

Girls are thrilled with the leaf bowls they have as the trainer looks on



Annual Report
2020-2021



Our Vision

A just and humane society that ensures equal opportunities for quality of life to every citizen of India through relevant and quality education to the most marginalized.



Our Mission

Development Focus promotes relevant and quality education for the most marginalized sections of the society by engaging with and building the capacity of civil society actors such that it leads to educated, egalitarian and empowered communities.



Our Values

Hope | Respect | Commitment |
Accountability | Transparency



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1. Foreword



The year that went by was unprecedented and had many of us go through traumatic experiences due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Families from the poorer sections of society were the worst affected with multiple calamities hitting them hard. Sudden loss of livelihood, no place to stay, no way to go back home and the fear of getting infected – all hit them at the same time. As an organisation with our office in Bangalore, we had to make decisions. Should we close the office and work from home? Should we do something to alleviate suffering? If yes, this is an unplanned intervention and where will we find the money? People could not meet in the field, and activities of ongoing projects came to a standstill. A time of great need was staring at us. We decided that we need to act. Although totally unplanned, we started distributing dry rations to migrant workers stuck in Bangalore and few in Aizawl. We were one of the first to respond. The office was kept open to all staff members who could reach and one of our team members even decided to spend his nights in the office since he could not commute home.

The field activities slowly restarted by June/July 2020 with limited movement in the field. Children and youth were incredibly happy to meet in their clubs with safety protocols since they did not have school and other routine tasks. Since we had our presence in the field, we could see the plight of migrant returnees who were flooding back to poor villages. Children, women, and men of migrant families were reaching in large numbers after harrowing experiences both in the



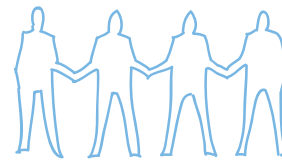
cities where they lived and the extremely difficult journeys. We were shocked to see how they were received by their communities as well as the arrangements made by the state for them. Once again, we decided that we need to act and started projects in two districts of Jharkhand.

The year ended with the lockdown due to the second wave of Covid-19. None of our projects have stopped but most of them had to be slowed down. We hope to catch up and finish them well with a little time extension. Even as this report is being prepared, activities in the field are almost back to normal and the beneficiaries are eager to get going again. This brief

report gives an overview of the work we did in the year 2020-21.

The pandemic and the response have brought in greater **Inequality** and pushed the excluded into further abyss. It calls for great commitment and passion to bring **Social and Economic Justice to excluded communities**. Systemic changes are required to bring sustained development. We as an organisation are small and puny when we see the mountains before us. We will however continue to facilitate people to realize the God-given potential in them and mobilize them for a better future.

2. Development Focus



Development Focus has been functioning as a registered Trust since March 2006. The organisation implements projects for very needy children, youth, and their communities in some of the poorest parts of India, especially with excluded communities like the Adivasis, Dalits, and minorities. We implement projects in partnership with credible, grass roots organizations focusing on inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities. This includes primary education, health education, functional literacy, livelihoods for youth, e-entrepreneurships, appropriate technology, and the use of clean energy.

Rather than thinly spreading our interventions all over this large country, Development Focus began with a geographical focus on Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, three poor states in Central India. As years went by, a couple of districts with limited opportunities in North Karnataka and Mizoram in Northeast India were included. The development strategy has been to empower communities to claim their rights and entitlements related to education, and livelihoods from the State.

To meet the needed resources, Development Focus has actively engaged and developed partnerships with students, individuals, small businesses, CSR of corporate houses, and donor agencies. These partnerships transcend 'mere funding or financing of costs' to offer opportunities to engage with the issues we work with on the ground. Development Focus invites all concerned to join hands to make the lives of marginalized children and youth better, bringing



smiles and hope for their future.

Some of the key principles that guide our work are:

- o The strong belief that every human being, however poor or marginalized, has God-given potential and dignity. Our work facilitates them to realize and unleash this potential.
- o When isolated, the poor are powerless and voiceless. Mobilizing them into groups with common interests leads to understanding of their rights and claiming their entitlements.
- o Respect for every individual in the community, staff members, and organisations.
- o People themselves can find the best solutions for their problems, if given the opportunity. Bottom-up approaches are sustainable.
- o Local leadership is crucial in bringing positive changes in the attitudes and behaviour of people and sustaining development.
- o Our initiatives strive to value and enrich local culture.
- o Adopt cost-effective approaches with a wide impact.
- o Empower people to claim their rights and entitlements for quality services from the state

rather than setting up parallel structures such as schools and hospitals.

- o Partnership with like-minded players and networking is important.
- o Respect for the law of the land as responsible citizens and fulfilling all statutory requirements – not out of fear of being penalized but as a core value.

The present context in the country is challenging. There is a strong bias towards privatization and benefits for the elites, with receding understanding of rights-based approaches. Empowerment of people is often seen as a threat, and human dignity has low priority, especially for the poor. Spiritual values and institutions are fast losing their influence as the flag bearers of conscience and market forces are gaining power.

