



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

RAMAKRISHNA SARADA SAMITI,

RKSS BUILDING, PRATIKSHA NAGAR, SION E, MUMBAI – 400022. PH. 24041180, ASK@RKSSNGO.ORG

Cover Photo: Our Students, who won prizes in Mallakhamb Competitions

Chairman's Address



Hello Members,

The Year 2022-23 is the **first full year of operations after March 2020**, which was free from COVID disruption. It gives us great joy to see so many happy children joining the Balwadi and learning in their formative years. As you are aware we run Budget Balwadi where parents by paying a small fee of Rs.500 per month could get their children educated through a proper playschool. Sadly, in India **almost 25 million children don't get an opportunity to join playschool**, and all of them however join the Primary school/ 1st standard at the age of 6, as Governments provide free education. Thus, most Indian children find it hard to cope with school as they haven't had any playschool/ kindergarten training.

RKSS vocational training activities couldn't be revived fully especially the beautician, financial literacy and, computer training programs could not be restarted. However, RKSS tailor training programs have continued without interruption. We run the basic program for 6-8 months. All successful candidates of the basic course are eligible to get a FREE tailoring machine and a kit. They can also apply for the advanced course where higher level training is imparted. The skilling division also conducts regular artisanal skill development programs through works by senior artisans or professionals. In this context our **partnership with Ambit Oditi Foundation is worth celebrating.**

SATTVA is a project of RKSS, which has completed two years of operations giving the street artisans and shopless tailors from the informal settlements, an opportunity to showcase their skill through handcrafted, well-designed, saleable home furnishing products, and personal accessories using handwoven or upcycled fabric and also provide home tailoring services for customized solutions.

The Gappagoshti sessions, VYASA volunteer opportunities, Mallakhamb and sports education, summer camp, festival celebrations, Project JEET **have all kept us busy serving the poor, throughout the year.**

VIDYA RAGHU

Chairman – Board of Trustees

From the Director's Desk

Dear Members of RKSS,

It gives me immense joy and pleasure to **call out three important milestones we covered in the Year 2022-23:**

1. Anchoring/ providing visionary leadership in Project JEET, which is an all-India alliance of NGOs in Education, Skilling, and Sports.
2. Having for the first time SATTVA's presence through a stall at Kalaghoda festival – the most popular street festival of Mumbai. Project SATTVA as you all are aware is founded by RKSS, and
3. Becoming a trusted NGO partner of the Tata Mumbai Marathon (TMM) 2023, which is one of the most popular international marathon event.

All these major milestones are **intended to serve one common cause** – the uplifting and empowerment of women and children from the informal settlements of Mumbai, nay children of all Government schools, through the Project JEET, especially those being educated in the medium of Indian languages including Hindi.

Like every year, the children of RKSS sports school have **won awards and prizes in Mallakhamb competitions** both at the city and state level. To encourage these accomplished children, we have dedicated the cover page of this Annual Report showing their skills.

Starting with COVID year 2020-21, we conducted Vivekananda Elocution competitions online, to encourage children from budget schools in the slum neighborhood. Held in January, for 2 successive years, to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's contribution to nation building/ the National Youth Day, we discontinued this January since Khar, Mumbai Ramakrishna Mission will conduct them offline, post COVID reopening of schools. Thank You.

Rajhu Dilaka

Director, RKSS



RKSS Gammatwadi

RKSS Gammatwadi has reopened after two years of COVID lockdowns. Children are back and center is humming with tiny tots learning through play and fun. A great feeling!



Annual Day

Chief Guest for the 2023 Annual Function, Sheila Chowdhury, Trustee RKSS, interacted with parents and children.





Tailor Training

Free Sewing machines and certificates were distributed to the Basic Tailoring batch. Thankyou Ambit Oditi Foundation & Siddhartha Rastogi, Managing Director & COO of Ambit Asset Management for your inspiring and consistent support.



Artisanal Development

Advanced batch of tailor training had also started and completed during the year imparting higher level skills to those who completed the basic course. In addition, lots of workshops in embroidery, bag making, fabric bead making, etc. were also conducted, which enabled our tailors and other women from the informal settlements earn more.



