

GRAM SEWA SANGH

Nagpur

Presents

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

2020 - 2021

PROFILE

**Empowering under privileged Children and
Women of Urban, Rural & Tribal Regions
And their Holistic Development, Specially
Education, Health, Agriculture, and
Research.**

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GRAM SEWA SANGH, NAGPUR

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APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

1) Introduction:

Gram Sewa Sangh is a Non - Profit Charitable trust established on 31st December 1993, registered as a Non- Government Organization (Society Act) MH/874/93/NGP by the Nagpur Charity Commissioner and also registered as a charitable trust under Bombay Public Trust Act. BPT No.: -F-11264/NGP, founded by late Mr. Philip A Paranjape who died on 17th Oct 2013. Now, Mr. Vishal Philip Paranjape is the current President of this Organization.

2) Our Vision:

- a) To achieve the basic goal of livelihoods education and to provide opportunity for a secure and sustainable livelihoods ensuring quality of life for parents and children.
- b) To have an equal opportunity for all to fulfill basic needs including health, education & sustainable environment in a society. Creating “One Asian Community without Poverty.”
- c) To create happier and healthier childhood by providing the children a healthy environment to live, learn, play and grow.
- d) We aim to provide support, encouragement and care to needy students and deprived people in the society with special focus on slums and rural communities and aim to bring change in their lives.
- e) A world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and all people live in dignity and security.

3) Our Mission:

The GSS is committed to work for the holistic development of people & society particularly in weaker section. Our mission is:

- a) To provide best Education and guidance to shape the future of the underprivileged children.
- b) To empower underprivileged children, youth and women through education, healthcare and livelihood programs.
- c) To end hunger by empowering women to provide sustainable strategies to feed and help their families.
- d) Helping children receive adequate care, love, and education so they can grow up to lead productive and meaningful lives.
- e) To improve the living conditions in slums and rural population.

4) Target Group:

Empowering under privileged Children and Women of Urban, Rural & Tribal Regions and their Holistic Development, Specially Education, Health, Agriculture and Research are some of our focal areas.

The large population of India that has crossed one billion, is causing hardship to Government to provide minimum standard of living / necessary basic need to every individuals i.e. food, shelter, education, health, environment etc. we have a concern towards Unemployment, below poverty, hopelessness, depression, and diverting some of them towards crime /suicide, which is fatal for society. Our GSS wants to bring smile on the poor face and work for the society.

5) Project Activities:

1) Child Academy Nagpur - Gram Sewa Sangh Nagpur works towards the betterment of underprivileged children. Many activities are undertaken to ensure that the underprivileged children are provided opportunities to be educated. Special emphasis is given on girl education and women education. We work towards improving the basic literacy and numeracy skills of children and provide vocational and skill training leading to job opportunities for youth from socio economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

CHILD ACADEMY NAGPUR



Child Academy Nagpur is a project of **Gram Sewa Sangh**, an NGO promoting education, health, research and welfare in India. **Gram Sewa Sangh** is committed to providing basic education and healthcare to underprivileged children. We believe that whether you are addressing healthcare, poverty, population control, unemployment or human rights, there's no better place to start than in the corridors of education.

Education is both the means as well as the end to a better life; means, because it empowers an individual to earn his/her livelihood and the end because it increases one's awareness on a range of issues – from healthcare to appropriate social behavior to understanding one's rights, and in the process evolve as a better citizen.

Child Academy Nagpur focuses on education for underprivileged children who are under difficult circumstances, such as child labor, children of poorest of the parents, street and runaway children and slum children. Special emphasis is given on girl education and women education, so that they and their families get empowered. Their parents are mainly working as labors in construction sites or work as auto drivers, rickshaw pullers, vegetable vendors, or domestic help. We motivate their parents through counseling sessions to send their children to Child Academy Nagpur.

We work towards improving the basic literacy and numeracy skills of children and provide vocational and skills training leading to job opportunities for youth from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We not only provide them with an opportunity to learn, but a sense of dignity and purpose. We also conduct awareness programs for them. Since its establishment, more than 500 underprivileged children who are registered as well as non-registered have directly benefitted from the Child Academy Nagpur Project.



In order to empower every child with education, **Child Academy Nagpur**



has been providing educational material to these poor children living in slum who attend Government Schools. We provide educational material consisting of text books, notebooks, geometry box, pencils, pens, and school uniforms, clothes, shoes, school bag, lunch box. We select the candidates by personal visits to their homes

to assess the family background.

Our main aim behind the **Project Child Academy Nagpur** is to increase the individual's general and academic skills and enhance the ability to take responsibility for their own life, as well as taking an active and engaged part in society. The Parents of these children don't encourage studying because they are not educated themselves and do not fully understand the value of education. We want the underprivileged children to get education so that they can have good jobs and earn a decent living. We *take* pride in educating *poor children* who really *need* it.



