



Annual Narrative Report

(1st April 2020 –31st March 2021)



Office of the National Director CORD

At CORD Training Centre Sidhbari,

Tehsil Dharamshala, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

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Introduction:

CORD was established by Swami Tejomayananda in 2003 as its founding Chairperson. It is the national expansion of the program earlier known as Chinmaya Rural Primary Health Care & Training Centre, founded in 1985 by Param Pujya Gurudev Chinmayanandaji in Sidhbari, Himachal Pradesh. Since 2017, Swami Swaroopananda is the Chairperson of CORD.

CORD's initial work was focused around maternal and child health in rural communities, especially for poor women. With the evolution of time and need of communities, it focused on the formation of Mahila Mandals in 1987. Thus began the multi-sector journey of CORD. It further expanded to act as a focal between policy makers, implementers and communities. CORD has over 35 years of needs and context specific experiences in diverse programs learning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. CORD today works in 747 villages in district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

CORD's thrust is to harness human resources and enable poorest of the poor to transform their lives through programs driven by themselves in rural India. Comprehensive nature of integrated programs components of CORD have a strong faith in inner divine potential of human being and hence brings the most vulnerable and needy ones in rural communities to the centrestage of their development and empowerment through their organisations and self efforts. All program components briefly described in this narrative report supplement and complement national and global development efforts i.e out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030; 14 SDGs are addressed.

To know more about CORD's evolution and Panchayat based adaptable, scalable and replicable comprehensive integrated rural development model, please visit, www.cordindia.in and stay updated with work at www.facebook.com/CORD.India.

Each CORD sites and thematic programs have their detail reports of comprehensive program activities. CORD sites could be contacted through their contact details given at the end of this report. Please contact *Shri Narender Paul, Chief Operating Officer CORD* in case you need more detail reports or any specific information at +91-981-665-5592; Email: cordsidhbari@gmail.com

Outreach: *Year 2005 onwards*, CORD embarked on replicating its success in Himachal Pradesh to Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. Nationally, CORD's comprehensive work outreach is in 285 Gram Panchayats (1100 Wards) and nine municipal panchayats in six states covering 970 villages (Total 763 villages at CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari and its Satellite Sites in Uttarakhand, Chamba & Punjab). The remaining 207 villages are spread across Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Impact: 47,164 direct and 5,35,678 indirect community members empowered (80% women as direct associates with inclusive approach under comprehensive rural development program).

Chinmaya Vijaya an orphanage of CORD is providing continued holistic education and care to 99 girls during the reporting period.

Strategic Goals:

1. Expand to remote India

- A. *Panchayat as a unit of expansion of demonstrated comprehensive program*
- B. *CORD sites expansion and deepening of program in remote rural India*

2. Increase depth of program components

- A. Each program to be deepened which entails cross cutting themes such as Self Help Groups (SHGs) for access to credit and financial literacy, Livelihoods – farm and allied sector, non-farm/off-farm and services sector, disability, health, nutrition and sanitation, social justice, gender, Panchayati Raj Institutions for local self-government, natural resource management
- B. Since all programs converge at the community level, concomitant capacity building of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) especially Mahila Mandal (Women Group), elected representatives of Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha is integral to the process. Ensure inclusion of the marginalized.
- C. **Scale experiential trainings further**
 - a. Build a cadre of community development manpower for rural India
 - b. Enhance the Internship, Fellowship, volunteer, participatory research and development in rural India.

3. ***Striving for Rural Prosperity in Rural Ways with Rural Diversity*** by investing and building human capital at the Panchayat level and enhancing the rural prosperity by promoting the richness of its diversity across rural India.

4. ***Expanding global donor supports and reach*** including mapping for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding in India to achieve above strategic goals.

Highlights of the Year: 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021



This year COVID19, a global pandemic overwhelmed the world. It disrupted lives everywhere. For CORD, it was a very sad year. Shri Laju Chanrai, founder trustee and President of CORD, a revered and loved guide and pillar of strength passed away on 7th January 2021 in London, UK. All of us in CORD offer our deep heartfelt tribute to Shri Lajuji for having contributed so selflessly

and magnanimously for the growth of CORD and for being the inspiring and encouraging person he was to all of us.

Another blow hit CORD when Dr. Saroj Bala Rath, Director CORD, Deuladhia passed away on 10th March 2021 morning at her son's home in Bangalore. She had been suffering even after her bypass cardiac surgery for the past 2 years. The villagers at CORD Deuladhia have received immense care and love from her as she served, enabled and empowered them. All of us at CORD will always remember her for her selfless service and contribution.



Year 2020 has been a transformative year for CORD owing to the outbreak of pandemic COVID19. The model of work was iterated, new governance methods adopted, innovative outreach work methodologies and tools designed, and digital technology was embraced and intensified. Though it was challenging and the change management tiresome, blessings of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda and tireless efforts of the entire team created unique success for CORD through its diverse program team's coordination, work efficiency and effectiveness.

To understand ground realities, situations and context of pandemic COVID19, several Rapid Rural Appraisals (RRAs) were conducted throughout the year by all CORD sites teams with the Panchayat Pradhans (Elected Representative as Presidents of Panchayats), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) especially Mahila Mandals and Self Help Groups (SHG). The Person with Disabilities (PwDs), single women, migrant laborers and poorest of the poor in the community across all CORD sites in the country were special focus of CORD's work. District administrations being nodal government agency during the pandemic COVID19 disaster, network of people and organizations with CORD like STARs Forum (National forum of committed NGOs working for rural prosperity and skilling), District Inter Agency Group (DIAG) Kangra and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) in Himachal Pradesh, H.P State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA), experts in disaster management were reached out for a collaborative, divergent and convergent work models to reach communities effectively to make them aware, educate and engage them during the pandemic including in managing their lives and livelihoods.

Some key measures adopted for communication, connect and communities:

- Awareness building for Pradhans/Panchayats on COVID19 through various literatures and campaigns in local languages as per WHO, Ministry of Health and Family welfare (MoHF), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) guidelines.
- Continuous communication with Prime Minister's office and office of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Deputy Commissioner's offices on multiple and evolving updates based on ground context and realities of pandemic in the various regions and districts.
- Continuous communication with all Mahila Mandals and Self Help Groups (SHG) in 285 Panchayats to be up to date with statistics of community needs and services.
- Focus on migrant laborers returning to their villages by supporting them with ration/food through community and local donors' mobilization as well as linkages with schemes announced by the Government, and funds mobilized into their bank accounts.
- Over Rs. 5,00,000 contributions to PMCARES Fund, Chief Minister Relief Fund for COVID19 mitigation efforts by CORD team and various Mahila Mandals/SHGs.
- 65,400+ masks stitched and distributed by various Mahila Mandals to local communities, migrant laborers, PwDs and those in need.
- Over Rs.77,000 cash donations in Kangra district to local administration and some direct beneficiaries to manage food shortage, health requirements and various other local needs by the community.
- Over 3000 PwDs, reached, counselled every month online/offline. Single women and people with old age and people with any ailments were supported through local Mahila Mandals/SHG and Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) and government agencies.

- Special focus was given to the most needy and marginalized ones to access their entitlements in different States as per their State and Central government provision/guidelines like under PMGKY (*Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana*), *Ann Yojana*, *Gas Cylinder & others schemes like Ujjwala, Jan Dhan*, Kisan credit card, old age pension and free extra ration as announced by the Government during the ongoing pandemic times.

