



bala vikasa®

Helping Communities Help Themselves

The Newly-Inaugurated
Bala Vikasa International Center



ANNUAL REPORT



2019

2020



IMPACTING LOCALLY | INSPIRING GLOBALLY

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Registration No : 569/1991
 Income Tax 12 A Provision : HQRS-11512A | 80G/41/92-93
 Income Tax 80 G Provision : DIT(E)/HYD/80G/81(09)/10-12
 FCRA No : 010360036

Program States
 Telangana | Andhra Pradesh
 Maharashtra | Karnataka
 Chhattisgarh | Tamil Nadu

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OUR CSR PARTNERS



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WE ARE

Pioneers of **High-Impact, Sustainable Community-Driven Development (CDD)** Interventions in India

- + An **ISO-Certified nonprofit** founded by Indian-born **Bala T Singareddy Gingras** and French-Canadian **André Gingras** with a vision to **Help Communities Help Themselves** in creating an equitable and just society in India.
- + Torchbearers of a **43-year legacy** of **multi-sectorial community-driven development** in **6,000** villages of India, impacting **6 Million lives** with successful CDD interventions in **6** Indian states



Recipients of the Meritorious Service Cross (MSC), Canada's Second-Highest Civilian Honor, Bala and André founded SOPAR in Ottawa, Canada in 1977. While Andre was a career diplomat with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Bala set up Bala Vikasa in 1991 in her hometown of Warangal, India and oversaw the implementation of various community development initiatives with the support of SOPAR.

- + Renowned as a leading **Community Development Innovator** inspiring several Central and State government welfare schemes



Mission Kakatiya, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, DWCRA schemes have drawn from our field experience

- + Strengthening the global development practice and **amplifying social change** by **training development professionals** in **CDD practices**



Trained 13,900+ professionals from 81 countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, and North America

- + Promoting **social entrepreneurship** and **responsible business** by forging strong sectorial alliances



Incubated 30 start-ups and 125 rural entrepreneurs, inspired 6,000+ professionals, formed 30+ collaborations

+ Recognized for implementing meaningful and **result-driven CSR projects**



Winner of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Award for the Best Models for CSR

+ Trusted as a **Valuable Knowledge Hub**, by the 81-country alumni of development practitioners mentored by us



World-class PDTC training facility at Warangal actively shares CDD best practices, tools, and approaches

+ Distinguished as a **Center of Excellence** in building & nurturing symbiotic alliances between **corporates, businesses, social entrepreneurs, nonprofits**, and **CSOs** to empower and build communities that are self-reliant



State-of-the-art BVIC facility in Hyderabad drives social innovation and promotes responsible business practices

+ Respected for a **strong, dedicated** and **compassionate** team of competent **agents of change**, with more than 15 years of experience, working resiliently for community development



300+ Staff Members and a volunteer base of nearly 30,000 people at the grassroots

**Compassionate to Cause. Committed to Change.
Work In Progress, Purposefully.**

1977



1979

Bala Theresa Singareddy Gingras and André Gingras along with friends, start 'SOPAR' (Societe de Partage) in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada to help the **poor in India**



SOPAR registers itself as a **secular, non profit NGO** and launches development programs in **Education, Water** and **Shelter** through Indian partner societies

1991



The founders start **Bala Vikasa** as sister NGO in India to implement SOPAR community development programs

2002



Bala Vikasa builds the **People Development Training Center (PDTC)** to inspire and train global development practitioners to be effective **Agents of Change**

2004



Bala Vikasa begins to setup highly sustainable and innovative **Community Water Purification Plants** providing RO purified water to rural communities at a nominal price

2005



Bala Vikasa sets up the **Bala Vikasa Trust** to prompt its **Education program** for **Orphans, Semi Orphans** and **Poor Children**

2014



Bala Vikasa lays th foundation stone for **Bala Vikasa International Center (BVIC)** to be built on a 20-acre campus in Hyderabad

BVIC operates from a rented office in Hyderabad

2015



BVIC Launches its flagship **SOCENT Fellowship** program to provide incubation support to social startups in the form of capacity building, mentoring, networking and seed funding

2016



Bala Vikasa Launches its **Sujal ATW** project to provide RO purified and chilled water to commuters in towns and cities through innovative pure water vending kiosks



Bala Vikasa begins to partner with businesses and corporations in implementing sustainable CDD projects

OUR JOURNEY

1994



Bala Vikasa launches the **Women-Integrated Development Program (WID)** with a mandate to **empower rural poor women economically, socially, intellectually, ethically, and politically**

1997



Bala Vikasa starts the **Raithu Vikasa Sangam**, a Society to serve the **farmers** in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

2000



Bala Vikasa initiates a **Watershed program** and takes up **Tank Desiltation programs** on a massive scale involving the active participation of farmers

2006



Bala Vikasa initiates **Vidya Vikasa Program** to improve the quality of rural government schools through active community participation and school development committees

2010



Bala Vikasa launches its **Organic Farming program** to promote **sustainable agriculture** and help farmers **increase their profits** by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

2012



501(C) (3)

SOPAR Bala Vikasa - USA is registered as a public charity organization under section **501 (C) (3)**

2017



Bala Vikasa initiates a social movement for **Widow Emancipation** and organizes the largest gathering of widows with over **10,000 widows** participating on the International Widows Day entering the Limca Book of Records

2018



Bala Vikasa founders receive the **Meritorious Service Cross (MSC) Award**, the second highest civilian award in Canada from Her Excellency, **Julie Payette**, Governor General of Canada

2020



Bala Vikasa **inaugurates** the **Bala Vikasa International Center (BVIC)**, a state-of-the-art facility in Ghatkesar, Hyderabad. The new campus will be an epicenter of activities promoting **Social Entrepreneurship** and **Responsible Business**



Bala Vikasa renovates urban water bodies in **Chennai** to mitigate the risks of flood and drought

Continues...

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Achieving Our Goals Guided by Our **10 Development Rules** and Being True to Our Values

Development is People

Programs and infrastructure are not the goals of development. People should be the center of the activities that benefit them.

Development is Women First

Women should be treated as essential actors in the development process of their community and society.

Development is Change of Attitude

Self-esteem and confidence are prerequisites for self-help. People should reject dependency on others for their development.

Development is Solidarity

Unity is strength, and groups provide people with greater confidence, encouraging them to invest back into their communities.

Development is Iterative

Work is arduous and should be broken down into attainable steps. At each step, consistent reflection keeps people on track to achieve goals.

Development is Participatory

People must participate, be committed and take ownership in all stages of development - from needs assessment to finding solutions.

Development is Intra-Cultural

Organizations must understand and be immersed in the culture of communities they work with, integrating it into all facets of interventions.

Development is Long Term

A significant, lasting development impact can be only obtained over time. Authentic change of attitude takes time.

Development is not Free

Beneficiaries must contribute to their own development in order to feel ownership of their ability to contribute to their own well-being.

Development Builds on Results and Credibility

Development agents have to achieve results and walk the talk to be trusted and accepted by the community.

OUR VALUES

integrity, innovation, sustainability,
collaboration, and exceptional quality

WHAT WE DO

Striving for an **Equitable** and **Just Society**, Supporting and Strengthening Sustainable **Community-Driven Development**

Community-Driven Development Programs



Building Self-Reliant, Dynamic Communities

- Empowering poor rural communities, with women at the forefront as agents of change
- Community mobilization, motivation, awareness, capacity-building, skill training, making communities active participants in their own development
- Innovative, result-driven development interventions in the areas of Safe Water, Agriculture, Education, Women and Model Village Communities



People Development Training Center



Strengthening Global Development Practice

- Providing knowledge-sharing and training for development practitioners in sustainable CDD
- Promoting the exchange of knowledge relating to sustainable CDD strategies, unique approaches, best practices, tools and methodologies
- Creating a pool of well-informed, competent, resilient professionals who then work effectively toward a better future for their target communities



Bala Vikasa International Center



Promoting Responsible Business

- Incubating and mentoring social enterprises and promoting business social responsibility
- Training business professionals and students on social entrepreneurship, providing regular mentoring and incubation support to social entrepreneurs
- Nurturing social businesses that tackle social/environment issues and create larger social impact with sustainable solutions for communities



HOW WE WORK

Deploying Time-Tested **360° Sustainable Community-Driven Development (CDD)** Approach

Community-Focus: We strive to get an entire community involved. It may start with a small group, evolving with time, into a vibrant and dynamic community.



**COMPULSORY
COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION**

Community-Driven: Everybody in the community is involved, building on their existing assets, contributing their time, money and energy, while we help, aid, support, and guide.



**DYNAMIC
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP**

Community-Integrated: Our sustainable and full-circle approach covers all activities: water, food security, health, education, environment, income-generation, and social justice.



**INTEGRATED
HOLISTIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Community-Strength: We share our expertise with communities helping them become agents of change with new knowledge, skills and a mindset change.



**INTENSIVE
CAPACITY
BUILDING**

BUILDING COMMUNITIES BEFORE BUILDING PROJECTS

Inspiring Communities to harness the **Power of the 3H, Head, Heart, and Hands**, for development

Changing Mindsets using Neuro-Linguistic Programming, Appreciative Inquiry and Participatory Rural Appraisal tools, helping people overcome fears, become confident, take more responsibility, participate, appraise their assets and map their strengths.



Instilling Values of empathy, compassion, a sense of unity overcoming barriers across religion, gender, caste, class and creed; inculcating respect for women as agents of change, and motivating greater ownership and leadership in the development process.



Building Skills for personal development and professional growth, to enable greater access to sustainable livelihoods, helping achieve economic independence and prosperity.



HOW WE WORK

Implementing **Community-Inclusive, Process-Driven Development** Interventions

Community Mobilization

Rallying majority of the community members towards a common cause, uniting them to work together for their own development, upholding democratic processes by forming **committees comprising 5-7 members each** from among the community members to take on specific roles in project implementation



Capacity Building

Creating awareness in the community members on various development issues at hand and possible solutions, Using approaches such as **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Appreciative Inquiry (AI), and Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP)** to motivate communities; and building the capacities of leaders and committee members on implementation, monitoring and management



Resource Mobilization

Helping committees identify local assets using **Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)** approach and map strengths, capabilities and talents to find sustainable solutions, mandating communities to contribute partly to the project in cash or in kind in order to instill collective ownership and responsibility for project sustainability



Program Implementation

Implementing projects and programs with the support, cooperation and contribution of the community members building on the local assets, **providing financial aid and technical support**, ensuring efficiency, transparency and accountability throughout the process



Monitoring and Management

Monitoring and managing the project during and after the project implementation using approaches such as **Results Based Management (RBM)**, and assessing the impact using approaches such as the **Social Return on Investment (SROI)**



OUR IMPACT: 6 MILLION LIVES AND COUNTING

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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- 233,456** Rural Poor Empowered
- 23,346** Groups Formed
- 2,09,268** Micro-Credit Beneficiaries
- 21,798** Achieved Literacy
- 15+** Development Activities



WIDOW EMANCIPATION

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- 15,458** Widows Empowered
- 55** Widows Remarried
- 689** Awareness Programs
- 1,43,195** Participants
- 162** Youth Committees



EDUCATION

- 545** Schools Facilities Improved
- 1,62,330** Students Benefited
- 136** Mini-Libraries Equipped
- 51** Digital Classrooms
- 15+** Student and Parent Committees
- 1,600** Orphans Supported



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MODEL COMMUNITIES

- 130** Model Villages
- 845** Village Development Committees
- 5,422** Community Leaders
- 15+** Development Activities



FROM 6,000 VILLAGES OF 6 STATES IN INDIA

SAFE WATER



- 1,122** Water Purification Plants
- 24** Sujal ATW Kiosks
- 136** Tribal Communities Provided Water
- 6,420** Borewells with Handpumps
- 2,700,000** People Benefitted

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- 764** Tanks Desilted
- 1,15,644** Acres Applied with Silt
- 62,156** Farmers Benefitted
- 1,375** Organic Farmers Enrolled
- 1,494** Acres under Organic Farming
- 552** Farm Ponds

FOOD SECURITY



PAGE 77

- 319** Training Programs
- 14,027** National Participants
- 1,546** International Participants
- 3,247** NGOs Represented
- 81** Countries Represented

CAPACITY BUILDING



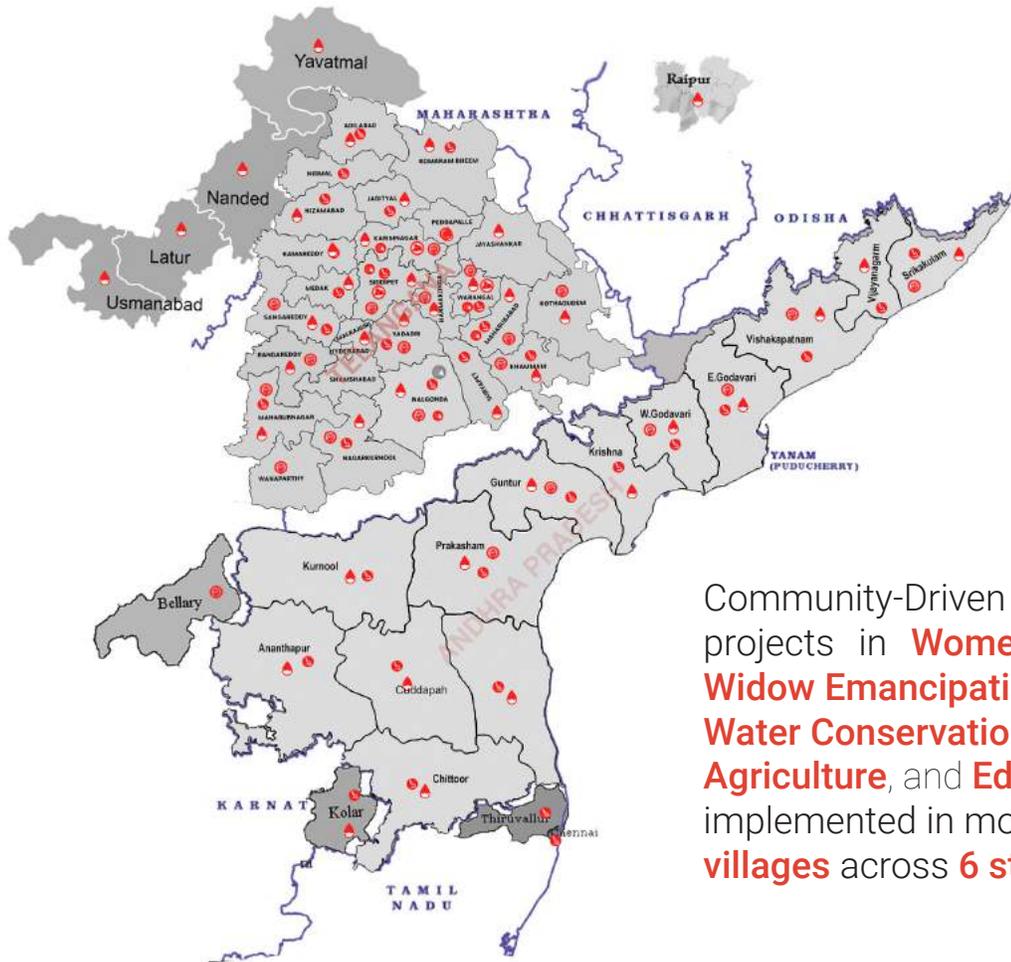
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS



- 24** Startups Incubated
- 125** Rural Women Entrepreneurs Trained
- 50** Seminars and Workshops
- 5500** Professionals and Students Inspired
- 30+** Partnerships & Collaborations

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OUR REACH



Community-Driven Development projects in **Women Empowerment, Widow Emancipation, Safe Water, Water Conservation, Sustainable Agriculture, and Education**, being implemented in more than **6,000 villages** across **6 states** in India

13,500+ development professionals from **81 countries** trained in our unique CDD approaches are **driving results-based social change** in their communities all over the world



PARTNERS SPEAK



I have to say it was a really amazing experience for me to hear from the rural women entrepreneurs directly about the change in their outlook and the improvements that they're starting to make in their businesses because of the training sessions and workshops as part of the Incubation Program for Rural Woman Entrepreneurs. The innovative mentorship arrangement with young women students of business administration looks promising.



