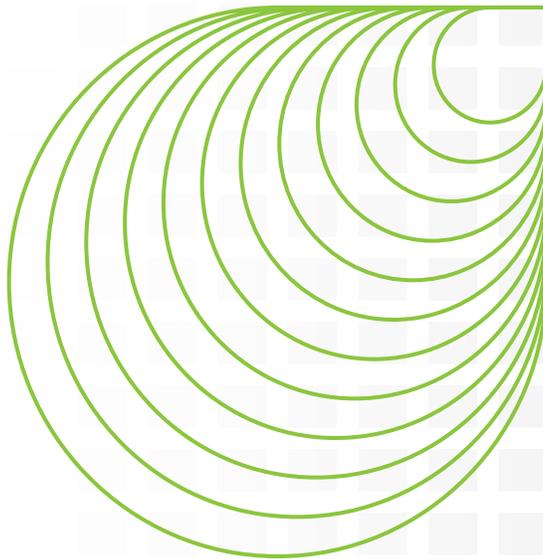




**Persistent** Foundation

**Let us work  
together  
and be the  
Agents of Change**



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## 2020 – 21 is the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the Persistent Foundation

2020-21 tested all of us. It was challenging to adapt to a new normal and we accommodated all our programs to cope with these new, virtual requirements.

The first Covid-19 relief intervention was done by Persistent Foundation on April 1, 2020 by providing support to the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MCCIA) to procure PPE kits, N95 masks and other consumables. We partnered with 49 organizations and reached 22,103 families, 1,31,346 individuals and seven communities through our Covid-19 relief work.

Along with the Covid-19 relief work, our regular CSR projects were ongoing. A total of 25 regular projects were implemented by the Persistent Foundation involving 26 partners, at Pune, Nagpur, Goa, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.

Persistent employees continue to be strong supporters of the Persistent Foundation's activities. We collected almost 90 lakhs in donations, and over 4,000 hours of volunteering effort.

## Our Trustees

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**Sonali Deshpande**  
Founder Trustee and  
Chairperson



**Dr. Anand Deshpande**  
Founder Trustee



**P. B. Kulkarni**  
Founder Trustee



**Pradeep Bhargava**  
Trustee



**Sunil Sapre**  
Executive Director and  
CFO, Persistent  
Trustee (ex officio)



**Dilip Kale**  
Trustee



**Sameer Bendre**  
CPO, Persistent  
Trustee (ex officio)



**Capt. Kedar Paranjpye**  
CAO, Persistent  
Trustee (ex officio)



**Cdr. Jayant Konde**  
CAO Persistent  
Trustee (ex-officio)



## Message from Chairperson

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What an unforgettable year this has been! The Coronavirus pandemic hit the world like a hurricane more than a year ago, and humankind continues to be in its path of destruction even today. This past year has been incredibly challenging as the virus surged across geographies inflicting the loss of loved ones on so many people. Bound to our homes, we expended ourselves in every direction like never before.

The vaccine is a silver lining to these dark clouds, and we hope the sun will shine upon us again one day very soon.

The Foundation's activities suffered greatly due to the frequent lockdowns in India, but we adapted to these changes and were able to gather speed later in the year. Schools remained closed for students for the entire academic year. We modified our

education related initiatives to provide LAN and Wi-Fi connections to study centers and support classes. This was aimed at helping students of grades 9 and 10 to complete their curriculum and get extra coaching in science and mathematics. We were able to help and touch the lives of 5,000 students! The Kiran Girls Scholarship Program took place in the month of February as soon as college admissions were completed.

The Cleft Lip and Palate Program had to be curtailed because of travel restrictions, but despite these limitations, we performed more than 450 surgeries. We also conducted more than almost 700 cataract surgeries. The Mobile Medicare Unit helped us reach many people to execute our health projects. Community development projects were delayed but gained momentum towards the end of the year. The construction of open-wells and vocational training in bamboo art helped generate income and a source of livelihood for many households.

The Persistent Board members and the Foundation Trustees have been very supportive and encouraging of all our ideas and thoughts. The Persistent COVID Relief Fund has proved extremely helpful in carrying out extensive initiatives to help overcome this difficult time. This Fund has helped to provide cooked meals and food kits to more than 35,000 people, and medical help to more than 65,000 individuals. We have been able to provide ventilators, oxygen concentrators, neonatal ventilators, refrigerators for vaccine storage, multipara monitors, heart-lung machines, RNA and DNA extraction machines, and much more. We also funded research on the epidemiological and serological survey done by IISER, Pune, India. We helped set up two COVID care centers and equipped them with furniture and consumables. PPE kits were provided to hospitals to protect the staff while treating patients. A lifesaving oxygen supply pipeline was funded at a charitable hospital to help patients requiring oxygen. Amongst the many beneficiaries have been sanitation workers, senior citizens at old age homes, differently abled individuals, and daily wage earners who lost their

jobs. We feel a sense of moral responsibility in enabling and empowering those around us to live healthy, safe lives.

In all this turmoil, I find strength, optimism, and motivation to continue helping society in this time of need. It is indeed heartening to see the collective dedication of so many like-minded individuals and corporations. The community has come together to face the calamity by sourcing medical equipment, hospital consumables, vaccines, and food kits to help people in need. This show of unity and collaboration between the corporations and the Indian government has been the true epitome of democracy.

I am sincerely grateful to all our dear colleagues for their generous donations. We were able to increase the scope of our contributions quite significantly because of their generosity. The food kit distribution drives demonstrated the spirit of camaraderie and dedication during these trying times. My gratitude to those who helped us in the procurement of the medical equipment at reasonable prices. My team has been working tirelessly throughout and has been very committed and enthusiastic in driving our mission forward.

As the new year began, we were faced with tougher challenges and the need to provide faster and quicker solutions to address the current situation and to be prepared for all possibilities in the days to come. I would like to send out a collective prayer into the universe to end these trying times and for the world to be a happy and safe place for humankind once again.

Thank you,

**Sonali Deshpande**  
Chairperson

# Foundation Team



Anaya Netanrao  
Foundation core



Akshita Vyas  
Foundation core



Yogita Apte  
Foundation core



Mahalakshmi K  
Foundation core



Neha Barde  
Foundation core



Rushikesh Barsawade  
Foundation core



Vaibhav Nikam  
Foundation core



Asim Mandal  
Foundation core



Nadia  
HR



Akshay Dhapare  
Marketing



Anil Wadhwa  
Admin



Arvind Indalkar  
Admin



Amar Thakur  
Admin BU



Amit Atre  
Corpsec



Amol Undre  
Admin



Dattatraya Prabhune  
Admin



Hanumant Dighe  
Admin



Hemant Mohril  
Admin



Jeetendra Dhadve  
Admin



Madhav Oak  
CorpSec



Nitinchandra Shende  
HR



Nayana Bhandari  
Finance



Pratyush P  
Marketing



Rahul Vibhandik  
EIS



Rajiv Bapat  
Finance



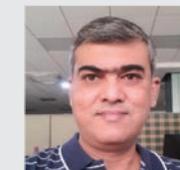
Ravindra Dighekar  
Admin



Rupesh Pansare  
Admin



Sachin Shinde  
Admin



Sameer Pandhare  
EIS



Sanjay Chaudhari  
Administarion



Shashikant Mahajan  
EIS



Shekhar Sahasrabudhe  
CTO Org



Swaraju  
Admin team



Tanuj Joshi  
Marketing



Yogesh Karmarkar  
Administration

# COVID-19 Relief Work

Persistent Systems committed to supporting Covid-19 relief work at all locations where it has offices, coordinated by Persistent Foundation.

