During this month last year, Barefoot College International (BCI) was busy supporting, coordinating, and fundraising for multiple on-ground initiatives run by our partner Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in their remote, rural communities. What started with voluntary contributions from colleagues (14% of their salaries for 3 months) to establish a corpus for the CBO Relief Fund, eventually ended up gathering funds from other generous donors to support our ground initiatives. During that first phase, we were able to reach 30,385 beneficiaries in 18 states through 32 partnering CBOs.

However, it was widely understood that the pandemic will have ramifications for a long time to come. Hence, it was important to develop medium to long-term programs (6-18 months) that promised significant and sustained impact in building self-reliant and resilient communities. That gave birth to the second phase of the CBO Relief program. The idea was to identify a few innovative, ground-relevant programs, and work on their proof of concept. Eventually, reliable solutions would be created that could be replicable by other organizations and scalable at the pilot location.

The feedback from our ground partners and insights derived from our first phase data suggested that interventions in Livelihood and education were most needed. Proposals were then called for in the thematic areas of Livelihood (Agriculture & Allied Activities) and Education (Non-formal / Alternative). Out of the 19 proposals we received, the programs proposed by SUTRA and SAMPARK were selected based on their effectiveness (practicality, innovativeness, replicability, and sustainability) with due consideration given to the experience of these organisations in the proposed domain.

This progress report will provide an overview of on-ground developments in the past 4 months (January to April) and initial impact experienced by our communities so far. Happy reading!
PROGRAM OUTREACH

10 VILLAGES
120 CHILDREN

10 VILLAGES
200 FARMERS
AIM
To support Small and Marginal farmers through promotion and provision of extension services in indigenous, eco-friendly, organic farming.

This is being done by:
- Supporting farmers through fair and sustainable livelihoods
- Promotion of desi-seed variety and eco-friendly organic farming practices
- Making farmers self-reliant in organic farming
- Improving soil health
- Improving nutritional intake for the family of the farmers

PROJECT LOCATION
Farmers from the following villages in Petlawad block, Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh:

1. Khakhrapada
2. Bhabhrapada
3. Jambupada
4. Chawrapada
5. Titodeepada
6. Narsingpura
7. Kalighati
8. Kachrotia
9. Kudal
10. Runaji

SUTRA
AIM
To improve learning outcomes of children of migrant families working in the unorganized sector whose education have been neglected due to the

- Inability to follow the local language often used in the classrooms
- Limited time and energy their parents devote post working hours to take care of their education
- Absence of smartphones at home to attend online classes

PROJECT LOCATION
10 tuition centers have been supported in the following villages in Solan District, Himachal Pradesh:

1. Bhim Colony
2. Preet Nagar
3. Haraipur: Eeeta ka Batta
4. Harijan Basti
5. Haraipur
6. Mhaisi Palasi
7. Dadi Kaniya
8. Manpura-2
9. Taliwala
10. Peersthan
**PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES**

200 Small and Marginal farmers (out of whom 80 are covered in the Rabi Season) with landholding between 2 to 10 bigha

**ACTIVITIES**

**November '20**

1. Selection of farmer
2. Preparation of the field
3. Distribution of seeds
4. Handholding support for sowing

**December '20**

1. Extension service for
   a. First irrigation,
   b. Bio-inputs preparation (Fertilizer, decomposer and nitrogen solution)

**PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES**

120 children from migrant families working in the unorganized sector (construction work)

**ACTIVITIES**

**January '21**

1. Selection of villages
2. Selection of associated primary schools
3. Selection of instructors
4. Selection of children
5. Baseline survey
6. Five-day Orientation cum capacity-building session for instructors
7. Initiation of classes
8. Deployment of testing tool (First)

*Local Farmers at the seed bank in Sampark’s campus*

*Demonstration session on nitrogen fertilizer preparation*

*Top to bottom: Scene from the 5-day orientation session; children gathered around for an interactive game session*
2. Preparation of Wheat Biodiversity Plot by cultivating 23 desi crop varieties of wheat

**January'21**
Extension Service for
1. Production and distribution of fertilizer solution
2. Weeding using Cycle doras

**February'21**
1. Extension support for Tri-monthly Spraying of bio-fertilizers and compost

**February'21**
1. Deployment of testing tool (2nd)
2. Initiation of monthly meeting with teachers
3. Initiation of monthly meeting with parents and community members
4. Initiation of Mahila Mandals in the community (for community involvement, sensitization and improving women's agency)

**March'21**
1st meeting with Panchayat Representatives and village stakeholders covering all the centres
Extension service: Removal of invasive weed
Baseline Survey initiated
Farmers' meet organised at Sampark Campus

March’21
1. Extension service: Removal of invasive weed
2. Baseline Survey initiated
3. Farmers' meet organised at Sampark Campus

April' 21
1. Testing tool (3rd time)
2. Quarterly refresher training for teachers

Recurring Activities
1. Classes (Mon-Saturday)
2. Test tool deployment (every 3rd fortnight)
3. Meeting with Instructors (Monthly)
4. Meeting with Panchayat representatives (Every quarter)
5. Meeting with parents, community members, and Mahila Mandals (Monthly)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES (May’21 to Nov’21)
1. Marketing of produce by Sampark team
2. Endline survey
3. Initiation of 2nd phase of the program (Support for Kharif season) which shall support 120 farmers in organic farming.

