

sparsha



स्पर्श
care for humanity...

ANNUAL REPORT

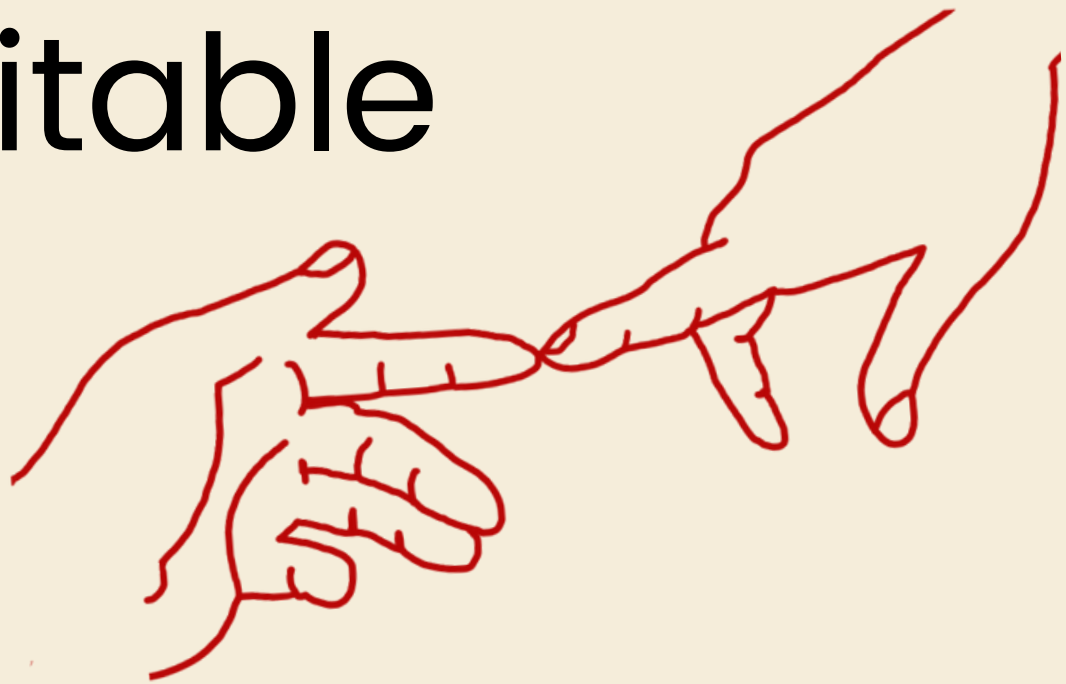
2020 - 2021





Sparsha Charitable Trust

2020 - 2021



About Sparsha

Sparsha Charitable Trust is a non-profit organization based at Sion, Mumbai. We work in urban slum communities with underprivileged families providing access to basic human needs and help them to achieve better and sustainable living circumstances. Over the last 22 years, the organization has reached out to 25000 children from the 17 marginalized communities. Our intervention program strives towards community building and upliftment by providing quality education and holistic development to children residing in the marginalized community.

WORD FROM THE CEO

As we reflect on the year 2020, we cannot help but acknowledge the profound impact it had on our lives and communities worldwide. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it fear, uncertainty, and challenges that tested the resilience of individuals and organisations alike. In the midst of these unprecedented ups and downs, Sparsha stood strong, determined, and committed to making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

The year 2020 will be remembered as a year of great adversity, but it will also be remembered as a year of extraordinary resilience and compassion. While the pandemic made it difficult to trace and reach out to the most vulnerable in our society, we continued to carry out our Sparsha activities successfully. We adapted, innovated, and worked tirelessly to ensure that no one was left behind.

Our teams were on the front lines, distributing essential supplies such as ration, sanitizers, and masks to those in need. We understood that food and hygiene were not just necessities but lifelines during these trying times. With the unwavering support of our donors and volunteers, we provided sustenance and protection to countless families.

In Slum areas, where access to technology and online education was a distant dream for many, we faced the challenge head-on. We recognized that the closure of schools and the digital divide posed a significant obstacle to the education of our students. With no data packs or smartphones, traditional online learning was simply not an option.

In response, we embarked on an inspiring journey of learning and teaching. We formed a dedicated group of young students from our intervention areas who became beacons of hope for their peers. These young leaders, with their passion for education and the support of our dedicated teachers, played a pivotal role in ensuring that learning continued. It was a remarkable testament to the resilience of our community.

