



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



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Dear Friends of Sampark,

Sampark has completed **27** years of development work and it gives me immense satisfaction to present you Sampark's Annual Report 2017-18.

Sampark, through its work, has reached out to over 16,000 women through SHG's, 15,000 workers and 7,000 children through its support for migrant workers and their children. Sampark has a team of 55 staff contributing to their welfare.

To give a glimpse of all the projects, I would start with the SHG's. The 4 co-operatives, namely Eshwara, Sadhana, Gavisiddeshwara and Bhumika at Koppal have been functioning more or less independently now. Eshwara co-operative has completed 10 years since its inception. This gives great confidence and satisfaction in the work that has been going on in Sampark and make us extremely proud of the hardwork and commitment that has gone into it.

Banking on our experience of forming SHG's in Koppal, Sampark has started working with women in Chiraigaonblock of Varanasi district this year. It definitely takes us down the memory lane of our initial days in Koppal but working with women in Varanasi is a totally new experience. 61 SHG's have been formed in Varanasi where women come from 13 villages. The project will address other social issues such as child marriage, child protection, dowry and domestic violence etc. We are looking forward to enhancing awareness about social protection schemes that are available for women from different government departments and make necessary linkages with these departments to make these schemes more accessible to the women.

Sampark started working with migrant construction workers in Bangalore from January 2013 and as of date we have 2 Workers Resource Centres (WRC), one in Bengaluru North – HRBR Layout and another in Bengaluru South- near Bellandur Gate. The new Bengaluru north Centre was inaugurated on 5th March where representatives of workers, PHCs, NGOs and builders participated. The objective of Sampark's WRC is to create awareness amongst the construction workers about their entitlements in the health, education, social and legal sectors and empower them to avail these entitlements.

Another important intervention this year has been the addition of a toll-free number as migrant labour helpline. The number 1800-425-1080 should help the workers to contact the WRC and get assistance for their queries. Awareness has been made in 26 different sites where the WRC has been functioning. We plan to do several other campaigns to advertise the toll-free-number through FM radio, etc. This would empower the workers to be aware of their rightful benefits, avail the benefits and take informed decisions.

The 13 crèches established cater to migrant workers' children who are left to take care of themselves as the parents go off to work. The work of crèches has been regarded highly by the parents as the crèches help the children in the aspects of health, education and safety. It has been noted that the children do not fall ill as frequently as earlier due to a good standard of personal hygiene maintained by the teachers and nutritious food and multi vitamins provided to them. The children are learning English and Kannada alphabets, simple mathematics and some rhymes in Hindi, Kannada and English. The parents have expressed that the number of non-working days of women have reduced as they no longer need to stay home to care for their sick children as frequently as they used to before. There has been an increase in the income level of families as women are able to work for a greater number of days. The parents are happy that the children sing English rhymes as they never imagined their children to learn English.

With each passing year, we see that the builders are ready to contribute more and provide more support. In the coming years, Sampark looks forward to scaling up the support offered to migrant workers and children. This could be made possible with the help of technology and mobile platforms and mobile applications along with the support of Sampark's donors and staff. Sampark has continued to improve both scale and quality and has been successful in maintaining a balance between both.

The Staff team and board members have engaged and contributed, and our success is jointly achieved. We, together, will work towards reaching out to many more from the disadvantaged community in the coming years too.

Warm regards,
DR. SMITA PREMCHANDER

BOARD MEMBERS

The board consists of 13 members and their details are given below:

Office Bearers

Dr. Kiran Rao, President

Ms. Neena Paul, Vice President

Dr.SmitaPremchander, Secretary

Board Members

Ms. Chinnamma B.K

Mr. Chiranjiv Singh

Dr. T. Sujatha

Mr. R. Suresh

Mr. SuryamaniRoul

Mr. Sushant Gupta

Ms. Madhu Singhal

Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee

Mr. Mahesh Madan Bhatt

Mr. Reghu Ram Das

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1. SHG's @ Koppal

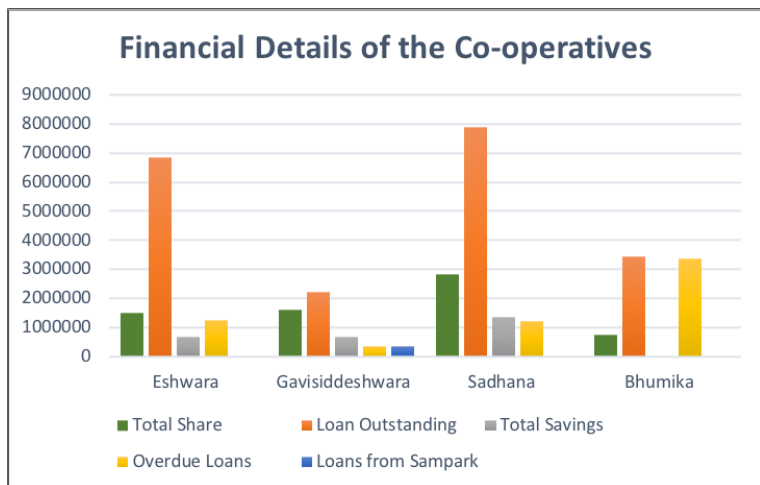
ESHWAREA CO-OPERATIVE completes its 10th year

Eshwara Co-operative was registered as a co-operative in the year 2008 when it progressed from an SHG to a Co-operative. When it started, it had women SHG's from 2 villages with 18 groups and 283 members. As of today, it has grown and working with women in 23 villages and has 165 groups with 2,285 members.

