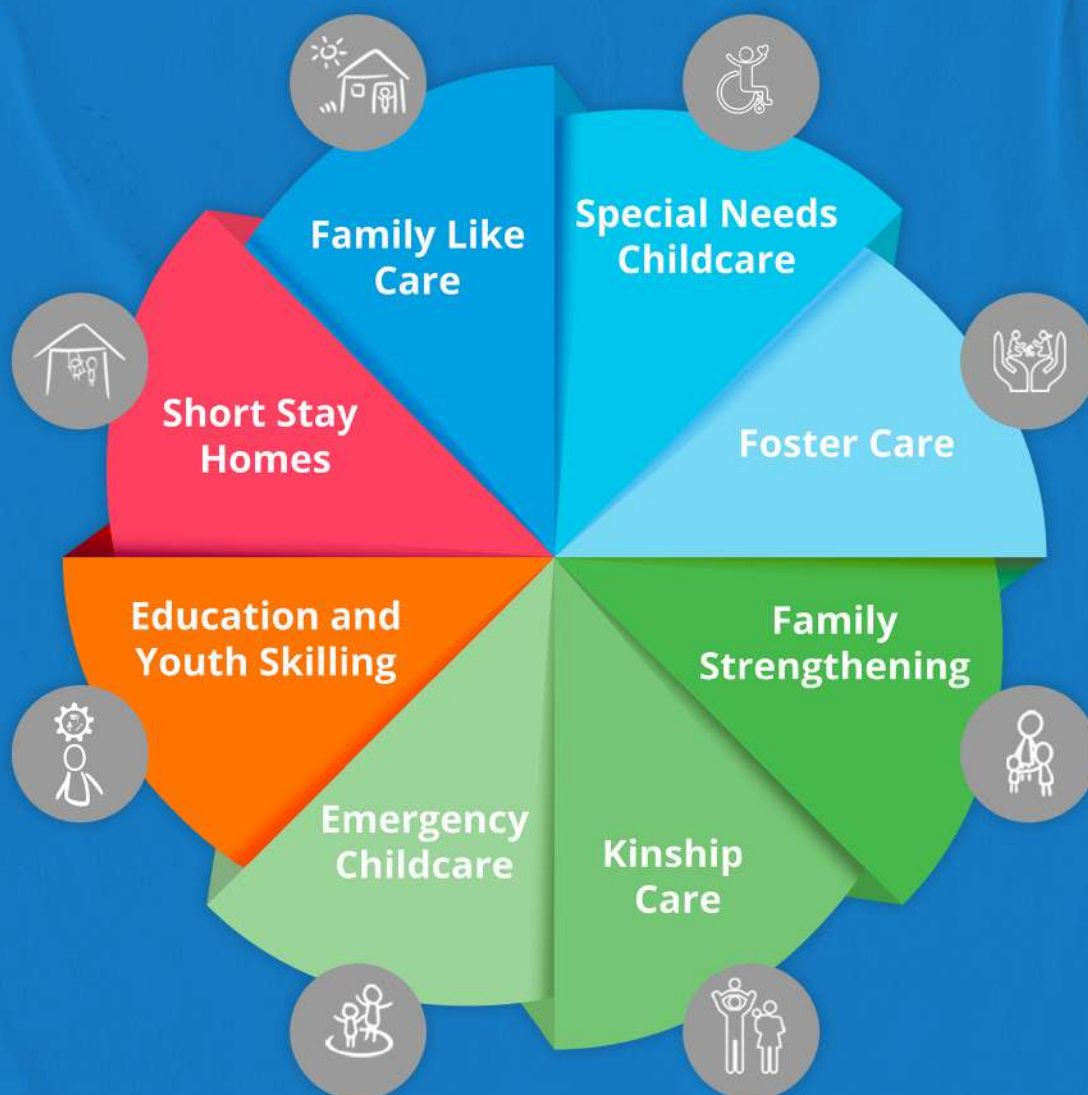


MESSENGER

BASKET OF CARE SOLUTIONS



Not childcare, but wholesome child development



Message by the President

Dear Friends, this year is drawing to a close, and as we reminisce about the journeys we have made and the lives impacted across the year, it is with a sense of deep fulfillment that I write this foreword for our Messenger, the final one for the year 2021.

There is a lot more that needs to be done for our work to reach the most vulnerable, but we are on the job, consistently, with dedication, determination and grit.