Consequently, inequality and deprivation are on the rise. Polarization, hate, and crimes against certain sections of society are on the increase. The extremely poor are ignored and entrenched in poverty. ***It is in this scenario that Development Focus seeks to make a difference!***

3. Bridging the digital divide

There is a huge digital divide in India between urban and rural communities. On the one hand, the number of online services is increasing exponentially whilst on the other, rural, and excluded communities are left behind. According to a June 2021 IAMA report, the rural population is 948 million, of which only 299 million (about 32 per cent) are internet users. Many services are available only online, which excludes people for whom they are meant. People in rural area must travel to the nearest town, for availing any official document, which costs them a lot of money and a day, or days spent. Many decide to live without them denying them of many benefits meant for them.

Before this project I did not know how to enrich life's value. After schooling I was only doing housework

This project has taught me about computers and business, especially profit and loss. On first day of my business I earned only one rupee as profit. But now I am proud to say that I am earning Rs.200 to 300 a day as profit. The community in our village respects me and I have an identity. All this was possible only by this project.

Bhagyashree, Gabbur, Karnataka

Tata Consulting Services (TCS) has conceptualized and is implementing a project to address this big need. Development Focus has been fortunate to implement this project since 2017 in partnership with the Corporate Social Responsibility division of TCS. This project not only bridges the IT gap between urban and rural India but also creates employment opportunities for unemployed rural youths from SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities. These young girls and boys are carefully identified with participation

of their communities. Many of them had never handled a computer when they joined but are trained on computer skills, online services, business skills and on social issues. After training, they have now gained computer knowledge, self-confidence and are businesspersons. Some of these young people who were earlier working as daily labourers loading sand in trucks or agricultural labourers are earning a net profit of over Rs.50,000 a month. The young entrepreneurs not only provide online services to their community, but are also innovative, finding new ideas to establish and sustain their business to grow along with technological advancements.



A BridgeIT entrepreneur serving a customer at her shop in Mizoram using tools and skills acquired

Despite the pandemic and multiple lockdowns, our entrepreneurs were able to provide services from their homes, especially online money transfer,

mobile/DTH recharge and services related to Covid-19, which were the top community needs. One of our entrepreneurs, Huseni in Karnataka was awarded by the government as the best Village Level Entrepreneur for registering 353 Tele Law cases. He has appointed a Para Legal Volunteer to assist him since he is the main person in his village to handle legal cases.

There are several touching stories we can narrate of how the lives of these young entrepreneurs have been transformed and how they have expanded their business. Many of them have taken a stand on social issues. Few young girls have been bold enough to tell their parents that they are not yet ready for marriage and that they will only marry a man who will permit them to continue their business. There are also several cases where the spouse helps his wife or her husband to grow and diversify the business.



A BridgeIT entrepreneur providing IT services for customers from her very own shop in her village in rural Karnataka

The lack of internet connection in many villages of Odisha has been a big challenge for some of our entrepreneurs but not a deterrent. Every time they had to do some online work, they would take their laptop and go to a nearby hill or an elevated place where there was connectivity to complete the work. Taking steps beyond the goal of making money to serve the community with passion, has won the respect and love of the community and has made the families of these young entrepreneurs very proud.

Awards and recognitions:

Three of our women entrepreneurs were selected by TCS to be among the top 5 women entrepreneurs of the year and were awarded certificates on the International Women's Day. They are Eramma from Karnataka, Laldawngliani and Ramdinmawii from Mizoram.



A BridgelT entrepreneur who is also the cluster lead, providing online services to a customer in Mizoram



I had no experience with computers before, but during the training, I learned basic computer skills as well as bookkeeping, photography, and entry of stocks. It was difficult for me to travel from my home to the training centre as there was no transport facility available, but I was aware of all the opportunities the new skills would bring to my life and this motivated me. Now I feel I am really an entrepreneur now and extremely glad that I am able to help my family.

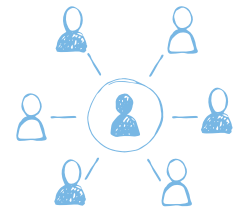
Binami Raita, Gumma, Odisha

For me the BridgeIT Project is the best development project for rural youth. It creates many openings for young people who otherwise would not have had any opportunities. Also, for me it is helping me build my future. I am currently standing in a place I never dreamt of. For my family, it has helped solve many problems and lift their lives. I salute all the entrepreneurs who fight for their future through this project and wish that they all reach the highest.

Jeho Roluahpuia, Mizoram



An entrepreneur transferring money on behalf of his customer using a biometric device, in rural Odisha



An entrepreneur in Mizoram has become an expert in hardware repairs by watching online tutorials

4. Adult Literacy Project



Enlightening communities through Computer Based Functional Literacy

The fourth of UN's Sustainable Development Goals is: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". This project has sought to include excluded women and men from remote, rural communities, especially Schedule Tribes, Schedule Castes, Minorities, and Other Backward Communities in a Functional Literacy programme. Development Focus in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services has been providing Functional Literacy to adults who had been denied opportunities for education, in extremely poor communities of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and North Karnataka. An innovative and effective software developed by TCS in regional languages is used by a facilitator in each village. This has been transforming the lives of the Learners and enlightening their communities.

The classes are learner centric and interactive. Learning is through computerised software, charts, issue-based documentary films etc. in their own mother tongue. They learn basic literacy, numeracy, life skills and value education. Further, awareness on welfare schemes, livelihood options and leadership training are imparted to the learners to build their self-confidence and motivate them to live a dignified life. They are linked with various government schemes and facilitated to access their rights and entitlements. In a matter of 3 months, the Learner becomes functionally literate that is assessed by a simple test. Few of them appear for the National Open School

exams and obtain a certificate, which can be used to upgrade their formal education.

