which involves reviewing projects and tracking their progress, making sure the management meetings happen, monitoring expenses and reviewing the financial statements. The other aspect is providing guidance and mentorship to the Sampark team. (Extract Interview with Vice President, Neena Paul, 21.07.2017)

Why did you become a board member?



Kiran Rao

President, Sampark

The development sector interested me, and Smita (Premchander) would keep sharing about Sampark's activities and informally ask for inputs. Before I became a board member, I would talk to Smita about the need for women focused interventions, especially from a mental health perspective. Just when we were starting to talk about this informally, Sampark had started working on a project with Devadasi women. They found that some of these women actually had very low self-esteem. They didn't know the word depression, but they knew that these women would cry a lot as they started speaking and they needed to tell their stories to someone. As they shared, they felt that they were unburdening. They couldn't understand it as a mental health issue, but when I had these informal discussions, I was sensitizing them for this mental issue.

I was working at NIMHANS (the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) at the time and an opportunity came up, there was a huge grant on HIV/AIDS. Since this issue was also a sensitive issue among the Devadasi community, I had requested Sampark to write for a project grant. That project was done with Devadasi women and specifically focused on their mental health issues. It had a qualitative research methodology and the Sampark staff involved got trained in qualitative research at NIMHANS.

When we completed the project, we realized the extent of the issue, that it was only the tip of the iceberg and that mental health issues was a cross cutting factor, probably preventing the women from utilizing the training Sampark was giving them before. Then a little later, because of these associations and these conversations becoming more elaborate and more structured, Smita asked: "Why don't you come formally on the board, so that you actually know the various activities?" These conversations went on from around 1995 to 2000, and in 2001, I came on board. Then of course I took up the mental health concern, specifically with a project which addressed mental health issues. (Extract Interview with President, KiranRao, 21.07.2017)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Cooperatives and SHGs in Koppal.....	1
What happened in the last year?	1
Future of the Cooperatives and the SHGs	5
2. Prerane Project – Education project in Koppal.....	6
What happened in the last year?	6
Future of the Prenare Project	11
3. Sampurna Shuchigram Project.....	11
What happened in the last year?	11
Future of the Sampurna Shuchigram Project	12
4. Empowerment of Migrant Workers.....	13
What happened in the last year?	13
Future of the Migrant Worker’s Project.....	18
5. Crèche Project.....	19
What happened in the last year?	19
Future of the Crèche Project	24
6. Capacity Building of the Staff and Fundraising	25
Capacity Building.....	25
Fundraising	26
7. Future of Sampark	27

Chiranjiv Singh (Founding member, Sampark)



Why did you found Sampark?

The basic idea was to do something for the rural people, especially craftsmen and women. This NGO was created to do something for these people and ameliorate their conditions. Sampark literally means connection. If you see the logo of Sampark, it represents a hut in the village and a house in the town. You produce something in the village and sell it in the town. The logo itself represents the initial idea of Sampark, but then it grew over a period of time, organically like a tree.

We started focusing on women. We started the microfinance organization which aims to empower the women, and realized that women are handicapped because in many cases they had not had education. We look at the education situation in every village we are working in. Hence, Sampark's areas of focus grew from crafts to microfinance, women issues to education. Then we realized that these village people in the off-season come to the city as construction workers, so their children have no educational facilities. With no one taking care of these children, the crèches program came in. One thing led to the other, which is why I said it grew like a tree, organically. There's a connection which you can see, that connection is still there in the philosophy of the organization. (Extract from interview with founding member Chiranjiv Singh, 22.07.2017)

1. Cooperatives and SHGs in Koppal

The goal of Sampark in the rural areas of Karnataka is to empower women. They aim to see progress in the social, economic and educational fields of the families. The objectives of the cooperatives are to educate every member, to enhance the financial stability of every family, to provide health and education and to ensure financial independence for the women. The cooperatives consist of several SHGs (self-help groups). Each SHG has between 10 to 15 members. Every SHG follows five rules: weekly meetings, saving, loaning, record keeping and attendance. The SHG has the objective to keep track of the savings of each member and give loans to the members, if needed. The main reasons for loans are starting businesses and paying for education. The operatives split the work of the board members in three committees with different responsibilities. The administration committee has different tasks regarding

the administrative work of the cooperative like monitoring the training for the groups, conducting staff meetings or checking the check book and other documents of the cooperative. Verifying the loan applications, giving grades and reviewing the grades or visiting the homes of the borrowers counts to the responsibilities of the finance committee. The third committee which is the Social Development Committee solves social problems, prepares the monthly report of Social Development and visits the Self Help Associations.

What happened in the last year?

The figure below shows the financial situation of each cooperative in the last year. The given data is summarized in this graph. Especially to mention are the loans taken from external organizations such as NABARD or Sampark. Only one cooperative currently holds a loan of NABARD, but three use loans of Sampark.

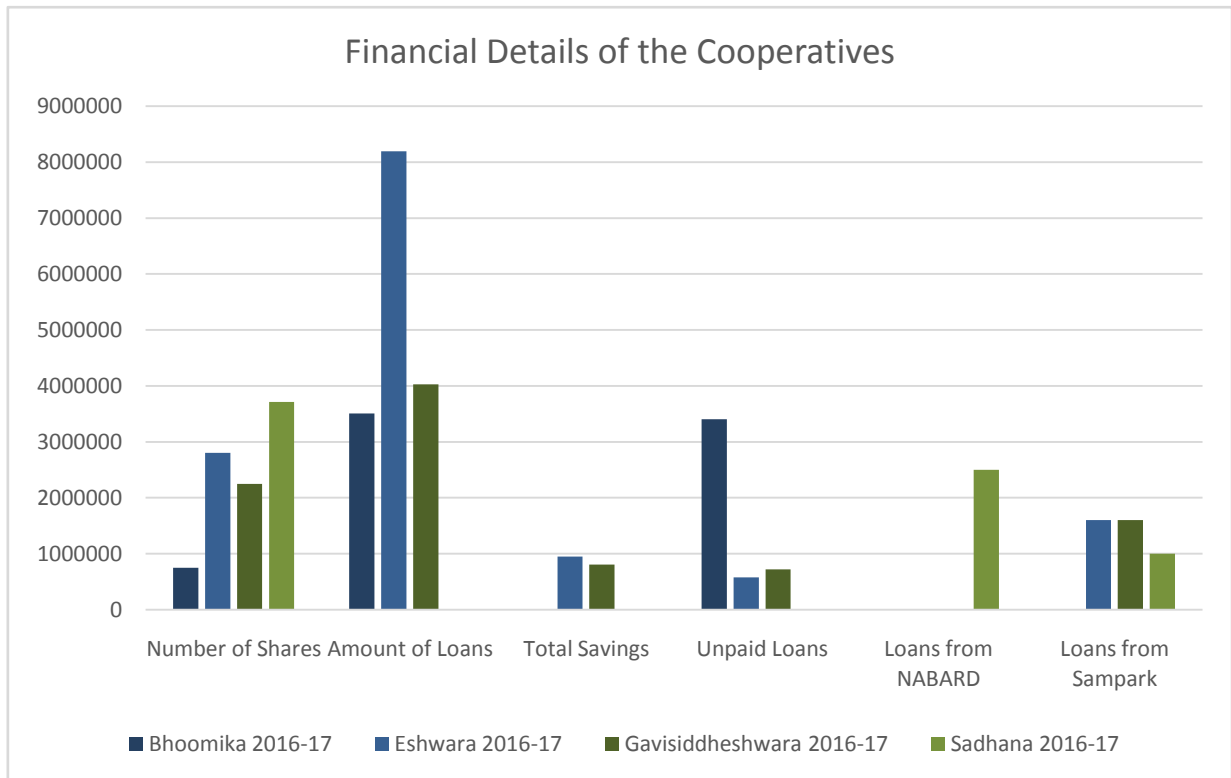


Figure1: Financial Details of the Cooperatives

What do you like about the SHG project?



