

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**



## **SAVERA FOUNDATION**



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*Message from the secretary's desk:*



Savera Foundation is working in the two districts- Giridih and Koderma of Jharkhand since 2006. We initiated working with the community on education. We found large numbers of tribal and Dalit children are out of schools engaged in mica scrap collection or wandering in the jungle in search of mica scrap. It was not only depriving them of their better future but was also hazardous for the children of tender age to be affected by mica dust being exposed whole day. The children exposed to mica dust chalked their lungs and if not cared early acquire tuber colossi. We started motivating parents to send their

children to school to gain knowledge so that one day they could get rid of the vicious cycle of poverty. Owing to acute poverty among the community parents were unable to send their children though they like their children to go to school. Even if admitted, they discontinued their studies due to unmet expenses which welloff for outsiders fail to understand and wonder or curse the community and their children. Our concern also is for climatic change which is being witnessed by one and all. Hence, we make effort to preserve and protect natural forest and renovate water bodies. Initially, we lacked resources to support the community unlocking their capacity. Now we have some resources to organize, strengthen, and empower them through formation of Kisan clubs, youth clubs, SHG etc. Their scarce subsistence agriculture is being gradually diversified so that they are not only dependent on harvested grains alone but also some income from other sources like horticulture, animal rearing, forest products, and skilled labour. Children are cared, from early at Anganwari level extending helping hand to Sevika and Sahayika so that they are taken care of well – additional nutritious food, immunization and growth monitoring. At the school level we support and help teachers – motivate them and reward better performers. SMC are strengthened through round of capacity building measures so that they play a constructive role in the school management. For the weak children extra classes or remedial classes are taken up so that irregular, weak and late starter children can catch up with the rest of the children. Dropout and out of school children's parents are counselled to send their ward to school. Time to time extracurricular activities are being taken up for the government school children for overall development – organize exhibitions to inculcate scientific temper, sports, games and drawing competition and life skill setc. so that they can beat par with the other children. This is our humble beginning; there is lot more to be done for that resources are also needed which is hard to come by. We hope and believe one day we would be able to bring change and happiness in the lives of the people we are engaged in. Though there are numerous hardships and difficulties from internal and external nonetheless we are confident we would overcome them! We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, donors, well-wishers and partners without whom our large effort would have been unimaginable. Therefore, we thank them all from Savera Foundation Family and our community (stakeholders). I thank all the dedicated Savera Foundation family members who are working in the front line as well as those behind curtain without whom it would not have been possible.

## *The Organization:*

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Savera Foundation is a philanthropic social organization. It has been registered under Society Registration Act XXI of 1860. It has taken initiatives for the upliftment of Tribal and Dalit communities in the remote villages of Giridih districts since 2006. Savera Foundation is dedicated to work for the poorest of the poor and marginalized sections including women, children, (Dalits and Tribals) towards a dignified life. Since its inception main focus areas have been education, health & sanitation, community organization, livelihood enhancement, agriculture redevelopment, gender equality and Dalit rights. The organization envisages a society free from injustice and exploitation where Dalits, Tribals (especially children and women) and the deprived can live their lives peacefully and in harmony with nature.

## **Vision:**

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We envisage establishing a society free from injustice, and exploitation where Dalits, Tribals and deprived can live their lives peacefully and in harmony with nature.

## **Mission:**

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To enable individuals and community within the working area that they can fully participate in the life, decision and structures of the community and have equal opportunity in development process.

