

MUSKAAN ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



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The new normal was not normal for everyone. Year 2020 has taken a back the lives of many communities. To stand up again was an arduous battle altogether. But with enormous efforts and support, people are trying to bring back their lives on track again. This year has taught us the challenges which comes from unpredictability and has shown us the way forward that is essential to find and fulfil our vision.

From all of us at Muskaan, we thank people who believed in us and letting us to be a part of their lives and to those who have shown their trust and lent us the extensive sustenance to make this year more productive.

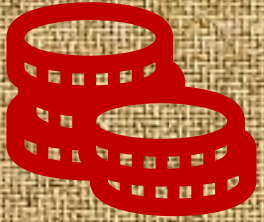
There is a long way to go and let's go and grow in this together!

Over the years, our work has evolved in two core directions. Formal education activities to enhance access to meaningful education for first generation learners is one aspect of our efforts, and the other critical sphere is the collective strengthening of communities (children, youth and women/men) for self-dignity, overcoming issues of urban poverty, historical discrimination and exploitation of the marginalized.



Within the larger mandate of working with the working-class populations living in bastis and shanties in the city, we have been focusing more on tribal populations. Usually forming a cluster of 80 to 120 households within a larger basti, Bhopal has several tribal communities who have migrated into the city. Their vulnerabilities and poverty persist in various forms, including the living conditions as well as attitude from the outside world. Gonds, Agariyas and Pardhis are the predominant groups we have been engaging with.





COVID MATERIAL RELIEF



"You could see many people sitting around Karbala Ghat, Upper Lake in the hope that passers-by will give them something - either food or some money, and one meal would be secured. They look at every car with hope, but due to lockdown, no one was going out and so, the people sitting at Karbala Ghat too, are not getting any help. Hunger raises its ugly head as the most threatening issue as people start to starve to death. An old man was found starved to death at Nadira Bus Stand recently; it was clear that he had had nothing to eat for many days. When we asked the people sitting at Karbala Ghat to take some dal, some refused saying, "We don't have a house, what will we do with dal? How will we cook it? If you have anything cooked, give us that." Some people took the dal in the folds of their T-shirts, in polythene packets that they found on the road, in their sacs. Among these people was an old man, about 75 years old, whose hands and neck were shaking with slight tremors. As we put three handfuls of dal in his sac, he signalled to say enough and refused to take a fourth handful. Discomfort was clear on his face, yet even in times of such uncertainty his eyes reflected a feeling of satisfaction."

The COVID-19 lockdown was definitely not the same for everyone. When some were safe inside their homes working in front of laptops, there were some who were on roads migrating bare feet from one city to their villages as they were out of work, food and money. Some were trying and experimenting new cuisines and loading up their pantries with 3 months groceries and still not satisfied, there were some who were not even sure about their one-time meal. And it was not only about the food, basic health support, livelihoods, education, and a roof to protect their heads from rain also got negotiated. Promises and assurances from the state are aplenty, yet the ground reality shows the hollowness of these promises.

There were constant efforts to ask for donations in cash and kind by the team and many people and organizations lend their helping hand to fight against this pandemic and have come out of their ways to support the vulnerable settlements in and outside Bhopal.

"We are not sure that whether someone will come tomorrow to distribute food, what should we do, should we finish the complete food that we got today or should we save it for tomorrow as well?"

"We eat on alternate days to save ration. Sometimes, we only eat stale chapatis with salt and pepper. We do not feel good when we hear about the lockdown being extended."

"Sitara Bai Kanjar, who is a widowed old lady, said that "the three months' ration is being distributed but I have not been able to get that also. When I go to the control shop, the dealer sends us off with some excuse or the other. I can't understand whom should I go and complain to?"

"Everybody talks about washing hands with a good soap, we do not have money to buy food, how can we purchase a handwash?"

"In all my life, I have never seen such helplessness. We have always earned and made a living with our skills. Whether we die from the virus or not, the worry about how we are going to survive this year has been killing me; by the time the lockdown ends. our seasonal work will be over."

"The government should make some app in which children could share their stories, poems, problems of their bastis to divert their mind from fear and anxiety, or should give people some job, clapping or banging plates will not feed people."

RATION SUPPORT TO
20,000 + FAMILIES

MEDICAL SUPPORT TO
10,000+ FAMILIES

VEGETABLES & FRUITS
5,000 + FAMILIES

TRAPAULINE IN RAIN
500 ROOF COVERS

SUPPORTED PEOPLE TO
RETURN HOMES ALONG
WITH LOCAL GROUPS
2500 PEOPLE

SANITARY NAPKINS
150 ADOLESCENT GIRLS

HAND WASH STATIONS
15 SETTLEMENTS

ENCOURAGED VACCINATIONS
AMONGST ADULTS AND
YOUTH
7,000 +

NOTEBOOKS, STATIONARY & SCHOOL BOOKS
500+ CHILDREN



“Tabassum, in Baanganga, called up several times in a 2-hour period for some ration support. She shared that her sister-in-law is going for palliative care work for an old person, and the family did not have any other phone that they could use to call us for support for a week, so if we could get anything to them, it would help.”

“A 6-year-old child's stone in urine bladder was to be operated upon; his working parents were not able to buy medicines. His family was assisted with medicines and surgical material for the child's operation.”

“Medical and surgical aid in a person's hip joint operation. He was lying in bed due to lack of treatment.”



“When ration gets over, we get it from Muskaan again. Now we are able to eat food daily.”

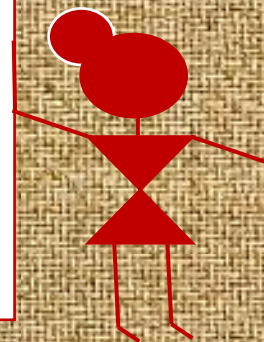
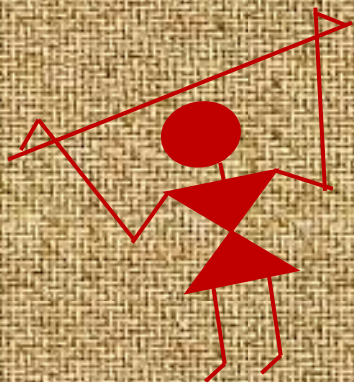
“My children break the soap into pieces and each of them hides their piece in a secret spot, whether it lasts for 3 days or 5 days. When they come from outside, they wash their hands with it and they don't share their soap with me also. So, I use the mixture of ash and surf that I use to wash dishes to wash my hands too. When the sangathan's stock comes, we try to ensure everyone gets one soap each. People are happy to get it, for some days they will wear clean clothes.”