In 2020, we learned that adversity reveals the true character of individuals and organisations. Sparsha rose to the occasion, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to our mission and the communities we serve. Together, we not only survived the challenges of the year but emerged stronger and more united than ever.

As we present our Impact Report for the year 2020, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and volunteers. Your unwavering support and trust in Sparsha allowed us to navigate these turbulent waters and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who needed it most.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of creating lasting positive change in the lives of underserved communities. The lessons we learned in 2020 will continue to guide our actions as we move forward with determination and hope.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Together, we can overcome any obstacle and build a brighter, more equitable future for all.

With heartfelt gratitude and warm regards,



Vision

Marginalized families will achieve sustainable human development.

Mission

We implement strategic interventions to ensure quality education by providing preschool, remedial education to children, and facilitate continuous education by empowering parents from marginalized communities.



Social Intervention during COVID-19

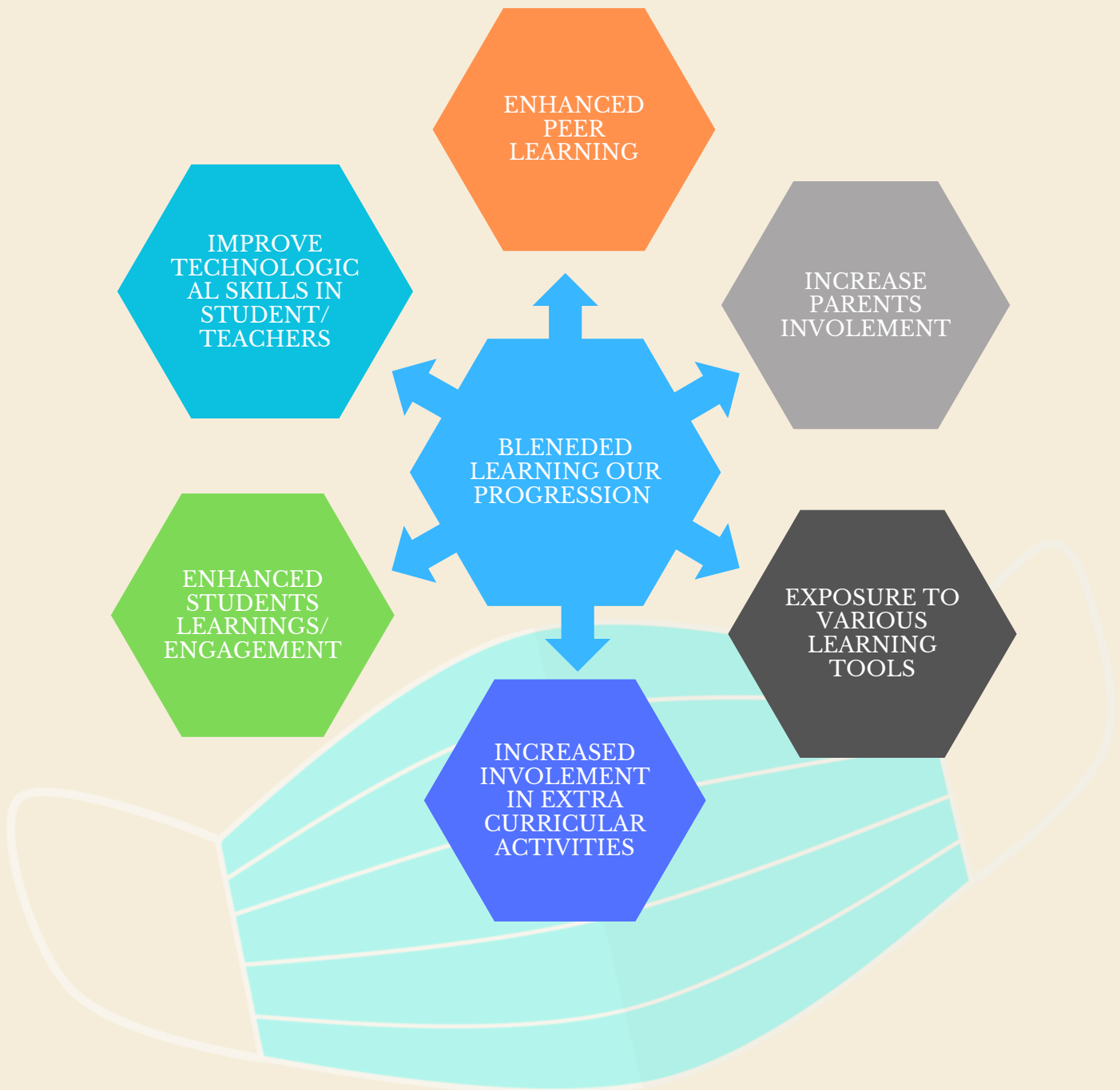
Our Intervention Areas

The year 2020 has led to economic distress in all sectors of the society. However the slum communities amidst a bustling city equipped with all the basic amenities have seen the harsh reality of life with every day being a new challenge for the families where most residents work in the informal sector and depend on day to day earnings to provide for their families. As most of the families at Sparsha's intervention areas are migrant families. 90% of family earners are daily wage workers. Total lockdown has led to these families struggling to survive with bare minimum wage. 50% of families return to their native place due to the major financial crisis.

The pandemic has stalled the education system in the country especially so for the marginalized section of the community. Over a year the educational institutes have learned about various online teaching methodologies and aids. However, the digital divide is very much evident amongst the children residing in the urban slum, wherein basic internet facility, recharge of data packs and usage of single handset amongst many other members in the family led to children missing out their regular or remedial classes from time to time.

