

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 21




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At a time when opportunism is everything,
when hope seems lost, when everything boils down
to a cynical business deal, we must find the courage to dream.
To reclaim romance. The romance of believing in justice,
in freedom, and in dignity. For everybody.

~ Arundhati Roy

Bring me all of your dreams, you dreamers.
Bring me all of your heart melodies
that I may wrap them in a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers of the world.

~ Langston Hughes



'DREAMS DEFERRED'

It has not been easy to safeguard ourselves and the communities we are in solidarity with from the tentacles of coronavirus. The second wave of Covid-19 hit us hard. Many of us have lost loved ones as we struggled to contain the effects of the virus. The dead were numbers first. Numbers then changed to names. And names changed to people we loved. Many of our project partners have tales of death and unceremonious burials or cremations to share.

At Visthar, some of our team members were in the hospital or in home isolation. In some cases the entire family contracted the virus. The pandemic wreaked havoc on our emotional, mental, physical and economic well-being. While some of us were able to stay home, a vast majority around us struggled with little or no access to healthcare, shelter and food.

The pandemic was the most significant development that affected us in 2020 - '21. We lived and worked in a context of fear and despair trying hard to keep hope alive. Though the pandemic affected the lives of almost everyone in the world, some sections were disproportionately more affected - the poor, migrant workers, and daily wage earners. The families of children in our projects come from the latter categories.

The lives of children in Bandhavi and CREA were disrupted at multiple levels. To supplement the family's income, many children began going to work in the field whenever they could get work. The uncertainty of when schools would reopen confused and stressed children. When classes were started online, most children did not have access to those classes.

As the pandemic progressed, Visthar got increasingly involved in relief work. In partnership with KIA we initiated RESILIENCE, a Covid response program in Koppal district to restore livelihoods and ensure child safety. The program follows a human rights approach to address the long-term recovery and resilience building of the affected communities.

KANASU IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS AND CRISIS

All were not despair in the pandemic year. In the midst of chaos and crisis, a kanasu (dream) got actualised. Kanasu Kishori Sanghatana, conceived in pre-Covid times, completed its 'term' and had a smooth launch in June 2021. Supported by Azim Premji Foundation / APPI, KKS aims at enabling and empowering collectives of adolescent girls in Kukanoor Taluk in Koppal District, Karnataka.

During the pandemic Visthar also managed to take up and complete several assignments including a series of gender sensitizations trainings for Timbaktu Collective, covering about 200 staff and directors of Cooperatives. We facilitated a month long leadership development programme for youth, and brought out books documenting our journey of 30 plus years. We have also worked on developing project proposals to address the financial crisis brought by the pandemic. We are glad that two major consultancy projects with Industry Crafts Foundation and Better Cotton Initiative, have taken off. These projects are focused, on mainstreaming gender in the crafts and farm sectors and provides us the scope to build on our work for over two decades. We are learning new ways of working, exploring new and creative methods and strategies.

We express our deep gratitude to friends, colleagues and board members who journeyed with us in these trying times. Special thanks to KNH, KIA, Global Ministries and Azim Premji Foundation for their solidarity and support without which we would not have been able to make relevant interventions in the communities we are engaged with.

Mercy Kappen

Director



TOWARDS A NEW NORMAL

Report from Executive Trustee

INTRODUCTION

One fifth of the 21st century has gone by. Time to pause and reflect. Reflect as a global community. Reflect more so in the context of the pandemic which has caused a significant pushback. If we are truly 'global' affirming the spirit and practice of diversity, then we must acknowledge that one part of the community is hurting. A section that have always been vulnerable. However, of the many things that Covid has taught us, perhaps the most significant, is that our health and wellbeing is tied up to the health and wellbeing of all (people) and the earth, our common heritage.

Given the context of Covid 19, Visthar, like many other institutions, experienced a *push back*. This has affected our programs, fortunately not our morale. We accepted this as an opportunity to facilitate a reality check. We are convinced that our striving ought not to be towards a *return to normal*, but towards new platforms and spaces that are constantly unfolding and ever mysterious. Platforms and spaces that echo stories of love, justice with compassion, a sustainable economy and prosperity for all. These dreams must be sustained, for we need fresh goal posts. The dreams must also find embodiment in people, collectives, structures and the Earth.

RICHER AND POORER



“Richer and Poorer” is the title of D. Subbarao’s piece in the editorial page of Times of India (July 29th 2021). The former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and an economist of repute, Subbarao argues that the pandemic caused by Covid 19 would “leave behind a more unequal world”. While Covid may have triggered a rise in inequality, the world over, it is the economically weaker countries that are impacted severely, he argues. To elicit his point on inequality, Subbarao points to the automobile industry, more specifically Mercedes Benz. The company recorded the highest monthly sales of its super luxury SUV’s in June 2021. We must place this in the context of the horrors of the second wave of Covid in our country. Without

labouring the point, the metaphor of Co2 emissions and gasping for oxygen should remain etched in our collective memories. Subbarao’s article offers relevant information, which could serve as a pointer in the development of our projects and programs.

The year 2020 recorded the biggest contraction in economy, since India’s political independence. In the same time frame, the number of billionaires in India, increased from 102 to 140. While the stock market was booming, 230 million slipped into poverty, below the minimum wage threshold of Rs.320 per day. The article concludes with the line “the biggest worry though is that the scars of this sharpened inequality will persist long after Covid has left us”. Applying article 21 of the Constitution of India, our programmes and projects must articulate and ensure the right to *life with liberty*, recognising that livelihoods and dignity are legally built into this Article.

COUNT EVERY DEATH

An authentic way of honouring those who have gone ahead is to remember them for their life and witness. An initiative, anchored by, among others, Madhu Bhushan, film maker and social activist is an example of honouring the dead. Titled *Count Every Death*, the initiative is an organic interweaving of political, social and cultural action. In an unobtrusive effort people of conscience gather to tell stories of horrors of the 2nd wave; fatalities and the aftermath, more pointedly how it impacted specific sections of the population. The *pourakarmikas* is a case in point. The sharing is interwoven with poems and songs of solidarity, comfort and hope.

PRESERVING OUR SANITY

Faster, higher and stronger is the motto and creed of the Olympic Games, proposed by Pierre de Coubertin in 1924. What is perhaps less known is the fact that Coubertin received the idea from a Dominican Priest Didon, a sports enthusiast who believed that these words “represented a program of moral beauty”. While the motto can be dissected and analysed; it is significant to note that prior to the current event in Tokyo the Olympic committee have added a fourth word, together, to the motto. The committee proposed the fourth word in the context of the pandemic, a reminder and challenge to our individualistic life style.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our strategy and programme foci should remain multipronged. Programmes and projects should address the shrinking democratic spaces and the apolitical behaviour of the middle classes. We will continue to do this by way of:

- « Preserving and nurturing constitutional values.
- « Strengthening platforms for girl children and adolescents to explore dignity, freedom and creativity.
- « Creating platform for Dalits and Adivasi's to affirm the right to freedom of religion and belief.
- « Enhancing gender just perspectives and practice in industry, government and civil society institutions.
- « Initiating Community Mental Health programmes



Besides continuing community based work in North Karnataka, initiatives in the pipeline and new ideas include:

- « Establishing a College offering B.A. in Sustainability Studies.
- « Initiating a holistic non formal educational program for youth from migrant labour communities in Bangalore.
- « Setting up a “museum” on counter culture stories and art.
- « Establishing a public memorial, on Visthar Campus to commemorate pandemic victims and other martyrs.
- « Organizing an annual event of sacred music.
- « Initiating interfaith ‘pilgrimages’ among children, adults and youth in Bangalore.

CONCLUSION

Our goal is not to return to *normal* but to commit ourselves to creating a *new normal* with of just, humane and creative communities where the most vulnerable will be free and dissent is affirmed as legitimate democratic practice. In this process I wish to acknowledge the work of the directorate more specifically the Executive Director, Mercy Kappen, whose tireless work and positive spirit have kept Visthar growing from strength to strength. Her efforts have borne fruit at many levels, more specifically in securing project funds. Mention must be made also of Dr. Deenabandhu Manchala, and Global Ministries, USA, lived up to his name ‘friend of the poor’ and extended his support. Mr. Joseph Thomas representing Kerk in Actie in Holland, went beyond the call of duty, offering sage counsel and facilitating institutional support. I conclude with a text from Rabia of Basri, Sufi Mystic woman, a slave who freed herself.

“I want to put out the fires of hell and
Burn down the rewards of paradise.
They block the way to Allah.

I do not want to worship from the fear of punishment
or for the promise of reward, but simply for the love of Allah”.

David Selvaraj
Executive Trustee





What would it mean to live
in a city whose people were changing
each other's despair into hope?
You yourself must change it.

What would it feel like to know
your country was changing?
You yourself must change it.

Though your life felt arduous
new and unmapped and strange
what would it mean to stand
on the first page of the end of despair?

"Dreams Before Waking"

~ Adrienne Rich

BANDHAVI - A PROGRAMME FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS AT RISK

INTRODUCTION

The goal of Bandhavi project is to protect girl children of Devadasi and Dalit communities, from the risk of being dedicated as Devadasi, forced into child labor, child marriage or being trafficked. The pandemic was the most significant development that affected the Bandhavi project in 2020 - '21. Though the pandemic affected the lives of almost everyone in the world, some sections were disproportionately more affected - the poor, migrant workers, and daily wage earners. The families of Bandhavi children come from the latter categories. The pandemic thus disrupted the lives of children and their parents at multiple levels. That impacted the project and its response too.

As the threat of the pandemic loomed in March 2020, schools began to close early. All examinations from classes 1 to 9 were cancelled. The 10th class SSLC exams were postponed. Hence children went back to their homes on March 20, a few days before the national lockdown was announced. The annual summer camp at the end of each school year - a highlight in the children's calendar - could not be organized as children had to rush home early.

Back in their homes, children and their families faced multiple uncertainties. The loss of livelihood and the uncertainty of when daily wage work would be available again stressed families. Many family members who had migrated to the cities returned home with wages not received and the stigma of being potential corona virus carriers. Children reported food insecurity in their homes. The state's public distribution system worked unevenly during the early days of the pandemic. As they supplied only rice and wheat, children's families had to buy the rest from the market. The parents of the children at Bandhavi are small and marginal farmers, often without their own land. They were especially affected by the lockdown as they could not access the market to sell their produce.

75% of children said they were not having enough food at home. To supplement the family's income, many children began going to work in the field whenever they could get work. The uncertainty of when schools would reopen confused and stressed children. When classes were started online, most children did not have access to those classes. Some children lost interest in education.

We distributed food kits to the families in Koppal district. We networked with partner organizations in other districts to distribute food kits in the homes of children there. As the pandemic progressed, Visthar got increasingly involved in pandemic relief work. We organized awareness programmes in the surrounding villages. When the lockdown was lifted, our staff and partners visited the families of Bandhavi children. Due to the uncertainty of when schools would reopen, most children stayed back in their villages. Thus, only 48 children were admitted in Bandhavi this academic year.

THE TARGET GROUPS REACHED

During the national lockdown in 2020, schools stayed closed. Hence, Bandhavi children also stayed back in their villages. After the government lifted the lockdown, schools continued their classes online. 50% of parents went back to cities in search of work. Hence 48 children came to Bandhavi and others stayed back in their villages. During this reporting period 127 children were enrolled in Bandhavi and Samagra Shikshana Shale (SSS).

Children from Koppal, Bellary and Raichur districts are admitted in Bandhavi. Up to 5th std. there were no regular schools. Classes were all conducted online and children attended online classes from Bandhavi. Regular online classes continued till 31st, March 2021 for students from 6th to 9th class; for students in 10th class it continued till 17th April 2021.

The details of children under Bandhavi project:

Sl. No.	Unit	Girls	Boys	Total Children
1	Bandhavi	84	-	84
2	Samagra Shikshana Shaale (SSS) enrolled	25	18	43
	Total	109	18	127

Thus there was a deviation in the project's numbers from originally planned. Till September 2020, all children stayed in their villages. From September, children from single parent families and migrant families came to Bandhavi. Till then we supplied food kits to their families in Koppal and Bellary districts.



BANDHAVI INTERVENTIONS DURING 2020-21

Ensuring safe and secure residential care for girls at risk

During this reporting period, 48 girls received safe and secure residential care at Bandhavi. The remaining 36 children stayed in their native place; we were in touch with them over phone. The partner organization in Raichur district is also in direct contact with the families of these children. They visited the families of these

children and see that they are attending online classes, due to Covid-19 pandemic. In Koppal and Bellary district, house parents made home visits and also distributed food kit to them.

