

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead





## ImFACT21

The Pandemic Year



# Table of CONTENTS

Message from the Executive Trustee	06
Reach & Presence	08
Adapting to the Pandemic: A New Way Forward	10
Education	13
Livelihood	3
Health Care	43
Women Empowerment	53
Child for Child	66
Empowering Grassroots	70
Awards & Recognitions	72
Financials	74
Supporters	78





Work as a catalyst in bringing sustainable change in the lives of underprivileged children, youth and women, with a life-cycle approach of development.

Enable the civil society across the world to engage proactively in the change process through the philosophy of civic driven change.

Adopt highest standards of governance
to emerge as a leading knowledge and technology
driven, innovative and scalable international
development organisation



## **OUR BELIEF**

Smile Foundation believes that unless members of the civil society are involved proactively in the process of development, sustainable change will not happen.

Believing in this principle of 'Civic Driven Change', Smile Foundation sensitises the civil society in order to make them partners in its mission.







To empower underprivileged children, youth and women through relevant education, innovative healthcare and market-focused livelihood programmes.

Deploy best possible methodology and technology for achieving ideal SROI (social return on investment), to practise and promote good governance.

To link business competitiveness of the corporate with social development initiatives.

To sensitize privileged children, youth and citizens in general to promote Civic Driven Change.





## Message From The **EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE**

The ideal way to make the world filled with hope is to get up and start doing, small or big. Such occasions come when we expect it the least. And, we can't afford to wait for good things to happen.



The Coronavirus pandemic was probably the most challenging times in our lifetime and possibly in the recent history, for it was more than merely a health crisis. It engulfed the whole of mankind in many unimaginable ways – economic, healthcare, trauma, despair, suffering and uncertainties.

If the first wave of the pandemic brought in a sudden, unimaginable and unprepared disruption, the second wave was downright devastating.

With no source of livelihood, millions of families stared at hunger. Food became the primary need for many. Putting together all possible resources and logistics, more than 27 million meals were made available to vulnerable families across India. Some 3.03 lakh children and their families, comprising of an average of five members each, were ensured three meals a day for a full month during the peak.

Forced to stay indoors with schools being completely shut down, children became one of the worst sufferers of the pandemic. We conducted a survey across 23 Indian states, which revealed that a big digital divide existed. A sizeable population

was devoid of smart phone, TV or any other tools necessary for accessing smart classes.

Our team came up with many innovations such as clusters classes, reorientation of teachers, involvement of parents and communities to encourage children, focus on mental health and also providing smart-phones, tablets and laptops for children. More than 150,000 children not only continued their education but also kept their dreams of a bright future alive.

Primary healthcare was almost shut down during the peak due to numerous reasons. Braving all odds, our healthcare teams reached out to more than 1.1 million people with life-saving and timely help at their doorsteps across the country.

As pandemic struck unannounced and unrelentingly, it not only took away lives but it also engulfed livelihoods. We discovered that many pandemic-induced jobs had emerged. However, getting skill training in the new way of working, that too for youth from the less privileged backgrounds, seemed to be a hurdle. Collaborating with various

institutes and supporters, we came up with an action plan. New-age training modules and cloud-based online training mechanism were developed and deployed through 81 centers across 16 states. E-logistics & supply chain management, general duty assistant & patient care, digital marketing, banking services and BPO were the courses in focus.

As a result, more than 10,000 youth not only were ensured of livelihood but also committed manpower was added in the fight against the pandemic.

Our women entrepreneurship project in particular prepared ordinary women into entrepreneurs by handholding them in various aspects such as generating business idea and gauging market opportunities, financial literacy, digital marketing and related aspects. Kudos to the resilience of the women, they not only raised sustainable enterprises, generated income for their families but also employed many others women each across India.

At a time when systems and resources were under never-seen-before stress, these efforts could not only save lives and but also furthered developmental agenda concerning children and their families, besides many vulnerable sections.

The real heroes of our mission were our 2600 people, a majority of whom were out in the field any given day serving people, braving all odds and unrelentingly finding ways to do so. It is also a matter of pride that our people made Smile Foundation adjudged as a Great Place To Work during the unforgiving and uncertain two years, consecutively.

The display of courage and commitment by our teachers, doctors, community workers, drivers, project managers, other team members and volunteers etc. has been inspiring during a time when every one of us had been dealing with personal challenges.

The trust and support extended by supporters, donors, mentors, well-wishers, experts, institutions and officials were indispensable too.

There were a few silver-linings during the period.

Technological application and its integration got accelerated and preponed to a level what would otherwise have been possible by 2030. Secondly, people and organizations discovered that they could work from home and be productive too. Third, the level of imagination and creativity in people went through the roof. We became innovative in a rush to survive the consequences of the pandemic. Fourth, almost every family discovered the value of togetherness. Lastly, people became more empathetic towards one another.

The year has been challenging. But, it has also been reassuring what collaborative purpose and self-less spirit can accomplish on the ground.

Santanu Mishra

Co-Founder & Executive Trustee

Santanu Mishra

On behalf of Smile Foundation's Board of Trustees

#### REACH AND PRESENCE

### **CHILDREN & FAMILIES:** Lifecycle Approach

Beginning in the corridors of education, Smile Foundation adopted a **LIFECYCLE APPROACH** and extended its thematic areas of intervention by supporting family health, livelihood, and women empowerment.



#### **Reach So Far:**



#### **EDUCATION**

Almost 2,50,000 children provided education



#### **HEALTH CARE**

14,00,000 people provided with primary healthcare



#### LIVELIHOOD

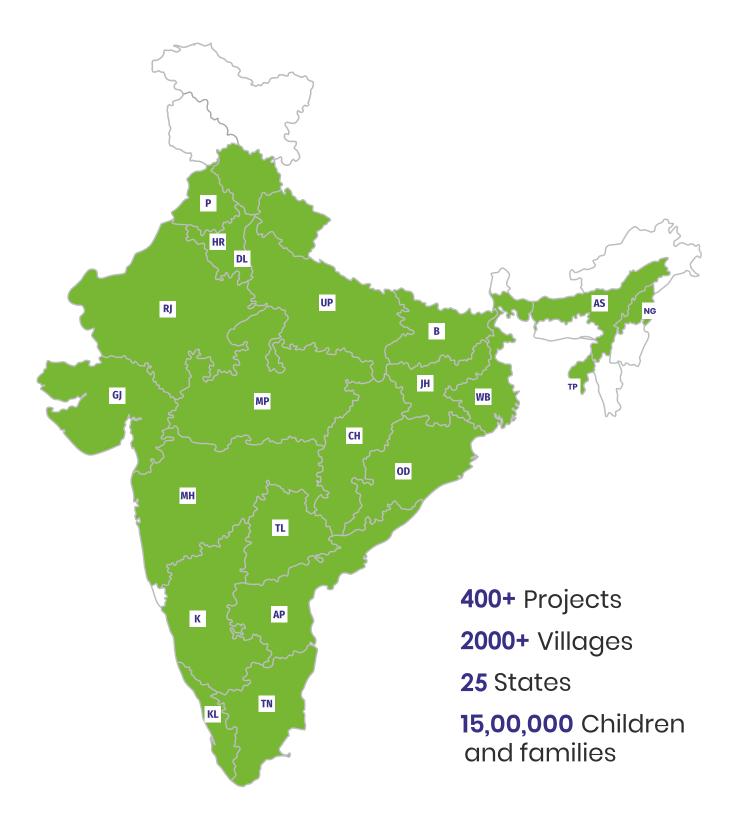
Over 50,000 youth trained and more than 30,000 placed



#### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

5,00,000+ women and girl children benefitted

## IMPACT 2020-21



## A NEW WAY FORWARD

Ever since the pandemic hit in early 2020, the world seemingly turned upside down. Each and every aspect of our lives was affected. Smile Foundation's work, like everything else in the world, also took a hit. And like everyone else, we had to relook at everything from the perspective of pandemic-tinted glasses.

Adapting to the pandemic became the topmost priority.

Grief and resilience indeed live together. And nothing has proven this more than the pandemic. In the face of terrible and unforeseen circumstances, we at Smile managed have successfully adapted and adopted a COVID-friendly philosophy. Very soon after the pandemic hit, we asked ourselves how we can continue to ease the lives of the vulnerable communities. All our programmes have been edited and modified to suit the needs of the pandemic. And all our new campaigns are aimed at helping the vulnerable during these tough times.

#### **HEALTHCARE**

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#### **LIVELIHOOD**

Before the advent of COVID, our Smile Twin e-Learning Program (STeP) focussed on skilling underprivileged youth in sectors such as retail and hospitality. Due to the pandemic, these sectors took a huge hit. Thus, we had to realign the program to make it suitable as per current job market.

As a result, we are now training youth to gain employment in sectors like healthcare, digital marketing, and e-logistics. A large number of our students in the last year have completed their training successfully and also got placed.

#### **EDUCATION**

The pandemic inspired us to introduce blended learning at our Mission Education centres through the Shiksha Na Ruke campaign. We have done our best to ensure that the education of vulnerable children continues despite the disruptions caused by COVID. Many of these children are not able to afford smart devices and data packs. We have aimed to provide these to as many children as possible to ensure a seamless yet interactive learning process for them.

## LESSONS LEARNT AND UNLEARNT THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

This year has been full of ups and downs, and some terrible lows. But the resilience we see all around us is a reason for hope. The challenges we are facing now are showing us what we are truly capable of in the hardest of times, and this is the biggest learning the pandemic is giving us.

We have been made to see that there is more than one way of doing things. In the face of tremendous hardship, humans can evolved, grow, adapt to make the best of any situation, and keep pushing forward.











## **EDUCATION**

IMPACT & THEMATIC BRIEF

49,246 CHILDREN

165 PROJECTS

240

MISSION EDUCATION CENTRES

23

Smile Foundation's flagship programme Mission

**Education** provides education, nutrition and healthcare support to socio-economically disadvantaged and out-of-school children in remote villages, tribal belts and unreached slums across India through a comprehensive model aimed at their holistic development.