We also supported organizations beyond our geographical limits with food and medical support.

## Support for Ration Kits

Details	Location								
	Pune	Nagpur	Hyderabad	Bengaluru	Goa	Sangali	Melghat	Malegaon	Total
No. of families	5,303	0	0	110	0	500	0	0	5,913
No. of individuals	50	1,302	5,825	1,150	1,508	0	600	600	11,035
Total no ration kits distributed	5,353	1,302	5,825	1,260	1,508	500	600	600	16,948

## Support for Cooked Meals

Beneficiaries included migrant labourers, the urban poor, tribals, disabled, sex workers and transgenders. Support was also provided to residential care homes, and teachers.

Details	Location			
	Pune	Nagpur	Bengaluru	Total
No. of Organization	2	3	2	7
No. of individuals (cooked meals) distributed	4,100	17,000	8,000	29,100



## Support for Medical Care

Our direct association with hospitals helped us to reach out to the neediest in a timely manner. Along with consumables, support was also provided to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure.

Sr. No	Item	Quantity/Remarks
1	PPE kit (Nos)	20,407
2	Face shield (Nos)	13,300
3	3-layer cotton mask (Nos)	12,420
4	Plastic apron (Nos)	10,000
5	Vaporizers (Nos)	6,334
6	Raincoats (Nos)	4,000
7	N-95 mask (Nos)	3,264
8	Hygiene kit (Nos)	2,080
9	Triple layer medical masks (Nos)	1,018
10	Bed sheets (Nos)	1,000
11	Immunity booster medicine (packets)	475
12	Gloves (packet)	371
13	Sanitizer (Ltr)	126
14	Sanitization kit for barber (Nos)	100
15	Other support	100
16	Disinfectant (Ltr)	70
17	Tent (Nos)	30
18	ICU bed (Nos)	29
19	Liquid soap (Ltr)	20
20	High Flow Oxygen Machine (Nos)	17
21	Community disinfection (Nos)	16
22	Drug distribution trolley (Nos)	16
23	Multipara monitors (Nos)	15
24	Checkup camps (Nos)	10
25	Printers for Covid-19 wards (Nos)	10
26	Ventilator (Nos)	10
27	Sanitizer foot stand (Nos)	8
28	Thermometers (Nos)	7
29	Support for CCC (Nos)	6
30	Suction machine (Nos)	5
31	Incinerator machine (Nos)	4
32	Disinfection chamber (Nos)	3
33	Vaccine refrigerator (Nos)	2
34	Crash cart trolley (Nos)	2
35	Food distribution trolley (Nos)	2
36	OT table (Nos)	2
37	Waste carrying trolley (Nos)	2
38	ABG machine and consumables (Nos)	1
39	Covid-19 testing machine (Nos)	1
40	ECMO machine (Nos)	1
41	Portable x-ray machine (Nos)	1

42	OT light (Nos)	1
43	Awareness Video (Nos)	10
44	Insurance	5,348
45	Medicines (individuals)	300
46	Patient treatment (individuals)	28
47	Oxygen pipeline	Support to 50 bedded Covid-19 wards
48	NCL	Support for production of 15,000 face shields
49	IISER	Support for Covid-19 research.

In all, we supported 14 hospitals, 14 NGOs and 4 government departments through medical interventions.

### Community Disinfection



This was a unique service which was offered in areas most affected by Covid-19. With the help of community-based organisations, we were able to create a team of 200 volunteers who today, continue this service. There were areas where disinfection with machines was not possible due to houses being at very close proximity. The red light district consisting of commercial sex workers was neglected by the government agencies. As a solution, volunteers from the area were trained and the material was provided by the Foundation.



### PPE Kits and Raincoats for Waste Collectors

Waste collectors were crucial for maintaining community hygiene. To ensure their safety, a PPE kit



was designed to include an apron, mask, sanitizer, scarf, and gloves. In the rainy season, raincoats were provided to 4000 waste collectors in Pune. As their wages were badly affected in this period, they were also supported with food kits and medication.



## Quotes from Partners

### 1. Seva Sahayog Foundation

On behalf of Seva Sahayog Foundation, I would like to thank Persistent Foundation for their timely response and financial support provided for various Covid relief activities undertaken by us.

The support positively impacted hundreds of families and children from low income groups in and around Pune, where no other support was formerly available. Families of school van drivers, salon shop workers were able to survive these lockdown phases on this support, even though their only source of income was lost.

Students from the underprivileged communities could continue to learn from home using the free WI-Fi internet provided by Digital Setu project. This has helped them continue their education in the new normal times. We are grateful for the continued support extended in these challenging times.

I wish health and happiness to all the individuals and family members of the Persistent Foundation and look forward to working more with you for the betterment of society.

Shailesh Ghatpande  
Director - Operations | Seva Sahayog Foundation

### 2. Kashtakari Panchayat

The prompt and timely support from Persistent Foundation ensured that the city's most marginalised front-line workers - the waste pickers, survived the crippling pandemic and the lockdown. Their individual medical needs were also taken care of. On behalf of the waste pickers, we deeply appreciate the sensitivity, flexibility, openness and promptness of the support given.

Lakshmi Narayan  
Managing Trustee, Kashtakari Panchayat

### 3. CYDA

CYDA's partnership with Persistent foundation began in 2015 with working on the water, sanitation and hygiene practices of school children in Pune. Over the years the relationship with the

Foundation has grown, and during the Covid-19 Pandemic response program, the Foundation responded selflessly and proactively to support the affected people based on ground realities. Hygiene kits, ration kits, medical support and also improving health facilities were a great relief to many, including the administration. The best part of the Foundation is that it goes beyond geography and reaches the unreached population. Looking forward to continuing the partnership.

Mathew Mattam  
Secretary, CYDA, Pune | Chair, YouthAid Foundation Board of Director, YouthAid.in

### 4. Ashray Akruti Foundation

Persistent Foundation made a huge difference to the people's lives during the Covid-19 Pandemic by providing grocery kits while most of them had very meager income. The Persistent Foundation has saved people from hunger and gave them a hope by partnering with Ashray Akruti, an NGO based in Telangana. Thank you for joining the battle against Covid-19 and being a role model in the country.

