



DEVELOPMENT
FOCUS
**Annual
Report
2019-2020**



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.

Mission

To create relevant opportunities for the most marginalised sections of 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 |

Strategies

1. Empowering Communities: Mobilising marginalised sections of society to raise awareness and self-confidence to unleash the potential within them.
2. Creating Opportunities: Developing the capacities of local organisations to promote feasible, affordable and sustainable solutions thus increasing opportunities for them and future generations.
3. Strengthening Civil Society: Mobilising the weaker sections of society to raise awareness of their rights and to claim their entitlements.

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Foreword

India inched up one spot to rank 129th out of 189 countries on the 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) released by the United Nations Development Programme. Inequality and Deprivation continue to be high in the country. India has made substantial progress over the past 30 years. Yet, there are significant concerns today, borne out by data, that the dramatic strides made in reducing extreme poverty did not reduce inequality. In fact, inequality has widened. Several recent estimates indicate that economic disparities have grown along with the GDP. To put it simply, while the poor have indeed benefitted from India's economic success, the rich have garnered a greater share of the spoils. Indeed, Oxfam's inequality estimates suggest that the top 10% of the Indian population holds 77% of the total national wealth. Inequality is not just about disparities in wealth distribution. A large number of Indians not only have very low income, but their opportunities for healthcare, education and social security are dreadfully inadequate. UNDP's 2019 Human Development Report explores these inequalities in human development, by going beyond income and identifying the deep-rooted systemic drivers of inequality. In so doing, the report reminds decision-makers of the importance of providing basic services to their people, and of equipping them to live with dignity. Today, the odds are clearly stacked, in a wide range of ways, along gender, linguistic, class and sexual orientation lines.

This growing inequality and deprivation drove us to initiate a new project in 20 tribal villages of Jharkhand where this is a stark reality. Our frequent trips to this part of Central India brought out shocking realities. One can go from village to village to see poverty in its worst form. In the lean season, families struggle to have one meal a day, made up of rice porridge with green chillies or raw onion. There is no mobile connectivity, no electricity and no transport facilities in many villages. Schools do not function, the health facilities do not have crucial medicines or professionals to administer them and the bank or ATM could be a 20 km trek away. In spite of this reality, people living there are rich, when it comes to hospitality to strangers, concern for

one another and sharing whatever little they have – truly bearing the image of God.

With the aim of addressing **Inequality and Deprivation**, we have initiated a project in 20 villages to “Prevent and Protect tribal youth from unsafe migration and trafficking” in Simdega, along with AROUSE, a local NGO. We were not able to raise donor support in advance but the need of the people persuaded us to go ahead with funds trickling in from individuals, schools and social media. MISEREOR in Germany came in to support a similar project in 20 other villages of Gumla district. We are implementing the project with SITARA as our local partner.

The third phase of the Adult Literacy Project (Computer Based Functional Literacy), supported by Tata Consultancy Services could only start in the last quarter of the year. This was implemented in 7 very poor districts of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. 20,759 Adult Learners were covered along with the committed efforts of 13 local implementing partner organisations.

BridgelT is another project that was implemented along with TCS. With more and more services now available on the digital platform, this project leads to reduction of Inequality in poor rural communities. The entrepreneurs are youth from the excluded sections of their community and the project opens up opportunities for them to make a living, serving their own people. We are providing training and hand-holding support to 110 entrepreneurs in North Karnataka, Mizoram and Odisha.

The year ended with the lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic affecting all our projects. Luckily the re-start did not take too long and the beneficiaries were eager to get going again.

The need to bridge **Inequality and liberate communities** from the clutches of poverty is huge. All our interventions put together is just a drop in the ocean. We will have to continue to facilitate people to realize the God-given potential in them and mobilize them to come together for their own, sustainable development. The systemic causes holding them down need to be addressed.



Development Focus

Development Focus was registered as a Trust, in March 2006 and started functioning as the 'Local Expertise Centre' of Edukans Foundation, the Netherlands, in India. Edukans Foundation played a key role in promoting and supporting this organisation till they phased out in 2014. Presently, Development Focus works with various donors to implement projects for very needy children, youth and their communities in some of the poorest parts of India. We partner with grassroots level organizations focusing on Education for Life. This includes Primary Education, Health Education, Functional Literacy, Livelihood skills, promoting e-entrepreneurs, Appropriate Technology and fostering the use of Clean Energy.

Development Focus does not implement projects directly but co-implements with credible local organisations. Working with multiple implementing partners and using the Programmatic strategy gives the unique advantage of having a wide geographic reach to remote, needy areas as well as to be cost effective. This strategic positioning enables us to positively influence the overall direction of programmatic initiatives. As a co-implementer, Development Focus's role includes; conceptualizing, designing programmes, strategizing, monitoring and evaluation, building capacities of community and partner organizations for effective field implementation. We promote; sharing experi-

ences, dissemination of best practices with stakeholders, governance institutions and civil society. This facilitates lobbying and advocacy to influence appropriate education and skill building policy frameworks by the government. This enables communities to sustain the impacts locally.

Geographically, Development Focus works in the states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Mizoram, especially in the poor and remote districts in these states. The projects have targeted the deprived and disadvantaged communities; mainly the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and Other Backward Communities – in other words, the last 20% of the socio-economic pyramid in rural India. Our development strategy is to empower communities to claim their rights and entitlements related to education, livelihood etc. from the State.

There is a growing awareness and interest among Individuals and Companies, both private and public, to actively 'Give' and 'Support development initiatives' in the country. Development Focus seeks to actively collaborate with Individuals, Educational Institutions, Corporate Houses and Funding Agencies to reach our development goals. We envisage such associations as partnerships transcending 'mere funding or financing of costs' and therefore offer several options – adapting to the specific contexts and challenges. Development Focus invites all those who are concerned to join hands with us to make the lives of marginalized children and youth better, bringing smiles on their faces and hope for their future.



Why we exist

- To facilitate children, youth and women who are at the bottom of the Socio-economic Pyramid to experience Opportunities and Hope.
- Holistic, Human Development of the poorest of the poor is our Prime Focus.
- Socio-economically deprived geographic areas are chosen for programme implementation. Most backward states and districts are where we work.
- Empowerment through “Education” – understood from a wide perspective – is our goal. We work on the principle of life-long learning.
- We are a Catalyst to develop the capacity of other NGOs, thereby strengthening Civil Society. We will continue to Sensitize and Motivate Civil Society.

Core Values

- o We believe that every human being, however poor or marginalized s/he may be, has God given potential. Our work is to help them realize and unleash this potential.
- o When isolated, the poor are powerless and voiceless. When they are mobilized as groups they understand their rights and can claim their entitlements. Mobilizing children, youth and people as strong homogenous groups is high on our agenda
- o Respect for every individuals in the community, staff members and organisations.
- o We believe that people can find the best solutions for their problems if provided the opportunity. We seek to listen to them leading to bottom-up approaches.
- o We work towards bringing a positive change in the attitudes and behaviour of people and developing local leadership that lead to sustainable development.
- o We believe that people have fundamental rights and they have possibilities.
- o We value people’s culture and want them to enrich the same.
- o We believe in cost effective approaches with a wide impact.
- o We do not set up parallel structures like schools and hospitals but empower people to claim their rights and entitlements for quality services from the state.



