



Deep Griha Society

"Empowerment of the marginalised through capacity building and sustainable rural and urban development programmes"

Quarterly Report October to December 2022

Key Advancements/Highlights

Azim Premji Foundation has approved a 4.5 year grant to SCHOOL (PMU) along with the field implementation partners: Deep Griha Society; Snehdeep Jankalyan Foundation; MASHAL; Vanchit Vikas; & Sevadham Trust. This grant will support comprehensive elderly care: by establishing community level support structures; developing a comprehensive service delivery mechanism & health services; ensuring access to social security entitlements & schemes; and creating linkages with government departments & other stakeholders in 15 wards of Pune city, Maharashtra. The first phase covers 2.5 years.

Key Challenges faced

General Programme Updates

Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Programme

Aadhar Kendra looks after 252 children with their access to education. We have seen a drop in individual sponsors, and have been working on Corporate sponsorship for larger groups of children where possible. As this is the first regular 'back to school' year that the children have had in a while, we notice that we need to go back and strengthen the foundation for the students. The Coaching classes introduced at Ramtekdi are doing well and we are looking for a teacher to help students at Tadiwala road Centre as well. The classes were started with AK children in mind and have expanded to include more children from the community. The big events this quarter were - Diwali and Christmas celebrations. Just before Diwali, all the children got fancy new clothes to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

City of Child

This last quarter saw the numbers at CoC range between 38 and 43. In October the students had an opportunity to go for a picnic where they went on a hike, had amazing food and lots of activities planned by another local organisation. The children loved the experience and are keen to go back and stay for the weekend.





After a 2 year break, City of Child was able to host an Alumni meet again in 2022. 30 ex-students of CoC came over, organised lunch and games for the children. Apart from games the students shared their experiences at CoC followed up with the good and the bad about life outside CoC. Many of the students are working at various companies in Pune and were able to share those experiences with the current students.

The Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) run rural health centre in Kasurdi conducted an annual health check-up camp for the children and staff. A few students needed follow up for dental and eye issues and were taken to the Command Hospital in Pune for follow-up care. The Doctors also spoke to the children about the basics of looking after their health as well as the importance of personal hygiene.

The students at CoC have always been keen on dance classes and this quarter we were finally able to find dance teachers from the Centre of Contemporary Dance, who were willing and able to travel to CoC once a week.



Through Deep Griha Academy, students from City of Child had the opportunity to travel to different places and participate in inter school competitions. A new experience for the students which no doubt taught them a lot beyond the sport. Laxman Verma participated in 100 and 200 metres running and Amit Gaikwad participated in kickboxing for under 14 year olds.

Deep Griha Academy



Deep Griha Academy has a fruit orchard! There will eventually be close to 500 fruit trees planted in the orchard. Primarily Guava and Mango, plants but also Sweet Lime, Orange, Papaya, Banana, have been planted. Drip irrigation has been provided for the plants to make watering them in the summer easy.

Community Outreach:

This quarter the students from Grade 9 visited migrant workers near the school to hear about their day and understand the work that they do. Through this exercise the need for access to medical care was highlighted and the plan is to organise a medical check up camp in collaboration with a partner organisation in the new year.



In the month of November, our students who attended Girls Gearing Up Academy 2022 conducted educational activities based on Quality Education - SDG 4 in one of the local schools around DGA. The activities were conducted with up to 250 children. Through these outreach activities we are ensuring access to quality education to the children in the villages around DGA.



On the 26th of November, the DGA team conducted educational activities with children studying in one of the local schools in Deulgaongada, Daund. DGA teachers conducted storytelling, picture perception activities and action songs for up to 40 children. The objective of reaching out to the children in the community is to provide access to quality education to them as well. Sharing the resources that we have at DGA widens the impact that we have on access to education.



In an inter-school drawing competition Aarti Suryawanshi won first prize.



In an inter school competition for Sustainable Development Modelmaking, Shreyas Patel from grade 7 and Vighnesh Ubale from Grade 8 received 3rd prize. They came up with a windmill model. The model is designed to capture critical thinking and problem-solving aspects. Additionally, students learn more about sustainable development goals.

In this quarter we have had regular dance classes as part of the school's weekly schedule. All the grades have sessions with the teacher through the day.



DISHA

The DISHA programme has evolved through the years, and again, through the lockdown we moved onto grocery parcels and regular health check-ups for clients, and now we are back to awareness sessions in schools. The awareness sessions today focus on the need for testing and treatment to continue to work on the fear and stigma around HIV.



The team organised a get together after many years to bring clients from the community together for an evening full of music and dance. Old clients and new came together and shared a meal.



