

# ACTIVITY REPORT

2021-22



**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY**

kunjwani bypass, Gangyal, Jammu - 180010

## Reach & Presence

**Where we work:** Our focus is mainly the rural areas and villages where livelihoods and access to opportunities is an issue. Presently we are working in Jammu, Samba, Doda, Kathua and Pulwama districts of Jammu & Kashmir covering 121 villages with approx. 6225 households.

**Our target beneficiaries:** We work for rural communities who are deprived of vocational skills, livelihood and opportunities for sustainable development. We work for rural youth, children but women and farmers are our prime focus. We believe in holistic approaches in solutions and therefore it needs to engage the entire community in the development process. Apart from the regular community engagement, CSSS is involved in Rehabilitation and Institutional care of children with special needs.

**Our Strategic Approach:** We believe every society is the change maker of their own lives and their community. All they need is inspiration, guidance and support. CSSS practices and implements its work through:

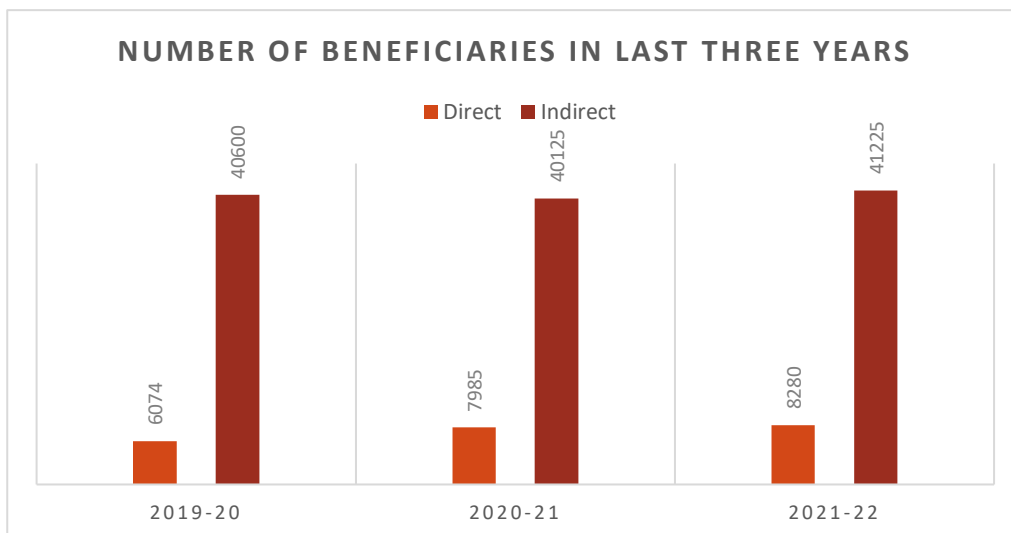
- Encourage community participation
- Empower and strengthen the aspiring rural people
- Reinforce effective leadership and institution building at local level
- Promote and support livelihood opportunities for rural communities

### **Vision**

Attainment of a Just and Peaceful Society wherein every human person enjoys fullness of life.

### **Mission**

Promotion, restoration and sustenance of dignity of human beings, preferentially the poor and the less privileged, by partnering with state and non-state actors through the process of empowerment and right based approach.



## Overview

The development paradigm globally and in India is changing rapidly especially after Pandemic and that called for flexible strategies and innovative approaches. **In our pursuit to deepen the impact, during 2021-22, CSSS responded strategically to the evolving needs of the communities through establishing collaborations, incubating innovative solutions and building community leadership.** We rolled out measures for increasing our accountability to the constituencies with whom we work. Although the memories of the past 2 years gone by weigh heavy than any years before. CSSS experiences were also like most of the other developmental sector organizations who were shocked by the sudden outbreak and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic along with new challenges compounded on an already precarious situation. Despite these tremendous setbacks, we continued our work for the vulnerable communities providing health, education, livelihood opportunities, seed support to farmers, SHGs for kitchen gardens, generating alternate means of income etc.

