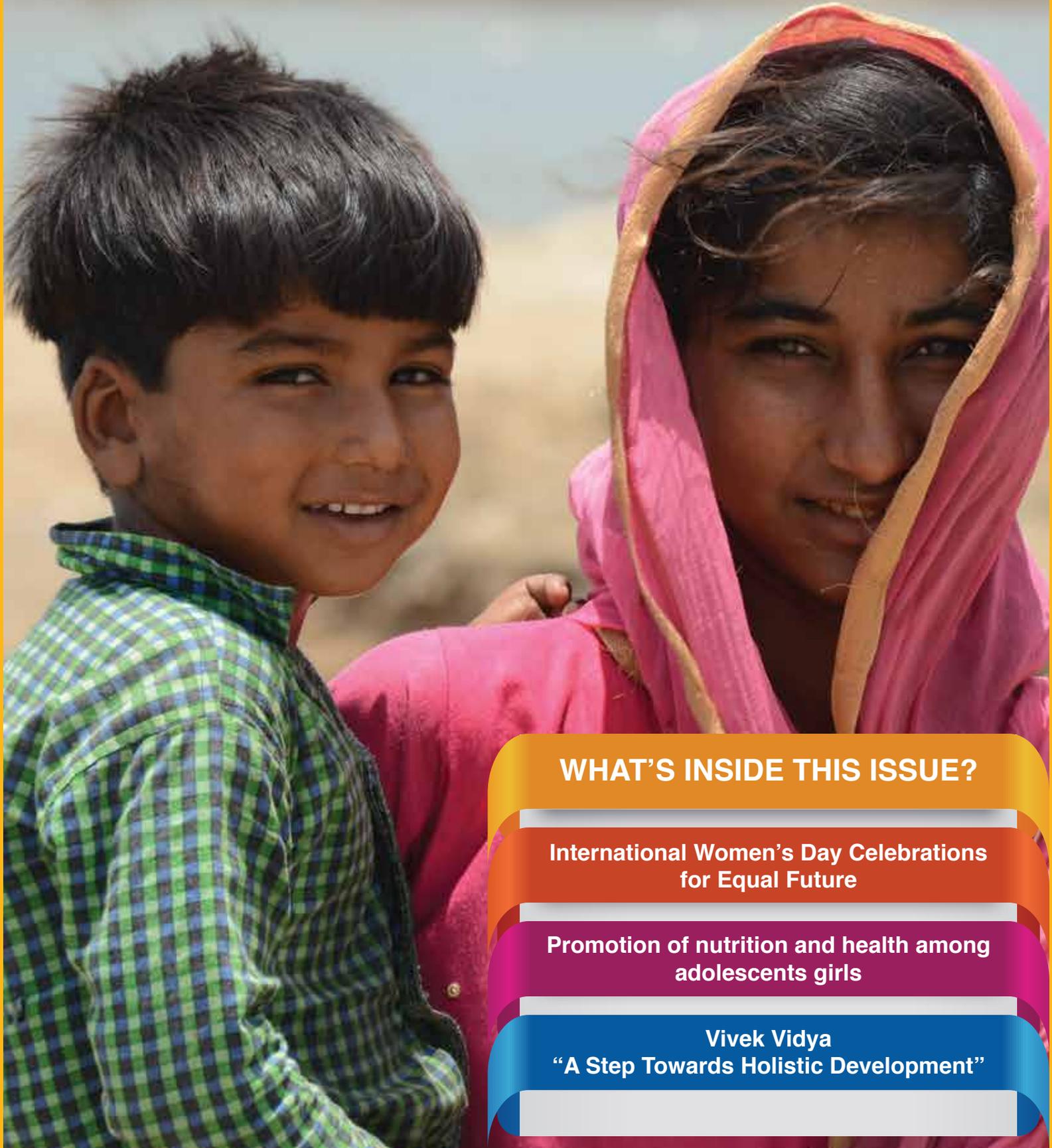


DEEP JYOTI



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Greetings!



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 Chakraborty Giri

International Women's Day Celebrations For Equal Future



The chief guests for the occasion were Smt. Leelaben Ankoliya, Chairperson, Gujarat State Women Commission and HH Maharani Radhika Raje Gaekwad. The occasion was also graced by Smt. Ila Mehta, Trustee, Deepak Foundation, Smt. Ratna Jani, social entrepreneur and Dr. Falguni Vasavada Oza, Faculty member at the Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad.



Smt. Ila Mehta, Trustee



HH Maharani Radhika Raje Gaekwad



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.



Rifle Shooter Ms. Anju Sharma receiving the award.

Deepak Foundation is working as 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.



