



ASTITVA  
For Research and Development

**ASTITVA**

SAMAJVIKAS VA SANSHODHAN SANSTHA



# Annual Report

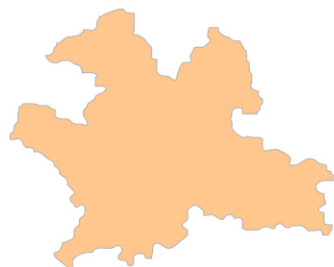
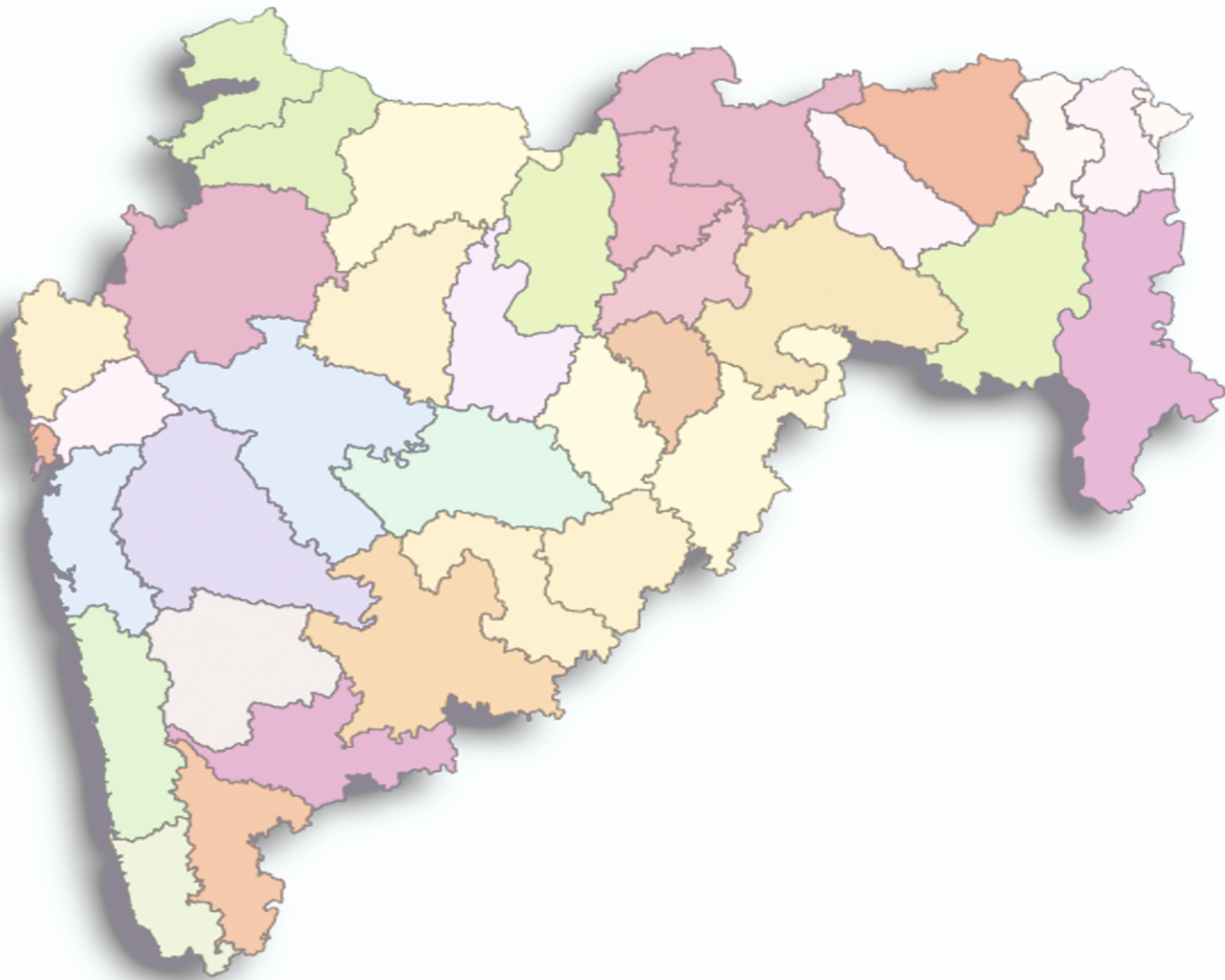
## 2022-23





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# Our Working Districts...