At Bandhavi, everyone follows the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) of Visthar for the Corona pandemic in line with Government regulations and recommendations. Children are given awareness on the precautionary measures; Covid precautionary measures have been displayed in Bandhavi. Staff and children ensure that everyone follow it. Masks were distributed to all the children, including those who were in their native place. We have also shared information and advice on precautions to the children's WhatsApp groups. Besides this, Emergency phone numbers of District Child Protection Officer, Child Welfare Committee and numbers of other departments concerning children are displayed at Bandhavi. We ensure an environment conducive to learning through teamwork that builds healthy relationships among the children. The campus is well maintained with a refreshing green cover of trees. A few of the older trees have been felled; newer trees continue to be planted every year.

Providing nutritional and balanced diet and health care

Health and nutrition is an important aspect of Bandhavi. Children receive nutritious food and health care. During the Covid 19 pandemic, extra importance was given to this area. Children do regular yoga, and meditation. They work in the farm together in the morning; they participate in evening inter-faith prayer, etc. Regular health check-ups and medicines are ensured. The members of children's health committee in Bandhavi take care of the sick children along with house parents. Children are conscious of their personal hygiene & health. Specifically, in this pandemic period, we ensured that children maintain physical distance, wash their hands often, and wear mask. In order to maintain good health, the food committee made some changes in the menu:

- « After consulting the nutritionist, menu was enhanced to provide a complete balanced nutritious diet in accordance with seasons, the changing weather and the changing needs of the body. For example, a cereal-based breakfast and inclusion of raw vegetables at meal times were introduced during summer months.
- « To strengthen immunity during the Covid-19 pandemic, we included a home remedy decoction in the daily morning menu.

Besides a balanced diet, children also receive regular iron tablet from the nearby Primary Health Centre, calcium & vitamin supplements. The food committee holds meeting regularly and discuss emerging needs in consultation with staff and children. Example, schools stopped Mid-day meal and milk supply during the pandemic. The committee members suggested introducing snacks at noon that includes milk, juice or fruits.

- « A Covid test was done for all 48 children; all were negative.
- « A blood test done to check haemoglobin levels in children found that 10% of the children had lesser



than required levels of haemoglobin. A special diet and supplementation plan was made to improve haemoglobin levels.

- « Measures to ensure long term good health like providing jaggery and groundnuts once a week is continuing. The food and health committees remain alert to such issues.
- « During this reporting period, there were no major health hazards in Bandhavi. Common diseases like, fever, cold, cough, were there and children were taken to hospital and given medicines. Children were very careful and strictly followed Doctor’s advice, during this pandemic period.
- « We provided food kits to the children, staying at their homes from Gangavathy Taluk, Koppal Taluk, Hospet and Mariyammanahalli. Total 335 food kits were distributed including to children studying in SSS.

Promoting access to formal education

Due to the pandemic, only 48 girls at Bandhavi accessed formal education in mainstream schools this year. 9 girls appeared for SSLC (10th class) examination for the year 2019-20 and 5 of them passed first attempt. Other 4 girls also passed with good marks in their second attempt (Supplementary exam). Schools did not conduct examinations students in 1st std. to 9th STD. They were promoted to the next class automatically.

Government declared that there would be no classes for 1st to 5th class. ‘Vatara Shale’, that conduct classes in open grounds, near temple premises etc. were begun by the government this academic year in many villages. Children, who were in their native places, attended the Vatara shale. It was conducted by teachers for 1½ months (July to August-2020). As Covid positive cases increased among the teachers, the government stopped this and started ‘Vidyagama’ (classes for children in the premises of school). This continued for nearly 2 months. Regular classes were conducted only for SSLC students from January 2021 to mid-April, 2021. Schools conducted classes on alternate days for students from 6 to 9th class, till 31st March, 2021.

Education details of children at Bandhavi

Sl. no	Class	No of Children	Schools where the children are studying
1	Class 2	01	SSS, Bandhavi campus
2	Class 4	04	SSS, Bandhavi campus
3	Class 5	06	SSS, Bandhavi campus
4	Class 6	08	Govt. HPS, Chikkabidnal
5	Class 7	13	Govt. HPS, Chikkabidnal
6	Class 8	13	Govt. HS, Hirebidnal
7	Class 9	18	Govt. HS, Hirebidnal
8	Class10	21	Govt. HS, Hirebidnal
Total		84	

Due to Covid 19, regular tuition classes were conducted for children from 6th to 10th class in Bandhavi. The tuition classes focused on preparations for tests and examinations. All the examinations from 6th to 9th class were cancelled and students were automatically promoted to the next class. We distributed note books to children who are staying in their villages and continuing their education.

Samagra Shikshana Shale (SSS): In the beginning, there were 54 students enrolled in SSS. Later 11 children took their TC due to Covid-19 pandemic. In SSS, Teachers conducted community classes in neighboring 4

villages for SSS students, during 'Vatara Shale', and 'Vidyagama', They ensured that children are following COVID 19 protocol. They conducted activity based classes to the children. Parents were very supportive as they felt that children were otherwise roaming around and had forgotten their schools and study. These classes maintained their interest in education. When the Government stopped these classes; we had to discontinue the classes in the villages.



Details of children enrolled in SSS

Sl no	Level	Girls	Boys	Total	From Bandhavi	From community
1	Level I	4	4	8	0	8
2	Level II	3	3	6	1	5
3	Level III	1	3	4	0	4
4	Level IV	8	2	10	4	6
5	Level V	9	6	15	6	9
Total		25	18	43	11	32

The following activities were conducted in SSS during this reporting period:

Library: The library was updated and made accessible to both Bandhavi and SSS children. Teachers re-arranged and set up a library for Bandhavi and SSS. The books were classified and categorized based on the subjects.

Studies: 3 studies were conducted by SSS teachers on different subjects, which will be used as teaching aids in SSS. 1). Different flowers around our villages and its importance. 2). Different Seeds (Native Millets) and 3). Native agricultural tools. Data was collected in discussions with farmers, visits to villages and from the internet. The outputs of these studies came in the form of books.



Shadow clock: A shadow clock was set up and taught to the children. The shadow clock helps us find out the time from sunlight. The people of ancient times used to find time from their shadow when sunlight fell on them. In the villages, even to this day, some people follow the same. Our shadow clock introduced this method to the children by Archa, a budding artist.

Teaching Aid and Worksheet: Teachers prepared teaching aids for the next academic year. From 1st class to 5th class lessons, teachers prepared pictures for each lesson and each subject. A total 350 pictures were prepared. Similarly, worksheets were prepared for each activity. A total of 250 sheets were prepared. These sheets and lesson with pictures are attractive to children and will generate interest among them.

Classroom design: Child friendly pictures were drawn on the walls of the classroom. This enhances children's learning, improves understanding, and promotes the concentration of children. It is also attractive to children making them feel comfortable in the classroom. The painting was done by Archa.

Kitchen garden: Introducing organic farming is also an important part of SSS. We are maintaining a kitchen garden with traditional seeds, organic compost etc.



Developing gender sensitivity and ecological and rights awareness

Girls started enrolling in Bandhavi from September, 2020 onwards. During this reporting period, children at Bandhavi received two days training on child rights. This training enhanced their understanding on rights and duties. Besides this, we formed 6 Committees and through children's participation Bandhavi activities are functioning effectively.

Last year children from Bandhavi participated in the District children's parliament meeting held in Koppal. It included the selection of children to meet with the Chief Minister to discuss the situation of children in the state. Netra (9th standard) from Bandhavi was selected as one of two children to represent Koppal district. On 20th November, 2020, she participated in a Zoom meeting with the Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka organized by Women and Child Development Department in collaboration with UNICEF, Koppal.

On 25th Jan, 2021, 15 girls from 10th class attended National Means Cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) exam. This scheme is sponsored by the Central Government for class 10 students to provide the students financial support for their higher education. And 1 child from 8th std. attended National Talent Search Examination (NTSE). This exam is conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for identifying talented students who want to pursue higher education in Science and Social Studies Stream. The results of these exams have not come out yet.

Developing Leadership and enabling participation of children in decision making bodies

The children’s committees (Food, Education, health & Nutrition, Cleaning, Community & Planning) are functioning effectively in Bandhavi. Through these Committees, Bandhavi activities are monitored along with staff. During each event and activity, the concerned Committee meets with staff and have a detailed discussion to decide on the activities. They also consult and co-ordinate with other committees. The following are the committee led activities conducted during this reporting period:

Celebration of National, International and local festivals: This academic year children celebrated local festivals like, Dussera, Deepavali, Christmas, New year and Makara sankranthi (harvesting). For each festival, the concerned committees discussed how to celebrate the festival during the pandemic, without wasting food and following Corona protocols. Children enjoyed a variety of foods with sweets, according to the festivals. They also talked about each festival and did a deeper analysis of these festivals. It helped them to improve their critical thinking.

They also observed, National and International days like, Mother Savithri Bai Phule’s Birth Anniversary, Children participated in International Women’s Day celebration held at Benakal Village and Republic Day. These celebrations deepened their understanding of the situation of girl child and their rights.

Bandhavi Day celebration: Due to Covid 19 pandemic, this year Bandhavi Day was celebrated in a simple way on 23rd Dec, 2020. The theme of the celebration was “Equity, Equality is our Dream”. The highlights of the celebration were the cultural programs and releasing of ‘Hejjegalu’, handwritten magazines by Bandhavi and SSS children. Hejjegalu is a collection of thoughts in the form of poems, short stories and drawings; they express children’s experiences living during the pandemic. Nearly 75 people gathered during the celebration, including Bandhavi Trustee, Bandhavi Alumnni, parents and children. Over 75 people gathered during the celebration, including Bandhavi Trustee, Bandhavi Alumnni, parents and staff.



Besides the above, monthly birthday celebrations are a part of Bandhavi life. All children and staff gather on this occasion and greet the children. There is also a cultural program. It is also a platform for children to develop their articulation skills. On 8th Jan, 2021, children participated in the inauguration of Transformative Learning Centre in Chikkabidnal. It is a platform for children in the village to come together and hold discussions, share a reading space, and attend tuition classes, etc. It is also a place for attend online classes.

The Complaint Committee of Visthar's Child Protection Policy has representatives of children. Each year they are selected by the children. Swathi, from 10th class was elected by the children as the member of this Committee this year.

Equipping the girls with entrepreneurial and vocational skills

At Bandhavi, children maintain an organic kitchen garden, and engage in animal husbandry. They grow vegetables and greens in the land, while also learning theory classes on organic farming. Children receive training in Warli art, tailoring and Music regularly. All these skills trainings are an integral part of all camps. This year onwards, children are receiving these trainings in smaller groups. A training curriculum has also been prepared by the facilitators.

28 Bandhavi children participated in a skills development training programme on 9th Feb, 2021 organized by District Child Protection Unit. It was conducted at Bandhavi. Dr. Nagesh from agricultural department facilitated the training. The facilitators also visited Bandhavi organic garden and appreciated the initiatives of children. Dr. Nagesh assured us that he will support us at any time. The second training was on 2nd Mar, 2021 at Koppal. The training was on Mushroom cultivation, Bee keeping and Vermi compost. Children participated actively in these trainings. On 16th Feb, 2021, 5 children from Bandhavi visited Agricultural Science Centre in Gangavathy to check soil and water from our land. This was an opportunity for them to understand the processes of soil fertilisation.



Strengthening community involvement in monitoring child rights and gender-based violence

During lockdown, we were not able to do home visits of children. We made home visits immediately after the lockdown was lifted. This was a difficult time for all families. We had to extend ourselves, beyond the

boundaries of the project to be in solidarity with our children's families. During the visit we distributed food kits to the family. We understood the precarious condition that the families of Bandhavi children were in due to the pandemic and the lockdown. People had no work. Migrant workers also came back to their native villages. Their living conditions are poor and there is not enough space for the whole family.

Staff participated in various government trainings on documents to be maintained in Child Care Institutions (CCI), how to update and track the missing child website. Staff also attended periodic meetings organized by District Child Protection Office (DCPO), Child welfare Committee (CWC) and Deputy Commissioner of the district. Quarterly reports were submitted to the DCPO.

District Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members visited Bandhavi on 12th October, 2020 and 7th Feb, 2021. They examined the facilities and the maintenance of documents. We are required to update the government time to time about the status children at Bandhavi. By staying in contact with the children in their villages, we were able to find out their situation during the pandemic.



Picture from pre-pandemic times

The Child Protection Committees in the community were not functioning effectively during the pandemic. CREA project staff conducted meetings with these committees whenever there was no lockdown. Discussions were held on violation of child rights in schools and public places. We were able to conduct few training for women's groups and SDMC members. Besides this, we made regular contacts with teachers and School Development Monitoring Committees to see that children in vulnerable situations are rescued. We also attended regular parent teacher's meetings and other events in school. Through this we strengthened the connection with schools and it helped to monitor children's education and other aspects. Teachers are very concerned about Bandhavi girls and supportive in their overall development.

Efforts towards sustainability

From the beginning Visthar has been making the efforts towards sustainability. Due to Covid 19 pandemic, this year we were not able to concentrate on this area.

