

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



EDUCATION



SANITATION



HEALTH



WOMEN



AGRICULTURE

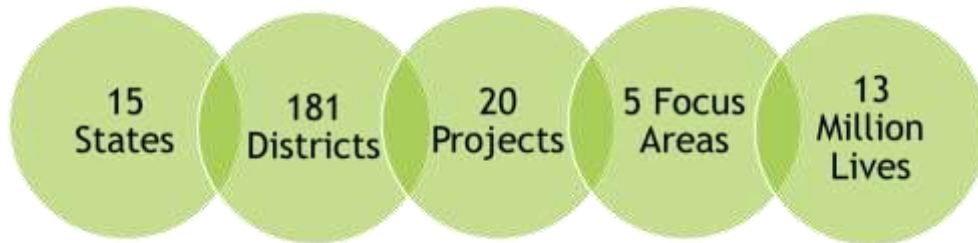
## AIDENT SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATION

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## Light at the end of the Tunnel The year That was



## LOOKING AHEAD AMIDST BAD DREAMS

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

The past year witnessed the best and the worst of the humankind. It proved once again that playing with nature, irrespective of the progress we have made, is like riding a lion. Once you are on it, it is extremely difficult to get off it and that is why the idea of sustainable development is more important than ever. And the enhanced focus on renewable energy last year across globe and particularly in India is a welcome departure towards the goal of sustainable development. This pandemic has also proved again, even in the most developed of the countries, that how poor is the preparation of our public health infrastructure to deal with any kind of pandemic and it has forced us to refocus our priority and revisit our investment priorities. We began our year when the Covid -19 has made its presence felt in India in no uncertain terms and a series of lockdowns accompanied us with the new financial year. Certainly not a very comfortable situation to begin anything.

We all believe that well begun is half done but when whole world is suffering from the pandemic it can be anything but well begun in April. But as we all say tough times never last but tough people do. With the arrival of vaccine across globe there is more than a glimmer of hope that very soon the world would be back to its normal ways. But the whole year gone was an opportunity for any organizational learning. For an organization it was worst of the times all plans and systems were proved inadequate to face this challenge. But these challenges gave us an opportunity to look at our preparedness to face the unseen and act accordingly. For any learning organization like ours it was also best of the times. Calibrating our plans in accordance of emerging situation so that our stakeholders are not left to face the hard times all alone and in whatever way possible we remain in touch with them and extend our helping hand in whatever way it is possible.

## FACING THE PANDEMIC-HUMAN CRISIS AND COVID





With the onset of pandemic, the first casualty was the livelihood itself. People struggling to make two ends meet even in normal times were in for a very hard time. It required immense fortitude, forbearance and faith on their parts to face the lockdown and its impact. Extraordinary situation needs extraordinary responses. And no response, in our recent memory, can be termed more extraordinary than what has been displayed in the last one year by one hundred and thirty crores of people of our country. But this display of immense certitude has required immense inner strength on the part of those who have got the end of the stick in the whole process - People working in unorganised sector (largely migrant laborers), who incidentally are the largest percentage of the working population, daily wage earners, house maids, hawkers and the list goes on. Even in the best of the times these people struggle hard to have two meal a day and it has turned into worse with the lockdown. Efforts on all the levels from all sectors are on to ameliorate the hardship faced by the marginalised sections of the society. And as an organisation working with the same population for last twenty years, we also tried to mobilise our resources to fight this battle.

Team Aident tried to extend its helping hand to the people of Janta colony, Welcome, Trilokpuri, Sahabad Dairy, Bhalswa Village; Delhi, Jajpur, Kalinga Nagar, Odisha; Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum District of Jamshedpur Jharkhand; Panipat District of Haryana; Ludhiana District of Punjab; Purnea and Buxar District of Bihar; Bulandshahar and Mathura District of Uttar Pradesh. Creating awareness about Corona and ways and means to prevent its spread, running community Kitchen, distribution of Free dry ration, milk for the kids, mask for all, sanitary napkin for women, were some of the activities which we took up. Through all these activities we tried to reach out to different demography- migrant, SC, ST, TG, rural, families of the Child labours and so on.

