



**bala vikasa**<sup>®</sup>  
Helping Communities Help Themselves

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020-2021

**Implementing  
Community Driven  
Development Projects  
In Over 6,500+ Villages**

**cddp**  
Transforming Communities

Community Driven  
Development Programs  
Since 1977



**Building Capacities of  
Development Professionals  
from all over the Globe**

**pdtc**  
Investing in People

People Development  
Training Center  
Since 2002



**Incubating Social Startups  
and Offering CSR Trainings  
and Advisory**

**bvic**  
For businesses that care

Bala Vikasa  
International Center  
Since 2014



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# FOUNDERS' MESSAGE



One day, historians may look at the work of SOPAR-Bala Vikasa in the age of COVID-19. They will want to remember the immense sadness, the quiet anger, the resilience, and the renewed commitment that we live in today.

## IMMENSE SADNESS

The pandemic, especially in its second wave, has swept away loved members of our great family. We lost Raj kumar, our night watchman and Bigini, the cook of our People Development Training Center (PDTTC), beloved fathers of some of our staff, more than 250 women members. Besides, more than 25 of our staff and thousands of women and men of the 6500 villages have been sadly infected and suffered by COVID. We cry, with death in our souls.

## QUIET ANGER

We know that COVID is deadly. However, in India, the catastrophe could have been partly avoided if political, religious, and social gatherings were controlled and sanitary measures taken seriously. Who to blame? What happens to poor rural populations? They are left behind. Equity issues persist in India... Frustration invades us!

## RESILIENCE

Bala Vikasa is mobilized! Regular work with our rural populations is practically on the back burner to focus more on the impact of the pandemic on the poor. One has to be resilient.

Thanks to many donor individuals, corporations, organizations in India, Canada, USA, Bala Vikasa is stepping up in multiple ways to help the victims. However, from a sustainable and long-term development perspective, this help does not meet the reality as there are more than 230 million Indians now living below the poverty line mostly in rural areas. It is within this horizon that Bala Vikasa, to the extent of its capabilities, activates its commitment to the most disadvantaged. Resilience is a value, and our mission requires us to be resilient.

## RENEWED COMMITMENT

This COVID time is a difficult time for Bala Vikasa. Our activities in our village communities are kept to a minimum. Our community development training sessions and our meetings have, mostly are replaced by virtual encounters.

As we wrote last year, "With every crisis there are unique opportunities to thrive". The past twelve months were no exception. They were devoted to turning towards the future of Bala Vikasa. Under the able leadership of triumvirate Executive Director, Senior Director of our new center-Hyderabad and very committed member of the Bala Vikasa Board, along with its staff, all the stones of Bala Vikasa have been stirred and adjusted. Strategic plan is made for the next 5 years, Bala Vikasa's mission, vision and values are reviewed, new strategic priorities are identified, Human resources policy is updated, Action plans for each program are developed. Also, women as agents of change, widows, federation for the drinking water, organic agriculture, etc. have also been developed.

As we can see after COVID, Bala Vikasa's future looks promising. This optimism lies in the unwavering commitment of all the members of our large family in Canada and in India: our dedicated employees and volunteers, our old and new members who share the same mission and the same values, those who give generously – institutions, corporates, and individuals - and those who receive while working hard to achieve their autonomy,

To each and every one our affection and gratitude.

**André Gingras, MSC**

**Bala T Singareddy Gingras, MSC**

Founders, Bala Vikasa

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

As we all are aware, the deadly COVID pandemic hit the country in December 2019 and intensified in the year 2020 resulting in a nationwide lockdown in March.

The reporting financial year began amid a strict lockdown which brought every activity in the country to a standstill. We were not an exception. However, despite the odds, our staff showed utmost dedication and resilience during this time - trying their best to implement activities so that the organization is able to keep its promises to the donors and the communities. We were able to initiate new projects, increase our budgets and impact more than we did in the previous year.

On the other hand, we swiftly moved to provide relief and assistance to help rural poor communities put up a strong fight against COVID. We provided critical medical equipment and protective gear to government hospitals engaged in COVID Response. At the grassroots, we provided covid prevention kits and groceries to rural poor communities. Pre-empting an outbreak in the villages and the serious consequences it would have on lives and livelihoods, we disseminated medically verified awareness materials to over 500 villages through digital networks to help them protect themselves effectively.

As the restrictions were lifted, our Community Driven Development programs were back on track. Though we lost some time, we tried to ensure that all program activities are implemented as per the proposed timelines.

Our Bala Vikasa International Center, at Keesara, became fully operational starting November. Several new opportunities to promote Responsible Business and Social Entrepreneurship were identified and explored. The shift to an online mode of training was explored, quite successfully, by our People Development Training Center during this year.

This year, we also undertook a highly participatory strategic planning exercise under the guidance of our founders. It was a time of self-reflection, a time for an objective review of our strengths and weaknesses, scoping of new opportunities, mapping of strategic goals and drawing of SMART action plans for the coming 5 years. The organization and all its members pledged themselves to fulfilling these targets to ensure maximum impact on the communities we serve.

To summarize, this financial year, with all its challenges, made us rethink about ourselves, the world we live in and all that is still left to do to make it a better place.

