



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-21

April 2020 – March 2021

AAWAJ

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BACKGROUND OF AAWAJ

To build a just and equitable society wherein the poor and marginalized and those on the threshold of poverty are able to secure themselves and have a life of dignity. Aawaj aims in enabling marginalized communities to access most of facilities through peaceful and democratic means and generate a process wherein collectivity, participation and shared wisdom of stakeholders and young people is ensured all through.

The objective of Aawaj is to develop an understanding of local good governance and self-governance, to make the local community conscious of its prerogatives and to develop their capabilities in a way that they are able to defend and enforce their entitlements on their own. We believe that more than working for people what is required is to work with them. Thus, in Aawaj we are trying to create society which is aware, well informed and which is based on deliberated alternatives.

We visualize our work at multiple levels. First and foremost of which is to develop our own understanding of an issue, then to develop the capability of the community and thus to work for betterment of the society. We work to raise public awareness by spreading information about different schemes, policies and rules in a way that people are able to access the facilities on their own.

Vision

To build a just and equitable society wherein the poor and marginalized and those on the Threshold of poverty is able to secure their Constitutional Rights & make them aware of constitutional duties and have a life of dignity."

Mission

"Enabling marginalized communities to know their Constitutional rights & duties and public entitlements and access most of them through peaceful and democratic means and generate a process wherein collectivity, participation and shared wisdom of stakeholders are ensured all through."

Objectives

- ❖ Aawaj works with the disadvantaged sections to inform them about their constitutional rights and duties.
- ❖ Aawaj works to ensure participation of the youth in good governance and to develop them for active citizenship. It is also instrumental in ensuring their access to their basic rights (education, health, protection and employment).
- ❖ Aawaj works for implementation of child rights and also works in the issue of child trafficking.
- ❖ Aawaj works with Youth for development.
- ❖ Aawaj works on the issues of gender discrimination, inequality & other related issues.

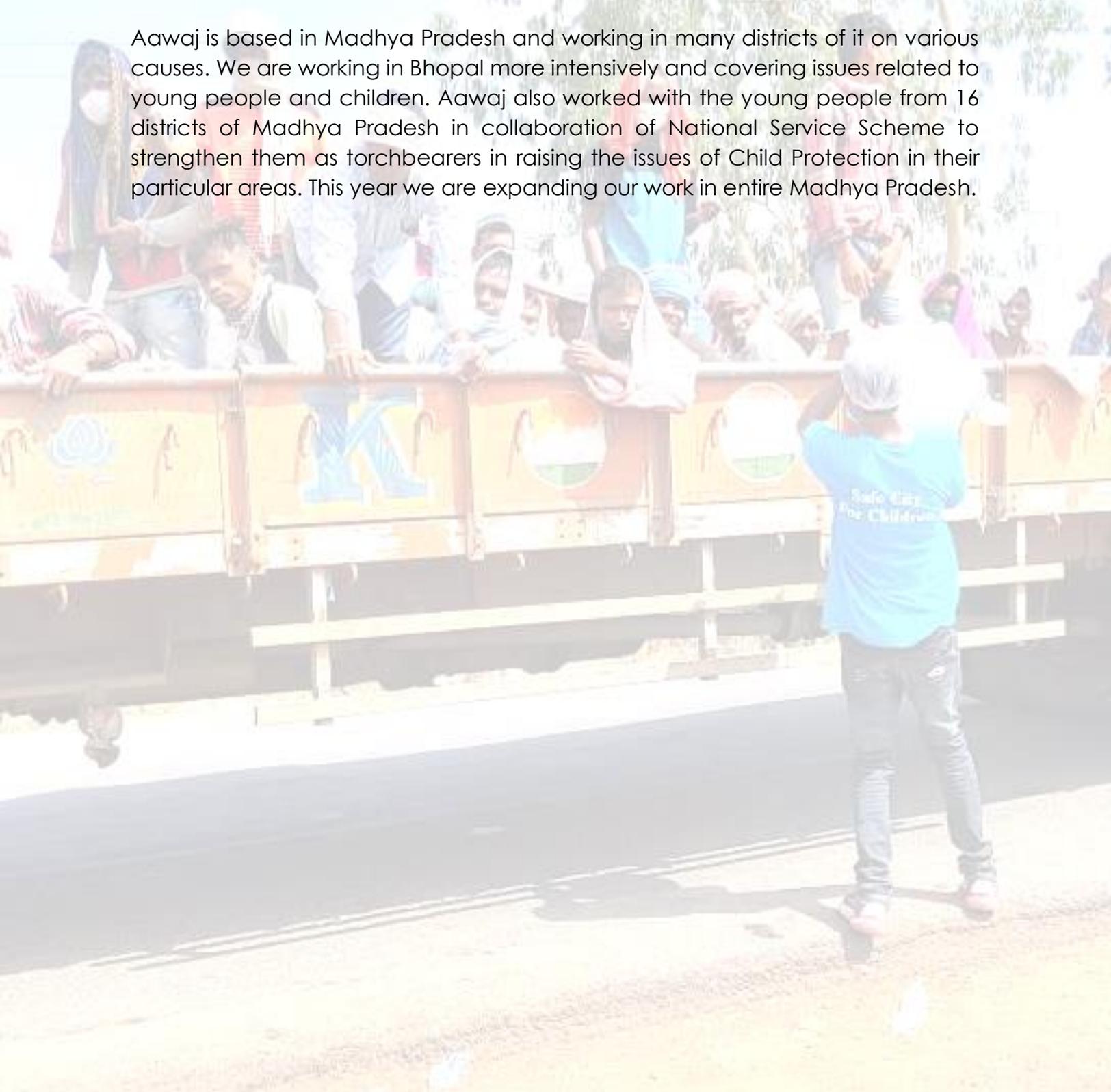
Our Working Strategy

- **Implementation at Grassroots** – We strongly believe that without implementation at grass root it is impossible to find base for the change and support. Sometime without any string evidence of grass root we jump into the awareness processes which don't give positive results which create negative impact on community and stakeholder. Thus the organization feels that grass root work is important and its impulse will be seen in policy level issues.
- **Training & Capacity Building** –The organization believes in capacity building processes at various levels i.e. from community to stakeholder. Also it is important to have fresher course for all the stakeholders. We believe building the capacity of community is utmost important, without this it is impossible to visible change.
- **Liaising & Coordination** – It is strongest part of the organization. AAWAJ support the departments working on child protection issues in sharing and raising the issues at state as well as national level with concerning government departments and authorities followed by working on the same with it.
- **Networking** – We believe that one organization cannot bring change at the policy level. It is important to have the issue based networking with the groups or people to bring change in the policy and to benefit the target groups.
- **Awareness Campaigning** – Campaign is generally a sustained effort to educate individuals and boost public awareness about any cause or issue. So, we always use this tool to raise our issue and achieve positive impacts. It helps us in

generating new contacts and educates those potential supporters about our cause.

COVERAGE

Aawaj is based in Madhya Pradesh and working in many districts of it on various causes. We are working in Bhopal more intensively and covering issues related to young people and children. Aawaj also worked with the young people from 16 districts of Madhya Pradesh in collaboration of National Service Scheme to strengthen them as torchbearers in raising the issues of Child Protection in their particular areas. This year we are expanding our work in entire Madhya Pradesh.



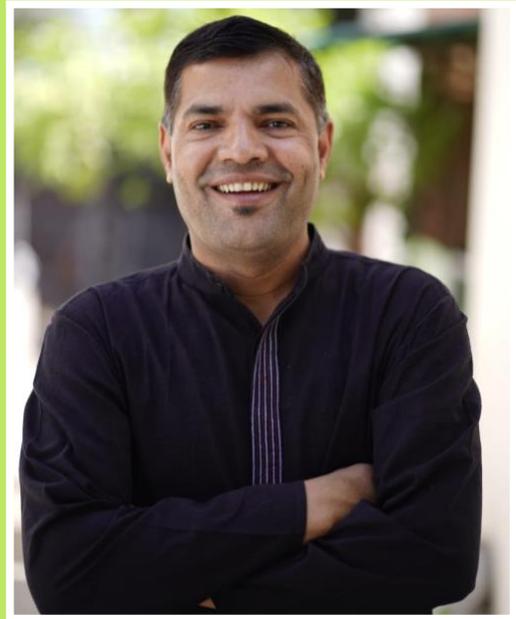
FOREWORD

We can attain success through combine efforts

This year has been full of challenges for AAWAJ. The corona pandemic has caused havoc all over the world this year. We all know that whenever there is any natural or such calamity, the marginalized people, especially women and children are the most affected. AAWAJ worked at every level, reiterating to stand with the suffering humanity in this difficult time and support them. From arranging cooked food for the marginalized people to ensuring availability of raw ration material, the entire team of AAWAJ stood shoulder to shoulder.