- « This academic year we received contributions in kind (2476 kg rice, wheat & dhal)
- « The Bandhavi Alumni Association (BAA) is more involved and engaged
- « Organic farming in the campus meets 25% of the requirements for fruits, vegetables, milk, etc. for Bandhavi.
- « At Bandhavi staffs are rights conscious and equipped with updated knowledge on new laws and amended laws concerning children.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The programme has one Coordinator, 1 house parent, 2 cooks and 1 helper giving continuous support to the children in their day-to-day life to get nutritious food and gain good health. During this academic year one house parent left. We appointed a new staff member as assistant cook. The appointment of one more house parent is in process.

Staff participated in various trainings and monthly capacity building trainings. They participated in the Annual Strategic Workshop held at Visthar. Besides this, staff attended workshops on maintaining documents in Child Care Institutions & how to update and track the missing child website. This was organized twice by the State Women and Child Development department and District Child Protection. Members of District Child Welfare Committee had visited Bandhavi and checked the documents and gave suggestions. The Directors made periodic visits. Their continuous guidance aids the staff in the smooth and effective functioning of the project.

Monthly staff meetings and Team meetings reviewed the challenges in running the project. The children's Committee meetings also played a major role in monitoring the function of the Bandhavi programme. During these meetings, monthly reports, targets, planning and monthly budget were shared. Besides these, Annual reports and annual plan along with the annual budget were prepared. Quarterly plan and reports were prepared; that helped to work with the goals and targets in mind. Self-assessment of staff is also made to recognize the increased capacity among staff and to identify the areas that need to be strengthened.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

At Bandhavi children are part of Child protection policy. The children's representative attends the periodic committee meetings. Children have been utilizing the complaint box kept in Bandhavi; it is accessible for the youngest (small) child in Bandhavi. This practice helped the Committee to deal with their problems.

Children are aware of child helpline numbers displayed in Bandhavi and in the schools as well. Besides this, all emergency numbers and addresses are displayed in Bandhavi like the fire station, police station, DCPO, CWC, Corona emergency etc. Several posters on child rights issues are also displayed in Bandhavi. Apart from this state circulars regarding child protection are shared and discussed with children.

During this reporting period, all 84 children were enrolled in schools. Only 48 children could come to Bandhavi. Others stayed in their native places. In order to ensure their protection, and to involve mothers in to it, we formed a WhatsApp group. We are in regular contact with the parents and children who are in their native places.

Besides this, Bandhavi has been following the procedures of JJ Act, 2000. Application for Renewal has been submitted to the State through the DCPO and it is under process. Due to Covid-19, there are delays in the official process. The District Child protection committee has also made a visit to Bandhavi and issued an order for one year custody period. As part of this, we are attending the district Child Welfare Committee meetings whenever they called for the same, submitting quarterly reports to the state authorities and updating the online registration of the children in the national website maintained by the Women and Child Development Department.

CONCLUSION

The second wave of Covid-19 is recreating the same kind of situation as last year. In SSS, children cannot come to school but attended only community school. Children from 1st class to 9th class almost forgot about their exams. Hence, they are not serious about their schooling. On the other side, due to the Corona situation, there are possibilities of increase in school dropouts. This academic year, we were able to make sure that no Bandhavi children became school drop-outs. Already many children are engaged in agricultural work along with their parents. Moreover they are not sure about their schooling in future. Due to lockdown children are facing difficult situation. Some children lost interest in studying. Hence, our role is very crucial in the coming year also. We need to rescue them from the situation and enroll them in Bandhavi. It is also important to sustain their interest in education and make sure that they are engaged in extra- curricular activities. We are contacting them over telephone and started doing counseling over phone.

We are grateful to KNH for the financial support to initiate and carry our project thus far and for continuing the support.

Stories of Change

New Life Sprouting

My name is Chaitra. I'm 12 years old, from Hanumanala village of Kanakagiri Taluk, Koppal district. In my family, we are 6 members - parents and 3 siblings. I'm the elder one and I have to look after my siblings, doing house hold work and going to land for work was my routine. Though my parents enrolled me in the Government school in my village, I was an irregular student from 1st to 3rd standard in Hanumanala.

At home, my father used to fight with my mother. He is an alcoholic. He used to not only fight with my mother, but also beat us. Once, he took me to a field and beat me up badly. I shouted and people from nearby came and saved me. When he is drunk, he does not give us peace at home or allow us to eat our food. He used to sell all the food materials at home for alcohol. Sometimes, there was nothing to eat and we used to go to sleep hungry. He would send us out, then start a fight with my mother and beat her up. My mother is a heart patient. But my father does not care. I was fed up with this life because of my father.

In Hanumanala, we have 2 acres of dry land. As there is no continuous work in our village, we migrated from Hanumanala to Bangalore in search of work. My father does construction work in Bangalore. But he spends all his earnings on alcohol. Because of this, my Aunty (Mother's sister), brought me and my sister back to Chikkabidnal. She already has 4 children and it is difficult for her to maintain the family with one person's earning. My sister was studying in Samagra Shikashana Shale (SSS). So, my Aunty requested Basavaraj (Bandhavi security guard), to admit me also in Bandhavi. Thus, I joined Bandhavi two years ago.

In Bandhavi I'm really happy as here I have an opportunity to participate in different activities. I'm one of the members in the food committee. It is my responsibility to see that no one wastes food. We have created our consciousness of food and agriculture. I like the environment. I'm interested in planting trees. I enjoy the activities here = Yoga, kitchen garden, evening interfaith prayer etc. It helps me forget all my worries. I concentrate on my studies now. I'm studying in 6th std. Due to Covid-19, this year also there will not be examinations for our class.

When I was studying in SSS, we got lots of opportunities to learn theatre, painting etc. After joining Bandhavi, I learnt about child rights. Now I know about the child helpline number and other numbers to call if our rights are violated. I have informed other children in my village also of these numbers. My life has changed. I have a goal in my life. I would like to become a staff nurse to do service to the society.

She Rises

16 years old Pavithra is from Gorebal village of Sindhanur Taluk in Raichur district. When she was a child, her parents passed away from Tuberculosis. She and her two siblings thus became orphans at a young age. Pavithra's older sister is married; her older brother works in Bangalore now. He studied up to 12th class after which he discontinued his studies. They have $\frac{3}{4}$ acres land where they grow paddy. That land provides them with enough rice for them. But other than rice, everything else needs to be purchased from the market.

They had borrowed money for their parents' treatment. Her sister's marriage expenses were also a burden to their family. The primary responsibility to repay the loan fell on her brother's shoulders. He first did farming in their land along with their uncle. But from $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, the yield is insufficient to repay the loan. That is why he migrated to Bangalore. Once 6 months, he visits Pavithra and family members.

Now they have their own small house where her parents lived. It was difficult to continue her studies after 7th class in her village as there is no high school there. They have to travel to another village to attend high school. That is why Pavithra was about to discontinue her studies when Virupamma, a volunteer in Navajeevan Mahila Okkutta, Raichur, visited their village.

Virupamma came to know Pavithra's story and spoke to her. Navajeevan Mahila Okkutta encouraged the family to let Pavithra study at Bandhavi 3 years ago. She joined Hirebidnal High school. This year she is in 10th class. Initially, Pavithra struggled to adjust to life at Bandhavi. She missed her home very. If she didn't get a phone call from her family every week, she would cry a lot. Over time she adjusted to the Bandhavi environment. She says, "I like the friends here, the organic farming training, Yoga, and Prayer. I also came to know about child rights and the Constitution. I enjoy doing my responsibilities in the Committees. I am a better leader now. Participating in all activities is giving me energy. In Bandhavi, we all like family members. For the first time in my life, I celebrated my birthday at Bandhavi. I cannot forget that moment. I liked Bandhavi Day celebration. After joining Bandhavi, I became strong and articulate. Thank you Bandhavi". In her 10th class now, Pavithra would like to become a teacher in her village.

An Activist Within Me

“One day I was filling a pot of water from a tap near our village school. The pot was almost filled when an old woman came to fetch water. “Can’t you see me?, move aside”, she shouted at me. I took a step back. Again she shouted “Can’t you take your pot back?” I took my pot and stood a little further away. She washed the place where I had kept my pot. I questioned her, “I have already filled water from there, and then why are you washing?” She said that they are upper caste people. Again, I asked, “So what? Your blood is also coloured red, rightt.?”. She got angry: “You are talking too much. Where is your house? What is your father’s name? etc”. She warned that she would come to my house. I was scared the entire day. If she complained about me to her people, that might trigger caste violence in the village. By the grace of God, nothing happened like that”, explains Radhika, a student of 10th class from Gorebal village about the situation in her village.

Radhika’s mother is Hullamma and father is Ningappa. She has 6 siblings, 4 sisters and 2 brothers. Her 3 elder sisters were married by the time they reached puberty. Her parents are daily wage workers and with their earnings, maintain the family. At present they are living in their grandmother’s house. They don’t have their own house. The family got a plot of land from the government. But due to financial problem, they did not construct a house.

In her village, girls are married off at an early age. Once they completed 10th class, most girls discontinue their studies. To go on to college for further studies, they would have to travel by bus to Sindhanuru. Some girls from upper caste have gone to college. Their village has a mosque, church and temple. Dalits like Radhika go to the Basavanna temple. “But whenever upper caste people come, we have to give way to them. Otherwise, they will scold us using abusive words”, says Radhika. She used to think a lot about the caste discrimination. But when she saw she could not do anything alone, she felt helpless. But she did not lose hope.

Radhika’s parents used to migrate to other places for work. During that time, she had to stay back at home to look after the family. She couldn’t attend school regularly. A few children from her village were already coming to Bandhavi. When they shared their experience about Bandhavi, she also wanted to join Bandhavi. Radhika joined Bandhavi 4 years ago.

Radhika shares of her Bandhavi experience: “I enjoy freedom here. At home, girls are not allowed to go outside. They must stay at home always. Here I can move around. I get an opportunity to develop myself, my skills, and my identity. In my village, I was a quiet girl. But after joining Bandhavi, I gained the courage to step on a stage for the first time; I participated in theatre training, performed in plays and learnt how to organize activities. I am becoming more courageous now. I am also learning about gender justice and child rights. They are all very useful ideas for us. I want to fight against alcohol. Many families are struggling, domestic violence is high, and children are discontinuing their studies because of the alcohol problem. I will fight against this evil and to earn my living I will do some work.”

– Prepared by Bandhavi Team

2

CHILD RIGHTS EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY (CREA)

CREA is a network project initiated by Visthar. The network covers five districts of North Karnataka. The goal of the project is 'Relevant and equitable education for children and decent employment of youth'. The CREA network is funded by KIA. The reporting year is the last year of CREA's fourth phase. In 2020-21, the network focused on establishing 'Child Labor Free Zones (CLFZ)' in its target areas. The objectives were:

- « Establish CLFZs in twenty-five panchayats in 5 Districts of North Karnataka.
- « Have formal, full time and quality education for girls and boys including children with disabilities up to the age of 14.
- « Provide access to continued education, vocational training and decent employment of youth (boys and girls) including children with disabilities.
- « Create community-based rehabilitation of children (boys and girls) with disabilities below 18 years.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the focus of the project shifted to responding to the pandemic.

A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE PROJECT

The schools were closed in March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. For almost three months the CREA partners couldn't do any work in the field due to the lockdown. Even after the lockdown, there continued to be fear and blockades in the villages that restricted the work our staff could do. It took another three months for that to loosen.

Coordinators were requested to suggest changes in the interventions. However, the uncertainties related to Covid 19 and the amendments in the FCRA led to delays in finalising the operational budget. The CREA network did not reach the targets laid out in the budget. A summary of the activities carried out during the reporting period is given below:

Education

Enrolment campaign

- « As schools were closed, we could not get data on children who dropped out neither schools.
- « 117 children (43 boys & 74 girls) were enrolled to school with the documents
- « Awareness on COVID-19 safety measures, and distribution of dry ration kits were undertaken by CREA team in all districts with the help of school. This was organised in all districts with the help of school &

anganwadi teachers, SDMC members, CBOs and NGOs. CREA staff were also the facilitators in some of the districts.

- « Hand bills about education and awareness about Covid care were distributed in the villages.
- « A mobile campaign was organized in Koppal and Bagakot to encourage children to come to school.
- « CREA organized sports and cultural events for children to overcome the trauma in all districts. Prizes were also distributed.
- « Chitradurga and Koppal team also organised sports and cultural events during the celebration of Independence Day and Republic Day.