I would like to sincerely thank our founders, advisors, donors, partners, well-wishers and, most importantly, our staff, for supporting us in Helping Communities Help Themselves.

Yours sincerely,

**Nomula Indra Reddy**  
President, Bala Vikasa

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

This financial year was certainly one of the most challenging years for Bala Vikasa.

For nearly three decades, Bala Vikasa kept growing from strength to strength, increasing the scope, coverage and impact of its Community-Driven Development Programs with every passing year.

Starting its operations in Warangal in 1991 with a handful of people with nothing but an unflinching determination to serve the poor, Bala Vikasa, today, is one of the leading non-profits in the country, widely recognized as a Community Development innovator with over 150+ staff and over 1,50,000 Community members actively associated with the organization as SHG members, committee members and volunteers.

The organization and its members were full of optimism and enthusiasm to celebrate its Pearl Jubilee Celebrations and reflect on the 30 year journey of impacting rural poor communities come February. But the unexpected and unprecedented havoc that the COVID pandemic gave rise to, brought everything to a halt.

Beginning with a complete lockdown and then progressing towards restricted mobility and operations, Bala Vikasa, for the first time in its journey, was forced to limit its activities across all of its programs for more than 6 months. Some programs that couldn't stop due to various reasons were led by our brave and committed staff, fighting their own fears, protecting themselves from the virus and ensuring that the communities are able to benefit promptly from the development programs, keeping the faith of our donors and partners. We initiated two new projects, the innovative Community Diary Hostels and Community Steel Banks in Siddipet this year despite the pandemic.

One of the most heartening things was to see our committees at the grassroots, putting into practice the value of helping communities imbibed during their journey with Bala Vikasa, by coming forward to support the weaker sections in their communities with groceries and medical supplies. We are extremely proud!

Our capacity building programs at both the People Development Training Center and Bala Vikasa International Center also took a severe hit. However, we were quick to adapt to a virtual mode and were able to push forward with helping and strengthening development workers from all over the world in Sustainable Community-Driven Development best practices.

The organization's senior leadership worked with the management team and the executive teams collaboratively on a strategic planning exercise to chart a way forward for the organization setting important goals and milestones for the next five years.

As with every humanitarian crisis, Bala Vikasa quickly jumped into action with COVID response activities distributing groceries to poor, preventive kits to frontline workers, critical medical equipment to public hospitals and smart devices to some of the most marginalized students. In addition, Bala Vikasa played a key role in countering misinformation and disseminating verified information on COVID-19 to over 500 villages through digital networks.

Even as the pandemic cast a dark shadow on the future of the organization, Bala Vikasa showed its resilience and emerged stronger. We firmly believe that it is only a temporary setback and we will bounce back better in our mission to leave no one behind. We thank all our donors, partners, board members, staff, volunteers and community members for being with us through it all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Singareddy Shoury Reddy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Singareddy Shoury Reddy**  
Executive Director, Bala Vikasa

# ABOUT US

## UNDISPUTED LEADER IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bala Vikasa, a **secular, non profit organization** committed to **Community Driven Development (CDD)**, was founded in Warangal in the year **1991** by **Singareddy Bala Theresa Gingras** and her husband, **Andre Gingras**, a career diplomat with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency).

It is a sister concern of SOPAR, a 45-year old NGO founded by the Gingras couple in Quebec, Canada, and oversees the implementation of all community development programs in India.

**Integrated Community Driven Development, Capacity Building, Social Entrepreneurship and Business Responsibility** are its key focus areas.



Bala Vikasa Founders, **Andre Gingras** and **Bala Theresa Gingras**, with Her Excellency the Right Honorable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, after being awarded the **Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)**, the 2nd-Highest civilian award in Canada, for their exemplary Community Development work in India.

### In a Nutshell

**10+**

PROGRAMS

**6,500+**

VILLAGES

**7**

STATES

**44**

MILLION USD  
SPENT ON  
CDD INITIATIVES

**8.8**

MILLION USD WORTH  
ASSETS CONTRIBUTED  
BY THE COMMUNITIES

**7**

MILLION  
LIVES  
IMPACTED

## DEVELOPMENT INNOVATOR WITH HIGH-IMPACT, COMMUNITY-LED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Over the past 31 years, Bala Vikasa pioneered numerous Community-Driven Development (CDD) programs that empowered rural communities to steer their own development by participating, designing, implementing, and managing innovative and highly-sustainable development projects.

Several of our high-impact programs have inspired state and central governments to launch similar initiatives like **Mission Kakatiya** and **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)**.

### Women Empowerment

**234,122**

Rural Poor Women  
Empowered

**15,458**

Widows  
Mentored

### Quality Education

**550**

Rural Govt. Schools  
Reconditioned

**1,600+**

Orphans  
Supported

### Sustainable Agriculture

**1,475**

Organic Farmers  
Enrolled

**3**

Community  
Diary Hostels

### Safe Water

**1,282**

Water Purification  
Plants Installed

**6,559**

Bore Wells with Hand  
Pumps Provided

### Water Conservation

**770**

Irrigation Tanks  
Desilted

**1,289**

Farm Ponds  
Dug

### Model Communities

**130**

Model Villages  
Being Built

### Other

**43**

Steel Banks

**486**

Over Head Tanks  
Constructed

**26**

Sujal ATWs Kiosks  
Installed

**31,735**

Soak Pits  
Constructed

**10**

Urban Water Bodies  
Restored

## HELPING COMMUNITIES HELP THEMSELVES



The unique 360° Community Driven Development approach of Bala Vikasa places communities at the heart of all development activities. We help them build upon their assets, build their capacities, and ensure their active participation in all stages of development.



