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## Annual Report for April 2021 - March 2022



### Arohan Tribal Society

**Surekha Patnaik - Founder President**

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# **Our Founders Message,**

**My vision is to create a society where every child has equal rights to education and every individual has equal opportunities to empower the youth and women of rural Tribal India. We are dedicated to driving sustainable and positive changes in the lives of our tribal communities through various initiatives and programs, fostering growth, health, and empowerment.**

## **Our Vision**

**Tribal Society (ArTS) is an initiative dedicated to contribution towards equal rights and opportunities for “Learning and Empowerment” amongst the Tribal youth and women, with an enhanced focus on “Self-sustainment and Recognition of the Tribal communities in India. Our Vision is to provide equal rights and opportunities by driving a transformative & effective change in a holistic manner in the lives of the Tribal Communities. We aspire to empower them to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society. We ensure to provide a special attention towards creating a Healthy Harmonious culture, better living standard & an effective Healthcare, while ensuring unlimited access to Education & Skill development side by side.**

# EDUCATION PROGRAMME

As part of our Early Childhood Care initiative, we organised interactive sessions with our Anganwadi teachers and conducted engaging activities for Tribal children aged between 2 to 4. These sessions aimed to nurture early year problem-solving skills and help children identify various people, places, and names. During COVID times, when the lockdown began and we adhered to the protocols and thus schools were closed, we channelised these sessions to an online format, allowing us to continue the assessment on each and every pupil's strengths and areas for improvement through virtual interactions.






Despite the disruptions in traditional schooling, our Tribal children in rural communities remained actively involved and showed sustained interest in learning. They engaged in various skill-building exercises and activities that supported their developmental growth, even outside of a formal classroom setting.

In continuation, our local coordinators and volunteers took the initiative to organise interactive sessions specifically aimed at engaging parents, helping them understand the importance of their role in their children's education.

These sessions focused on encouraging parents to adopt a positive and holistic approach, providing guidance on how to create a supportive learning environment at home. By equipping them with practical strategies and fostering open communication, our teams were able to empower the Tribal parents to take an active part in their children's journey of Learning.

As a result, these efforts ensured that education continued to be a priority, even during challenging circumstances, helping maintain a sense of stability and enthusiasm for learning within the community.






# **SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR TRIBAL WOMEN THE UDAYAM PROJECT**

During the lockdown period, recognizing the need to create new opportunities for our Tribal communities, we took a significant step towards women's empowerment by opening a dedicated Skill

Development Centre for Tribal women within the villages. This centre was established to provide them with training in stitching, thus equipping them with a valuable skill set that could open doors to both self-employment and source of income. We aimed to support the women in building sustainable livelihoods, promoting financial independence, and enhancing their role within their families and communities.

The initiative received an overwhelming response, with 50 Tribal women enrolling at the center, eager to gain new skills and improve their economic prospects. However, given the restrictions and health concerns during the pandemic, we took extra precautions to ensure that learning could continue in a safe and structured environment.



Arohan Tribal Society



# UDAYAM PROJECT



Arohan Tribal Society

Due to COVID-19 regulations, we limited each class to a maximum of 10 women, thereby reducing the risk of crowding and allowing for effective social distancing. This arrangement also enabled personalised training, giving the women more focused attention from the instructors. Each batch had its own dedicated time slot, and in between sessions, we made sure that the classrooms and equipment were thoroughly sanitised.





In addition, we strictly adhered to all other safety protocols, such as mandatory use of masks, regular hand sanitization. The setup ensured that the women could learn in a safe and supportive atmosphere without compromising on health standards. These efforts were essential in maintaining continuity in skill development while prioritizing the well-being of the participants.






The initiative has created a ripple effect, inspiring other women in the community to seek similar opportunities for growth and empowerment. By the end of the program, these Tribal women were not just equipped with a new skill—they had become role models, proving that even in the face of adversity, resilience, and determination can pave the way for positive change.




# HEALTHCARE & SANITATION PROGRAMME

During the COVID times, due to the lockdown restrictions levied, we were unable to conduct as many medical camps as planned for the Tribal Communities. However, our commitment to supporting our Tribal communities remained unchanged. Despite these challenges, we ensured a steady supply of essential medicines to all the Tribal villages in the region. Our teams coordinated closely with local healthcare workers to distribute these medicines, taking extra care to reach the most remote and underserved areas. This effort required meticulous planning and dedicated groundwork to ensure that even during the Pandemic, no one in the Tribal community was left without access to critical healthcare resources. Through these constant efforts, we were able to safeguard the health of many families and provide them with much-needed reassurance and support during a difficult period.








In addition to healthcare, maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, especially in areas where families live in close quarters with livestock and domestic animals, has been a key focus of our initiatives. To promote a healthier and safer environment, we regularly organise awareness programs aimed at educating the community on the importance of sanitation and disease prevention. These programs are conducted with the active support of ASHA workers and our dedicated team of local volunteers, who engage with residents through interactive sessions, demonstrations, and one-on-one discussions. They focus on teaching proper waste disposal, safe animal handling, and effective hygiene practices to prevent the spread of diseases.

By involving the community and providing practical guidance, we aim to create a sustainable change in behaviour, ensuring that both human and animal health are protected in the long run. Our goal is not just to improve immediate conditions but to empower these communities with the knowledge and resources to maintain a cleaner, safer environment for years to come.





