

VANASTHALI RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PUNE.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 -2022

FOREWORD:

This year is marked as a milestone for VRDC, as the organization completed 40 years of work since the establishment. Started with the aim of 'improving educational opportunities of very young rural children and empowering homebound rural women with proper training', this organization has made its significant mark in the field. The smile on the faces of thousands of rural women and children over the last 40 years has been the reward of VRDC's initiatives. The work of the organisation is continually moving forward with dedication, with the financial support of domestic and foreign institutions as well as individual donors and well wishers of VRDC.

In the last 40 years, there have been many social and technological changes. The effects of mobile, internet, TV media have become very visible in all fields of life. In the face of this change and to answer the restrictive conditions created by the pandemic, we proactively made necessary changes in our procedures.

In the past 2 years, the direct implementation of our initiatives was affected and Digital platforms were used to adapt to the situation. Online training sessions were started as an answer and were conducted on digital apps like Google Meet, Zoom and alike. WhatsApp groups played a significant role in sharing information and have become important mode of communication at all levels of organization.

VRDC teachers remained active in communicating with parents and children wherever and whenever possible, to support the interests of local children and support family income throughout the period.

We would like to mention here that VRDC as a whole remained as active as possible during these restrictive times and has evolved by sheer perseverance of all its volunteer workers.

Nirmala Karya Gaurav Puraskar: This year the third Nirmla Karyagaurav Award was bestowed on Shailaja Jain . The award was conferred by Veteran mountaineer **Umesh Zirpe**.

Shailaja Jain is an accomplished international level Kabaddi coach. She has coached national and international women's teams to win at the national and international levels (including a Gold medal).

About the Organisation Activities:

TRAINING COURSE FOR WOMEN:

We could not conduct a training session for new trainees in these difficult times due to Covid norms. However, the ongoing trainings were completed when possible. VRDC started online training sessions like Kalavardhini, Gunavardhini with a view to upskill the teachers and make use of the available time. This helped in maintaining the enthusiasm of the teachers in the gloomy atmosphere.

BALWADI:

Due to the government rules, our Balwadi's were not allowed to work during the lockdown period. During this period, only a few of our Balwadi teachers were able to work with children in their vicinity, but this was not possible at all the centres.

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY PROGRAM (LEAP)/ HOBBY CLASSES:

Hobby classes help children develop their skills from pursuing their hobbies. This initiative of VRDC uses art and crafts as a main medium to help children learn. It has evolved into LEAP. It is not limited to education but its main aim is to help develop the personality of the students.

VRDC teachers worked with local children by following the corona guidelines properly to keep the children and themselves gainfully engaged.

JEJURI PRIMARY SCHOOL:

The school fully adheres to the government system and thus all online classes and other online activities during this restriction period were regularly conducted and evaluated as per the state educational guidelines. Thus the children stayed put on the learning curve. There was constant interaction and communication with the parents. Even after this effort some kids whose parents didn't have time/or smart phones were found to be on the back foot.

LIBRARY ACTIVITY:

VRDC implements THREE Library Activities which include **Regular Library, Mobile Library And**

Pustak Mazya Daari (Home Library). In This year Children could borrow books if they were in the vicinity of VRDC teachers, which was a great way to spend free time, but regular library activities in school or ashram school premises and Mobile Library could not be organized during the pandemic lockdown, which was a great loss.

SCIENCE PROMOTION THROUGH EXPERIMENTS:

No additional training workshops could be conducted this year.

VRDC's 40th ANNIVERSARY:

On the special Occasion of 40th anniversary since establishment, VRDC arranged online interactive Guest Lecture by Dr. Raghunath Anant Mashelkar (world renowned scientist, Fellow Royal Society of England) , aptly titled "10 Mashelkar Mantras to achieve Everest of Success". He put forward valuable inputs as a guide for all the participants in the program inclusive of 478 VRDC Teachers, 826 outsides school Teachers, 11002 students and 80 parents from 146 Schools and 9 District.

NEW INITIATIVES:

Gruhudyogini:

In collaboration with N.G. Paranjpe Pratishtan VRDC started new Project named Gruhudyogini . It aims to help women to start small scale business, empower them financially and encourage Entrepreneurship.

The teachers who came forward to start their own small business were provided basic business skill training. External resource expert Mrunal Patel was hired as trainer for the purpose of smoothing the new ground . Her Guidance helped women to gain confidence and step into the new world. 48 women from Shirwal, Bhor, Wai, Mahabaleshwar, Pachgani, Kolhapur, Devgad benefited by this project.