Managed by a team of highly competent development practitioners and supported by an extensive community network, Bala Vikasa has grown to be a **formidable community development organization** over the years.

Program Personnel	Grassroots Network
50+ Office Staff	23,350+ Women Self Help Groups
100+ Field Staff	6,500+ Village Level Committees
4,500+ Volunteers	240 NGO Partners

Hundreds and thousands of non-literate rural folk, especially women, have transformed into **effective agents of change** and emerged as **strong community leaders** as a result of **relentless capacity building**.

## RESULTS-ORIENTED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Bala Vikasa's guiding principle is **Building Communities Before Building Projects**. Intensive **Community Mobilization, Motivation and Awareness Campaigns** are undertaken at the start of every project. Multi-tiered **Capacity-Building** activities are undertaken to equip the community members with the knowledge required to participate effectively and contribute significantly while discharging their roles and responsibilities. All projects are planned with a significant **Community Participation** and **Beneficiary Contribution** component in it to instill **collective responsibility** and **community ownership** thereby making them **sustainable**. Every project is defined, implemented, monitored and evaluated following a clearly defined logic model within a well-conceptualized **Performance Measurement Framework**. All these time-tested approaches ensure that **Bala Vikasa delivers results** in every project.

## CREDIBILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

As an organization that enshrines **transparency** and **accountability** in all of its activities, Bala Vikasa prides itself on being a **result-driven institution** with **immense credibility** among **all development stakeholders** including **CSR departments** of reputed multinational corporations, government agencies, and various CSOs.

### Our Donors and CSR Partners



### Bala Vikasa Social Service Society

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 | Karnataka  
 Tamil Nadu | Maharashtra | Chhattisgarh  
 Jharkhan | Madhya Pradesh

# COVID RESPONSE

## RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF GROCERY KITS AND HYGIENE AND PREVENTIVE SUPPLIES

Bala Vikasa has been at the forefront helping the needy communities during the **COVID crisis**. With the support of our generous partners and donors, we provided rations kits with a month's groceries to about **400 transgenders** in Warangal and nearly **100 poor widows** in the rural areas of Telangana.

Our water plant committees of **25 Water Purification Plants** also joined hands with us and provided essential supplies like groceries, sanitisers and face masks to the communities in need. On the whole, **1725kgs rice, 4375kgs vegetables, 3505 masks** and **250 hand sanitisers** worth **Rs 2,69,000** were distributed to **5125 needy rural families**.

With the help of sponsors, our water communities also provided essential goods kits worth **Rs 1,89,000** to **69 families** of the Anna Nagar Slum in Ghatkesar.

*“Everyone in my family was infected with COVID-19 at the same time. All of us were in isolation and we had no means to secure food. We had no groceries at home to cook for ourselves. At a time like this, Bala Vikasa gave us grocery kits at our doorstep. I will forever be grateful to Bala Vikasa and the donors who came forward to help us during the global pandemic.”*



**Rajkumar, Warangal**

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS DISTRIBUTE GROCERY KITS

### HAND SANITISERS & MASKS TO ABOUT 500 FRONTLINE WORKERS



### RATION KITS FOR 400 TRANSGENDERS



## KEEPING SOME OF THE MOST MARGINALIZED STUDENTS IN SCHOOL BY HELPING THEM ACCESS ONLINE EDUCATION

The state government has resumed classes in the online mode in government schools and colleges in October, but this presented a highly challenging situation to rural poor students, especially orphans and children of the impoverished widows. In an attempt to enable the shift to online education for rural poor students, especially orphans and semi orphans, we provided over **1100 smartphones** and tabs worth **Rs 1 crore**.

While **SOPAR-Bala Vikasa** (Canada) led the campaign donating **690 smartphones**, **Amazon India** sponsored **400 tablets** and our CSR partner **Franklin Templeton** provided funding for **16 tabs**. Individual donors helped provide **37 smartphones** to orphans via a crowdfunding campaign on **Milaap**.

*“It’s a great honor for us to be able to help so many poor and marginalized students access education at such a distressing time as this. We believe that education is the foundation for a bright future and we are glad to partner with Bala Vikasa which has been working with orphans and disenfranchised students for decades.”*

**Ms Sudeepthi Padma, Senior Manager, Amazon Development Center**



*“When schools and colleges were closed due to the outbreak of COVID-19, I was worried about my future. I used to visit my friend’s place to attend online classes but I could not continue it for long as it was not advisable. I am thankful to Bala Vikasa and SOPAR for giving me a smartphone and instilling hope in me about my education.”*

**Akhila, Degree Student**



## EQUIPPING PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO THE FIGHT THE PANDEMIC

The Telangana state government converted the Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad into a full-fledged facility to treat only COVID-19 patients. To help the hospital put a robust response and help the poorest of the communities have a decent chance at survival, we provided life-saving critical medical equipment with the support of CGI, our generous CSR partner, to the Gandhi Hospital like **Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT)**, **Video Laryngoscopes**, and **-80 degree Deep Freezer** for plasma storage to help fight advanced stages of COVID.



# IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER



## Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs)

Despite the challenges that came with the COVID-19 pandemic, our Safe Water program team continued their efforts to provide access to safe water in rural communities by following all COVID guidelines and protocols.

Bala Vikasa continued to add to its record number of Community Water Purification Plants that provide safe drinking water to communities severely affected by fluoride content benefitting about 2 million people.

Communities access RO Purified Water at a nominal cost of Rs. 3 for 20 Litres using ATW (Any Time Water) Prepaid Cards - a unique innovation designed to ensure round the clock access, transparency and accountability in water distribution.

The CWPPs, owned, operated and manage by the communities, serve as an exceptional model for sustainable development that is highly effective and economically viable.

### This Year

<b>160</b> Water Purification Plants Installed	<b>2,71,865</b> Beneficiaries	<b>160</b> Community Members Employed	<b>1,349</b> Committee Members Actively Involved	<b>2</b> States Covered
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### Cumulative

<b>1,282</b> Water Purification Plants Installed	<b>3+</b> Million People Benefited	<b>1,282</b> Community Members Employed	<b>7,801</b> Committee Members Actively Involved	<b>5</b> States Covered
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## Borewells

This year we have installed over 50 borewells with manually operated hand pumps with the support of our donors SOPAR, SFC and Frank Water in rural communities of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. These really came to the rescue of the people who could redeem their time and energy and invest it in more productive activities.



### This Year

<b>62</b> Borewells With Hand Pumps	<b>3</b> Overhead Tanks	<b>11,644</b> Beneficiaries
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### Cumulative

<b>6,559</b> Borewells With Hand Pumps	<b>486</b> Overhead Tanks	<b>11,71,000</b> People Benefitted
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The borewells installation has increased school attendance rate especially those of girls who would otherwise be assigned to fetch water from far off water sources for the family. Many families also have considerably shown improvement in their health with safe water being available closer to their home.

## Sujal ATW Kiosks

A Sujal Kiosk, a first-of-its-kind chilled purified drinking water dispensing unit was set up at the Kakatiya Super Speciality Medical College, Warangal in providing access to chilled purified drinking water for free to all the patients, attendants and staff. The kiosk was also installed to reduce the use of plastic drinking water bottles and sachets and encourage people to carry their own water bottles while arresting the issue of littering.



### This Year

2

Sujal ATW Kiosks

2

Persons with Disability Employed

### Cumulative

27

Sujal ATW Kiosks

26

Persons with Disability Employed



## WASH

WASH activities including water infrastructure like water systems with borewell, motor, pipeline and an overhead tank with household taps and manually operated hand pumps were implemented in three villages during the year. These water systems would ease access to water to 799 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) community members of 175 families of Andhra Pradesh.

## Program Impact

The improved the availability of safe water, reduced incidence of fluorosis, curbed the occurrence of water-borne communicable diseases, improved public health indices, decreased medical expenditures and increased savings of the beneficiaries at least by 20%. All the community-led water projects increased the unity among the community members and helped record higher school attendance in the villages.

## Program Highlights

- In an attempt to provide best quality water to rural communities, Bala Vikasa initiated a new water treatment technology - Ultra Filtration to filter Mission Bhageeratha water in Telangana on a trial basis.
- New partnership with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Telangana to set up 6 Sujal Kiosks at the Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad.



## Testimonial

"Initially, we used to be dependent on people from the city to get us bottled water but that person would come whenever he was interested irrespective of the requirement. The COVID restrictions have scared us even more about the availability of safe drinking water. Having the water plant in our village feels like that there is access to safe drinking water at our home and we didn't have to worry about the lockdown restrictions as well."

-Savitha, Nagireddypeta



# LEADING A FARMER-LED WATER CONSERVATION MOVEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



## Water Conservation

Bala Vikasa's farmer-led Water Conservation program increased rain water storage capacity, improved groundwater table and surface irrigation access through desiltation of minor irrigation tanks, construction of farm ponds, borewell recharges and other activities while actively contributing to environmental conservation.

Though COVID-19 limited mobility, due to the need to finish the necessary excavation and construction works of water structures before the monsoon, all the activities under the program were implemented following necessary precautionary measures. The farmers were encouraged to look for additional income sources through activities like growing flowers, fruits and vegetables around farm ponds and fish rearing.

## Program Impact

Tank Desiltation increased the water storage capacities of tanks, reduced the water stress faced by the crops, and increased the groundwater table. Silt excavation and application decreased spending on chemical fertilisers, boosted crop yield and increased income sources for farmers.

Additional activities like bund strengthening and fish rearing also increased the net income of the farmers and helped them improve their standard of living.

### This Year

<b>6</b> Tanks Desilted	<b>6</b> Desiltation Committees Trained	<b>22,000+</b> Tractor Loads of Silt Excavated	<b>800+</b> Acres Applied With Silt	<b>800+</b> Farmers Benefitted	<b>737</b> Farm Ponds Constructed
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### Cumulative

<b>782</b> Tanks Desilted	<b>782</b> Desiltation Committees Trained	<b>32,00,000</b> Tractor Loads of Silt Excavated	<b>1,16,038</b> Acres Applied With Silt	<b>62,456</b> Farmers Benefitted	<b>1,289</b> Farm Ponds Constructed
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## Program Highlights

- The state government officials recognised our water conservation initiatives and granted nearly 7000 fruit saplings to encourage the programme.
- The program has expanded to Nirmal district in Telangana with the support of a CSR partner for various activities like farm ponds construction, tank desiltation, silt application, borewell recharge, check dams and others.