In the last year we have deepened our work with the particularly marginalized and improved the lot of women and children, small and marginal farmers, and the displaced and impoverished Gujjar families. In an endeavor to serve and work for the most marginalized populace in other areas of the state, we reached out to **Doda and Basholi with the help of the local parishes and with the kind support of our Partner Manos Unidas.** As an initial effort we are providing the women folk skill development training on Cutting & Tailoring.

We are proud that our programmes have helped women's empowerment as farmers and entrepreneur. **One of our women entrepreneurs (Smt. Surjeet Kumari, R.S. Pura), achievement story published in women voices from farms by Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MKAM).**

Another important component on which we worked during the year was **digitalization of SHGs.** Digitalization of SHG accounts or even using smart phones is a big challenge for our women as they lack exposure on digital platform, however, COVID has made everyone realized the importance of digital platform and knowledge about online transactions. We started with general orientation about gadgets like smart phones, tablets, laptops and desktop later we made them aware of Google Pay, PAYTM and other UPIs through which safe transactions can be done. We selected some leaders of SHG groups and trained them in digital entry of SHG accounts in MS Excel, we motivated them to use the digital platforms for payments of basic needs such as grocery, electricity, school fees etc. They were also taught about QR code and its usage. Women appreciated this initiative of ours to a great extent as COVID has made everyone realize the importance of online platforms. Many women shared that they were totally unaware of these aspects of internet and they are happy to learn new things. As a part of digitalization initiative, **google account has been created for 525 SHG women and 48 SHG groups.**

CSSS pay more emphasis on people led development and **facilitates the communities to organize themselves in groups, understand their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.** Where we further facilitate them in identifying their local resources to convert their weaknesses into opportunities and threats into their strengths. We envisage supporting community-based groups in leveraging their collective power for a sustained civil society action which addresses emerging concerns and needs of the marginalized. Communities and its groups are encouraged to engage with different structures, institutions, civil society organizations that promote people's power and their constitutional rights and responsibilities in a democratic and peaceful manner.

**CSSS has continued its work on disaster risk reduction,** building community awareness, risk governance and resilience, and facilitating a range of mitigation and preparedness measures. Our project SHIRKAT focuses on assessment by involving community and the Task Force in particular which includes vulnerability mapping, risk assessment and resource inventory development leading to early identification of signs of disaster, increased level preparedness and effective response to disasters, leading to mitigation of disaster.

In noble cause of **rehabilitation & education of special children** we promote child's education and self-dependence through proper special schooling and vocational activities. If required, we also provide medical treatment for the

child. We Sensitize families of the differently challenged persons, empower them to integrate them in a family and in the larger community and to make intervention for the normalization of the persons through home-based training making use of the ordinary articles and simple teaching aids. Moreover, their health is our top priority that is why we provide them proper medical care and therapies (Physiotherapy & Speech).

We are also engaged strongly with youth in our client communities and helped them to take up roles to build their societies and drive social change in them, while developing their economies. As we step into another year of our programming, we look forward to work with continuing dedication and commitment and to move the needle on the issues we work on and further the cause of sustainable and equitable development.

## Major Activities of the year 2021-22

### **1. Formation and strengthening of Community Based Organization's (CBOs)**

We conducted 31 orientation programme to strengthen Community based group (CBGs) and to form new ones in different target villages. The orientation meeting was conducted in order to refresh the group management and financial management norms. Expert from the relevant department were invited to carry out the orientation programs. The main content of the orientation programme was concept and benefits of groups. It mainly focused on orienting the target group regarding the existing village conditions and role of SHGs/farmers club in building development, followed by the effectiveness of community groups in bringing economic development in villages.

### **2. Capacity building training programme for SHGs**

We have conducted 22 training programmes on account keeping, skilling on Agri and non- agriculture means and livelihood security. This was done by keeping in mind the establishment of small business avenues for families who are currently linked with us through SHGs. During the programmes we also motivated women on social mobilization and collective agency as rural women often lack the basic capabilities and self-confidence to counter and challenge existing disparities and barriers against them.

### **3. Capacity building training programme for farmers**

We organized 25 training programmes for farmers on vegetable cultivation, organic farming, mushroom cultivation, soil testing and fertility, horticulture, floriculture, traditional manures etc. During the programme, trainees were educated about the selected topics and along with that, they were motivated for use of vermicompost, bio-fertilizers and organic fungicides and organic pesticides in vegetables. Farmers were also trained on proper spacing and requirement of irrigation in the vegetables. They were also suggested that they should use only well decomposed manures in their vegetable fields so that they can get healthy crop and keep their soil healthy.