Development Focus has implemented this project in 3 phases starting in the year 2016. The number of Learners covered, and the geographic distribution is given below:

Number of beneficiaries and reach				
Phase	Year	States	Districts/Villages	Total
Phase 1	2016-17	CH + OD + KA	7 / 500	30,837
Phase 2	2018-19	CH + OD + KA	7 / 500	80,831
Phase 3	2020-21	CH + OD + KA	7 / 425	20,759
Grand Total				132,427

In January 2020, TCS suggested that a 3-month project be implemented and completed by March 2020. However, due to Covid outbreak the classes had to be abruptly suspended. We were able to complete the courses after the lockdown was relaxed and the communities returned to near normal.

Core achievements in Phase 3

- 20,759 learners can write and sign their name instead of placing their thumb impression. They can read, write and count/identify numbers up to 100.
- The Learners have gained knowledge on social security schemes, livelihood options, checking MRP rates and expiry dates etc.
- Their awareness and conviction on the importance of education has greatly increased. They are now ensuring that their children and grandchildren

- attend school regularly. They are also demanding that the schools provide quality education.
- Several learners have applied to avail various social security schemes. This is a consequence of learning how to apply. They are also involved in village development activities.
- Some of the Learners are now engaged in small business by mobilizing funds. They testify that after learning to identify currency and count, their customers are not cheating them. Their business has been diversified and profit increased.
- Many learners have opened a bank account for the first time.



An adult learner in one of the classes learns to hold a pencil for the first time and writes the Oriya alphabet

Stories of change:

Anusha and her husband live in Madigiri village of Raichur district, Karnataka. They have a 7-year-old son who is studying in std.1 at the government primary school. Anusha who is 33, and her husband had never been to school since their parents did not see the value of education. They have both been working as coolies (agricultural labourers).

In January 2020 a facilitator from an NGO called Vimukti visited their village to promote the Adult Literacy Project. The facilitator invited Anusha to join the class and she eagerly agreed. She was excited to see the lessons projected on the wall and the videos that were screened in the learning process. She determined to attend the classes regularly and was eager to learn.

One day, Anusha came to attend the class as usual, but she did not know that this lesson will change her life. The facilitator was teaching about Self Help Groups and self-employment from lesson 13. She was curious and started asking questions about self-employment and was taking in all that was taught. She asked the facilitator if it was possible for her to start a business and whether she can be successful. For the next 4 days, she was pestering the facilitator with several questions that came to her mind as she was considering starting a business. The facilitator patiently elaborated self-employment with examples of other women who were successful. She encouraged Anusha to start her business.

It was at this juncture that the sudden lockdown due to the pandemic was declared. The literacy classes

came to a standstill although most of the course was completed. Anusha sat at home and day-dreamed about starting her business. She shared her ideas with her husband who was supportive. She also made use of the lockdown to teach her husband the literacy and numeracy skills that she had acquired. He too can now write his name and count money.

The two of them decided that they would invest the little savings that they had to start a business. As soon as the lockdown was relaxed a bit and some movement possible, Anusha met the facilitator and poured out her heart. The facilitator encouraged her to go ahead. Anusha and her husband withdrew most of their little savings and went to a wholesale shop in the nearby town, Manvi and bought readymade dresses and sarees. They started selling the dresses and sarees from their home to the villagers. It was a big success. They soon got many customers, even from neighbouring villages. They replenish their stock once in 2 weeks and make good money. Seeing her two other girls have started business in the village selling other commodities. Anusha says that the Literacy classes has changed her life completely and she is very thankful to her facilitator.

ABCD



"My new status as a literate person has given me the opportunity to participate in various activities in my village. I am now a Gram Sabha member and without any hesitation I can take up problems that our village women face."

27-year-old Babita Yadav, Sarjipal village, Chhattisgarh



An adult learner in one of the classes learns to operate a laptop computer and learns to type

I learnt about various government schemes available for people like me from the facilitator. I have started attending community meetings in my village. In the Learner's club, we discuss about government schemes, and want to get involved in village development activities. As a club, we encourage parents in our village to send their children to school regularly. I am very happy that I am able to read, write and understand words written in sign board and walls. My life is different now.

Shanti Pradhan, Ghungi, Bolangir district, Odisha

5. Prevention & Protection of Tribal Youth from Human Trafficking

Development Focus is working towards preventing vulnerable youth from unsafe migration and trafficking. Total lack of opportunities in their environment pushes them to migrate to cities with no form of security and fall prey to child marriage, trafficking, and even join rebel movements. Our focus has been to provide opportunities to rural youth and help them see avenues for growth and development in the communities they are from. The project provides youth with training and tools to process and monetize the abundant forest resources around them. It reaches out to children to provide relevant education and life skills, which is changing the mindset of their parents towards education. Children and youth in the project villages are part of clubs, where they meet regularly to learn and share. The project further aims to educate the adolescents girls and boys about their rights to their own bodies and to their legal entitlements.

We are reaching out to 4,000 adolescents in 40 villages of Simdega and Gumla Districts of Jharkhand. Educational activities for children and livelihood activities for the youth have been initiated and going on. There are Community Watch Groups (CWGs) trained and strengthened on the project activities in each village and they provide support to the clubs. We co-implement the projects with likeminded local partners, AROUSE in Simdega and SITARA in Gumla.