CHILD PROTECTION & PARTICIPATION



This pandemic led not only the economic crisis in the urban poor communities but also victimized the children mentally, socially and physically. There are many incidents that portray how they have been crudely discriminated and suffered due to several instances like death or illness of parents, economic losses, uncertainty of income, and loss of livelihood. Such kind of issues on child protection are emerging on a regular basis in the communities and the biggest challenge is to put a halt on these cases where people got shut inside their households and localities.

"Police hit us if we step out to collect wood for cooking food, don't they know that we do not have money to buy gas cylinders, we have to cook food on earthen stoves." "

"We go for work to help our parents but people don't behave with us nicely, they feel that we will spread this virus, they don't allow us to drink water or to touch anything. Didi we've not experienced such things in Muskaan. Are we untouchables?" "

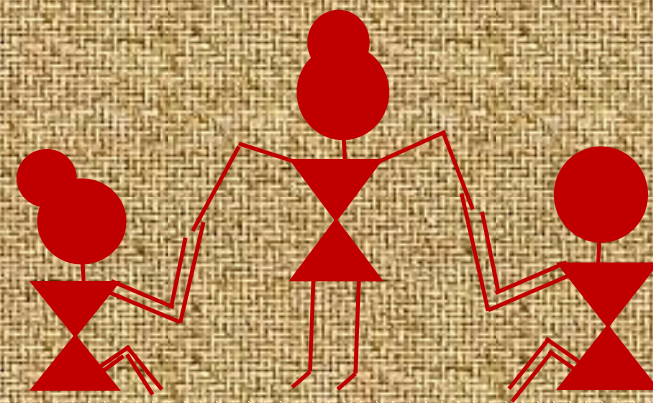
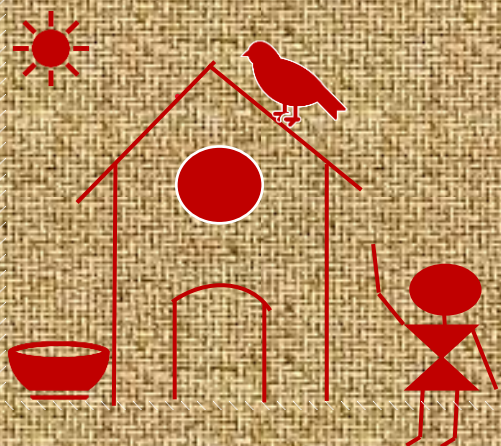
"One child from Gandhinagar Basti was tied with a rope and got beaten by his father, he stopped going to the library as well. Team members protected him and made him aware about his rights, we also warned his father and counselled him about the laws related to child protection."

"We don't have money to survive, scrap-picking is the only option, but due to lockdown, we are not able to do that also, still we take risk and go covertly from police."

"Girls of Gandhinagar basti who are regular members of Azad Jugnu Club and Library shared in a meeting that they get molested and sexually harassed by a local shopkeeper. The Child protection committee of Muskaan informed the shopkeeper about the laws of child abuse and strictly warned him of getting arrested."

A 13-year-old girl who is a regular member of Azad Jugnu Club shared in a youth meeting of community and with her school teacher about getting sexually harassed by her uncle. School teacher of that government school shared this case with Muskaan CPC members and then members and field workers registered an FIR against him and he got arrested for that."

To introduce the perspective of child protection, there is a need to promote the information related to child protection within the community including children, adolescents, youth and adults and vitalize their participation on the issues on forefront. The work for child protection has been done in four zones in the city through direct implementation by the organization.





CHILD PROTECTION, RIGHTS AND LAWS -

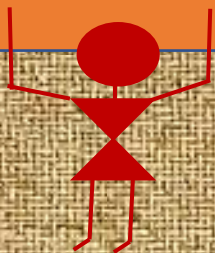
-45 Virtual meetings and activities with children, adolescents, adults, youth and community members on child rights and laws such as Child marriage act, Justice Juvenile Act, Child Labour Act, preventive measure of COVID-19 - laws and rights.

-22 meetings conducted with the members of ward level child protection structures (ICDS worker and Asha workers, ANM and 8 meetings with teachers of 5 government school, for capacity building of child protection structures and systems.

-9 online training sessions and 13 meetings with ICDS workers on cyber security, child rights, and child marriage.

DISTRICT LEVEL TASK FORCE-

-3 training sessions with district level government officers of police department, WCD department and Health department on child right, child protection mental health and psycho social support.



COVID-19 PREVENTION -

-30 meetings with CPC's and Nagar Suraksha Samiti for identifying and strengthening existing community-based structures to mitigate the impact of COVID on lives of children.

-8 online trainings with master trainers to strengthen community CP structures on responding to protection priorities in COVID context including Psycho-social support and creating awareness on government schemes.

- 8 trainings with Front-line workers on COVID Infection protection and control.

EDUCATION SUPPORT-

-2 meetings with school teachers and principals of 6 government schools to know the status of children enrolment and retention during and post lockdown.

-5 meetings with WCD officials to know the lists and names of drop out adolescent girls and with the drop out children and their families to encourage them to enrolment.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO SOCIAL SUPPORT

-9 training sessions with the team of 12 community grassroot counsellors for psycho-social issues and counselling sessions with 350 people including children, youth and CBO's from community and 50 front line workers.

-20 meetings with Basti counsellors for discussing individual cases and situation of children in community.

-20 meetings with Front line workers (ICDS and Teachers) for handling stress and anxiety issues among children and people in community.

- Supporting Children in Child care institutes through online counselling with UNICEF

LINKING GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES AND SCHEMES-

-4 trainings of Front-Line Workers and CBOs about government schemes and how they can become more accessible to the community.

-3 trainings with community youth groups to enhance advocacy at department level and to collectivise their voices while reaching to concerned departments.