Neena Paul

*Vice President,
Sampark*

About the SHGs, I like the aspect of women empowerment. If you empower women to have enough money to take care of their own needs and the needs of the children, then this and the next generation are taken care of. While we can't put these women back to school and get a higher education, they can learn functional literacy, set up little businesses and generate money to take care of themselves. (Extract Interview with Vice President Neena Paul, 21.07.2017)

Eshwara Cooperative

The Eshwara Cooperative has been very successful in the last year. The Best Women Cooperative Award of the year 2016 was given to the cooperative from the Karnataka State Co-operative Federation Bangalore and Koppal District Co-operative Union and they purchased two sites which are now registered in the name of Eshwara. Despite the success, Eshwara faced difficulties collecting money from their debtors. They had to file complaints at the police station in order to get the outstanding payments.

A memorable day, especially for a group consisting only of women, is the yearly Women's Day. 300 members of the SHG took part in the 2017 Women's Day celebration, held at a public ground in Koppal, where they learned about the Cooperative and shared it among the other members. In the general annual meeting the cooperative implemented the Lucky Draw Scheme. Interested people could buy a

ticket and get a chance to win a prize. 3,799 tickets out of 5,000 were sold for Rs.20/- each and a total amount of

What do you like most about Sampark?

Chiranjiv Singh:

Everything. I am one of the founding members, and I think we have made a difference to the lives of the people, even if it is a small group. In the NGO sector, you look at what difference you have made in the lives of even a small number of people. Here in Sampark for example, if you look at the crèches, you know that the children are being cared for, they are getting some education, and you feel happy as well. (Extract Interview with founding member Chiranjiv Singh, 22.07.2017)

Neena Paul:

Though these projects are very challenging from the field perspective, people still love working here. The people here are so young and a lot of teamwork is involved, with great guidance by Smita. At Sampark, there is that energy that makes you want to be here. Nobody ever leaves Sampark feeling they did not contribute. (Extract Interview with Vice President Neena Paul, 21.07.2017)

Rs.75,980/- was collected. Rs. 30,000/- was given away for the Lucky Draw winners and the remaining 7,000/- was spent on the cooperatives breakfast expenses and on gifts for the shareholders. Training was provided to the members of the group regarding the bank transactions, 20 members in 10 groups were helped in getting their Pan Cards for facilitating their bank transactions. A bank account has been created in the Bank of Baroda Branch at Koppal because they had promised to lend loans to the cooperative. Participation in the workshops and training camps held by the cooperative: The roles and responsibilities of a Chairman and Secretary, accounts keeping and money management, information about how to collect the loans back have been taught to the participants of the workshops and camps. In such workshops and training camps organized

by the cooperative, a few districts such as Bengaluru, Gangavati, Raichur, Koppal and Hospete have taken part.

Gavisiddheshwara Cooperative

In the last year the Gavisiddheshwara Co-operative got an open site registered in its name by submitting an application to the gram panchayat. The expense for building construction is Rs.7,70,000/-. An amount of Rs.1,10,000/- has been released from the people's representative's treasury. The remaining amount was contributed from the cooperative's income on permission of the shareholders. Vishalakshi, a member of the Eshwara Cooperative had borrowed a loan of Rs.1,56,000/-. It had been 3 years since she borrowed the loan and was unable to repay it. Hence she decided to sell her house worth Rs.2,30,000/-. She had proposed to the cooperative that they buy the house and give back the remaining amount to her. After several discussions, the deal was made and a balance amount of Rs. 74,000/- was registered to her name from the cooperative's account. The cooperative had designed a new scheme known as the Lucky Draw Scheme and it turned out to be very successful. The scheme worked in this fashion: 500 tickets were sold out for Rs.20/- each and so a total amount of Rs. 10,000/- was collected. Rs. 3,000/- was given away for the Lucky Draw winners and the remaining 7,000/- was spent on the cooperatives breakfast expenses. The number of unpaid loans has been reduced. The loan amount of Rs. 1,32,800/- of the year 2015-16 has been maximized to Rs. 8,05,000/- in the year 2016-17. Discussions regarding the loan repayments were made with the concerned police.

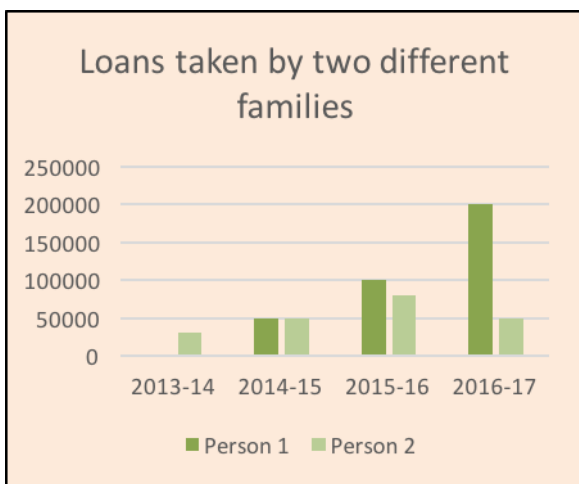
Sadhana Cooperative

Last year this cooperative managed to receive land from the government to establish their office. After struggling for four years they finally were granted a piece of land. To raise the funds for the construc-

tion of a building the Sadhana Cooperative submitted a request letter to the MLA asking for financial support. They were

Case study:

This case study aims to show how the work of Sampark through SHGs and cooperatives impacts the lives of the people. The graph below shows the loans two different families have taken from the year 2013 up to the year 2017. Person 1 started borrowing money in the year 2014-15 which was invested in the already existing grocery shop. In addition to that, this family was able to buy agricultural land and started cultivating. The feedback of the family is positive. In their opinion they were only able to purchase the fields with the help of the Sadhana Cooperative and are very thankful. Person 2 took more loans than the first person. After being able to borrow money from the Cooperative this person managed to start in the agriculture sector and quit the job in construction work. All the loans have been used for agricultural purposes. The second family, like the first mentioned, is very happy with their current situation.



granted Rs. 10,000. Another big benefit was the oil machine which was provided to the Sadhana Cooperative. Free neem seeds have been distributed to the

members of the cooperatives which then have been sold in Gangavati. The people in the villages were able to gain profits.

Even though this cooperative had some successes, there have also been struggles. Some people refused to pay their debts. The police had to make sure that all the debts could be collected properly. A lawsuit had to be filed against a member who refused to pay the debts and influenced others to not repay their loans.

Various other activities in this cooperative:

On their Annual Meet, 100 saplings were sponsored to each of their members by the forest department. Also, an awareness program on nature conservation and the benefits of planting trees was conducted. Sadhana members are aware of the responsibilities of the Chairman, Directors and also about account keeping and money handling. They have also taken part in several other workshops and training camps conducted by the cooperative. Due to the financial crisis faced by the cooperative in the month of February, 2017 a loan of Rs. 25,00,000 was taken from NABARD. The directors of the cooperative have been selected to vote for the elections of the directors of the Samyuktha Co-operative Board. 150 members of their Cooperative took part in the Women's Day celebration held at a public ground in Koppal.

Bhoomika Women Cooperative

The main challenge for this cooperative is to collect the unpaid loans. When trying to collect the unpaid loans in the villages people refused to pay based on the fact that they didn't have enough rain and therefore are not able to pay the amount. The loan amount that NABARD has to receive is Rs. 15,72,456/-. From the month of May, 2016 loans haven't been refunded and NABARD's District Composer has held 10 meetings with the Board Directors regarding the loan refunds. They have also submitted legal notices in the name of

the Cooperative's Chairman and Secretary from their head office. Due to the lack of rain the finance companies are advised to not put further pressure on the debtors to repay the outstanding loans. It could happen that they commit suicide. At the moment the cooperative Bhoomika is focusing on the unpaid loans and therefore there are no new activities.

Problems faced in the last year

Three of the four cooperatives had severe struggles getting recovering the overdue amounts. Staff members of the cooperatives Eshwara, Gavisiddheshwara and Sadhana have been abused while trying to

collect money. In some cases, they managed to get the money. In other villages, women threatened to commit suicide if they had to pay. They also claimed that they would file a complaint against the staff to the police stating that the cooperatives charge high interest rates. They threatened that they would make false accusations to the media and destroy the name and the reputation of the cooperatives. The cooperative leaders and staff persist slowly with their recovery efforts, and while the old overdues are slow to come, the more recent loans have been repaid on time.

