

**Annual Report
of
ANISHA**

April 2020 to March 2021



Address: Kadambur, Oddaradoddi, Martalli Post, Kollegal Taluk, Chamarajnagar
District, Karnataka, India, Pin - 571 320, Email: anisha.india@gmail.com
Web site: www.anisha.org.in

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic put every individual into a difficult situation. India faced the worst situation as a lockdown was declared without any preparation. The people who had migrated to other states of the country suffered the most as they had to return to their hometowns without any wages, walk several miles for several days without food and water. Much causality occurred during this time and repeated lock downs led to more suffering.

As this was unpredicted, ANISHA could not respond to the situation immediately. A major population of Anisha's project area is migrant laborers who had returned home without their wages. Some people had small savings with which they could manage for a few weeks. People were starving. Anisha and the local groups, (local leaders, teachers, NGOs) came together and planned to provide dry ration kits to the migrants and needy families. Together, 4100 dry food kits were distributed - 3000 by Anisha, 1000 by St. Joseph's Hospitals and 100 by the school teachers. These food kits brought a short relief for 2-3 weeks for the migrant families. In the meanwhile, a 100-day guaranteed job scheme was announced by the government and families could get an income to run their families.


Anisha could not work in the field regularly as the schools were closed due to the pandemic and continuous lockdown.

Field Program

1. Organic Farming

a) In 2020, Anisha motivated the dry land farmers to grow Rabi crops after harvesting the main crop like peanuts, in their place sowing other crops so that the farmers get the main crop, mixed crop along with rabi crop. Identified 30 farmers and motivated to grow rabi crops and three varieties of seeds were distributed to farmers bengal gram, horse gram and green gram. There was good response from the farmers and also got good yield from rabi crop.



<p>Meeting farmers individual and motivated to grow rabi crops.</p>	
<p>Puttamadathambadi land after harvesting the main crop, and rabi crop - bengal gram</p>	



Seeds distributed to rabi crops

b) In 2020, Anisha did model in five farmer's field as model, growing more than 10 varieties of crops, importance was given to diversity of crops in a piece of land, which are required for home consumption. E.g if the finger millet is the main crop along with that pigeon pea, field bean, castor, foxtail millet, cowpea, barnyard millet, kodo Millet, maize yellow, multicolor maize will be grown. Additionally vegetables like radish, okra, cluster bean, near the bunds pumpkin and bottle gourd was also grown. This was the first time more variety of crops and vegetables were grown in rainfed conditions. There was good response from the model farms, and also farmers visited the model farms and expressed to implement in their farms.

Earlier the farmers had grown a minimum 5 crops, however we initiated the model farms by growing more than 10 varieties and it was successful it also address the food security of the farming communities.



Crop diversity

2. Organic Kitchen Garden

Due to the pandemic, the staff could not go to the field and work. However, they motivated the groups over phone to continue organic farming and kitchen gardens and the response was positive. Seeds were also distributed to new kitchen gardeners. Everyone expressed that the kitchen gardens were a great source of vegetables during lockdown and they realized the importance of kitchen gardens in their daily life.

Student's garden



Student's garden

3. Educational Support Program

In 2020, the schools were open in the beginning and closed for the rest of the year due to the pandemic. Though online classes were held, most of the students were unable to attend as the families could not afford an android phone. Anisha could only support 15 students with school fees, notebook and bags.

4. Self-help group

The self-help groups met a few times, and could not continue as the members had no earnings to save money. Most of the members are managing their families with the loans from the self-help groups. Even though the savings and credit activities stopped, however, members met for awareness programs on safety measures to prevent the spread of covid-19 and masks were distributed to the community. The response from the people was good.

The women have continued doing organic kitchen garden on their own with the seeds they saved from years.