Mapping & Support to 144 Children in need of Care & Protection during COVID -

- The education department waived the fees of 34 children.
- 22 Children has been issued Aadhar Card.
- 16 children have been issued Birth Certificate.
- 37 children applied for Caste Certificate.
- 25 families have been linked with Aayushman Card.
- 6 Children got disability Certificate.
- 13 forms submitted for widow pension yojana.
- 47 Families benefitted with Ration Slips.

Through the active youth and child protection committee of the slum, information about the status of the needy children was taken and their list was made. The committee went to different departments and informed the officers about the situation there.

Psycho Social Support -

Women, girls and adolescents have been referred and linked with the higher-level counseling services. Some have been sent to CWC and DLSA for proper guidance as well as for rehabilitation. Some girls have been linked with professional clinical psychologist for further counseling.

- 22 Children, 34 Youth, 40 Adults were counselled regarding stress, domestic violence, sexual violence.
- 2 Children referred to Child Line.
- 2 Cases referred for Family Counselling.
- 3 Cases referred for Medical Treatment.
- 4 Cases referred for Legal Process.

Education Support to prevent Child Labour -

The members of the community and Azad Jugnu Club representative went to meet the District Education Officer and made them aware of their difficulties due to reasons for not being able to join online studies and the problem faced in the admission. Department of Education became responsible with positive initiatives.

- 300 children are regularly associated with Library, Learning centers, Balwadi and Recreational activities.
- 4 Nukkad Nataks, 4 Baal Melas and 2 Puppet Shows were organized.
- Children started their theatre group and performed drama in the community on the freedom of girls, protection of children through drama.
- 16 Children got enrolled in schools.
- TC granted for 6 children who could not paid fee and re-enrolled in other schools.

Children and Youth as an Agents of Change-

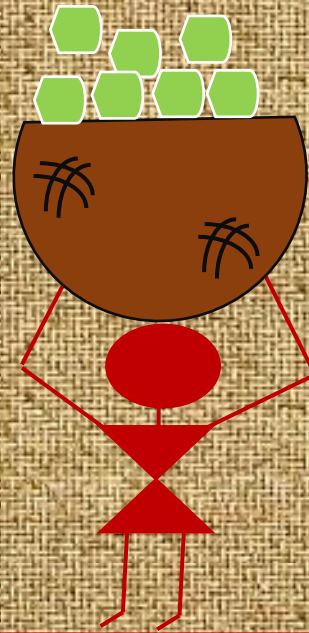
- Youth leaders submitted application for water taps and road in Gandhi Nagar area.
- Children raised their voices before SCPCR and DEO for fee issues in private schools.
- Used child line service in the case of violence and child marriage.
- Youth group visited to food supply department to demand ration.
- Children visited to the Municipal Corporation demanding cleanliness and supply of water.
- Youth volunteers performed the street plays in community for sharing information about COVID and hygienic practices.

Youth made videos in lockdown depicting slum conditions and problems they are facing in this global pandemic.

Cases Identified & Solved -

- 9 Cases of Sexual Abuse were identified: 7FIR was registered and 2 Warnings were made respectively.
- 4 Cybercrime cases were solved by trained youth groups.
- 13 Physical & mental violence cases were solved by counselling parents, 2 cases were registered with Child Line.
- 2 Cases of early marriages were stopped by youth girls by calling Child Helpline and 3 were stopped with counselling by CPC and youth groups of community.





LIVELIHOOD -COVID RECOVERY



The Covid-19 Pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to public health, food security and livelihoods of the people. The informal economy workers were one of the most vulnerable sections of the society during the pandemic due to the lack of social and economic security. Mostly being the daily wage workers there was no source of earning and savings were also over during the lockdown which made it more difficult for them to sustain their families. In the wake of the Covid situation, there was a need to manoeuvre livelihood program that could support the families of urban poor to restart their existing livelihood practices and create new livelihood opportunities. But there were some challenges along with the learnings that we and community came across.

"We 3 run a Chinese food stall, after training, we all three know cooking, if one is busy or has an emergency, we can easily run our stall."

"Slowly will expand the work, if we started any big and then loss happened then what? What if lockdown happened again?"

Gola Bai who was pursuing the work of selling Papad, seemed quite happy with the work and she wanted to expand it and include other items like Poha, Pakoda, etc. Simultaneously her earning was about Rs. 100 to 200 per day."

"We have taken up the training of selling dosa, idli and vada sambhar but we are afraid of selling them as we belong to Pardhi community and collect scrap."

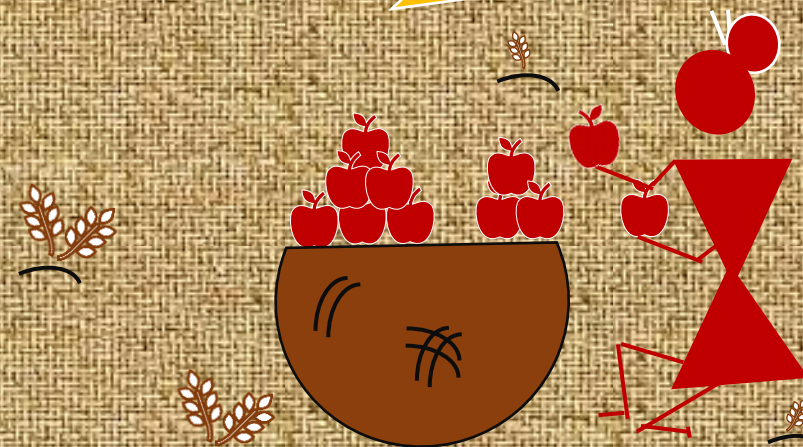
"I purchased vegetables for Rs.30 and sold it for Rs.55, yes it's a profitable business and I am able to run my house as my husband is not well."

"My whole family now eats green vegetables; I also supported my relatives by giving some vegetables to them. After getting training from bhaiya, now I go to mandi by myself for procuring vegetables and also maintain my accounts. It was really beneficial in tough times and I was able to save Rs.500 a day sometimes."

"Girls from my community used to tease me when I was learning stitching, now I am able to stitch masks, kurti and suits and I am earning well. Now other girls of my basti also wanted to learn stitching."

