

ISSUE 57

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# DEEP JYOTI



Happy New Year!

The year 2021 signifies movement, hard work, positivity and resilience. The ongoing health crisis has forced us to slow down. The collective efforts have helped in bringing about measurable changes in the lives of the poorest communities in sectors such as public health and nutrition, livelihood, education and disability. We are responsive to the ever-changing needs of society and adapt our intervention based on voices from the ground apart from critically investigating the impact of our services. So, let's hope that the world will be less static and will slowly get moving again.

Priya Giri Chakraborty



## International Women's Day Celebrations For Equal Future

Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world has been the theme for 2021 on March 6. This year's celebrations aimed to highlighting the role of women who have been playing at the forefront of the global health crisis – as health workers and caregivers, community organizers and innovators.



*Celebrating Women: The Strength Within*

Deepak Foundation celebrated International Women's Day on March 6. The chief guests for the occasion were (centre) Smt. Leelaben Ankoliya, Chairperson Gujarat State Women Commission and (left) HH Maharani Radhika Rajee Gaekwad. The occasion was also graced by (extreme left) Smt. Ila Mehta, Trustee, Deepak Foundation, (second from left) Smt. Ratna Jani, social entrepreneur and (second from right) Dr. Falguni Vasavada Oza, Faculty at the Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad.

This year, the recipients of the Smt. Kantaben Mehta Memorial Women Empowerment Awards were 7 external awardees who are trendsetters in their own domain. Kathak danseuse Sanjukta Sinha, Kanan Solanki, government facility nurse who had served at the COVID-19 ward during her pregnancy. Delhi based Dr. Anupama Kumari, Roti Bank's curator Meena Sharma, go karting enthusiast Mira Erda, rifle shooter Anju Sharma, cyclist Maitree Pradhan received the award. Awardees from Deepak Foundation include Promila Zalpuri (Consortium for Inclusive Education, Manorama Jaiswal (Team Leader, Chhota Udepur), Minakshi Parmar (livelihood), Ragini Rathwa (skills building), Krishna Patel (Project Vivek Vidya), Smita Maniar (Team Leader Nandesari), Shweta Padhiyar (Project Vivek Vidya) were applauded for their leadership in their respective areas of intervention.



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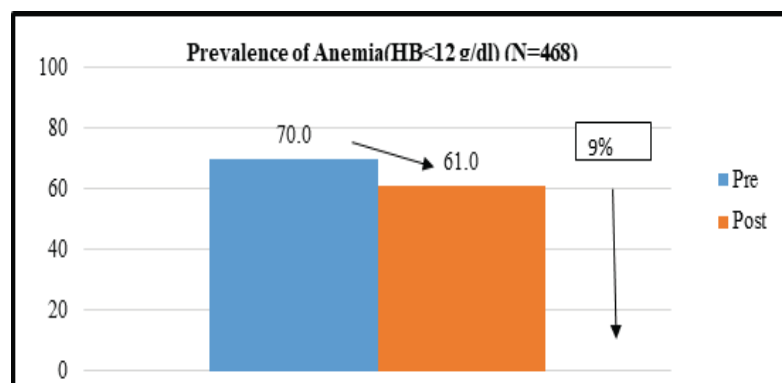
## Promotion of nutrition and health among adolescents' girls in Nandesari area

India has the largest population of adolescents (243 million), followed by China (207 million), United States (44 million), and Indonesia and Pakistan (both 41 million). In India, anaemia affects 32% of the girls from 10-14 years and 48% of girls from 15-19 years. The NFHS 5 Vadodara, Gujarat data states that 72.6% of the women age 15-49 age are anaemic. As reported by UNICEF (2006), 36% girls in India do not go to school during menstruation. There are several myths associated with menstruation which leads to confusion and malpractices among girls.

Deepak Foundation enrolled 500 adolescent girls who were tracked for a year and were counseled regarding nutrition and health especially sensitizing on good practices with regard to food intake and menstrual hygiene. Every month trained women volunteer and field team undertake home visits to counsel using pictorial flipbooks and ensure consumption of iron-folic acid tablets through direct observation.

