

# ASMITA

Sigra, Varanasi Reg:276/08 IV



**Annual  
Report**  
2021-2022



## Introduction

The year 2021-22 began with the horrific experience of COVID-19 wiping out millions from the face of the earth. The terrible experience of death at our very doorsteps raised very pertinent questions about the survival of humanity itself. However, the fear ultimately vanished and a new life began. The story of the second half was more of hope and resurrection. We as a whole nation put up a great fight to survive, revive, and walk forward.

We had our own share of grief as well. Death knocked at our door and took away our beloved Fr. Dilraj, our inspirer and our model in life. we found it difficult to recover from this tragic loss. But life had to continue, and Fr. Maju Mathew took over the reins of ASMITA as its new Director.

All of us at the centre are aware that there is no looking back now as we have come a long way ahead. Nothing can deter us from continuing to serve the least of humanity. We have tried to serve the neediest with utmost love and we will continue to do the same.

### VISION

An integrated Human Society living in freedom, equality, and justice; above all leading a DIGNIFIED LIFE.

### MISSION

Empowering the marginalized especially women and Children of the unorganized laborers/ slum dwellers to live a life with total Dignity.

# Tribute to Fr. Dilraj IMS

1939-2021



Fr. Dilraj IMS,  
was born to Mrs. Sara  
& Mr. Joseph Kakkariyi in Kerala.

He lost his father at an early age and his mother made living as a domestic help. He became a priest in the IMS to serve the poor. As a new priest, he worked at Khrist Sevashram in Kotwa Narainpur of Ballia for 12 years, then took charge as the rector of Vishwa Jyoti Gurukul. After three years he was assigned to Vishwa Bandhu Ashram in Nandganj. He was then elected as the provincial of the IMS Varanasi Province.

In 1998, he launched a new ministry in the city of Varanasi. Staying in a humble rented room, he founded ASMITA, a centre to care for migrant labourers. He entered every slum of Varanasi city and started non-formal education for rag pickers, slum dwellers, children of domestic maids, rickshaw pullers, and migrants. Various activities for the migrant labourers, especially women and children from the slums were regularly organized by him. He dreamt and envisioned new avenues to reach out to the poor. He consulted and sought opinions from many, and executed all his dreams in novel and magnificent ways. Enculturation was the trademark of his missionary life: he regularly organized Virahas and Keertans, and 24-hour chain-singing called Akhand Keertans. Extreme simplicity in food and dress, frugality in his personal life,, and extravagance when it comes to the poor were his hallmarks. Thousands of people benefitted from him and their lives changed.

On April 28, at the ripe age of 82 Fr. Dilraj left his earthly abode for his eternal life with God, whom he dared to call his Father. Yes, Fr. Dilraj didn't die, but he passed on to eternity. We trust and believe that this man of mission, now in heaven, is interceding with the heavenly Father for ASMITA and for the success of its pioneering missionary service among the poor and the marginalized. May he enjoy eternal bliss in the company of the saints and the angels and may he continue to inspire us to live genuinely our missionary call.





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## Educational Programmes

### Slum Education

For the past 25 years, ASMITA is involved Non-Formal Education in various slums in Varanasi. Children who otherwise would engage in rag picking, junk collection, begging, or joining their parents in cleaning the city or pedestal selling of goods are gathered in their own slums and are motivated to study and live a dignified life. We help children in basic reading, writing, mathematics, and GK. Our animators spent 3 hrs every day in the slum educating the children and motivating the parents. After a year we encourage them to get enrolled in the normal schools.

### Spoken English

ASMITA runs spoken English classes for children from poor families at our Sigr office. There are around 15 children benefitting from it.

### Rainbows

ASMITA supports the education of children from the slums. Children who are interested in studies but can't afford to study are selected and supported. We call them ASMITA Rainbows. Four hundred and thirty-eight (438) children are assisted under this programme so far, and 42 are being assisted now.

## STOPS CHILDREN ENTER INTO BEGGING

Every year we stop around 120 children from entering into begging

## STOPS CHILDREN FORM RAG-PICKING

As many as 50 children are stopped annually from entering into rag-picking along with their parents

## ILLITERECY TO LIITERECY

Children in the slums are taught the basics such as reading a writing

## SLUM TO SCHOOL

The impact of ASMITA education program is that children in the slums are dreaming of going to schools

**8342**

Number of children educated so far

**1526**

Number of children enrolled in schools

**488**

Number of children reached upto graduation

**224**

ASMITA covers 26 slums in Varanasi educating 224 children thin year.





## **Community Health Programme**

### **Pregnancy and Post Pregnancy care**

Invariably every woman in the slums is anaemic, malnourished, and lacks awareness about self-care and child care. With the onslaught of Covid -19, the situation has further worsened. When a lady is pregnant, she needs proper food but their low-income status does not give them positive freedom to have proper diet. The children born to them are sure to be malnourished. ASMITA with the support of Manos Unidas caters to the needs of pregnant and lactating mothers. We provide them with healthy diet, medicines, awareness and leadership programmes, link them with ASHA/ANM, and thus connect them with the nearest PHC to avail government facilities.

### **Malnutrition Alleviation**

A major problem in the slums is the increasing number of malnourished children. ASMITA identifies malnourished children, conducts medical camps for children who are weak and malnourished, and provides them with vitamins/ medicines and other nutritious items. Critical cases are admitted to hospitals. At present we support 40 such children from the slums.

### **Menstrual Hygiene**

Most of the adolescent girls in the slums lack awareness of menstrual hygiene. They undertake unhygienic practices during their menstrual periods. Most of them do not use pads. We have set a target to reach out to at least 85% of the adolescent girls in the slums by the end of this year and get them to use sanitary pads. We conduct regular meetings with adolescent girls, share issues related to menstruation, conduct medical camps, link them with doctors, and support them with sanitary pads.