## Testimonial

"With a farm pond having all these plants around its bund, there is a very pleasant environment at my farm. Many children come and play around here and it is their hangout place especially in summer. I am glad to be able to contribute to water conservation and environmental conservation and also have extra income through fish rearing."

**-Kommurelli, Farmer, Raghavapuram**

# PROMOTING ORGANIC FARMING TO SUSTAIN LIVELIHOODS AND CONSERVE ENVIRONMENT



## Sustainable Agriculture

It was quite a challenging year to help farmers shift from capital intensive, chemical farming to sustainable, environment-friendly agriculture. However, we continued intensive capacity building through dissemination of information using digital assets like videos.

We provided different types of organic inputs like bananas, curd, etc to encourage the farmers to prepare necessary organic preparations. The farmers were urged to conduct their monthly meetings and village training programs on organic practices virtually and conduct offline meetings following the COVID-19 guidelines only when it is absolutely necessary.

## Program Impact

The shift from chemical to organic farming helped hundreds of small and marginal farmers to produce better quality yield, improve soil fertility, and get premium selling price for the produce. This increased the net income of the farmers and they have a financially secured and comfortable life.

### Cumulative



## Program Highlights

- Annandata Organic Farmers cooperative in collaboration with Bala Vikasa organised a three-day organic mela to provide farmers with direct market linkages and create awareness on the benefits of consuming organic products.
- Organic vegetable farmers sold 16.5 metric tons organic vegetables with 15% high price in Siddipeta Raithu bazar.



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## Testimonial

“Initially, I was concerned about the shift from Chemical Farming to Organic Farming because not many people were doing it. But, with Bala Vikasa's assistance I was able to understand organic farming better and produce good yield. I can now see the difference in quality of the produce and even the soil's fertility has improved tremendously. After seeing the results, I am now encouraging all my fellow farmers to take up organic farming to save ourselves from the debt trap and gain profits.”

-Komaramma, Farmer, Mylaram



# PROVIDING CATTLE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES FOR SMALL FARMERS



## Community Dairy Hostels

Our innovative project to create a centralized place for community cattle rearing and animal waste management was inaugurated in Ponnala, Gatlamalyala and Jakkapur with the support of the state government and our CSR partners.

Each Community Dairy Hostel set up as part of the Swachh Siddipet project accommodates 200 cattle and helps small and marginal farmers in effective cattle and dairy management. As part of the project we would be setting up six dairy hostels in Siddipet, out of which have been inaugurated and the rest are in progress.

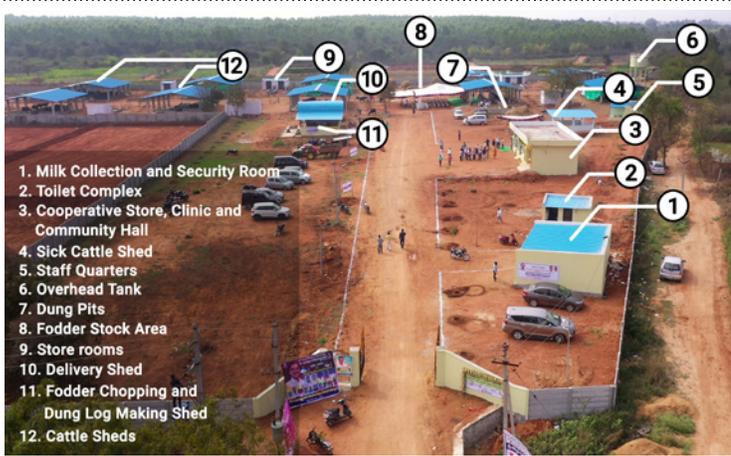
## Program Impact

By keeping the cattle in good health, the CDH helped over 200 small and marginal farmers to expand their livelihood opportunities, improve their income and standard of living and are also promoting health and hygiene in their villages.

This Year

<b>3</b> Hostels Constructed	<b>600</b> Cattle Housed
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## Facilities Provided



### CSR PARTNERS



## Program Highlights

- Small and marginal farmers, especially women have improved their livelihood opportunities through value additions like paneer and Kova making with the equipment available at the dairy hostel.



## Testimonial

“The health of my cattle improved drastically after they were housed at the dairy hostel. Regular checkups by a local veterinary doctor and their constant guidance in maintaining the health of the cattle is very effective and improved the milk production by two times. I am very thankful to Bala Vikasa and everyone else who came forward to set up the dairy hostel.”

-Prashanth, Dairy Farmer, Jakkapur



# SPEARHEADING A MASS MOVEMENT ADVOCATING SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR WIDOWS



## Widow Emancipation

The COVID-19 pandemic left many devastated, bereaved and lonely. Many women were widowed and were left to struggle to provide for themselves and their families. This year, identifying the need of emotional and financial support to many rural poor widows, Bala Vikasa intensified its awareness programs on discrimination against widows and counselling sessions for women.