Children's Club:

Childhood is the most important period of a person's physical, mental, and psychological growth. Closure of schools for over a year has led to a gap in the growth and development of children. In an effort to provide ongoing learning, Children's Clubs (CCs) have been formed. Children come together, share experiences, and take part in various activities. Around 72 CCs have been formed with 1259 children (642 girls and 616 boys) in 40 villages. Through these clubs, cultural, educational, sports and social activities are carried out.

Clubs have been given games and sports materials like footballs, volleyballs, skipping ropes, ludo etc. A group of School Teachers in Bangalore prepared a multi-lingual workbook for children, specially to be used during this lockdown. They gifted 1,000 workbooks along with pencils and crayons. This was a great help for the CCs to meet regularly and be involved in learning. A well-wisher from the United

States (a nurse of Indian origin) gifted 2,400 blankets for children and youth in our clubs to keep them warm during the winter months. This needy gift was received with great joy. As part of safety measures, we mobilised 2,000 face masks from a well-wisher and distributed them to children, youth and CWGs.



Children selling berries they have gathered from the forest

Earn While You Learn is a unique intervention where children learn child-friendly skills that can bring them money. Children in the clubs learnt chicken rearing and 500 children received country chicken to rear and sell the eggs. Tree Grafting and Air layering training was provided to 15 clubs. Children have been involved in air layering of mango, jackfruit, lemon, litchi, and guava saplings. Training in garland making was given to 35 clubs. Vermicompost training was given to 50 clubs. Through these activities, children have started earning small amounts of money and are learning to save them. During a local festival 31 children set-up stalls and sold Sal leaf bowls, incense sticks, camphor balls, religious scarves, and vegetables. They earned Rs.9,150/- in 2 days.



Children and youth set up temporary stalls during Maha Shivaratri celebrations

One of the important activities in the clubs is to raise awareness on realities like Child Abuse, Child labour and Child Rights. Yuva Mitras (or Change agents) have been trained in each village on these topics. The Yuva Mitras visit the children's clubs to discuss these issues and help the children relate them to their everyday life. This opens a time for opening up and sharing experiences of abuse in their homes, village,

and community. Awareness on Right to Education, and age-appropriate information on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights were given through the Yuva Mitras. Information on how to contact the Child Helpline is also provided. Children have been involved in social activities. They serve their village by cleaning the ditches, cleaning places around water sources, cleaning community halls and levelling of roads.

Youth Clubs:

66 youth clubs made up of 1,147 youth (621 boys and 528 girls) have been formed. Each club is provided sports materials. Hockey and Football tournaments were conducted where 32 hockey teams with 480 boys, and 24 football teams with 360 girls, participated. Local officials and the community facilitated these tournaments. Prized goats supplied by the community were given to the winners of the tournament.

A unique concept called **“Grow Your Money (GYM)”** has been introduced. The youth are provided access to a small capital and are encouraged to do individual business that will allow this money to grow. Through sharing their experience in groups, they learn from each other on how to make money by trading or providing services in their own village or nearby areas. Youth are also involved in social activities like cleaning the village, schools, religious places, playground, roads, ponds, lakes, wells, community halls, taking care of public property, and planting trees. So far, 386 trees have been planted by Youth Clubs. Various livelihood skills have been imparted and youth encouraged to start their business.

Smokeless Chulha (Fuel Efficient Stove): 127 Youth have been trained to make Smokeless Chulhas with

locally available materials. They are facilitated to use this skill and be self-employed. These fuel-efficient stoves use less firewood, and do not emit dangerous carbon monoxide, thereby conserving the environment. Less smoke saves the women and children from respiratory diseases. For each stove built, the youth make a profit of Rs.200/-.



Youth from our clubs have learnt to make Fuel-efficient stoves as a source of livelihood

Sal Leaf Plate Moulding: 212 youth have been trained to collect Sal leaves, dry them, stitch, and mould them into plates and bowls. A small unit with sewing machines and leaf press has been setup in a village to make plates from the Sal leaves. Youth are using this opportunity to earn.



Youth Learning to make leaf plates using a press

" AROUSE has helped us a lot in all fields whether it is of sports or in studies now we have the facility to play and have good learning atmosphere in village and we are happy".

Manoj Toppno, a member of the Children's Club in Karamunda

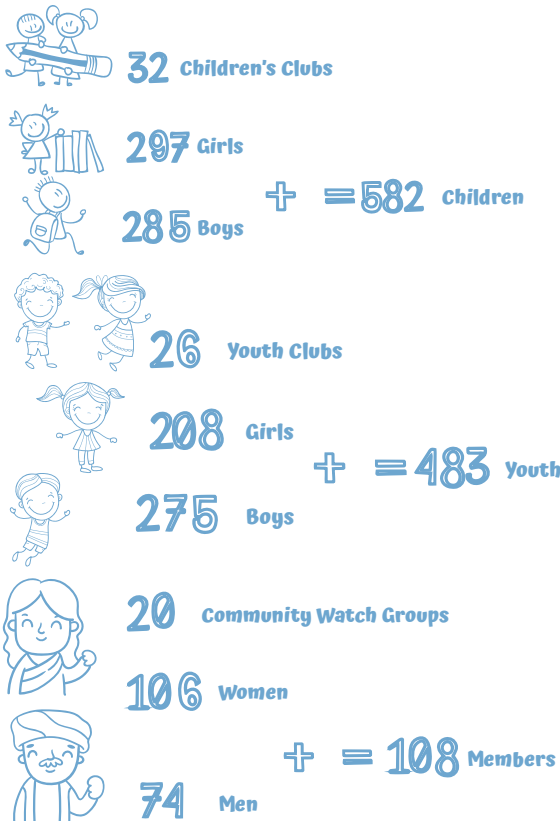
"Once our children did not know what to do, how to live and consequences of being away from home. Now, through knowledge on government schemes and various trainings, our children and youth club members are doing good in sports, education, business, and agriculture".

