



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



SECRETARY'S NOTE



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SAMPARK
FOUNDER, SECRETARY

What a year the world has gone through! Pandemic, fear, isolation, loss of hope, loneliness. Time seemed to collapse in on itself. As we worked hard to cope, weeks merged into months, while time stood still and COVID-19 rampaged.

Sampark largely means to 'Reach out' and since 1991, we have reached out to more than 20,000 women, 32,000 migrant workers and 10,000 children. During pandemic we have done exactly this, battling newer situations of combatting Coronavirus variants. We came face to face with severe unemployment, lack of food and nutrition for migrants and their children, incessant deaths and the merciless stigma of socially distancing the afflicted by the deadly disease.

Through a lengthy and tiring daily grind, the Sampark team picked up the tough challenges that the distance mode of functioning and learning presented to us. Along the way, we imbibed, with great success, the nitty-gritties of online instruction dissemination.

The community-connect system that was put in place through Sampark's inception made the bedrock of our modus operandi and helped us deliver with a strange and happy ease, a functionality unbeknown to ourselves. We reached out effectively and efficiently through this rooted, grounded, unshakeable system in a step by step, well meditated mode of functioning. We have been able to pivot and adapt to this 'new normal' with relative ease. We have steadfastly done our job.

We have our statistics in place and our valued team of staff, employees, and senior members to speak for it who, through Sampark's non-hierarchical organizational structure, ensured that the good work was delivered with effective and precision-based delivery, minimizing any scope for miscommunication. We reported regularly to our donors, ensuring complete transparency in our operations, money, human resources and outreach.

The three core elements of our success in this challenging year remain

A

Our valued team of staff, employees, and senior members

B

Flat hierarchy system that we have adopted to ensure that the good work is delivered with an effective and precision-based deliverance system, minimizing any scope for miscommunication.

C

Up-to-date data management, which ensures that we can make available to our donors information, with, complete transparency - into our day-to-day handling of work; with funds, other resources, and targets well defined.

Sampark's core belief is to align our vision with action. We strive for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), weaving GESI principles into all our work. Our core mission is to connect with our diverse group of direct benefactors which includes migrant laborers and their families. We help women achieve financial independence, extend education assistance and opportunities to the children of migrant laborers and more recently, we have appended a new group of young women who we are helping out to find their identity through self-regulated exploration in the field of modern application of technology.



EMPOWERING LESS PRIVILEGED & RURAL WOMEN

Women have historically faced systemic oppression at the hands of the state, caste, class, gender, and religious hegemony, having held a secondary position to their male counterparts within the gender hierarchy. As is always the case, the effects of crises are never gender-neutral, and this pandemic is no exception. While everyone is facing unprecedented hardships, women are bearing the brunt of COVID-19's economic and social consequences.

According to a new Deloitte Global study, roughly 82 per cent of women polled believe the pandemic has had a negative influence on their lives, citing negative consequences on emotional and physical well-being as well as work/life balance.

HIGHLIGHTS

Women SHG groups saved Rs. 7,64,254 in the pandemic year and they saved 34% more than the previous year.

Sampark team listed Kashika, the range of masalas made by SHG women on Amazon and on a website kashikafoods.com to promote retail sales.

In Koppal, the village youth groups formed 8 years ago, became active during the pandemic.

Sampark team distributed 885 dry grocery kits that contained sugar, toor dal, masoor dal, mustard oil, potato, onion & biscuits to women to support their families during the lockdown.

1,910 masks were made by women and distributed among all SHG members to ensure their safety during COVID-19.

Sampark did a survey to empower and enhance the capacity of Devadasis to demand protection of their rights.

Sampark distributed laptops to 135 girls pursuing undergraduate degrees to cope with their online education and exams.

SHG WOMEN IN VARANASI

COVID 19 outbreak had a disastrous impact on rural women's families, by shutting down income streams and wiping out savings. Many households have family members working as migrants in Indian cities and Middle Eastern countries. As these migrants started returning to the villages, it has led to a big loss in household income. Sampark works in 12 villages in the Chiraigaon block near Rajghat, Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh with 77 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 918 women. The women and their husbands are daily wage earners who are engaged in activities like agricultural labour, construction work, selling flowers, fish and vegetables. Women gather weekly and save money and they take loans for personal or agricultural expenses from the capital saved. **Women's saving discipline helped them to a great extent to tide over the pandemic times and none of the SHG groups stopped saving. Women SHG groups saved Rs. 7,64,254 in the pandemic year and they saved 34% more than the previous year.**



Scan to view using
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Sampark intervention villages
in Chiraigaon block, Varanasi

FINANCIAL DETAILS OF THE SHGS FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021

Total savings	Interest earned on loans	Loans taken	Cash in Hand	Cash at Bank
₹25,42,369	₹2,53,260	₹20,06,640	₹6,95,705	₹64,886

The Sampark team distributed 885 dry grocery kits to women to support their families during the lockdown. The kits contained sugar, toor dal, masoor dal, mustard oil, potato and onion, Britannia buns and biscuits to enable them to stay indoors and manage their household during the lockdown. Post lockdown women accessed the PDS schemes announced by the government.



TRAININGS AND CAMPS FOR WOMEN THIS YEAR

Sampark team conducted health camps for 50 women in partnership with the Ramakrishna mission. They provided awareness on menstrual hygiene, TB, COVID 19, nutritious food options for pregnant and breastfeeding women and different exercises for joint pain.

Sampark team also conducted 2 days training on Panchayat Raj Institution. 65 women attended and understood the importance and working of Gram Panchayats. They also learnt about the historical development of gram panchayats and the need for women to work with gram panchayats for effective governance of their village.

YOUTH CADRE

Though times were tough, we realised that every cloud has a silver lining. Sampark team took it as an opportunity to create a youth cadre in the villages. Daughters of SHG women, who got dropped from their high school, due to financial difficulties or family issues took a keen interest in learning the following activities:



11 girls received training on SHG book writing, interest calculation methods, how to conduct SHG audits and monthly reports and supported in the same.



10 girls received training on COVID-19 protocols to be followed, dos and don'ts during the pandemic. These girls were also trained on communication and confidence building as they had to interact with village seniors. They conducted 30 health awareness sessions in 12 villages in July 2020.



LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

This year there was increased focus to generate and support livelihood activities to ensure additional incomes for SHG women both during and post the pandemic. Sampark team listed Kashika, the range of masalas made by SHG women on Amazon for purchase and on a website www.kashikafoods.com to promote retail sales. **The spices production unit produces 50 kg of masalas every month and are sold in different villages.**

Given that masks are the need of the hour, women received training to stitch triple-layered cloth face masks. **1,910 masks were made by women** and distributed among all SHG members to ensure their safety during COVID-19.

The pandemic year stirred a lot of enthusiasm among the youngsters to support and actively participate to support their family and village community. Sampark team is excited to involve and train more women and empower them to reach greater heights.



STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Sunita from Sinhwar

Sunita (20 yrs) from Sinhwar village of Varanasi lives with her siblings, mother and grandmother. She has completed her intermediate studies but due to village and family restrictions could not continue further. Her father works in the Middle East and is the sole earning member of the family.

During the pandemic, she attended health awareness sessions conducted by Sampark in her village. She was disturbed by the death and distress caused by the virus and was happy to know more about the pandemic and ways to prevent it. She was keen to participate in spreading the crucial information to the villagers. She visited sampark office and joined the youth cadre. She learned how to conduct health awareness sessions and also joined the team to run the telemedicine centres in villages. She has learned to perform tasks like booking the appointment, checking on basic health of the patient with different equipment like blood pressure, sugar test, oximeter, body temperature, etc. She visits the villages regularly and provides COVID19 awareness, protocols for villagers to follow, importance of vaccination etc.

WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN KOPPAL



Since 1997, Sampark's women's economic empowerment activities have supported the setup of over 1,400 Self Help Groups (SHGs), involving 15,000 poor (including devadasis) women in Koppal in North Karnataka, India. The SHGs are federated into three Self Reliant Cooperatives, registered with the government of Karnataka. Sampark trains women in order to maintain cash books, account ledgers, fixed and recurring deposits, and reconciliation of accounts and dividends. Women organize the general body meeting, prepare the annual report and audit reports. They also approach federal courts and police departments for their support to collect the overdue loan payments.

All the cooperatives bought land through government schemes and constructed offices. Women run these offices and handle transactions efficiently. Women have sustained these organisations over time and women's savings and small business helped them even during a crisis like the pandemic. The youth groups formed in villages 8 years ago, during the "Sampurna Suchi Grama Project" have become active during the pandemic. Youth group member, Maruti got elected as a gram panchayat member and has rejuvenated the activities of the youth groups. Activities like drinking water stalls, blood camps, distribution of groceries were conducted by the youth groups.