SATTVA – Women’s Entrepreneurship

SATTVA stands for Street Artisans and Trained Tailors Voluntary Association. This entrepreneurial journey of RKSS tailors and artisans has successfully completed two years and entering the third year with confidence and redoubled energy among the shop less tailors and artisans from the informal settlements of Mumbai.

- RKSS - SATTVA studio and workshop has been busy with a flurry of activity to pack, finish and ready for the festive season exhibitions lined up.
- The women have independently managed the Pujo stall at RKM, Khar! Women power!! And also a few other stalls inside corporate offices of HSBC, and Ambit Group in Mumbai.





Kala Ghoda Arts Festival

KGAF 2023, the famous Kala Ghoda Arts Festival has invited RKSSNGO to set up its stall showcasing SATTVA products and they were a hit with Mumbaikars indeed! Besides sales we have also got inquiries for our products from foreign visitors. SATTVA stall ran for the first 5 days although the festival is for 9 days as per rules of KGAF.



The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is an annual festival, nine days long, commencing always on the first Saturday of February and closing is always on the second Sunday in February, in the Kala Ghoda area of South Mumbai, India.

Kala Ghoda Association or KGA is a non-profit organisation that has its objectives as "physically upgrading the Kala Ghoda sub-precinct and making it the Art District of Mumbai". From its inception in 1999, the Festival has grown in stature and popularity, attracting visitors and participants from other parts of the country, and the world. The Festival is organised by KGA and, curated by teams handling each of the 12 sections of the festival - visual arts, dance, music, theatre, cinema, literature including children's literature as a sub section, workshops, heritage walks, urban design and architecture (2014), food, a dedicated section for children, and a vibrant street section including stalls selling ecofriendly, handmade arts and crafts wares.

SATTVA: Third Party Audit

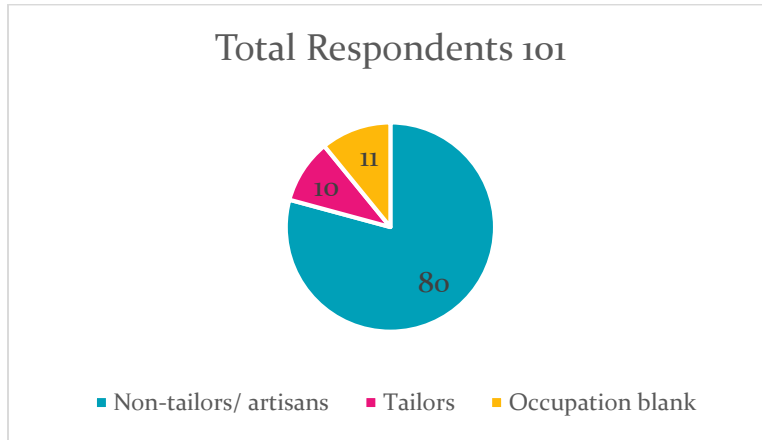
In order to help us look back with some statistical accuracy on the effectiveness of RKSS services to slums, a college in Mumbai came along to help. Student-teachers of the B.Ed program of Hansraj Jivandas College of Education (HJCE), about 37 in number, spent time collecting evidence and collating facts about vocational services of RKSS, and Project SATTVA's effectiveness. The report from HJCE student-teachers has given the following observations:

- The slum areas covered are Almeida Compound, Kokri Agar, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Nagar, Pipeline and Shastri Nagar all under Pratiksha Nagar F/N ward in Mumbai
- RKSS services are reaching the poorest of the poor living in these pocket slums of Pratiksha Nagar, Sion East Mumbai. Average household income is Rs.10,000pm to Rs.12,000pm
- About 25% of women surveyed knew about the work of RKSS and its benefits to them but there are many who didn't know about RKSS too
- Among the women who knew about RKSS, many couldn't join vocational courses offered by RKSS or the SATTVA women's collective either because they were busy
 - With household chores, or
 - Working as housemaids, or
 - Taking care of handicapped/ differently abled child at home
- Among the women who were surveyed, tailors in particular, only 33% knew about the SATTVA collective, which is a recent initiative of RKSS

