



DEEP GRIHA SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

**“EMPOWERMENT OF THE MARGINALISED THROUGH CAPACITY
BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMMES”**



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

After two consecutive years that began in a lockdown, we are grateful that this new year did not begin the same way. The aftermath of the pandemic is all around us, and as we figure out the path ahead, we are grateful for where we are and for getting through the tough times together with our community of participants, partners and of course the DGS team.

This year was one of repairs and renovations for sure. The renovations meant that we could give many locations and spaces a fresh start. A fresh start and fresh spaces after two years in and out of lockdown, seems appropriate somehow.

The first quarter of this year saw major renovations at the Ramtekdi centre, and we were able to expand the work area back to what it used to be. The timely renovation meant that the Ramtekdi Computer Centre was opened soon after. This year also saw the Dental clinic open at JDP, Ramtekdi. Dr Kim who had opened the first Dental Clinic at the Tadiwala road centre returned to the city after a long break and decided to open a Dental Clinic in Ramtekdi this time. At Tadiwala road, we were able to repair the outdoor kitchen with support from the FCC Mission Council, the space will also be used as a drop-in centre for the Seniors.

Apart from fresh starts we also had to continue to trim programmes. In collaboration with Tech Mahindra Foundation, Deep Griha ran two SMART centres, one of which came to a pause this year.

Deep Griha has been part of a cohort of NGOs working with Senior Citizens and that joint intervention was awarded a long-term grant under APPI – Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives and Deep Griha is privileged to be a part of the programme. One that has opened the doors to a new set of participants, individuals that we have worked with indirectly but the direct intervention has led to new learning. Allowed us to understand the needs of the elderly better.

Multiple new beginnings, some pauses and a lot of the good work that continues through it all. It has been a year that taught us a lot. It has helped us listen better to the communities that we work with. A year that continues to highlight Deep Griha's journey of growth through flexibility, and adapting interventions to the changing needs of the community.

Deep Griha Society extends heartfelt gratitude to all who made this year of growth and impact possible, as we look ahead to creating lasting change together.

Thank you.
Ashlesha Onawale



CITY OF CHILD

City of Child (CoC) in Kasurdi, near Pune, supports 50 boys from underprivileged families with education, healthcare, counseling, and nutritious meals, while promoting holistic growth through sports and recreation.

OBJECTIVES:

To provide a safe and secure environment for boys from vulnerable family situations.

To ensure access to regular health check-ups and counselling for overall healthcare and provide a balanced nutritious diet that is age appropriate.

To provide access to education.

To ensure overall development of the children



ACTIVITIES

Safe and secure environment

At the turn of the year, 20 students from another organisation joined the City of Child (CoC), and number of boys went to 42, with a few dropouts unable to stay away from home. For the first time, 23 children stayed through the summer holidays, engaged in activities organised by the team, including stays at the volunteer house and Cultural Center in Pune, with fun sessions from the Aadhar Kendra team.

This year also welcomed back 12 volunteers from Audencia Business School, France, after a two-year break. Along with activities for the children, they planted 150 fruit trees—papaya, banana, and guava—at CoC. These trees will enrich the children's diet and generate income while being cost-effective to maintain.

Education

This year, children returned to school after an extended break, as many schools were unable to conduct online classes. The gap in learning required focused efforts from both students and teachers. At CoC, our teacher played a key role in supporting children's academics, while extra tuitions were arranged to ensure every student received the help they needed to bridge these gaps.

After a pause, volunteers from Audencia Business School returned to CoC. Their planned activities created valuable opportunities for children to learn and interact beyond the classroom. The engagement helped our children communicate across language barriers, explore different cultures and races, and understand the humanness that connects us all.

Healthcare

Children underwent general health check-ups at the Armed Forces Medical College Clinic in Kasurdi. Nutritious meals and regular physical activities, including weekly contemporary dance and movement classes, supported their well-being. Enthusiastic about sports, the children also benefited from new equipment funded by long-time supporters, which they are thoroughly enjoying.



Overall development

This year, children enjoyed several outings and exposure visits, including a fort near Pune where they joined a cleanup and repair drive. Festivals were celebrated both at CoC and in the village, along with drawing and fun competitions.

After two years, CoC also hosted an Alumni Meet with 30 ex-students who organised lunch, games, and shared experiences of life inside and outside CoC. Many are now working in Pune and served as role models for current students.

Such interactions and activities broaden children's experiences, spark curiosity, and inspire aspirations for their future.