# Empowerment through Sustainable development (DKA)

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- **Training on Livestock Management**-training on livestock management was organized for the community people in Thansingdih and Mansadih panchayats of Tisri block. They were informed about the importance of livestock and how they can supplement their income. Along with the income profits, they were also told about the ways of maintenance of livestock. The community people were also asked to regularly check the health of the animals and assess their performance.
- **Covid-19 Relief Drive**:102 families who didn't have any source of livelihood owing to the pandemic got food to sustain themselves. Ration kits were distributed to the families who were in desperate need and had no other support in terms of government help, employment or farming.
- **Mother and Child Health care**- pregnant and lactating mothers were provided training on mother and child healthcare by the government health workers and team members at Savera Foundation working on nutrition of mother and children. They were informed about the various vaccinations that are important for immunity building of themothers and mainly the children. The concept of "TirangaBhojan" which means tri-colour food was introduced to them.
- **Krishi Mela**- Krishi Mela (agriculture fair) was organized for the farmers of Mansadih and Thansingdih panchayats in Tisri block. During the fair they exhibited the agricultural products produced by them. They were encouraged to practice of organic farming. The agricultural fair also provided a platform to the farmers to raise their concerns and demands before the Block Technology Manager of Tisri block.
- **Career Guidance Programme for adolescents**- Career Guidance Programme for children in the age group 16-18 years was organised in the villages of Mansadih and Thansingdih panchayat. The objective was to make children realize the importance of career guidance and the need to have a full proof planning to achieve assured success.
- **Support of agri component to marginal farmers**- a total of 101 marginal farmers was provided with support of agri component to help them for cultivation of Kharif and Rabi crops. As part of the support of agri component drive, organic fertilizers and seeds were provided in order to promote organic cultivation practices among the farmers.
- **Kitchen Farming**- Distribution of vegetable seeds andfruit bearing saplings trees such as Papaya, Mango, Guava, Lemon, Jackfruit, Blackberry etc. was done among the marginal farmers to help themset up the own kitchen gardens in their vacant lands.
- **Remedial Classes**-to help children from marginalized groups continue their educational journey; remedial classes have been set up in the villages of Tisri. The parents, teachers and School Management Committee have been consulted and efforts

have been made to enroll drop out students to the remedial classes.

- **Advocacy**-Network building and advocacy with the Government departments were a part and parcel throughout the project. The resources and development schemes of the government like building of ponds, roads, PM Awas Yojana, Poultry sheds for SHG Members, installation of handpumps, pump sets and motors for irrigation etc. were mobilised for the beneficiaries whenever it was possible.

## Awareness on the prevention, control and cure of Tuberculosis (AID)

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- **Awareness creation on TB-** community meetings have been organized in order to aware the community people on the causes, spread and cure for TB. During the meetings discussion are held on the safety precautions that need to be taken if someone is infected with TB and also about the right treatment. Emphasis is also laid on the importance of intake of nutritious food to ensure full recovery of the patients.
- **Facilitating creation of Ayushman Bharat cards-**a total of 70 community people which included positive and suspected TB patients and their family members were provided support in generating Ayushman Bharat card which will help them get a health cover of Rs.5 lakh and also enable them to gain an easier access to the public healthcare facilities.
- **Nutritional support to TB patients-**nutritional support was provided to a total of 31 positive and suspected TB patients in the villages of Thansingdih panchayat. The nutritional supplement was provided to them in order to help them boost their immunity in order to ensure their full and speedy recovery.
- **Liaisoning of TB patients with government health department-**liaisoning of TB patients with the government health department has been done in order to assist them avail the proper healthcare facilities. Their names have been enrolled on the Nikshay portal to enable them access the financial support provided by the government to spend on their nutrition.
- **Support for kitchen gardening-** - seeds for kitchen gardening such as lady finger, pumpkin, gourd, beans etc have been provided to a total of 71 villagers which includes the positive and suspected TB patients and other community people who lack nutritional sufficiency. The support has enabled the community people to create kitchen gardens in the vacant land near their houses. The crops are being used by them for subsistence consumption which has helped in improving their health status.

