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## "Each one of us makes a difference; together, we can bring change." -Ruchi Kashyap Executive Trustee

## Message from our leader

2020 - 2021 has been the year of significant changes across the world, economies, societies, individuals, and for us as an organization. However, the common link was our reliance on technology to stay connected with the world. The challenges faced by the communities were different and compounded due to the lockdowns, and we had to find new ways to make these voices heard.

However, the communities were involved and engaged to be a part of the solution. We have not been able to resolve all issues, but a partial shift from grassroots to online action ensured that their voices reached those who could take action. We had to adapt, change, and learn how we interact with the people and serve our mission to reach out to the marginalized communities at the grassroots.

As a team and organization, we have made this transition resilient. Our learning has been immense, and we have achieved milestones for our education work during the last year. We are happy to share our plans based on these milestones and recognition in this report.

We hope to get your continued support for our vision, project objectives, and goals; we will build more robust and lasting relationships to achieve long-term impact.

We are a right-based catalyst organization that coalesces Tribal and Dalit and other marginalised communities for their socio-economic and political empowerment with an objective to reach to the unreached.







### Vision

We envision a world without poverty, inequality, injustice and patriarchy and where everyone enjoys the right to life with dignity.

### Mission

Our mission is to reach out to 10 million underprivileged families in Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and then expand our coverage to Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and other poorest states. We strive to work in solidarity with the poor, marginalised and other excluded communities to bring about systemic and social change to defeat poverty, inequality, discrimination, patriarchy and social injustice.

#### Governance

Atmashakti Trust works through people's collectives (Sangathan) in the states of Odisha, UP and Chhattisgarh. We have a Board of Trustees and an appointed Executive Trustee(ET) who is responsible for directing and strategizing the operation plan of the organization and the collectives (Sangathan).

The ET is supported by three teams namely Administration and Finance, Human Resource and Program Team. The plans of the program team are supported by the people's collectives in these states. The program team is further supported by different teams; Training and Capacity Building, Research, Documentation, Campaign and Advocacy, Media and Communication, Resource Mobilization, Organization Building and Special Projects on Agriculture & Health.

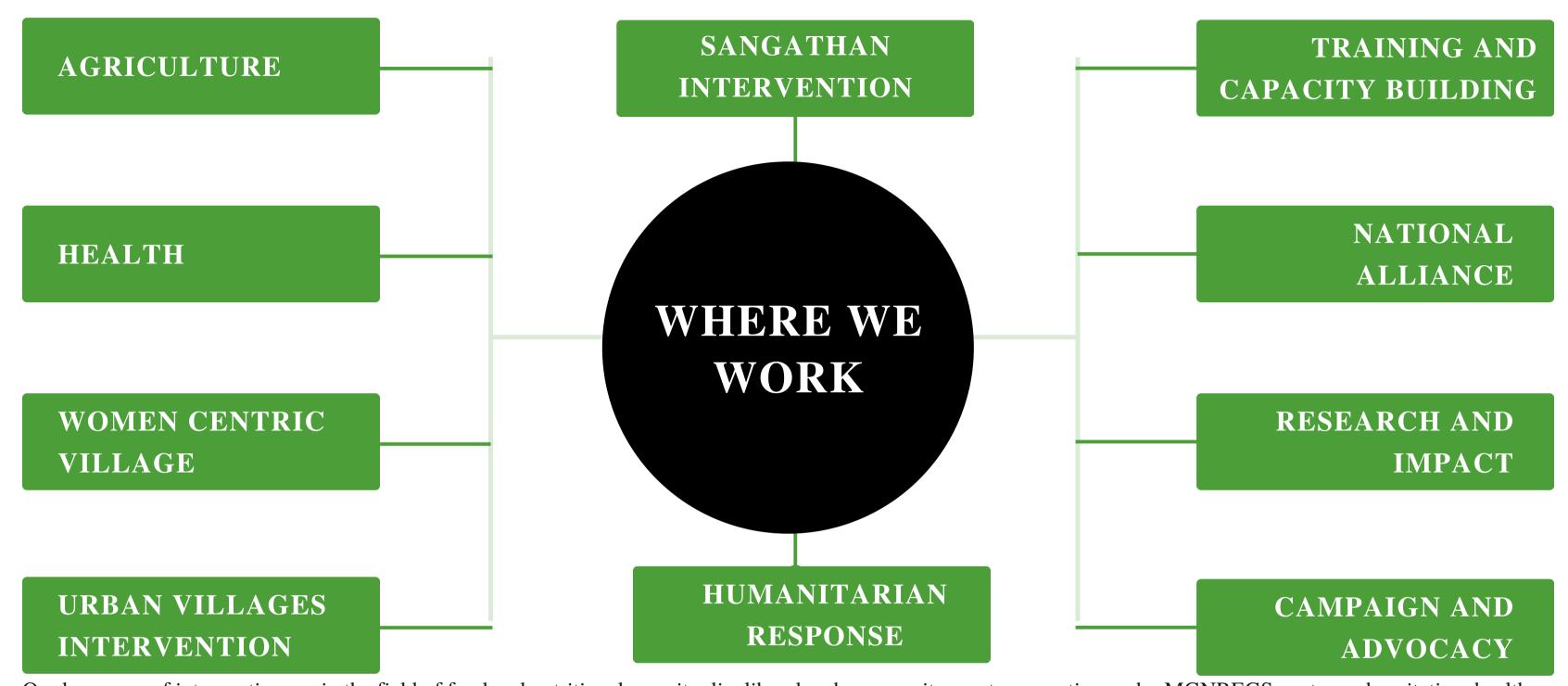
**Atmashakti** is supported by 2 people's collective, Odisha ShramaJeebee Mancha (OSM) and Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha Odisha (MSMO). Both the collectives have a state executive committee to oversee the functions of the organization. At the regional level, they have 23 collectives to support them.