CHALLENGES
1. Delay in the farming cycle due to changing climatic conditions and increasing temperatures
2. Slowing down of operations and survey deployment due to the pandemic and the enforced lockdown

ENDLINE SURVEY
Initiation of 2nd phase of the program (Support for Kharif season) which shall support 120 farmers in organic farming.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES (May’21 to Dec’21)
• Selection of new children to replace those who have been promoted to the 6th grade
• Continuation of the recurring activities mentioned above
• Endline survey

CHALLENGES
1. Space constraints at villages to conduct the tuition classes
2. Disruption in the attendance of children due to frequent travels by their families to native states during festive seasons
3. Frequent change in residential locations of migrant families due to shifting jobs resulting in some children dropping out of the tuition classes
**IMPACT TILL NOW**

- **80** farmers supported from sowing to sales
- **260** farmers attended the Farmers Meet to know more about Sampark's initiative
- **12** Extension support sessions held in 6 months
- **10** Instructors trained on interactive class facilitation techniques
- **>80%** attendance in all tuition centres
- **120** Children receiving support to improve learning outcomes
- **83** Women covered under 6 Mahila Mandals
- **~Rs7** increase in per kg purchase price as compared to market price

**Others**

- Conducive eco-system created for the farmers in the 10 villages to try put first-hand organic farming practices in their fields
- Strengthening of seedbank, input, and fertiliser dispensary at Sampark campus
- Sustained increase in the number of students who have acquired the tested skill-sets**
- Improved involvement of the community in children's education: 3 monthly meetings organized with parents and community members for each tuition center (30 in total); 5 meetings with PRI members and important village stakeholders

*from initial data. Exact figures shall be calculated once impact evaluation survey for rabi season is completed on ground

**Refer to appendix more details**
Rameshwar Malawad is a farmer from Bhabharpada Village in Jhabua district, MP who lives with six others at home, all involved in farming. Last year for the Rabi season, he decided to ditch the seeds and inputs sold widely in the local markets and instead collected the desi black wheat seeds from SAMPARK. The SAMPARK staff recount the diligence with which Rameshwar Bhai followed all that was taught during the extension services from preparing nitrogen solution and compost to using cycle doras for de-weeding. How did it all go for him? Rameshwar Bhai says, “While earlier I had to pay a hefty price for seeds, this time I received the seeds from SAMPARK without any cost. Moreover, instead of receiving the market price of Rs18 per kg on my harvest, I was paid Rs 25 per kg by Sampark. The harvest was in fact collected at my doorstep. My family and I have really benefited from being a part of the program. So has my soil too through the usage of organic inputs in the field!

Amra Malawad who comes from a seven-member strong farming family collected the Paigambar variety of wheat from SAMPARK which is considered the earliest variety of wheat in India (cultivated first during the Indus Valley Civilisation). Amra Ji attended each and every training-cum demonstration session held by SAMPARK and made sure to implement all the new techniques learned in his own field. He is fascinated by the easily replicable techniques that he learned during the course of the program. With a smile, he says “Using cycle doras for de-weeding is such a saver for small farmers like me! It has not only reduced the physical labour that we put in but has also reduced the expenses we made on weedicides. In fact, on seeing me use the cycle weeder, many farmers in my village have been motivated to use it in their own fields!
Jyoti is a cheerful 8-year-old girl from Peersthan Village in Himachal Pradesh studying in the fourth grade. Her parents work as daily wage workers at a construction site. She is really fond of studying and within a short span from the program initiation, she mastered many frequently-used Hindi and English words. She says she loves to sing and dance and her eyes brighten up as she says “When I grow up, I will become a Police Officer!”

Sonia is a 10-year-old from Preet Nagar in Himachal Pradesh who lives with her parents and five sisters. Her parents migrated from Bihar. Apart from studying she likes to help her mother with household chores. She says with a grin, “My favorite part of studying is reading stories!”. She has consistently been the first one to attend the tuition class and her instructors note that her diligent nature has resulted in a significant improvement in her performance in class. She says with the most enthusiastic smile, “I want to be a teacher when I grow up so that I can support my parents and make them proud.”
APPENDIX

Change in learning outcomes of children as captured by the testing-toolkit developed by sutra***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills tested</th>
<th>Percentage of students with the skill-set (First Test)</th>
<th>Percentage of students with the skill-set (Second test)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can Read single digit number</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can Read double digit number</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can Write single digit number</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can Write double digit number</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple Addition without carry over</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple Addition with carry over</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple Subtraction without borrowing</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple Subtraction with borrowing</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple Multiplication without carryover</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple Multiplication with carryover</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple division without remainder</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can do Simple division with remainder</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language 1 (Hindi)</th>
<th>Language 2 (English)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skills tested</td>
<td>Percentage of students with the skill-set (First Test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can identify letters</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can identify simple words</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can speak up simple sentences</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can speak a paragraph with limited comprehension</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can say a simple paragraph with comprehension</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can write letters</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can write simple words</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can write simple sentences</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**** While the first test was deployed at the start of the program, the second was deployed 6 weeks from the program start
कृषि को सतायन से मुक्त रखने हेतु संपर्क समाज सेवी संस्था ने आयोजित की कार्यशाला

पेपरबैड |  सरस्वती विद्यालय तथा प्रकृतिसहित और सामयिक संगठनों की सहायता के साथ जीवन रहने वाले के लिए जीवन दर्शन के साथ समक्ष संस्थान, 14.5.17 को उत्पादन तथा सामर्थ्य पर विचार किया गया।

राष्ट्रवादी | सामाजिक संवेदनशीलता ने आयोजित की जीवन रहने वाले के लिए जीवन दर्शन के साथ समक्ष संस्थान की सहायता के साथ समक्ष संस्थान, 14.5.17 को उत्पादन तथा सामर्थ्य पर विचार किया गया।

वैज्ञानिकों ने किसानों को सताने मुक्त कृषि के लिए प्रेरित किया

पेपरबैड, किसानों को समर्पित करते हैं। आर्यादेव नागपतन.