On the other hand, regular skill development training programs like basic and advanced tailoring workshops were also held to help widows regain control over their lives.

## Program Impact

Emancipated widows resist all forms of discrimination, reconstruct their worldviews, face various challenges with courage, support one another, rise above their suffering and engage unapologetically in cultural practices like putting vermilion, bangles and flowers, things they are prevented from doing all along.

### This Year

<b>205</b> Widows Supported	<b>2</b> Widows Remarried	<b>2</b> Awareness Programs	<b>216</b> Community Members' Support Pledged
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### Cumulative

<b>15,458</b> Widows Empowered	<b>57</b> Widows Remarried	<b>691</b> Awareness Programs	<b>2</b> State Level Conventions	<b>162</b> Rights Protection Committees	<b>1,43,473</b> Community Members' Support Pledged
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## Program Highlights

- Two widows - Radapaka Rajini of Mallakapalli and Mandal Hyma of Wardhannapeta were remarried breaking all taboos and stereotypes. They began a new chapter in their lives and wish to continue fighting the discrimination against widows.



## Testimonial

"I felt very directionless when I lost my husband to COVID-19. Everything seemed very gloomy and I almost gave up on living an independent life. Bala Vikasa's sessions helped me deal with my husband's death and also overcome the fear of facing society. I will always be grateful to Bala Vikasa for giving me the hope to live the life I wish to live."

-R Lakshmi, Siddipet



# EMPOWERING WOMEN INTELLECTUALLY, SOCIALLY, FINANCIALLY AND POLITICALLY



## Women Empowerment

With the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, many rural poor women who are daily wage labourers, janitorial workers in commercial spaces, educational institutions, and other such roles lost their livelihoods.

To help such women improve their livelihoods and survive the pandemic with dignity, skill training programs in Tailoring and Advanced Tailoring were organised in villages with the support of various CSR partners and donors. Members of our existing Self Help Group were also given training on how to effectively manage their finances at a time of economic crisis. The women field coordinators and beneficiaries were encouraged to become active agents of change and promote COVID Appropriate Behaviours in their communities.

## Program Impact

Thousands of women were empowered to rise above the cultural, social and economic biases and build themselves to be strong, independent and confident women who are able to participate in the process of development on par with men at all levels. Rural poor women are now leading discussions on community development initiatives at grassroots level.

### This Year

**666**

Rural Poor Women  
Enrolled

**4,672**

Women Groups  
Formed

**4,633**

Microenterprises  
Established

### Cumulative

**2,34,122**

Rural Poor Women  
Empowered

**23,412**

Women Groups  
Formed

**2,09,849**

Microenterprises  
Established

**21,789**

Adult Women  
Achieved Literacy

**20**

Development Activities  
Initiated

**45**

Institutional  
Partnerships Formed

## Program Highlights

- 4,500+ rural women entrepreneurs were given Mutually Aided Cooperative Society Loans to help them scale up their business.
- 450+ old and destitute people were provided with necessary everyday essentials like masks, groceries and clothes to help them follow COVID guidelines and prevent the spread of the virus.



## Testimonial

“My life improved a lot after attending Bala Vikasa’s training programs. I am now able to stand up for myself and also live an independent life. These training sessions have helped me become a better individual and have a better outlook on life. I wish to continue attending the training and help other widows like me in the future.”

-Priyanka, Reddypalem

# EMPOWERED RURAL POOR WOMEN EXTEND SOLIDARITY TO THOSE THAT ARE WEAKER



## Orphan Solidarity Program

We have initiated the Orphan Solidarity program to enable orphans to live a life they wish to live and curb issues like child labour through financial, mental and emotional support.

Our women coordinators, who usually conduct regular visits to check on the well being of our Vikasa Children (orphans) could not visit them due to COVID restrictions and guidelines.

However, we managed to conduct a couple of online meetings with the Vikasa Children where our founder Bala T. Singareddy Gingras interacted with them and encouraged them to continue doing their best despite the challenges that came with the pandemic.

As the COVID restrictions were relaxed by the end of the year, we organized Orphan Solidarity Day celebrations, the most awaited event of the year following COVID Appropriate Behaviors. During these celebrations, all our women coordinators gathered and celebrated the birthdays of our Vikasa Children in their respective centers.

### This Year

**2,740**

Rural Women Participated

**145**

Vikasa Children

**102**

Guests

**18,90,585**

Funds Raised in rupees

**15**

Village Centers

"I lost my parents when I was in Class 5 and from then I've been struggling to provide for myself and my siblings. There are times when I lose hope about living a better life but then, I attend Bala Vikasa's meetings. At these meetings, I was always encouraged to work for the life I want to live, no matter what. Listening to our donors was very inspiring and I wish to be able to help others and make a difference just like our donors."

**-Venkatesh, PG Student Mahabubabad**



## Old and Destitute Support

Many senior citizens are orphaned due to the loss of their partners, loved ones or abandoned by their family. With no means of livelihood these people are left to live by themselves in miserable conditions.