- o Partnerships with like-minded players and networking are important to us
- o We respect the law of the land as responsible citizens and will fulfill all statutory requirements – not out of fear of being penalized but as a core value.

The situational context:

Within the country:

- A strong bias towards privatization and benefits for the elites
- Right-based understanding and approaches are receding
- Empowerment of people is often seen as a threat
- Exaggerated emphasis on material values
- Low priority on human dignity, especially for the poor

Internationally:

- Growing “Right wing” progression.
- There is blurring of lines between capitalism and philanthropy
- Spiritual values and institutions are fast losing their influence as the flag bearers of Conscience
- India is no more a priority for international donor support
- Market force theory is gaining prevalence

Consequences:

- Inequality and Deprivation is on the rise
- Polarization, hate and crime against certain sections of society is on the increase
- The very poor are ignored and entrenched in poverty
- Vested interests are gaining acceptance
- There is an incentive to maintain a poor layer in society

It is in this scenario that Development Focus seeks to make a difference!

As the Resident Representative of UNDP in India puts it: “The people of this great country need to live a fair and dignified life, powered by technology, shielded from prejudice and protected from an increasingly unforgiving climate.”

Enlightening communities through Computer Based Functional Literacy

Communities in remote, rural areas in India, especially Schedule Tribe (ST), Schedule Cast (SC) and Other Backward Communities (OBC) are marginalized, excluded and living in extreme poverty. They remain isolated and have trouble getting ahead in life due to lack of knowledge, information, education, communication facilities and lack of resources. Major issues that hold them from development are: poor health, voicelessness, unemployment, exploitation and gender inequality. To add to these, superstitious beliefs and traditional ideas prevent them from moving forward. Development Focus in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services has been providing Functional Literacy to adults who had been denied opportunities for education as children, in very poor communities of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and North Karnataka. This has transformed the lives of the learners and enlightened their communities.

An Overview

In the year 2019-20, the project was implemented along with 13 Local Partners in 7 very poor districts from January to March 2020. 20,759 adults from 425 villages attended the 3 month course to become functionally literate. The classes were designed to be learner centric and

Demographic distribution of Learners:

The project covered a total 20,759 learners from 425 deprived villages in three states i.e. Odisha, Chhattisgarh and North Karnataka.

GENDER DISTRIBUTION ACROSS THE STATES			
States	Male	Female	Total
Odisha	2671 (27%)	7136 (73%)	9807
Chhattisgarh	2478 (41%)	3612 (59%)	6090
North Karnataka	1249 (26%)	3613 (74%)	4862
Grand Total	6398 (31%)	14361(69%)	20759

SOCIAL CLASSIFICATION ACROSS THE STATES						
States	SC	ST	OBC	Disabled	Others	Total
Odisha	21%	50%	29%	Traces	Traces	100%
Chhattisgarh	7%	79%	10%	Traces	4%	100%
North Karnataka	46%	17%	29%	Traces	8%	100%

Adult literacy project

interactive through Audio-visual presentations, charts, issue-based documentary films etc. in their own mother tongue. Along with basic literacy, life skills and value education was provided. Awareness on social welfare schemes, livelihood options and leadership training were imparted to the learners to build their self-confidence and motivate them to live a dignified life. They were encouraged to consider various livelihood opportunities to enhance their economic situation. They were linked with various government schemes and facilitated to access their rights and entitlements.

To ensure ownership and sustainability, an Adult Literacy Committee was formed in each village. These committees were made up of representatives from the village that were concerned about the growth and development of their village and had a concern for the poor among them. They were involved in identifying the Facilitator for their village and helped in finding a suitable place for the classes. These committees played an important role to motivate members in the village to join the classes and attend regularly. After completing the classes the Learners from each batch were formed into Learner's Clubs. This is a platform to continue the learning process and get involved in developmental activities in the village. It also helps slow learners to catch up. Although the project cycle gets over in 3 months, the Adult Literacy Committee facilitates the Learner's Clubs to continue.

The Literacy Project also opened the door by creating 425 voluntary jobs for young women and men as facilitators. Many of them learnt to use a computer for the first time and after the project cycle they have aspired for gainful employment. 17 Supervisors were employed and each of them was involved in steering the project at the grassroots level.



CORE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Functional Literacy classes has given an assurance of sustainability in my job.

I work as a helper with ASHA workers in my village. I have been doing this for many years without understanding anything since I did not know to read or write.

I could not help my children in their studies until I joined the literacy classes. I joined the Functional Literacy class in January 2020, which was for 3 months. I was regular in classes, I soon started to learn to read, write and recognize numbers.

My work as an ASHA helper has a new meaning now. I gradually started understanding the medical terms while working with the ASHA workers. I am slowly able to read the health charts and understand what they mean. This has brought a whole new perspective in my job. My supervisor has recognized that I am now a literate person. I

do not have to fear that I will lose my job since I am no longer an illiterate person. The Literacy classes has given me an assurance of sustainability in my job.



Mitki Baghel, 43, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh



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 now ensure that their children and grandchildren attend school regularly. They are also demanding that the schools provide quality education.

873 LEARNERS have applied to avail various social security schemes. This is a consequence of learning how to apply.



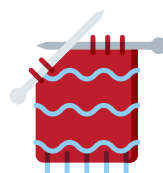
303 NEW SELF-HELP GROUPS (consisting of 10 to 12 learners) has been formed and strengthened. They are saving regularly and starting livelihood activities. They are also involved in village development activities.

394 LEARNERS are now engaged in small business by mobilizing funds, ranging from Rs.5000/- to Rs.10000/-, under various government schemes.



950 LEARNERS are engaged in cost effective kitchen gardening using locally available resources. This is increasing the nutritional intake of the families.

346 LEARNERS have opened a bank account for the first time.



207 FEMALE LEARNERS have started making home made products and selling them in the market from time to time.

Adult Learner Data

Development Focus has implemented three phases of the Adult Literacy Project since 2016, with the last phase (Phase 3) implemented this year. A total of 1,36,427 learners in 1,135 villages have benefited in the states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and North Karnataka. The demographic distribution of all three phases is as follows:

GENDER DISTRIBUTION				
Phase	Year	Male	Female	Total
Phase 1	2016-17	13262 (43%)	17575 (57%)	30837
Phase 2	2018-19	30862 (38%)	49969 (62%)	80831
Phase 3	2019-20	6398 (31%)	14361 (69%)	24759
Grand Total		50522 (38%)	81905 (62%)	136427

SOCIAL CLASSIFICATION							
	Year	SC	ST	OBC	Disabled	Other	Total
Phase 1	2016-17	5959	12975	11892	Traces	Traces	
		19%	42%	39%			100%
Phase 2	2018-19	16654	35708	22598	12	5859	
		21%	44%	28%	0%	7%	100%
Phase 3	2019-20	4655	10596	4880		628	
		22%	51%	24%	Traces	3%	100%



Ahalya Sahnwoo, 62,
Chhelkhai village, Odisha

“I now know that education and knowledge are required to live in our society”

At the age of 65, I realized that illiteracy and ignorance deprived people in my society from all opportunities and privileges.

