

# ANNUAL REPORT

## VOLUNTARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED CULTURAL SOCIETY (VEDIC SOCIETY)

**2021-2022**



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## MESSAGES

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to share the Annual Report of the VEDIC Society for FY 2021-22 which provides an overview of the work that we have undertaken during the year. Over the years – consistency and steadfast efforts toward the wholesome development of the targeted community and its environment have been an ever-alarming challenge for the organization. While working for the marginalized and while striving for “Including the excluded,” we do have vital experiences – “What works and what does not”. And when we work as development initiators in the intervened areas it becomes more concern to make it clear the dire necessity of support, guidance, and care, the marginalized deserve to enable them to understand the incredible contribution that we ensure for their dignified survival.



With acute job losses accompanied by huge migration of the menfolk in the rural areas, COVID-19 has pushed our project beneficiaries into extreme poverty. No matter what their circumstances, everyone should expect that normal life – the kind he wants to live – is within his grasp. With due homage to the dignity of the survival of human beings – VEDIC Society is meticulous to pursue a process that can enable citizens to aspire and commit to “Dignity for all”.

The quantum of problems should be reduced by sustained efforts and commitment from each one of us. Along with the efforts, what we need to work most on is the change in the narration, in the language around giving, development, and people. People might be financially ‘poor’ but they have a large pool of skills and social resources.

My word to the team, our partners, contributors, and the larger masses don’t wait for the right time and opportunity. “This world is the world of volume, we do need solutions in volume and the people who work on those are also needed in volume.” Let’s build a society where we respect, value each other, and pay back to the ones who are the true nurturers. It is the time to remove our distorted lens and look at life through their eyes and understand who are the real beneficiaries, them or us.

Ashok Kumar Singh  
President  
VEDIC Society

## FROM THE FOUNDER

I am happy to present the “Annual Report” for FY 2021-22 of the VEDIC Society. The year threw up many challenges and prompted us to push ourselves to new limits, become innovative, and emerge with new insights. At a time, when the whole world is in grip of a pandemic, is a reminder of the unpredictability of life; how even the best-laid-out plans don't work. More importantly, it highlights that even in the toughest times our values, purpose, resilience, and standing with the people can be the compass to navigate whatever the future brings. VEDIC Society completed its journey of 30 years, turning it into a year of celebration and introspection. We are continuing our missionary zeal to create a society free of hunger and poverty and make the people of the lowest segments of society progress towards a better life and future. We have accomplished all this with a dedicated team working day and night to bring solutions to the problems, a large army of passionate, committed volunteers, contributors, and people who have supported us with material, time, efforts, dedication, networks, and hard work. The conviction to stick with each other has made this journey beautiful. Going forward in the face of new issues and challenges our path will also evolve and emerge around people and will bring new hopes for a better future where we will be better equipped to deal with the new world problems.



We have successfully implemented various community-based development programs for the poor and underserved populations of the Latehar and Palamu districts of Jharkhand with an aspiration to see them on progressive paths. The poor, deprived and ignored communities are now able to generate sustainable livelihoods, exercise their rights, and enacting their roles with full dignity and empowerment. They are growing as sensitized and empowered communities as per our aims and objectives.

I took this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our donors- TdH, Trickle Up Program, UNICEF, CFI/CINI, and Phia Foundation and above all to the local community, and govt. officials, staff, print media, and individuals whose support and timely advice helped us to move forward with success.

**Chandrashekhar Singh**  
**Founder and Secretary**  
**VEDIC Society**

## VEDIC SOCIETY- AN INTRODUCTION

### ► GENESIS

Voluntary Education Development and Integrated Cultural Society (VEDIC Society) is a non-government, non-profit, democratic, secular, and social organization dedicated to the holistic development of the marginalized rural and urban communities in Jharkhand. VEDIC Society is registered under the Indian Society Registration Act 21, 1860 on 15.03.1991 (Registration No. 659) in Bihar and on 30.01.2006 (Registration No. 222) in Jharkhand. It is also registered under Sections 12(A) & 80 (G) of the Income Tax Act and FCRA. Since its inception, VEDIC Society is working to reduce the vulnerabilities of the poor and marginalized communities concerning various issues. The organization is presently operational in Palamu and Latehar districts in Jharkhand. With our good work over the years, we have achieved special recognition among the poor and marginalized communities for whom we are working.

