



ANNUAL REPORT FY21

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti

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Mumbai - 400022

www.rkssion.org

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SDG #2

Sustainable Development Goal 2 is about creating a world free of hunger. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated all forms of malnutrition, particularly in children.

Swami Vivekananda

“They alone live who live for others and the rest are more dead than alive.”

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



I am glad to have joined RKSS full time, from 1st June 2020 after a 14-year stint in CXO positions at one of the Indian MNCs, the largest and most valued company in India - Reliance.

Little did I realize that soon I would be seeing the darkest period in Indian nay, world history, which is the onset of the deadly corona virus impacting every aspect of human life - work, family, elder care, travel, commute, food, entertainment, sports, and education to name some.

Taking a full time position as Director and FACA O - financial adviser and chief accounts officer - of RKSS was indeed challenging in FY21. But the first thing we did was to disclose all our accounts and tax forms and obtain the 'transparency verified' certificate from Guidestar India. Secondly, we got our MHADA lease document legally verified and pursuing them to rectify the defect regarding the survey number therein.

Our focus areas of work - Education, Health, and Women's empowerment including skilling - have taken the worst hit and were all shutdown due to LOCKDOWN!

During lockdown, we decided to restart our service spirit by serving the poor and the downtrodden with supplies of ration. We never imagined we will work so directly in eradicating hunger. Thus we slowly kick started our operations once again, with due permissions, and precautions prescribed for us.

I hope and pray that such a catastrophe shall not visit humanity again!

Raghu Pilaka - Director & FACA O [Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer]

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY THE CHAIRMAN



As Chairman of the Board of

Trustees and Members of the Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti (RKSS) I am glad to share with you that we have completed a major milestone of serving One Million beneficiaries especially women and children, from the informal settlements of Mumbai.

We are now committing to serve the Second Million in less than 10 years, and towards this end we have brought on board Sri Raghu - Director and FACA0 as full time contributor to the organization. We are also happy to inform you that his services though full time are pro bono, without any cost to RKSS.

I must share with you all one important development. After 10 years of partnership KJSMC of the KJ Somaiya Hospital have chosen not to continue the UHTC - Urban Health Training Centre. During the COVID-19 crisis these doctors spent full time fighting the pandemic hence our medical activities were completely shut down and subsequently we mutually agreed not to renew the partnership. We wish KJSMC good luck.

Now we are committing ourselves to running Health camps and directing our energies to the 2 main focus areas: (1) Education and, (2) Women's empowerment including skilling.

Vidya Raghu

Chairman

VISION & MISSION

VISION

“No one is a stranger, the whole world is your own.” - Ma Sarada

MISSION

Empower the economically disadvantaged women and support education of the children from urban slums by operating and, encouraging the setting up of, Community Engagement Centres.

Our beloved Smt. Shubangi Lad, expired due to Covid-19 on 14 May,2020 at 6:00 PM at KEM Hospital. We are deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Smt. Lad who was admitted two days after her husband was diagnosed as Covid positive. Her husband succumbed to the virus too. Lad madam, as she was fondly called, taught tailoring at the RKSS vocational centre. She helped design the six month course for beginners and set high standards for the program. She trained her disciple Jyoti Jangam as her assistant and continued to guide her to run the course when her eyes started to fail her. She was much loved and respected by all her students and RKSS staff for her soft spoken, kind demeanour as much as for her outstanding teaching ability. We offer our shradhanjali to the departed soul.



AREAS OF WORK

Owing to the complete shutdown of medical services from the centre due to COVID-19 pandemic, RKSS committed itself to growing its two other focus areas namely

- (1) Education, and
- (2) Women's Empowerment including vocational training

Education - Balwadi

We are determined to reopening the Balwadi as soon as the situation returns to normal but shall continue to run it through as an online program during the pandemic. And after school support has been reopened immediately after the full lockdown was lifted by following all the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

RKSS GAMMATWADI Goes online - to the Homes of our children...



Education - tuitions:



NATIONAL YOUTH DAY - 12TH JANUARY 2021

On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birthday, RKSS had conducted an online interschool elocution competition on inspiring incidents and stories in the life of Swami Vivekananda in English, Hindi, and Marathi for Junior (5-7 class) and Senior (8-10 class) groups. Schools in Sion Koliwada that participated included Gouridutt Vidyalay, New English Secondary school, NESS, Karmaveer Bhaurao Schools and others. Winners received prizes and the Trophy Winning schools received a book set for the school library.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

We could not restart the vocational training courses during the year owing to the severe restrictions by the authorities to run physical classes. However our tailor and artisan collective was brought together to make masks, which were an instant hit during the pandemic.