Capacity building for children

Trainings/ workshops/ camps for members of Children's Sanghas

- « Training /awareness programmes were organized on different topics with focus on Covid 19 for both children's sanghas and parliament groups in villages in districts.
- « Masks and sanitiser kits were distributed to children in sanghas and parliament. Also, orientation about the use of these were done in all districts.
- « In Bidar, CREA organised a training on life skill education with the manual supplied by Vidyanikethan Bangalore. The topics covered included: 1) Self Awareness.2) Empathy. 3) Critical thinking. 4) Creative thinking.5) Decision Making. and Awareness on COVID-19 safety measures.
- « In Chitradurga, CREA organised training on child rights, life skills and Covid-19 through video shows, quiz painting competitions and creative games, 20 children participated. Children were also given prizes in the form of fruits and eggs.
- « On World Day Against Child Labour (12th June), children's club meeting on issues facing children - like Child marriage, and child labour during lock down and the concerns of specially challenged children - was held at Dhamma by Chitradurga team. 25 children and 4 teachers participated.
- « In Chitradurga, CREA also organised yoga sessions as part of the International Yoga Day.
- « In Raichur, CREA conducted a series of training on Covid and hygiene awareness; over 200 children participated in the trainings.
- « In Bagalkot, CREA organised one-day training for mothers to prepare nutritious food for children to improve their health condition. 25 mothers participated in the training.

Celebration of international/ national/ state days

- « The CREA team celebrated some festivals and special days as a response to the emotional disturbance caused by Covid and lock-downs.
- « In Bagalkot, 2900 Masks were distributed for children to protect themselves from Covid and follow safety measures.
- « The Koppal team conducted an FGD with children soon after the lockdowns was lifted in 12 villages to understand the children's situation. 200 children (115 girls and 85 boys) participated in this.

Transformative Learning Centres (TLC)

TLC was an innovative strategy developed to respond to the covid context.

- « In TLC children learn songs, drama, dance, games, yoga and meditation in addition to the academic classes.
- « Training was organised for the TLC facilitators and study materials were purchased and distributed to the centres.
- « In Chitradurga the centers were open throughout the year. In the other districts, they had to be closed during lockdown and also when the pandemic was intense.



Sl. No	District	No of centers	No of children			Duration
			Girls	boys	Total	
1	Chitradurga	2	28	32	60	Throughout the year
2	Bidar	2	21	26	47	8 months
3	Koppal	6	156	204	360	4 months
4	Raichur	13	130	130	260	2 months
5	Bagalkot	2	29	27	56	7 months
Total		28	364	419	783	

Digital learning Unit

- « The Digital Learning Unit was a creative and context specific activity initiated to enable children to attend online classes. With the onset of the pandemic, the education department closed the schools and announced online classes for children. Children in rural areas were effectively deprived of this facility due to unavailability of smart phones and TVs.



- « These centres are also run as community resource centres in two districts. Youth, women and farmers are also getting benefits from these centres.
- « The Chitradurga team used TV as a mobile digital training unit for two months soon after it was purchased.
- « In three districts the digital unit is setup in local government schools.

Meeting with CBOs

- « Awareness about the importance of following standard operating procedures of Covid and child safety. For instance, 25 children and 18 adults participated in Bidar.

- « In Raichur village level groups were formed to access government schemes for housing, pensions, MGNREGA work etc. Around 100 women in 10 villages formed such groups. Now they are getting MGNREGA work and applying for pensions also.



- « A meeting was also conducted by Raichur team for parents of children and Anganawadi workers, GP members in Jegarkal GP and given awareness on COVID-19 and govt facilities to children and family. Over 100 people attended.

- « In Raichur 25 NGO representatives were brought together to discuss child safety in the context of Covid 19.
- « An orientation on CLFZ was organised at Dhamma by Chitradurga team for the GPs (5 PDOs and 5 presidents of GPs, 5 members, 10 NGOs, 5 youth and 2 media persons. GPs assured their support to the team towards the realization of CLFZ in five Panchayats.

Inclusive Education

Networking and orientation to parents and community and networking & Liaison organizations / institutions

All teams organised different activities on Inclusive education. They regularly visit the children with disabilities and their parents. Partners also organised orientations to the parents on the rights of Children with Disabilities and the precautions to be taken during the pandemic time.

- « On 30th June 2020 the Chitradurga team organized health awareness in relation to Covid-19 in collaboration with Vimukthi and Taluk Health Department. The taluk PHC physician Dr. Shankar, GP members, local leaders, women and children took part in it.



- « A seminar on National Education Policy 2020 was held at Dhamma by Chitradurga team in the month of November 2020. This was attended by the District Education Officer, President Child Welfare Committee and school teachers .
- « A representative of the Bagalkot team participated in State level training on RTE and strengthening of SDMC.
- « The Raichur team formed a district level forum for quality education in the district and collaborating with the Samuha organization working for people with disabilities. They are regularly organising meetings with all NGOs. More than 50 NGO members have attended the meetings.



Advocacy

Rescue and rehabilitation of child laborers and survivors of Child marriages, Advocating for entitlements for CWD and rescue and rehabilitation:

- « The Chitradurga team organised and facilitated a half-day session on Covid-19, and issues of child marriage, child labour, school dropout in nomadic tribal colony. 50 children and 20 parents participated.
- « A visually challenged girl Shailaja, who was engaged in begging at the behest of her parents was rescued by Chitradurga team and admitted in a school for the visually challenged. With the help of ChildLine and CWC now she is staying in the school. The team also facilitated a couple of visits of DC to a person with disabilities and mobilised a tricycle for him. The DC also promised to give a grant for self-employment .
- « Koppal team identified 92 Children with Disabilities in 23 villages through a thorough survey. The documents of 12 children were submitted to the concerned departments.
- « Bidar team rescued 12 children from child labour and encouraged them to attend formal education. Due to the closing down of schools they remained in the villages. But they were part of TLCs. They also rescued 23 girls from child marriage.
- « The Raichur team studied the conditions of children with disabilities through discussions with the community and parents of children. They submitted a memorandum to the government through Raichur

DC. The MLA took this with seriously and supported the children for their education though the schools. But due to Covid this was not done.

Community organisation and mobilization

- « The formation and monitoring of village level CPC was a struggle in the context of Covid and Panchayat elections. The CREA team put strong efforts to reach the target by the last quarter; the team saw this as essential for the safety of children.
- « The Bagalkot team gave awareness to newly elected members on child protection during the time of crises and an orientation on their duties and responsibilities. They also attended the Taluk level child protection training and meetings organised by the District JJ system.
- « The Raichur team formed a taluk level CPC; they conducted two meetings during the year.
- « In Chitradurga, during seminars and workshops held on education policy, the role of Taluk level CLFZ committee was shared and members were requested to play an active role in addressing the issues of children. Members of these committees are drawn from NGOs, leaders of different forums, youth, SHG groups, media persons etc.

The partners submitted memorandums from Panchayats to Chief minister on different topics/ issues such as:

- « Supply the food (Dry ration) and basic needs for school children during COVID -19 time.
- « Child labour and child marriages in Karnataka and seeking the intervention of Government.
- « Provision of text books, uniform and mid-day-meal to children considering the context of Covid and Lockdown.
- « Child protection Committees at village level to watch on Child marriages and child labour during Covid.
- « Mid-day meal, uniform, alternate schooling during lockdown period.



Challenges

Covid 19 has been the major challenge of the year.

- « Due to strict lockdown regulations none of the project staff could move about, with the exception of the Chitradurga team. As the Chitradurga team is situated in the town and worked on Covid response along with the district administration, they could do effectively work during this time.
- « Some of the proposed programs under CREA-CLFZ had taken a back seat as schools and colleges stayed closed. Official permission was not available to hold meetings and seminars in public.
- « Online classes were announced. But due to unavailability of smartphones and TVs children could not attend them properly.
- « Due to the pandemic and the lockdown, children became restless and parents became tense. Mid-day meals were stopped; some children were forced to accompany parents to do land related labor; some migrated in search of employment.

- « Some children became child labourers and many girls were forced into child marriages. Studies and reports are emerging that show increase in child labour and child marriages during the period. In Chitradurga taluk alone there were more than 60 cases of child marriage.
- « Apart from Covid-19 none of the other illnesses were treated. Thus there were serious health issues for both children and adults.
- « It was difficult to organise the kind of Covid responses we need to make for the situation.
- « Many lost their livelihoods and were pushed further into poverty
- « It was a challenge to ensure availability of social security schemes during the lockdown and immediately after
- « Marginalized communities were further marginalized in the name of Covid-19 (increased unemployment, hunger and poverty among transgender, tribal, nomadic, migrants)
- « Promises by the Government to provide compensatory benefits to poor and unorganized workers were not met (barbers, auto drivers, construction worker etc)

CONCLUSION

It was a great learning to all of us that even in times of pandemic and natural calamities we could work if commitment and concern for the community is there. The CREA team was able to commit themselves for the cause of the children, and slowly take the confidence of the stakeholders and engage in relief, rescue and rehabilitation of the children. Though awareness building and empowerment is important in CLFZ work, material help like provision of food grains becomes essential at pandemic times.

CREA has good cooperation from District Administrations, education department, Department of welfare of Disabled and senior citizens, social welfare in rescue, rehabilitation of children, particular for children with disabilities. CREA team also enjoys support and cooperation from the Communities: children, parents, teachers, members of SDMC, GP, SHGs in supporting for the rights of children. They are involved in CREA's surveys, submission of memoranda, taking part in trainings/ meetings/ workshops etc. NGOs, Media, general public were supportive. CREA network has learnt new tools for online co-ordination like, reporting, target tracking and zoom meetings.

We also place on record our gratitude and appreciation for KIA for their support and solidarity and taking initiatives to respond to the crisis generated by the Covid 19 pandemic.



New Life Sprouting

18 year old Vijaya always wanted to become a social worker. She is doing her undergraduate studies in Bellary and is very keen to learn about new people and new ideas. Vijaya facilitates the Transformative Learning Center (TLC) in her native village of Hosapete in Masslapura panchayat of Raichur district.

Vijaya returned to her village from Bellary in 2020 due to the lockdown. She searched for opportunities to be socially engaged. A multi-talented and energetic person, people like her at the first meeting itself. She happily agreed to facilitate the TLC when the CREA team approached her.

Earlier, Vijaya had been part of the Children's Club in her school. She thus understood the importance of childhood and child rights. Children in the TLC like her very much. They are happy to be part of the center she is leading. The 30 children in the center are learning songs, games, and Basavannana vachanagalu (Sayings of Basavanna) apart from academic lessons.

Vijaya Shanthi is also happy to lead the center and find a space for her creativity and passion.

– CREA, Raichur Team

Kaveri is back to school!

Kaveri, from Kavalakeri village of Koppal district, has experienced epileptic fits since childhood. Her parents took her to many hospitals and local healers to seek treatment. Hence Kaveri was irregular in school from the beginning. Kaveri and her elder sister stay with their parents. The family works on their 5 acres of irrigated land which gives them good yield. Kaveri and her elder sister help with the work in the farm.

4 years ago Kaveri dropped out of school after finishing her 5th standard. The school in Kavalakeri village is only up to 5th standard. Children from the village go to either Ryavanakki (1 km from Kavalakeri) or Mangaluru (6 kms from Kavalakeri). Kaveri's parents enrolled her in Ryavanakki as they wanted her to be closer home. They were particularly worried about the epileptic fits she is suffering from.

Unfortunately, all of Kaveri's friends joined the school further away in Mangaluru. Kaveri was upset about this and was angry with her parents. She stopped going to school altogether. Though her parents tried persuading her to go to school, she refused. She joined the family in agricultural work on their farm.

Over time Kaveri's illness got cured. The family gives credit to a local healer. Kaveri urged her parents to send her to Mangaluru school now. The parents were unsure how to get the Transfer Certificate and do other paperwork, so they ignored her request. So Kaveri still refused to go to the nearby school.

The CREA team learnt of Kaveri during the final survey done for CLFZ declaration last year. The team met her parents and evaluated the options. They wanted to meet Kaveri, but she refused to meet the team. That was when the pandemic struck and the lockdown started.

Finally in February 2021, Kaveri agreed to go back to the Ryavanakki school. She was taken to the school and re-enrolled in 9th standard itself with her consent. Based on a recent circular of the Karnataka Educational Ministry, Kaveri will be automatically promoted to 10th standard at the end of this year. The CREA team is exploring possibilities to help her cope up with her studies.

– CREA, Koppal Team

Hanumathi - pushed into Child Labour

9 year old Hanumathi is from Yarageera village in Raichur district. Her parents are migrant workers. After their marriage they migrated to Bangalore in search of work. Hanumathi also used to go with them to Bangalore till she was enrolled in school.

A few years ago, her parents decided to leave Hanumanthi in the village along with her grandmother. This arrangement was to let her go to school. Hanumanthi should have been in the 4th standard this year. But she dropped out two years ago as her grandmother is old and is unable to do household work. She stayed home to help her grandmother.

