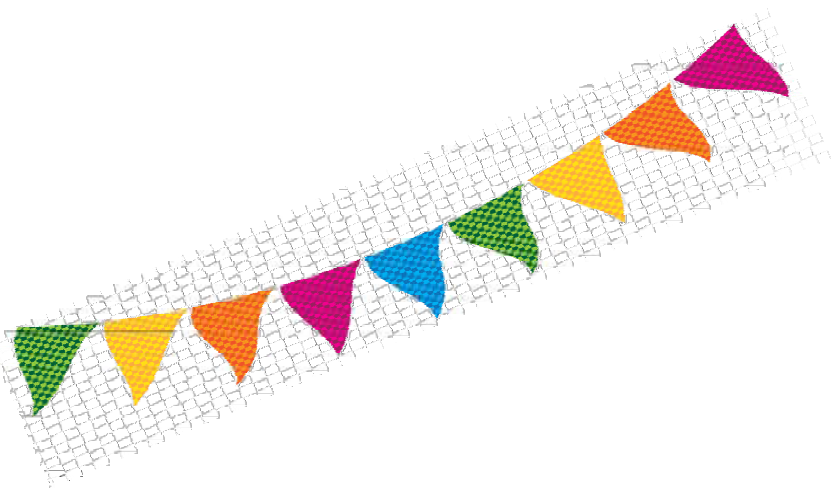


Muskaan

Annual Report

2021-22

While rations and transport had proved to be the challenge in the first round of covid, all clamoured for medicines and hospital beds, and oxygen supplies this time around. Covid took many of our loved ones this year. Dealing with the pain and deep sense of loss, at Muskaan, we tried to be as useful as we could to the people in these times. Taking symptomatic people for testing, striving for prevention of spread and supporting families in their efforts to save their loved ones, we all were stretched.

Less than the financial tool, this took a mental health toll on many. Our team members have withstood this all, lighter and heavier in different ways, and worked round the clock. Telephonic counselling, zoom meetings and the chauffer for hospital and community visits, field education activities – no work was less or more – and we tried to do it all as best as our capacities in these challenging times.

We thank our friends and donors, our colleagues; it has through everyone, that we became the carriers of this work.

The Journey of Muskaan

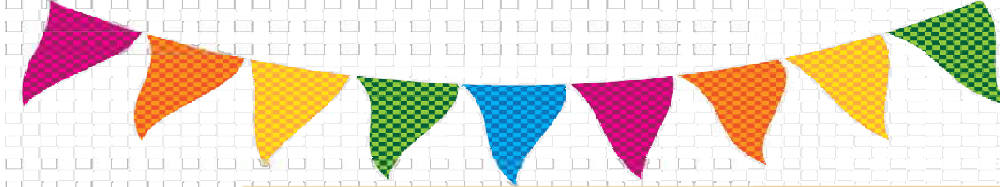
YEAR 1997 to 1998 - We started with an aim to connect marginalized children with education by enrolling them in a formal schooling system and helping them with their studies in the year 1997. Realizing that sending children to schools was only a minor step in the journey to real change, we realized we had to commit ourselves and walk this long path.

YEAR 1998 to 2005 - We used to either teach or enroll the drop-Out students in government schools. When we used to enroll Pardhi community kids, schools refused to enroll them, and if they enroll them, there was always an absence of the right kind of environment for such children and they had to face a lot of discrimination.

YEAR 2005 to 2015- We decided to start a formal school, **Jeevan Shiksha Pahel** in the year 2005. We also worked towards improving the curriculum of Government Schools by running libraries and taking classes with the children there to make the environment more sensitized. Realities of the urban poor, particularly health and malnutrition, access to

YEAR 2015 to 2022 - Child protection & participation, youth empowerment, dignity and access to justice for denotified tribes have been added focus areas of our interventions. The work of children's literature also grew in this period.





The work has been focused on the De-notified and other tribal populations of Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh. Gonds, Agariyas, Kanjar, and Pardhis are the predominant groups we have been engaging with.

When people took a step ahead to recover, the pandemic again shook them down. With the loss of livelihood, this time many were losing their family members and all this took a toll on their mental health. This pandemic gave birth to several issues pertaining to children such as child labor, violence, abuse, early marriages, and no or very less access to regular education.

After a sudden outbreak of the COVID 2nd wave, continuous efforts are being made to bring life on track.

Some children were happy as the schools got open, and some were still stuck in their homes moreover with the responsibilities to support their families in earning their daily bread. However, there were direct interventions in the community being done despite the formidable form of COVID 19 in this annual year.