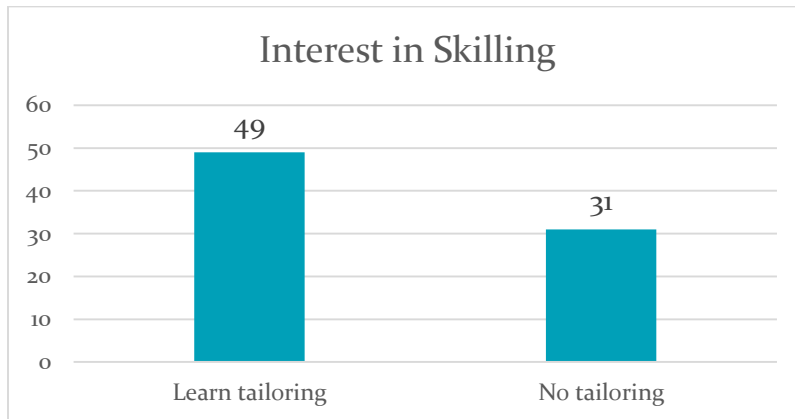


Independent Survey Findings

- 101 households were covered as part of the survey and <10% were tailors or artisans (see pie chart).



- Removing subjects whose occupation information is not available we get about 80 non-tailor, non-artisan occupations and 49 of them, 60% want to learn tailoring or advance tailoring and master-level fashion design course (see bar diagram).
- This reiterates our belief that vocational training and skilling are the need of the people living in these informal settlements.



JEET: Anchored by RKSSNGO

JEET Stands for "Joint Efforts for Educational Transformation". It is an all-India alliance of NGOs engaged in Education (Sports and Vocational included) ready to work with Governments, Organizations, Institutions, and Individuals to eradicate inequality and promote quality in the Indian education system. Educational inequality in India, persisting for decades resulted in:

- National literacy rate at only 77.7%, home to highest illiterates in the world.
- About 190 million students up to Standard XII suffering from low quality learning.
- Inclusion becoming a distant dream and, disability a serious barrier to education.

JEET Anchored by RKSS – Video Library

In January 2023, in the first meeting of the all-India alliance of NGOs all the members unanimously proposed Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti to become the anchor NGO for JEET rather than setting up a new organization. We are creating a FREE video library platform for the 19 crore disadvantaged children in India. Our working group members: Raghu Pilaka, RKSS Vandana Chakrabarti, Executive Trustee of the Bombay Community Public Trust, and Ajaykumar Rai from the National Association for Blind.



Mallakhamb Training

Mallakhamb is an Indian sport that seamlessly integrates modern gymnastics with ancient Indian yoga and uses pole (Khamb) and rope hanging from the top, to enable the student display her skills and prowess.



Team Champions

During the year our students won a few awards in the city-level and state-level competitions hence we dedicated our cover page to display the winners' talent:

- Under 14: Prathamesh charkari
- Under 17: Manoj Varma, and
- Under 19: Karan Vishwakarma



Gappagoshti – Group Discussions

Gappagoshti is the slang for group discussion and awareness sessions through freestyle talking. This has evolved in to a wonderful platform for RKSS to interact with the mothers of RKSS Gammatwadi children on various issues of importance to them like positive attitudes, child health, mental health, immunization, nutrition, and common ailments. Some of the important themes we discussed are:

- 'Creating an effective home environment for holistic child development'.
- Importance of immunisation in the Healthy Mother, Healthy Child program.



Discussion Leaders & Mentors

Without the leaders who lead our Gappagoshti sessions there wouldn't be any meaningful discussion at all. So thanks to all our discussion leaders who made this possible during the year namely Dr. Veena Gholap Associate Professor and Psychiatrist and the staff and students of K J Somaiya Hospital in our neighborhood.



President Indore Sarada Math

Pravrajika Amalprana Mataji, President of Indore Sarada Math visited our center and gave a short lecture on how to develop a pure and peaceful life in this mad world!