"I was earning well enough by selling tea and snacks after getting training, but now people go to some other stalls as there is no lockdown now, I've to stop my business and should find some other source now."

"I started selling fruits after getting help from Muskaan but it was not possible me to go mandi on regular basis and I also do not have proper storage to keep the stock, then I started selling tea, eggs and snacks and now I am earning quite well with it. I am now able to make better decisions."





Total Number of People covered- 149

Total Number of Bastis - 12

Handmade Diaries

-A team of 12 Girls
-Total production 1125 diaries
Revenue Rs.40000
Profit Rs.8670

Masks

-17 people involved
-Total units
produced & Sold-
1500

Organic Handmade Soaps

-A team of 14 youth
-Total profit earned – Rs.9,000

Silai Centres

-12 women are learning Stitching in Silai Centre which is being operated in bastis by Karyakarnis of Shahri Mazdoor Sangathan and these Karyakarnis are paid by Muskaan.

Food Stalls

-A group of 2 Women are running South Indian Food Stall
-A group of 3 Boys are running a Chinese Food Stall.

Steps Toward Recovery

Identifying Work Areas

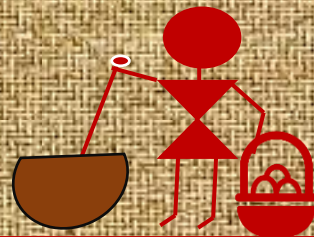
- Vegetables & Fruits Selling
- Ration Shops
- Tea/Egg/Food/Snacks Stalls
- Organic Soap Making
- Tailoring & Stitching
- Chicken & Goat Farming
- Diary Making
- Dona Pattal
- Organic Compost
- Sugarcane Juice Centres
- Wooden Craft/Bamboo Work
- Small Shops (Bangles/Fish/Peanuts)
- Clothes Shops
- Beverages
- Mobile/TV Repairing 7 Accessories
- Trash Scoops/Choolhas
- Manihari
- Ice Golas
- Homemade Chocolates

-Initially it started with selling vegetables and fruits as it was one of the activities which was allowed during lockdown.

-After lockdown, some people dropped out this business and get back to their old work with financial assistance, as they had the required skills but there were some who neither had skills nor ideas and experiences were trained and financially assisted.

-Adults were more rationale while taking or scaling up their work as they have more responsibilities behind whereas youth was more eager to take risk and showing their entrepreneurial abilities.

-Some were scared to pursue a kind of business because they link their tribal identity with wrong notions the society has made about them but gradually with right kind of training, they are now stimulating other people of their community to earn their livelihood by breaking the stigma.



6 people are involved in manufacturing Dona Pattal, 17 people are involved in selling Vegetables & fruits.

11 people are running breakfasts /egg centre, 6 people are running rations shops in basti to cater the daily need of community due to incompetency of PDS, 4 youngsters are involved in the work of T.V and Mobile repairing, 4 people are associated with wooden craft/Bamboo Work, 3 small shops are set to sell bangles, fish, peanuts, and many single individuals are involved in work like artificial jewelry, artificial flowers, homemade chocolates, goat farming, beverage shop, choolhas, manihari, selling clothes, undergarments, snacks & much more.



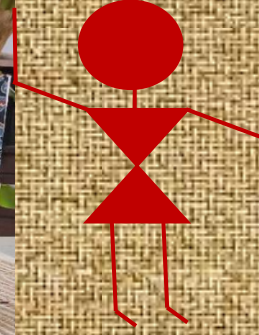
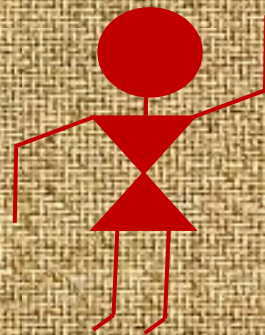
Business Training

- Skill Development
- Procurement Of Raw Material/Goods
- Profit & Loss Calculations
- Maintaining Accounts
- Sales & Marketing

Formal training of stitching, diary-making, soap making, Compost making, chocolates making, Chinese cuisine, Snacks making, South-Indian cuisines were conducted by Muskaan's resource persons.

5 Exposure visits to marketplaces like mandi, poultry farms, cloth printing workshops.

A team of 3 youths from the community to sell the products (diaries, soaps, masks, bags, doormats) through setting up shops in different areas and also exhibiting it in different fairs that are being organized in the city.



Financial Assistance

- Money
- Machines & Equipment
- Raw Material

50 people were given financial assistance up to Rs. 5,000

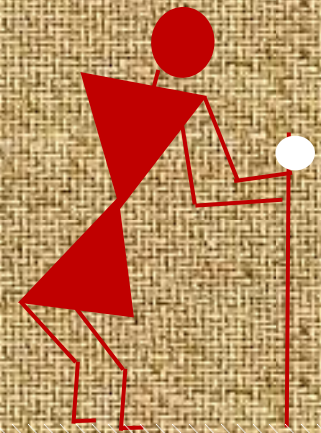
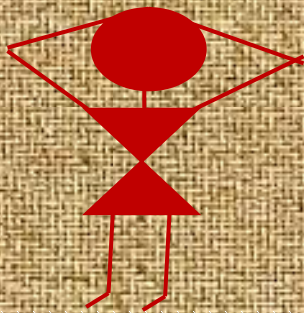
6 pairs, 1 group of 3 and 9 individuals were given financial assistance of up to 25,000 and machines like sugarcane juice extractor, Dona Pattal Machine, Ice Scoop Machines, Chinese Food Stalls, South Indian Food Stalls.







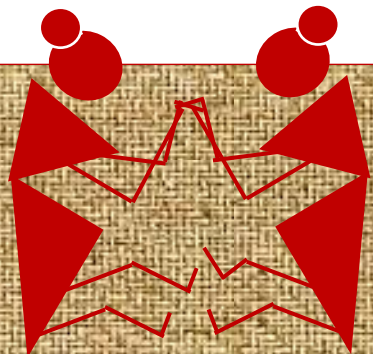
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Fighting with the persecutions of society and system or fighting with own values, identity and beliefs, there is a lot people of every age group is facing in the community which results not into the loss of tranquility but also the loss of life sometimes. We have always tried to evolve some people out of this by hearing them and finding some solutions to their problems which somehow give them strength and take positive steps to lead their life but still real conceptions are hard to make and COVID pandemic added fuel to the fire. It weakened the already debilitated communities not only financially but also has taken a toll on their mental health. Our team has constantly endeavored to read the minds of children, adults, and old age groups and to take out their perpetual fear out by giving them counselling and care they needed. At some instances children were also showing empathy towards the other people of the family, migrant labor, society and even animals though they themselves were in isolation and at some places they were also trying to see positivity in cases where their parents were not able to drink alcohol due to lockdown.