The CREA facilitators identified her. They tried to enroll her in school. But the school was closed due to Covid and lockdown. The pandemic made her situation more vulnerable. Though only 9 years old, she worked as a manual labourer for daily wages for three months. Hanumanthi's grandmother knew this.

The parents knew this and informed the CREA community facilitators. The grandmother was persuaded to admit Hanumanthi in the government school in the village. They also informed the Child Protection Committee. Hanumanthi is now enrolled in 4th standard and is waiting for the school to reopen. The Karnataka government has not yet opened the school for children below 10 years.

We as a team are concerned what will happen to children like Hanumanthi if the situation continues like this.

– CREA, Raichur team

Rangappa

I am Rangappa Dalavayi, 32 years old. My wife Bheemavva and I stay in Mellgeri village. We have two children Sathyappa and Sunil studying in 3rd and 6th standards at Govt Primary School in Melligeri. Though I was a school dropout, I always wanted to go to school and have good education. My family's condition forced me to leave school at an early age and go for Coolie work in Sugar cane gang. Today my wife also supports me by going to coolie everyday. We earn some livelihood for the family.

I had a strong desire that my children have to get good education and have good standard of life in future. My younger son Sunil has interest in studies and he is regular for school but I am worried about my elder son Sathyappa.

Early morning I go out for work and my wife sends my children to school. They both move to school but soon Sathyappa would return home and start roaming in the village. He was irregular to school

for a long time. When the teachers asked him about the reason for his absence from school, he would tell that he goes to look after the cattle at home since no one is there for that work and that his parents themselves have told him not to go to school.

One day Mr. Anthony and team from Anthyodaya/CREA came to our village and held a meeting for child rights club. They made a list of those students who were irregular to school. After this they visited every house and motivated the parents to send their children back to school. I am happy that Satyappa is going to school regularly and I thank CREA team for this.

– CREA, Mudhol Team



The children must, at last, play in the open veld, no longer tortured by the pangs of hunger or ravaged by the disease or threatened with the scourge of ignorance, molestation and abuse, and no longer required to engage in deeds whose gravity exceeds the demands of their tender years.

~ Nelson Mandela

3

RESILIENCE - COVID RESPONSE PROJECT

RESILIENCE is a joint program of Eficor, KIA and Visthar in India. RESILIENCE is short for Restoring Livelihoods and Ensuring Child Safety. The program follows a human rights approach to address the effects of the pandemic. We see the immediate and long-term needs emerging from the pandemic as the rights of those affected. Taking that rights perspective, the project tries to address the long-term recovery and resilience building of the affected communities.

The overall goal of the project is to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on most vulnerable and least resilient sections of population and on children. Specific objectives included :

- « To provide short-term relief, food security, and health & hygiene kits to 100 HHs.
- « To provide livelihood support to affected families in the intervention areas.
- « Promoting protection of children in the intervention areas with special focus on preventing child labour and child marriage.
- « To facilitate learning between Kerk in Actie Partners in India on 'working during the pandemic'.

Learnings from the proposed pilot phase (12 months) of the project will be shared with other Kerk in Actie partners in India to facilitate exchange of information. This will help the Kerk in Actie partners in India to incorporate the learnings in the projects in the coming years. This will also help the partners in gaining knowledge and standard operating procedures for working in the time of a pandemic.

We have launched a website with our learning which include - what worked, and what did not; the challenges we faced; the success stories; and what we would do differently, next time. We hope that will help others as they design their own programs. As more of us exchange knowledge and share stories, our programs become more effective, and communities benefit more

RESILIENCE INTERVENTIONS DURING 2020-21

- « Baseline survey covering 589 families http://resilience.visthar.org/resource_center/resilience-baseline-survey-report-december-2020/
- « As preparation for the Resilience project, Visthar and Eficor did a pilot study to deeper understand the ground realities of the pandemic in August - September 2020. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were an important part of this pilot study. http://resilience.visthar.org/resource_center/facilitating-focus-group-discussions-during-the-pandemic/
- « Establishment and monitoring of Transformative Learning Centers (TLC).
- « Awareness through theatre on nutrition and health in the context of Covid 19.

- « Food and nutrition supply for children in the intervention areas through TLCs covering 142 girls and 137 boys for 3 months.
- « Mapping different government welfare programs and entitlements announced by the state/central governments and linking beneficiaries/Legal counselling for securing entitlements.
- « Explore non-farm livelihood skills like Kaudi making and Toy making for those rendered jobless.
- « Awareness creation on Child safety and protection through street plays/dramas.
- « Training on child rights for children’s representatives from 18 villages.
- « Establish village/district Child Protection Committees (CPC).
- « Capacity building to the CPC members to deal with issues related Child safety and protection with special focus on child labor and child marriages.
- « PDS and CPC committees formed in all the villages.
- « Support 100 needy children with school supplies.
- « Established online learning platform for exchange the learning from the pilot phase of the project with other Kerk in Active partners in India.
- « Facilitated preparation of SoP/Guidelines for Kerk in Active partners about working in the time of Pandemic.
- « Theatre troupe performed select set of plays, songs etc in 56 villages. Covid awareness and child rights violations and child protection were the key themes.
- « Identified and supported 5 beneficiaries for livelihood.
- « Child helpline number 1098 familiarised in all the villages by affixing stickers.
- « 90+ women and youth were trained on livelihood perspectives.



Book Release

- « Handbook mapping different government welfare programs and entitlements
- « announced by the state/central governments.



Follow up on the publication and other pending activities:

- « Training using the handbook.
- « Submission of online applications of 100 people for pensions under different schemes.
- « Application for MNRGA job cards and applying for 100 days of work according to the law.
- « Study on SHGs and bank linking.
- « Audio recording and release of poems of 1-10 grades in syllabus.
- « Second round of 2-month theatre campaign.

LEARNINGS

- « The Covid-19 pandemic is challenging development organizations. We are learning new ways to work, new methods to adopt, new strategies to follow. There is new practice knowledge sprouting from new interventions, around the world. Our learnings from the project:
 - « Early and rapid **field surveys** are vital to ascertain the issues on the ground.
 - « Lockdowns might discourage us from using participatory research tools like **Focus Group Discussion**. Find the earliest opportunity to use them. They are even more important during a novel emergency when we have very little prior experience to rely on.
 - « Reach out to **elected PRI representatives**; consult them also to understand where our resources are best utilized.
 - « Work with other functionaries of the State including **Anganwadi workers**. Support their work; their support can strengthen us too.
 - « Just as in pre-pandemic times, the **involvement of community** members is vital to get their buy-in. Lockdowns and restrictions on meetings might make that difficult; but do not bypass that process.
 - « Recognize that **cynicism might run high** among many community members when new programs are introduced during an emergency. Work with local communities to overcome that. There are no shortcuts.

- « Livelihoods are likely to be hit across the board. Determine how age, gender, caste, disability, etc. **differently impact** livelihoods during a prolonged emergency.
- « The changes forced by the crisis might present **alternate livelihood opportunities**. Be on the lookout for that.
- « Even (especially) during an emergency, it might still be important to **upgrade the skills of** the self-employed to raise their earnings.
- « Sometimes, **small amounts of capital** can also help a small business to bounce back from the initial impact of the emergency.
- « Emergencies that come in waves, like the pandemic, can severely disrupt emergency programs too – especially when staff lose family members in the emergency.

Stories of Change

Sharanamma, Panchayath President from Kalamalli Thanda

Sharanamma is the newly elected President of Kilarihatti Grama Panchayath. Sharanamma is from the Banjara community. Previously, this Panchayath was governed by members from the dominant castes. For the first time, a woman from the Banjara community has become the President.

Sharanamma and her husband Srikanth have been associated with Visthar's work from the inception of the Transformative Learning Centers (TLC). Both before and after Panchayath elections, they participated in the events organized in our TLC by Lakshnavva. There were no other NGOs or development organizations working in the field. Sharanamma says she found Visthar's interventions around Covid-19 inspiring.

The Panchayath President's involvement in the TLC strengthened our activities. For instance, the TLC has been trying to promote greater involvement of all parents in their children's education. Sharanamma bought into that idea strongly. The first step in that direction was organizing a meeting with parents and getting every parent to participate. Sharanamma, Lakshnavva and the Anganavadi teacher personally visited every parent in Kalamalli Thanda urging them to attend the meeting. In the meeting, they motivated the parents to take greater responsibility for their children's education; they also raised awareness on PDS, MNREGA and other social welfare schemes parents could access. Sharanamma clarified the many doubts raised by the parents. She also pledged that she will support Visthar's Covid-19 response programme during her tenure.

Sharanamma recognized that the present TLC centre is too small; that may lead to issues, including health problems during the pandemic. She suggested that we shift the centre to the temple. The Visthar team is evaluating the pros and cons of the recommendation.

As the Panchayath President, Sharanamma also has a broader understanding of the issues facing the villages. She encouraged our team to work on issues faced by migrant workers. There are over 100 families of migrant workers and they have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

This short case study shows the importance of working closely with local elected representatives during the pandemic. They can strengthen our programs and also broaden our team's

understanding of local issues quickly. That speed is significant when responding during a pandemic. At the same time, it is also important to keep a critical distance and to evaluate their recommendations from multiple perspectives.

From Migrant Workers to Small Entrepreneurs with Micro Capital

Parusappa Sahukar from Veerapur

Parusappa's experience, like that of Pakeeramma's, shows how supporting small entrepreneurs with capital can also make an impact and help them raise their income during the pandemic.

Parusappa was part of a joint family that owned about 10 acres of dry land. They worked in their field and also as agricultural labourers in the farms of others. The joint family included his parents and his four siblings. His father and his elder brother maintained the family. His elder brother, a lorry driver, contributed a lot to the family's income. The income from dry land cultivation was minimal; with the income from the brother, the joint family was just able to sustain.

In 2011, Parusappa got married. The family gave him his share of 2 acres of dryland. Over the years, he and his wife had three children. They felt the need to enhance their income. So, they entrusted their children to his parents, and both Parusappa and his wife migrated to Mangalore. They took up construction work there. Their incomes improved and they were able to send home a little money.

When the national lock-down was announced in 2020, both Parusappa and his wife came back to their village. They had no savings left, and it became a struggle. During the lockdown and immediately after Parusappa could not get a job in Koppal. He was forced to take loan to survive. His children were enrolled in the TLC.

After the panchayat elections, the newly elected members supported him to try and get work under MNREGA. However, there were some technical problems as the joint family was not officially divided. The job card showed 10 members in the family and he could get only 10 days of work.

A friend in the village encouraged him to start a small unit to sell fried rice and egg rice in the evening. He was able to prepare and sell to customers and business was ok. But Parusappa was unable to invest money for gas and could not scale up.

Parusappa heard about the survey by the Resilience team from his children studying in the TLC. After understanding his needs, Parusappa was initially short-listed and finally identified for support.

Parusappa was given Rs 8000 to purchase gas cylinders. That steadied his income and he started earning more. He began reinvesting part of the earnings into the unit. Now his business has steadied, and Parusappa is earning Rs 800 a day. Parusappa needed the timely support of capital to steady his business and improve his income. He was fortunate to identify a market niche that helped him raise his income.

4

KANASU KISHORI SANGHATANA (KKS)

KKS project works in 57 villages, spread over 15 Panchayaths in Kukanoor Taluk of Koppal district in North Karnataka. The primary objectives of the program are:

- « Empower collectives of adolescent girls between the ages 13 - 18 to resist violence and claim their rights.
- « Sensitize multiple stake-holders in the community to support the empowerment of adolescent girls.

The program aims at collectivizing 5000 adolescent girls from 57 villages in 250 Kishori Sanghas. The Kishori Sanghas will be venues for gaining life skills and computer skills, raising consciousness on gender justice, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and developing perspectives through social and gender analysis. Adolescent girls, who are conscious of their rights, will claim their rights individually in their homes and collectively



in their communities. They will develop leadership skills and participate in campaigns. In the process, they will gain a sense of self, bodily integrity and greater confidence. Residential camps on theatre, writing and leadership skills will support and enhance the capabilities of leaders emerging from the Kishori Sanghas. Street theatre troupes emerging from the adolescent girls will provide them further opportunities to engage with the community on issues affecting them.

KKS will work with multiple stakeholders to create a safe and enabling environment for the adolescent girls. These include boys, parents, teachers, SDMC, PRI, etc. Trainings, campaigns and institution building are the main mechanisms to realize this objective. Village-level Kishori Nyaya Samitis comprising of parents, Anganwadi teachers, Asha workers and members of Kishori Sanghas will engage proactively on issues affecting adolescent girls. The goal is that all stakeholders should feel a sense of responsibility to each other, and especially to adolescent girls who are particularly vulnerable.