Kalawardhini:

As the name suggests this project is commenced to enrich the art skills of VRDC teachers who will then take it forward to the children. As corona impacted the gathering rules, online platforms emerged as a new tool of learning . VRDC started online Easy Drawing and Painting classes. The classes were held twice a week and conducted by Mr. B.N.Mishra, Allahabad.

Gunawardhini:

Under the guidance of Manik Tai Kotwal, senior trustee of Vanasthali, Gunavardhini Group was formed for literature skill enhancement of VRDC teachers. Accordingly, online training started from May 24, 2021.

At the beginning of the sessions the teachers basic level were checked and established and were briefed about improvements needed. To improve reading and comprehensions new books were distributed and specific study tasks were given. It included Madhuri tai's Vachu aanande and other Child literature.

It has been acknowledged through feedback from teachers that this course is very helpful.

Mobile Distribution:

During Lockdown Smart Phones became a necessity for Online Communication and learning. Considering the difficulties faced by the teachers including lack of smart phones, 29 mobiles were distributed by VRDC. The cost will be shared by receiver and VRDC, this is to encourage a feeling of self respect and value for the help received.

AROGYA NIDHI :

Considering onset of corona pandemic VRDC Conceptualized Arogya Nidhi with the intention of providing financial aid to the VRDC family members to mitigate health problems. In this, teachers, trustees and some interested donors of VRDC contributed to raise funds. The fund is then expected to be used as an when required to overcome health difficulties.

This year, the family members of 22 teachers were affected by Corona were given financial support. An amount of Rs 3,09,100 was allocated from the Arogya Nidhi.

Learning from Nature:

To keep alive teachers interest about the bird world, a special session was arranged with Aditya Soman, an amature bird watcher who conducted an interesting online presentation. He informed about his forest visits and bird watching activity.

ANNUAL OUTINGS:

Due to corona restrictions and lockdowns VRDC teachers could not go on their favorite annual excursions.

MAGAZINE Publication– 'VANASTHALI':

Due to the changing economic situation, VRDC has had to reconsider its policy on publication and this year only two 'Vanasthali' Anka were published - July 2021 and February 2022 . Bharti Bhide carried out the editing responsibility for these issues. Sushama Sathaye help to improve the overall quality of the Anka and its content. The work was completed with the special guidance of Shalaka Thakur.

SUPERVISORY WORK AND REGIONAL CENTERS:

Supervision of these manifold activities is an important task to ensure reasonable quality and standards of work. It is also necessary to have people locally available for co-ordination of all the teachers working in various areas, trouble shooting and similar such needs. Local contact building is also an important aspect. To carry all this out there is a well knit network of supervisors and assistant supervisors in each area of VRDC work.

The Total strength of supervisors and Asst. Supervisors:2021-2022

Sr. No.	District	Supervisor s	Asst. Supervisors	Helpers
1	Pune	8	11	6
2	Nashik	2	3	2
3	Solapur	2	-	-
4	Satara	3	5	
5	Nagar	3	5	1

6	Sangali	1	1	1
7	Latur	1	1	-
8	Kolhapur	1	1	-
9	Sindhudurg	1	-	-
	Total	22	27	10

Sad Demise: We at VRDC lost a trusted supervisor to Covid . It was a very sad moment for all, as just when her life struggle seemed to stabilize and she was on the verge of being able to enjoy some fruits of her hard work, Kamal Palse of Mahud , Dist. Solapur fell a victim to the pandemic inspite of all the help and support she received.

FINANCIAL AID:

Financial Help - 5 Teachers were offered Financial Aid for Children's Education.

SPECIAL Visits:

VRDC trustees Shushma Sathaye and Bharati Bhide visited Jejuri, Andar Maval, Shirval, Somatane, Talegaon, Lonand,Uralikanchan, Sangola, Udgir, Saswad, Baramati centres and evaluated ground conditions during these difficult times and guided the teachers as needed .This helped to boost teachers Morale.

THANKS:

To run a program spread out in 10 districts, 23talukas and 150 villages, working at grassroots level, we receive local support in various ways from women's groups, youth groups, grampanchayats, civil corporations, educational officers, school teachers and principals, parents, and villagers. VRDC is thankful for the same and looks forward to continuation of this and additional local financial support.