### **4. Inputs on livestock management**

We organized 10 livestock management input sessions for the farmers during the year. During the programmes, participants were given information on Animal feeding and nutrition, General husbandry practices, Common health problem and their management on farm, Deworming in cattle, Immunization, vaccination and livestock insurance.

### **5. Orientation and capacity building Programme for SHGs on digitalization**

We have conducted 13 orientation programme for SHGs on importance and need of digitalization of SHG accounts and federation. The orientation programme helped the SHG members to understand the concept of digitalization and how it increases the transparency in the group accounts and maintenance of registers. The orientation programme covered the new and old SHGs functioning in the target areas as well as the federation.

## **6. Awareness Programme**

During the year, we conducted 22 Awareness programme on right to information, Public Service Guarantee Scheme, Good governance, COVID related information, financial inclusion of SHGs, ICDS, crop insurance schemes etc. They also learnt about number of economic empowerment schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna, employment programme for women (STEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Indira Mahila Yojna, Mahila samridhi Yojna etc. Our purpose for conducting programme is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, against corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in real sense.

## **7. Awareness Generation on Personal Health & Hygiene, Social Distancing etc. in the community**

During the programme, people were made aware of the personal hygiene and prevention and precaution related to COVID-19. Apart from these safety measure, they were also given tips on staying fit with the help of Yoga, physical exercises and balanced diet. Overall, the health awareness programme was focused towards making rural people aware of how they can maintain a healthy lifestyle while undertaking various preventive measures. Altogether, 25 health awareness programme conducted during the year.

## **8. Medical camps**

In the last one year, we conducted 4 medical checkup camp including one exclusive camp for special children in target villages. Altogether 409 people enrolled their names for General Health checkup. Free drugs were dispensed to all the patients. Main complaints among the adult population were related to back pain and knee pain and were treated symptomatically. All adults were screened for hypertension and follow up was done for the known hypertensives. Patients with altered findings and poor adherence to the old treatment were referred to higher centers for further need. Complaints regarding vision and other ophthalmic complaints were screened and referred to the concerned department.

## **9. Vocational Skill Training Programme**

During the year 8 vocational courses conducted on cutting & tailoring and Beauty culture with the aim of motivating, skilling and self-depending young women who are unskilled and mainly drop outs from high schools. The vocational training centres are designated to the villages where high number of such beneficiaries are reported.

## **10. Workshop on Common Approaches in Neurorehabilitation**

A workshop was conducted by Catholic Social Service Society in Salehar, Bishnah during the year. The topic for the workshop was “Common Approaches in Neurorehabilitation”. The resource person for the program was Dr. Sumit Kour-Physiotherapist at Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

## **11. Teachers Training Programme on inclusive education**

CSSS organized one day teacher’s training at Fatima Convent, Bishnah. The topic of the training was “Promote Inclusive Education system”. Beneficiaries included teachers from Fatima Convent School, Bishnah. Resource person explained the participants how to identify a disability, counsel the parents, and educate them about the intervention and rehabilitation part of the special children.

## **12. Awareness Programme on Environmental Protection**

During the year, we conducted 16 awareness programme in target villages on conservation and importance of environmental prevention and protection. The program focused on making the people aware of the harmful effects of plastic on our health, tips to conserve water in routine, sanitation of villages, planting more trees and plants, emphasis given on use of natural means as compare to chemical products, use of organic manure, herbal pesticides etc. Saplings of different fruits such as Mango, litchi and guava were also distributed during the awareness programmes.

### **13. Skill training on Food Processing and Detergent Making**

We conducted 5 programmes on food processing, with an objective to provide support to vegetable /fruit producing farmers, and enable the women members to earn livelihood by processing of surplus vegetables and fruits of surrounding areas. The group of women was trained in collaboration with Horticulture department on preparation of good quality Jam, pickles, jellies, sauces, chutney, ketchup, besides drying of vegetables and fruits.