D. P. K. Babu Director, Ashray Akruti

### 5. TREE Innovative Foundation

Alliance with the Persistent Foundation has not only given us the opportunity to innovate, implement, and create sustainable impact, but also team Persistent Foundation nourished us with excellent mentoring and guidance.

In the hard times of Covid-19, together we have built a state-of-the-art 1<sup>st</sup> Human Disinfection Chamber in Maharashtra, which was first of its kind to serve Pune Police and Covid Hospitals. Our alliance in community Project DOOT has served 10 lakh+ slum dwellers, break the human chain of Covid-19 and showed significant impact by reducing Covid cases in 80 slum pockets of PMC.

Tanveer Inamdar  
ED of TREE Innovative Foundation  
CEO OF TREEI Pvt. Ltd.  
Founding Director of VertexX Inc Pvt. Ltd.

# Flagship Programs

In 2019-20, an impact assessment study was conducted which affirmed that our flagship programs would be implemented for a minimum of 5 years.

Our flagship programs are implemented in 3 categories:

**Education:** The Kiran Girls Scholarship and Mentoring Program – ongoing since the inception of the Foundation.

**Health:** Comprehensive support for individuals affected by facial cleft and cleft palate - supported for the past 5 years.

**Community Development:** Integrated watershed development program addressing behavioral issues related to optimum usage of water and modern agricultural practices - implemented for the past 3 years.

## Education

### Kiran Girls Scholarship and Mentoring Program

We have a total of 164 students in this program across five locations.

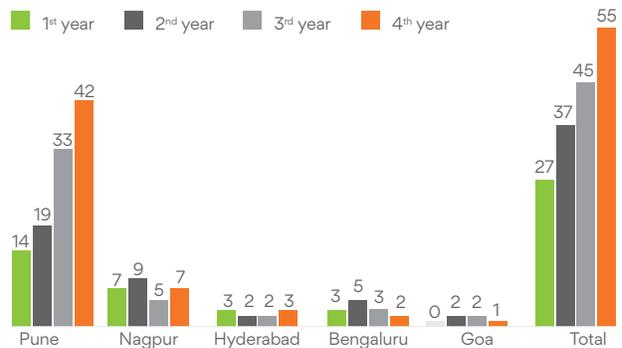
In 2020-21 we had a total of 55 students who graduated. Despite the lockdown, 34 students got placed in companies such as Barclays, Amdocs, American Express, Providence and Cap Gemini. The highest salary was INR 16 lakhs per annum.

This year 750 girls across five locations applied for the scholarship, of which 42 students were enrolled. Employee engagement in the selection process makes the entire process effective and transparent. This year, 34 employees across all grades participated in the entire process, from designing an online test to interviewing candidates.

Until last year, we conducted the second round of interviews virtually for students. This eventually helped us, as we had to conduct the entire process virtually this year, from initial test to final interview.

It was a learning experience for all of us. The process, which usually begins in August and ends in September, started in January, and closed on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Year and location details of students



### Mentoring Program

Mentoring is an integral part of this program. We have 92 employees mentoring students, both individually and in groups.

### Python Training

This training was conducted by a Persistent Systems' employee for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. Under two training programs, 26 sessions were conducted with 37 students participating. To assess students' performance, a test was conducted after the session. Out of 37 students, 11 students had 100% attendance and three students scored over 80%.

### Recap Sessions

These sessions were provided on data structures, object-oriented programming, theory of computation, database management systems, design and analysis of algorithm computer architecture, computer network, and software modelling microservices. A project guidance seminar was also organized.



## Objective

To support students who are gifted and come from a challenging background in pursuing graduation in Computer Science and Information Technology. To empower them with education and skills which will improve their confidence and employability.

## Selection Criteria

**Academic performance:** A score of 70% and above in Classes 10 and 12. 60% and above in Diploma.

**Economic criteria:** Annual household income of under 5 lakhs.

**Geographical:** Students studying in colleges within Pune and Nagpur districts, the state of Goa, and the cities of Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

## Selection Process

Online application, aptitude test, first round interview - technical and HR, second round interview with Persistent leadership and Foundation trustees.

## Persistent Bachelor of Engineering (BE) Academic Project

15 students are doing a BE project with Persistent with guidance from mentors.

One student completed an internship with Persistent which helped provide hands on experience.

### Student's testimonial



In 2019, I was selected by the Persistent Foundation program. I felt so supported from the beginning of my participation. After our orientation session, we were assigned our respective mentors which was amazing. I am so grateful to my mentor. We talk, we share the achievements, and she is always ready to support me. Our journey continues so there is a lot to discuss, explore and to learn. I am thankful to have such a nice mentor who guides me on the right path and talking about the opportunity which the Persistent Foundation gives. They have well planned and organized sessions from ACM India which are so informative. The most important and exciting thing about the Persistent Foundation is winter school. From the start of the program, we learn so many things directly from industry experts. The journey to date has been fabulous with more to come. I will be forever grateful that I am a part of the Persistent Foundation program. Just saying thank you will never repay the support I've received."

**Shweta Thikekar, 3<sup>rd</sup> year student**

D. Y. Patil College of Engineering, Akurdi, Pune

### Mentor's testimonial



One of the scholars I am mentoring under the Kiran Girls' scholarship program got selected for Microsoft. She has been offered a whopping salary of 43 LPA. I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate and congratulate the Persistent team for providing such good platforms to students. I hope we can continue to help society with such innovative programs. I came from a rural

area, so from my own experience I am aware of the hurdles students face during and after their schooling. When I heard about this program, I saw an opportunity to guide students especially from rural backgrounds. Our first few meetings were about knowing her strengths and weaknesses, our expectations, and setting some short and long-term goals. Then we prepared a to-do list to achieve her goals. Priyanka completed most of the tasks from the to-do list on time, and shared her updates regularly. She also proactively asked and completed some online courses during her vacation. I am proud of Priyanka's achievement. It is her hard work and dedication that helped her to achieve what she deserved. Thank you, Persistent, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this admirable cause.

## Health

### Comprehensive Care for Facial Cleft and Cleft Palate

Facial cleft is congenital deformity in some newborn babies. The lack of awareness and the superstitions attached to this physical defect makes it very difficult for the family. Facial clefts are treatable through a series of surgeries, along with other treatments such as speech therapy and orthodontic treatment. Persistent Foundation has been able to give a new lease of life to affected families.

In 2020-21, we supported 14 centers for facial cleft and cleft palate. Out of these, 12 centers also served

Covid-19 patients. Despite the pandemic we have supported 456 patients at all locations. Additionally, the Persistent Foundation also supported with 4 PPE kits for each surgery amounting to a total of 1,824 PPE kits.

Two major changes affected the program due to Covid-19 restrictions. We were unable to conduct any surgeries in Goa. Every year a camp is conducted in Goa for 8-15 days which we were unable to organize this year. We were also unable to conduct any awareness programs to ensure safety of the team working on ground.



