

Community Healthcare Center **with**
suhrid foundation

Suhrid Foundation is an honest initiative with a vision to work towards creation of a Happy, Healthy and Secure environment for underprivileged children.

Since last 8 years, Suhrid Foundation is working in a tribal area at Vikramgad in Palghar district, around 120km from Mumbai. **We support close to 1400 children from 12 schools for health and education.**

We are also working with locals in 10 villages towards more community oriented projects such as water management; support for farming and other activities which can help them improve their livelihood. We work very closely with the stakeholders with regular follow-up and feedback mechanism.

KASPADA



Like any other tribal region, Kaspada too is a secluded place – no good roads, no vehicles, no supplies and no communication. With no healthcare facility available in approachable distance, people are not used to getting themselves tended, treated or even checked by medical experts in case of any issues. They also used to avoid going to Vikramgad (nearest town) to doctor for a simple reason of fear of unknown spend

(anything upwards of Rs 1000) in any visit to government clinic (leave aside private clinics). These trips involve cost of travel, doctor fees (if private), medical tests, meals/food and medicines at times.

While we worked in the schools of these villages for around 7 years and with above knowledge, Suhrid Foundation decided to start with a medical facility – i.e. Community Healthcare Center. We received a great support in this initiative from villagers. The facility for this is provided by village – i.e. their community center (*Samaj Mandir*) is handed over to Suhrid Foundation to convert in Community Healthcare Center.

Ms Sushmita Tembe, our founder member and our mentor, who is a retired matron from Civil Hospital at Amhedabad, has started handling the center full time from the first week of February 2020. We have additionally recruited local nursing staff to support the operation.

IMPACT

Some of the immediate benefits people have acknowledged and we have observed, are as below:

- Awareness has increased amongst villagers to approach healthcare professionals in case of any problem
- Almost certainty of charges - we charge token Rs 25 for checking as well as medicines for basic problems (in case of saline drips, we charge Rs 100) – FYI, we do not offer any services for free.
- The problems which at times earlier used to manifest into bigger problem because of absence of any treatment, remain well within the control.
- Because of early detection and/or resolution of health problem, people are able to get back to earning livelihood much faster
- Because of our presence on the ground, providing general health guidance, inculcating healthy living practices, awareness is easily possible – this generates confidence amongst adults.
- With presence of educated and well groomed volunteers in the ground, we are able to inculcate good habits amongst children and ladies – in their free time in afternoon, children and ladies come and learn few skills such as mathematics, language or even stitching/ embroidery.

- Being a facility in the village, it becomes center for any activity required to be done for the village eg ration kit distribution which we had done during the Corona related lockdown.
- With “such a wonderful” facility being available in close proximity, villagers ensure that their visiting relatives, who are visiting them, also get to visit the center! We *jokingly call it – a “rudimentary form of medical tourism”. ;-)*



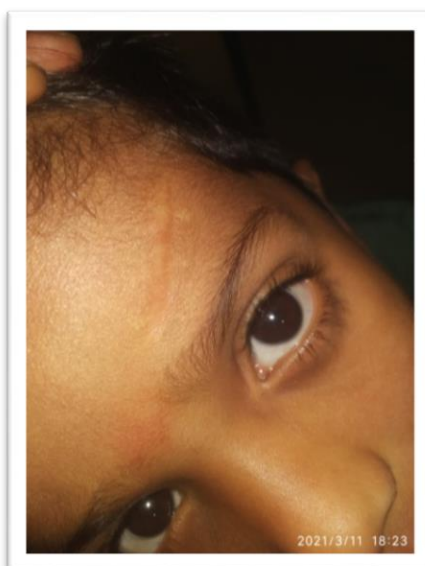
TESTIMONIES

We record basic medical history of each patient visiting the center. However, we have very limited photographic record of the patients to represent case studies. Attempting to put across few below:

1. **Prakash** cut his finger while doing some carpentry work. With regular dressing (without stitches) and follow up antibiotics, his wound was healed in 3 weeks.



2. **Ved** is a son of a teacher in govt school. He hurt himself after falling from bed and cutting his forehead just above eyes with corner of furniture. In spite of being in Taluka place of Vikramgad, there was no doctor available during lockdown period and they rushed 10km to a village in our center. He was immediately administered with stiches taken on his forehead. Now, his forehead is almost clear of even the scar.



3. **Bhumika** is girl of 4th std from Kaspada school who got herself hurt on the heel of her leg in running motorcycle wheel. She had gone to Vikramgad hospital and got stitches done. The stitches done did not result into healing, but resulted into further infection in the wound/stitches. She was not asked to visit for subsequent checkup, neither her parents bothered to take her themselves. However, our school teacher got her to see Masi at our center and she further cleaned up the wound, re-stitched and gave required medicines. She was healed within subsequent 4 weeks to be perfectly clean heel.