2) Grocery Distribution to poor women

Grocery Distribution and Awareness program on COVID-19

As per the government guidelines we are not allowed for large gatherings so we had gathered women in groups of 10-10 and distributed them grocery items.

Many women came forward to speak about their problems they faced during this difficult time. Many of them lost their jobs and are left with no source of income. It becomes difficult for them to survive and fulfill the basic needs of the family. The most affected by the crisis are the underprivileged laborers and workers. Their pain cannot be expressed in words. We are doing our part to help them in some ways.

We had also conducted an awareness program on COVID-19. We provided general introduction to COVID-19 and basic hygiene measures to protect against infection. The women live in slum where people are uneducated and do not know the harmful effects of not following the guidelines for corona virus. We advised them to stay safe by taking some simple precautions, such as social distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, cleaning your hands, and coughing into a bent elbow or tissue. Check local advice where they live and work. We advised them to make wearing a mask a normal part of being around other people. Also showed them the appropriate use, storage, cleaning and disposal of the masks. As the risks of getting COVID-19 are higher in crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces where these people spend long periods of time together in close proximity. These environments are where the virus appears to spread by respiratory droplets or aerosols more efficiently, so taking precautions is even more important. We told them to seek medical attention immediately if they have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing.





3) A Story of Blind Women



LIFE IN DARKNESS: Story of a Blind Woman Finding Hope in Darkness

This is a story of an old blind woman named **Shanti Bai** living in the small hut made of tins, cardboard and other waste material in the slum. There is a severe shortage of space in the house. Her daughter and son in law also live in her small house. Both husband and wife torture the old woman who is completely blind. Her daughter was very good in her childhood time. She used to work to fulfill their basic requirements and took care of her house and blind mother. But now things have changed drastically. After her marriage she considers her mother as a burden on her. She (daughter) along with her husband does not want to carry her expenses. They don't even give the blind lady proper food to eat and she often sleeps hungry. This is an unbelievable situation where a daughter tries to dump her own mother on the roads, considering her a burden on her. Her health problem doesn't allow her to work. It was difficult before the pandemic but, during lockdown, it has been a worst experience-she hasn't been able to do simple things like open a window. Her daughter no longer takes care of her. With no choice left, she started begging for her daily meals. She often spends time in neighbors' houses or on streets as she feels unsafe at her own home. She said "words cannot explain the grief that I have experiences. My heart breaks when I think of that pain I have gone through. I cry thinking about how my own child treated me. I was old, frail and illiterate. I used to pray to God that some angel would come from somewhere and take me away from this pain."

Our resource person Chanda Bai who is also working as a cook for Child Academy Nagpur came to know about the poor situation of the blind woman through her neighbors. They said that the blind woman wants to meet Vishal Paranjape who is known as slum's (Vishal Bhaiya)



Project Director of Child Academy Nagpur. Chanda Bai has informed Vishal Bhaiya about the blind woman's situation. Vishal bhaiya immediately decided to meet her. He told Chanda Bai to please inform the blind women that he will be coming tomorrow to meet her.

Next day, Vishal Bhaiya visited the slum to meet her even at the difficult time of COVID-19 Pandemic. The blind woman heard Vishal bhaiya's voice and started crying. She told him, her whole story how she has struggled to live in her own

house and how her daughter is no longer supporting her and tried to throw her away from her own house. Her story was too emotional to make any one cry. The blind woman says that now she doesn't have any will to live.

In this difficult situation, Vishal Bhaiya requested some of the people who stay in the slum to keep her in their house to eliminate her fear and loneliness. He said that Child Academy Nagpur will provide things of basic requirements and grocery for her. He thanked the neighbors and the people who have supported the blind woman in this difficult time. He said that now Gram Sewa Sangh / AFS Nagpur, India organization will take care of the blind women. After hearing this, there was a smile on that blind woman's face and she found some hope in her dark times.

4) COVID-19 Relief Activity:

Child Academy Nagpur is a project of **Gram Sewa Sangh / AFS Nagpur, INDIA** an NGO promoting education, health, research and welfare in India. Gram Sewa Sangh is committed to providing basic education and healthcare to underprivileged children. Child Academy Nagpur focuses on education for underprivileged children who are under difficult circumstances, such as child labor, children of poorest of the parents,



street and runaway children and slum children. Special emphasis is given on girl education and women education, so that they and their families get empowered. In order to empower every child with education, Child Academy Nagpur has been providing educational material and free remedial classes to these poor children living in slum who attend Government Schools.

COVID PANDEMIC OVERVIEW: The spread of SARS-CoV-2 poses one of the greatest challenges to humankind in recent history. The abrupt-hit of Covid-19 pandemic has not only wrecked terrible damage in India's public health but also plunged the country into a deep socio-economic crisis. The prevalence of pandemic in cities has unquestionably augmented chronic distress among the urban poor living in a slum.

