



It's a wonderful thing to be optimistic. It keeps you healthy and it keeps you resilient. Daniel Kahneman

SRISTI RESPONDING TO COVID-19 RELIEF WORK

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit hard in India in March 2020, one section of the community was neglected and left to fend for themselves. People with Multiple Disabilities coming from impoverished rural socio-economic backgrounds. These communities were gripped



with fear for the loss of their jobs and livelihoods as well as concern for their families. It is heart-breaking to see people with disabilities and their families starving for food on streets and struggling to meet the basic requirements. We at Sristi are very concerned about how they are managing during this lockdown.

Sristi mainly facilitates people with disabilities to give the support they need and to battle the second wave of the pandemic. We have also extended our support to various communities, front-line workers who are in dire need during this crucial time.

While all of us are facing great challenges, now more than ever, we are so grateful to our donors for their contributions for our relief work drive. At a time when everything feels uncertain, we find comfort and encouragement knowing that you care about our cause and support to reach 1500 families by providing survival kits which include: rice, dry provisions, face masks and hand sanitizer. We hope that you can find some peace knowing that people in need of support are cared for because of your generosity.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND EVERYONE ELSE



The dreadful news is that the Covid-19 pandemic is here to stay for some time, but the good news is that we have vaccines to fight it with. We are so joyful to announce that our Sristi Community members have had our first Covid-19 (*Covishield*) vaccination. We have been foreseeing the day we could all benefit from receiving the Covid vaccine. Which is why we at Sristi are so happy to let you know we all now have the Covid vaccination. We experienced some side effects after taking the shot but are all now doing well thanks to healthy food and a normal routine. We are very thankful and are fortunate enough to have this added protection to keep us safe from this deadly virus.

REACHING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEED



Pandemic has evolved as a global childcare crisis especially for children with special needs. Many of our day care children's parents struggle to balance their responsibilities for their disabled children with a disproportionate burden mostly lying on mothers. This pandemic has made childcare services inaccessible to families of

children with special needs. Sristi progresses towards ensuring that our day care children and families have access to affordable and highest quality childcare. We at Sristi especially focus on food and health security of our day care children during this pandemic which is of the utmost importance. Good nutrition is important for maintaining the well-being of their body. Certain foods have the ability to boost the immune system. Intake of variety of nourishing, wholesome foods along with a healthy lifestyle is necessary during this pandemic.

Our motive during this lockdown is to keep our day care children with developmental disabilities engaged in some useful activity. To not to struggle with home education and learning due to lack of learning materials and learning support, our special educators and professional team designed an individual time table for each child to keep them productive and provided accessible teaching and learning material and guided the parents to help them.

Every month from the beginning of the lockdown we are providing survival packs which includes rice, dry provisions, face masks, sanitizer and health pack which includes fruits, vegetables, multigrains and dry fruits. We have also covered the cost of medicine for epilepsy and other diseases and arranged transportation facilities to go to the hospital in case of emergency for children with developmental disabilities to make certain that they stay safe and healthy.

WE'RE BUILDING OUR DREAM HOME: COMMUNITY MEMBERS RESIDENCE



Dream becomes reality with new disabled accessible home. We at Sristi have been working for the past 7 years to build our dream home for our community members and finally it has come true. Our main aim is to provide a sustainable lifestyle for our community members to enjoy the luxury of choice. We spent years to design our home to be perfect and easily accessible for our community members. As we were visiting the construction site each day and watching our dream become a reality, we were blessed by each worker who entered our house. We were overwhelmed at all the workers who put their best effort to make the reality of having our home be completed on time. We are currently constructing 5 houses and director's residence. With the generous support of Beckman Foundation, Switzerland we are building this accessible adult independent living home. We laid foundation in the month of September 2020 and expect to experience the happiness of members in 2022.

ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR CITIZENS WITH A DISABILITY



Awareness program for accessible elections for persons with disabilities held in Sristi. We wholeheartedly thank Mr. Kumar (DDRO) for organizing this programme and highlighting the expanded knowledge on rights of persons with disabilities to vote. We also thank Ms. Kamatchi (Revenue Inspector) and Ms. Kalaiyarasi (VAO) for joining the programme. For the first time our community members experienced the voting process by using accessible devices. We at Sristi try to ways to ensure every disabled person has the opportunity to access and to lead a productive life.