The formation of SHGs helps the poor to pool their savings, deposit it in banks and access credit facilities from the group, bank and other institutions. Through the formation of SHGs, Sampark aims to not only help the poor to come out from the clutches of moneylenders and traders, but also to play a significant role in empowering women socially and economically.

participate in the SHGs. After the formation of the group, the members were given capacity training on the concepts of SHGs, leadership, book-keeping, financial management etc. The women's groups actively participate in various activities within the group and outside the group; their activities include conducting weekly meetings, saving regularly, and utilizing the facilities provided by the government, banks, cluster and other institutes. During the meeting, they discuss various personal, village level and social issues and share the knowledge obtained through training programmes and cluster meetings.

Sampark has helped in establishing 7 credit co-operatives of which, presently, there are 4 co-operatives namely Eshwara, Sadhana, Bhumika and Gavisiddeshwara, working under the directions of



Sampark's *Table 1: Financial Details of the Co-operatives*

strategy to form groups was to identify the poor and disadvantaged people through the means of various participatory exercises involving the community. Such exercises included involving the gramasabhas, using social mapping, resource mapping, wealth ranking etc., and the poor were encouraged to

Sampark.

ESHWARA CO-OPERATIVE

In Gangavati Taluk in Koppal, women from 23 villages run the Eshwara Co-operative. This year, the co-operative purchased two sites of 30*20 ft each. They helped 42

women from their SHGs to get benefits from various government schemes like Sandhya Suraksha scheme, widow pension, handicap pension, old age pension, pregnant women allowance, BPL card and Yashashwini card.

Women actively participated in federal cooperative workshops and trainings conducted at Bangalore, Raichur, Hospet, Gangavati and Koppal. There were trainings for different topics like GST-documents required at the cooperative level, auditing and the role of president and secretary, etc. They also attended many workshops on how to deal with Overdues (OD). They learnt the following procedure that needs to be followed when someone defaults on their payment.

- Send a letter from the co-operative saying that the defaulters will have to be taken to court.
- Co-operatives staff to go to the local leaders or caste-wise leaders.
- Approach the police officers as a next step.
- Visit the district registration officer of co-operatives and get his suggestions.
- A lawyer is contacted to send a notice to the defaulter.
- The case is handled at the federal court.

After the training on how to handle the ODs, women have started to take the help of the police department for collecting the dues. They have also familiarized themselves with the procedures to file a case at the Federal court of Co-operatives office. Still, there are several challenges faced by the women

when they handle OD issues. The men in the villages threaten and abuse the members when they go to collect the dues. There is also a risk that the defaulters have migrated to a new place. Till now, we have had 3% of the defaulters migrate. Also, the members fear that carrying cash, late at night, is risky.



Figure 1: SHG member making puffed rice.

GAVISIDDESHWARA CO-OPERATIVE

Gavisiddeshwara Co-operative has been running successfully for the last 9 years. It's established at the Yelburga taluk of Koppal with its women members coming from 19 villages. The total number of members in this co-operative are 1,010 women. 40 loans have been disbursed to 134 members. The total savings in the co-operative as of 2017-2018 is INR 6,72,826. They helped 23 members to link to certain government schemes and benefits were received by them under widow pension scheme, Sandhya Suraksha scheme etc. A new office was set-up in a newly acquired land at a cost of INR 11 lakhs. Of which INR 7,70,000 was donated by the members. Members, who are unable to pay the loan, have parted with their assets to pay the loans. This shows that members are committed towards repayment of their loans.

SADHANA CO-OPERATIVE

Sadhana Co-operative has been running successfully with 2,000 members and has women participating from 19 villages in Yelburga, Gangavati and Gadagtaluks. 110 women have received loans this year from the co-operative.



Figure 2: Samplings being distributed by Sadhana Co-operative members.

This year the co-operative received 40*25 ft land from the gram panchayat for the construction of an office. This was a noteworthy achievement as the women sat for numerous meetings with the VDO, Panchayat, President and Co-operative members and got the free site. They have also followed up with the local MLA and received INR 7,00,000 for the construction of an office building in the land allotted. However due to the change of government, they are awaiting the construction of the building.