Future of the Cooperatives and the SHGs

Sampark started the cooperatives and the SHGs in Koppal 15 years ago. At the beginning Sampark provided more support to the SHGs and cooperatives. This decreased over time as they started becoming more successful each year. Currently the cooperatives and the SHGs are sustainable and work without major support from Sampark. Sampark reduced the involvement in Koppal to monitoring for statutory compliances, servicing of loans to external agencies such as NABFINS, and troubleshooting.

The goal of this project is to replicate this model in other regions, e.g. Varanasi.

The learnings from Koppal can be incorporated in the planning of the project in Varanasi. In the past 15 years much has changed. Regarding technologies, a lot has improved in the favour of the cooperative and SHGs. Sampark aims to reach around 1,800 women in Varanasi and empower them to improve their livelihoods and empower women. Sampark wants to focus on a few areas and make significant improvements in the lives of a smaller number of households rather than making a superficial improvement in lives of many.

2. Prerane Project – Education project in Koppal

Sampark's intervention in 10 Government Higher Secondary Schools in Koppal district for a period of 3 years revealed that 50% of the class 8 students lack basic learning skills. The government schools have a practice whereby students in the primary schools are promoted to the higher classes even though they lack basic learning skills like reading and writing, as per the Government's order on compulsory education till class 7. Students of classes 1-3 have no practice on reading or writing skills. The government's universal primary education programme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan does not effectively teach children to read or write. While 80% of the students of classes 4-5 are able to read, only 60% are able to write. Sampark realizes the importance of having a good academic base in students of primary classes which can be inculcated easily at the early stages of learning and is helpful for students in higher classes.

What happened in the last year?

Activities in RIP centres

The Reinforcement Program (RIP) centres have been functioning successfully for the past 3 years. Education facilitators (EF) have experimented with different strategies to facilitate slow learners and improve their academic skills.



The EFs often interact with the individual students as well as groups by conducting debates, recitation, science experiments and quizzes to enable overall participation of students from class 2-6. These activities encouraged students to think beyond the class room learning and work in

a group by sharing ideas and materials. Gardening is another area where the EFs encouraged students to grow vegetables which are contributed to the mid-day meal.

In April and May 2016, summer classes were conducted for the students who volunteered from class 1-7 across 10 project schools. The classes were conducted from 10 am to 1.00 pm. The students spent about two hours learning academic skills with facilitation from the EFs, school teachers and their peers. The last one hour was planned in such a way that the student would choose either indoor or outdoor activities. The students would leave the school after lunch as mid-day meal was provided in the school this summer. This limited the time available for the activities with the children.

A total of 407 students benefitted from summer class, of which 195 were girls and 202 were boys. The total strength of students across 10 schools is 1718 (Girls 855 and Boys 863) from class I to class 8. The



total strength of students from class 2-6 is 1172 (Girls 581 and Boys 591).

EFs along with the support of the Head Masters, Head Mistress and class teachers of all 10 project schools, selected slow learners from class 2-6 in the last week of June 2016. Though more than 75% of the students fall in the slow learners' category, this year it was decided that the very poor performers in academics needed to be identified. This was to ensure that the EFs would be able to focus on those students who really need individual attention to learn Kannada, English and Mathematics. 436 slow learners were identified from the 10 schools (228 girls and 208 Boys). Only 37.2% of the total strength of the students were selected for the intervention this year, which comprises 19.45% girls and 17.75% boys. The EFs planned the activity for the full academic year and the interventions in all three subjects started in the month of July 2016. The Head Masters and Head Mistress in all 10 schools have been supporting the EFs to interact and work with the slow learners.

Assessments of slow learner students

Assessments are conducted in all RIP centres every month to evaluate the academic progress of students in Kannada, English, Hindi and Mathematics. EFs, with the support of the field coordinator have put together common assessment tools to be used in all RIP centres. The ASER tools are the basic assessment tools and were prepared in the month of September 2016 and used in all RIP centres. In the month of October 2016, the Field coordinator and the EF worked on the tools to further refine and use in the RIP centres, and modify them accordingly on suggestions made by the EFs. The EFs and the field coordinators continuously made the required changes in the testing tools and used them at regular intervals to evaluate the academic progress of the children in reading, writing and mathematical con-

cepts. The language evaluations were made on three categories- recitation, reading, and writing, and the grades were consolidated. A few EFs attempted to teach Hindi language as per the request of the students. The school wise grade calculations are available in the following tables.

Kannada					
Grade A		Grade B		Grade C	
B	G	B	G	B	G
64%	65%	29%	25%	5%	5%

Table 1: Grades Kannada divided by gender

English					
Grade A		Grade B		Grade C	
B	G	B	G	B	G
34%	38%	50%	47%	14%	10%

Table 2: Grades English divided by gender

Mathematics					
Grade A		Grade B		Grade C	
B	G	B	G	B	G
66%	61%	27%	29%	5%	6%

Table 3: Grades Mathematics divided by gender

Some of the parents made the following quotes during these meetings:
“All children are regular to school and have improved in English language. Children are sitting at home either reading or writing which was not the case earlier”.

Republic Day was celebrated in all RIP centres. The EF selected students in a few schools and trained them in speeches on the importance of Republic Day in English. The EF Meenakshi from Kolihal said that she had trained 3 students from class 4 to speak about the importance of Republic Day. After this, the parents of these stu-

dents came up to her and appreciated her effort as they were able to hear their children speak in English. The parents also requested her to teach more of English so that their children will be able to score good grades in the higher classes.

Parents meetings RIP centres

Apart from sending notices about meetings through children, the EFs in few villages visited households to invite parents for the meetings, Parents of slow learner students were invited to the schools with the consent of the Head Masters in all RIP centres. The School Development and Monitoring Committee members were present for these meetings in most of the RIP centres. The agenda was to share with the parent's information about the RIP centre activities and also to inform them about the academic progress made by their children this academic year. In this meeting there was a discussion about the project objectives and activities conducted in the RIP centres. The parents were aware about the EF's intervention in the RIP as they had heard about it from their children. The parents also appreciated the effort of Sampark and the EF's work.

The parents also appreciated the effort of the EFs visiting houses of the long absentees and motivating parents and children to go back to school. Parents in HunsihalThandaschool shared their concern about the academic performance of their students and requested in case the student comes to school without completing their homework, parents should be informed and should support the EFs if necessary to sort out the issues. During the second round of the parents meeting which was conducted in the month of February, a number of mothers' attendance increased and this clearly indicates that the mothers are now more concerned with their children's education.

Capacity Building of Education Facilitators

A total of 15 EF meetings have been conducted in this period. The team meetings are conducted by sharing about different activities conducted in schools apart from regular activities like quizzes, recitations, debates, science experiments and a day picnic to give awareness on environment care. The team usually meets at Bevoor office for a day-long session. The EFs speak about their work in the respective schools. They also share their success and challenges in planned activities, and train other EFs in a particular approach to a particular subject. The team gets together to learn the techniques of proper reading, how to plan specific lessons or how to address issues with regard to long absentees and so on. These sessions give the EFs an opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other to create good and workable teaching learning materials.

Impacts

The project activities resulted in the following impacts.

- Sampark reached out to 1324 students (651 boys and 673 girls) from class 2-6 and 437 slow learners students (187 boys and 250 girls) during this academic year June 2016-March-2017.
- The RIP centres are functioning successfully. Five rounds of assessments have been done in RIP centres starting from September-2016 and ending in the month of February 2017.
- There is an increase in the percentages of students scoring A grades and a decrease in the number of students scoring D grades in English, Kannada and Mathematics.
- The analysis of grades in the month of February is appealing as about 250 students have scored A grades in Kannada and Mathematics.
- A large number of parents attended the second round of meetings in the

month of February 2017 which is a clear indication of their growing concern about their children's education and the importance they have started to bestow on it.

- Parents meetings were conducted in 7 RIP centres in the month of February 2017.
- Households in one village (Bhairanaikanahali) are motivated to purchase water from the water filtering units and to buy recharge cards.