As part of our Old and Destitute support program, the women coordinators took it upon themselves to raise funds for providing basic essentials to the members and help them survive the pandemic, as part of our annual activities. About 451 senior citizens were supported with essentials like rice, dal, oil, soaps, clothes, bedsheets, towels, shawls and others to get through the pandemic. This year, our women coordinators and other individual donors have donated more than 10,000 kgs of rice for the orphaned senior citizens.

### This Year

**451**

Total Beneficiaries

**279**

Total Donors

**10,100**

Kilos of Rice

**15**

Village Centers

"I don't have any strength left in me to work. With no family left to take care of me and the COVID restrictions I was very worried if I will survive these testing times. I will forever be indebted to Bala Vikasa and their team for supporting me with not just daily essentials but also helping deal with the pandemic emotionally and mentally."

**-Venkatamma**



# BUILDING CAPACITIES OF DEVELOPMENT WORKERS AND INSTITUTIONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



## People Development Training Center

At PDTC this year has been a period of exploration and experiment due to the COVID-19 restrictions of social gathering. To continue with our regular training programs and workshops we adapted the digital mode to continue organizing them for development professionals, students and entrepreneurs.

The programs focused on enhancing the knowledge in leadership and effective management and implementation of development initiatives in the time of global crisis, policies, Social Return on Investment and other topics.

## ACTING LOCALLY, INSPIRING GLOBALLY

### This Year

**14**

Trainings Delivered

**300**

Development Professionals Trained

**170**

National and International NGOs Represented

**1**

Government Departments Represented

### Cumulative

**326**

Trainings Delivered

**14,223**

Development Professionals Trained

**3,328**

National and International NGOs Represented

**117**

Government Departments Represented

## TEACHING WHAT WE DO

## SHOWING WHAT WE TEACH

All the approaches, methodologies, field learnings and best practices that produce best outcomes in community-driven development are translated into well-structured and highly-effective capacity building modules.



Participants are taken 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 for the participants.



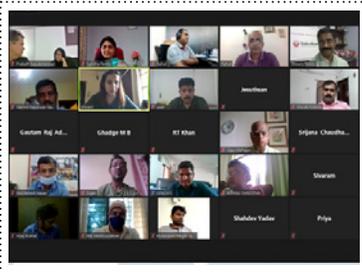
### Testimonial



"Training programs and workshops at PDTC provide practical insights that can be directly applied while working with communities. Apart from professional learning, there is also great cultural exposure here. Development professionals from across the world share their on field experiences and learnings during the programs which provides us more knowledge about the sector."

**-Mr. Keoul Bolngar,  
Médecins Sans Frontières-Chad**

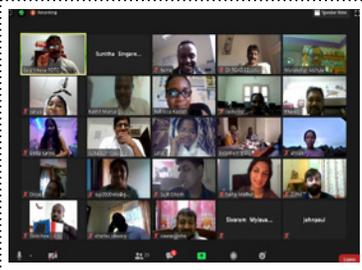
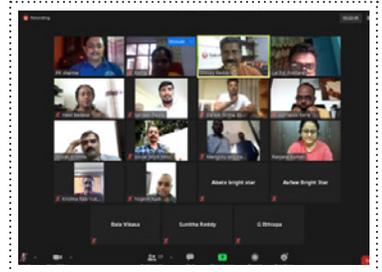
# INVESTING IN PEOPLE UNCEASINGLY THROUGH TRAININGS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



## National Trainings

Development professionals across the country attended 3-Day Trainings on contemporary development topics and CDD approaches.

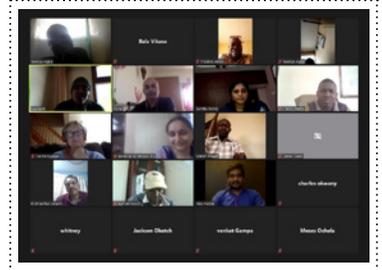
This Year	
9	181
Trainings Delivered	Participants Capacitated
Cumulative	
122	3,412
Trainings Delivered	Participants Capacitated



## International Trainings

Two to four-week Virtual training programs introduced CDD approaches to global development professionals, university students and government functionaries.

This Year	
2	35
Trainings Delivered	Participants Capacitated
Cumulative	
47	1,083
Trainings Delivered	Participants Capacitated



## Seminars and Workshops



We facilitated the exchange of knowledge and experience between development stakeholders regularly through online seminars & workshops on contemporary development subjects.

This Year	
3	84
Seminars and Workshops Held	Participants Engaged
Cumulative	
57	6,346
Seminars and Workshops Held	Participants Engaged



## Program Highlights

- MoU with Ottawa University for Research
- Partnership with a local NGO of South Sudan HACT to organise training programs on Social Entrepreneurship



## Testimonial



“The training programs helped me understand the communities better, especially at a time when the world is in severe health, financial and social crisis. The content is very relevant and I would take forward all these learnings and apply them while implementing development initiatives in our program areas.”

-Ms. Nandini,  
Youth for Seva-India

# PROMOTING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MODEL TO TACKLE CRITICAL SOCIAL PROBLEMS



## Social Enterprise Incubation

We realized the potential of Social Entrepreneurship as a sustainable model to tackle social programs effectively.

This year, our team of industry experts provided emerging social innovators with incubation support in the form of coaching, mentoring, networking, funding and business development. Social entrepreneurs were given hand-holding support to adapt to the post COVID market and help them strike the balance between business and social impact.