Key measures introduced for CORD's team members:

- 100% WFH (Work from Home) right at the onset of the lockdown.
- 50% advance salary disbursement for months of April & May 2020 during the lockdown.
- Exclusive training on digital mode of operations in community, education on COVID19 and its evolving protocols and advisories/guidelines issued by the government to follow.
- Introduction, special trainings and effective adoption of digital tools and technological applications like Zoho meet-ups, Google Meet, 100% virtual work training, data collection thorough google formats, conference calls and groups on WhatsApp etc making the villagers tech savvy out of necessity!

Special Achievement:

- Ms. Neena Bhushan, CORD Health Worker, was honoured with a COVID warrior award for her services by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Nagrota Bagwan, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh on 5th February 2021.



The **sections below** focus on the **programs and activities** facilitated and undertaken in **all sites of CORD** across India.

Note: All program components briefly described in this narrative report supplement and complement national and global development efforts.

Following are the key highlights of various program components of CORD:

- 1. Community Based Organizations (CBOs): Mahila Mandals, Purush and Farmers club, Adolescent Girls Groups (AGGs), Youth, Children/Balvihar, Swadhayaya Group and Chinmaya Umang for PwDs.**

These are the resilient community at the center stage of development for collective



informed decisions and transformative action locally. CORD developed people's leadership on various issues of social and economic development within these groups. These CBOs played as fulcrum during the pandemic times from understanding the COVID19, its evolving protocols, implement, monitor and converge multiple actions based on the needs and

contexts of rural communities' welfare and empowering development.

Sr. No.	Particulars of Outreach	Total
1	Number of Mahila Mandals	1173
2	Number of Self Help Groups	2250
3	Number of Adolescent Girls Groups (YuvtiSamuh)	181
4	Number of Bal Vihars	295
5	Number of Farmer Clubs/Men's Clubs	70
6	Number of PWDs (Persons with Disability) Groups	150
7	Number of Gram Sabha facilitated	26
8	Number of Up Gram Sabhas facilitated	179

2. Mahila Mandal (Women Groups) Program:

- 45,579 members in 1173 Mahila Mandals conducted virtual monthly meetings nationally
- In **CORD Training Centre Sidhbari**, 179 Mahila Mandals from 57 Panchayats donated 240 quintal ration, 120 quintal rice, 51 quintal wheat flour, 46 quintals pulses, 246 liters of edible oil, 163 kg salt, 2.83 quintal potato, 160 kg onion, 35 kg turmeric, 29 kg washing soap, 21kg sugar. Cooked food and 183 litres sanitizers distributed to needy people.
- 107 Mahila Mandals donated Rs. 3,58,624 to Prime Minister Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation (PMCARES).
- 383 Mahila Mandals stitched and distributed more than 55,516 masks locally.
- 750 leaders of 316 Mahila Mandals of 'Khas' Panchayats (Focused Panchayats) trained in their institution building and management skills.



- 4929 members from 224 Mahila Mandal conducted cleanliness drives.
- 454 Mahila Mandals trained to use e-Sanjeevani app which helped 117 patients. 150 Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) trained in using this App.
- 45 team members attended virtual workshop on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction by District Disaster Management Agency, Kangra, on October 13th, 2020.
- In 57 Focused Panchayats, 454 Mahila Mandals were trained on Mahila Mandal grading as self-assessment method for their growth and mainstream development.
- Six Mahila Mandals awarded with cash prize of Rs.8000 by the concerned Block Development Office for their work performance.
- On 8th March, International Women's Day celebrated in 34 Gram Panchayats.

- 96 Swadhayaya (self-unfoldment) groups with 768 members. Trained 77 Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) and facilitated virtual thematic discussions on Vedantic wisdom, Bhagwad Geeta, Gayatri Havan, Navratri Pooja and chanting of the 15th chapter of Bhagwad Geeta, and Paduka Puja with CORD team members.



- **In CORD Deuladhia**, 117 Mahila Mandals mobilize the community and conducted activities like anti-alcohol campaign, forest protection and plantation, strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, among others. 518 women were trained as community leaders by CORD during the pandemic times. Mahila Mandals have been involved in anti-alcohol, anti-female foeticide and anti-dowry campaigns. 28 Mahila Mandals' leaders regularly visited Anganwadi centres for checking food and nutrition quality. Four online team and field work progress review meetings were conducted with CORD National Director's Office.

- **In CORD Lathikata**, Mahila Mandals were oriented on COVID19 pandemic appropriate behaviour like maintaining social distance and strictly following recommended protocols, awareness regarding the same was also spread time and again at every level, training, meeting and occasion. Team continues online/offline with activities on institutional



capacity building, empowering development, communications and interactions with 117 Mahila Mandals (Women's Groups). Leadership training and development interventions were facilitated with 4952 members of 117 Mahila Mandals being fulcrum of development action in their concerned Panchayats. 8th March, 2021, International Women's Day was celebrated. Five

unmarried women and 13 widows enrolled by CORD with welfare department have started receiving monthly pensions. International Women's Day, Village Awakening Day, Pujya Gurudev's Jayanti, Chinmaya Aaradhana Day and Pujya Guruji's birthday were celebrated with social distancing.

- In **CORD Thamaraiakkam**, 2270 members of 72 Mahila Mandals were facilitated in the area of their individual and collective leadership training and action during pandemic times through regular interactions/meetings online/off-line. Mahila Mandals played a vital role in raising awareness on COVID19 precautions and vaccination, distributing herbal immunity drink and masks and



organizing medical camps in their concerned Panchayat/wards.

- In **CORD Siruvani**, out of total 3210 members of Mahila Mandals, 2466 are working and earning their living through the farm and allied sector; 627 women members through non-farm and service sector and the rest are living at home. The program focussed its special efforts were made to include and help single, deserted, widowed, physically challenged and marginalized women and the poorest of the poor families in the Mahila Mandals during the pandemic times. Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) were selected and trained on 14 topics in each ward. 7 Mahila Mandals have created assets in the form of chairs, tables and tent-houses to rent them out and earn. A total of 905 villagers were insured under LIC's group insurance policy. Mahila Mandals spread awareness on COVID19. Mahila Mandals and Yuvati Groups organized cleaning and awareness in their neighbourhood through poems and Rangoli and organized procurement of cooked meals and its distribution. They also donated grocery items to their Panchayats for further distribution to the needy ones during pandemic.

3. Self Help Groups (SHG) and Micro-credit program:

- Self-Help Group (SHG) is an informal group of 10-20 women organized and nurtured within their Mahila Mandals. It focuses and empower especially poor women in the area of financial literacy, saving, inter-loaning and access to credit from banks for their economic development and self-reliance.
- 29652 members in 2250 SHGs nationally
- In **Sidhbari**, NABARD's E-Shakti portal data and reports uploading for 2143 SHGs (1403 by CORD and 740 SHGs



- formed by other agencies like Livelihood Mission, Watershed Program, ICDS etc.) from 10 development blocks.
- 151 SHGs provided loans of Rs. 4,74,22,000 through bank linkages during the reporting year.
- 955 field training sessions conducted for 7893 SHG members on effective and sustainable SHG management.
- 952 SHG members trained has further enabled total 1583 SHG members to earn from

A case study: *Chinmaya Ganesh SHG has emerged as a silver lining in the lives of certain families of its group members struggling to earn their livelihoods. This SHG belongs to Gram Panchayat Gagwal, ward no. 4, Block Indora, District Kangra Himachal Pradesh. It was formed in the year 2016, having 10 members, with the help of CORD. This group received a total Rs. 6,00,000 as a group loan. With this amount all members have started their livelihood activities in dairy, vegetable productions, sweet shop, motor mechanic shop, sewing etc. with involvement of their family members. Three SHG members have started earning Rs. 15000 to Rs. 20000 per month and other seven members are earning Rs. 5000 to 6000 per month. Other SHGs in the area are also getting inspiration from this SHG.*

livelihood activities like mushroom production, sewing, knitting and pine needle products.

