



# Deep Griha Society

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

## Quarterly Report October to December 2023

### Key Advancements/Highlights

### Key Challenges faced

### General Programme Updates

#### Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Programme

This Quarter was full of celebrations. Diwali celebrations at all three urban centres saw 91 children celebrate at the respective centres and the Christmas celebrations saw 208 children come together. The celebrations for each involved interactive games, activities and a special meal. Children who are unable to attend everyday lunch at the centre, are able to come together, spend time with each other and have fun.



December ended with birthdays of the children born in November and December coming together for a joint birthday party.

Apart from the celebrations and taking a leaf out of the Vriddha Mitra programme, an awareness session was organised, for the parents and families of the sponsorship programme children. The awareness session talked about the Government Schemes available to people and the documents required for the same.



One new enrollment and a drop in the number of sponsors means that we are focusing on reaching out to new sponsors before we get more children into the programme.

## City of Child

Our numbers stand at 48 boys in this quarter including admissions as well as drop-outs or children who had to move back to their family.

This year for the first time we had an 'Open Day' for parents and extended family members on the day they came to pick their children up for Diwali vacations. It was an opportunity for the parents to hear about all the activities that their children were engaged in, they heard from the team members as well as the counsellors and other visiting facilitators. The children performed songs, sketches and choreographed dance performances for the audience. It was a fun day for the children and you could see that they loved having their family members in the audience. The performances were followed by lunch and the children headed home for the holidays. We hope to make sure that this event becomes an annual event.



Dr Kim who runs the dental clinic at our Ramtekdi centre visited City of Child to talk to the children about the importance of dental hygiene. He distributed toothbrushes to the children as well, which they were very excited about.

The children painted diyas for Diwali which were sold to visitors and even on the open day to the parents/families of the children. They raised about \$15 from this activity. There was a whole lot of pride when they were trying to make the sale to their families.



Most of the children don't have a long enough break for Christmas to go home, so they celebrate it at City of Child. They decorated a tree that they moved from the garden to the Chapel and of course the special Christmas lunch.

## Deep Griha Academy

The number of children enrolled at school remains the same, 204 and yet again, through community outreach we reached out to 102 children from other schools. As part of DGA's community outreach, teachers visit two neighbouring schools to conduct computer classes and language enrichment classes through storytelling sessions.



As an extension of learning and for **community outreach**, in October, the students performed skits in a nearby town, the topics they chose to share with the wider community were the downside of child labour and the position of the transgender community in India. The topics were chosen by the children based on conversations they had in their classroom. Activities like this ensure that DGA stays true to its core and ensures learning isn't limited to the classroom.



In the last quarter a student from City of Child and a DGA student attended a session on Children's Parliament. On arrival, they shared what they had learnt with their fellow students at DGA supported by teachers from DGA who had accompanied them. Since then, they also facilitated sessions with children from the sponsorship programme in Pune. In this last quarter, the students brought this conversation to the children of brick kiln workers around the school to encourage an understanding of rights and responsibilities.

**Vocational training** has been focused on woodwork and electric work. The children are learning how to make various products as well. For Vocational Training, the students were taken on an exposure visit to Deep Griha's Ramtekdi centre to see a 3D printer in action.



Half yearly assessments were conducted and the children's progress was shared with parents. Students experiencing learning gaps demonstrated improvement, aligning with their diagnostic reports conducted at the beginning of the academic year. Teachers worked very hard to customise lesson plans to meet varied, individual learning levels and to facilitate progress for each child.

Earlier in the year Deep Griha Academy bought a device to test soil to be used in the **Agriculture class**. Before a device like this was developed, local farmers needed to take soil samples to the nearest Government KVK centre, which for perspective was over 37 miles for City of Child, 28 miles for DGA, and involved travelling about an hour each way, first to drop off the sample and again two weeks later to collect the report. This meant that most small farmers did not get their soil tested, leading to improper fertilisation and an inevitable effect of a smaller harvest. The device developed and sold by SoilSense can analyse the major components of the soil within 45 minutes. Also, it is a good lesson in chemistry for the students. We have been working on training the children on using the soil sensor and slowly have been bringing soil testing to small farmers near the school. On December 5, SoilSense hosted an online session for individuals in the agriculture industry celebration of 'Soil Day'. Mr. Sudhir Ingle, Chairman of Maha FPC (Maharashtra - Farmer Producing Company), was pleasantly surprised by our presence, as DGA was the only school participating in this session. The students' shared insights from their soil testing experiences, and this impressed Mr. Ingle enough to want to visit DGA to meet the students in person.

In December, DGA was honoured with the National Icon Award and Leaders of Excellence in Cultural Activities Award at the Rangostav National **Arts** Competition. 36 of our students won prizes, medals, trophies, and certificates, and a few have been chosen to participate in the International competition.



