



BE AND MAKE

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



Be the change & Make the change

BE AND MAKE- Be the change & make the change

FROM THE CORE TEAM -BE AND MAKE

It gives me great pleasure to present the first ever Be and Make Annual Report. It covers the first year of activities, 2021-2022, during which time the effects of COVID-19 continued to challenge people, institutions, and organisations throughout the world, including Be and Make. As we reeled under the pandemic's effects, Be and Make was able to count on its many supporters for encouragement and inspiration which helped turn our challenges into learning and positive action.

Be and Make works in the rural and economically under-developed areas of West Bengal providing empowerment strategies to lift people out of poverty and provide them with capacity to improve their lives. Our work during the year helped communities access safe drinking-water and sanitary latrines, education and health services, and training for economic empowerment. We also accompanied our work with research to ensure our work is relevant. Given the restrictions on us all imposed by COVID-19 – we had to face many difficulties especially with regard to reaching out to vulnerable children and poor communities.

TEAM BE AND MAKE

However, our team, with great courage and resourcefulness, established distribution of relief packages to the most disadvantaged. This would not have been possible without our team of volunteers, workers, supporters, and members of Be and Make.

In the following pages, we have summarized our main achievements for the year 2021-22 and on the back cover you will find an overview of Be and Make. We look forward to continuing our efforts for many more years to come.



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PROJECT INITIATIVES



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SOPAN

Sopan is a community learning initiative specifically designed for tribal and rural children in the remote areas of West Bengal. The program reduces the gaps in learning for those children who missed schooling brought about by the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic and those who are marginalised and excluded from teaching facilities. This program aligns with the government's Fundamental Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) strategy which is central to the aims of India's national primary education strategy.

Sopan, however, goes beyond the national curricula by focusing not just on academic study for primary level students between 6 and 14 years but also on social awareness, counselling, mentoring, and extracurricular activities including arts, crafts, and sports, as well. We have reached 250 vulnerable children in the last year with our Sopan work.



EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Be and Make educational support programme addresses the many thousands of children who do not enter or complete school. There are many reasons why children miss out on school and in India, poverty, disability, and discrimination are often at the root of this.

We bring child-friendly, safe spaces in which children can learn and provide age-appropriate learning and development materials in the form of education kits to students. The toys, books and education tools are age appropriate, gender and culture sensitive and inclusive of children's disability and are targeted for early childhood right up to adolescence.

Children who have received our learning and play items, many who are living in the most vulnerable of circumstances, have experienced a new sense of stability in their environment and have benefited from the learning they have received.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PLAN

Tree planting is important in preserving our environment in the most effective way. Trees provide numerous long-term and short-term benefits by removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere, slowing heavy rain, and reducing flooding, and improving air quality. They are integral to the eco-system, balancing the environment and preventing global warming.

Be and Make is proactive in encouraging “tree plantation” activities among communities in West Bengal, raising awareness of climate change and the urgent need to contribute to reducing our carbon footprint. Our Plant a Tree campaigns involve children in tree-planting and helps promote their responsibility to a greener future.



VASUDHA

Malnutrition and even death are consequences of starvation and today in India there are still so many families living below the poverty line who face hunger on a daily basis that they are already in real danger of suffering physical effects of from lack of food and eventually dying. Be and Make has developed a programme – Vasudha – to help families face the inequalities that propel them into poverty by providing dry rations (grains) to the poorest of poor families living in remote rural areas of West Bengal.

1000 beneficiaries from 5 villages of Habibpur Block, Malda, West Bengal have received our food support packages.



