



Thank you for being there for us ! We, the St. Anthony's family wish you good health, love and joy at this Christmas and through out the year

2022

The fourth wave of covid 19 in Europe reminds us that the pandemic is not yet over. In India, case counts stay low and life has come back to normal. Nearly 80% of the 940 million eligible adults have received at least one dose so far and the vaccination drive is ongoing. However, the question still remains, is India prepared for a new wave ? Studies suggest that majority of the Indians have antibodies against the delta variant and it might not be as bad as the brutal second wave in April and May this year. However, the recent outbreak of an endemic disease, dengue fever, in many Indian states is proof that the health system is still not equipped to defeat and tackle emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Schools all over India are functioning normally. The board exams, in view of the pandemic are scheduled in two shifts, December and March.

Though schools run normally, there is a lot of tension in the administration as many

parents have still not paid the fee due from the pandemic period. We try our best to be patient and to avoid further drop outs.

Last 5 year's village work

We had to recently prepare last 5 years activity report for administration purpose. We share with you an extract from this report.

While children from around 150 villages from Asmoli and Rahrai projects come to our St. Anthony's schools and ITI, our field staff go to the villages and work for the holistic development of the community at grass root level. Women from *Self Help Groups* (SHG) are the backbone of these activities. Many of them emerge as leaders from these groups and bring positive changes in the villages. Microfinance, income-generating activities, leadership and capacity building, empowerment about social and gender issues, adult literacy program, health care clinics, vocational and skill development centers are the main activities that

come under this program. Even during the pandemic period, microfinance activities continued as they all had bank loans and inter loans to pay back.

Self Help Group (SHG) consists of 10 to 12 members and each member deposits approximately Rs 100 (1,20 euros) per week. The grids here below show the details about their investments.

Asmoli				
Year	No. of villages	No. of groups	No. of members	Total savings
2016	30	194	2206	98.803 €
2017	30	208	2319	118.789 €
2018	33	244	2691	123.208 €
2019	35	261	2880	145.941 €
2020	40	323	3519	226.507 €

Rahrai				
Year	No. of villages	No. of groups	No. of members	Total savings
2016	8	29	310	2.233 €
2017	8	34	360	3.888 €
2018	8	38	400	4.969 €
2019	8	47	480	7.241 €
2020	14	56	580	8.034 €

Members can take loans from the saving of the group. The interest of this loan is put back in the group and the whole group benefit from it. Those who want big amount can also apply for a bank loan. To get loan for a poor person is almost impossible because they have to show regular income to repay the loan. Here, members without land and jobs get loans with the guarantee of the groups at very low interest rate.

In many villages like *Dugawar* almost all the families are members of SHG and it has helped to wipe



The trainees receive the sewing machine with a big concession.

out the poverty from these villages. All the children are sent to school and the living standard has improved. In *Rahrai*, we started the program in 2016 and as the program started to pick up, we were struck by this pandemic. We hope to extend this program to many more villages in the near future.

How they use their loans ?

Here below in the grid you can have a general view of the use of loans.

Amount of their loans range from 100 euros to 1250 euros. They can apply for up to 1250 euros from the bank. The loan has to be paid back in 10 installments in one year time. Most of them pay on time. Price of a buffalo and cow is around 750 euros.

Rahrai										
Year	Buffalo	Farming	Toilet	Agriculture	Tailoring center	Shop	Children's marriage	Study	House repairing	Business
2017	10	5	5	29		5	11	5	5	5
2018	23	13	10	17		19	10	3	5	7
2019	11	3	13	16		6	7	2	2	1
2020	3	15	8	11	3	2	3		4	