Nicole Girard, Consul General of Canada in Bengaluru



We are highly inspired by Bala Vikasa's people-centered approaches and the way they give ownership to the communities, which leads to greater impact and project sustainability. Various development schemes being implemented by our government draw significantly from Bala Vikasa's experience in Sustainable Community Driven Development Programs.



Thaneeru Harish Rao, Finance Minister of Telangana



At Franklin Templeton we say that we help people achieve the things that are most important in their life. But there's probably nothing more important than having clean water. So, being a part of this program and partnering with a phenomenal NGO, knowing that we've helped 150 villages and over 300,000 people get clean water is something that is so core to the values of Franklin Templeton. We're just incredibly honored to be a part of this program with you guys.



Jennifer M. Johnson, President and CEO, Franklin Templeton Investments



We got caught up with a common agenda - as to how do we create sustainable social enterprises and how these social enterprises can create large social impact? So, this agenda brought us together and we feel happy to have collaborated on the SocioConnect event. So far, our experiences have been very good and we look forward to creating something which is meaningful to both organizations.



Prof Satyajit Majumdar, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, TISS

FUTURE PERFECT

Driving Social Change with a Focus on **Sustainable Development** through **Innovation** and **Environmental Consciousness**

INNOVATION

Bala Vikasa has the grand recognition of being a **Community Development Innovator** - the finest example is people across the development practice - CSR executives, government officials, community leaders, rural beneficiaries, and the media alike - always asking us about our 'Next Big Idea' every time we meet.

Innovations in Women Empowerment Program



Conceptualization of SHGs

Our model revolutionized the rural banking industry, creating an explosion women-led public and private microcredit enterprises



Multi-Tiered Interventions

Besides enabling women socially, financially, the program became the basis of multi-sectorial development activities in model communities



Orphan Education program

Women beneficiaries turned into donors and supported orphans in their villages, providing them motherly love and financial aid for education



InPRuWE

In a first-of-its kind initiative, we trained 25 management girl students to mentor 125 rural women entrepreneurs that were being incubated by us, to help develop their business acumen and scale up their businesses

Innovations in Widows Emancipation Program



International Widows Day

We mobilized a record-breaking 10,252 Widows on a single platform to raise awareness on their sad plight, and seek the support of the government, media and civil society



Social Movement

From being a part of the women empowerment program liberating widows from poverty and discrimination, the program has now grown into a massive full-scale social movement



Involvement of Diverse Stakeholders

We are engaging governments, nonprofits, priests, writers, artists, advocates, celebrities, journalists, and students to lobby for laws to end widow discrimination



Innovations in the Model Communities Program

+ Village Development Committees

The formation and operationalization of village-level development committees was a revolutionary idea in a landscape dominated by handouts

+ ABCD Approach

Our unique Asset-Based Community Development approach enables communities to build on their existing resources and assets, participating proactively in their own development



Innovations in the Safe Water Program

+ Sujal ATW Kiosks

Anytime RO purified water dispensing units at public places, operated by differently-abled youth from our beneficiary communities is a unique program



ENVIRONMENT-CONSCIOUSNESS

We advocate environmental conservation in all our programs.

+ Our Food Security interventions in **Sustainable Agriculture through Organic Farming**, and **Water Conservation through Tank Desiltation and Farm Ponds**, are direct **environment conservation programs**

+ **Beneficiary communities** across various interventions were inspired to make **effective use of state government tree plantation drives** to extend the **green cover for their villages**

+ Our intensive environment **awareness campaigns** have motivated rural communities to build **20,000+ family toilets**, **31,500+ soak pits**, **700+ farm ponds** at a time when even government agencies found it a tough call

+ More than **540 schools** in Telangana were strengthened on **WASH** using various **IEC materials** and incentivized for fully operationalizing student-led **eco-clubs**, ensuring **cleanliness, sanitation, and plantation in the program villages**



SUSTAINABILITY

Our unique **Community-Driven-Development (CDD) approach** mandates **active participation** and **contribution of resources, time, and labor** from the communities, makes our projects **highly sustainable**

The fag end of the financial year marked the beginning of the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Even as the development sector began to feel the pinch, Bala Vikasa has firmly stood its ground with **strategies and approaches** that have kept us going strong for over **4 decades**

A shining example of our sustainability: Our village-level committees in **1,600 villages** are so well-trained, that currently, they are actively engaging in **COVID-19 Response identifying needs, raising donations, providing essential supplies, hand sanitizers, and masks to their communities** - even without our assistance

FOUNDERS' MESSAGE



At the outset, let's talk about COVID-19. "One of those dread evils which spread terror far and wide..." (Jean de La Fontaine, 1621-1695).

In the "arena of the world", humanity is grappling with a devious wrestler who attacks from all sides. Of course, it will be defeated but not without losing a significant part of the most fragile sectors of the world's population. However, this is only the first run.

As Kal, the cartoonist for The Economist, reminds us, a giant, even more threatening, is ready to give us the ultimate fight. Gaia and climate change are resolutely expecting humanity.



The situation in India already gives us a taste of it. As the COVID-19 strikes its residents head-on, Cyclone Amphan, the most powerful to form in the Bay of Bengal in the 21st century, left untold scenes of devastation: hundreds of flooded coastal villages, lost cultures and homes destroyed by the thousands. Because of Amphan, northern India experienced unprecedented heatwaves reaching 50 degrees Celsius in some cities in Rajasthan. This overwhelming heat brought with it clouds of grasshoppers which destroy all the crops in their path.

How do we even doubt it? Our world is facing a crisis. Humanity is in crisis. Its institutions are too. BalaVikasa is no exception.

In 2019, Bala Vikasa had the wind in its sails: our programs for the development of women, marginal farmers were growing; our involvement with young people and children became even more impactful. At the Warangal Training Center, our community development programs were training agents of change from across India and around the world. Our new International Center for the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility was taking off. On January 10, the BVIC campus was inaugurated with great happiness.

Internally, to be even more efficient, Bala Vikasa acquired the resources and digital tools necessary for a multi-media unit. Finally, the organization obtained the **ISO 9000-2015** certification attesting to the quality and efficiency of its management systems.

And the Crisis began!

In March 2020, COVID-19 forced Bala Vikasa to containment. All our organizational activities in the field were suspended. It wasn't until the end of May that our development agents resumed communication directly with the communities and groups they support. Due to a lack of funding, development programs are limited to the extreme.

The Crisis!

"In Mandarin Chinese, the word crisis is pronounced weiji. This word includes two characters: the wei which we find in the word weixian which means danger, and the character ji which we find in the word jihui and which means opportunity. For a Chinese man, the crisis is the coexistence of danger and opportunity, an opportunity at the heart of danger: he who sees only danger misses opportunity without seeing it; whoever sees only the opportunity can take a big risk. (L'Express, July 9, 2012)

Despite the dangers, the COVID-19 crisis brings us to consider the "opportunities" that this situation presents to us. In fact, this positive reflection which must lead to something concrete is already underway.

Here in India, the organization is adjusting and uses the Web to communicate. An innovative series of webinars are organized to join the hundreds of former participants in our community development training programs. We explore with them the possibility of continuing this new digital experience. To this end, dialogues are also continuing with certain national universities and institutions: in Canada, in Italy, etc.

Recently, Bala Vikasa embarked on an in-depth strategic planning exercise in which all members of the extended family should contribute, each according to their knowledge and experience. This exercise should identify the priorities that will direct the organization's activities for the next 5 years.

These priorities will continue to take root in our experience: the primacy of community development; the mobilization of women as development agents; the importance given to climate change; the necessary alliance between all sectors of society, in particular, between the institutions of civil society, to which we belong too, and the private sector.

To meet these challenges, our organization will have to be even more efficient and effective. For this, we will have to rely more on "our knowledge base" in all aspects of our mandate to become a real Knowledge-Based Organization (KBO).

It is thanks to all of you, members of a large family committed to the wellbeing of the most fragile people of the society, that BalaVikasa has, in the past, overcome the challenges that we are facing. Now, and in the future, we feel stronger to face the challenges that lie ahead. Our eternal gratitude!

André Gingras, MSC
Bala T Singareddy Gingras, MSC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

With mixed feelings, I pen this message, reminiscing proudly on our high achievements in the reporting year, and anxiously recalling how a completely disruptive pandemic tightened its vicious grip and brought everything to a grinding halt toward the fag end of the fiscal. But, we did not let Covid-19 stop us for long.

So, let's not allow Covid-19 to steal the limelight from our achievements of 2019-20, either. In my second term as President, it gives me great pleasure to update you on all progress and development we achieved over the last year. And, what a glorious fiscal it was, indeed!

Our brand new BVIC campus in Ghatkesar, Hyderabad, was inaugurated in January at a grand function amidst well-wishers from the social, economic, political, and media fraternities, alongside our beneficiaries and benefactors, our hardworking staff and board members, and our highly-decorated founders. BVIC is now well on its way to becoming one of the biggest Social Incubators in the country promoting SocEnt and CSR to design, incubate, and share innovative models in community development.

We also opened a branch office in Vijayawada to scale up our Community-Driven Development (CDD) interventions in Andhra Pradesh. The CDD programs across 6 states in southern-central India have found extensive success and inspired organizations to partner us on the path of rural community development.

It was, therefore, a year of new collaborations and strengthening of existing partnerships. We joined hands with Pernod Ricard India Foundation (PRIF) and Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) on Safe water and Water Conservation interventions. Our long-standing partner Franklin Templeton extended the Safe water partnership for 4 years, while Frank Water signed up on the WASH program in tribal areas. The University of West England (UWE) and Bose Institute, Kolkata, chose us to test their new device that disinfects water with biological contamination, basing its trust on our massive experience in water projects. We evoked the interest of government bodies such as NIRDPR and Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Our PDTIC signed an MoU with Bangalore-based Public Affairs Centre (PAC) to collaborate as knowledge partners to enhance the development paradigm through extensive research, capacity-building, data analytics, and impact assessment, to provide valuable insights for effective policymaking.

BVIC signed an MoU with the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to offer Executive Post Graduate Diploma (EPGD) Programs in Innovative CSR and Social Entrepreneurship in Hyderabad. Another feather in its cap was winning the HCL Foundation Grant for its Uday Program's 'Skills & Livelihood' program. We beat about 150 pan-India nonprofits who applied for the grant. Also, the US Consulate partnered on 4 additional projects with BVIC this year.

Our wins couldn't have been possible without the support of you all. I humbly thank you each one of you for helping us achieve an impactful year. Special thanks to the founders - their rejuvenating presence in India early this year laid the groundwork for organizational strategic thinking to recast our vision to transform Bala Vikasa to a Knowledge-Based sectorial think-tank with environment-conscious and women-centric, SDG-aligned high-impact community-based interventions. A shout out to all the donors, partners, team and board members, who've been instrumental in bringing smiles on the faces of the 6 million lives that we impacted in 6,000 villages across 6 Indian states.

Promising to continue our development efforts with a renewed intent and spirit, thank you all.

Indra Reddy Nomula



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Bethinking about the financial year gone by fills me with immense joy and gratitude, even though the COVID pandemic at the close threatened to disrupt the progress we've achieved with our colossal efforts through what was mainly a fantastic year.

Fiscal 2019-2020 has been indeed one of glory and great pride for Bala Vikasa, as we achieved one of our biggest milestones - the grand inauguration of our sprawling Bala Vikasa International Center (BVIC) campus in Hyderabad.

This inauguration is highly significant as it signals the beginning of a brand new era for the development practice in India. With the new campus facility, BVIC has risen to prominence as an Institution of the Future pushing the envelope in fostering high-value partnerships between the business world and the development community, for creating solutions for the highest social impact.

With the new campus facility monumentally augmenting our capabilities as one of the largest social incubators in the country, we are well-poised to promote SocEnt and CSR and take the development sector to greater heights.

The iconic campus, which offers the best incubation, training, and residential facilities to foster social innovation and promote business responsibility, and is proving to be a great enabler for collaborations with corporates, social startups, and MSMEs to design, incubate, and implement innovative hi-impact community-driven development programs.

It is also the year we launched the innovative Community Dairy Hostels project and the unique Community Steel Banks initiative - two new interventions for the communities closest to our hearts - poor rural women and farmers:

- As part of the unique Community Dairy Hostels project in Siddipet, we are creating integrated community dairy farming infrastructure to increase rural milk production that's been on a decline for the past few years, and improve the lives of poor dairy-farmers by providing ample space and labor help for cattle rearing.

- An innovative initiative aimed at protecting the environment, the Siddipet Steel Banks are a chain of cutlery rental stores, managed by SHG members, set up in partnership with the Siddipet Municipality and CSR groups, to eradicate the use of single-use plastic during public functions.

Such noble initiatives are made possible only with the valuable support of our generous donors and CSR partners. In what is a true indicator of our credibility as an impactful nonprofit, we are proud that this year 10 new corporations joined hands with us on various interventions. It's humbling to see a total of 34 CSR partners reposing their confidence in our abilities and efforts all these years. Such trust drives us to work harder in implementing result-driven meaningful CSR initiatives for marginalized communities around us.

A glance at our financial statements is a testament to our commitment - we've recorded a growth of 19% in our budget this year. We are also humbled to have impacted over 6 million rural poor across 6 states across South-Central India. As we expand into new geographies and forge new partnerships, buoyed by the generous funding support, we remain committed to the global Sustainable Development Goals and are more driven than ever to implement new hi-impact initiatives in Livelihoods, Health, Education, and the Environment.

I'd like to end this note with heartfelt thanks to our founders for constantly inspiring us, our donors for supporting us, the eminent board members for guiding us, the hardworking staff for building communities, and the community leaders for driving our development initiatives with great commitment and utmost diligence at the grassroots.

Sincerely,

Shoury Reddy Singareddy

GRAND INAUGURATION

State-of-the-Art BVIC Campus
in Hyderabad - Officially Open
for **Social Business**

The visionary dream of our Founder, **André Gingras** - to create an eminent institution with state-of-the-art facilities offering incubation, capacity-building, consultancy and advisory services to micro, small, medium, and large businesses and corporations in a mission to build alliances between the for-profit and the nonprofit world for Community-Driven Sustainable Development, **turned into a reality** with the inauguration of **Bala Vikasa International Center** at Hyderabad.

Hon'ble Finance Minister of Telangana Mr **T Harish Rao** inaugurated the brand new BVIC campus in Ghatkesar, Hyderabad, on **January 10th** along with the **founders André Gingras** and **Bala T Singareddy Gingras**. Special guests Mr **Errabelli Dayakar Rao**, Hon'ble Minister of Panchayat Raj, Mr **B Vinod Kumar**, Vice Chairman of TS Planning Board, Mr **Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu**, MP of Narasaraopet, Mr **NH Shivashankar Reddy**, MLA from Gowribidanur, and Mr **N Rama Chandra Rao**, MLC and National Executive committee President of BJP, graced the launch.

SOPAR President **Marc Gingras**, Vice President **André Bourassa**, Director **Shobha Singareddy**, along with a team of partners and supporters from Canada, graced the inauguration. **QW4RTZ**, the popular acapella group came all the way from Canada and performed at the event, and also promised that they will play an active role in spreading word about our work back in Canada.



The 20-acre scenic, **architecturally** and **aesthetically designed facility** has spacious and fully-equipped **working spaces** and a residential block with **modern amenities**, to provide the **best environment** for **training** and **interactions** to participants from **Corporates, Government bodies, Nonprofits** and **Businesses**.



The sprawling Training and Incubation Hub will host **trainings, events, conferences**, and **exhibitions** to **foster social innovation, drive social businesses**, and **promote responsible business practices**. The Residential Block offers a comfortable and tranquil stay with modern 3-star amenities on par with luxury convention centers, amid scenic views away from the city hustle and bustle.

With the launch and operationalization of the new BVIC campus, we have accelerated our efforts to become one of the **biggest social startup incubators** in India and strengthened our mission to evolve as a **Center of Excellence in Responsible Business**.



There are two solitudes in the world. NGOs and businesses, who have their own worlds and rarely talk or work together. We believe that the concept of sustainability is changing and that minds are increasingly becoming ready for a new paradigm. So, I think it was a natural evolution for BV to try to bridge the gap between NGOs and businesses as it has been able to bridge gaps within communities with diverging interests and convince them that by working together they are stronger and they can have a greater impact.