## Our Footprints

Atmashakti Trust is operational in 16
Districts of Odisha. The districts are
Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada,
Kalahandi, Nuapada, Nabarangpur,
Balangir, Kandhamal, Boudh,
Nayagarh, Gajapati, Sambalpur,
Jharsuguda, Sundergarh, Deogarh and
Mayurbhanj. We are working in 962
Gram Panchayats (GPs), 83 Blocks
and 10635 villages.

In Uttar Pradesh, we are operational in Noida urban villages and Sonbhadra District.





Our key areas of intervention are in the field of food and nutritional security, livelihood and community assets generation under MGNREGS, water and sanitation, health, women's right and gender equality, sustainable agriculture initiatives, education, disaster relief and rehabilitation work and community-centered empowerment programmes.

### SANGATHAN INTERVENTION

Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha (OSM) and Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha, Odisha (MSMO) are state-level apex bodies of 23 local sangathan (people's collectives) in Odisha which work to create awareness among communities and capacitate them to collectively take actions to access their rights and entitlements and anchor for relevant policy changes through advocacy, campaign, networking and building solidarity networks.

- Conducted 11022 village-level Sangathan meeting, 1821 GPLC, 289 Block meetings, 49 district committee meetings and one state-level meeting were held during this period.
- Team members became technically capable of handling Social media and other online tools
- 13182 active Sangathan Leaders were educated about Govt. entitlements during COVID-19. Sangathan members were also sensitized on precautionary measures during COVID-19.
- All team members along with 14613 active Sangathan leaders were sensitized to the agriculture program.
- Spearheaded Food Security Campaign through using online platforms such as Twitter, ZOOM and Google meet



- Orientation on Demand of Education remedial classes and infrastructure development to CM, Governor of Odisha in 83 blocks and 17 districts. Orientation on Press releases and local media coverage on Remedial classes
- Education campaign (Hamari Maag Achha School Sudhartmak Sikhya) in 83 blocks of 17 districts of Odisha.16 days campaign of Activism against gender-based violence campaign
- Helpdesk opened in 17 districts for registration of issues
- Mission 1 Lakh (Mo Chatashalee Campaign) launched in 83 blocks and 17 districts, 100542 children involved in the program.

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- We have been successful in plugging in 100000 farmers who are now practicing seed treatment. Out of the 1 Lakh farmers, 85000 are practicing pot medicine, while 52000 are practicing Khajarakhat. With the substitute of Khajarakhat, about 45000 people are now applying compost and vermi-composting.
- 17 seed banks were established in the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Boudh, Mayurbhanj and Kandhamal.
- Vis-à-vis the Model Village project, a total of 34841 farmers are growing one more crop in rain-fed areas which are under OSM/MSMO operational area. 15000 HHs have been and will continue to be facilitated with different rights and entitlements.
- Through the BSU Intervention, more than 500 farmers came to know about the significance of sustainable farming along with the concept of forest restoration. A total of 30 orientations in the field along with 4 training sessions were conducted.



- Basti Level Meeting: Bhubaneswar Bikash Sangathan (BBS) organized 72 basti level meetings. Thousands of people participated in the meetings, and they came together to handle the ground situation with regards to health, livelihood, employment, sanitation, and primary education.
- Building Sangathan: We facilitated the forming of 56 basti level committees in North Zone of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation area. 840 selected women leaders came forward and took the lead role for the betterment of the basti people as well as the sangathan.
- 25 Mo Chatashali centres are functioning in 22 slums with 360 students.



- 127 HK covered 15980 people (7151 from Kotagada & 8829 from Tumudibandh)
- During the period 21125 people benefitted from the HK (8664 M, 7642 F & 4819 children) 9382 people were from Kotagada & 11743 people were from Tumudibandh Block.
- To fight malnutrition, Sangathan members identified 130 HHs in both blocks and extended technical support and guided them to develop Nutritional Kitchen Garden (NKG) in their backyards. Through this intervention, we developed sensitivity towards nutrition-rich foods. 30% of people added green vegetables to their food and at the same time, they were able to save 20% expenses on their food. People also incorporated wild edible fruits like "DIMIRI" in their diet, and interest levels developed among them to promote Nutritional Kitchen Garden.



- Orientation of the format to concern team members after which a survey was conducted for information collection on 618 women and adolescent girls from 3 GPs in Kotagarh block. Out of 618 responses, we have entered 386 data and selected 300 people for our programme (100 from each GP)
- Out of 300 people surveyed for iron tablet usage across the 3 GPS of Subanagiri, Sartul and Jubaguda, it was found that only 44 people were taking iron tablets while the rest 256 were not. Subsequently, awareness training on iron tablet usage and it's benefits was given to volunteers (10) ASHA workers (4), government stakeholders and our team members (4).
- After our awareness drive, 162 pregnant and lactating women started taking medicine regularly and 52 adolescent girls start taking the medicine but now they are irregular.



- Built capacities of team members & sangathan members on: Health, Education, Women rights, Nutrition's Kitchen Garden, effects of Dowry & Alcohol
- Ensured increased participation of women in GramSabha & Pallisabha & resolutions were passed on different women's issues like (community bathing place) in nearby areas of pond and river.
- Developed awareness level on anaemia & after that health camp organized in different villages to know the anaemic status on a community level (24 health check- up program organized) where it found that the level of Haemoglobin is below the average range of adolescent girls and mothers.



- Awareness on prevention of child marriages issues conducted in 27 villages, and wall writing related to child marriage created in 38 villages
- Back to school campaign organized in 14 women-centric villages & wall writing in different strategic locations to create awareness among the community
- Drinking water scarcity resolved in 39 women-centric villages.
- Orientations and training program organized for team members and community members on following issues COVID-19, Vaccine resistance, Mo chatshalee, Government schemes like Biju swasthys kalyan etc
- Organized Bingo competitions to understand the different forms of violence in all women-centric villages.