FINANCIAL DETAILS OF THE COOPERATIVE APR 2020 – MAR 2021

Name of cooperative	No. of block	No. of villages	No. of SHGs	No. of Members	Share amount in Rs. Lakhs	Loan outstanding in Rs. Lakhs
Eshwara	2	23	177	2469	13.1	45.15
Gavidid deshvara	2	21	110	1560	10.34	19.25
Sadhana	2	19	158	1890	21.4	63.2

Running cooperatives over the years doesn't mean they do not face challenges. Overdraft and loan collection are always very tough. Cooperative office bearers follow a process in collecting women's loans. But the pandemic has definitely hindered the office bearers travel and their efforts to collect loans. Further, women have confused the government moratorium for regular loans and refuse to pay the SHG loans. The working capital of the SHGs have reduced due to this.

Further to losing livelihood opportunities, 282 SHG members were affected by COVID this year and 9 SHG women lost their lives to COVID.

STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Sudha from Koppal

Sudha (48 yrs old), from Gouri Angala, Koppal is the secretary of EShwara cooperative. Sudha and her husband used to supply milk to all homes and restaurants. During the lockdown in Mar 2020, to support their income, they set up a small shop to cook at home and sell food parcels. They sold breakfast items, snacks and tea and made a good profit to manage their household expenses.

In Sep 2020, Sudha's husband died due to heart attack. Sudha's son supports her now. She runs the shop and manages it to support their income.



DEVADASIS IN KOPPAL

The Devadasi practice a longstanding tradition which is the dedication or offering of girls, often prepubescent or adolescent, to a deity and lifelong service of the temple as Devadasis. It has devolved into an abhorrent practice that forces young girls, predominantly from marginalized caste and class groups, into a religiously and culturally sanctioned form of oppression and sexual exploitation.

Sampark's association with devadasis began from 1991, when women joined the SHGs in the villages of Koppal. Sampark over time have supported them with awareness on abolition of devadasi system, benefits that can be claimed from government schemes by devadasis, health camps, mental health counselling, legal support for their property disputes and education support for their children.

This year, with the support of Norwegian Human Rights funds, Sampark has undertaken a survey and advocacy agenda to empower and enhance the capacity of Devadasis to demand protection of their rights.

The project aims to enable Devadasis, to initiate community-led advocacy about their needs and issues and increase awareness among stakeholders of Devadasis.

Sampark reached out to 76 respondents and conducted in-depth survey through carefully drafted questionnaire. 2 Focus Group discussions were also conducted with 10 respondents.

The survey brought out some interesting findings like:

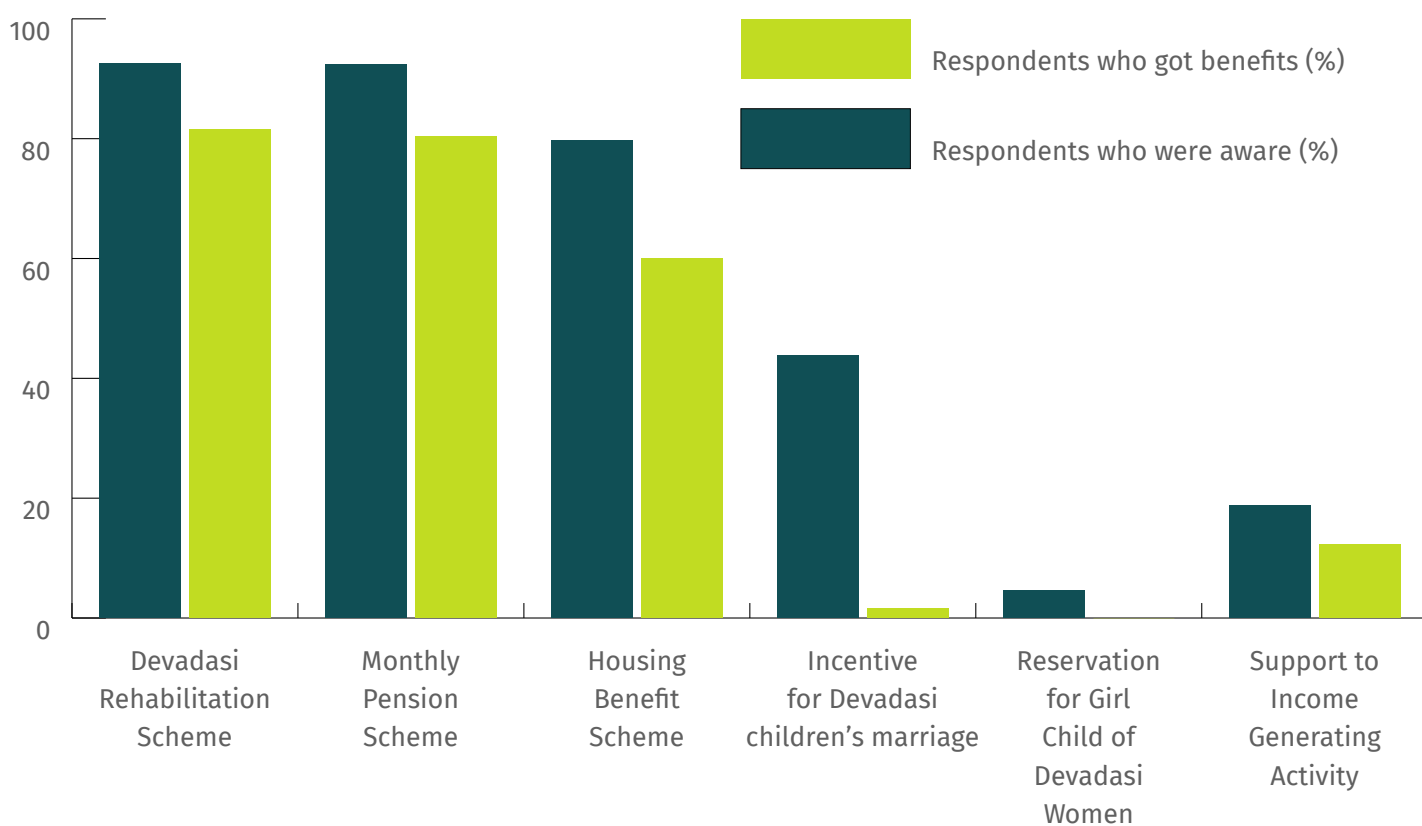
44.3% of respondents, professed that they would like some financial assistance to establish a business or get into self-employment. Only 18% were aware of the government livelihood schemes and only 12% have accessed them.

41 of 51 devadasis responded that their children did not have stable jobs, and that this was a big point of concern for them.

Only 12 out of 62 devadasis mentioned that their children had received some form of skill training.

The below table shows the number of women who have accessed the government schemes and it shows that only 4% of the women were aware of the reservation for girl children of devadasis and no one has accessed it. Though 43% of the women were aware of the incentive for children's marriage, only 1% have accessed it.

AWARENESS AND ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SCHEMES



The study brings out that the pension and housing benefit schemes by the government for devadasis were successful. But the point of concern is the children of devadasis. With very little awareness and support from the government for income generating activities, devadasi families could never break the circle of poverty. Which has been passed on to the next generation and their children suffer now.

Based on the findings of the survey and discussions, Sampark has submitted various recommendations. Some key points are:

Conducting survey and enumerating - Government of Karnataka must therefore take necessary steps to immediately conduct a comprehensive survey to enumerate the Devadasis and ensure mechanisms that allow for new additions to the list.

Enabling social mobility for future generations - An important element in curbing the Devadasi system is ensuring that their children have an improved outlook towards their future. Given that they receive very little or no support from their father and to ensure that they do not fall into the circle of poverty and dedication it is important that the children of Devadasis receive support for education, livelihoods

44.3% of respondents, professed that they would like some financial assistance to establish a business or get into self-employment. Only 18% were aware of the government livelihood schemes and only 12% have accessed them.

Advocacy sessions, panel discussions and multi stakeholder meetings were planned to raise awareness on this issue. Due to the pandemic, and the restriction on gathering, online sessions would be conducted. The aim of the study is to create awareness about the plight of devadasis even after the abolition of the system and the Sampark team hopes the social media run advocacy sessions and panel discussions achieve the same result.

VOICE OF DEVADASIS



I did not know that they had dedicated. I only wore the thali after my first baby was born. If I had been aware, I would not have agreed.

