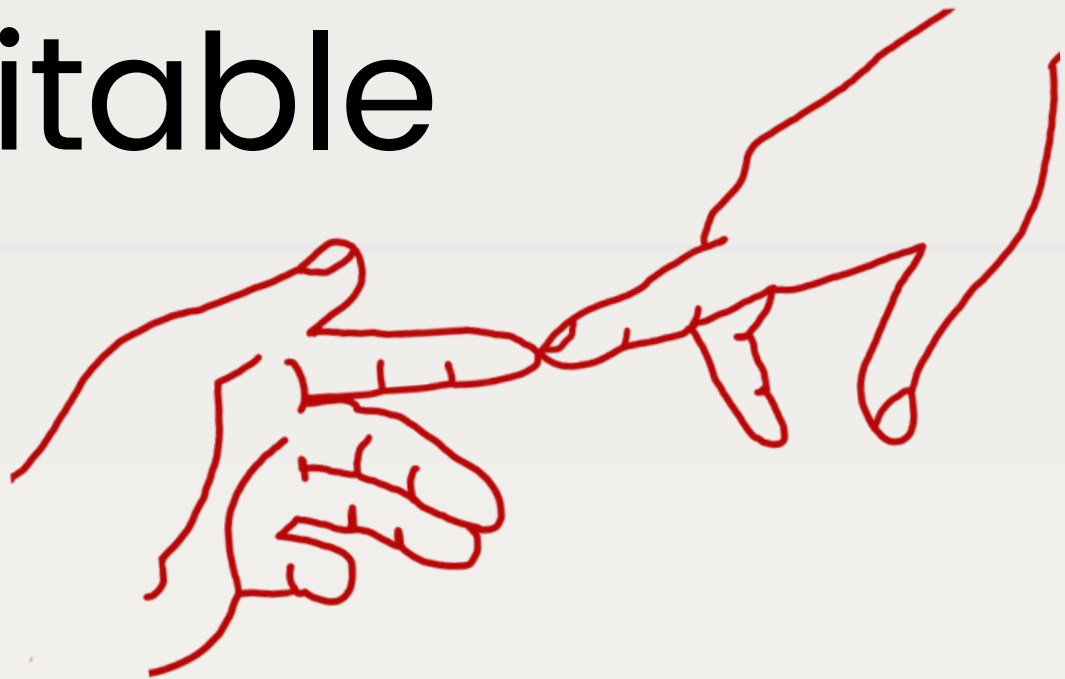




Sparsha Charitable Trust

2021 - 2022



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.

Note from CEO

Sarika Desai
CEO
Sparsha Charitable Trust



Saying the year 2021-2022 was challenging is an understatement. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have endured multiple challenges in Mumbai and other intervention areas where we operate.. Every challenge that comes our way, it never ceases to amaze me how our staff, volunteers, partners, and the community as a whole rally together to support one another.

The year was also marked by a new set of CSR compliances, new FCRA Guideline which set challenging outcomes for grassroots level organizations like us. Many big funders had pulled out their funds and we have struggled a lot to sustain our ongoing projects. But I'd like to thank all of our well-wishers who had given phenomenal support this past year. As a community non-profit organization, Sparsha itself is self-sufficient. This year, with the majority of our center's closed due to COVID-19 lockdown, we simply would not have survived to turn 22 years old without the support of all our best wishes.

In education, we initiated several new pedagogical set-ups like cluster classes to ensure a smooth transition for children into a blended learning mode. We conducted in-depth surveys assessing the needs of children and their families and also conducted baseline study of the educational level of the children. Special bridge classes for reading & writing have been conducted and tried to help the children as age appropriate learning.

We initiated a Girl child education campaign and Project Annapurna analysing the current context in the community and received tremendous support from our well wishers!

In healthcare, we initiated counselling centre for mental wellness, conduction health camps and sanitization program. This year, building internal knowledge and capacity, we have accomplished our Graduation Goal & received a graduation certificate from ATMA Education. As we continue to ensure that underprivileged children are able to stay protected and get an education as well as proper nutrition and healthcare even during challenging times, we hope that you will continue to support us in transforming their dreams into reality.