All of this was made possible because of generous support of our partner agencies and people around us. Tata Power, Nestle India, Tata Steel, IEL, Tata Cummins, Panjab National Bank, all supported us in this endeavor. To make this whole process more targeted East Singhbhaum district administration identified us as one of the nodal agencies and asked us to focus on those areas which are underserved by Public Distribution System. Apart from these we also focused on identification of the population not covered by the PDS, identifying hard to reach areas and



small habitation, identification and training of volunteers, identification of areas where daily wage labourers have got stuck and need immediate help, identification of places which can be converted into quarantine centres, etc. We ensured that all vulnerable groups including pregnant women and malnourished children are provide with ration and desired nourishment. We are committed to continue our effort in these times of immense human crisis and sure that the human spirit would again triumph over this unfolding human tragedy. In our ongoing march of defeating Corona, we hope to find us all together in it and pretty sure that your commitment towards human emancipation would shine more brightly in these dark times.

## **SOCIAL ENGINEERING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**

### **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

In the social matrix women held such a position where she wields influence all aspect of society. A society where women is treated as a second-class citizen can never aspire to be a developed society. The way to improve any constituents of human development index goes through women. From participatory democracy and self-government to adolescents' well-being to malnourishment and infant mortality there is hardly any process of socio-economic transformation which does not require the pivotal role for women to make them more effective and sustainable in the long run. It is this understanding that women always enjoy a very prominent role in all our projects and this strategy has yielded some very heart-warming results. Seeing women having operating bank accounts which has thousands of rupees, their very own money, in a society where women never thought of having an account because they had hardly any money or decision making powers to utilize whatever money they have reaffirms our belief that changes at the socio-economic level, using women as the agency of change, may take time to

find its root but with patience and perseverance it can be nurtured and made sustainable.

In our continuous effort to bring women to the centre of developmental process we are working with more than two thousand women in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and Kalinga agar of Odisha. Starting from weekly savings of 10-20 rupees to having group saving which sometime touches lakh have proved to be an excellent example of financial inclusion and fiscal discipline, because now they understand what all they can do with their money. This ready access to substantial amount has made the need to go to the local money sharks irrelevant. When someone in family brakes his legs they don't ponder that from where the money would come from. It is there in their personal account and if need is more, they can easily get it from their group on a nominal interest rate.

With the growing maturity of group, they have been expanding their income generation activities every year. What make all these efforts remarkable that it does not require them to leave their home. All the activities are designed in the manner that they can carry out almost all of them without disturbing their other domestic responsibility. Making vermin-compost and rearing of goat, duck, poultry, pig, kitchen garden, mushroom farming, running grocery shop, tailoring shop are all such activity which is yielding good income and being done by utilizing the extra time they have in their hand.



## **INTEGRATED FARMING STRENGTHENING THE CORE**

Any effort of transforming the live of farmers start with providing them with access to water and exposing them to modern sustainable techniques of agriculture and cutting down the Intermediaries between farmers and consumers. But all these are only possible if the land is not fragmented and that is why our every agriculture project has started by bringing the marginal farmers on board by making them understand them the benefit of coming together, working together and farming together. Every such successful endeavor has raised the demand of many more such endeavor and that is why what started as a small initiative with 5 acres has almost reached 50 acres and demand for this intervention is growing by the day. With the support of Tata Power and Tata Cummins we are gradually creating a system which becomes self-sustainable by the end of third year.