Mr André Bourassa, Vice President, SOPAR



Even after having an accomplished career as a successful entrepreneur, I felt something was missing from my work and I always wanted to add more value to the community's betterment. BVIC is working as an incubator that helps entrepreneurs like me, who have a lot of potential to add to the development of the society but need initial support to realize it.

Mr Marc Gingras, President, SOPAR



There is a need for local entrepreneurs and innovators to rise to the occasion to solve challenges that riddle sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and education, for the benefit of the people. BVIC is a step in that direction, and will help in solving social problems locally by supporting budding social innovators in taking their ideas to the market.

Mr L Sri Krishna Devarayalu, MP of Narsaraopet



I am confident that BVIC is going to be another great endeavor and will help in bridging the gap between the civil society, the corporates, and the communities at the grassroots. BVIC will go a long way in providing the necessary push to social innovators to take their products and services to the market, thereby impacting several thousands of people every year.

Thaneeru Harish Rao, Finance Minister of Telangana



Currently, there is a lack of an organization in the development, especially relating to CSR initiatives and the problems faced by the administration in terms of reach. I am confident that BVIC will provide the necessary support required to fill these gaps and help corporates in dispersing their CSR funds more effectively.

Mr N H Shivashankara Reddy, Former Dy Speaker, Karnataka Assembly



ANNUAL CONVENTIONS

Each year, we organize massive conventions for diverse groups of rural poor communities working with us in 3000+ villages and mobilize them at a single venue.

We **motivate, guide** and **inspire** them through **lectures, speeches, and input sessions**, facilitate interaction on **best practices** to work efficiently for development. Thousands of community leaders, organic farmers, women, widows, youth, and committee members from women empowerment, safe water, WASH and Model Village programs - all from poor backgrounds, readily attend these conventions, paying for the participation fee and travel fare from their own pockets. These **conventions inspire joy** and **confidence** in participants who gather strength from being part of such a **massive collective network**. This motivates them to pursue development goals and activities with **renewed hope** and **vigor**.

YOUTH CONVENTION

Youngsters promise to turn into **Agents of Change** at the Convention on **'Youth Changing the World'**

Nearly **3,000 young boys and girls** from over **250 villages** attended our annual Youth Convention on **'Youth Changing The World'** held in Warangal on October 2019. We **raised awareness** on how youth are increasingly getting distracted from life goals by **addictions, substance abuse, teenage attractions, and social media usage**.

We guided them on the importance of **pursuing higher education, strengthening human values** and making **good career choices**, and **motivated the youth to achieve higher goals** through **self-discovery, resolve, self-control, and purposeful living**. We also introduced them to our **Widow Emancipation Social Movement** and sought their support in **standing against** discriminatory practices against widows in their communities. All the **youth pledged** themselves to this cause.



Our founder Mrs Bala T Singareddy emphasized the role of youth in the development sector and cast the vision of a society that is inclusive, value-based, and progressive.



ED Mr Shoury Reddy inspired the participants to pursue Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship to earn their livelihoods while solving social problems.



Chief Guest Dr Vishwanath Ravinder, Police Commissioner, Warangal, shared the inspiring story of Károly Takács, the first shooter to win two Olympic gold medals after a gruesome injury that left him with just one hand, adding: "If you have strong willpower, determination, perseverance, faith, and unbridled passion toward your goals, then nothing is impossible."



3,000 Students pledged themselves to fight discriminatory practices against widows in their communities.

MEGA CONVENTION

5,000 Community Leaders Attend **Mega Annual Convention** on **Effective Community Leadership**

We organized a **Mega Annual State-Level Convention** on **'Effective Leadership- Integrated Community Development'** in January 2020. The event, held at the brand new **BVIC campus** in Ghatkesar, **witnessed** the active participation of more than **5,200 empowered rural women and men** driving our **community-driven development projects** in over **1,000 villages** of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.



ED Mr Shoury Reddy welcomed the 5,000+ participants and guests and explained the purpose of this year's mega convention.



Chief Guest Dr Prabhakar Reddy, IAS, former Collector of Warangal, praised the hardwork and leadership of our founder and said she was an example to all with her selfless service.



Matha Nirmalananda Yoga Bharathi shared her thoughts on leadership and emphasized on the need for leaders with integrity



Our Program Officers and Leads shared the progress reports of their respective interventions with the participants and guests

Committee members, program beneficiaries, shared their stories of **progress, experiences, and challenges** working for community development. Besides discussing the importance of **effective leadership for integrated development, the role of committees and the way forward** for our various programs, we introduced the new BVIC campus and its role in furthering development causes. The convention was a massive show of **strength, unity, belongingness and commitment to our mission.**



Mr Ravinder Reddy of Jana Priya Real Estates, expressed wonder that at a time when even village-level politics was becoming murky, we have attracted the PMO's attention by converting villages into model communities. He was also surprised that despite being poor, the attendees paid to attend the convention and made their own travel arrangements.



Mr B Arogya Reddy from St Mary's Group, Mr Narayana Rao and Mr Narayana Murthy from Midhani, Cosmetic Surgeon Dr Hari Kumar, Mr Mohan from Effort NGO, Santhana Saphalya Kendram Founder Dr Rama Devi, Mrs Narmada, Mr Kusala Raja Rao, Mr Venkaiah Chowdary and Dr Uday Kumar were also present on the occasion.



Mr Haribabu, Lahari Resorts, said it's a matter of pride that people gather for our conventions in such large numbers on their own volition - a feat politicians and governments are unable to pull off. He announced a spontaneous donation of Rs 10 Lakh to Bala Vikasa.



Participants taking a tour of and admiring the brand new BVIC campus proud of their contributions toward the magnificent cause

IN OTHER NEWS

+ Mrs Bala T Singareddy Gingras, our founder, inaugurated a new Branch Office in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh in October 2019. The office will be the epicenter of all our activities as we expand our interventions in AP.



+ We were declared the Regional Winners in the Social Impact Category, at the 10th Spirit of Humanity Awards. We were one of the National Finalists as well.



+ US Consul General in Hyderabad, Mr Joel Reifman, and Mr Drew Giblin, Chief - Public Affairs, visited us in March 2019. We made a brief presentation about our programs over a dinner meeting at PDTC, followed by an exposure visit the next day to Gangadevipalli, where he interacted with project committee members.



+ The President and COO of Franklin Templeton, Ms Jenny Johnson, participated in the inauguration of a Community Water Plant at Pedda Arepalli, Siddipet, in June 2019. Ms Johnson appreciated our efforts to ensure sustainability through active community participation. She was positive about continuing the partnership to impact more families with Safe Water solutions.



+ Award-winning filmmaker and 25-time marathon finisher, Mr Jon Dunham, interacted with over 350 leaders of our Women Empowerment program at the PDTC at Warangal in August 2019. The maker of 'Spirit of the Marathon' and 'Boston' films, Mr Dunham narrated how the Boston Marathon became a key rallying point for women's participation in sporting events for the first time in the 1960s.



IN OTHER NEWS



- + Our ED Mr Shoury Reddy led a delegation to the CII Regional Summit on Water Resource Management in Chennai, and presented our Water Conservation interventions to policy makers, CEOs, development professionals, industry experts, academicians, and researchers deliberating on making South India Water-Secure.



- + Our ED Shoury Reddy participated in a discussion on Water Conservation, chaired by Mr Rakesh Tiwari, JD of JalShakti Abhiyan, in August 2019, showcased our interventions over nearly 2 decades and gave critical inputs.



- + Central Nodal Officer Mr Swapna Kumar and Jal Shakti Abhiyan Program Director Mr Rahul Ranbir Singh visited Raghavapuram, one of our 129 Model Communities, in July 2019. The delegation praised Bala Vikasa for motivating thousands of farmers to take up water conservation through farm ponds.



- + Delegates from School for Children (SFC), Italy, one of our longstanding partners, visited us in Warangal in August 2019. Executive Director Mr Shoury Reddy Singareddy briefed them about our CDD activities.



- + A digital classroom-cum-computer lab was set up in Alampur Govt Jr College, with contributions from kind donors and the college students. The lab was inaugurated in November 2019 by VM Abraham, MLA, in the presence of our Board Member Mr Ramana Gupta, and Sub Collector of Jogulamba Gadwal Mr Sree Harsha.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



26 rewarding years of transforming rural poor women into warriors of change



The world remains poor until it realizes the immense potential of women. ”

Bala T Singareddy Gingras
Founder, SOPAR - Bala Vikasa

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

2,33,456 Rural Women Empowered

23,346 Groups Formed

1,500 Villages Reached

45 Program Partners

500 SHA Members

300 Field Coordinators

13 Mutually-Aided Cooperative Societies Formed

2,09,268 Micro-Credit Beneficiaries

10,22,46,000 Rupees given in loans

15+ Development Activities

21,798 Achieved Literacy

1,367 Trained in Tailoring Skills

3,748 New Women Members

276 Active Villages

45,315 Women members

4,532 Active Groups

7,867 Micro-Credit beneficiaries

2019-20

Awards



Ch Nagalaxmi and S K Chandbee, group leaders from Padamatigudem village in Warangal district, Telangana, received the National Savitribai Phule Puraskar in November 2019, in recognition of their commitment and active services in women empowerment and village development. They credit Bala Vikasa for being instrumental in their achievement, by inculcating in them values, discipline, confidence, and compassion for others.



PROGRAM SUMMARY

+ Augmenting Capacities

We mobilize women to form groups of 10 each, and elect leaders to represent them. These groups meet once a month, guided by our field coordinators, to discuss various development issues and implement activities to address them. We conduct training for self-help group members, group leaders, coordinators and SHA members to improve their personal and professional development skills. We guide women into actively participating in their own development projects.



+ Building Livelihoods

We inculcate the practice of small savings among rural poor women, and encourage them to pool their monthly savings into MACs (Mutually-Aided Cooperatives). We train them in small business and livelihood skills, inspire them to set up micro enterprises, and provide them with loans from the MACs to help grow their businesses, generate decent income and become self-reliant and financially independent.



+ Creating Change Agents

We instill the values of care and compassion in the women members. Women empowered by our programs, are paying it forward, by sponsoring and implementing development programs such as adult literacy programs, health camps, water donation drives, tree plantation drives, and summer camps on their own. These poor, but generous women pool their day's savings and resources, and collectively implement development activities. They provide care and aid for orphans, destitute, and aged in their villages.





Married to an alcoholic, Nagalaxmi was often beaten up, and subjugated and mistreated by her in-laws.



Thousands of women attend monthly meetings, leadership training, and self-help-association workshops, held by Bala Vikasa, in a community-driven development approach. Women enhance their personal and social skills; share ideas, opinions and experiences, develop good relationships with the community. The network instills confidence, builds awareness of economic, social, health and political issues, and provides them a sense of power to improve their lives and inspire others as well.

from a victim to a vocal agent of change

48% of the world's largest democracy, yet most Indian women battle discrimination, poverty, exploitation, and violence even today. Considered the 'property' of men, women are denied access to education, employment, healthcare, and property, forced into child-bearing and household responsibilities in teens, with no say in decisions. Their silence, fear, passivity and shame during the community meetings held by Bala Vikasa, when sometimes they saunter in brushing their teeth, speaks volumes of the structured denial of their personal, social and professional development aimed at their blind submission to patriarchal authoritarian practices.

Such is the story of Nagalaxmi Choudarapu, from Narsimhulapet village in Mahabubabad too.

A mother of two, Nagalaxmi's life was miserable, struggling with poverty and violence at home, and discrimination outside by a community piqued by her husband's drunken behavior. She had business skills having run a small shop before marriage, but to no avail here. Her in-laws prevented her from taking up any such initiative, suppressed her voice, restricted her mobility and swept the husband's irresponsible behavior under the rug. When her father-in-law died, the family was in complete shambles, unable to afford a square meal a day, or pay the children's school fees.

Nagalaxmi decided to take matters into her hands with determination, created her prosperous destiny. She participated in Bala Vikasa Women's Group meetings and personal development training sessions. She invested a day's wage each month in the mutually-aided cooperative and soon applied for a business loan. The group was confident in her prior business acumen and social skills acquired at the workshops and sanctioned Rs 5,000. Delighted by her growth and prompt repayments, the group approved 15 small business loans totaling Rs 2 Lakhs over the years. She now tops one lakh rupees in monthly sales. Living comfortably, respected by the community, this strong businesswoman has become a model citizen, and in helping the village needy, an inspiring agent of change.

SUCCESS STORY



Annually 2.4 lakh girls die before they turn 5; 35% of women are illiterate, cites a WB Report. 95% of women (195M) are employed in the informal sector, as per the GoI. The IMF states that an increase in the female workforce results in greater economic and social empowerment for the individual, community, and country.

She, now, owns a successful grocery, making Rs 25,000 per month in profits. She credits Bala Vikasa for her immense transformation. She inspired her husband to change too. He is now a journalist. She recently invested Rs 8 Lakhs in a shop for her son.



We encourage rural women to save a day's wage each month in mutually-aided cooperatives and take loans for small businesses to achieve self-reliance. Our members are charting their own progress, and also paying it forward, collectively saving lakhs of rupees for orphans and elderly care in their villages.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building Communities Before Building Projects

While all our women members were trained on several socio-economic issues on a monthly basis, special trainings were provided to those in leadership roles to enhance their leadership skills, improve their subject knowledge, strengthen their organizational skills and inspire them to keep pushing forward. Regular Capacity building to our organizational staff on effective program planning, implementation and management, participatory development approaches, able leadership, contemporary social issues, data collection and soft skills helped them anchor the program effectively.



Monthly Group Meetings

We motivated them to find their calling and discover their inner potential, strengthened them socially, financially, politically through capacity-building and instilled values and compassion in them.

11 Monthly Meetings
45,315 Women Members



Annual Group Leaders Training

We built leadership skills in group leaders, elected by each group in order to enable them to motivate their peers, ensure their attendance at monthly meetings, to improve functional efficiency of the group.

34 Leaders Training
5,374 Group Leaders



Monthly Coordinators Trainings

We provided training to coordinators, our real agents of change at the grassroots, who held meetings in the villages regularly, mobilized and motivated women, provided assistance to the women's groups.

12 Trainings
180 Field Coordinators



SHA Members Training

We helped each group elect one leader as a Self Help Association member, and trained the members in leadership qualities so that they effectively monitor the savings groups and implement development plans.

1,500 SHA members
5 Meetings



"The leadership skills and knowledge that I am acquiring at Bala Vikasa is my permanent property, my permanent assets, and it will remain with me all my life. Now, I am respected in my family and by the neighbors, and I can talk bravely, in public meetings, and have learned public etiquette also."

- Rapaka Padma, Group Leader, Thorrur



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Savings Groups Help Women Become Self-Sufficient

We inspired women to make small savings in cooperatives, and encouraged them to take loans from mutually-aided cooperatives to set up micro-enterprises, and become financially self-sufficient.



7,867 Woman Entrepreneurs
10.2 Cr Given as Loans
13 MACs

Financial Aid Enables Women to Support Children's Education

We built awareness and motivated women to encourage their children to pursue higher education, by providing partial financial aid to students, and organized youth conventions for all the deserving children.



52,729 Children Supported

Women Organize Free Health Camps for Rural Communities

Women organized health camps to help rural poor communities get access to free medical care in their villages. Women raised funds from donors, procured medicines to donate to the poor, paid for the logistics and cooked meals for the visiting medical team.



141 Donors
78 Villages
362 Doctors
12,150 Patients

Tree Plantation Activities Led by Women to Increase Green Cover

With environmental consciousness, Vikasa women teamed up with local Forest Departments and private nurseries, to procure saplings for intensive plantation drives in the village communities.



90,145 Trees
185 Villages

Women Donate Water in a Noble Act in Summer

In the scorching summer heat, our women members donated drinking water to the needy at public places from April through June. They organized water centers, arranged water pots, and raise funding from donors to cover the operational costs.



122 Villages
8,78,400 Beneficiaries

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Rural Poor Women Stand in Solidarity with Orphans

Our women beneficiaries, mostly daily wagers, are preventing orphans from going into child labor by taking care of their well-being and by funding their education.