There was a need of such counselors in the bastis who could provide mental support to the people in the bastis and prevent people from going into depression.

With this thinking, we tried to prepare a counselor at the colony level. We imparted basic counseling training to youth and women. These youths and women handled mental health matters in the settlement very well and gave mental strength to the people. All these efforts helped people in the community to get out of depression.



"9-year-old Parvati likes to talk, play and share her feelings with her friends, but now she has nobody to play and share and feel alone. One day she had a fight with her siblings and after that she tried to suicide which made her mother and sister very scared about her mental health."

"We are scared of getting tested for corona. what if they will quarantine us away from our parents. We face a lot of discrimination there."

"We are not sure that whether someone will come tomorrow to distribute food, what should we do, should we finish the complete food that we got today or should we save it for tomorrow as well?"

"Didi, we have to share so much with you, today I felt so good after talking to you."

"My sister sold her gold earrings and nose pin to buy ration due to which her husband hit her in front of kids. We kids are mentally stressed out by the behavior of our parents and adults."

"I really enjoy coming to this meeting as I forget all my tensions and I really enjoy doing activities and dance because here no one is there to stop me."

"An 18-year-old boy attempted suicide as he was not able to meet his girlfriend."

"It was not easy to share my feelings and problems with anyone but I feel very comfortable with didi now and also follow her advice."



12 people from community are trained as barefoot counsellors.

6 counsellors got certified training as psycho social counsellor

1 Article on Mental State of Children in Covid got published in 'Sandarbh Magazine' by Eklavya Foundation which was based on the findings done by a team of three teachers of Muskaan.

90 Cases of extreme Mental stress and anxiety were reported.

25 People were being provided legal support; this was due to violence they were facing.

8 People were provided medical health to control anxiety and depression.

55 Cases were solved by mutual counselling of wedded couples and families.

8 trainings on basic counselling principles, understanding the situations of community, stress management, healing methods, vulnerability assessment.

Sports activities for kids and youth to manage stress and depression.

Dance Therapies to express their emotions and feelings.

Meditation sessions to calm and soothe mind.

Intensive & Specific planning for-

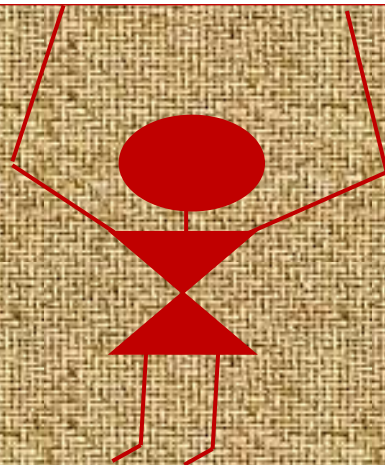
- Families who have a physically or mentally challenged child.
- Children who are grown up in a violence filled environment.
- Single women, widowed, divorced or unmarried
- Old Age People.
- Couples with early marriages, and currently below 24 years.
- Couples with 5 to 10 years of marriage.
- Parents and Siblings who have lost a close-one to suicide or seen any other violent death.
- People, of all age groups, who have experienced violence in any form.

Psychosocial counselling sessions with 200+ youths and adults.

Anger Management sessions for 300+ Children and Youths.



YOUTH INITIATIVES IN COVID TIMES



Muskaan has always involved the youth of the communities we have been working with so that they can empower themselves and the communities as well. From the past few years, they are very active in raising their voices and taking up stand for themselves, breaking the stigmas and stereotypes and strengthening their identities. Along with spreading awareness about their history, the laws that govern and restrict their people, they are addressing the issues related to their rights, education, gender patriarchy, violence, abuse and mental health by creating workshops, doing theatre and trainings. The result of the efforts can be clearly seen in the instances and experiences. They proved our biggest support and diligently participated to fight this pandemic together with us.

There are around 25 youth groups and 3 community specific groups with the name of MAJAL from Pardhi community and TATSANG from Banjara Community, SANWARI from Gond Community, 350 youths are part of these groups in and around Bhopal

“I often used to attend the gender workshop organized by Majal, my parents abuse me if I attend any meetings, but here I can speak and have someone to listen to me as well. One day, I went to our village with my parents where they were forcefully fixing my wedding. I called the team members and they instructed me to call child helpline and ask for help as the team won't be able to come due to lockdown. I called up the child line and they came up for my help.”- Sanya, 13-year-old.

It was unique to see Neha, who is 'unread' but would use picture books to tell stories to children in Ring Garden Locality of 15 houses. A young woman, she is bringing up her own child as a single mother, and has been very sure that she wants the children in her area to study. Shakti, a college student, from neighbouring Ahsan Nagar would go to support Neha in this endeavour.

Recently, I and Savita Didi spoke to XX. XX is just 20 years old. We went to speak to him because often, he beats his mother. We asked him about his experiences of violence; how does he feel after he has hit someone and what has he felt when he has been hit. His experiences of being bound and beaten up as a child; his attempts to kill himself twice as a teenager when he was about 14-15 years, and his tears while he shared all this. I am glad I have begun doing this work. - Saanish

“I studied till 8th class and then dropped out as my parents fixed my marriage. Didi of our youth group guided me to fill form for 10th Class and I got enrolled for that. But my parents wanted me to get married as soon as they can. Didi and bhaiya of group came to our home and counselled my parents and told them to break the alliance but my parents were adamant about their decisions but gradually with the efforts, I was able to break my marriage and now I am studying, run a library in my basti. And engage small kids in sports and other activities” – Kareena