Monthly awareness generation sessions with adolescent girls were undertaken wherein recipe demonstration showcasing use of take-home ration (THR) "Purna Shakti" provided under ICDS scheme, supporting distribution and promoting utilization of THR and IFA supplementation. During the last quarter, more than 3500 sanitary napkins were distributed to promote menstrual hygiene.

A baseline and end line assessment with regard to haemoglobin status was undertaken using "Hemoglobinometer" where Reflectance Photometry method is used based on "Cynmethoglobin Detection" principle. **Figure 1** shows the level of reduction in the prevalence of anaemia among the girls tracked.



## Vivek Vidya

## "A step towards holistic development"



The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to schools, universities, and colleges' near-total closures. Some immediate measures included shifting the teaching process online on untested and unprecedented things, conducting an online assessment on a trial-and-error basis, and creating content suitable for remote learning using technology and tools. However, transitioning to an online mode has had its share of challenges. While according to the Right to education, every child in the world should have access to quality education. Education must be a critical part of any worldwide development plan for creating just and democratic societies. With the holistic development motive, the well-known **Project Vivek Vidya** has stepped out for the community and executed a pilot education campaign based on a national education policy 2020 in three locations, Nandesari Gujarat, Roha Maharashtra, Hyderabad Telangana. The span of this campaign is **February 2021 to March 2021**.

In this project, involved talented young **45 volunteers** are serving service in the focused selected **51 villages/communities** across three project sites. Their main objective is to increase language and mathematics competencies along with social-emotional learning, critical thinking, creativity and writing competency levels of children from a **6 to 15 age group**. The project team has designed a curriculum according to the plan of action, including concept-based learning through activities. They also created materials like workbooks, VLM video learning material, and E-worksheets.

By the initiative of holistic educational development, through 50 days effective education campaign over **2000 + children** benefited and have experienced **Experiential Learning, self-guided learning and made a difference in their lives.**



Consortium for Inclusive Education organized a 5-day training on 'Digital Accessibility for Visually impaired children' for Samagra Shiksha coordinators. The training was undertaken by Mr. Bharat Vaya, Principal Sankul School and Dr. Homiyar Mobedji, Accessibility and Access technology Consultant.



# Mobile Health Unit Health Camp conducted in schools

**Background:** The Lok Vidyalaya School is a residential Grant-in-Aid Tribal Secondary School located in the village of Lamdapura in Savli, Gujarat, which was adopted by Schaeffler India back in 2016. Schaeffler India provides complete infrastructure and educational support to the school to encourage differently-abled & lesser-privileged students in the rural villages to pursue education and fulfil their dreams. More than 93% of the students of Lok Vidyalaya School belong to marginalized communities (SC/ST/OBC) with nearly 40% of the students being girls. Since Schaeffler India's adoption of the Lok Vidyalaya School, there has been a significant improvement in both the enrolment of students (girl students in particular) as well as in the educational results of the students.

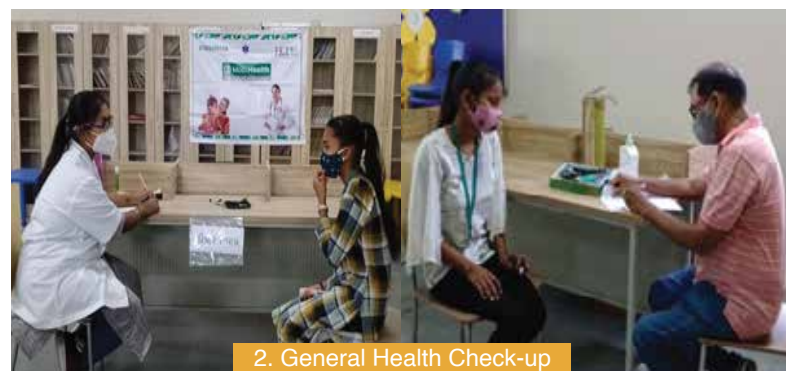
**Objective:** As an effort to improve the overall Health of these students, the Mobi-Health Unit teams organized Health check-up camp in the school premises on 26th March 2021.

**Key Highlights of the Event:** The camp involved General check-up, Anthropometric measurements, Hb check-up, and eye check-up were conducted.