We were not here when they had come for the survey. We are poor. We had gone to places like Gadag, Annigeri to work. We had no idea they were undertaking the survey. By the time we came back, the list was already compiled. We visited the Koppala office. They told me the survey has been completed now. We can't add your name until the next survey. In the last 15 years, we visited them many times. I have gone for meetings in places like Koppala, Bengaluru, Tumkur, Bijapur, and spent money on it. They assure me to get my name on the list and take our signatures on a white paper. But nothing has happened till date. I am fed up of this and have given up on it





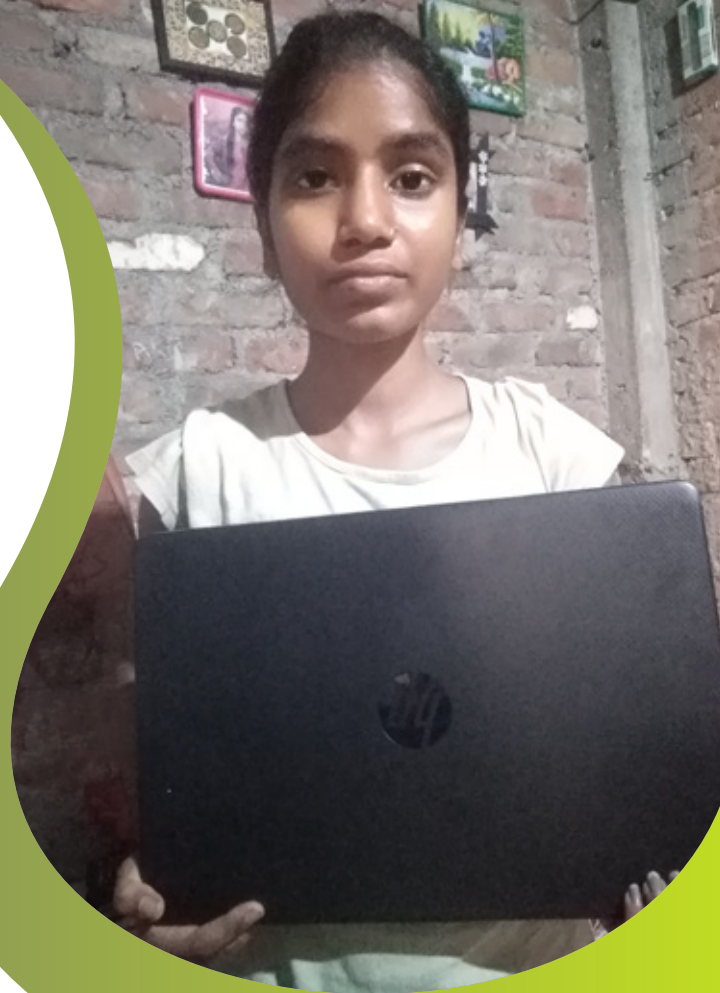
DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR UNDERGRADUATE GIRLS

In November 2020, a group of The Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi (LSR) alumni responded to the COVID created crisis of undergraduate students being digitally excluded. These girls, when studying in LSR, were able to cope better, but with the onset of the COVID19 pandemic, and the consequent shutdown of colleges, returned to their homes, which are spread from Srinagar to Kerala, and from Rohtak to Jharkhand. Many of these girls come from economically weaker sections of the society and do not have the family income to buy their own laptops. They attend classes on phones which are shared by their

many siblings and also get thrown out due to bad internet/ phone connections and miss classes. In short order, this Digital Inclusion Alum Group worked with the college, its Board, other alumnis, and a range of other stakeholders to ensure that the selected students received laptops in time for their impending exams.

Sampark, the implementing partner for the digital inclusion project along with alumni volunteers ensured that 135 girls received their laptop to cope with their online education.

The alumni managed to raise funds for the project from various individuals, corporates and international foundations. The list of needy students was sent by the college and Sampark team through google forms reached out to them and collected basic details and confirmed their issues and need for the laptop. Sampark team coordinated the delivery of the laptops to the students and ensured that they were in working condition.



Girls from 11 different states in India including Jammu and Ladakh, in their 1st/2nd/3rd year of Political Science, Education, History, Hindi, Philosophy, Sociology, Journalism and Economics were provided laptops. These bright young girls undoubtedly put in their best to make it to the very competitive college and could have jeopardized otherwise promising careers. No student should have to go through that!

Listen to what the students had to say!



I'm so delighted to inform you that I have received my laptop today. I am writing this letter to express my firm gratitude for the education help provided to me. It is because of your generosity that I am able to focus on my studies without facing difficulties in doing so. Providing laptop in the times of pandemic was challenging but it became possible only because of your dedication and helping mindset. I'm really short of words for showing my gratitude towards the great initiative taken by you for us.

I have received the laptop along with a bag today. I am really really thankful to you and every person who has helped me getting this laptop. Can't express my feelings in words, really overwhelmed right now! You have done something which we couldn't expect even from our closest relatives. I never ever thought of purchasing such a laptop in my life. But, you all made it happen. I still can't believe that I have a laptop that too of best brand. Can't thank you enough.... thank you so so muchhhh!!





MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

The vulnerability and exploitation of migrant workers is not news to us. What was unbearable was, them being torn between their village and their city of dreams. Having to hear their loved ones in the village worry about their safety, loss of work, loss of dignity and the constant need to depend on donations and charity to manage their needs did push them to make the tough journey back to their village. Poverty and exploitation are the words regularly used to explain their plight, but the pandemic added plenty of words and dimensions to it. Fear, anxiety, loss of hope, unawareness, the trauma of isolation in villages added to lack of access to transport and health facilities.

All migrant workers faced this year was endless miseries.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sampark distributed 9,035 grocery kits, 16,000 cooked meals and 2,200 hygiene kits, 1,450 nutrition kits with concerted efforts by the WRC team and support from other NGOs, individuals, corporates, foundations and government run task forces, in Bangalore, during the pandemic.

719% rise in the number of construction workers linked to social protection schemes from last year. Workers received Rs. 1,12,35,200 worth of benefits from Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWFB)

Shramik mitras were pivotal in communicating with workers in the labor colony and Sampark team, met with them monthly through Whatsapp calls and google meet. Whatsapp groups formed with workers proved to be useful communication tools with workers who had smartphones.

Karnataka Kattada Shramikara Sangha grew to 1,500 members and completed its first year.

EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES

Migrant workers already lead very uncertain lives. They leave their homes in small towns/villages and head to big cities to have better job opportunities. Most of these jobs are in the unorganized sector and there is no regulation or protection of these workers' rights. Most of them, barely make minimum wage and whatever they earn, they send most of it to their families in villages.

Sampark is associated with migrant workers families since 2013 and creates awareness amongst migrant workers about their entitlements in important sectors such as health, education, finance and social security and legal aid. Sampark set up two Workers Resource Centres (WRCs) in Bangalore, as well as a migrant support hotline (1-800-425-1080) which lets workers from all over the country air out their grievances and concerns, anytime. WRC team has its presence in 24 labor colonies in various locations in Bangalore.

**Scan to view using
QR code or Barcode Scanner**

WRC sites in Bangalore



Address of the one-point contact for all migrant construction workers needs and services.

WRC Bangalore West Office
No. 666, 45th cross, 1st B main,
8th block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560041
WRC Bengaluru North Office
No. 3C -317, Ganapati Temple Street,
Sukh Sagar Hotel Cross,
HRBR Layout, Bengaluru – 560084

Stop the pandemic spread – Spread kindness instead!

During the period of lockdown in April and May all construction-related work was halted, and the workers did not earn any income. These workers ran out of whatever little savings they had and found it difficult to eat a meal, pay rent and buy potable water.

Sampark decided to step in and support all the migrant workers it is connected with in 40 sites. Many construction companies were willing to partner and worked with Sampark to support the workers. In addition, as a response to individual volunteers, Sampark reached out to other migrant workers who lived on individual sites. Sampark also partnered with Vishranthi NGO to reach out to more daily wage workers, physically challenged people in Kolar and Malur districts.

Sampark put together a dry grocery relief kit containing the essentials, such as rice, daal, oil, salt, sugar and hygiene kits consisting of bathing & washing soaps, adult and children masks, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and sanitiser that would help a family of 4 for 15 days.

Field officers were quick to coordinate with various big supermarkets and ordered in bulk and stored in respective Sampark offices to be repacked and distributed in Bangalore. The shramik mitras (community resource person) on the field provided data on how many families are present and how many families need relief kits. With social distancing, WRC team set up the site so laborers could come and pick up the relief kits. They also coordinated with the workers to collect the required documents to register with KBOCWBB. WRC team truly qualifies to be called as “COVID 19 community champions” as they strictly followed protocols for their own protection, community’s protection and ensured the vulnerable received their nutrition to battle the pandemic.

Fund-raising campaigns were created to raise funds for migrant workers and was communicated to every staff’s friend and family. With the support, trust and confidence of so many individuals, corporates, NGOs, government run task forces and philanthropic institutions, WRC team

Distributed 9,035 ration kits and reached out to more than 32,000 people.

Partnered with restaurants and distributed over 16,000 cooked meals for migrant workers.