- Remedial Training for Coordinators & Junior Coordinators: An assessment test was conducted for the Junior Coordinators & Coordinators on Life Skills, Communication, Perspective, & Management skills. The objective of the test was to check that all team members were on the same levels of proficiency. 130 team members participants in offline tests at 16 centres with the support of senior team members.
- Capacity building of team members: Different topics for trainings were identified A field visit by a senior member of Atmashakti Trust to Chhattishgarh has been and chosen for different levels of the team; training was imparted with an emphasis on the impact of the pandemic on each of the chosen topics.

# **NATIONAL** ALLIANCE



- Already 120 new members have joined accepting the ground rules. 06 major states like Chhattishgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been selected at primary level to extend our works through the state chapters
- Constitution of the National Alliance has been developed and shared among all the GB members. A database on different 45 national alliances in India has been developed and shared among the team members.
- done before the 2nd wave of Covid-19 with the intent to understand their works and areas

### **CAMPAIGN AND EVENTS**

### 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Together with our allies, we spearheaded a 16 days campaign in line with the UN System's 16 days activism against Gender-Based Violence, which is observed worldwide from 25th November to 10th December. We organized a number of activities from village to state levels such as mass pledge, women gram sabha, palm-stand, bingo activity on gender-based violence, webinars and online discussion(e-choupals), tweetathon and submission of memorandum to the Chief Minister of Odisha, policymakers and government bodies to mark 16 days campaign where our efforts were to draw public attention against Gender-based violence and seek policy action to end violence against women and girls in Odisha.









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## **Nutritional Food Security Campaign**

Kuposhan jadi kariba dura, dali, tela, luna nischita kara'

As part of COVID-19 distress alleviation measures, 1 kg of Chana dal was being provided to BPL families or PDS beneficiaries every month by the government. However, the state government announced to stop the allocation of dal from November. To understand the importance of the government allocation, we did a baseline survey among 10,769 families in 16 districts and the report highlighted that these families need the allocation of Dal and edible oil to be continued to ensure their nutritional food security. That prompted us to undertake advocacy with the government against its recent decision to continue giving Dal to ensure no one was left hungry. Together with our allies Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha and Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha,

we ran a state-level campaign — 'Kuposhan jadi kariba dura, dali, tela, luna nischita kara' (if you want to eradicate malnutrition, ensure supply of dal, oil and salt). Our demands to the government were to 1) Continue supply of one kg of dal, free of cost for at least 12 months and 2) government should provide an additional quantity of 2 kgs dal per family at Rs. 10/-per kg and add 1 kg of cooking oil @10/- per litre and make it a regular supply under PDS.

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### **CAMPAIGN AND EVENTS**

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### **MISSION3-5-8 Education Campaign**

"Hamari Maang: Achha Vidyalaya, Sudharatmak Shiksha"

During our Cyclone Fani response, in Berhampur Gram Panchayat of Puri District, we realised that schools were heavily damaged and needed overhaul for the children to continue their studies. Similarly, our volunteers also noticed that the learning level of school-going children is not up to their class appropriate standard. So, we conducted a micro-study on assessing learning levels of the school children in Berhampur, Maensa, Khirisahi & Bhabanipur villages.





The study findings revealed that the majority of the students were performing lower than their class appropriate standards in English, Mathematics and Odia Language. From there, the idea of conducting a multi-state study on the children's learning outcome emerged. We did a learning assessment of Class 3, 5 and 8 students from 5 states namely Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Bihar and Delhi with our partner organizations to understand the learning levels among school children. As the learning assessment report highlighted learning gaps among children, we kickstarted the MISSION 3-5-8 campaign where one of our major demands was to offer remedial classes for low performing children during the lockdown so that they will be at par with their peers when schools reopen.

During our learning level study, we also realised that poor school infrastructure in rural Odisha was also a barrier for children to come to government schools. To understand the magnitude of the issue, we again undertook a state-level study on the "Status of school infrastructure in Odisha" over 10000 government schools,

covering 1225 GPs of 84 blocks across 17 districts of the state where there is a large chunk of tribal and Dalit populations. Currently, we are engaging various stakeholders including the government officials on various measures to ensure that no child is losing out on their education.

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### **CAMPAIGN AND EVENTS**

### Livelihood campaign

"Prabasi Shramaku Nakaribaa Mana, Gaon re karibaa Jeebika Arjana"

As the state government decided to bring back migrant workers from other states to their native land, we realised that there will be immediate livelihood issues for the returnees. Meanwhile, the state government increased the daily-wage rate for unskilled manual work under MGNREGA to Rs 298 per day from Rs 207 per day in 20 migration-prone blocks of four districts (Balangir, Bargarh, Nuapada, Kalahandi).

So, we kick-started the livelihood campaign called "Prabasi Shramaku na karibaa mana, nija gaon re karibaa jeebika arjana" to address the immediate livelihood challenge as well as to reduce distressed migration in these areas. Also, to support people in search of work, we set up district-level help-desks in 16 districts. We circulated a dedicate helpline number in each district and engaged our grassroots team members to circulate this among villagers so that the job seekers can be supported with their immediate livelihood opportunities and eke out their living through the convergence of the existing government schemes.





### **Mission Rahat Campaign**

Leaving no one behind



No part of the world, including India, was prepared for the multiple fallouts of COVID-19. At Atmashakti, our hands were tight down in March 2020. Wherever we were in India, we were unable to pursue our normal rights-based work in Odisha. But as usual, we just had to respond to the visible crisis all around us.

The complete lockdown for containing the virus left lakhs of industrial, domestic and daily wagers everywhere in the country without work, money and even access to food. Under this response, we have supported 93280 people so far in Noida, Delhi, and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana with dry rations and cooked food. The beneficiary were mostly ragpickers, construction workers, daily labourers and domestic helpers.

### **CAMPAIGN AND EVENTS**

### **No Hunger Campaign**

Due to the COVID-19 induced nationwide lockdown, a huge number of the country's informal workforce such as migrant labourers, daily wage earners, farmers, street vendors and poor people suffered heavily. The loss of job and the economic insecurity created the food scarcity among them. Experts opined that cases of starvation would occur if the government does not take care of them during the Pandemic.

