



PARIVAAR YEAR END NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

The past few months have seen tremendous effort by our team to serve children and the community across more than 200 remote, tribal villages in 6 districts of Madhya Pradesh. During this period, we have opened new Seva Kutirs as well as enhanced our services in the existing Seva Kutir villages.

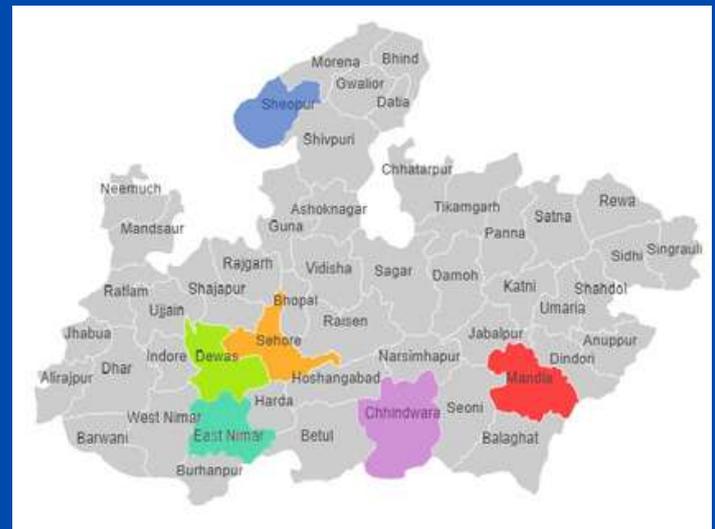
We thank all our supporters and wellwishers and seek blessings from all of you that we continue to do this work untainted by pride, self-importance, and with total fairness and highest empathy for all the less privileged, who only have given meaning to our lives.

Warm Regards,
Vinayak Lohani
Founder & Chief

Seva Kutirs – Serving Children amidst the Pandemic

All our Seva Kutirs became functional from the 1st week of June onwards. Initially, our teachers started teaching children in smaller groups in their homes, and from August onwards, regular classes at Kutirs started. We have been taking all safety measures and at the same time providing meals and education to all children in these villages. As government schools are closed during all this time, the education and lunch and dinner provided in the Seva Kutirs is the only meals and education support for these tribal children. We have also started new Seva Kutirs in some of these districts. By end of November, we have 207 Seva Kutirs, serving more than 20,000 children daily. Since the pandemic, we have started 50 new Seva Kutirs.

S.No	District	Number Of Seva Kutirs
1	Dewas	49
2	Sehore	43
3	Mandla	28
4	Sheopur	51
5	Chhindwara	18
6	East Nimar (Khandwa)	18
	Total	207



Parivaar Seva Kutirs Enter the 6th District (Khandwa)

We have started our first Seva Kutir in Khalwa block of Khandwa district in October 2020. There are 147 villages in this block. This block is infamous for malnourishment and deaths due to malnutrition. It has 75 percent Korku tribal population and remaining are from the Gond tribe. It borders Melghat region of Maharashtra which also is demographically similar and also similarly lagging in health and nutritional indices. The two states are separated by the Tapti river in this region. We sent a team headed by one of our District Anchors to survey the area, meet village community, Sarpanchs and the government officials. Our team identified and finalized the venues for starting Seva Kutirs, all of which have been given free of cost by the villagers, as they are very keen for having Seva Kutirs in their villages. At present, we have 18 Seva Kutirs and we plan to set up at least 50 Seva Kutirs here in the next one year



Target 100 Seva Kutirs in Sheopur

Out of all the tribal areas in 6 districts of MP where we have our Seva Kutirs, Karahal block in Sheopur district has the worst conditions. Out of more than 300 blocks in MP, it is the worst in terms of malnourishment, other health parameters, education and overall development. This abysmal situation of more than 100 villages in Karahal block prompted us to start the Seva Kutirs in July 2019. At present, we have 51 Seva Kutirs in as many villages, and in the next one year, we will be having 100 Seva Kutirs, serving more than 10,000 children.

These villages are inhabited by Sehariya tribals, which are categorized as a PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group). The Sehariyas are among the most deprived and poor communities in the whole country. They severely lag in terms of health, education and income parameters

The Sehariyas are engaged in farm or sometimes non-farm labour work. They were traditionally entirely dependent on forests and also lived quite close to the forests. But for the past several decades, with forests getting depleted, their dependence on forest has hugely reduced.