The plight of laborers returning to their homes from destinations on foot and by other means has forced a fresh look at the new concept of urban development. Even with these laborers, the entire team of AAWAJ stood firmly on the highways and at the railway station. During this, institutions like Gurudwara, Jain Mandir, Municipal Corporation as well as our other associates, well-wishers supported with free hand. AAWAJ also worked with the district administration to make people aware through mythological characters. In this year, an understanding of the AAWAJ has been made that every war can be easily fought by staying together.

Youth power, with its energy, has always been inspiring and influencing. We have seen that this year there has been an increase in the cases of violence against a large number of children in the lockdown period. AAWAJ is working in 16 districts of Madhya Pradesh with about 38 thousand youth associated with the National Service Scheme to improve their understanding on child protection. In such a situation, the young people did a lot of creative work while staying in their homes on the issue of child protection. To lessen the depression among youth, they not only trained for psycho-social support, but its benefits were also given to the youth and children. Many times the youth even came out of their homes and worked for the suffering humanity. From Children's Day to International Child Rights Day,



young people ran an online campaign "Mehfooz", in which people were made aware on a large scale.

The work with the communities with whom we are already engaged in the field of education continued this year as well, but due to the closure of schools due to Corona pandemic, it was a big challenge to keep those children connected to education through informal learning centers, but we are glad that we were able to do it. We have also motivated the community in such a way that children do not get away from education. The work with the Anganwadis has also continued unabated. The summary of all the work done so far on ECCE has come out in the form of a book this year.

In this entire episode, we express our gratitude to our board members, funding agencies, municipal corporation, district administration, National Service Scheme, our partners, community, children, youth partners, our volunteers, our whole enthusiastic team of AAWAJ and all those colleagues who contributed in this journey.

With Best Regards,



Prashant Dubey

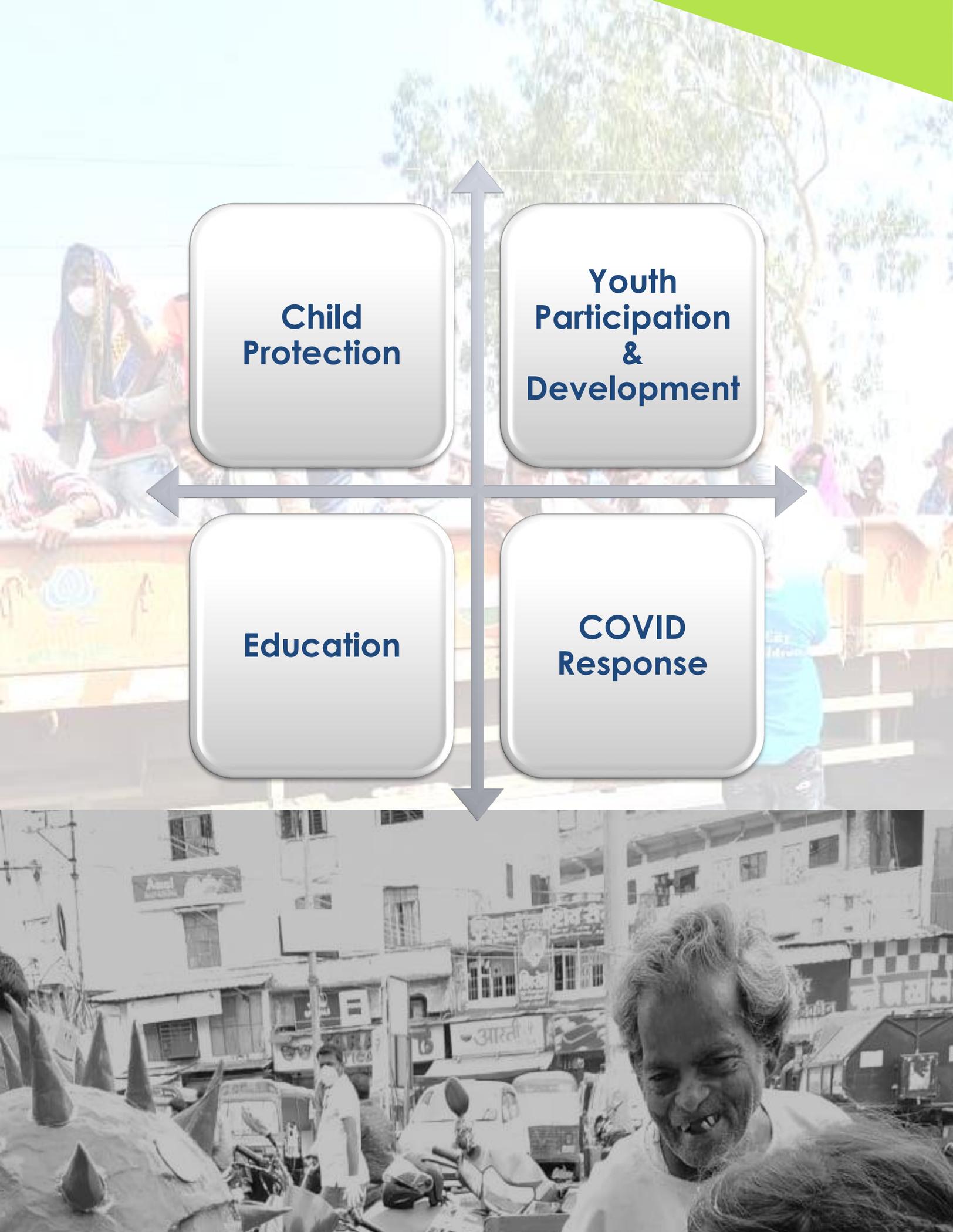
**Director,
AAWAJ**

Highlights

- **40,000 Youth** engaged directly through various programs.
- Reached about **200000 people** on Social media through various programs.
- **23 Trainings** on Child Protection conducted in the entire year.
- Total **10 Webinars** conducted to aware people on various issues like Child Protection, COVID-19 awareness, mental health etc.
- More than **300 Actions** has been taken directly by young people for Ending Violence against Children.
- Two Exposure visits organized by engaging **60 young people**.
- More than **32 Children** rescued from trafficking, child marriage, child sexual abuse and other type of violence against children through the process.
- **200 Children** benefitted at centers and anganwadis.
- **3000 Families** received nearly 8400 ration kits during COVID-19
- **66250 Migrants** were supported in different manners