Sparsha's constant effort towards a blended approach of learning and providing a conducive platform for our children to avail the opportunities and learning imparted through E- learning has been an experience on its own. The centers were opened for the students to attend classes in small batches with utmost safety precautions. Sparsha teachers as a team have open mindedly learned new teaching methodologies/aids to cater to the academic needs of the students in need.

Volunteers have equally committed themselves to provide Sparsha Children a platform for new learnings and experience which otherwise would not have been feasible. Along with regular learning of school curriculum, students have actively participated in various extra-curricular activities, life skills sessions to enhance their overall personality, events organized by Corporates and Colleges.



Our Programs

01 EDUCATION

We believe that each child has the right to pursue and complete his/her education, irrespective of his/her socio-economic background. Our Education Program is designed to serve as a foundation for lifelong learning, providing students with a pathway out of poverty and preparing them for the world beyond.

02 HEALTH

We provide free healthcare services and awareness on mental and physical well being to students, families and community members

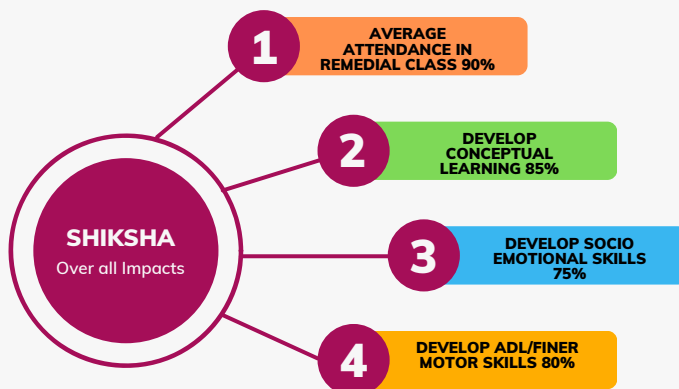
03 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We facilitate skill building trainings, support community to become sustainable through various programs on budgeting, initiating self help groups, support in legal documentation and share information on family dynamics and importance of creating a conducive environment at home and within the community to make them sustainable and skilled

Education

Shiksha (3 to 6yrs)

Shiksha Programme caters to the children in the age group of 3-6 years. We use the play way method to develop the love for education. It aims at forming the base of education among the students and also to develop school readiness.



New Enrollment in School



12 | parents meetings held in the year

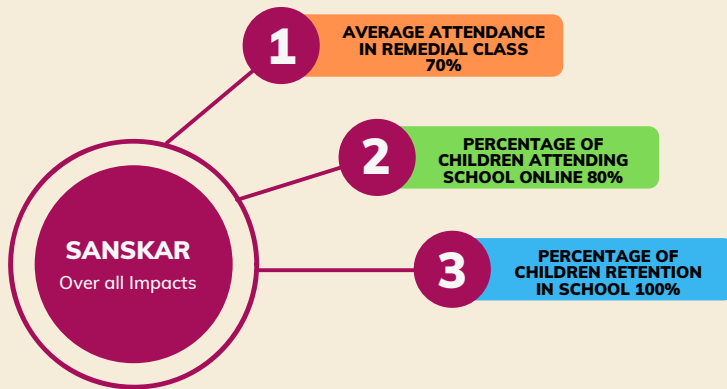
252 | Number of Children involved in the program