In a Sehariya household in these villages, there is no concept of breakfast. If anyone – be it a child or an adult - is hungry, then they would eat previous night's stale rotis with black tea (as milk is not available) or just the rotis itself. Milk and hence milk products like curd, ghee etc are totally unavailable in the Sehariya households. They do not have the capacity to rear cattle because there are no pastoral lands. Grazing is legally prohibited in these areas due to forest laws, though some people stealthily take the cattle into forests in dark hours.

They have meals two times a day, in the afternoon and at night. This meal consists of rotis (of wheat or bajra). Apart from rotis, pulses and vegetables are not available all the time. One thing to note is that meals would consist of only roti with pulses (only rarely with vegetables). Often when even these are not available, they use chutney of chilies or they eat the rotis with onions. As a proxy for proper vegetables, they depend on the forest shrubs and use certain naturally growing plants as vegetables which are generally not used by other communities, such as pamar, sag, sareta, baasi. Even these are available only in the months of the rainy season.

In other seasons, around 60-70 per cent families have no ability to buy vegetables from the local market which is also weekly in nature (the village haat). They would have vegetables in their meals once in a week. Only some of the families get to eat it 2-3 times in a week. So, their staple diet is rotis and pulses. Rice is taken quite infrequently in Sehariya communities. They get wheat at subsidized rates from the government (around 30-35 Kgs for a family) and also some amount of rice, sugar and salt. In their own farms, they would grow bajra or in some cases wheat. Thus, the children severely lack in terms of protein, vitamins and minerals which is indicated in the health parameters.

The Sehariyas marry at an early age. It is not uncommon to find girls and boys married at the age of 14 or 15. We met many such girls and boys. In a large number of villages there is no single graduate ever, and very less number of Higher Secondary pass-outs.

After the opening of Seva Kutirs in these villages, we emphasize in community meetings on not getting children married at such ages, and the whole village should pledge for that. We also ask the villagers to have a goal that all boys and girls should study till Higher Secondary at least, that will open possibilities of government jobs due to benefits of reservation.

Sheopur being a district close to many parts of Rajasthan, the young people between 20 and 40 form a big chunk of migrant labour to those areas of Rajasthan. Sehariyas migrate to towns like Sawai Madhopur, Bundi, Kota, or even Jaipur as migrant labour. There are many months when there is no income at all for those who do not migrate (who are typically in the bracket of 45 plus).

There are only 2 government ambulances in an area which is 4000 sq km. And no other means of public transport. The plight of the people who need emergency medical attention like from an accident, snake-bite can be imagined. Usually ambulance service is sought for birth delivery cases and for that the date is booked well in advance. The elderly are hardly taken for any medical consultation - it is assumed that those in their last leg of life will pass away sooner or later, it is, as it were, accepted naturally by all.

Seeing this dire need we have decided to start ambulance service from Parivaar in this area.



Parivaar Vivekananda Fruit Trees Plantation Campaign

In the last week of October, we have launched a major campaign of planting fruit trees with support from Mr Rajmohan's Sustainable Green Initiative. We will be planting over 5 lakhs Fruit Trees by 50 thousand families in 6 districts of Madhya Pradesh in next 1 year. 30,000 trees have been planted as a pilot, and the next planting will be done in February 2021 after the end of winter. Following fruit trees have been planted:

1. Anaar (Pomegranate)
2. Amrood (Guava)
3. Sitaphal (Custard-apple)
4. Aanwla (Indian Gooseberry)
5. Lemon
6. Moringa



Winter Relief in Seva Kutirs Villeges

Every year, we distribute sweaters to children in Seva Kutirs who do not have these, and blankets to vulnerable elderly persons so that they can protect themselves from the cold. This winter, in November, we distributed 10,400 sweaters across 76 tribal villages in 6 districts and 10,000 blankets to elderly across more than 200 villages in 7 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Quality blankets were ordered from Ludhiana in Punjab and ferried to more than 200 villages, many of which did not have any roads.