I work as a daily labourer, which is the main source of support for my family. Since my village is 52 km from the district headquarters, very little information reaches us. The literacy classes were held in my village from January to March 2020 and I eagerly attended the class every evening. The course was very interesting and motivated me. I learnt Oriya alphabets and can read small words. I can count numbers up to 100. I can write my own name for the first time in my life.

I received a lot of information about my village in the literacy course, especially about various government schemes like pension, availability of ration card in the Panchayat, etc. Since

I was eligible for availing pension, I applied for Old age pension in the Panchayat. After a few days, my application was approved. I have been receiving a pension of Rs. 300 from the month of May 2020. I have also come up with new ideas to do something for livelihood.

BridgeIT – transforming rural communities

“I am happy to join BridgeIT project. It has helped me improve my computer skills and start new businesses. My family also support me and help me in my shop. I hope there are more projects like these for unemployed youth”

– **Gangappa, Karnataka.**

This is just one of the testaments that represents the BridgeIT project. Conceptualized and funded by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), DF has been implementing this innovative project through our grassroots partner organisations for the past three years. Piloted first in North Karnataka, then extended to Mizoram, and now Odisha, this 5 year project has brought transformational change to rural communities by ‘bridging the IT gap’ between the urban and rural. 110 young rural youth (55% women, 45% men), from SC, ST, OBC, and minority backgrounds, are provided the knowledge, equipment, and skills to provide computer / IT related services to their communities. More importantly, the project has created the opportunity for these young people, with very few opportunities before them, to develop and build a successful, sustainable business in their own village, through e-entrepreneurship.

Many of the entrepreneurs, especially the girls, had never touched a computer before. But over the course of the project, they have built their computer knowledge, gained confidence, and have set up successful small businesses in their villages. Some have even gone on to become

job creators in their communities. Hesitant at first, providing only a limited number of services, the young entrepreneurs through hard work, handholding, and support, have successfully grown their businesses to provide a wide range of services, from printing, photocopying, Aadhaar, PAN, ration, and health card services, to high end services such as photography, network marketing, online shopping, banking, and Tele Law - with most earning anywhere between Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 per month.

For example, Rinmawia from Sesawng village in Mizoram, who is mechanically gifted, has built a roaring business repairing electronic and electrical devices such as computers, TVs, mobile phones, washing machines, etc., or Thanglianmawi from Thiak village, has translated his love of photography into a growing business providing photography and photo printing services. Further south in North Karnataka, Hussain from Bagalwad in Raichur district is the village level mini branch for four different banks, which has provided much needed banking services at the village level, especially during the recent lockdown periods. He is also one of the first entrepreneurs to bring Tele Law services to his village through the Digital India Common Service Centre (CSC) portal. On the other hand, Nirmala from Umali Pannur, a remote village on the banks of the Thungabhadra, has become so successful that she has opened a second ‘HiTech’ shop in the town of Manvi.

Income or revenue aren’t the only signs of their success. Many entrepreneurs have invested in their business through purchase of equipment like printers, biometric fingerprint readers, digital cameras, laminators, additional computers, or by precurring loans to expand their existing shops or purchase new shops. Maunpuii from Thingsulthliah village in Mizoram invested in a high end ‘borderless’ printer and a second computer, to meet the photographic demands in her village, while Remsanga and Rinluha from Aibawk and Maubaung villages respectively have bought high end cameras to build a photography business, a high demand enterprise in Mizoram. Sharanappa (Devipura) and Renuka (Earlgaddi) have taken loans to upgrade their online cum

“As a young entrepreneur, I find that not everyone takes me seriously. I got much criticism when I started to run my business. They tell me that I am too young and inexperienced to build a successful business. I started to doubt myself. So, I wanted to say to all the young entrepreneurs out there,” There are going to be people along the way who will try to undercut your success. But if you just focus on the work and you don’t let those people side track you, someday when you get where you are going, you will know it was you who put you there, and that will be the greatest feeling in the world!”

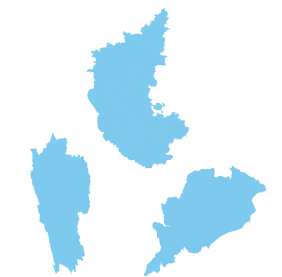
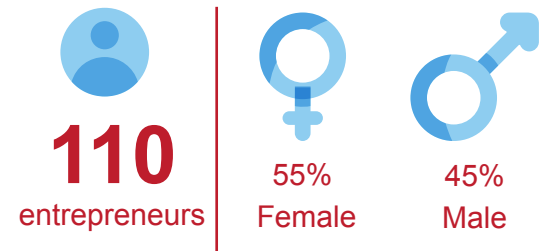
– **Lalthlamaunpuii, Mizoram**

BRIDGEIT AT A GLANCE

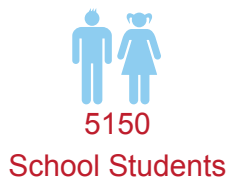
INITIATIVE: INNOVATIVE DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Objective: To provide disadvantaged rural youth viable livelihood opportunities through e-entrepreneurship

BENEFICIARIES:



PROJECT AREA:
North Karnataka,
Mizoram, Odisha



IMPACTS SO FAR:

-  Successful sustainable livelihoods through E-entrepreneurship
-  Access to digital and Banking services at their doorstep
-  Computer literate school children
-  Functionally literate adults
-  Communities experiencing change

"I really like the concept of this project. Through this project I have gained much knowledge about IT business. I am now able to browse the internet to see what business I can do. I have a dream to get my CSC registration and provide a wide range of services. My siblings now help me in my business and together we can contribute to the family income. The community also thanks me for providing these services right in the village, so they don't have to travel far for these services."

– **Zohming**, Mizoram



Zohming at his shop in Mizoram

Kirana shops, while Gangappa, from Toranadinni, has built such a successful online business that he bought two second hand cars and runs them as cab services in Bangalore city! Entrepreneurs have also helped families build homes, bought personal assets like bikes, and assisted siblings to further their education.

The School Intervention and Adult Literacy component of the project, where local government school children are taught computer basics and non-literate adults, functional literacy, has also proven to be a big success. In a world driven by technology and a future where competency in technology is a must, the Computer Aided Learning (CAL) school intervention has enabled over 5000 rural students to become computer literate, while the Adult Literacy Program (ALP) has enabled over 2000 non-literate adults gain functional literacy. The technology driven interactive nature of these interventions has drawn students / learners' interest and has given them a curiosity about IT, making them want to learn more. The practical hands-on nature of the interventions, where learners are encouraged to explore, try, and do, has captured their interest, and enabled them to learn with confidence.

“BridgeIT changed my life. Before the project I had no livelihood prospects. I was just roaming from one village to the next. Now because of this project I can provide a wide range of services in my village. Morning to evening I am full busy. Before I was full empty but now I am full busy. I earn at least Rs 500 per day and me and my family are happy now. In my village and in other villages people have high respect for me now. Thank you BridgeIT Project!”