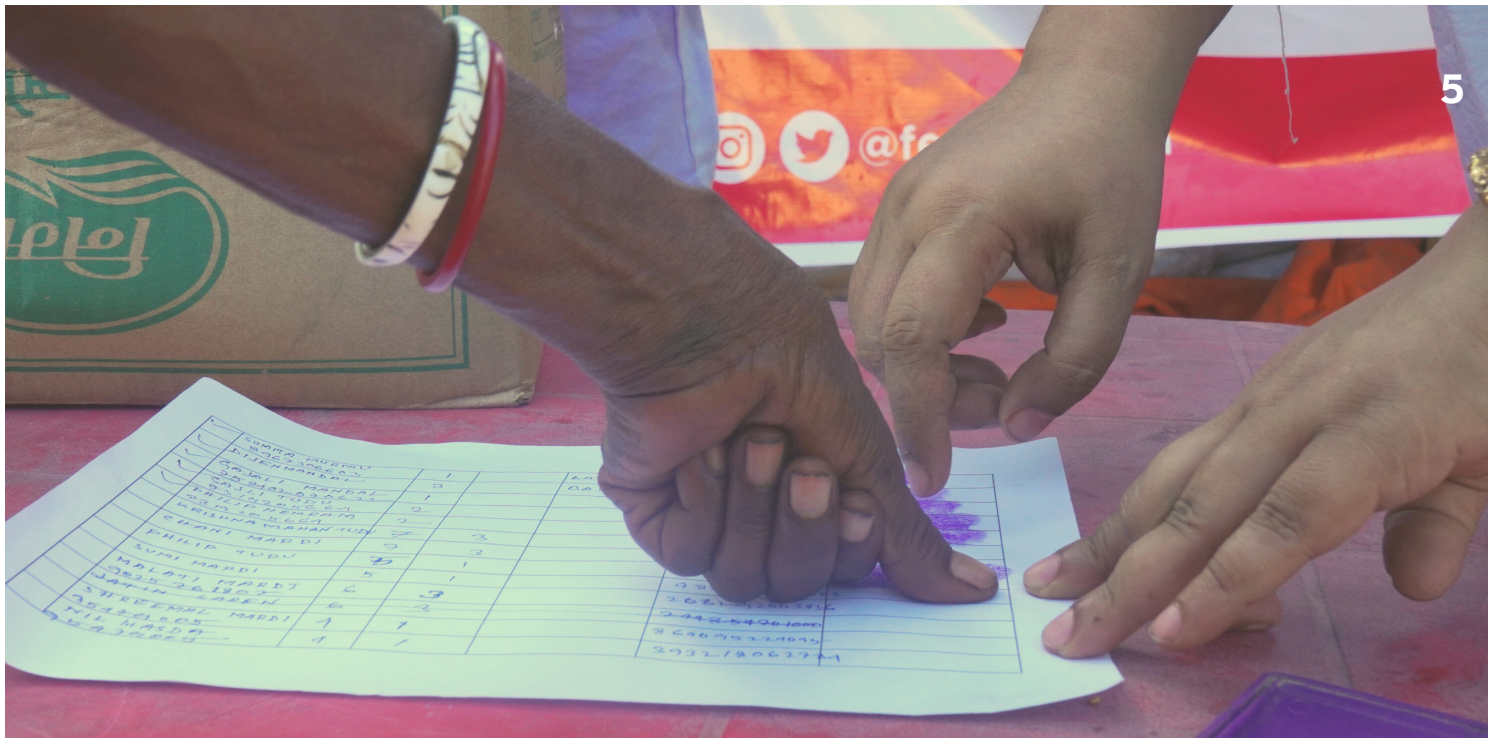
MARYADA

Menstruation, in the rural and under-developed areas in India, is surrounded by taboo and myth, and many women are excluded from community and social life as a result. This has a profound effect on girl's and women's emotional and psychological wellbeing and critically on their health. Lack of knowledge about puberty, menstruation, and reproductive health compounds the situation.

They do not have access to sanitary products, or know how to use them, lack funds to pay for them and rely on reusable cloth pads which they wash and use again and again. Many girls and women suffer urinary and vaginal bacterial infections as a result of this practice.

Be and Make conducted an awareness session on menstrual hygiene management with 55 girls in the rural and peri-urban areas of West Bengal and provided each with one-year's supply of sanitary kits. In this way, Be and Make was able to break the myths around menstruation hygiene and give girls the means to manage their own menstrual health needs.





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JOURNEY OF KHUSHI

From time to time, Be and Make is pleased and proud to be able to go that extra mile by offering special support to somebody whose life is precariously balanced between dropping into an abyss of disappointment and underachievement or making the positive progress they have been dreaming of and working hard to achieve.

Khushi is a perfect example of that Be and Make Special Support. Her story is inspiring. Now 21 years old, Khushi is pursuing a post-graduate diploma course in Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs at Jadavpur University. However, her journey to this point has not been easy, she has faced many hardships in her life.

When Khushi was very young, she lost her father who was the family's only breadwinner. Like many families who lose the main family income earner, Khushi's family faced serious financial difficulties as a result of her father's death.

Her mother struggled but rallied and went out to earn to support the young family. She maintained Khushi in school until 10th Grade. However, tragedy hit again, and Khushi's mother also died. Khushi was devastated; however, she was a determined girl and she had dreams to be successful. She knew she had to complete her education, or she would not have a stable future and independence.

She was lucky to receive support from a caring Uncle, but he could not bear the full cost of her education as far as she knew she was capable. Eventually in order to pursue a post graduate course and take a place at Jadavpur University she turned to Be and Make for help.

Be and Make accessed funds from the different generous souls for Khushi to fill the gap in support that her Uncle could not provide, and Khushi is now pursuing her dreams. We are glad to have been able to step in and help Khushi and we hope all her dreams come true.