- 140 SHG members and 12 SHG members trained in soap making and mask making respectively.
- In **Deuladhia**, has total 238 SHGs have total saving of Rs. 80,02,513. During the reporting year, 191 SHGs have been facilitated with bank loan of Rs. 1,32,54,000 for life and livelihood development with special focus on the recent needs of poor people and returned migrants home due to pandemic. Small scale livelihood and entrepreneurship



activities includes petty shops, cloth stores, sweet stalls, vegetable farming, goat rearing, namkeen making, power tiller, poultry farming, etc. 445 members of SHGs were imparted trainings in basic accounting, financial literacy, multiple insurance and financial products available for poorest of the poor for their economic development and empowerment.

- In **Lathikata**, out of total 208 SHGs, 35 needy SHGs have received total bank loans of Rs. 68,10,000 towards their various households needs as well as investment in livelihood development. On 4th July 2020, Maa Ambika SHG of Mundatoli village won the auction for daily market tax collection. As on 31st March 2021, this SHG's profit stands at Rs. 60,000.
- In **Thamaraipakkam**, in total 60 SHGs, in the reporting year, a total bank loan of Rs.74,70,000 were facilitated through bank linkages during pandemic times. These groups have come together to utilize their total savings of Rs. 1,55,650 to provide 586 families with provisions during pandemic.
- In **Siruvani**, has facilitated needy SHG members with proper documentation including mandatory individual women SHG members PAN Cards. Out of total 58 SHGs, 17 SHGs have availed bank loans of Rs.26,05,000 during the reporting year which includes non-returnable loans of Rs. 1,85,000 as part of the COVID relief by the government. CORD has facilitated marketing of small produces/products of poor members of SHGs of worth Rs. 1,45,000 through setting small stalls and Rs. 1,65,000 through Siruvani Farmer Producer Company outlets.

4. Yuvati Samuh Program (Adolescent Girls Program):

- This program serves the leadership skills and development needs of young rural girls above the age of 12 years to emerge as strong women.
- In **Sidhabri**, 47 Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) trained virtually for their leadership skills development.



- Conducted *Swadhyaya* classes, trainings and follow-ups on young girl's school studies during the pandemic.
- Discussion on social and health issues like ongoing pandemic COVID19, domestic violence, anaemia, ORS, sanitation and hygiene.
- Practical training virtually on construction of garbage and soakage pits, kitchen gardening and plantation.
- Virtual celebration of Independence Day, Republic Day, International Yoga Day, Environment Day, and National Youth Day, Deepawali, Lohari and Basant Panchami festivals.
- In **Deuladhia**, 20 Yuvati Samooh with 207 members raised awareness on COVID19 and issues of gender discrimination amongst the villagers.
- In **Lathikatta**, adolescents' groups awareness and education programs were conducted online as well as offline. Topic include precaution to spread awareness regarding daily exercise, yoga, pranayama, social responsibility, life style, personal hygiene, value-based education, joy of learning, freedom, righteous living, eradication of fear and prevention of cruelty to animals. Two village children coaching centres have been facilitated with the local community and local resource mobilisation for their tribal children to improve their standard of education during pandemic managed locally by youth.
- In **Siruvani** adolescent girls were educated about menstrual hygiene and the importance of folic acid in the prenatal period.

5. Balvihar (Children's Group) program:

The program works with children between 5-12 years age towards the joy of learning, importance of cultural heritage, moral and spiritual values.



- Total 295 Balvihars facilitated with over 2000 children.
- In **Sidhbari**, monthly discussions in Swadhyaya classes, storytelling, COVID19 awareness, health and hygiene measures.
- 54 Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) trained to manage Balvihars locally.

- In **all CORD sites**, virtual celebration and understanding importance of Independence Day, Republic Day, International Yoga Day, Environment Day, and National Youth Day, Lohari, Basant Panchami festivals. Nutrition, exercises and education during pandemic remained focus by CORD team.
- In **Siruvani**, team has facilitated and supported 8 needy children to receive immediate required financial aid under the sponsorship scheme from the District Child Protection Office as well as counselling and books for education through VVRPs.

6. Community Based livelihood – Farm and Allied Sector (CBL-FAS):

- Farm and allied sector strive to enhance farmer's skills, ensure household nutrition security, reduce the cost of inputs, explore livelihood options, introduce innovative natural farming practices and technology, and bring women farmers into the decision-making process pertaining to farm operations with special focus on marginal and small farmers.



- 11,007 farmers under the program nationally

- In **Sidhbari**, team has facilitated and established Gurudev Himalaya Farmer Producer Company (GHFPC) Limited on October 15, 2020 under the Indian Company Act, 2013.

- Gurudev Himalaya Farmer Producer Company limited sold surplus red rice through Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Kangra at a premium price for good profits.
- 130 farmers were trained to adopt natural farming practices, which resulted in an increase of 6% yield.
- 905 farmers earning from mushroom cultivation.
- Established 103 needy households supported to adopt nutritional kitchen garden practices.
- 9322 fruit saplings provided to farmers through horticulture department.
- 116 women farmers and 39 team members provided kitchen gardening virtual training.
- 34 farmers trained for six days in seed multiplication by experts of the agriculture department.



- In **Deuladhia**, through multiple farms and allied sector livelihoods, women farmers have generated total income of approx. Rs. 3,06,19,000. Team has provided trainings to women farmers on mushroom cultivation, low-cost organic manure and pesticide making, namkeen making, bee keeping; poultry farming, management and vaccination by Block Veterinary Officer. *Two producer groups* were formed for Sal leaf cup and plate making and school dress making. CORD supported returned migrant labourers by collaborating with horticulture department to plant cashew plants in 20 acres of land and field bunding through MGNREGA. Three-day residential training for bee keeping and poultry farming was provided to migrant youths through Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kendujhar. As COVID-19 relief, vegetable seeds kits were provided to 600 households through RKVY scheme. 4 green houses and 50 low-cost poultry cages were constructed. CORD supplied 7 varieties of vegetable seeds to 1546 women farmers; 30 quintals potato seeds to 380 women farmers; 850 kg turmeric and 1300 kg ginger seed materials to 1240 households.

Total 185 acres of land were cultivated by women farmers for vegetables without using any chemical fertilizers and pesticides. CORD has supported 2 remote villages to start weekly markets (Hata) to enable farmers to sell their surplus produce. Awareness and training program on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method was organized by the team.