# Integrated Watershed Management Programme (AID)

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme focuses on ensuring water security in the drought prone villages of Koderma and Giridih districts in Jharkhand. The programme is operational in Kosmai and Deopur Tribal Villages in Koderma district and Thansinghdih Panchayat of Giridih District. The focus during the programme has been mainly on constructing traditional watershed structures to resolve the issue of water scarcity. The statistical evidence of such work progress is given in the table below:

INITIATIVE	NUMBER	PURPOSE
Gully Plugging (width=12", depth=2.5", length= 3 times the width)	84	Decrease surface run-off, helps soil to retain water for longer period of time.
Distribution of Plant Saplings (2 Mangoes, 1 Blackberry, 1 Guava)	4500 Individuals	To promote homestead horticulture and kitchen gardening.
Small dams (length=30-35", depth=8")	05	Recharging the water table, maintains soil moisture, increases water level
Para Ponds (60'*60'*40')	23	Rainwater stored can be used for agriculture, fish breeding.
Hume Pipes	08	To decrease the surface run-off.

Apart from all these initiatives, distribution of fruit trees has been done among the community people in order to promote homestead horticulture. In addition to this, advocacy has been done to construct more watershed structures in the villages by the government. Efforts have been made to prepare seed balls and through them into the forests through slingshot in order to increase the vegetative cover. The seed balls comprises of soil and seeds of trees like neem, jackfruit, jamun, dates etc in Kosmai village and seeds of acacia, siris and neem.

## Right to Survival - Securing Health, Nutrition and Education for Children and Safeguarding them from the Harm of Illegal Mining (TDH)

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To provide proper nutritional support and care to children belonging to vulnerable communities, 5 crèche centres were opened in villages of Tisri. The total number of children enrolled at the crèche centre is 98 and they are in the age group 3 months to 6 years. At the centre focus is given on providing children a safe and clean environment along with aiming at their overall development (mental, physical, social and psychological). The services provided to the children at the crèche centres involve- food supplements, regular height and weight check-ups, MUAC check-ups, playful activities etc. During the lockdown, the children were supplied with dry ration and were taught hygienic practices like washing of hands regularly. Crèche workers have made the mothers aware of health & hygiene & proper child care. The mothers are aware of nutritious value through local available food materials. They are using them in their daily food. They are also taking initiative for kitchen gardening and have made kitchen garden at their home.

For taking update regarding health, hygiene & nutrition of enrolled children crèche workers regularly visit each and every child's home personally. They suggest the mothers for frequent hand wash, cleanliness of home as well as surroundings. They also make toys along with mothers by adopting safety measure and distribute them to the children. Crèche workers along with CBAs insist mothers to spend maximum time as so possible for their child's physical as well as mental growth.

# Revival and Management of Traditional Water Resources- Conservation of Rainwater with community initiatives(PHF)

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Scarcity of water remains a pertinent issue in the rural areas of Tisri Block of Giridih District given the rocky topography and the sloppiness of the region. The water retention capacity of the soil in these regions is very low because the area is hilly and sloppy. This makes the soil infertile for agriculture. This results in soil erosion which causes the problem of high surface run-off of the water. Due to the lack of irrigation facilities, cultivation becomes difficult especially during the summers. Therefore, to address the shortage of water in the villages, intervention was done in 10 villages of Thansinghdih Panchayat, Giridih District. Under the intervention, efforts have been made to conserve rain water through construction of traditional watershed structures such as bunds in ravines and rivulets, gully plugging etc.

- **Training to Gram Sabha members on active participation in Gram Sabha**-One day training programme to Gram Sabha members on active participation in Gram Sabha was held in the 10 villages of Thansinghdih panchayat. The members were informed about their roles and responsibilities in order to equip them to address the problems and issues concerning their respective villages.
- **Capacity Building of team members on Water Resource Management** - Capacity Building of Team members on Watershed Management was done to help the team members develop better understanding on watershed management and also help them develop sustainable methods to resolve the water crisis in their working area.
- **Exposure visit of the farmers**- exposure visit of farmers of Thansinghdih panchayat was conducted to Gram Nirman Mandal, Kawakol in the Newada district of Bihar. The visit helped in the exchange of information between the farmers with regard to methods of farming, the challenges and the ways to tackle them. It also motivated the farmers to reduce the use of pesticides and other chemicals and encourage them to take up farming that is profitable and sustainable.
- **Linkage with Government Department**- A total of 19 persons with disabilities were provided support in the form of tricycle. The objective was to help the persons with disabilities provide a medium to transportation and further encourage them to take up livelihood opportunities to support themselves. In this programme, medical officer from Tisri Primary Health Centre, Branch Manager of SBI and BOI Tisri along with the Mukhiya of Thansinghdih panchayat were also present and they collectively appreciated the initiative.