### **14. Awareness Programme on Parenting skills under CBR**

An awareness camp was organized in Bishnah for community Based Rehabilitation children and parents. The topic of the said program was “Parenting children with Special needs during COVID-19”.

### **15. Capacity building training programme for staff of St. Johns Rehabilitation Center**

The program was conducted on 18th August 2021. The resource person for the program was Dr. Javed. He has expertise in treatment of Cerebral palsy children, children with gait abnormalities and counseling of their parents. Our staff was given training like how to handle the stress of parents. How to counsel parents to distinguish alarming signs to seek medical help. He also discussed the various things that are worth implementing during Community Based Rehabilitation Home visits.

### **16. Distribution of assistive devices to the special children**

One programme was conducted to distribute assistive devices to the Divyangjans /special children at Sevaniketan, Kunjwani on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 in the august presence of Bishop Ivan Pereira. During the programme, 25 special children were given aids and assistive devices mostly from the poorer sections of the society. At this occasion parents were also given counselling and awareness about the nutrition and safety of the children as safe environment is needed to make them grow without any inhibitions. Assistive devices included wheelchairs, CP chairs, peg board, and Triple training staircase. During the programme along with children almost 28 people participated.

### **17. Promotion of backyard poultry**

In Akalpur unit, we identified 10 poorest families from the target villages and provided healthy chicks in order to provide them alternative source of livelihood. We also capacitated these families on poultry unit development and maintenance system. At present, each family is having more than 50 chicks which is adding extra income to their household and also helping to increase the nutrition level of the family.

### **18. Participatory Knowledge Centres (PKCs)**

With the aim to provide additional support to the socially excluded children to continue their school education and for their overall development, 15 PKCs are running in the target villages of Nagrota block catering to the need of children belonging to the age group of Primary school going. Apart from educational support, the centers organize various healthy competitions among students to promote extra -curricular activities among the children and to inculcate a feeling of collective action among them.

### **19. Establishment of Tailoring Producing Unit at Bishnah**

The project started in the month of February 2021 with selection of 25 girls from the target villages of Bishnah area and ended in March 2022. During the course, girls learnt about basic understanding of sewing machine operation, description of various tools used in tailoring like drafting tools, cutting tools, stitching tools and all the syllabus prescribed for cutting and tailoring. At the end of the project, 25 girls are skilled and trained in cutting & tailoring. 15 girls are working together at the center and earning their livelihood with the help of this tailoring unit. Remaining girls are working independently from their houses.

#### **20. Evaluation visit from Liliane Fonds**

We had two-day evaluation visit on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 for IDCYD projects of LF-JVS programs in order to assess the relevance and work done at community level. The evaluation was conducted by CAFE foundation, selected by Liliane Fonds to evaluate all the IDCYD projects of North India. Ms. Shabnam Agrawal, a very experienced lady in the field of inclusive development came as an evaluator for 2 days. She had detailed interaction with CBR staff and also visited community areas. She was satisfied with the overall visit.

#### **21. Visit of Ms. Ana Carcamo and Ms. Maria carmen, Manos Unidas**

Ms. Ana Carcamo and Ms. Carmen from Manos Unidas came for 3 days visit to monitor the impact of Manos Unidas supported project in Bishnah, Nagrota, and Akalpur areas of CSSS from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022. They visited all the units mentioned above and interacted with target beneficiaries and project staff. At the end they were satisfied with the work and development took place in the respective units. They went back with positive understanding of CSSS and its implemented projects.

#### **22. We ring the bell campaign in March 2022**

The campaign was conducted in collaboration with Liliane foundation and Jan Vikas Samiti from 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. We conducted this campaign in 10 educational institutions both with the assistance and collaboration of school executives and students. With the help of campaign, we promoted the concept of education for all and eradicate social barriers and biased perspectives formed towards children with special needs in the educational institution and the knowledge of social inclusion among students in various educational institutions through peer group learning methods. We conducted co-curricular activities between our special school children and various educational institutions to generate the thought of equality and togetherness within students. The campaign aimed at raising awareness on the option to preparing of youths with inadequacies and move toward government to make it a reality for each child regardless of their ability. Altogether, we were able to sensitize 555 Students and able to produce a fruitful outcome in the filed of social inclusion.