As a business enterprise in the co-operative, they have started an oil business.

They have bought an oil machine and started extracting oil from neem and jetropha. They have been doing this business for the last 3 months and the oil is already sold out. The co-operative has also celebrated women's day and is conducting workshops as to how to approach the federal court for pursuing cases and also how to access the services of police for collection of ODs'.

BHUMIKA CO-OPERATIVE

There are 2,063 members in the co-operative and women come from 31 villages. As the co-operative's operations expand, it becomes imperative for the members to become strict and stringent on the money lent to women and have a process for the collection of the money when the amount is not paid. Though the board members are aware of the loan defaulters, little has been done in collecting the money back from them. The importance of repaying the loan has to be established among the members.

Sampark has been working with them and giving suggestions in executing the same. First, a letter must be sent from the co-operative to the defaulter. They can also get the help of the local leaders to approach the member and make them see the sense in repaying. As a next step, the police must be contacted and then one needs to go to a lawyer and issue a notice. The members have to follow these steps religiously to ensure the timely loan repayment.

2. SHG's @ Varanasi

VARANASI SHG's are the new entrants this year

Sampark, using its 15 years of experience in successfully running SHG's in Koppal, has started working with women in Varanasi. The Varanasi Project started in 2018. Sampark aims to reach 1,800 women in Varanasi through SHG's and empower them and improve their livelihoods.

Sampark is implementing the Women's Empowerment Project in Varanasi in partnership with the Rajghat Education Centre (REC) of the Krishnamurti Foundation India (KFI). The goal of this project is to economically empower women in the Chiraigaon block of Varanasi district and create value not only for adult women but also adolescent girls.

The project will also address other social issues such as child marriage, child protection, dowry and domestic violence etc.; enhance awareness about social protection schemes that are available for women from different government departments; and make necessary linkages with these departments to make these schemes more accessible to the women.

CRP STRATEGY

Women are trained in SHG concepts, book-keeping and communication skills. Women showing interest and with potential would be identified as Community Resource Persons. The plan is to pay them an honorarium for their work and to provide further training in enterprise and livelihood concepts. They would be responsible for collecting financial data from the groups and relaying feedback to the management team, thereby ensuring

that the project is always sensitive to the local ground realities.

WORKSHOPS

Sampark conducts different training sessions for the women to help them with their SHG's. They are listed below.

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

To introduce them to the members of Sampark and other related organisations to make them understand the scale of the project. Three workshops have been conducted to introduce women to the key concepts of an SHG and its importance as a self-managed savings and credit group.



Figure 3: College Students teaching SHG women

LITERACY TRAINING

Women are taught to sign their names, Hindi alphabets and basic addition and subtraction. Students from Vasanta College for Women participated in the trainings and taught the women.

FOOD AND NUTRITION TRAINING

Women were taught about the importance of nutrition and how to maintain basic hygiene. Vasanta College organized these sessions for them.

GENDER SENSITIZATION

The workshops brought out common themes of women's safety, stereotypes, prejudices, resilience, power of unity that are relevant across age groups and socio-economic strata. They also emphasized the point that education is about more than literacy, and that it is important to cultivate independent thinking. Two workshops were conducted and they are made aware of these topics through creative expressions like skit etc.



Figure 4: Group discussion during workshop

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Trainings are given to increase the household incomes of the women in SHGs. 25 women were trained in tailoring and were given beautician training. Three training units have been identified to provide vocational training to SHG members and their families

- Krishnamurti Foundation in Sarai Mohana
- Abhishek Memorial Computer Institute in Gaura.
- Nancy Beautician and Tailoring Kendra in Gaura.

Number of total villages	13
Total no. of Groups	61
Total no of members	768

Table 2: SHG Details

Financial Status

When the project began, the villagers had misgivings about a new intervention that related to savings and credit operations. The

Particulars	Amounts INR
A. Total SHGs savings amount, as on February 28, 2018	3,26,005
B. Amount of internal loaning	1,84,510
C. Internal loan repayment	22,650
D. Internal loan out-standing (B-C)	1,61,860
E. Interest earned on internal loans	7425
F. Cash in hand (A -D +E)	1,71,540

Table 3: Financial details of SHGs, 31st March 2018

women stated that they have had unpleasant or disappointing experiences with SHGs.

established earlier by the government and NGOs. They have now understood that Sampark model is different and works on the savings-based approach.

During the first few months of operation, the savings of SHGs began to increase, offering a fund from where each group could offer loans to group members at lower interest rates. So far, internal loaning has been effectively utilized, with loans being taken for education, health and house repairs, purchasing of compost, etc. The loan amounts are small and flexible, depending on the needs of the woman. This is currently in the range of INR 500 to INR 1,500. The groups also determine their own repayment schedule, which is flexible. However, each group is encouraged to standardize its own loan products so that the women learn to be disciplined and cultivate good repayment habits.

