

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-2020 BAL MITRA GRAM

## BMG IMPACT (2019-2020)

- More than 75,000 children protected from all forms of child exploitation
- 356 children withdrawn from work
- 25 child marriages foiled
- 1295 children enrolled in schools
- 833 irregular children regularized in schools
- 240 girls were supported with bicycle for ensuring continuity of education
- 5892 community members have been linked to Social Beneficiary Schemes
- 33 hand pumps were installed and 99 hand pumps were repaired in Jharkhand and Rajasthan reaching out to around 6600 families
- 20 water tank system with taps were installed in 12 BMGs of Rajasthan providing the families of these BMGs with potable water 25 check dams are identified to be constructed across BMGs of Jharkhand in collaboration with the Forest Department
- Construction of a 5000-litre water tank supplying water to 49 families of Topa Pahari and Faguni
- 3675 saplings were planted across BMGs of Jharkhand to promote the need for a healthy environment under Safe Childhood Safe Environment Campaign
- To promote reading habit, libraries were set up in 5 schools of Karnataka
- 17 teachers were recruited in government schools of Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Karnataka through advocacy

## AWARDS

Miss Payal Jangid, child leader from Bal Mitra Gram in Rajasthan, received the **Goalkeepers Global Goals Changemaker Award**, an initiative by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She received the award for in 2019 for transforming her village by elimination of child labour, child marriage and promotion of education of girls.



Miss Champa Kumari an emerging child leader from Bal Mitra Gram in Jharkhand, received the **Diana Award -2019 for Young People** and was honoured by Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand Smt. Draupadi Murmu, for her work in preventing child labour in mica mining.



## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

**KSCF's represents as a Non-Government Organisation in a Conference held by United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland**

UN Forum on Business and Human Rights discussed "Building a Child Labour free MICA industry: the role of government, business, NGOs and communities" in its annual conference held in Geneva in November 2019.

KSCF's one of the iconic youth leaders Mr. Manan Ansari was one of the panelists in the session along with subject experts from the sector and senior management of KSCF. Mr. Ansari highlighted the issue of child labour in the MICA region of Jharkhand and Bihar and KSCF's role in making the supply chain free of child labour with help of various stakeholder groups i.e. government, corporates and businesses. The panel also introduced Child Friendly Villages which is the flagship programme of KSCF and highlighted the roles of various stakeholders like government, business, NGOs and communities were discussed by the panel in order to eliminate child labour and form child friendly environment for children. Mr Manan Ansari, shared his story of survival from the MICA mines of Jharkhand to the path of education. He also demanded every corporate to ensure that their supply chain doesn't include any form of child labour.



## OUTCOME BASED ACTIVITIES HELD IN THE YEAR APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020

### Education for all

#### Identification and Withdrawal of Child Labour

The Community Social Worker (CSW) engages with Stakeholder Groups especially, Bal Panchayat to act as a vigilant group and identify child labourers in their villages. Involving the community ensures prevention of child labour. In the year 2019-2020, 356 children were withdrawn from work across 6 states.

#### School Chalo Abhiyaan

With the beginning of every academic year an annual enrollment drive is conducted to raise awareness about the education and with the objective to increase enrollment in government schools. The total outreach of School Chalo Abhiyaan in BMG was 23,444 and total number of enrollments for the given year is 1,295 out of which majority were enrolled after School Chalo Abhiyaan. Also during this period 833 irregular children were made regular in schools.





## Promoting the joy of learning through classroom transformation

The idea behind creating a Child Friendly Classroom is to promote the joy of learning and experiencing it in a creative way. Classrooms in 38 schools of 34 BMGs of Koderma and Giridih district of Jharkhand were transformed into child friendly classroom. Now 2850 students from these school could study while sitting in a colorful classrooms painted and observing through the posters with cartoon character, trees, flowers and rainbows. It is a great tool of attracting students to their school.