– **Hanumanta, Karnataka**



Hanumanta helping an elder in his village set up a bank account

Seen as “teachers” and “educators”, the entrepreneurs have also gained recognition and respect due to these interventions, and in return their communities have rallied behind them to support and encourage them. A win-win situation, this has not only provided the opportunity for the entrepreneurs to invest and give back to their communities but also for the communities to support and encourage one of their own to succeed.

Economics apart, the project has also brought personal and social changes in the lives of the entrepreneurs, their families, and the community. Gender norms and barriers have been broken with young women entrepreneurs providing IT based services to the entire community. Upper caste members who live on one

“We are thankful for getting the Smart Class opportunity at our school. It is going to increase student knowledge and be helpful for their future. Especially in today’s competitive world computer knowledge is important. Reading and writing are not enough. Computer knowledge is more important for their future careers”

– **Mr Adesh, Teacher**

“For me 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 at all. It is helping me build my future. I am currently standing in a place I never thought I would be at, and for my family it has helped solve many problems. I salute all the entrepreneurs who fight for their future through this project and wish that they all reach their goals.”

– **Jeho Roluahpuia, Mizoram**

side of the road cross over to shops operated by scheduled caste and schedule tribe youth to meet their service needs. SC/ST youth are registering themselves with banks and government service providers to be their extension arm, often providing door-to-door services for the elderly and the house bound. Some of these entrepreneurs, from SC/ST/OBC backgrounds, are now participating in village Panchayats, and their opinion and counsel is sought for important decisions affecting their communities. Zohming a young Mizo entrepreneur from Turial village stood and won as Village Council member for his village in the recent elections held in Mizoram. Zohming attributes the trust and respect that he has gained in the community to the BridgeIT project, and attributes this as a main reason for his win. The entrepreneurs have gained recognition and respect both in their families and the community, leading to an increased social status and social inclusion.

These are just some of the ‘Stories of Change’, stories of personal growth and social change, brought about by the project.



Gunupur Cluster Computer Training

“For the past one year I learnt about computers. Teaching using a computer and projector is very effective. We can memorise and understanding the concepts. If other subjects are also taught like this it will be great.”

- **Sukanya**, 7th standard

Increased confidence, willingness to take risks, ability to analyse and make decisions, ability to effect change, confidence to move forward, and the capacity to dream big, are now norms. Like Nirma-la, who fulfilled her dream to start a second “Jana Snehi” (People’ Friend) ‘HiTech’ shop, many of the entrepreneurs have big dreams and a future they otherwise could never have imagined or hoped for, a testament to the transformational change brought about by the project.

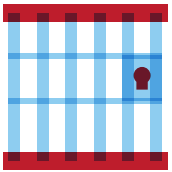
With successes such as these, a new phase has been started this year, despite the pandemic spreading through the country, covering 32 remote tribal villages in Odisha and 32 more villages in North Karnataka. Started in May 2020, the entrepreneurs come from very humble backgrounds, steeped in poverty. Several have lost one or both parents and were dependant on family members for their survival. The only option for many of the young girls was marriage, motherhood, and a life dependant on others. For the boys, daily wage labour or agriculture, were their only options. Life for these entrepreneurs was “full empty, full failure”, poignantly expressed by one entrepreneur. The lifeline that this project has therefore offered has been unequivocal. The entrepreneurs see this project as a ‘life saver’ providing them prospects to earn a sustainable livelihood and a vision for their future. And for the new entrepreneurs, having completed their computer training, several have already invested in their business and/or set up shops. With the exceptional support and backing from their families, many have invested in equipment, found locations for their shops, or have even started their businesses from their homes. Eager to capitalise on the opportunity and to start serving their communities, we firmly believe the successes we have witnessed so far will continue to strengthen and impact, and bring hope and a better life to these and our other entrepreneurs, now and for many more years to come.



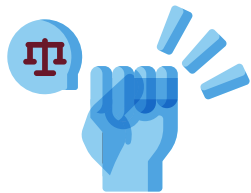
One of our entrepreneurs taking computer classes for children in a school in Mizoram

Prevention and protection of tribal youth from unsafe migration and trafficking

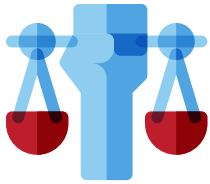
BACKGROUND INFORMATION



Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, the exploitation of human beings, especially from vulnerable sections of society.



It is recognized as one of the most severe abuses of human rights, and social and economic injustices.



These injustices and violations of human rights are both a cause and a consequence of human trafficking.

Rex W. Tillerson, U.S. Secretary of State declared, "Human trafficking is one of the most tragic human rights issues of our time. It splinters families, distorts global markets, undermines the rule of law, and spurs other transnational criminal activity.



It threatens public safety and national security. But worst of all, this crime robs human beings of their freedom and their dignity.

That's why we must pursue an end to the scourge of human trafficking".



In India young girls from the state of Jharkhand happen to be the worst affected. Jharkhand has emerged as the major source for inter-state and inter-country trafficking. Most of the children and youth trafficked from Jharkhand are from extremely poor tribal communities. Recent studies indicate that most of these girls are sent to work as domestic workers in cities, are forced into marriage or coerced into the flesh trade. Girls and boys are also assigned to forced labour and smuggled for begging. A new abuse that has started reveals that the trafficked girls are impregnated and made to bear children so that these babies could be sold off. Extreme poverty, lack of basic education and traditional beliefs / practices makes these young people easy targets. There are no livelihood options for the youth in the villages. Agriculture, without technology and irrigation facilities, is the only income earner and is not enough to feed the growing number of mouths. Apart from being trafficked, a large number of young boys and girls migrate to cities in search of jobs without any qualifications or assurance of a job, only to be abused and enslaved.

To make a difference Development Focus is implementing this project in Simdega and Gumla districts of Jharkhand, where the problem of human trafficking and unsafe migration is very high. The project is implemented along with 2 local partners, AROUSE and SITARA, who have been working in these districts for many years and have a good standing with the tribal communities. The goal of the project is to Prevent and Protect tribal youth from unsafe migration and trafficking.

The project is implemented in 20 villages of Thethaitangar Block



Children pile onto each others bicycles as they rush to return home before sunset after their Children's Club meeting

in Simdega District and 20 villages of Dumri Block in Gumla Dist. The villages were identified based on available secondary data on socio-economic status and unsafe migration/trafficking. After the initial rapport building, village meetings were organised to explain the need for a project like this and why their villages were selected. The need to form different community structures in their village i.e. Children Clubs, Youth Clubs and Community Watch Groups (CWG) was discussed with the villagers. On gaining their support they were facilitated to form CWGs which is the basic structure that will coordinate all the activities that are to be carried out in every village. A Community Mobilizer (CM), who will supervise the village activities and act as a bridge between the village and the implementing agency was selected in all 40 villages by their CWG. The Project Officer, Assistant Project Officer and CMs were involved in collecting and consolidating the baseline data. Hand holding support to the project team is given by Development Focus (DF) to develop their capacity and guide them, through periodic field visits and online communication. The project team formed Children's Clubs and Youth Clubs in all the villages. The purpose of forming the groups was explained to every member to ensure their active participation.