Apart from the fun get-together, this quarter also saw a Melava+ after a long break. The Melava brings single individuals living with HIV together, a traditional version of speed dating with a view to get married. We had 101 people at the event, including parents of the young people and 4 couples had tentatively picked each other. The Melava+ this time was for 18 to 30 year olds only. We included a session on Career Counselling as this was the first time we had very young people attend the Melava and we wanted to let them know of career opportunities as well.



Vriddha Mitra / Healthy Aging

As mentioned in the Key Achievements section, this programme has new funding to scale and the programme is to be funded for 4 years starting from April 2023. Daily meals for up to 100 senior citizens continue as well.



In the last quarter we were able to take the Ajjis (Grandmothers) from the programme for an overnight stay to a facility set up by another organisation. The ladies had a fabulous time, they loved the change of scenery, the location was beautiful with a garden, temple and a small hill they could hike to. The team at Swaroopseva took very good care of all the Ajjis, many of them moved to tears as this was the first time they had a holiday away from home. The Ajobas (Grandfathers) will be able to visit this location in the new year too!



This quarter we were able to begin a weekly activity for senior citizens where we have a dance teacher come and do some movement exercises and dance with interested members. The members who attend enjoy the activity and are happy to participate.

Income Generation Programme (IGP)

In this quarter the women from the IGP based out of Tadiwala road, Ramtekdi and Bibvewadi prepared 5580 meals. DGS was a major client along with partner NGOs that required catering. Through marketing the IGP team is reaching out to the general public too, for a paid tiffin service. Apart from cooking, women made quilled greeting cards, cloth bags (potlis), and painted diyas for Diwali. 20 women from the community also learnt how to make paper bags from newspapers for shops and dispensaries.



Tech SMART Centre, Gultekdi (TSC)

The Tech SMART Centre at Gultekdi is an inclusive centre and is open to students with varying abilities. This year we had 20 students with a hearing impairment as part of the course and 15 of the students are now employed. The TSC team created a 'Friends Group' to bring together students with varying abilities to facilitate better understanding between them. The formation of the group has led to students learning sign language to better communicate with their course mates. The goal of inclusive classes is to help students understand peers with different abilities and break the barriers that keep them apart from each other. Students learning sign language and then turning into translators at job interviews is a move in the right direction.

The Gultekdi centre has been in the current location for over five years now and in our experience of running these courses in various locations, this is around the time we hit saturation and mobilising new students turns into an uphill task. The last batch for the year started in December and will end in March. The plan is to apply for a new location for the new financial year.



An exposure visit to the mall and students who applied for and were selected for Taco Bell.

Scholarship Programme – BNY Mellon

In this quarter the groundwork for the next lot of scholarship distribution was started. The form has been updated and shared with potential students and the interview and selection process will begin in the next quarter. We have USD 15000 to be distributed in this batch.

Special Project Updates

The First Community Church Mission Council in Columbus, Ohio approved USD 10,000 for the kitchen upgrade and the drop-in centre for senior citizens. The work began in December and should be complete by the end of January. The team is excited about a new kitchen as well as the space we are working on for the Ajjis and Ajobas. (Senior Citizens)



Dream Proposals

Special Education

Children and young people with special needs either from the community, or those seeking admissions at DGA need a much better support system. The idea is to create a team of experts in collaboration with other organisations, that can provide what the individuals need as well as to build the capacity of current members of staff to better understand and interact with children with special learning needs.

CoC compound/enclosure

As a residential facility, CoC is required to have an enclosure and we have a wired fence surrounding the premises, the idea is to build a stronger compound structure for better security.

CoC convention centre:

With a view for financial sustainability, the team has been discussing the possibility of converting unused poultry sheds built on the COC premises into a convention centre. The idea is to convert the structure to include a hall as well as a dormitory and kitchen with a toilet block outside. The premises are perfect for workshops, camps etc for up to 40 individuals, thus supplementing the Agriculture income and sponsorship to support the students at CoC.

Areas of Greatest Need/General Donations

The funds Deep Griha receives through 'areas of greatest need' and 'general donations' often support aspects of work that make all of our interventions and programme activities possible. The main need for the use of these funds in this way is that most project specific funding Deep Griha receives, as is common across the sector, doesn't allow for some costs to be included in project proposals. These costs include but are not limited to salaries for operations' staff and individuals responsible for the smooth functioning of programmes but not directly involved in the delivery, e.g. office staff who are vital to the day to day running of Deep Griha. In addition, to enable Deep Griha to run the centres from which many of our programmes are delivered on an ongoing basis, there are costs including telephone and electricity bills, security and maintenance. Also, in order for Deep Griha staff to deliver their work in locations around Pune these costs include the maintenance and running of vehicles. The use of non-specified funds in this way helps us to keep moving forward as an organisation, and thank you for the ongoing support.