**Solapur District**



**Sangli District**





# Organization Information

**Name of Organization** : Astitva Samajvikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha

**Address** : Zaabuke Bidling, Near Zilha Parishd School Wasud Road. Sivajinagar, Sangola Dist : Solapur-413307

**Contact Person** : Shahaji Gadhire

**Contact Number** : 9822972559 / 7875491607

**E-Mail** : [astiva.org@gmail.com](mailto:astiva.org@gmail.com)

**Registration Number** : Society HH/11742/Solapur

**Trust Number** : F-10829

**Pan Number** : AABTA9902E

**Tan Number** : PNEA266221A

**12A.A. Reg. No** : PN/CIT-IV/Tech/80G/4112

**80G Reg. No.** : PN/CIT-IV/Tech/12AA/4111

**F.C.R.A.Reg.No.** : 083980080

**Niti Aayog** : Unik ID- MH/2017/0162499

## Executive Board

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Male/ Female	Age	Education
1.	Mr. Shahaji Gadhire	President	Male	55	B.A
2.	Mr. Arun Kasbe	Vice-president	Male	67	B.Com
3.	Adv. Ms. Sunita Dhanawade	Secretary	Female	46	B.A, L.L.B
4.	Mr. Jitendra Jagadhane	Treasurar	Male	55	B.A.B.Ed.
5.	Dr. Prabhakar Mali	Member	Male	69	M.B.B.S.
6.	Ms. Salma Kulkarni	Member	Female	39	M.A.
7.	Smt. Anjali Kamble	Member	Female	65	S.S.C





## Our Development Partners:

**Persistant Foundation**



**Sathi Pune/ National Health Mission**



**Atlas Copco (India)  
PVT.LTD. Pune**



**Tere des Homes, Germany –  
India Program pune**



**L&T Financial Services, Mumbai**



**AFARM PUNE**



**Swedish Chamber of Commerce,  
New Delhi India**

### Legal Status:

*Astitva operates within legal framework and it is registered under Bombay Public Trust Act 1950, Indian Societies Registration Act 1860, Income Tax Act 1961 and Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act Amendment 2010, Niti Aayog Government of India and also with Ministry of Company Affairs under CSR 1. Astitva is also up to date with its legal compliances.*





### Our Networks & Alliances

1. Jan Arogya Abhiyan- Maharashtra
2. Action for agriculture Renewal in Maharashtra- AFARM
3. Center for Health & Social Justice New Delhi
4. Forum to Engage men New Delhi
5. Ek Sath Campaign Kolkatta
6. Vibha Vani New Delhi

#### Our working Area :

Health, Education, Livelihood, Gender Equality, Disaster Management & Natural Resource Management.

### Our Team

1) Kalpana Chavan	M.S.W.	Block Coordinator
2) Pravin Surygandh	M.A.	Accountant Cum Clerk
3) Vijay Dhanawade	B.A.	Block Coordinator
4) Dipali Bhusanar	B.A.D.Ed.	Project Coordinator
5) Sagar Lavate	B. Com	Project Coordinator
6) Vishal Kate	B.A. II	Field Coordinator
7) Amit Salunkhe	B.A.	Accountant (Part Time)
8) Maruti Garande	B.A.	Field Staff
9) Diltaj Sayyad	B.A.	Field Staff
10) Sangita Nanavare	B.A.B.Ed	School Coordinator





# Astitva

## VISION

A society with enhanced capacity of marginalized communities continuously making qualitative change in their living conditions by themselves.

## MISSION

Facilitate empowerment of poor and marginalized communities and work for their participatory development towards achieving health, livelihoods and drought mitigation from gender and social perspectives. Also, support and enable the most disadvantaged women, men and children in rural areas to help them meet their basic needs and rights with a view to mainstream them.