## Distribution of Bicycles

240 bicycles were distributed among girls to make education accessible for them. Girls in the village had always faced difficulty to pursue their higher studies as schools are far from their village. It is also very difficult to commute due to lack of proper road and transport system, which is a major reason for them to drop out from school. The bicycle distribution is an important initiative of BMG, where girls who are doing well in studies and are from poor family background are benefited.



## Remedial Classes

In all the 8 BMGs of Meertut, Remedial Classes are being held for children who need extra support for their school syllabus. These Remedial Classes have reached out to nearly 300 students who are given hand holding support and are taught by professional teachers.



## Bal Panchayat; Promoting Child Leadership

### Instilling democratic values through Bal Panchayat Elections

Bal Panchayat elections are held to promote leadership quality and instill the value of democracy amongst children. Bal Panchayat Elections were held in 241 currently operating BMGs of Jharkhand encouraging participation of all children between the age of 6-17 years. A total of 2,090 leaders were elected from 241 villages who have been voicing out issues pertaining to children in various platforms.



## Training and Capacity building of Bal Panchayat to promote the child rights

The training and capacity building of Bal Panchayat was completed in 5 BMG states, in which more than 300 children were trained. The training was provided by in house trainers of KSCF. Newly elected Bal Panchayat members attended the training and shared their own points of Bal Mitra Gram and child rights. The main objective was to provide a platform where children could interact with each other and enhance their knowledge of child rights. The points were discussed on the several acts and provisions of the children were following:

- Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
- Right to Education Act 2009
- Child marriage Act 2006
- Rights of children (Right to survival, Right to protection, Right to participation & Right to Development).
- JJ Act (Children need in care & Protection and Conflict with law)



## District Level Children Council

District level children council formed in every district has essentially been constituted by Karnataka State Council for child welfare. This council works for children welfare who are daily exploited and living in condition deprived of healthy environment, proper education, food, cloth and medical. Toward this the council has number of supportive programs. BMG children participated in the event organized by the council where they discussed about the issue and expressed their ideas and innovation. In the event 70 child leaders from our BMG participated.



## Access to Drinking water and Safe Environment

### Access to Safe Drinking Water

To make drinking water accessible to the community members, during the period of April 2019-March 2020, 33 Hand pumps were installed and 99 hand pumps were repaired across BMGs. The installation of hand pumps in communities ensures that they are provided with potable water and also community members do not have to travel great distance to fetch water for daily use. The install and repair of hand pumps reached out to nearly 16350 families in BMGs of Jharkhand and Rajasthan. Out of the 33 hand pumps installed 5 were by KSCF and 28 were by Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and out of 99 hand pumps repaired 20 were by KSCF and 79 were by PHED.



### Tree Plantation Drive

KSCF initiated a campaign Surakshit Bachapan Surakshit Paryavaran at 3 different panchayat levels in the month of July 2019 in Jharkhand with an aim to aware community about the importance of environment. In this campaign seeds and saplings were distributed among the community members by the esteemed guests like District Forest Officer, Members of Legislative Assembly, Zila Parishad President etc. Till now total 3675 saplings across the BMG were planted jointly by the community members and officials.





## Water Conservation through Check Dams

Safe drinking water and water for irrigation are the major concern across the operational area of Jharkhand. Water level has gone down drastically due to lack of rain over the last two years. Construction of check dams, big ponds and wells are some of the mechanism to restore it. KSCF has collaborated with forest department for the construction of 25 check dams across Jharkhand. Construction of check dams will not only increase the ground water level but also ensure the safe drinking water and water for irrigation purpose for the community.



## Establishment of water tank to ensure Safe Drinking Water

Topa Pahadi village, was identified as a village facing severe water scarcity which forced the girls to stay out of the school. KSCF constructed a deep bore well in the village and attached a water tank with a storage capacity of 5000-litre water which was inaugurated on 25th January 2020 in the presence of community leaders. This water tank help supply water to 49 households from Topa Pahadi village. Similarly, people from Faguni and Tetariya and a few hamlets/ tribal settlements can also have access to water from this facility.