Community Watch Groups:

Each Community Watch Group consists of 9 to 11 members. These members were selected by the villagers based on criteria which they came up with. The CWG members are given the responsibility of monitoring the activities that are implemented in their village. They had a series of capacity development sessions to facilitate them understand their roles and responsibilities. The members were sensitized on the ongoing trafficking activities and the long term goal of the project was explained to them. The CWGs will also sustain the project activities after the project cycle. CWG members are encouraged to take active part in Gram Sabha meetings in their village, where important decisions on village development are discussed and decided.

A total of 40 CWGs have been formed, made up of 384 women and 162 men. They meet every



Community Watch Group meets for monthly review and planning of the project activities

month to review progress of the project. Exposure visits to other panchayats have been organized to help them understand how the panchayat system works. Community participation and ownership is highly prioritized and promoted in the project.

Children Clubs:

There are government primary schools in the tribal villages but many of them hardly function. There could be one or two teachers for 5 classes and very poor infrastructure. High schools are not within reach. Children find it difficult to go to school due to poor road connectivity and lack of transport facility. Few families that can afford send their children to private schools that are few and far between. The dropout rates among children, even before standard 5, are high. Children's Clubs have been formed for children in the 9 to 14 age group so that they can come together to study, play and learn child friendly skills. Children's Clubs (CC) are facilitated by a youth facilitator in the village under the supervision of CWG. In each group there are 15 - 20 members present. There could be one or two clubs in a village, depending on the number of children. Each group has a leader who maintains records of attendance, plans made by children and group activities. Children take leadership roles on a rotational basis. CCs also acts as platforms where children can discuss issues that affects their lives. The clubs are linked to the Gram Sabha and CCs representation in the Gram Sabha is being sought. The main aim of forming CCs is to ensure that children in the village receive holistic education, no child drops out from school and children understand their rights. It is an early deterrent to unsafe migration and trafficking.

Each CC is provided sports materials and children spend time

playing together. A concept called 'Earn While You Learn' has been introduced. This helps children learn child friendly skills like small animal rearing, vermicomposting, garland making, kitchen gardening, grafting etc. External trainers are brought, when necessary, to teach children new skills in the clubs. Parents are excited to know that their children are learning these skills that are relevant, apart from their regular studies. This makes education relevant to them and encourages parents to send their children to school and the clubs. Age appropriate topics in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights are taught in the clubs to facilitate children to have a better understanding of themselves and their rights. Children further learn about their responsibilities and entitlements.

40 Children's clubs have been formed, made up of 736 members – 377 girls and 359 boys. The goal is to cover 2400 children in the 9 to 14 age group.

Youth Clubs:

Young girls and boys in the 15 to 21 age group easily fall prey to trafficking or unsafe migration. They are neither in school nor are adequately skilled to pursue a career to make a living. In the 40 villages where this project is implemented, youth hardly find employment opportunities other than agricultural labour which is seasonal. This forces them to move out of the village searching for a better life. Unfortunately, most of them get trapped by placement agents who make false promises leading the youth to a life of abuse and exploitation in an unknown city. To make a difference, this project helps them see livelihood opportunities in their village and equips them to earn a decent living without having to leave their village. Youth Clubs are formed to facilitate this process and their overall development.

Young girls and boys meet regularly in their village Youth clubs. The clubs are managed by the members following the principle of rotational leadership. It is a platform where they open up and share the challenges they go through in their lives. They are provided sports materials and play games and sports in their weekly gatherings. Inputs are provided to help them think about their future. They are sensitized about



Children's Club meeting in progress as a young boy stands up to share his story

their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights. They are introduced to various livelihood options, especially those where value is added to locally available forest products and others to meet the needs of their communities. The youth are facilitated to identify and choose business opportunities that can make a difference in their lives. The activities fall under the following categories:

- Value addition to Non-Timber Forest Products like making Sal leaf plates, processing Mahua etc.
- Processing and packing locally grown products like; tamarind, groundnuts, Chironji etc.
- Meeting the needs of the community like; solar lighting, fuel saving stoves and IT services

A total of 40 groups have been formed, made up of 712 members – 344 girls and 358 boys. The start of the livelihood activities have been unduly delayed due the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic.



Youth and Community representatives after a training on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights



**Sumira Kumari, 11, Churiya village,
Simdega District**

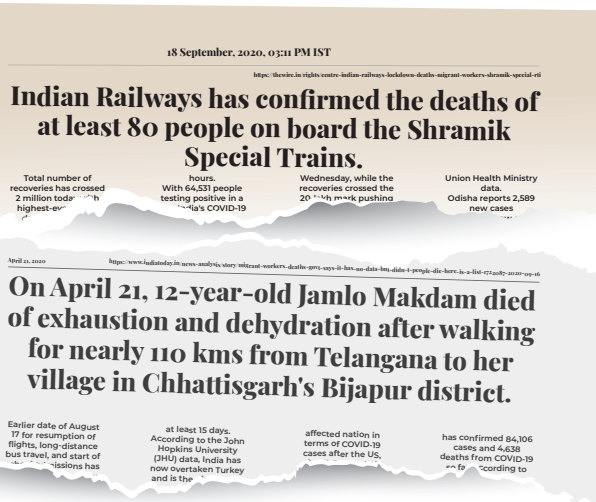
My name is Sumira Kumari and I live in a tiny village called Churiya of Simdega District. I am now 11 years old and I lost my father when I was only 5 years old. My mother, being the sole bread-winner in my family, struggles to make ends meet. Mother did not want me to miss out so she admitted me into school as soon as she possibly could. Tragedy struck once again and mother was paralyzed and then completely bedridden. The burden of providing for my family suddenly fell upon my little shoulders. Not only did I have to drop out of school, but I had to do all the house work as well as take care of my ailing mother. My elder brother migrated to Odisha in hopes of providing for the family and he managed to get a job as a daily wage labourer. He has been sending as much money as he can for us to get by.

Soon after, a Children's Club was formed in my village and I was invited to join. This was so exciting for me as I could finish all my house work and take part in the activities and learn to enjoy life and learn skills like the other children. I was able to make new friends and hear their stories of how much they learn and enjoy school. I am convinced that I cannot miss out on my education while I look after my family and I hope that as soon as school re-opens, after the lockdown, I will be able to enroll and return to my studies. My dream when I grow up is to train and become a teacher that brings light and knowledge to other children in my village. Being part of the Children's Club in my village taught me that I cannot leave my future to uncertainty and darkness but that I must take charge of my own life and work hard towards a brighter future.



Youth Club members pose for a team photo before the start of a football match as part of their Youth Club activity

Food security and just resettlement of migrant returnees



Migrant returnees pile into the back of a truck frantically clutching their government issued care packages



The pandemic caused by the Novel Coronavirus or 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 strict and sudden lockdown to contain the spread of the disease since March 25, 2020. This trapped millions of migrant workers in the cities where they had migrated to in search of livelihood. With all forms of transport suspended, the migrant families were stuck and became aliens overnight. They were left with no work or income and were shunned by middle class families as carriers of the virus. Many of them lived in construction sites, crowded chawls, or overcrowded slums, with some even living in containers and on the streets. With no income, no money for food, and no way to go back home to their villages, these families were the worst affected by COVID-19.

