

ANNUAL REPORT FY22



Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti

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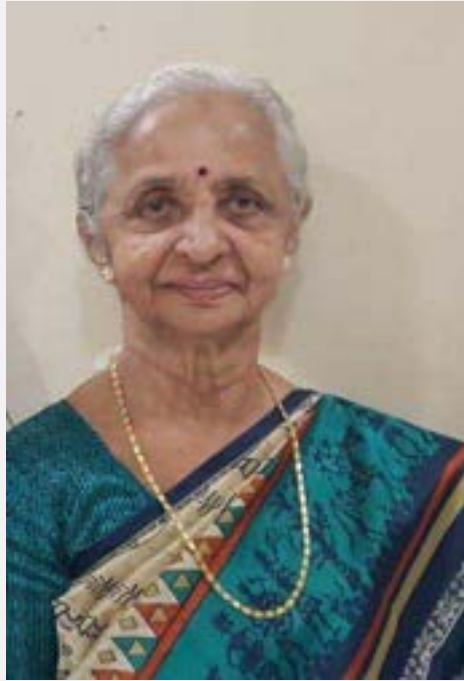
SDG #4

QUALITY EDUCATION - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

J. Krishnamurti

“We have made examinations and degrees the criterion of intelligence and have developed cunning minds that avoid vital human issues. Intelligence is the capacity to perceive the essential, the what is; and to awaken this capacity, in oneself and in others, is education.”

SHRADDHANJALI



Smt. Vijaya Bandivadekar

We at RKSS deeply mourn the untimely loss of our beloved Aai, Smt. Vijaya Bandivadekar was the driving force for the free yoga classes at RKSS. She was a sprightly, loving and optimistic personality, and taught and encouraged the community women to practice yoga at the center. She will be always loved and cherished by the entire community. OM Shanti.

Ms. Shashi Baliga

We at RKSS deeply mourn the untimely loss of our dear Shashi Baliga. She succumbed to Covid second wave, and left a deep void in the lives of all she influenced. An accomplished journalist and teacher at Xavier's, she found time to volunteer at RKSS to design and teach the personality development and communications course to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



The journey through COVID crisis was not only daunting but deeply sorrowful too. Many families have lost their near and dear ones and the second wave in its wake had taken further toll leaving us with the fear of many more waves to come, challenging our very survival. RKSS has lost two of our priceless volunteer-managers Smt. Vijaya Bandivadekar and Ms. Shashi Baliga. On behalf of the RKSS family I pray to God that their souls may rest in peace. Our sincere condolences to the bereaved families.

During the year we went through another lockdown with a virulent second COVID wave, and the saga of reopening with all the precautions like masking, temperature checks, social distancing, etc. All this has taken a toll once again on the livelihoods of people in the informal settlements as well as the children's education and nutrition. However, this time Governments were more prepared and people did not suffer from lack of food due to the efficient PDS and smooth ration supplies.

With the commencement of the first round of vaccinations and a continuous and untiring effort of governments to ensure our entire population gets vaccinated not once but twice, we sincerely hope that there would not be future COVID waves and even if they come they may not be so virulent and bubonic.

At RKSS, despite these calamities we have reopened our Balwadi, Tuitions, Tailor Training while SATTVA - Street Artisans and Trained Tailors Voluntary Association - activities continued in full swing, producing masks for the fight against corona virus and branching out into providing home tailoring services for the people in Mumbai city who stopped going out for getting their clothes stitched or altered.

Raghu Pilaka - Director and FCAO (Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer)

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY THE CHAIRMAN



I deeply mourn the untimely loss of our beloved Aai, Smt. Vijaya Bandivadekar, the driving force behind the free yoga classes at RKSS, and our dear Shashi Baliga an invaluable mentor to our tuition children. Both succumbed to COVID and I pray to God that their bereaved families be given the strength to fight this void in their lives.

COVID has not only brought bereavement in many a family but has also changed the course of RKSS forever. A tectonic shift has occurred in RKSS activities as free medical consultation and medicines will not be restarted though we will continue to hold medical camps for the benefit of the poorest of the poor in our neighboring slums. Post COVID, our activities will primarily be around Education and Women's Empowerment namely skill development and stabilizing the SATTVA initiative.

In education we have stopped online balwadi and started balwadi classes with a small intake of 50 children divided into 3 batches, practicing social distancing and other COVID induced behaviors. We have also restarted the after school program but many a mentors chose to get online with students than conduct classroom sessions. Hence we started the new initiative of online mentoring.

In vocational training and skill development we have restarted the tailor training programs - basic, advanced, and special classes. But could not restart beautician courses owing to the precautions we had to take against the spread of the COVID virus.

In women's empowerment we started computer training for women in a small way, thanks to the generous donations-in-kind as companies and individuals gave away their used desktops to RKSS. We are using them copiously to train our tuition children online through mentors. COVID is teaching us new ways to cope with the pandemic, I guess!