Relief Material Distribution

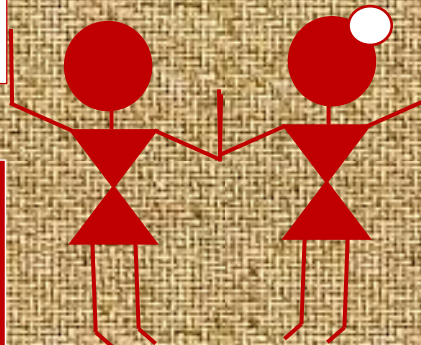
- 125 youth actively participated in the process of covid relief material distribution in various settlements.
- Youth group of Ahsan Nagar applied to the Water Resources Department for the solution of the water problem of the basti and tried to lay the pipeline in the settlement in lockdown.
- Youth groups identified the families not having Adhar Cards, Ration Cards and related documents to access the CoVID relief material granted from government, they filled and submitted the documents in related departments.
- They made posters on the issue of cleanliness; wrote slogans on the walls and taken out the awareness rallies regarding COVID-19 prerequisite behavior.
- 6 youth representatives of 5 bastis went to the Baal Aayog and applied for construction of a drain and road in the basti during rains which could be the major cause of spreading of disease.
- The youth were also worried about the migrant laborers; they also collected their information like Aadhar card, voter ID and does effort to convey that information to the concerned people, so that many workers could reach their homes.
- Youth girls made masks and distributed in the community as they have the skill to sew the masks and helping the community on their own.
- In some areas like Suraj Nagar youth also collected some ration from their own contacts and distributed to the needy people.
- DNT settlements/localities of some of the districts where Majal was able to provide support to were Satna, Harda, Khandwa, Panna, Sehore, Bhopal, Sujalpur, Raisen, and Guna in MP and Ram Ganj Mandi at the Rajasthan/MP border
- At least 5 lakhs [INR] worth of supplies were provided by Majal's efforts alone.

Livelihood

- Coordinated with Muskaan team for reviving and starting livelihood of people in various communities.
- Involved in diary-making work enormously.
- Supported 4 individuals with setting up of Mobile and TV repairing shops.

Sports

- Involving youth and children of the communities in Frisbee sport by organizing city level tournament in Bhopal with the team of Jabalpur.
- 15-20 children are playing regularly out of which 8-10 are girls.



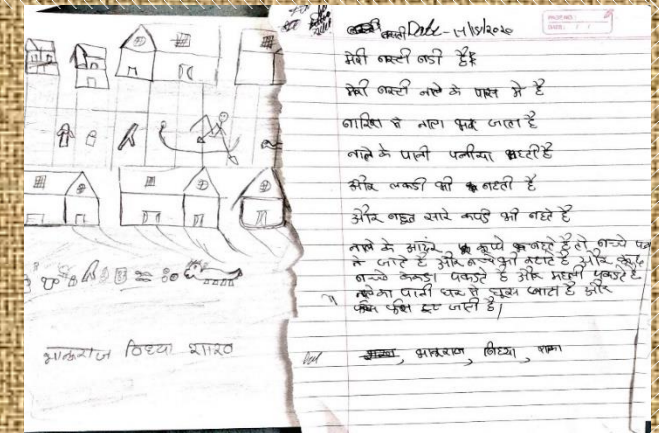
Mental Health

- A group of 10 youths visited 3 police stations and interacted with the police about child rights and violence on children happening during COVID.
- 1 child marriage was prevented by the youth group in Suraj Nagar Basti.
- 3 girls prevented their early marriages in lockdown on their own after attending the gender-based workshops conducted by youth groups.
- They are continuously arranging counselling sessions with the children, adolescents and adults of the community to prevent suicides as there were lot of cases coming up during and post lockdown.
- A group of youth are developing as theatre experts and they are showing the struggles of their community in their nook. They have successfully been able to make issues related to children such as violence, gender discrimination etc. a topic of discussion among the community through their plays. They also demonstrated a play depicting the pain of migrant labours in the whole country during first lockdown.
- 75 children got counselling support from our youth volunteers.
- Young girls have taken on the role of de facto counsellors in their bastis. While they have not received certification, they get regular guidance and training from senior members of Muskaan. Their primary role is to listen, and provide a safe space for those who need to share.

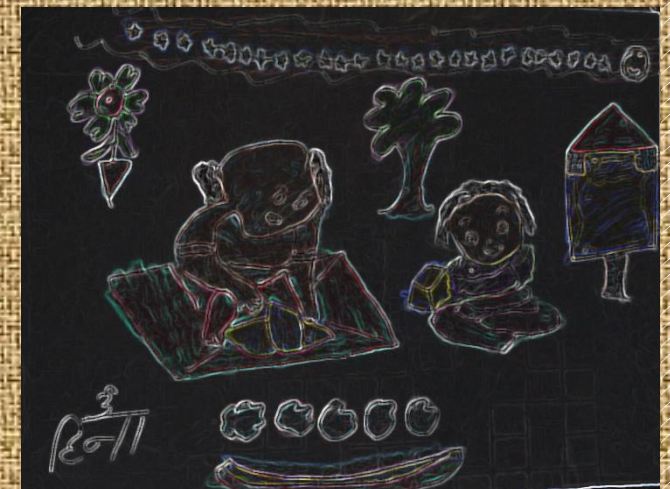
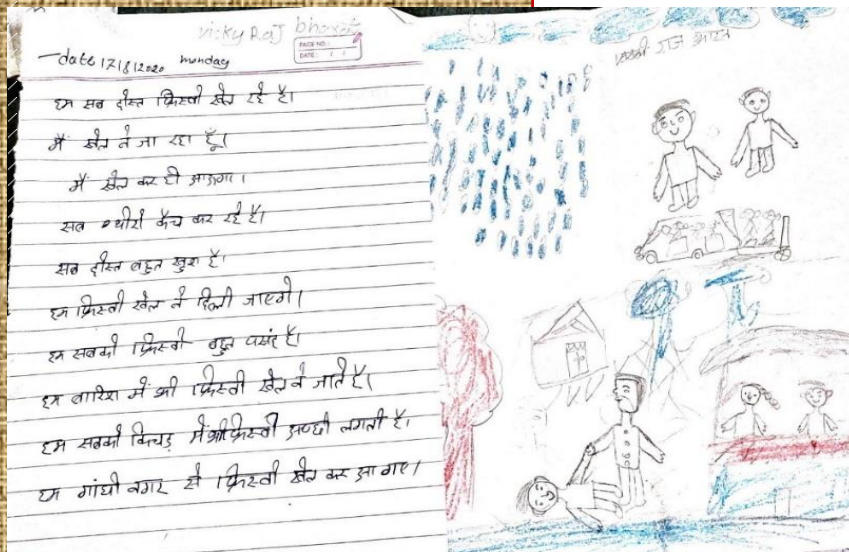
Education

