

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Rural Development Project
(A Field Action Project of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Social Work, Dhule)

Annual Report July 2019 – June 2020

Overview

This year has been remarkable for the project in many senses as we have been able to intervene with the elderly and respond to the difficult situations during COVID 19 crisis and reach out to the marginalized as well as build several partnerships and associations. This year we also initiated a new project 'Aadhar' to support the elderly. Due to our consistent and committed work, we received wide media coverage. Ours was the only organization from Dhule to be listed amongst organizations working during COVID at the national level.

We are blessed with the presence of the Management- Prof. Vilas Wagh and Prof. Usha Wagh and the Principal Dr. Jalindar Adsule, who have wide experience of working with the deprived and marginalized. They have always been there to support the Project even in the day to day functioning. Our donors have been instrumental in helping us fulfill our social responsibility of extending a helping hand to the deprived communities.

This report summarizes key interventions and accomplishments of the project in the period July 2019 – June 2020



Introduction

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Social work was started in the year 1995 at Morane (Nakane) in the Dhule Taluka and District, which is one of the most backward and under-developed districts of Maharashtra. This College was established by the Samata Shikshan Sanstha, Pune. It is an outcome of a strong social commitment towards the marginalized sections of society. This is the only social work college in Dhule district. Since its inception, the College has been striving hard to work towards its mission that is to impart quality social work education and training to the students for equipping them with the required skills and abilities to accept the social challenges and professional social work tasks in society. Our College is affiliated to North Maharashtra University, Jalgoan.

Dhule is a predominantly rural district with 73 percent of its population residing in the rural areas. The Dhule district has high incidence of poverty and disparities in key social indicators. As per the HDI (Human Development Index) 2012 Report, the district is categorized in the lowest quartile in Maharashtra State. The following are the findings about the district:

1. The proportion of the population below the poverty line is at 53.64 percent (third lowest in the State)
2. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 73 per 1000
3. The share of girls married below the age of 18 is highest in the State (63.7 percent)
4. The school attendance rate for the age group up to 14 years is lowest (45.18 percent)
5. The drop-out rate at 7th standard is fourth highest at 45 percent
6. The proportion of literates is fifth lowest in the State with a literacy rate of 74.16 percent

The College therefore initiated a project firstly to help the rural tribal poor to procure basic amenities and empower them deal with their problems.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. To empower the people for their educational, health and livelihood rights
2. To conduct various training programs to develop leadership among youth, women and children

3. To conduct research studies on problems related to rural and tribal population and publish literature related to it
4. To network with organizations working on similar issues to strengthen and consolidate various initiatives

The Project has an Honorary Project Coordinator and has appointed a part – time staff member since November 2019. The College had placed 8 students for field work in the Project. The following is a summary of the work carried out by this team.

In this period, the project mainly worked in Kundane village. In this village, the focus was on the tribal and Dalit communities.

Interventions

Community Development - Kundane Village:

Kundane village is located in Dhule district and Dhule taluka. It is just 10 km away from Dhule city. This village is close to Nagpur Surat Highway. The village Panchayat came into existence in 1959. This village is located on the bank of a small river – Panjra which is dry most of the time.

The total population of the village is 3100, of which 1900 are males and 1200 are females. The children below age of 06 are 533. There are 511 houses in the village, of which 261 families are below poverty line. The literacy rate of the village is 68.13%, the male literacy rate being 75% and female literacy rate being 60%.

Activities:

✓ Anna Bhau Sathe Anniversary

The Ex – Sarpanch, Abba Kamble along with the local community had organized Anna Bhau Sathe Birth Anniversary Program on 1st August 2019. The Project team was invited for it and 3 members of the team participated in this program. After paying tribute to the image of Anna Bhau Sathe, children from the community spoke about the life and contribution of Anna Bhau Sathe. One of the team members was also invited to speak and her talk received appreciation from the community women and men.



✓ **Dental Check – up Camp for Students of Zilla Parishad**

On 25th September, 2019, a dental check – up camp was held in collaboration with Annasaheb Chudaman Patil Dental College & Hospital for the students of Class I to Class V studying in the Zilla Parishad School in the Kundane Village. A team of 12 doctors examined a total of 122 children. The Camp started by a talk on oral hygiene and dental care. A demonstration was also given to the children on “How to Brush”. Children with cavities and other issues were given referral notes and were treated free of cost at the Dental Hospital.



✓ **Campaign on Cleanliness and Health**

An awareness campaign on Cleanliness and Health was organized on 10th October 2019. The campaign began with a rally of students from the Zilla Parishad School in the entire village displaying placards on health and cleanliness and the importance of using toilets. At the end of the rally, Prof. Shamsing Valvi (Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Social Work) delivered a talk to the children on the theme.