With this backdrop, the idea of "No Hunger Campaign" emerged which attempted to make the Government public distribution system and other service delivery mechanism effective and accountable, ensure relief packages reaches to the people living in the last miles and the most vulnerable, to provide immediate food items to people in hunger and to include every eligible person under National as well as the State Food Security Scheme.

We used Twitter and other online modes of the campaign to influence and engage the government authorities in the state to ensure the help reaching to the beneficiaries. The campaign was organized in 16 of our operational districts and helped around 1000 families to be included under the Government's food security scheme.



## **PAUSE FOR A CAUSE-Celebrating International Women's Day**

To mark a call to action for accelerating women's equality and bridging the embedded inequality in society, together with our allies, we celebrated International Women's Day 2021 in the state capital Bhubaneswar as well as in our operational area in 17 districts across Odisha.

The theme of the year was "Choose to Challenge". So, adolescent girls and women from Bhubaneswar slum and in rural parts of the state organized 'FREEZE FRAME', where they acted out still scenes on gender-based violence, child marriage, girls education and gender equality to address the systemic, and socio-cultural roots of gender based violence that continues to manifest in the present system. The purpose of the event was to draw attention of the people on the pervasive gender based violence in our societies and to engage in media to advocate for making duty-bearers deliver on their commitments.

### **Testimonies**

I was using traditional technique as a farmer. But after I came across the members of **Adim Adhibasi Ekta Mancha** and **Atmashakti Trust,** I could learn about organic farming. During this process, I learnt how to make pot-medicine, how to do seed treatment. By applying this knowledge in farming, I have become one of the successful farmers in my locality and my income from the agriculture has also grown.

Santosh Bhoi (Farmer), Tekalmunda Village, Uma GP of Boudh district.

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"Nothing will come easy for us until we raise our voices, be it for a ration card, old-age pension or any other local issues that concern us. Tribal and Dalit communities are always at the bottom of the government's developmental priority list and often face discrimination and social exclusion".

Manima Jani, president of the Mahila Lok Bikash Sangathan, a women's collective in Koraput, Od

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"Around 80 per cent of government school children in our country hail from rural areas and most of them do not have any electronic gadgets to access online classes. Attending digital classes beyond limited hours creates a psychological stress, especially for first-stage learners. Atmashakti Trust's effort on education during the COVID time is plausible".

Rampal Singh, National President, All India Primary
Teachers Federation(during Webinar on quality
education)

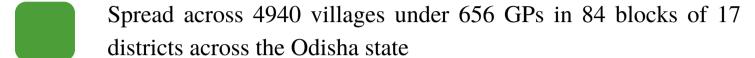
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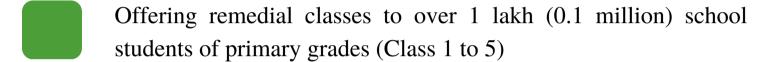
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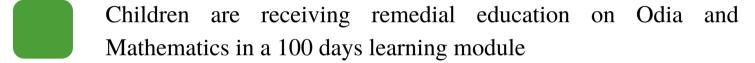
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## MO CHATASHALI-A community-led education initiative (Mission 1 lakh)







### **Overall achievements**

- 5469 Mo Chatashali centres have already been set up in 4940 villages
- To date, 100542 children have been enrolled and are continuing their studies in Chatashali centres
- Could engage our Sangathan members and other networks effectively. Also, mobilised a large volunteer base (close to 6000 as of now). and monitor Mo Chatashali implementation
- More than 100 coverages of our initiative in print, electronic and digital media in local, state and national level leading to government action
- Increased awareness among communities and stakeholders on disparity, digital divide, RTE and etc.







## **KEY IMPACTS**

Challenges were many as our usual field operation was halted and shifting to a new avenue of work was quite frustrating. But our collective team spirit helped us to do it. Not only that, we could do some commendable work even during the COVID restrictions and these works have been widely recognised and appreciated across stakeholders.

While Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, Hon'ble MLA of Talsara, of Odisha have sent a written appreciation letter for our work during covid-19 in western Odisha, MLA from Udala constituency of Mayurbhanj district Bhaskar Madhei has written a letter upon our demand under #mission3-5-8 campaign, to the Chief Minister, seeking immediate actions to revamp education in the state. Also, recently, one of our remedial class teachers Dileswari Dharua was felicitated by eminent Odia Actress Ms Barsha Priyadarshini for her Samaritan role in teaching underprivileged children during the lockdown.





## **Impact from our Sangathan Intervention**



- 20 new sangathans formed, 11766 local issues resolved, 11022 village-level sangathan meeting conducted, 14613 sangathan leaders oriented about agriculture and Mission Rahat.
- Helpdesk to register issues opened in 17 districts, 5469 Mo Chatashali centers opened in 4940 villages. Over 6000 volunteers teaching 100542 children.
- INR 2,22,14911 mobilized for Mo Chatashali through community contributions. Odisha Government declared approval of Rs. 95 core to develop school infrastructure in 23 districts.
- 294 farmers oriented on sustainable farming with forest restoration. 948 people from Koraput and Mayurbhanj participated in the plantation drive of forest and bamboo plants.

wo changemakers Sasmita Mallick and Laxmi Bag, along with thousands others from tribal districts, raise a toast to women empowerment the Gram Sabha way. **Kasturi Ray** traces their

### Faint voices bringing change in rural Odisha





Laxmi with a group of 60-70 wom-en attend GSs regu-larly. They meet



## PROGRAMMATIC IMPACT

Reaching the most vulnerable and bridging the gap

Sustainable Agriculture programme benefited 1 lakh farmers in terms of using and practicing natural farming in 15 districts of Odisha. Under Block Sustainability Unit, , 15 crores of Governmental Fund leverage towards Plan Convergence 100000 farmers earned an average net income of Rs. 2000 per acre (per farmer) due to which a total net income of Rs. 20 crores were used towards health care, children education etc

Health-kit Intervention project benefited 21125 people while 127 Health-Kit formed in Kandhamal District.In consultations with Sangathan members, 111 Swasthya Sathis were selected in both blocks and were trained on Health Kit Management.