**Beneficiary:** 290



1. Registration of the students



2. General Health Check-up



3. Anthropometric Measurements



4. HB check-up of Adolescents



5. Provision of Medicine

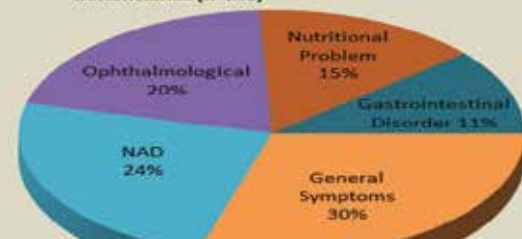


6. Eye check-up and Provision of Spectacles



7. Health check-up of Staff members

Fig 3 : Top five health reported during Specilized Health Camp beneficiaries (n=290)



Graphical Representation of Health Camp Data

Fig 1 : Gender wise distribution of MHU Specilized Health Camp beneficiaries (n=290)

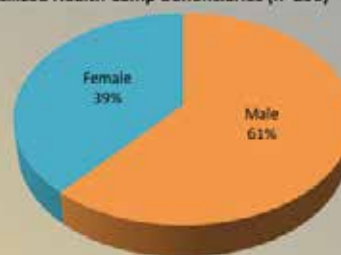
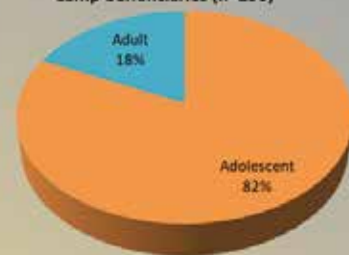


Fig 2 : Age bifercation of MHU Specilized Health Camp beneficiaries (n=290)



## Madhya Pradesh "Accelerating action to end TB"

The theme of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2021 - **'The Clock is Ticking'** – conveys the sense that the world is running out of time to act to end TB. This is especially critical in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic that has put End TB progress at risk. We commemorate World TB Day on March 24 to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

Deepak Foundation is working as a Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA) in 21 Districts of Madhya Pradesh for National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. The role of the Foundation is to ensure that all TB related services are provided free of cost to all. The Foundation is covering a population of around 30 million through its services. The Foundation celebrated the World TB Day with multiple activities including Bike Rally, Continuing Medical Education (CME), thank you cards to Private Providers for their efforts in notifying TB patients in a timely manner. *Nukkad Natak*, micing across districts and high-risk villages along with awareness and screening camps were carried out.



Rally with DTO, Bhind



Camp Screening



Street Play, Sagar

## Maharashtra



Mr. Vaibhav Pawar, Tehsildar and Mr. Mundada, Dy. Tehsildar in Mokhada block visited the jasmine, chilli farms and vermicomposting plots developed by Deepak Foundation in collaboration with partner organisation JM Financial under Integrated Village Development Project. They interacted with the farmers and enquired about the support received for project cultivation methods. They also encouraged farmers to take advantage of various government schemes to enhance farm productivity.



A campaign 'donate-a-book' by Pratham books for Project Vivek Vidya was conducted in Roha, Maharashtra.



A Comprehensive Community Development Program started at the Zilla Parishad School, Ambale, Talegaon, Pune Maharashtra as a CSR initiative of Schaeffler.



Under the Malnutrition Eradication Programme, the team distributed milk powder to 542 pregnant women, 532 lactating mothers and 5407 Anganwadi children (06 month to 6 years) in Mokhada Block, Palghar district, Maharashtra.





59 urban ASHA workers were felicitated on the occasion of women's day event organised at Waghodia, Vadodara.



Krushak Mahila team participated in Tribes India 'Aadi Mahotsav' by TRIFED New Delhi.



Mobile Health Unit team conducted free health check up camp at Aliyabet, Dahej, Bharuch.



Deepak Foundation was featured in Femina National Edition-March & Outlook Magazine-March edition.



Deepak Foundation implemented 'Elderly MHU' funded by INOX CVA India in Kalol, Panchmahal, Gujarat. A Mobile Health Unit with the theme 'હૃદયનો સ્પર્શ' (a healing touch).

**For donation and suggestions, please refer to the contact details given below.**