Vidya Raghu

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.



AREAS OF WORK

We are committed to taking the two important focus areas of RKSS - Education and Women's empowerment to new heights and have set ourselves an ambitious target of serving the SECOND MILLION beneficiaries by 2030.

EDUCATION

Balwadi classes have restarted this year and we took adequate precautions by breaking down 50 children in to three batches and maintaining all precautions against the spread of the virus.





Tuitions - After school support

We have started online mentoring by accomplished mentors helping our tuition children understand about professions like doctors, Information technology studies, Military service, Police, etc. In addition, we continued with our tuition classes for students from class V to class X.



**kACCHA
LIMBU**

Interactive session
online with Dr Mamatha
on Being a Doctor- a life
of service

**Tuesday, 12 October
@ 3:00 PM**



**adda @
kACCHA
LIMBU**

Interactive session at RKSS
with IPS Tejaswi Satpute on
Role of Police in Law and Order
and how women are equal to
men for the tough job of being
a Top Cop.

Tejaswi Satpute IPS
SUPERINTENDENT OF
POLICE, SOLAPUR

**10 December 2021
@
3:00 PM -4:00 PM**

Tuition classes:



NATURE TRAIL

Thanks Shri Raju kasumbe, BNHS for everything you gave our children from Pratiksha Nagar slums today; a knowledge packed leopard trail, a wonderful guide, free tickets, and sumptuous mini meals.

Our students got introduced to Conservation Education thanks to this nature trail by BNHS staff. Our special thanks to Sh. Abhijit for coordinating with me from yesterday, to make our trip comfortable, and to Shri Dilip our guide who with his knowledge of the jungle, shared with our kids, practical visual demos and spine-chilling leopard videos, captured recently.

We cannot but thank profusely Ms. Preeti for introducing us to you. We will look forward to many more such trips in future.







WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

We restarted the tailor training courses after a gap of about 15 months but couldn't start our beautician courses, which were quite popular with the local girls because of COVID restrictions. Our SATTVA project got off to a racing start with home tailoring services as many Mumbai women couldn't venture out to their nearest tailor shop due to fear of the virus. SATTVA collective also started making fabric based home décor and non-formal personal wear products besides anti-virus masks.

Tailoring classes certificate distribution function attended by Sh Siddhartha Rastogi from Ambit Oditi Foundation, our primary sponsor of the tailoring programs and SATTVA products on display:





Winners of the tailoring competition displaying the tailor made items



SATTVA

SATTVA - INDIA is a growing collective of women tailors from disadvantaged areas in Mumbai, powered by Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti, NGO, Mumbai. Women tailors with little or no education are trained, provided machines and join the collective to provide home services to housing societies. Tailor training, upskilling and continuing education are crucial to providing high quality home services by SATTVA women. This is achieved by Master classes and free workshops by experts held at the RKSS Vocational Centre. The first workshop after Covid Lockdown was conducted by Thot- Pot tailors who shared their expertise and was well attended by 20 tailors from the collective.



Under the SATTVA brand we would like to grow our tailor/ artisan collective to larger numbers. We started with 3 tailors and we now have almost 50 tailors and artisans in the collective. We also have a designer for both design and quality control besides social media volunteers spreading the good word about SATTVA artisans.



MEDICAL CAMPS

Free eye testing Camp at RKSS conducted by Kamala Sundaram Foundation and sponsored by Vinay Ghatani Foundation, was attended by several needy people from the vicinity.



SPORTS

Mallakhamb sports centre at RKSS is rising to newer heights every year. Prathamesh, Rajiv and Manoj have given great performances at the Bhau Saheb Ranade Mallakhamb competition 2021! Kudos to Pranjal and his assistants for training the RKSS kids so well!

Under 10

Rajiv Varma (Second Rank)

Under 14

Manoj Varma (Second Rank)

Prathamesh (Fourth Rank)



Congratulations Karan! Kudos to mentor Pranjal!

RKSS boy Karan Vishwakarma has been selected from Mumbai City District, under-18. Karan shall now participate in state level competitions @Nashik. His teacher Pranjal Revankar, is international Mallakhamb player, who started learning mallakhamb @RKSS, a decade ago and now teaches other children from the community. Karan works in a shop to help his family in the day, attends online classes and practices Mallakhamb at RKSS with grit and determination in the face of several challenges. Congratulations Karan!





ART & CULTURE

Merry Christmas!



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.



UNLEASHING WOMAN POWER

With artisan upskilling programs and more and more trained tailors joining SATTVA we would be reaching the milestone of self-sustaining artisan collective from the informal settlements, sooner than later. Giving below some of our products and training sessions in progress:



Necklaces from fabric beads



Coasters from upcycled fabric



Pouches from preowned fabric



Bags from recycled fabric



Bags from recycled jeans



Spectacle cases



VYASA VOLUNTEERS POWERING OUR ENGINES

At RKSS we have enabled several good meaning citizens to do social good. Our VYASA program welcomes volunteers of all hues to joining our social good activities. VYASA stands for Vivekananda for Youth and Social Action. Whether you are young or retired, corporate honcho or simply a student you can join us with a commitment to give minimum a day up to 6 months of your involvement, part time if you like but in a truly selfless manner.