- Carried out the educational activities in two villages in Panna, Harda each and several settlements (urban and rural) in Bhopal.
- The daily activities include meditation, yoga and games along with the academic inputs and story-telling.
- Running libraries for children as well as for adults.
- Acted as an intermediary between teachers and small children to pass on the small worksheets and assignments online to make them connected with the studies in a situation where each child could not afford the smartphones and internet plans.
- Young students also took inspiration from their elder siblings and role models who are part of youth groups, and took on a lot of responsibility in residential camps being carried out by Muskaan teacher team.
- The group of students who had just come out of a year-long academic program in Muskaan were carrying out all kinds of chores (filling water, cooking when needed) as well as initiating new activities that they had learnt as students (doing theatre activities, playing frisbee, starting kitchen gardens).
- Identified children who were not able to pay the fees and being dropped out of private schools and raise their voices in DEO Office to waive off the fees.





EDUCATION



Started with 20 Children and have been part of literacy efforts with over 20,000 children since then.

Covered around 1000+ children with diversified Education Program in 20-21.

With the world suffering from pandemic and school being closed and strict lockdown, it was difficult to connect them with regular schooling and education. Many dropped out of Government and Private schools as they were not able to afford smartphones and costly internet plans, and some were not able to pay the fees as well. There was the need to cater not only those children who are part of Muskaan's education program but each and every child of the communities we serve and our team was constantly in touch with the children to keep them connected with studies by developing and framing various strategies as per the need of that hour and moreover children and youth participated and took the responsibilities of running libraries and teaching younger kids in some of the settlements. We have also done a focus group discussion with around 500 children and 250 parents of 28 Bastis of Bhopal to know the impact COVID-19 has created on education, work and lives.

"My parents used to work as a daily wage labor, but due to lockdown they aren't getting any work due to which me and my sister got terminated from our school as we are not able to pay the fees."

"Didi I complete all the worksheets that you send. I also read the stories with my mother that you had sent. But I am forgetting idioms and Hindi Matrayein, please send those worksheets also next time."

"Girls have a lot of pressure to finish the household chores. We are not able to take time for study. Didi please talk to mummy and explain her."

"We are missing our school (Muskaan), we used to study and play frisbee, we miss all that fun now."

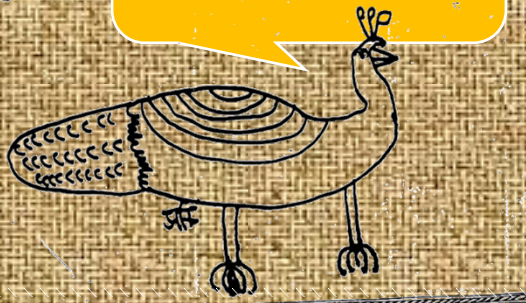
"We are not able to go to school, we are forgetting everything that have been taught earlier."

"Didi, I teach and help small children of basti if they find any difficulty to complete worksheets. If I'll have any doubt, I will ask you and will also explain that to the children."

"Didi, boys play PubG and mobile games all day, they are getting addicted to it as there are no schools."

"Rallies are happening, weddings, parties everything is allowed then why not they are opening our schools. We will maintain social distancing and study."

"Bhaiya, I do not understand what my school teachers are teaching online, but after studying the concepts of math's, I am now able to solve the problems. Please help me with other subjects also."



JEEVAN SHIKSHA PAHEL

A registered School from Class
1st to 8th

170 Children enrolled

BASTI CENTERS

Education centers running in
5 Bastis for children who
cannot come to Muskaan
campus due to long distance.
250 Children enrolled

HOSTEL

A permanent space in
Muskaan campus for
children of 8-16 years old.

32 children during 20-21
due to COVID

LIBRARIES

In 6 Bastis with children who are
dropped out or study in government
and private schools.
363 Children covered.

Accessible to youth and adults as
well.

Children and youth ran managed the
library during lock down.



DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

Initiatives-

- Sending worksheets, stories, short films, rhymes to youths of the communities who were having smartphones and they used to give worksheets to the kids.
- Some teachers who live in basti used to teach the children there only.
- Children were told to write their lockdown experiences in a diary so that they can express their heart out as they were going through many unpredictable challenges.

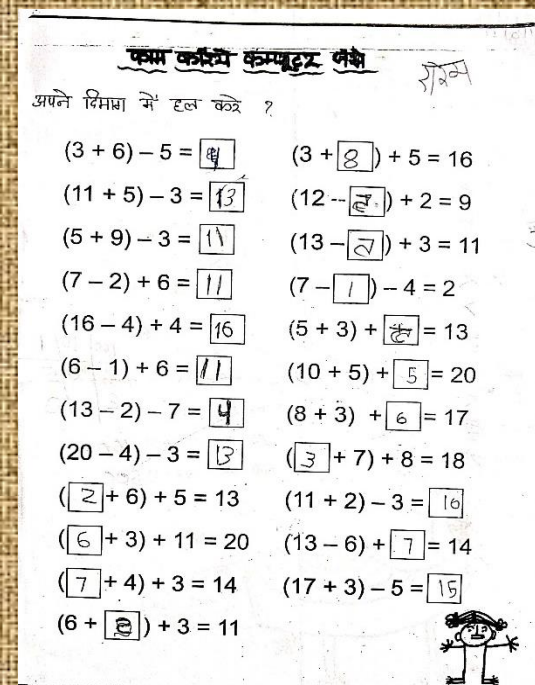
Challenges-

- Children were not able to understand some worksheets
- Some children had a lot of pressure to finish household chores, many families were facing the financial crunch and the consequences were equally faced by the children so they were not able to focus on studies.