- In **Lathikatta**, online and off-line trainings were imparted on transplantation of paddy, cultivation of red gram and *Dhingri* mushroom. 270 beneficiaries cultivated 2360 beds of *Dhingri* and straw mushroom and earned Rs. 140 to Rs. 200 per kg by selling 3850 kgs of surplus production. Eight vermicompost units, 16 Azolla units, 71 compost pits, 32 cowsheds and 3 lift irrigation projects have been set up with the farmers. 25 beneficiaries have planted 2550 seedlings in 60 acres of barren land to develop it as mango orchard. 950 vegetable kits have been availed from government department to promote kitchen gardening. 12 marginal farmers have been selected for community borewell schemes. One grading and packaging godown has been built. Phenyl training was also provided to some SHG women members. 105 SHG members availed themselves of 3000 poultry chicks for building their backyard poultry.



- In **Thamaraipakkam**, Livelihoods and small business entrepreneurship development trainings were provided to needy members of SHGs for backyard dairy, goat rearing, desi poultry, organic manure production, organic farming, soil and water test, drip irrigation, mushroom cultivation, mulching, marketing and online sales. SHG members are earning through manufacturing pain relieving balms, detergent powder, incense stick, phenyl, millets laddu, health mix powder, etc. 400kg of dairy mineral mixture and 840 kg of mixed fodder were distributed to 66 and 14 farmers, respectively. Seven members of

SHGs have started goat rearing and 12 SHG members have initiated backyard poultry. 36 farmers were trained to adopt crop rotation and multi-cropping in earning through cash crops. 24 women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) were trained in various livelihood activities to become entrepreneurs and were financed through their concerned SHGs' loans. MGNREGA job cards were provided to 11 beneficiaries. 93 farmers were facilitated to get agriculture insurance and 90 farmers for



insurance of their cows. Kitchen garden seeds were distributed to about 1400 households to meet their household nutrition needs. Awareness programs were conducted on *Poshan Abhiyan*, nutritional diet and Jal Jeevan Mission. 9 people with old age and 11 widows are enrolled and receiving pensions.

- In **Siruvani**, 282 packets of mineral mix were distributed to 221 needy farmers rearing cattle or goats; Panchagavya provided for 185 kitchen gardens by women households. 20 varieties of seeds, 200 drumsticks, 18 Agathi, 100 neem saplings, 280 litres capacity drums, pheromone traps, hand hoes and rat cake were provided to marginal and small farmers. 17 azolla pits were built. CORD strengthened its earlier facilitated Siruvani Farmer Producer Company with 550 farmers membership. This company has started a Primary Processing unit to process and pack tender coconut water and Neera Jaggery.



Seven days skill training in toiletry items and capacity building of SHG members initiating backyard dairy and poultry were conducted. Trainings were conducted for needy members of SHGs through networking in making wire basket, incense sticks, pain-relieving balm, phenyl, soap-oil, detergent and dish-washing powder. CORD Siruvani has promoted 500 kitchen gardens with needy and poor households to ensure better nutrition care.

7. Community Based Livelihood– Non-Farm & Service Sector (CBL- NFSS):

- The program focuses on facilitating procurement, production, marketing & other support activities to promote sustainable growth, product diversification, nurture entrepreneurship and strengthen supplementary livelihood avenues.



- In **Sidhbari**, the inception of the program, total 8410 beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries are 3300 trained to learn and earn from various income generation activities such as sewing, knitting, handloom, weaving, Kangra paintings, bamboo and pine needle products, soap making, edibles and pottery skills etc. Indirect beneficiaries are around 4875 beneficiaries engaged in non-farm and the service sector.
- 40 SHG members earning by training to make soaps, masks, *ubtans*, sewing and Kangra Paintings.
- 20 groups of 151 women trained online in soap making; 10 women in mask making. Skilled SHG members made 6000 masks and 2200 soaps distributed in the villages.

- Training provided to 30 women in all-natural skin products making.
- Training on new designs of laptop bags, saree covers, gift bags, jhola *bags*, conducted.
- Total annual sales of Gurudhara SHG outlet reported as Rs. 15, 47,298.
- In **Deuladhia**, 169 needy SHG members are earning through one or other kind of non-farm and service sector activities.
- In **Lathikatta**, 26 needy SHG members are earning through one or other kind of non-farm and service sector activities.
- In **Thamaraipakkam**, 983 needy SHG members are earning through one or other kind of non-farm and service sector activities.



- In **Siruvani**, 627 needy SHG members are earning through one or other kind of non-farm and service sector activities. 20 SHG members stitched around 1000 masks. Poor SHG women earned through an opportunity to grade, sort and pack vegetables to be distributed as part of the relief material by local Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs). 16 poor women (10 SHG members) were trained in a three-month tailoring course to earn their livelihoods.

8. Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) program:

- Panchayati Raj provides a system of local self-government at the village level. This institution achieved constitutional legitimacy through the 73rd Indian Constitution Amendment Act, 1992, which provided a three-tier system. CORD works to make local self-governance a reality at grassroots level through its CBOs such as Mahila Mandals, Farmer's Clubs, Adolescent Girls Groups, and Youth Clubs. During the reporting period, in 64 focused Panchayats in Sidhbari, 279 women leaders (directly associated with CORD's nurtured Mahila Mandal) and 242 men leaders (associated with Mahila Mandals through their wives/mothers) were elected as Gram Panchayat Pradhan (President), Up-Pradhan (Vice President), Ward Panch, Block Development Council (BDC) Member, Zila Parishad Members, in the Himachal Pradesh Panchayat election of 2021.
- CORD is currently working in 285 Panchayat nationally. Sidhbari alone is working with 245 Gram Panchayats, with special focus on 64 Panchayats known as 'Khas Panchayats'.
- In **Sidhbari**, program team has facilitated 33 Up-Gram Sabha meetings, where 849 people (680 women and 169 men) actively participated.



Oath Ceremony of Elected Panchayat Representatives

- 1249 job applications submitted under *Samagra* MGNREGA (A special scheme under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 focused on migrant laborers during COVID-19). 351 tasks related to cowshed, vermin compost pit, poultry shed, goat shed, plantation, fishery tank, toilet, soakage pit has been sectioned and completed.
- On International Women’s Day, March 8, 2021, CORD team members facilitated 34 Mahila Gram Sabha where 600 women participated in 65 Gram Panchayats.
- Shri Sunil Kumar Mishra imparted training as a Master Resource Person on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) to newly elected Gram Panchayat Representative from different Panchayats in Dharamshala on invitation of District Panchayat Office.
- In *Deuladhia*, 8 CORD team members and 107 women leaders were trained in Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- In *Siruvani*, team has facilitated Mahila Mandal members to actively participated in the Gramsabhas and helped 29 households living without electricity for the last 14 years, to get the electricity connection.



9. Community Based Inclusion and Rehabilitation (CBIR) program for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs):

- *In Sidhbari*, this program of CORD has been working with more than 2600 people with disabilities in over 600 remote and scattered villages of district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. Program addresses issues like therapeutics, rehabilitation, social inclusion, home based and mainstream education, accessibility, community-based livelihood and advocacy etc.
 - The Program resumed field activities in the month of June 2020 after over two months of lockdown due to pandemic. Program team reached 2470 PwDs every month in 150 remote and scattered panchayats virtually as well as through field visits to identify and address needs and issues of PwDs.
- Program has supported 1565 PwDs by providing therapeutic and rehabilitation services through door-to-door field visits. 2100 therapy sessions for PwDs affected with cerebral



palsy, multiple disabilities, speech and language impairment, intellectual disabilities and children with autism were conducted through virtual mode.