### ► VISION

Creation of a just, equal, and vibrant society where people of all communities live with dignity in peace, and harmony.

### ► MISSION

To make society free from exploitation and discrimination by empowering people who belong to the tribal communities and underprivileged sections of the society, especially children, adolescents, and women by ensuring their rights and promoting inclusive development.

### ► CORE VALUES

- Empathy with marginalized people, especially women and children of tribal & backward communities.
- Democracy, pluralism, and secularism.
- Commitment to the sustainable holistic development of society.
- Quality and excellence in service.

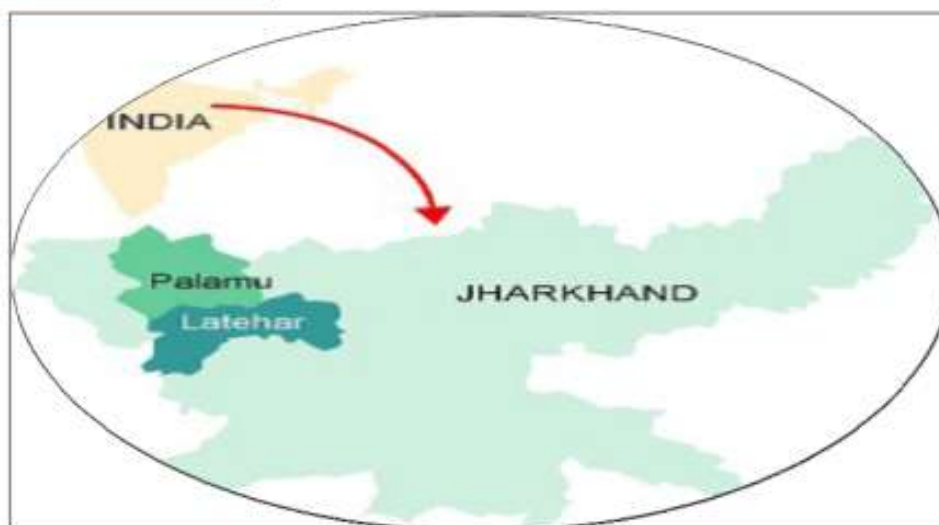
### ► GOVERNING BOARD

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Track Record</i>
1.	Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh	President	He is the Founder Director of Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Lucknow, and is popular for his work for institution building in the domain of civil society at the national and regional level. Mr. Singh has served as a member of several committees formed by the World Bank-supported by Govt. of U.P., Forestry Project Committee, U.P., and Task Force Committee for training strategy, and others. At present, he is a member of CIVICUS, ASPBAE, PRAXIS CATALYST Group, and INTRC UK. Also, in the working committee of VANI, New Delhi.

2.	Mr. Chandrapati Yadav	Vice-President	He is the founder Secretary of Lohardaga Gram Swarajya Sansthan (LGSS). Under his able leadership, VEDIC Society has carved a special niche in the development sector in the region and promoted the development ethos of the community.
3.	Mr. Chandrasekhar Singh	Secretary	He is the founder member and Secretary of the VEDIC Society and a devoted social worker. Mr. Chandrasekhar has a long experience working at the grassroots level in Palamu and Latehar districts in Jharkhand. He is an efficient community mobilizer with deep knowledge of the social and developmental issues of Jharkhand.
4.	Mr. Nagendra Kumar Singh	Treasurer	He is a development professional with more than 35 years of experience in rural development projects across different states in India. At present, he is associated with SRLM, Jharkhand as a consultant.
5.	Mr. Chandradhar	Member	He worked as a development professional with national and international organizations for about 35 years. He served Action for Food Production (AFPRO), Global Sanitation Fund, Water Aid, and KRIBHCO Fertilizers. He has vast experience in team management, community mobilization, liaising with government and funding agencies, and sound technical know-how of water and sanitation and livelihood programs. At present, he supports government and non-government agencies as a consultant.
6.	Mr. Arvind	Member	He has 26 years of experience in the development sector. He is a believer in Gandhian philosophy and has a proven track record as an efficient community mobilizer as well as a personnel manager. He is active in promoting knowledge and skills in youths and social activists at the grassroots level.