Under Women centric Village initiative, Drinking water scarcity resolved in 39 women-centric villages. Also, Increased awareness on child marriage resulted in usages of sanitary napkins in 47 women centric villages and team members & sangathan members were educated on the following issues: Health, Education, Women rights, Nutrition's Kitchen Garden, Dowry & Alcohol.

Urban Village Intervention in Bhubaneswar covered 72 slums women leaders were identified and selected as committee members of Bhubaneswar Bikash Sangathan. Also, 1642 families of 30 slums were provided dry ration, cooked food, and sanitary items during the pandemic time.

Strong community involvement achieved through initiatives like Mission 1 Lakh & Mo Chatshali

Due to our consistent pressure and grassroots mobilisation through wall writings Odisha government launched Siksha Sampark Karyakram through various online mediums using WhatsApp, YouTube, Television etc.

Similar to our volunteer based Chatashali model the ST & Development Department initiated an 'Alternate Learning and Mentorship Programme' to cater to the educational needs of ST/SC students in tribal and dalit dominated villages.

Under Training and Capacity Building programme, A 6 pager Information Docket in Odia was prepared and shared with all the volunteers for orientation on Mission 1 lakh initiative

## CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

## Paradigm shift: From Community action to digital activism

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic restricted our usual operation in our working areas, especially since March. While we contended to some extent that digital platforms are not the same as village meetings, rally, dharnas and in-house consultations but the power and impact of social media in the Indian context was clearly visible and could not be ruled out either. We ensured participation and decision making of communities at every step of our work through wall writings, collection of demands through collecting testimonies and mobilizing communities to submit a memorandum from local administrations to the state government. While ensuring collective efforts at the ground, we shifted our approach from 'streets to tweets' where we used digital technology and online media as connective action tools to persuade and influence policy changes. Also, using data for systemic change was one of the intentional strategies.





### Lobbying, Policy analysis and direct engagement with Decisionmakers

As we were planning for the campaign, we identified stakeholders and made strategies to engage them to build support, solidarity towards achieving campaign goals in 'No hunger' as well as the 'livelihood campaign'.

At the local level, we engaged various stakeholders including the PRI members, government line departments, political party members, and community members and especially the media to build pressure at local administrations, at the state level, we used internet-based media tools to engage and influence policy decision and actions.

Under our initiative "MissionRahat", we decided to support them with dry rations and cooked food to survive in this difficult circumstance. But with limited resources, expediting such a huge relief operation was challenging. However, we were able to connect with the Food Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh and through his help, we could buy 1 lac kgs of rice at 22/kg.

We also got into the contact of the District Magistrate of Ghaziabad and Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Loni, Uttar Pradesh. The district administration provided our staffs with movement pass so that relief distribution could be done uninterruptedly.

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## **STORIES OF IMPACT**



In Odisha's Kandhamal, 33-year-old Pravasini helping tribal communities in remote areas to access basic healthcare services

"I can't see them suffering. So, I vowed to help these communities so that they get access to the basic healthcare service at the doorstep"- Pravasini.

In a rare display of commitment to improve the tribal population's access to health services in remote areas, Pravasini Batakar, a 33-year-old woman is ensuring healthcare facilities in remote areas.

Pravasini was well aware that people here live in hilly terrain and forested areas where they endured poor infrastructure with no roads and telephone connectivity. Pravasini knew that these difficulties were a barrier to their access to healthcare. She was unconcerned about the challenges and extended her services keeping in mind those in need. Pravasini says "Undernutrition is the core of all health problems for them and the inequality of access to health facilities also adds to a higher maternal and child mortality rate. I can't see them suffering. So, ever since I joined, I vowed to help these communities so that they get access to the basic healthcare service at the doorstep".

Villagers are all praise for Pravasini as a do-gooder. "Earlier, we had to travel long distances to receive treatment from Health Centres for even minor ailments. It would cost us Rs.200 to 500 per visit and our entire day would be gone.

But now, we don't have to do that. I feel, Ms Majhi adds, the state government should also make similar efforts to serve the unmet



Pravasini (standing) explaining villagers about the importance of healthkit

health needs of these communities in cut-off areas where referral transportation services of the government are unavailable".

Pravasini looks after 31 health kit villages of Tumudibandha block and always makes it a point that her team is always there for the people who need help.

## STORIES OF IMPACT

## Young girl Ensures Local Kids Don't Suffer Learning Gap During Lockdown



At the height of the pandemic, Dileswari Dharua, a 21-year-old intermediate college student from Balangir district in Odisha began to teach academically low performing children in her village.

### A village school shut down in lockdown

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Phuljharan is just 10-km away from the district headquarter of Balangir, but basic amenities are lacking there. Not well off financially, most of the parents depend on the government primary school of the village for the education of their children. However, schools were shut down in mid-March this year, as a measure to contain the spread of novel Coronavirus.

This prolonged school closure, detention at home and cessation of daily routine because of the pandemic have had an impact on the mental well-being of school children. The so-called online education process also proved discriminatory to the poor and marginalized students as the majority of them lack a digital device to access it.

That prompted Dileswari to do something for the children to bring them back to the fore of learning. "I realised that children are gradually detaching from their learning due to school shut down. One day, Lok Unnati Sangathan, a people's collective of Balangir, was holding a meeting in our village where members were discussing starting remedial classes for academically low-performing children. It was then I thought that kids can keep learning even during a lockdown and then became a part of their initiative," says Dileswari.



### Sasmita's family is ensured of 3-months ration

Sasmita lives with her family in Kudigunja, a village under Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district, Odisha. Both Sasmita and her husband Aruna work as daily wage earners to manage their households. But as the pandemic induced lockdown was imposed, they lost their jobs.