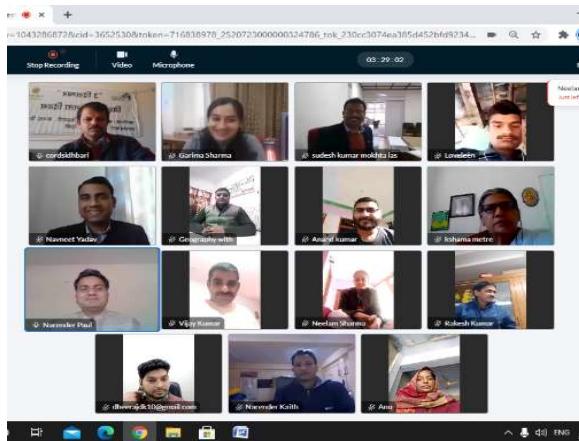


- Program has facilitated access of ration (551 kg flour, 474 kg rice, 70 kg pulses, 28 kg mustard oil) for 74 deserving families of the PwDs. Anti-epileptic medicines and insulin kits for five PwDs and Rs. 7000 cash was made available through the local administration.

- 1000 families of PwDs facilitated to receive five kg rice and one kg black gram free of cost through the Public Distribution System (PDS) under COVID-19 relief program. CORD

also distributed 6000 masks and 700 soaps to PwDs and their families.

- 52 PwDs received disability certificates and 346 PwDs received their Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards.
- 1974 PwDs received total Rs. 2, 82, 48,000 disability pension/allowance annually.
- 585 PwDs received total Rs. 1,75,5000 (Rs. 3000 per person per month) as a medical allowance under HP Sahara Yojna.
- e-Sanjeevani app downloaded by 509 PwDs and their families; 53 PwDs received medical consultation from their homes.
- 26 PwDs provided Cerebral palsy chairs, corner chairs, standing frame and walkers.



- 40 ramps constructed and 34 western toilet seats were provided to the needy PwDs.

- 80 mothers of children with disabilities were integrated in Mahila Mandals and 60 mothers in SHGs.

- 68 community awareness programs were facilitated for total 3400 people which include PwDs, their parents, Mahila Mandal members, elected representatives and government functionaries.

- Four training programs conducted

for 68 selected Village Resource Person (VRPs) on developing need-based integrated planning, resolving issues and concerns of PwDs at the Panchayat level.

- 408 persons attended virtual celebration of World Disability Day on 3rd December 2020.
- International Women's Day and World Down Syndrome Day were virtually celebrated. 70 participants including women with disabilities, children with Down syndrome, their parents and program team members attended these celebrations.
- 53 special athletes from CORD participated in State Level Virtual Skipping and Basketball competitions organized by Special Olympics, Himachal Pradesh. Two athletes bagged the first position, two second and five athletes' third positions.
- 161 PwDs and their mothers supported to initiate and establish community-based livelihood activities in farm and allied sectors as well as non-farm and service sectors.

- 12 PwDs and their families attended six days training on establishing backyard poultry as livelihood avenue in two Panchayats with the support of NABARD.



- *General House Meeting of Chinmaya Umang (Rural advocacy forum of PwDs their parents and friends Group):* Two virtual and field-level General House Meeting of Chinmaya Umang were organized. Ms. Neelam Kumari, Secretary Chinmaya Umang (CU) and Mr. Mohinder Singh, Vice-President led the meetings, which were attended by 250 PwDs.

The discussion focus was on preventive measures of COVID-19, access to Government schemes and entitlements, digital literacy, Rights of Person with Disability (RPwD) Act 2016 and inclusion of PwDs as per RPD, Act 2016 in the census 2021 database.



- *Mini Chinmaya Umang Meetings (Rural advocacy forum of PwDs their parents and friends at Panchayat level):* Total 193 Mini Chinmaya Umang (MCU) meetings were held in 150 Panchayats of Nagrota Bagwan, Dharamshala, Kangra, Rait and Indora, development blocks of district Kangra.

- In **Deuladhia**, team has virtually celebrated World Disability Day with Panchayat Pradhans to discuss about 21 types of disabilities and team members

interacted and guided families having PwDs (Persons with Disabilities).

- In **Lathikatta**, 12 PwD certified for their disability by medical board, Rourkela. 6 PwDs enrolled and are receiving disability pension and 30 for bus pass for free travel. Three locomotor PwDs were provided with tricycle and wheel chair.
- In **Thamraipakkam**, virtual meeting was conducted on inclusion and accessible elections for PwDs. World Disability Day was celebrated throughout the week and online video conference was held. Sanitation and personal hygiene kits were provided to needy and poor 200 PwDs. Awareness amongst PwDs were conducted on 21 types of disabilities under Rights to Persons with Disability (RPD) Act, 2016, their access and entitlements under this act and the importance of counting of each PwD in the upcoming Census 2021. 29 PwDs were provided with needed rehabilitations aids and appliances and 9 PwDs received their free bus travel passes after their enrolment.
- In **Siruvani**, 105 PwDs were helped through counselling, guidance, rehabilitation needs like aids and appliance as well as needed livelihood skills trainings.



Program networking:

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India organized webinar on June 22, 2020 with its Registered Organizations (ROs) in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Mr. Narender Paul, COO, CORD and as SNAC Coordinator, was one of the panellists in a webinar that discussed and deliberated on various issues of the PwDs at the grass root level during the lockdown period.
- Mr. Balbir Guleria attended a virtual meeting of the National Disability Network (NDN) on June 26, 2020.
- Mr. Sanjeev Gupta and Mr. Anand Kumar along with Mr. Narender Paul, COO CORD attended a three days' online training program on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction from July 21 to 23 organised by Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Shimla.
- Mr. Narender Paul and Mr. Balbir Guleria attended a virtual meeting of the National Disability Network (NDN) and National Committee of Rights of Persons with Disabilities on January 27, 2021.
- Five team members of the program attended virtual World Health Assembly meeting on February 26, 2021.
- Team members Mrs. Anita Thakur and Mr. Shashi Kumar attended a three days' North Regional Network meet virtually from 1st to 3rd March 2021 organised by National Association of Blind (NAB), New Delhi. Mr. Vinod Pathania Community Development Trainer of CORD was the resource person for the second day. He oriented participants on Self Help Groups (SHGs) and its benefits for the PwDs and their parents in facilitating mutual self help and economic self-reliance.
- On 9th March 2021, Mr. Balbir Guleria participated in a Local Level Committee meeting under National Trust at Additional Deputy Commissioner Office, Kangra at Dharamshala.
- In the month of March 2021, Mr. Anand Kumar and Mr. Suresh Kumar attended two camps of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as a resource person from CORD.