Project Sattva: To Restore & Re- Build Lives

Families in many communities are facing uncertain future with loss of jobs, closure of small enterprises and incapacity to earn livelihood. Small businesses such as chai stalls and other roadside food stalls, small services such as Istri wala, mochi, raddiwala, etc. have been shut since March 2020. The SATTVA project provides livelihood through the RKSS women's tailoring & street artisan collective. It enables affected women to learn tailoring & handicraft so that they earn by making high quality facemasks.





Super Suraksha Masks!

3 layer masks with a virus protection layer N 95 grade, breathable, reusable and reversible in attractive cotton hand block prints and soft cottons. We have been experimenting and innovating to create attractive and high grade masks affordable by all.

The main filtration material is a 3 in one non-woven fabric which is an ultra-fine electrostatic fibre layer that can capture dust and particles up to 0.3 microns. When the displacement of pneumonia-containing viruses approaches a melt-blown nonwoven, they will be electrostatically adsorbed on the surface of the nonwoven.



SATTVA brings you N 95, 7-layer cotton fabric masks for bulk orders and retail. Watch this space to buy retail and wholesale face masks. SATTVA face masks are handmade by RKSS women's collective and UVC sanitised in clean rooms. They are 7 and 8-layer virus protection N95 grade masks in a range of designs and prices, in attractive colours in cotton fabrics combining premium protection with design and comfort.