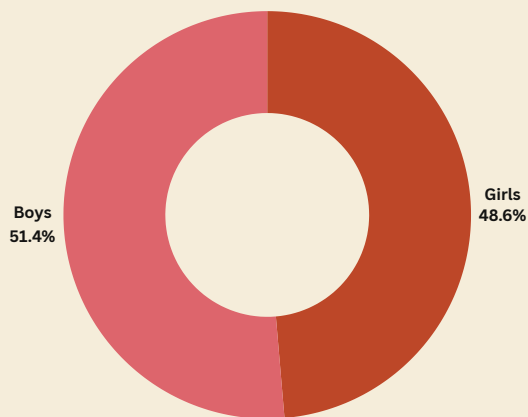
Sanskar
(6 to 14yrs)



Sanskar Program caters to the children in the age group of 6-14 years of age. It aims at inculcating a culture of education among the students through the various skill based team bonding activities and facilitate concept formation and clarity amongst students through interactive learning modules.



New Enrollment in School



PARENT MEETINGS
HELD IN THE YEAR

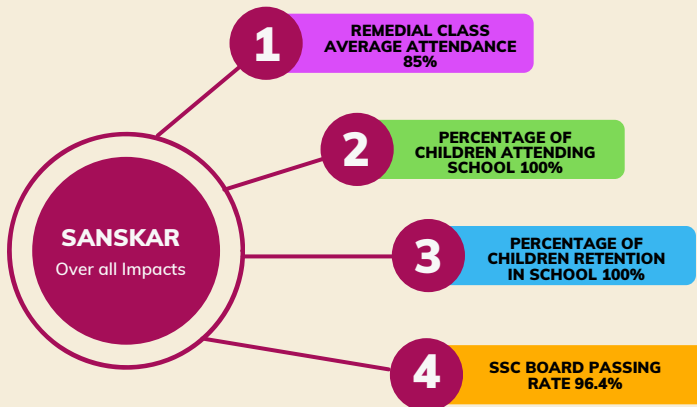


NUMBER OF
CHILDREN INVOLVED
IN THE PROGRAM

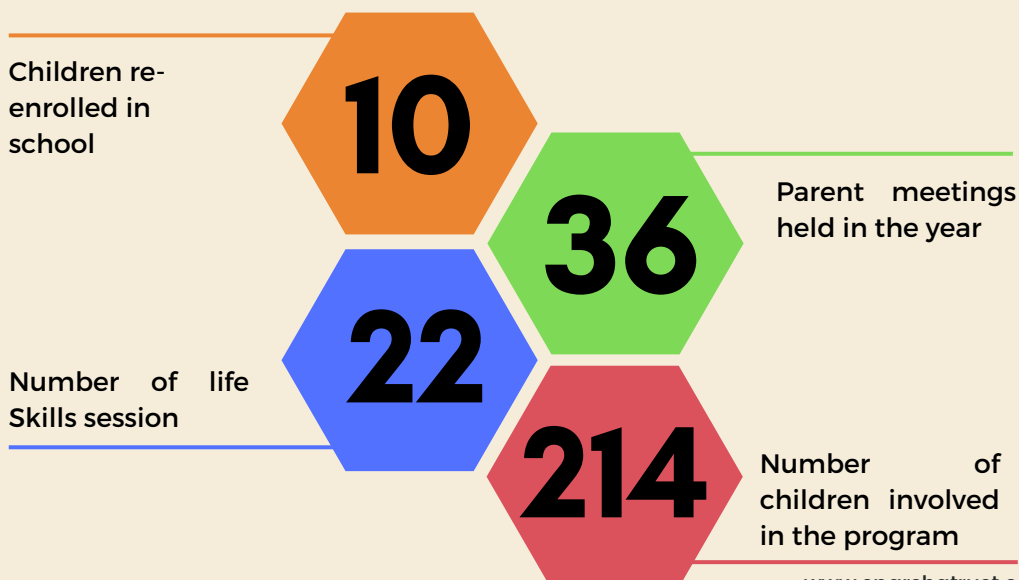
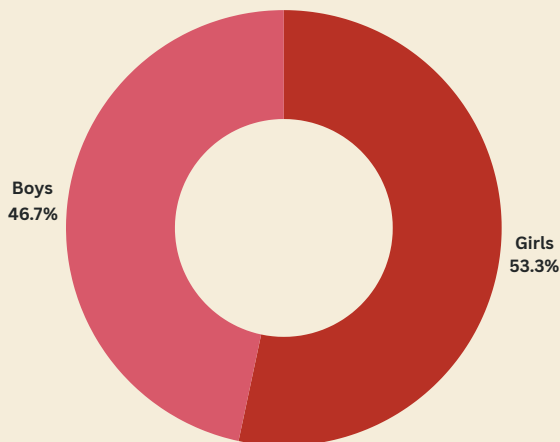