## Enabling People's action for Anti Human Trafficking (MANOS)

- **Formation and strengthening of Adolescent groups**- adolescent (peer) groups have been created in the 20 villages of Lokai and Belwana panchayats in order to raise awareness among children and adolescents in the villages on issues of child rights and child protection. Regular meetings with the peer groups are conducted where they are given awareness on child rights, child marriage, child labor and child trafficking.
- **Workshop on child rights and child protection**-capacity building workshop on Child Protection and Child Rights was held for the team members at Savera Foundation in order to orient them on the issues of child rights and child protection. The policies related to child rights and child protection was discussed. Thorough description and implications on legislations like the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) etc. were discussed during the workshop.
- **Distribution of adolescent friendly booklets on Child Rights**- distribution of adolescent friendly booklet on child rights has been done among the adolescents in Lokai and Belwana panchayats. The visual description on child rights and child protection helps children and adolescents in gaining understanding about them. The booklet is very helpful in conducting meetings with the adolescent groups as it makes the meetings interactive and interesting. The booklet is also useful in making parents and community people understand about their roles and responsibilities in creating a safe and secure environment for the children.

## Ensure Food Security among Small and Marginal Farmers by Introducing Sustainable Livelihood Options (GGF)

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Under the programme, FRC (Forest Right Committee) meeting at village level have been organized to make the Forest Rights Committee members aware about the Forest Rights Act 2006, its provision and ways to claim the rights provided by the act. Promotion of horticulture and kitchen gardening has been done in order to enable the community people to earn some extra income by selling their produce. As a result of raising the awareness and consciousness among the community people with regard to protecting and conserving the forests, the community people have come up with environmental friendly strategies to save the forest.

Mica mining is one of the primary occupations of the people in the villages and it poses severe threat to them exposing them to various forms of respiratory diseases. Awareness on respiratory diseases like- silicosis, tuberculosis, etc has enabled people in the villages to be more cautious in taking care of their health.

Training has been provided to the community people on Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR) and also the mapping process for IFR and CFR. The training has helped them raise their claims under the Forest Rights Act.

## Childline India Foundation (CIF)

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Savera Foundation has been closely working with Childline India Foundation since 2016 to help children who are vulnerable and are at higher risk of becoming victims of child labour, child trafficking and child marriage. Children in distress have been rescued and rehabilitated and concentrated efforts have been made to prevent cases violating the rights of children entrusted to them under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

# **PHOTO GALLERY**

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*Distribution of fruit trees to marginal farmers:*



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*Remedial classes for drop-out children:*





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*Community awareness meeting on TB:*



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*Distribution of Tri-cycle to persons with disabilities:*



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*Training to Gram Sabha members:*



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*Gully plugging work at Thansingdih:*



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*Promotion of kitchen gardening:*

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*Adolescent peer group meeting:*



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*Construction of Ponds at Kosmai and Thansingdih:*



*Forest Rights Committee meeting at village level:*

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*Awareness creation on climate change and its effects:*

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*Exposure visit of farmers:*



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*Capacity building of team members on Watershed Management:*



*Career guidance programme for adolescents:*

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*Nutritional Support to TB patients:*

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*Mid-day meal at Crèche centre in Pandnatand:*



*Cleanliness drive by National Youth Group:*



*Distribution of booklet on Child Rights:*

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*Awareness on importance of intake of nutritious food:*