Pre-surgery

Post-surgery

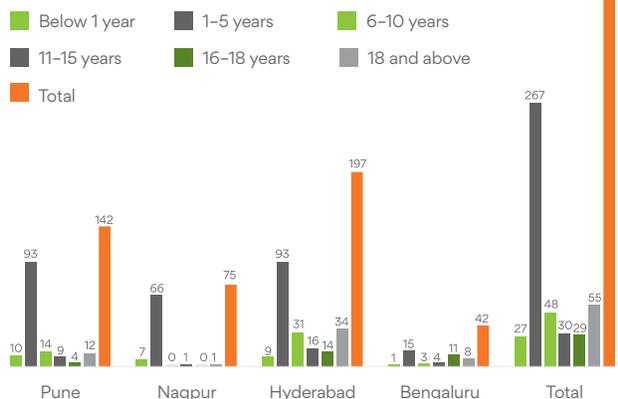
## Community Development

### Integrated Watershed Development Program

2020-21 is the second year of the project in the village of Varude. In the first year, like other rural development programs, villagers were not cooperative initially. But a visible impact of the watershed program was seen – the height of grass increased by 2 to 3 feet as a result of the program, which meant they were able to take cattle for grazing until December. This had not been possible before. At the same time, in the open wells, water was available until February which was also significantly more than before. This visible impact changed the scenario and villagers were keen on implementing and participating in all of the programs.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to restrict participation. We took this as an opportunity to make qualitative changes to the program which will help villagers in the long run through a geohydrological survey of the area.

### Location and age wise bifurcation



The Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) team had used this technology effectively on one of its projects, and the detailed project report was revised based on the findings. The report gives a fair idea of underground water availability, drainage lines and aquifers. The report has given a scientific base for all interventions.

There was also demand from a neighboring area for such a survey in water treatment. Survey

results helped us add another relevant area - Gadakhwadi. This wadi is adjacent to Varude, and 30% of the water flow of Varude village comes from Gadakhwadi.

Effective management of available resources helped us to increase the land cover, thus benefiting the villagers. Treatable land increased by 700 Ha (from 1400 Ha to 2100 Ha), and 1050 farmers were added (from 3210 farmers to 4260 farmers).

**The targets are set for three years (2019-22) and the first year is completed as per the plan:**

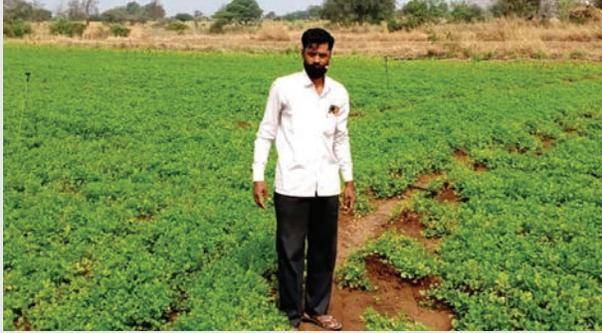
Type of Services	Three-year Target	Target for 2020-21	Achievement till March 2021	Achievement in 2020-21
Soil and Water Conservation	1200 Ha	400 Ha	861 Ha	332 Ha
Drainage Line Treatment Measures	881 structure	56 structure	991 structures	314 structures
Recharge Measures	50 farm ponds, 10,000 m <sup>3</sup> Nala deepening	16 farm ponds, 4000 m <sup>3</sup> Nala deepening	45 farm ponds, 4931 m <sup>3</sup> Nala m <sup>3</sup> deepening	31 farm ponds, 4931 m <sup>3</sup> Nala deepening
Water Storage Measures	10,000 m <sup>3</sup> desilting	4000 m <sup>3</sup> desilting	4330 m <sup>3</sup> desilting	1840 m <sup>3</sup> desilting
Agriculture Development	400 farmers	175 Farmers	167 Farmers	65 Farmers
Livestock Development	AI: 3750 Sorted AI: 155	AI: 1250 Sorted AI: 60	AI: 2921 Sorted AI: 87	AI: 1655 Sorted AI: 55
Capacity Building of Community	30 Events	11 Events	7 Events	1 Event

Interventions where machines and labor were involved, we were able to exceed our set targets. In some areas, villagers had blocked boundaries, hence we were unable to have any interventions on aspects like agriculture development and capacity building.

**Highlights of the projects**

- \ Due to area and drainage line treatment, recharge measures and desilting, we were able to create water storage capacity of 4.21 Cr liters
- \ Artificial Insemination: Out of 1,655 AI treatments, 298 female calves were born.

- \ Sorted Insemination: Out of 58 SI treatments, 21 female calves were born.
- \ Two new components were added to the project (beekeeping training and solar insecticide distribution) as part of a capacity building program to increase small entrepreneurship and promote livelihood training. Solar trap technology is a cost-effective method which reduces the farmers' input cost and helps grow a crop which has minimal pesticide residue.



Santosh Tambe is a farmer from Varude village. Previously he was able to cultivate only one crop on his land. During one awareness campaign by Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF), he learnt about the multiple cultivation method with some technical help. He approached a BAIF representative and asked for help. BAIF, through its crop diversification program, provided him with 30 Kgs of good quality coriander seeds and also technical help to achieve maximum yield. As a result, he produced 7000 bunches of coriander and earned an extra income of INR 21,500 in just 45 days.



Sarpanch of Varude village, Mr. Maruti Thite, expressed his gratitude towards the Persistent Foundation program, and the implementing agency Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF). During his interview, he said that due to the watershed work, significant changes could be seen in the village. Previously there was no grass on the hills, and streams had dried up in October. Now the situation had changed as a result of multiple watershed interventions.

### Community Outreach through Regular Foundation Programs

Along with the flagship projects, the majority of regular projects also continued with some modifications. In the area of education, all programs were conducted virtually.

Some schools were also provided with food kits for students' and teachers' families.

In the area of health, as well as support for curative services, support was provided in the form of PPE kits, sanitizer, and N95 masks to perform surgeries. In community development, the focus was given to supporting livelihood projects.

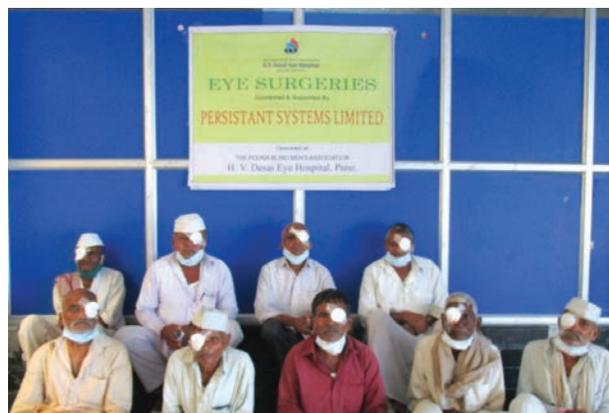
# Health

Our healthcare focus is always on supporting preventive services. In 2020-21, along with Covid-19 relief work, we continued to support cataract, paediatric surgeries, and dialysis sessions.