Johan Kujur from Mararoma is an active member of Community Watch Group (CWG)

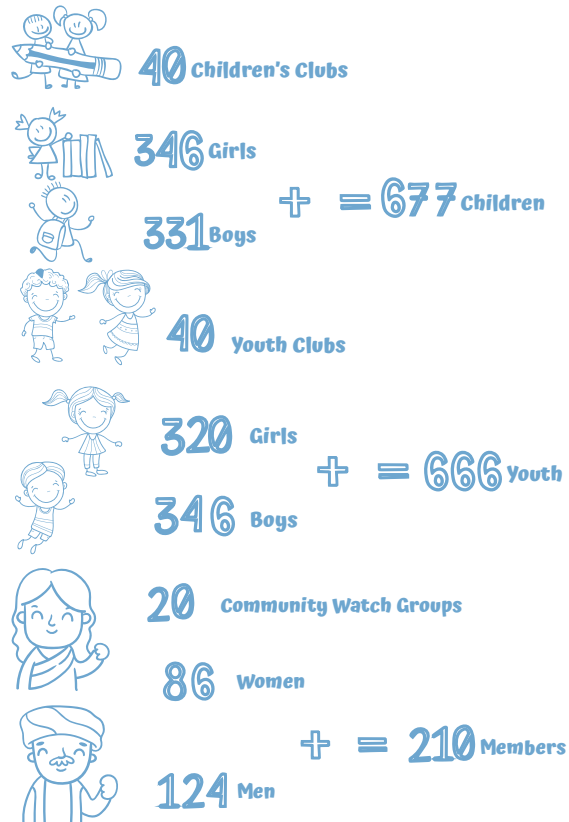
"Earlier the youth were not united in the village but after the youth clubs were formed, we come together and through trainings and learning we learn about health and hygiene, agriculture which helps us to share the knowledge in our meetings and with our family members. This knowledge helps in our daily life too."

Samira Tete, a member of the Youth Club

SITARA



AROUSE



Case Story:

Amal Deep Ekka hails from a village called Kanji. He comes from a family that is totally dependent on agriculture. His parents helped him to study till 10th grade and he couldn't continue his education because of financial crisis in the family. In the year 2018 he was married but, did not have a job or money. Later, along with his friends, he moved to Mumbai in search of job. There he worked as a laborer. This continued for a year (2019 – 2020) and suddenly due to the pandemic, he lost the job. Helpless and with no money to live he returned home, but there again there was no income. But he had the opportunity to join a Youth Club which was functioning in his own village. Through this Youth Club he attended 'Grow your money training' – where he was trained on how to start small business. This training really motivated him to start a small shop in March 2021. For the initial investment he had some amount and his parents also helped him. On the first month itself he earned Rs.7585/- a good income. Now he can earn Rs. 2000/- approximately per week. Amal Deep now feels that only the training through Youth Club has changed his life to have a better income. He is so glad to know that he can earn a good income by being in his own place. He is now able to take care of his family and his parents, and he is so grateful to Development Focus for the training that was provided.



Amal Deep Ekka in his shop



Leaf plate production in progress

Apart from this youth do paddy cultivation, land levelling, harvesting, spreading manure in cultivated land, carrying firewood from jungle, repairing houses and cleaning wells etc. to grow their money.

Youth club members are provided awareness on outcomes of unsafe migration, trafficking, and availing relevant government schemes. The importance of acquiring livelihood skills and to have sustainable livelihood is impressed on them. The youth clubs are coming together to form a Federation at the district level. This will give them a legal identity. They can officially sell local products online and have access to larger markets. They will also have a voice to bring up issues at the district and even state level related to children and youth. They can further influence decisions made by the government.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Right (SRHR): 6 Yuva Mitras are selected from each project village as Change Agents. They are trained to spread awareness on topics like definition of a child, child rights, child abuse, understanding gender and sex, safe sex and use of contraceptives, menstrual hygiene, etc. The



A make-shift shop run by one of the youth after GYM training

Yuva Mitras take this knowledge and share age-appropriate information to CCs, YCs and CWG members.

Through networking, officials from the Police Department have come and discussed with children and youth in the clubs. They sensitized them about the consequences of unsafe migration and trafficking with real life examples. They also explained how children and youth can contact the Police when they are in trouble.



Grow Your Money training in progress

Community Watch Groups (CWG): In each of the 40 project villages, a CWG has been formed comprising of around 9 members who volunteer to participate in this project. The CWG members are responsible to oversee activities in the clubs in their villages. They assess the project activities, try to bring a conducive environment for children and youth, and work to be a bridge between the implementing agency and the community. The members are taught on various Government welfare schemes and procedures to avail them. They are taught on child rights and the importance of basic education and life skills. After awareness on Child Abuse, Child Protection Committees have been formed in villages to address these issues.