OUR INTERVENTIONS

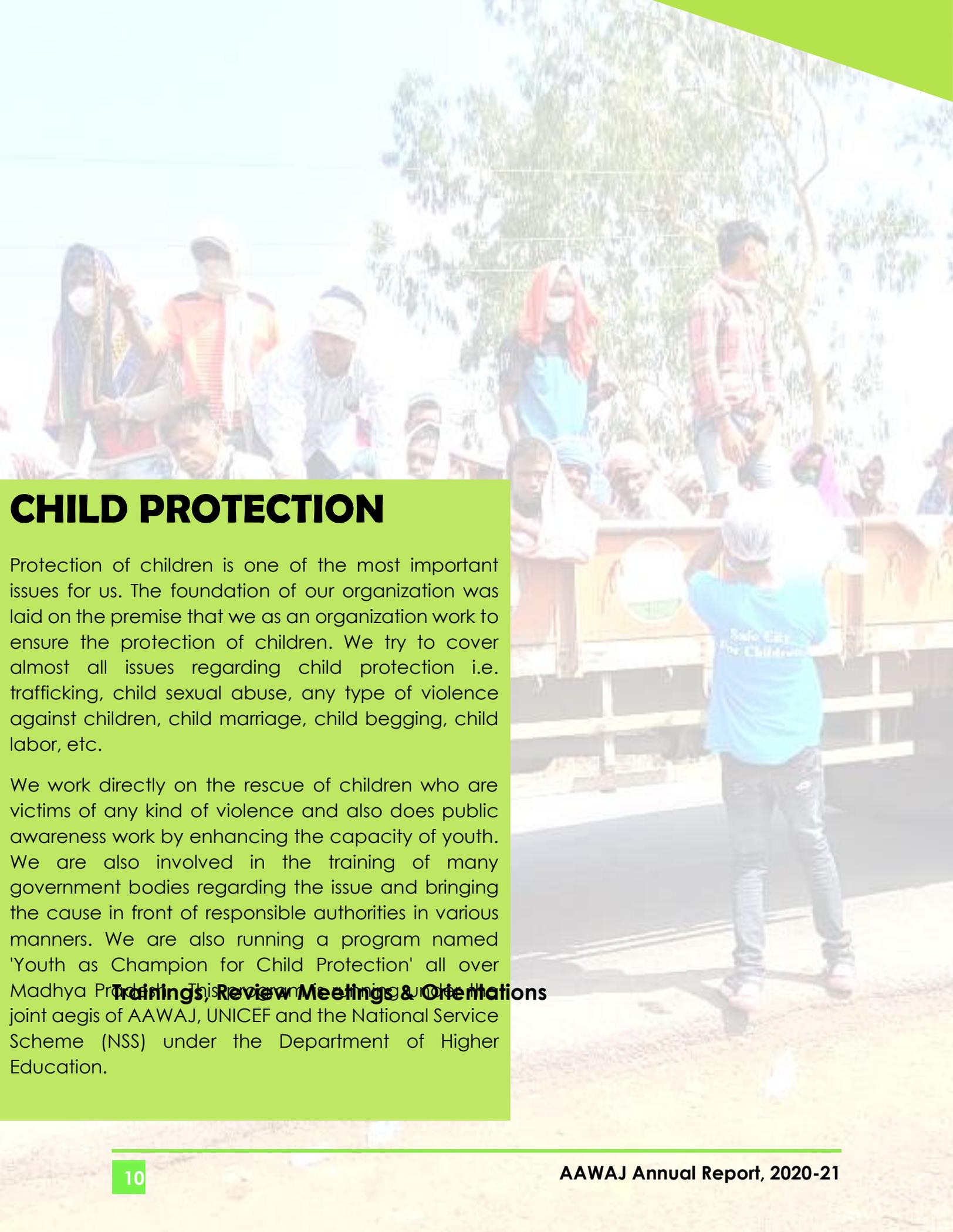


**Child
Protection**

**Youth
Participation
&
Development**

Education

**COVID
Response**



CHILD PROTECTION

Protection of children is one of the most important issues for us. The foundation of our organization was laid on the premise that we as an organization work to ensure the protection of children. We try to cover almost all issues regarding child protection i.e. trafficking, child sexual abuse, any type of violence against children, child marriage, child begging, child labor, etc.

We work directly on the rescue of children who are victims of any kind of violence and also does public awareness work by enhancing the capacity of youth. We are also involved in the training of many government bodies regarding the issue and bringing the cause in front of responsible authorities in various manners. We are also running a program named 'Youth as Champion for Child Protection' all over Madhya Pradesh. This program is running under the joint aegis of AAWAJ, UNICEF and the National Service Scheme (NSS) under the Department of Higher Education.

Trainings, Review Meetings & Orientations



AAWAJ conducts trainings and orientations at various levels on child protection issues and laws. The parameters of all these trainings vary depending on the understanding of the trainee. We basically use interactive, creative and practical

methodology in trainings to connect people more efficiently. Due to pandemic, this year we have organized all our trainings, orientations and review meetings at online mode.

Trainings

1. Online Training of NSS Volunteers

To enhance the knowledge of NSS Youth volunteers of 16 districts of Madhya Pradesh regarding the issues related to Child Protection we were conducting residential trainings but due to lockdown, training of 8 districts were left i.e. Chhindwara, Balaghat, Mandla, Dindori, Seoni, Rajgarh, Betul and second batch of Bhopal. So, we have conducted online training of two days for the remaining districts. 629 young volunteers participated in 8 trainings.

2. Training of Government Structures

All the government and legal structures have an important role in the protection of children that is why intensive training of all of them is necessary. We are involved in the process of training many such structures like DCPU, CWC, CRP, GRP Child line, WCD, DALSA, CWPO's, SJPU etc. We did special trainings in Betul, Bhuranpur, chinndwara, Bhopal etc.

Orientations

Online Orientation of NSS Officials (Expansion of Program)

We were increasing the capacity of youth on the issue of child protection in 16 districts comes under two university zones of Madhya Pradesh i.e. Barkatullah University, Bhopal and Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur. After that we also started the process in other five universities comprising all the remaining districts of the state. For this, we conducted online orientation program for the university

officials, district coordinators and program officers of NSS separately for each university.

The orientation was aimed at educating the participants about Child Rights and how they can ensure the issues concerning children are addressed. This was focused on preparing the 500 NSS Program Officers (Participants) of 5 universities in 5 meetings to run the child protection campaign and activities effectively in their respective districts and units with the young volunteers of NSS. Also to link up those with some legal and social frameworks to enable them spearhead efforts to protect children from any form of abuse, rights, freedom and responsibilities.

Child Protection Clubs in Institutes (A sustainable tool to ensure Child Protection)

Last year we introduced the concept of CP Club to make the child protection program run smoothly with the National Service Scheme in collaboration of AAWAJ & UNICEF. It was ensured that a child protection club was set up in all the colleges where the National Service Scheme operates. In this CP Club, there are minimum 10 young volunteers participate as of three among them are post holders & others are members.

The roles and responsibilities of the CP Club team is already defined and the entire team is devoted towards there awareness activities related to Child Protection. The club works in their campus as well as the adopted community for the awareness purpose. The members enhance their own knowledge by inviting experts of the topic in the colleges and try to solve out the on field cases of Child Protection.

This year the circumstances were completely different due to the lockdown, even after the end of the lockdown, everything did not become normal at once. We also had concerns about child protection clubs lest they become inactive due to this adverse environment. That is why we have also started some task based online processes under Child Protection Clubs.

Sharing cum Planning Meetings

In order to know the actual status of all child protection clubs and to interact directly with all the club members, we organized online refresher meetings with

the youth of each club separately. In this, we got to know the experience of the youth about this program so far, discussed the activities done by their club and assigned them monthly tasks for the future like creating a child protection wall in the college, to conduct survey on CP issues in the communities, make efforts to eradicate child labor from the radius of one kilometer of their institutes etc.

- **Campus to Community-** Each unit of the National Service Scheme adopts either a village or a settlement in an urban area or they have their communities and almost all activities are conducted there. The youth went to these places and spread awareness through slogans, wall writing and painting, surveys etc.
- **Institutional level activities-** Various



activities in NSS are going on continuously at the unit level/college level. Among these activities, the subjects related to child protection were given place and efforts were made to make other students of the college aware about the issues related to child protection. Webinars and online competitions were common these days.

- **Informing about cases-** Our main objective in this whole process being carried out with the youth in the context of child protection was that the youth should be able to identify the children in trouble around them and start informing the appropriate structures by being empathetic

towards them.

CP Clubs as Innovation

Our entire program was based on the fact that when we work with the youth on sensitive issues like child protection, we will get to see many innovations to deal with it. At many levels, we see appreciable performance of the youth at works which was given to them in form of tasks. But, it has also happened many times that the CP Clubs took excellent steps towards child protection awareness through their teamwork and innovations & it was beyond our imagination. Almost all the child protection clubs of both universities completed their tasks, but we are

presenting some examples of those who not only finished the tasks, but set examples for the entire state through their innovations.

CHARCHA AT CHAUPAL - Spreading awareness among the community was an important task given to the CP Club; But it is not easy to establish a means of continuous communication for the sake of awareness. An innovative idea of 'Charcha at Chaupal' is initiated by one of the CP Club of Mandla to make the youth and children (approx 200 adolescents & 110 children) in their adopted village aware about the existing structures related to child protection.



ANIMATION FILM - We did not even think that the youth will create awareness material at their level according to the demand of today's era in such less resources. Animation films are very attractive form of visual based awareness method and it takes a lot of hard work even to the professionals to make it. But, it was done very easily by a CP club in Bhopal and a wonderful animated film based on child protection was produced. The film is meant as a complete package for providing information in terms of children and it has also made a huge dent on YouTube, more than 40k people watched it till now.



INFORMAL LETTERS TO RELATIVES - The method of awareness may be very simple but it should be the one that appeals to the people the most. A similar initiative was taken by a CP club in Betul district which was widely appreciated throughout the state. The youth of this CP club started writing informal letters in a large number (approx 65 letters) to their relatives living in distant villages and cities.

In these letters, the youth mentioned the training taken by them on child protection and also requested not to do child marriages in their areas. It turned out to be a very creative idea which also got a good response.

CASE DOCUMENT ON DRUG ABUSE IN CHILDREN - We have been given many tasks to CP clubs, but a CP club in Balaghat not only completed these tasks but also worked in this direction with the intention of bringing change. They first identified

the most burning issue related to the safety of children in their Adopted Village, and found Drug Abuse in Children as major concern for the village. This CP Club put their all the possible efforts; from identifying four children in the beginning to finally listing the 45 drug addict children. The team not only stopped here, but also coordinated with the child line of the district and met the parents of these children. Now they are also counseling to get rid of these children from intoxication and have prepared a document about this entire process.

CP STUDY CIRCLE - CP Club of Waraseoni has started a study circle on child protection at its college in which they make an understanding on all laws related to children and approximately 100 young volunteers are directly connected to this circle. Not only this, every youth in this circle has taken up a subject of his own, which he prepares better and other youths can contact him whenever they need any information on that subject. This study circle has so far prepared several informative PDFs, including references to many national and international researches on child protection.