Snapshots of CoC Activities

AADHAR KENDRA

Aimed at children who have lost one or both parents, the program provides access to education, daily meals, primary healthcare, counseling, age-appropriate awareness sessions and recreational activities.

OBJECTIVES:

To provide the participating children with an opportunity to pursue their education and to encourage parents to support their education

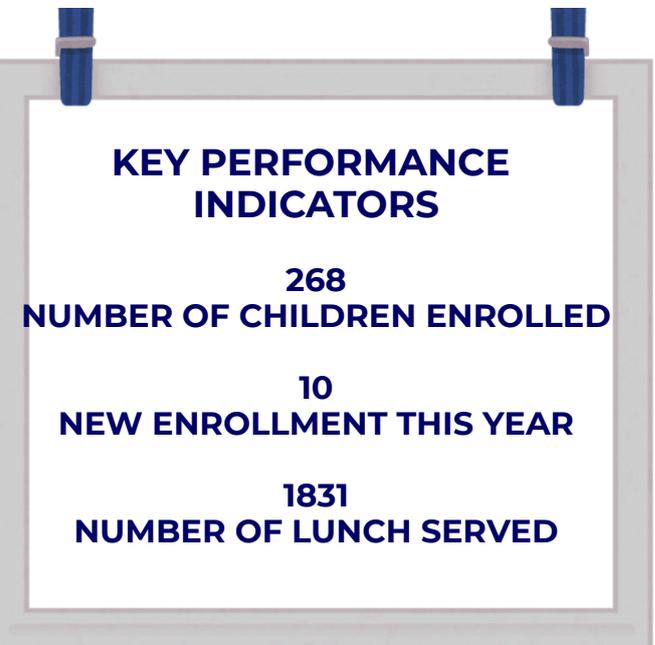
To ensure that the children are healthy and their nutritional and healthcare needs are being met.

To create access to non-academic activities conducted during the year that promote general well-being.

ACTIVITIES

Education

The Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Programme primarily works with children from single parent families or children who have lost both their parents and sometimes includes children with especially difficult situations at home. The primary focus is to ensure continued access to education and this support includes school fees, tuition fees, transport to school, uniforms, books, basically everything that the child needs to continue their education. English and computer classes were started in Ramtekdi this September for Aadhar Kendra children to begin with, and once the classes started, we had more children from the community coming in for admissions.



Health and Nutrition

We recently moved back to daily meals from providing grocery parcels through the pandemic. Apart from nutrition, we have organised multiple sessions around health including menstrual hygiene, and adolescence - the physical and emotional changes to expect. The awareness sessions ranged from managing stress, dealing with screen addiction and other guidance for teenagers.

We also conducted a session on the importance of Medical Insurance and the Government Schemes available for the parents and family members of the sponsored children. Unexpected medical expenses lead to a lot of debt in low-income communities and we hope that ensuring the family is better equipped to deal with a medical emergency will keep them out of a cycle of debt.



Non-academic activities

This year apart from school/college education we were able to conduct coding classes for some of the students at our Ramtekdi center. We hope to continue to bring opportunities like this to better prepare the children for tomorrow. The sessions needed to start with debunking some of the myths that the children believed about coding. After that, it was much easier for the trainer and the students to move ahead. We also conducted sessions on understanding more about competitive examinations needed for children to get into the civil services. We want to ensure that we prepare students for various opportunities in the future. Counselling sessions continued for the children along with age appropriate awareness including identifying safe and unsafe touch for the very young children.



**AADHAR KENDRA:
GLIMPSES OF OUR WORK**

TECH SMART CENTERS

The goal of the programme is to facilitate economic empowerment for young people, particularly young women. This is done through job placements after the participants have acquired basic computer skills, and communication skills in English.

OBJECTIVES:

To connect with young people who have only attained basic education and are unable to find employment.

To provide training that is industry specific and ensures the students build on their employable skillset.

Offer adequate databases for job placements with tips and guidelines on how to secure employment soon after they complete their Tech Smart course.

To build on their communication skills with a focus on English language development.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

208
NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED

133
NUMBER OF YOUNG WOMEN

20
NUMBER OF HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS ENROLLED

ACTIVITIES

Placements & Achievements

Tech SMART Centre, Gultekdi, achieved 70% placement for students in 2021–22 despite lockdown challenges.

208 students trained this year, including 133 young women (64%).

The team, with support from alumni who mobilised 78 students and assisted in placements, managed regular tasks, conducted the batch, and scouted a new location for the coming year.