Community Watch Groups facilitating Child Protection Training

The CWG members are also given an exposure visit to local panchayats to understand how the system works. The CWGs meet regularly to plan, review, and follow up various project activities.

Linkage and networking: Rapport between the CWG and the local Panchayat is built. The CWGs also network with horticulture, agriculture, forest, education, and health departments. Linkages have been created with local banks for various schemes.

6. Covid response

The unprecedented pandemic caused by COVID-19 has taken the world by storm and India is no exception. With a population of over 1.3 billion, the Indian government implemented a total lock down to contain the spread of the disease on March 24, 2020, extending over several weeks. Over 100 million migrant workers and their families in Indian cities have been among the worst affected. Many of these daily wage earners, including construction workers, small shops assistants, street vendors, domestic workers, porters, auto rickshaw drivers, became jobless overnight, with no alternate source of income. With no earnings, no food and evicted from the rented places where they were staying, they were literally on the streets. They had no way to go back home since all public transport was stopped without notice.

Supply of dry rations.

Emergency response has not been one of Development Focus' programme initiatives nor the city of Bangalore our project field. However, when we saw over 1.2 million migrant workers suffering around us, we could not be silent spectators. Even as the city was under lockdown, we raised funds from individuals, churches and senior citizens who had compassion for those suffering around. One of our team members even spent several nights in the office since he could not go home but we were determined to reach out to help the traumatized migrant workers and their families. Through the money we raised, we provided dry rations to sustain nearly 900 families for a month in Bangalore. We also supported nearly 160 very



Migrant Worker receiving dry rations in Bangalore

needy families in Mizoram. BIRDS, an NGO in Bangalore supported us in the distribution and Diya Ghar a day care agency working with migrant labourers' children in Bangalore chipped in their support. Development Focus was one of the first organisations to respond in this time of need. Slowly, the municipal corporation and other philanthropic organisations started responding. The families also started moving back to their villages and we pulled out.

Food security through livelihood initiatives for migrant returnees.

As the lockdown was slowly eased, the traumatized migrant families started going back to their villages using whatever mode of transport was available, with several of them even walking hundreds of kilometres with their children and belongings. A huge exodus or reverse migration started taking place with media

reporting that nearly 11% of the urban population were going back to their native villages. We had a first-hand feel of this in the tribal villages of Jharkhand where we had a presence implementing the anti-trafficking project. With the arrival of these returnees from various cities, the population in the tribal villages started swelling by over 40% within a couple of weeks. The villages were in no position to handle this influx, physically, economically, or socially. Suddenly, large numbers of people who have got used to life in cities descended onto the villages with no money or other resources. To further exacerbate the situation, the villagers were wary that these returnees were carriers of the virus, causing resentment to their presence.



Dry ration packets being prepared

In this context, Development Focus got involved to make the arrival and settlement of the returning migrants and the host community less traumatic. We started raising money for this and the main initiatives implemented were:

- Livelihood activities: Goat or pig rearing for some families and vegetable gardens for others.
- Peaceful resettlement of migrants with minimal conflict, addressing issues related to violence against women and children.



Beneficiaries received goats as part of the Livelihood activities

All these activities are done through training the village Community Watch Groups (CWG). As a first step, two returnees were added to the CWG, as members. The members were trained on problem solving techniques, issues related to gender-based violence, child rights and child abuse. This helped the CWG members in the villages to resolve conflicts as and when they arose. Beneficiary families for livelihood activities were selected by the CWG based on their need and abilities. The activities are context friendly and modern techniques are infused with the help of external trainers. The families rearing small animals were linked with local veterinary services for

vaccination and insurance. Families that started vegetable gardens were trained and encouraged to use organic fertilizers and pesticides. The trainer who supervised these activities also facilitated them to sell the extra produce in the open market for them to earn additional income.



Jerom Tete in his field showing his crop of Chinese Cabbage

As we raise more funds, we have been extending the initiative to more beneficiaries since the need is great. We are greatly impressed by the outcomes in these few villages. We plan to extend this initiative to 600 families each in Jharkhand, Odisha, and Mizoram.



Selection of beneficiaries with the help of the Community Watch Group

Dry rations kits distributed:



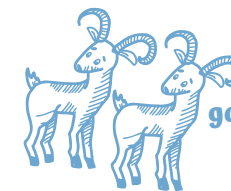
905 in Bangalore.

160 in Aizawl

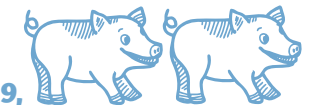


Livelihood for food security:

83 families in Jharkhand



goats for 22,

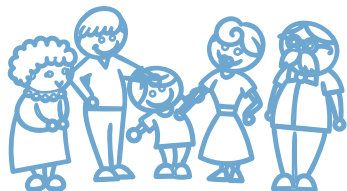


pigs for 19,



home gardens 42

Plan to continue to cover 1,800 families



The plight of the Migrant Returnees is really very serious and we as a small organisation are seeking to fill this need and reach out to the most needy at this time. We are trying to reach out to 150 families along with our partner Sitara and another 50 families along with our partner Arouse in their focus districts. Here are some stories of Migrant Returnees who have benefitted by being part of our project.