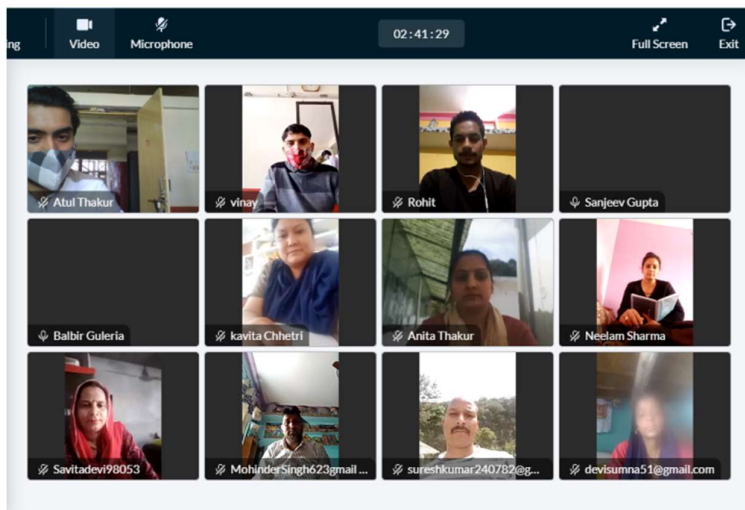


Chinmaya Shanta – A community based mental health and well-being program

CORD's Chinmaya Shanta Program is focused on the prevention and management of mental illness along with the promotion of mental health and wellbeing in rural communities. The availability of limited resources in the ongoing pandemic shifted focus from mental wellness, but what also was a startling revelation is that mental health issues have gained center stage across the globe during COVID19 pandemic. This program is an integral part of Community Based Inclusion and Rehabilitation (CBIR) program for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) as mental illness is covered under the 21 types of disabilities under the RPD, Act 2016. The program has reached 30 persons with issues of mental illness who required psychological support and intervention with care givers during the pandemic of COVID19

through field visit and telecommunication. Team is educating these concerned persons and their families on the various coping techniques to manage their mental health and wellbeing. The following activities were conducted under this program.

- Ms. Aishwarya Srinivasan, a Fellow of CORD's Chinmaya Shanta Program had successfully completed her two years fellowship program in the month of July 2020.
- Five virtual sessions on IQ assessment, mental health and wellbeing were held with the CBIR team and Village Resource Persons. Ms. Aishwarya Sreenivasan and Mrs. Anita Thakur facilitated these sessions.
- 3400 PwDs, Parents, Mahila Mandal members, elected representatives and government functionaries educated in communities on mental health and wellbeing in 68 community awareness programs in field.
- CORD celebrated the World Mental Health Day virtually on 10th October, 2020 with an



aim to create awareness in the rural communities about mental health problems and their management. The session was attended by 64 participants which included Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director CORD, Sh. Narender Paul, Chief Operating Officer CORD, Dr. Deepti Munshi, Psychiatrist from Fortis Hospital Kangra.

- Shri Sunil Mishra, Shri Balbir Singh Guleria, Mrs. Anita Thakur, Shri Shashi Kumar and Ms. Aishwarya Sreenivasan

attended six days online internship programs on mental health organized by Mool Chand Medcity New Delhi. They also attended three days' webinar on community mental health conducted by Dr. Ramesh Pattni, a mental health professional from UK. Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director CORD and Shri Narender Paul, Chief Operating Officer CORD, too joined this webinar.

10. Community Health Program:

As the name suggests, this program enables community groups to take responsibility for preventive and promotional aspects of health, and links communities with existing government health services. *In Sidhbari*, CORD also provides direct medical health services at the CORD Training Centre and works as a referral unit for critical cases to the appropriate hospitals. CORD also works in the slum areas as part of the Urban Reproductive and Child Health (Urban RCH) program in collaboration with the National Health Mission (NHM). This program aims to provide health care to underserved population in slums, including

migrants, nomads and construction workers at three locations in District Kangra i.e. Nagrota Bagwan, Nurpur and Dharamshala.

- In **Sidhbari**, 647 needy patients were provided medical services, guidance and counselling in the outpatient services at CORD Training Centre (OPD services were open only on certain days during COVID times as per the COVID19 protocol).



- Seven patients were referred to Zonal Hospital Dharamshala and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda for further investigations and management.

- Three Pulse Polio programs were organized at the CORD centre where 75 children were given Polio drops. CORD also covered 297 children from high-risk slum areas of Nagrota Bagwan, Nurpur and Dharamshala.

- Blood tests of diabetic sugar test were conducted every month for diabetic patient.

- 53 villagers were educated on family planning.

- Alcohol de-addiction program was conducted and three new patients were registered. 54 old

patients were followed-up through one-to-one basis with family counselling.

- CORD health team members actively participated in COVID-19 vaccination program.
- Orientation and trainings of community members on use of *e-Sanjeevani app* to access free online medical consultations.

Urban RCH program of the Government under National Health Mission (NHM)

- CORD has posted three ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse and Midwives) under this program in three locations mentioned above. They directly serve population of 2164 in slum areas as well as participate in their concerned health centres/hospitals to assist their teams.
- 58 ANC (Anti Natal Check-ups) were completed. Immunisation dosages were given to 188 children as per their age.
- 28 institutional deliveries facilitated by ANMs of CORD in various slum areas.
- 27 personal hygiene awareness programs were conducted in the slum areas of Dharamshala, Nagrota Bagwan and Nurpur blocks of District Kangra. More than 380 individuals have benefited from this exercise.
- 22 sterilizations via the laparoscopy method were facilitated by CORD's ANMs posted in the slum areas by the Government in the concerned health center for family planning program.
- National Deworming Day was organized in November 2020 where deworming medicines were given to 180 children.
- The ANMs of CORD participated actively in the COVID vaccination drives of the government.
- In **Lathikata**, under the leadership of Swami Kevalananda, team has facilitated *Swabalambi Swasthya Program*, COVID19 awareness program, camp on comprehensive

development of life and environment and celebration of International Yoga Day to highlight importance of yoga in our health and immunity strengthening.



- In **Siruvani**, Dr. Meera and team supported with calcium, vitamins and iron supplements to 4307 villagers. 2558 villagers were examined and treated in the rural clinic and medical camps. Face shields were provided to 20 barbers to protect themselves against COVID19 and continue earn their livelihood with all safety measures.

11. Community Based Sanitation and Hygiene Program:

CORD has initiated community led sanitation program to contribute in the collective endeavours related to clean India through community participation. Garbage pits, soakage pits, developing micro segregation practices for garbage at the household through cleanliness drive in public places, constructing toilets etc., are the areas covered under this program. In Sidhbari, this program is supported by Gartner India Research & Advisory Services Private Limited. The program in **Sidhbari** is focussing 25 Gram Panchayats in three development Blocks i.e. Nagrota Bagwan, Dharamshala and Kangra to create a Panchayats based working model for further scaling and replication. The following key activities were conducted under the program.



- 58 toilets, 2012 garbage pits, 1034 soakage pits, and 2166 household level micro garbage segregation units were constructed.
- The program team with trained VVRPs by CORD collectively facilitated 54 VHSNC (Village Health and Nutrition Committee) meetings in coordination with the Up-Pradhan (Vice Presidents) of the concerned Panchayat, ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) worker and ANMs, Anganwadi workers.



- Organized sanitation drives in all 157 wards of 25 Panchayats. These include cleanliness drives of public paths, water resources, local temples, and public buildings like Mahila Mandal buildings. The program was led by the local 157 VVRPs. All VVRPs were provided with sanitation kits (ragpicking instrument and hand gloves).

- In August 2020, Government of India, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, initiated promotion and availability of biodegradable sanitary pads (Suvidha pads) locally through Janaushadhi stores in rural India.