Online Competitions

An online competition at State Level was conducted for the NSS volunteers of Madhya Pradesh. This online competition contained four different types of competition i.e. Poster Making, Mehandi Art, Rangoli Making & Slogan writing. The volunteers could participate in all the four competitions. All the above topics includes theme related to child protection issues in pandemic time. The themes are as follows:

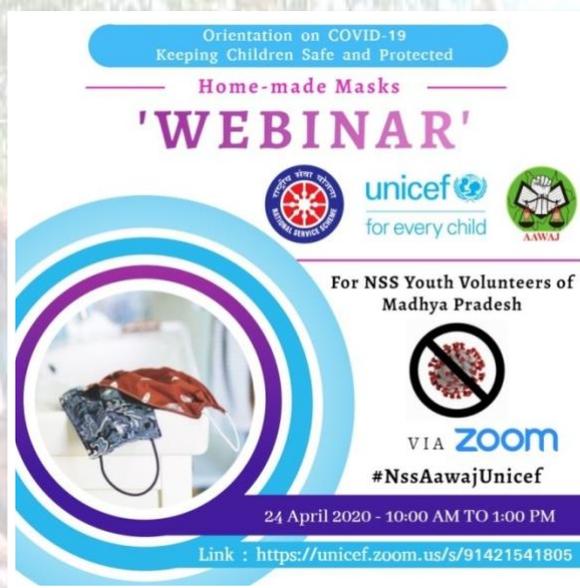
- Ending violence against children during lockdown
- Addressing children's stress and anxiety through psychosocial support.
- Settlements of migrant laborers and vulnerability of children.
- What children are doing at homes during lockdown?
- Role of youth in preventing effect of corona virus
- Online safety of youth and children.

Webinars

During lockdown the cases of violence against children were increasing. To protect children from social evils, and to aware young volunteers of NSS as well as other people of the society about the concerning issues of children during the first wave of pandemic we have planned many webinars at different levels in collaboration of various concerning government departments. We also streamed the webinars live on social media platforms to reach it out huge audience.

We conducted webinars on the following topics—

- Webinar on Child Protection with UNICEF.
- Role of Society in eradicating child labor With Bhopal Info, Labour department and police Department.
- A meaningful discussion- Depression, Stress & Hope with Bhopal info.
- SAMMAN - Webinar on the occasion of National Girls Day with Crime against Women and School Education Department.
- WEBINAR on Global Crisis of Violence with children at Home with Bhopal info. And BIG FM.



International Child Labor Prohibition Day (12th June)

On International Child Labor Prohibition Day MLA's of Bhopal gave a message to protect children and eradicate child labor from the city by symbolizing through balloons, they also shared the post of the program jointly organized by Aawaj from their personal social media handles.

'MEHFOOZ' – 7 Days 7 Issues Child Rights Week Awareness Campaign

From this year, under the program 'Youth as Champion for Child Protection', a special child rights week was celebrated with NSS named 'Mehfooz' - 7 Days 7 Issues from 14 Nov to 20 Nov. Each day was fixed for the issues related to child protection, every day various activities related to the related subject were done by the volunteers at their own level. Social media platforms were used effectively in this week and many info graphics were continuously shared by the youth on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc. along with hashtags.



DIALOGUE WITH BLOGGERS on CHILD PROTECTION

To bring the whole idea of protecting children to the virtual ground, we looked like a great way to get social media, and then we thought that potential of active public figures and bloggers on social media could play an important role in this direction. For which we talked about our issues with such bloggers and planned an orientation with them that allows us to reach out to most people.



In the orientation cum planning with the renowned bloggers of Bhopal, we were also looking at social media contexts on how we make people aware of child protection issues through social media with the help of bloggers, our aim was not to talk about laws in-depth, but we wanted to talk about the right way to identify and report such cases only on remedies. Many bloggers were interested in talking about children's issues, as well as through their effective platforms, they commit to take some measures that make

people aware. In the offline orientation, 15 bloggers participated and suggested many ideas to prevent the growing violence against children.

Releasing short awareness videos

It was planned to release two categories of videos. Individual awareness videos of two volunteers (one boy/one girl) were released from each district, who were the young state campers of NSS, in which the message of staying at home in lockdown and taking care of children was given to the people; along with this, cut to cut videos (using the A to Z concept of Corona) were released while taking the oath of young Indira Gandhi Awardees. Thus, it happened in three different phases with different themes.

Rescue Operations

Another trafficking racket destroyed, a minor girl rescued from Sagar.

Gang used to bring minor girls in the name of marriage

In March 2020, a 16-year-old minor girl went missing from Mandla (Bichiya) and the case was reported. There was no trace of the girl. We were informed by a colleague, Vivek Pawar, we developed the information and sent one of our companions at least 10 times to Dhaware village under Banda tehsil of Sagar district. We went to the village many times, verified the place, inspected the spot and made a map. When the girl was finally found out, we informed senior police officials of Madhya Pradesh and SP Mandla, Shri Deepak Shukla and sought their help. After this, along with with TI Bichiya Shri Khatri, SI Shri Pradhan, we rescued the girl from Barayatha police station area of Sagar. Prashant Dubey and Nitesh Vyas were involved in this entire process on behalf of AAWAJ.

The woman who brought this girl here had brought about 6 girls in the same way. For the time being, she fled to Delhi, but the good news is that the girl was rescued and is now safe.

Aawaj has rescued more than 30 children in distress in this entire year. These cases include the children who are victims of child trafficking, child marriage, child labor etc. In rescue operations of children, we try to coordinate with the concerned officials of the administration and the police for easy going process and effect results. The major cases belong to the district Sagar, Mandla, Balaghat, Bhopal etc.

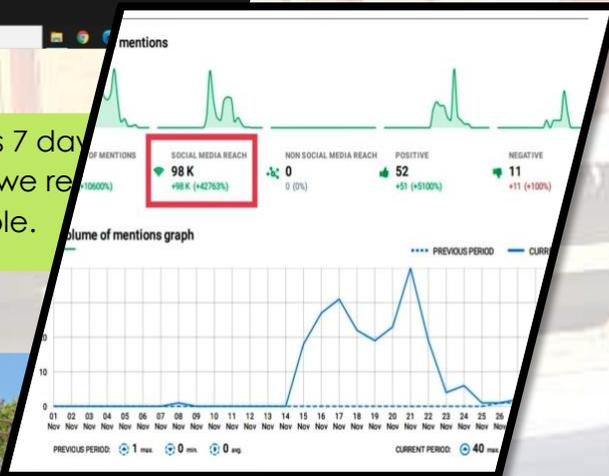
IMPACT

More than 3000 NSS volunteers participated in the online competition and it was reached about 17000 people at various platforms.



Listeners facilitated active webinars and comments. Speakers addressed each and every query positively.

Through this 7 day campaign we reached 98000 people.



Reached with nearly 3000 CP and 190 institutes come under the banner of two universities and also, engaged in various tasks on child protection.

We have rescued more than 30 children in this year from the various situations and cases of violence.

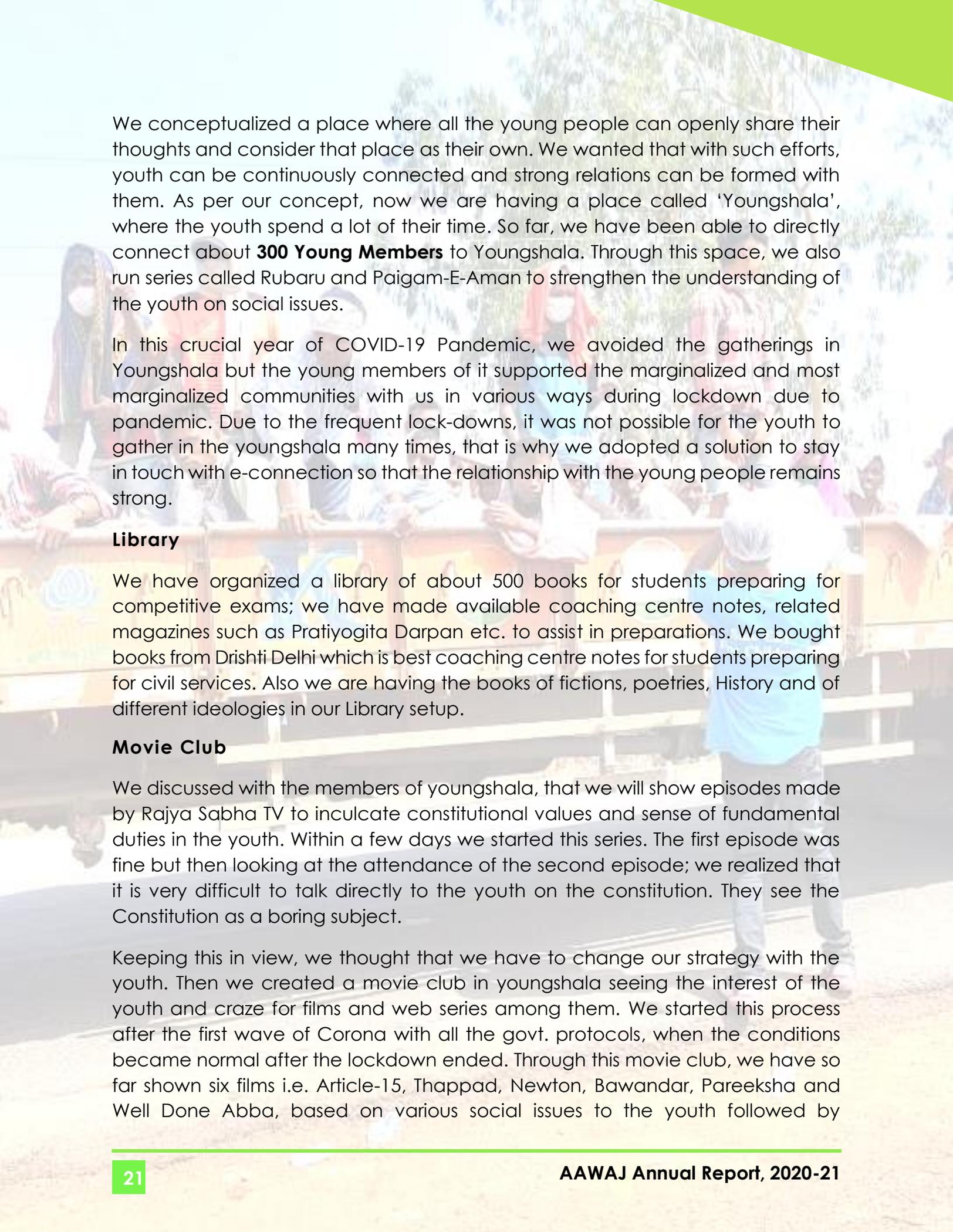
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It is important to empower youth with knowledge, tools and opportunities to assert their own interests as well as the social issues. Young people become thoughtful and informed adult citizens by learning, questioning and building critical thinking skills. This is undermined