Vivekananda Elocution Competition

Ever since COVID struck schools in Mumbai in particular and India in general many children had little or no opportunity to go to school have peer group interactions, games and play. The same happened to RKSS Gammatwadi, we couldn't keep our balwadi open to the tiny tots. Similarly, our tuition group children couldn't attend after school support classes too. Thus, bringing to a grinding halt all their classroom learning. But we did two important things to encourage learning:

- First, all tiny tots had online learning with parents actively supporting home based education and learning. But now the Balwadi is open so that problem is behind us.
- Second, we ran the online elocution competitions for children from budget schools in the neighborhood where each school child was required to send their recorded speech via email or WhatsApp, and they were judged based on their submissions.
- These competitions were discontinued this year Jan 2023 because schools fully reopened and Ramakrishna Mission Khar restarted their schedule of competitions for schools in Mumbai, including elocution.



Summer Camp

Usually RKSS summer camp starts when schools close for children in the vicinity including our own Gammatwadi. In summer camps, which are attended by kids, boys and girls in large numbers, children learn in an informal environment through arts, films, dance, music, and other extra-curricular activities. Two groups of camps are held in April:

- One, for the juniors from age groups 6 to 10, and
- Second, for the seniors from age groups 11 to 15.

Thought Leaders & Volunteers

Again these camps are not possible to be conducted successfully without the generous support from thought leaders and coaches like Manasee Banker for computer coding classes, Sanika Gadam for dance, teachers from school of fitness for Karate, Dr Beena psycho therapist, our Director Raghu Pilaka, JEET Newsletter lead Partha, Maurvika Patnekar and Gayatri Chudekar from Illumine, Ranjit Dahiya, and several volunteers.







About 50 kids, boys and girls participated in April/ May 2023 summer camp!



Illumine Knowledge Resources conducted an interactive game based workshop on stories from Shivaji Maharaj's life. The three-hour session was highly engaging with storytelling, team games, and role play. Kids thoroughly enjoyed the session and shared many interesting learnings Thank you Srinivas Venkatram for organizing this workshop at RKSS.



Play with Clay- kids were led by interns from the Hansraj Jivandas College of Education.



Shri Ranjit Dahiya of Bollywood Art Project visited the center during the summer training camp and conducted a lively session introducing Art and its creative potential. He narrated his life story of how he moved from a highly formal and trained design professional from National School of Design, Ahmedabad to the most creative art field that he chose and founded the BAP – Bollywood Art Project.



Tata Mumbai Marathon 2023

The Mumbai Marathon, is an annual international marathon held in Mumbai, India, on the third Sunday of January every year. It is the largest marathon in Asia as well as the largest mass participation sporting event on the continent. It is the richest race in India with a prize pool of US\$405000. TMM offers an opportunity for NGOs to tap into the philanthropic habits of people who wish to donate through this sporting event.

RKSS – First Time Entry to TMM

In January 2023, a full corporate team participated in the races to raise money for the cause of RKSS activities, and this was made possible by a Mumbai based company, SiMPL, whose promoter and director Shri Rajashekar Iyer is a regular donor to the causes that RKSS stands for. From RKSS both Vidya Raghu, and Raghu Pilaka finished the race.





Advisory Board

		
<p>Mahan Mj., is a Mathematician & Monk of the Ramakrishna Math & Mission. He is a recipient of the 2011 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in mathematical sciences and the Infosys Prize 2015 for Mathematical Sciences.</p>	<p>Dr. Srinivas V., Founder-CEO & Lead: Illumine Knowledge Resources P. Ltd. Engaged deeply with the question of how knowledge can enable human systems.</p>	<p>Siddhartha Rastogi, is MD & COO of Ambit Investment Advisors Pvt Ltd. Banker but Writer at Heart & Life Coach.</p>
		
<p>Dr. K Venkatesham is retired IPS officer who rose to the rank of Director General of Police, Maharashtra and won several accolades from citizens and colleagues in the police as a Commissioner of Police, Pune where he experimented with policing with a human heart.</p>	<p>Dr. Muralikrishna Reddy is President at the Indian Technology Congress Association. Chairman, 75 Students Satellites Mission University of Kentucky Post-Doc, Energy Networks.</p>	<p>Prof. Trilochan Sastry is a faculty member in the Decision Sciences Area. His interests include social entrepreneurship. He was the Dean at IIMB from 2008 to 2011.</p>