1

Pregnant women in 12 slums are now 100% vaccinated  
100% delivery in hospitals  
There is a considerable shift from superstition to medicine

### Malnutrition

2

1220+ children are lifted up from malnourishment  
1500+ malnourished children given balanced diet  
40 children are under our care now

### Menstrual Hygiene

3

Training to Adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene - 5450  
Number of pads distributed - 4850  
Number of awareness camps conducted - 31  
Number of slums girls enrolled - 483  
Number of medical camps conducted - 18

### Pregnancy and Post-Pregnancy Care

4

Services to Pregnant women - 385  
Services to Lactating women - 497  
Institutional Deliveries - 102  
Facilitated Vaccinations - 1891  
Medical Camps - 32 (this year) 512 (until now)  
Awareness creation through Street plays - 124 Varanasi





## ASMITA CHILDLINE

CHILDLINE, an emergency Helpline programme (under the Ministry of Women and Child Development) run by ASMITA takes care of children in need of care and protection in the district of Varanasi. It is an emergency service 24x7 for children in distress. It handles, on an average, 70-80 cases a month. This includes cases of child marriages, child sexual abuse, trafficking, child begging, runaway children, cybercrime, etc. Besides dealing with such cases legally, it also undertakes awareness and outreach programmes to prevent such cases listed above and provides emotional support such children in distress.

### Activities of CHILDLINE in the year 2021-22

|                                                    |             |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Number of cases registered through 1098            | 788         |
| Children produced before CWC                       | 219         |
| Number of Outreach conducted                       | 1205.30 hrs |
| Number of Training conducted                       | 11          |
| Phone testing                                      | 65          |
| Children identified - Bal Shram Vidhya dhan Yojana | 110         |
| Children identified – Mukhmantri Bal sewa Yojana   | 69          |
| Street Children identified/enrolled                | 36          |
| Children below the age of 18 vaccinated            | 68          |
| Child marriages stopped                            | 9           |





## Vocational Training

ASMITA provides skill development training programmes to children, especially girls from slums from time to time. The objective of this programme is to make girls self-reliant and independent. ASMITA runs 4 tailoring centres currently, catering to 123 girls. A beautician centre under NULM (certified by NSDC) for 120 girls is approved and classes will begin in the coming academic year.



### ASMITA iMpacks

### Vocational Training



**GIRLS FROM POOR BACKGROUND  
ARE PROVIDED WITH FREE SKILL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**AS MANY AS 1000+ GIRLS STARTED  
EARNING FROM HOUSEHOLD  
TAILORING**

**150+ ARE PROVIDED GOVERNMENT  
CIRTIIFICATION**

**1530**

**Girls Trained in  
Tailoring**

**141**

**Girls Trained  
as Beautician**

**152**

**Children Trained  
in Computer**

# Social Awareness Programme

It has been a major effort by ASMITA to create awareness on various themes according to the needs of the time. We have been in the forefront to raise our voice and conscientize people on issues like education, good health, women empowerment, dignity of women, child labour, child sexual abuse, menstrual hygiene, pregnancy care, care for the elderly, etc. We conduct seminars, camps, and special events taking up such issues as listed above.



**Christmas**



**Girl Child Day**



**Women's Day**



**Holi**



**Independence Day**



**Street Play**



**Inter-religious Prayer**



**Sex Education**



## COVID-19 Response

ASMITA has been in the forefront at the time of natural calamities in Varanasi city, be it flood, drought, or Covid-19. We reach out to the people with basic needs such as food, water, and clothes and medicine.

The second wave of COVID-19 hit us hard, and it took the lives of millions. ASMITA, as usual, focused on reaching out to the people with food kits, bringing relief to the covid-infected with cooked food, distributing medicines for the symptomatic, distributing masks, counselling children who lost their parents, linking children to government schemes, or shelter, conducting door-to-door campaigns on vaccination, organizing vaccination camps, taking people for vaccination, etc. In this endeavour Cryptorelief, Bread Noida, Manos Unidas, Healing Hands, and many generous individuals joined hands to help the needy.



Food Kit  
Distribution

**8561**

Medicine  
Distribution

**650**

Covid-19  
Vaccination

**2540**

Cooked  
Food  
Distribution

**6000**

Masks  
Distribution

**10,100**

Tele-  
Counselling

**605**





## Widow's Mite

Being a widow is still considered a curse in our society. They are neglected or looked down upon with contempt. Among the widows, those who are aged and without any children live in a nightmarish situation.

ASMITA shares its deep concern for these widows. We have initiated a programme by name, 'Widow's Mite' for them. It's a welfare programme for 200 selected needy widows above the age of 60, living in the slums of the city. We accompany them, share their sorrows, listen to them, support them with food and clothing on a regular basis and attend to their medical needs.

3 Medical Camps

300 Blankets

450 Food kits

6 Hospitalizations



Blanket distribution in association with Humanity Trust & Deepak Gupta Family



## Our Partners



SEED FRANCE



FR. MAJU MATHEW  
DIRECTOR



SR. UTTAMA SRA  
HEALTH COORDINATOR



BRO. ANMOL  
REGENT

ASMITA, D 64/137, Sigra, Near Sajjan Cinema, Varanasi, UP, 221002. Mob: 8765845997,  
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# Gallery



Widow's Mite



Women's Day



Christmas



Staff Training



Community Meeting



Slum Classes



Feeding Mothers



Sradhanjali to Fr. Dilraj



Community Awareness



Volunteers