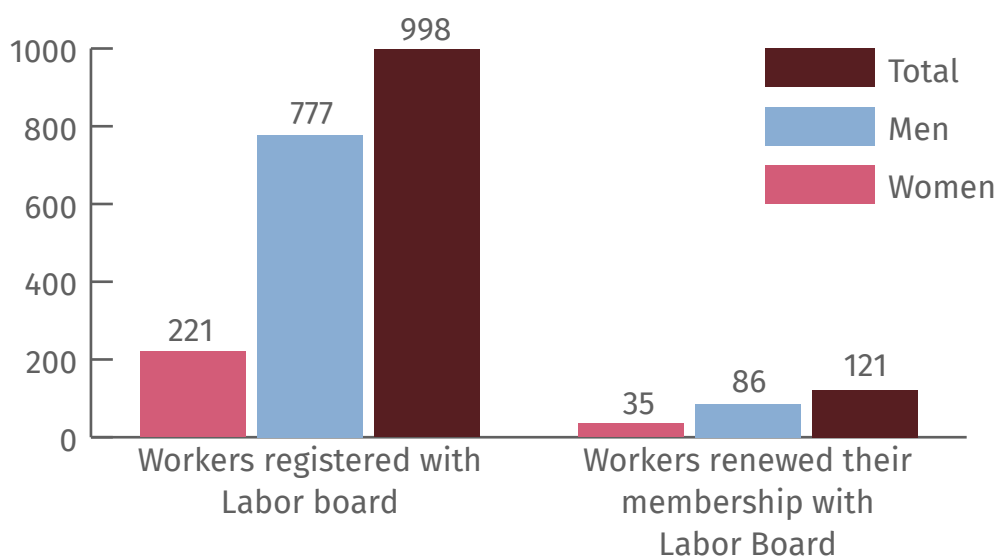


Distributed 2,200 hygiene kits as workers resumed construction work.

Counselled all workers to stay safe in labor colonies instead of distress migration to their villages because of COVID fear. The counselling and regular information surveys ensured that only 10% of the workers went back to their villages. WRC team, also supported in the process of registration in Seva Sindhu portal to get the train tickets for workers.

Supported 9 migrant workers with medical conditions to travel by flight to their hometown in eastern and northeastern states of India. Also supported a migrant worker who lost his home due to the cyclone in West Bengal to rebuild a temporary house.

Linkages to Government schemes

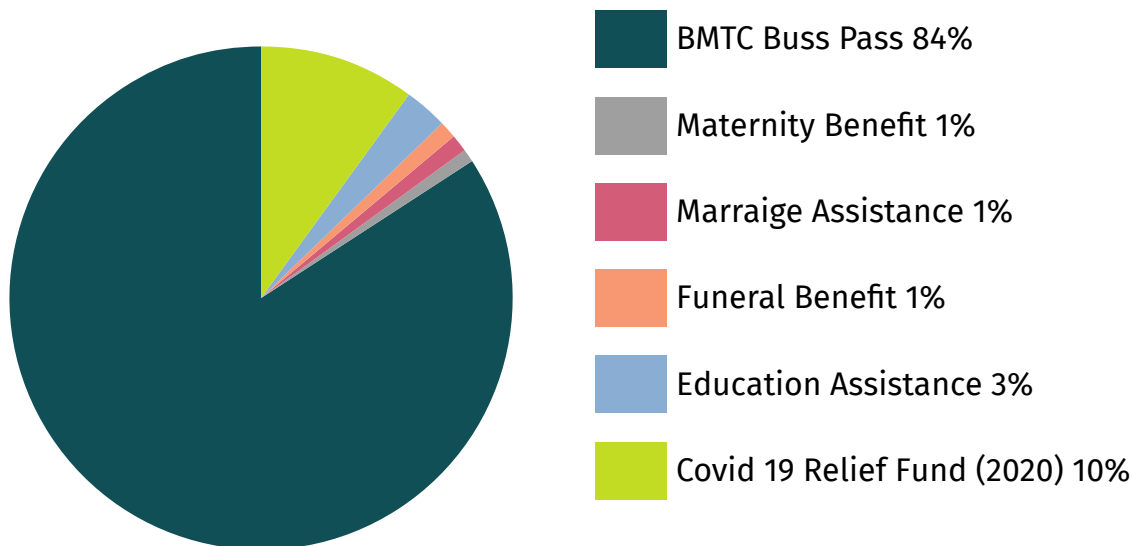


Type of Benefit	No. of Workers
Educational Assistance	30
Funeral Benefit	02
Marriage Assistance	02
Maternity Benefit	02
BMTC Bus Pass	752
Covid 19 Relief Fund (2020)	220

Workers who migrate from various cities and towns are not aware of their entitlements and how to access the same in Bangalore. Sampark enables the registration of workers with the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWFB) to access social protection schemes. As per ILO “Migrant workers’ inclusion in national COVID-19 policy responses can help to ensure the realization of equality and social justice”.

WRC team addressed these needs quickly during the pandemic and linked a record number of workers with KBOCWFB benefit schemes. **WRC team registered 1,119 workers with KBOCWFB to claim the social protection schemes. 1,008 workers received Rs. 1,12,35,200 worth of benefits from KBOCWFB this year. That’s a 719% rise in workers linked for social protection schemes from last year!**

Benefits linked to migrant workers in 2020-2021



KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS

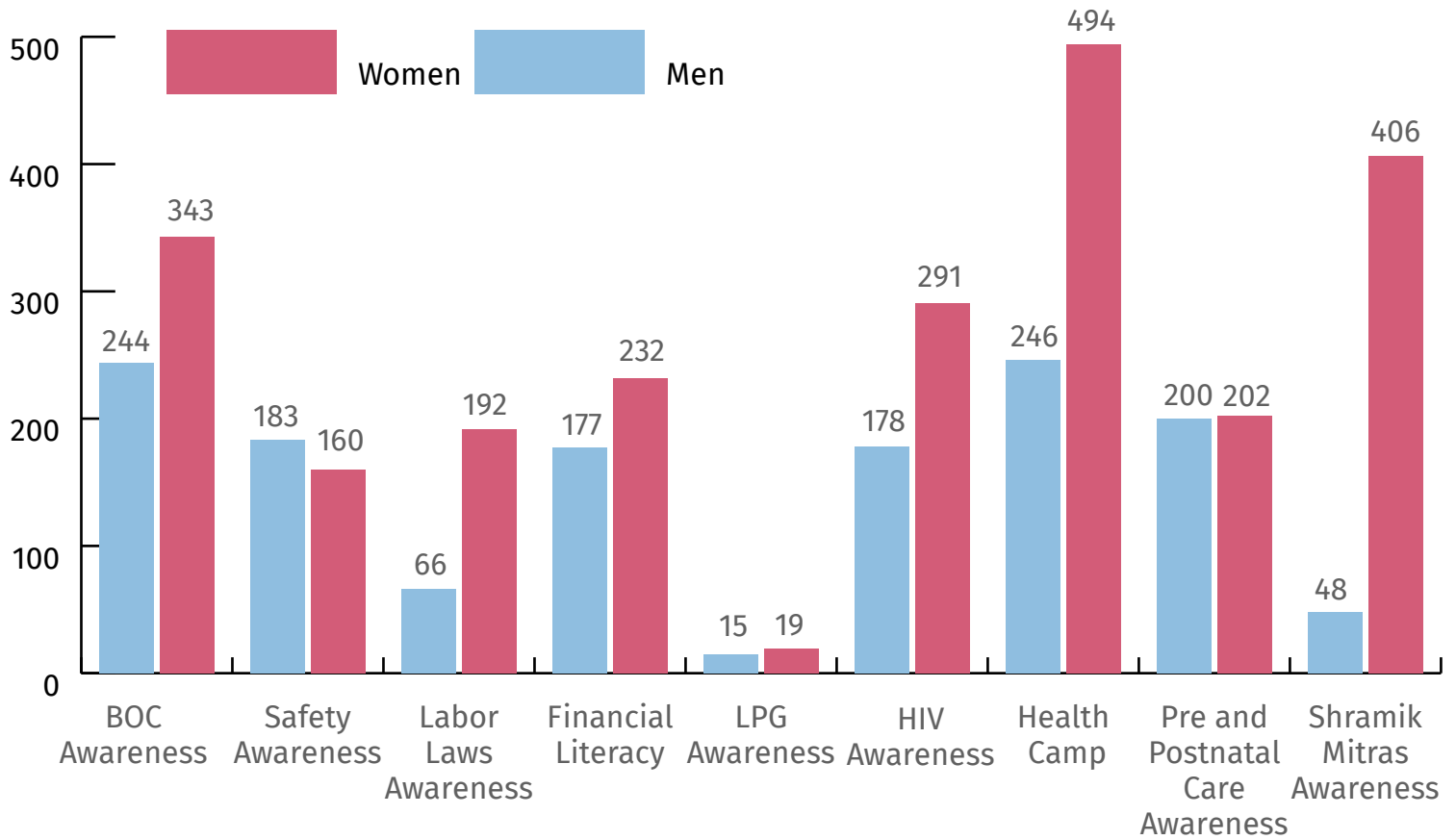
Information is wealth and for migrant workers it is their one trusted way to escape exploitation and improve their economic condition. WRC team conducts various awareness programmes for migrant workers on health, finance, safety, labor laws and KBOWCCB membership and schemes. These awareness programmes are conducted at the labor colonies on Sundays, so workers can attend easily and gain information. This year due to the pandemic many physical sessions could not be conducted.

