



## **ACHARYA INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

(NAAC Re - Accredited 'A' Grade and Affiliated to Bengaluru City University)

**Soladevanahalli, Bengaluru-560107**

### **Institutional Distinctiveness**

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship program sponsored by Ministry of Human Resource Development with association of UGC and Higher Education Institutes. It is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge Institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India.

Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies has been selected as one of the participating institutions under this project since June 2018. Under this scheme, the Institution has adopted five neighboring villages; Alur, Chikkabanavara, Guddadahalli, Kasgattapura, Sasvegatta and has been focusing on empowering the rural communities in these villages.

### **Objectives as a Participatory Institution under UBA:**

- To bring transformation changes in Health, Education, Incomes, Basic amenities as well as Employment opportunities in adopted villages
- To actively engage and involve Institution faculty and students in understanding rural reality
- To inspire the rural communities to mobilize resources for sustainable development of each member and create such ecosystem for positive behavioural transformation.
- To empower marginalized and vulnerable groups in the villages particularly the elderly, the women, the youth and the children of the community.
- To generate awareness on gender issues and social issues like literacy, health & hygiene, sanitation, drinking water, livelihood options etc.

2018 – 2019 was a watershed year during which Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies initialized work under the UBA program. During this year, village surveys and household surveys were carried out with help from faculty and students. Gram sabha meetings were actively attended in order to understand the concerns of the community at large. Social development programmes were carried out in schools to build awareness in children with respect to the need for appropriate garbage disposal and tree plantation. Training programs were carried out for SHG members to facilitate adequate decision making at household as well as community levels. An 8 day rural camp was conducted at Kasagattapura village with the coordination of gram panchayath & village members, NCC committee, students & Faculty of AIGS. This program was organized for the



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purpose of village development works like, Garbage disposal, sanitation, drainage cleaning, prohibition of plastics use, proper utilization of resources, water management, organic farming, awareness programme on child education, to provide health camp for poor village members and training programme for SHGs and newly elected gram panchayath members. Alongside other development activities, a focused group discussion was carried out in Chikkabanavara village, in order to understand and address the severe water shortage problem. Legal awareness and skills building programs were carried out in all the villages during this year.

During the year 2019 – 2020, The advent of the Covid – 19 pandemic interfered with the execution of a number of plans that had been chalked out. The focus in all the villages during this year was on profile work, household surveys, preparing village development plans based on the felt needs of the community, attending Grama sabha meetings and providing training to members, awareness and developmental activities.

During the year 2020 – 2021, despite lockdown due to the pandemic, a good number of programs were conducted. Activities in Alur, Alur Palya, Hesaraghatta, Kasghattapura, and Sasiveghatta focused on awareness programs related to prevention of Covid – 19, ASHA workers Corona warrior training, waste management, voter awareness, initiation of water harvesting programs, skill building for increased employment opportunities, imparting life skills to children, SHGs women training, linking to fair price shops to get food grains, local self – governance training, helping covid - affected families get free treatment in government hospitals.

A pathbreaking, innovative program that was carried out was the Makkala Grama Sabha program in 2 villages. This program focused on how children can be trained towards active participation in a democracy, and how this can be sustained. The concept of Makkala Grama Sabha was presented to children as a forum in which children could take up issues of village infrastructure which concerned them as well as the village community to be addressed through the Gram Panchayats.

During the academic year 2021 – 2022, a significant number of programs were carried out despite the Covid – 19 pandemic. Academic and life skills training for government school students, waste management awareness programs, skill building towards enhancement of livelihood opportunities, water harvesting programs, vaccination camps, capacity building of SHG women trainees, legal



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awareness training for elected women members of panchayats, plastic free campaigns, nutrition focused programs for pregnant women and mothers, opening of UBA skills centre were the major programs carried out during this year in the villages of Alur, Chikkabanavara, Hesaraghatta, Kasaghattapura and Sasiveghatta.

The outcome of the tailoring skills training programs in Alur and Hurulichikkanahalli in particular has been phenomenal and is visible.

The tailoring skills training center at Alur was the first center under UBA facilitated by Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies. Almost 300 women have obtained gainful employment as garment factory workers after being trained under the UBA initiatives. A good number of women are also self employed after the training. The most notable success is that the training center at Alur has now become self – sustainable. The villagers with the support of AIGS identified a corporate organization – ‘Weir minerals India’ and approached them for funding. After multiple discussions facilitated by AIGS, the training center is now being funded by the organization as part of their CSR initiative and the organization proposes to continue this.

Similarly, in Hurulichikkanahalli, tailoring skills training has been successfully completed for 3 batches. 3 boutique centers have been established by women who were trained in tailoring. Again, AIGS has played the role of a facilitator here. The institute provided the essential support in the early stages, after which we facilitated tie – up of the training center with an NGO -Manav Charities. The NGO is now providing financial support to the skills training center.

Additionally, tailoring skill centers at Hesaraghatta and Sasiveghatta are in the process of being set up and AIGS is also facilitating collaborations with private organization which can provide lucrative prospects to the trained workers.