People with disabilities have been fighting for long for their right to vote with other citizens and it became possible by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. Voting is a vital role for citizenship to ensure that persons with disabilities are guaranteed the same political rights and entitlements. 12 of our community members actively participated in the democratic process of voting.

FROM OUR FARM TO OUR PLATE

Sristi's biggest dream is to cultivate fresh organic vegetables and fruits for our community members from our own farm sustainably throughout the year ... and it's happening! Our farm is productive and is yielding such wonderful and nutritious food this year. In this season we harvested a bounty of fresh vegetables including: juicy tomatoes, spinach, lady's finger (okra) and radish.



Followed by delicious mango, banana and chikku from our fruit forest. In this monsoon season we are going to plant groundnuts – nitrogen fixing plants, in the fruit forest which will act as a cover crop which will help to suppress weed growth. We are so excited to share the abundance of fruit and vegetable harvests in the next few months. To create a healthier eco-system, we have started a 'living fencing project' and have planted 3000 indigenous species in our 9 acres of land. We completed this tree-planting project in November 2020. In the past six months we have seen excellent growth: 95% of the plants growth and condition are good. Our community members cherish these plants and take extra care of them by spending so much time in farm. Here we take a moment to thank Eaton India for their long-term collaboration and continuous support for our environmental projects. Sristi was once a barren land now we feel blessed and so happy to have an abundance of fresh produce to

provide for our community members. We wholeheartedly thank our farm workers and our energetic members for their tireless work.

IMPLEMENTING RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM IN TRAINING CUM REFECTORY BUILDING



We constructed an accessible kitchen and dining hall to provide quality food in a safe and hygienic environment. All of the 100 people who eat at Sristi Village every day (including young adults with disabilities, staff, parents and volunteers) will benefit from our new kitchen. Our aim is to upskill our members by providing them with basic culinary training. It is a spacious independent hall which can also be used for training and workshops and can accommodate up to 100 people. It is an eco-friendly building and will utilise solar energy for power and a rainwater harvesting system too.

SRISTI COMMUNITY MEMBERS UPDATE

Sristi's vision is to give intellectually disabled people the opportunity to learn some farming skills in order to practically apply these skills to generate their own income, become self-sustaining and independent in order to lead a dignified and holistic life. Our aim is to empower disadvantaged and



disabled people to live dignified and self-supporting lives in a new and innovative way. To be effective at work and to be self-sustainable, people with disabilities need to be as independent as possible in self-care, personal hygiene and social skills. We trained them under three categories of employment such as open employment, shelter and supporting employment. They will be trained based on their skill and interest for three years. Once they have completed the training program and

graduated from Sristi, they will be placed in vocational training work-based learning which can be a stepping-stone to future employment.

Currently our village consists of 37 residential members. Out of that, eight members have completed the vocational training and graduated from Sristi Farm Academy and placed in Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College, seven to get trained in House keeping Service and one to get trained in Yamaha Bike Service, they were placed in these training sectors based on their ability and interest and they will come under the category of open employment and can lead an independent life in the mainstream of the society. Our second batch of eight community members are getting ready to be graduate from our community and to enter into a vocational training program that would transform their lives and exhibit their skills. Seven members got training in our Dairy farm and these members come under shelter employment. Our members are dedicated and are involved in feeding, cleaning, washing the cows and milking. The main objective of our dairy farm initiative is to empower intellectually disabled and marginalized people to become self-employed. To encourage self-employment among the people with disabilities in our community we are taking a step forward to sell the by-products from our dairy farm which can also be a part of commercial dairy farming. Through this livelihood program people with disabilities under shelter employment category will enhance their social status and provide wages. In this year we extended our Sristi family by giving admission to 10 new members.

Thanking you for making a difference to the lives of our intellectually & developmentally disabled community.

All your contributions are highly appreciated!!!

Please send your contributions to:

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With big love from Sristi Village



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