#### From The GROUND

"

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic devastated the nation. It significantly affected the lives of millions of marginalized and vulnerable families across communities. As a project coordinator at Smile Foundation's Mission Education (ME) Outreach Project in Gurgaon, our work involves working with government-school children, most of whom belong to impoverished families who have migrated from Bihar, UP and Uttarakhand to work as daily wage labourers in the big city.



The first wave had already caused large-scale job losses and poverty. The second wave, particularly for vulnerable groups like migrant workers, was nothing short of a humanitarian disaster.

Most parents of our school children are daily wage labourers who find odd jobs in and around Gurugram to support their families. They had lost their work and livelihood because of the pandemic. They used up the little savings they had, and struggled for day-to-day survival. Most students learned to survive on a single meal a day.

We tried to help however we could. We provided some of them with dry rations. Since schools were closed, online study was the only option. And this was pointless without access to an Internet connection and devices such as smartphones or tablets. The non-availability of such resources only added to their woes.

To help them continue their education online, the Smile team provided laptops for the top ten students of class X and tablets for the top two deserving students. We recharged students' mobile phones to encourage online studies and regularly visited their homes with homework and assignments. We conducted cluster classes to support their studies. We also spoke to parents regularly to reassure and encourage them.

The COVID-19 situation has now improved across the country. So has that of our students and their families. We certainly hope we've left the worst behind us.

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If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done. This famous line is probably the tagline for most Smilians, and I'm no different being part of this wonderful family. At Smile, we have always imbibed these words in spirit and in practice, and more so now at a time when the world is slowly but surely overcoming the aftermath of the global COVID-19 pandemic.



Yes, the past few months have been quite challenging. And it has been difficult seeing the plight and vulnerability of people affected by the pandemic—people suffering from hunger, health issues, and poverty; people who have lost their livelihood and employment and are fighting every day to survive. The air filled with fear, and the grief, despair, uncertainty around me has brought me to my knees at times. But it is said that when the going gets tough, the tough get going.

Smile has provided me with the opportunity to reach out to the neediest and most distressed families through initiatives like remote education, distribution of nutrition kits, dry ration and health kits, telephonic counselling, coordinating with the government to support the needy, and many more. Apart from reaching out to people affected by the

pandemic, I relished our virtual interactions with Mission Education coordinators, teachers, and field-level teams, who I strongly feel are no less than any of the courageous COVID Warriors out there. Their zest and determination to reach out to their students in whatever way possible really moved me, and we at Smile have tried our best to provide them with every bit of support, facilities, and opportunities under our initiative 'Shiksha Na Ruke'.

Yes, life can be tough. But we, as a collective, can be tougher. I can safely say that we are adapting to this new normal. With this new learning and experience, we will continue to bring more smiles to people in the years to come.



## **Understanding THE NEED**

## Every child deserves access to education, no matter who they are or where they come from.

India has the 5th highest number of out-of-school children at the primary level in the world (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, September 2021). Millions of children in India, both in urban and rural areas, are at risk of not reaching their full potential because of lack of learning and education, inadequate nutrition, and nurturing care. While significant efforts have been made in the last few decades to increase school enrolment through key initiatives like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day Meal Scheme, many still remain outside the education system.

Further aggravating the situation, the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the well-being and education of children over the past year. The devastating second wave in early 2021 was more damaging, affecting more than 280 million children in India. As a response to the pandemic, school closures caused them to miss out on their education again. The economic fallout of the pandemic, with millions of families being pushed out of work, and living in poverty and

isolation, will have a long-lasting effect on the lives of children.

Of the 385 million children living in extreme poverty worldwide, India is home to 30 per cent. Children growing up in poverty and in low-income households experience many disadvantages. Exposure over time to critical factors such as limited resources, unhealthy lifestyles, the stress of living in poverty, and poor education and employment opportunities can adversely impact a child's health and development outcomes.

Children's experience of poverty can also lead to bullying or feelings of exclusion since they have less access to the social activities of their peers.

They are also at greater risk of poorer health outcomes, as evidenced by higher infant mortality rates, low birth weight, poorer general health, well-being, etc. Children living in disadvantaged situations tend to have worse outcomes in terms of cognitive development and achievement in school. Although many children living in underprivileged

circumstances do well in school, there is a clear gap between children from better-off families.

However, factors like parental engagement, quality of education, and extracurricular support can positively impact their educational outcomes.

Smile Foundation's educational initiatives include preschool (3-6 yrs), non-formal education (6-14 yrs non-school going), remedial education (6-14 yrs school going) and bridge courses (14-18 yrs dropouts). It works for education for underprivileged children under difficult circumstances, such as child labour, children of poor and marginalised parents, children inflicted and affected with HIV/AIDS, street and runaway children, children with rare disabilities, disaster struck children and slum children. Special emphasis is given to education of girls and women so that they and their families get empowered.

The inclusion of nutrition support within the programme has highly encouraged parents to send their children regularly to school, resulting in 100% attendance at most of the Mission Education centres and a marked decline in drop-outs. For the parents, who have to struggle hard every day to provide two square meals to their children, the provision of nutritious food is incentive enough to send their children to school. Focus on the children's physical and mental well-being has also been augmented through periodic medical checkups and quarterly health camps conducted at all Mission Education centres.

Living in remote villages, tribal areas and congested slum clusters amid extremely unhygienic conditions, the children are left vulnerable to many diseases and infections, with little or no access to basic healthcare facilities. Emphasising on quality education, teachers at Mission Education centres are provided extensive training throughout the year to make classroom sessions more engaging and effective. Specially

created books, innovative teaching-learning material, and scientific equipment have been distributed among the children to enhance their holistic development. Slow learners have been provided remedial educational support as an extended effort to ensure retention and a good academic performance in school.

Infrastructural support has been provided in remote rural locations across the country to enable a conducive learning environment for the children. School drop-outs have been identified, counselled and finally brought back to school during the year. Regular counselling of parents and community members has been a year-round activity, thus bringing about significant growth in awareness amongst thousands of families who once never supported education.



## Adapting To THE NEO-NORMAL

The COVID-19 crisis significantly affected the education sector globally, with schools remaining completely closed for an entire year. The lockdown interrupted the system, reducing student learning and restricting the activities of education authorities, organisations, parents, and decision-makers. Children unable to access in-person schooling fell further behind, especially those from the most marginalised sections.

Smile Foundation deployed revised strategies to facilitate innovative teaching and learning interventions across its ME centres. Digital and technology-based educational solutions were adopted and integrated with regular classroom teaching-learning. There was a renewed focus on the capacity building of teachers and their engagement in planning academic cycles.

Engagement with corporate donors, communities and volunteers was intensified while day-to-day operations were revised in coordination with program partners.



#### **Quality Teaching - Learning**

Quality in teaching and learning can be seen in how a teacher's knowledge, skills, and ability are employed to develop meaningful pedagogic experiences for students. Teaching impacts learning, and learning influences teaching.

Smile has undertaken several key initiatives to integrate digital devices across its centres to facilitate the process of learning and improve comprehension. To encourage e-learning and ensure standardised teaching-learning content, Smile distributed tablets pre-loaded with content and Smart Classes across 12 ME centres. It has introduced technology-enabled English software across 32 centres to help children learn and improve their language skills.

Over the past year, STEM-based learning books and Math Kits have been distributed across 32 centres to promote experiential learning. Library corners have been established in 12 centres to give access to and encourage reading amongst children. Another innovative intervention called 'm-Education Guru' connects teachers and students through phone calls without an internet connection. This mobile-based audio-enabled training has been implemented in 12 schools and has proven very effective in the current COVID-19 scenario.

#### **Capacity Building of Teachers**

Building the capacity of teachers is essential to achieve good quality of education and academic experiences of children and young adults. Such initiatives, especially during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, can support teachers in providing high-quality interventions until children are able to access formal education opportunities again.

Smile Foundation organises regular capacity building programmes that enable teachers to effectively use equipment, teaching aids and technology to ensure that each child gains as much as possible from the learning centre.

This year, Smile conducted 87 online teachers training sessions across its ME centres in Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and West Bengal covering topics ranging from child-centred pedagogies and experiential learning, to the use of online teaching tools and resources.

Smile Foundation's 'Gurushala' is another initiative that aims to equip schools with digital tools and technology and train upper-primary Math and Science teachers to integrate them into the pedagogy to foster student learning. The programme provides teachers with an integrated platform that allows self-paced capacity development and access to various online resources. Across ME centres pan India, 140 teachers registered and completed certified courses on classroom management, revision strategies and effective online teaching.

#### **Enabling Learning Environment**

An enabling environment plays a critical role in supporting children's learning and development, shaping their personality and perception and improving results for students and teachers.

Facilities in most education centres across India are extremely poor and inadequate. The lack of infrastructure essentials and basic amenities causes a lack of interest among children and accounts for high dropouts.

Through infrastructure support under the Mission Education programme, Smile Foundation aims to address this gap and help improve learning conditions for underprivileged children. Needbased procurements have been made for 38 centres while 31 centres have been repaired and refurbished. Under its partnership with FIS Global, the world's largest global provider dedicated to banking and payments technologies, Smile has renewed licenses of Smart classes to support the education of underprivileged children.

The innovative Building As Learning Aids (BaLA) initiative with Honda and Ingersoll Rand aims at the holistic planning and utilisation of school infrastructure to make it more child-friendly. Smile Foundation has also partnered with iDream for their free learning app, which supplements school education with in-home digital learning on all android phones. Available in multiple languages, it aims at the holistic development of students across 23 varied subjects and skills.



#### **Community Connect**

Community connections promote a positive sense of identity through social interactions while developing social and other skills. When children engage with their community, it creates a sense of belonging and positively affects mental health and emotional well-being. Smile focuses on building community connections for families and children in the broader community through its partnerships, initiatives, and services.

Working closely with community stakeholders, Smile prepared and presented a project sustainability plan under the ME initiative. Smile also worked extensively with volunteer mentors and Shiksha Mitras to organise cluster classes for children without access to digital devices. These classes were held in open spaces, following strict COVID-19 distancing protocols. Virtual and physical meetings were held regularly with parents to sensitise them on the advantage and use of digital mediums and encourage remote home learning amidst the pandemic. It organised community awareness programmes on COVID-19 through street plays and IEC materials. Hygiene kits and other need-based support were also provided to community health centres (CHC).