Whatsapp groups helped to communicate important pandemic related information to workers with smartphones. WRC team created various videos in 3 languages on COVID awareness, protection protocol and awareness on KBOWCCB and its schemes etc. The health-related sessions could not be conducted as planned, due to the non-availability of doctors due to COVID work. Also, when conducted, workers were very hesitant to attend even basic health camps, under the fear that if found with fever and cough they would be sent to isolation. However, when the situation allowed, WRC team was quick to organise programs with strict COVID19 protocol. **This year 71 awareness sessions were conducted at various colonies which benefitted 3,242 migrant workers, 1,309 women and 2,383 men.** There is a 37% drop in the number of people reached out when compared to last year due to the restriction on gathering.

Shramik Mitras

Shramik mitras are Sampark's point of contact in the labour colony and are trained on Sampark's interventions. During the pandemic, shramik mitras were our huge strength and WRC team focused on conducting online meetings with shramik mitras and Union members with smart phones to communicate important information to the community. Shramik mitras have all become comfortable to take meetings through Zoom and Google and got trained on KBOWCCB Awareness, financial inclusion, union concept, labor laws, leadership and communication. This year 17 sessions were conducted for shramik mitras for 454 workers, 406 men and 48 women.

Knowledge and information sessions for migrant workers



Number of attendees in awareness sessions conducted in 2020-2021

These sessions are hugely beneficial and provide ample opportunity to stay updated with workers needs and issues. Workers highly appreciated Sampark's efforts to keep them informed and linked to their entitlements. Sampark's efforts to highlight every single issue of migrant workers and champion their cause among the stakeholders and government departments ensured timely support were received by workers.

Migrant workers truly felt that they were not alone in this fight against the pandemic!

1st year anniversary of Karnataka Kattada Sharmikara Sangha – Union of migrant construction workers.

Improving the voice and influence of vulnerable people is one of the principles which Sampark truly believes. Ever since the empowerment of migrant workers started in 2013, efforts were focused on the idea of forming a collective for migrant construction workers. The purpose of the collective was for workers who migrated more than 10 years ago to guide and support other new migrants and unitedly raise their needs and help in each other's concerns.

Formation of a worker's union was included in every proposal and corporates and donors didn't want to support it. The WRC team refused to drop the union agenda and planned an exposure visit for the workers to a workers union in Kerala. This really helped the workers to understand how the union functions and how the workers benefit. Once they understood that the union formed would help many workers in the long run they decided to go all in for it.

In 2018 efforts to form a union began. The WRC team drowned in the paperwork of union registration. The registration process migrated online and the team had to redo the same in the system. Not to forget the technical difficulties which the team faced to ensure their application was registered. After

all these efforts, the application was not even looked at by the concerned department. At a loss of further actions, the Sampark team escalated the issue to the Commissioner of National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi, the department responsible for Union registration.

Finally, with multiple follow ups the Union was registered as “ Karnataka Kattada Sharmikara Sangha” in 2019 and the first meeting was held in February 2019, to elect the office bearers. The union members have their meetings at Sampark WRC office and during the pandemic, they even learnt to meet in Google and Zoom. A worker pays Rs.125 and joins the union. Union provides employer certificates for construction workers who work in small time projects and not with a builder. This helps them to register with the Labor board and access the benefits offered.

Union membership has crossed 1,500 members. Sampark supported in the audit and in preparation of the annual report of the union. Sampark wishes the very best to the union and would support in it's cause to be the voice of construction workers.

STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Basavaraj from Bengaluru

Basavaraj and his family received multiple benefits from the KBOCWBB/Labor Board. He migrated from Yadgiri, Karnataka, 8 years ago with his wife and 3 children. He works as a mason and his wife works as a helper in the TR Rajan construction site in Kadubeesanahalli. In 2015, they came to know about interventions of WRC and welfare schemes of KBOCWBB and registered. During the awareness sessions, they came to know about scholarship benefits for children. He collected the required documents and with the support of the WRC team applied for a scholarship for his daughter and received Rs. 4,000. His 21 yr old son got married and Basavaraj applied for marriage benefit. The labor inspector called and verified, application was processed, and he received an amount of Rs 25,000 in his bank account and the remaining Rs 25,000 as Bond which would mature in 3 years. Basavaraj thanked the WRC team as the support helped him to repay the loan taken for marriage expenses.

Along with scholarship and marriage benefits, husband and wife got free bus passes from KBOCWBB . Sampark created awareness about the Labor board and the social protection schemes, helped Basavaraj in times of need and ensured he got support. The social protection schemes ensure migrant workers improve their lives and do not fall into the trap of debt and poverty.



CHILDREN OF MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

The COVID-19 pandemic has been in full-force since early 2020. The lockdown, closure of schools and creches to curb the spread of the coronavirus have had debilitating consequences on economically weaker sections of society. The household income of these families reduces and with no mid-day meals at school, the availability of nutritious food to children in these families is a huge challenge. As UNICEF rightly pointed out,

Without urgent action, this health crisis risks is fast becoming a child-rights crisis.



HIGHLIGHTS

By ensuring nutrition supplements, grocery supplies reach these families, 25% of the undernourished migrant children improved their nutrition grade even during the pandemic. This is apart from the 73% of children who maintained normal growth and could have become malnourished, if not for Sampark's timely intervention

Linked 185 children and 46 pregnant women to anganwadis to receive their entitled nutrition.

Teachers created a commendable bank of 400 activity videos and were shared with parents with well designed instructions and follow up.

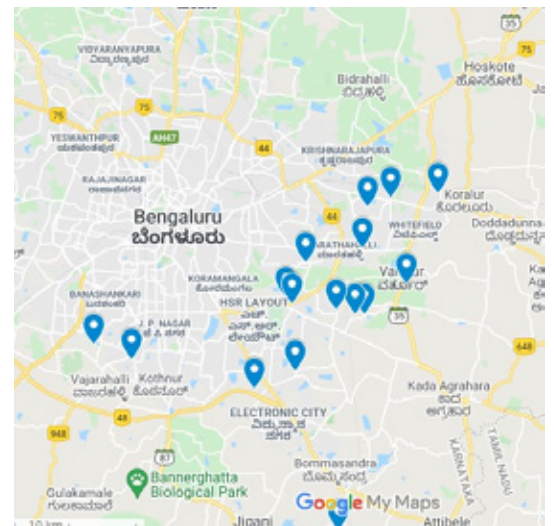
Ensured 271 children received their immunization.

Linked 684 ill children to PHCs for treatment.

Sampark creches for children of migrant construction workers

The pre pandemic condition of children of migrant workers was in itself highly vulnerable. When workers migrated with their families to Bangalore for work, their children were left behind at labor colonies with no care. Sampark started day care centres to address the often neglected - safety, health and nutrition aspects of these children. Creches take in children between 6 months and 14 years and they receive nutritional and immunization support, as well as a stimulating environment to learn. Sampark runs 18 centres in various locations in Bangalore as shown in Figure 1.

997 children attended the creches this year, 444 girls and 553 boys.



Scan to view using
QR code or Barcode Scanner
Sampark creche locations



Leave no child behind! What Sampark did in the year of pandemic....

By ensuring nutrition supplements, grocery supplies reach these families, 25% of the undernourished migrant children improved their nutrition grade even during the pandemic. This is apart from the 73% of children who maintained normal growth and could have become malnourished, if not for Sampark's timely intervention

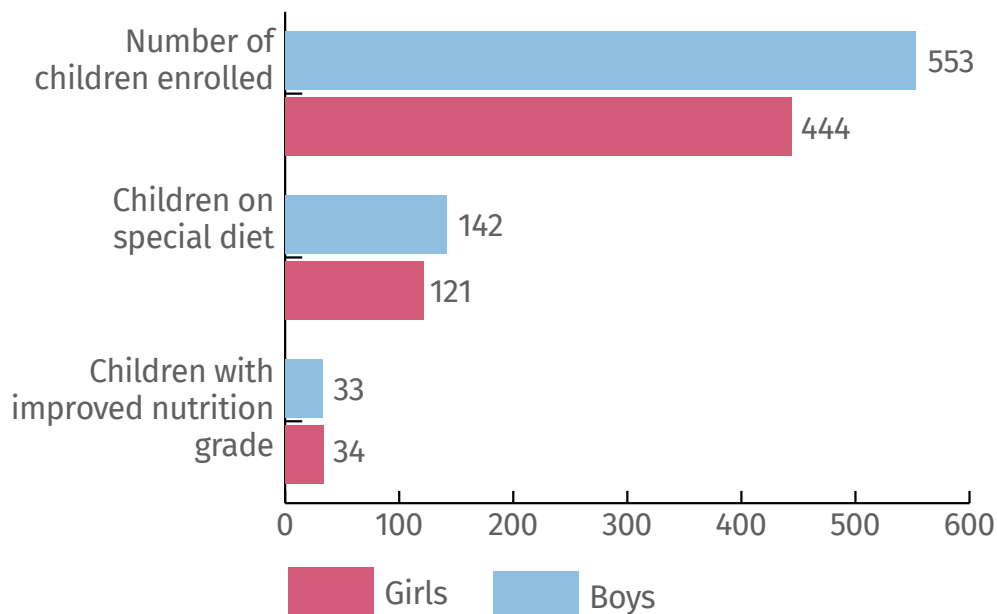
Nutrition

Creche teacher monitors child's height and weight and classify children into three grades:

Normal, undernourished and severely undernourished based on WHO standards. Children who fall under lower nutrition grades are given a special diet in addition to the cooked meals at the creche. With the closure of creches and the cooked meals, Sampark fortnightly distributed groceries, eggs, bananas, biscuits, buns and milk beverages to children's families. Teachers also prepared and distributed protein mix powder to ensure children get their share of nutrition out of the nutrition support offered to their families. Sampark distributed 9,035 grocery kits for workers and their families to mitigate the risk of long term negative impact in terms of physical



and mental development to children. Teachers linked 118 children to anganwadis and ensured children received their entitled monthly nutrition support from them. Sampark partnered with various individuals and organizations, to provide food supplements to lactating mothers, pregnant women and newborn.