Community-based Kishori Resource Centers will be setup at the Panchayath level; they will serve as a safe space for adolescent girls to share and learn new skills. Weekend computer classes at the Centers will equip 2250 girls with basic computer skills. The Reading Room at the Center will stock a small collection

of books - short stories, poetry, self help books, health etc. - all promoting a gender equality perspective. Additionally, the space will host regular activities for adolescent girls: discussions, debates, film screenings, workshops for public speaking, story-telling, writing, poetry, etc.

LAUNCH OF KKS

KKS was launched on the 5th of June at Visthar Koppal campus. The first step in KKS was the Baseline Survey. 14 surveyors - youth from the same Taluk - completed the survey of 1000 respondents by July 3. They received a 4-day training before they went to the field. We are currently analyzing the data from the survey and preparing the Report. Concurrently, in June, we developed the content for the training modules on gender sensitization, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Gender Based Violence (GBV) in English. That is being translated to Kannada. We are also developing the content for life skills.

Project staff were recruited in June. We got 3 Project Coordinators, 25 Community Facilitators, 3 Campaign Facilitators and 1 Accountant. Almost all the staff are from Kukanoor Taluk. The staff came on board in July. The initial orientation and training for the project staff is underway. They go through an initial 2-week training on campus. They will spend a week in the field to apply some of the learnings. They will then return for another 2-week that prepares them to be trainers. Asha and Nazar are the key facilitators.



5

LEADERSHIP FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The current context we are in includes a huge lacunae in the leadership development of youth in the country. Current governance has led to shrinking democratic spaces and declining democratic practice, continued marginalization of dalits and adivasis (tribals), women in general and children from economically impoverished communities.

LST, a month-long leadership programme, was held in November 2020 in the midst of Covid fear. There were 26 participants from 2 Southern States, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, in the age group of 19 to 25 from Dalit and Christian backgrounds. The aim of the program was to develop confidence, perspectives and skills among youth enabling them to be change agents, building up a Dalit youth movement. The pedagogy followed an inter-modular approach:

- « November 2020 - month long intensive - Bangalore
- « December 2020 to February 2021 - Practice in the field
- « February - March 2021 - 2 weeks intensive consolidation & setting goals

Content and Pedagogy included:

- « Understanding self
- « Understanding society
- « Reading scriptures through the eyes of the 'Anawim'.
- « Art, theatre, poetry of resistance
- « Prophetic traditions (biblical & contemporary)
- « Understanding living faith traditions & pilgrimages.
- « Understanding the Constitution and relevant laws
- « Peoples movements (Dalit women, PWD's, LGBT)
- « Envisioning and fashioning an alternative society.
- « Sustainable agri practice and herbal 'remedies for basic ailments'.

The LST was made possible by a grant from the Global Ministries - USA. Contributions from individuals and organizations in Bangalore (including Studio 33 and Visthar) covered the deficit. David Selvaraj served as the Academic/program coordinator and primary learning facilitator with support from the team.

Participants were from two States in South India. Though Telugu (language in Andhra Pradesh) was the primary medium of instruction, some resource persons used English with translation. The process of de-schooling (Illich) was a challenge. LST enabled participants develop an image of themselves negotiating layers of external projections that have shaped their identity. Alongside this LST also facilitated a rethinking of theological frames which had prepared them for heaven ignoring 'the earth' and the present realities.

Meaningful change toward Creative Communities

Social and Spiritual Engagement

Critical Analysis of Systems and Structures



Diverse and Inclusive Spaces

Critical Reflective Practice

Self-knowledge and Empathy



6

GENDER MAINSTREAMING- CAPACITY BUILDING AND CONSULTANCIES

India has had several gains in mainstreaming gender made possible because of **windows of opportunities** thrown up by the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo (1994) and Vienna Declaration on Violence against Women (1993), and **informal mobilising structures** through alliances between the Indian women's movement and gender advocates among NGOs and INGOs.

In spite of efforts to make use of these windows of opportunity, few gains have been achieved. Inputs in mainstreaming gender have not led to reduction in gender inequalities on the ground. Part of the problem is that government departments and most NGOs have not sought to mainstream gender within the organisation culture and structure. Besides, NGOs rely on conceptual and strategic frames which do not challenge internalised oppression and the norms and rules of social institutions like household and community. They have also not given sufficient attention to the notion of masculinities and the need to work with men and boys.

The efforts to mainstream gender have also overlooked the intersectionality of gender and other power relations of caste, class, religion, ethnicity, etc. The emphasis has been on gender differences (not gendered power relations) to be taken into account for economic growth, poverty reduction and development effectiveness. We need to employ conceptual frames which bring into focus the intersecting inequalities and vulnerabilities of women and the inhibitors to their empowerment. It is also equally important to engender policies of the organisation and build perspectives.

Visthar has been doing sustained work in gender sensitization and capacity building for mainstreaming gender in organizations and programmes. We have published several handbooks and have offered trainings at local, national and international levels. During 2020-21 we received several Requests for quotations and proposal for content development and training facilitation for mainstreaming gender in the farm, crafts and textile sectors. Details below:

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN POWER, INDUSTREE CRAFTS FOUNDATION

The POWER project of Industree Foundation aims for women's empowerment through producer co-operatives. These co-operatives promote women's entrepreneurship and increase the productivity of women so that they can earn higher incomes. Women can fully enjoy the benefits of their higher income only when they have control over their income, and when the many barriers they face as women are dismantled.

Visthar submitted a proposal in response to the RFQ published by Industree Foundation on 11th January 2021 in their website. The proposal outlined the plan for designing and developing content for gender

curriculum and self-explanatory digital and non-digital tools for the same, for different training/initiatives among project beneficiaries.

The curriculum and the digital resources are designed to reach out to diverse stakeholders – women producers of POWER, as well as men, boys, and girls in the community. Dismantling the barriers that women producers encounter requires the work of all stakeholders, not just the women.

The RFQ submitted by Visthar was approved and we have entered into an MOU with Industree Crafts Foundation. The Consultancy involves :

- « Designing and developing curriculum for gender sensitization
- « Producing videos, animations and pictorials to support the gender sensitization of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the POWER project.
- « The deliverables include
 - « 7 Videos, 5 minutes each- voice over in 4 languages
 - « 4 Animations, 5 minutes each- voice over in 4 languages.
 - « Pictorials – a set of 10 pictures on 5 topics and 5 illustrated leaflets / posters
 - « 1 Handbook of 50 pages (15,000 words) with layout & design in English

The intellectual and methodological base for the program will be the Handbook that lays out the lesson plans. This off line handbook designed for the resource pool combines step by step instructions as to how to use the digital resource for sensitization. The resource pool has the flexibility to pick and choose the digital tools they want to use with each constituency. Participants will thus engage with different forms of content that deepens the impact of the program. Keeping with the requirements of the post-Covid era, all the sessions will be designed for online delivery. These could also be used for onsite trainings as and when the Covid situation improves.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN TIMBAKTU COLLECTIVE (TC)

The Timbaktu Collective is an NGO working for sustainable development in the drought prone Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) India. The Collective works in 178 villages of Chennethapalli, Roddam and Ramagiri mandals of Anantapur district, reaching and serving about 22,000 marginalised families. The Collective works with some of most affected by chronic drought, unproductive land, unemployment and poor infrastructural facilities in the region, among them the landless, small and marginal farmers with special emphasis on women, children, youth and dalits.

Visthar was invited to facilitate a series of gender sensitization trainings for TC during January – March 2021. The trainings were organised as part of TC's effort to mainstream gender in their organization as well as programmes. The participants were staff of TC and board members of cooperatives promoted by it. The trainings were held at Visthar.

Objectives of the training were to:

- « Reflect on the personal construct of gender and its consequences
- « Deepen understanding of gender and related concepts

- « Recognize the role of various social institutions in the gendering process
- « Analyze gender based violence and relevant legislations
- « Introduce concepts and tools for gender analysis, planning & policy
- « Generate ideas and action plans to strengthen gender equity in the organization and programmes of TC.
- « Visthar followed a model where a core team of Facilitators were trained who formed teams of three and facilitated trainings with handholding support from us. We have completed the initial phase of training covering 133 employees and 76 board members in 7 batches of 30 participants each. 30 more support staff and 70 more cooperative directors to be trained. These are scheduled for September and October 2021. At the organizational level, TC has evolved a comprehensive gender policy and the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention and Redressal) policy and Internal Complaints Committee.

Understanding inter-sectionality.
A web exercise »

'Dolls Speak', Exhibition on Gender Based Violence »



MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN BCI - GIZ PROJECTS IN MAHARASHTRA

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) aims to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in and better for the sector's future, by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity. It involves training and capacity building of farmers for sustainable cotton production by promotion of best package of practices on integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management, and selection of variety by conducting training, exposure of farmers and demonstrations at village level.

Visthar submitted a proposal in response to the RFP from Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) for mainstreaming gender in their projects in Maharashtra. We proposed a model where Field Facilitators (FFs) progressively gain more competence to facilitate sessions on their own. We will develop a gender sensitization module with learnings from the pilot phase and further discussions with stakeholders. The Visthar team will train, mentor, and support the FFs to develop their skills to facilitate these sessions effectively. Visthar will work closely with Lupin, ACF and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for integrating gender sensitization content into the existing Agronomy curriculum. Provide ongoing Monitoring, Support and Quality Assurance.

Given the uncertainties of the pandemic, we proposed the following timeline:

- « 2021- '22: for designing the content and preparing the FFs and Lupin & ACF staff.
- « 2022- '23: delivery of the trainings to co-farmers.

The Visthar team will be comprised of frontline trainers and a backend support team. Frontline Trainers are Marathi-speaking Visthar alumni who have experience facilitating gender sensitization trainings in Maharashtra. Backend Support Team will develop the modules, guide the Frontline trainers and co-ordinate with BCI, Lupin and ACF. They include Mercy Kappen, Roshen Chandran and other members of the Visthar team.



7

BODHIVANA- A SACRED GROVE

Bodhi Vana at Visthar is conceived as a sacred grove. Sacred groves are spaces that protect and preserve rare fauna and flora that the Earth can return to regenerate Herself. It is the primal store house of Life. The Bodhi Vana is designed as a place for reflection inspired by the ecological meanings of the sacred groves.

As you enter the **Bodhi Vana**, to your right is the old dry well, lost its meaning and once abandoned, but for the last 17 years has been repurposed as a well of regeneration. The dry well is a witness to our flawed developmental aspirations. As an extension of the form of the well is the circular wall. Sections of this wall are made out of materials that are segregated and discarded. This wall, called Martyrs Wall, symbolically represents all those who are thrown out of our vicinity and have become martyrs.

The architectural space at **Bodhi Vana** is an intimate small space, a pyramidal structure from four feet below the earth pointing to the sky. It connects earth and sky like a tree. The space invites you to sit, to sit in the company co-seekers, to heal ourselves and the suffering Earth. To regenerate the earth and us within the meaning and glory of mutual fecundity. (C.F.John, artist who designed Bodhivana).

“The little building which stands in half-an-acre space at a corner of Visthar came up during the pandemic, and stands as a testimony to hope in the face of fear, calm in the face of chaos, and courage in the face of the devastation that this year has been.

On one side of a little pathway leading to the Bodhivana is a wall which was embedded with little lamps. A wall dedicated to those who had stood up to all kinds of oppressions and injustice and unfairness. A wall that symbolised defiance and victory. A wall for people who sacrificed their lives and their life’s worth quietly, without a murmur. This wall symbolised that they would go - but there would be others who would not let them go silently, forgotten or unsung.

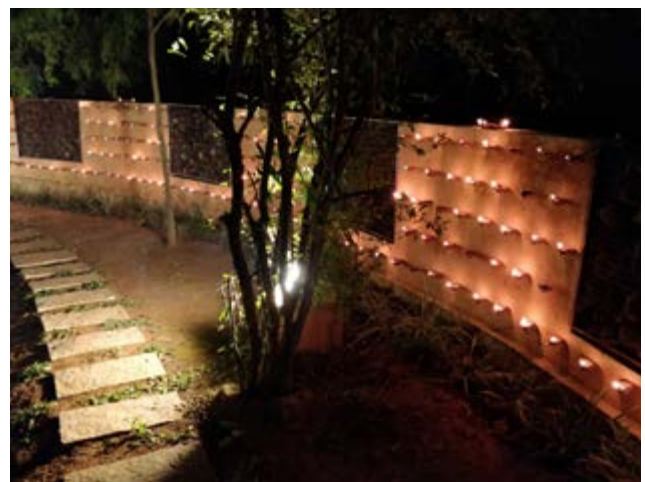
As we lit the lamps one by one, I once again realised that no matter, which era, which



country, which regime, which dictator - there would always be a bunch of people who would defy any attack on human liberty and human dignity. And there would always be a bunch of people who would gather in bitter December cold, in a corner of a city to light lamps and honour them”.