Association of Friends of France, Vidhyarthi Sahayyak Samitee, Mata- Balak Pratisththan , Janakidevi Bajaj Sanstha are our local activity supporters. Additionally there is big financial support from N.G.Paranjape Pratisththan, Bajaj Finance Ltd, Bitwise Foundation ,Yardi Software India Pvt .Ltd.,Hoganas India Pvt.Ltd, Desai Brothers Ltd,(India) Home of Hope, Maharashtra foundation, Asha Foundation, People for Progress in India (USA), Panah –Schweiz, (Switzerland)Action Group365(Germany) Partage Sans Frontiers, Entre'inde (France) ,Ashwini Kotwal in individual capacity. All their support Gives our work great strength. Some European and American donors have been with us for many years. We would like to remain in gratitude of all of them.

Pune office: –

The VRDC office remained active by strictly following the corona guidelines. From June onwards, office work started smoothly.

Bhargavi Kulkarni is an able and trustworthy accounts hand for VRDC, Manali Nadkarni an active help hand is engaged in various necessary tasks and VRDC driver Praveen Pendhare,all of them carry out their roles well.

Chaya Deshmukh keeps the premises clean and Kailas Deshmukh, office building watchman helps in small jobs.

Kanta Chandrakant Dhawale was with Vanasthali from its beginning as office help but much more than just that who passed away due to old age at the end of April 2021. Left a feeling of

great loss.

VRDC is thankful to all:

List of Foreign Donors: 2021-2022

Sr. No	Name	Amount Rs.	Country
1	Action Group 365	₹ 9,24,526.90	Germany
2	ENTRINDE	₹ 50,466.00	France
3	Panah- Schweiz	₹ 12,87,740.00	Switzerland
4	PartagSans Frontieres	₹ 4,13,456.00	France
5	People For Progress In India	₹ 5,30,224.00	USA
	Total	₹ 32,06,362.90	

List of Indian Donors: 2021-2022

Sr. No	Name	Amount Rs.
1	Abhay Shah	₹ 5,000.00
2	Alka Kasabekar	₹ 7,000.00
3	Amol Phanasalkar	₹ 6,000.00
4	Ashwini A. Kotwal	₹ 5,00,000.00
5	Aundh Vangmay Mandal	₹ 1,000.00
6	Bharti K.Bhide	₹ 25,000.00
7	Bhausahab Jadhav	₹ 11,000.00
8	Bitwise Foundation	₹ 1,25,000.00
9	Chitra Purohit	₹ 50,000.00
10	Devdhar Eye Hospital	₹ 5,000.00
11	Elcom International Pvt. Ltd.	₹ 50,000.00
12	Jaihind Electricals	₹ 15,000.00
13	Jayant Sathaye	₹ 16,000.00
14	Kalpna S. Gupte	₹ 25,000.00
15	Kalyan Sudhir Gokhale	₹ 12,500.00
16	Leela Bapusaheb Patil	₹ 2,00,000.00
17	Maniktai Kotwal	₹ 15,000.00
18	Manisha M. Kulkarni	₹ 5,000.00
19	Manohar Kulkarni	₹ 5,000.00
20	Meghana Sathe	₹ 2,000.00
21	N.G.Paranjape Pratishtan	₹ 10,68,000.00
22	Nandkumar R. Kulkarni	₹ 25,000.00
23	Nirmaltai Pendharkar	₹ 50,000.00

24	Nita Gadkari	₹ 30,000.00
25	Padmanabh M. Kulkarni	₹ 5,000.00
26	Prataprao Pawar	₹ 1,00,000.00
27	Ravindra Naamjoshi	₹ 1,000.00
28	Sarita V. Joglekar	₹ 51,000.00
29	Seema Phadnis	₹ 11,500.00
30	Shubhada R. Dandekar	₹ 1,00,000.00
31	Smitatai Shevde	₹ 10,000.00
32	Subhashchandra Khopkar	₹ 5,000.00
33	Suryakant V. Joshi	₹ 10,000.00
34	Vasudhatai Godbole	₹ 25,000.00
35	Vishnu Deuskar	₹ 20,000.00
36	Yardi Software India	₹ 2,69,006.00
	Total	₹ 28,61,006.00

Audited Statement: Please Find Attached.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Smt. Nirmal Pendharkar(President)
Smt. Sushama Sathaye (Treasurer)
Smt. Bharati Bhide (Secretary)
Smt.Meenaxi Pawar
Smt. Manik Kotwal
Smt. Vrunda Gupte
Shri Abhay Shah

Auditor:Torvi Pethe & Co.

Legal Advisor: Adv. Shri Parag Deshpande

Tax Consultant: G.N.Angal & Co.

Public Charitable Trust No: F 2076 (Pune)

Established: 21 December 1981

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