Each year, they celebrate the birthdays of 1,600 orphans on Solidarity Day. They forgo one day's wage, donate further from their income, plan the event, invite guests, raise funds from donors, make all the arrangements at the venue, pay for their own travel and food, and spend the day with their 'adopted' children. The event fills the orphans with joy and makes them feel loved and cared for.



16,937 Rural Women
313 Guests
38,53,505 Funds Raised
276 Villages



Women to the Rescue of the Old and the Destitute

Women members pool in their savings and raise funds to buy groceries, clothes and bedsheets for the utterly poor aged with no children of their own and no energy to work, no savings, and begging to survive. This year, some donors provided chairs to the aged. A villager donated 50 sarees for aged women and promised to provide walking sticks next year.



8,531 Women
23,341 Kgs of Rice
Rs. 5,18,726 Donated in cash
890 Villagers

Inspired Orphan Girl Beneficiaries Pay It Forward

Two girls beneficiaries from the Orphan Solidarity program from Nagarkurnool, who finished their education with the help of our financial aid, and are now working, raised Rs 20,000 for the program, inspired by their Vikasa mothers.



Rs. 20,000 Funds Raised

Thousands of Rural Poor Women Celebrate International Women's Day with Much Gusto

On March 8th, 2020, 12,300 women from 259 villages and 243 guests participated in many celebratory events to mark women's contribution to society. We held talks to create awareness on women's issues and rights, and conducted various fun events, picnics, and competitions. In many villages, women leaders and ward members were felicitated.



PROGRAM IMPACT



fighting for equal rights
with greater awareness



earning and saving more
with microcredit co-ops



keeping homes hygienic
with health awareness



educating more children
with changed mindsets



solving family problems
with communication skills



taking critical decisions
with greater confidence



expressing opinions freely
with public-speaking skills



contesting public elections
with higher recognition



creating a greener planet
with environmental care



changing cultural practices
with more gender equality



helping young and old
with greater compassion



becoming change warriors
with greater conviction



standing in **solidarity** with the widows for
an **equitable** and **inclusive** society

WIDOW EMANCIPATION





We must erase the social stigmatization and economic deprivation that confronts widows.



Ban Ki Moon
Former UN Secretary General

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

- 15,458** Widows Empowered
- 55** Widows remarried
- 689** Awareness Programs
- 1,43,195** Participants in Awareness Programs
- 35** Discrimination Eradication Committees
- 300** Religious Leader-Supporters
- 162** Student Committees
- 2321** Student Committee Members
- 164** Participating Colleges
- 555** Development Professionals Sensitized
- 194** NGOs Inspired
- 18,168** Widows celebrating festivals

2019-20

- 175** Awareness Programs
- 137** Young Widows Training Beneficiaries
- 21** Skill Training Beneficiaries
- 317** Widow Participants in Village-Level Meetings
- 68** Seminars in Colleges
- 25,610** Youth Supporters
- 67** Students Committees
- 2** District-level Seminars
- 229** Widows' Children Guided on Career
- 455** International Widows Day Events
- 455** IWD Participants
- 17** Partner NGO Events
- 3915** Participants



PROGRAM SUMMARY

+ Fighting Hostilities

We are leading a mass social revolution advocating justice, equal rights, greater access to economic growth opportunities, and emancipation from sheer neglect and exploitation. The rights awareness meetings, legal awareness and training sessions, and network linkages to professionals from the judicial system help widows fight for their rights and improve their social and legal status.



+ Confronting Taboos

We are protesting every ritual and custom that labels widows as inauspicious and prevents them from participate in cultural or religious ceremonies. We help their assimilation through psychological counseling which instills courage in the widows, inspiring them to discard superstitions, apply vermilion, and wear bangles, ornaments, and flowers – the cultural symbolism that marks a married woman and denied to widows. Empowered widows inspire and motivate other widows.



+ Rebuilding Lives

We are conducting awareness meetings, counseling workshops, conventions on rights, skills training, and capacity-building initiatives to help widows rebuild with newfound courage and confidence. The training sessions for skill-building, small business management, and financial aid help widows strengthen their capacities, work toward self-reliance, and improve their living standards.



+ Engaging Civil Societies

We are partnering with activists, governments, politicians, priests, NGOs, advocates, celebrities, writers, artists, journalists, and students to spread the message and lobby for new laws to end discrimination. Public Seminars create awareness on widow discrimination due to archaic, patriarchal, and religious beliefs, changing participants' mindsets, and creating empathy for the widows.





Suma was barely a teenager when she was married off to a relative in Punnelu in Warangal. She had two children by the time she turned 20.



Hundreds of widows attend monthly meetings where they share their problems, overcome their grief, receive emotional support, and find encouragement to keep going forward and not look back. Widows are counseled using positive psychology tools to curb suicidal tendencies and to instill confidence, courage and self-esteem. They are made aware of livelihood and financing options to set up micro-enterprises to achieve independence.

liberation from trauma, exploitation, poverty

In villages where we implemented widow empowerment interventions, during the committee meetings held to facilitate development solutions, for the first few months, sometimes years, young teenage widows would burst into tears, wail inconsolably in heart-rending cries for hours at a stretch. These young girls are so traumatized by their suffering, that they're unable to even speak of it. Such is their alienation that they are deeply moved by the mere presence of people who'd care enough to listen. Widows are so ostracized by societal stigmas, even their shadows are considered a bad omen.

Bollam Suma was one such widow.

When her husband died, six years into the marriage, not only did her world collapse, but she also had to bear the full onslaught of discrimination brought on by widowhood. The shy, young mother of two was disowned by her in-laws after her husband's death. She went back to live with her parents after being ill-treated, abused and insulted repeatedly. She wasn't allowed to participate in any cultural ceremonies, prevented from dressing up well, wearing bangles, ornaments, flowers, nor was allowed to apply vermilion on her forehead. Labeled as inauspicious, even her children were bullied by one and all. That's when she joined our Women's self-help group in her village, a decision that changed her destiny and transformed her life.

Suma became an active part of our program attending meetings, training sessions, and workshops that were designed to counsel and strengthen her, and provide her tools to improve financially. After a few counseling and personal development training sessions, Suma gathered courage to demand her in-laws for her share of the family inheritance, a small piece of agricultural land. When her in-laws turned violent, she filed a legal case against them with the help of Bala Vikasa. Suma won and received ownership rights to 1.5 acres of land. Suma further attended several skill training workshops in tailoring, saree rolling, and polishing, organized by Bala Vikasa. These gave her the push she needed to start her journey as a micro-entrepreneur. She has never looked back since then.

SUCCESS STORY



A survey of 3,000 widows done by Bala Vikasa, in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, found 29% of them had attempted suicide. According to research, with over 3M, the 2 states account for the largest number of widows in India, topping the world's list with 46M.

Suma, now 34, owns a successful tailoring and sari-rolling business in Warangal and credits Bala Vikasa's Widow Empowerment program for the transformation in her life. Suma diversified her businesses into other mini offerings, such as a sari showroom and an embroidery service.



Young widows are trained in livelihood skills to strengthen their capacities and to help them become independent and self-reliant women. We provide them with all the necessary tools and support to liberate them from the vicious cycles of trauma, poverty, and exploitation.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building Communities
Before Building Projects

Intensive Capacity Building activities were taken up to help widows, traumatized by their loss, assimilate into the society with courage, strength, perseverance and determination.



Center-Level Training

Capacity Building sessions for widows at all our WID program centers created awareness about their rights and entitlements, inspired courage to start afresh and countered every suicidal tendency among them.

45 Center Level Meetings
5279 Participants



Young Widows Training

We mobilized young rural poor widows and provided them training in personality and skill development, pain-relieving sessions and psychological counselling, using tools like NLP, meditation, yoga to help them regain self-esteem and pursue a normal life.

6 Training Programs
137 Widows Trained



Advanced Tailoring Training

We enhanced capacities of young widows by providing them training in advanced tailoring skills so that they can compete in the market, find employment, improve their income, set up micro-enterprises and become financially stable.

2 Batches
21 Widows Trained
8000 Rupees in Additional Income



Personality Development Training for Widow's Children

We conducted a one-day seminar to train widow's children, orphans, and marginalized rural poor children from Telangana, to build their confidence and provide them career guidance on higher education opportunities.

1 Seminar
229 Children Trained



"When my husband died in 2005, I didn't know how to raise my children or even how to survive in this world. I faced a lot of discrimination within my family and society and tried taking my life twice. Bala Vikasa's training healed me emotionally, gave me financial independence and the motivational techniques inspired me to live courageously and happily."

- Alhaya, Danthalapally

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

District-Level Seminars Advocate the Protection of Widows Rights

We galvanized public support for the Widow Emancipation movement through district level seminars and urged the government to introduce the Widows Protection Act in order to prevent atrocities on widows, set up a Special Corporation for their economic upliftment, introduce reservations for their children in schools and colleges, and provide special incentives for widow remarriages.



2 Seminars
3673 People Attended

The Seminars, organized at Siddipet and Mancherla, were funded by local MLAs Mr T Harish Rao and Mr N Divakar Rao, respectively, as a token of their support for our Widow Emancipation Movement.

Seminars Mobilize College Youth for Social Change

We conducted several college-level seminars to sensitize the youth on the issue of widow discrimination and formed committees to play an active role in the social movement for widow liberation and empowerment.



25,610 Students
68 Colleges
67 Student Committees
801 Committee Members

International Widows Day on June 23rd Observed Across Program Villages

We observed the International Widows Day on June 23rd with several events in project villages. We conducted a legal awareness and training seminar by psychologist Ms Anusha Vineyatha and advocates Mr Mahendar Vasukula and Mr Rajendra Prasad. Renowned poet Mr V Nag-eswar Rao performed on the occasion. We also inspired partner NGOs to conduct awareness rallies in their program areas.



455 Villages
28,500 Participants
17 NGO Partners Joined
137 Young Widows Trained

Canadian Donors Adopt Widows Families

We have provided financial assistance to 17 families of rural poor widows, to support their children's education, with kind donations from Canadian individuals, through Sopar. Some of the widows families were visited by the donors during their trip to India this year.



122 Villages
8,78,400 Beneficiaries

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Rejecting Discriminatory Customary Rituals, Participating in Cultural Ceremonies

Widows Celebrate Bathukamma, Express Joy and Elation

The residents of Illoni, Ontimamadipalli, and Nagapuram villages in Warangal took a bold and progressive step toward fighting and eradicating superstitions related to widows. About 600 widows, along with about 600 women beneficiaries of Bala Vikasa's WID program, celebrated Batukamma, a popular cultural festival, at the historical Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple.

The widows were emotional about getting an opportunity to celebrate a festival that they were deprived from doing when widowed.



600+ Widows

600+ WID Women Members

Widows participate in Raksha Bandhan Festivities, Find Support in MLAs

Widows celebrated the Raksha Bandhan festival at the Police Parade Grounds in Hanamkonda in August tying Rakhis on the wrists of the the Hon'ble Telangana Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Mr Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Former Collector Mr Jeevan Patil, MLA Mr Aroori Ramesh, MLA Mr Nanapaneni Narendar, and MLA Mr Vinay Bhasakar.



The 'Inauspiciousness of Widows' Myth Challenged by Including Them in All Project Inaugurations

As a testament to our unwavering, firm conviction that nothing is inauspicious or evil about the presence of widows at celebratory events, we ensured that almost our events, projects, programs are not only graced by widows, but are always inaugurated by one of them, along with other dignitaries.



Widows Firmly Resist Unjust Cultural Practices



Following numerous capacity building and motivational meetings, many of the widows in our program areas applied vermilion on the forehead, wore colored saris and wore flowers and jewelry opposing the unfair customary practices that forbade them from such things. Not just that, they actively confronted such discriminatory practices within their communities and helped other widows who had been suffering too.

PROGRAM IMPACT



rejecting superstition

widows celebrating festivals



reshaping their future

supporting remarriages



fighting for dignity

resisting discriminatory rituals



gaining back respect

rejecting archaic customs



bringing back normalcy

redecorating with vermillion



handling financial disputes

getting rightful property share



achieving self-sufficiency

establishing micro businesses



earning and saving more

generating additional revenue



keeping homes hygienic

increasing health awareness



educating children

providing guidance, support



delegitimizing widow injustice

obtaining support of religious heads



reducing social inequities

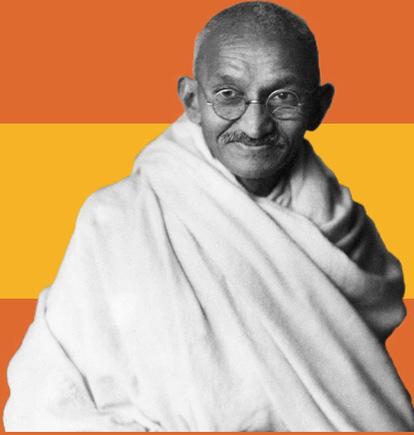
enjoying respect and dignity



MODEL COMMUNITIES



transforming villages into **model communities**
using local **assets** and **resources**



Every village has to be self-sustained and capable of managing its affairs even to the extent of defending itself against the whole world.

Mahatma Gandhi
Father of the Nation

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

- 130** Model Villages
- 845** Village Development Committees
- 5,422** Community Leaders
- 15+** Development Activities
- 73,164** Toilets Constructed
- 28,63,265** Trees Planted
- 610** Health Camps
- 260** Adult Literacy Programs
- 183** Summer Camps
- 72** Blood Donation Camps
- 188** Awareness Street Plays
- 227** Hygiene Promotion Programs
- 36,388** Soak pits in 123 villages

2019-20

- 1** New Model Village
- 8,749** Families Motivated
- 9** New Development Committees
- 45** New Committee Members
- 60** Villages achieve 100% household toilets
- 14,57,973** Saplings Planted
- 21,938** Beneficiaries of Health Camps
- 758** Adult Literacy Beneficiaries
- 1,577** Children Attended Summer Camps
- 294** Participants in Blood Donation Drives
- 9,75,200** Beneficiaries of Water Donation Drives



PROGRAM SUMMARY

+ **Championing Asset-Based Community Development for Rural Self-Reliance**

We strongly believe that the realization and the application of inherent strengths in individuals and communities is more likely to inspire positive action for change than simplistic approaches focusing on the prevailing needs and problems. Using approaches like ABCD and Appreciative Inquiry, we are building self-reliant villages that are led by the community members from the forefront utilizing the local assets and resources.



+ **Building Community Leadership by Forming Village Development Committees**

Communities are the primary stakeholders in achieving a holistic progressive village that participates actively in the development process. We help form 7-8 Committees to oversee specific community development activities. These committees identify, plan, design, implement, and monitor various development activities with the support of our development agents. We motivate and guide them, strengthen their capacities through a series of training sessions, help develop strong leadership qualities in them, and closely monitor their progress.



+ **Creating Model Citizens and Building Dynamic Communities**

Empowered, united, and confident community members drive social and economic transformation. They organize adult literacy programs, health camps, water donation drives, summer camps, promote WASH activities, initiate organic farming, and undertake tree plantation drives. The villagers raise funds from wealthy individuals, pool their savings, convince diverse professionals to provide pro-bono services for village development programs, and collectively implement all the activities. They generously provide care and aid for the most vulnerable among them, including orphans, destitute, and the aged in their villages.





Guralagondi, despite being located near the Mandal headquarters, was like any other village, underdeveloped and largely in neglect.



Village Development Committees meet their objectives and achieve their targets every year, thanks to our intensive training and continuous assistance. Anjaneyulu credits Bala Vikasa for the radical transformation of the village, hitherto unimagined.

from a backward village to the best gram panchayat

More than two-thirds of the world's largest democracy resides in villages. Yet, rural India paints a dismal picture when it comes to basic development indicators. Social inequities, poverty, gender discrimination, and exploitation, are rampant in villages. Neglected by the government, and left out of development initiatives, rural citizens do not have access to quality opportunities in education, employment, healthcare services, food security, safe and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Lack of socio-economic development forces village residents to lead a low standard of living compared to their urban counterparts.

Guralagondi is located barely 20 km from Narayanraopet Mandal headquarters in Siddipet. The villagers were quite unhappy with its dismal state of affairs, even after decades of independence. The village, with 714 households of 2,712 people, was largely agrarian and afflicted by economic and social backwardness. There was hardly any unity among the community members. Poor hygiene and sanitation, alcoholism and superstition, gender discrimination was widespread. Lack of access to basic amenities such as safe water, food security and healthcare made matters worse.