CHILDREN ENROLLED
IN
SCHOOL

Swayam Programme caters to the children in the age group of 14-18 years of age. It aims at supporting students via specialized training in the most crucial phase of their academic career i.e. Grade 8 to 12 so that they can perform better in board examinations and also help them in developing mindsets in order to be skilled labourforce.



Attending Remedial Classes



Health Impact

Vaccination drive

Sparsha took up the challenge to initiate vaccination drive in partnership with CRY in the community during the COVID 19 pandemic. More than 500 + families were made aware about the importance of vaccination and myths around it. Sparsha team conducted parents awareness meeting in the community, street plays were organized to break the myth and taboos attached to vaccination due to which many families were reluctant. Our team organized vaccination camp in association with local organization and Government bodies to make the initiative a success.



Pandemic safety measure

Sparsha took utmost safety measure during pandemic not only at the remedial classes but also in the community. Mask and sanitization were distributed every month to 300+ families. The students were provided masks and were made compulsory of its usage in the classroom. Sparsha in partnership with Urban Company conducted regularly sanitization in the remedial class and the community from time to time. Sparsha networked with 5 community residential homes in Mumbai and initiated sanitization in partnership with India Cares Foundation.



Physical and Mental Well being

Sparsha's focus on overall well being of children and families led to initiating various holistic well being programs. Children were part of yoga, zumba and Karate sessions. A counselling centre was for children and their families was initiated in partnership with Mpower where children with academic and emotional issues were referred for counselling. Staff capacity building sessions on wellness were conducted. Career counselling and stress management were also conducted to ease out students fear for exams and prepare them better. Parents group counselling on parenting styles, children's behaviour and ways to deal with it was also part of our intervention.



Community Development

Over the years, Sparsha's vision has been to make families in the marginalized community self sufficient and sustainable. Our programs also actively involves upscaling parents and community as a whole. The families have been part of community awareness programs on healthy living, financial planning, vaccination drives, health camps, gender equality, substance abuse, parenting style and livelihood generation programs. Regular home visits are made by Sparsha community animator to understand the living condition of each families and due required support is provided if any families are observed to be in crisis.



Our role during COVID-19

During the pandemic, it had become challenging for the families to meet their ends. Hence, in such vulnerable situation the impact was directly reflected on a child's holistic development. We have over the period of pandemic, witnessed various challenges in our intervention areas such as

1. Distribution of ration, basic essentials distribution, stationary for 2000 families and children residing at Sparsha Intervention area.
2. 20,000 surgical masks was distributed to frontline workers - ANM, PHC members, police, hospital staff with support from CRY
3. 2000 masks were distributed to community people in support from CRY
4. Oximeter, pulse machine, BP machine were donated for community
5. Sanitizers soap for 2500 families were distributed at regular basis
6. In BMC ward ration distribution for 100 for families with special child was conducted.
7. Sponsored education for 5 girls for higher education

Skill Building and Empowering SPARSHA TEAM

1. During the pandemic, In the time of virtual teaching and Sparsha's initiative towards a blended approach of teaching and learning. Enhancing skills of each team member was one of the initiatives taken by the organization.
2. Our team was part of Community Issues in Management of Covid 19 in partnership with UNICEF Maharashtra. Sparsha is also conducted weekly capacity building classes for teachers and staff, this is helping our teachers understand and use different online tools like Google Meet, Diksha app, Telegram, zoom meetings etc. we also taught them how to create videos and WhatsApp quizzes And how to create google forms and assessment papers. .
3. day workshop on mental health and wellbeing – The session was conducted by M Power for teachers and staff of Sparsha Trust. The teachers were informed about mental illnesses like stress, depression, anxiety, alcohol and substance abuse.
4. Onboard with IBM Skills Build – The staff and teachers of Sparsha were oriented and enrolled with IBM skill build – an online platform for learning new skills through virtual classes. Our staff have registered themselves to avail the various learning information based on their requirement and learnings.
5. As a CSR initiative by JP Morgan employees our staff underwent training session on basic computer skills – MS word, ppt, excel and Google form. The training will enhance the staff to sharpen their existing computer skills for teaching.
6. Sparsha team were part of capacity building sessions on ways to upscale skills on understanding Psycho- social skills of young adolescents.