Team Leader Chhota Udepur, Ms. Manorama Jaiswal receiving the award.

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. Deepak Foundation celebrated International Women's Day on March 6.

The second Smt. Kantaben Mehta Memorial Women Empowerment Awards were also presented to 7 external awardees who are trend setters in their own domain. Kathak danseuse Sanjukta Sinha, Kanan Solanki, expecting mother and nurse who had served at the COVID-19 ward in the government hospital, Dr. Anupama Kumari, Roti Bank's curator Meena Sharma, go karting enthusiast Mira Erda, rifle shooter Anju Sharma, cyclist Maitree Pradhan were graced with the award. Awardees from Deepak Foundation included Promila Zalpuri, Manorama Jaiswal, Minakshi Parmar, Ragini Rathwa, Krishna Patel, Smita Maniar, Shweta Padhiyar, who had proved their leadership in their areas of intervention.

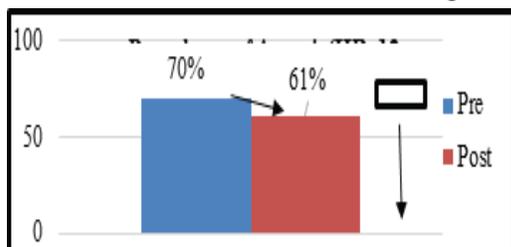


Nukkad Natak being staged at Sagar

Promotion of nutrition and health among adolescents girls in Nandesari area

The Foundation has recognized the critical importance of addressing the particular challenges and opportunities that adolescents face, and of the critical role that adolescents play in shaping the equitable and sustainable development of countries. Adolescents account for 20 per cent of the total population in South Asia. In absolute numbers, this is 333.4 million adolescents, with India accounting for 243.5 million, being home to more adolescents than any other country in the world (China (207 million), United States (44 million), Indonesia, and Pakistan (both 41 million)). At the crossroads between childhood and adulthood, adolescents typically face many challenges and uncertainties in their lives. This is particularly pronounced in the Indian context and more so in case of girls and/or adolescents belonging to rural areas, lower castes and/or indigenous groups and/or religious minority groups. In these communities, adolescents are generally not encouraged to share their views, raise their voice or question adults on matters which affect their lives. Although our society is rich in spiritual and cultural traditions, yet some of these traditions foster important discriminatory and exclusion processes. These processes have made a heavy dent on the health and education of adolescents, particularly of girls, in the country. In India, anemia 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 aged 15-49 are anemic. As reported by UNICEF (2006), 36% girls in India do not go to school during menstruation due to several myths associated with it as well as lack of proper washrooms in the schools. As part of Deepak Foundation's efforts to address these issues, 500 adolescent girls were enrolled and tracked for a year. Out of these, a majority of girls (80.5%) were school going and one fifth (19.5%) were out of school; although due to pandemic, the schools were closed and all girls were at home. They were counseled regarding nutrition and health in general and sensitized about good practices with regard to food intake and menstrual hygiene, in particular by trained women volunteers and field team monthly through home visits 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 the use of Take Home Ration (THR) "Purna Shakti", provided to the adolescent girls under the ICDS scheme were carried out. Supporting the distribution of THR and IFA supplementation and promoting its utilization formed an integral part of this initiative. During the last quarter, more than 3500 sanitary napkins were distributed to adolescent girls 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 adolescent girls tracked.

School going girls = 376 (80.5%)

Non-school going = 91 (19.5%)



Awareness generation program



Haemoglobin assessment



Counselling regarding reproductive health



Anthropometric assessment

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We'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email and we will get back to you pronto. Let's get this conversation started. Please email at: teamcomm@deepakfoundation.org





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



Consortium for Inclusive Education organized 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.

Vivek Vidya: A Step Towards Holistic Development

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to schools, universities, and colleges' near-total closure. 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. According to the Right to Education, every child in the world should have access to quality education; and 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 National Education Policy 2020 in three locations, Nandesari, Gujarat; Roha, Maharashtra; and Hyderabad, Telangana. The span of this campaign is **February 2021 to March 2021**.

In this project, talented young **45 volunteers** rendered their services in the focused selected **51 villages/communities** across the 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 in **age group of 6 to 15 years**. 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**.



MAHARASHTRA



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



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.



Mr. Vaibhav Pawar, Tehsildar and Mr. Mundada, Dy. Tehsildar in Mokhada block visited the jasmine, chilli farms and vermin composting plots developed by Deepak Foundation in collaboration with partner organization, 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.

NEW DELHI



Krushak Mahila Khet Utpadak Producer Company Limited team participated in Tribes India 'Aadi Mahotsav' by Trifed, New Delhi.