Youngshala – 'Shart Yahi ki Yahan Koi Shart Nahi'



We conceptualized a place where all the young people can openly share their thoughts and consider that place as their own. We wanted that with such efforts, youth can be continuously connected and strong relations can be formed with them. As per our concept, now we are having a place called 'Youngshala', where the youth spend a lot of their time. So far, we have been able to directly connect about **300 Young Members** to Youngshala. Through this space, we also run series called Rubaru and Paigam-E-Aman to strengthen the understanding of the youth on social issues.

In this crucial year of COVID-19 Pandemic, we avoided the gatherings in Youngshala but the young members of it supported the marginalized and most marginalized communities with us in various ways during lockdown due to pandemic. Due to the frequent lock-downs, it was not possible for the youth to gather in the youngshala many times, that is why we adopted a solution to stay in touch with e-connection so that the relationship with the young people remains strong.

Library

We have organized a library of about 500 books for students preparing for competitive exams; we have made available coaching centre notes, related magazines such as Pratiyogita Darpan etc. to assist in preparations. We bought books from Drishti Delhi which is best coaching centre notes for students preparing for civil services. Also we are having the books of fictions, poetries, History and of different ideologies in our Library setup.

Movie Club

We discussed with the members of youngshala, that we will show episodes made by Rajya Sabha TV to inculcate constitutional values and sense of fundamental duties in the youth. Within a few days we started this series. The first episode was fine but then looking at the attendance of the second episode; we realized that it is very difficult to talk directly to the youth on the constitution. They see the Constitution as a boring subject.

Keeping this in view, we thought that we have to change our strategy with the youth. Then we created a movie club in youngshala seeing the interest of the youth and craze for films and web series among them. We started this process after the first wave of Corona with all the govt. protocols, when the conditions became normal after the lockdown ended. Through this movie club, we have so far shown six films i.e. Article-15, Thappad, Newton, Bawandar, Pareeksha and Well Done Abba, based on various social issues to the youth followed by

discussion over it and experts views. About 60 members of youngshala are actively associated with this movie club of ours.

Mime Workshop

At the beginning of the Corona period, when the cases were increasing continuously, the lockdown was extended in Bhopal as well. This was the first experience of all of us of being locked in homes for so long, in such a situation, the youth had also become quite frustrated.



The youth with whom we have been associated for a long time also witnessed the same situation, so we thought that some interesting & entertaining intervention should be done with the youth in this difficult time. Seeing that we have a lot of people interested in the field of art, we talked to our friend Deepak Yatri, a mime artist from Delhi and organized a three day online basic mime workshop. A total of 30 youth participated in this workshop and learned the basics of a unique art like mime.

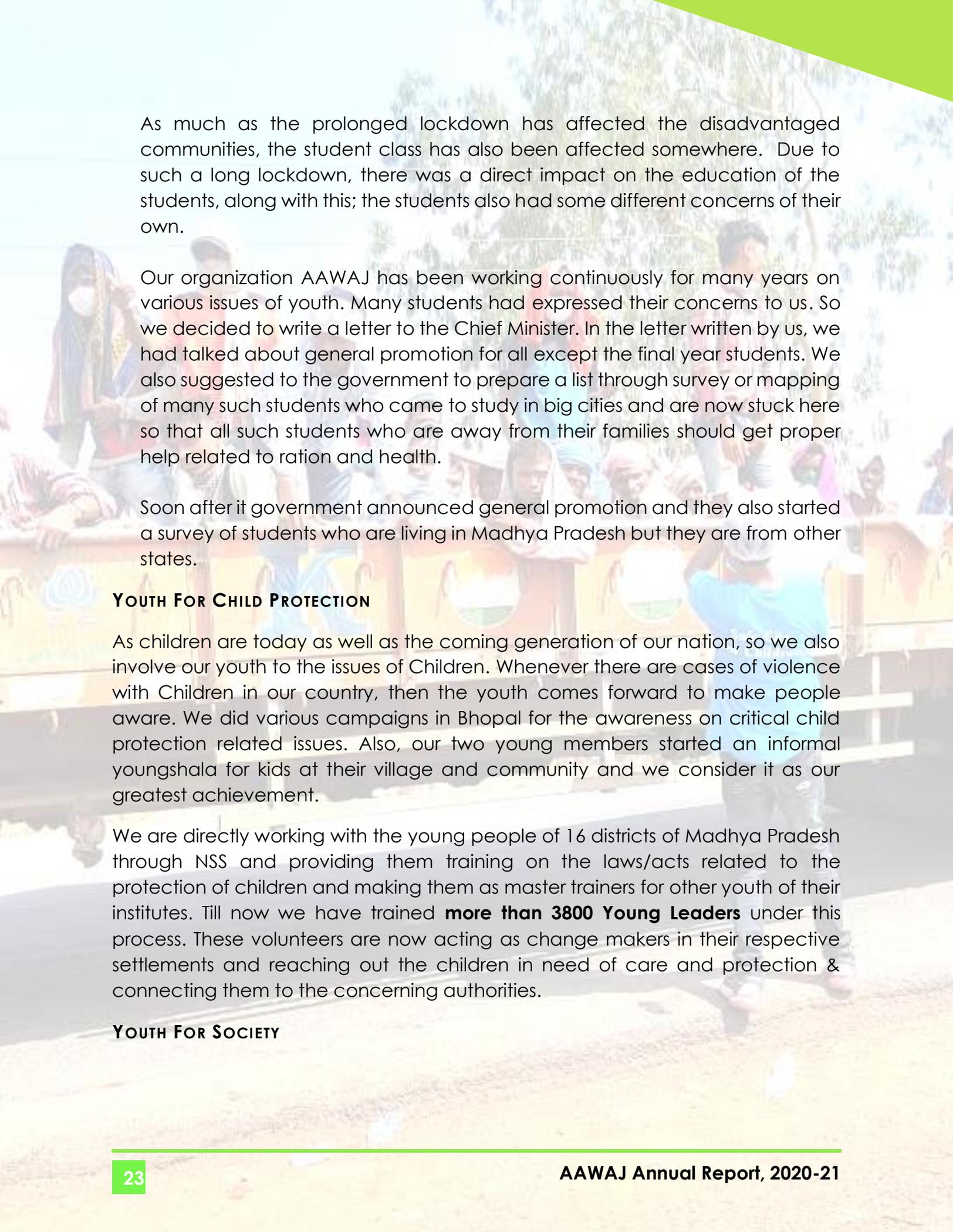
Awareness Campaigns

Awareness campaign has always been a very important tool for AAWAJ. Whatever the issue, if it comes to making the public aware, then the awareness campaign seems to be the most effective way. All the youth who are associated with us run awareness campaigns at various levels so that information can be reached to the common people and problems can be resolved by raising awareness regarding social issues.

Youth For Youth

We have orientation with the youth in such a way that they can identify their own issues and take up it by adopting a right way in peaceful manner. There have been many occasions in this series when the youth raised their voices together and administration considered their requests and views. We have many such examples in Bhopal like students requested government through online campaign to give general promotion to the students of Madhya Pradesh.

- **Request for General Promotion by Youth**



As much as the prolonged lockdown has affected the disadvantaged communities, the student class has also been affected somewhere. Due to such a long lockdown, there was a direct impact on the education of the students, along with this; the students also had some different concerns of their own.