Kitchen garden

5. Covid-19 Pandemic Relief work

A huge population of this region comprises landless laborers, small and marginal farmers, who migrated to nearby cities and states in search of jobs. Apart from working in mines/quarries, they also work in the cities as construction workers, garments factory workers, drivers, painters, carpenters, maids, and other labour-intensive jobs. The pandemic lockdowns forced these migrant families to return to their villages. They lost their jobs and thus their wages. Their situation is painful as poverty is hitting them hard without jobs and no land for cultivation. In this circumstance, Anisha and St. Joseph's Hospital and teachers together distributed 4100 dry food kits for the migrant and needy families. A detailed report of Covid-19 relief is attached in Annex-1.



Food kit distribution

6. Awareness on safety measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19

Anisha initiated the covid-19 awareness program in the region mainly concentrating on the preventive measures. People were told to regularly clean and sanitize their hands, maintain social and physical distance, wear mask, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. A vehicle with loud speakers went round the villages with a recorded public announcement in the local language about the safety measures and this was well received by the community.

7. Anisha's Ambulance Service: In the region there is no ambulance service available within 30 kms radius. The government ambulances are available but it is in taluk head quarter. During emergency it takes more than one hour to reach our place and again going back to the hospital it takes another 3 hours, however it is subject to availability of ambulance. In many cases people are not able to reach hospital in time so they lost their life. Like this in December 2020 itself more than 6 young people died both married and unmarried youths. All these people died due to cardiac arrest because in time they could not reach the hospital due to non availability of ambulances with life support features like oxygen. At the same time there are no equipped hospital facilities in the region one has to go to Mysore (120 kms) or Bangalore (220 kms), as in the surrounding areas there are small clinics and hospitals they can give first aid.

As a result Anisha's introduced Ambulance Service in the region in March 2021 with life saving equipment of oxygen concentrator, cardiac monitor and first aid kit. The

ambulance is operating with the support of St. Joseph's Health Center, Martalli, they have a general practitioner with nurses for emergency they accompany the patients to the hospital.

Everyone in the region expressed it was a gift for the region during covid-19 pandemic as none of the vehicles came forward to take the covid patients to hospital. At present cases like covid, accidents and cardiac patients are shifted to hospital and saved many lives.



Anisha's Ambulance Service

8. Seed Bank and seed multiplication: This is one of the regular activities of Anisha. Every year, old seeds are replaced with the incoming of new seeds. Of the 326 varieties in the seed bank, we were able to multiply 312 varieties at the resource center. Work at seed bank is ever ongoing. We received a considerable number of orders for seeds in 2020, but could not mail them due to repeated lockdowns. These orders were fulfilled after lockdowns were lifted.



Seed bank

9. Resource Center Development and Maintenance

At the Resource Center, maintenance work is carried out on a regular basis. The solar panels, batteries, solar fencing, bore well, water pump, building, rainwater tank are kept in working condition. Cows are also taken care. One bore well are able to pump minimum volume of water for RC maintenance. So, all the crops are grown in rainfed

condition. There was a leakage in rainwater harvesting tanks, and these had to be renovated.

Conclusion

Most of the field works were paused due to covid-19. However, work at the resource center was ongoing. Most part of year 2020 was focused on providing relief kits and awareness programs and preventive measures for the community, Women and students are continuing their kitchen gardens and it's growing. Many families are gardening all year round. We are happy that students are able to sustain their kitchen gardens and spreading it among the villages.

Acknowledgement

We thank all the supporters who generously donated towards covid-19 pandemic relief through Anisha. Without your support it would have been impossible to do anything.

Support from SD Nationals and Individuals

1. George Helmer's Family through Subud Woodstock: Supported for Covid-19 relief work, Organic Kitchen Garden for tribal families and women's program, Ambulance.
2. SD Germany/NUE: Maintenance of resource center and Agricultural Sustainability through Children's Organic Kitchen Garden Project (Extended Project)
3. Guru Krupa Foundation, SD USA and Paul's Family support: Agricultural Sustainability through Children's Organic Kitchen Garden Project.
4. SD USA: Educational support
5. SDIA, SD Norway, SD Australia, SD New Zealand and Individuals: Support for Covid-19 Relief work (dry food kits)