Anjaneyulu, the 36-year old Sarpanch, decided it was time for the village to change the situation for the good of everyone.

The villagers collectively eradicated alcoholism, child labor, and child marriage, cared for the aged and destitute, raised Rs 1.8 lakhs for orphan care, organized 6 health and eye camps, donated 30 pairs of spectacles and medicines worth a lakh rupees, mobilized 18 youngsters to donate blood, worked with ASHA workers for women's and children's health, conducted awareness activities on WASH, achieved 80% adult literacy, refurbished classrooms with Rs 3 lakhs to bring children back to school, trained 42 women in tailoring, provided sewing machines at subsidy, installed a community library and gym, encouraged farmers to adopt organic farming, cleaned water sources and installed a borewell, undertook village cleanliness activities, eradicated plastic usage, achieved 100% household toilets and soaks pits, and planted 15 lakh trees.

SUCCESS STORY



India is predominantly rural with 65% population and 70% workforce residing in rural areas. The rural economy constitutes 46% of national income. Despite rising urbanization, more than 50% of India's population is projected to be rural by 2050 as per the NITI Aayog.

As per our Community-Driven Development approach, a Grama Sabha was organized where we mobilized the villagers to form 8 Village Development Committees on Food Security, Safe Water, Health, Education, Environment, Superstition Eradication, Solidarity, and Youth Development.



After 4 years of adoption, with sustained perseverance of committee leaders and the villagers, guided by our Development Agents, Guralagondi achieved "Model Community" status in 2019. The village won 3 District-Level awards - the Best Gram Panchayat, Swachh Gramam, and Haritha Mitra awards.

CAPACITY BUILDING

∴ Building Communities
∴ Before Building Projects

Building the capacities of Committee Members is integral to achieving success in creating capable and dynamic community leaders who can spearhead diverse development activities in the villages. Bringing about a radical shift in thinking and transforming villages into model communities is done by organizing multiple capacity-building programs for the community members and Development Agents (DA), who are the main facilitators of the process.



Monthly Development Agents Training

We conducted monthly training and review meetings to enhance the capacities of Development Agents (DA) in planning, reviewing, and analyzing the project, mobilizing resources, and implementing activities.

11 Monthly Meetings
276 Villages



Development Committees Training

We provided training to the leaders of the Development Committees in each of the Village Development Groups on the various program activities, and enhanced their leadership and motivation capacities.

4 Trainings
688 Leaders



Annual General Body Meeting

We organized the AGB meetings in the adopted villages to induct new members into the village development committees, including new-elected Sarpanches and local governing body members.

8 AGB Meetings
1898 Families
1123 Members



We all make it a point to attend the AGB meetings in our village. In the meetings we were motivated to nominate ourselves and take part in the village development process. We elected new Committee members who really work hard and dedicatedly for the village development.

- Raj Kumar, Gangadevipalli



Bala Vikasa involves people in every step of the project, so we feel a strong sense of ownership for the project. The training is helping me monitor activities and deal with issues arising in the village, the committees, and the gram panchayat, with people's participation and involvement.

- Raji Reddy, Tirumalaipalli



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Household Toilet Constructions Help Make Villages ODF

We motivated the communities on sanitation and hygiene through songs and street plays. We helped the clean and green committees in model villages conduct surveys of village households that needed toilet construction. We facilitated applications to the local governing bodies for government grants.



7,867 Widows

25,610 Beneficiaries

Rural Poor Patients access Medical Care via Health Camps

We enabled the health committees in model villages to organize free health camps for the poor, with doctors and medical staff providing consulting services for free, and village donors sponsoring medicines for the patients.



21,938 Patients

114 Villages

21,938 Doctors and Nurses

21,79,116 Rs in Free Medicines

Adult Literacy Drives Help Villagers Learn to Read and Write

We helped the education committees to find and organize a pool of voluntary teachers and youth to teach illiterate rural adults during summer, daily for an hour or two. The villagers were taught how to sign, read boards on the streets and buses, and understand basic lettering.



53 Youth Volunteers

758 Participants

53 Villages

Tree Plantation Enhances Green Cover, Reduces Pollution

We motivated and created awareness in model village communities on the importance of tree plantation and environmental conservation, by providing banners, slogans, and songs. We encouraged people to visit nurseries and plant trees to protect the environment, reduce pollution.



14,57,973 Saplings

125 Villages

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Children Dabble in Arts, Crafts during Summer Camps

We created awareness among parents and children about summer camps in model villages. We motivated rural children to acquire extra skills during the school summer holidays. With the help of donors, we provided children with the requisite materials.



1577 Children
85 Villages

Large Numbers of Youth Come Forward to Donate Blood

We motivated the village youth to donate blood and helped the village health committees organize blood donation camps with the support of the Red Cross. The village leaders helped spread the word among the residents.



294 People
11 Villages

Water Donation Drives Provide Relief in Hot Summer

We educated the communities about the importance of Jala Danam or Water Donation - to save the thirsty poor from dehydration, promoted the cause by providing banners, and encouraged donors to organize suitable places to run the drive for 3 summer months.



9,75,200 People
123 Villages
229 Pots



Bala Vikasa initiated the model village program in our village by motivating and mobilizing us to form seven different village development committees. During the monthly meetings, they motivated us to actively take part in village development. We are so happy that finally, our village has become a model village. We learned from Bala Vikasa that development is not only physical infrastructure but also a change in our mindset. We are now using our existing resources properly for village development. We are very thankful to Bala Vikasa.



– M Srinivas, Guralagondi

PROGRAM IMPACT



changed, positive mindset

enhanced awareness, skills



more unity across classes

shared visions, common goals



collective decision-making

more empowered individuals



increased governing presence

improved leadership qualities



greater access to govt welfare

increased knowledge of schemes



greater village self-sufficiency

shared village responsibilities



improved social behavior

more empathy, understanding



higher people participation

motivated by real-time change



greater sense of belonging

increased mutual appreciation



reduced bureaucratic power

highly-confident communities



increased village donations

greater conviction, compassion



improved hygiene, sanitation

greater WASH awareness



SAFEWATER



providing access to **purified water** at just **Rs 3 per 20 liters**, safeguarding health



Access to Safe Water is a fundamental human need and therefore a basic human right.

Kofi Annan

Former Secretary General, United Nations



Program Snapshot | Cumulative

1,122 Water Purification Plants

25,00,000+ Beneficiaries

5 States (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka)

25 Sujal ATW Kiosks

26 Disabled Employed

2019-20

152 Water Purification Plants

2,66,500 Beneficiaries

53,300 Families Reached

3 States (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra)

2 Sujal Kiosks

Donors	No. of WPPs	Coverage-Districts	Reach - Beneficiaries
SOPAR-Canada	50	Telangana - 14 Districts AP - 2 Districts	89000
Franklin Templeton Hyderabad	25	Telangana - 8 Districts AP - 2 Districts	41720
Franklin Templeton Mumbai	52	Telangana - 17 Districts AP - 1 District	95230
Cholamandalam IFC Chennai	24	Telangana - 3 Districts Maharashtra - 1 District	38850
WABAG Chennai	1	Telangana - 1 District	1700



PROGRAM SUMMARY

+ Championing Partipatory Development

We actively engage communities in the process of setting up Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs). We conduct motivation meetings where we ensure that 80% of the village community is present and willing to work closely in the planning, building, and maintenance of the purification plant. A Committee comprising of 5-8 villagers is formed to manage the project. The Gram Panchayat provides the water source and a room for the purification system. Community members contribute 20% of the total project cost in the form of membership fee which instills collective ownership and responsibility.



+ Building Capacities for Efficiency

The Water Committees, formed with equal representation of men and women, along with the operators, are trained in project planning, implementation and management, besides leadership skills, through a series of trainings over the first year of implementation. These training programs help the community members effectively operate, monitor and manage the plants effectively with some assistance from our staff.



+ Innovating Technology for Transparency

The plants are fitted with RFID-based Any-Time Water (ATW) technology, Prepaid cards are provided to the village residents, ensuring 24x7 access to safe water and total transparency in accounts. Our laboratory tests water samples from the WPPs periodically to ensure the water conforms to the prescribed standards.



+ Strengthening Federation for Sustainability

After completing one year, WPPs become members of the Jala Vikasa Foundation, a federation comprising of all CWPP Presidents from 20 zones, formed to supervise the maintenance of plants on a regular basis. Trained technicians conduct timely repairs and maintenance work at the plants, supply quality spare parts and consumables for a reasonable price, verify accounts and address all complaints promptly.





Sujatha used to spend around 2 hours daily to collect water from a local rivulet, and would spend about Rs 5,000 in medical bills annually.



Purified water, available for Rs 3 per 20 liters, is easily affordable by all. The use of prepaid ATW cards has ensured transparency in water distribution and finances. An evaluation visit revealed that not a single case of water-borne disease was recorded since the setting of the purification plant in the village. The community expenditure on medical bills also significantly reduced increasing their savings.

freedom from arduous treks for water, illness; pure water anytime, 20liters at half a dime

50 percent Indians (more than 163 million) don't have access to safe water. With a lack of piped water supply, most rural Indians depend on ponds, rivulets or groundwater, often contaminated with salinity, bacteria, chemicals and metals (Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic, Nitrate). Excess Fluoride affects tens of millions of people across 19 states, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, causing fluorosis – teeth decay, joint pains, crippled bones, gastro-intestinal and pregnancy issues.

One such family affected by Fluorosis was that of Naredla Sujatha in Sangvi, Adilabad. For over a decade, Sujatha's family, like many others in the village, suffered from joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and frequent cold and cough.

The ground water contained 3 PPM Fluoride, above the permissible limits. With no purified water, consumption of the contaminated water led to mass dental and skeletal fluorosis, even death of 2 to 3 people annually from kidney failure. Some non-profits who visited the village, found it too remote and inaccessible to help. Sujatha and members from her community approached Bala Vikasa after learning about Community Water Purification Plants (WPPs) in the fluoride-affected villages nearby.

Bala Vikasa approved a 500 liters-per-hour capacity RO-based water purification plant (WPP) in the village. The villagers formed a committee for implementation and management of the plant, and collected membership fees from 210 families. The Gram Panchayat allotted and renovated a room for the purifier installation. A youth from the village was appointed as an operator-cum-accountant to monitor daily activities. The water committee issued RFID-based Any-Time Water (ATW) cards to the members. While the Committee and the operator ensured that the plant was operational, community members access safe water 24X7 at the cost of Rs. 3 per 20 Liters. Seeing a drastic improvement in health, the remaining 40 families soon joined the project, taking the membership the water plant to 100%.

SUCCESS STORY



67% of Indians live in villages, but 7% don't have any safe water access, WHO states 1.96 Million dwellings have access to contaminated fluoride and arsenic laden water, and that waterborne diseases cause an economic burden of USD 600 Million per annum in India.

Sujatha's family now spends less than a thousand rupees per annum on medical bills. They don't suffer from water-borne diseases anymore. Sujatha's 7-year old daughter attends school regularly, as she doesn't have to skip school fetching water or due to illness. She credits Bala Vikasa for this transformation in life.



After accounting for project expenses, the water plant saved Rs 68,000 within 9 months, achieving complete self-reliance. Our water committees are using the surplus for other development activities such as conducting tree plantation drives.

CAPACITY BUILDING

∴ Building Communities
∴ Before Building Projects

Numerous capacity-building and motivation sessions were conducted for the elected committee members as well as the machine operators to ensure that the WPPs are efficient and transparent.



Committee Members Training

We strengthened the capacities of Water Committee members with leadership skills to help them motivate every family in their villages to actively participate in the water purification project. We took them on exposure visits to WPPs to inspire and educate them on the functioning of a water plant.

30 Training Sessions
1,347 WS Committee Members



Operator-Accountant Training

We have provided technical training to machine operators-cum-accountants with the support of the machine vendors, enabling them to operate, maintain and repair the water purification plant machines effectively. We also provided training on accounts management and record-keeping.

9 Training Sessions
368 Operators-Accountants



Federation Coordinator Training

We have trained Federation coordinators to provide efficient and effective services to the WPPs in their respective zones. Experts in purification technology teach them how to repair water plants and ATW units. We also train the coordinators on verifying records and organizing committee meetings.

12 Trainings
12 Technicians-cum-Supervisors



Before Bala Vikasa came to our village, women never attended big gatherings. Slowly as awareness spread due to regular meetings, a majority of women have begun participating actively. Now, I am a regular at the monthly committee meetings, and able to verify the records maintained at the plant.

- G Neetha Bai, Awalpur, Adilabad



Our supervisors taught me about the operating and cleaning process. I have also learned to maintain records and present them before the committee during monthly meetings. I am able to do all major repairs. Except for major breakdowns such as membrane issues, I can manage the rest on my own.

- Raju, WPP Operator, Kamareddy



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bringing Access to Purified Water with the Support of CSR Partners

Reputed global corporations joined us as CSR Partners in setting up Community Water Purification Plants in 3 states this year. Our highly-successful CDD approach, which makes the beneficiary communities active stakeholders in the development process, thereby ensuring high sustainability, is regarded as crucial to implementing meaningful, result-driven, hi-impact CSR projects.



152 WPPs **2,66,500** Beneficiaries



Chola Representatives Visit UF-Based Community Water Purification Project

Representatives from Chola, one of our key CSR partners, visited our first UF-based Community Water Purification Plant at Chinna Pendyala village in Jangaon, Telangana. We set up a purification system with Ultra Filtration (UF) technology, instead of the usual Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology, as there are multiple benefits of using this new environment-friendly technology. We are studying its impact to see if we can scale it up.



7,867 Widows
25,610 Beneficiaries

Trained to be Community Leaders, Water Committees Take Up Development Activities in their Villages and Provide COVID Relief Using Revenue Surplus

The Water Committee in Sirsanna, Adilabad, distributed books and organized tree plantation drives at their Government School. The Water Committee, along with a few locals in Chukkapur, Kamareddy, supported their government school with sanitation facilities, provided bore-well motor and renovated the school kitchen, and inspired 11 dropouts to go back to school.

The Water Committee in Lingaipalli, Kamareddy, purchased land to construct a temple, and are paying salary to a tutor for students for after-school classes. The Water Committee in Kamalapuram, Khammam, constructed a borewell with motor for the SC colony, distributed school uniforms for poor students, and distributed groceries to 50 daily wagers in the village as COVID 19 relief in early March. The Water Committee of Vattipalli in Siddipet distributed provisions to the poor as part of COVID relief activities.



PROGRAM IMPACT



strong community enterprise
dynamic leadership



effective management
well-trained committees



regular maintenance
upskilled operators



village unity, cohesion
community participation



increased productivity
improved health



higher school attendance
decreased fetching chores



20% increase in savings
lower medical bills, water bills



self-sustainability
profits, revenue surplus



enhanced green cover
tree plantation drives



safe water availability
closer-home anytime access



SUJAL KIOSKS



An indigenous **innovation** and a spin off of the **WPPs**, **Bala Vikasa Sujal Kiosks** are **first-of-its-kind** water dispensing units supplying **1 liter of chilled purified water** at the drop of a **2 Rupees** coin to **urban commuters**.

These **Any-Time Water Kiosks** at busy city centers provide safe drinking water to commuters who **can't afford** the **expensive commercial bottled water**. The urban poor, including **daily wage laborers, cab drivers, auto drivers, hawkers,** and **vendors** largely benefit from this initiative. Bala Vikasa partnered with district authorities and the municipal corporations to install these kiosks.

Two New Sujal Kiosks Inaugurated in Irkode and Ramagundam

A Sujal Any Time Water (ATW) Kiosk was inaugurated in Irkode Village of Siddipet Mandal in the presence of Mr Harish Rao Thanneeru, MLA of Siddipet and Hon'ble State Finance Minister, along with our Founder Mrs Bala Theresa Gingras, and ED Mr Shoury Reddy Singareddy.



Another Sujal ATW Kiosk was inaugurated in Ramagundam in partnership with NTPC. MLA Korukanti Chandar, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mr Srinivas and NTPC GM Mr Ramesh participated in the inauguration.



In these times when drinking water is being sold at high prices, this initiative reflects the commitment of Bala Vikasa towards providing purified water to the most marginalized communities in the city. It is commendable.”