Transition & New Location

Ramtekdi Tech SMART Centre was discontinued after August. Last batch at Gultekdi trained 59 students, supported by

alumni who mobilised 78 students and assisted with placements.

New centre to begin at Gokhale Nagar, Pune – a first for Deep Griha in this area.

Inclusion & Accessibility

Gultekdi Centre is inclusive, with 20 students with hearing impairments enrolled; 15 secured employment.

A 'Friends Group' was formed to foster peer learning and communication.

Students learning sign language and acting as translators during job interviews marked a significant step towards inclusion.



SMART CENTRE IN ACTION

DEEP GRIHA ACADEMY

An English-medium school offering holistic and relevant education from Preschool onwards. Our curriculum integrates academics, vocational training, agriculture, performing arts, sports, and essential life skills to nurture well-rounded individuals.

OBJECTIVES:

To provide quality English medium education through child-centred methodology for children between 3-16 years of age.

To ensure relevant education that focuses on holistic development is imparted to children at the school

To provide vocational and agriculture training for young people.

To build local capacity through training for teachers at Deep Griha Academy

ACTIVITIES

Methodology

This academic year saw all the students return to classroom learning, unfortunately there was also a drop in the number of students registered with the school to 317 despite new admissions. The teachers had been teaching online through the lockdown using their mobile phones, this year the school was able to provide laptops to the teachers with support from one of our consistent CSR partners. The laptops helped teachers access audio-visual learning aids for the students. Their focus was to address the learning gaps the children had.

Agricultural Studies

The school planted a fruit orchard in the second half of this academic year. We planted over 400 fruit trees under a CSR activity. The fruit orchard has created a space for integrated learning for the students.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

317
NUMBER OF STUDENTS

183
NUMBER OF BOYS

134
NUMBER OF GIRLS

Holistic Development

DGA collaborated with Connecting NGO, an organisation working towards prevention of suicide, to get the students to understand and talk about stress, depression and more particularly suicide. The Peer Education Programme (PEP) is a collaboration between students, parents, teachers, school/ counsellors, school authorities and Connecting NGO's volunteers to deal with emotional distress and its causative factors. The sessions so far had been conducted online, this year we were able to begin offline/in-person sessions with the students.

A new Physical Education Teacher - Ms. Madhuri Karde started with us at the beginning of this academic year. Madhuri has transformed the school's physical education programme. The students were happy to get back to sports and enthusiastically participated in various inter school competitions at a regional level under the able guidance of Madhuri.

Hindustani classical and Tabla classes have restarted at school as well after a long break. At DGA we are working towards ensuring the children have access to a lot more than academics and this year we have been able to do a lot more after the two-year break.

GGU International Leadership Camp

In the month of November, our students who attended Girls Gearing Up Academy 2022 conducted educational activities based on Quality Education - SDG 4 in one of the local schools around DGA. The activities were conducted with up to 250 children. Through these outreach activities we are ensuring access to quality education to the children in the villages around DGA.



SNAPSHOTS OF DGA ACTIVITIES

Teacher Training and Development

On 11 March 2023, DGA teachers participated in a training session conducted by Studio Alternatives, an organization dedicated to upcycling materials. The objective of the session was to promote sustainability and empower teachers to integrate upcycling practices into their classrooms. The organization shared valuable insights and techniques on how to repurpose and transform waste materials into useful and creative resources. By equipping teachers with these skills, the training aimed to inspire students to engage in upcycling efforts, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and creative problem-solving within the school community.

After attending comprehensive training on delivering sessions about the importance of recognizing good and bad touch, DGA teachers took the initiative to organize an awareness program for the parents of their students at the school. During the sessions, parents were informed about how to speak to their children about recognising good touch vs bad touch, conversations that the parents need to have with their children and signs they need to look for, to prevent child abuse. The awareness program is one example of DGA's commitment to ensuring the well-being and protection of its students in action.



INCOME GENERATION PROGRAM

The programme aims to improve the socio-economic status of the women in financially deprived communities of Pune.

OBJECTIVES:

To facilitate skill development for income generation among women living in targeted communities.

To improve financial security of women in targeted communities



ACTIVITIES

Food Preparation

The IGP provided almost 6000 meals through the quarter and 15 women from the community made it happen. These meals include daily meals for Aadhar Kendra children, the seniors we provide meals to and orders placed by working professionals and students who live within 5kms of the Tadiwala road centre. The aim is to continue increasing the number of orders.