## OBJECTIVES

- \* To do economical, social, cultural and political research study of oppressed and neglected sections of the society and publish it
- \* To work for the development of oppressed and neglected sections of the society with right based approach and do advocacy for the rights of the oppressed communities at Block, District and State level
- \* To organize special programmes to increase women's active participation in Panchayat Raj Institutes
- \* To undertake awareness campaigns to create awareness about violence against women, gender discrimination and gender equality
- \* To identify the alternate development possibilities for the development of Dalits, Small farmers and single women and develop the different models for their sustainable development





### Forward



I am happy to share our Annual Report for the year 2022-23. The year saw slow but steady recovery from the severe impact of the two year - long pandemic of Corona on the rural lives.

Astitva Samaj Vikas Va Sanshodhan Santha (Astitva) which played a crucial role in arranging relief during Corona crisis in the interior area, played its bit in creating awareness on immunisation/vaccination and worked with public health department to educate people on the need and importance of immunisation to safeguard everybody from infection of Corona. Its team travelled from village to village in different parts of Solapur district in this regard.

During the year we continued our efforts to create livelihood security for the small and marginal farmers, landless and single women in the drought prone areas of Sangola and Mangalwedha blocks. The dry land horticulture models are showing encouraging progress in 10 villages with farmers taking keen interest in developing them facing all odd of nature's vagaries in these rain-fed blocks. With inputs and guidance for sustainable agriculture practices, the small and marginal farming households are now able to grow winter crops as well in some villages. With focus on livelihood security for landless and

single women, especially Corona widows, we provided support to more than 100 women to adopt locally suitable income generation activities especially sheep rearing, backyard poultry of local variety of hens, tailoring skills and petty shops to earn incomes with dignity and confidence. The women have been able to stand at their own. Some youth are also helped to set such small enterprises to help them stand at their own and stop migrating out.

Working on community health issues, we worked very closely with public health administration in the district to set up community based monitoring systems to improve the performance of health services in far flung rural areas. Working with schools, we arranged safe and clean drinking water for students in some of the schools as we think clean drinking water, hygiene and holistic awareness about WASH can create a conducive environment for the holistic development of students including education.

There are many challenges being faced by NGO sector today and at the same time our rural poor and marginalised communities as well. The challenges of climate change, fast erosion of natural resources, ever looming threat of droughts, out migration, increasing crimes against women and children, unemployment, gender discrimination, addiction trends amongst youth, inability of poor to access their entitlements and so on. Astitva has been trying to address most of these issues



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and plan to continue addressing them while working with poor, marginalised and vulnerable communities of Man Valley.

In Rural areas, post covid there has been a large dropout in girl's education. In Rural areas the number of praants are shikting from village to farm is increasing dat by day. Parents who have gone to live in agriculture are neglecting the educatiav of girl's due to poor Conditions.

In this background, We shiuld help girl's from poor families for education and this year, 61 Bicycles have been distributed to girl's to encourage their education it is assured that these girls who have been allotted bicycles, will complete their education up to at least 10 th Standard.

I take this opportunity to thank all our partners/donors, associates, trustees, staff and importantly the communities for giving us an opportunity to work with all of them and do something for the poor who are in need. We will continue to give our best to serve and facilitate their development aspirations with our commitment and honest efforts and in the future too.

**Shahaji Gadhire**

**President**





## Annual Report-2022-23

### **Organisational Profile:**

Astitva Samaj Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha, Sangola (acronym Astitva), a registered non-governmental organization, has been operational in drought prone districts of Maharashtra namely Solapur and Sangli from 2001. The organization was founded by a group of self motivated local youth from the farming community who had seen the sufferings of their parents due to recurrent drought conditions, poor quality of land and shortage of water resource. They decided to come together to help fellow community members to overcome the drought conditions and earn their respectable livelihoods. From inception, Astitva has worked on agriculture & micro – watershed development programs for sustainable livelihoods, women’s empowerment, drought mitigation and need based relief work, community health, education and environmental hygiene, mobilization of government programs and policies for the poor. Astitva is presently working in 65 villages of Sangola, Mangalvedha, Akkalkot and South Solapur blocks of Solapur district which are categorized as highly drought prone and poor in human development index.

Astitva is a registered organisation under various legal frameworks. It is registered under Bombay Trust Act (1950), Indian Societies Act (1860), Income Tax Act 1961 and its sections 80 G and 12 A, FCRA 2010 and 2019 Amendments and also with

Niti Aayog and CSR 1. Our legal compliance are always in time and up to date. As of today all legal compliances are in place.