The nutrition distribution to children really helped as 73% of children's growth was normal as per WHO health standards. 27% of the children were identified as undernourished (121 girls and 142 boys) and put on a special diet. The special diet helped to improve the nutrition grade of 67 undernourished children – 34 girls and 33 boys. This shows that 25% of the undernourished migrant children improved their nutrition grade even during the pandemic. This is apart from the 73% of children who maintained normal growth and could have become malnourished, if not for Sampark's timely intervention.



HEALTH

While the growth of children is monitored, it's essential to identify and treat migrant children's illnesses regularly. Sampark's interventions start by linking pregnant women to local government anganwadi (childcare centres), ensuring that they receive their "mother card", which helps to track their nutrition, vaccines and supplements to be taken. Age-appropriate immunization and regular health check-up are vital. This year WHO and UNICEF warn of a decline in routine vaccinations during COVID-19. Sampark's creche team geared up and created whatsapp groups to communicate with parents. As the creches is closed during the pandemic, the team communicated regularly with the parents to advise them to attend to the health of their children. Some of these efforts included:

Creche teachers coordinated with PHC nurses to visit labor colony and provide age-appropriate immunization and **ensured 271 children received their immunization.**

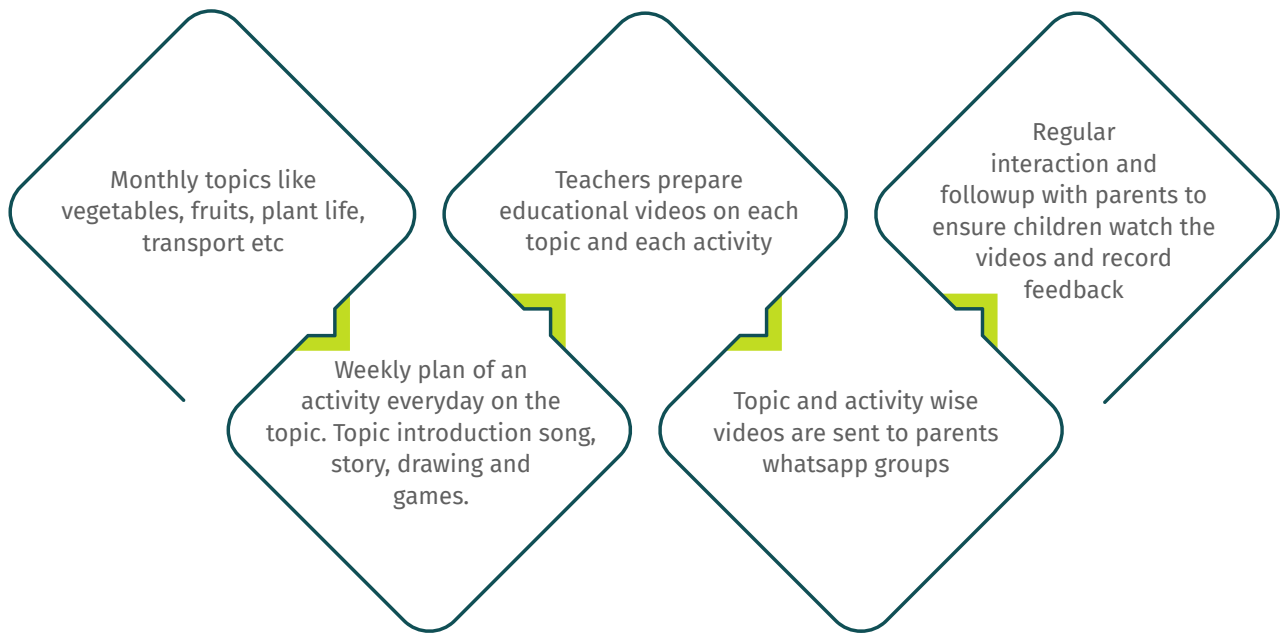
The team conducted paediatric health camps at the labor colonies when PHC doctors and nurses were available and covered 1,051 children: 490 girls and 561 boys.

The team connected 684 ill children to PHCs for treatment. They registered 185 children and 46 pregnant women to anganwadis to receive their nutrition and immunization entitlement provided by the government.

Creche teachers distributed supplementary syrup (multivitamin and iron syrup) bottles to parents and guided them about the dosage and methods for administering

Owing to the pandemic, community health camps were conducted for the benefit of children's parents, and 3,532 workers attended, of which 662 were women and 2,870 were men.

EDUCATION – BRIDGE THE DIVIDE



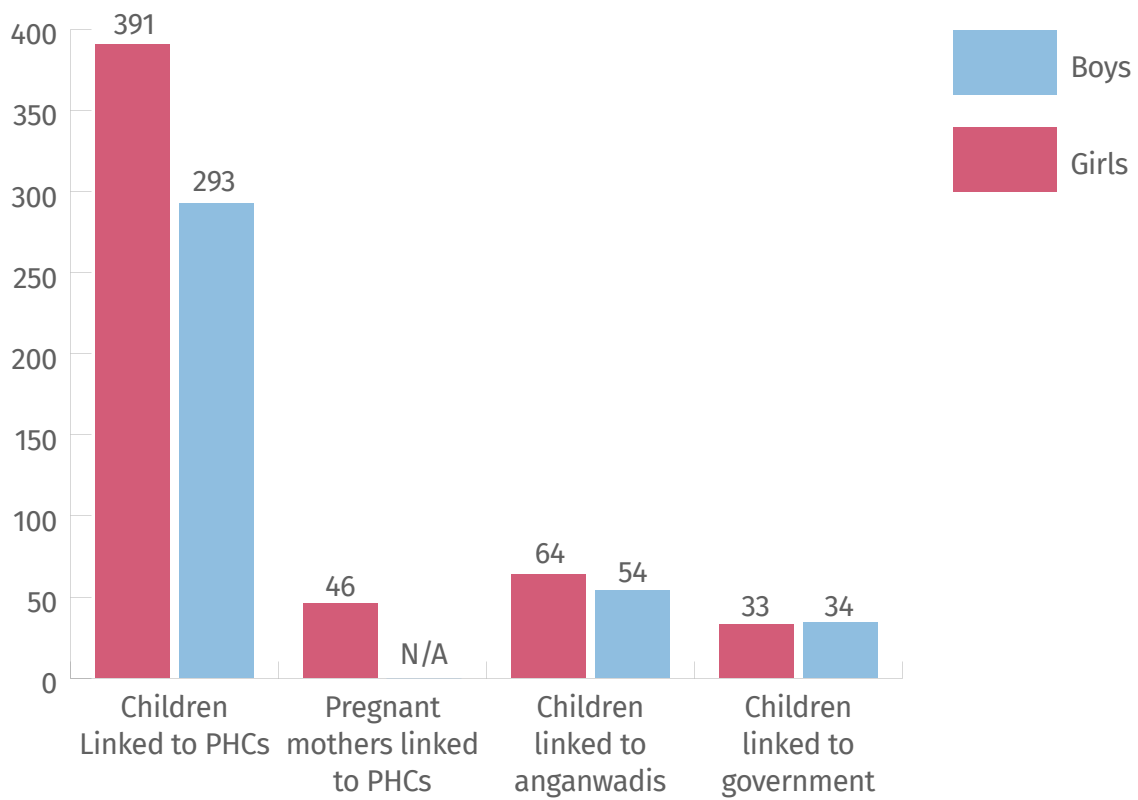
Education of children of migrant workers, loses priority due to parent's constant migration. With the added deterrent of the pandemic and lack of access to online education, a huge gap in education will develop. Sampark creche teachers created new ways to keep children's interest in learning alive. Teachers distributed toys and stationery kits to children. They made more than 400 educational videos using flash cards, stories, songs in 3 different languages and circulated to parents through WhatsApp groups. The link through the QR code provides the list of videos made by teachers.

Scan to view using QR code or Barcode Scanner

Videos made by Teachers



Regular parents meeting was the key to ensure parents were motivated. 1,670 parents, 1,277 women and 402 men attended the parents' meetings and teachers guided them with activities to keep children productively engaged at home. Importance of continuing education, linkages to government schools are re-iterated to avoid school dropouts. **Teachers linked 67 children (34 girls and 33 boys) to government schools this year.** Helpers in the community provided support at every step to co-ordinate all the activities in the community.



STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Lakshmi and her children

Lakshmi, 30 yrs, is the mother of 3 children living in TR Rajan site, Kadubeesanahalli. She is from Raichur and moved to Bangalore with her parents when she was young. She used to study at the Doddanekkundi Primary school and when she was in the 5th grade, her father passed away due to health issues. Unable to manage the family expenses, Lakshmi's mother got her married to Hanumanth from their village, when she was 14 years old. Hanumanth also moved to Bangalore, as he didn't have steady income in the village and worked as a helper at the TR Rajan construction site. The couple had 3 children. She admitted them to government school. Manoj – 9th std, Bhagyashree – 7th std and Bhavyashree - 5th std. Hanumanth was not happy with construction work and moved back to his village to find other opportunity to work, while Lakshmi and children stayed in Bangalore. Hanumanth remarried without Lakshmi's knowledge and doesn't support Lakshmi and children.

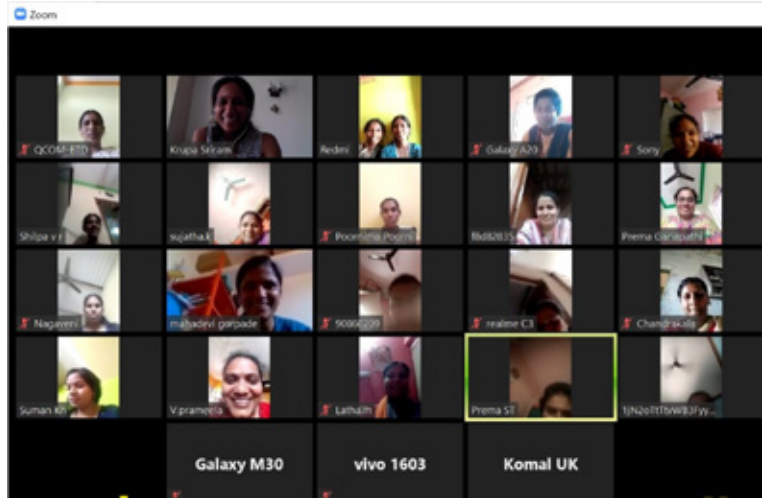
Lakshmi managed with her income, but in the pandemic, she got work only for 3 days and the reduced wages made it very difficult for her to manage household expenses. Groceries, hygiene kits, stationery kits distributed by Sampark offered much needed support for Lakshmi. Her children were unable to manage online education due to lack of devices. Sampark teachers identified the need and helped by linking to a donor, who provided a new tablet to manage their studies.

NURTURE TEACHERS

Teachers handling vulnerable children must be more of a “nurture teacher” caregiver than just imparting knowledge. Knowing this well, the way in which teachers took on the challenges this year was commendable. They quickly trained on Zoom calls, Google meets, google drive, sheets and docs to work from home. They got trained on survey software and conducted a survey for a research on migrant workers and their children. They constantly supported in distribution at sites, data entry support for WRC team and packing kits at office. Training attended by teachers this year are:

Oct, Nov & Dec 2020 - Weekly sessions by Ms. Champa on language, physical, cognitive, social and emotional domains of Early Childhood Development.

October 14th and 15th 2020 - Video making 101 – Understanding the basics of creating videos by Mr. Rohan Kapoor, short films editor.



WAY FORWARD

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Increased scale of operations
- Tech: Digitize data
- Higher professionalism in fundraising
- Human Resource
- Partnerships with other NGOs

MIGRANT WORKERS' EMPOWERMENT

Building Leaders and CBOs

- Strengthening community cadres and the union
- Build technology capabilities of union leaders

Providing Services

- Scale up and outreach of WRC

COVID Response

- Meeting the health needs of the workers during the pandemic

EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION

Providing Services

- Build technology capacities of teachers, helpers and parents

Knowledge Sharing and Advocacy

- Advocacy with WCD and Department of Education

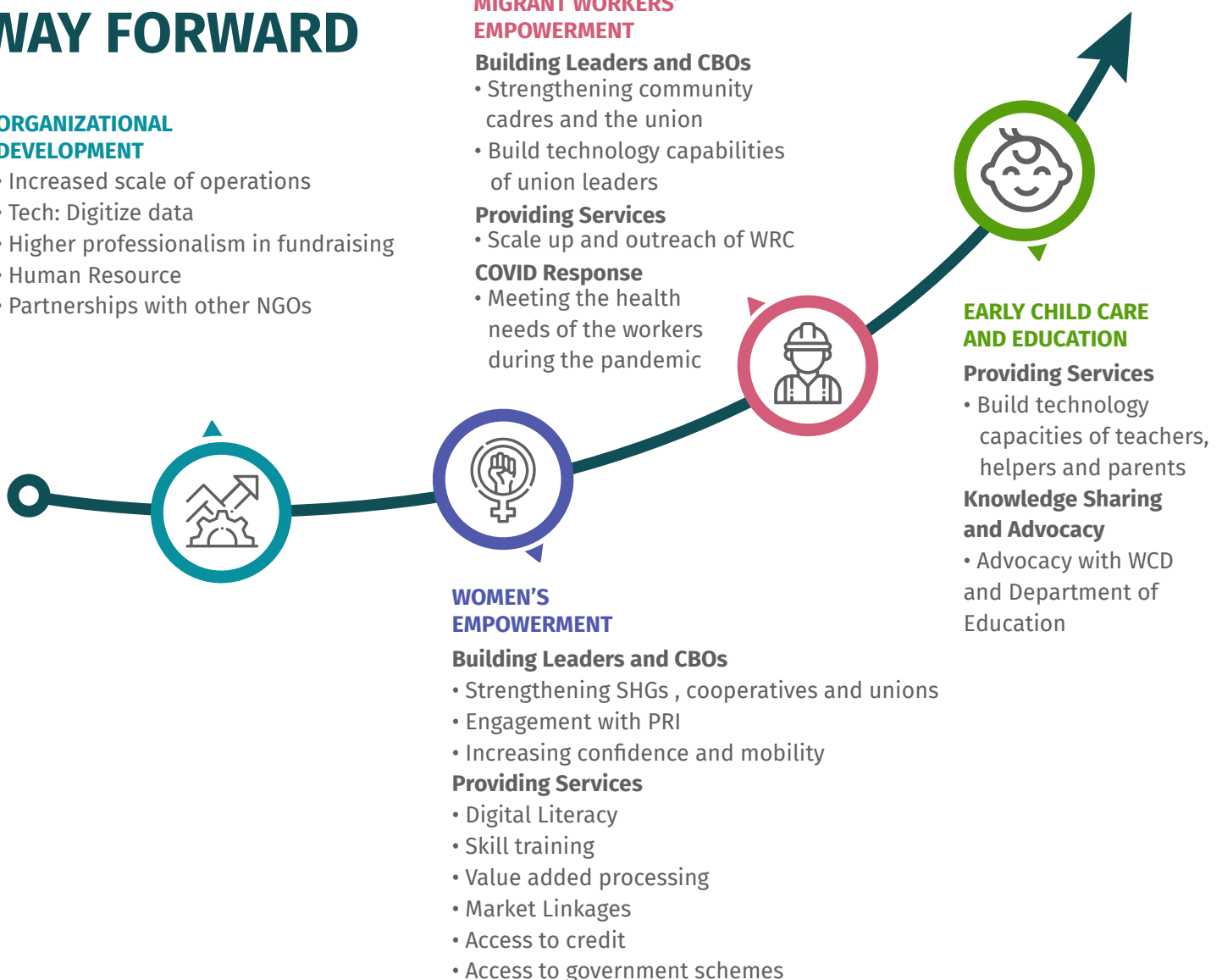
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Building Leaders and CBOs

- Strengthening SHGs, cooperatives and unions
- Engagement with PRI
- Increasing confidence and mobility

Providing Services

- Digital Literacy
- Skill training
- Value added processing
- Market Linkages
- Access to credit
- Access to government schemes



Sampark plans to expand its activities and streamline the operations by leveraging relevant technology, which each programme team can use to fill in data for monitoring, reporting and impact assessments. Increasing scale would also require higher professionalism in fund-raising, where Sampark already made advances this year, and plans to professionalise further in the coming year. Each stream of work will need more team members, and Sampark will also employ a few professionals for the support for digitalization of all the programmes , reporting and fundraising. In addition, Sampark will partner with other organizations for increasing scale, for reaching out to new groups we can support, and for knowledge sharing and advocacy work.

The women empowerment projects will focus on the youth, especially young women, in order to amplify impact. Sampark will build their confidence, facilitate greater mobility, and improve their digital and financial literacy. In addition, Sampark will facilitate better livelihoods and improve vocational skills of the women and girls, especially in the field of sustainable agriculture , value added processing and market linkages. To increase community empowerment , Sampark will strengthen women’s collectives and facilitate engagement with local government institutions and access to social protection. Sampark will also reach out to ultra-marginalized communities like Devadasis and sex workers in Nepal.

