



## Deep Griha Society

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

# Quarterly Report January to March 2023

### Key Advancements/Highlights

The Budget for the financial year starting in April 2023 was finalised and submitted. We found a new CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) supporter in DNV (an international company with offices in Pune), they will be supporting aspects of the Senior Citizen programme.

### Key Challenges faced

### General Programme Updates

#### Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Programme

The number of children enrolled with AK stands at 268 in this quarter, 221 students have a sponsor. The mothers were very happy to have participated in the Women's Day Celebrations. Awareness sessions were conducted for teenagers on identifying and dealing with stress and with young girls on reproductive health and the changes to expect. The children continue to have access to their daily meals, counselling and support with everything they need for school.

### City of Child

We ended the quarter with 39 students, as 3 students completed their Grade 10 exams and moved back home. Computer classes, school and homework through the week and Karate classes and sports over the weekend keep the children very busy. The employees from BNY Mellon came together and funded a lot of sports equipment for the children. The children are thrilled with their new racquets, bats, skipping ropes, and the indoor games as well.



Festival celebrations continue to be a highlight along with all the other activities. Here is a 'before' photo on Holi, the festival of colours.

In this quarter we have had BNY employees celebrate birthdays every month with the children, which makes it a lot more fun for everyone.



Winners of the in-house 'star' challenge in February won a trip to a local swimming pool. Perfect for Pune's soaring temperatures. We hope to take all the children through the year.

### Deep Griha Academy

We had 314 students registered with us in this quarter. The teachers have been working hard to cover the learning gaps created by almost two years of online learning.

This academic year also brought along opportunities for exposure visits with partner organisation employees. BNY Mellon teams accompanied Grade 5 and 6 students to the Science Park and Museum.



Grade 8 students went to an Agricultural exhibition in Baramati. During their visit, the students had the opportunity to explore and gain insights into various agricultural practices such as Hydroponics, Polyhouse farming, and Shed net farming. This educational excursion provided the students with valuable knowledge and understanding of innovative farming techniques as part of their Agriculture class at school.



Marathi Diwas (Day) was celebrated on 27 February 2023, the students and teachers of DGA celebrated Marathi Day by performing

- role plays,
- songs
- reader's theatre.

The students and teachers actively participated in sharing information about Marathi literature and notable authors, enhancing the cultural and literary experience of the event.



Science Day was celebrated on 28 February 2023, engaging in creative activities that emphasized resourcefulness and innovation. Students showcase their talent by crafting models and projects using waste materials, promoting the importance of recycling and upcycling. Additionally, they expressed scientific concepts through the medium of rangoli, combining art and science to convey complex ideas in visually appealing ways. The event not only celebrated science but also fostered an eco-friendly mindset and encouraged students to think critically about the reuse of resources.

On 11 March 2023, DGA teachers participated in a training session conducted by Studio Alternatives, an organization dedicated to upcycling materials. The objective of the session was to promote sustainability and empower teachers to integrate upcycling practices into their classrooms. The organization shared valuable insights and techniques on how to repurpose and transform waste materials into useful and creative resources. By equipping teachers with these skills, the training aimed to inspire students to engage in upcycling efforts, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and creative problem-solving within the school community.

After attending comprehensive training on delivering sessions about the importance of recognizing good and bad touch, DGA teachers took the initiative to organize an awareness program for the parents of their students at the school. During the sessions, parents were informed about how to speak to their children about recognising good touch vs bad touch, conversations that the parents need to have with their children and signs they need to look for, to prevent child abuse. The program aimed to educate parents about child abuse, emphasizing the significance of creating a safe and secure environment for children. By sharing their knowledge and insights, the teachers sought to empower parents with the necessary tools to identify and address instances of inappropriate behavior. The awareness program is one example of DGA's commitment to ensuring the well-being and protection of its students in action.

After years of being on hold, DGA's percolation pit was completed in this quarter. It will help us reduce surface runoff, recharge our borewells and in time positively affect the groundwater levels in the area around us. 100 ft by 40 ft and about 10 ft in depth, it will help us collect a lot of rainwater.

## DISHA



Over the quarter the DISHA team conducted 28 Awareness sessions in schools, in and around Pune city. The awareness is an effort to ensure updated information around HIV, reproductive health, and to reduce stigma and discrimination.

The team also conducted training for Teachers and Volunteers, updating them on new information around HIV, including helplines, websites, testing and treatment centres. Among teachers and volunteers ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers were given the basic knowledge about HIV AIDS. They were surprised to learn about nearby ART Centres, ICTC Centres (Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres), the details of the PPTCT (Prevention of Parent To Child Transmission) programme, and updated information about viral load testing. They said that this was very helpful information and that they will share this information with communities that they work with.



91 individuals attended the General Health Camp organised at the Ramtekdi Centre followed by a get together, 104 individuals came together despite heavy rains and a power cut. They danced to music from their mobile phones, and were extremely happy to spend time together. 50 grocery kits were distributed to families struggling in the aftermath of the pandemic and its long lasting effects.

## Vriddha Mitra / Healthy Aging

Vriddha Mitra continued to provide daily meals to 100 individuals on a daily basis. We reached out to 1200 Seniors through the programme. The cohort of organisations has received a grant that will help us reach out to 4000 individuals in the new financial year, starting in April 2023.



Regular dance classes continue to be a favourite activity among the seniors, the dancers are preparing for a performance in April! The team has been preparing for the expansion of work in the next quarter, interviews and candidate selection was completed in this quarter.

### **Income Generation Programme (IGP)**

The Income Generation team provided almost 6000 meals through the quarter and 15 women from the community made it happen. BYST, an organisation that provides training to individuals who aspire to be entrepreneurs or small business owners, conducted a two day workshop for 50 women from the Ramtekdi community. A follow up of the women in three months will let us know how many women were able to apply what they have learned and how.



The ladies came together to celebrate Women's Day in March, 170 women from all the centres participated. It was a fun filled day with games, dance, lunch, and presents for all women. The Guest Speaker spoke to women about self esteem and how to tap into their talent and gifts within. Many women spoke about their life journey and Deep Griha's role in their life.



### **Tech SMART Centre, Gultekdi (TSC)**

The Tech SMART Centre conducted their last batch in the Gultekdi location over these months and trained 59 young people. The team was supported by ex students from the programme to mobilise 78 students for this last batch and even had their help for job placement related work.



Exposure visits to BNY included sessions on 'how to prepare for an interview' as the main topic but the orientation and conversation with the employees provided a lot more learning beyond the session. The students came back very excited and were determined to work in a company similar to BNY.



It was a challenge as the team worked on all the regular tasks, conducted their batch as well as scout a new area to move to, for the next quarter. The chosen area was Gokhale Nagar in Pune, an area that Deep Griha hasn't worked in before. We look forward to working out of a new location in Pune and the possibility that presents.

### **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 Kitchen upgrade and Drop-in Centre space was completed with minimal completion work pending. We have begun using the space for the cooking and are in the process of setting up the Drop-in Centre.



### **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.

### **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. In this quarter the amount was used for a 'Coaching Class' teacher who helped AK students with their homework and with spoken English. During this academic year we noticed students falling back due to the gap in classroom learning. We employed a teacher to help the students with catching up with the school work, one that we had not budgeted for.