### Construction of water tanks and tap water systems in BMG villages:

20 water tank system with taps has been installed in 12 BMG villages of Rajasthan. The systems were installed by the government after the submission of application by the stakeholder group members of the BMG villages and KSCF activist. This water tank will be used by the families for drinking and other household chores. The BMG villages where the tanks have installed are Garhi, Pachpadi, Sewa ka gwada, Bhadana ka waas, Laaduwas, Lauj kanpur, Hamirpur, Mordi, Jhiri, Piplai, Mehar ki dhani and Laduwas.



### Water connection through pipeline:

7 BMG villages linked with the water pipelines to provide water in the village through the tap. The pipelines were installed in those villages which are situated on an elevated ground where ground water is not available. Out of these 7 pipelines, one pipeline which is installed in Duhar Mala BMG is laid on the 4000 feet above the ground on a mountain and then reached out to the BMG. Such changes in the BMGs only made possible through the continuous efforts of Bal Panchayat leaders and other stakeholder group members. Rest 6 villages where pipelines were laid down are Papadi, Hamirpur, Kalapura, Piplai, Pachpadi and Bhadana ka was.



## Success Stories

### Voicing Out for Rights

Child marriage is one of the deep-rooted evil practices of the society which is still in practice in many communities. Ghoda Karan, a backward community in Koderma District is no different than other communities who still practices child marriage. But a courageous girl, Kajal Kumari from this community has voiced out against her own marriage securing her rights and setting an example for many others like her.

Kajal Kumari belongs to a family where the struggle is to meet their daily needs. Her father and mother are involved in mica mining and earns minimal. She is a student of class 8th and has a good academic status. But, due to her family background her family decided to give her in marriage. Her family started to look forward for a suitable groom for Kajal. This caught the attention of the MahilaMandal which was then reported to the CSW. The CSW started investigating more about her family status and a strategy was planned out. The CSW along with the BalPanchayat convince Kajal Kumari to participate in the BalPanchayat meetings. Kajal joined the meetings reluctantly but gradually, she took interest in participating and knowing her rights. The deep conviction in her made Kajal to participate in the BalPanchayat election and later she was elected as the Vice President. This made her more confident and further stood against the decision of her parents refusing to be married.

Kajal Kumari along with the CSW went to their home and convinced their family to call off her marriage proposal. She expressed her aspiration to become a teacher in front of her family. Seeing the dream of their child, a promise note was signed by her guardians stating they would cancel Kajal's marriage until she reaches appropriate age. She also then took a decision to get enrolled in the Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya (KGBV) to pursue her higher studies. She is now enrolled in KGBV and studying hard to stand true to her words.

### Education Changes Life

Harilal Bavriya 13 years is the fourth son of a widow from Lalpura BMG in Rajasthan. His mother being the only breadwinner of the family with five children, struggles to make their family ends meet. Thus, the family falls into an economically backward group.

With the intervention of Bal Mitra Gram in Lalpura village Harilal and his two younger sisters became the first school going generation in the family who receives the light of education. Harilal's parents were reluctant to send him to school as they had never been to school thus, failed to understand the importance of education. However, after much effort from BMG activist and Bal Panchayat members Harilal's parents were finally convinced to send their children to school. After being in school the transformation in Harilal's life can be seen as he is going to school regularly now and actively participating in all BMG activities. Understanding the importance of education Harilal now is an inspiration to many as he motivates other children to come to school.

### A Girl from Doreatha, Inspiration for All

Priyanka is currently a student in class 12 of village Doreatha, Uttar Pradesh who aspires to become a doctor in the future. However, due to poor financial background and no support, she knitted shoes to earn money to facilitate her studies, which in turn hampered her studies. After having been introduced to the programme, she gained support from the team and now has an understanding of her rights as an individual and is also an active member of the BalPanchayat. She has further been shortlisted for Freedom Fellow scholarship in which all her studies, tuitions will be borne by KSCF. She has supported her fellow children by writing letters to DM and CDO on lack of school space. She has expressed keen desire to study in the future as she hopes to be able to one day treat her fellow people and contribute towards her household.