CHALLENGES

The environment is vitiated, as the credit culture in eastern UP and Bihar is very poor. The General Manager of the leading bank in the locality has informed us that the default rate of SHGs has been 100% in the past. This means that Sampark needs to carefully discipline the SHGs before enabling access to loans.

Another important risk relates to the management of the social enterprises. The women have stated clearly that they would prefer a job to entrepreneurship and would prefer if Sampark sets up the TCPCs for skill training and employment.

Other challenges include very low levels of literacy and mobility in the women, alcoholism in the men, and a culture of domestic violence. The women are also often overburdened with household chores and other income generating activities.

The Superwoman of Tatepur and Rajapur

For a very long time, Tatepur and its neighbouring village, Rajapur had been facing a severe water crisis. The virtually dead water resources led to acute water scarcity, affecting the socio-economic condition of the villages. The women of these villages had approached the *Gram Pradhan* with a request to mitigate the crisis. After several requests made by these women, two years back, the government had passed an order to install a tube-well in the region. But due to some unforeseen circumstances, the tube-well was never installed.

We at Sampark, had formed 6 Self-help Groups (SHGs) in Tatepur and 4 in Rajapur. Each of these SHGs has 12 to 15 members. These women of the SHGs took it upon themselves to find a solution to the problem. After much effort, work on the tube-well finally started on June 7th, 2018. However, this was met with considerable resistance as some of the well-to-do villagers objected to the installation of a tube-well in the area. The work was stopped forcefully. The *Gram Pradhan* got to know about this friction and rushed to the spot along with some other government officials. The women voiced their concerns to the officials regarding the water crisis that the residents of the area were facing. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the installation of the tube-well should continue without any further hindrance. Much to everyone's relief, the voices of the women were finally heard. The installation was completed in no time. "I had never imagined that these women could bring about such a revolution. This is truly admirable!" exclaims *Gram Pradhan*, Balkaran Nishad. The women of these villages celebrated their success by distributing sweets. This is no mean feat for the 5,000 villagers, who were facing the worst water deficit in generations.

3. MIGRATE TO MITIGATE WOES? *OR* *IS MIGRATION THE BIGGEST WOE IN ITSELF?*

WRC HERE FOR HELP – 1800 425 1080

Sampark through the Workers Resource Centre (WRC) works with the migrant construction workers to create awareness about their entitlements in the health, education, social and legal sectors. This year a second WRC was opened in North Bangalore. Also, continuing with the new initiatives, the ShramikSahayavaniTOLLFREE number 1800 425 1080 has been set-up for migrant workers to get any information regarding health, finance, wages etc.

Due to the unreliability of income from agriculture, villagers are always on the lookout for newer opportunities to earn money. Poverty-induced migration has been the primary reason for rural-urban migration. It has been estimated that the number of people who migrate inter and intra state is close to 120 million. With urban cities constantly expanding, the requirement of migrant labourers has increased vastly. Due to the lack of critical skills, people in villages often end up in low paying and highly exploitative jobs. With people coming from different states, language, new work place, unfamiliar surroundings and exploitative contractors, all magnify their woes.

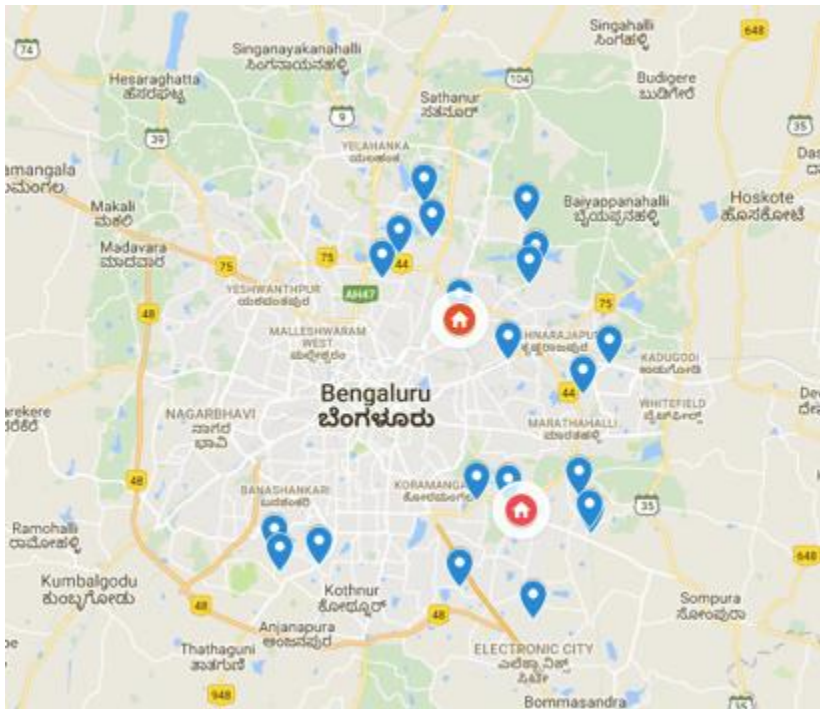


Figure 5: 26 Construction Sites Covered by 2 WRCs in Bengaluru South and North

In January 2013, Workers Resource Centre (WRC) was established in Bangalore for providing awareness and support to migrant workers in the construction sector. Also, Sampark has been in partnership with

Orissa Rural Development and Marketing (ORMAS) from 2017. They have been supporting youth trained under the DeenDayal Upadhyaya Grameen Koushalya Yojana and are being placed in Bangalore in the garment and retail sectors.