Our role during COVID-19

Holistic well - being of Sparsha Children during pandemic

Sparsha focused on facilitating and providing various platforms and opportunities for children during pandemic. Due to total lockdown and lack of social interaction and exposure, the effect was foreseen in children's outlook towards how they interacted with peers and other members in the community.

- Spoken English class for adolescent groups for 3 months
- One to one mentoring for class std 10 students for Science and Math's with Reliance Foundation volunteers for 5 months.
- Board Exam preparedness and moderator sessions for students
- 4 Virtual session on Anger and Stress management
- 3 months Psychosocial sessions through art and craft to facilitate and navigate their emotions in a positive way.
- Students were part of various college cultural program virtually
- 300 + Students were part of CSR activities on art and craft, personality enhancement, Zumba and yoga sessions.
- 24 children playing badminton were supported with a badminton Kit and nutrition and ration to maintain their physique. Online interactive session for badminton students with PV Sindhu was held in the month of November. The students actively interacted during the session.
- 1 month Online Karate session was conducted for both online and offline students by trained volunteers. The children were taught basic self defense techniques.
- 15 days virtual summer camp was held for 300 + students.
- 400 + Children were part of all 13 festivals and events.
- Initiated mobile donation and distributed more than 30+ used android phones for the children to access online learning.
- Established 3 digitized classes at intervention centers for children to learn in a more creative way.

Our Success Stories

Pooja Rajput

Pooja Rajput is 23 years old residing at Maharashtra Nagar, Mankhurd. Pooja has been part of Sparsha's intervention program since the age of 4. A bright child from a tender age, Pooja was always focussed. Apart from academics, she was also a very competent badminton and karate player. After completing her graduation in B.Com at the age of 19. Pooja worked as Sparsha supervisor for a year coaching children in Badminton and teaching at an intervention center. She continued her service during lockdown. Pooja aspires to enroll into Career Defence Academy and is preparing for herself. If she is unable to clear she plans to pursue her career in the banking sector.

OUR COMMUNITY ENABLERS

Sudden onset of global pandemic led to crisis in the education system. More so, for the children living in the marginalized community with minimum access to internet access due to the financial crisis in their families. The digital divide was very much evident in these families who resided in the heart of the city. Students had no means of attending online education. The irregularity in their academics impacted their interest towards regular studies. 80 % of school age children were not aware about basic concepts and lacked clarity. Observing the crisis, our 12 senior students from Swayam took the responsibility of reaching out to children who had no access to remote learning. Such students were identified and groups were formed. Our community enablers reached the locations with mobile devices daily for the students to attend online classes. They also incorporated peer learning and group discussions to make learning fun. The initiative by our Swayam enabler to reduce the digital divide and reach out to many children at the time of crisis was heart touching and inspiring for the organization.

Our Association

In the year 2021 - 2022 Sparsha initiated collaboration with various organizations for strengthening and upscaling organization programs. We were fortunate to have their support to conduct our programs in spite of challenges and constraints during the pandemic.



Volunteers

Sparsha has been fortunate to receive more than 50+ volunteers from various walks of life who supported Sparsha with their skills and facilitated the programs to become more interesting for our children. Our dedicated team of volunteers conducted sessions virtually which facilitated their every learning and knowledge. Fun filled events on art and craft, dance and dramatics, yoga, personality enhancement were also part of the volunteering program. In Spite of the pandemic, every occasion, every festival was made special and fun by our enthusiastic volunteers.



Arshiya Khan

“Extremely delightful experience. The teachers and children are very warm and welcoming. The children are eager to learn new concepts and enjoy interacting with us to learn new things. Excited to volunteer more soon.”

Nandish Kuwardiya

“It was a wonderful experience working with Sparsha children. I got to learn a lot from them and I enjoyed teaching them new life skills. I hope to get back with them soon.”

Sayali Darekar

"Extremely delightful experience! The teachers and the kids are very warm and welcoming. We conducted variety of activities with all the students over the different sessions. The activities conducted grooming and summer craft. they loved these sessions." Thank you Sparsha Charitable Trust for giving us this opportunity.

Photo Gallery





Thank You



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