Starting with levelling of the farm, an uneven piece of land, dotted with small hillocks and boulders, ensuring them with perennial water provision, development of nursery for quality sapling, provision of drip irrigation for optimal use of water and targeted supply of nutrients, mulching to reduce the water requirement and to ensure the moisture content in soil, change in cropping pattern, taking farmers for exposure trips, creating backward and forward linkages to the market to get best possible price for the produce we have tried to cover all the dimensions. But the dimensions of our agricultural activities are ever increasing. Realizing the benefits of integral farming we are gradually integrating livestock farming with our agriculture activities and trying to develop a modal of farming where we can enhance the farmers income without putting too much pressure on land. This modal is not only ensuring that the farmers look at farming in a new perspective where it is no longer a

drudgery but an exercise which gives you back in ample way on sustainable basis.



## **SUSTAINABLE SANITATION**

Reaching to the top is always tough but to sustain it is always tougher. Working in the area of sanitation for more than 15 years what we learnt is that reaching ODF status with a community which has hardly any exposure of household latrine has always been an uphill task but to ensure that this status is not only maintain but they continue their journey towards total sanitation requires more close and intense engagement with the community. But the template of the mobilisation



remains same. As one of the earliest practitioners of Community Led Total Sanitation, we have learnt that only a well aware and empowered community can move towards ODF status and beyond. BY creating multiple forum/platform we have ensured that the engagements with the primary stakeholders remain as intense whether to achieve ODF status or to go beyond. But once we move beyond ODF community engagement demands new form of engagements as well while continuing with older form of engagements to ensure segregation of wastage/resources at the source level as well as continuance of dealing at the household level to ensure that there is no lapse in using household latrine each time-every time.



Continuing with our focus on making family , community the vane guard of social change we have engaged the local women SHG members for the

implementation of community based Solid Waste/Resource management. Continuing with our strategy to inspire and encourage the family so many families constructed and keep using the individual household latrine in East Singhbhum in Jharkhand and Kalinga Nagar in Odisha.

Thus last year we worked with three goals. Ensuring that the remaining family in our project area build their household latrine, secondly people having latrine continue to use it without fail and more and more area is covered with Wastage/ resource collection so the more and more community takes a positive step towards total sanitation.

With intangible benefit to the community because of ODF status the SHG members involve in are also benefitting from this whole initiative by collecting user charges as well by turning organic items into manure and selling it back to community for farming purposes. After segregating the items it is being supplied to the different agencies which are involved in recycling and the group earn significant amount from them as well.

Putting the community at the helm of affairs we have been able to create an ecosystem where community took it upon itself to keep moving up on the sanitation ladder while ensuring that there is no slip back.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### ELEPHANTIASIS

**Lymphatic filariasis**, popularly Known as elephantiasis continues to be the major cause of disability in the world, and approximately 120 million people are infected. It is a neglected tropical disease caused by parasitic worms. At least 43 percent of people with Lymphatic filariasis live in India, where Lymphatic filariasis has reached endemic proportions across 256 districts in 16 states. The Covid-19 has been a bow to the LF elimination program as all the government LF program become delayed

and the social mobilization become impossible due to lockdown and fear of disease. The program took place after June 2020 as the government ease the lockdown in phased manner. In this year we have worked in 89 districts of 8 states and engaged 267 people as Social Mobilization Coordinators and District Coordinators. A training module for effective communication during Drug Administration with focus on Interpersonal Communication was also developed. The focus of this module was to develop tools to explain the cause, symptoms and elimination of filariasis in a simple manner. This module was used to train and capacitate Drug Administrators (DA) to convince communities about benefits of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) and motivate them to take advantage of this campaign leading to increased uptake of drugs.