FOCUS AREAS 21-22

Education

Livelihood

Mental Health

Child Protection & Participation

Covid Relief Work

Children's Literature

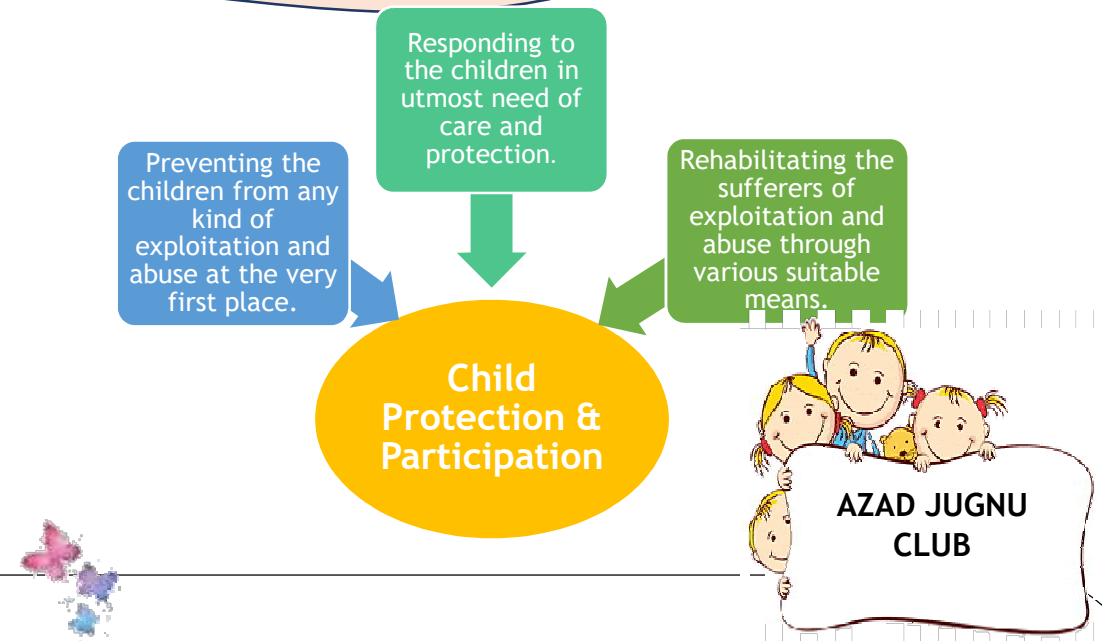
Community & Youth Strengthening



CHILD PROTECTION AND PARTICIPATION

GOALS 2021-22

- ✚ To strengthen children's groups (Azad Jugnu Club) and increase their participation.
- ✚ Designing a child protection body at the district level which can actively participate in preventing, responding, and rehabilitating Child Protection issues.
- ✚ Capacity building of Front-line Workers, Mid-Line workers, and government functionaries for their direct involvement in the community at the district level.
- ✚ To provide national and international platforms to children where they can raise their issues
- ✚ Linking children with education after a huge gap created because of

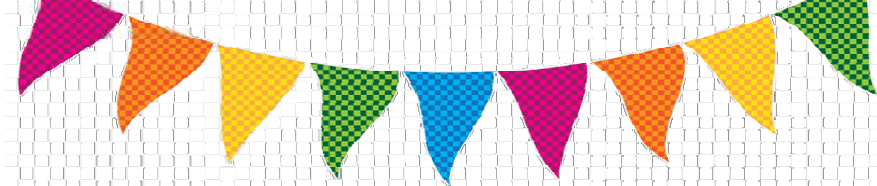


A group of children was made in bastis that used to sit with the teachers to discuss their problems. Various issues like child marriages, violence, addiction, sexual abuse, and cleanliness started coming up on individual and community levels. It was perceived by the children that every child has a common problem and a need to solve that permanently. So why not every child of every settlement should come together to learn and find out the solutions to these issues and fight for their rights. And as a result, in the year 2014, groups of children from 6 settlements of Bhopal of age 6 to 15 years made a collective federation with the name of Azad Jugnu Club by joining hands together indiscriminately and now there are 1000+ children from 19 settlements of Bhopal.

3-4 children act as a representative of their group and do meetings to discuss and frame strategies to curb common issues. These representatives keep changing so that every child gets a chance to open up and develop leadership qualities.

Children are themselves involved in conducting studies and collecting responses from the community for the issues they are facing like education in COVID times, Violence, and Drug addiction. They are further planning to organize a campaign on the city level on the issue of addiction.