This is Priti. She lives with her family in a tiny village in the state of Jharkhand in India. She was going to school every day since early childhood. She enjoyed going to school, having books and a new uniform, getting a full, wholesome meal of rice, dal, vegetables, and sometimes even yummy fruit every day at lunch time. She could safely walk to and from school with her friends who live in surrounding villages. At school she learned to count, she learned to read and write words to put together into whole sentences, she even learned songs and dance was something she especially enjoyed. Now she has reached class 10 and there is no opportunity for her to study further. She, however, goes every day to pick up her little sister.

With the schools closed, there is no learning for the children and no mid-day meals. Most children are tired but still have to help their parents around the house and in the fields during the day. Priti goes with her parents and sister to dig a canal to their field from the nearby stream. A strange well-dressed man has

started talking to her parents, saying he has a job for her in the city where he comes from. He says he can pay a lot of money to her parents. Priti likes her life in the village. Although her family gets one meal of boiled rice with one chilly every day, she likes climbing the forest trees for berries and plucking leaves for vegetable for her family. She does not want to go with the man although life is tough in the village.

Recently she has received 2 goats for rearing. This will provide a good income for her family and even put food on their table.



This is Arvind Ekka. Before the pandemic he was ambitious and wanted to leave his village earn money and live a good life. But leaving his loved ones and going to the city had it's challenges and he could not earn the money he wanted and ended up doing odd jobs and labour work.

Since he has returned home, he has been at a loss with no job. He did not see a future for himself and had no idea what he would do next. After joining the project and being chosen as one of the beneficiaries he was given 2 pigs for the Livelihood activity.

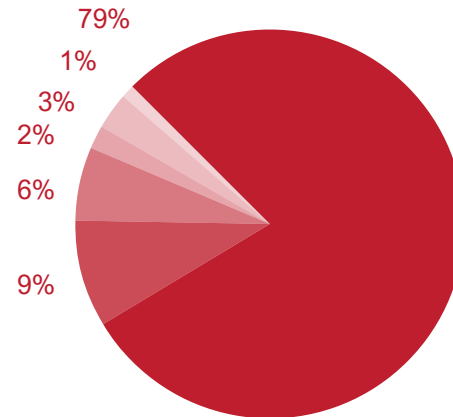
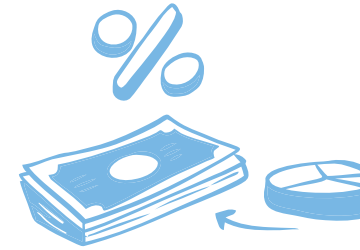
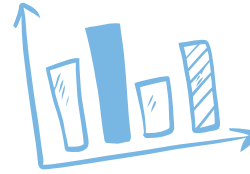
Now he shakes his head saying he never wants to leave the village. He is still as ambitious as he speaks of his dream of now expanding to own his farm and add more livestock. With these 2 pigs he plans to start earning money in his home and provide for his family while also providing for his village members. He is happy to have a safe future and be re-settled with his family at home.

7. Financials

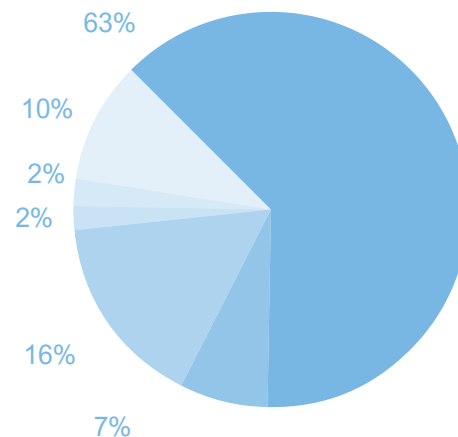
Credibility Statement

At Development Focus, we believe that Accountability is the key to all our actions, decisions, and policies related to the governance of the organisation and implementation of projects entrusted with us. We ensure that our accounting and financial practices are according to the existing standards in the country and in line with priorities set by our Board of Trustees.

We have a committed team of professionals in our office who work not just for the money that they earn but out of passion for the cause we stand for. Many of them can earn much more in the marketplace. Our total administrative cost stands at around 10% of the total funds received, year after year. The rest of the money we raise goes directly to the people we serve. Our Board of Trustees make sure that we have strict and professional financial audits regularly to ensure that the resources entrusted to us are not spent unwisely or lost along the way. We fulfil all statutory requirements of the governing institutions, not out of fear of being penalized but as a core value of the organisation.



INCOME	
1,37,61,000	CSR Funds for Bridge IT
15,93,862	Foreign Donation for Prevention of Trafficking
9,82,447	Crowd Funding and General Donations for Prevention of Trafficking
4,43,431	Donation for COVID-19 Emergency Relief
4,41,500	Donation for Migrant Returnee Resettlement
2,05,776	Bank Interests and Others



EXPENSES	
1,38,88,754	Bridge IT Project
14,29,702	Adult Literacy Project
33,99,688	Prevention of Trafficking
4,54,000	COVID-19 Emergency Relief
4,32,396	Project for Migrant Returnees
22,93,898	Administration and Others

Note: Detailed Audit Reports can be made available on request

8. Our Team



Left to Right

- Sanjana** – Accounts cum Admin Officer
- Masillamani** – Team Leader
- Thomas Paul** - Managing Trustee
- Emmanuel Raj** – Asst. Project Officer
- Betrayan Samuel** – Project Coordinator
- Pearl Noronha** - Communications & Fundraising Officer