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

Our Intervention Areas

In the year 2021-2022 Sparsha exclusively worked with 300 migrant families who resided in Mumbai slums situated at Wadala and Mankhurd. At our 3 intervention areas, 95 % of the families are daily wage earners, construction workers. Most of the families consist of 5 -6 members. As they struggle to sustain themselves on a day to day basis financially in this fast moving city, education for most of the families remains the last priority. Due to which many families are not aware about schools available nearby nor do they have any knowledge about schooling procedures and conducive living condition. Sparsha's area of focus has been making the parents aware about importance of education and their role and involvement in holistic development of children.





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.

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

05 GIRL CHILD EDUCATION

The project aims towards promoting academic education and skill based training to girls between the age group of 6 to 18 years

02 HEALTH

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

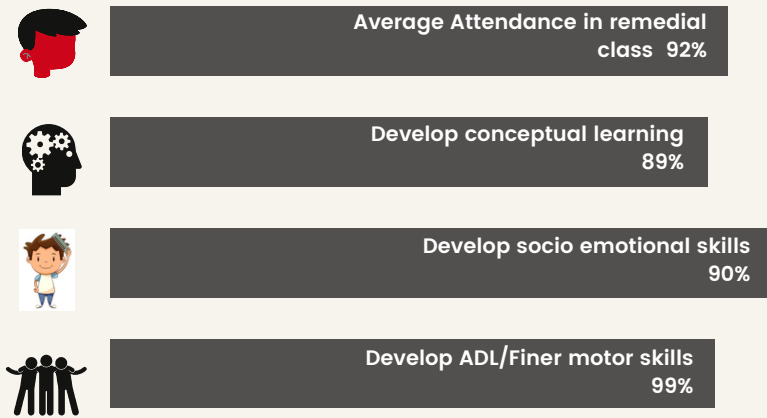
04 ANNAPURNA

The project aims towards providing nutritious meal to children in the slum communities which will reduce cases of anemia, nutrition deficiency and contribute towards age appropriate mental and physical growth

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

135 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.



Average Attendance in remedial class
90%



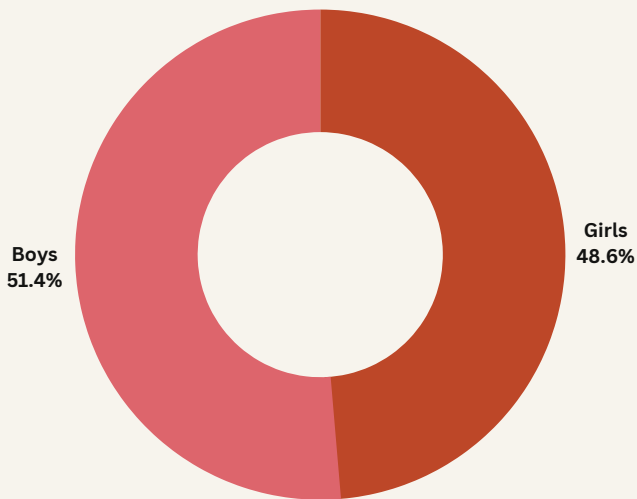
Percentage of children attending school 100%



Percentage of children retention in school 100%



New Enrollment in School



36

Parent meetings held in the year





413

Number of children involved in the program

27

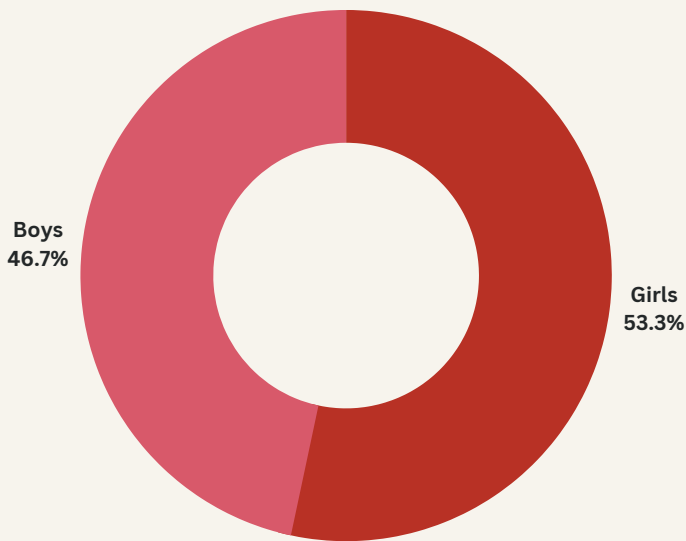
Children enrolled in school

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.

