



TRIBAL
HEALTH
INITIATIVE

Redefining Health

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21



“ In a gentle way,
you can shake the earth ”

-Mahatma Gandhi



And that is what we precisely did. Sittilingi saw a paradigm shift in the way tribals looked at themselves, no longer docile, but grabbing their destiny in their hands. The aftermath of mobilising the villagers to attend last year's Gram Sabhas, question the authorities on non-development, the people found their courage. The Farmers Assn and Women groups decided that they will put up their candidate for the Panchayat elections held in December – on a platform of truth, honesty and transparency. Against all odds, they WON....and Ms. Madheswari Manjunathan, one of our Senior Nurses is now the Panchayat President. This was a mass mobilisation which was crowd funded and perhaps the first of such grassroots movements in a long while, throwing up a leader who is not from any political party. The going though is not easy, fighting an entrenched system that is mired in red tape. The Gram Sabha on January 26th was so different from what happened before – more than 300 attended, all Government officials including Police and Forest officials came, the people were disciplined and so many constructive things were discussed

CENTRALISED PRODUCTION

When we started the Women entrepreneurship groups, the idea was that the women will value add the organic harvest which the men produced. However, constant power problems, difficulty in logistics, quality control has forced us to now shift to a centralised processing center in the SOFA campus. It is solar powered, near the godowns and we are able to do quality control much better. The women did not lose – they shifted to cattle, goat and poultry rearing, so we saw that there was no loss in their income. SOFA (Sittilingi Organic Farmers Assn) has 500 organically certified farmers and another 480 members in the Women Entrepreneurship Groups. Their **turnover is almost Rs. 1 crore** this year.



IN PEACE PREPARE FOR WAR

Sittilingi is going through the worst drought in living memory. Unless we have water, there is no hope for the farmers of this once verdant valley. So, we have started in all earnest to block the paths of running water wherever the hills meet the valley, what we imaginatively call "spring stops". Many of them are coming up, the farmers no longer pause to think that they are "wasting" land to store water – this is their only hope. While the farmers bear 25% of the cost, the rest is supported by private trusts. We are also desilting old check dams and silted up ponds wherever they are. We inaugurated the Jal Shakthi Abhiyan of the Indian Govt in full flow. With good rains, the check dams and spring stops are filling up – and we hope the dryland farmers will be able to take 2 crops every year rather than one.

THE NEXTGEN RURAL DOCS

Covid has changed the patient profile in Tribal Hospital – with the Govt PHCs fully engaged in Covid work, there is no place for poor pregnant mothers to go for antenatal checks or for deliveries. Patients coming for antenatal checks increased from 20/day to 40 – 50/day and deliveries leap-frogged from 30 -35/ month to 75-85/month. With senior docs being exempted from seeing patients – the fort was held by our 4 brave soldiers – Divya, Shwetha, Sangeetha and Palani Raja, with help from Ravi, for the difficult cases. Over the last few months they have been so busy, hardly catching any sleep – but their smiles are always there for the patients and for the rest of the team



CONSOLIDATING THE CRAFT INITIATIVE

Porgai Craft Assn used this year to build up their systems as well as their customer base. The idea was that even the most complex tasks should be managed with local talent, so that we will be able to run a self-sustaining society in the future. The high point was exhibiting in the Kala Ghoda festival in Mumbai – a rare opportunity and a totally new experience for the team. The team managed a sales of Rs 55.2 lakhs of which Rs.26.75 lakhs went back to the 2 Lambadi villages.



WE ALSO DO HEALTH

THI has evolved to a stage where the determinants of health have taken priority over the actual health itself. Which is what we aimed at when we started. The Tribal Hospital has been seeing an increased flow of patients, now being controlled through the appointment system we introduced last year. There is a jump in the number of pregnant mothers coming in for checks and the number of deliveries have taken a 37% increase in the last 2 years (see stats page for more figures). The Aruna OPD in the Kalrayan Hills also an increase in numbers which necessitated 2 doctors now attending instead of one

