



India Development and Relief Fund NEWSLETTER-June 2022

Putting power not charity in the hands of those in need

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Dear friends,

Anyone who watches the news or goes shopping is well aware of the increase in prices of all essential items. If we feel this increase, imagine how much it affects the poor in South Asia. Many in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are still recovering from the pandemic and are hard hit by inflation and shortages of essentials. At IDRF, we view this as an opportunity to help even more needy people.

In this newsletter:

- Project site visited by IDRF supporters
- COVID rehabilitation programs and vaccination drives
- Donor Spotlight: A unique way to give back
- IDRF mourns the loss of our Board Member

Bus for a school in a backward village, Karnataka **Project site visited by IDRF supporter**

IDRF has provided a school bus to Chandana School, (managed by **Malendu Education and Rural Development Society**), situated in Narebail village. The bus transports children from 22 nearby villages to attend school. IDRF supporter **Ramesh Rao** and his family recently visited the school and saw how useful the bus has been in transporting children from nearby villages to the school. Earlier, the unavailability of a safe transportation facility was discouraging several families to send their children, especially girls, to attend school.



IDRF's evaluation and monitoring process

We encourage Board members, staff, donors, and volunteers to visit the sites of our project and give us their feedback. This helps us keep our compliance standards one of the highest and overheads one of the lowest in the industry. Please let us know if you would be interested in visiting any of our project sites during your next trip to India!

COVID Rehabilitation Efforts

Enhancing Employability through Vocational and Skill Development Courses

Automobile Driving Programs

IDRF is supporting **Sri Sathya Sai Trust's** driving programs for unemployed youth from tribal and backward communities (including the Leprosy colony) in **Odisha**. **300** needy persons are being provided training and help in obtaining licenses to become professionally trained automobile drivers.

100 women received car driver's training and licenses in 2021-2022 with IDRF's support to **Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society (SVRDS), Tamil Nadu**. These women belong to the underprivileged fishermen's community and have been helped by SVRDS in finding jobs as drivers. During these difficult times, their contribution to their family's income makes a big difference!

Tailoring Programs

IDRF has provided power-operated USHA sewing machines to **100** women undergoing a 6-month tailoring course at our partner **SVRDS's** training center in **Tamil Nadu**.

400 women have been provided one-year training and a sewing machine each to start their own business from home with IDRF's support of the **Economic Rural Development Society** at 5 locations in **West Bengal**.



COVID Vaccination Drives

IDRF, in collaboration with **Partnership for Transparency (PTF), USA**, is supporting **Youth for Social Development (YSD)** in providing help to underprivileged people in getting COVID-19 vaccines. Most people in rural marginalized communities of **Odisha** don't have devices to register for or transportation to get to vaccination centers. YSD volunteers identify the most vulnerable people and have helped more than **300** people get vaccinated so far.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: A unique way to give back
Sensory room for children with intellectual and multiple disabilities, Gujarat

IDRF's partner **Samerth Charitable Trust** runs Samerth Talim (Training) Kendra in Ahmedabad, to help **98** children with intellectual and multiple disabilities. Many children in early intervention stage regressed due to the pandemic lockdown and now **48** require urgent help with sensory, speech, and physical therapy. IDRF's generous donors, **Mehul and Nita Patel**, are helping with the provision of equipment, setting up and meeting the recurring costs of the sensory room in the memory of Mehul's



IDRF mourns the loss of our Board Member

It is with great sadness that we share with you the passing of the **Vice President of IDRF, Mr. Dileep Thatte** in May 2022. He was a valued member of our team since 2013 and a very active volunteer and highly respected member of the Indian-American community. He was a big supporter of women's empowerment through education, grassroots development, communications, and management. He will be greatly missed by everyone at the IDRF.



I am extremely grateful to you for your support in helping the underserved people in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. It's only with your commitment and support that IDRF can provide a life of dignity to thousands.

Thank you once again and best wishes from the entire IDRF team!

Sincerely,
Dr. Vinod Prakash
Founder and President (*pro bono*), IDRF

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