Entrepreneurial Training

BYST is an organisation that provides training to individuals who aspire to be entrepreneurs or small business owners. They conducted a two day workshop for 50 women from the Ramtekdi community.

Skills & Product Development

The programme has been focusing on working with skills that women already have and working with the women to create marketable products. We have been receiving orders for handmade quilts and some of them repurpose sarees. The women made small potli bags, diyas, baby kits and other sewing products.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ASIMIT

DISHA

Deep Griha's Integrated Service for HIV and AIDS, also means direction in Hindi and Marathi.

OBJECTIVES:

To conduct HIV awareness sessions in hitherto un-targeted communities in Pune and surrounding villages.

To assist people living with HIV to have a more fulfilled, happy and complete life through counselling and matrimonial events.



ACTIVITIES

School Awareness Sessions

The DISHA team conducted 100 sessions in schools across Pune, focusing on the importance of HIV testing and treatment to reduce fear and stigma.

Community Gatherings & Health Camps

After many years, clients reunited at Tadiwala Road for an evening of music and dance. A General Health Camp at Ramtekdi saw 91 participants, followed by a get-together with 104 attendees despite heavy rains. 50 grocery kits were also distributed to families affected by the pandemic.

Melava+ for Young Individuals

The Melava+ returned after a long gap with 101 participants (aged 18–30). Parents joined too, and 4 couples expressed interest in each other. A career counselling session was added for the first time, offering guidance to young attendees.

Training for Teachers & Volunteers

Teachers, volunteers, and ASHA workers received updated training on HIV, ART Centres, ICTC facilities, PPTCT programmes, and viral load testing. Many expressed commitment to share this knowledge in their communities.

DISHA SNAPSHOTS

Journey and Transition

Started in 2005, DISHA evolved to meet the needs of families affected by HIV. With the programme winding down, the team focused on awareness sessions for health workers, effectively handing over responsibility to the community. The DISHA team contributes to other programmes while remaining available to former and new clients as required. 13

SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM

An APPI grant was approved to establish community support, service delivery, health services, and access to social security for the elderly. This expands our reach from 400 to over 4,000 individuals next year.

OBJECTIVES:

To enhance the well being of senior citizens in low-income communities

To facilitate access to activities focused on social, physical and mental well being for the participants



ACTIVITIES

Combating Isolation (Daily Meals & Social Time)

Daily meals not only provided nutrition but also created opportunities for seniors to connect and reduce isolation, especially important after the lockdowns.

Overnight Trip for Ajjis (First Holiday Experience)

Ajjis (grandmothers) enjoyed their first-ever overnight trip at Swaroopseva's facility, with gardens, a temple, and even a small hike. Many were moved to tears by the care and experience. A trip was planned for the Ajobas (grandfaterhs) too.

Dance & Movement Therapy (Weekly Classes)

A new weekly activity introduced dance and movement therapy, giving seniors joyful exercise and social engagement.



**AT A GLANCE:
SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**



OTHER PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

Legal Aid Centre

Over the years, Deep Griha Society and ILS Law College in Pune, have been bringing legal advice to women from the community with regards to domestic violence, property issues and other challenges faced by women in the community. An activity that had to stop over the last two years and started again this year.

BNY Mellon WorkForce Development Scholarships

We have been distributing scholarships to students enrolled in vocational courses, or courses that lead to immediate employment including Nursing, Technical studies among others. We have received USD 30,000 for this year and through this quarter we have been accepting applications as well as conducting interviews with the candidates to help choose eligible candidates for the scholarship. 191 candidates have been interviewed from 261 applications.

Dental Clinic

The Dental clinic at the Ramtekdi centre was inaugurated in August. Dr Kim Shin Hong runs the clinic and he has been responsible for the entire set up as well. The clinic operates three times a week, with Wednesdays set aside for individuals living with HIV since access to dental care is still tough for individuals living with HIV.

The Ramtekdi centre had to be shut down after a structural audit declared the building unsafe. This year, the renovation of the centre was finally completed and we can expand work that we do at the centre. The renovation included added support for the 1st floor, new flooring for the first floor, and changes around the ground floor to include the support beams. We have a large space upstairs where we can begin computer classes for young children.



Would you like to be a part of our journey?

This is how you can.....

- Be an ambassador for Deep Griha Society
- Sponsor a child
- Adopt a project
- Donate to a program
- Make a Deep Griha wish come true
- Help us organise a fundraising event
- Volunteer with us

For more information, please write to us at

- info@deepgriha.org or
- ashlesha.onawale@deepgriha.org.

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