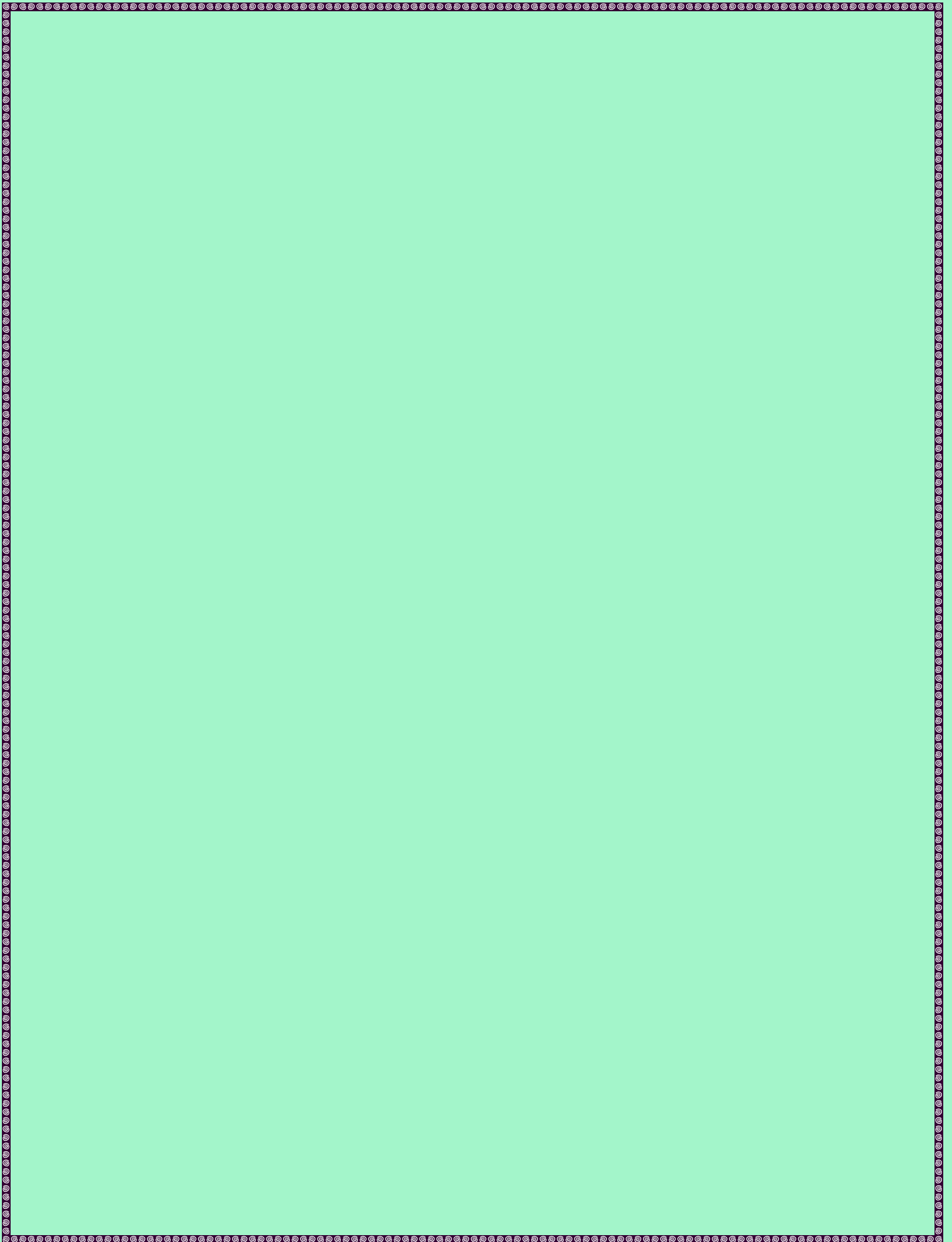
OUR IDEALS

The four fold ideals of RKSS are derived from the ideals of Ramakrishna Mission, which are:

1. Service to mankind is service to God
2. Potential divinity of every human being regardless of their birth, caste, sex, creed, economic status, or religion
3. Strength is life and Weakness is death and,
4. Work is Worship.

Yoga Boy!





WAR ROOM TO FIGHT COVID-19 CRISIS

COVID - 19 tested the grit and resilience of not only Indians but the whole humanity in general. However, Indian challenges were unique and unprecedented. We have lakhs of migrant workers stuck in places that were not their native places, a large population living in slums where the virus was spreading fast and virulently, poor hygiene and health background of citizens, spitting behaviour, and above all zero livelihood or wage earning opportunities.

In this background we did a three pronged attack on the crisis unfolded by the Corona Virus:

1. Distribution of free Ration Kits
2. Running of Soup & Egg rice kitchens, and
3. Setting up a livelihood opportunity through SATTVA

FREE RATION KITS

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti, RKSS, has been working in Pratiksha Nagar slums for 50+ years. In this hour of COVID crisis, many a families of daily wage workers, taxi drivers, mechanics, electricians, hawkers in areas such as Kokri Agar, Raoli camp, Sardar Nagar, etc. were deeply affected. Most of our children coming for free tuitions and Balwadi live in these areas. They are either sleeping hungry or having compromised meals RKSS distributed ration kits of up to Rs 1000 each to affected families.

The ration kit quantity (15 Kilograms) included Rice, Wheat Flour, Oil, Dal, Onions, Sugar, Turmeric, Chilli powder. These were designed to ensure one poor family of five could comfortably stay out of hunger for a week to 10 days.

1. 5 Kg Atta
2. 3 Kg Rice
3. 2 Kg Tur Dal
4. 1 Liter oil
5. 1 Kg sugar
6. 100g Turmeric
7. 250g Chilly Powder
8. 250g Tea Powder
9. 1 Kg Onions.



We started small, by distributing to poor families of children of our Balwadi and Tuition on 14th April, 2020. As demand swelled up, we spread out into slums. To make our job smooth we distributed RKSS tokens in advance by visiting the families of the needy and poor. A few names of our volunteers deserve a special mention here: Mahindra Harizyan from Kokri Agar, Harshendu Parmar from Gautam Nagar, Ms. Indu from Almeida Compound, and Devendra from Pipeline. In addition, almost a dozen Balwadi teachers and our staff worked relentlessly to make this targeted distribution a grand success. Distribution days besides 14th April, were 20th, 22nd April, and 27th April.

Special thanks to Reliance Retail Ltd and Sahakari Bhandar (Reliance Group) for ensuring timely supply and door step deliveries. The entire police personnel of Wadala TT police station were very helpful in ensuring orderly distribution and social distancing.







Distribution of food kits at Kokri Agar, Mhada transit chawls, wadala



Distribution of Food kits to residents of Pipe line at Mala Garden, Sion Koliwada



Managing people and physical distancing is quite a task. At RKSS, it was relatively easy since parents of our Balwadi and tuitions were contacted and have I-cards. At Kokri Agar and Pipeline it is overwhelming and difficult even with police help. The living conditions are deplorable with very little evidence of sanitation being taken seriously. People are desperate and managing the distribution is difficult.



Behind the scene, RKSS team working on tokens, consolidating addresses and meeting with community leaders to plan for the next phase of distribution.





40 families in Gautam Nagar received food kits on April 27. Harshendu Parmar from the community lead the efforts for distribution with RKSS.