## Details of patients covered

Cataract surgery	684
Paediatric surgery	11
Orthopediatric surgery	28
Mobile medicare unit	2,719
Support to Radha medical trust's Krishna Prabhu Hospital	30
Individual medical cases	29
Jaipur Foot	184
Support for Dialysis	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,735</b>

## Cataract Operations



The Persistent Foundation is committed to improving eye care, specifically the treatment of cataracts in the senior population. We aim to serve these needs in a holistic manner, enabling them to live active, dignified, and healthier lives. Poor eyesight affects not just a person's vision, but their ability to function normally and productively. We conducted cataract surgeries to restore the eyesight of elders above 60 years of age at all India locations. In 2020-21, we supported 535 cataract surgeries.

Location	No. of patients
Hyderabad	459
Bengaluru	76



Our operations for this program were restricted due to the outbreak of Covid-19. In Nagpur, our center was functioning as a Covid-19 care center where we could not conduct cataract treatments.

In Bengaluru, we were unable to conduct our regular camps in the rural areas. In Hyderabad, through our association with L V Prasad clinic, we were able to perform a higher number of surgeries compared to other locations. In Pune, we partnered with H V Desai Eye Hospital and supported them with PPE kits, sanitizers, N95 mask and other essential equipment.

## Support for Pediatric Surgery

Two programs are supported under this initiative. Balshalyakriya is a camp-based service implemented along with Gowda Saraswat Sabha and the second program is implemented with the Nagai Narayanji Memorial Foundation (NNMF) which is a service offered year-round.

## Bal Shalyakriya Mission

Bal Shalyakriya Mission is a camp organized annually in Nagpur to treat complicated medical conditions requiring a high degree of surgical expertise, for children up to the age of 18. This includes urological, orthopedic, ophthalmological and many more specialist areas. It is a lifeline for children who need such surgeries to live a normal life, but these surgeries are very expensive. The Persistent Foundation has collaborated with Gowda Saraswat Brahamin Sabha (GSB) in supporting these surgeries for the last 7 years.

Due to the pandemic, the team of overseas doctors who normally visit, was unable to make the trip. However, GSB, along with a team of local doctors decided to continue with the camp. This helped enhance the local medical presence and improved engagement of local doctors in the mission. In the past, we held the camp for a period of 8-10 days in January. This year it was held over the January to March 2021 quarter.

Eighteen patients were supported, out of which 11 surgeries were conducted. The remaining surgeries will be completed by June.

### Case History

A two-year-old child having difficulty swallowing due to Oesophageal Corrosive stricture (esophagus that causes swallowing difficulties), was treated in a procedure lasting 12 hours. The image on the right shows the child with the mother, post-operation being able to drink water with ease.



## Pediatric orthopedic surgery with Nagai Narayanji Memorial Foundation



In the second year of this project, supporting corrective surgery, therapy, and orthotic support was provided for children in central India. The project is implemented in partnership with the Nagai Narayanji Memorial Foundation (NNMF). Despite lockdowns, we were able to reach 28 patients. The youngest patient was just three months old.

### Support to Nursing Home for the elderly

The Radha medical nursing home in Pune was supported by the Foundation this year. This organization takes care of 30 elderly people requiring nursing assistance. We supported them with groceries and donated an interferential (IFT) machine for physiotherapy, as they were under lockdown. In these times, when moving out is too risky, getting a physiotherapy machine in-house was very useful for the elderly.



## Support for Mobile Medical Unit for Remote Corners

This is a project implemented with HelpAge India since 2017, across villages in Goa. Along with providing medical services, the staff also creates awareness among villagers about various government schemes and programs. We supported over 2,700 patients and 16,723 treatments last year.

The MMU is staffed by a doctor, a social worker and driver, and provides medical check-ups, investigation facilities, awareness programs, and medication. Even amidst the pandemic, the MMU was fully functional and was a highly effective tool in providing health care services.

## Case study

Mr. Dasharat Korgaonkar, a 63-year-old patient at North Goa Dhargal camp-OPD, is a regular patient at the MMU. He is a farmer who lives with his wife and only son, who works as a two-wheeler mechanic. He suffers from diabetes for the past eight years as well as severe asthma, and was recently diagnosed with tuberculosis. Because of the timely intervention of the MMU, the tuberculosis was detected at an early stage and he is now taking medication. Mr. Korgaonkar and his family are thankful to the Persistent Foundation for supporting the work of HelpAge India.

## Support to Individual Medical Cases

There are many health ailments and medical emergencies which do not fall under our health

projects, but this does not stop us from helping patients in need. In 2020-21, we supported 29 individual medical cases. This included patients with medical emergencies kidney failure, cardiac failure, etc. These patients are usually referred by employees or by associate NGOs.



## मयूरी पटलेला रुग्णालयातून सुटी

### परसिस्टंट फाऊंडेशनकडून एक लाखाची मदत

नागपूर, ता. २६ : जवळपास तीन आठवडे जीवनमृत्यूशी झुंज दिल्यानंतर सावरलेली राष्ट्रीय महिला धावपटू मयूरी पटले हिला आज, शुक्रवारी रुग्णालयातून सुटी देण्यात आली. घंतोलीच्या न्युरॉन हॉस्पिटलमध्ये न्युरॉलॉजिस्ट डॉ. प्रमोद गिरी यांच्या देखरेखीखाली उपचार घेणारी मयूरी जवळपास बारा दिवस आयसीयूमध्ये बेशुद्धावस्थेत होती. मयूरीच्या प्रकृतीत बरीच सुधारणा झाल्याने डॉक्टरांनी तिच्या आईवडिलांना घरी नेण्याची परवानगी दिली.

दरम्यान, मयूरीच्या उपचारासाठी परसिस्टंट फाऊंडेशननेही एक लाखांची भरीव मदत केली. मयूरीच्या उपचारासाठी स्वतःहून पुढाकार घेत सामाजिक बांधिलकी जपल्याबद्दल क्रीडा विश्वाच्या वतीने डॉ. गिरी

यांचा शॉल, पुष्पगुच्छ व सन्मानचिन्ह देऊन सत्कार करण्यात आला. याप्रसंगी विजय मुनिश्वर, डॉ. विवेक अवसरे, मनपाचे क्रीडा अधिकारी पीयूष आंबुलकर, रितेश गावंडे न फाऊंडेशनच्या नेहा बरडे उपस्थित होते.

सकाळच्या आवाहनांतर आज्ञा-माजी खेळाडू, प्रशिक्षक व समाजातील दानशूर व्यक्तींनी मयूरीला मदत केली, मात्र, शासनाकडून तिला एकाही पैशाची मदत झाली नाही. त्यामुळे क्रीडा विश्वात तीव्र नाराजी व्यक्त करण्यात येत आहे. सद्यस्थितीत मयूरी कुणाला ओळखत नाही, शिवाय तिला काही आठवतसुद्धा नाही. ठीक व्हायला आणखी एक ते दीड महिन्यांचा अवधी लागेल, असे डॉक्टरांनी सांगितले.