Our organization AAWAJ has been working continuously for many years on various issues of youth. Many students had expressed their concerns to us. So we decided to write a letter to the Chief Minister. In the letter written by us, we had talked about general promotion for all except the final year students. We also suggested to the government to prepare a list through survey or mapping of many such students who came to study in big cities and are now stuck here so that all such students who are away from their families should get proper help related to ration and health.

Soon after it government announced general promotion and they also started a survey of students who are living in Madhya Pradesh but they are from other states.

YOUTH FOR CHILD PROTECTION

As children are today as well as the coming generation of our nation, so we also involve our youth to the issues of Children. Whenever there are cases of violence with Children in our country, then the youth comes forward to make people aware. We did various campaigns in Bhopal for the awareness on critical child protection related issues. Also, our two young members started an informal youngshala for kids at their village and community and we consider it as our greatest achievement.

We are directly working with the young people of 16 districts of Madhya Pradesh through NSS and providing them training on the laws/acts related to the protection of children and making them as master trainers for other youth of their institutes. Till now we have trained **more than 3800 Young Leaders** under this process. These volunteers are now acting as change makers in their respective settlements and reaching out the children in need of care and protection & connecting them to the concerning authorities.

YOUTH FOR SOCIETY

Now our youth is raising the issues around them and understanding their responsibilities towards the society. They are requesting the administration by conducting various campaigns for proper supply of electricity and water in their settlements, requesting the construction of roads in their areas, etc. During our interventions at the time of Lockdown, youth handled and campaigned to eradicate the cases of violence & negligence of women at homes, stopped the child marriages, volunteered in every action of awareness.



A JOURNEY OF SAMVIDHAN LIVE

‘AAWAJ’ is in active role since last year at Madhya Pradesh and facilitated the entire program of Samvidhan Live to join more young people in this understanding based designed procedure to inculcate the feeling of awareness for Rights & Duties among them.

Youth had own different concerns during COVID-19. As they all were at homes, so it was our idea to do a productive activity with them. We continued Samvidhan Live Game virtually with the help of online mediums and connected 8 pairs from various districts of Madhya Pradesh. These pairs performed the tasks which they got in the game accordingly and shared their experiences in the online cohorts.

YOUTH POLICY DRAFT & DISCUSSIONS

About the Idea

In 2008, a policy for youth was prepared in Madhya Pradesh. In 2018, when we investigated this policy, it came to know that no work has been done on this policy so far. Then we thought this policy needs to be ameliorated. We realized that the needs of the youth must have changed in last many years as well. For this, now a

better and refined youth policy should be made for the young people of Madhya Pradesh with the support of government's expert policy makers, which can give a new dimension to them.

Draft of Youth Policy

We tried our level best to draft a youth policy to implement this idea. Before we make a draft on youth policy, we analyzed the National Youth Policy and youth policy of many other states. After this, we have prepared this draft by referring to other states and keeping in view the present conditions of youth in Madhya Pradesh. This draft is based on constitutional values and the change in policy of this draft will prove to be practically effective. The complete inclusion of every section of the society, gender makes this policy draft different.

Youth Dialogue on Policy Draft

We believe that the opinion of the youth coming from every section should be included in the draft we have prepared on the youth policy of Madhya Pradesh that is why we started the youth discussions. The first discussion regarding the draft of youth policy was held in Anuppur district. For the sample we took one village and one city area for this process. We felt that our draft policy would play a significant role in meeting the needs of the youth to a large extent. Along with this, there are many issues which we should consider and include them in the draft of this policy. However, we know that we will definitely get this experience with different regions having different needs. On that basis we will prepare a final draft and present this draft to the government and try to implement it.

Exposure visits

We didn't just want to tell the youth, we also want to show them. That's why we focused on seeing, showing and understanding after this listening and telling process. We believe that when young people themselves look closely at social issues, they are able to understand more. We adopted the exposure visits as the way to implement our vision. In this we first select a best possible place for the youth and take them there. It helps to enhance their knowledge and skills and leads to the effective interventions in the progress & development of state. This year our focus was on the life style of Tribal Community and communities of manual scavengers. We organized two different exposure visits for the same.

- **Dindori** – During the Dindori trip, AAWAJ had gone to a forest near Samnapur Village for camping with a total of 25 young companions. In this exposure visit, the

youth got to know closely about the lifestyle of the tribals and the importance of forests.

- **Narsinghpur** – We took the youth to Narsinghpur to get acquainted with the struggle and life of Safaai Kamgaar (Sweepers). Through this exposure visit we somehow managed to burst many myths of young people regarding the community.

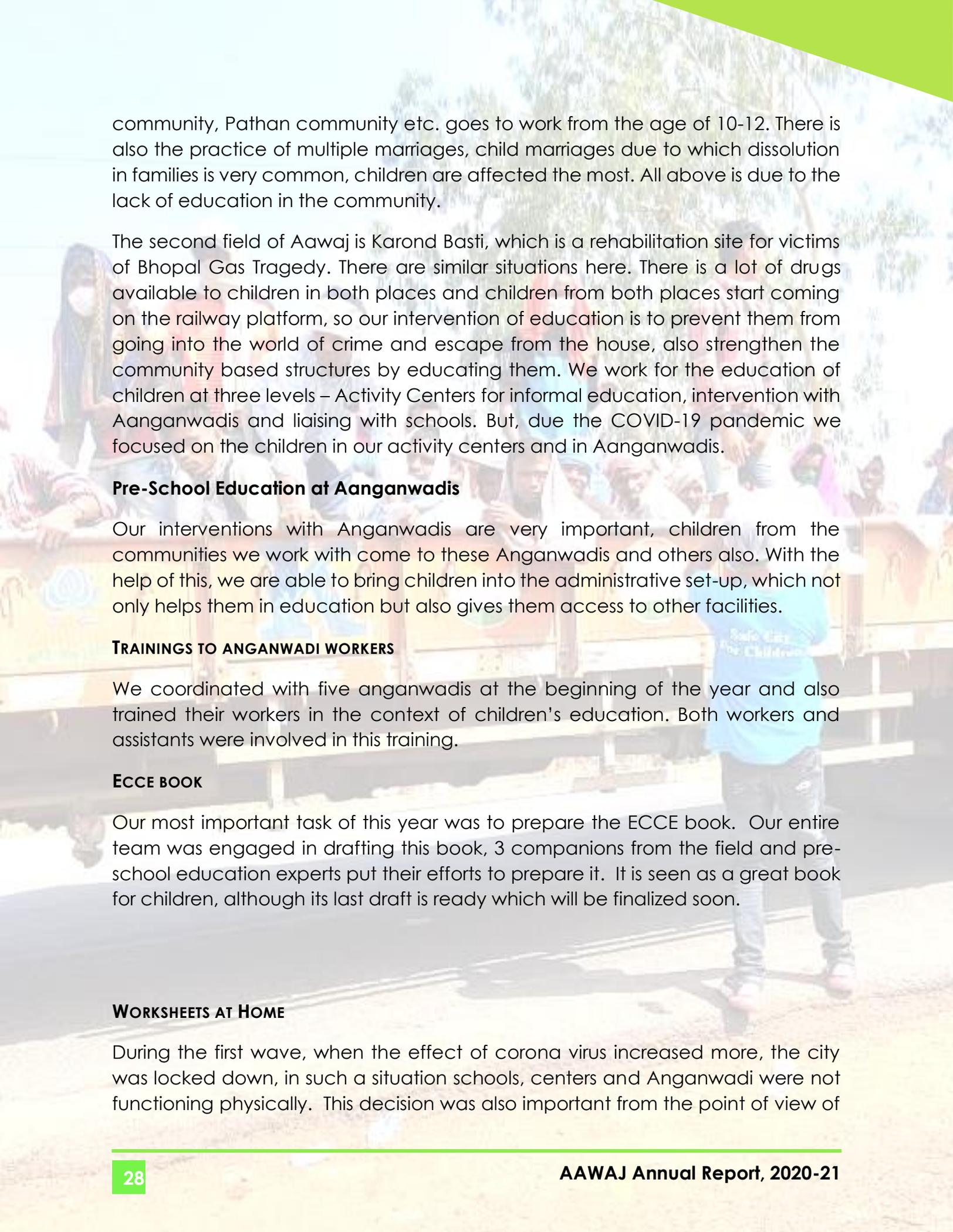


EDUCATION

The geographical structure of Bhopal city is changing very fast. While on one hand infrastructural development is taking place, on the other hand the number of slum strips/settlements in the city is also increasing rapidly. Under the huge flyovers are being built in cities, people who are coming to Bhopal in search of work are living there, who neither have a place to live nor facilities for health and education. The number of people who migrated in search of livelihood is very high. That is why the education of children is hurdling a lot. Children of deprived sections and the children living in adverse conditions in the city do not even go to school; if they go then teachers discriminate against them on the basis of caste or profession. In such a situation, these children get away from schools and then they go out in search of work and where the fears of exploitation prevail with them.