-  remedial class Average attendance **92%**
-  Percentage of children attending school **100%**
-  Percentage of children retention in school **100%**
-  SSC board passing rate **98%**



Attending Remedial Classes



15 Children re-enrolled in school

36 Parent meetings held in the year

12 Number of life Skills session

148 Number of children involved in the program

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.



Annapurna

The pandemic has left a big void in all sectors and has affected people from all sectors. However, the marginalised community is by far the most affected lot. Due to financial constraint, many families were not able to provide one time full meal to their family members. During home visits, our community animators reported of children's stunted growth due to lack of healthy diet. The adolescent girls were observed to be very weak, the main cause being anemia. The children had been deprived of proper diet since 2020.

This had affected their cognitive ,emotional as well as physical development. Many parents had reported of their children displaying aggression and irritability due to hunger and lacj of nutrition. As an organization working towards holistic development of children, it was the need of the hour to support the children with nutritional supplements to help them develop in all areas, hence Project Annapurna was initiated to support the children with nutritious meal.



Girl Child Education

During the pandemic, our girls have been subjected to gender discrimination in terms of access to online education as many were compelled to compromise on their academics and focus on household chores. Most of the girls with 2 -3 younger siblings were given the responsibility to take care of them while many could not attend online classes as their male siblings were given the priority to attend the same. Job loss and financial constraints in the family also put a halt in academic progress, hence putting the girl child education at stake. The conventional gender roles also affected their self esteem and confidence level during the challenging time. Sparsha, as a facilitator intervened in the crisis faced by the girls in the community and took support from well wishers to help our girls reach out their dreams and aspirations

1. Enrolled 20 girls for higher studies in the college and in NIOS program and sponsored their admission fees.
2. Provided android mobile phone for online learning
3. Recharged data packs for girl students, who are going through financial constraints
4. Conducted life skills sessions to uplift their self esteem and confidence such as improving communication/ interpersonal skills, social etiquettes, menstrual hygiene and myths etc.
5. Conducted Spoken English class for 3 months to help the girls overcome their fear of the English Language.
6. 15 college going girls were part of capacity building sessions such as learning basic computers, MS office, tutorials on makeup and styling