It was Rashmita, our Janasathi in that area who met Sasmita's family and witnessed their ordeals. Very soon, together with our ally Jeebika Suraksha Mancha in Kandhamal, Sasmita's story was tweeted consistently, tagging the State Food and Consumer Welfare Minister, Chief Minister's Office and the district administration of Kandhamal, to seek action in this regard.

Within a week, the district administration took action upon our Twitter posts and provided rations to Sasmita's family.

"I had been fighting for rations. But everybody turned a deaf ear to my request. Now, with the help of Jeebika Suraksha Mancha, we got rations for at least 3-months. I am grateful to the Sangathan members for their timely help, especially during COVID-19 pandemic period", says Ms Sasmita.

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## WAY FORWARD 2021-22

### **AGRICULTURE**

- Reaching out to more 361 GPs covering 3368 villages by clubbing 141440 farming HHs and work to create18 Organic Village under Agriculture initiative
- Promote Paramparagatha Krishi Vikash Yojna within 18 Blocks of 4 Districts
- One Handbook of Training Module and Communication Tools will be prepared for all Sathis of all operational districts.

#### **HEALTH**

- Formation of Health kit- Reach 75 more villages to achieve target of covering health kits in 200 villages and selection and orientation of approx. 150 Swasthya Sathis to facilitate the health kits initiative.
- Addressing the issue of Haemoglobin among women and girls, Strengthening the ICDS System through leverage and convergence, creating nutritional kitchen garden, awareness on hygiene practice

### TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Complete 3 modules i.e., Fact Finding, Budget & Resource Mobilisation courses to complete the part of management Skills.
- Volunteers Engagement: Training to volunteers on 5 thematic areas (agriculture, defence, education, entrepreneurship, and skill development)
- Orientation of team on Covid Vaccination

### WOMEN CENTRIC VILLAGE

- Addressing the issue of iron tablets and Haemoglobin among women and girls through awareness drives, benefits of iron tablets usage.
- Organize Haemoglobin testing camps in villages and ensure the availability of iron tablets for women and adolescent girls in CHC and PHC
- Reproductive Health of Women: All the women-centric villages will have discussions with all women on reproductive health issues, awareness drives on health and the usage of sanitary napkins
- Safe Drinking water Continue work by applying for drinking water connection where needed, testing of water, submitting applications to the relevant authorities, and following up on a regular interval

### RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- A robust and time-bound resource mobilisation plan will be developed to tap potential donors from CSR and other funding agencies
- Preparing segregated and theme-specific grant proposals to raise funds
- Make a plan to mobilize individual donations, solidarity members fund, crowdfund and mobilization of govt. schemes for our operational area.
- Strengthening donor reporting mechanism.

## WAY FORWARD 2021-22

#### URBAL VILLAGES INTERVENTION

- Skill up-gradation of youths by providing different skill development training programs.
- Expanding Sangathan reach and coverage with all the bastis of 3 zones in FY 21-22 in a phase-wise manner.
- BBS will organize communities especially women and empower them to make themselves self-sufficient through their collective action,

### ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGN

- Establishing 1000 Model Chatashali, Advocacy and influencing with government to follow/replicate Mo Chatashali model and taking up Mo Chatashali model nationally by the help of Alliance members
- Continue working on nutrition and Food Security act with our long-pending demand advocating for the inclusion of pulses, iodized salt and edible oil at a subsidized rate.
- Launch an advocacy campaign for the formulation of a grievance redressal act in the state and mobilize the masses and work together with grassroot Sangathans for all campaigns.

#### RESEARCH AND IMPACT

Atmashakti Trust

- Assessment study on learning levels of 10000 Mo Chatashali students
- Developing impact study of all portfolios
- Developing Employee productivity Report

#### NATIONAL ALLIANCE

- Mo Chatashali taken up as a supplementary rural education in other states
- Revamp and Expand National Alliance
- Study state level policies for identifying scope for alliance

### SANGATHAN INTERVENTION

- Once the local Sangathans are built up and communities are aware of their rights and entitlements, we will work with the policymakers to resolve policy issues related to food insecurity, livelihood and other social security assistance programmes to be implemented, initiated by the government
- Ensure Sangathan carpet coverage in 40 new blocks, 796 GP, 5330 villages in 14 districts of Odisha
- Add 107 human resource (team member) in 4 districts of Odisha
- Strengthen sustainable People's Collective to access Constitutional rights and other entitlement (Sangathan Formation, Activation, Decision Making, Issued Raised and Issues Resolved)
- Ensure sangathan financial stability through the collection of membership fees, solidarity funds and explore other sources for providing honorarium to the Jansathis
- Create awareness among the community members for accessing all types of government provisions, schemes and entitlements
- Work on Skill Building and Documentation

Annual report 2021

## In the News

## Mo Chatashalee to bridge learning gap launched

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Bhubaneswar

MO Chatashalee, an initiative to bridge the learning gap in students of Class I to V in the State, was launched in the Capital city by civil society organisations Atmashakti Trust, Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha (OSM) and Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha, Odisha (MSMO) on Saturday.

The initiative which will provide remedial coaching to over 1 lakh students from 17 districts - Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bolangir, Boudh, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Navagarh, Mayurbhani, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh



The logo of Mo Chatashalee being released in Bhubaneswar on Saturday

slums of Bhubaneswar in Khurda district who mostly depend on government schools for their education and could during the lockdown due to the organisations.

and Sambalpur - as well as lack of resources such as a smartphone, TV or internet connectivity

Actress Varsha Priyadarshini inaugurated it and apprecinot access online education ated the efforts of the

"During the lockdown, we started a Mission 3-5-8 campaign where we provided remedial classes in 82 blocks of 17 districts where 4.364 school children of Class III, V and VIII by offering them remedial classes. The result was encouraging", said Anjan Pradhan, convener of Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha Ruchi Kashyap.

Pradhan said the programme will be run through community contribution and volunteers will teach children free of cost.