These pads are sold at Rs. 1 per pad through Jan Aushdi Kendra in India. CORD team members distributed 2512 sanitary pads to 157 VVRPs and other Mahila Mandal Members and educated and trained them on easy availability of these pads locally as well as the safe disposal of these pads.

- Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated in 15th October 2020, in Baldhar, Jheol and Bagani Panchayats under the program. 29 children and their parents participated in this program.

- Mr. Sunil Kumar Mishra attended virtual workshop on Ecosystem for Effective Planning and Response during Emergencies & Disasters

(Smart Management of Data) by DOERS organization from 11th to 16th May, 2020.

- Mr. Sunil Kumar Mishra completed online certificate course on “Source Segregation- How to do it” organized by Anil Agarwal Environment Training Institute, A unit of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi from 27th to 28th July 2020.
- Dr. Ragini Bhatia has successfully completed her internship under the program from 3rd September 2020 to 3rd November 2020. She has got experiential learning of various program aspects i.e. community mobilization, developing safe garbage practices, organizing community programs in the field, data compilation and making reports.
- In **Deuladhia**, team has facilitated construction of 52 new toilets through credit linkage of SHGs; revived 75 defunct toilets functional; built 185 soakage pits, 35 garbage pits and waste segregation in 82 households.
- In **Lathikata** 30 families adopted three-bag system for dumping of garbage. 150 toilets have been activated and 35 soakage pits and 25 garbage pits in 12 villages were constructed.



12. Social Justice & Informal Legal Aid Program:

This program of CORD Training Centre Sidhbari is providing legal aid and counselling to



individuals who are deprived of their legal rights and are struggling for justice. This program utilizes comprehensive program scaffold and strong network of CORD with community groups like Mahila Mandals, Panchayat and other related stakeholders/institutions such as police and courts to help victims. The program facilitates awareness amongst rural people about their legal rights, gender issues and strives to combat various issues/problems leading to women's marginalization, disempowerment and repression

by holding advocacy events and monthly legal cell days. Due to COVID19, intensive online/digital education, utilizing government's online grievance redressal platforms, planning, mobile conference calls, tele-counselling and guidance, action as well as active participation of CBOs, local panchayats and other related stakeholders has been undertaken for the victims and needy people to avail justice.

CORD has total registered *1068 cases till date* out of which *780 has been resolved* through CORD's interventions and with the help of related stakeholders.

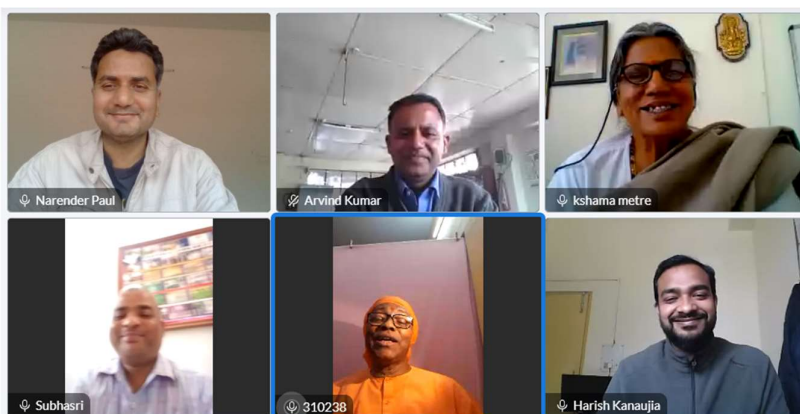


- 28 new cases registered.
- Facilitated 20 applications/appeals under Right to Information (RTI), Act 2005
- Facilitated nine victims to get free legal aid from concerned legal services authorities and two victims from state legal service authorities
- Filed five cases of domestic violence victims before appropriate court of justice for getting maintenance from Himachal Pradesh Parent and Dependent Act, 2001.
- Registered 42 cases on government online grievance redressal portal.
- Trained 20 single women on communicating through conference calls and organized their monthly online meeting on September 20, 2020 to understand their issues/concerns, possible peer support and counseling.
- Two single women were facilitated to receive government monthly Pension.
- Facilitated to make ration card of a deserted women (survival of domestic violence), who now receives rations on subsidized rate from government's Public Distribution System (PDS). She is also eligible for various government schemes such as 100 days employment guarantee under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), 2005.
- 50 needy people were provided ration support during lockdown period.

- The Panchayat election of Himachal Pradesh held in January 2021. In these election, members of CBOs (facilitated by CORD) actively participated by contesting these elections in all three panchayats of district Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. In these elections, 13 CBO leaders have been elected on various posts of their concerned Panchayat.
- Organized five trainings on natural farming in all eight panchayats. In these training programs, 219 farmers practically learnt about preparation of organic manures, its use, line sowing, mixed cropping patterns practices.
- Three Mahila Mandals in Bonderi Panchayat received cash prize of Rs. 52,600 from Block Development Office in the presence of Shri Hansraj, Honorable Deputy Speaker of Himachal Pradesh Vidhansabha.
- Shravani Page, pursuing PGCHM from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kolkatta has completed her virtual internship from 4th January to 4th March 2021. Her internship project was to conduct “Process evaluation study of comprehensive & integrated Panchayat-based model implementation of CORD- Focused study on Uroli & Gurar Panchayats” under Satellite site program.

14. Program Support and Evaluation – all CORD sites:

- Due to COVID19, the physical visits to CORD sites in Odisha (CORD Lathikata and CORD Deuladhia) and Tamilnadu (CORD Thamraipakkam and CORD Siruvani) were put on hold.



However, consistent support and handholding to all sites were provided through virtual connect programs leveraging multiple relevant digital tools and technologies.

- In March 2021, **CORD Manthan** – a program review for envisioning and developing

way forward on CORD’s empowering development model and action in rural India through different operational sites were conducted online with all sites of CORD by the National Director CORD’s resource team at Sidhbari. All CORD sites Directors/Deputy Director i.e., Swami Kevalananda from CORD Lathikatta, Shri Alok Ranjan Padhi from CORD Deuladhia, Dr. Meera from CORD Siruvani, Ms. Priya Arunachalam from CORD Thamraipakkm participated actively. Besides their program review, it also included the way forward for their program as they saw it. Discussions on strengthening and deepening program components were held followed by potential expansion plan as well as fundraising through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The Resource team at the National Director office at CORD Training Centre facilitated the discussions.

15. CORD Training Centre – *Experiential Residential Trainings, Networking and Events:*

Due to COVID19 restrictions, the residential training efforts of CORD were very limited. However, 15 trainings of 23 days duration for 137 participants including team members of various programs of CORD, Board of Directors (BoDs) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gurudev Himalaya Farmer Producer Company (GHFPC) were conducted by CORD with the support of NABARD and Banker's Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Kolkatta.



GIFT (Geeta, an Inspiring Friend to Treasure) On the occasion of National Youth Day Chinmaya Mission organized National online Youth Convention 2021 on the holy and inspiring topic i.e. GIFT (Geeta, an Inspiring Friend to Treasure) from 10th to 12th January, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm IST. In this program, CORD facilitated enrolment of approximately 850 youths. CORD team members, Bal Vihar members, YuvatiSamuh members and other youth leaders participated and learnt about this treasure and its importance in their day-to-day life.