Our aspiring students



Vandana Saroj



Tabassum Shaikh



Harshada

Our role during the Pandemic

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

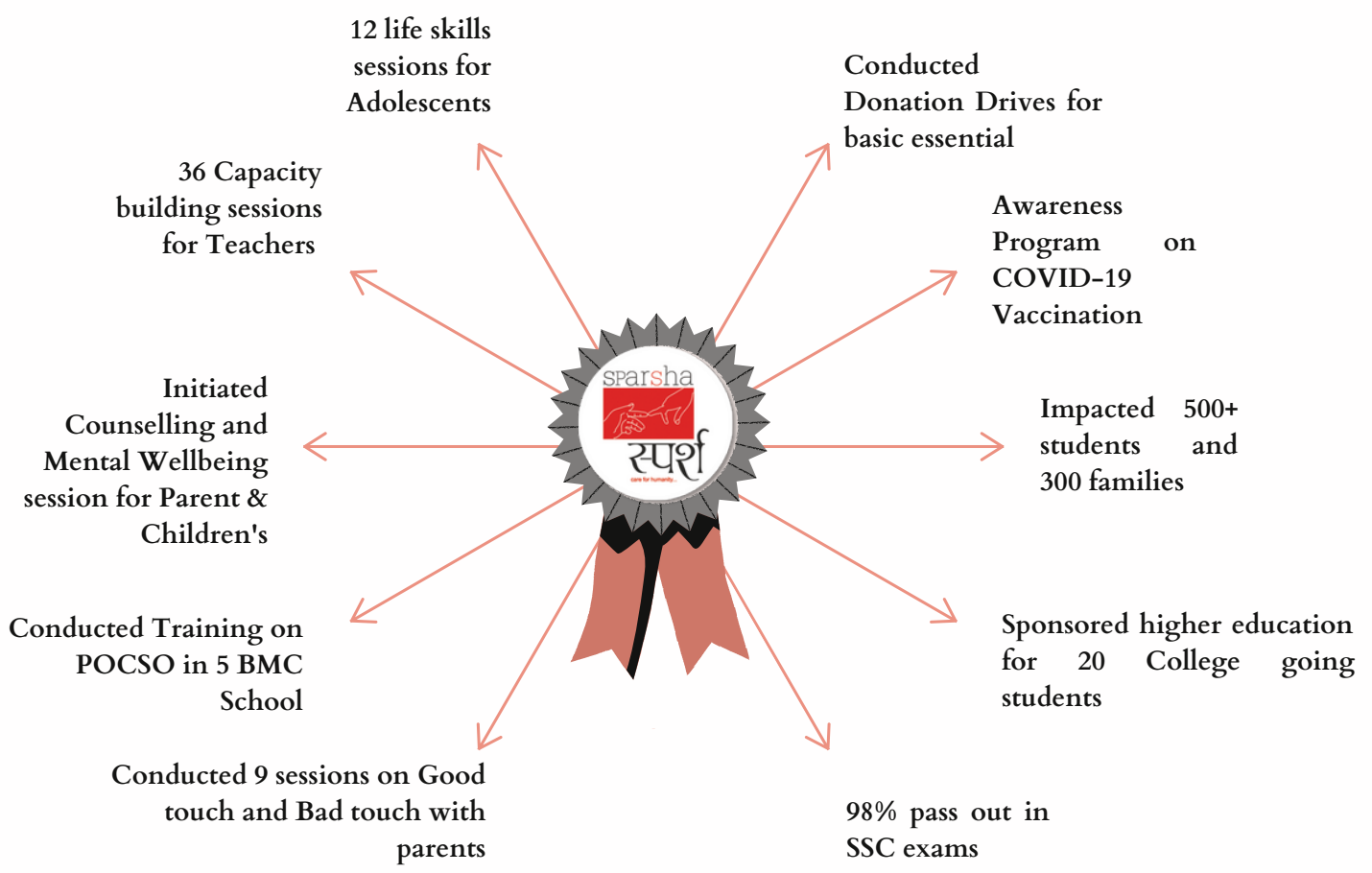
1. Malnutrition amongst children due to lack of food at home
2. Anemia amongst adolescent girls
3. School and College dropouts due to financial shortage
4. Early marriage amongst girls
5. Digital divide and lack of mobile phones and data recharge for online education
6. Gender discrimination in terms of preference given to male children to attain online classes, while the female child is asked to take up household responsibilities.
7. Children getting into the workforce at an early age to support families.
8. Children being emotionally vulnerable due to continuous poverty in their households and witness conflicts amongst members.
9. Children being exposed to verbal, emotional and physical abuse due to pandemic setbacks and lack of positive parenting skills.

The mammoth role of Sparsha working in community level intervention areas is tremendous. In the recent months, Sparsha with its limited network and resources have intervened in few of the issues faced -

1. To combat anemia, we provided healthy snacks only thrice a week due to limited resources.
2. Sponsored education for 20 college going girls out of 35 through crowdfunding
3. Provided old android phones to only 30% of children for online classes
4. Provided counseling services for children and parents during vulnerable times
5. Supported students in the online admission process with limited staff and resources



Our Achievements



Networking with Schools



Our Success Stories

Neha's story of resilience

Neha (name changed) 19 years old Sparsha Intervention student has been part of Sparsha program since Std 5. Neha who is mute and partially deaf, cannot communicate. After passing out her Std 10, she dropped out of the academics as her parents wanted to get her married off fearing she would not get a prospective groom. Sparsha intervened in between to stop her getting married and took the responsibility to upgrade and train her in administrative skills so that she can stand on her own feet and be independent. Neha visits the office daily to learn filing, typing and other official skills. She has been attending the office regularly for the past 6 months and it is worth praising her skills over the month. She is a quick learner and understands new concepts well. She is being trained in computer skills too simultaneously.