#### Mission Education Amidst COVID-19 Second Wave

The second wave of the COVID-19 crisis further aggravated the impact the outbreak had on millions of children in India, restraining their access to essential health, social, and education services. Many children lost parents and were left alone and destitute. They missed out on routine immunisation and medical care. They were shut off from vital support networks and faced mental health issues and a greater risk of violence.

In light of the unprecedented education crisis, Smile revamped its Mission Education operational strategy to explore digital resources and technology solutions focused on remote, homebased learning. Through its blended teaching-learning model, Smile organised online classes using mobile applications, tablets and 'smart classes'.

Teachers arranged regular calls with students individually and in groups through the mEducation teleconferencing platform to facilitate remote education and learning. Cluster classes were organised and teachers made regular home visits to ensure children stayed connected to their school and updated on academics.

Smile also utilised community radio as a medium of teaching across ME centres in Chattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand, converting textbooks and learning materials into audio formats, which were then broadcast through select radio channels. It also helped spread awareness to the communities on COVID-19 and other health and nutrition-related issues.





#### Children for Health - A 'WASH' Initiative



Despite the COVID-19 crisis focusing on the importance of good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of the disease, there is still very little awareness amongst people on basic WASH standards. Thousands of families, especially those living in rural areas, urban slums, and disaster-prone areas, still do not have access to proper sanitation and safe drinking water, and they still practice open defecation.

Smile, under its education programme, has conducted several awareness sessions on health and hygiene in the community with children and their families, along with distributing hygiene kits across states including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

#### Innovative **ACTIVITIES**

To ensure enjoyable experiential learning across ME centres, additional curriculum on **theatre and arts, music therapy, movie making and happiness** have been integrated into the pedagogy. Such activities enhance students' mental and physical developmental skills, enabling them to explore their talents and bring them to the fore.

**Mother's Associations** have also been formed across different schools, which meet regularly to discuss the functioning of the schools and resolve issues and concerns if any.

Smile Foundation conducted a pan-India survey on 'Student's accessibility to mobile phones and television' with over 42,000 students from rural areas and urban slums. The survey found that 56% of children lacked access to a smartphone. Of these, 12% had no access to any phone. Only 69% of students surveyed had access to television. Smile Foundation's other surveys include analysing and understanding the most widely preferred and used learning platforms, challenges in the learning process, readiness to join back school, and student retention in schools pan India.

Smile commissioned a survey on **WASH and health and hygiene practices amidst the COVID-19** crisis in December 2020. The study of 3000+ students showed that students from poor and underprivileged backgrounds in southern parts of India, compared to the rest of the country, don't follow basic health and hygiene norms to avoid COVID-19, indicating the need for sustained action among the community.

Smile also joined hands with **Airbus India to provide regular mentoring sessions** to students of class 8 as part of its 'Employee Engagement' programme. As part of its projects with Bain & Co. and Airbus India, Smile also distributed books, tablets, computers for meritorious students in Gurugram and Bangalore.



#### **SADHANA GAUTAM**

UPS Gulhaura, Siddharthnagar District. Uttar Pradesh

Sadhana Gautam walks 30 minutes every day to her school in Siddharthnagar District of Uttar Pradesh.

## Change That INSPIRES US

CASE STORY ONE.

Sadhana Gautam walks 30 minutes every day to her school in Siddharthnagar District of Uttar Pradesh. A student of Class VII, Sadhana's father passed away when she was only 2, leaving her mother, a daily wage labourer to shoulder the responsibility of providing for the family of eight. Despite the hardships and the daily struggle, her mother realizes that proper education is the only way for the family to break out of the chain of poverty and live a better life.

Sadhana was initially very shy and reserved. However, she slowly grew confident with continued support from her teachers, encouragement from staff members, group activities, and peer learning. Apart from conventional teaching pedagogy and regular academics, the teachers focused on interactive, creative exercises to engage students and make learning fun and experiential.

Sadhana started enjoying her classes and slowly came out of her comfort zone, taking on additional assignments and actively engaging with her teachers and classmates.

Today, Sadhana is the class monitor and manages the whole class. She firmly believes that the smart classrooms and other learning support provided by Smile Foundation are for everyone and that it is her responsibility to look after them so that everybody can benefit from it.



#### **P MOUNIKA**

ME Centre, Mother Teresa, Rural Educational Development Charitable Society, Tamil Nadu

Fourteen-year old
P. Mounika's mother was
growing increasingly
concerned about her
daughter's low weight and
noticed she lacked the
energy of her older siblings
of the same age.

#### CASE STORY TWO \_\_\_\_\_

In 2019, she enrolled in 9th standard at the ME centre Mother Teresa Rural Educational Development Charitable Society, Tamil Nadu. Being anaemic, she showed little interest in physical activities at the centre. Years of neglect from the family and her inability to care for herself had created a chronic state of weakness.

On interacting with her parents during a parent-teacher meeting, the teachers found that they could not provide nutritious food to Mounika and were unaware of daily hygiene practices. Like many other families in Pallipat, her parents had become unemployed because of COVID-19 and were struggling to make ends meet.

With support from Smile Foundation under the 'Yum Nutrition' programme, she was offered readily available and nutritious foods, which significantly improved her physical and mental health. Many children like Mounika have greatly benefited from the initiative, which includes doorstep distribution of dry rations to beneficiaries and providing awareness on health and nutrition in the communities.

Within a few weeks of the intervention and regular nutrition supplements, things started looking much better for Mounika. Her condition improved significantly. She is more active and cheerful now and is able to concentrate on her studies better. Her parents are happy and thankful to Smile for the timely effort and intervention.



#### **SHRUTHI**

Society for Solidarity and Reconstruction, Hyderabad

"I love learning at the Smile Mission Education centre.
The teachers here, especially my Math teacher, are all very friendly and always encourage us to do our best. The online sessions are fascinating, and I love this new way of learning."

#### CASE STORY THREE \_\_\_\_\_

Thirteen-year old Shruthi had to drop out of school after the COVID-19 pandemic led to total school closures. Like many in her community, the COVID-19 restrictions hit her family of six very hard. Her mother is a housewife, and her father, an auto driver, couldn't operate due to lockdown restrictions.

Two years after dropping out from school, Shruthi, encouraged by Smile ME centre teachers, joined the ME centre Society for Solidarity and Reconstruction (SSR), Hyderabad, in 2019 to continue her education. She was bright and managed to cope well with the gap in her education through blended mode of teaching-learning, WhatsApp, and video classes. Shruthi found these new learning methods very interesting and engaging and even started teaching and helping her siblings with studies at home.

Shruthi loves Math and works hard with support from her teachers. She is excited to learn through her mobile phone and shares her homework and assignments in the group.

Her performance in monthly tests and continued progress is remarkable and has made her parents extremely happy. She aspires to become an engineer one day and wants to develop inventions that can help poor communities.

## **IMPACT**

49,246

children provided education

16000

families supported through nutrition kits

240

Mission Education Centres 23 states and UTs

53% Girls

out of total program beneficiaries

1,51,580

families received dry ration kits PAN India

5999

students benefitted from nutrition support interventions





### **COVID-19 RESPONSE**



Healthcare at Doorsteps

1 Million +

underprivileged children and families



Hygiene Kits Distribution

2,00,000+

hygiene kits to vulnerable population



Education in the Pandemic

50,000 +

children supported for continued education



Telecounseling for Awareness

1,00,000 +

people sensitized on Covid-19



Creating Health Professionals

10,000 +

youth trained to be duty assistants & caregivers during pandemic



Fighting Hunger

**27.7 Million +** 

meals distributed to daily wagers & their families

"

When ordinary people came together to take action, extraordinary things happen!

### **Partnerships**

#### iDream - Free Interactive Educational App for Students



Smile Foundation has partnered with iDream, an education technology company, for their free interactive educational app. The mobile app has been specially designed for students to access enjoyable in-home digital content to supplement their school education. Available in multiple languages, it aims at the holistic development of students across 23 varied subjects and skills.

#### WWF India - 'One Earth One Home'



WWF-India launched the 'One Earth One Home' movement in 2020 to promote environmental education amongst school children. The programme aims at inspiring students to adopt pro-conservation attitudes and sustainable household practices towards a greener lifestyle. Through well-guided videos, the initiative engaged students from Class 1–8 and saw participation from 1,105 children and 80 teachers from Smile ME centres pan India.

#### Wadhwani Foundation - COVID Skilling Initiative



Wadhwani Sahayata is a COVID-19 skilling programme aimed at training public health workers on patient care and helping them create awareness in the community. These free sessions, held through interactive video formats on various digital channels, including YouTube, WhatsApp, Wadhwani Foundation's digital platform, and other partner and government portals, included fundamentals about COVID-19, infection prevention and self-care methods, and best practices for patient care. The courses were made available in both English and Hindi. More than 500 students across various ME centres participated in the programme.

#### COVID Action Collab – Instilling Resilience in Our Communities



COVID Action Collab (CAC) is an all-India collaborative that helps maximise resources to provide relief, recovery and build resilience among the most vulnerable communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It's a network of multi-disciplinary organisations from different sectors focused on driving coordinated action to prevent new infections, mitigate the impact on vulnerable communities, and facilitate resilience-building through a dynamic humanitarian response system. More than 300 organisations are part of the initiative, including USAID and the Catalyst Group.