The sudden suspension of railway services and miscommunications forced the desperate migrant families to resort to walk, cycle, or get into crowded buses and trucks, to reach their villages that were hundreds of kilometres away. Many lost their lives due to hunger, thirst, and road accidents. This exodus or reverse migration has become a humanitarian crisis. Many of the welfare measures announced by the central and state governments has not reached these migrant families as they do not have proof of identity and residence. Jharkhand is one of the states that is worst affected by this reverse migration.

To address the need arising from the arrival of large number of returnees, Development Focus, in partnership with two of our local partners, SITARA and AROUSE, is implementing a one year project in 40 villages of Gumla and Simdega districts, reaching 800 returnee and host community households. SITARA and AROUSE are existing partners implementing a three-year 'Prevention and Protection of Tribal Youth from Unsafe Migration and Trafficking' project in the same 40 villages. The proposed interventions have been developed in close consultation with the partners who, in turn, have consulted the communities and existing Community Watch Groups in the target villages. The project is designed to complement the existing project and the activities will be followed up by the partners and their teams beyond the duration of this project to maximize synergies and ensure sustainability.

Objective:
The main objective of this one year project is to address food security, livelihoods and protection needs of migrant returnee households and rural host communities in Gumla and Simdega districts, Jharkhand.

Key activities:

At the outset, the project identified and trained 40 Community Facilitators – 1 in each target village. A Community Watch Group (CWG) made up of representatives from the host communities and returnees has been formed in each village. The CWG has set criteria and identified direct beneficiaries. The criteria ensure the inclusion of households who are: landless returnees, daily wage labourers with no income, women headed households, households with high numbers of children under five, and other vulnerable households.

1. Cash for work to meet immediate food and other needs:

Cash transfers of Rs. 150 per day towards cash for work are provided for 12 days per month for two months. Work includes Agricultural land leveling, cleaning ponds, cleaning of school and church compounds, cleaning drinking water wells and repairing canals. This list of work to be done was collected from the villagers. During agricultural season the returnees are engaged in farming activity in any of their neighbor's land and are paid for it. Cash for work provides greater dignity to the receiver than giving dry rations. There is also flexibility in how they use the money.



Young men planting trees in their village



Village members chosen as beneficiaries returning home with their 2 goats

2. Livelihood activities related to food security:

The project is supporting livelihood activities such as home gardens, small animal raising (chickens, ducks, goats, and pigs), and fisheries. The Community Facilitators are given livelihood training by NGOs and Government Officials competent in these areas. The Community Facilitators cascade this training to beneficiary households along with distribution of livelihood materials:

- i. Home gardens: Identified beneficiaries are provided quality seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, and hand tools.
- ii. Small livestock: Selected beneficiaries receive 20 chickens or 20 ducks or 2 goats or 3 pigs. Along with this they receive feed for 3 months and veterinary support from the government.
- iii. Fisheries: Fishponds are dug and equipped in 4 villages and beneficiaries receive fingerlings, fish feed, and fishing gear.

Through this, the food security in the villages will greatly improve. There will be enough food to eat and excess to sell. The trained Community Facilitators will provide ongoing support.



A young man proudly poses next to the 2 pigs he received as part of the small livestock livelihood activity in his village

3. Social reintegration and protection for women and children:

The Community Watch Groups in each village, made up of returnees and host community members are made up of at least 50% women and include representatives from minority groups in the village (ethnicity, religion). The CWG members are provided capacity development in areas such as; mediation, conflict resolution, preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, and child protection.

The role of the trained CWG is to facilitate smooth resettlement of the returnees. As the returnees keep arriving tensions arise. The CWG mediates to resolve issues between the resident households and the new comers. The CWGs work towards reducing social tensions. The CWG further create awareness in the community on Gender Based Violence and Child protection. They facilitate the community to set acceptable norms and play a control role if these norms are violated. Cases that cannot be solved are referred by the CWG to other organisations/duty bearers.

Development Focus intends to see that the returnees are reintegrated into their communities and start living in their own villages with food security, peace and justice.



Community Watch Group members meeting and recording their village activities based on Social Integration and protection for women and children.

This is the story of Martha Soreng. Her eyes curiously twinkle with many questions, as she smiles toothlessly. Her shriveled hands and feet, disheveled greying hair, indicate years of hard work, and bearing children as she squats next to her 3 small grandchildren. All 3 huddle around her, their feet shyly playing with the mud underfoot.

She is speaking to us about her son Vimal Soreng, who has migrated to Goa in January this year. He works with the fishermen there, in one of the coastal towns. He could earn about 400 rupees per day. He would send home most of that hard earned money. As Covid-19 hit, the mass exodus of migrant workers began and everyday people would trickle into their village exhausted after days of walking and cycling back along the highways. Eagerly, Martha waited for her son to return, but she hasn't yet seen his familiar face, and his fellow

companions don't have answers as to his whereabouts. With no phone connectivity and no other way to contact him, she just has to wait and pray that he's okay wherever he may be. Her eyes now fill up with tears as she remembers her beloved son, who was the one who sent money for his family to survive.

She lives with her daughter-in-law, Priyanka, who along with her now looks at any daily wage work that comes their way. After the money at home dried up, with 3 tiny mouths to feed, Martha and Priyanka have no choice but to work for their daily food, and basic survival of their family. The only available work right now is in farming so they work for about 8 hours a day as agricultural labourers to earn only around 80-90 rupees per day.

They must also remain in their village, Konpala Lurkutoli, in Simdega, Jharkhand, just in case Vimal returns home.

It has been many weeks and she has had no communication with him. She smiles through her tears because we have been able to reach her village and provide some hope during this time. She is looking forward to the livelihood training that we will provide as she anxiously awaits her son's return.

Past projects

BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME

India is a signatory to UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals. The 4th goal is to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by the year 2030". In spite of the Government's resolve and action extreme poverty, migration, armed conflict, lack of amenities, etc. keep many children out of school. In fact, children from the poorest households, especially in rural areas are more likely to be out of school than their richer counterparts. One of the main problems is the attitude of parents in poor, rural communities towards education. They feel that 8 years of primary education is not going to make any difference for the future of their children in an environment where pursuing education beyond grade 8 is very low.

Development Focus implemented a Basic Education Programme from 2006-14 with support from Edukans Foundation, in the Netherlands. The programme was implemented in 26 very poor districts of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand where the majority are SC, ST and OBC communities. DF partnered with 40 implementing organisations that were organised into 5 Clusters. School enrolment rates in these remote villages were very poor and drop-out rates very high when the project started. In some villages the enrolment rate was less than 60% and 45% of these children would drop-out by the time they came to grade 5.

The programme sensitized communities on the benefits of education, empowered them to demand better facilities in government schools, demanded that teachers were appointed and quality of teaching/learning improved and quality mid-day meals provided. To make education more relevant, a unique "Earn While You Learn (EWYL)" intervention was introduced. This brought about a big change in the community's attitude towards education. EWYL is a co-curricular activity carried out along with formal education. Children learnt and practiced child friendly livelihood activities like chicken/duck rearing,



Singing is an integral part of childhood and is one of our children's club activities

vegetable gardening, chalk making, producing organic fertilizers, vermicomposting etc. after class hours in the school premises. Parents began to realize that schools can also teach their children skills that are relevant in their environment, leading to livelihood at a later stage. This proved to be a Game Changer in the perspective of poor households towards education.