UNDERSTANDING

COMMUNITY PRA SESSIONS

The Sampark team uses the PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) tool to understand the workers better and to identify their issues. The main objective of this exercise is to provide a platform where representatives of workers and builders participate and discuss their issues. This will ensure that the builders' representatives will support workers to resolve possible issues such as water and sanitation. The session also helps the labourers on the whereabouts of PHC, public school, markets, etc, so that they can access them when needed. The PRA sessions assist the Sampark team and the labourers to recognize the representatives of workers from different states, their languages, and thereby understand the dynamics among workers from different states and different languages.

Sampark has conducted 7 PRA sessions in different labour colonies. The main challenge is that to conduct these sessions we need about 2-3 hours of time with the workers. As they work even on Sundays, it is difficult to

get that kind of time with them.



Figure 6: Workers explaining the diseases affecting them by keeping red dots

WORKERS' HEALTH

This year 35 health camps were conducted across sites in which 3,678 workers participated and availed the benefits. Seven Post - Natal Care Programs were also conducted. 303 workers attended

these sessions, of which, *Figure 7: Services to migrant workers*

177 were men and 126 were women. The health camps serve as a good medium to maintain a rapport with the workers and to install some confidence and trust, to enable them to use other services of Sampark as well.

Four Shramdhan camps were conducted and 99 people attended them. The Shramdhan camps are conducted to raise the issues of hygiene and sanitation among the workers. This also acts as a platform in which the representatives from the builder and workers could sit and talk about the cleanliness issues faced by them in the labour colonies and reach at an amicable solution for the same. Even among the workers, men and women have different issues which are never discussed, but these camps provide them the platform to raise the same.

The health of workers is primary for their earning. Though the builders also conduct health camps for the workers they do not receive any further help forward. Migrant workers are unaware of the affordable medical services which they can access in the new city and language serves as a big obstacle to access these services. They tend to spend majority of their income in private hospitals and treatments. Sampark works towards

introducing them to the doctors to enable them to visit the PHC's by themselves whenever needed. Further due to the limited treatments offered at the PHC's, workers who need further medical treatment, are taken to the government hospitals.

With the help of these camps, workers who need regular medical attention, were identified and were linked to the PHC. 78 female and 66 male workers were linked to PHCs for treatment and 51 women were linked to *Anganwadis* for the mother cards as a part of the pre-natal care. 26 workers with severe health issues like kidney stones, TB, skin allergy etc. were taken to respective government hospitals by the field officers for treatment and regular medicines.

Sampark has conducted 7 HIV awareness sessions which were attended by 278 women and 62 men. The camps were conducted at different garment and retail shops where the workers are located.

Awareness camps on safety measures are conducted to make them aware of the hazards if they do not follow the safety procedures. With workers constantly changing as they tend to move, these awareness sessions become important as there will be new workers. Three such awareness sessions were conducted which were attended by 151 workers.

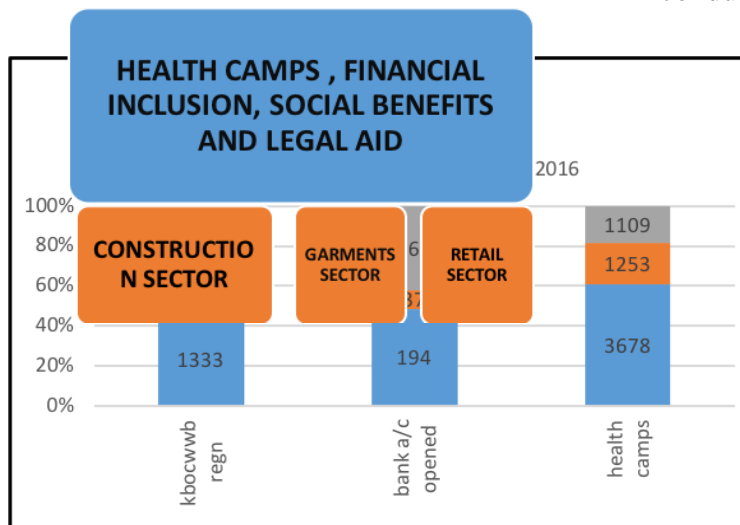


Table 4: WRC Matters!