## **LIVELIHOOD**

IMPACT & THEMATIC BRIEF

9033
YOUTH TRAINED

5646
YOUTH PLACED

Smile Foundation's livelihood initiative seeks to

#### From The GROUND

"

My name is Sanjana. I am a healthcare trainer at a STeP (Smile Twin e-Learning Programme) Centre. Since joining the centre in October 2021, I have trained more than 130 students and facilitated placement for 84 youths. My journey with Smile Foundation has been incredibly fulfilling and gratifying, especially when I see my students working and supporting their families





Arati Bobde, GDA Trainer, Pune

"I am Arati Bobde. I worked as a nurse for 15 years before joining Smile Foundation's e-learning initiative 'STeP' as a GDA (General Duty Assistant) trainer. I was initially very apprehensive about teaching students online since e-learning was new to me. I had no prior experience. However, with guidance and regular train-the-trainer programmes, I gained the required knowledge and confidence to enhance my skills. I am proud to be part of this initiative that trains and helps underprivileged youth find employment. It makes me happy to think that I had a small contribution in providing trained personnel to the healthcare sector, which has witnessed a severe manpower crunch because of the COVID-19 pandemic."



#### WHAT WE DO

Initiated in 2007, Smile Foundation's livelihood programme aims to impart employability skills to youth from marginalised communities and help them attain a basic quality of life and work towards a dignified future. The target groups under the project are underprivileged youth between 18–25 years who have passed either class 10th or 12th.



The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in educational institutions being shut indefinitely across the country and globally. Millions of children and youth are out of the classroom. As a result, education has changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. With the sudden shift away from the classroom, Smile Foundation, in response to the pandemic, has turned to online learning platforms to continue its training programmes.

The programme provides various options for complete integration into the mainstream industry and market through specialised training leading to gainful employment. Smile has set up project centres in different parts of the country, where target youth are mobilised, trained and facilitated with job opportunities. The centres are equipped with hardware, infrastructure and trained faculty to enable the training.

The Smile Twin E-learning Programme (STeP) is a nationwide flagship initiative under the livelihood programme that, through its e-learning module, aims at creating a pool of young and independent people, through comprehensive skill development training across varied sectors. However, with the pandemic majorly disrupting sectors such as retail and hospitality, Smile had to realign its training programmes to focus on select sectors, including healthcare, digital marketing and e-logistics.

The industry exposure programme, in the form of short visits to premises of potential recruiters, is regularly conducted and is a critical element of the training curriculum. Simultaneous to the training runs the efforts of mobilising target areas to create awareness about vocational training and ensuring maximum enrolment through counselling sessions with families. Volunteer engagement is an integral part of the programme to facilitate more significant corporate participation. It brings in youth from reputed colleges and universities to take charge of their less privileged counterparts adding value through peer to peer learning cycle.

A dedicated placement cell under the programme analyses the needs of potential employers from varied industries and identifies relevant job opportunities for the graduating youth through placements. Professional career counselling sessions are conducted to help students choose the right domain of employment in tune with their skills and job expectations. Most candidates trained at the livelihood project centres evolve into first-generation organised sector professionals who inspire their siblings, upcoming generations, and the larger communities.

#### Siemens Scholarship Programme

The **Siemens Scholarship Programme** is one of the flagship projects of Siemens Corporate Citizenship for education that enables access to quality education to economically disadvantaged communities. Smile Foundation has associated with Siemens for this novel initiative that aims to make youth industry-ready engineers and launch a sustainable career in engineering, R&D or manufacturing. The programme offers four years' scholarship to meritorious government engineering students from economically disadvantaged families with yearly income of up to 2 lakh rupees.

This year, the scholarship programme turned to digital platforms to conduct most of its initiatives, including engineering courses, soft skills and English language training, virtual internships, mentorships with Siemens employees, mock tests, projects assignments, and student selection process for the programme.

The Siemens Scholarship programme started in 2013 with 20 students and now supports nearly 930 students studying at 91 government engineering colleges across India. Siemens Scholars who have graduated from the programme have been placed in leading companies across various sectors such as engineering, banking and finance, IT services, infrastructure, automotive and consumer goods as well as in Siemens. They have turned into role models for their communities and colleges, motivating many towards taking up engineering as a career, and have enhanced living conditions of their families. A few have also taken up further studies.





## Adapting To THE NEO-NORMAL

#### **COVID-Specific Interventions**

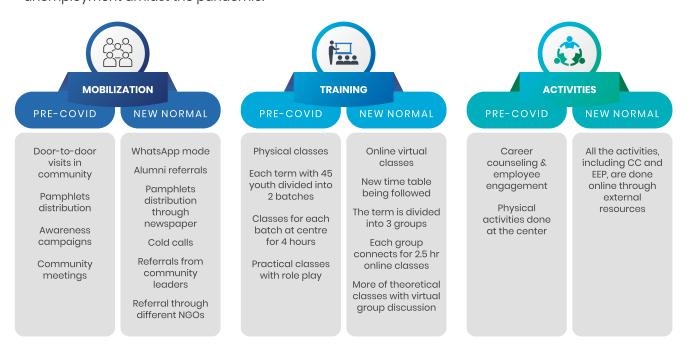
The pandemic has severely burdened the healthcare system in India and around the world. Given the magnitude of the crisis and surge in cases, it has challenged and, in many cases, exceeded the capacity of hospitals in India and across the world. The healthcare sector has been under tremendous pressure to manage the shortage of medical equipment, essential supplies and trained staff to provide appropriate healthcare delivery and services. Availability of more healthcare workers is the need of the hour to put up a brave front in the fight against COVID.

To meet the upsurge in demand for skilled healthcare professionals, reduce the burden on existing healthcare professionals and help provide uninterrupted healthcare services, Smile decided to introduce healthcare training programmes as part of its COVID response under the STeP initiative. The initiative is also an essential step towards addressing growing youth unemployment amidst the pandemic.

The health care project began in October 2020 with the introduction of the General Duty Assistant (GDA) course, which trains students to work as nursing aides taking care of COVID-19 patients.

GDAs ensure that immediate medical attention and timely assistance are provided to patients in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. The initiative has seen remarkable success in placing students across different health care profiles, including General Duty Assistant, Nursing Assistant, Home Health Aid and many more.

Smile Foundation is currently running 61 health care training centres across India to impart these courses and has placed students with more than 100 employers. Smile recognises the urgent need to support an overworked healthcare force and an overwhelmed healthcare industry. The initiative will continue to provide and deliver health care training programmes for underprivileged youth, focusing on sensitising employers and other stakeholders to support the programme.





#### **Moumita Hazra**

"I am proud of myself and what I have achieved. I am earning now and taking care of my family. This is just the start. I couldn't have done this without the training from **Smile**Foundation. Thank you!"

# Change That INSPIRES US

CASE STORY ONE \_\_\_\_

Moumita Hazra doesn't remember how many meals she had to skip as she struggled to support her family of six in a remote corner of North Kolkata, where the pandemic continues to compound problems of poverty and unemployment.

Moumita, 26, lives with her parents, grandparents and younger brother. With an unemployed alcoholic father, mounting debt and mouths to feed, she had to shoulder the responsibility of taking care of her family when her mother, the only earning member in the family, was laid off.

To help support her family, Moumita started giving private tuitions right after finishing high school while looking for more meaningful employment. She struggled to find any kind of work during the pandemic that saw millions of people lose their jobs.

Moumita decided to join Smile Foundation's STeP initiative in healthcare, hoping and praying that the training would help her find employment.

With support from the Smile Foundation team, knowledge and technical skills gained during her training, and numerous career counselling sessions which boosted her confidence, Moumita cracked her first interview with Sangha Netralaya, an eye hospital in Kolkata with a starting salary of Rs. 9000 per month as part of the GDA staff.

With her newfound confidence and employment, Moumita is already making plans for the future. She wants to continue her studies and become a nurse. She wants to send her father to a de-addiction centre and make sure her younger brother completes his education. She has taken the entire responsibility for her family now.



#### Sahil

"I am enjoying my job, and I am learning every day. I am working at one of the biggest hospitals in India. It's a dream come true for me. It's all thanks to STeP, Ericsson Global and everyone at the centre for providing me with the opportunity when I needed it the most."

#### CASE STORY TWO \_\_\_

Sahil, 18, lives in a rented apartment with his parents and younger sister in Delhi. Originally from Uttar Pradesh, the family of 4 moved to the capital for a chance at a better future. His father, a barber, supports the family with his monthly income of Rs 9500/-. However, it was getting increasingly difficult for the family to manage their expenses, especially in a city like Delhi.

As the COVID pandemic continued to wreak havoc on the economy and livelihoods, Sahil's family, like millions of others in India, was pushed into poverty and despair. Even at such a young age, Sahil realized and understood his family's financial situation and wanted to do his bit to support the family. He decided to discontinue his studies and look for employment. In 2021, he met Smile Foundation's mobilization team, who introduced and briefed Sahil on the placement-linked STeP initiative.

Sahil enrolled in the healthcare training programme and worked hard to learn everything that was taught. He knew this was his opportunity to finally find employment.

His dedication and discipline inspired everyone, including the teaching staff, who motivated him throughout the training period. Sahil was always on time for his classes and raised questions whenever he had a doubt. Regular counselling sessions, soft skills training and employer engagement programmes also played a huge role in preparing him for his first job interview. It came as no surprise when Sahil cracked his job interview with Fortis Hospital and was employed as a GDA (General Duty Assistant) with a salary of Rs 15,000 per month at the hospital's Shalimar Bagh branch in New Delhi.

Sahil's parents are proud to see their son working as a healthcare worker.

## **IMPACT**

#### **QUALITATIVE IMPACT**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact not only on people's health but also on how they learn, work and live. Among the most critical challenges created by COVID-19 is how to adapt a system of education built around physical schools. School closures have a very real impact on all students, especially those belonging to vulnerable, disadvantaged communities.

Smile Foundation's STeP initiative understands the need of the youth to learn even during the lockdown. The programme transitioned to an online e-learning module to cater to students willing to learn new skills but could not come for physical/classroom learning.

The new online learning platform connected instantly with the students as they were able to attend classes through their phones and access content both online and offline. Observing current market developments, industry employment trends and research during COVID, Smile decided to introduce placement linked training programmes in select sectors, including BFSI, BPO, E-Logistic, Digital Marketing and Healthcare.



98%

of total youth enrolled in STeP successfully completed training and received certificates of accomplishment.