Children's Clubs were formed and strengthened in schools. Children learnt about their rights and developed Leadership skills. The overall interaction between the community and the school greatly improved through School Management Committees. Communities understood the importance of education, their entitlements and started demanding their rights from the officials. This programme reached out to nearly 120,000 children in the 6 to 14 age group in 873 villages. School enrolment rates went up to 100% and drop-out rates up to grade 8 are less than 10%. Even though the project cycle is over, the interest and involvement in education continues.

In addition to these community level interventions, State Level Forums were established in the state Capitals of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, made up of Implementing Partners, other like-minded NGOs and Civil Society Players. Policy Issues were taken up with the government. Some of the Outcomes of the Forum are: Sufficient teachers are deployed in village schools, Textbooks are printed on time and made available to children and the school infrastructure is maintained well. There is still a great need for Education projects like this and Development Focus will continue to strive for the same.



Older children guide younger children on their school work

CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISMS

“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” is SDG number 7. In spite of the technological progress that India has made, over 80% of rural households in remote villages of Central India still use firewood and cow dung cakes for cooking. These make-shift stoves emit smoke and soot leading to respiratory diseases. Women and children also spend long hours collecting firewood and/or spend money to buy them. When it comes to lighting, there are over 40% households in these regions that have no reliable grid supply. They use kerosene lamps for lighting. This project was piloted in villages of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. Young boys and girls were trained to Make-Market-Maintain; Fuel Efficient Stoves (FES) and Solar Lanterns (SL). The overall objectives of the project were:

- Providing livelihood opportunities to marginalized boys and girls in villages.
- Reducing unsafe migration of rural youth to towns and cities in search of livelihood.
- Enhancing the quality of life for poor rural households through better lighting and improved fuel efficiency for cooking, leading to better health and financial savings.
- Reducing carbon emission and creating a finance opportunity through carbon credits.

A pilot project was started in 2014 and 480



Young Women preparing the metal mould to make the Fuel Efficient Stoves

youth were trained. Several challenges including; poor quality of SL component supply and the lack of entrepreneurship in Tribal youth were identified. These were adequately addressed. Post training, every trained youth was provided 3 solar lantern kits that would act as the initial capital or a FES mould. With the wealth of knowledge and experience gained through this pilot, DF plans to raise funds for a much larger project covering at least 50,000 households to provide livelihood to many youth and improve the Quality of Life. This further conserves natural resources and propagates safe and healthy lifestyles. Once the spread is large, we plan to apply for Carbon Credit to bring in financial sustainability. Our ultimate goal is to create a sustainable environment for the current and future generations of our nation.



Tribal youth learning kitchen gardening where they can grow their own food

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF ADOLESCENTS FROM CHILD MARRIAGE

SDG 5 is to: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all women and girls. One of the disempowering and life threatening practice that goes unabated due to socio-cultural and economic reasons is Child Marriages. It is a scourge in many communities, especially in poor, rural villages. It is common that a girl of 13 or 14 is pulled out of school and married off for financial considerations or in the guise of protecting the child. In some communities where Development Focus works, more than 70% of girls are married before they are 18.

With support from Edukans Foundation and partnering with 20 Implementing Organizations, DF implemented a Prevention of

Child Marriage Project in 12 districts of Jharkhand and Odisha in 2014-16. The Goal was to reduce child marriages by 50% and strengthen Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) among adolescents and youth. As in all our projects, the community was involved right from the beginning. The broad objectives of the project were: better knowledge on SRHR, improved access to SRHR services, enhanced access to formal education, retention of adolescent girls in schools and influencing government policies.

Six Yuva Mitras were selected from each of the 400 villages. They were motivated to volunteer as 'Change Agents' and trained on; SRHR issues, importance of education and laws governing child marriage. They mobilized 800 youth groups that met regularly and discussed these issues. Youth were sensitized and set goals for themselves. More than 22,000 youth in the groups and children in 200 government schools were sensitized. Community aware-

ness was raised to support the youth in their decisions. By the end of the project, several child marriages were stopped emboldened by group support. The authorities have been sensitized and are stepping in and stopping practices that threaten the rights of a child.

The programme concluded with a state level dissemination workshop held in both Jharkhand and Odisha. The workshops were attended by; Youth, Parents, Yuva Mitras, Panchayat Raj Institutions and officials. Case studies were presented and panel discussions held to evolve specific recommendations that were submitted to the government. In Jharkhand, the Minister for Women and Child Welfare addressed the gathering. She emphasized the importance of Civil Society support that is needed to wipe out this practice. The Minister released a booklet that catalogues the experiences in implementing this project. What has been done is just a drop in the ocean. DF will strive to spread this message to many more communities, to protect their children.



One of the modes of transport for people travelling to and from their villages. This also makes them easy targets to Human Trafficking

Resource mobilization

Funding support for projects taken up by Development Focus has undergone big changes over the past 14 years. In the first few years, DF had a single, like-minded, foreign donor who supported all our projects that addressed Inequality and Deprivation. However, this was not to go on very long. Due to policy changes of the donor organisation and the respective governments, the donor had to phase out support. We had to look for other sources for project funding and the sustenance of the organisation. This was not easy. We looked for other foreign donors but donations to India had greatly reduced and there was very high competition for the little that was trickling in. We looked for CSR funds, but very often, priorities did not match.

Development Focus decided to raise money from concerned people around us. It is not about asking for money as a goal but sharing ones conviction and passion with others and to invite them to be part of that cause. We started going to schools and colleges to create social awareness about the plight of Tribal Children. The money we raised through voluntary fund raising by students may not have been large but awareness was created that has enhanced the holistic development of these city students about their less fortunate counterparts.

We have also started using social media, to include crowd funding, to create awareness and raise funds. To our pleasant surprise, sometimes total strangers contribute a sizeable amount to support our projects. There are a few well-wishers, who also make regular monthly contributions. Our main source of project funding in the year of report is from:

- Individual donations through direct contact and social media
- Foreign donations for one specific project
- Project support from Corporate Social Responsibility

For the first time in the history of Development Focus, we have initiated a fairly large project with funds that we are raising from individual donations. Seeing the extreme need to fight



A photo taken by Aso Sabar, one of our BridgelT entrepreneurs living in Dimbipankal village, Mohana, Orissa

trafficking and unsafe migration of adolescents from villages of Jharkhand, the Board of Trustees decided to go ahead and start the project described in “prevention and protection of tribal youth from unsafe migration and trafficking” of this report. Five quarters of this project have been successfully implemented without a “conventional donor”.

During the course of the year, MISEREOR in Germany agreed to support a second module of a similar project being implemented in neighbouring Gumla district of Jharkhand. We are still working on raising funds for a third module. The need to protect and prevent these adolescents from life-long shame and abuse is very high on our agenda. We firmly believe that when we are committed to a cause of rescuing people from Inequality and Deprivation, the needed resources will be found.