This edition of the Messenger presents to you some of the important events and milestones that have been completed/achieved, and we look forward to many more, with your support.

Best wishes, and Season's Greetings,
May the coming year bring health, joy and prosperity to each one of you and your family members.

**Rakesh Jinsi, President
SOS Children's Villages of India**



Message by the Secretary General

Dear Friends, as we bring the last edition of the Messenger, for this year, to you, we reiterate our commitment towards wholesome childcare and development through our Basket of Care Solutions. In fact, our Family Strengthening Programme has been gaining momentum empowering vulnerable children and communities with skilling, upskilling, livelihood generation, prevention of disruption of education, capacity building and much more. Through this, we strive to empower the caregiver and, thereby, children and communities for a better and brighter future.

This edition of the Messenger includes some of the important visits, events and milestones, which will encase the work we are doing and the way forward.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your relentless support.

**Sumanta Kar, Secretary General
SOS Children's Villages of India**

Dr. Dereje Wordofa, President, SOS Children's Villages International, was on his maiden visit to India in the month of November 2021. Here are some excerpts from an interaction with him.

This was the first time you traveled to India. What, according to you, were the highlights of your 10-day visit to the country?

The visit saw many high points, but the most significant were the level of commitment of the team coupled with the compassion to serve; the desire to learn throughout life, thereby improving professionally and personally; and the ability to convert challenges into opportunities.

A number of colleagues have been on a journey with the organization since decades, contributing significantly to the vision and mission by empowering caregivers, children and youth to be enabled and empowered.

With changing times, and the number of challenges the pandemic has brought to the surface, solutions to pressing needs have to be customized. What are your thoughts on the same?

Yes, this is important, because if the challenges emerging are dynamic, so have the solutions to be. If we take the example of India, the Basket of Care Solutions, covering Family Like Care, Family Strengthening, Kinship Care, Education/Youth Skilling, Short Stay Homes, Emergency Child Care, Special Needs Care and Foster Care aim at resolving different challenges, encouraging, thereby, solutions that are impactful, long-term and sustainable.

Partnerships are important to enhance impact. How can this be strengthened, according to you?

Partnerships are vital. We, at SOS Children's Villages, understand this, and that is why we strive to enhance existing partnerships and build new ones – with the Government, multilateral agencies, corporates, and others. It is only when we synergise that we can build relationships that promote the greater good, and that is why we encourage partnerships that serve this cause.

Any message for our readers?

It is important as a caregiver to be strong, whether it is emotionally, mentally, or financially. Wellbeing of the self is crucial. It is only when the caregiver is strengthened that the family and communities are. A giving mindset can only stem from a self-reliant and self-sufficient self.





Impact Story - Family Strengthening

Shobha* the changemaker

Shobha is a change maker - a transformer. She has transformed not only her own life, but that of her community as well. She lives with her husband and four children in Begusarai. Her husband works as a door-to-door electrician. At the time of enrolment in the Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) in 2013, she did not have any source of income or livelihood. The family found it difficult to afford even three-square meals a day.

During her initial days of enrolment, Shobha was visibly shy and reserved. When a Self-Help Group (SHG) was formed, she was not ready to take up any leadership roles, because of lack of confidence in herself. However, after a vote of confidence and some counselling, she began responding well to various capacity building and skill training initiatives organized under the aegis of the project.

Shobha was motivated to support her husband in his electrical work. The SOS Children's Villages of India's Family Strengthening Programme supported her husband in scaling up the electrical shop, and helped to get the ball rolling with electric fan-making. Income generation support to the tune of INR 20,000 was also provided to the family in 2014. This enabled the family to purchase a winding machine. Shobha learnt the nuances of electrical work and lent a hand to help the business grow. Seeing her commitment, the family was supported with another income generation support, to the tune of INR 17,170 in November, 2017. Gradually, the family earnings rose to around INR 400 per day.

As a mother, she gives a lot of importance to educating her children and they are now doing well academically. Her empathetic attitude has helped her nurture her relationships with people in the community. Gradually, she started emerging as a leader in the locality. Many people in the community were motivated with the hard work Shobha had put in towards becoming economically self-sufficient. Today, she has truly embodied the role of an Ambassador of Change by setting an example of hope, grit and determination.

The Family Strengthening Programme is a community based outreach approach, which is focussed on empowering vulnerable families and communities, because children belonging these families and communities are at a risk of being abandoned by their parents or kins.

