

ISSUE 5 | SEPTEMBER 2021

# **SAMVAAD**

Quarterly Newsletter Aatapi Seva Foundation

# **Supporting vulnerable communities in COVID era!**

Season's Greetings to all from Aatapi Team!!

Aatapi strives to facilitate holistic and sustainable development of the most marginalised through need-based interventions. Thus, it is imperative for us to be closely attuned to the significant developments and emerging needs of the community. The past months at Aatapi have been packed with renewed understanding, initiatives and developments!

A collaborative study by MS University led us to focus on complementary feeding practices being followed for infants and young children, linking them for sustainability to the Nutrition Garden intervention. We motivated community to follow COVID guidelines, vaccination, and provided timely support during the deadly second wave. The women entrepreneurs sold over 45,000 masks with the training on tailoring and financial literacy provided. We inaugurated 2 mini tool banks co-owned by SHG women, celebrated women empowerment and pledged to move ahead strongly forward.

# **CONTENTS**

OUR HEALTH INTERVENTION

**COVID RELIEF WORK** 

WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS ARE
ALL SET

**NUTRITION GARDENS** 

# By the numbers

25,000 members were reached through our COVID intervention from
15 villages of Ankleshwar and Jambusar blocks
More than 100 women were trained in tailoring and computer courses
32 women trained, sold 25,000 masks and are earning 5,000 per month
2 tool banks inaugurated & 50 women farmers are using it
30 Households adopted compost making to use in their own
Nutrition Gardens





## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

#### ENDEAVOUR TO REDUCE HEALTH INEQUITIES

Despite the prevailing COVID led restrictions, we strived to put in our best foot forward to uphold the health and nutrition status of the vulnerable.

At present, our systematic strengthening measures have enabled us to connect with our beneficiaries through our Arogya Saathis, who rose to the challenge despite digital interference. We held meetings with adolescents on a monthly basis, where they were trained in life skills and to follow a healthy lifestyle. Pregnant women and High-risk mothers were also monitored through hybrid means including physical and virtual meetings.

"Arogya Sathis have surpassed their own capacities by managing and monitoring their field and reporting the same in a virtual meet regularly."

- REVTI HEALTH COORDINATOR HEALTH TEAM



## **Complementary feeding practices**

#### **SECURING A FUTURE**

A collaborative study with M.S. University led us to critically explore the status of all important age-appropriate complementary feeding among children. Of the 232 children surveyed (aged between 6-23 months), only 46.6% had received age-appropriate complementary feeding, 15% had an early introduction of complementary feeding, and 38.4% received late complementary feeding. These findings reflect an urgent need for improvement of the feeding practices in all the age groups and that we need to focus on integrating healthy food practices among all the age groups.

We look forward to furthering our Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) program to integrate it with the Nutrition Garden program of Sustainable Maternal and Child Nutrition to follow ageappropriate complementary feeding practices.





#### **PULLING OUR GUARD UP**

#### OUR RESPONSE TO COVID'S SECOND WAVE

With the onset of COVID's second wave, we ensured that our community and team members had the right and optimum information to tackle the surge efficiently. Our first step was to identify suspected cases through active surveillance, counselled them for isolation and use of COVID care centres, and facilitate the required support.

We immediately initiated a massive awareness drive through an auto-rickshaw announcement to avoid mass gatherings. The messages focused on the preventive and treatment protocols of COVID and promoted vaccination. Through our announcements, we made sure to refocus their attention to follow all the necessary COVID guidelines.

Through this initiative, we reached out to more than 50,000 community members across 15 villages at Ankleshwar and Jambusar blocks. We also displayed banners regarding the COVID Care Centers, facilities available, the importance of vaccination etc.

We organized virtual meets with Doctors and other Specialists to seek answers to the prevailing questions about COVID-19 among our team and community leaders to extend the best of our support to the respective communities.

We continue to raise awareness on COVID using various methods, focusing on Masking, Social Distancing and Complete Vaccination.

"Our team has been relentlessly working towards creating awareness about COVID and was on the stand by mode throughout the pandemic to serve the people in need"

- SIDDHI
MIS &
DOCUMENTATION
COORDINATOR





### A DECENTRALISED APPROACH

# OUR VOW TO REACH THE LAST MILE OF CONNECTIVITY

Along with the world, we at Aatapi were also not ready to handle the impact of COVID but we came forward to the best of our capacity. With our team on the field and active volunteer base, we capacitated and counselled the community leaders to keep a check on the families in the respective hamlets in case anyone needs any medical support. End to end support was provided to the patients.