Asmoli																		
Year	Buffalo	Goat	Cow	Farming	Toilet	Bee Keeping	Tailoring center	Shop	Study	Treatment	Wheat machine	Children's marriage	Taxi	House repairing	Hand pump	Business	House hold	Tractor
2016	84	34	21	215	6	1	9	63	35	18	3	17	12	17	6	9	27	
2017	74	41		130	6	6	4	40	28	14	25	23	8	31	1	21	31	
2018	96	41	18	135	5	1	1	61	47	19	1	37	8	29	11	10	15	
2019	11	33	11	175			3	50	44	27	23	51	2	54	14	8	21	8
2020	119	79	41	331	5	3	8	93	16	16	10	35		23	7	16	27	3



Vocational trainings

In *Rahrai* and *Dugawar*, one wing of the school building is used for the vocational training and leadership programs. For the training program we collaborate with the NABARD (*National Bank for Rural Development*). NABARD sponsor some of these trainings. They provide sewing machines to the trainees with 70% reduced price and it helps them to start their income generation activities directly at home. Here below in the grid we have the different programs organized in these centres. The participants are selected members from the groups and they become leaders who teach others in turn.

Asmoli

2016-2020	Training programs	No. of Participants	Self employed
1	Animal Husbandry	180	180
2	Dairy Management	180	180
3	Vermicompost (vermi-compost)	40	32
4	Dress designing	40	30
5	School bag stitching	60	54
6	Tailoring	139	135
7	Health education	50	
8	SHG leadership	600	
9	SHG Refresher Training	345	
10	Water purifier Installation	80	

Rahrai

2016-2020	Training programs	No. of Participants	Self employed
1	Beautician	45	45
2	Bag stitching	160	155
3	Dairy management	161	160
4	Tailoring	180	160
5	Adult literacy	40	
6	Gender awareness and women empowerment	300	
7	Health education	350	
8	SHG Leadership	200	
9	Resource management	150	

Community Health Care



Fewer superstitions and more scientific approach. Many more villagers in the project area seek medical help on time. In Asmoli area few clinics have come up recently and people can get treatment locally.

Healthcare program range from polio and malaria control to basic health intervention such as immunization, mobile clinics offering a variety of medical treatments. Special care is given to pregnant women and children. Doctors and gynecologists and surgeons from nearby health care centres are brought for the check ups and scientific explanations are given to the villagers about different diseases, and thus eliminating superstitions. Around 3000 families have benefited from this program during the last 5 years in the project areas.

Education for all

It was our aim to get all the children to school; either public or private. Following the example of *St. Anthony school*, few business minded individuals have started private schools in the locality. Their main purpose is to generate income. They charge a lower fee and attract many children from the locality and perform better than the government schools. For example, in *Dugawar* villages several small private schools are running in the rented houses. Some parents prefer these schools to the government schools where often the teachers are absent. However, the situation of the government school is slowly improving in the villages where we are actively working. In collaboration with *Anthony's Bread's* field staff, the SHG members monitor the quality of the public schools in the



SHG leaders are trained to conduct the literacy programs in small groups in their own villages.

villages and motivate the villagers to send their children to school. Hardly any child stays home now. This is a big achievement in our project area.

The adult literacy program is going on in the 40 villages. Over 2000 illiterate women became literate during the last 5 year period.



The blue saree uniform has given an identity to the women's group. They participate in various development activities and bring changes in the entire village.



A village school in Dugawar.

A new initiative

Baladevi is from village *Dugawar*. She is one of the 11 members of *Sitara* SHG group which was started in 2015. *Sitara* SHG group has around 2500 euros invested and the members take loans from the SHG as per their needs. The group underwent different trainings, including Animal Husbandry and Dairy and most of the members are active in dairy program while *Baladevi* had a different project. Her plan was to start a poultry farm. She took Rs. 50000 (588 euros) as a loan and put in Rs. 15000 (175 euros) from her own investments to start this business. She buys chicken for Rs. 30 from the market and sell them after three month for Rs. 150. Within three months time, her chicken grows up to 1.5 kg. Her income per month is Rs. 15000.



Her husband goes in search of labor daily and the days he gets no job, he helps her out. She takes care of the education of her three children, two boys one girl and runs the family. She has become the main bread winner of her family now.