This was followed by a talk on the theme for the villagers. The resource person for the talk was Mr. Vijay Yelingrao, Water Department, Zilla Parishad, Dhule.



✓ **Eye Check – up Camp**

On 25th February, 2020, an eye check – up camp was held in collaboration with LUPIN foundation and Sharda Netralaya for the community. Free eye check – up was held and 170 people took the benefit of the check – up. Free spectacles were distributed to 28 people and later 2 people were operated for cataract free of cost in coordination with Sharda Netralaya.



Vishwas Nagar, Kundane:

The Scheduled Tribe community which comprises mainly the Bhils resides outside the village and it is located almost half a kilometer away from the main village. They are basically migrants who have been displaced and this land is given by the government as rehabilitation site. There are 144 houses with a population of around 1800.

✓ Poultry – Keeping Scheme:

A talk was organized on 23/08/2019 Poultry – Keeping Scheme of the Dhule Zilla Parishad for Tribals residing in Non – Tribal area. Dr. Vivek Deshmukh, Animal Husbandry Officer, Zilla Parishad Dhule as the resource person for this talk. Under this scheme a total of 20 fowls – 17 hen and 3 cocks are provided free for livelihood. Forms were filled by the Project for ten families who were extremely poor and were Below Poverty Line as these were not literate and could not fill the forms on their own. The forms were submitted to the Livestock Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Dhule. The scheme for these families has been sanctioned. However, due to the lockdown, they are yet to receive the benefits.

✓ Non – formal Education

Informal classes were organized for 07 children between 6 years and 13 years who have dropped out of school. The classes were held twice a week and the children were imparted basic reading and writing skills through games and songs.



Aadhar Project:

In the course of our work, we realized that it is necessary to work with the elderly as they face several problems, Loneliness, negligence and less importance, illness due to ageing and lack of treatment are the most of the treacherous conditions which elderly are facing. It is necessary to safeguard the elderly people who are absolutely neglected, ill- treated and vulnerable. Hence we initiated a project for the elderly in Kundane village in November 2019 with the support of Jeevan Anand Organization, Mumbai. This project works with people who are 60 years of age or above.

The Objectives of the Project are as follows:

- To prepare a database of the elderly
- To create sensitivity about elderly in the community
- To ensure adequate nourishment and clothes for the poor helpless and destitute elderly persons.
- To create health awareness and ensure access to health care for the elderly.
- To create a 'Support Group' of the elderly
- To provide recreational activities and mental support, to the elderly
- Awareness and implementation of government schemes for the elderly

Activities Conducted

- ❖ Survey of elderly

All the elderly in Vishwas Nagar were surveyed through an interview by administering a structured interview schedule. The data thus obtained was analyzed and a data base was prepared. Data indicates that there are in all 30 elderly, of which there are 21 females and 09 males. Of these only 02 men are literate while the overwhelming majority is illiterate. On the contrary, none of the men are employed while 16 out of the 21 females do some sort of work to earn a livelihood. Others are dependent on some family member. The economic conditions of all the elderly is extremely poor, and are BPL. All of them face some or the other health issues which they are unable to treat due to non affordability. One of the males is totally bed ridden. There is a total lack of awareness about the government schemes. Another

major problem faced by them is that several of them do not possess even the basic documents like Aadhar Card, Ration Card and Caste Certificate.

During the course of interaction with them at the time of the interviews, it was also realized that these elderly did not have any social life and did not have any scope for recreation.

❖ Chai – Masti

The Project realized that the elderly needed some platform to come together, relax and spend some time for themselves. Keeping this in mind, the project decided to hold group sessions where all of them could come together, have tea and some snacks and just interact with others. A total of three sessions were held, one each in November 2019, January 2020 and February 2020. It was rather touching to see the excitement and the participation especially the women who sang songs and shared their experiences.



❖ **Distribution of warm clothes**

The winters in this region are harsh with temperatures going down up to 7 Degree Celsius and 13 of the members of the group did not have warm clothing. The Project appealed to individuals for new clothes and sweaters for these members and distributed to these elderly



❖ **Distribution of blankets**

Donations were raised and blankets were distributed to each of the 30 elderly by Prof. Vilas Wagh, Secretary Samata Shikshan Sanstha on 09-01-2020



❖ **Relief Distribution:**

Due to Corona Virus Section 144 and lockdown was strictly implemented in Dhule since 24th March, 2020. In this situation, these families of the elderly are in a severe crisis. All of them are either themselves daily wage earners or the persons on whom they are dependent (sons / daughters) are also daily wage earners. Due to lockdown they were unable to go out for work or even get work. Besides loss of livelihood, there was confusion, fear and anxiety, they were not prepared and equipped to cope up with and handle the situation

We decided to assist these elderly families to tide over these difficult circumstances. First of all we interacted with them and created awareness about the pandemic. We then raised resources in cash and kind and distributed ration kits lasting for approximately a month. The kit was planned keeping in mind the local pattern and food eating habits. These kits were distributed to all the 30 elderly families for the months of March, April, May and June 2020.