7.	Mrs. Kunti Sahoo	Member	She has vast experience in women-related issues. Extensively working for their empowerment and rights.
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► **GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE**



► **TARGETED POPULATION**

- Tribals and EBCs.
- Women, Adolescents & Children at Risk.
- Small and Marginal Farmers.

► **THEMATIC INTERVENTION AREA**

- Child Protection and Child Development.
- Quality Education.
- Health & Hygiene.
- Livelihood - Agriculture and Natural Resource Management.
- Women's Rights and Development.
- Good Governance and People's Participation.

► **OUR RESOURCES**

In VEDIC Society, human resources are considered the most valued assets. Vedic Society has a dedicated team of around 60 project staff and also has a good team of specialists and consultants who provide periodic support to VEDIC Society to spearhead the initiatives.

The organization has a very well-managed campus of its own at Latehar town and Tumbagara in Palamu district. Within this campus, there is an office building along with a training center with all facilities and amenities for training and accommodation. The office is fully equipped with all modern facilities. A fleet of motorcycles and 2 Jeeps are there to ease the job of field staff and to undertake periodic monitoring of work at the field level.

► **OUR DONORS SO FAR**

- Child Fund India • Trickle Up Program, USA • NEG Fire, New Delhi • UNICEF, Jharkhand
- KKS-BMZ, Germany • TDH, Germany • CFI/CINI, Kolkata & • Phia Foundation, Jharkhand.

## PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED DURING THE YEAR

**(I) SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM FOR PVTGs:** The project started with the support of Trickle Up Program, USA in 2019 for the promotion of sustainable livelihood for PVTGs. The program was started in 30 villages of 9 panchayats of the Mahuadar and Garu blocks in Latehar district in Jharkhand. In these blocks, the primitive tribes are deprived of the benefits of govt. welfare schemes and programs. These tribes have no Aadhar card, voter ID card, bank account, etc. to get benefits from various government and non-government schemes for them.

In Garu and Mahuadar blocks of Latehar district in Jharkhand, the economic, social, and educational status of the primitive tribes like Korwa, Asur, and Parhiya is quite pathetic. These tribes live in remote areas around the forests where there is a severe lack of facilities like education, health, drinking water, electricity, and roads. Their living standards and food habits are also low. Keeping all these problems in mind, VEDIC Society covered 1100 families of extremely poor primitive tribes.

### PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Opening of bank accounts of PGTs and getting them linked with banks.
- PGTs have formed SHGs and developed habits of small savings linked with social entitlement schemes like- Dakiya Scheme, Birsa Aawas Yojana/ PMAY, MGNREGA, Didi Bari Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and PVTGs pension.
- Training in small livelihood enhancement activities for PGTs like poultry, duck rearing, pig rearing, and goat rearing.
- Nutritious food availability with increased income to PGTs.
- Regular awareness generation on social evils like child marriages, dowry system, superstition, etc.
- Improved unity and motivation of the PGTs because of regular support.



**(II) COVID-19 RELIEF WORK:** In March, the lockdown was announced across the country to contain the spread of COVID-19. The outbreak of COVID-19 was not merely physical

- it brought with it a lot of fear and anxiety of the uncertainty, distress resulting from the loss of livelihood, and the frustration of staying within the confines of one's house. The poor PTGs faced a livelihood crisis at this critical juncture as all their economic activities have been stopped. In such a difficult situation, supported by TUP, USA team Vedic exhibited immense commitment with 410 PTGs families with the following measures:

- Distributed food items like Rice, pulses, Cooking Oil, Spices, Sawdust (Chura), and Jaggery.
- Distributed Detergent Soap, Face Mask, Sanitizer, Sanitary Pad, and Towel.
- Distributed Kerosene Stoves.
- Transferred Rs. 800/- to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.



**(III) CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM:** With the support of the local community (1991-2005), Child Fund India (2006-2019), and Tdh (2019 till date), VEDIC Society has been representing the voice of the deprived, excluded, and vulnerable children regardless of their race, creed, and gender in Latehar & Palamu districts in Jharkhand. The organization is working in the remotest locations of the district through its child-centered interventions aiming to influence and bring about lasting changes in the lives of deprived children. Also supported by CFI/CINI, we are working tirelessly to overcome and eliminate the strongest barriers to quality



education and helping children to realize their rights to be healthy, educated, protected, and valued.