CSR FORM 1 OBTAINED

Under the directions of stalwarts from our advisory board and a dedicated board of trustees RKSS achieved one more milestone during the year by obtaining the registration under CSR certified NGOs from the Registrar under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

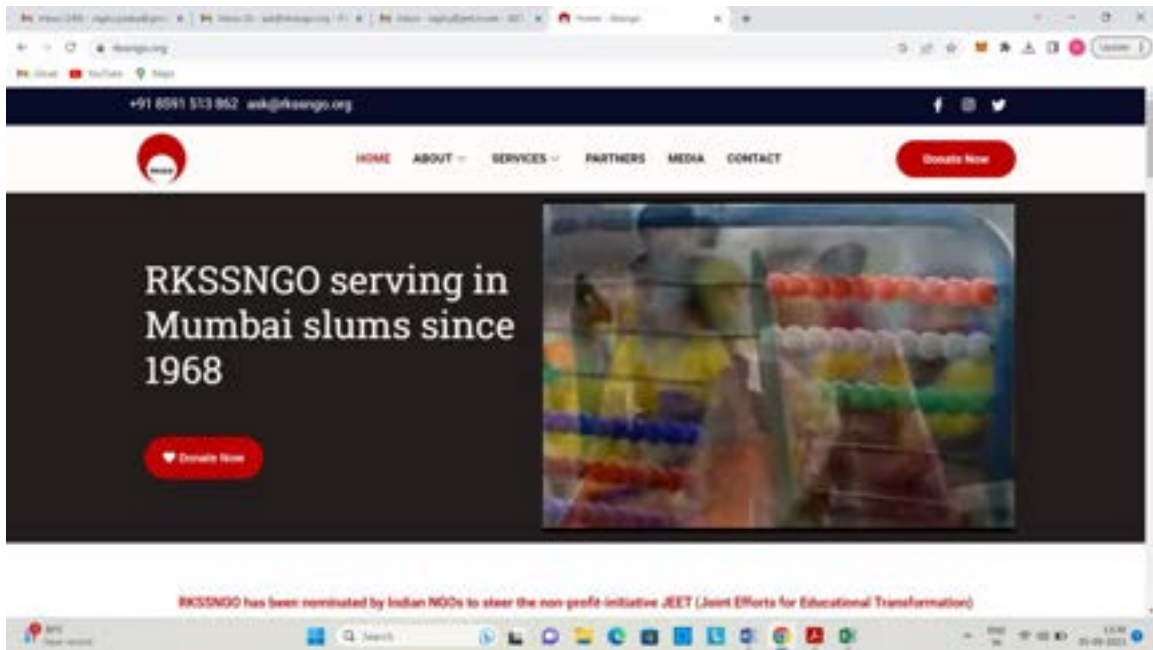
VYASA – VIVEKANANDA FOR YOUTH & SOCIAL ACTION

RKSS has provided a large number of volunteers either professionals or, students from schools and colleges to participate in the nation building activity through social work. Volunteers from different walks of life joined us to provide education to the poor and under privileged, upskilling for women from the informal settlements of Mumbai, and empowerment of the disadvantaged groups through our health, education, arts, sports, cultural programs, and vocational training activities.



Website Revamped

During the year we have revamped our website and added several new sections like *Media*, which has the publications of RKSS, and press coverage about us. We have added a page for *volunteers* to register from the home page and work with us for social change. Also added a page to showcase our *partners* and sponsors of projects.