The community, with which Aawaj is working, is fakiri community, who sings and begs in the name of their God. The women and children of the community do rag picking. In this community, children do not go to school because none of the adults in their families are educated or literate. Apart from this, children of Qureshi



community, Pathan community etc. goes to work from the age of 10-12. There is also the practice of multiple marriages, child marriages due to which dissolution in families is very common, children are affected the most. All above is due to the lack of education in the community.

The second field of Aawaj is Karond Basti, which is a rehabilitation site for victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy. There are similar situations here. There is a lot of drugs available to children in both places and children from both places start coming on the railway platform, so our intervention of education is to prevent them from going into the world of crime and escape from the house, also strengthen the community based structures by educating them. We work for the education of children at three levels – Activity Centers for informal education, intervention with Anganwadis and liaising with schools. But, due the COVID-19 pandemic we focused on the children in our activity centers and in Anganwadis.

Pre-School Education at Anganwadis

Our interventions with Anganwadis are very important, children from the communities we work with come to these Anganwadis and others also. With the help of this, we are able to bring children into the administrative set-up, which not only helps them in education but also gives them access to other facilities.

TRAININGS TO ANGANWADI WORKERS

We coordinated with five anganwadis at the beginning of the year and also trained their workers in the context of children's education. Both workers and assistants were involved in this training.

ECCE BOOK

Our most important task of this year was to prepare the ECCE book. Our entire team was engaged in drafting this book, 3 companions from the field and pre-school education experts put their efforts to prepare it. It is seen as a great book for children, although its last draft is ready which will be finalized soon.

WORKSHEETS AT HOME

During the first wave, when the effect of corona virus increased more, the city was locked down, in such a situation schools, centers and Anganwadi were not functioning physically. This decision was also important from the point of view of

children's safety. But as the lock down increased, we saw the possibilities of breaking the connection of children with education. That is why we made a strategy that we will provide worksheets based on every subject to all the children connected with us through the centers and anganwadi, so that they can stay connected with education even at home. We've distributed nearly 1000 worksheets to the children in three months.



School Education Program

With the continuous involvement of community children with activity centers and anganwadis, we started admitting children who became ready or dropped out in schools. The task was quite challenging but we talked about these children in different schools and eventually got 32 children admitted.



- **SAMAGR ID**

The communities we are working with are migrants in a way and almost all of them do not even have identity cards or any family documents. We see this as a bigger issue of identity. That is why we started the process of documenting these families and children with the help of the Department of Women and Child Development and other administrative structures. Till now our center has generated the Samagr IDs of more than 10 families.

- **SURVEY ON EDUCATION**

AAWAJ conducted a survey with 194 members from 51 families to find out the number of children who are still out of education circle, also found out the number of children who have so far been able to join formal education through us.

Functioning of Activity Centers

We are operating three activity centers in three different settlements of Bhopal. These are Hinotiya Slum where rag picking community lives, Bismillah Colony of meat cutting community and Karond area of families who are victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Through these centers, we try to engage the children of the communities with education in a creative and constructive manner.



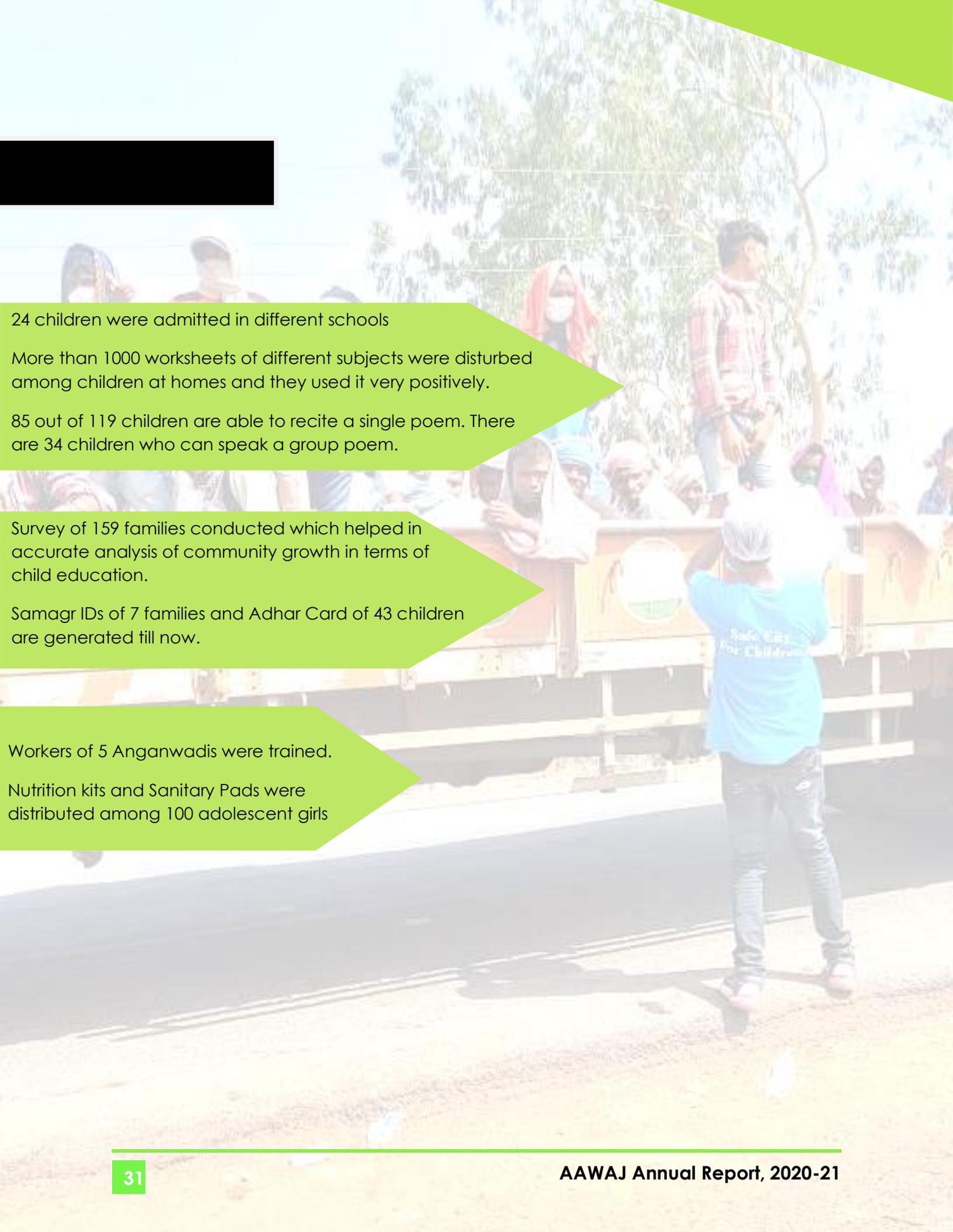
- **POEMS** Poetry has both forms – a rhythm, a shape and structure – and content – an expression of ideas, thoughts and feelings. When young children hear poetry read aloud and discover poetic forms they can learn to express their ideas, thoughts and feelings.
- **STORIES** Storytelling with children is an effective way to enhance the language of children, including vocabulary, grammar and narrative skills. It is helpful to expose children to language which is supported by additional visual/auditory cues.
- **MATHEMATICAL ACTIVITIES** Preschool Math Activities are super fun. We also try to teach children by using various activity based methods like roll and dot the numbers, build and measure the block centers for kids to explore mathematics as fun subject.
- **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

When creating arts and crafts, children are able to develop their fine motor skills, Art also allows child to expand their essential vocabulary. They learn the names of different shapes, colors, and materials without it seeming like a chore or a memorization exercise. We believe it as a very effective tool of learning.

IMPACT

The ability of children to listen carefully and give their feedback has increased, now about 80 children are able to listen to the stories carefully and also participate in the discussions being done on it.

Children are now able to do verbal counting with concrete objects. In these, almost all children are able to count the verbal count from 1 to 5. There are 6 children who know how to count from 1 to 10 orally, 8 children who can count verbally up to 10, and about 5 children who can count from 1 to 10 in a row.



24 children were admitted in different schools
More than 1000 worksheets of different subjects were disturbed among children at homes and they used it very positively.
85 out of 119 children are able to recite a single poem. There are 34 children who can speak a group poem.

Survey of 159 families conducted which helped in accurate analysis of community growth in terms of child education.
Samagr IDs of 7 families and Adhar Card of 43 children are generated till now.