176

Employee Engagement Programmes were held during the year across the country



559

Career Counselling Sessions organised for students across areas of operation



69%

of total youth beneficiaries trained were girls







# **HEALTHCARE**

IMPACT & THEMATIC BRIEF

**3,96,538**BENEFICIARIES

**54**PROJECTS

STATES

#### Smile Foundation's Mobile Healthcare Programme

works extensively towards improving the lives of people in need by addressing problems of mobility, afford ability, accessibility, availability and awareness of primary healthcare with a particular focus on children and women, in urban slums and remote rural areas.

# Understanding THE NEED

#### **QUALITATIVE IMPACT**

A staggering 72% of the total population in India still lives in rural areas and has no or limited access to healthcare facilities. This vast population primarily relies on alternative medicine and government programmes in rural health clinics. As per a report by the UN, this significant section of the community has access to only 25% of the health infrastructure available in India, which includes doctors, specialists and other health resources. The remaining 75% of the health infrastructure is concentrated in urban areas that are inhabited by only 27% of the population of the country.



#### **What Smile Foundation Does**

Smile Foundation's thoughtfully designed comprehensive health module ensures that quality and timely healthcare reaches the deprived corners of Indian villages and cities through a combination of mobile health units, health camps and awareness programmes. The model envisages an efficient and cost-effective health delivery system for the community, ensuring reduced or no out-of-pocket healthcare expenses. The programme operates on a two-pronged approach. First, it brings quality health care services to the doorsteps of the needy. Second, it promotes health care awareness and contemporary health care seeking behaviour among the underprivileged.

The COVID-19 pandemic has swept throughout India, with a massive impact on the healthcare industry, affecting services and delivery, especially across rural India, where the healthcare system is

not adequate or prepared to contain COVID-19 transmission or give proper care to COVID-19 patients.

To help deal with this challenging situation, Smile Foundation is reaching out to people in need through its

Smile on Wheels' programme which provides doorstep healthcare services across rural India.

Smile on Wheels aims to treat patients at the first stage of intervention - at the primary level—to identify the illness, counsel the patient, and start treatment before the condition or ailment gets aggravated or reaches an advanced stage of being precarious or even fatal. Well-equipped mobile hospital units with medical expertise, services and medicines traverse across deserts, forest tracts, hilly terrain and urban by lanes to bring affordable and accountable healthcare where none previously existed.



Being a community-centric health service delivery model, Smiles On Wheels also prioritises strengthening the local populace with awareness and skills to effectively address the health issues at the village and block levels. Activation of VHSC (Village Health and Sanitation Committee) and involvement of all major stakeholders in various community issues are some of the key aspects of Smiles on Wheels.

Smile Foundation targets women and leverages their capacity as change agents in various health issues like sanitation, personal hygiene, waste management and others so that the community can grow and nourish as a whole. Smile also regularly conducts capacity building of stakeholders and training of government and frontline health workers like ASHA and Anganwadi.

# Adapting To THE NEO-NORMAL

#### E-Clinics and Telemedicine

Through its 'Health Online' initiative within the Smile on Wheels programme, Smile Foundation has set up telemedicine or e-clinics to overcome the scarcity of doctors in remote rural locations.

At present, most medical specialists and advanced hospitals are concentrated in urban areas.

This leaves approximately 926 million Indians who live in villages, small cities, and towns struggling for adequate care. Through community-based tele-health kiosks in small towns and villages, patients can connect with specialist doctors virtually to carry out diagnostics, reducing the need to travel to hospitals. This year, 28,391 people have been sensitised through virtual consultations and tele-counselling services.

Tele-counselling is also being used as a medium to spread awareness about the coronavirus pandemic and inform people about preventing infection and COVID safety protocols. Over 27,216 beneficiaries have already been counselled on COVID-19 through our tele-counselling services.



#### COVID Mobile Medical Unit (MMU)

Smile Foundation launched the COVID Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) to make health care facilities for underprivileged communities accessible and available through mobile equipped van/hospital. The initiative has been operational in select government locations in Chennai and Pune, where the 'MMU' collects samples for COVID-19 testing as directed by government laboratories. A total of 34,626 samples have been collected so far.

#### **COVID Food Security Programme**

Under this programme, covering 23 states, Smile Foundation distributed 60,656 food kits to 3.02 lakh beneficiaries. With support from donors and corporates, more than 272 lakh meals were provided as well.



# Screening of Migrant Workers in Sonbhadra

The Smile on Wheels team joined hands with the District Health Department in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, to screen home quarantined migrant workers who had returned home to the city.

Working with ASHA workers, the Smile on Wheels team conducted awareness on COVID-19 precautionary measures and social protocols to prevent spread and infection in the community. The initiative targeted basic hygiene and sanitation behaviours at the household and community levels, including proper handwashing practices, wearing masks in public places, avoiding meeting people with colds and coughs, observing physical distance, and avoiding crowded places. The initiative covered 1,786 beneficiaries.

# Physiotherapy Camp for Truck Drivers

Truck drivers are the backbone of transport and communication in India. They frequently work irregular shifts and without relief on long hauls.

All the time spent behind the wheels can cause the spine, neck and shoulders to experience soreness and stiffness. With the support of HDB Financials, Smile Foundation organised special physiotherapy camps across 5 locations for 1,303 truck drivers to provide specialised physiotherapy services.



#### Kaptan Singh

Fifty-nine-year old Kaptan Singh lives in Jharsa, Gurugram, with his wife and a son still in school. He was the sole breadwinner in the family until he retired from a private company a few years ago.

## Change That INSPIRES US

CASE STORY ONE \_\_\_\_\_

Kaptan suffers from high blood sugar and blood pressure. While he was working, his company sponsored his health expenses and medicines. However, after retirement, managing expenses for his treatment became very difficult.

Kaptan came across the Smile on Wheels MMU supported by SBI Card in his area and consulted the SOW medical officer immediately. The Smile on Wheels is a mobile hospital service provided by Smile Foundation to provide healthcare services to the underprivileged in India's rural areas and urban slums. The initiative benefits thousands of people who do not have access to basic healthcare services.

After an examination and consultation session with Kaptan, the medical staff prescribed him medicines, along with a healthy and affordable diet plan. Kaptan's blood pressure and sugar have been in control since he started getting regular check-ups at the Smile on Wheels mobile van. He is thankful to the team for providing the much needed free doorstep health service during the pandemic.



#### **Guru Saran**

Guru Saran is a resident of Dada Dev in Sector 7 of Dwarka, New Delhi. He is 70 and runs a small grocery store which provides him and his family just enough money for basic expenses. He has two sons and two daughters, all married. His wife is no more.

#### CASE STORY TWO \_\_\_\_\_

Guru has diabetes. The COVID restrictions and lockdowns made it difficult for him to procure medicines from government hospitals. As hospitals choked with COVID patients and prices of essential medicines skyrocketed, Guru became increasingly worried about his health. He couldn't afford to buy medicines from a private facility.

Guru luckily came across Smile on Wheels, a mobile hospital service by Smile Foundation that provides healthcare services to the underprivileged in rural and urban slums across India. He visited the Smile on Wheels team in his area, who, after a short interaction, provided Guru with the required medicines.

Since then, Guru Saran has taken his diabetes medicine from Smile on Wheels. Now, if he has any other health issues, he waits for the SOW to come to his locality and goes there for a consultation.

# **IMPACT**

3,96,538

Beneficiaries covered including 1,90,171 women and 84,716 children

**272 lakh** 

meals provided

43

Smile on Wheels across 23 states and UTs

8,593

OPDs conducted across India

625

Villages/Slums covered









# **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

IMPACT & THEMATIC BRIEF

60,000
WOMEN AND GIRL CHILDREN BENEFITTED

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SENSITISED

supported and empowered, the whole society awareness, access and skills.

### From The **GROUND**

"

Manju Chauhan, 36, has spent the last nine years working to improve the condition of her society in Surat Nagar, where she has been a resident for 13 years. She joined Smile Foundation as a Community Health Educator three years back and recently started working on the Swabhiman programme. Surat Nagar – Il is an urban slum in Gurgaon, Haryana, mainly comprising of daily wage workers and residents working in the unorganised sector.



With the imposition of COVID-19 lockdown and movement restrictions across the nation, most people in this slum became unemployed. They grew increasingly restless and alarmed, not because of the virus but scarcity of food. While providing COVID-19 tele-counselling to the community, Manju realised the grave situation of the residents who were out of jobs and running out of food and ration. With the indefinite lockdown, their future was uncertain.

Manju decided to connect with local leaders over phone calls, reached out to local government officials and grassroot organisations for assistance. She managed to mobilise cooked food directly provided to the people from the Nigam office (local government office). However, she realised the community needed a more sustainable and permanent solution.

Manju then approached Smile Foundation and the community councillor (Parshad). Smile Foundation was able to provide ration for 300 families.

However, there were 4000 additional families in the community that needed support. When she approached the counsellor, she was informed that

food was being distributed at the nearby community centre in neighbouring Dhanwapur. However, it was difficult for residents, especially during a lockdown, to travel all the way for a one-time meal. Residents who managed to go there were not allowed to carry back food for the rest of their families.

Manju contacted the councillor many times, informing him of the huge food shortage. She finally managed to fix a meeting, met the councillor, and gave him a list of families in urgent need of food and ration. She was promised affirmative action soon. Meanwhile, Manju personally started helping some families in dire need, cooking food at home and distributing them herself.

Manju's effort and determination finally paid off.
The councillor arranged enough food for the families and asked Manju to supervise the distribution. Manju's efforts for her community is a shining example of empathy and resource mobilisation and proves that nothing is impossible when you set your mind to achieving something.