Slum residents in India are likely to experience a higher level of malnutrition compared to their non-slum counterparts. For instance, children residing in slums of Delhi, Mumbai, Meerut, Hyderabad, and **Nagpur** suffer from underweight compared to non-slum areas. Among the adults, the trend is similar; both the men and women in slums are thinner than that of non-slums. Undoubtedly, slum people with poor immunity and lack of nutritious food are highly vulnerable to withstand. The physical environment of slums is commonly known to lead to an increased spread of infectious diseases in such settings. Due to structural and social aspects of many slum environments, efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, such as hand washing, self-isolation and physical distancing are not feasible. Slum households are often characterized by their lack of access to safe water and sanitation.



Moreover, cost and distance are the major challenges faced by slum residents in accessing healthcare facilities which often directs them to approach informal, unregulated private providers. As the early symptoms of Covid-19 are hardly detectable from other common illnesses like fever or cold, it makes the situation dreadful for informal settlements and the only way to tackle is to undergo testing. Unfortunately, India has extremely under-performed in terms of testing compared to other countries in the world.

Being an integral part of the city's economy, slums supply cheap labor, domestic help, and other services to different parts in the city. So, the nationwide workplace closure left a devastating impact on slum people as most of the informal workers of slums gets into the contract of 'no work no pay', which enhanced their job insecurity and inability to feed their family. However, a huge number of people of slum are mainly working as labors in construction sites or work as auto drivers, rickshaw pullers, vegetable vendors, or domestic help. The Corona virus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown have affected us in many ways, but it has affected the poor and the marginalized sections of the society the most. It has resulted in an economic crisis, resulting in loss of livelihoods of daily wage workers and migrant laborers.



In the current scenario, it is extremely important to support the livelihood of those who lost their source of income during these testing times. In India too, the Covid-19 pandemic and the national lockdown have led to a loss of livelihoods and has added

to the demand depression that the country was already facing. The situation of the poor in the country was worsening even in the period before the lockdown with stagnant rural wages and unemployment at its highest. After the lockdown was announced, the migrant crisis was immediately visible with thousands of migrants walking on the highways trying to get back to their homes. The parents of our project children are facing a lot of difficulty in fulfilling the basic requirements of the family as they lost their job and are sitting at home with no work since 1 year. They are left with no money to buy food for the family. They beg for money from other people to buy food. Many times they skip their meals too.

Though the government is distributing food items to the poor people but still large numbers of people are not in reach of those distribution programs and are starving for food. We also helped people by distributing grocery items to them during the first wave of Corona virus but still they are struggling to buy food for their families as they are now unemployed.



5) OUR UPCOMING CORONA RELIEF PROGRAM: The need for relief is urgent and huge. We are providing groceries to the poor families of the slum since the pandemic has begun. We have used our funds now we need your support to provide grocery items to the families of our project children living in slum who have lost their jobs during this pandemic so that they will not suffer from hunger. We are targeting to provide groceries for 4 months to 60 families so that the families will be able to survive a few additional weeks.



We are planning to provide groceries for 4 months i.e. June, July, August and September 2021. The total amount required to buy the groceries will be:

Each Relief Package includes:

S.NO	PRODUCT	QUANTITY
1	Cooking oil	2 Packets
2	Rice	5kg

3	Wheat Flour	10kg
4	Rava(Semolina)	1kg
5	Pulses	2kg
6	Soya Chunks	200gm
7	Sugar	2kg
8	Salt	1 packet
9	Poha	1 kg
10	Soap	2 bar
11	Washing Powder	1 kg
12	Toothpaste	1 tube
13	Biscuits	4 packets
14	Red Chili	200gm
15	Turmeric	200gm
16	Coriander Powder	200gm
		Total

FUTURE PLANS:-

- Child Education Program.
- Implementation and safety of slums family members and children's.
- Child Development Program.
- Income generating Programs.
- Environment Growth[Green Scout School]
- Agricultural Development.
- Self help group [women Empowerment]
- To make a Medical facility available especially for Slums and village people.
- Sustainable life thorough green environment and ideal habitat in the new millennium.
- To enhance the activity of green scout movement in Nagpur region.
- To make a members of AFS and tree plantation in surrounding area by taking the help of local medical personal for ongoing training of the community health volunteers .
- Primarily child labor, women empowerment, organic farming, youth programs to be initiated.
- To organize training program for women and men. So that they may improve their financial status for self reliance.
- To repair and develop the infrastructure of GSS for making more facilities for the future programs.
- To repair the houses of project CAN children's.
- To provide nutrition to the project children's families for better growth of health.

Respectfully submitted by

President / Secretary
GRAM SEWA SANGH
Nagpur.