❖ **Work on Public Distribution System**

Data obtained through the survey revealed that 5 (five) families of the elderly did not possess a ration card despite staying there for three generations. As they did not have ration cards, they did not receive any benefits of food grains extended by the government through the PDS.

Mr. Vivek Pandit of Vidhayak Sansad, Palghar had filed a petition in the High Court on Tribals not having Ration Cards and the High Court had issued an order that all the Tribals not having ration cards should be issued temporary ration cards under the Antodaya Scheme. The Project obtained this order so that the benefit could be extended to the elderly families in Vishwas Nagar

We approached the media and Zee TV exposed the issue through their series entitled “Zee 24 Taas Baki Shunya” which was telecast several times and received an overwhelming response.



We then partnered with Rationing Kruti Samiti and we jointly approached the Collector and the rationing authorities and are pressurizing the Local Administration to distribute rations to these families who are extremely poor but do not possess ration cards.

COVID 19 Relief Work

The world is facing a very unprecedented problem due to COVID-19. About one crore people all over the world are affected and about 5 lakh people died. India is very seriously affected. Apart from the virus affected people and their relatives entire nation is in distress. Economic recession is in the highest, unemployment has increased due to lock down, manufacturing activity is in standstill.

The COVID-19 preventive lockdown has changed the life of every individual in the country. While the lockdown is very much required to fight the pandemic, it has also lead to numerous problems, especially for the underprivileged section of the society who live in a 'hand to mouth' situation throughout the year. Millions of daily wage earners have lost their jobs and are struggling to fend for themselves and their families.

With all these, and many more challenges ahead of us, we at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Rural Development Project are Doing Our Bit through relief work, to reach out to and help the most deprived and under – privileged sections of the society.

We have been providing monthly ration kits since 29th of March 2020 and have assisted the following most vulnerable groups:

Communities and Target Groups

- ❖ Elderly Tribal families, Vishwas Nagar - 30
- ❖ Dalit Community, Udane - 25
- ❖ Migrant Workers, Jawahar Cotton Mills - 20
- ❖ Matang Community, Morane - 20
- ❖ Bhil Community, Morane - 15
- ❖ Transgender Community, Yellamma Temple, Chaligaon Road - 20
- ❖ Women Waste Pickers, Sakri Road - 08
- ❖ Nomadic Tribes, Kusumba - 06
- ❖ Domestic Workers, Sambodhi Nagar - 12



Achievements of the Project

- ✓ Aadhar Project for Elderly
- ✓ Ability to respond to crisis situation of COVID 19
- ✓ National Recognition for Relief Work – listed in National Directory of Organizations working for COVID 19
- ✓ Built local Partnerships – Community Administration, Media, Individuals and Organizations
 - Zilla Parishad, Dhule
 - Collector
 - Rationing Office
 - Gram Panchayat
 - Guru Prasad Gurudwara
 - LUPIN Foundation
 - Sharda Netralya
 - Annasaheb Chudaman Patil Dental College & Hospital
 - Dr. Aasif Patel
 - Dr. Pradeep Sonawane



- Print Media – Lokmat, Sakal, Deshunnati, Swatantra Bharat, Divya Marathi, Dainik Police Shodh, Deshdoot, Punya Nagri
 - Electronic Media – Zee TV, Dhule TV
- ✓ Forged National Partnerships
 - Jeevan Anand Sanstha, Mumbai
 - AJEEVIKA
 - Rationing Kruti Samiti, Maharashtra
 - First Cry, Pune
 - Vivek Sundara, Mumbai
 - Kavita Sharma, Baharain
 - Varsha Shah, Pune
 - PRIYA, New Delhi
 - Citizens' for Peace & Justice, Mumbai
 - ✓ Felicitation by local NGO – Saptashrungi Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha, Dhule for outstanding relief work during Corona.
 - ✓ Wide Media Coverage

Achievements

Wide Media Coverage



सुतार काम करणाऱ्या अनेक परंप्रातीय कुटुंबांना जीवनावश्यक वस्तूंचे वाटप



समाजकार्य महाविद्यालयातर्फे तृतीयपंथीयांना मदतीचा हात



सुतार काम करणाऱ्या अनेक कुटुंबांना जीवनावश्यक वस्तूंचे वाटप



सुतार काम करणाऱ्या अनेक कुटुंबांना जीवनावश्यक वस्तूंचे वाटप.