In this regard, we have tie up with organizations and we work with individuals and one such recent entrant is Hansraj Jivandas College of Education. Every year 10-20 students of this institution commit 48 hours per semester (of 6 months) volunteering for our works.



THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

We have excellent partnerships with several donor organizations and sponsors who provide us the fuel for social outreach - the money! Those who contributed this financial year 2021-22 need a special mention in this report.

1. Ambit Oditi Foundation



2. Illumine Knowledge Resources Pvt. Ltd.

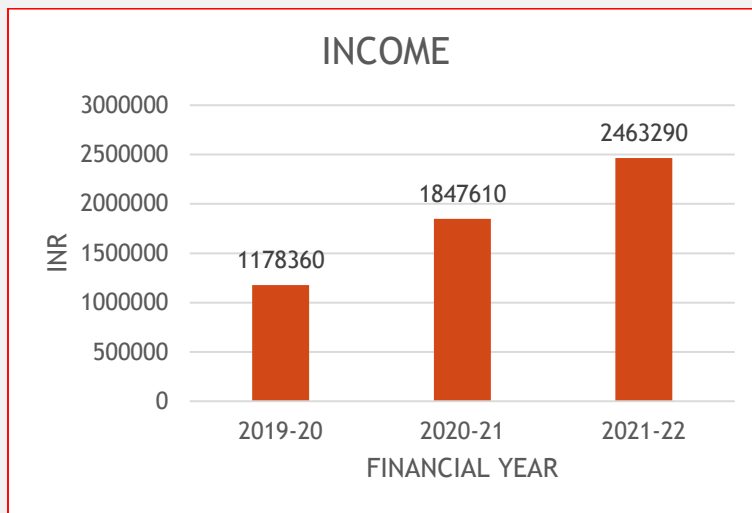


3. Several individuals who either donated money or gave us things in kind:

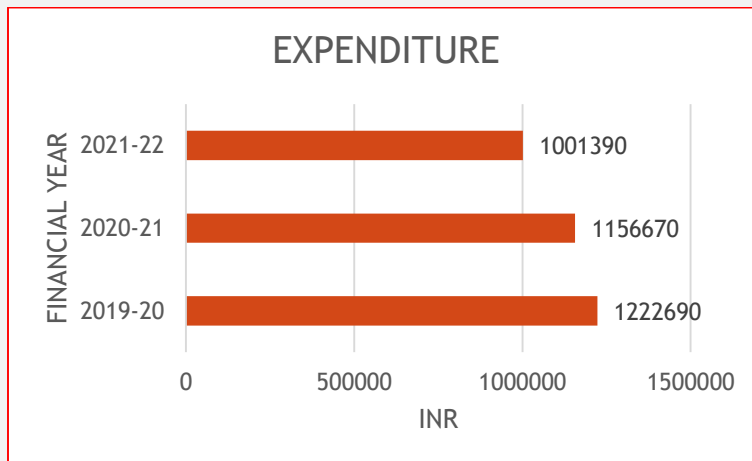
- a. Mrs. Shanti Arnal (computers)
- b. Chandersen D Jatwani
- c. Anil Shetkar
- d. Trinadha Baba
- e. Ramakrishna Pilaka
- f. Ajit Ranade

DHARAM KHATA

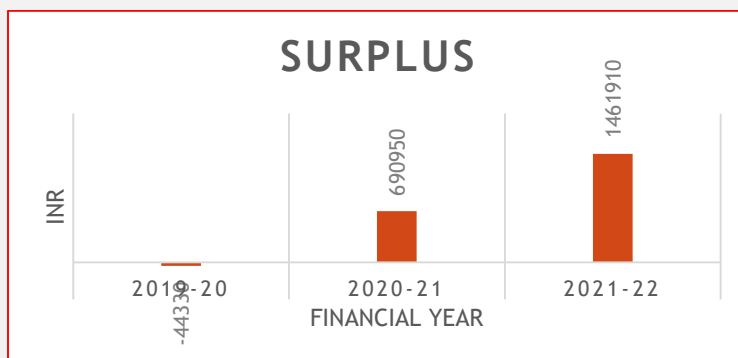
1. 100% Increase in INCOME post COVID-19.



2. Expenditure is yet muted owing to the second wave of COVID-19 that followed the first.



3. Expenditure did not increase in proportion with increase in Income due to COVID-19 crisis, leaving high surplus in FY 21-22, unlike in the pre-COVID years when deficits were all over.



CONTACT US

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Tuition Students - Girls day out!

