

# Annual Report

Of

**Stewards Trust**

Apr'2020 – Mar'21



STEWARDS TRUST

**Stewards Trust**

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## *Dear Friends & Partners.*

Stewards Trust as an organization learns from the grassroots experiences and keeps improving the activities for greater positive impact on the different aspects of community lives.

The journey of Stewards Trust started in 1987 with a promise to improve the lives of underprivileged community members of rural areas. The organization had a vision, “to build the capacity of the people & empower them to become responsible citizens and enable them to avail their fundamental rights.” It has been observed in 2021, that many positive transformations in the lives of the target rural population have been made.

In the last 34 years of our work we have tried to bring attention and resources to underprivileged rural community masses. One thing came out loud and clear – that we do our best to fulfill the vision of the organization by working towards basic needs, dignity and the voice of the last person.

We have a long way to go. We started in a small village imparting education to 7 children under a tree and have established three education centers in the respective communities. Likewise little seeds were sown in different aspects to improve the lives of people which are bearing fruits now. We hope our values and our work continue to resonate with our friends and partners and it nudges you to get involved and take action.

*Dr. John Sylvester*  
*Executive Director*

[On behalf of Team Stewards Trust]

## ***HIGHLIGHTS of the year 2020-21***

**77+**

Adolescent girls/women  
Menstrual Health & Hygiene

**20+**

Capacity of youth built  
Rural Youth Training

**600+**

Women in SHG  
Women Empowerment

**120+**

Children in school  
Education

**1000+**

COVID prevention  
And relief material

**300+**

Awareness creation  
On different social issues

# MENSTRUAL HEALTH & HYGIENE

## Sanitary pad distribution and manufacturing



Through MHM the organization has reached 600+ adolescent girls and women in the rural community through awareness, free pad distribution and manufacturing quality sanitary pads at low cost with the help of rural women. Free distribution was done for the school going girls and women before starting the manufacturing of pads in 2021. The objective of MHM is to create awareness on menstrual health & hygiene among adolescent girls/women, increase use of sanitary pads and proper disposal of sanitary pads after use. The manufacturing unit is dedicated to make low cost quality sanitary pads which are affordable for rural adolescent girls and women. The pads are being manufactured and sold by a team of local women.

## PRIMARY EDUCATION

## Free primary education to underprivileged children of rural areas



The organization is providing

free education to underprivileged rural children through its three education centers. Children are getting school kits including school dress, shoes, stationery, and books according to their classes.

Stakeholders e.g. Parents, Teachers and community members are involved in addressing the issues in children education and taking initiatives to solve them.

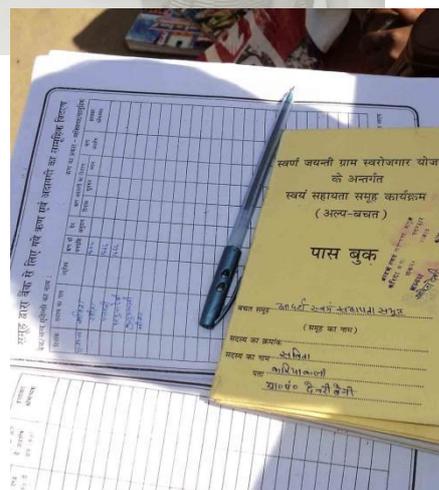
Through three primary education centers, the organization is reaching more than 120+ underprivileged children who without support would have been working in the fields or as unskilled labour in nearby towns.

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

## Self Help Group - Literacy - Income Generation



Self Help Group is one of the most powerful tools to empower underprivileged women financially. Stewards Trust is determined to support rural women living below the poverty line and hence, Women Self Help Groups are formed to pull-in small savings in the group which is accumulated in a nationalized bank from where they can take small loans for their personal as well as income generation activities.



In the previous year i.e. 2020-21, the organization helped BPL women to form 13 active self-help groups having 161 women. These groups were linked with village organization and thereafter with the bank and block office. The self-help group women are experiencing financial stability and are enjoying group loaning for their personal needs e.g. to purchase monthly groceries in case there is no income for the month, paying children school fee and health treatment purposes. Loans were repaid in the group on easy monthly installment.

One of the self-help groups was able to get a loan for income generation activities i.e. rearing buffalo for producing and selling of milk from the bank on very low rate of interest.



Most of the women in rural areas are illiterate. To have holistic development, it is necessary for a woman not only to be financially stable but also literate.

Stewards Trust organizes women literacy classes where poor rural women can learn simple Hindi and Math.

In 2020-21, through nine women literacy centers 134 women attended literacy classes. The literacy classes were organized in the villages in the homes of women's houses or courtyard. Interested illiterate women were welcomed to join the classes.

Literacy materials e.g. slate, chalk, books, copy, dari/mats (for sitting) and blackboard are provided by the organization. One staff is made responsible for conducting literacy classes for women for each literacy center.

Afternoon and/or evenings were fixed for running literacy classes. However, for class timings, women were asked and as per their convenience it is fixed.

# FIGHTING COVID-19

## Prevention & Relief material



COVID-19 pandemic has hit everyone. But it hit the worst for the poor who were daily bread earners. Laborers

working in other cities were forced to go back to their home town/villages as there was a complete lockdown. Many lost their jobs and hence faced shortage of food for their families. Seeing the need of the hour, Stewards Trust took initiatives and helped the migrated families by supplying monthly rations (rice, daal, oil and salt, bathing soap and

washing soap). A total of 248 ration packets were provided to the needy in urban and rural areas of Prayagraj.

Fight against COVID was continued by the organization and 75 awareness camps (how to prevent infection of COVID) were conducted covering 3115 rural people. Apart from above the organization also supplied 1682 sanitizers and 6078 masks to the poor people to keep them safe from infection.

# CAPACITY BUILDING/TRAINING

## Of rural youth



Selected young men and women from the village

Selected young men and women from the village background were provided a 2 years' training programme which built their capacity in different aspects e.g. identification of community needs, identification of resources, uniting people to address the needs, getting help of existing non-government organizations / government agencies to fulfill their needs and tools and techniques to make small community based proposals to benefit their community. Reference materials on tools and techniques were developed and translated in Hindi by the

organization which was provided to trainees. The programme has reached out in two districts i.e. Prayagraj and Darjeeling. In the previous year (2020-21) capacity of 60 such youths was built who are addressing local issues with available local resources.

The project had brought a number of benefits e.g. safe drinking water (hand pumps), village sanitation, Awas Yojana, making of Aadhaar Cards/ration cards for BPL, pothole implementation and many more to the rural community in more than 67 villages by the local people.



# AWARENESS

## Creating awareness on social issues



Knowledge is power! This was done through multiple awareness camps among BPL communities with emphasis especially for women. There were 69 awareness camps conducted during the 2020-21 period on issues such as education, WASH, MHM, government schemes and many more. Experts were hired to deliver the topic among the villagers. This year emphasis was focused on women and adolescent girls' menstrual health and hygiene. The organization's nurse was responsible for conducting such meetings for school going girls and women of the villages. In the previous year 345 women and 159 adolescent girls were covered under menstruation health and hygiene awareness.



## FINAL NOTE

We thank all our partners who have been with us on this journey. Please note that each and every contribution/suggestion to us is important.

Every year more needs are identified which urgently need to be addressed. Stewards Trust is committed to fulfill the rights of each and every citizen in its capacity.