Water Filter Units

Sampark has been instrumental in facilitating the establishment of village level water purification units, with support from the Bayer Foundation in Bhairanaikanahali and Narsapura. They have issued smart-cards which are used to access the drinking water and the prices are paid according to litres bought. The reason such a system is used is because the reader is left wondering what the process is and where did cost come from. This is a separate initiative, not part of the education initiative, even though it is sponsored by the same foundation.

The households in two villages have achieved varying levels of progress in recharging their purified water recharge cards. In Bhairanaiknahali, the EF and the person working in the unit have been encouraging people to purchase more and more cards. In Narasapura, only few families are showing interest in purchasing filtered water from the unit despite the efforts of the EF and the filter unit staff to motivate families. This is because the people from this village believe that they get frequent cold and cough, also they are not able to transport the water to the field. They drink water available in the field, where they work. The reason for their illnesses is the fact, that they sometimes use filtered water and sometimes not.

Name of the Village	No of card	Water sold in litres	Total Amount
Bhairanaiknahali	75	115292	25150
School and Aganavadi	Free supply	14840	0
Total	75	130132	25150
Narasapura	35	39640	9414
School and Aganavadi	Free supply	7660	0
Total	35	47300	9414
Grand total(A+B)		177432	Rs.34564

Table 4: Details of filtered water sales in two villages



Visitors to the Project Area from Bayer Seeds PVT Ltd

Ms. Laura Coulen BV Board and Support/Internal and external affairs visited the field on 25th May 2016 to review the progress of the project. She inaugurated the RO plant in Narasapura village and addressed the people of the village, informing them about Bayer's role in installing the filtering unit, and stressed on the importance of safe drinking water and how it has health benefits, especially for their children. She insisted that people should use the facility available in the village, the clean drinking water right away as the company and partner NGOs have worked hard to set up filtering units in their village. Ms. Hema Abhinchandani Country Head along with other officers from Bayer visited the project sites on the 2nd June 2016. The team after the presentation visited Bhairanaikanahalli. The team visited the RO plant and interacted with the village people and discussed about the purchase of safe drinking water. She also visited the school in the same villages and interacted with the students along with the team. She

spoke to a few students in English to check their speaking skills. In the month of August, professors from German university visited project schools and model villages. These professors interacted with the students EFs and teachers in school. Professor and Dr. Harald Strotmann interacted with the students in the class and checked their computation skills in Mathematics, reading and writing skills in English. Professor and Dr. Regina and Professor and Dr. Jargen Volkert interacted with the Head Mistress to find out about the intervention's benefit to the school and to the students.

Project Implementation Challenges

The project team faced several challenges while implementing the project at the grass root level. Some of these are:

- In a few schools there are challenges for EFs to work with the same set of students due to the frequently changing Head Masters.
- Sometimes, the burden to teach all children is laid on the education facilitator due to the teachers of the school teaching only in the morning hours.
- Migration of the family from the villages is a hindrance as these children are prone to forgetting the skills learnt, once they migrate for two to three months and the child's progress is disrupted.
- Bargaining time with the people in the village to come together to conduct parents meeting/Gramasabha in a few villages with the installation of the filtering unit.
- Convincing people in the village to purchase filtered water from the RO plant as many household have not understood the importance of safe drinking water.

Conclusions

Sampark was able to successfully carry out planned activities in all 10 RIP centres

with the support of the school authority and the parents in the villages. The Head Masters and the Head Mistress in all project schools have cooperated with the EFs in conducting all the planned activities in the RIP centres without any disturbance. The teachers in schools have accepted the EFs and provided them support in conducting activities for the slow learner students in the centres. The students look forward every day for the EFs to teach new activities or experiments or conduct quiz in which they participate with enthusiasm. The Sampark team has been able to take support of the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) when required specially to approach and counsel parents of dropout students and the members of the SDMC have been supportive in the implementation processes in all 10 RIP centres. The parents in all 10 villages are appreciative of the interventions by Sampark and the work carried out by the field coordinator as well as the EF.

Based on the field level experiences and suggestions made during review meetings, the team will use the following strategies for the effective implementation of the project.

1. Collect grades of slow learner students from the school through the annual examinations.
2. Compare the grades of the children in RIP centres with that of the school grades on the whole.
3. Plan the curriculum for the summer classes.
4. Visit homes of parents and inform them about the summer class activities and motivate parents to send their children to summer classes.
5. Enable behaviour change towards drinking water through motivation of people in the village to purchase water from the filtering unit in 2 villages.

Future of the Prerane Project

Sampark intends to evaluate the impact of this project further to decide on a strategy

3. Sampurna Shuchigram Project

The Sampurna Shuchi Gram (SSG) envisages the graduation of a village to a "Model Village" that can set new standards and can be replicated elsewhere in the country. The project took off in mid-November, 2013 and follows a participative approach. Sampark has been able to mobilize the people of these villages to take initiatives in listing out issues in the village, prioritizing them and planning out timelines and costs for implementing solutions for these issues. The project aims to

by which the impact can be improved and the interventions will be redesigned.

work with the people in the village to build a model village with sustainable livelihoods, which commensurate with the issues and solutions that are people-centric, raised and suggested by them.

The SSG project focuses on people-led initiatives for village for village development. The initial activities included development of local forums and interventions in education, agriculture and village cleanliness and sanitation.

What happened in the last year?

The project is currently operational in five villages in Koppal district. The three villages in Koppal Taluk are Kolur, Bairapura, and Gunnali, and the two villages in Yelburga Taluk are Bairanayakanahalli and Honnahunasi. The villages were selected on the basis of their economic capacity, resources and strong presence of self-help groups and cooperatives.

Activities

Regular meetings and trainings are conducted by the youth groups in all five villages. Fortnightly meetings are held in the villages and the groups are trained on objectives, rules and regulations, byelaw and more.

Clean Village: Shramadhan is an initiative towards cleaning villages to improve health and sanitation and thereby avoid diseases and other ailments. The youth groups have been conducting monthly activities in all the villages. This has gained them public acceptance and support.

Enabling Linkages

The SSG team has played a key role in providing necessary linkage and networking for the farmers. The team has provided support by putting farmers in touch with Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Unnati. In addition to that they are being sent to regular exposure visits and trainings. The larger issues of concern that needs focused attention of all associated with the project are listed below. The focus of this year was to provide linkages to Raithu Samparka Kendra, KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra), Watershed department, Horticulture department and provide new innovative trainings for different kind of fertilizers that could benefit the framers.

There are five farmer groups in 5 villages, the details include:

- Mahalakshmi Raithushakti Group-Kolur.
- Annadata Raithushakti Group-Gunnalli.

- Kalidasa Raithushakti Group-Bairapura.
- Basavanna Raithushakti Group-Bairanayakanalli.
- Om Sriram Raithushakti Group-Honnunasi.

During this year the following activities are implemented by the farmer groups:

Linkages with RSK (Raithu Samparka Kendra)

- Provided seeds and fertilizers and crops chemical medicine
- Provision of agricultural materials
- Membership of the farmer groups with RSK.
- Provision free Loans and insurance through (Bima Pasala Yojana Scheme)

Linkage with KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra)

- Land soil testing provided
- Training for agricultural activities in use land also housing a telephonic conference with KVK people to discuss about the diseases in crops

Linkage to Watershed department

- Under watershed scheme farmers made farm ponds to save water and ensure a good yield
- Framers made farm bunds for soil conservation.

Linkage to Horticultural Department

- Provided free saplings to the farmer's groups

Provide training on

- how to grow Azolla which is a good fertilizer for the soil and natural food supplement for cows to increase the quantity of milk production.
- how to grow organic urea and vermicomposting

There are 5 youths group in five villages, the details include:

- Namma Kolor Gramina Abivruddi Kolor youth group has a total 45 youths.
- Gyaneshwar Youths Group Gunnalli has a total of 25 youths.
- Maruti Youths Group Bairanayakanahalli has a total of 25 youths.
- Yamanooraswami Youths Group Honnunasi has a total of 25 youths.
- Kanakadas Youths Group Bairapura has a total of 20 youths.

