



# Annual Report

2020-2021



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## **About the Organization:**

Samata is a social justice organization working for the upliftment of the tribal “Adivasi” people of Andhra Pradesh, India and for the protection of the natural resources and ecology of the Eastern Ghats (hills). Samata started working in a small tribal hamlet in 1987 with a group of tribal and rural youth, to mobilize tribal communities against exploitation by outsiders and by government. Samata was formally registered as a non-government organization in 1990.

Our vision is to help build an India in which tribal and scheduled castes, Adivasi groups, the poor and other disadvantaged minorities can fully participate in a healthy Indian democracy, enjoy the benefits of economic development and retain their rights, their culture, and their history. Our mission is to advocate for the voiceless, to hold government accountable to its promises, to enable minorities to fully achieve and exert their rights, to promote sustainable development while defending against environmental abuses and to aid the human development of the disadvantaged. We believe the best way to achieve our mission is through adherence to nonviolence, community empowerment and adherence to the democratic process. We believe in the possibility for development that advances the cause of social justice instead of undercutting it; in the ability of communities to develop and interact with the environment sustainably instead of exhausting natural resources and destroying ecological systems; in the capacity of tribal communities for self- government and their right to control their own land and resources; in the power of an organized and informed community; in the wisdom and the necessity of pursuing our mission through peaceful and democratic means.

## The Pandemic and emergency response:

Samata has been at the frontline to provide relief to the migrant labors, vulnerable and marginalized people affected by the pandemic. With lockdowns in every state being slowly lifted, and the number of cases and deaths spiking, containing the virus has become even more critical. Samata has been tirelessly working on the ground to provide food, rations and hygiene kits to the poor, and also performing the important task of creating awareness about the virus and preventing its spread, educating people on social distancing, helping to combat the stigma, providing shelter and setting up community kitchens for those in need.

### a. Awareness

Samata created WhatsApp groups to reach to the tribal population across Andhra Pradesh to generate awareness about the Covid-19 and how to prevent it. Samata made pamphlets and posters to further educate people in the rural interior areas.



Pamphlet 1



Pamphlet 2



# बीमारी के लक्षण को पहचानें!

## कृपया अन्तर जानें

- सूखी खाँसी+छींक आना=वायु प्रदूषण
- खाँसी+बलगम+छींक आना+नाक बहना=सामान्य जुकाम
- खाँसी+बलगम+छींक आना+नाक बहना+शरीर दर्द+कमजोरी+हल्का बुखार=पलू
- सूखी खाँसी+छींक आना+शरीर दर्द+कमजोरी+तेज बुखार+साँस लेने में तकलीफ=कोरोना वायरस

पैथोलोजी विभाग ऐम्स नई दिल्ली

इस संदेश को ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों तक पहुँचायें!