Children are now getting aware of their rights and developing the strength to ask for them. They have realized their strength and power of coming together as their issues are now being heard and sometimes solved. Those who used to hesitate earlier to share their problems are now becoming confident in not only sharing but in solving them as well. Communities are also accepting their efforts and supporting them in their activities. They are now getting recognition by government functionaries also through various coordination meetings and training which resulted in acknowledgment of issues.



CREATING A SAFE SPACE FOR CHILDREN -

- ✦ Identification of vulnerable children and linking them with different beneficiaries' schemes,
- ✦ Practical training sessions, advice, advocacy, and capacity building of government stakeholders, children, adolescents, youth, and adults regarding child protection laws and issues, foster care, identification of vulnerable children, sexual and gender-based violence, alternate care, etc.
- ✦ Facilitating children to access concerned government functionaries to address their issues.
- ✦ Promoting collective participation of children, youth, community, and government functionaries,
- ✦ Providing Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support and developing healing techniques,
- ✦ COVID awareness (prevention, testing, and vaccination)



Capacity Building of Government Stakeholders- including Front-line Workers, Mid-Line Workers, District Officers of Municipal Corporation and District Administration

- ✦ A team of 120 Master Trainers (mid-line workers) has developed.
- ✦ 650 Front-Line Workers have been trained at zonal and sector levels.
- ✦ 1133 people as CP structures and CBOs (Mohalla Samiti, Nagar Suraksha Samiti, Shourya Dals, Child Protection Committees, SMC) were trained.
- ✦ 232 CDPOs and Supervisors of the Women and Child Development and Education department were trained.

Documentation of Identity Proofs and other important documents to link them with Government Schemes.

- ✦ 1200 most vulnerable families were supported for making their Ayushman cards, disability certificates, Aadhar cards, ration cards, the rectification of ration cards, e-Shram cards, and were linked with PDS and other government schemes by FLWs and CBOs.
- ✦ 7 females started getting widow pensions.
- ✦ 6 Disability certificates were issued to disable children.
- ✦ 32 Birth Certificates were issued to the children.

Education Support to Children through Community Learning Centres, Libraries, Balwadis.

- ✦ 8 children were supported in submitting their fees and the fees of some vulnerable children were waived off. 30 children were enrolled back in the schools.
- ✦ 1500 children are supported through Community Learning Centers, Libraries, and Balwadis.
- ✦ 25 children were diverted from child labor by connecting them to learning centers.
- ✦ These learning centres also help us to reach and identify the most vulnerable children in communities who are in the need of special care. 6 children got admitted to NRC for getting proper health care.

Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support

- ✚ 1000 Children participated in MHPSS sessions and exercises around group bonding, self-care, stress management, time management, and stress coping mechanisms. Along with this, the concerns around self-image and identity were also part of the discussion.
- ✚ 22 sessions on MHPSS were conducted with around 950 adolescents, youth, and adults.
- ✚ 250 Front-Line workers were given MHPSS Support as they were going through a lot of mental stress and anxiety due to COVID.
- ✚ 9 people with severe depression were counseled by our Barefoot counselors.
- ✚ 3 critical depression cases were referred to clinical psychologists.

Responding on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- ✚ 900 adolescent girls and women got aware of identifying, reporting and laws related to SGBV through regular training sessions.
- ✚ 26 cases of SGBV were reported with the help of the URJA Desk.
- ✚ 13 families were counselled and warned against such cases.

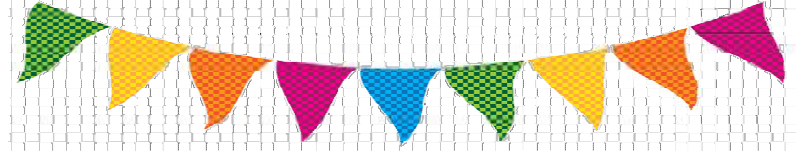
Cases identified and solved - Child Marriages, Violence and Child Abuse

- ✚ 10 cases of Child Marriages have been stopped.
- ✚ 6 Cases of Child Violence were identified out of which 2 were referred to Childline.
- ✚ 1 case of Child Sexual Abuse was also referred to childline.

Creating Awareness in the communities and society.

- ✚ 9 Street Plays were performed by children on child sexual abuse, girls' education, and child marriages and reached around 2500 people.
- ✚ 5 street plays on child labour were organized in crowded areas of the cities in front of unknown audiences which helped us to cover a larger number of people in spreading awareness on the subject.