These groups have been working every month conducting village streets shramadan. And conducting club activities program in government schools and distributing prizes to students.

They have started a Summer Time Drinking water system to provide access to drinking water at public place. The group has also visited sports department got the material for the children for games and making sure that the villagers celebrate National festival within the village.

Future of the Sampurna Shuchigram Project

The youth committees and farmer groups are now working in collaboration with each other for the development of the village. The team has ensured the sustainable community participation in initiatives and problem solutions. As the project advances the learning's can be used to scale up work in the villages and replicate the same in other places.

4. Empowerment of Migrant Workers

In the building and construction sector, more than 44 million workers are engaged across India. They are one of the most vulnerable and excluded groups in the country. Their employment is not permanent, working hours are uncertain, safety is mostly compromised on the work sites, relationship with employers is temporary, and living conditions are unsatisfactory. Sampark identified a need in this community in urban areas of Bangalore and started its ambitious project on January 1, 2013. Through this project, Sampark aims to create awareness among the migrant construction workers about their entitlements to basic requirements such as health, education, legal aid, financial and social security, and facilitate their access to these welfare measures, thereby improving their livelihoods.

What happened in the last year?

The Sampark team reached out to migrant workers by offering health check-ups and links to social protection schemes of the government, to which they are legally entitled. The team also created awareness about the Workers Resource Centre (WRC) and the welfare schemes of the KBOCW (Karnataka Builders and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board). Details of the various activities held to empower migrant workers are given below.

Health

The activities undertaken in providing health support can be categorised into three areas: awareness generation, service provision, and rights-based linkages of the needy to official social protection schemes. Ten health camps were organized in the year 2016-17, covering 1,253

people from 10 labour colonies. Of these, 117 are female workers and 1136 were male workers. The low percentage of female workers reached possibly reflects their actual share of the existing migrant worker population. Previous research conducted by Sampark found that the percentage of female migrant workers is low in the construction sector because of safety and privacy issues and also because women generally stay back in the village to look after young children and old people, while the men migrate for better economic opportunities. The implication of this is that females who do migrate are in a vulnerable position and would benefit from maternity and nutrition support. To aid these women, Sampark organized awareness programmes on pre and post-natal care for mothers and children. The interactive training methodology used helped to create awareness about nutritious food for pregnant women, pre and post-natal care services such as immunization for mother and children up to 12 years' ages and also about the maternity benefit schemes available from the state government. Two pre and post-natal care programmes were conducted in two labour



colonies, reaching a total of 143 women.

Prior to Sampark's involvement, none of the pregnant women in the labour colonies

had visited hospitals or clinics for regular check-up. After the programme identified pregnant women, they were linked to PHCs and aganwadi centres to get Mother's card (locally called Thai Card) which provides information about immunization that mothers need during pregnancy and also immunization that the child needs to take until he/she is 12 years old. This card monitors the immunization of mother and child. In addition to focusing on maternal care for women, Sampark also worked with government doctors from the local PHCs to conduct general health camps for all the migrant workers that it identified. Medicines required for common ailments in the area were distributed free of cost during the camps.



233 workers with complicated health issues such as Tuberculosis, malnourishment, skin allergy, severe backache and Gall Bladder stones required institutionalised treatment. They were taken to the hospitals and advised to visit the hospital for follow up sessions regularly.

The construction workers are at continuous risk from work-related diseases. To create awareness about Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), Sampark also conducted awareness programmes for workers on these issues.

The strategy of holding health camps as entry activities to each new settlement of migrants proved to be highly effective in building networks and relationships among the workers.

Financial Inclusion

The Financial Inclusion Programme was introduced with the aim of eliminating the dependence of workers on middlemen and paying commissions for transferring cash to their families in their villages in the home states. The programme enables workers to place their savings in secure formal banking institutions, rather than use costly private savings options, by linking them to national banks.

Last five years around 537 bank accounts have been opened for the migrant workers. During the year 37 bank accounts opened. Along with opening bank accounts, the team assisted 25 interested workers in applying for Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards.

The key challenge faced by the WRC team in helping workers open bank accounts is the lack of identification proof with the workers. Know Your Customer (KYC) norms of the bank prevent them from opening accounts without ID proof. Some workers who have ID cards leave behind the originals in their source villages and are not willing to bring them to their place of work because they live in small sheds without proper doors, and do not want to risk the loss of their documents.

As part of awareness generation, Sampark organized 5 financial literacy trainings for a total of 128 workers

Social Security and Legal Aid

The Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWFB) provides social benefits to construction workers registered with the board. This board was specifically created for the welfare of construction workers. Sampark's activities focuses on securing social and legal aid through awareness programmes and registration with the KBOCWFB in order to establish link to its schemes. Other activities include or registration with trade unions and provision of

ID cards that would be useful in opening bank accounts or for availing government schemes. Application for two types of ID cards- Union cards and KARBWWB cards, and awareness generation are some of the regular activities carried out for the workers.

The team identified workers who have completed one year of registration with KBOCWWB and thus eligible to avail schemes such as scholarships for children's education and marriage and maternity benefits. About 15 applications were submitted to KBOCWWB to avail scholarships for children and marriage benefits; Out of 15 applications, 6 applications were rejected due to mismatch of names or age in the schools and registration cards lack of proper certificates from school authorities, etc. Four applications have been approved and the workers have received an amount of Rs 21,000/- towards scholarship of two children. Five applications are under process.

On being informed by the labour department that the Aadhar card is an eligibility requirement for workers to register with KBOCWWB, the WRC team got permission with the Deputy commissioner of Bangalore city (urban) and conducted five Aadhar card camps covering 144 workers and children.

The WRC team encourages women workers to report to Sampark when they become pregnant, and on such reporting, they are escorted to the PHC to make mother cards. The KBOCWWB provides a maternity benefit of Rs. 15,000 to the mother after delivering the baby, and on making an application. The team informs the pregnant women of the scheme and of the documents they need to submit to the board to avail of it. Sampark has built and maintained good networks with all the key stakeholders of the project including the Department of Labour, Anganwadis (child care centres established

by the Department of Women and Child Welfare to care for children under the age of 6 and to provide pre and post-natal support to pregnant women and new mothers), PHCs, KBOCWWB, various banks, government and private hospitals, other NGOs that work in the same area and the builders.

Challenges - The procedure for claim and approval processes for schemes from the board is lengthy and time consuming. For instance, the approval of a scholarship application requires verification of the child's identity from the home state of the parent worker. This proves difficult as the parents usually leave the original document safely in their homes, and return to their villages only during the agricultural season. Further, the scholarship application requires submission of study certificates from the schools within three months of joining school, whereas schools can issue such certificates only after 2 months of joining school. This leaves a window of only one month to submit all the documents to avail of the scholarship scheme, putting pressure on the team to meet these deadlines, to enable the migrant workers to get the scholarships intended for them. Another example is that of marriage benefit scheme whereby a worker gets a grant of Rs 50,000 when he or she gets married. To avail of this scheme, KBOCWWB requires submission of original marriage certificate. This is difficult for the workers as they required their marriage certificate for other purposes in future.

These difficulties point to the areas where advocacy is required, and Sampark needs to plan such advocacy to influence a change in schemes and their procedures, to enable more workers to gain access to their entitlements.

Capacity Building of Shramik Mitras:

To provide support to the Sampark WRC team in all its activities and ensure sustainability and ownership of the project, 25 local leaders (Shramik Mitras) were identified and given an orientation on WRC's objectives and activities. Sampark provided information and built capacity in the following areas:

Workers' rights and entitlements:

- The benefits to the workers of the two ID cards i.e. Union and KBOCWBB, schemes and registration process of KBOCWBB
- The benefits of collectives, the procedure to form collectives in labour colonies and steps to take these collectives further to form a union.