The Annual Report for the financial year 2022 - 23 gives the brief account of our various programs undertaken during the year to realise our organisational objectives and reach maximum benefits to the communities with whom we work. They are presented in brief as follows;



### **Natural Resource Management and Climate Change Mitigation**

#### **i. Promoting climate resilient livelihoods amongst small and marginal farmers and landless:**

With a view to help poor and marginalised small and marginal farmers and landless families to sustain in the highly drought prone areas we are working in 10 villages of Sangola and Mangalvedha blocks to set up some natural resource based sustainable livelihoods. Working with 200 small land holders we are providing them inputs in the areas of awareness on climate change impact and possible mitigation measures, training and support in soil and





moisture conservation, improved traditional and organic farming practices, financial support for crop cultivation and promotion of dry land horticulture, available concerned government programs and linkages. Under this program our livelihood activities included are as follows;

- Of the target of 200 acres, 189 acres of farm land is under crops of cereals, legumes and lintels while 89 acres of land has been brought under horticulture development where farmers have largely grown mangos and also custard apple, anjeer and pomegranate. Under the monitoring of the trained farmers, our team and some agriculture/horticulture experts, the livelihood program is developing very satisfactorily.

- To support the climate resilient farming, a vermin-culture or vermin-composting is being promoted as this is one of the most suitable fertilisers for the lands in our area. During the year we have set up 10 beds of vermi-composting on the farm lands of the benefitting farmers to motivate other farmers. All the 10 beds are running successfully and the compost is also used in the farms. While we provided training and support for preparing beds, farmers invested their resources in buying earthworms.

- To promote the nutritious food intake culture, 150 families are supported with local variety of vegetable seeds of 10 different crops to set up their individual kitchen gardens. The program is implemented through

women. The vegetables are providing much needed vitamin rich food to women and their families, improving their health conditions and also bringing them some income from sale of surplus vegetable yield.



### **ii. Landless women micro-enterprise promotion program:**

Under the same program, 100 landless families, especially women from SCs, STs, NT-DNTs and other backward classes who are poor, marginalised and vulnerable communities and also Corona widows are supported to set up their small micro-enterprises especially in the areas of sheep rearing, backyard poultry of local hen (Chicken) species and tailoring,. -ll the benefitting women have been given training in management of their enterprises before extending support to them and also how to earn the profits from the same. This was followed by a series of trainings to women through subject experts and officials from concerned government departments. The program is developing satisfactorily and women have started earning from their selected micro-enterprises reducing their dependency on farm labouring work all along.





Understanding the importance of incomes from small cattle/luminaries, women are coming forward to immunise their sheep, hens and other cattle at home.



### iii. Promotion of Millets (Bharad Dhany):

With the initiative of India the world community is celebrating the year 2023 as "year of Millets". In response to this, we in in coordination of Pune based organisation have planned a series of trainings and workshops for farmers to introduce the need and importance of promotion of millets or group of cereal crops. -long with cultivation of millets we are promoting the need of natural farming practices to improve the food quality and also the soil health in long run. During January to March 2023 we

organised 2 such workshops which were attended by more than 150 farmers from Sangola and Mangalvedha blocks. The workshops also discussed the fast changing climatic conditions, need of changing cropping pattern, need of adoption of cereal/millet crops, government programs and policies regarding such crops and food and health correlation, etc. The participants were addressed by subject experts. We will continue promoting this concept as this is the most urgent need of the earth.



### Women economic empowerment and livelihoods:

#### I. Goat Bank:

The Covid - 19 saw more than five thousand deaths in Solapur district and more than 1500 in Sangola and Mangal-wedha blocks where we work with poor and marginalised communities. The pandemic left many widows behind from poor households. The widows especially in the age groups of 20 to 25 were further vulnerable for many socio-economic challenges as their in-laws or parents could not maintain them due to their own poverty conditions. Many of them





had responsibility of looking after old family members and children. Such widows needed some support to help them stand at their own and live a life of dignity and confidence. On this backdrop, we set up a Goat Bank where we purchased 25 goats/sheep and distributed them to 25 most needy widows. The concept is that when the sheep deliver the lambs, they will return one to the goat bank and once the lambs become 6 to 7 months, then they are to be given to other needy widows. This goat bank was set up in December 2021- January 22 and in September 2022 the first lot of 25 sheep were handed over to said women. In December 22, another 30 women were given the sheep. The sheep generally gives 3 to 4 lambs during one and half year can give assured incomes to socially neglected vulnerable women.