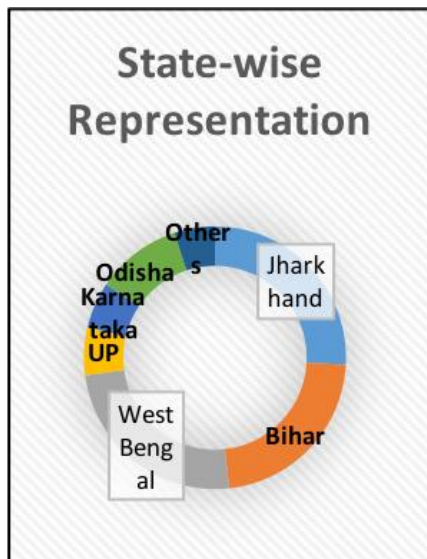
linking migrant workers to the PHC's and

WORKERS' FINANCES

While working with migrant workers, one realizes the peculiarity of their problems. The wages earned by the worker is very important for

him/her to live in the city and is equally important for the worker's family whom he has left behind in his native place.

As shown in Figure 7, workers come from different states to Bangalore. It is of utmost importance for them to transfer money



regularly to their family. Due to the lack of huge commissions and the workers end up losing a lot of their money.

Hence, bank accounts ease a lot of their troubles and is also required for receiving welfare benefits from the Karnataka Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board(KBOCWWB).

Sampark helps the workers to know about the documents required for opening bank accounts. They have also worked with the branch managers of Karnataka Bank, Allahabad Bank and some branches of Canara

Table 5: Workers state wise split

Bank to make them aware of

bank accounts or other regular channels of transfer of money, they resort to middlemen who are extremely unreliable, charge

Workers can now avail LPG Gas connections and Free Bus Pass under the KBOCWWB's new scheme.

Sampark's objectives. The field officers help in the process of filling up the application forms and follow up with the banks till the accounts are opened. Migrant workers receive weekly salaries and the houses in the labour colonies are not a safe place for them to keep their wages. To protect the fruits of their labour, having a bank account and operating it from time to time is a necessity.

To make the workers aware of this, 12 financial literacy programs were conducted. Owing to these campaigns, 194 workers came forward to open bank accounts of which 36 females and 158 were male.

They are also provided help regarding applying for ATM cum debit cards and training on how to operate the same. Due to their long working hours which leaves no time to access the banks during banking hours, these ATM cards are of great use.

WORKER'S WELFARE BENEFITS

A builder pays 1% of the total construction cost as construction cess to the labour department for the welfare of workers. Huge amounts of funds for workers welfare are sitting unutilised with the state. As per 2017, only a meagre 2.44% of these funds are being utilised for workers' welfare. For workers to receive the welfare benefits, they have to become a member of the KBOCWVWB. There are many schemes under which they can get assistance for education, marriage and funeral. The workers, unaware of these schemes, are not able to avail these benefits.

Sampark conducts awareness sessions on the different schemes offered by the Board and encourages workers to become members. Many of them have become members and



Figure 8: WRC basic services

have started receiving benefits under different schemes. Though they are hesitant in the beginning to become members of the board, once they hear the benefits received by the

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Figure 9: Inauguration of toll-free number

Bheemarai is from Devarabhupura village of Raichuru district in Karnataka. He is 48 years old and is a father of two sons. He migrated to Bengaluru 15 years ago and started doing construction work. He initially worked as a helper and now he is a mason. His elder son Manjunatha is doing his graduation and another son Basanna is studying in Class 9.

He is happy to share the story of how Sampark helped his t aka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWVWB). He admits that initially, he was sceptical about Sampark staff asking him to pay Rs. 175 as charges to the welfare board for receiving the registration card. He says, "I did not take it seriously when submitting the application for scholarship but when I received INR 5,000 in 2017, towards my elder son's education I was so happy that I immediately called Sundar (field staff of Sampark) and informed him about the money I received". Encouraged by the money he received, he also applied for his younger son's scholarship and received INR 4,000. He is now gladly encouraging other workers to register with the welfare board.

Migrant Women Workers Got Back Their Pending Wages

Mrs. Syed Mehataj is a migrant worker from Andhra Pradesh. In her native village she was a home maker, but she decided to move to the city along with her husband and two sons, for better earnings. She joined as a housekeeper at Krishi Davila Apartments through a private employment agency from June 2017 and her monthly salary was INR 8,000 per month on contract basis.

In November 2017, there was a conflict between the employment agency and their client Krishi Davila Apartments because of which the contract was cancelled between the two parties. Syed Mehataj and her 9 colleagues were not paid their salary for 40 days. The agency informed them that they haven't received payment from their client and hence cannot pay the workers. Also, they refused to answer their phone calls.