Mayuri, a young girl who is a state-level athletic player from Nagpur, had an accident in February, suffered brain injuries and was in a critical condition. The Persistent Foundation gave financial assistance for Mayuri's treatment.

### Persistent Employees Contributions to Health Programs

Support for Jaipur foot enables patients to regain their mobility and independence. The project was implemented along with Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samitee (BMVSS), and all services are provided cost free to beneficiaries.

Dialysis is a lifesaving and life-changing treatment for patients, affecting their psychological as well

as financial conditions. Receiving any sort of support is extremely motivating for patients. We donated dialysis chairs to hospitals to make the dialysis process easier and more comfortable, and 21 erythropoietin injections were sponsored for patients with chronic kidney disease. It is an expensive injection, given once a week for 3-4 months until hemoglobin levels rise.

### Donation Drives for FY 2020-21

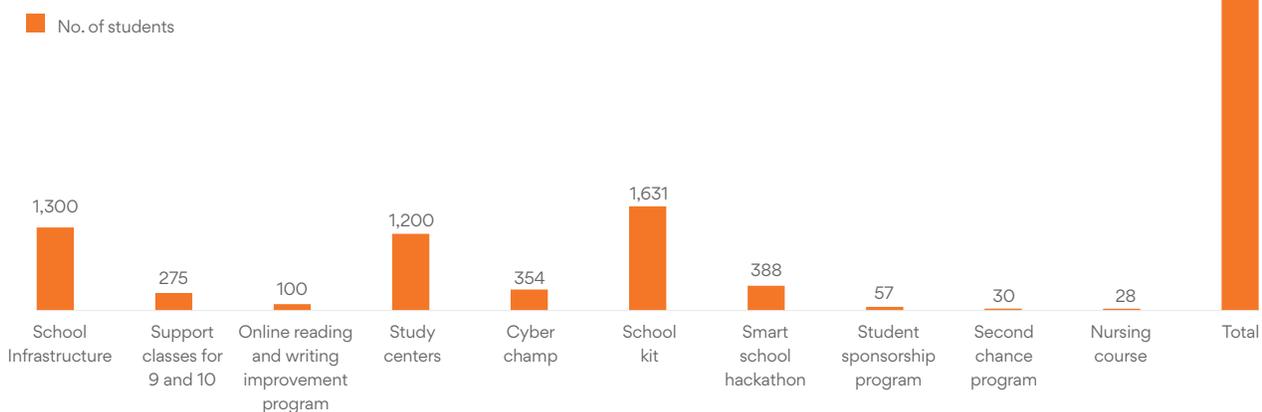
Details of drive	Amount collected (in Lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries	Locations covered
Support for Cataract surgeries	INR 2.24	149	Pune, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Bengaluru
Support for Jaipur Foot	INR 2.75	184	Pune, Hyderabad, Goa, and Bengaluru
Support for Dialysis Sessions	INR 2.66	50	Pune and Nagpur

# Education

In the area of Education, the Persistent Foundation has a strong presence across all its locations. Initially this year, we faced several issues implementing projects, but adapted to virtual engagements.

Through 12 schools, 25 study centers, 2 schools for the specially abled and 1 residential center, we were able to reach 5,363 students through 9 initiatives.

## Details of students



### School Infrastructure Development

#### \ Support for LAN Connection

With teachers conducting virtual classes, there was a challenge of uninterrupted internet access. Through implementation of LAN connections, the issue was resolved. The Persistent Foundation supported 2 schools in Pune and Nagpur, and 1 residential center with LAN connectivity. A total of 135 students benefitted from the program.

About 70% of children, who are studying from the 4<sup>th</sup> Standard to graduation are taking online courses. As the online classes take place at the same time, it was difficult for all of them to attend classes with limited internet access.

#### \ Compound Wall

Sparsha residential home was supported with the construction of a compound wall. Due to lockdown, only 100 out of 370 children were staying in Nisarga Grama, but they needed to remain on campus. To prevent some leaving the campus, the compound wall made the campus safer.

### Online Reading and Writing Improvement Program

With schools moving to online sessions, engagement of students was a challenge.

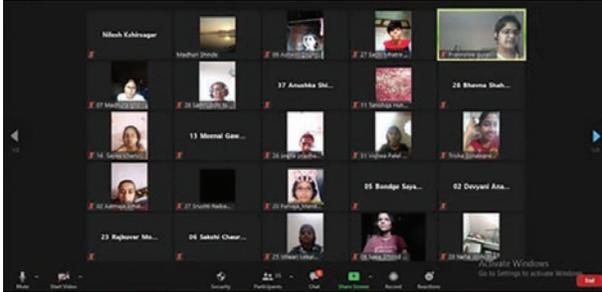
In addition to regular classes, there was a focus on improving students' linguistic and mathematical skills. Students from 4 schools participated and through our association with the Manthan Educational Initiative, 3 activities were conducted in a week. Manthan created appealing and interesting content for the students.

#### Activities included:

- \ An audio story with questions for students to answer
- \ A puzzle or worksheet for language and mathematical skills
- \ A game or task in message or SMS form

### Special coaching for classes 9 and 10

Suprabhat Mahila Mandal has run this project with the Persistent Foundation for 2 years, with progress in the students and school results, helping students to understand concepts and take exams with



confidence. 3 schools participated in this program. Sessions were conducted virtually on subjects like mathematics, science, and languages, with regular tests. Students are given notes and practice tests which help them to solve tests, reducing dropout rates. This year, students from class 9 were promoted to class 10 without appearing for exams.

### Second Chance Program

A second chance is given to school dropouts to complete their education, helping women especially, appear directly for class 10 state board examinations. It is immensely helpful to those students who had to stop their education due to financial or family reasons. This year, due to the pandemic, 30 women were unable to pay their exam fees. The Persistent Foundation supported them to complete their class 10 examination. Regular virtual and in-person sessions were organized for these students. As the class 10 board exam was cancelled, the students will be evaluated on their practice papers.

### Support to Study Centers



The Persistent Foundation assists 25 study centers, an after-school support running in Pune, Nagpur and Hyderabad locations, and helping 1,200 students. In Pune and Hyderabad, the program addresses the needs of students in slum areas.

At Nagpur, a group was created called Sakhi Kendra for adolescent girls to address various issues like dealing with physical and mental challenges, adolescent changes, conducting health check-up camps, menstrual hygiene, nutrition guidance, etc. They also started contributing INR 50 monthly and purchased nutritious food for themselves. At Nagpur, the program also focused on the needs of students in rural areas.

Virtual sessions were conducted for all the students on subjects like English, science and mathematics. Various sessions like celebrating national holidays, festivals and health camps were also conducted for the students from classes 1 to 10. On International Yoga Day, students performed Yogasanas (yoga postures). To provide an experience of a hobby class in private schools, Abhyasika tutors created interesting activities for students making Saturdays a fun day. This gave the students and tutors an opportunity to bond with each other and enhance the creativity of the students and cultivate new interests.