– Praveen, an urban commuter

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



implementing diverse **WASH** activities to improve development indices



Without regard to whether
some place is wealthy or poor,
everybody should have the chance
at clean air and clean water

Barack Obama

Former President, United States of America

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

441 Overhead Tanks with Borewells,
Motors and Pipeline

2,29,254 Beneficiaries

30 Borewells, Motor and Pipeline

9,501 Beneficiaries

6,497 Borewells with Handpumps

11,46,897 Beneficiaries

3 States (Telangana, Andhra
Pradesh and Maharashtra)

21,432 Individual Family Toilets

2019-20

1 Overhead Tanks with Borewells,
Motors, Pipeline and Household
Taps

205 Beneficiaries

107 Borewells with Handpumps

18,297 Beneficiaries

Borewells with Handpumps

SOPAR-Canada supported 90 projects, Frank Water supported 5, and School For Children, Italy, supported 7. These projects have impacted the lives of 17,547 people from 3,538 families.

Overhead Tanks with Borewells, Motors and Pipeline

Frank Water supported 1 project impacting the lives of 205 beneficiaries from 54 families

State	Coverage-Districts	# Projects
Telangana	12 Districts	86
Andhra Pradesh	2 Districts	20
Maharashtra	1 District	1



PROGRAM SUMMARY

+ **Guaranteeing the Right to Safe Water**

We are reaching marginalized communities, especially those living in remote tribal regions, with 3-types of water infrastructure to safeguard their basic right to clean drinking water: one - borewells with overhead tanks and pipelines; two - borewells with pipelines and public/household taps; three - borewells with handpumps. In some places, we are providing solar power units for uninterrupted power supply.



+ **Augmenting Capacity for Empowerment**

We are empowering communities by building their capacities in skills related to leadership and management. We help create Water Committees of 5 men and women, train them to lead the implementation with the involvement of the community members. They mobilize community resources in the form of land, labor, money and time. Such participation and ownership makes the community-driven project sustainable.



+ **Creating Sanitation & Hygiene Awareness**

We are also conducting Intensive awareness campaigns on WASH using effective IEC materials to improve various indices around health, sanitation and hygiene among the tribal communities. We are conducting regular street plays performed by local artists on social issues for maximum effect, besides providing informative posters and hand outs in the villages. The sustained campaigns promote the health and well-being of the tribal communities.



+ **Liaising Help for Govt-Funded Toilets**

We are providing liaising support to link the communities with various government schemes such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, centered around sanitation and hygiene targets. We integrate tribal members into WASH committees, which also include local ASHA health workers. We support them in lobbying with the local administration to get home toilets sanctioned and funds disbursed.





Bamma treks 2-3 kms, in 5-7 trips, spending around 2 hours daily fetching about 100 liters of water for household needs.



With improved access to water facilities, the villagers' living standards have improved drastically. Many villagers have begun cultivating vegetables in their kitchen gardens, improving their nutritional intake. Some women have more time on their hands, and utilize it to make additional income by working in farms. Children are freed of their water-carrying duties, and now attend school more regularly. There are less water-borne illnesses due to improvement in personal and community hygiene.

a life of dignity with potable water and ODF facilities

50 percent of Indians lack access to clean water close to home. Tribal settlements - pockets of 20-150 families living in remote settlements, on the outskirts of villages, towns and cities, fare far worse, with 70-80% lacking access to any kind of water source closer home. Women and adolescent girls spend 4-5 hours, carrying over 15-20 liters each in 6-8 trips a day, fetching water from sources located a mile away. Without toilets at home, they suffer the indignity of open defecation too, walking long distances in the dark to forests or ponds.

This is the story of Katraj Bamma and her small community of Chenchu tribals in Apaipally ST Colony in Nagarkurnool district in Telangana.

A remote habitation, neglected by the state and the local leadership, the 120-family tribe faced an utter lack of WASH facilities. She had to work as labor on her farm to earn a living. She soon developed knee pain due to the long arduous walks. Her community did not seek the government's help or aid for wash facilities, due to illiteracy and lack of awareness. With support of the Frank Water (H&M Foundation), Bala Vikasa mobilized the tribal community and engaged their active participation in building a borewell with motor and provided piped water supply with public taps in the main street.

Bala Vikasa conducted a feasibility study and assessed the situation. Our team organized a village-level meeting to create awareness on water management and on personal hygiene. The villagers elected 5 members and formed a Water Committee and a Wash Committee. The Wash Committee also included the local health workers. The community was actively involved in the plan to implement a borewell with motor, pipeline and public taps at a location convenient to all. The members contributed in labor and time, helping with the construction, laying the pipeline, and other unskilled labor works. The committees were trained in motivational techniques. We also distributed IEC materials and conducted plays in the village, educating them on hygiene practices.

SUCCESS STORY



In India, 21% of communicable diseases are caused by unsafe water and lack of hygiene, as per the World Bank. About 70% of the 6,000 tribal villages in northern Andhra Pradesh are facing water crisis. 26% Indians still practice open defecation, contributing to water-borne illness, stunting, and death.

Bamma is now cultivating a kitchen garden, providing her family a nutritious diet. She is planning to scale up to sell and earn more income too. With abundant water, her family is able to take regular baths, and keep the surroundings clean. Plans to construct a family toilet with government funding is on the anvil too.



The Tribal WASH intervention has enabled tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to access their rights to water, sanitation and a healthy life. We have improved the living conditions of tribal communities, also advancing the SDG of ensuring equitable and sustainable access to WASH for all.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building Communities Before Building Projects

Numerous capacity building and motivation sessions were conducted for the elected committee members to ensure that the water projects are efficient and transparent.

Awareness and Motivation Meetings



We mobilized and motivated tribal communities and made them aware of their right to clean water infrastructure. We counseled them on the dignity of living, model citizenship, confidence, and leadership, created awareness on health and sanitation, and engaged their active participation in the WASH project.

- 8 Villages**
- 7 Water Committees Formed**
- 40 New Members**

Water Committee Trainings



We organized training programs for the water committee members to educate them on mobilizing resources and responsibilities, establishing project roles, coordinating with other stakeholders such as the Gram Panchayat local governing body, and project maintenance, and provided training on personality development, and project management skills.

- 2 Training Sessions**
- 34 Members Attended**
- 8 Villages**

WASH Committee Trainings



We provided training on water conservation, sanitation, and hygiene practices, and on how to liaise with local government officials to identify and link beneficiaries for the household toilet constructions. They were also trained in working with ASHA health workers to motivate habitants on sanitation practices.

- 2 Training Programs**
- 24 Members**

Street Plays, Posters for Awareness



A team of 6 artists performed street plays to enhance community awareness on water, sanitation, and hygiene. Bala Vikasa distributed awareness-creating posters that were displayed on the main streets and community centers to sensitize community members on all aspects of WASH.

- 7 Plays**
- 614 Members**

PROGRAM IMPACT



easier access to water
round-the-clock



improved well-being
clean, potable water



improved general health
greater hygiene



improved dignity of life
household toilet usage



increased productivity
reduced time to fetch



higher savings, earnings
reduced medical bills



greater unity in change
more people engaged



self-reliant committees
effective management



more children in school
transformed mindsets



influencing local elections
greater participation



driving intensive **water conservation**
campaigns led by farmers

WATER CONSERVATION





The movement towards water conservation has to take place at the grassroots level. ”

Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

764 Tanks Desilted

7.38 TMC Water Conserved

1,15,644 Acres applied with Silt

62,156 Farmers Benefited

1,527 Villages Motivated

764 Project Committees

3,820 Members Trained

552 Farm Ponds Constructed

10 Urban Water Bodies Restored

2,20,000 Saplings Planted

2019-20

6 Tanks Desilted

30,589 Tractor Loads of Silt Excavated

6,88,25,000 Liters of Water Conserved

665 Farmers Benefited

933 Acres Applied with Silt

5 Urban Water Bodies Restored

103 Farm Ponds Constructed

3,405 Saplings Planted



CII-SR Supported Tank Desiltation Transforms Polluted Urban Lakes into Festive Public Spaces

With the support of CII-SR and Greater Chennai Corporation, we restored 5 water bodies in Chennai this year. We cleaned the feeder channels, cleared shrubs, strengthened bunds, installed fencing, improved green cover by planting saplings, and set up recreational facilities such as walking tracks and benches.



PROGRAM SUMMARY



Building Farmer Capabilities

We motivate farmers on the benefits of water conservation through tank desilations, and educate them on how this activity ensures sustainable agriculture, thereby creating food security. We encourage the villager communities to share the costs of the project, to promote their active engagement in planning, implementation and monitoring. A committee of 5 members is elected and trained on the skills required for project planning, implementation, monitoring and coordinating. We provide motivational posters and captions to be written on the community walls, to inspire more farmers to initiate similar activity on their own in future.



Restoring Irrigation Tanks

We procure excavator vehicles to desilt the tanks, clean the feeder channels, clear shrubs and bushes, strengthen bunds, and improve green cover through tree plantation. We help farmers apply excavated nutrient-rich silt with increased moisture retention capacity on their farms, which aids in reduced irrigations, increased yield, elimination of chemical fertilizers, decrease in input costs and higher profits, thereby helping farmers engage in sustainable farming successfully. To monitor and record the process, college-going local youth are hired as temporary supervisors for the desiltation activity.



Instilling Eco-Sensibilities

We instill eco-compassion in our farming communities to help mitigate the agrarian distress caused by the scarcity of irrigation water. We are proud to be one of the pioneers in Tank desiltation activity that has inspired the renowned 'Mission Kakatiya' scheme of the Telangana government. The renovation of the water bodies results in restoring ecological balance. The new systems help in regulating stream flow, recharge groundwater aquifers and mitigate droughts. Apart from that, the water bodies with the enhanced green cover keep the temperature moderated and affect a change in the climate in the surrounding areas.





The 90-yr-old Giddlakunta Tank with a storage capacity of 16 acres, is the main irrigation source for Veeranna and his friends.



The tank's bund was a regular connecting route to the other villages. The bund road was narrow and ill-maintained. Over the years, it had become weak. Upon request by the villagers, Bala Vikasa strengthened the 400-mts stretch. The community pitched in with partial contributions. An excavator was hired to clean the bushes for over 36 hrs. Gravel was excavated from the tank basin and applied on the bund with the help of tractors. With the help of road rollers, the compacting of the bund road was completed.

Giddlakunta tank brims with water, so do the farmers' hearts with joy

Thousands of lakes support irrigation for farming in Telangana. Over time, the fertile top-soil of farms and open plains erodes and accumulates in tanks as silt, reducing their water storage capacity. Silt prevents natural water percolation to the ground, decreasing the water table for wells. Farmers take loans and invest in chemical fertilizers to restore fertility of the soil, which only destroys the soil quality, resulting in inadequate yields. Piling debts force some farmers to commit suicides or migrate to cities. Dried-up tanks also affect the livelihoods of fishermen. Water scarcity causes disputes among village communities.

S Veeranna and his friends in Samudrala, Jangaon, watched helplessly as their village tank started to dry out. The Giddlakunta Tank, constructed 90 years ago, with a storage capacity of 16 acres, had silt accumulation that spread over 10 acres and about 3 meters deep, drastically reducing its water storage capacity. The tank was a major source of irrigation for the 560 families in the farming community, which cultivated paddy, cotton and pluses. The farmers began excessive usage of chemical fertilizers on their farms to tackle decreasing yields, and this further deteriorated the soil micronutrients. Veeranna and his friends wanted a solution. They heard about Bala Vikasa's Tank Desiltation interventions in the neighboring villages. The community immediately sought our help with all earnestness and urgency.

We began the desiltation intervention in the village after mobilizing the farmers, with Veeranna actively participating in community motivation. The villagers came together to form the requisite village committee, and elected Veeranna as one of the committee members. The team was provided intensive training in project management. The farmers were quite committed to the project and gave the mandatory community contribution for the project. The silt excavation was carried out for 67 days and a total of 8,907 tractor loads (20,040 Cubic Meters) of silt was excavated from the tank. This restored the tank's capacity to store 20,040,750 liters of water. The excavated silt was transported by 167 farmers at their own cost and applied in 233 acres. This helped the village farmers decrease chemical fertilizer application by 40% – 50%.

SUCCESS STORY



70% of India, and 60% of Telangana is agrarian. 45,000 irrigation tanks irrigate most farmland. Telangana Government's Mission Kakatiya, which was inspired by our Tank Desiltation program does not account for smaller irrigation tanks that cover less than 20 acres.

The increased water retention in the tank enabled a rise of water levels by 20-25% in open and tube wells within a radius of 2 kms. Ample rains a while after the desiltation led to the irrigation tank filling up to the brim in water. Veeranna believes the cultivation area in the village would have reduced had the tank not been de-silted.



We encourage the farmers to take up tree plantation at the beginning of the rainy season in public places such as schools, temples, hospitals, village administration offices, community halls, road sides, and farms, to instil environmental consciousness. The villagers contribute their savings for the tree plantation drive.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building Communities Before Building Projects



Training Program for Watershed Committee Members on Project Implementation, Management and Plantation

We mobilized poor farmers to form project committees with 5 members each and trained them on leadership skills, management skills, and restoring ecological balance through tank desiltation for water conservation. We also built their capacities on tank maintenance, and educated them on the need for enhanced green cover, helping them plan and implement tree plantation drives.

2 Training Session
35 WS Committee Members



Training Program on Farm Pond Construction and Fish Cultivation

We trained farmers on the importance and technicalities of constructing and maintaining farm ponds. We also taught them about income generation through fish cultivation.

212 Farmers Trained
103 Farm Ponds Built

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Restoration of 6 Irrigation Tanks Helps Conserve 68 Million Liters of Water



Renovation of the irrigation tanks through silt excavation enhanced the process of water percolation and helped recharge the groundwater with the harvested rain water. Application of nutrient rich silt greatly improved the farm productivity levels.

103 Farmers Convinced to Conserve Water by Constructing Farm Ponds



Farmers realized the importance of water conservation to be able to meet their daily irrigation needs and came forward to construct farm ponds. They allocated a part of their farm land for the farm ponds and even paid for the cost of transporting silt to their farms.

PROGRAM IMPACT



more water levels in wells

increase by 20-25 percent



improved soil fertility

micronutrients, moisture-rich



increased crop production

20-30% higher, better yields



reduced crop input costs

50% reduction in fertilizers



active farmer participation

effective project monitoring



stable, improved livelihoods

income with fish-rearing



healthy village environment

increased greenery and rainfall



higher moisture-rich silt

20% reduced water consumption



income for tractor-owners

income with 2-3 weeks' work



improved greener planet

greater environmental care



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



organic farming enables environment-friendly sustainable agriculture



With wrong farming methods, we turn fertile land into desert. Unless we go back to organic farming and save the soil, there is no future

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev
Promoter, Isha Agro Movement

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

1,375 Organic Farmers

80 Groups

50 Villages

1,494 Acres in Organic Farming

14 Types of Inputs per Season

25% Reduction in Crop Investment

40% Increase in Net Income

500 Rs Average Cost Savings on Weeding

90 Acres in Demo Plots

8,000 Farmers Educated

70% Improvement in Leadership Skills

85% Increase in awareness of organic practices

552 Farm Ponds

2019-20

1,104 Farmers Motivated

1,135 Acres Provided Organic Inputs

43 Villages

12 Demo Plots in 60 Acres

4,000 Non-Organic Farmers Motivated

264 Organic Farmers Registered

190 Quintals of Vegetables sold daily at Siddipet market

103 Farm Ponds built, Aided by KFC, MU, RVS

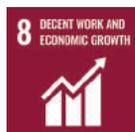
212 Farmers Motivated on Farm Ponds

137 Pond farmers earn Rs 3,500 - 9,000 additionally

76,00,000 Litres Water stored in 177 Ponds

9,723 Trees Planted

151 Cows worth Rs 79L donated



PROGRAM SUMMARY

+ Motivating Farmers to Adopt Organic Practices

With the agrarian crisis raging on, leaving farmers in distress due to rising input costs and reducing profits, we are educating them about the benefits of organic farming practices, a more viable and sustainable alternative mode to capital intensive chemical farming. We create awareness in villages through orientation meetings. Interested farmers who pledge to shun chemical farming in 1-2 acres of their farms for the next few years are formed into groups. During village-level monthly meetings, we train farmers on organic agricultural methods and techniques and make them aware of the supporting government schemes.