Last year we did a full health survey of the Sittilingi area and our new community health program is now based on their findings. One of the most interesting findings is that only about 11% of our people migrate full time for making money, the rest find fruitful employment or do farming here. (The figures for the same tribe in similar areas is around 50%). Migration a huge health hazard, and we are so happy that our livelihoods programs have benefited the economy and prevent this hazard. The community health team now go everyday to the field to see the pregnant mothers and under 5 children, to their homes, for that personal touch.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Planning at the village level for the Panchayat
- Consolidating the Community Health Program
- Furthering watershed development in the Sittilingi Valley
- Developing internet sales for the Craft and Farming Initiatives
- Developing bee keeping as a means to increase agricultural produce

We were supported this year by FOS [Friends of Sittilingi], AID [Assn for India Development], Indus Biotech, WelboundImpel, JSSHEF [Jai Shiv Shakthi Trust], NABARD, MRF Trust, KVB (Karur Vysya Bank), Trimble Technologies, Pentagon Trust and so many of you. Thank you, dear friends and well-wishers, we hope you are with us always...

Covid has devastated the rural economy and cut most of our CSR funds and donations. Last year we underwrote **Rs 68.58 lakhs** for patients who could not pay, this year the pandemic compels us to do more. Please do support our health care by clicking here

DONATE & SUPPORT
CLICK HERE

"Hospital Finances" April '19 to March '20 Out Patient

	Paying	Free	Total
Patient	6110	33614	39724
Amount	6,215,030	2,172,238	11,245,597
	In Patients		
	Paying	Free/ concession	Total
Patient	533	1015	1548
Amount	9,676,095	4,686,091	18,362,186
	Total		
	Paying	Free	Total
Patient	6643	34629	41272
Amount	15,891,125	6,858,329	22,749,454
	Free %	30%	

	2018-19	2019-20
OP patients	41287	39724
In Patients	1705	1548
Surgeries	793	731
Deliveries	480	509

FARMING

	2018-19	2019-20
Groups	70	70
SOFA members	500	500
Certification farmers	500	500
Women group members	464	485
SOFA income [in lakhs]	84.55	95.98

CRAFT

	2018-19	2019-20
Members	60	60
Sales [lakhs]	47.69	55.21
Wages to artisans [lakhs]	17.64	26.75

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr Regi George	Managing Trustee
Dr Lalitha Regi	Trustee
Prof M Ravindran	Trustee
Dr Sara Bhattacharji	Trustee
Dr Sukanya Rangamani	Trustee
Dr. Guru Nagarajan	Trustee
Ms Radhika Ram Mohan	Trustee

TEAM THI

Doctors	8
Nursing Staff	35
Admin Staff	8
Community Workers	5
Paramedical Staff	8

AUTHENTICITY IN ALL OUR WORK

We are accredited by Credibility Alliance for financial transparency and work culture

- Board of Trustees meet twice yearly
- Executive Committee meets for emergency decisions
- Working Committee of Staff meets every 2 months
- Full Staff meetings every month

Detailed audited accounts are available on request

BANKER



International Air Travel – Nil | **Domestic Travel** – Rs.46357/-

Main Auditor – Mr. K Shivakumar, Gandhigram

Internal Auditor – Mr. Rajnikanth, Salem

Registered as a Public Charitable Trust No 147/92, Dindigul
Regd u/s 12A, 80G of the IT Act; Regd under FCRA to
accept foreign donations



Salaries of Rs. 9.12 lakhs
each were paid to Trustees
Dr. Regi and Dr. Lalitha
as doctors

HIGHEST SALARY:
Rs.76,025/- [senior doctor]
LOWEST SALARY:
Rs. 6375/- [fresh appointee]



VISION

That the people of Sittilingi
Valley and Kalrayan Hills in
Tamil Nadu lead a better
quality of life keeping their
traditions, customs and
pride intact.



ABOUT US

Tribal Health Initiative
started working in Sittilingi
valley of Dharmapuri Dist of
Tamil Nadu since 1993. We
now have a Base Hospital
which caters to more than 1
lakh people, most of whom
are tribals. We also run a
comprehensive develop-
ment program for about
15,000 tribals who dwell in
25 settlements. We also
work in the Kalrayan Hills in
health.

To Visit or Contact us

TRIBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

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