Work measurements and wage calculations

- Take accurate measurement of the work done and calculate their payments based on this

Financial inclusion

- Training on banking procedures
- Usage of ATM cards

Digital literacy

- Sending emails and SMS in mobile etc

Migration support services to rural Oriya youth:

This year, Sampark was requested by the Orissa Rural Development and Marketing (ORMAS), Odisha state government to provide to offer migration support services to rural Oriya youth who have been trained under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and are being placed in Bangalore. This is a significant extension to Sampark's construction workers project because the current paradigm of vocational skill training programs in the country has rightly recognized the imperative for extending migration support services to rural youth who

are forced to relocate to urban areas in pursuit of better job opportunities. A sudden shift from the rural milieu- where their social and cultural lives were more wholesome and meaningful, to a complex urban destination that makes unending demands on their work and private lives - ends up being a highly alienating experience for these young men and women. Their daily struggles to integrate with the city life, seek support and access public services become the key triggers for their early exit from the labour market. This, not only undermines the state's mandate for creating a steady, remunerative employment for rural youth, but also cuts the working potential and aspirations of a young person drastically short. As a first step, Sampark conducted a Needs Assessment of rural Oriya youth, (trained under DDU-GKY and placed in Bangalore in different trades) to profile the different groups among Oriya youth, their needs and issues. This would enable fine-tuning interventions and Migration Support Services specifically targeted towards Oriya youth in Bangalore. From January 2013 till March 2017 Sampark has reached out to 8,165 migrant construction workers at destination i.e. Bangalore. Of these, 950 workers have been reached during the reporting period, with 96% of them being migrants to Karnataka state and only 4% from within the state as depicted in Figure 2. Further, 96% of the workers reached were men and 4% were women workers

Achievements

The major achievements of the work with migrant workers are as followed:

Membership of the KARWWB: 727 workers have been registered with the KARWWB during this year, of which 96% were men and 4% women.

Financial Inclusion - During this year, 37 workers opened bank accounts through

Parima Begum, received mother card and goes for regular health check-up

Parima Begum is a 31-year-old woman originally from Bihar. She began her married life in Delhi, but she and her husband moved to Bangalore for better earning possibilities. Being from Bihar they had to face a significant language barrier causing problems in communication. This made their life tough as they were not able to locate nearby public health centres or hospitals and were inconvenienced when they had to travel from one place to another.

After coming to Bangalore, Parima got pregnant but was not able to maintain her health properly during her pregnancy.

Many other women also have to go through similar situations as they are unaware about the importance of regular health check-ups and a nutritional diet during pregnancy. This results in them having symptoms such as consistent weakness and body pain, which can have an adverse impact on the baby and in some cases this can even lead to a miscarriage.

Manjula, field officer of Sampark helped Parima Begum and many other women by taking them to government hospitals for regular check-ups and provided them nutritional diet during their pregnancy. She also helped them in getting their Mother Card needed for regular health check-ups. Now Parima visits a hospital and follows a nutritional diet herself.

Source: Case study collected by Bhavana Gupta, intern from NMIMS college, Bangalore

Sampark intervention and motivation. 95% of workers who have opened bank accounts are reported to be utilising the accounts. The workers who have bank account have benefited by keeping their money safe, are able save 1-2% of total earned money which was spent on discounting their Account Payee cheques

earlier when they did not have a bank account.

Developing responsibility, Ownership and trust– With workers’ continued interaction with the Sampark team, they have gained

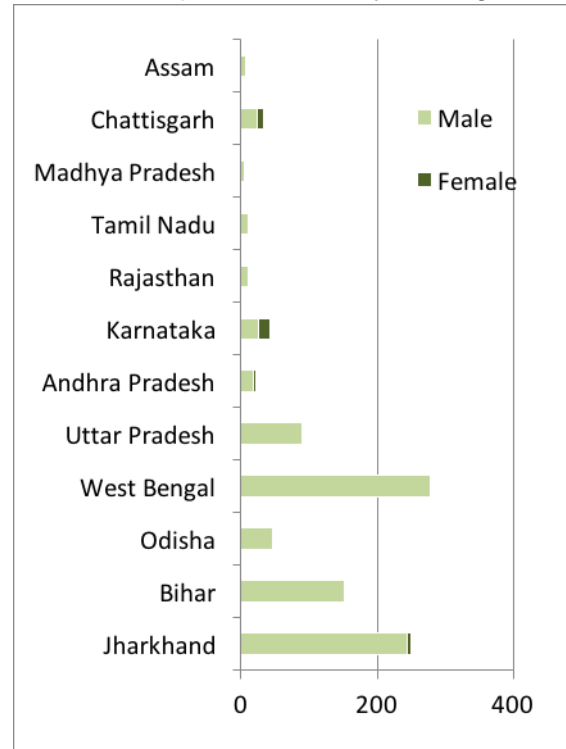


Figure2: Migrant workersreached

a sense of ownership of WRC recognizing that it strives for their improvement; they now visit the WRC at will to enquire about schemes and progress of application.

Also, health camps conducted at the labour colonies helped the WRC team enter into labour colonies and develop a level of trust with the workers. A partnership with the Odisha government will develop in the coming year.

Future of the Migrant Worker's Project

Currently the Sampark team reaches out to migrant workers by face-to-face contact in the labour colonies or working sites. This approach is difficult to carry out, is time-consuming and limits the number of workers we can reach. Updating the details and following up with the workers currently registered with WRC is also a challenge.

Using mobile phone technology and developing the i-migrate App will help enable the following solutions:

- Scale up and reach more migrant workers, i.e. 25,000 workers, efficiently within a short period
- Reliable and updated digitised information instead of face to face contacts
- Reduces monetary and human resources
- Share information on migrant support services, address of local PHC, names of doctors and their contact numbers

Sampark planned to extend its migration support services to youth migrated from oriya in Bangalore through partnerships with ORMAS.

5. Crèche Project

Sampark has established 9 crèches, and ensures the children a safe and clean place to play, learn and interact with each other, where their growth is protected and nurtured in a healthy environment. In addition to proper nutrition the children have access to immunization and regular health check-ups. Children from the age of 6 months to 12 years are welcome to attend the crèches. In the crèche the children are divided into 3 sub-groups: With the Crèches consisting of children from 6 months to 3 years, Balwadi consisting of children from 3- 6 years, and Non Formal Education (NFE) from the age of 6 to 12 years. These crèches run from 9.30 to 5.00pm. Each crèche has 2 teachers and one caretaker. These crèches are housed in tin sheds on the construction site with the support of the builder.

What happened in the last year?

During the past year, 2 crèches were added. A total of 532 children enrolled in these crèches, of which 238 were female and 294 were male children.

Capacity Building of Programme Staff: In the end of the year 2015-2016, all the crèche program staff received 12 intensive trainings by the team from Mobile Crèche, Delhi. This training is followed by several

One volunteer who visited a crèche said: "The kitchen in the crèche is cleaner than the kitchen in my house!"

incremental trainings on models related to early childhood care, curriculum, document maintenance, and community motivation. Supervisor and program manager received special trainings in Delhi, along with other partners of Mobile Crèches, Delhi. The new model focus on health and hygiene practices with individual focus of children and by keeping regular standards for cleanliness. The new model also takes care of overall development of children

aged between 6 and 3 years which is more important as the damage happened during this age is not reversible.

Nutrition and Health Care: As part of nutritious food special diet of Ravakheer (made with semolina, jaggery and milk) given to the children of 6 months to 3 years old. In the afternoon all children are given midday meal that has been supplied by Akshaya-patra Foundation which contains of nourishment for the child's growth. In the evening milk is provided to children of 6 months to 3 years and snacks (groundnut bar or banana or egg) are provided of children of Balwadi and NFE category.



Health support: The children were prone to colds, coughs, malaria and other cleanliness related diseases. Sampark provides the children with multivitamins and supplements to tackle iron deficiency to ensure better absorption of nutrients. Sampark has also linked the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) for their immunization and health referral services. Sampark also conducts health check-ups periodically for the children of Migrant Workers to check for diseases, nutritional status and gaps in nourishment of the children. Sampark conducted 50 health camps in these 9 crèches covering 1719 children (832 female and 887 male). During the health camps, 334 (184 female and 150 male) were identified as under nourished and every day provided children with special diet such as banana, egg, and protein powder (prepared by teacher) and edible

oil in food along with regular three meals. As a follow up of health camps, 58 (41 females and 19 male) workers were taken specialized hospital to get special treatment and immunization.