We implement the Computer Based Functional Literacy project and the BridgelT project, both of which are conceptualized and developed by Tata Consultancy Services. The primary focus areas of TCS-CSR are: Education, Skilling, Entrepreneurship and Health. Development Focus infuses the social aspects to make the implementation effective. It is not just the technical and financial support that they provide but team members from TCS visit the field from time to time to interact with the beneficiaries and encourage them pursue the development goals.

Our aim is not to establish a large organisation with a huge financial turnover but to reach out to the deprived and excluded with compassion and conviction – to facilitate them discover and unleash the God-given potential within them for a better future.

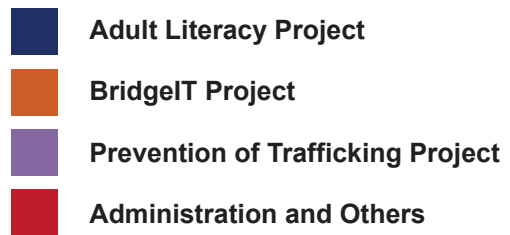
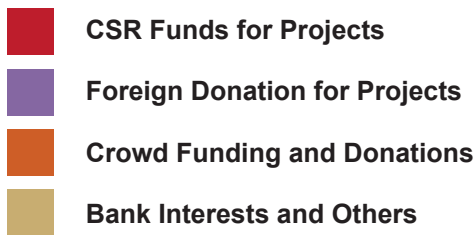
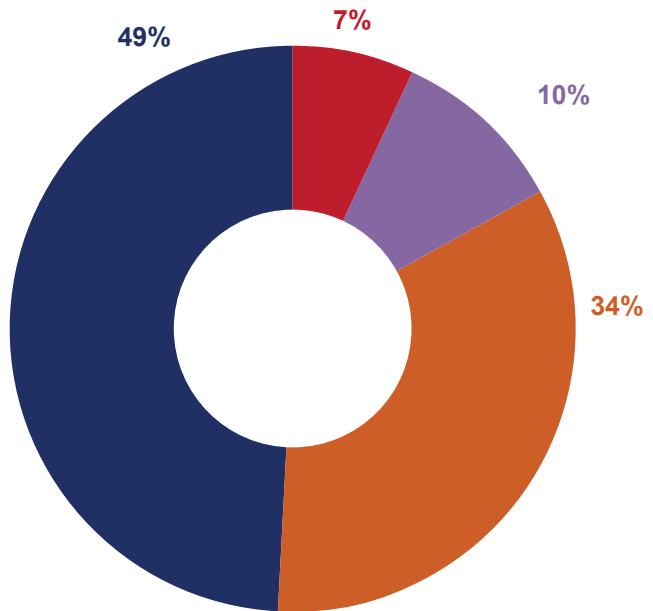
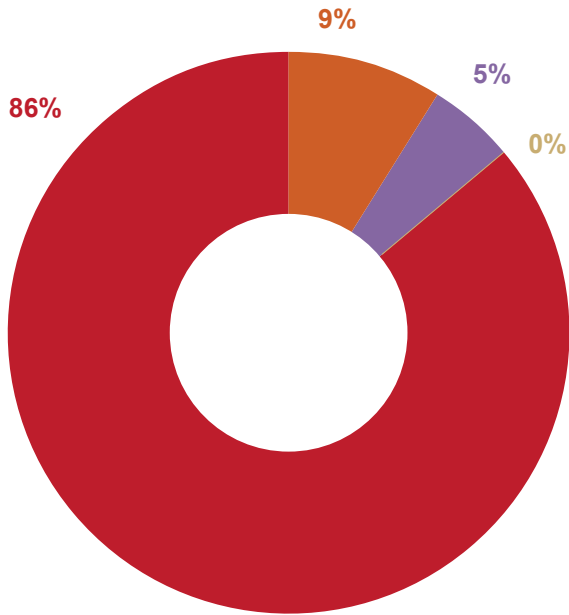
Financial Report

Income

CSR Funds for Projects	1,39,49,000
Foreign Donation for Projects	8,17,351
Crowd Funding and Donations	13,67,099
Bank Interests and Others	42,316

Expenditure

Adult Literacy Project	83,92,541
BridgelT Project	59,70,158
Prevention of Trafficking	16,87,309
Administration and Others	11,72,048



Implementing Partners

Development Focus does not directly implement but 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 by ourselves. It also helps reach larger numbers and be cost effective than if we were to implement directly. In the process, the capacity of Civil Society Organisations is built to enable them to be more effective in their own interventions.

COMPUTER BASED FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

Implementing Partners	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

BRIDGEIT

Implementing Partners	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/Rayagada

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF YOUTH FROM UNSAFE MIGRATION / TRAFFICKING

Implementing Partners	State	District
Animation Rural Outreach Service - AROUSE	Jharkhand	Simdega
Society for integrated Tribal and Rural Action - SITARA	Jharkhand	Gumla

We greatly appreciate the commitment and concern for the poor with which the above partners have implemented their projects. 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.

The Board

Mr. Thomas Paul - Managing Trustee

Dr. Gladys Sumithra - Founder Trustee and Treasurer

Dr. Hannah Anandaraj - Trustee

Dr. P.Sethu - Founder Trustee

The Team

Masillamani – Team Leader

Priya Kirubakaran – Programme Coordinator

Sanjana – Accounts cum Admin Officer

Betrayan Samuel – Project Coordinator

Emmanuel Raj – Asst. Project Officer

Anita Bilung - Project Coordinator

Ramesh Lima - Project Coordinator

Pearl Noronha - Communications & Fundraising Officer



L to R: Emmanuel, Betrayan, Priya, Anita, Pearl, Sanjana, Masillamani, Thomas



Ramesh based in our Odisha field office

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:

A/c of Development Focus, a/c no. 009010100703864, SWIFT Code: AXISINBB009,
IFSC: UTIB0000009, Axis Bank, 9 MG road, Bangalore 560001, India

- **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

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/development-focus-8a5618169/> **Development Focus**

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/DevFocusngo> **DevFocusngo**

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/developmentfocusngo/> **developmentfocusngo**

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFocus> **Development Focus**

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



Note: Detailed Audit Reports can be made available on request



Sports tournament at Koronjo in which youth from 20 villages participated with 26 girls teams and 32 boys teams



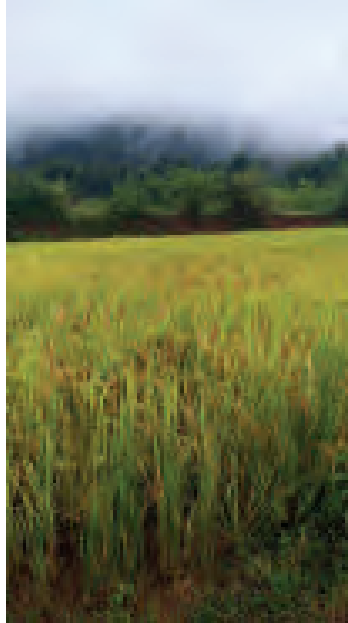
Children's club meeting where each child shares what happened during the week



Group photo of Children's Clubs after chicken rearing training at Majhgaon Panchayat with partner organisation, SITARA



Goats distributed as prizes for winners of the Youth Club football and hockey tournaments



Photos taken by some of the BridgetT project entrepreneurs



Photo taken by one of the BridgetT project entrepreneurs

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