We support families/individuals in generating sustainable income, while building their capacity to ensure that children are provided with an environment where they are well cared for and their basic rights to education, skilling, health and nutrition are fulfilled.



Impact Story - Skilling and Empowering of Youth

Swati* - towards a brighter and better future

With the development of our nation, there stands a growing need for skilled manpower and vocational training that ensures productive employment by preparing our youth, for the same, with efficacy. The demand for skilled professionals has increased significantly across domains.

Swati's (a young girl from one of the communities we serve) journey, built on belief and hard-work, is an inspiration for many. Hailing from a family of five, with her father being the only earning member, Swati left no stone unturned in carving out a path of success for herself. When life threw her curveballs, she took things in her stride and stuck with the road less travelled.

After passing her class XII, the young girl was compelled to work as a housemaid to support her family. However, she harboured bigger dreams and aspirations.

As luck would have it, Swati discovered the youth skilling programme offered by SOS Children's Villages of India. She enrolled herself for a Diploma as a Dialysis Technician. After completion of her Diploma, she secured a job at a salary of INR 18,000 per month.

Swati was a frontline health care worker when the pandemic changed the world in 2020. Despite seeing the worst of the pandemic, she stayed strong and positive, not letting her spirits be dampened.

Talking about fulfilling her responsibilities despite many challenges, Swati says, "Helping people is my passion. During this time, when the entire world is grappling with the pandemic, more and more health care workers are needed. I will continue to work through this time, because this is my duty towards my community". When Swati was asked if she was afraid of getting infected, she came her reply, "I would rather work through this crisis and help my people in this fight than stay at home."

We strive to provide quality and value-based education to children, and support youth under our care with education suited to their unique aptitude, capabilities and skills, because development of children and youth is a crucial step in securing a sustainable future not only for them, but also for humanity.

Through various youth skilling and development initiatives under our curriculum we enable holistic development of our children and empower them with 21st century skill sets. We also equip young people with the right expertise and confidence they need to realise their potential.



Impact Story - Kinship Care

Radha* & Rekha* - Facing Life's Challenges with Grit & Determination

Muniyamma, 80 years of age, resides in Karnataka, with her two grandchildren – Radha and Rekha both children lost their parents at a tender age. With a bedridden grandmother, and just the pension and ration supply under the BPL provision, survival was becoming tough.

Thanks to a media person, who shared with the family the contact details of the nodal person, support from SOS Children's Villages of India soon followed. The family was enrolled in the programme in June, 2021.

After the enrollment, besides psychological support to the children, support for the medical expenses of the ailing grandmother, and for continuation of education of the girls, were provided.

Radha scored 93% in her Diploma exam, and Rekha 80% in her class 10 exams. Now, Radha will appear for her DECT, Engineering course, as her dream is to become an army officer, post completion of her Civil Engineering. Rekha wants to pursue a course in cyber security.



Introduced in 2017, the Kinship Care Programme ensures that children without parental care grow up with minimal disruption to their educational, cultural and social lives.

Under this initiative, children who have lost their biological parents are cared for by their extended families or relatives. Our interventions safeguard the right of every parentless child to grow up in a familiar environment by strengthening the capability and income of the extended biological families. This helps them provide proper care and education to a child till he/she attains adulthood.

*Name changed to protect the privacy of the youth concerned

GENERATING IMPACT

FAMILY LIKE CARE

Committed to providing a caring family to every child, without parental care



6,742

children continued to grow up in a loving home

727

children were brought to various SOS Children's Villages (373 targeted)

350

youth have become self-reliant

217

children were restored with their biological families

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Helping vulnerable families to become self-reliant to afford quality care for their children



54,624
beneficiaries

40,516

direct beneficiaries

25,011

children (below 18 years)

14,049

primary caregivers

1,456

youth (above 18 years)

14,108

indirect beneficiaries

2,399

siblings (below 18 years)

11,709

secondary caregivers

KINSHIP CARE

Facilitating parental care among next-of-kin families



730

beneficiaries

400

children (380 Kinship and 20 Individual Foster Care)

257

primary caregivers

73

secondary caregivers

EDUCATION AND YOUTH SKILLING

Ensuring quality and value-based education for children, and supporting youth in skilling to make them employable



6,863

children in school

1,662

children pursuing higher education

1,331

youth skilled

973

youth placed in jobs post skilling

All data from July – September, 2021

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS!