We fully understand the role and importance of member of local governance in success of any mass campaign and Programme. An empowered PRI brings a lot of support for any kind of mass targeted programme. As part of our mobilization process a training module was develop to sensitize and create awareness around LF for PRI members. In each block an orientation workshop was organized and the PRI member were engaged to make them realise the threat LF poses to general public with the help of different interactive exercises and games. Bringing these PRI member on board not only ensured support during MDA but also in the process of social mobilization which is the main focus of our project. For this purpose, not only, our SMCs mobilized the PRI members but also used different tools to reach out to common public and made them



realized the need to develop immunity against LF by utilizing the MAD round. Apart from posters, pamphlet, munadi and wall painting our SMC reached uses various platforms to reach out to the different segment of society. To amplify this effort, they concentrated on schools and organize a series of events like essay competition, drawing competition, debate and discussion. To reach out to each and every family we also used the agency of women SHG in states like Bihar where almost every village has a SHG. Apart from reaching out to them we also mobilized all the ANM, ASHA and Anganwadi workers to ensure that their access to each and every household is fully utilized to amplify the demand for drug.

### **ELIMINATION OF KALA AZAR**

Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), popularly known as Kala Azar, is of major public health importance in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, affecting the poorest population groups, primarily in rural areas. More than 60% of the world's VL cases are reported from these three countries and an estimated 150 million people are at risk of VL in 109 districts in India. Most of these districts are from Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The region reports 40,000 or more cases per year, but these official figures highly underestimate the real burden of VL in the region which results in an estimated loss of 400,000 disability-adjusted life years annually. A staggering loss.

Until recently the diagnosis of Kala Azar posed a challenge in rural area because the existing diagnostic tools were not so reliable. But with the emergence and utilization of rK39 dipstick test, with a sensitivity of 97% to 100% and a specificity of 86% to 92% the challenge is more or less solved. It has been found to be accurate and reliable for diagnosis when used in combination with a clinical case definition and has been adopted by the VL elimination program in India. The target is to reduce the occurrence of Kala Azar to less than one case per 10,000 population. Of late the treatment of VL has witnessed a great improvement. For more

than 60 y, VL treatment in the region consisted of injectable drugs such as the antimonial sodium stibogluconate (SAG), with decreasing cure rates. But with the arrival of several option the situation is improving and The VL elimination program of India has recommended the use of miltefosine until an effective combination therapy is available. But all this development in the field of diagnostic kit and treatment would have no impact if the people are not aware about the deadly impact of Kala Azar and the ways and means of eliminating it.



These RMCs were provided training time to time to develop knowledge about the Kala Azar and skill on interpersonal communication on mobilization. The objective of the training program was:  
To enhance knowledge on filarial, KALA AZAR, transmission, and its elimination.

- Enhance knowledge and skills on interpersonal communication and social mobilization.
- Knowledge about the project objective, deliverable, and reporting system through MIS.
- Role and responsibility of an RMC to implement this project in the field.
- Process of admin, finance, and support service

The RMCs are equipped with Laptops and other electronic equipment's for working effectively from home during this COVID-19 crisis. They can work on MIS, ODK, profiling and timely reporting.



## HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

Our fight against HIV and AIDS continued this year as well. Working with all the segments of vulnerable population- Commercial Sex Workers, Transgenders, Hijras, Injecting Drug Users, Truck Drivers, MSM – in Jahangirpuri, Trilokpuri, Mathura, Purnia, Jalandhar & Jamshedpur Districts in states of Delhi, Punjab Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand. From identification of new stakeholders to ensuring their HIV test and VDRL as well as their clinic visit and providing continued services to our already registered stakeholders, we reached out to 1908 Commercial Sex Workers, 857 Transgenders Hijras, 1000 Injecting Drug Users, 15,000 Truck Drivers, 300, MSM.

The year of 2020-21 was a year of learning, unlearning and relearning for



team AIDENT. Learning from the community at large, unlearning our own prejudices and biases and relearning to respect the wisdom of the community.