Under this initiative, more than 7.500 remedial teaching centres will be made operational and classes would be conducted with adherence to Covid safety protocols.

## Bid to bridge rural-urban divide in digital learning

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: In a bid to help children living in rural areas with no access to any digital medium continue with their education, members of civil society organisations have come forward and started taking remedial classes for them in the villages of the state.

The initiative, which has been started by volunteers of the non-profit Atmashakti Trust, Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha and Mahila Shrama-

jeebee Mancha, has been operationalised in as many as 15 districts. These include Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada. Balangir and Boudh among others. The members said the

classes started in mid-August. Over 100 sangathan members and local youth volunteers have conducted more than 175 remedial classes in these districts following the government's guidelines on Covid. They said



A remedial class in a village in Phiringia block in Kandhamal

more than 3,000 students have already benefited from these classes

Sources said the initiati-

a study of the learning assessment of schoolchildren carried out by these organisations. In the study, the learning levels of more than 3000 students of Classes III. V and VIII were assessed and found to be abysmal.

"States like Sikkim have adopted home-schooling where teachers visit the homes of students with all the resources to teach them. We urge the state government to follow our remedial class modules and the Sikkim model

ve is being taken up based on to help the children who are left with little or no support to return to learning," Ruchi Kashvap, the executive trustee of Atmashakti Trust, sa-

She said the volunteers take up remedial classes for two hours every day for a group of children, each consisting of five to six learners, where physical distancing. use of hand wash and sanitisers and other precautionary measures to contain the spread of novel coronavirus has been made mandatory

## Campaign against malnutrition launched in Malkangiri

### 8K households to be covered

PNS BHUBANESWAR

To improve nutrition and I health status and bridge gaps in access to healthcare among primitive tribes of Malkangiri district, the Atmashakti Trust and its ally Shramajeebee Sangathan launched a malnutrition-free village project in Podia block.

The project, which will cover 8,000 households in the block, aims to provide essential preventive medicines to the community through the trained village-based Swasthva Sathi (health worker).

"Our focus would be awareness building, strengthening local healthcare institutions, disease prevention, bringing behavioural changes among communities, promoting backyard kitchen gardens in project villages and linking them with the nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive Government schemes through village health committees and

form health kits in project villages," said Podia block president of the Sangathan, Shanti Beka, who also attended the launching event. "Poor and improper dietary habits, social norms, perceived practices and lack of road infrastructure have been the potential barriers to fight malnutrition.

The health infrastructure in the district is also woefully inadequate. Therefore, we started the much-needed intervention which is a cost-effective and community-owned healthcare model with a focus on integrated behaviour change communication," said executive trustee, Atmashakti Trust, Ruchi Kashvap.

Over the last few years, the Odisha Government has made stirring jumps in improving health and nutrition indicators. Odisha is also the first Indian State to have a specific nutrition budget in the country. Notably, malnutrition is as high as 51.8% in Malkangiri. The Annual Health Survey Report 2014 also reveals that 7 out of 10 children in the district are underweight.

## 'Mo Chatashalee' to bridge learning gaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: As a step towards bridging the learning gaps among students of primary grade (Class 1-5) in the state, 'Mo Chatashalee' initiative was launched here Saturday by civil society organisations.

Film actress and founder of 'Sammanita' Varsha Privadarshini inaugurated the initiative. She appreciated the efforts of the organisation to start a large scale programme on education for children.

The initiative also known as #Mission1lakh will cover 1 lakh students from 17 districts (Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bolangir, Boudh, Gajapati, Kandhamal. Navagarh. Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh and Sambalpur including slums of Bhubaneswar under Khurda district) who mostly depend on government schools. These students could not access online education during the lockdown due to the lack of resources such as a smartphones, TV or where internet connectivity is erratic that



learning gaps of 4364 schoolchild ren of Class 3, 5 and 8 so that they can be at par with their peers. The result was encouraging which helped us run this large scale education programme," said Anian Pradhan, convener of Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha; Ruchi Kashyap, executive trustee of Atmashakti Trust and Shanti Bhoi. President, Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha, Odisha,

"The unique feature of the programme is that it will be run through community contribution and volunteers will teach these children free of cost," they added

Under this initiative, more than 7500 remedial teaching centres will be run with 10 to 25 children each. These will impart education, based on the location and taking care of the physical distancing norms. They will be looked after by a trained volunteer se-

## In the News

### CSOs urge Chief Minister to make workplaces harassment-free

sion of International Human Rights Day, several civil society organisations (CSOs) Thursday wrote to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take steps to make all workplaces as 'harassment-free zones'.

The CSOs urged the state government to issue guidelines to curb online violence against women and girls.

The letter having an eight-point charter of demands was sent to the CMO, Odisha Human Right Commission (OHRC), Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) and Odisha State Commission For Women to ensure social and legal protection to women and girls in the state. They demanded that the government should create a special website for information on women's rights and vio- for their early redressal.

BHUBANESWAR: On the occalence-related cases. They said that special investigation teams should be appointed to address all issues related to violence against women.

> Further, the letter said that a special women's court should be opened to address all forms of violence against women and ensure speedy justice for all categories of women. The letter mentions about provision of incentives with special facilities for the protection of witnesses in all cases of violence against women. Moreover, to ensure that all forms of violence against women are addressed, legal provisions should be explained in public at various Gram Sabhas and Palli Sabhas. The CSOs demanded identification of problems through grassroots women village councils

### Discussion on gender-based violence held in Gram Sabhas

lence was organised across 17 dis-tricts in the state. The meetings were chaired by women. The ob-jective of these Gram Sabhas was

women and gender-based issues are not being placed in these Gram Sabhas," said

placet in ineservation Saonas, sala a mism. I network messes participant, encided with the adoption of the substainable Development Goals 5DGs) in 2015.

"Women can play a great role owards socio-economic and envisormental change and ensure local patient on a massive scale", said a Ruchi Acashya, Executive Trustee of Atmashakti Trust.