The seep is considered as a "cow of poor" in rural areas and it is expected that the one sheep from the bank will make women sheep herd owners in the next 2 to 3 years.



### Education and environmental hygiene:

#### I.WASH:

Astitva from its inception has been working on issues of education with schools and colleges and has implemented number of programs to create conducive educational environment for students especially from far flung rural areas of our two operational drought prone blocks. During the year we worked with 3500 students of one residential schools and two high schools at Discal, Pare and Vani Chinchale villages introducing the concept of WASH including need of safe and clean drinking water. We conducted a number of trainings for students and teachers on WASH providing information on personal and environmental hygiene, health, community health, hand wash and keeping drinking water resource safe from contamination and pollution. -t Pare village High School, we have also installed a drinking water tank of 2000 lts ensuring safe drinking water source for school children. We also distributed dust beans to schools and children now ensure that the schools are clean and also take the message of





W-SH to their home. The response has been very encouraging from school authorities, staff, children, and their parents. To enable girls attend the schools from far flung hamlets, over 100 girls were given bicycles. One of our future plan is to promote the concept of "Hygienic Schools and Green schools'.



### ii. **Bicycle Bank -**

One of the ongoing programme run by Astitva, since last 10 years. During this year Astitva have provided 61 cycles rural school going students.



### iii. **Drinking Water infrastructure at Pare village High School :-**

As a part of our W-SH Program and creating awareness amongst students about need and importance of

safe and clean drinking water for good health, we have set up a drinking water infrastructure at Chatrapati Shivaji Vidhyalaya, Pare installing a water purification unit of 2000 lts. The school earlier had only one hand pump and all school staff and students used to drink water there which was infact not potable. The school now have safe and clean drinking water where more than 1000 students are able to drink safe and clean water and also understanding the important correlation of health and water. The waste water from the unit is used for irrigating a plantation program taken up in the school. This is to use every drop of water for human and or for plants/trees. In days to come, we have plans to set up such more drinking water purification units at number of schools in rural areas. The Pare unit was inaguarded in the month of September 2022.



### A. **Teacher's workshop on WASH:**

With a view to enhance understanding of teachers on WASH practices, a series of workshops were organised for teachers of some of the interior schools. More than 60 teaching





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staff was trained in W-SH, safe and hygienic drinking water, sanitation and environment, plantation and organic farming. Subject experts were invited to guide the teachers. They were appealed to create awareness on the issues of WASH, plantation, organic farming and safeguarding drinking water resources, etc. amongst the students, their parents and villages.



**B.** Some of the other activities that were organised during the year concerning WASH were health and hygiene training for students, environmental awareness, distribution of eadust beans in the schools and cycle distribution to 61 school girls. These initiatives have enhanced the interest of students from poor families in

schooling and continuing the same.

### Community Health:

Working as a District Coordination Agency from 2018, under the National Rural Health Mission, Astitva is implementing the 'Social Action Program for Health' in two blocks of Solapur district namely - kkalokot and Sangola. The program aims at monitoring the public health services in order to improve the service delivery to last person in rural areas. The program is implemented in Coordination, guidance and association of State Coordination Agency "Anusandhan Trust Sathi, Pune. During the year we implemented the following activities in the two operational blocks:



**I.** Training of Members of Water Sanitation, Nutrition and Health (WASNH) committees.

**ii.** Block level orientation meetings cum trainings of health





department staff and local level people's representatives.

**iii.** Workshops for establishment of Public Health Committees at PHCs and Sub Centres: - series of workshops were organised for officials of health department, PHC and sub centre staff including -sha workers to establish Jan -arogya Samiti or -arogya Vardhini Kendra at PHCs and Sub Centres. During the year we established J-S as 8 PHCs namely Gherdi, Jawala, Kola and Mahood in Sangola block and Jeur, Gairdagi, Dudhani and Karjagi in -kkalkot block. These committees are operating from February 2023.