In 2021-22, different programs like training, meetings, workshops, and media advocacy were organized in Latehar and Palamu districts in Jharkhand by us to stop violence against school children of all forms (child rights, child protection, child marriage, child labour, and child trafficking) and promote a positive environment for their all-round growth. These programs were organized with full community participation and support from different direct and indirect stakeholders covering the following important themes:

- ◆ Gender and sexuality for CYP leaders.
- ◆ MHPSS for CYP leaders.
- ◆ Monthly sessions with adolescents and young people on gender.
- ◆ Monthly awareness sessions in the communities/schools.
- ◆ Monthly meetings with male members.
- ◆ Quarterly meetings with community influencers.
- ◆ Quarterly youth-led joint collective action on gender issues.
- ◆ Media advocacy.
- ◆ District-level advocacy meetings with multi-stakeholders.
- ◆ District-level resource pool meetings.
- ◆ Safeguarding workshop with CBO local service providers.



**(IV) WASH & COVID-19 RESPONSE PROGRAM:** Supported by UNICEF, VEDIC Society implemented a project on WASH and COVID-19 Emergency Response at Institutions and Communities in Latehar and Palamu districts in Jharkhand.



#### Programs and Achievements

- **Construction of Hand Wash Unit in Schools-** 100 schools covered in 07 blocks of Latehar and Palamu districts in Jharkhand. 05 blocks of Latehar district (Latehar, Garu, Manika, Chandwa, and Mahuwadar) and 02 blocks of Palamu district (Lesliganj and Satbarwa) were covered. 70 Schools (PS-11, MS- 35, HS-24) with 24184 children and teachers were covered in Latehar district. 30 schools (MS-15 and HS-15 with 12809 children and teachers were covered in Palamu district. The students have now realized the importance of hand washing in daily life and they are using the hand washing facilities in schools in a regular manner.
- **Sensitization on appropriate COVID-19 behaviours-** Appropriate COVID-19 protection behaviours developed among school children like washing hands with soaps and sanitizers, wearing face masks and maintaining physical distancing, etc. along with the sensitization on Govt. vaccination drive developed.
- **Construction of hand washing stations in Health Centers-** 16 hand washing stations built-in health centers in Latehar and Palamu districts in Jharkhand. These hand wash facilities are now regularly used by patients and staff of the health centers.
- **Waste management services:** 15 waste management services developed in Latehar and Palamu districts in Jharkhand. Waste management practices developed. 100 AWCs covered with hand wash units in Latehar and Palamu districts.
- **Awareness of COVID-19:** 20,000 HH of Latehar and Palamu districts were covered and have access to 2 hand wash soaps. Awareness promoted on regular hand washing with hygiene promotion messages. Appropriate awareness of COVID-19 behaviors developed.



**(V) VACCINATION CAMPAIGN:** A vaccination campaign was launched by the VEDIC Society with the support of Phia Foundation, Ranchi for ensuring a 100% vaccination drive in Satbarwa block of Palamu district in Jharkhand. For this, a household survey was conducted by the VEDIC society and updated status of vaccination was taken. People were made aware of the importance of vaccination for saving their lives from COVID-19 and with the coordination of the health department, 100% vaccination was ensured in all villages and tolas of the Satbarwa block.



**(VI) OTHERS:** In rural Jharkhand, many poor household cooking is done by using solid fuels (such as wood, crop waste, charcoal, coal, and dung) and kerosene in open fires and inefficient stoves. Household air pollution is generated by the use of inefficient and polluting fuels and technologies in and around the home that contains a range of health-damaging pollutants, including small particles that penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. In poorly ventilated dwellings, indoor smoke can have levels of fine particles 100 times higher than acceptable. Exposure is particularly high among women and children, who spend the most time near the domestic hearth.

To get rid of the villagers of all diseases caused because of smoke during cooking, "Green Way Smart Stoves" were provided to 200 rural households by VEDIC society in its operational districts in Jharkhand. The activity was a success in reducing the consumption of firewood and making women and children safe from smoke pollution.