Facilitating Access to Govt. Schemes

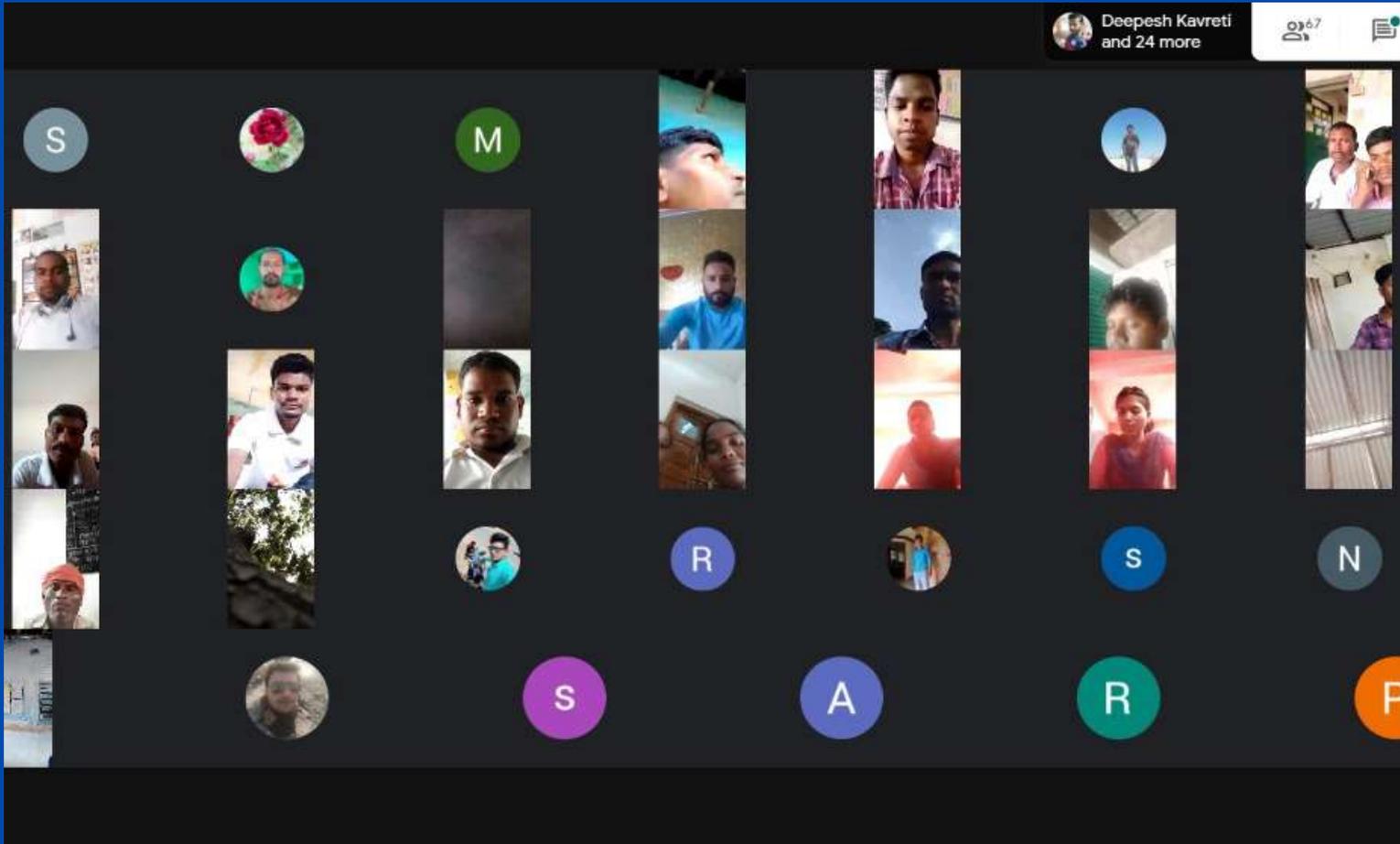
We try to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes reach to the tribal beneficiaries in our Seva Kutir villages. As part of this activity, we regularly help villagers get access to the schemes. To do this in a more structured manner, we have launched a pilot in 10 Seva Kutirs in Mandla district. We are using the Haqdarshak app (a Tech platform that connects citizens with their eligible welfare schemes) (haqdarshak.com). Once the pilot is run for 6 months-1 year, we will launch it with priority in all Seva Kutirs of all our Seva Kutir districts. The schemes selected for this purpose are :

1. Ladli Lakshmi Yojana
2. Vriddha Pension,
3. Viklanga Pension,
4. Vidhwa Pension
5. Ayushman Bharat
6. PM Awas Yojana (Gramin)
7. PM- Kisan Samman Nidhi
8. Nal Jal Yojana,
9. ADIP Scheme (Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances)



Teachers Training – Mantra

We have partnered with Mantra for Change (<https://mantra4change.com/>) for teachers' training and capacity building. Online trainings more than 200 teachers of our Seva Kutirs in Sheopur, Mandla and Chhindwara have happened and will soon start the training sessions for teachers from other Seva Kutir districts.