**iv.** District Coordination Workshop: We facilitated the formation of "District Level Public Health Monitoring and Planning Committee' (DLPHMPC) under the chairpersonship of Zilla Parishad CEO. The committee was formed on 9th March 2023 and the first workshop is planned early in -pril 2023. During the meeting CEO instructed the health department to form Block coordination committees in Sangola and Mangalvedha blocks.

**v.** Block level Consultation on Public Health: The consultation was organised on 13th March and was attended by health department officials from district to PHC/Sub Centre level and also by some policy makers. The consultation discussed

the need of revamping the PHCs and Sub centers with approved staff, medicines and other infrastructure to make them fully operational and deliver to the patients in rural areas. The officials present from public health department assured that they will take appropriate steps to equip the grassroots centres with necessary medicines including for women delivering babies and also appraise about the outcome of the consultation to district health authorities.

**vi.** Eye check-up camps and distribution of spectacles for patients: The Corona pandemic has broken the basic economic backbone of the economy of rural poor households. They did not have money to even check the eyes and purchase spectacles. To address this we organised eye check-up camps at six villages in Sangola block namely -jnale, Medsingi, Nijampur, Manegaon, Vani Chinchale and Jujarpur and distributed over 550 spectacles. -n experienced eye specialist Dr. Thingale provided his voluntary services during the camp.







### **Visits to Astitva:**

Our development partner representatives from Atlas CopCo India Limited and Volkswagen Foundation and number of government officials visited our various programs from time to time appreciating our efforts in far flung drought prone villages and suggesting improvements as and where required to improve the quality benefits to our beneficiaries. We find such visits always useful and helpful in continuously improving our understanding and our grassroots work from their rich experience. We also feel happy to share our work with donors and other stakeholders transparently and learn from each other.

### **Promotion of Kitchen gardening amongst project beneficiaries:**

With a view to promote the habit of growing nutrition food, intake and ensure food security amongst the poor farming and landless community, a kitchen garden promotion programs is a part of this livelihood program. -ll

404 beneficiary families were given vegetable seeds to grow fruit and leafy vegetables of ten different varieties. The seeds were distributed amongst families in a village function with training inputs on how to grow them, use of organic fertiliser made from home wastes and care for good yield. Importance of consumption green leafy fruit variety vegetables. The families are growing kitchen gardening either on backyard of houses or on a small piece of land on the farm. The kitchen gardens are expected to start giving vegetable yield from middle of -ugust or end -ugust which is generally a festive season when vegetables are often costly in the market.

### **Seed distribution amongst farmers:**

For the monsoon crop, -stitva undertook the seed distribution activity amongst the identified 202 farmers. Bajara or bird millets is second most traditional crop here after jowar (Sorghum) as the banjara roti forms an integral part of the daily staple food of the small farmers and people due to its nutritious value. The local brand seed variety namely "Mahalaxmi" was procured on the request of beneficiaries as it is a traditional (desi), low water intensive, sturdy and grows well in the local conditions. The seed distribution activity was completed in the last week of June so that farmers start sowing activity around middle of July when rain sets in well.





### **Future Plans:**

\* Continue the work on natural resource management based livelihoods through promotion of climate mitigation practices, organic farming, dry land horticulture, kitchen gardening and increase the production of traditional millets, lintels and legumes.

\* Address issues related to education and drinking water in the schools.

\* Work on issues related to community health.

\* Organise women and undertake gender awareness, economic empowerment amongst women.

\* Work with government agencies to reach the development programs and policies to the poor and vulnerable communities.

\* Respond to the natural calamities, if any.

\* Undertake Organisational Development exercise and enhance staff capacity to work on the above thematic areas/programs.

### **Our Development Partners:**

\* Atlas Copco (India) Private Limited Pune

\* Volkswagen Foundation

\* Ministry of Health, Government of India - NHM<sup>2</sup> program

\* Terre Des Hommes, Germany India Program.

For further information on our organisation please contact the following:

### **Shahaji Gadhire**

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