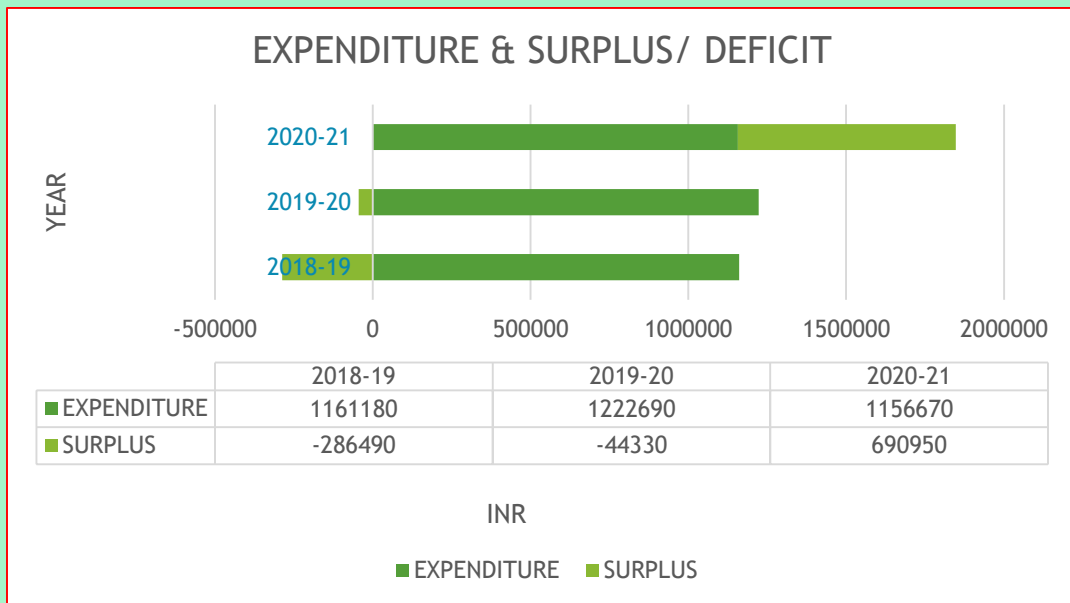
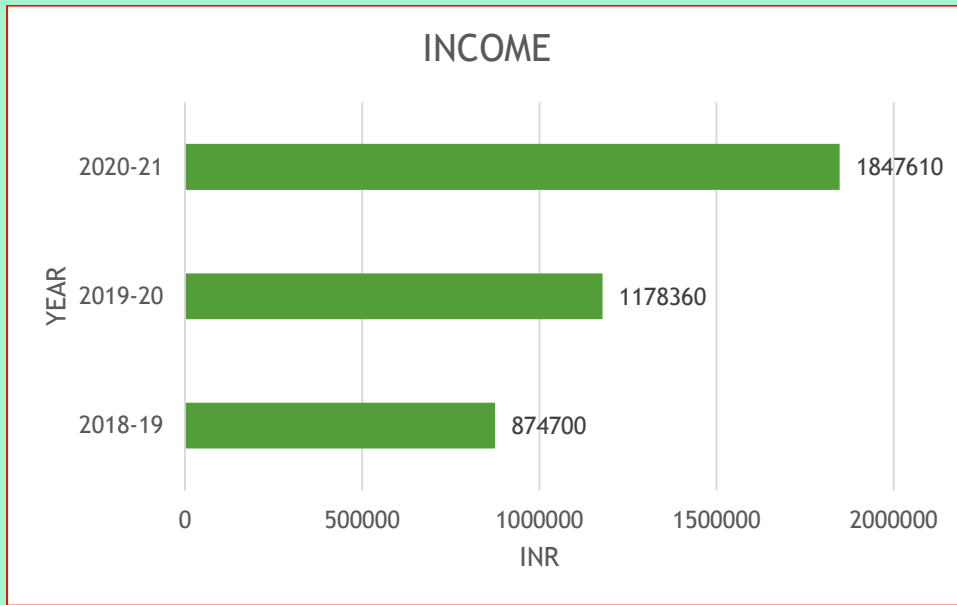
SOUP & EGG-RICE KITCHENS

Starting July 2020, Communities became self-reliant and organised community kitchens! RKSS supported these kitchens with funds to buy grocery. Each meal is below Rs 10/- per person and assures that each gets atleast one proper meal a day. This community in Kokri Agar organises the kitchen for 600 persons, mostly women, children , elders and disabled, the disadvantaged among the underprivileged! Community leaders like Mahendra Harizyan are emerging who in this time of crisis are organising kitchens and helped with their health complaints too. They needed our support and we left no stone unturned to help such young community leaders.





DHARAM KHATA



For details kindly refer to our audited financial statements for the year.

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