## JEEVIKA

In its reach and transformative implication there are very few states level programs which can even come closer to Bihar government Jeevika programme. Reaching out to more than Nine Lakh SHG Groups which roughly translate into more than one crore twenty women members. Breathtaking into its dimension and more so in its potential to change the very socio-economic landscape of Bihar. As an NGO partner of the TSU, run by PCI, we have the privilege of working with so many women on their health, nutrition and sanitation. But this year posed a serious challenge to its reach and the way of working. But for us it was too important a mission to be left for Covid-19 to subside because It could have serious repercussion to the whole movement of women emancipation in Bihar. We needed to overcome the challenge and the technology proved to be a great asset in reaching out to them. It all started with reaching out to each and every member and making them realise how important it is to adhere to the government instruction to save them and their family from the pandemic. It was also an opportunity to underline that how focus on health, nutrition and sanitation helps us to enhance our immunity which is so important in the case of Covid-19. It all started with the training of our area coordinator (AC), community coordinator (CC), Master Resource person (CRP), Block Program Manager (BPM) community Nutrition Resource Person (CNRP) and Community Mobiliser (CM) as part of the TOT were trained in different aspects of Covid-19 through virtual platform in phases. Adopting the cascade approach these training was conducted across Bihar and they became the messenger which create awareness across the length and breadth of Bihar through our Jivika Didi.

With the easing out of restriction related to Covid-19 we continued with our effort towards Poshan Abhiyaan. Adopting hybrid mode, we were able

to train/orient all the cadre from district to community level. As part of our quality assessment of our HNS intervention an ODK link was shared with the HNS cadre which consisted questionnaire related with module roll out, quality of facilitators, knowledge & retention of SHG members, change in behavior and practices among SHG members. This survey was analyzed and based on it finding a strategy was planned for continuous improvement. All this effort was supported by developing many more BCC session video on Nutrition themes like Complementary feeding, Dietary diversity, Breastfeeding and Nutri garden.

Keeping ear to the ground we are always receptive to emerging challenges in the field of health. Looking at the increasing case of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome virtual training of 113 MRP, 535 CNRP & 8470 CMs of Muzaffarpur, Sheohar & East-champaran district on AES was conducted so that all the Jivika Didi are well aware about the danger of these disease, how to protect it and in case of its occurrence in their family how to go about its treatment in consultation of the doctor.



## **TARA- INVESTING IN FUTURE**

Investing in an adolescent's girls means investing in the future of a family. Our project Transformative Action for Rural Adolescents (TARA), driven by evidence based approach, is focused at improving the life skills of adolescents girls. In its pilot phase right now, it is being implemented in Sanjhauli and Nokha Block of Rohtas districts, Bihar. This initiative is aimed at empowerment of adolescent girls and to support girls to prepare and participate actively, effectively, and equally at all levels.

Because of the disruption caused by COVID-19 a need was felt to do the remapping of the Girls. Final list of adolescent girls was prepared with the support of JEEViKA for treatment and control clusters. Total 1699 samples have been identified from treatment cluster and 1544 samples from control clusters.

## **EDUCATION**

Nothing influences the wellbeing of a society in a long run than providing education to its children. From the very inception we have been engaged with children's education and the journey still continues. And this engagement has almost covered to whole oeuvre. From tribal children to child labour to rural children to children of the marginalised community in metropolitan like Delhi we have learnt the challenges of dealing with them. From providing slate pencil and bag to providing an opportunity of learning the digital way through smart classes to designing the text book and work book we have tried to touch all the bases to ensure that these kids living at the margins of the society must become part of the main stream and contribute towards the overall growth of the society as well become the just partner and beneficiary of the great Indian growth story.

Starting from a tin shade in Dhirpur village of Delhi till now we have worked with more than twenty thousand of kids in various states like Jharkhand, Odisha, Delhi, Bihar and Haryana. Creating different platforms for engagements with parents, to reduce the vulnerability of child for dropping out to using new innovative pedagogical tools like learning from doing and joyful learning. But this year posed us a challenge which, like all others we were also not prepared off. What made the situation more difficult was the area and the population we are working with. With hardly any access to smart phone or having only one such phone in the whole family, going virtual mode was a difficult proposition. But as we say where is a will there is a way. Our teachers went beyond the call of their duty and decided to reach out the kids by visiting their locality. Reaching out to them was of utmost important, they being mostly from the family of first-generation learners. It ensured that all the effort to mainstream them and retain them would go waste if they would be left



