

Grampari Report

A report of work done by Grampari during June 2021 to January 2022 with the generous financial support of IofC Sweden.

Introduction

How can we help an individual grow internally and socially, and in harmony with the environment, has been the quest of Grampari all along. The Covid19 pandemic has brought unique challenges for everyone, ranging from mental stress to the front-line workers risking themselves, to the schools being forced to operate online resulting in loss of learning, to some families pushed to struggle to make ends meet. The region Grampari operates in also faced another natural calamity of extremely heavy rains and landslides causing loss of lives and washing off the entire village settlements.

The times demanded that Grampari respond to the needs of the affected through material assistance wherever necessary and also provide them hope and strength through inner listening. Following report is an account of some of the work that was done on this background with the timely donations received from IofC Sweden.

Appreciation program for ASHA workers

ASHA an acronym for Accredited Social Health Activists are the volunteers appointed by State Governments in India. ASHA, meaning *hope* in local language, are mostly female members of the village and play a crucial role as a last mile health monitoring and delivery personnel in villages. These women are paid only 2,000 rupees per month as honorarium. During the Covid19 pandemic their services played a crucial role in containing Covid19, assuring villagers of their health and safety, risking their own safety.

To recognize and appreciate their exemplary work, Grampari decided to organize one day programs for them. These programs were structured such that ASHA had some time of relaxation



through team building games, some time of self reflection through inner listening and IofC practices and experience sharing through circles. As a token

of gratitude all participants were given gifts like cloth bags, reusable sanitary pads etc.



Through the grants received from IofC Sweden, one such program was held in the month of December 2021, with 31 ASHA participating in the program. The program was successful in creating a space for participants to engage with deeper self and express their

inner reflections. A few of their sharing are briefly mentioned below.

ASHA 1: Since losing my husband six months ago, this is the first time I have felt so relaxed and close to myself. I hope to reconnect with myself and will try to live happily with everyone around.

ASHA 2: I beat my children very often on every small mistake they do. I feel it is wrong to do so. I will stop beating them today onwards and will apologize to them for my behaviour so far.

An expense of approximately 25,500 rupees was incurred in organizing and facilitating this program, which was paid through this donation received from IofC Sweden.

School Hand-wash Program

For over 8 years Grampari has been conducting a program for rural government primary schools, with a focus on creating awareness around personal hygiene. The program, referred to as School Hand-wash with soap Program, is an yearlong program with 7 structured follow-up visits to schools. Till the Covid19 disruption led to shut schools, Grampari used to conduct this program with select schools every year.

We decided to experiment with the delivery of the program this year by engaging with the ASHA workers and training them to deliver the program in their village schools. Some of the ASHA workers who had come for the program at Grampari, volunteered to be part of it. After conducting several

meetings with the local administration and ASHA workers, the program was launched in a government school in Pasarani village of Wai block. The program saw participation of 50 school students, 4 teachers and 17 ASHA workers along with the local officials and elected representatives of village governance body. A hand washing station, referred to as Tippy Tap, was installed in the school during the program launch. Going forward, we plan to engage with 16 more schools, with the help of ASHA workers who participated in the launch program.

To study the impact of this program, 17 schools will have the program implemented through ASHA and 10 more schools are selected as control schools where no program will be implemented. The program implementation in these 17 schools is expected to benefit approximately 1,100 students and 60 teachers.



Hand washing station built by students and ASHA



Skit highlighting importance of hand-washing with soap presented by ASHA and Grampari

The donation received was put to use for set-up and launch of this program. Materials for setting up hand washing stations in other 16 schools, transport and personnel costs for it also have been allocated through it. Total expenses for this program are 74,700 rupees.

Children's workshop

Covid has brought forward different challenges and uncertainties for everyone. Of those impacted, school going children were affected in many ways, as all schools were forced to operate virtually herein. Learning outcomes of rural school children are reported to be severely affected with limited availability of resources and technology solutions, along with attention deficit and compromised social skills being observed by local school teachers.

Grampari hosted 30 students studying in 8th, 9th and 10th classes and 5 of their teachers from Zilla Parishad High-school, Divediv on its campus for a day long workshop, which involved games, discussions and self reflection through inner listening. After the self reflection time one of the students shared that he has lied with his mother on the money she had given for shopping. He mentioned that he will share this with his mother when he returns home after this program and apologize to her for lying. Another student mentioned that she doesn't help with anything at home and today onwards she will make the bed everyday for everyone at home. Expenses of 19,000 rupees for this workshop were funded through the IofC Sweden donation.



Children writing down their reflections

Relief works

During 2021 second wave of Covid19 affected many families severely, with loss of life as well as livelihoods. This region received excessively high rainfall during the monsoons resulting in landslides in 3 villages of Zor, Golewadi and Kondhavane taking lives of 8 people.

Understanding the need of the time Grampari decided to participate in the relief work for Covid19 affected families and landslide affected villages. In this the affected families were provided with food grains and landslide affected villagers were supported by providing clothes and blankets, food grains, dry



Impact of landslides



Grocery kits for families: Covid19 relief

food kits, sanitation kits and later education kits. Some of these items were

donated by the local families responding to the appeal made by Grampari, some were purchased by Grampari through donations received while other items were received from another organizations support for relief work.



Blanket for landslide affected families



Relief materials carried through boats

Overall 280 families (1120 people) affected by landslides from the three villages of Zor, Golewadi and Kondhavane of Wai block and 800 plus families affected by Covid19 from Wai, Jaoli and Mahabaleshwar blocks benefited from these relief activities. This was done over the period of two weeks in July - August 2021. The donation received from IofC Sweden funded the costs 110,000 rupees for the relief works. The relief work was possible for Grampari because of the donations received from IofC Sweden as it supported the extensive transport and personnel costs in carrying these out.

Maintenance

Work at Grampari involves extensive field travels, which are eased by two of the vehicles used, a four wheeler jeep and a two wheeler moped. Both these vehicles are more than 10 years old and require regular maintenance. Expenses for servicing of the four wheeler (8,700 rupees) and two wheeler (5,000 rupees) were done through the donations received.

Moving ahead

From the 290,351 rupees donations received from IofC Sweden 47,451 rupees remain with us as of date. We are planning to conduct two more training programs for 60 ASHA workers from the nearby villages with the support of funds remaining with us. These training programs will be scheduled in the coming months, as the third wave of Covid19 recedes.