सहयोगी—



आदिवासी एकता परिषद

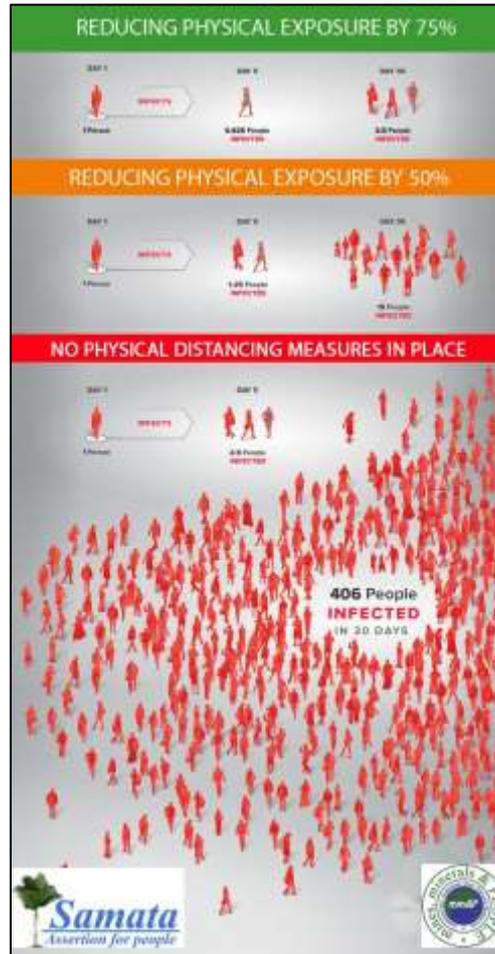


जनचेतना रायगढ़

कौथला सत्याग्रह रायगढ़

Designed by B.P. Yadav, SAMATA

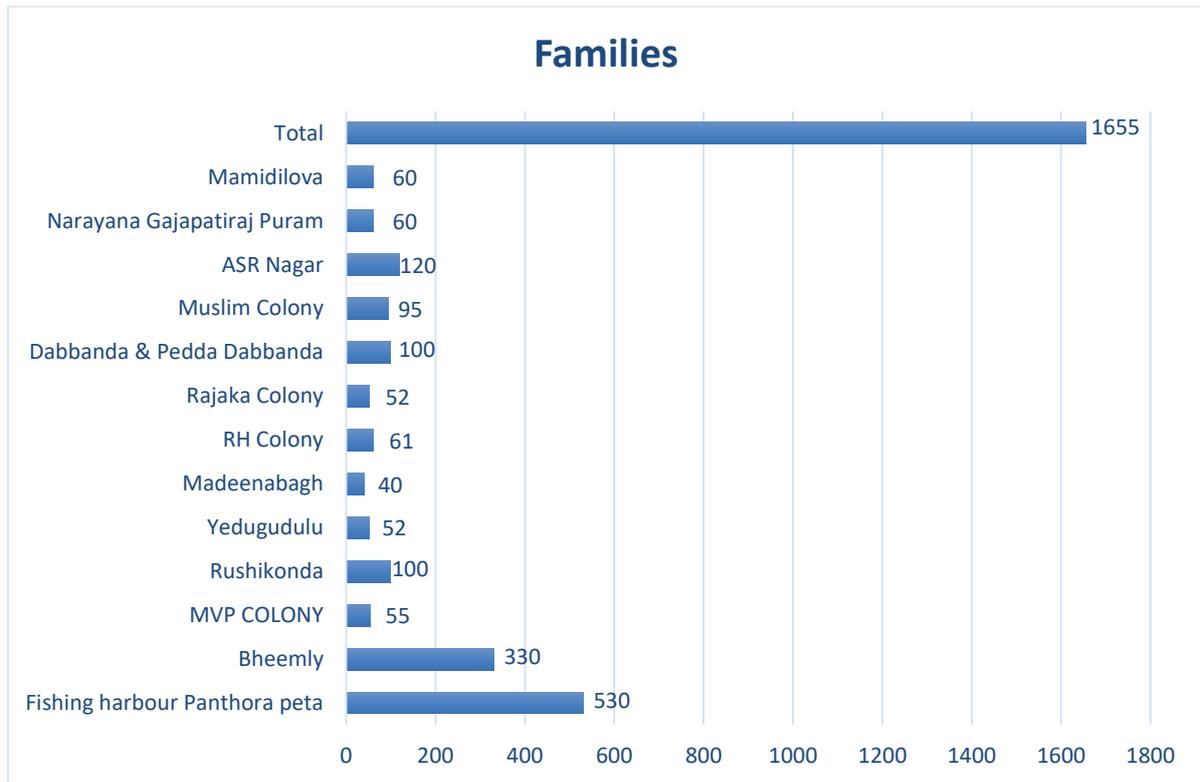
Pamphlet 3



Pamphlet 4

## b. Distribution of Ration Kits

Samata followed the needs of those affected during the pandemic due to the loss of the work and other loss and catered to the basic needs of the poor and migrant families and distributed ration kits in following areas of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