PAYMENT GATEWAY – RAZORPAY

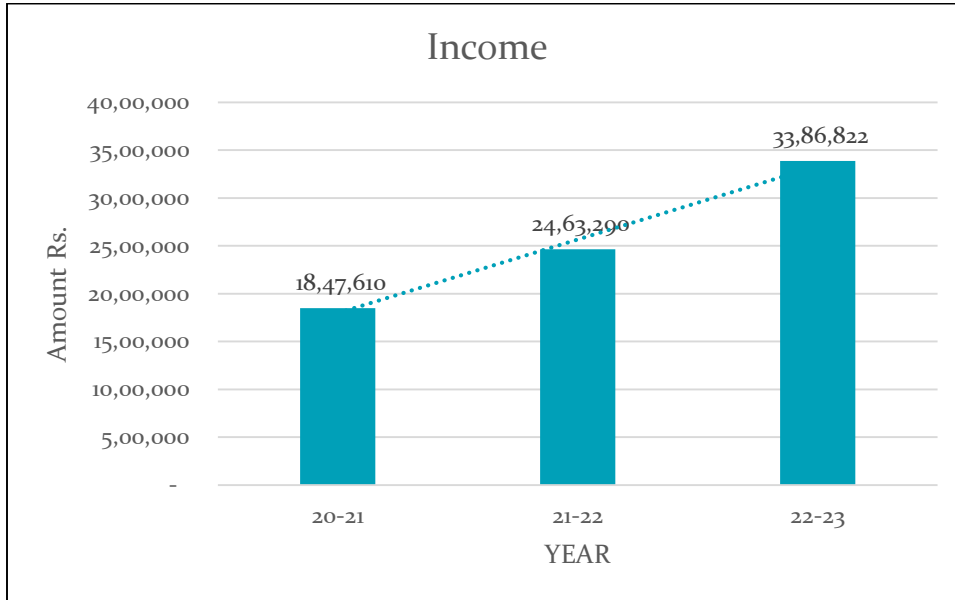
RKSS has a payment gateway to its donations page, which makes it easy to donate and gives multiple options to the donors to donate via online banking, or UPI, or Wallets, or debit/ credit cards. Donors can also donate via NEFT/ RTGS and our bank details are provided here.

DHARAM KHATA

In this section we will provide you with a snapshot of growth in the last three years through our financial numbers namely Income, Expenditure, Surplus/ deficit, and Assets.

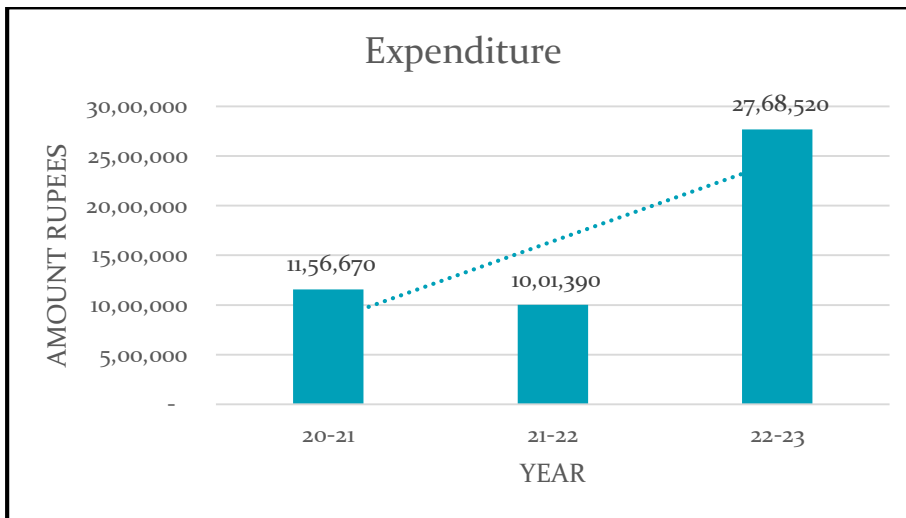
Income

Income of RKSS almost doubled in the past three years (85% increase)