LIVELIHOOD

ZARIYA FOR WOMEN

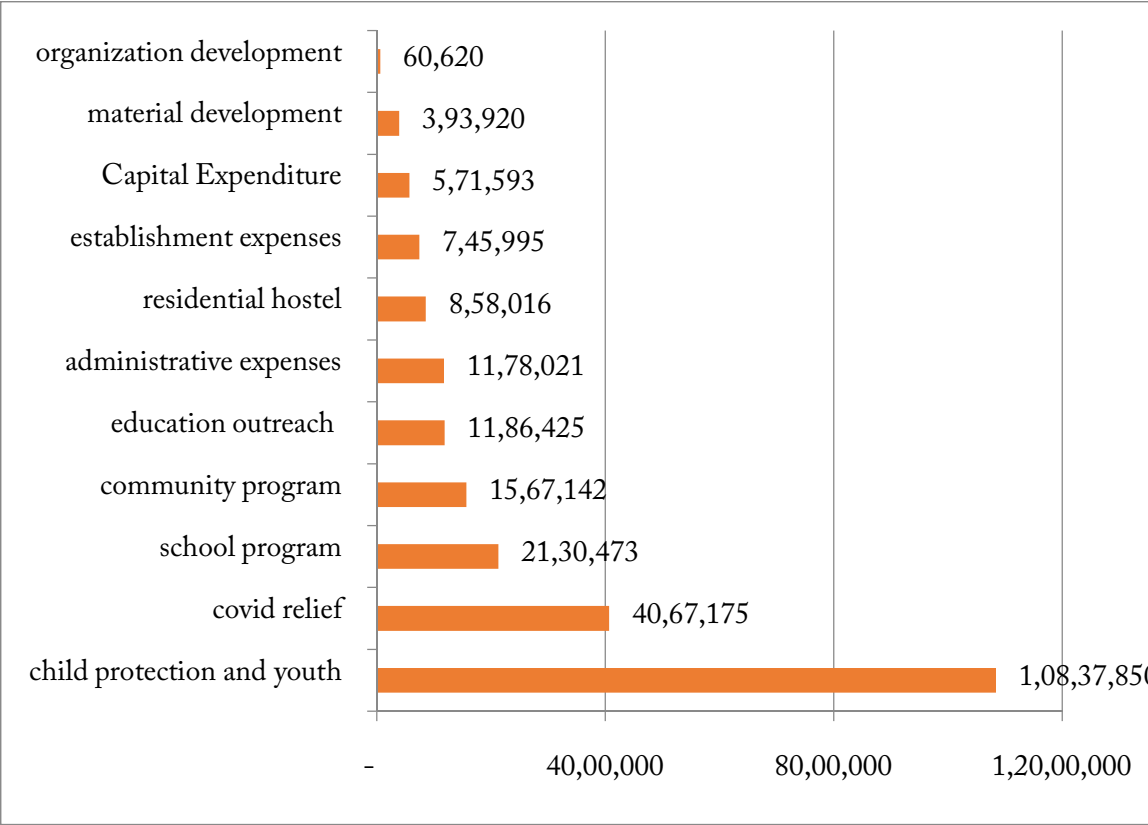
- ✚ About 55 people were provided materials to restart their small businesses.
- ✚ Loans were given out to an additional 44 people, with all savings used up during Covid.
- ✚ Soap making and Dairy making has continued with scrap-picker women and children for a better source of livelihood.
- ✚ Ration shops started during Covid lockdown are continuing to provide quality groceries at wholesale rates.



“Over the period we have realized and understood that if a woman is earning then she is spending most of her earnings on basic household needs like food, clothing, and health, unlike men who spend mostly on what they like. We have observed that once women are sustained with their work then they try to support their family members to be self-reliant. A story of a 60-year-old Tulsa Bai is an inspiration for all of us as she was supported to have her source of income and now, she has turned into an entrepreneur. She started a shop from her own house and through her work, she now earns around 400-500 rupees per day. It’s been eight months since she started her work and has been running successfully and has also expanded as per her capabilities. Being financially independent she started supporting her family with their expenses which brought down the burden on the family. Also, she is quite concerned about her grandson as he doesn’t have any secured source of income so her idea is to support him from her own earnings in starting his own tea shop near the market so that he does have steady work and can be financially independent.”

Financial Position 2021-22

Program Expenditure



Please contact for more information at muskaan@muskaan.org

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We are thankful to our donors and friends

American Jewsih World Seviles Inc

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