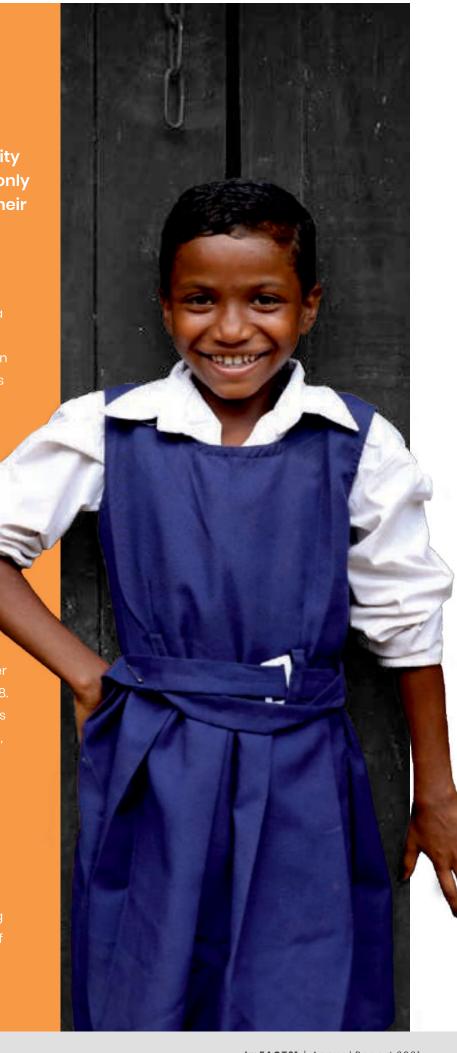
# Understanding **THE NEED**

Over the past decade, gender equality has been recognized as crucial not only to the health of nations but also to their social and economic development.

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is a key aspect of UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals. But even though India is a signatory to the goal, unfortunately, it lags far behind regarding gender equality as women in India continue to be denied not just their rights and equal status but even the chance to survive.

As per the UNDP report, India ranks at 132 out of 187 countries on the gender inequality index. And why won't it be? The newspapers are teeming with stories of violence against women. Abductions, rapes, murders, acid attacks, honour killings, dowry deaths, female foeticide, maternal mortality, the list goes on. A third of the world's child brides are in India, with as many as 47 per cent of girls getting married before they turn 18 Commenting on the dismal educational status of girl children in India, Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA, has said: "Around 14 per cent of girls aged 15–19 years are illiterate, and 73 per cent never get to complete more than ten years of school."

Among the G-20, India is ranked the lowest for women by a survey that not only looked at violence but also empowerment. Hence, along with growing economic growth, the number of highly vulnerable women is also increasing.

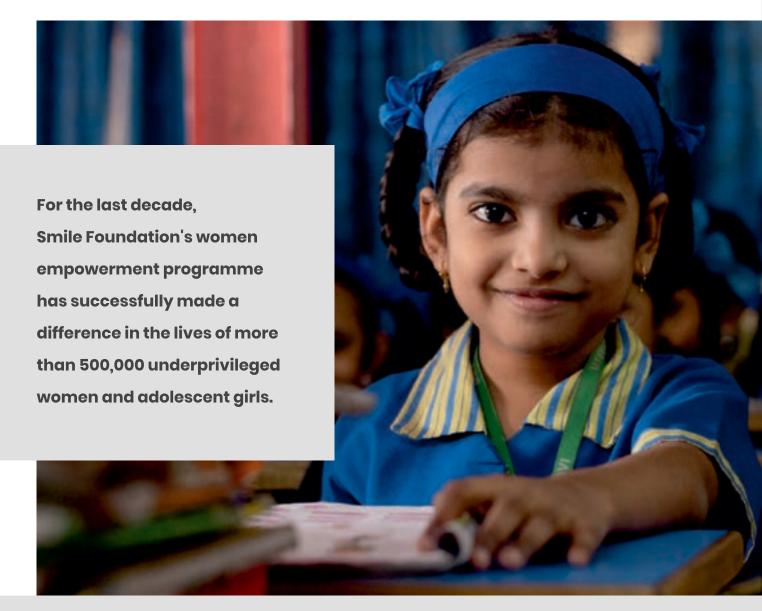


#### WHAT WE DO

Projects under this programme are designed to uplift women in the society, especially the less privileged, making them capable of leading a life of dignity through a tailor-made strategy called the '4 S Model'. This model translates to four novel approaches – promoting healthcare as a behaviour, ensuring the education of the girl child, male involvement in women empowerment and creating community change agents.

Through its culturally acceptable gender-sensitive interventions, Smile Foundation's women empowerment programme generates intense

awareness among women and girls to adopt affirmative, health-promoting behaviour. The programme also counsels and advocates for women and adolescent girls on essential issues including menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive well-being, contraception, family planning, and proper nutrition for mothers and children. The programme uses innovative outreach tools like theme-based street plays, puppet and mime shows, counselling sessions, workshops and one-to-one interactions for community mobilisation and awareness generation.



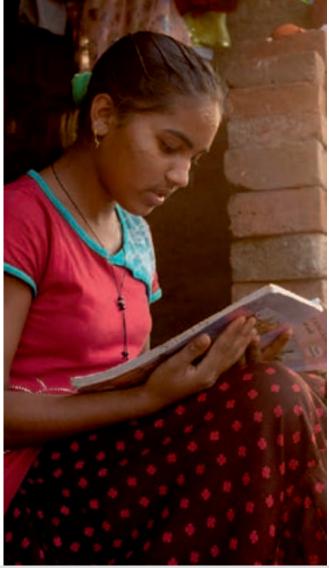
Lack of education directly impacts their health, the future of their children, economic status, social standing, and the development of society at large. Smile Foundation's women empowerment programme identifies genuinely deserving young girls in its target areas and provides full educational support. Also, the programme aims to sensitise their families and bring about positive changes in the attitude of their parents on the importance of sending their daughters to school.

One of the critical interventions of the programme is community outreach through 'Change Agents' –

peer educators, community health educators and health volunteers. These change agents (adolescent girls) are identified from the community and empowered through training sessions on varied aspects of life skills education like interpersonal relations, decision-making and problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, conflict management, negotiation and refusal, advocacy, rights and legal provisions, reproductive health, gender-based violence, goal setting and coping with emotions and stress.







# Adapting To THE NEO-NORMAL

#### **Supporting Women Entrepreneurs**

A new dimension of economic empowerment was added to the Swabhiman programme, wherein pilot projects were initiated to provide entrepreneurship and skill development training to women entrepreneurs in Bengaluru with microenterprises and limited means.

Industry experts joined the in-house Swabhiman trainers to help the women understand and apply the basics of business and financial management, marketing and communication, and ways and opportunities to scale up and expand their small-scale endeavours to maximise profit and grow as independent and profitable enterprises. Financial Literacy sessions were organised for adolescent girls as a step forward in ensuring their economic empowerment on topics of banking, investment and financial security to help them make informed choices in the future.

# Ensuring Access to Reproductive Healthcare

Reproductive and Child Health is a pilot initiative of Swabhiman primarily aimed at providing basic primary healthcare and addressing issues of pregnancy, newborn and child health, and facilitating access to public and private health facilities. Over 7500 women were provided reproductive and child healthcare services. Through continuous communication activities in households and communities, the programme motivates, educates and prepares expectant mothers for childbirth, highlighting various health issues, including maternal and neo-natal danger signs, malnutrition and more. The programme envisages improvement in the health status of mothers, infants and children in underprivileged communities by bringing healthcare services to their doorstep through mobile healthcare as well as health camps that provide free diagnosis, counselling, medicines and contraceptives.



# Preparing Young Women to be Future Leaders

Illiteracy, low priority of girl education, and high dropout rates among adolescent girls are some of the intervention's contextual issues. The initiative focuses on the age group of young adolescent girls aged 10–19 years who are awarded merit-based scholarships to complete their schooling and higher studies. Many of these girls are now pursuing their graduation from reputed colleges and universities.

Swabhiman scholars are educated on critical and creative thinking, interpersonal relations, decision-making and problem-solving, advocacy, conflict management skills, negotiation and refusal, reproductive health, gender-based violence, goal setting, and coping with emotions and stress.

A total of 555 girls were provided full merit-based scholarships during the year to complete their schooling and higher education. Regular exposure visits and knowledge exchange programmes were conducted for the scholars, including tours of colleges, universities, media houses, corporate offices, and historical and cultural excursions.

Annual Learning Fests were conducted across projects to bring together all Swabhiman Scholars and help them connect, interact and learn together.



#### **Putting Women First**

The Swabhiman team counsels and advocates women and adolescent girls on essential issues including menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive well-being, contraception, family planning, and proper nutrition for mothers and child.

Gender-sensitive interventions are conducted round the year to generate intense awareness among women and girls to adopt affirmative, health-promoting behaviours. Through community participation tools like workshops, training on various health components, street plays, puppet and mime shows and other outreach initiatives, women and girls are sensitised to the importance of health, education, decision-making and legal rights.

A resource centre has also been developed that acts as a depot of information on government schemes, community area and population profile, distribution of family planning methods and the like.



#### Men as Advocates of Women Empowerment

Gender equality is not just a women's issue; it is a human issue – a goal in itself for social progress, for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. Women will have true equality only when men encourage their participation in the decision-making process and celebrate their freedom – be it in the family or community.

Swabhiman is designed to bring attitudinal and behavioural changes in men of the community through regular household visits, spouse counselling and informal meetings with male family members. Under Swabhiman, men in marginalised communities are made aware of the underlying importance of responsible fatherhood, increased male involvement in family planning and providing care and support to their wives during pregnancy.

The objective of involving men of the community in women empowerment is to transform them into real men who support their partners and set an example for current and upcoming generations.



#### **Archna**

Digital Literacy Programme (Tailoring)

Archna is a housewife who spends most of her time stitching clothes for her family members and herself. Except for her family not many people, even in the community, were aware of her hobby.

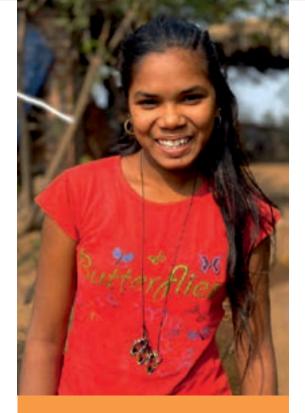
## Change That INSPIRES US

CASE STORY ONE

Archna decided to scale her hobby into a tiny business that could help provide income. She knew social media would be an excellent way to start advertising and selling clothes. However, she had no knowledge of the Internet and online platforms to promote her business.