Which is your favorite project of Sampark and why?

I find the crèche project very interesting. The state which the migrant workers and their families are living in, is very depressing. It is even more pathetic than in rural areas, because in Bangalore the gap between the poor and the rich is too wide and visible everywhere

By setting up crèches, through one project you take care of the needs of two groups: the children and the mothers. The mothers can only go to work if someone is taking care of these children. In our crèches we not only take care of these children, but we have also put a curriculum in place. With this education, the children can then join regular schools. The crèche project covers many aspects of Sampark's intentions: women empowerment, child protection, basic education and health.

(Extract Interview with Vice President, Neena Paul. 21.07.2017)

The team made efforts to convince parents to have Rubella Immunization for their children as most of the parents were suspicious about Rubella immunization due to news in TV and newspapers saying that this immunization is not good for children as it reduces fertility of their children in future.

Education and Mainstream: For each group of children Sampark uses age appropriate curriculum According to the curriculum there are activities for the holistic development of the children such as physical, linguistic, social and numerical abilities. Each day is planned for each group with activities such as physical exercises and storytelling for language development and other tools to develop creativity and activities for school readiness.

The teachers at Sampark crèches are trained staff which undergoes monthly trainings on management of the crèche, and taking care of the children along with regular skill development program for the teacher. Sampark also have an effort to link the children with formal schools in order to receive a mainstream education. During this year, 47 children (24 female and 23 male) are mainstreamed into local government school.



Community Awareness: Sampark conducted monthly meetings with parents in each crèche, where the development and progress of their children is discussed. Some issues like absenteeism, health problems, malnutrition, under-nutrition and problems related to the health and hygiene of the children and their homes are discussed so that the parents can actively work with the teachers to address these. The Sampark teachers also discuss the role of parents in the child's overall development to enable better tracking of children's progress at home.

Interactive Environment and Exposure:

The Sampark teachers take the children to the exposure visits, where children play and interact with other children. During this year, the team of Sampark took the children to Azim Premji University, for a group event organized by volunteers from multi-

"My daughter looks for soap whenever she calls all family members for having dinner." (Mother of a two-year-old girl)

national companies. The children participated in fun activities like magic tricks, dances and other recreational activities like art competitions and games. These activities ensure the development of different capabilities. The children also have opportunities to participate and perform dance, singing in events organised by the construction companies.

Impacts

Sampark has achieved following impacts in the crèche program:

Safety: Children attend crèches, and are safe from possible accidents on construc-

Kumar- Integrating an isolated child

Five-year-old Kumar is from Andhra Pradesh. His parents Marku and Bhathi have 3 children, of whom Kumar is the third. Apart from the small hut in which they lived, Kumar's family had no other asset to call their own. Kumar's father found it very difficult to manage the family of 5 members on his income, and therefore decided to migrate to Bangalore 4 years ago. Initially, both the parents went to work, while Kumar and all his siblings stayed back at home. After that Sampark crèche teachers approached his parents and explained to them the advantages of schooling and advised them to send their children to the school, to which his parents agreed happily. Both parents came home late and went early to work so they could not spend much time with Kumar. Due to this, he had become isolated and did not talk to anybody or play with other children. His siblings also neglected him. So when Kumar joined the Sampark crèche, the teacher encouraged group activities. Kumar can now speak in Kannada and also exhibits a keen interest towards playing with his friends.

tion sites, attacks of stray dogs, and from begging on the streets.

Improved earning by women: Parents, especially women, experience less stress about the wellbeing of their children during their workday.

Health and hygiene awareness and behaviour change: With the availability of a crèche, parents start sending their children to school with clean clothes, hygiene standards improve, and the Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) at the crèche also helps improve the children's nutrition and health. Children learn to wash their hands before eating or when leaving the bathroom and make these processes a habit. These routines are also transferred to their families, when the children leave the crèche to go home.

Access to immunization, reduced incidence of diseases: Given a clean and healthy environment, access to immunization in the crèche and improved awareness among the parents, the children fall ill much less frequently than before.

Increased awareness among parents about child education: Parents are aware about the importance of education and thus encourage children to attend crèches regularly and admit them to regular government schools.

Improved learning and discipline among the children: The children are taught in three languages: Kannada, the local language, a bit of English, and their mother tongue, to the extent to which a teacher can do so in each crèche. Their numeracy skills improve, so does their confidence. With increased learning, they are welcomed rather than shunned in the local city schools, or the village schools, to which they get admitted.

Improved awareness and inclusiveness in schools: Earlier, government schools both in the home villages and in the destination cities, rejected children of migrant workers. The schools used to fear more drop-outs, low learning levels, and language problems arising from admitting these children. Now they are more open to admitting them, as they are made aware of the law, and the children who are brought in for admission are equal to their peers in their learning levels, language skills and discipline, and the propensity to drop out has reduced, except for external reasons. This

Aadithkumar Interested in Education

Adithkumar is an 8-year-old boy from a city called Calcutta. He studied up to 2nd standard in his village after which he, along with his parents migrated to Bangalore. His father took a loan from the village and was not able repay it. Due to this the family migrated to Bangalore and worked as construction labourers, living close to the construction site. He was told to stay back at home and look after her younger siblings because schools were not available near the site. He was forced to give up on his education despite being interested and regretted this decision until Sampark set up schools near his residence. One of the teachers there, Miss. Vidya, convinced him to attend this school. He was not only given education, but also adequate nutrition in the form of eggs, milk and fruits. He has learnt Kannada and English alphabet, numbers and multiplication tables in addition to numerous games and rhymes. Adith says that "Sampark Teachers take care of my sisters so I am able to learn". He is now learning without any disturbance from his siblings and he is very happy. In addition, his siblings also attend Sampark's crèches regularly and do not have to face the same difficulties that that their brother did.

has made the schools where the children are admitted, more inclusive.

Change in attitudes of builder and local community: Builders are now more aware of how they can comply with their legal mandate of providing for safe places for

children, and do so through their partnership with Sampark. The local community too is more aware of the vulnerability of workers' children, and participates in activities of the crèche, creating a more caring environment in the localities where Sampark's crèches are based.

Eliminating inter-generational poverty: The investment in the crèche and related processes provides a safety net for highly vul-

Safe environment for Praneshwari

Praneshwari, a six-year-old girl belongs to a family that migrated to Bangalore from Basavapura village, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh. Praneshwari's father used to work as an electrician. Once, her father and his friends got into an argument and fought with another group of people, during which one person sustained a head injury and later died in the hospital. Because of this, Praneshwari's father was arrested and jailed. Praneshwari's mother, Jayamma, who did not have a place to stay in that village, came to live with her mother who was working for SunCity builders in Bangalore. She left Praneshwari in the labour colony and started working as a housekeeper in SunCity apartments for a salary of Rs.4500/- month. Jayamma was worried about her daughter's unsafe environment during working hours. Then she noticed the crèche run by Sampark in the labour colony of SunCity and sent her daughter along with other children from the labour colony. Praneshwari comes regularly to the crèche with a clean dress and enjoys participating in chanting rhymes and alphabets, numbers in Kannada and English, coloring and drawing. The mother feels secure as her child is taken care of in the crèche the whole day with nutritious mid-day meal and teaching. Jayamma is able to keep her job as her child is cared for.

nerable children. Admissions to regular schools protects them from illiteracy and lack of basic schooling. As deprivation from education is a major cause of inter-

generational poverty, the investment provides a measure of protection and enhances the ability of the child for taking improved livelihood options.