Tutor training sessions were also organized. For a couple of months, Abhyasikas were started in-person following Covid-19 norms. The need for a smart community center was observed in an Abhyasika at Pune due to an increasing dependency on virtual knowledge transfer. Persistent Foundation supported with the Digital Seva Setu, a centralized Wi-Fi network. This reduced the financial burden of the beneficiaries that was required for securing internet. Through this intervention, beneficiaries were able to watch only selected content through this server. In this way, a large pool of content was available for students in a safe environment.

### Cyber Champ Program

Cyber Champ is an IT-based competition organized for students from classes 2 – 9. Students were asked to build projects based on problem statements on specific themes. This year, 354 students from 26 schools across Pune participated virtually in the competition and 20 Persistent employees helped run the program.

## Smart School Hackathon



### Smart School Hackathon - Goa Edition



**6**  
Themes

388 students from  
33 schools submitted  
97 ideas from which  
37 teams selected for  
grand finale and  
12 teams were  
Winners



**388**  
Students



**33**  
Schools

Smart School Hackathon is a state-level competition conducted in association with Persistent Foundation, i4c, Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Persistent Systems, aimed at tapping the creativity of school students studying in classes 6 to 10. This competition helps identify, develop, showcase, and further nurture the technical brilliance of students. The competition hones technical skills of engineering students across India with the aim of providing solutions to the country's problems. The six critical concerns addressed in the Goa Hackathon included topics like Student Health Manager, Pothole Management, Electrical Line Fault Detection, Stray Cattle Management Systems, Teacher Assistant and Data Hackathon. About 388 students participated in the competition.

## Donation Drives for FY 2020-21

Details of drive	Amount collected (in Lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries	Locations covered
School kit	INR 4.98	1,631 Students for School Kit	Pune, Nagpur, Goa, and Bengaluru
Support for student sponsorship	INR 0.27	41 Students for SSP	Pune, Nagpur, Goa

## Nursing Course

The vocational courses help today's youth to get skilled and become financially independent. One such program is the Patient Assistant Course with Swaroopwardhinee for students completing class 10. In 2020-21, 28 girls were admitted, and through on-field training, they conducted a Pulse Polio camp in the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) area. Students who completed this course were able to treat patients in various hospitals in the area.

## Persistent employees contribution to School Kit Donation

While schools were closed, children still needed school supplies. This Persistent employee-supported drive was launched in August with 398 employees helping to provide supplies to 1,631 students with school kits tailor-made to the school's requirements including notebooks, pens, and stationery.

However, many students did not have smart phones and were unable to attend virtual sessions. As a result, the teachers prepared worksheets that they could hand out to parents. As some schools were unable to make copies, the Foundation provided printers as well.



# Community Development

Here the focus is on the environment and livestock, particularly in rural areas.

## Support to Livestock Development Center

Launched in 2017, the Persistent Foundation has supported four villages - Phutanwadi, Thapewadi, Khairenagar and Pabal – watershed development projects, resulting in water supplies for second and third crops.

The Persistent Foundation also introduced a livestock center to empower farmers and to create

a sustainable business. The project also covered four villages providing eight services. 2020-21 was the last year of the project, and end date of the program was Oct 2020. However, we were able to save some of the allocated budget, and as a result, we were able to continue with the services till March 31, 2021.

All services were provided at subsidized rates. This fund is used as a sustainability fund, and the center will continue to function with the help of this seed fund.

## Achievements of the program:

Type of Services	Target for three years	Achievement to date	Amount Saved/Wealth Created (Amount in lakhs)
Artificial Insemination	2,250 doses	4,595 doses (48% conception rate, Market rate is 50%. )	INR 3.67 saved, due to cost difference
Sorted AI	540 doses	184 (94% conception market rate 80%)	INR 1.84 saved, due to cost difference
Bio-Gas demonstration	10 families	27 Families	INR 3.88 saved
Infertility camp	6 nos.	9 nos. Reached up to 500 animals. 380 animals were cured	INR 3.50 saved, due to free camp
Exposure visit	6 nos.	6 nos. Have covered 36 farmers and visited Urli Kanchan center	INR 0.36 saved, as service was provided free
Silage making	100 kgs	350 farmers prepared 3,138 tons of silage	INR 109. 83 saved, by silage production
Fodder development	300 families	438 families	INR 18.45 saved, by multiple cuttings
Training for youth	30 nos.	5 nos. Training Topics-Water budgeting, vegetable nursery, backyard poultry. 73 participants	
Mineral mixture	300 kg	300 kg	
Solar insect trap	5 Nos.	5 nos. The same has helped 10 acres of land reduced use of pesticides	INR 1.00 saved, by avoiding pesticide spray

Through these services participants were able to create INR 142.53 lakhs over three years. Overall, 5,686 interventions and 1,099 unique number of participants were involved as part of the program. The project budget was INR 47.40 lakhs, and participants were able to save INR 142.53 lakhs in three years.

An impact analysis was carried out for the project by an external agency. Sampling size for the analysis was 50% of the beneficiary population from each intervention.

**Achievements and learnings from the impact analysis:**

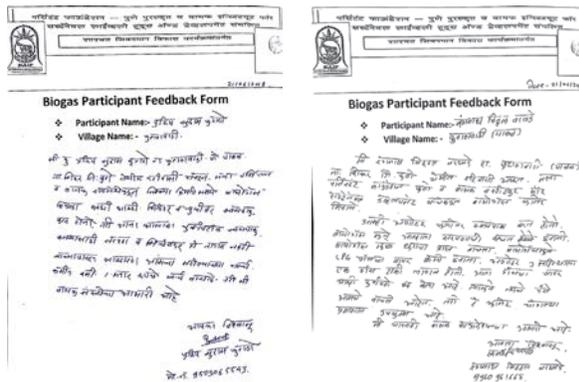
Achievements:	Learnings:
After conducting training for silage making, farmers found it very useful for their livestock and made 3,138 tons of silage on their own	Baseline survey required for effective project implementation
Milk production increased considerably	Active engagement of women in the program
Farmers formed FPO and purchased a silage making machine with 50% help from the Foundation	Special focus on landless and families below the poverty line.
A prototype of a solar trap was introduced and received very good response	Flexibility in the program helped to address needs on the ground

The recommendations of the impact analysis were adopted in the watershed program.

- \ Special attention is given to increase women’s participation in each program
- \ All baseline data is recorded for impact analysis
- \ Special attention is given for landless and BPL families



**Biogas participants feedback:**



**Drinking Water: Support for Open Well Construction**

The Persistent Foundation has built 30 open wells since 2011 in Velhe, Mulshi and Bhore talukas. This year, due to the lockdown, reverse migration from cities to towns and villages resulted in a higher demand for drinking water in villages. With support from the Persistent Foundation, the villages had continuous water supply throughout the summer.

