# **BDSSS Rewind 2022: A Review of the Past Year**



As the year 2022 draws to a close, we at BDSSS reflect on the events and accomplishments of the past year.

#### The Year That Was: A Recap

The past year has been a fruitful one for us at BDSSS We are proud to report that we have achieved significant progress both in terms of project and reach. Some of our notable accomplishments include extensive project outreach, new partnerships, and our silver jubilee. We are grateful to our stakeholders, who have played a crucial role in our successes. We look back on the past year with pride and look forward to continuing this momentum in the future.

We are grateful to be part of such a wonderful ecosystem. Our commitment to providing the best possible empowerment to the most vulnerable and the marginalized men, women and children drives all of our work at BDSSS. In the past year, we have worked hard to meet the needs and exceed your expectations, and we are proud to share with you a look back at our accomplishments in 2022.

### **Project Updates: Elevating our Experience**

We implemented nine projects in the operational districts of Dharwad, Belgaum, Haveri, and Bagalkot to address issues related to agriculture, child rights, women's rights, malnutrition, cancer awareness, village beautification, and safe health, education, and nutrition for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Our initiatives included climate-adaptive agriculture, multi-cropping systems, soil fertility enhancement, and water conservation. We worked with various stakeholders to address malnutrition through the Paustik project and implemented projects such as Saathi, Childline 1098, and CHD to promote child rights and safety.

The WEP project helped to sensitize women on their rights, financial security, and income generation. The Sparsha Cancer Campaign increased awareness and networking efforts around cancer prevention and treatment. The Goonj project contributed to village beautification, and the Ashraya project focused on providing support to children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. These projects not only expanded our expertise but also made a significant impact in the development of the communities in which they were implemented.

#### Partnership

We established partnerships with Goonj and the Natural Institute of Naturopathy in 2022 and welcomed the Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) to visit our child-centric project in Karadi. We are currently in the process of establishing a partnership with the APPI and are actively seeking a partnership with Kotak Foundation too. Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) too re-partnered with us for one of the projects catering to rural folks. We also received support from individual donors through the BDSSS Development Sunday campaign in September. These partnerships and donations have helped us secure funds to further our efforts and impact.

We are excited to announce that we might be starting a new phase of our Krishi Samarthya project in the New Year, in partnership with Save Indian Farmers (SIF). We are looking forward to working with SIF again and building on the successes of this initiative.

### Strengthening the Social Ecosystem

Strengthening the social ecosystem involved taking actions and implementing initiatives that supported and enhanced the social systems, structures, and networks within our community. This involved working to promote social cohesion, supporting marginalized groups, building capacity within the community, and creating platforms for community participation and engagement. It also involved addressing issues such as inequality, discrimination, and injustice. Strengthening the social ecosystem had a positive impact on the overall health and well-being of a community and is helping to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for our stakeholders.

### **25 Years of Social Excellence**

It was impressive to celebrate 25 years of social excellence in 2022. This milestone represented years of dedicated work and effort towards improving the lives of others and making a positive impact on the community. It involved implementing various initiatives and programs, collaborating with different organizations and stakeholders, and continuously learning and adapting to better serve the needs of the community. Reaching 25 years of social excellence is a significant achievement and something to be celebrated and recognized.

# Spreading Awareness on our Thematic Areas

Spreading awareness about child rights, women's income generation, climate-adaptive agriculture, and health and hygiene issues in the community was important for promoting social justice and improving the well-being of individuals and communities. Child rights refer to the legal entitlements and protections that children are entitled to by virtue of being children. Spreading awareness about child rights helped to ensure that children are treated fairly and with respect, and that their needs and interests are considered.

Women's income generation refers to efforts to support women in generating income and becoming financially independent. This included providing education and training, access to credit and financial resources, and creating opportunities for women to start businesses or engage in paid work.

Climate-adaptive agriculture involved adopting farming practices that are resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and changing temperature and rainfall patterns. Spreading awareness about climate-adaptive agriculture helped farmers to better adapt to these challenges and continue to produce food and other crops.

Health and hygiene issues in the community have a significant impact on the overall wellbeing of individuals and families. Spreading awareness about these issues helped to promote healthy behaviors and prevent the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Cancer. This also included efforts to educate people about proper hand washing, the importance of clean water and sanitation, and healthy lifestyle habits.

### **Collaborations & Celebrations**

We collaborated with KNH Germany, an international grant-making organization that focuses on promoting child rights and safety, in their cyber security training. We also participated in Partners' meetings with Save India Farmers in Pune and Caritas India in Hyderabad. In addition, we celebrated various special occasions, such as Women's Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Labor Day, Farmer's Day, Nutrition Day, and International Girl Child Day, in the community to raise awareness and encourage the implementation of significant values. These collaborations and celebrations helped to further our efforts to promote social justice and improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

## **To New Beginnings**

As the year draws to a close, we wanted to pause and reflect on all that we have achieved and look forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead in the coming year. We are proud of our accomplishments and grateful to everyone who has supported us on our journey.

Team BDSSS has big plans for the coming year, and we appreciate your feedback and suggestions as we continue to grow and evolve. We are grateful to have you as a part of our journey and wish you a successful and prosperous 2023.

Fr. Peter Asheervadappa Director – BDSSS Fr. Arun Fernandes Asst. Director - BDSSS