SOS Children's Villages of India is a unique childcare organisation that serves the most vulnerable children of our society, ensuring wholesome childcare and development. I am privileged to be associated with the organisation as a donor since more than 10 years. Not only is the staff very professional and committed, but also very dedicated and sincere. Wishing the organisation the very best, moving forward.

Debopam Raha



It has been such a pleasure, and a deep sense of fulfillment to be associated with a wonderful organisation like yours. Hundreds of vulnerable children have been looked after by you so well; it's highly commendable. Keep up the good work and stay blessed!

Akash N Sahgal

COVID-19 Second Wave

Offering Hope: From emergency response to building resilience and rekindling hope - we could not have done it without your support.

Sensing a formidable impact of the pandemic, SOS Children's Villages of India had begun preparing as early as February 2020. Awareness campaigns served the need for generating much needed information on COVID-19 prevention protocols. Partnerships and collaborations ensured supply of essential items such as dry rations, hygiene kits, ambulance services and medical support. In addition, psycho-social support was extended to retain emotional and mental wellbeing. Over 15,000 children were engaged in creative and meaningful activities, like learning a new form of art/craft and skill; covid care centres provided safety and care for children. Other interventions included careleaver support, upskilling and reskilling, and livelihood generation/sustenance.

Restriction of movement, confinement, disruption in social lives, decrease in face-to-face interactions, and many such related factors resulted in depression, anxiety, stress, anger and other such emotions. If left unaddressed, these can manifest into serious outcomes. The Emo-Aid initiative introduced for children, Mothers and coworkers in Begusarai, Latur and Hojai helped individuals identify, accept and work towards negativities, displacing them for a more positive outlook that also encouraged mental and emotional wellbeing. The amalgamation of simple techniques like exercises for the body and breathing, self-motivation techniques, meditation, yoga and other such tools helped in enhancing positivity, coping mechanisms, productivity and resilience.

All SOS Children's Villages across the country extended provision through Short Stay Homes, sheltering over 280 new children in the last few months in these homes. A quarter of these childrens have now joined over 6,500 children who are living and growing in 32 Children's Villages across 22 states/UTs. By July, more than 7000 children were welcomed in the programme through our various Basket of Care Solutions

We are also serving over 22,000 children and their families from the disadvantaged rural or semi-urban communities under the Family Strengthening Programme.

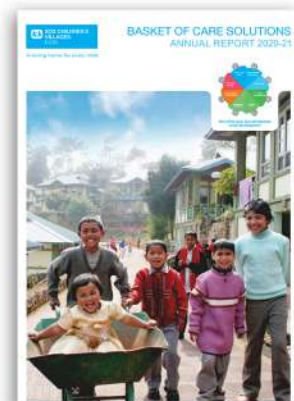


मैं 1964 से शुरू हुई इस संस्था के 32 राज्यों में 30 हजार से अधिक बच्चों की सेवा कर रही है। लेकिन यह पर्याप्त नहीं है।
उन्हीं भारत द्वीप पर किए अनुभव को सझा करते हुए कहा कि इस समय दुनिया में 15 करोड़ 30 लाख बच्चे अनाथ हैं, 16 करोड़ बाल मजदूर।
कृपाशेष के कारण एक वर्ष में लगभग 30 लाख बच्चों-युवाओं की मौत जा रही है। ये आंकड़े नहीं हैं जो कि ये दुनिया का मिनिमम करतें हैं। उन्होंने संयुक्त राष्ट्र की कि संकट में फंसे 10 करोड़ बच्चों की उपेक्षा न की जाए।

SOME ACCOLADES ACROSS OUR JOURNEY!



OUR PUBLICATIONS



We will miss you

On behalf of the entire family of SOS Children's Villages of India we express our heartfelt condolences to the family of Shri Sudhakar Ram, whom we lost recently.

Since 2007, Mr. Ram has made numerous generous donations to empower the lives of many vulnerable children situated in our Villages across Maharashtra. A model citizen, he cared deeply for the most vulnerable children of our society.

You will always remain in our thoughts, dear Sir.
May your soul rest in peace.



Come, be the change at **SOS Children's Villages of India**

THANK YOU

For rekindling hope, spreading joy!

Thank you for your thoughtful contributions and relentless support in helping those impacted by the pandemic. You have been our constant companion in making a difference to the communities we operate in. With you by our side, we will continue to empower the lesser privileged, helping them sail through these turbulent times.

A little can change a lot. Do your part to help them out during these trying times.

DONATE NOW



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