The size of the well is defined by taking future demands into consideration. This year, site identification was done in January 2021. Jayatpad, Lahvi and Wadgoan Zanje were the three identified villages for well construction in Velhe and Bhore taluka. The Persistent Foundation is constructing open wells at these identified sites. The work has already begun and is almost 70% complete.

Jnana Prabhodhini and Torana Rajgad are two implementing agencies with whom we are carrying out these projects.

The villagers' contribution in physical effort or 'Shramadan' has been an integral part of the project. Villagers participated in Shramadan and raised INR 2.37 lakhs for the construction of open wells.

No. of open wells	No. of villages	Population covered	Livestock covered
3	3	2,137	1,180

Due to these wells, availability of water will increase by two months while reducing the significant efforts by women who have to travel long distances to collect water.

### Tree Plantation

The Persistent Foundation has been committed to tree plantation since its inception. To date, we have planted over 35,000 trees. We also ensure their survival by maintaining them for three years. We ensure trees are indigenous and at least four or five feet high, to increase the chances of survival.

We have partnered with the forest department and NGOs working on environmental issues. Security of the plantation site is ensured by visiting the site before planting, and other necessary arrangements like the availability of water, easy access to the site and security for 24 x 7 hours is also ensured before finalizing a site.

This year, Persistent Foundation has planted 3,940 trees across all locations. In Pune, support was also provided to ensure the watering of trees - an open well of 25 ft x 50 ft for a hilly area at an elevation of 150 meters from the water source was supported with the water pipeline work at the site.



### Solar Energy Projects

Persistent Foundation has installed five solar plants since 2015. Two of them are located in Pune and Nampally railway stations. We have

Commencement of work	Installation	Power generation assured for 5 years	Actual Power generation in 5 years	No of O&M activities
January 20, 2016	30 June 2016	11.0 lakh units	10.62 lakh unit	140



### Impact

- \ Production of sustainable green energy
- \ Total power generated in five years - 10.62 lakh units
- \ Electricity bill saved in five years - INR 1.00 Cr
- \ Total carbon emission reduced in five years - 52 tones
- \ Carbon emission saved equivalent to planting 1.30 lakh mango trees, or avoiding smoke emission from 750 small cars in a year

also maintained them for the past five years. In March 2021, we successfully completed five years of operation and maintenance at Pune railway station, and handed over the plant to the railways. The plant has paid for itself in a number of ways and will serve the Indian railways for the next 20 years (expected life of the plant is 25 years).

### Skills Development



Covid-19 lockdowns resulted in huge job losses, especially for low-income jobs such as house maids, women helpers in schools, childcare, etc.

To address this issue, a skills development program was supported by the Persistent Foundation through Poornam Eco Vision in urban slums. Thirty women were trained under this program, focused on four skills - Warli painting, fabric painting, godhadi making and quilting. These 30 trained women will get initial work from Poornam's fabric upcycling project.



“

ज्वेलरीचे प्रशिक्षण खूप छान होते . या प्रशिक्षणमध्ये आम्हाला टाकाऊ कापडापासून वेगवेगळ्या प्रकारची ज्वेलरी शिकायला मिळाली. अशी संधी पुन्हा मिळाली तर मी नक्की सहभागी होईन.  
— रक्षदा राजशेखर आंटद

“

पूर्णमचा स्टाफ आणि प्रशिक्षक अमृता मॅडम यांचे खूप आभार! आम्हाला अमृता मॅडमनी खूप छान व सोप्या पद्धतीने शिकवले. त्यामध्ये आम्हाला टाकाऊ कापडापासून दागिने बनवायला शिकवले व ते आम्हाला खूप आवडले. अशी संधी आम्हाला पुन्हा मिळाली तर आम्ही त्या संधीचे सोने करू.  
— आरती दैन



### Training for Bamboo Artisans

Enhancing livelihoods in rural areas is a focus area for the Foundation. Villagers from Pasali cluster, Velhe, will be trained to make various bamboo articles. This is a three-year program with a target of training 100 villagers. This year the target was 20 villagers. Trainees are mainly married women and young men. We received a good response and in the very first year we had 35 participants.

## Donation Drives for FY 2020-21

Details of drive	Amount collected (in Lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries	Locations covered
Tree plantation	INR 1.57	285 trees planted	Nagpur, Banaglore
Joy of giving	INR 3.61	support provided to 8 residential institutions	Pune, Nagpur, Goa, Bangalore
Flood relief	INR 1.87	Support provided for food kit to 156 families	Pune (Sangali-Kolhapur), Nagpur (Bhandara), Hyderabad
Share your warmth	INR 2.97	Support provided to 550 Individuals for bedding	Pune, Goa, Nagpur
Safe drinking water	INR 2.16	Supported 30 families	Pune

## Employee Engagement

Persistent employees have always been active in our corporate responsibility initiatives. They go the extra mile for various volunteering activities, strengthening our CSR initiatives through their time, skills, and financial support. 2020-21 was challenging as we had to skip many gatherings and volunteering activities where a physical presence was required. We shifted towards virtual volunteering where employees could participate from home.

### Volunteering in Covid-19 Relief Drives

The Foundation held various donation drives for ventilator and PPE kits and food distribution.



### Virtual Volunteering

We organized awareness sessions for employees covering topics such as tree act and plantation, climate change, sustainable lifestyle, a toxin-free life and many more.

With the outbreak of Covid-19, we have all realized the importance of being healthy more than ever. The Persistent Foundation collaborated with the local Sub-Association Pune for Chandrayaan O.O, an initiative to promote a healthy lifestyle, including a Walkathon, in which employees began a healthy habit of walking 1 km a day for 31 days.

Employees also participated in our flagship education project, the Kiran Girls Scholarship Program, where we select female engineering

students and sponsor their education for four years. Employees across all India locations participated and volunteered by conducting interviews to help select bright, deserving girls for scholarships.

By participating even in these difficult times, employees have shown the warrior spirit to fight against Covid-19 and continue to volunteer, making a positive impact in the lives of many beneficiaries.

### Employee Contributions Through Donation Drives

The CSR initiatives are strengthened by employees, not only through their time, skills, and efforts but also through their monetary and in-kind donations. Monetary contribution this year was no less than any previous years. Their trust in the Foundation helps us reach more needy people in society, and do even better.



This year, 17 unique initiatives like tree plantation, joy of giving, flood-relief, share your warmth, safe drinking water, student sponsorship program, Covid-19 relief, cataract operations, etc. in all three focus areas were supported through employee donations. School-kit donation drives is one such drive which is significantly supported and sponsored by our employees. The school-kits provided worksheets, books, and stationery to the students, so they could continue with their studies even if they lack smart devices like cell phones and laptops.



### Going Beyond Boundaries

In times of need, we have extended our geographical boundaries to provide support. Flood-relief initiative is one such effort. While already grappling with a pandemic, many areas like Hyderabad and Bhandara were severely affected by floods. Many lost their homes and were unable to get proper meals. With employee donations, support was extended to these areas with food-kit distributions.

Employee response to the immediate needs of the Indian society has always been commendable.





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