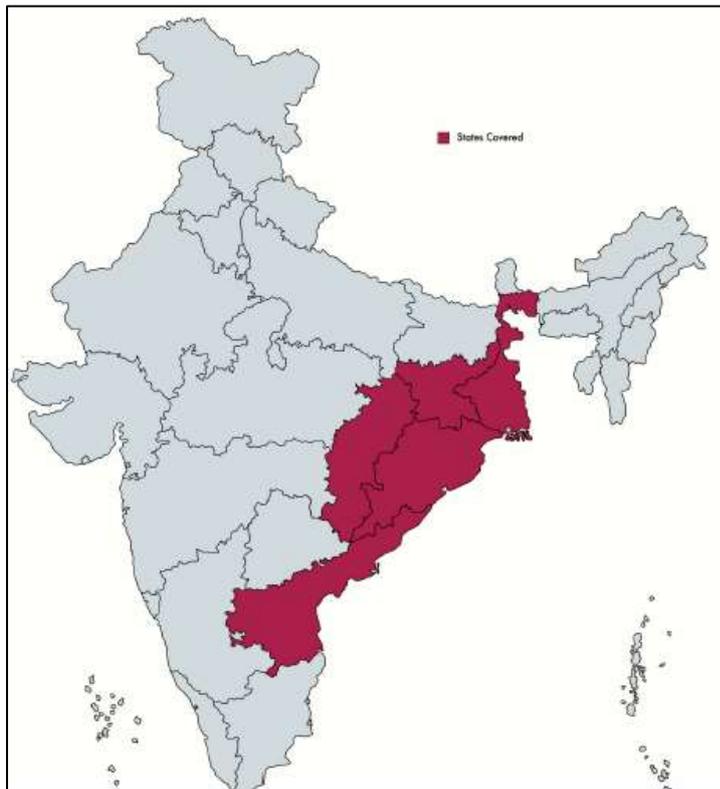
**Covid-19 Relief: Ration kits distribution to affected families in Visakhapatnam**



**Ration kits distribution in Bheemunipatnam for Fisher community on 14th July 2020**

## Samata Fellowship Program

Individuals, community-based organizations and local groups in the tribal areas are trying to bring a difference in the education, health and livelihood aspects. There exists a need for supporting and strengthening the efforts of the individuals and the local groups who are working voluntarily.



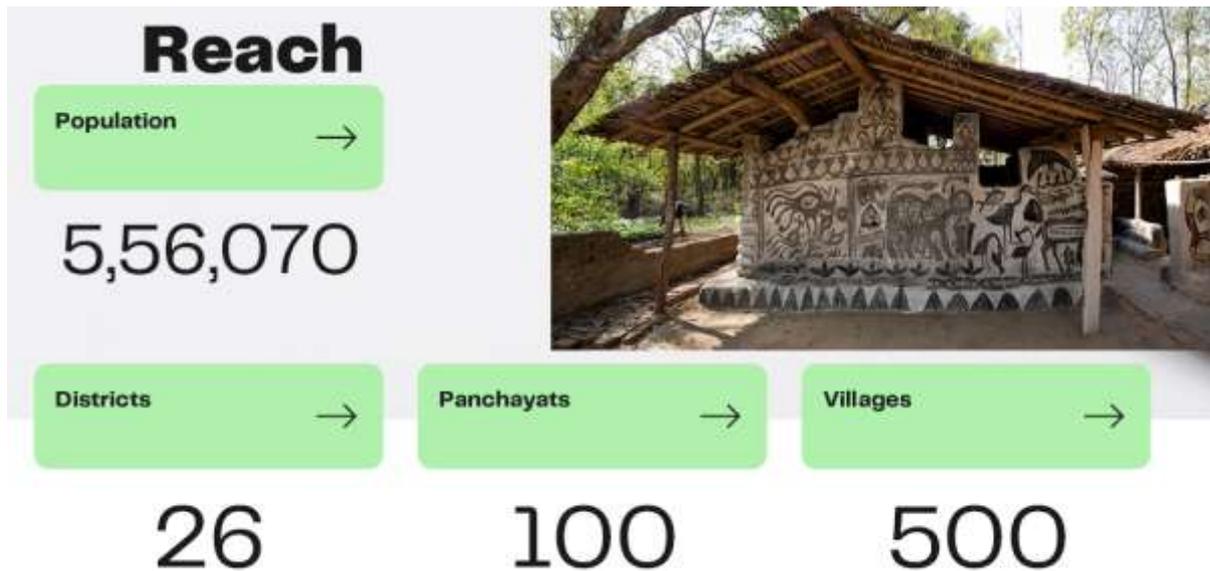
The Samata Fellowship Program is a move in this direction. We are supporting 20 grassroots fellows in