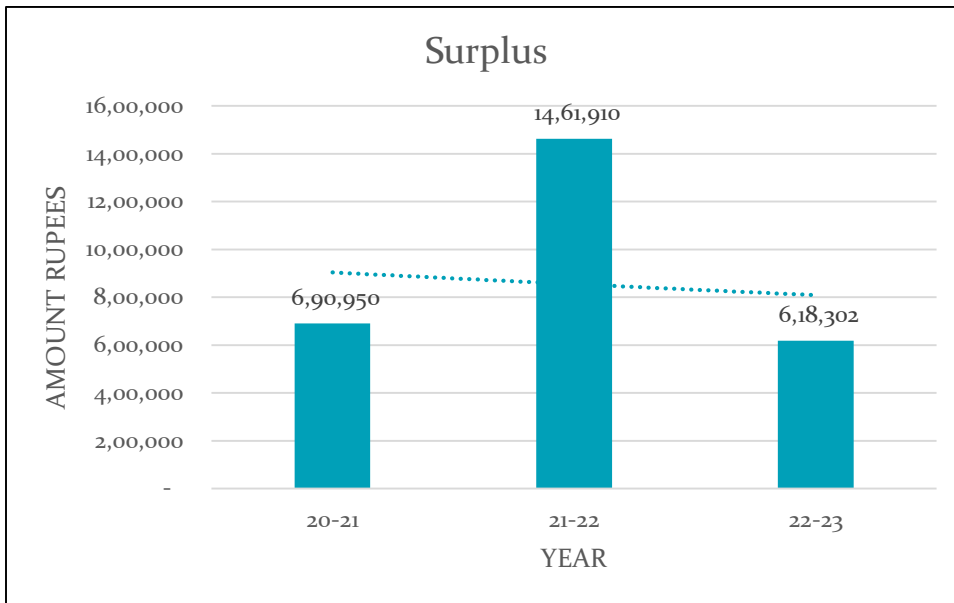
Expenditure

Expenditure of RKSS more than doubled (growth of 140%) in the last 3 years – Unshackled after continuous 2 years of crippling COVID lockdowns.



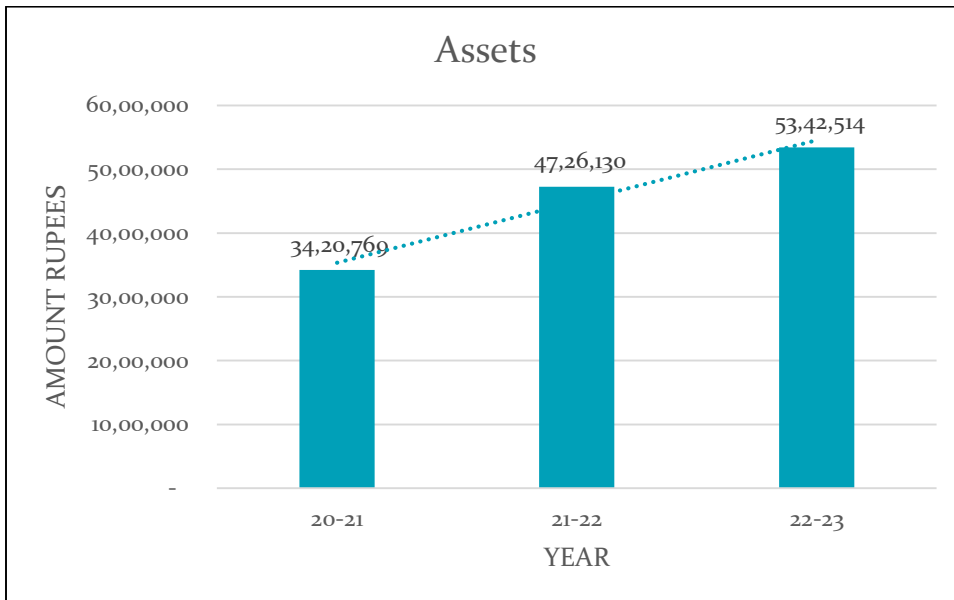
Surplus/ Deficit

RKSS has demonstrated resilience and bounce back after 2 crippling years of COVID lockdowns and brake in services to the community. We have successfully reduced the surplus in the last 3 years indicating we are spending almost all of the donations we are collecting for a purpose. This is a strong signal of transparency, commitment, and efficiency in operating an NGO.



Assets – Strength of RKSS Balance Sheet

The balance sheet of RKSS in terms of its assets has grown 50% in the last 3 years.



THANK YOU

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti thanks all its:

- Patrons
- Donors
- Advisors
- Partners
- Banks
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Auditors and
- Trustees.