- Asma Naseer

(FB Post, Ava Nava, 29th Dec.2020)

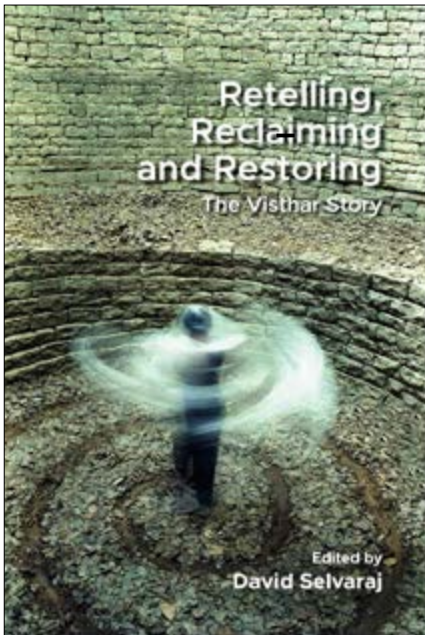


We sense that ‘normal’ isn’t coming back, that we are being born into a new normal: a new kind of society, a new relationship to the earth, a new experience of being human.

~ Charles Eisenstein

8

PUBLICATIONS



Retelling, Reclaiming and Restoring -The Visthar Story

Edited by David Selvaraj.

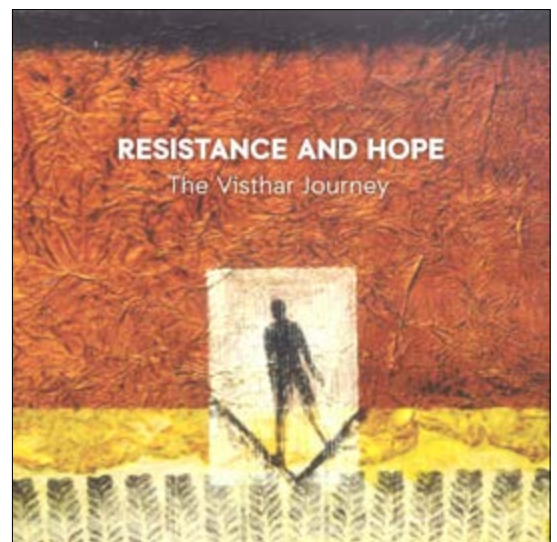
Visthar story is entwined with that of communities and survivors of exclusionary politics and culture. This book is brought out in a context of grief, anxiety, fear, illness and death. We offer it to all who yearn for and work towards healing and restoration.

Contributors include David Selvaraj, Mercy Kappen, C.F.John, Theodore Baskaran, Kirtana Kumar, Kalpana Chakravarthy, Immanuel Nehemiah, Ben Batz, Douglas Huff, Max Ediger and Per Anderson. Cover photo : "Walls of Memories" by C. F. John, Tripura Kashyap and T. M. Aziz, an art event at Visthar, 2004.

Resistance and Hope

Compiled and Edited by Mercy Kappen

This book traces the journey of Visthar and presents visuals and verses which represent our aesthetics, our passion and our inspiration. Spaces, plants, trees, birds, butterflies - all find their place in the book as they do in our lives at Visthar. Our lives are intertwined with theirs. The contents of the book symbolize change, creativity, freedom, joy, beauty and struggles we have experienced in our journey of 30 years. The book is available for a contribution of ₹500/ including postage.





Resilience

A COVID-19 Response Project

Report of the Focus Group Discussions (FGD)

As preparation for the Resilience project, Visthar and EFICOR did a pilot study to deeper understand the ground realities of the pandemic in August - September 2020. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were an important part of this pilot study. This document presents the guidelines and checklists for the facilitators and the questions they asked during the FGDs.



A Handbook mapping welfare programs and entitlements announced by State/Central governments in the context of Covid 19. As a follow up of the publication trainings have been organized leading to the submission of 100 online applications for pensions under different schemes. Application for MNRGA job cards and for 100 days of work as per the Act were filed.

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:

so much has been destroyed
 I have to cast my lot with those
 who age after age, perversely,
 with no extraordinary power,
 reconstitute the world.

~ Adrienne Rich



**K. VENKATACHALAM AIYER & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees of Visthar Trust

OPINION

We have audited the Financial Statements of Visthar Trust ("the Trust"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31st, 2021, the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended and a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information annexed thereto.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the Financial Statements read with the schedules and notes thereto, are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at March 31st, 2021, and its deficit for the year ended on that date.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and results of operations of the Trust in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.



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**K. VENKATACHALAM AIYER & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Standards on Auditing (SA's) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Mis-statements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the SAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as a fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on effectiveness of the Trust's internal controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Trust.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trust's use of going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast a significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to date of the auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in the internal control that we identify during the audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

K VENKATACHALAM AIYER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 0046105



M SIVAKUMAR

Partner

Membership No. : 023844
UDIN : 21023844AAAAGW9405

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 10/08/2021

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VISTHAR TRUST
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2021

(All amounts in Indian Rupees)

PARTICULARS		Note	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
I	LIABILITIES			
	Trust Fund		1,001	1,001
	General Fund	1	1,43,13,404	1,88,43,780
	Capital Grants	2	1,85,59,453	1,85,59,453
	Fund Account			
	(a) Gratuity Fund	3	55,24,562	55,24,562
	(b) Public Lecture Fund	4	10,41,902	9,71,333
	(c) Bandhavi Fund	5	64,58,278	64,01,084
	(d) Prof. Hanssan Mansur Fund	6	22,84,890	22,53,674
	(e) Gen OM Mani Memorial Scholarship Fund	7	14,58,740	13,68,298
	Current Liabilities			
	(a) Sundry Creditors	8	40,000	40,000
	(b) Other Current Liabilities	9	1,05,58,896	1,11,91,769
	(c) Short Term Provisions	10	11,33,803	10,78,469
	TOTAL		6,13,74,928	6,62,33,425
II	ASSETS			
	Non-current assets			
	(a) Property, Plant and Equipment	11	2,94,85,147	3,09,84,589
	(b) Work-in- Progress		-	41,803
	(c) Investment	12	20,43,299	20,43,299
	(d) Long Term Loans & Advances	13	2,17,179	1,87,179
	Current assets			
	(a) Outstanding Receivables	14	1,08,655	2,50,000
	(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents	15	2,76,97,710	3,02,11,701
	(c) Other Current Assets	16	16,99,836	24,87,298
	(d) Livestock		1,23,102	27,555
	TOTAL		6,13,74,928	6,62,33,425

For Visthar Trust

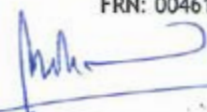
As per our report of even date attached

For K.Venkatachalam Aiyer & Co
Chartered Accountants

FRN: 004610S

 Trustee
 Trustee





M.SIVAKUMAR
Partner
Mem no: 023844


Place: Bangalore
Date: 10/08/2021

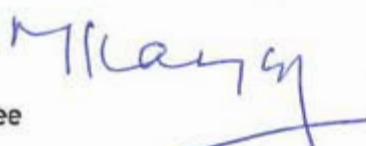
VISTHAR TRUST
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021
 (All amounts in Indian Rupees)

PARTICULARS		Note	2020-21	2019-20
I	INCOME			
	Contributions & Donations - General		1,19,999	99,476
	Contribution & Donations - CRC		-	4,02,594
	Programme Receipts	17	15,75,079	1,05,17,845
	Interest Income	18	14,79,964	12,23,341
II	Other Income	19	4,28,846	2,20,462
III	Total Revenue (I + II)		36,03,888	1,24,63,718
IV	EXPENDITURE			
	Direct Programme Expenses	20	18,73,658	93,82,427
	Finance Cost		28,106	19,175
	Conference and Retreat Center Expenses	21	4,15,193	6,21,440
	Programme Administrative Expenses	22	4,98,048	11,21,701
	Employee Benefit Expenses	23	16,78,601	16,93,809
	Other Expenses	24	8,52,890	11,55,069
	Depreciation	11	27,87,769	30,49,648
	Total Expense		81,34,265	1,70,43,269
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(45,30,377)	(45,79,551)

For Visthar Trust

For K.Venkatachalam Aiyer & Co
 Chartered Accountants
 FRN: 0046105


 Trustee


 Trustee




 M.SIVAKUMAR
 Partner
 Mem no: 023844

Place: Bangalore
 Date: 10/08/2021

VISTHAR TRUST		
Notes forming part of financial statement		
Note 1 GENERAL FUND (All amounts in Indian Rupees)		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Opening balance	1,88,43,780	2,34,23,330
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	(45,30,377)	(45,79,551)
TOTAL	1,43,13,403	1,88,43,780
Note 2 CAPITAL GRANTS		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Paper Unit Grant	37,500	37,500
Books	1,20,019	1,20,019
Counselling & Care Centre	1,03,045	1,03,045
Classroom & Library	3,19,758	3,19,758
Goldman Sachs	2,20,500	2,20,500
Capital Grant - Cycles	18,500	18,500
Capital Fund - SJPD	1,42,560	1,42,560
Resource & Learning Centre	62,48,767	62,48,767
Kanavu Building	9,34,416	9,34,416
Meditation Centre	1,95,399	1,95,399
SSS Capital Grant	85,29,546	85,29,546
Kowloon Union Church	1,04,687	1,04,687
ICCO Programme	25,399	25,399
Bhoomishale Land	15,59,357	15,59,357
TOTAL	1,85,59,453	1,85,59,453
Note 3 GRATUITY FUND		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Opening Balance	55,24,562	55,24,562
Add: Additions during the year	-	-
Less: Transferred to General Fund	-	-
TOTAL	55,24,562	55,24,562
Note 4 PUBLIC LECTURE FUND		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Opening Balance	9,71,333	9,27,896
Add: Additions during the year	70,569	73,141
Less: Expenses during the year	-	29,704
TOTAL	10,41,902	9,71,333
Note 5 BANDHAVI FUND		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Opening Balance	64,01,084	61,30,823
Add: Additions during the year	2,15,505	3,46,516
Less: Expenses/transfer during the year	1,58,311	76,255
TOTAL	64,58,278	64,01,084

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Note 6 PROF. HANSSAN MANSUR FUND

Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Opening Balance	22,53,674	22,10,611
Add: Additions during the year	78,216	1,18,558
Less: Expenses during the year	47,000	75,495
TOTAL	22,84,890	22,53,674

Note 7 GEN OM MANI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Opening Balance	13,68,298	13,00,672
Add: Additions during the year	90,442	83,626
Less: Expenses during the year	-	16,000
TOTAL	14,58,740	13,68,298

Note 8 SUNDRY CREDITORS

Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Linda CS	40,000	40,000
TOTAL	40,000	40,000

Note 9 OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Payable - CRC	3,913	6,91,873
Other Payables	1,49,021	1,97,141
AJWS Programme	36,35,903	47,44,182
KIA Programme- CREA	4,95,938	23,89,630
KIA Programme- Resilience Project	38,37,397	
KIA Programme- Capacity Building	3,78,356	
LUSH Programme	13,57,188	20,55,857
CACM Programme	1,30,182	1,43,563
Dolls Ministry	95,549	1,27,250
CNCJ Programme	-	55,725
Aids Children's Empowerment Programme	1,65,123	
KNH / Bandhavi Programme	2,17,973	
Astreae Programme	37,206	5,92,657
Anthony	55,147	1,93,893
TOTAL	1,05,58,896	1,11,91,771

Note 10 SHORT TERM PROVISIONS

Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Audit Fees Payable	1,00,000	50,000
GST Payable	91,184	1,81,706
EPF Payable	77,287	75,883
Professional Tax Payable	2,000	1,600
Salary Payable	-	12,915
Other Payables	5,86,855	3,63,851
TDS payable	-	1,16,037
Staff and Campus Maintenance Fund	2,38,769	2,38,769
Retention Money Payable	37,708	37,708
TOTAL	11,33,803	10,78,469

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Note 12 INVESTMENTS		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund	3,30,454	3,30,454
Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund - Activist Support	5,00,000	5,00,000
HDFC Prudence Fund	4,00,000	4,00,000
HDFC Prudence Fund - Gratuity	5,00,000	5,00,000
Hopcom Investments	12,845	12,845
SBI Mutual Fund	3,00,000	3,00,000
		-
TOTAL	20,43,299	20,43,299

Note 13 LONG TERM LOANS AND ADVANCES		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
KEB Deposit	84,431	84,431
Telephone Deposit	42,040	42,040
LPG/Petrol Deposit	15,600	15,600
Other Deposits	15,108	15,108
Rent Deposit	50,000	20,000
Wireless Internet	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	2,17,179	1,87,179

Note 14 RECEIVABLES		
Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	10,000	10,000
Other Receivables	8,655	-
Sagar Electricals	90,000	90,000
JS Engineering	-	1,00,000
Murugesh	-	50,000
TOTAL	1,08,655	2,50,000

VISTHAR TRUST
Notes forming part of financial statement

Note 15 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (All amounts in Indian Rupees)

Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
Cash in hand		
Cash	61,378	28,305
		-
Balance at Bank		
South Indian Bank 0486053000019800	1,41,930	2,96,285
South Indian Bank 0486073000000977	43,154	-
State Bank of India Kinnal 62505123520	62,880	61,198
State Bank of India - Koppal 64071499929	6,84,691	6,58,300
State Bank of India SB A/c 57004051947	12,974	7,760
State Bank of India SB A/c 57004051958	1,11,216	1,03,375
State Bank of India SB A/c No. 57004051925	1,51,364	77,062
State Bank of India SB A/c No. 57004051459	8,69,552	25,25,042
Vijaya Bank Kothanur 138900301000103	19,391	54,075
State Bank of India 57004051426	1,28,660	4,15,980
Vijaya Bank Koppal/Bank of Baroda - 58540100005420	2,41,938	1,03,191

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Vijaya Bank Kothanur/ Bank of Baroda -74290100004506	58,729	63,842
State Bank of India - Bidar - 39936822850	18,161	-
State Bank of India - CHITRADURGA 40044038300	49,979	-
State Bank of India -MUDHOL 40050814230	49,982	-
State Bank of India - RAICHUR 40001316277	49,945	-
		-
Deposits		-
Kalpatharu Grameena Bank	5,60,787	5,24,995
South Indian Bank, Kothanur	43,02,477	26,21,178
State Bank of India, Cox Town	43,39,891	71,85,477
State Bank of India, Koppal Branch	6,62,118	6,14,537
Andhra Bank FD/Union Bank of India - FD	4,17,247	3,93,337
SBI-FD	1,02,44,284	1,02,92,317
Vijaya Bank / Bank of Baroda - Koppal - FD	14,30,043	13,58,477
Vijaya Bank / Bank of Baroda - Kothanur - FD	29,84,939	28,26,969
		-
TOTAL	2,76,97,710	3,02,11,701

Note 16 OTHER CURRENT ASSET

Particulars	As at March 31, 2021	As at March 31, 2020
TDS Receivable	2,61,799	3,70,733
GST Input Receivable	1,46,584	-
Accrued Interest	7,03,573	11,92,616
Other Receivables	1,21,380	1,97,141
Advances to Others	-	-
North East Network	4,40,000	6,40,000
Rumi Harish	-	26
Aralu	-	57,000
Vimukthi	-	5,000
Prerana	-	24,782
Dharmaraj	1,000	-
Manjunath	25,500	-
TOTAL	16,99,836	24,87,298

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VISTHAR TRUST		
Notes forming part of financial statement		
Note 17 PROGRAMME RECEIPTS		
(All amounts in Indian Rupees)		
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20
Bhoomi Habba Programme	-	4,54,093
Rental/ Boarding Income	3,61,600	12,00,000
Namma Angadi	-	26,761
Paper Unit Income	2,850	89,439
VRS Contribution	-	4,19,300
Workshop fee	10,560	79,241
Theater Mitu	-	16,86,947
Gender Diversity & Transformation Fees	-	2,12,978
Ulrika Hakansson Strom	6,223	6,838
LST Programme Receipt	1,00,000	-
Charities Aid Foundation	8,99,534	16,79,805
Eco Education and Eco Sanctuary Receipt	1,42,312	7,79,478
Covid Relief	52,000	-
Kinder Not Hilfe	-	38,82,965
	-	-
TOTAL	15,75,079	1,05,17,845
Note 18 INTEREST INCOME		
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20
Bank Interest	1,01,825	1,22,648
Interest on Fixed Deposit	7,33,166	11,00,370
Interest on IT refund	-	323
Recovery of Administrative Expenses	6,44,973	-
	-	-
TOTAL	14,79,964	12,23,341
Note 19 OTHER INCOME		
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20
Agriculture Income	1,94,011	1,57,512
Manoranjitham Income	70,003	-
Mother's Contribution	-	14,300
Consultancy Fees	48,000	-
Visthar Eco Sanctuary Income	1,00,382	-
Bandhavi	-	21,900
Miscellaneous Income	16,450	26,750
	-	-
TOTAL	4,28,846	2,20,462
Note 20 DIRECT PROGRAMME EXPENSES		
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20
Eco Education/Eco Sanctuary	8,24,457	7,57,108
Manoranjitham Expenses	33,025	-
Covid Relied Expenses	95,124	-
Gender Diversity and Social Transformation	-	3,91,422
FMSA Expenses	-	64,854
Bandhavi Programme Expenses	-	49,92,534
Recycled Paper Training Unit	3,000	56,341
Theater Mitu Expenses	-	14,62,348
Theater School Expenses	1,97,758	1,46,709
Honorarium Other Programmes	5,47,200	5,76,000
Hospitality and Staff Retreat Expenses	98,566	73,434
Other Programme Expenses	74,528	8,61,677
	-	-
TOTAL	18,73,658	93,82,427

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M. K. Aiyer



Note 21 CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTRE EXPENSES		(All amounts in Indian Rupees)	
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20	
Food, fuel and other expenses	-	46,125	
Office Equipments Maintenance	-	56,415	
Operation and Maintenance	2,36,211	3,40,570	
Vehicle Maintenance	1,78,982	1,78,330	
TOTAL	4,15,193	6,21,440	
Note 22 PROGRAMME AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		(All amounts in Indian Rupees)	
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20	
Salaries and Wages Eco-sanctuary	69,213	2,68,905	
Salaries and Wages Paper Training Unit	4,28,835	3,89,963	
Salaries and Wages - Theater school	-	4,62,833	
TOTAL	4,98,048	11,21,701	
Note 23 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES			
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20	
Employers Contribution to PF	1,17,584	1,02,464	
Salaries & Wages-General Admn	15,31,824	15,37,855	
Staff Retreat Expenses	29,193	53,490	
TOTAL	16,78,601	16,93,809	
Note 24 OTHER EXPENSES			
Particulars	2020-21	2019-20	
Audit Fees	50,000	25,000	
Professional Fees	35,400	-	
Publication Expenses	1,88,200	-	
Miscellaneous Expenses	982	47,426	
Postage & Telephone	43,606	68,563	
Printing & Stationery	43,443	1,37,937	
Interest & Bank charges	6,241	-	
Rates & Taxes	1,52,030	1,41,651	
Repairs and Maintenance	1,73,975	48,054	
Travelling & Conveyance	26,382	1,23,527	
Bandhavi Land Related Expenses	71,345	3,26,477	
Debtors Written Off	-	20,630	
Bangalore North University Affiliation Expenses	5,990	1,62,854	
Others	55,296	52,950	
TOTAL	8,52,890	11,55,069	

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M. K. Aiyer



VISTHAR TRUST

Note 11

Property, Plant and Equipment as on 31-03-2021

Sl. No	Description	WDV as on 01-04-2020	Additions		Deletions	Total	Rate	Depreciation	WDV as on 01-04-2021
			> 180 Days	< 180 Days					
1	Land	59,27,851	-	-	-	59,27,851	0%	-	59,27,851
2	Building	1,92,32,942	53,946	11,32,628	-	2,04,19,516	10%	19,85,320	1,84,34,196
3	Furniture & Fixtures	20,50,225	37,600	-	-	20,87,825	10%	2,08,783	18,79,042
4	Office Equipments	8,01,482	-	-	-	8,01,482	15%	1,20,222	6,81,259
5	Plant and Machinery	22,81,576	-	-	-	22,81,576	15%	3,42,236	19,39,339
6	Vehicles	6,54,709	14,768	-	-	6,54,709	15%	98,206	5,56,503
7	Computers	35,806	1,179	41,700	-	92,274	40%	28,570	63,705
8	Books	-	1,179	6,505	-	7,684	100%	4,432	3,253
	TOTAL	3,09,84,592	1,07,493	11,80,833	-	3,22,72,918		27,87,769	2,94,85,147

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VISTHAR TRUST

Sub-Notes forming part of financial statement

	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2021	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2020
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
AJWS Programme		
Opening Balance	47,44,181	2,92,307
Add: Additions during the year	8,73,000	55,84,000
Less: Programme Expenses	19,81,278	11,32,125
Closing Balance	36,35,903	47,44,181
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
ICCO Programme (CREA)		
Opening Balance	23,89,629	16,54,794
Add: Additions during the year		
PCN Kirk In Actie	51,78,900	48,85,735
Contribution from Other Source Protestantse Kerk in Nederland	18,000	3,86,126
Less: Transferred to Resilience Project	18,97,629	
Less: Programme Expenses	51,92,962	45,37,025
Closing Balance	4,95,938	23,89,629
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
ICCO Programme Resilience Project		
Opening Balance		
Add: Additions during the year		
Transfer from CREA	18,97,629	
Protestantse Kerk in Nederland	49,27,087	
Less: Programme Expenses	29,87,319	
Closing Balance	38,37,397	-
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
ICCO Programme Capacity Building Programme		
Opening Balance		
Add: Additions during the year		
Transfer from CREA		
Protestantse Kerk in Nederland	4,41,100	
Less: Programme Expenses	62,744	
Closing Balance	3,78,356	-

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M. K. Singh

	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2021	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2020
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
CACM Programme		
Opening Balance	1,43,563	1,49,488
Add: Additions during the year	3,97,848	
Less: Programme Expenses	4,11,229	5,925
Closing Balance	1,30,182	1,43,563
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
CMCJ Programme		
Opening Balance	55,724	2,85,074
Add: Additions during the year	48,197	93,499
Add: Additions during the year from bandhavi	58,311	
Less: Programme Expenses	1,62,232	3,22,848
Closing Balance	0	55,724
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
LUSH Programme		
Opening Balance	20,55,857	9,68,520
Add: Additions during the year		14,74,250
Less: Programme Expenses	6,98,669	3,86,913
Closing Balance	13,57,188	20,55,857
Sub-Schedule to Note 9		
BANDHAVI Programme		
Opening Balance	-	-
Add: Receipt from KNH	43,19,439	38,82,965
Add: Receipt from Agriculture	46,573	
Add: Other Sources of Income		9,52,382
Add: Bandhavi Fund a/c	1,00,000	1,57,187
Less: Bandhavi Expenses	42,48,039	49,92,534
Closing Balance	2,17,973	-

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Sub-Schedule to Note 9	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2021	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2020
DOLLS Ministry		
Opening Balance	1,27,250	53,876
Add: Additions during the year	1,69,760	2,63,677
Less: Programme Expenses	2,01,461	1,90,303
Closing Balance	95,549	1,27,250
Sub-Schedule to Note 9	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2021	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2020
ASTREA PROJECT		
Opening Balance	5,92,657	-
Add: Additions during the year		13,72,538
Less: Programme Expenses	5,55,451	7,79,881
Closing Balance	37,206	5,92,657
Sub-Schedule to Note 9	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2021	Amount (Rs.) as on 31.03.2020
Aids Childrens Empowerment Programme		
Opening Balance		-
Add: Additions during the year	3,60,403	
Less: Programme Expenses	1,95,280	
Closing Balance	1,65,123	-

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VISTHAR TRUST
Financial Year 2020-21

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Method of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and under the historical cost convention. The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of financial statements are consistent with those used in the previous year. The financial statements are presented in Indian Rupees.

2. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are stated at cost less depreciation. All expenses incidental to acquisition of Property, Plant and Equipment are capitalized to Property, Plant and Equipment.

3. Depreciation

Depreciation on fixed Assets are provided in accordance with rates prescribed under Income Tax Rules, 1962

4. Income arising out of Investments made out of surplus funds is taken to the Income and Expenditure Account of the Trust, except in cases, if any, where specific conditions are stipulated. In such cases, income is applied for such specific purposes.

5. Investments

Current Investments are carried at lower of cost and quoted/ fair value. Non-Current Investments are stated at cost. Provision for diminution in the value of Non-Current Investments is made only if such a decline is other than temporary.

6. Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Indian generally accepted accounting principles in India (Indian GAAP), which requires that the management make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, as at the date of financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Although such estimates are made on a reasonable and prudent basis taking into account all available information, actual results could differ from these estimates and such differences are recognized in the period in which the results are ascertained.

7. Capital Work In Progress

All capital expenditure is shown as capital work - in - progress until completion of the project. These costs are capitalized to the relevant items of the Property, Plant and Equipment when completed and are ready to use.



NOTES FORMING PART OF ACCOUNTS

1. Presentation

Previous year figures have been rearranged/regrouped and reclassified wherever necessary so as to make them comparable with current year presentation

2. Round Off

Figures have been rounded off to the nearest rupees.

For the Board of Trustees

For K.Venkatachalam Aiyer & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration Number: 0046105


Trustee


Trustee






M. Sivakumar
Partner
M. No. 023844


Place: Bangalore

Date: 10/08/2021



 Kothanur Post, Bengaluru - 560 077. INDIA

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