Archna decided to join the digital literacy course by Pink Collar Professionals aimed at improving digital literacy among women in rural areas in India. The programme helps women get acquainted with online platforms and promote their products online. After the course, Archna decided to create a page on Facebook. She searched online for tutorials, ideas and trends on tailoring, stitching and clothes and began practising her new-found knowledge. She asked her daughter to make videos of her stitching and decided to upload them on Facebook.

Archna's videos got several encouraging comments and good wishes. Motivated by this, she continued uploading videos of her work and stitching. Archana is thankful that she became a part of the digital literacy course.



#### **Pinky**

A life-changing turn for a Swabhiman Scholar

#### CASE STORY TWO \_\_\_\_\_

Pinky (name changed) lives in Modgaon, Maharashtra. She stays in a kutcha house in the middle of fields with her father, a manual labourer, and her mother who works on someone else's land. Pinky had been missing from the session organized for the Smile Swabhiman Scholars. Our team enquired a little and got to know that she has not been attending school for some time now.

The Swabhiman team visited her home to see if everything was quite alright. They found a very shy and scared young girl who was hesitant to reveal why she was not going to school. The Swabhiman scholarship fund could easily cover her school fees, about Rs 100 per month, and other educational expenses.

When Pinky finally felt comfortable with the visitors at her home, she revealed that she had developed appendicitis and her family had used the Swabhiman scholarship fund to pay for her surgery. She stopped going to school as she had exhausted the fund.

When our team checked, they discovered that there was some money still left in the account, and the next round of funds was also due to come any day. This proved to be a huge relief for Pinky. She could once again dream of going to school. Since that day, she has been going to school regularly. Pinky is trying to make up for the lost time by working as hard as she can.



#### Ishwati

An entrepreneur, a source of inspiration for other women

#### CASE STORY THREE \_\_\_\_\_

Smile Foundation started working with Ishwati in 2020. She reached out to us through the Swabhiman project coordinator in her area, Juna Sawarpada village in Palgarh district of Maharashtra.

Ishwati always had a leaning towards farming.

Recognising this, we provided her with the initial raw materials and equipment she needed to set up a farming unit. These include seeds, water pump and pipeline.

Ishwati is now a self-sufficient farmer. With the help of Smile, she was able to grow the crop and earned around Rs. 10,000 by selling the produce in the market. Before this, she used to work as a tailor in the village. Since she got into farming, it has helped her get an additional means of income.

All six members of Ishwati's family work in the field, their work divided throughout the year. Her mother, Laxmi, in particular loves working the field. Ishwati is happy that she

has been able to expand her means of income even during the pandemic and support her family at such a difficult time. Ishwati's story is one of inspiration for millions of others. While most people are turning towards cities to find employment, Ishwati found something productive and fulfilling in her own village.

# **IMPACT**

over **60,000** 

women and girl children benefitted and empowered through various interventions under the Swabhiman Programme

# 100+

women and adolescent girls trained to be 'Change Agents' to further serve as Community Health Educators, Health Volunteers and Peer Educators in their communities

Over **32,652** 

community members counselled on issues concerning women rights through innovative advocacy events, celebration of events like International Women's Day and Girl Child Day, puppet shows and street plays

More than 10,500

women and girls received healthcare support at their doorstep. Many more were provided adequate knowledge of reproductive and sexual health issues and access to primary health services

606 deserving girls provided with educational support for secondary and senior secondary education through full scholarships, besides regular counselling for academic and personal development





# CHILD FOR CHILD \_

### **Understanding THE NEED**

Child For Child (CFC) currently reaches out to 70,000 students & their teachers with its sensitization programs.





More than 100+ value education sessions over 736 schools have been conducted digitally all across India. In these sessions, children are sensitized towards various causes and value systems, and realize the importance of growing up as responsible citizens of the country. To engage the young minds, stories and lessons are shared from the lives of inspiring changemakers, pioneers and leaders of India who dedicated their lives to the betterment of society.

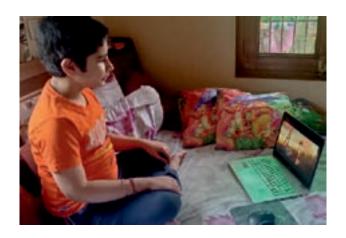
Glimpses of the various events that were conducted with students.



#### SIFFCY

The 5th edition of Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY) was organized by Zlin to bring good cinema from around the world to children and youth in India. We showed the children 10 animated, non-verbal, and super entertaining movies. We believe that cinema is a powerful medium and it helps to instill values such as empathy and compassion amongst children. Such value-based

movies contribute towards their mental well-being and also teach them to be more responsible. Ten films were showcased digitally during the week-long festival to an audience of more than 6000+ school children and many others. Children are encouraged to watch value-based movies which teach empathy, conscientiousness, patience and amicability.



#### **RING IN 2021**

The Child for Child team organised a New Years for students. Before students got busy with their exams in the month of February, we decided to organize a two-day fest for about 15 schools who wanted to Ring with Smile. They have been our biggest patrons for the campaign Shiksha Na Ruke. These are the schools who have displayed an exemplary level of empathy towards the underprivileged children in the society

even during the pandemic. This fest was an ode to their big heartedness! Some of the schools which participated include Bhawan Vidyalaya Jr, Chandigarh; St. Soldier International Convent, Mohali; Mt. Litera Zee, Bhatinda; L'ecole Chempaka and Sarvodaya Vidyalaya from Trivandrum; Gopalan International School, Bangalore; Sarla Birla Gyan Jyoti, Guwahati; Guru Nanak Public School and Laurel High School from New Delhi; and St. Sebastian, Goa to name a few. Over 200 students registered for the event from these schools. The first day was a Fancy Dress Competition and the second was a Song and Dance Competition. The entire event was on the Zoom platform and all the students participated and performed digitally.



#### **BYE-BYE 2020**

CFC organized a mini digital festival to say Bye Bye 2020! The festival aimed at raising awareness about child education, especially for underprivileged children. This was a two-day digital fest about the mission of Smile Foundation under the Shiksha Na Ruke campaign. Theme for day one fancy dress contest was "Environment Matters". It focused on various aspects of Mother Nature--from the polluted

rivers, the plastic pollution on this planet, and the junk food that has replaced healthy diets, to the trees that are being cut irresponsibly and noise pollution in our cities.

Bridging the gaps and inequalities between privileged and underprivileged children is one of the main objectives of the Child for Child programme. To take a step towards the same, interactive sessions between privileged and lesser privileged children were organised where the two came together to celebrate festivals, share experiences, exchange their knowledge and learn new skills from each other. This encouraged the children to develop empathy and friendship.



#### **QUANTITATIVE**

CFC has done numerous value based activities, workshops and campaigns all over India and students have enjoyed and learnt a lot from them. Cyber Safety Session, Bye-Bye 2020, Ring in 2021 with Smile, Creating engaging online classes, Mastering Penmanship, Bake Sale, Artwork for Heartwork, Career Counseling, Magic of Math, Basics of Coding, Creating Engaging Classrooms, Yoga for Peace are some of the many

activities that we have conducted. CFC has also organized many value shop campaigns for underprivileged children under Shiksha Na Ruke Campaign. i.e. Innovate @E'cole Mondiale, Secret Santa Bake Sale. Facebook Birthdav. etc.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

CFC started a new project in collaboration with Nestle in Darjeeling and Kalimpong to sensitise underprivileged children in the age group of 4-14 years on the importance of Education. With the slogan "Every Child in School" it aimed at bringing back underprivileged dropout children from the tea-gardens back to school. It also involved making the parents of these children aware about the cause.

#### **STEM FOR HER**

Celebrating Women's Day by promoting STEM education amongst our girl children and STEM jobs amongst women are those areas in education and at work where we see a poor representation of women not only in India but globally.

The Child for Child team, with the experience of working with children from both the privileged & the underprivileged strata of the society, realised the gaps that exist everywhere and tried working towards making STEM education more inclusive. March 8, a day to commemorate International Women's Day, was also chosen by us to throw light on the theme "STEM for Her".

women leaders from tech and medical fields. Dr. Mona, who is a dental surgeon, spoke about the challenges that she had faced while studying and pursuing a career in the field of medicine. She has, despite all adversities, had the opportunity to excel in the same and is looking forward to opening her dental clinic in the near future.

The Panel Discussion was just the most perfect weave of the academic and the professional and was a reflection of how STEM for Her is important and how institutions, be it the government schools, corporate and even NGOs, are resonating with this message.



# EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS

A national capacity building programme, Empowering Grassroots is aimed at handholding, training and enabling community based organisations to maximise their impact on the ground, strengthening the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid in India.



# **Understanding THE NEED**

The growth of the non-profit sector in India in the last two decades has been phenomenal. India possibly has the largest number of active non-government, not-for-profit organizations in the world. Official estimates put the number at 3.3 million. From relief services to educational initiatives, from healthcare projects to housing organizations, grassroots NGOs work in numerous spheres which touch the daily lives of marginalized communities across the country. Engaging directly with the people, these NGOs are

able to participate in the thought-making process of the communities they work with, and thus have the capacity to bring about long-term change. As such, the sector has had a substantial contribution in the nation-building process. But accelerated development soon reaches a stagnant point if it is not sustainable. Ensuring sustainability of initiatives requires a reorientation of NGOs focusing on their capacity building to attain competitiveness. This is not an easy transition, requiring NGOs to rethink and reform

their programme designs, planning, fund mobilisation, fund management, and effective programme delivery. There is also a need to guide these NGOs to be able to identify and adapt with the changing national and global socio-political and economic developments which affect them. To equip and facilitate grassroots NGOs in the country to address these issues and eventually aim at achieving sustainable development at the grassroots and community level, Smile Foundation initiated 'Empowering Grassroots'. Under this initiative, CBOs are trained on vital issues relevant to the development sector in the country like scalability, sustainability,

communication, resource mobilisation and governance by industry experts from reputed Indian and international organisations.

Handholding meetings and face-to-face learning sessions are held round the year to help the CBOs effectively resolve their day to day operational challenges, helping achieve the highest social return on investment (SROI). Empowering Grassroots is not only an effort to strengthen the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid in India, but also an attempt to bring transparency and accountability in the development sector at the very grassroots level.



# AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND RECOGNITIONS \_\_\_



- IPE NGO Excellence Award endorsed by World CSR Day & Asian Confederation of Business
- Education Excellence Award by ASSOCHAM
- Quality Initiative Mission Award



 Global CSR Excellence & Leadership Award 2014 by ABP News



- CSR Award for Women Empowerment by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- Recognition as Best NGO (Skill Development) by ASSOCHAM
- Recognition for rendering valuable services under Social Responsibility by ICSI
- NGO Leadership & Excellence Award 2015 by ABP News



Innovation Excellence Award in Social Sector by ASSOCHAM



 Certificate of Merit (Social Cause & Empowerment) by World CSR Congress



GuideStar India – NGO
 Transparency Award (Platinum Winner 2018)



- CSR Health Impact Award 2019
- Social Impact Award for "Excellent Contribution to Child Welfare in India" by 'Pratigya'



- CSR Health Impact Award –
   Covid-19 Edition: Silver Award
- Maddies award in Social Impact/Non-Profit: Bronze



- Maddies award in Social Impact/Non-Profit: Gold
- Sony Yay: 'Heroes Behind The Heroes' for exemplary work in social welfare during the pandemic
- CSR Times Award- Silver under 'Outstanding work during Covid pandemic'



### **FINANCIALS**

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2021

(Amount in Rs.)

PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2021	AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2020
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
CAPITAL FUND Corpus Funds: Corpus Funds	1	36,16,55,052	35,92,04,519
Reserves & Surplus: General Reserve Fund		25,26,30,742	23,00,19,823
Current Liabilities & Provisions: Sundry Creditors for Expenses Restricted Grants - Pending for Execution Statutory Dues Payble Other Current Liabilities	2	1,02,36,373 25,74,85,905 27,07,598 1,79,99,063	2,26,01,380 18,42,97,550 30,93,747 1,95,09,351
TOTAL		90,27,14,733	81,87,26,371
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
FIXED ASSETS Tangible Assets:	3		
Total Net Block of Tangible Assets	3A	10,86,48,728	10,54,76,426
Less: Net Block of Fixed Assets acquired out of Restricted Grants	3В	6,87,73,825	6,40,59,200
Net Block of Tangible Assets		3,98,74,903	4,14,17,226
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES Deposits: Deposits with Banks Security Deposits Balance with Revenue Authorities	4	83,76,12,453 33,85,570 21,83,856	74,55,49,159 37,61,405 47,71,435
Loans & Advances: Project Advances Restricted Grants Receivable Other Advances	5	21,95,785 62,24,575 1,08,49,590	19,28,056 1,13,38,531 98,72,558
Cash in Hand		3,88,000	88,000
TOTAL		90,27,14,733	81,87,26,371

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts forming part of Balance Sheet

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date annexed

For M.K. Kuchchhal & Co.

**Chartered Accountants** 

Sd/-

Manoj Gupta

FCA/Prop./M.No.086669 Firm Regn. No.007670N

1 III 11 Kegn. 140.007 07 01

Place : New Delhi

Date: 15th February, 2022

10

For and on behalf of board of trustees of **SMILE FOUNDATION** 

Sd/GM - Finance Chief Operating Officer
(Pratap Ray) (Sanjeev Dham)

Sd/Trustee Trustee
(Santanu Mishra) Sd/Trystee (Yogesh Jagia)

#### INCOME AND ITS APPLICATION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2021

(Amount in Rs.)

			(AMOUNT IN RS.)
PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2020
INCOME			
I. Voluntary Contributions (including for specified programmes)	6	63,50,73,361	63,23,31,377
II. Other Incomes Interest Income Other Miscellaneous Income	7	4,14,75,211 6,05,339	4,63,42,328 2,11,313
(II)		4,20,80,549	4,65,53,641
Gross Income Available for Application (I + II)		67,71,53,910	67,88,85,018
APPLICATION OF INCOME			, , ,
I. Income Applied for Execution of Various     Social and Welfare Programmes:	8		
Mission Education Programme		8,19,07,131	11,00,45,076
Action for Children Programme		3,05,95,553	5,32,60,934
Child for Child Programme		68,28,887	1,83,95,189
Smile Twin E-Learning Programme		8,68,21,925	10,03,63,633
Smile on Wheels Programme		12,78,05,444	15,10,05,272
Swabhiman Programme		2,35,49,422	1,75,56,810
Scholarship Programme		4,92,53,451	4,88,34,596
Relief & Disaster		15,05,68,424	1,02,75,059
Nutrition Enhancement for Children & Women		1,43,56,410	1,59,61,776
Other Social and Welfare Programmes		34,20,258	49,69,248
Total (I)		57,51,06,905	53,06,67,593
II. Administrative & Other Expenses	9	7,48,51,422	11,49,83,991
Total Income Applied (I + II)		64,99,58,326	64,56,51,584
Net Surplus / (Deficit) before Depreciation & Taxes		2,71,95,584	3,32,33,434
Less : Depreciation	3	23,34,132	23,70,170
Net Surplus / (Deficit) before Taxes		2,48,61,452	3,08,63,264
Less : Provision for Tax		-	-
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		2,48,61,452	3,08,63,264
Net Surplus / (Deficit) transferred to:			

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts forming part of Income and its Application Account 10

#### AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date annexed

For M.K. Kuchchhal & Co.

**Chartered Accountants** 

Sd/-Manoj Gupta

FCA/Prop./M.No.086669 Firm Regn. No.007670N

Place: New Delhi

Date: 15th February, 2022

For and on behalf of board of trustees of **SMILE FOUNDATION** 

Sd/-GM - Finance Chief Operating Officer (Pratap Ray) (Sanjeev Dham)

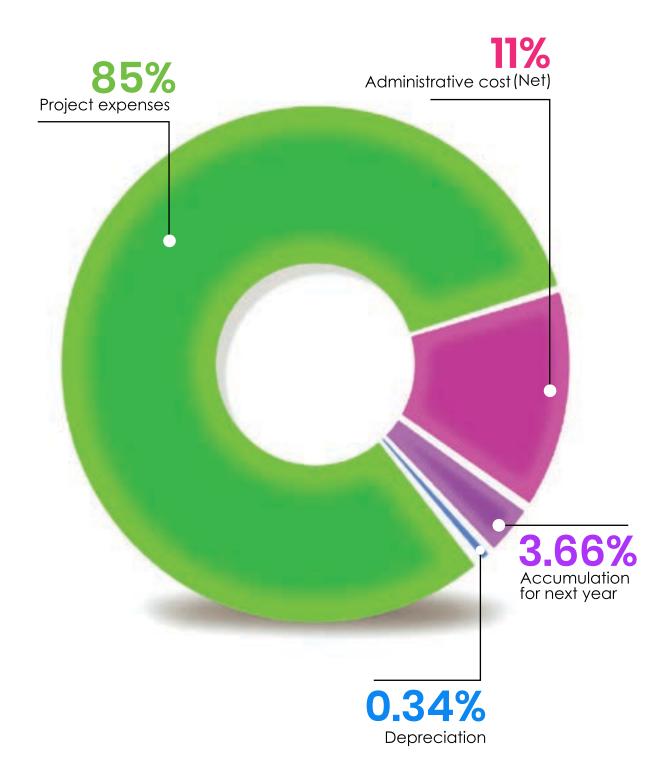
Sd/-Trustee (Santanu Mishra)

Sd/-Trustee (Yogesh Jagia)

Sd/-

# **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS 2020 - 2021**

Receipts 67.71 (Amount in Crores)



**NOTE:** Total administrative cost is 17.46% out of which 6.41% was recovered on execution of projects.



# CERTIFICATE

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We have examined the compliance of conditions stipulated in the "Standards of Good Governance" by Smile Foundation, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, we certify that Smile Foundation has complied with the standards as stipulated in the "Standards of Good Governance". The compliance of clauses/conditions of "Standards of Good Governance" is the responsibility of the management; our examination was limited

to procedures and implementation thereof adopted by Smile Foundation for ensuring the compliance of all the standards.

For S Behera & Co Company Secretaries Sd/- (Shesdev Behera) Company Secretary in Practice CP No. 5980 | Date - 29/10/2021

### **Our SUPPORTERS**

10FA UK CNH Industrial India Private Limited

IMG Concorde Group Coressco

3M Deutsche Bank AG

A.T. Kearney India Limited Embassy of Israel

ABSL Ericsson Global Essel Mining

Aditya Birla Sunlife insurance FIS

Adobe FIS Global

Agilent Flipkart

Airbus Group India Private Limited Fossil Foundation

Alkem Give India

Altimetrik Google

Amex GBT HDB Financial Services

ANZ Operations and Technology Pvt Ltd HED Healthcare

Atlas Copco India Pvt Ltd Herbalife Family Foundation

Avery Dennison Honda

Avi Oil Huntsman

BC Examinations & English Services India Pvt Ltd HZL

BC Jindal IHS Markit

Benevity India Improve Tribe

Blackrock IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd

Brand Tree Indus

CAF America Ingenico International India Private Limited-Mumbai

Celeros Flow Technolody Ingersoll Rand

CISCO Intel

Clifford Chance KFC

Kutch Railways Sage Foundation

Lays Saldeo Global LLC

Lupin SBI Card

MARS WRIGLEY Foundation Schindler

Medtronics Shenyoyen

Microsoft Siemens

Mitsubishi Electric Automotive India Pvt Ltd Smith Medical

Mphasis SPX Flow

MSL Stir World

National Preoxide Ltd Sun Tv

Opentext Syniverse Technologies

Oracle Target Corporation

Patel Brothers UHG

PepsiCo Foundation Visit.Org

Pepsico India Holdings Pvt Ltd Vistara

Philips Western Digital

Phone Pe Wild Genzen

PPG Asian Paints World Gold Council

PUMA WSP

Quaker Yum Foundation

RIRCM Zeerodha

**RBL** 

Relaxo

Rentokil PCI

S&P Foundation











#### **SMILE FOUNDATION**

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www.smilefoundationindia.org