The migrant workers’ project will focus on increasing the scale and outreach of the Workers Resource Centers and fostering stronger partnerships with KLSA, KBOCWBB, RERA and CREDAI. The projects will build the capacities of the union to engage in better advocacy and access KBOCWBB benefits for their members through the use of technology. The project will also respond to the health needs of the workers during the pandemic.

The Creche project will scale up their outreach and build the capacities of teachers, helpers and parents to use technology for education, and also develop the infrastructure to leverage technology across all activities. The projects will also engage in advocacy with the Department of Education, Women and Child development, and KBOCWBB on the basis of the new National Education Policy 2020.

As a highly accredited organization, Sampark is well-positioned to take a lead in raising issues of policy, and also partner with other CSOs and research organizations to engage in knowledge sharing. Sampark also plans to streamline its governance and management in the coming years, inducting a larger, younger and dynamic team to advance in all our work and lead Sampark into its next phase of a tech-savvy and influential organization.

PILLARS OF SUPPORT

During this time of great uncertainty we’ve been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from Sampark’s staff, donors, associates, advisors, interns and volunteers. Remarkable people, organizations, community groups, small businesses, corporations and foundations have all stepped up to support Sampark’s cause!

1. SAMPARK STAFF

Bangalore - Head office

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Deepika Pingali
Krupa Sriram
M.Shameem Banu
K.G. Meenakshi

Varanasi

Ankita Sen
Manisha Nishad
Nisha Nishad
Shashi Bhushan Upadhyay

Koppal

Manjunatha Hosalli

Bangalore – Workers Resource Centre

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John. P. Moses
M. Sundar
Stella Catherine

Mangala
Manjula Chandra
Kiran.N
Poornima
Bangalore – Creches
Mahadevi .H. Gorpade

Latha. M
Prema. S.T
Laxmi Kandagul
L.V.Nethravathi
Shilpa. V.R.
Sujatha .K
Vasanta.A
Kavya. S
Sri Lakshmi. J
D. Shalini
Lakshmi Devi. V
Sujathamma. V

Nagarathna. S
Lakshamma
Shilpa V R
Suman K H
Chandrakala .N.T
Soni. B
Rashama K .R
Komala
Komal U.K
Neha Anjum
Prema Ganapathy
Sharada
Roopa .S
Chandrika G.P
Dhanalakshmi K.N
Nandini
Nagaveni

During the lockdown, I felt very happy when our team convinced ASHA workers to come to the labor colony for routine vaccination for children. Also felt helpless, when children were not fed enough, and their nourishment levels dropped even after regular distribution of groceries to their families - **Ms. Mahadevi, Project Coordinator, Creches**



It was the greatest opportunity to distribute grocery kits to needy people during Covid19 lockdown. We were in our PPE kits, masks and face shields sweating under the sun and saw the happiness on workers' faces while receiving kits and felt it was worth it. We faced a variety of challenges but felt worried, when during distribution, other non-construction workers posed a lot of problems saying they are also poor and needed kits - **Mr.Harish, Project Coordinator, WRC**



Field officers who had to travel from towns to visit villages, were regularly stopped by police officers. They were not allowed on the main roads and had to take roundabout routes to reach villages. Trying times, but glad that team stuck together and worked - **Ms. Ankita - Project Coordinator, Women Empowerment, Varanasi**



2. DONORS

Without YOU there is no us and we Thank You for helping us meet the challenges of this moment, so we can continue to provide the highest order of service with inclusion, integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, and excellence.

Individuals

Abhinandan Jain
Ajay Pandey
Akshaya vijayalakshmi
Anam Hamid
Aneesha Ashwin
Anupama arya
Anuradha Banerjee
Aparna Das
Aparna Mehara
Aroon Raman, Telos Technologies
Arun Poddar
Arvind Sahay
Asha Kaul
Asha Nehemiah
Ashish Saxena
Ashok Kadoli
Ayumi Moore Aoki
Bala Shankar
Bharat Rawat
Bhawesh Bhansali
Chinmay Tumble
Chitra Singla
Daulat Haldea
Debjit Roy
Doreswamy Nandkishore
Gaurishankar Kshirsagar
Gayathri Gopalakrishnan
Geeta Varghese
Gita Kao
Herman Brouer
Hocine Sidi Said
Jacki O'Neill
JGU Covid Support Group
Jyoti Swaroop Agarwal
K Mamata Krishna
K V Gopakumar
Kapil Gupta
Kathrin Gabathuler
Kavitha Ranganathan
Kirty Nagar
Linika Kumar
LSR Alumni

M P Ram Mohan
M. De Haan
Madhu Khatri
Malini Sridhar
Manisha Divyesh Mehta
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Mithun shenoy
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Nirupama Rastogi
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Pritha Dev
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Saxena
Radhika Poddar, Poddar
Charitable trust
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Rajat Kumar
Rajeeva Srivatsava
Rajesh
Rajnish Rai
Rakesh Basant
Rakhi Prasad
Ramesh Ramadurai
Rameswari Varma
Ramma Shiv Kumar
Ranjani Ranganath
Rashmi Misra
Ravi Prabhu
Rita Malhotra

Rohini Abraham
Rohini Anand
Rosemarie Lausset
Sabine Hogger
Sahana Das
Sailakshmi
Sambuddha Deb
Sampath Rajgopalan
Samrat Gupta
Sanjari Chatterjee
Sanjeev Kumar
Sara Mukherjee
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Shafiqeh Lal
Shalini Seth
Shashi Sachdeva
Shashi Upadhyay
Shivanshu Gupta
Shrikant Tamhane
Shruti haldea
Smita agarwal
Smita Premchander
Snimer K Sahni
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Srikumar
Sumanyu Talwar
Sunil Maheshwari
Sunil Mundra, Natural
capsules
Surendra Kumar Jain
Susheela Nagarajan
Svetha Venkatram
Vaibhavi Kulkarni
Vaishali Anavatti
Venugopal Janapati
Vijaya Ramachandran
Vikram Chalana
Vinita bali
Vinita Sethi
Yashodeep

Corporates

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Hexaware Technologies Ltd
JMC Projects India Ltd
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Suncity Corporate
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Torrent Power Ltd
Total Environment
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FICCI - SEDF
Fondazione Pangaea Onlus

Switzerland
Jochnick Foundation
Krishnamurti
Foundation India
Mobile Creches

Norwegian Human Rights
Fund (NHRF)
Sohum Foundation
SRF
UN Women

Foundations

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWBB)

In Kind Support

GROCERY KITS

BBMP
SAFA
APPI
Karnataka Fights Corona group (KFC)
Students Islamic Organisation
JGU Covid support group
Bangalore IT corridor Rotary

COOKED MEALS

Acharya Shantisagar Foundation
Amrutha Kitchen
Sakal Digambar Jain Samaj
Namaste restaurant

PACKED FOOD & BEVERAGES

Britannia Industries
Ricco Delizio Private Limited

HEALTH & HYGIENE ESSENTIALS

Aarogya Seva
Natural Remedies Pvt Ltd

3. OUR ASSOCIATES, ADVISORS, VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

Sampark would not have been able to achieve all the tremendous work this year without the help of our associates, advisors, volunteers and interns. We thank you for your time and commitment towards Sampark's cause!

ASSOCIATES

Ms. Aindrila Mokkaapati
Ms. Tatenda Makenza
Diginnovators
Social Bytes
Danamojo
Benevity
Give India
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Ms. Kyra Ganapathy, Jindal Global
Law School

ADVISORS

Ms. Dinah Bennett
Ms. Nicola Scott
Ms. Suki Iyer
Mr. Thejesh

DOCUMENTATION & PUBLICATIONS THIS YEAR

Sampark has a strong belief in the sharing and documentation of its experiences by engaging with partners, networks, documentations and publications. Sampark's grassroots experience feeds into its research work and vice-versa, ensuring that the loop of learning is completed.

Sampark has been involved in a number of documentations and publications catering to a wide reader base. The details are given below.

1. Gender, Inclusion and Livelihoods in the State of India's Livelihoods Report 2020 published by Access Development Services. Sampark team members authored a chapter in the State of Indian Livelihoods Report, 2020, with a special focus on women's livelihoods and the prospects in the COVID-19 scenario. The full report may be found [here](#).
2. Promoting Economic and Social Inclusion of Migrant Workers . Sampark team members co-authored an international paper for the TF10 conference: 'Labour market integration and social inclusion of migrants in a post-COVID-19 world' on good practices and learnings in the field of economic and social empowerment of migrant workers, especially women. The full paper may be found [here](#).
3. Rapid Assessment of Migrants' Health Awareness and Economic Situation under COVID-19 and Lockdown in Bengaluru, India. Sampark team members co-authored a paper on issues such as lack of work, minimal income, growing indebtedness, lack of nutrition for children, lack of knowledge and awareness, as well as lack of access to government services for migrant construction workers. The full paper may be found [here](#).

Thank You.

REACH US



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