RAINBOW OF HOPE

The admission process for Junior college has been a challenge for all the students. As our intervention areas are situated in the heart of the city, yet, the digital divide was vast for the students residing in the urban slum communities. Limited or no access to the internet led to children running from pillar to post applying for Junior college. Their respective schools refused to help them with their admission process. The internet cafe charged Rs 500/- per seating for admission. As the admission procedure was divided into many segments. Thus as per that, each child had to shell out Rs 2000/- for just filling up the form. The children had to also pay for their college admission fee. So the entire admission process became very tedious and challenging for all the children as most of them could not afford Rs 200 for initial form fill up. Sparsha supported the children for the admission process by doing the needful process online. Fees of 50 % children were supported for the admission financially. Our children feared that if they didn't take up further studies their parents would force them into labour work. It was and still is a big challenge for Sparsha to accommodate all the students and support their education with limited resources and funds. The future of these children who have big dreams are at stake due to financial constraint, hence, supporting them any which way through well wishers of Sparsha is the only ray of hope.

Our Success Stories

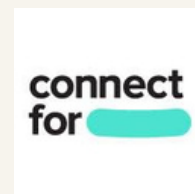
OUT OF ADVERSITY COMES OPPORTUNITIES

43 students from Sparsha appeared for the SSC board in the year 2021-2022. The pass percentage was 98%. However, the journey to this achievement was not very smooth. Our students were emotionally low and almost had no motivation to strive towards a better future. Sparsha remedial classes over the years have been conducted in the classroom setting. Hence, our team of teachers had limited skills and knowledge about online teaching. A blended approach of teaching was implemented in the Sparsha program after teachers upscaled their skills through various capacity building training. Children were provided with internet access so that they could attend remedial classes.

A series of assessments were conducted to understand the academic progress of children. This exercise was an eye opener for all as it was observed that due to online mode of teaching, children's basic concepts were not clear and their writing skills were below average. These challenges made the team of teachers very focussed to improve their students' learning process. Volunteers also supported the children to improve their knowledge. Moderator sessions were also conducted. The entire process of challenging the students and pushing them to improve themselves led to fruitful results shown by all the students. They are now hopeful again for a better tomorrow and are more confident about their own capability.

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.



Our 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.



SHUCHI SHARMA, TATA PROJECTS

“It is my dream to contribute towards creating equal opportunities for every section of the society. Pro-engage gave me the platform I was looking for, by giving me a chance to work with the wonderful NGO- Sparsha Trust. It was really good to know about the NGO & to be able to contribute for your Social Media Handles. Sarika Ma'am & Meenakshi Ma'am made these 4 months of volunteering a blissful journey by constantly supporting & giving feedbacks on the work. Thank You for providing me an opportunity to contribute for Sparsha Trust in some way .

SHARON GABRIELLA NADAR, STUDENT VOLUNTEER

It was a wonderful experience. This experience made me look at the world outside and myself through a different lens and made me aware of the opportunities that the world outside me provides. It helped me boost my confidence, and come out of my comfort zone. Teaching them helped me to know about my strengths and my capabilities .