Team Member in Odisha

Ramesh Lima - Project Coordinator

Priya Kirubakaran - looking back at her time with the DF Team



I started my career with Development Focus in April 2017 as a project officer. Having completed my Master's in International Development a couple of years earlier, I was keen to put my knowledge and skills to use but also learn and grow in this field. Passionate about working with the underprivileged, especially women and children, my career with Development Focus provided me with exactly that. Development Focus is an NGO that worked with the poorest of the poor especially in some of the most underprivileged and rural parts of India. During my time at DF, I had the privilege to manage the BridgelT project in Karnataka and Mizoram. A livelihood project for rural youth, the project gave me the opportunity to work with rural and tribal youth, to build their skills, and provide them with entrepreneurial livelihood opportunities. I was able to travel to different parts of India and to really meet with and witness firsthand not only the tenacity but also the drive and determination of rural folk. As much as we were able to help, they also helped us to see and broaden our outlook as to what, even with very few opportunities, people can achieve and accomplish. It was a truly rewarding and enriching experience, one that I shall never forget. Working as part of the BridgelT Team and as part of the broader DF team was a privilege and a joy. Though we may not have always seem eye-to-eye on things, the comradery, team spirit, common goal, and the strong drive to help those who needed it the most, created a strong bond and work ethic at DF. Right from the leadership team to our partners, and to those working on the ground, we were not part of an organisation but part of a bigger family working together to achieve a common goal. Even through difficult times Development Focus has always put its mission and vision front and centre. This is its true strength and character, and it has been a privilege to be a part of this. I have gained so much and was able to fulfil everything I had hoped for and more during my time with DF. I wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

9. Implementing Partners

Apart from direct implementation, Development Focus also co-implements projects with credible local partners. These partners are close to the communities we jointly seek to serve and have developed a rapport with them and the local duty bearers. Working with local partners enables us to reach vulnerable and needy communities in very remote areas that we may never be able to reach ourselves. It also helps reach larger numbers and be cost effective than if we were to implement. In the process, the capacity of Civil Society Organisations is built to enable them to be more effective in their own interventions.

Bridging the IT gap between Urban and rural India

Implementing Partner	State	District
Don Bosco Social Service - DBSS	Karnataka	Raichur / Yadgir
Vimukti Charitable Trust - VIMUKTI	Karnataka	Raichur
Centre for Community Development through Network - Cod Nerc	Mizoram	Aizawl
People's Rural Education Movement - PREM	Odisha	Gajapathi/Raigad

Prevention and Protection of Youth from Unsafe migration & Trafficking/ Migrant Returnee project

Implementing Partner	State	District
Animation Rural Outreach Service - AROUSE	Jharkhand	Simdega
Daughters of St. Anne - SITARA	Jharkhand	Gumla

Computer Based Functional Literacy

Implementing Partner	State	District
Agranee Jana Kalyan Anusthan - AJKA	Odisha	Baragarh
Palli Alok Pathagar – PAP	Odisha	Bolangir
Assoc. for Development Research in Socio-Economic Activity - ADARSA	Odisha	Sambalpur
People's Rural Education Movement - PREM	Odisha	Raigad
Bastar Sevak Mandal - BSM	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
Bastar Dharma Kshema Samiti – BDKS	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
Social Education and Basic Awareness – SEBA	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
Snehagiri Missionary Sisters - SMS	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
Deen Bandhu Samaj - DBS	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
Vishala Rural Women & Children Development Organisation - VISHALA	Karnataka	Vijayapura
Don Bosco Social Service - DBSS	Karnataka	Raichur
Vimukti Charitable Trust - VIMUKTI	Karnataka	Raichur
Rural Health and Child Health Society of India - REACH	Karnataka	Vijayapura

We greatly appreciate the commitment and concern for the poor with which the above partners have implemented the project. It has been an enriching experience for Development Focus as we co-implemented the projects with them. Timely reporting and accountability in program and financial matters have been above our expectations in most cases. We want to convey a big Thank You to our implementing partners.

Call to action!

Our vision is clear and our commitment unwavering. A just and humane society, where children have their right to childhood, vulnerable young people can live a dignified life, and women have an equal say on decisions pertaining to their lives, is what we strive for.

It is easy to sit at the edge of the pew and hope for someone to do something against these social evils. But we have chosen to take a leap of faith to be that someone who does something against these evils. We encourage you to join us in this battle for a better world!

You can be part of this initiative by:

- » Contributing to enable us to reach a larger population of needy people
- » Volunteering your services on short-term or long-term basis

Legal Status of Development Focus

Registered under the Indian Trusts Act, vide no: BNG (U)-JNR IV/667/2005-2006

Registration under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, vide no: 094421359

Exempted by Income Tax Act under section 12A and approved under section 80G

YOU MAY MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH:



- DIRECT BANK TRANSFER TO:

For contributions from within India:

A/c of Development Focus, A/c no. 909010037997565, IFSC: UTIB0000734

- For foreign Contributions:

State Bank of India

A/c Number: 40047167730, IFS Code: SBIN0000691, Swift code: SBININBB104

Address: FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, State Bank of India, New Delhi Branch, 11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110001

- Online payment through: our website: www.devfocus.in or www.ketto.org or www.giveindia.org

- By cheque: drawn in favour of “Development Focus” and mailed to our address given on the back cover page

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YOU WILL CERTAINLY BE ENRICHED WHEN YOU LIFT A FELLOW HUMAN!!



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