#### **Online links**

- https://www.republicworld.com/initiatives/har-ek-boond/atma-shakti-trust-is-working-at-thegrassroots-to-empower-rural-women-in-india.html
- https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/governance/odisha-s-tribal-heartland-fights-covid-injusticeswith-writings-on-the-wall-73084
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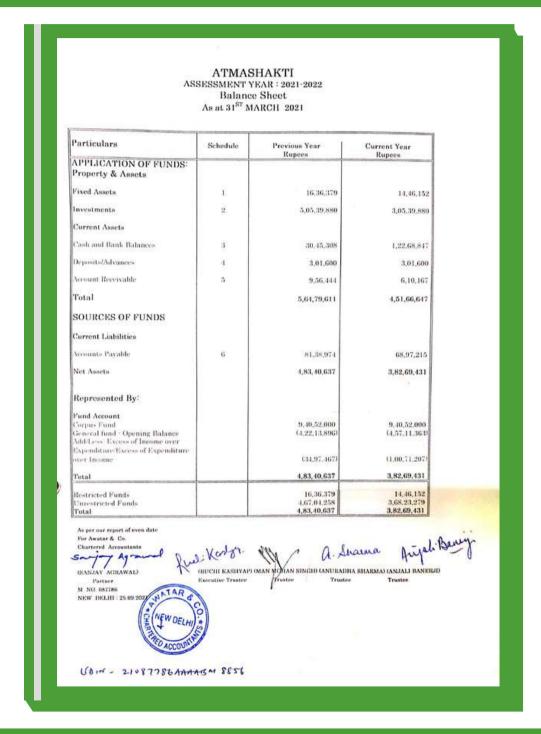
• https://www.thebetterindia.com/232229/coronavirus-covid-19-lockdown-ragpickers-daily-wageearners-non-profit-feed-dry-rations/

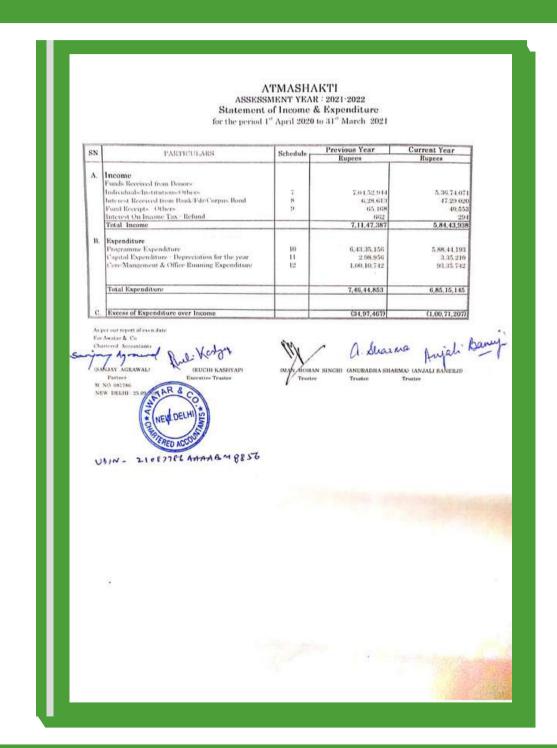
ଲୁବନେଶ୍ୱର,୯ା୧୨/ଏନ୍ଏନ୍ଏସ: ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ୧୭ଟି ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ଲିଙ୍ଗଭିଭିକ ହିଂସାକୁ ରୋକିବା ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବ୍ୟାପୀ ମହିଳା ଗ୍ରାମସଭା ଆୟୋଜିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ସ୍ୱେହାସେବୀ ସଂଗଠନ ଆମୁଶନ୍ତି ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ମହିଳା ଶ୍ରମଳୀବୀ ମଞ୍ଚ ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଶ୍ରମଳୀବୀ ମଞ୍ଚ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ମିଳିତ ଭାବେ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଆୟୋଜିତ ହୋଇଛି । ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ୧୦୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତରୁ ମହିଳାମାନେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ନିଜର ସମସ୍ୟା ଏବଂ ଲିଙ୍ଗଭିତ୍ତିକ ହିଂସାକୁ ରୋକିବା ପାଇଁ ଗ୍ରାମସଭାରେ କିପରି ଏହି ବିଷୟ ଉପସ୍ଥାପନ କରିପାରିବେ ସେନେଇ ପତୀକାତକ ଭାବେ

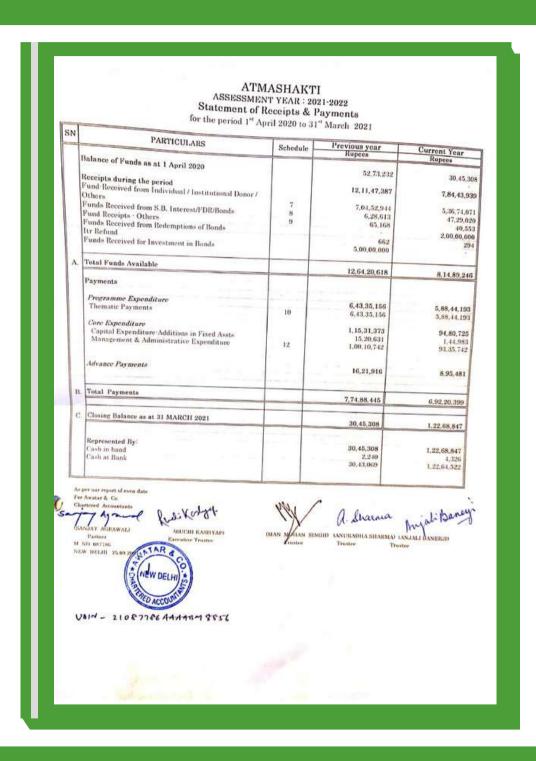


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## **Financials** (2020-21)









We thank you for your continued support to stand alongside us. Because of your support, we have been able to accomplish our goals and continue working for the underserved communities.

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Atmashakti Trust **f** 