### **PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES**

1. Our farmers from R.S.Pura area participated in five days long **Krishi Mela (7th to 12th March 2022)** which was organized physically as well as virtually at SKUAST-Jammu. The exposure of such type of melas, benefits the farmers and helps them to become successful entrepreneurs in future. The farmers witnessed various stalls exhibited by different departments of agriculture, horticulture and floriculture. They also participated in Kisan Goshti, rural sports and cultural programmes during the five days Krishi Mela. During the Mela, they participated in a workshop on climate change taken by Dr. Ashok Kumar, ADG (Animal Sciences) ICAR, New Delhi. The workshop highlighted on climate change, new diseases and their diagnosis.
2. Farmers from R.S.Pura area also participated in **KISAN BHAGIDARI, PRATHMIKTA HAMARI**” Campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav launched by Union Agriculture Minister at KVK Jammu. Minister had Virtual Interaction with Farmers in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the Country who were present in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in towns and cities in various states across India. The purpose of the interaction was to make farmers aware of flagship schemes of Government of India and to assess the achievements and benefits that the farmers are gaining at the grassroots.
3. Farmers also participated in regular programme organized at Shere Kashmir Agriculture University and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammu such as KISAN SAMELAN, GOSTHI, WORKSHOPS, STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION etc.

4. In the month of December 2021, our progressive farmers from R.S.Pura area participated in (V2V) programme launched by Shere Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences Technology (SKAUST). The programme stressed on Farmers Produce Organization.
5. SHGs from R.S. Pura area participated in the 5 DAYS KISAN MELA ORGANISED AT SKAUST in which they exhibited their stalls of cushions, handmade folders, tie and dye products, Mushroom pickle etc. The groups received good sale and a decent amount of profit from it. They also received encouraging words from visitors for putting up such an innovative and well-made product on sale cum exhibition

## **INTERVENTION IN DODA & BASHOLI**

### **Skill Development: Cutting & Tailoring**

In an endeavour to serve and work for the most marginalized populace in other areas of the state, we reached out to Doda and Basholi with the help of the local parishes and with the kind support of our Partner Manos Unidas. In consultation with different stakeholders, experts and and core team members, we unanimously decided to explore and do the baseline study in the field of Education, Health, Livelihood and Vulnerability in Kishtwar, Batote and Ramban area in Jammu region. As an initial effort we tried to include the women folk of the selected area and provide skill development training on Cutting & Tailoring. Skill development in the selected area is the immediate need emerged after the recent pandemic followed by lockdowns that resulted in joblessness and created more dependency on the community- based approaches for alternative source of livelihoods.

The process started with the identification of deserving candidates in the proposed areas by the local Parishes. The Person in charge visited the candidates and enrolled them for the course. Then Instructors were identified from the community and a place was also arranged. Six months skill development courses on 'Cutting & Tailoring' trade started in Khilleni, Doda and in Basholi in the month of April 2022. The centre at Khilleni caters to the need of more than 16 members and Centre at Basholi caters to 10 candidates. The candidates are provided with both theoretical as well as practical classes on cutting and tailoring.

The classes run for 3 hours on weekdays. The centres have been provided with 15 sewing machines and other essential resource materials. Regular visits are being made from the CSSS central office in the target areas. Mid-term evaluation has been carried out in both the centres. Apart from the evaluation, inputs are also being provided to the candidates on Client management, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship development. After the completion of the course the candidates are required to appear for the examination and after that successful candidates will be awarded with mark sheets and certificates.

keeping in view the market demand and change in fashion technology, courses on cutting, tailoring has been suitably designed in the structure of non-formal education. The beneficiaries are new literates and people with low education levels. Besides in Indian tradition girls/women are expected to know tailoring to fulfill the basic stitching requirement at home. Stitching of garments at home is a money saving device for lower middle-income group. Besides tailoring can be a vocation for self-employment.