+ Providing Know-How to Enable the Shift

We provide farmers with valuable technical know-how on the best practices and appropriate organic inputs. This helps them maximize gains by eliminating the usage of expensive chemical fertilizers and pesticides, increasing crop yield, and producing quality organic products that can be sold at a premium price increasing their returns. We strengthen their capacity through farm schooling, seasonal training, leaders training, exposure visits, and conventions.



We train farmers on maintaining diaries documenting daily progress. Our field staff visits regularly to help them overcome day-to-day challenges. We provide books, motivational posters, pamphlets, videos, and also conduct street plays. We collect data on inputs, production, expenditure, income, and so on, for comparative studies and documentation of the best organic farming case studies. We provide them useful linkages with the government, certification authorities, cooperatives, and marketing networks for value addition.



+ Promoting Agroecology to Safeguard Health

We promote the use of organic, nutrient-rich preparations to fight pests and to boost productivity. We ensure that the soil quality is intact for future generations. By producing chemical-free organic products, we make sure there is a steady supply of healthy food for a generation that is focused on eating right. To spread the message on sustainable production of healthy foods among communities, we encourage progressive farmers to facilitate demo farms of 3-5 acres with multiple crops to inspire the neighboring farmers.





Jaffer set up a photo studio to supplement his income, as farming using chemicals yielded meager profits, but to no avail.



Jaffer attended Bala Vikasa's orientation meetings on organic farming in the village. He decided to adopt organic practices in one acre and see how it would benefit him. Mobilizing other farmers in the village, he formed a group of 23 farmers and approached Bala Vikasa for help. Impressed by his initiative, his friends chose him as the first leader of the group. Jaffer then attended group leaders' meetings every month and learned the various approaches and practices involved in organic farming.

from failing crops to flourishing 10x profits: organic farming fairytale

India has the highest number of organic producers in the world, but the area under certified organic cultivation is a meager 2.5%. The Green Revolution, with its excessive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, and growth promoters, not only harmed the health of farming communities, but also proved detrimental to the soil quality over the years. Pesticide exposure, inability to repay debts for expensive chemicals, and vagaries of weather and markets, led to a large number of farmer suicides. However, organic farming is seeing a slow revival, with farmers practicing community-driven sustainable agriculture to cut expenses and increase income.

Mohammad Jaffer, a small farmer in Samudrala village in Jangoan, knew this situation all too well.

The 29-year old farmer had been spending excessively on chemical fertilizers and pesticides in his 4-acre farm land. He had been cultivating water-intensive paddy and cotton. The soil had turned infertile due to the chemical inputs and he was falling into a vicious cycle of procuring more and more such inputs in a desperate attempt to improve productivity. A lean profit of Rs 15,000 per acre was insufficient to meet the basic needs of his family of 5. Jaffer decided to start a business, instead of migrating to the city. The photo studio he set up didn't help much either.

When Bala Vikasa introduced organic farming in the village, Jaffer foresaw a major change in his circumstances.

During the first year of taking up organic farming, Jaffer cultivated paddy in one acre and produced the same yield as the farmers who used chemical fertilizers. However, he managed to reduce crop investment by 25%. The following year, his organic rice fetched an additional Rs 1,000 per quintal. In the third year, Jaffer diversified into pulses. While farmers using chemical fertilizers could only realize 5 quintals in the season and had to discard the plants after the first harvest, Jaffer realized 8 quintals of pulses in just the first picking and harvested another 9 quintals in the second season with the same plants. In the first season, Jaffer earned Rs 36,000 and Rs 1,38,000 in the second. He had earned a total of Rs 1,74,000 and made a profit of Rs 1,55,000 for that year, 10 times that of what he made using chemical manures and pesticides.



Only 1.08% of the total farmland in India is organic. Over 11.77 Lakh metric tons of chemical fertilizers worth Rs 1,000 Crores were used by farmers here in 2014-15, states DES.

Jaffer benefited from the desiltation of the Giddakunta Tank in his village. He applied the excavated nutrient-rich silt to more than half his farmland. The enriched soil helped him decrease chemical fertilizers application by about 50%. This reassured him and led him to motivate 600 other farmers to consider organic farming.



After going on an Exposure Visit to a demo farm in the neighboring village, Jaffer learnt about the importance of diversifying crops and adopted organic farming in his entire farmland. Jaffer and the farming community were impressed by the perennial variety of pulses being cultivated there and decided to follow suit.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building Communities Before Building Projects

Promoting organic farming practices and onboarding farmers into Sustainable Agriculture in an age that is dominated by chemical intensive farming is quite an uphill task. We conduct massive awareness campaigns and knowledge-rich training programs to help farmers shift from harmful chemical farming to sustainable organic farming.



Village-Level Group Meetings

We organized orientation meetings to create awareness and motivate farmers on improving their economic situation by adopting organic farming, using promotional print and audio-visuals, and organized talks by successful farmers. We facilitated formation of groups of organic farmers.

45 Groups

1,104 Organic Farmers



Seasonal Trainings

We conducted training on soil management, pest management, crop management, organic preparations, diary and record-keeping, government schemes, farm economics to manage their crops better. More than 100 farmers benefited through these schemes.

4 Trainings

1,521 Farmers(447 Women)



Group Leader Trainings

We strengthened the capacities of leaders of the farmers' groups by training them regularly on program and group management, community mobilization, farmer's diary monitoring and evaluation, organizing farm schools and making organic preparations.

15 Trainings

516 Leaders(136 Women)



Exposure Visits

We took farmers on exposure visits to demo farms, to understand the best practices in crop management, water conservation, and crop yield and prompt them to replace water-intensive paddy with pulses, as part of the project supported by Manos Unidas.

127 Farmers

4 Exposure Visits



"The training at the start of each season helped me understand the useful methods involved in crop cultivation through organic practices. The past 20 years I blindly followed what other farmers were doing. Now, I understand the need for soil management before sowing seeds."

- Rajitha



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bio-Inputs Incentivize Organic Practices for Poor Farmers

We provided incentives in the form of bio-manures and pest-traps to new organic farmers, who were disappointed with initial low yields. With the bio inputs, they improved their production in the second year, earning higher profits than regular farmers.



- 1724** Bags of Neem Cake
- 17240** Lure and Sticky Plates
- 862** Pheromone Traps
- 3448** Pulse and Jaggery (kgs)
- 1724** Panchagavya (Itrs)
- 12930** Green Manure (kgs)
- 1724** Marigold Bundles

Cows Provided to Help Farmers Prepare Various Organic Inputs

Our program received a major boost as 100s of our organic farmers from Siddipet District received cows from the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department of Telangana and individual donors in order to help them in the preparation of various organic inputs that require a variety of dairy products.



- 151** Cows Provided

Hundreds of Farmers Get Organic Certifications

We helped nearly 200 farmers get certified for their organic produce so that they have better valuations at the market and get the right price for their produce from the consumers. About 750 farmers are currently certified at the IC2 and IC1 levels.



- 930** Farmers Applied
- 252** Farmers Certified
- 750** At IC2 and IC1 levels

New Website Launched to Help Create New Market Linkages

We created siddipetorganicproducts.com, an online platform to help organic farmers sell directly to consumers. Consumers can pre-order their stock directly from the farmers at a mutually agreeable price. We were able to facilitate direct linkages between the farmer and the consumer and created an opportunity to achieve crop security.



- 264** Farmers Registered
- 2.85** Lakh Rupees in Extra Profits

PROGRAM IMPACT



assured, improved yields

crop rotation adoption



more organic inputs

30% reduction in costs



better crop production

20-30% higher yields



premium selling price

30% profit improvement



extra earnings, livelihoods

fish-rearing opportunities



richer soil micronutrients

low tillage, intercropping



active farmer participation

effective coordination



cleaner, greener planet

better health prospects



increased unity and leadership

greater farmer confidence



reduced farmer suicides

freedom from debt burden



20% water increase in borewells

increasing number of farm ponds

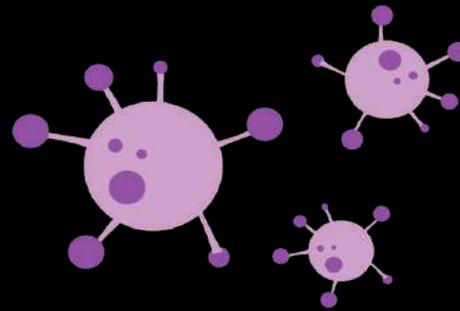


improved soil biodiversity

greater soil flora, fauna



THE COVID CRISIS



Just as we were drawing close to the end of the financial year, India reported the outbreak of COVID19 and a subsequent surge in the number of cases.

Consequently, the Government of India, announced a sudden unprecedented nation-wide lockdown starting March 22nd.

Many of the activities for the fiscal that were in progress and reaching completion had to be suspended due to the strict enforcement of the lockdown by the State and Central Governments.

We took great care to ensure that none of our Community-Driven Development programs and projects would become entry points for community transmission in the rural communities. Social Distancing, surface disinfection and handwash was actively promoted and enforced in our programs, especially in the operation of our nearly 1100+ Water Purification Plants, which are accessed by nearly 300,000 families everyday.

The lockdown also threw new challenges at communities which we were quick to assess and address. We immediately moved to mobilize resources to be able to provide relief and assistance to vulnerable groups like transgenders, widows, orphans, migrant workers, slum dwellers, who were directly affected by the lockdown.

We started raising funds to help relieve the distress of these marginalized groups, to provide protective gear and equipment to frontline workers and to support the state's healthcare infrastructure engaged in COVID Response.

We also drafted our community leaders at the grassroots in COVID Response. Trained intensely over the years in leadership, community building, solidarity and compassion, thousands of men and women came forward to do their bit in COVID Response providing groceries, masks, sanitizers to the needy among their communities.

Though the COVID Crisis is still very much present, we are gearing up to do our best in not only facing it with courage, but also to help many grassroots communities fight the pandemic with resilience.



CAPACITYBUILDING



Balavikasa
Helping Communities Help Themselves

Building Model Communities

CDD Participants Exposu

Village: Gugilla, Bejjenki, Dist: Siddipet | Date



fostering a **resilient development practice** through **knowledge-sharing**



Building capacity dissolves differences. It irons out inequalities. ”

Abdul Kalam
Former President of India

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

319 Training Programs
14,027 National Participants (NGOs & CBOs)
1,546 International Participants
3,247 NGOs Represented
81 Countries and 26 States Represented
64 Universities
118 Government Institutions

2019-20

13 Training Programs
458 National Participants (NGOs & CBOs)
84 International Participants
147 NGOs Represented
81 Countries and 11 Indian States Represented
6 Universities
6 Government Institutions

New Partnerships

We have partnered with the Public Affairs Center, Bangalore, to engage as knowledge partners, providing support in research, training, capacity building, and data analytics, to enhance development paradigms. We are studying the impact of programs and policies in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTRE
Committed to good governance



PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CENTER

Investing in People

+ Sharing CDD Best Practices, Strengthening Global Development Practice

We set up the People Development Training Center in Warangal in 2002 to share the wealth of our knowledge and experience developed over the years implementing innovative, result-driven and highly sustainable, community led development projects. From sector-specific subject knowledge to the emerging trends in development practice, PDTC offers exhaustive training and practical exposure to build well-informed, competent and committed development practitioners.



+ Teaching What We Do Showing What We Teach

We have translated all the approaches, methodologies, field learnings and best practices that produce best outcomes in community-driven development into well-structured and highly-effective capacity building modules. We take participants on field visits to all programs areas to facilitate interaction with the program staff and the beneficiaries to provide field-level practical exposure and ensure the best learning outcomes.



+ Epicenter of Training for Project Staff, Community Leaders, Program Beneficiaries

We are the Knowledge Hub and the epicenter of all capacity-building activities for the communities involved in various Community-Driven Development (CDD) programs being implemented by us. These training programs help our program beneficiaries effectively implement, monitor, and evaluate the sustainable development projects that we implement in partnership with them in their communities, using successful CDD strategies, tools, and best practices that they learn here.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

International Training on Successful CDD Approaches for Global Development Agents

We successfully conducted 2-Week and 1-Week Community-Driven Development (CDD) training programs, which provide a comprehensive package of CDD strategies, approaches, and tools such as ABCD, AI, NLP, and RBM. Our internationally-recognized CDD training helped participants gain insights into implementing sustainable development projects. This year, we trained participants from highly-reputed international development organizations, government institutions, and universities, from Austria, Bangladesh, India, Canada, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, South Sudan, and Zambia, and took them on exposure visits to WPPs to educate them on the functioning of our highly successful water plants.



- 3** Two week Trainings
- 47** Participants
- 11** Countries
- 1** One week Trainings
- 11** Participants
- 6** Countries

National Training Programs to Strengthen Capacities of Development Professionals

We organized a series of 1-Day, 2-Day, and 3-Day Training Programs to train development practitioners from Indian government bodies, nonprofits, and universities, on the current trends in Community Development. These workshops focused on Fundraising, Social Entrepreneurship, Participatory Approaches, CSR Partnerships, Effective Leadership, and Personality Development. This year, we trained participants from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.



- 6** Training sessions
- 347** Participants
- 11** States



“The content of the training is very relevant, based on the experience of Bala Vikasa program evaluation techniques. The examples illustrated the effectiveness of program implementation at Bala Vikasa.”

- Alemu Getahun Assefa, Ethiopia



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Customized Training and Exposure Visits in Partnership with NIRD

We organized a capacity-building program followed by an exposure visit, for foreign government officials participating in the International training programs of NIRD. They were introduced to ABCD and RBM approaches at Bala Vikasa, followed by a visit to our model communities, women SHGs, schools, water purification projects, and organic farms. The participants learned first-hand how such approaches result in sustainability and realized the significant role of women in all the community development programs.

1 Customized Trainings **26 Government officials** **17 Countries**



Customized Training in Partnership with Sehgal Foundation

We organized a customized training for the development professionals in association with Sehgal Foundation, Gurgaon, to introduce them to our unique, high-impact Community-Driven Development approaches and how it is transforming the lives of 6 million people across six Indian states. The participants from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana, learned about sustainable approaches and realized the significant role of women in all the community development programs.

1 Customized Trainings **14 Participants** **3 States**



Customized Training in Partnership with Sarvodaya Youth Organisation

We organized a customized program for Sarvodaya Youth Foundation on the ABCD, AI Approach, and Community Counselling techniques. We provided insights on how the application of ABCD brought significant change in the way communities perceive their own development, and how the methodology produced the best results for all our programs. The training also enhanced their understanding of the positive approach of Appreciative Inquiry and different counseling methodologies.

1 Customized Trainings **13 Participants** **1 State**



Radhika Rastogi IAS, Deputy Director NIRDPR Visits PDTC

We organized a visit by NIRDPR Deputy Director General and IAS officer, Dr Radhika Rastogi, to the PDTC campus and different programs in the villages, to explore the possibility of collaboration on the various training programs at PDTC.



PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS



"I am leaving BV inspired and renewed. I am transformed by the field exposure visits and this fosters positivity and self-worthiness. I hope to inspire others to take positive and sustainable action."



- Rahmatullah Alizai, Afghanistan



"The PDTC campus has provided a lot of cultural exposure. The serene atmosphere at PDTC provided a very positive learning atmosphere in a splendid cultural group."



Sworo Eluazai, South Sudan -



"This training taught us the importance of minute, but significant things, to keep in mind while writing proposals. I realized both the nonprofits and the corporates should properly evaluate the need for funds."



- Rishav Achyutam, Bihar



"The learnings go a long way in helping me work effectively towards model villages programs, and the training enhanced my knowledge of sustainable CDD models, and community and asset mobilization."



I R Pattar, Karnataka -



"Responsibilities at the community level are systematically and professionally delegated by BalaVikasa. I learned new techniques and approaches from this program and can apply them back home in my communities."