**SUPRIYA RAMACHANDRAN & MAYANK SHARMA
TATA GROUP VOLUNTEERS**

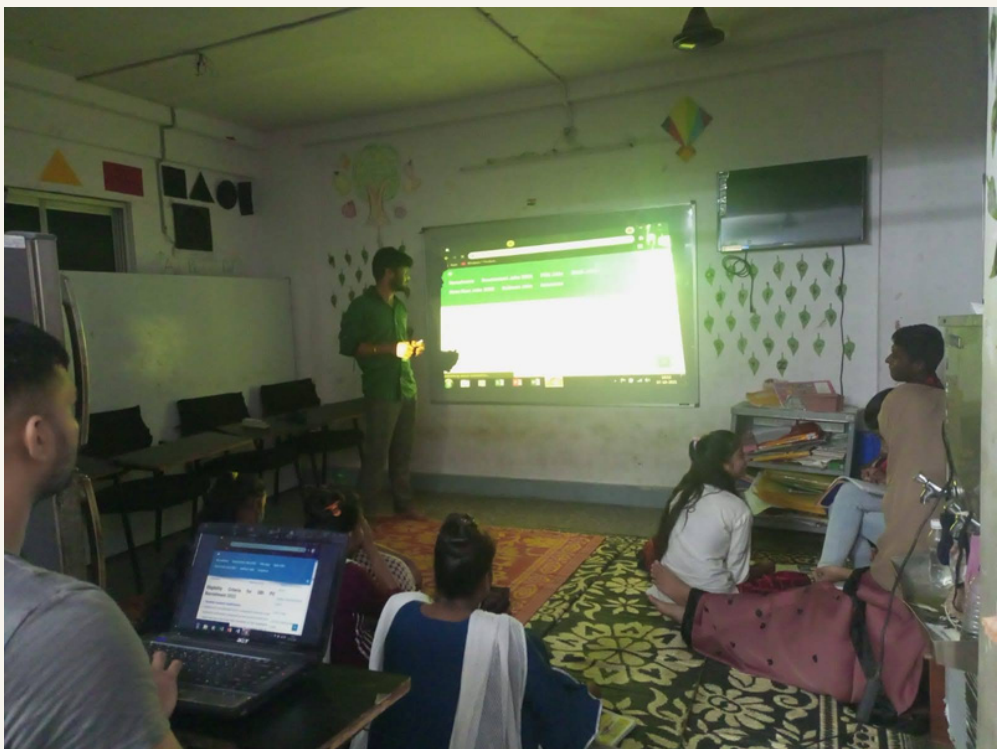


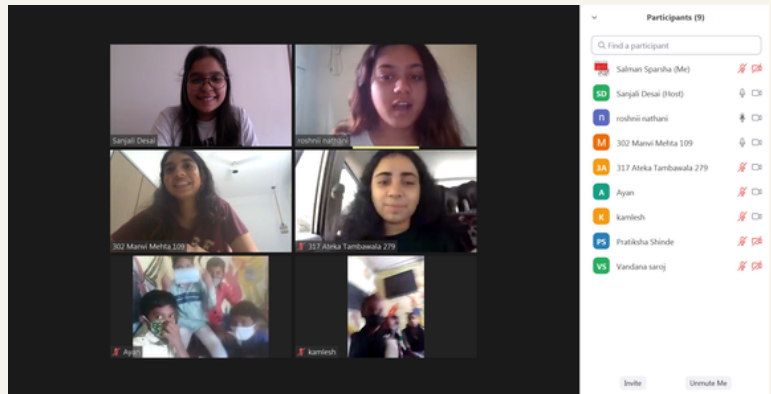
The last 4 months have been a true learning experience for both of us. For the first time volunteers like us have been assigned to this project and NGO, we were more fortunate than enthusiastic. Getting to work with such an experienced and proactive team helped us better understand the ground challenges and better solutionize the approach for the project.

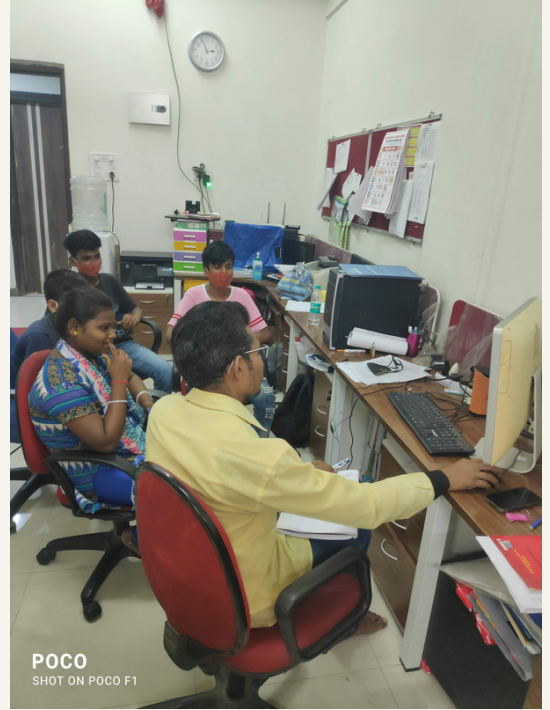
Always being available to clarify our doubts and enhance our understanding, the Sparsha team never failed to surprise us with their committed leadership. With constant feedback and suggestions, the deliverables seemed easier than ever to achieve. We believe that Sparsha Trust is doing phenomenal work and with adequate support in capacity building and internal system strengthening, they should be able to amplify the impact with the communities.

Photo Gallery









Our Team



Thank You



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