सुतार काम करणाऱ्या अनेक कुटुंबांना जीवनावश्यक वस्तूंचे वाटप. सुतार काम करणाऱ्या अनेक कुटुंबांना जीवनावश्यक वस्तूंचे वाटप.

समाजकार्य महाविद्यालयातर्फे गरजूंना मदत



समाजकार्य महाविद्यालयातर्फे गरजूंना मदत.

समाजकार्य महाविद्यालयातर्फे गरजूंना मदत. समाजकार्य महाविद्यालयातर्फे गरजूंना मदत.



समाजकार्य महाविद्यालयातर्फे गरजूंना मदत.

Rachna J. Adsule
Prof. Rachna Adsule
 Honorary Project Coordinator



Adsule
DR. JALINDAR ADSULE
 PRINCIPAL
 Samata Shikshan Sanstha, Pune's
 Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of
 Social Works, Morane(Nakane)
 Tal. & Dist. Dhule (M.S.) - 42400

Samata Shikshan Sanstha,Pune

**Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Social Work, Morane (Nakane), Tal.& Dist. Dhule
(Maharashtra)**

SYBSW - IInd - Study Tour (2019-20)

Date- 15 to 0 21 December 2019

| Sr. No | Date | Time | Details | Contact Person | Holt |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 15/12/2019 Sunday | 10.00 pm | Departure from Dhule | Mr.Bhimraj Thombe 9922708745 | BOSCO Gramin vikas Kendra ,Nagar-Pune Road,Kedgao n Ahmednagar Pin-414005 Tel (0241) 2551924 9960172081 |
| | | 5.00 am | Arrival to BOSCO Gramin Vikas Kendra,Kedgaon | | |
| 2 | 16/12/2019 Monday | 10.00 am 05.00pm | BOSCO Gramin vikas Kendra ,Nagar-Pune Road,Kedgaon Ahmednagar Pin-414005 Tel (0241) 2551924 9960172081 | Fr. | |
| 3 | 17/12/2019, Tuesday | 9 to 5 pm | Field Visit – Rajani Village | Dattatraya Gaiykwad 7972295747 | |
| 4 | 18/12/2019 Wednesday | 9.00 am | NGO Visit-Watershed Organization Trust Ahmednagar | Ganesh Rajapure 9422226412 | DBGVK Kedgaon |
| | | 9 to 5 pm | NGO Visit – Sampada ,Trust Ahmednagar. | Anirudha Mirikar 9422226523 | |
| 5 | 19/12/2019 Thursday | 9 to 12 pm | NGO Visit – Ralegaon | Ganpatipule | Mr. Uday pandit, Sahyadri Nisrg Mitra, Chiplun 9881575033 |
| | | 12 to 3 pm | NGO Visit – Bharat Samaj Seva Kendra, Chiplun | | |
| | | 3.00 pm | Departure from Chiplun | | |
| | | 4 to 6 pm | Shivshrushti Visit, Dervan, Sawarde | | |
| | | 6.00 pm | Departure from Dervan, Savarde | | |
| | | 8.00 pm | Arrival to Ganpatipule & Holt | | |
| 6 | 11/01/2019 Friday | 9 to 12 pm | Ganpatipule Beach | BARTI Guest house | |
| | | 1 to 4 pm | Visit - Prachin Konkan Museum, Ganpatipule | | |
| | | 4.00 pm | Departure from Ganpatipule | | |
| | | 9.00 pm | Arrival to Mahad & Holt | | |
| 7 | 12/01/2019 Saturday | 9 to 11 am | Chavdar Talav Visit | | |
| | | 11.00 am | Departure from Mahad | | |
| | | 12 to 5 pm | Raigad Fort Dharshan | | |
| | | 6.00 pm | Departure from Raigad Fort | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------|------------------|--|--|
| | 13/01/2019 Sunday | 9.00am | Arrival to Dhule | | |
|--|----------------------|--------|------------------|--|--|

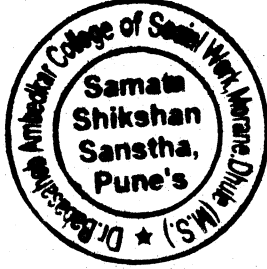
Total student = 27, Boys - 18, Girls- 9.

Teacher- 02, Total = 29

Coordinator

Dr. R. S. Mahajan - 9767262526

Mr. Vishal Bhadane - 8668419366



Jalindar Adsule
DR. JALINDAR ADSULE
PRINCIPAL

Samata Shikshan Sanstha, Pune's
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of
Social Works, Morane (Nakane)
Tal. & Dist. Dhule (M.S.) - 42400