Syed Mehataj says, "...one of my colleagues, Rita Swain contacted Sampark Workers Resource Centre (WRC), situated in Bellandur. They took our complaint and assured us their help in getting us the salary we deserve by speaking to our employer." The WRC team immediately called the agency's supervisor and informed them about the labour laws and the consequences of violating them. As a result of this follow up by the WRC staff, the workers were promised their entire salary within a week. Syed told the WRC staff a week later that "we all received our full payments totalling to INR 1,06,000 ". They were all very happy and thankful. They said that without WRC's help they wouldn't have gotten their payments.

they come forward to become members.

The WRC team conducted 23 canopy campaigns to make the workers aware of the benefits that they can claim under the different schemes of the Board. This year 1,333 workers have become members of the Board of which 54 are female and 1,279 are male.

When it comes to the welfare schemes, 36 applications were submitted to claim benefits under the many schemes of the Board. Out of those, 27 children received scholarships amounting to INR 97,000 and four are still pending, four claims under the marriage scheme benefits are being processed and one for maternity got rejected.

ADVOCACY

Sampark works closely with the Board to make them aware that the claims submitted are genuine and hence there is a level of trust and co-operation from the Board.

But the rules in getting the benefits, often, act as deterrent in receiving the benefits. A minimum one-year membership is a must for claiming benefits under their schemes. Also, the rules are being constantly modified to provide benefits only for workers who are from Karnataka. Similarly, the workers cannot buy groceries under the PDS as the ration card only works in their native place. Most of the villagers are not in their villages for most part of the year and hence the PDS benefits are not received. Sampark works closely with the government departments to make them see the practical issues of the procedures and does advocacy with the different departments responsible for the benefits.

WORKERS RIGHTS

Sampark this year has mediated with 5 different builders to make 38 workers receive their rightful compensation. Claims worth INR 6,21,181 were submitted of which INR

3,87,000 were settled and INR 2,34,181 is still due.



Figure 10: Inauguration of WRC North Office, Canopy Campaign, and Health Camps

4 NEW CRÈCHES started this year 😊

Following the food provided by the crèche, the parents have also made it a practice at home to prepare similar nutritious food. For example, they prepare Kheer (made with milk, wheat and sugar) and Khichidi (rice, vegetables, and pulses). Parents are also demanding builders to set up a crèche when they shift to other labour colonies.

Young children playing and roaming unsupervised is a very common sight in migrant workers' colonies. With both parents working the entire day, children are left to themselves or an elderly person keeps tabs on all the children. The children are extremely undernourished and live in unhygienic surroundings. Their safety is under threat all the time. Children also lose out on their education when they move around with their parents to different places of work.

children are under-nourished and the health and nutrition requirements of children are secured by providing them breakfast, lunch

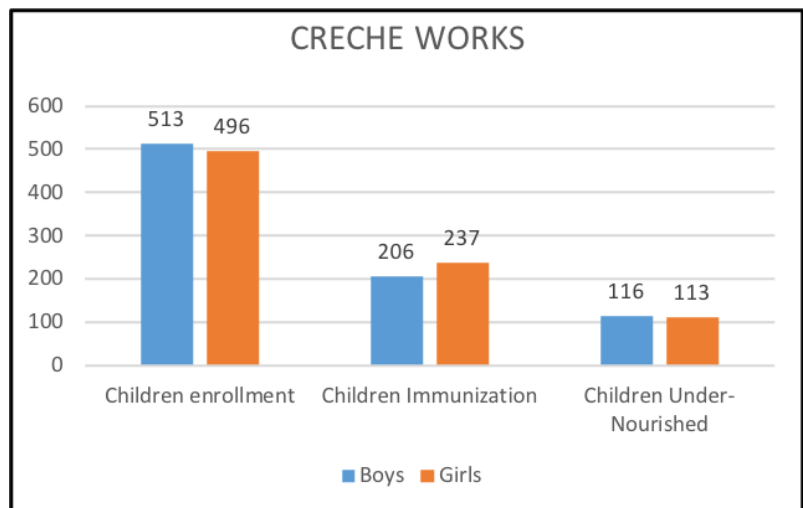


Table 6: Crèche details

Sampark, realizing the pressing need for crèches in migrant workers colonies, runs 13 crèches in different labour colonies. The children are given a safe place to stay and learn basic languages and arts and crafts. Most of the

and snacks in the evening.

The crèches work from 9.30am to 5pm. Children as young as 6 months old are taken in. Balwadi consists of children from 3-6 years and Non-formal Education from the age of 6 to 12 years. The builder provides a place in the labour colony to run the crèche. Water and electricity are provided by the builder.