## Sports

DGA students' performed exceptionally well in the district-level karate competition. Our students participated effectively and demonstrated their skills in martial arts techniques. The school takes pride in all our students' achievements, emphasising the importance of physical fitness and discipline in their holistic development.

These achievements are evidence of DGA's focus on holistic development of the children.



## Healthy Ageing

The Senior Citizen program continues to work with Seniors in the Ramtekdi, Koregaon park and Tadiwala road communities. We have 4200 registered individuals but the focus is on people with health concerns, living alone, or need special attention.



What hasn't changed since the last report is - home visits, regular general clinics, access to specialists in healthcare, access to physiotherapy, operations when needed, medicine among other facilities. We celebrated festivals and organised fun activities for the Ajjis and Ajobas in the programme. Over and above the activities in collaboration with other NGOs, at Ramtekdi and Tadiwala road, we provide daily meals to 100 people. We have daily yoga classes running at the Ramtekdi Centre, and weekly classes at the Tadiwala road centre. We have Dance therapy/Movement classes for all once a week at both

the centres. In collaboration, we also distributed grocery parcels.

Jagruti Foundation uses the Dental Clinic in Ramtekdi, once a month for a clinic for matters of Mental Health, allowing us to facilitate access to mental healthcare for seniors. In the last quarter we have been focused on ensuring access to Government Schemes available to our participants, we support individuals with what they need to get the documentation completed. 5 participants have started receiving pensions from the Government and 50 participants have had free operations due to the Ayushmaan Bharat Card.

## Cross-Programme Activities

This quarter, to celebrate **Senior Citizens Day** 12 Ajjis and Ajobas (grandmothers and grandfathers) along with 5 members of the team went to **City of Child**, where they were welcomed by 47 boys, accompanied by the 4th Graders from **Deep Griha Academy**. These 3 groups of participants came together for a day of fun. The children welcomed the visitors from Pune with the traditional Dhol Taasha. Through the rest of the time they played games and spoke to each other.





Games and fun activities filled up the day, creating enough space for conversations, questions, and curiosity about each other. Interaction between the Ajjis and Ajobas and the children was beautiful to watch. It was a day that was cherished and celebrated by all the age groups equally. The Grade 4 students had brought handmade presents for the Seniors, which were very appreciated. We hope to have more cross-programme interactions especially involving Ajji and Ajobas and the children. An interaction that is enriching for everyone involved.

#### **Income Generation Programme (IGP) - Asimit (Without boundary)**

This quarter saw a total number of 3580 meals prepared by the team, around 1200 meals per month. The team continues to work on improving processes, data collection and recording as well as marketing and service.



We completed the first cycle of computer classes for women, 20 women will be given a certificate of completion. One of the ladies, Rani, who cooks for Asimit, completed her computer training at DGS and has been updating all the daily records and managing documentation for Asimit at the Tadiwala road centre. Rani distributed sweets for all the staff at Deep Griha to celebrate her making her own money, this is the first time she has earned an income in her life. All the women working under the Asimit banner are working for the first time in their life, and it has been incredible to watch them grow.

In this quarter, we also had a group of women come together at the Ramtekdi centre for sewing. The group will work on products that they can sell and work on creating a plan that leads to scaling their operations over time. We had one of our Asimit women conduct training on making cloth bags for 80 nursing students. Activities like this play a huge role in boosting confidence among the women.

We continue to follow up with the women who are training for various skills at AIPTECH to ensure that once training is complete, we will support them, if needed to use that skill for income generation.

## Tech SMART Centre, Gokhale Nagar

The Tech SMART classes continue with a few challenges around mobilising new students and finding them jobs that are satisfactory to them. We have trained 162 students over the last 9 months and we have 88 under training at the end of the third quarter.

Apart from the regular lessons, Tech SMART also took a page out of the Senior Citizen programme and conducted a camp on documentation needed for access to Government Schemes. As the community we work in for this programme is relatively new, camps such as these help the community to get to know us better.



Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) is a new course that has been introduced. The team ensured that students had exposure visits to/visits from volunteers from the sector to help them learn more about it. Here we see volunteers from Northern Trust Bank speaking to the students about the banking sector.



A whole lot of happy faces at the certificate distribution ceremony.

## Special Project Updates

### Dream Proposals

#### Self Sustainability: DGCC Deep Griha Cultural Centre

The Deep Griha Cultural Centre needs repairs and maintenance that will help attract more people coming over to stay and leading to a little bit of financial self sustainability.

#### CoC renovation

Many buildings at the City of Child require renovations and waterproofing done.

Both DGCC and CoC have old buildings that need maintenance and upgrade.

### Areas of Greatest Need/General Donations

The funds received through the 'area of greatest need' have supported staff welfare, City of Child and operational expenses. We have some support for City of Child this year but less than we were expecting to raise, leading to CoC becoming a big part of the area of greatest need in this last quarter. The struggle this quarter was for CoC and operational expenses. We have guaranteed funding for CoC in the coming year though, which is a relief.