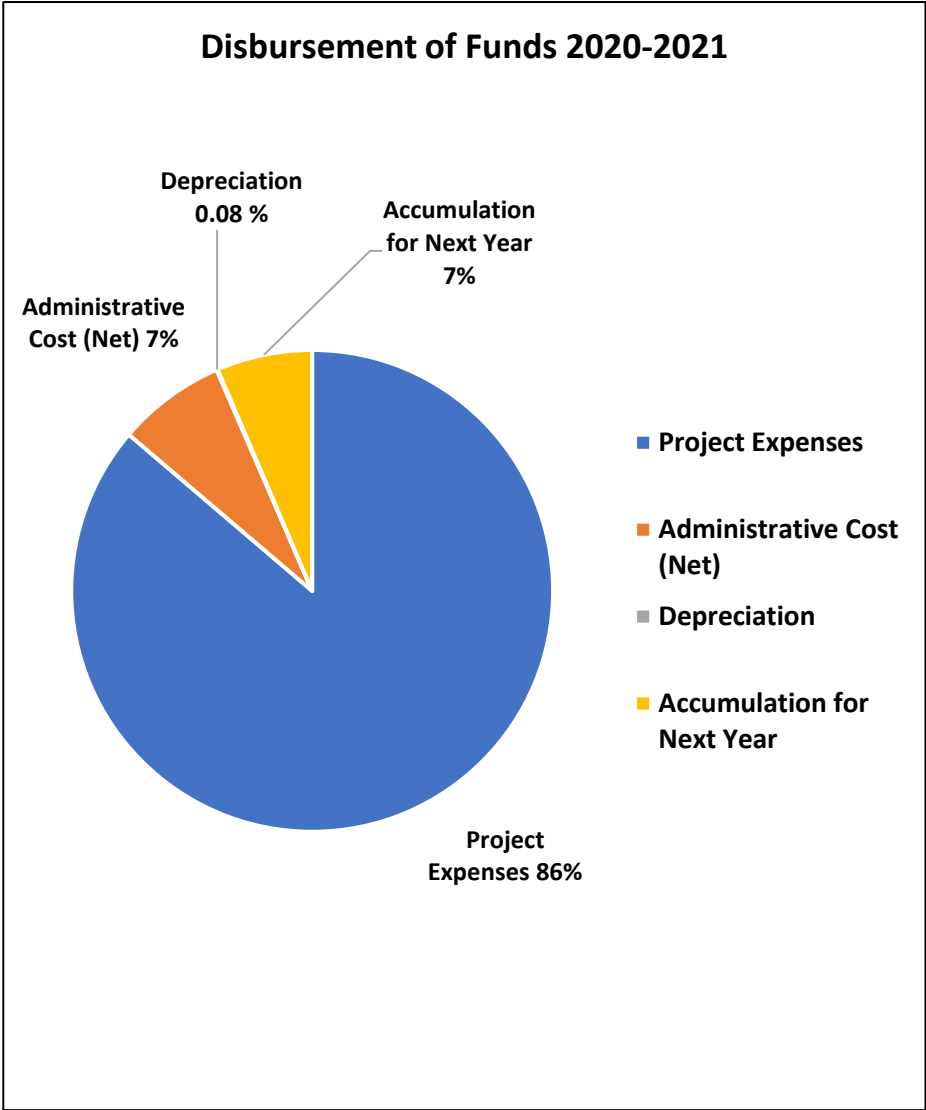
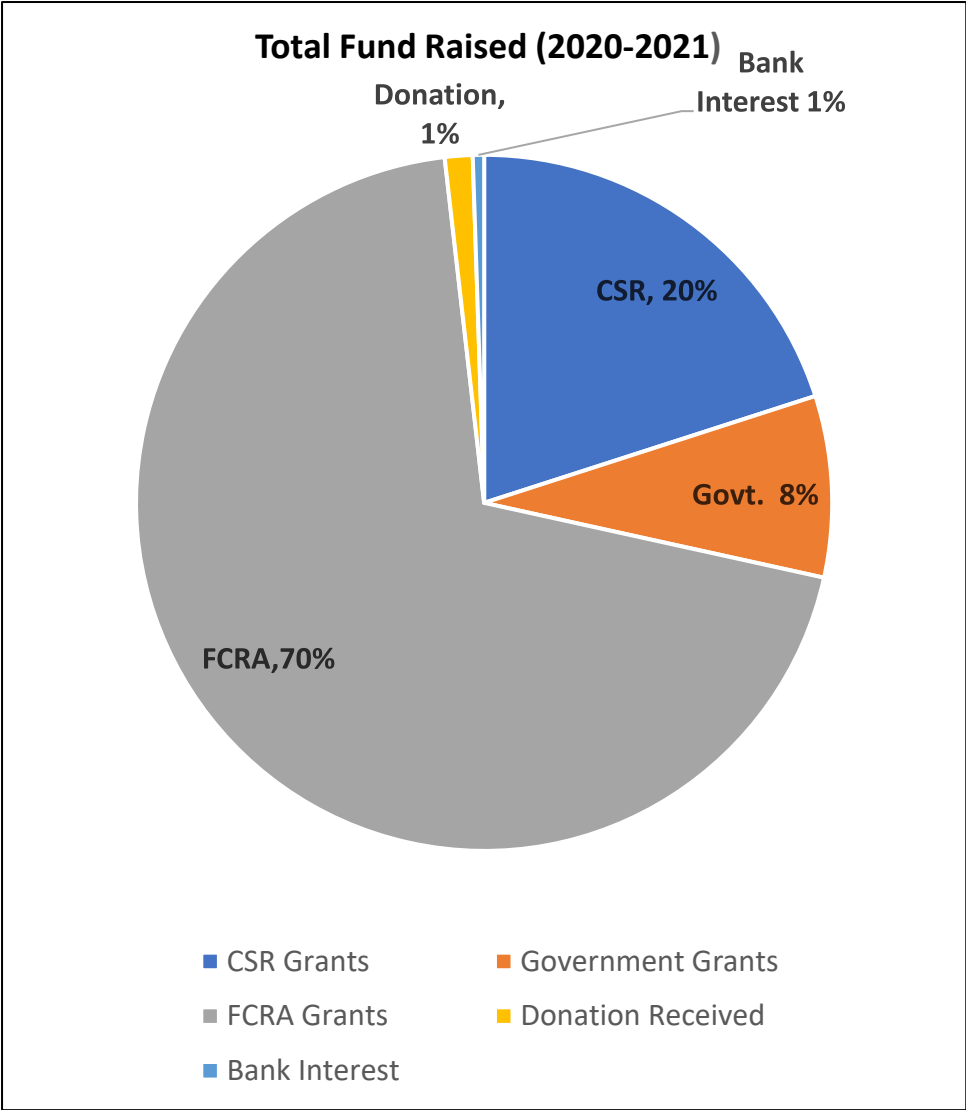
to fend for themselves. The challenge was multi fold. In no circumstances we could have defied the instruction of government. Secondly, we were

programmatically and morally committed to provide children all the necessary helps which needed to continue with their education.



Our teachers decided to visit all the habitats of our project area in East Singhbhum district and Kalinga Nagar. Maintaining the social distancing norms, ensuring the wellbeing of children and continuing with their education was done by creating a makeshift arrangement in their neighborhood where on periodic level they used to assemble and got much needed help from our teachers. To ensure that they continue to get their much-needed nutrition dry ration was delivered to their family Even by the year end school is yet to open but our effort has ensured that window of opportunity has not shut down on the children and they can continue live, learn, thrive and write their future.

# Financial Report



## OUR HELPING HANDS