CHILDREN'S NUTRITION

Sampark set up the crèches keeping in mind that children's nutrition should be given utmost priority. Children's height and weight is monitored regularly and are made to follow a strict diet plan. Meals are as per the diet chart and are prepared by the teachers themselves in the crèche. Mid-day meals for all the crèche children are provided by the Akshayapatra foundation.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

In addition to nutrition, the children are also given regular health checkups and vaccines. There were 78 health camps conducted at the crèches and 443 children were given immunization. 1,009 children that is 513 boys and 496 girls are enrolled in the crèches in all the different sites put together.

The staff monitored the height and weight of the children over the months and found that 116 boys and 113 girls are still undernourished. Sampark conducted monthly meetings with parents to discuss the progress of their children. They also discuss about the parents' role in ensuring good health of children.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

The crèche acts as a bridge school for the children of migrant workers. They learn age-appropriate language and numeracy lessons. Each day is planned with a combination of physical activities, storytelling and singing. Sampark constantly works in the process of mainstreaming the children to government schools. The crèches help the children in a great way by providing them with meals and vaccines. It teaches them basic sense of hygiene which reaches the people at home too. It helps in improving the confidence of the children. During the year, 49 children were mainstreamed to government schools. Migrant workers' children are welcomed at government schools and can manage with the school syllabus and language.

Few crèches are now running on facilities, 100% of which are provided by the builder. They are bearing the salaries of the teachers too.

STAFF TO SUPER STAFF – CAPACITY BUILDING

All the staff attend monthly monitoring meetings to raise their field issues, etc. Both the WRC and crèche staff meet every month at Sampark Head Office and receive updates on all the projects of Sampark. This keeps them informed about Sampark's activities and also gives them a bigger picture of the organisation.

All the crèche programme staff have been receiving training from the Mobile crèche team in Delhi. They are trained on early childhood care, curriculum and document maintenance. Sampark also gives the teachers English training through an online spoken English course. The programme staff also have a good rapport with the children's parents. This helps to install good hygienic

Dhananjay and Shashikala migrated from Malagalli village, Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh. They were working with Mahaveer Zephyr Constructions at Kodichikkanahalli. Sampark staff started a crèche in this particular colony and would give awareness on health and hygiene. During which it was identified that Nirmala, aged 4 years, might be having an aphonic condition with her speech. Nirmala wasn't able to speak and used sign language to talk with her family. The family thought this was due to their bad luck and did not seek any medical help to rectify Nirmala's speech.

During the health camp, the pediatrician referred her to the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital. Sampark staff Ms. Manjula accompanied the family and took the child for a series of check-ups. She was given medicines and the therapist advised a couple of methods to communicate with the child regularly at home and in school and also to let her play and be part of a group. The teachers and parents followed the same and Nirmala's condition improved, and she was able to address the members of her family with words such as "Amma, Appa, Bhuva, Babai."

The whole family is very happy to see her change and is now eagerly awaiting to hear more words from the child. Nirmala's language skills became better by participating in all activities at the crèche and by interacting with all the children.

practices to be followed at home too. A healthy environment is maintained among the staff where information is shared with them

on routine basis and meetings are organized to hear their issues and to share best practices.



Figure 11: Hygiene, nutrition, and non-formal education in a crèche

5. INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

7 interns and volunteers worked towards objectives of Sampark

CHETANA RAMESH from Dayananda Sagar College

She visited the crèches run by Sampark. She also visited garment factories and interacted with the migrant workers in the garment sector and understood their issues. She analysed the situation of children in the crèches and developed case studies to show the impact of crèches on children's health, safety, education and migrant workers livelihoods. She provided translation support for the international interns who are working with Sampark. She supported the fund-raising team through collection of data on contact details of several international funding agencies and companies based in Bangalore, Mumbai and Delhi and sent emails about Sampark and its interventions in the field of development as a part of the fund-raising strategy.

KATJA SCHONLE from University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

She visited different projects (crèche project in Bangalore as well as the SHGs and educational projects in Koppal) and reported her experiences to Sampark. She observed the activities of the crèches in the labour colonies in detail and gathered qualitative data through interviews and focus group discussions with different stakeholders. Based on these observations as well as qualitative data, she made an impact study on Sampark's crèche project

and elaborated recommendations for improvement. She also presented the findings of the impact study to Sampark's Staff as well as some of the board members. The results of the study helped Sampark to further develop and improve the crèche project in Bangalore.

KATHRIN GABATHULER from University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

She visited different projects (crèche project in Bangalore and the Cooperatives in Koppal) and reported her observations to Sampark. She finalized the annual report which was presented at the General Board Meeting. She also collected contact details of funding agencies who could support Sampark's work and sent proposals to these agencies to raise funds to scale up Sampark's crèche project.

BHARADWAT, HARSH SHARMA, PRAGYA SHUKLA AND AAYUSSHI GROVER from NarseeMonjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS)

They visited the crèches run by Sampark for children of migrant workers in the construction sector. They helped prepare a 3-minute film about Sampark during the internship. This was selected in the 1st round of a proposal that we submitted.