# **EVENTS**



## **VIRTUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE** **MEETING**

Number of meeting held - 12

# PONGAL CELEBRATION

During the Pongal festival in January, schools organised vibrant Rangoli competitions as part of the celebrations. Students very actively participated in showcasing their best artistic skills and creativity. The event usually takes place in the school courtyard or playground, where students are provided a designated space to create their designs. Traditional themes were involved such as floral patterns, geometric shapes. Students incorporated the use of natural colours and flowers to enhance the authenticity of the Rangolis.

The competition not only encourages teamwork, cultural appreciation, and creativity but also serves as a platform for students to express their understanding of the festival's significance.





**RANGOLI**  
**COMPETITION**

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# **RATION KIT DISTRIBUTION ROTARY CLUB OF VISAKHA PEARL CITY (DISTRICT 3020)**

The Rotary Club of Visakha Pearl City, part of Rotary International District 3020, is engaged in community service activities, including the distribution of ration kits to support those in need. This initiative aims to provide essential food supplies to underprivileged families, contributing to hunger alleviation and community welfare. Such efforts highlight the club's commitment to humanitarian service and support for local communities in Visakhapatnam and surrounding areas.





# Interaction with Tribal Women during harvesting time.

Discussion with our Tribal Women about their daily challenges and limited access to resources like tools and credit makes their work even more challenging.



# HARVEST TIME



# TRIBAL VILLAGES



# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



International Women's Day was introduced for the first time at our Tribal Villages. Many of the tribal women were unfamiliar with its significance and meaning. To raise awareness, we organised an interactive session with the Tribal Women that began by explaining the importance of the day and its role in recognising women's freedom & rights. The event evolved into a thoughtful discussion where we explored various aspects of the Tribal women's lives, delving into their day to day routines and duties, their traditional practices, prolonged health concerns, and the incomparable challenges they face in their communities and with the outside world.

Through open dialogue, we sought to understand their priorities and identify areas where improvements could be made, including access to better healthcare, skill enhancement, and livelihood opportunities. We introduced the concept of Tribal Women Empowerment, stressing the importance of women taking charge of their own lives and the benefits of economic independence. Emphasis was placed on leveraging their existing skills and talents, such as handicrafts, agriculture, and so on, to create sustainable income sources for themselves and for their household.

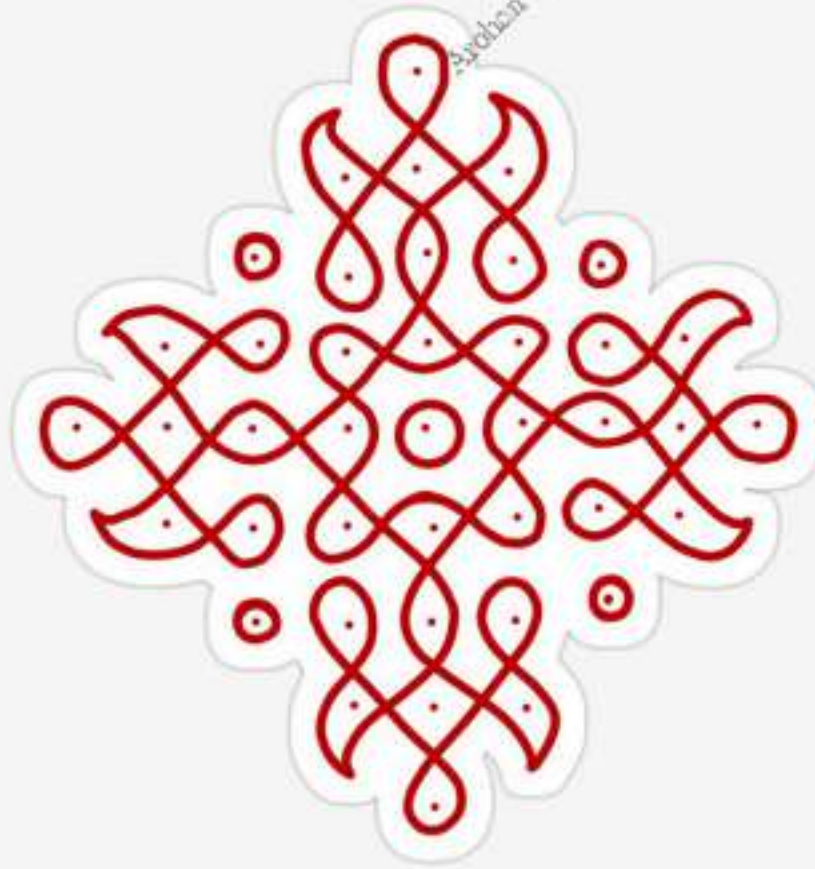


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The session also highlighted the positive impact of self-reliance, encouraging the women to recognize their capabilities and potential to contribute both economically and socially to their families and communities.

To conclude, the atmosphere shifted to one of celebration and unity as the women performed the traditional Tribal dance, "Dhimsa". The dance and environment was vibrant and expressive that symbolised their rich cultural heritage and marked the end of a meaningful and insightful interaction, leaving everyone with a sense of joy and optimism for the future.





**Thank You**