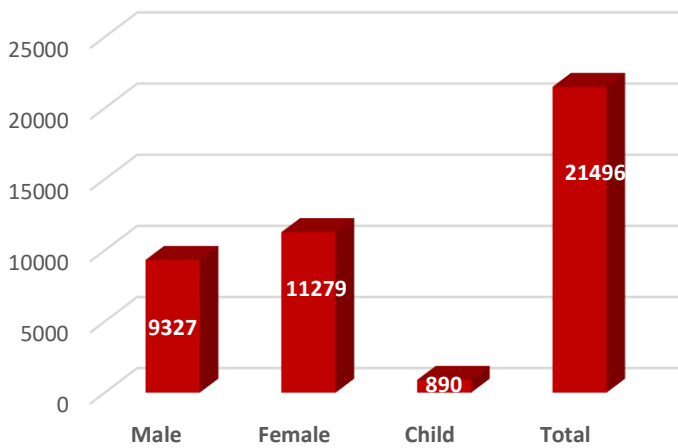
After completing the course one can get employment in garment manufacturing unit or get self employed by opening a tailoring sop or work at home. The Centres follow the standard module designed by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Vocational training wing.



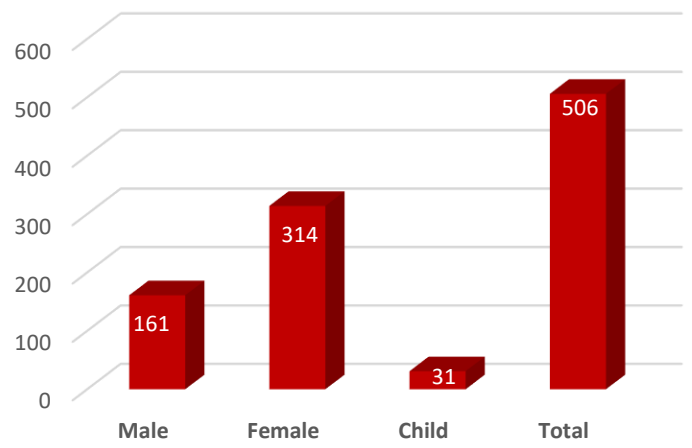
**ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

St. Joseph community Hospital (SJCH) has completed 18 years of service towards the rural population and is gradually making a bold mark into the health systems of Jammu and Kashmir. Not only is the hospital serving the poor and marginalized in the preventive and curative aspect of health, but also as part of promotive aspect of health, it has number of outreach programmes for the rural population of far-flung areas of Jammu region who are not able to come to the hospital. Since its inception in 2003, the St. Joseph hospital has taken a leading role in developing outreach programmes, which are responsive, accessible and effective in health care delivery. It is our belief that better health care is an outcome of sustained education and awareness. We are also trying to establish Linkages within the organization as well as with like-minded institutions outside to develop and sustained for implementation of various health related, community-based projects. Following charts shows the patient inflow and number of investigations conducted during the year 2021-22.