- Durga, Kerala

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS



nurturing **social innovation** and
promoting **business responsibility**



**A new paradigm is emerging:
The aim of business is to create
value: not only the economic
but also the social.”**

Andre Gingras
Founder, Bala Vikasa

Program Snapshot | Cumulative

24 Startups Incubated

125 Rural Women Entrepreneurs supported

50 Seminars and Workshops

5500 Professionals and Students Inspired

30+ Partnerships & Collaborations

26 Panel & Judging Sessions

2019-20

10 Startups Incubated

125 Rural Women Entrepreneurs supported

15 Seminars and Workshops

525 Professionals and Students Inspired

5 Partnerships & Collaborations

4 Panel & Judging Sessions

New Partnerships

With the signing of an MoU with the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in August, BVIC is all set to offer Executive Post Graduate Diploma (EPGD) Programs in Innovative CSR and Social Entrepreneurship at its newly-inaugurated state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad from January. Working professionals looking for a big break in the CSR space or interested in social entrepreneurship can now make use of these 18-month academic programs.



BALA VIKASA INTERNATIONAL CENTER

For Businesses that Care

+ Providing CSR Training, Consultancy and Advisory

As a development innovator implementing diverse sustainable community development projects for over 43 years, we established the **Bala Vikasa International Center (BVIC)** to introduce high-impact Community Driven Development (CDD) approaches to the business community and help them implement results-based CSR.

Besides providing consultancy and advisory, we deliver highly-effective capacity-building programs to CSR teams on designing, implementing, monitoring and managing impact-oriented sustainable development projects.



+ Incubating Social Innovators, Promoting Social Entrepreneurs

We realized the potential of Social Entrepreneurship as a sustainable model to tackle social problems effectively. Our flagship 'SoCent Fellowship' program provides emerging social innovators with incubation support in the form of coaching, mentoring, networking, funding and business development. We organize seminars and workshops to empower budding entrepreneurs, NGO professionals, CSR professionals, students, academicians, and anyone willing to learn more about social entrepreneurs.



+ Delivering Academic Programs in SocEnt and CSR

We are offering Executive Post Graduate courses in Innovative CSR and SE in partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. These 18-month courses, with over 10 comprehensive modules covering all thematic areas in the domains of CSR and SE, are designed to build competent professionals equipped to offer innovative and dynamic leadership in the fields of economic, social and environmental sustainability.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Launch of State-of-the-Art Campus Strengthens BVIC Mission of becoming CoE

Inaugurated by Mr T Harish Rao, Finance Minister, Telangana, in January, the brand new state-of-the-art BVIC campus in Ghatkesar, Hyderabad, has opened for social-business. The launch of the 20-acre scenic, architecturally, and aesthetically-designed campus facility has strengthened our efforts and mission - to evolve as a Center of Excellence and epicenter of Social Entrepreneurship and Responsible Business - the two domains that position for-profit organizations as key stakeholders in reimagining and implementing sustainable development models.



With the launch, we have accelerated our efforts to become one of the biggest social startup incubators in India, collaborating with government, nonprofits, businesses, and social innovators, and providing Training, Consultancy, and Advisory to the SocEnt and CSR sectors. The campus provides the best environment for learning and development - the Training and Incubation Block hosts programs that foster social innovation, drive social businesses, and promote responsible business practices, and the Residential Block offers a comfortable stay with 3-Star amenities.

In-House SOCENT Fellowship Program Successfully Incubates 8 Social Startups

We successfully incubated 8 social start-ups and facilitated their promotion during the state-of-the-art BVIC Ghatkesar campus inauguration in January. The social entrepreneurs successfully exhibited their product and service innovations to the chief guests, VIPs, important sector stakeholders, and the larger audience. The incubatees were felicitated on-stage with mementos by Telangana Minister of State for Finance Mr T Harish Rao during the event. We launched NaPanta, a farmer support missed call alert app, designed by one of our incubatees during the event.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

125 Rural Women Entrepreneurs Receive Incubation Support through InPRuWE

In a first-of-its-kind incubation program sponsored by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), 125 rural women entrepreneurs and 25 student mentors from business and management backgrounds were incubated by BVIC in partnership NIRD & PR, ALEAP, VREAP Foundation and Rubaroo.

InPRuWe (Incubation Program for Rural Women Entrepreneurs) supported the women entrepreneurs through a series of workshops and insightful exposure visits facilitated by professional mentors over a period of 10 months. The program focused on rekindling their entrepreneurial spirit, enhancing their knowledge and equipping them with skills required to upscale their businesses.

The student mentors, on the other hand, got first-hand exposure to rural business enterprises during the process of sharing systemic knowledge to the rural women.



125 Ruran Women Entrepreneurs

25 Business/Management Students

7 Workshops

10 Months

BVIC and US Consulate General Incubate 10 Startups through SocioConnect

In partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, we mentored and supported 10 innovative social startups working in the domains of Women and Girl Empowerment, Poverty Reduction, Health and Sanitation, Environment and Digital Connectivity through 'SocioConnect', an initiative funded by the US Consulate, Mumbai.

The Grand Finale saw the participation of eminent personalities including Mr Jagannatha Kumar, CEO, Reliance Foundation, Mr Srikanth Prabhu, Lead-Portfolio Management, Social Alpha, Mr Amitabh Verma, Former Executive Director, DBS Bank, Dr Ajay Tannirkulam, Director, Magasool, and Mr Debaneth Benarjee, Founder, Sampurnearth, who spoke to the audience on the social startup ecosystem.

A 2-Day Workshop on Business Models and Strategies, Stakeholder Mapping, Team-Building, CSR Law, Finance and Fundraising by subject matter experts was followed by a Grand Finale event at TISS, Mumbai. The 10 finalists pitched their business ideas to CSR representatives in an effort to form strategic alliances and new partnerships.



10 Social Startups

5 Domains

5 States

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Piramal Sarvajal and Sattva Representatives Trained on Designing Sustainable CWPPs

We conducted a 3-Day Field Exposure and Capacity-Building Program on Designing Sustainable Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) for representatives from Piramal Sarvajal and Sattva. The participants attended a village-level motivation meeting and the inauguration of our 993rd water plant at Seetharamapuram. They also interacted with the Committee members and beneficiaries at Suraram and visited the Central Water Plant and Sujal Kiosks in Warangal. The participants exchanged information with our staff and community members on the sustainability of our WPPs.



US Consulate-Supported Initiative Instills Social Consciousness in Youth

In a bid to create awareness in Indian youth on Human Rights and the Shared Tradition of Democracy Supported by the Indian and US Constitutions” we organized a 2-Day workshop ‘Comparing American and Indian Constitutions’ funded by the US Consulate in Hyderabad, in February 2020 for 57 youngsters in Warangal. The closing ceremony was graced by the US Consul General (Hyd) Mr Joel Reifman, and Chief of Public Affairs Mr Drew Giblin, Mr Vinay Bhaskar, Warangal MLA, and Prof Ramanaju Rao, Deputy Registrar of KNU. The dignitaries presented the youngsters with participation certificates.



US Consulate-Supported 10k Run Promotes Theme of Women Leadership

We organized a series of events to promote women’s leadership to celebrate 10 years of the US Consulate in Hyderabad, including a 10k Run. The event was held in association with the Hyderabad Runners’ Society at the University of Hyderabad in August 2019. The Run was flagged off at 6 AM. We facilitated the participation of renowned marathon runners during the event. As an organization devoted to the cause of women-integrated development for more than 4 decades, this run provided an effective platform for us to promote the theme of women’s leadership



US Consulate-Supported Jazz Festival Creates Awareness on Women Empowerment

To create awareness and promote the cause of women empowerment, and to strengthen the relationship between people of India and the US, we organized a music event sponsored by the US Consulate - Hyderabad. The Jazz festival spread the message on gender equality and sought an end to gender-based violence. The US Consulate leadership and musicians from the Shillong-based Jazz group, The Fourth Element India, who performed at the event, created awareness on Women Empowerment and Rights to over 400 guests present.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop Creates Awareness on Social Entrepreneurship in Students

We organized a workshop on the Awareness on Social Entrepreneurship and Opportunities, which was attended by 80 participants, including the SNITS department heads, Associate Professors, entrepreneurs, Innovators, and enthusiastic students. The workshop created awareness and generated interest among students of popular colleges in the vicinity of the BVIC campus in Ghatkesar. BVIC discussed the possibility of a long-term collaboration with SNITS for the incubation of innovative social start-ups of SNITS students.



Panelist on 'A-Hub Hackathon - Innovation & Entrepreneurship' Competition

We were invited to be on the panel of a 2-Day workshop organized by the Ashoka Institution in Hyderabad. The event was attended by over 600 development professionals, entrepreneurs, academia, and incubators. The panelists included Dr Kiran Chkravathula from VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering & Technology and Mr Mahaboob Hussain from Vishnu Institute of Technology. We selected the winners of the Hackathon competition, shared information about our programs and invited participants to explore possible collaborations in entrepreneurship.



Panelist on 'Teen-to-Tycoon Entrepreneurship' Bootcamp

We were invited to be on the panel of a workshop organized by Hyderabad Exchange Alumni Ready to Transform (HEART) in collaboration with the US Consulate General, Hyderabad. At the event attended by 150 people, with co-panelists Dr Radhika Meenakshi Sankar, Founder of Wise Owl Consulting Services, Dr Zahoorullah SMD, Incubation Manager at ALEAP, and Mr Subba Reddy, an Entrepreneur, we provided key insights to college students on the entrepreneurial journey. We helped the panel screen a variety of start-up ideas, discussed their feasibility, and proposed the top 3 winners.



Panelist on 'Let's Empower Studentpreneurs with Ecficio 3.0'

At an event organized by the Entrepreneurship Development Cell and VJ Hub, VNRVJIET, we were invited to be on the panel along with Mr Prashant Kumar Sinha, BITS Pilani in Hyderabad, Dr Vijayakumari Gunta from JNTU, and Mr Kashyap Kompella, an Entrepreneur, to discuss the lack of discussion on entrepreneurship in the current education system. The event, attended by 50 college students, discussed how it is important to inculcate the spirit of creativity, imagination, and entrepreneurship in the education system to ensure true development of all.



The Training and Incubation Block in the newly-inaugurated Bala Vikasa International Center has been dedicated to our founders **André Gingras, MSC**, and **Bala T Singareddy Gingras, MSC**, in recognition of their **selfless, sincere and diligent work for the past 40 years** to uplift rural poor communities in India and for **envisioning an institution of the future** that brings together the for-profit and nonprofit worlds for **Community-Driven Sustainable Development**





COMMUNICATIONS

DEVELOPMENT

Development Communications is witnessing tremendous growth as a specialized area of expertise, stirring people into action for social good through powerful story-telling using diverse multimedia formats and creative social media marketing strategies.

So are we.

We set up a fully-equipped Multi-Cam Online Production Studio and an Audio Recording Studio at the BVIC campus in Hyderabad, besides procuring high-resolution cameras and gear for field production.

We put together a team of highly-experienced content specialists, creative graphic designers, professional video production crew and social media specialists. We are producing a range of communications collaterals for our internal needs as well as for our CSR partners besides taking up external Development Communications projects.

Our team has immense expertise in capturing development sector dynamics, stakeholder’s communication and engagement strategies, filming, and content production.

We have begun to encourage other organizations in the development space to leverage our expertise and utilize our services in strategic development communications to report, document, and narrate the impact of their development programs using a multimedia mix.

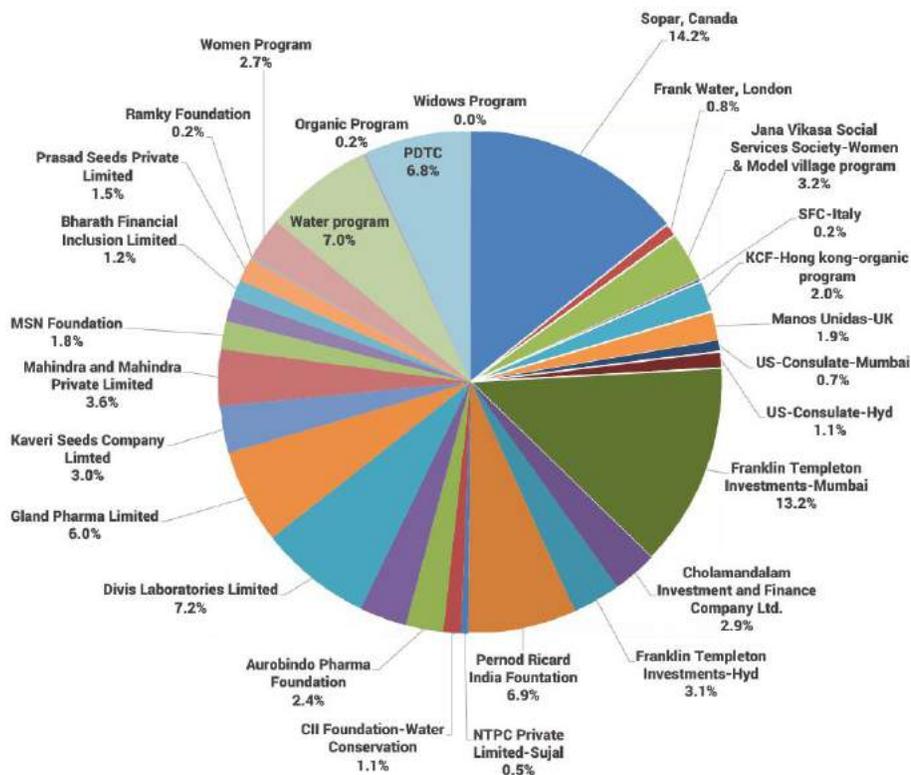
DELIVERABLES _____ **310**

Annual Report	_____	01
Tharangini	_____	03
Brochures	_____	17
Social Media Creatives	_____	86
Banners, Standees	_____	40
Branding Designs	_____	45
Videos	_____	37
Digital Marketing Campaigns	_____	26
Others	_____	55

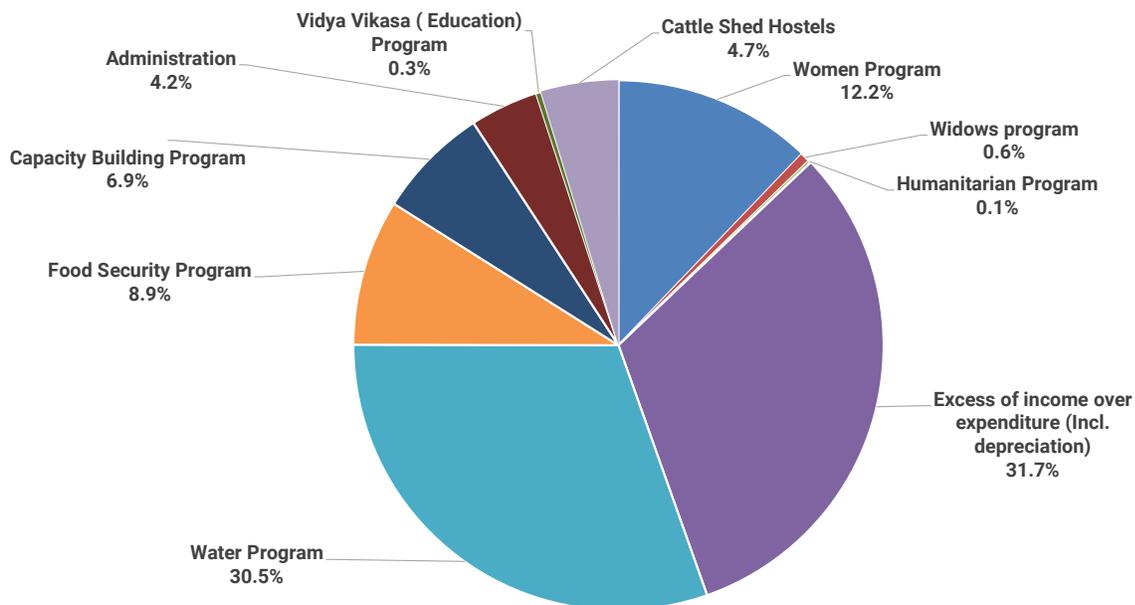
..... We also undertook the complete branding and environmental graphics of our new Bala Vikasa International Center Facility located in Hyderabad which opened its doors in January 2020.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income Rs. 17,03,50,641



Expenditure Rs. 18,03,07,953



We long for a **just and peaceful society**

in which **each individual and each community**

is **empowered and self-reliant**, where

human dignity, equal rights and

equal opportunities are enjoyed by all.



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