POST LOCKDOWN & SCHOOLS BEING STILL LOCKED

Initiatives-

- Teachers visit the bastis twice a week to teach children.
- Providing books to Anganwadi workers so that they could reach to other children as well.
- Gradually, teachers started going to bastis daily for four hours.
- Framing special lesson plans on social issues, migrant labours, means of communication, rains for children who were moving towards addiction so that they can divert their minds.
- Conducting regular library sessions and providing them pictorial learning material so that they could talk and speak about various topics.
- Discussions on general and current topics like Family & society, Importance of Water, Environment, Government, Mob lynching, COVID-19, Waterborne diseases, Algae, etc.



BALWADI

Education center for kids of
3 to 6 years which aims at
developing basic skills
among children.

125 children enrolled

Classes for NIOS Exams

Continuous classes for
10th and 12th class
children for open
exams.

35 students enrolled.

Hostel kept running during and post lockdown.

There were-

9 Students of Class 1st - 5th

8 Students of Class 6th -8th

15 Students of Class 10th

2 Teachers stayed full time during lockdown and post lockdown teachers used to come for 2 hours daily as per the schedule.



THEATRE CLASSES

40 Children are engaged.

Learning improvisation and creating plays, pulling out emotions, postures, gestures.

SCIENCE MELA

On Chromatography, Temporary ElectroMagnet, Magnetic Effect, Turning of water into gel, Sound effects.

18 Settlements
500 Children covered.



BAAL MELA

Fun, Craft, Music, Sports, Plays with kids.

10 Settlements
550 Children covered.
44 Youth and parents also participated



PERMACULTURE

20 children are engaged in developing and deriving more sustainable form of Permanent Agriculture.

-Made a liquid 'Panchgavya' from natural components to provide earthy nourishment to trees and plants.

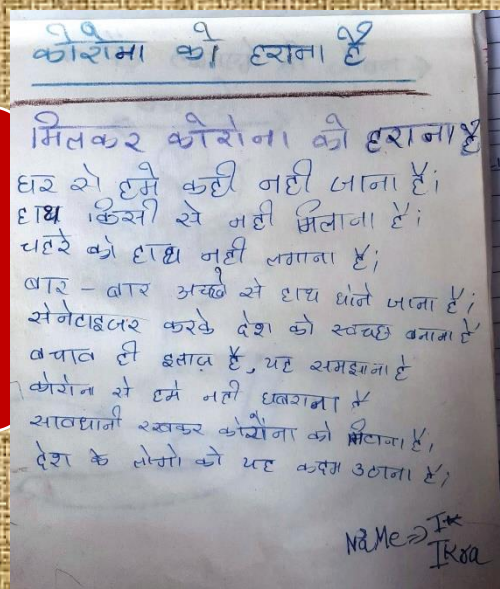
-Learned the technique to make organic compost.

-Mapping & creating a layout suitable for the purpose.

-Selling Panchgavya & Compost through livelihood program.



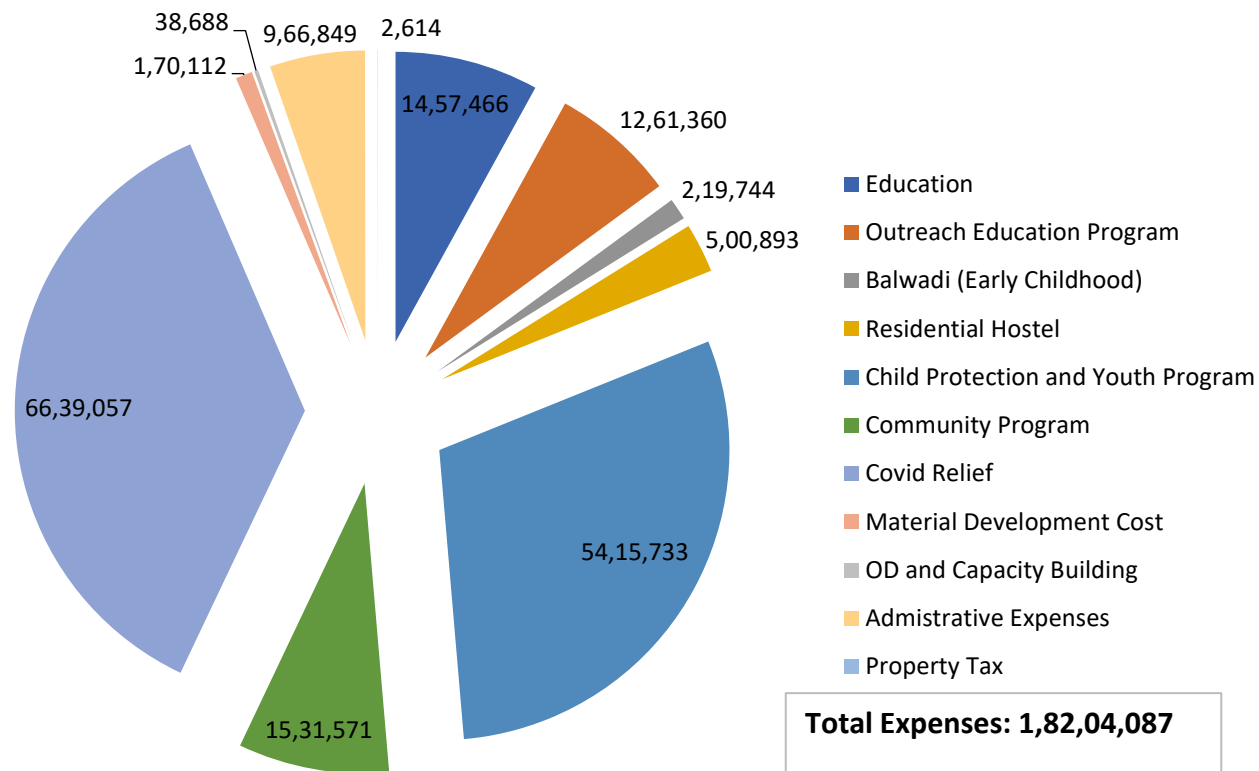
POEM RECITATION
20 children composed poem and recited them.







EXPENDITURE CHART



DONORS
FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

"Special thanks for your helping hands."
And to everyone who has been serving in COVID-19.
"We all Stand together."