Workers of 5 Anganwadis were trained.
Nutrition kits and Sanitary Pads were distributed among 100 adolescent girls

COVID RESPONSE



Advent of COVID-19 Period

This is the period in which everyone is afraid of the dreaded corona. Like other parts of the country, Bhopal too remained untouched by this virus and for a long time here too, the measure of lockdown was adopted to deal with this pandemic. In this situation, people were not able to come out of their homes, in such circumstances; the crisis of livelihood was also taking a big form in front of them. These circumstances have changed rapidly directly/indirectly regarding COVID-19. It is evident that if people stay in homes for a long time, then many people have lost their business. Indirect conditions changed in such a way that there was an unwanted fear among the people that there would be no livelihood left in the city, so let's go back to the roots. Apart from marginalized and most marginalized communities, middle class families, students and laborers trapped in cities away from their homes also faced many problems during this pandemic, the main concern was hunger.

First Wave of COVID-19

AAWAJ did relief work in the first wave (April 20-June 20) of this pandemic, while at that time needs were very different and people were very confused to understand the situation. The biggest problem which we observed was the hunger among the people. At that time, for us, migrant laborers, children, women, marginalized communities, porters, transgender, sex workers, HIV Patients etc were the target groups.

Food and Ration Distribution

Our focus was to provide dry ration or ready to eat food to as many as needy as possible. In the Covid first wave Aawaj has distributed Dry ration kits to HIV Positive Family, Sex Workers, Transgenders, Rag Pickers, Coolie, Students, Bhopal Gas Tragedy affected family, adolescent girls (App. 3000 families). Cooked food packets distributed to Aishbagh, Baghsivania, Karond, Durga Nagar, Basti, Misrod, Bawadia Kalan Kali Basti, Near Bhopal Talkies, 2nd Stop (App. 300 packets per day for 28 days – 8400 packets).



NUTRITION KITS TO ADOLESCENTS GIRLS

Development Department, Madhya Pradesh, and in coordination with the department, we took the help of Jagori Sanstha to mobilize resources and distributed nutritional kits and sanitary pads to 100 adolescent girls of our identified communities.

COVID-19 Awareness Campaign

The AAWAJ has a lot of experience with the youth as well, that's why we got to see the participation of young people through our many interventions even during the first wave of pandemic. At that time there was a great need for youth to play their voluntary roles in awareness initiatives, and then our young fellows of AAWAJ along with district administration conducted a total of 45 days awareness campaign in three different crippling intervals. We had planned these campaigns in a very creative and interesting way, in



which spreading awareness in the guise of Yamraj-Chitrgupt, Santa Clause & Corona Ghost were the most effective.

Support to Migrants

Due to the circumstances that have arisen in the current situation of COVID-19, lakhs of workers were leaving their working places and moving towards their homes on foot from different states. Similar scenes of exodus of workers were common on the Sookhi Sevaniya highway of Bhopal.

Laborers along with their entire families (Children & Women) were travelling the miles and gathered courage to move on foot or through bicycles from the states of Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand etc, some were travelling by hiring auto or truck in a group with the money raised by their daily wages. When all these laborers started going through the Sookhi Sevaniya Highways with their hungry and thirsty children,



we felt that something needed to be done in this matter so that these traveling laborers could get some help and their journey becomes as easy as possible at some extent. Apart from this, we also supported the migrants who had come to the city for work but now their contractors are neither helping them nor are they able to arrange transport to go to home.

- **Community Kitchen**

AAWAJ, UNICEF and NSS were already in partnership on the role of youth in children's issues; extending this partnership a joint effort of Community kitchen started at sookhi sevaniya for migrant laborers for **21 days** especially in view of children and women who were travelling back to their homes, **66000 food packets distributed** from this kitchen and arrangement of milk for children was also ensured at the place. Aawaj started medical health camp facilitated by IMA & People's hospital.

- **Transportation for Migrants**

We were committed till the end to help the labourers, women and their children living in foil sheds at Bavdia Kala, Misrod Road, etc., throughout the lockdown period. These entire families were brought from the districts of Mandla, Dindori, Balaghat, Seoni, etc., for the ongoing work on the railway line in the cities, and their contractors left them at their place in times of trouble. Then we started providing them with ready-to-eat food packets, after that arranged dry rations and provided them to all. There came a time when all these workers just wanted to go to their homes, and then we made a list of them. Attached this list with the letter, sent it to all the places like Smart City Office, SDM, Collectorate, etc. and with the help of the administration, arranged the bus, and took all the labor companions to their homes.

Together with the administration, we continued to carry out the work of transporting the laborers to home, due to which we have established a good coordination with the district administration. Then we made an effort that we asked all the organizations working with the labor class in Bhopal for the list of those who wanted to go to their homes. By sharing that list with the district administration, buses were arranged. In this way **we were able to transport about 200 workers to their homes** by buses and other means. We took the help of local MLA Mr. Tripathi in getting the laborers of Jharkhand back to their hometowns that are trapped in Satna and since then the MLA has taken up the responsibility of transporting all the laborers to their homes.

- **Social Media Campaign (Vocal for Laborers)**

Participation of our youth in the 'Vocal for Laborers' is a campaign in which youth requested the necessary things for migrant labor. Through the video on social media, all the Aawaj colleagues highlighted the problems of the laborers using the local languages prevalent in Madhya Pradesh, along with the central government and the state government to make arrangements to bring the workers home. Appeal was made to provide them better health facilities, food & water. Videos released by AAWAJ on social media reached up to **2600 people**.

Intervention at Railway Stations

After a time, an innovative initiative was taken by the administration in favor of the migrant workers; it was announced to run 'Shramik Special Train' by the Central Government. All these trains were proposed to be run in every state where a large



number of labor companions migrate for their livelihood, and now want to go back to their roots. When these trains started running, the railways also became active and the officials there felt the need of volunteer support at the railway stations. Aawaj diligently once again undertook to support these laborers who were in the grip of the corona

period and along with the railway administration, again engaged in making travel easy for the migrant workers. AAWAJ along with the Railway Administration played two important roles:

- **Relief material distribution in Shramik Special trains**

Relief Work at Railway Station was conducted by distributing Sanitary napkins, break packets, sattu & sugar, biscuits for the children at Habibganj Railway Station & Sant Hirdaram Railway Station, Served in 10 Special migrant laborers train.

- **Support in thermal screening and documentation of passengers**

AAWAJ also supported the railway administration in the thermal screening and data management of passengers for a month. **40 Young volunteers** used to give services at the railway station at different and in different shifts with all COVID-19 norms. During this many times our volunteers used to meet even the neediest people who are not even know how to reach home, some people found to be very hungry. Our youth used to make every effort to bring such people home and make arrangements for food.



- **Support to Porters & Stall Vendors**

At Habibganj railway station, dry ration was distributed to **30 identified porters and stall vendors** in the special presence of Station Master Sunil Kumar Prasad ji and DCI Ankbhushan Dubey ji along with NSS volunteers by our organization AAWAJ. We did a study on the status of porters. It was revealed in this study that during lockdown, when the operation of trains stopped, then naturally the livelihood of the porters was also affected. Most of these porters were migrants and they are living here in Bhopal for livelihood. It also came to light that before the lockdown, a porter used to earn an average of Rs 400-500 per day. The trains remained closed for around 70 days in the lockdown, so they also did not get work, and the same was the case with the vendors who set up stalls at the station. That's why we decided to support porters as well as stall vendors.

Psycho-Social Support Training Program

Nearly 150 youth participated in this certificate training. This training was designed because due to this lockdown people are facing problems of mental health, some youth have gone in depression. Thus to avoid Aawaj this Unicef and NSS in collaboration of NIMHANS, Bangalore organised a 6-day training program for Psycho-Social Support for the young people. It was based on various courses and designed in a youth-friendly manner.

IMPACT



We have distributed relief material in total **7 Shramik Special trains** so that we have been able to help about **1000 people**.

3000 Families received nearly 8400 ration kits during COVID-19

66250 Migrants were supported in different manners

CASE STUDY

Shivani Sharma, Sehore District

Young NSS volunteer saved two innocent lives.

Shivani Sharma, an NSS volunteer of Government PG College in Sehore district, was familiar with a family of Pochaner village near Shajapur district whose financial condition was not good and in that family there was an 8-year-old girl and a 10-year-old boy child, Mother had died a year ago and when Shivani came to know that recently the father of those children also died due to current shock and now those children are all alone. So, while sitting in Sehore, she coordinated with AAWAJ and informed Shajapur child line '1098' about the situation and kept on taking follow-up continuously for 24 hours.

After this, the Childline team reached the place and knowing the complete status of the children presented them to the Child Welfare Committee, Then it came to know that the children also have an elderly grandfather. On confirmation of this, the child welfare committee handed over the children to the grandfather and started the process of linking them with 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)' which would enable them to get an assistance amount of Rs.2000 per month for each child.

This small effort of Shivani has made the life of two children a lot easier, heartfelt congratulations to Shivani for this effort.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCREDITATION



Swacchta Award 2021 by Bhopal Municipal Corporation.

Honored by Bhopal Municipal Corporation for relief works done by us during lockdown.

OUR SUPPORTERS/ PARTNERS

UNICEF

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Mridula Sarabhai

WIPRO

CYC

Goonj





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