Bala Vikasa International Center was also associated with the 4-week Social Impact Bootcamp 2020 organised by the Telangana State Innovation Cell and T-Hub in November. As part of this partnership, we provided mentorship to social startups and connected them to impact investors in the state.

## Program Highlights

- Onboarded 13 mentors for Social Entrepreneurs and strengthen the incubation process
- A report was submitted on Social Entrepreneurship Across Globe - Policies and Laws that facilitate Social Entrepreneurship
- New partnership with Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology (SNIST) for capacity building and project design support in Unnath Bharath Abhiyan program
- Rahul Bhardwaj, Head of Bala Vikasa International Center represented India as a panelist in a panel discussion on 'Young Innovators During The Pandemic: Stories From South Asia,' organised by the US Consulate General Hyderabad. The discussion had panelists from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

## This Year



## Cumulative



# PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES TO HELP CREATE MAXIMUM SOCIAL IMPACT



## Responsible Business

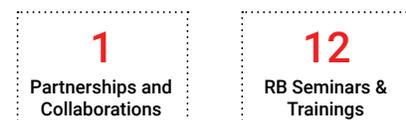
We are making efforts to create symbiotic alliances between academia, businesses, and nonprofits to promote business responsibility and social innovation for the upliftment of underprivileged rural Indian communities.

As part of this, we conducted various virtual trainings on Sustainability and Community Development, Environment and Climate Change and Monitoring and Evaluation.

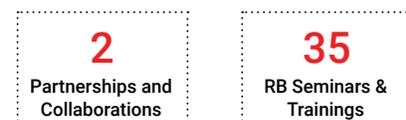
## Program Highlights

- New Partnership with IMT-Hyderabad for Research and Programs to promote Sustainability and Responsible Business Commences
- Conducted a national level one-week workshop on Green Audit - Green Practices for Sustainable Development
- Conducted a webinar on 'Redefining CSR in Post COVID-19 Era.'

## This Year



## Cumulative



# SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AMPLIFY IMPACT BY LEVERAGING MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS



## Communications and Multimedia Center

Communications and Multimedia Center is a newly established department of Bala Vikasa to improve community participation through dialogue by leveraging effective communication for development tools and strategies

This year was quite challenging for everyone to adapt to the new practices that came with COVID restrictions and guidelines to contain the spread of the pandemic. Apart from reinforcing COVID Appropriate Behaviors in the communities it was equally important to prepare the communities for emergencies and educate them in health management at the time of crisis.

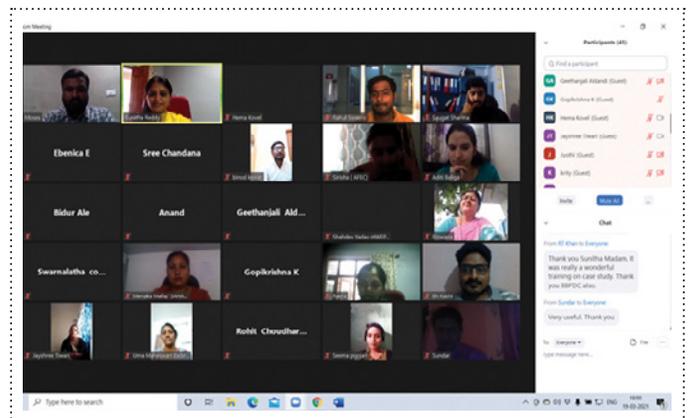
Identifying this need, Bala Vikasa in collaboration with the US Consulate Hyderabad developed and disseminated a series of IEC Materials like videos, posters, flyers and GIFs in about 500 villages of the Telugu states through digital networks like whatsapp groups. The IEC materials were developed to combat misinformation, fight stigma and discrimination, and create awareness among communities.

This is an on-going project where IEC materials are being developed and distributed among communities with relevant information as the COVID guidelines, restrictions and facts are constantly changing.

IEC Materials Developed As Per Thematic Area and Collateral Type 2020-21							
Thematic Areas	Posters	Creatives	GIFs	Flyers	Videos	Audios	Total
COVID Facts	2	5	1		4	3	15
Usage of Masks	3	1	1		2	2	9
Hygiene	3	4					7
Stay Home, Stay Safe		1					1
Health Management	4	2	1	1	1		9
Stigma and Discrimination	2	3					5
Stress Management	1		1		1		3
Vaccination	1				1		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>51</b>



Training programs were also conducted to various stakeholders like program coordinators, NGOs, development professionals and students virtually. The programs were conducted on communications topics such as Basics of Photography and Videography, role of NGOs in creating awareness among communities during pandemic. The training programs with various development professionals and NGOs were also organised as meetings to understand the knowledge gaps among communities on the COVID-19 pandemics which further helped to develop irrelevant IEC materials, as part of the COVID-19 awareness project.



Apart from this, various organizational communications collaterals like Annual Report, monthly newsletters, social media creatives, fundraising creatives, videos and others were developed for the financial year.



## Bala Vikasa People Development Training Center (BVPDTC)

*Offering Capacity Building to National and International NGOs*



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## Bala Vikasa International Center (BVIC)

*Promoting Social Entrepreneurship and Business Responsibility*



Hyderabad Campus

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