Impact Study conducted by an intern from Switzerland

To evaluate the impact of this project a qualitative and quantitative study was conducted during the year. The results



Figure3: Weight development in one crèche

and feedbacks from the interviews were very positive however some challenges remain. All people who were interviewed or participated in a FGD (Focus Group Discussion) highly valued the crèche because it provides a safe environment for the children, they get regular meals, nutrition, health check-ups and have some education. The parents confirmed that their children have developed since they joined the crèche. The quantitative analysis revealed that most of the children who regularly attended the crèche for several months have increased their weight, as shown in figure 3. Good nutrition is very important for a healthy development of a child. Children often only visit the crèches for 3 to 6 months and in these months also

not always regularly. To truly benefit from the crèches activities and to have a positive impact children should regularly attend the crèche. The teachers need more capacity building for performing their multiple tasks, including supervision of cooking, feeding the children, following an age-appropriate teaching curriculum, monitoring children's physical growth and learning levels, and communication with the parents. The benefits have been realized by migrant workers and construction companies, and demand for them has grown. Some of the construction companies like JMC, build the room for crèche at very initial stage of construction project and request Sampark to run the crèche. The investment has resulted in parents sending their children to crèches more regularly, and builders bearing some of the costs. The local community, such as those who live in the new apartments, collaborate by contributing stationery materials, and conducting community events for the children.

Challenges

When setting up and operating a crèche Sampark experiences different challenges. One issue is to convince the parents to send their children to the crèche. Also, in the beginning children arrive dirty and; parents don't take enough care of their children's cleanliness. The Sampark team sensitizes the parents on this issue. Another problem is that children sometimes don't increase their weight even though they receive a special diet at the crèche. One reason is because the children don't get proper nutrition at home or because they fall sick frequently. The choice of language poses another challenge. As migrant workers come from different states and speak different languages, they take time to learn Kannada, leading to lacunae in communication with the children as well as the parents.

Future of the Crèche Project

To solve those challenges, it is very important that all stakeholders involved (parents, teachers, builders and Sampark), work closely together and that the teachers receive the required training and sup-

Where do you see the crèche project in the future? *The crèches are currently set up where the construction work is going on. This is where the mothers can come and supervise and go back since the proximity is very important.*

Going forward, I would like to see a crèche be built up properly in a school environment, so that it is more than just a crèche. This is what we are trying to do with the curriculum from Mobile Crèches. (Extract Interview with the Vice President, Neena Paul, 21.07.2017)

port from other parties. In particular, the builders should be more involved and educate the parents on the importance of the crèche's activities for their children's development. This could help to improve the attendance rate among children and further increase the positive impact. In

addition, teachers need further training to feel more confident to teach the children English. In future impact studies, more detailed information will be obtained what kind of illness the children had and on weight development. Another area of investigation will be the continuation and benefits of regular schooling for those children who have been transferred to government school.

Given that there are at least 1.5 million migrant construction workers in Bangalore, Sampark would like to scale up this initiative, and establish a pattern of sustainable functioning for each crèche. The investment in a crèche based on the Sampark pattern is worthwhile in terms of continuing school education of children, this needs to be proven and the lessons spread so that all the stakeholders begin to participate and make investments in the system.

Sampark plans to open more crèches in Bangalore, and create more partnerships with the builders and community, in addition to seeking more CSR funding from companies.

6. Capacity Building of the Staff and Fundraising

Capacity Building

Sampark has constantly encouraged learning amongst its employees and encouraged diverse trainings to build the capacities in house in order to grow. Sampark believes with each passing year there is always an opportunity for greater learning through sharing and reflecting. Some of these trainings attended by staff are as follows:

- Ms. Mahadevi attended workshop on Joy and Joyfulness learning and Understanding the Potential of Art in Early Childhood Education conducted by Azim Premji University.
- Ms. Prameela, Ms. Ishani Tikku, Ms. Mahadevi participated in a workshop on “Designing and Facilitating Multi-Stakeholders Partnerships (MSPs) for Gender and Youth Sensitive Food Security” from 13th -26th November, 2016 Bengaluru, India. The training was conducted by Centre for Development and Innovation, Wageningen University, Netherlands, in collaboration with Sampark Livelihoods Promotion Trust. This workshop helped the staff to understand how to involve relevant stakeholders for effective implementation of projects.
- Teachers participated in trainings on digitalization in Sampark conducted by Subir Paul and learned how to use internet, WhatsApp and Facebook. Teachers developed WhatsApp-Groups and exchange their knowledge related to activities implemented in the respective crèches and also sent data to the Project coordinator to complete the Monthly MIS

within Sampark and send to the donor.

The team capacities improved through the following interventions:

- An internal system was established of regular trainings to the crèche teachers team to improve their digital literacy and communication.
- A series of lectures were organized through a new initiative, Samvaad, whereby resource persons were invited to share perspectives on different contemporary issues with Sampark staff. These included:
 - A talk by Mr. Aloukik Mohopotra, an intern from Institute for rural management, Anand, on BREXIT
 - A talk by Prof. Sunanda Easwaran on women’s enterprise
- Two resource persons and friends of Sampark visited Sampark to facilitate an internal assessment of the organization and improve capacities for strategic planning and fundraising. Dr. Dinah Bennett and Ms Nichola Scott visited all Sampark’s activities and held discussions with the team over ten days, culminating in a workshop on strategic planning and fundraising.

Sampark hosted interns and held meetings and discussions with students from

many educational institutions in the year 2016-17. These included:

- Symbiosis School of Economics (Pune)
 - Pranavi
- Christ University (Bangalore)
 - Rose
 - Sathyapruya
 - Priya
 - Sheryl
 - Tashi
 - Sukruti
 - Sneha
 - Shireen
 - Veni
 - Maamsi
 - Rajan
 - Pranav
 - Michael
 - Subham
 - Yashika
- Jeejo
- Armaan
- Ashish
- Institute of Rural Management (IRMA)
 - Divyanu
 - Aloukik
- University of St. Gallen
 - Anna
 - Adriane
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai)
 - Sumit
 - Vinod
- SVKM's NarseeMonjee Institute of Manangement Studies (NMIMS)
 - Dipesh
 - Dharani
 - Prandi
 - Bhawana

Fundraising

During the year Sampark submitted several proposals to different agencies such as: Humanitarian Innovation Fund, HSBC Bank, Department for International Development, United Nations Development Programme, Small Industries Development Bank of India, Pangea, Swades Foundation, Swiss Re Foundation.

Sampark could not register with the official vetted list for NGOs for CSR funds, as the government has not accepted NGO applications this year. Meanwhile, Sampark

collected a list of 400 email IDs of several companies and other funding agencies and sent emails to raise CSR funds for its activities. From this exercise Sampark raised funds for two crèches and a funding agency, Jochnick Foundation contacted Sampark to ask for a detailed proposal on empowerment of migrant construction workers. This proposal will be discussed in their Board meeting in September 2017.

7. Future of Sampark

In the coming year, Sampark plans to replicate its SHG and cooperatives work in Varanasi, making a partnership with the Rajghat Education Centre of the Krishnamurti Foundation of India. This will ensure that Sampark's knowledge and expertise in women's economic and social empowerment is used to benefit poverty ridden families in the northern region of India.

The educational intervention in Koppal will be better strategized to improve impacts. The crèches for migrant worker's children will be multiplied.

Above all, Sampark will focus its activities for improved sustainability of its operations, and for significant impact on the livelihoods of the people that it seeks to benefit.

Where do you see Sampark in the future?

We would certainly continue with the projects that we have. However, we must ensure that for each project we take up, we should build an exit strategy into the project itself. The idea is to empower the people to take over whatever is being done and take responsibility themselves. We are there to give advice in case they need it, to give guidance in case they ask for it, but we should also make them self-sufficient. Our goal is to bring them to a level where they can take up their own projects and responsibilities.

In order to have independence and not be totally dependent on donors, we are thinking of having another organization, which could generate funds so that we can finance our social work. Over the last 3 decades enough experience has been gained and we are in a position where we could trade this experience. We can take up training for example, at an international level. This experience for example can be useful for countries in the region. If some training program is to be organized in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh, Nepal, Africa, we would be available. The funds generated from these activities, would be then brought back into the social part of Sampark. The social part is the prime objective, and everything else that we do to create funds is to make sure that the social component takes priority.

The basic idea is to make a difference in the community. If you make a difference in a household, the children grow up in an improved atmosphere, and they go on to lead better lives. Those are the kind of social changes we are looking at, and we aim at general amelioration of the society, even if it's in a small geographic area. (Extract Interview with founding member Chiranjiv Singh, 22.07.2017)