We were on the ground and assisting the community to access the medical facilities and government isolation centres. Our team kept the tap on the needs of the community and came into action whenever needed. The team was on standby facing the war footing and ready to take charge of the situation.

We are now prepared for any impending waves/acute onslaught of COVID through our volunteers, networking, technology and support to COVID care centers established by local agencies.

We gratefully acknowledge support from our collaborators - like Jan Vikas, Mahindra and Mahindra, SUMITOMO Chemicals, Technip Energies, and our Group companies - in ensuring our preparedness and supporting for any eventuality.

"We look forward for our initiative to reach as many community members as possible. We are happy we could design a system that is decentralized, and caters to the local needs of the community"

- MAYANK
INTERN
CORE COVID RESPONSE
TEAM



## WE THE WOMEN, CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE

#### **OUR ENTREPRENEURAL JOURNEY**

We inaugurated two mini tool banks co-owned by SHG members.

As on date, more than 60 women farmers from the two villages are using the tool bank. Awareness campaigns have been held to introduce the tool bank, discuss how they can reduce drudgery and hence improve health of women farmers. We aim to set up more such tool banks in the villages, owned by Women members, to not only reduce drudgery and improve health, but also to empower our SHG members to break stereotypes and become equal partners in farming activities and adopt newer techniques.



"Mini Tool Banks have picked up the demand on the ground due to extensive facilitation by the team members. The community members have seen a positive difference post the usage and are also willing to buy machines for personal use"

-KAMLESH PROJECT MANAGER MINI TOOL BANK



## **GARIMA - II**

#### AN ENTERPRISE FOR EMPOWERMENT

The Garima project at Akhod Village, Vagra Block of Bharuch envisions to empower women, hone their skills and enhance their livelihood opportunities. After a preliminary intervention and orientation of the project, 32 women from the community were identified and trained in tailoring. Post this training these women prepared and sold more than 25,000 masks in the market. They were also trained in financial literacy which would help them to manage their finances efficiently.

We have been supported by our CSR partner, Technip Energies, to scale up the program, undertake advanced training and marketing, to ensure a monthly income of more than Rs. 5-8000 per month to each member.

"Having a sustainable marketing plan beyond provision of tailoring classes is what makes Garima different"

- A TRAINEE OF GARIMA PROJECT



### **SKILL BUILDING**

#### **BEYOND KNOWLEDGE**

At Panoli, a total of 52 women underwent computer & tailoring training. In Jambusar more than 50 women received training in tailoring and are running successful beauty parlours. We continue our endeavour to provide skill, motivate and equip women entrepreneurs to improve their incomes and attain financial independence through our interventions.





## **COMPOSTE MAKING FOR NUTRITION GARDENS**

#### AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROMOTE HEALTH

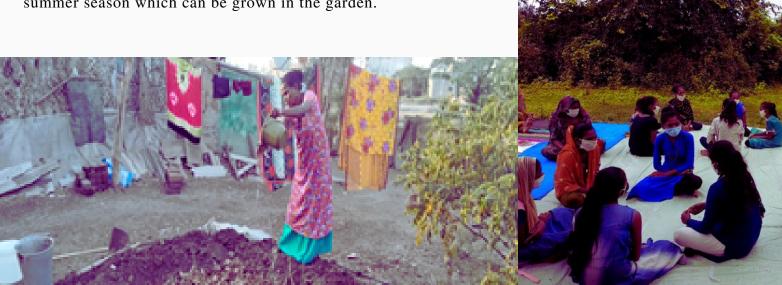
In February, 30 members from 5 villages at Panoli, Ankleshwar joined the initiative of turning biodegradable waste into compost as part of waste management.

A thorough brief based on natural farming was provided to the community and motivated them to be a part of this initiative where their kitchen waste can be used as compost. It was followed by a practical session that demonstrated methods of creating a natural compost out of the kitchen waste and dry recyclable waste.

At present 30 households have adopted compost-making and have grown nutrition gardens. Inching towards the second phase of cultivating nutrition gardens, we included crops exclusive to the summer season which can be grown in the garden.

"COVID has once again demonstrated the need to have sustainable solutions to eradicate Malnutrition"

NANDINI CEO ASF



# PRODUCTS OF OUR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

# **GARIMA**



Types of Masks:
Single Layer, Double
Layer, Double Layer with
Lock.

Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL



Water Bag Capacity– 1 Ltr

Container Bag Capacity – 5 Kgs



Types of bags: Simple bags, Bags with chain, Children's bag.

All the products are customisable - size, colour, pattern



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