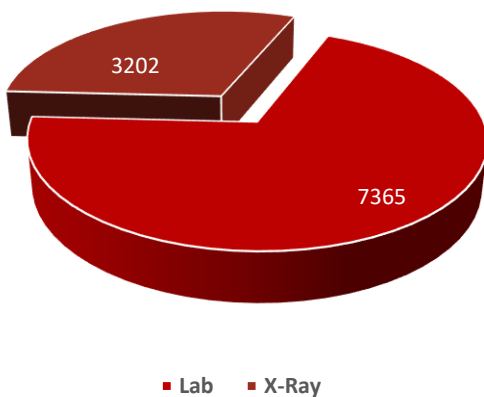
**OPD Registration:2021-22**



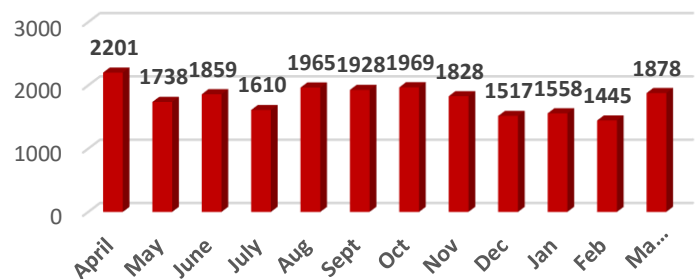
**IPD Registration: 2021-22**



**Laboratory & X Ray Details (2021-22)**



**Registration Details: Month Wise**



## **ST. JOHNS REHABILITATION CENTER**

Catholic Social Service Society (CSSS) has been working in the field of disability from the time of its inception. Since 2002, we became associated with Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi which has resulted in extension of support to many special children in and around the Jammu city and in the region through institutional and community-based interventions. Under its institutional support, St. John's Rehabilitation Centre at Mandal became functional from February 2008. In 2021-22, 41 students from the nearby areas get support in education, mentoring and therapies at the Centre under the supervision of CMC Sisters, doctors and staff. Under its community-based intervention, CSSS supports another 34 students in and around Jammu with therapies, assistive devices, nutrition, livelihood and educational support. We also sensitize families of the differently challenged persons; empower them to integrate them in the family and in the larger community. We are also involved in capacity building of parents & local staff, awareness on rights & entitlement related to rights of the people with disability. Following are the main activities conducted during the year 2021-22

1. Participated at Health Mela: Children and staff of St. Johns Rehabilitation center participated in Health Mela on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at Sohanjana Government Hospital, Phallian Mandal. During the programme children were checked and given nutritional support.
2. Participated at Dental Check up camp at Jammu University: Our children went to attend dental checkup camp organized at Jammu University and received dental kit and awareness on oral hygiene. Programme witnessed presence of Lt. Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha of Jammu Kashmir State. He congratulated everyone on this occasion for doing wonderful work in the field of disability.
3. Medical Camp: On 26<sup>th</sup> April, St. Johns School organized a medical check up camp in the school premises for the physical check up of children. Doctors came from Sohanjana Government Hospital. Children were also given medicines wherever required during the camp.
4. Regular Parents Teachers meeting were organized at the center in order to guide and motivate the parents about the rehabilitation process at the center. Parents were given counselling by trained counsellor and psychologist.
5. Celebration of International disability day: On 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 2021, we organized a Disability Day & Annual Day at St. John's rehabilitation centre school, Mandal. The programme started at noon with a prayer song performed by the students. Followed by the welcome address given by Sr. Anet CMC (Principal) and later our dignitaries shared their thoughts on the occasion which motivated the parents and boost the confidence of students. There were some dance and poem activities performed by the students, gifts were also distributed. Around 90 people attended the program which included parents, families, children, CSSS and school staff members.
6. Inspections: During the year many inspections were taken place at St. Johns Rehabilitation Center. It started with visit of Mr. Francis from Jan Vikas Samiti in the month of September. He visited the center as well as homes of the children. CMO of social welfare department also visited our school and they checked all the records and later issued the certificate in favor of CSSS under PWD act 2016. At the end of the year, another inspection took place from Liliane Fonds, Ms. Shabnam from New Delhi, came to inspect the center and the children's progress during the years.

## UPCOMING PROJECT

### Intervention with Migrants

CSSS has been always at the forefront during any sort of crisis and disasters. We at the organization always stand by the most vulnerable populace of the region. Immediately after the relaxation in the lockdowns, CSSS with the help of the dedicated volunteers and the key persons did the situational analysis to assess the impact on the migrants in the field of livelihood, health and education. The team identified 6 different places where the migrants are located and mostly affected by the pandemic. These locations are very near to the industrial areas where these migrants were employed and are also engaged in the allied daily wage activities like domestic household works, construction work labours, some are also working as the gardeners.

After the identification of the affected locations, the team after a series of meetings and consultations found that there are families in these areas who requires immediate support in the form of food items to support their family members. 60 such most vulnerable families identified and CSSS approached to few partners for resource mobilization and supported these families with food kits for 1 month as immediate support.

It was also felt that these migrants are mostly from the states like Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. These people are living with the host communities for more than decades and are not seasonal migrants. Therefore, there is a need to work with them and plan for long term intervention to change their existing situation and also to ensure to network with different actors to ensure conducive environment for these people for availing their rights and entitlements at their work/current locations.

The process of information/data collection includes focus group discussions, structured interviews with individuals and key community members, community meetings and meeting with the leaders and community visits.

A proposal has been developed and shared with partners for the financial support. The proposal developed has three different thematic areas where our agency is intending to work with the migrants.

**Target households: The programme will focus on 1200 households.**