Vehicle donation:

State Bank of India (SBI) donated a multi-utility vehicle to CORD for strengthening its outreach through comprehensive integrated rural development program on December 25, 2020. On this occasion, Shri Dinesh Kumar Khara, **Chairman, State Bank of India**, who visited CORD, appreciated the efforts of CORD team and congratulated CORD for the tireless efforts in service to rural India.



Networking/webinars/trainings:

- Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director, CORD participated as a panelist in a national online conference organized by *NITI Aayog*. In this conference she also interacted with Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Vice Chairman *NITI Aayog*, Government of India and shared CORD's input during the ongoing pandemic times from the perspectives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

- Dr. Metre participated as a panelists in a online panel discussion on “Indian Development Agenda” organized by All Indian Women Education fund Association (AIWEFA) on 16th June 2020.
- On 7th December 2020, Dr. Metre delivered her inaugural speech in 7th National online conference of STARS Forum on livelihood and skills development from 7th December to 11th December, 2020.
- Dr. Metre participated as a guest speaker in a national online seminar on the “Challenges in Implying the Indicators of Women Empowerment in Indian Context: Economic and Health Indicators” on 28th february 2021. This program was organized by Baya Karve Women’s Study and Research Centre and *Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabodhan Kendra*, Pune.
- Dr. Metre participated as a guest speaker in online national workshop on women in leadership on the ocassion of International Women’s Day on 8th March 2021. This program was organized by Vishav Yuvak Kendra (VYK), New Delhi.
- Mr. Narender Paul, COO (Chief Operating Officer), CORD was invited as a Chief Guest in ICSSR Sponsored Research Methodology Course, valedictory session on March 25, 2021 at Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), Dharamshala.
- All sites’ teams attended online educational and program related session/courses to strengthen CORD’s efforts. Mr. Narender Paul attended around 45 short term programs focusing COVID19 education organized by Sphere India, HCL Foundation Academy and other government organization/institutions. Many team members too were enrolled for relevant programs and trainings online to enable them to upgrade their own capacities as well as contribute and add value to their teams and programs.
- Mr. Harish Kanaujia attended seven online workshops on financial Management, human resource management, challenges in opening an FCRA bank account in SBI and accountability, effective reporting & management information system for CSOs (Civil Society Organizations), organized by VANI (Voluntery Action Network India).
- Mr. Harish Kanaujia attended short term and refresher trainings on FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) organized by Financial Management Service Foundation.



16.CORD Kaza: Chinmaya Vijaya – a orphanage home for girls, Andhra Pradesh

Chinmaya Vijaya at CORD Kaza is serving 99 orphan girls through a holistic care, education and development under the direction and guidance of Dr. Sumati Mukkamala and Dr. Apprao Mukkamala. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Andhra Pradesh State authorities advised CORD in March 2020 to send back the children to their guardians. 3 children who

had no place to go, were accommodated in the Chinmaya Vijaya Ashram itself. Most of higher, secondary and college going students returned to the ashram with the clearance of CWC in December 2020. All the girls tested negative for Coronavirus. Others returned to the ashram in January 2021 when the schools and colleges reopened. 4 girls newly joined the ashram in February 2021 with the proceedings of CWC, Guntur. The following are the number of girls under the program and various activities/events/celebrations were conducted during the reporting year.

S.No.	Class	No. Of Students
1	Under 9th Standard	47
2	Appearing for 10th class	13
3	Jr & Sr Intermediate (11th and 12 class)	22
4	Graduation / Nursing / others	17
	Total	99

- All the girls got promoted to higher classes and the ones who passed 10th standard joined Junior Intermediate and started with online classes.
- Online Personality Development classes were conducted by Swami Suveerananda for higher grade students.
- All the Junior Intermediate and Senior Intermediate students passed their board exams with good marks. Senior Intermediate passed out girls appeared for NEET and EAMCET exams in September.
- M. Divya completed her B.Sc. Anaesthesia first year. N. Tirumala from St. Joseph's Dental College won gold medal in her BDS second year theory examinations. B.Sc. Nursing students passed their second-year semester-II end examinations. Engineering 1st and 2nd year students passed their semester examinations. 2nd year students enrolled in BBA program passed semester end examinations.



- In October 2020, and January 2021, Swami Suveerananda counselled all the Intermediate passed out students and their guardians about their future studies and suggested the best courses. All higher secondary students, Intermediate juniors and seniors and B. Tech students started attending their regular classes from December 2020 by following the guidelines on social distancing and precautionary measures.

U.K.G. to 9th

- standard students got done with their formatives and semester-I examinations, online/offline.
- Ramanavami, Hanuman Jayanti, Dasara, Diwali, Karthik Poornima, New year, Bhogi, Pongal, Makar Sankranti and Republic Day were celebrated by Chinmaya Vijaya girls with great enthusiasm.
- Chinmaya Vijaya is thankful to all its donor and supporters who provided support of money as well as in-kind like a total of 850 kgs of rice, Rs. 76,016, fruits, vegetables, clothes, groceries,



biscuits, chocolates, sweets, blankets, school uniform, school bags, books, stationery, pouches, mats, spoons and water bottles.

- Mano Ranjani, Assistant Project Director from CWC Guntur; M. Gowri Shankari, CDPO ICDS Project, Mangalagiri; B. Sri Krishnaveni, Deputy Transport Commissioner; visited Chinmaya Vijaya to check well-being of all inmate girls.
- Devi Maha Lakshmi, her son Vinay and his friends from Vijayawada visited Chinmaya Vijaya and counselled higher-grade students and suggested how to set and reach goals.
- Justice K. Vijaya Lakshmi, High Court Judge of Andhra Pradesh visited Chinmaya Vijaya and motivated all the girls to set goals in the right direction.

Overall, CORD is envisioning and developing a **long-term plan in close association with communities'** and stakeholders like agriculture and horticulture departments etc to enable rural communities especially poorest of the poor people to be more resilient and least impacted by COVID19, lockdown and related consequences by **managing their life and livelihoods.**

Simultaneously, CORD is working side by side through continued communication, dialogues and support to its team members and further to communities to **manage related issues of mental health amidst COVID19** which may emerge due to prolonged issues of this pandemic like stress and fear due to spread of COVID19 and fatigue, staying at homes, inactivity, loss of livelihoods/wages specially for poor and the marginalised ones. Managing the stigma associated with the illness & not wanting to declare their illness is another issue.

All team members are continuing its prayers to Lord to free humanity soon from this ongoing pandemic.

CORD is grateful for the support it has received for its programs from various organizations and individual donors.

- The Hans Foundation.
- Jai Shiv Shakti Health & Education Foundation.
- Gartner India Research & Advisory Services Private Limited
- Heart and Hand for Handicapped (HHH)
- Lotus Life Foundation (LLF), USA
- Foundation Council Nelumbo Stiftung.
- The National Trust, Govt. of India for SNAC (State Nodal Agency Centre) for PwDs.
- NABARD.
- National Health Mission.
- Trainings and workshops – CORD Training Centre.
- Late Shri Shrofji's endowment interest.
- Pentagon Charitable Trust.
- Bajaj Auto Limited.
- CORD USA.
- HCL Foundation
- Individual donors – India/Abroad.
- Chinmaya Mission – Worldwide
- Late Shri Laju C. Chanrai and Shri Dasi Budhraniji support on focused panchayat projects



Kshama Metre,
National Director