- Andhra Pradesh,
- Odisha,
- Chhattisgarh,
- Jharkhand and
- West Bengal

The fellows work on range of issues related to health, education, employment generation and upholding Constitutional values and principles. Samata also mentors the fellows as per their need. We have conducted one cross learning event to document best practices and learn from each other.



**Cross learning session 1 with SAMATA fellows delivered by Mr. Rajesh Tripathi  
Date: 11th – 13th February 2021**



### Samata Social Animators Program

With the idea of supporting social change makers in the tribal villages, Samata instituted the Social Animators program. We support 10 fellows from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand who wish to bring change and better standard of living in the tribal areas. Social animators have become the first point of contact for the tribal communities for any grievance that they face. Samata has also organized mentorship and training sessions with the social animators to facilitate their activities.



Residential orientation session for Paul Hamlyn Foundation fellows in Dabbanda, Visakhapattanam on 14th February 2021

## Samata Tribal Desk

### a. Health: Polio Vaccination:

Recognizing the need for timely Polio vaccination, our team conducted awareness drive in the tribal villages in Ananthagiri Mandal for pulse polio vaccine. Children from remote villages took part in it.



Pulse Polio health awareness camp in Katakki village on for the tribal population in remote areas



Pulse polio vaccination awareness camp at Ananthgiri Mandal on 31st January 2021

b. **Livelihood:** Eco-tourism management exposure visit:

Samata team visited Kothapalli Waterfalls in G.Madugula Panchayat, G.Madugula mandal which is run by the Tribal Community through community tourism. It is setting an example for sustainable ecotourism. Following this we are conducting Cross Learning Program of various community tourism initiatives in Araku valley.



Exposure study visit on 'Eco-Tourism Management' at Kathapalli waterfalls site for Nookadora tribes from Katakki village on 29th January 2021

Samata team met Project Officer, ITDA, Paderu and gave representation to felicitate better community Governance for Katiki Waterfalls. The Tribal Community in Katiki is striving to promote sustainable ecotourism at the same time preserving its natural heritage and culture.



Meeting with Project Officer, ITDA, Paderu and gave representation to felicitate better community Governance for Katiki Waterfalls

c. **Education:** Financial support to students

Education support of Rs. 1,04,600/- is granted to Panasala Dwaraka Sai from Doddigonda village in Visakhapattanam who is from the Bhagata Tribe and wish to pursue his B.Sc. in Agricultural Science. Due to her poor background, despite being a bright student, he was

struggling to achieve his dream to pursue a career in Agricultural Sciences from PDM University. After his appeal and proper scrutiny, Panasala was granted the required financial support in her tuition fees and accommodation.

There were changes in the team as Mr Mithun Raj moved on and Ms SreeHarica became the director in 2019-2020

### **Way forward:**

SAMATA has successfully managed to handle the last year of lockdown and also help hundreds of families during the lockdown in 2020! While taking all the precautions. However, understanding the continuing situation of Covid we feel there has to be more awareness in society regarding safety cleanliness, health and disaster preparedness, while addressing the livelihood needs of the communities, who are mostly marginalized and from Dalit and Tribal areas. Samata shall continue to provide vital support services and advice to the communities within the framework of the constitution and law.