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Our Reach

NO. OF BENEFICIAES

Sopan	250
Maryada	110
Vasudha	1000
Ropan (from Murageria, Hooghly Primary School)	25

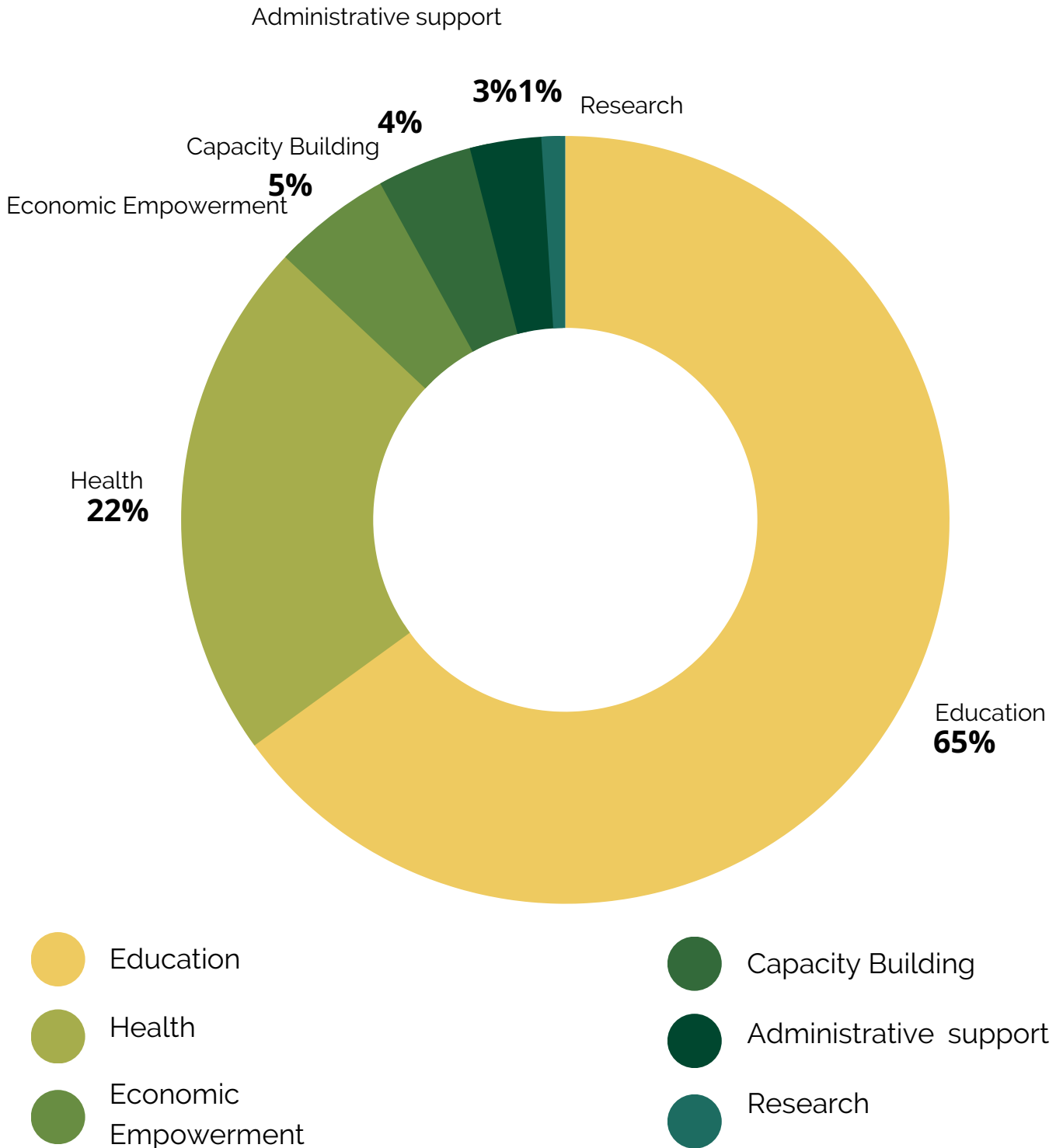
We are present in Malda, Hooghly and Kolkata.

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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EXPENDITURE
2021-22



Be and Make - Be the Change and Make the Change is a non-profit organization founded to make sustainable change in the lives of grassroots communities.

Vision

We believe in a world where the hard-to-reach and unaddressed have equal opportunities to live with dignity and hope.

Mission

Our main foci are: Education, Health, Economic Empowerment, and Research and Capacity Building. Our programs contribute toward establishing an equitable society in which all its members enjoy equality of opportunity in a thriving environment.



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