Collaboration with Toybank

We have partnered with Toybank (www.toybank.org), an organization working in building fun & play spaces for children from underprivileged backgrounds. During present times, they are creating PlaySheets, focusing on the behavioral and mental growth of children. They are sharing these PlaySheets with us daily which are then being shared by us with all the children of our Seva Kutirs. These PlaySheets have interesting educational activities on a wide range of areas such as languages, arithmetic, simple games etc.



Parivaar Bengal : Two New Basketball Courts

Two new high quality basketball courts are almost finished at both Parivaar boys campus and Parivaar girls campus. This has been through the support of Hi5 Foundation and Sachin Tendulkar Foundation



Extensive Field Engagement Exercise by Parivaar Bengal Sevavratees team

Starting in last week of November, Our Parivaar Bengal sevavratees are undertaking extensive survey and field engagement exercise in more than 100 villages for winter relief for elderly, new children admission in tribal areas and pockets in districts of Jhargram, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, the Sundarbans, and in Singhbhum area of Jharkhand. We intend to distribute blankets to 4000 elderly in deprivation in these pockets.



Facilitating Higher Education of Children from Seva Kutirs

One of the key objectives of our work in all the poor tribal villages is that each and every child at least finishes school education. At present, more than 50% children are not able to do that, because of heavy drop outs from Class 9th onwards. So, every year, at the time of admissions, our grassroot workers (around 1100) counsel the parents and ensure that all children take admission in Class 9th. Students who were not aware of the process for taking admissions, or because of other reasons, were not keen on taking admissions, were counseled. Some of these students were also admitted in the government hostels, depending on the seat availability. A total of 1421 students across around 200 tribal villages in 5 Seva Kutir districts took admissions after our counseling, break-up of which is given below:



Facilitating Higher Education of Children from Seva Kutirs

One of the key objectives of our work in all the poor tribal villages is that each and every child at least finishes school education. At present, more than 50% children are not able to do that, because of heavy drop outs from Class 9th onwards. So, every year, at the time of admissions, our grassroot workers (around 1100) counsel the parents and ensure that all children take admission in Class 9th. Students who were not aware of the process for taking admissions, or because of other reasons, were not keen on taking admissions, were counseled. Some of these students were also admitted in the government hostels, depending on the seat availability. A total of 1421 students across around 200 tribal villages in 5 Seva Kutir districts took admissions after our counseling, break-up of which is given below:

S.No.	District	Admitted in nearby schools	Admitted in Govt. Hostels
1	Dewas	440	23
2	Sehore	310	30
3	Sheopur	194	34
4	Mandla	163	30
5	Chhindwara	197	Nil
TOTAL		1304	117



Kicking Off the Impact Assessment Exercise by Sattva

We have engaged Sattva (<https://www.sattva.co.in/>), one of the most reputed organizations for impact assessment, to conduct a year long impact assessment exercise of our Seva Kutir Project. A sample size of 1500 children from our 200 Seva Kutirs (Treatment Group) and also 500 children from non-Seva Kutir villages (Control Group) will be studied over a one-year period to see the impact that has come because of the Seva Kutirs intervention. The baseline/midline was supposed to begin in April 2020 but could not start because of COVID-19. It has now started in the last week of November and will be finished by mid-December. The endline will happen in December 2021.



Contact

Email of the Founder: vinayak@parivaar.org

Email (Bengal Institution): pratik@parivaar.org

Email (Madhya Pradesh Institution): siddharth@parivaar.org

Call Us: +91 9981817756

Website: www.parivaar.org



Parivaar

Parivaar Education Society,

Bonogram,

Bakhrahat Road,

Kolkata - 700104 West Bengal, India



THANK
YOU