

A close-up portrait of a young girl with dark skin, wearing a bright green sari with a white border and gold jewelry, including a nose ring and hoop earrings. Her hands are clasped near her neck. The background is a soft-focus blue wall.

**terre des hommes**   
stops child exploitation

## **CHILDREN GOOD**

CHILDREN EMPOWERMENT  
FOR GETTING OUT OF  
THE DEVADASI SYSTEM

# WHAT IS CHILDREN GOOD?

## Children Empowerment for Getting Out of The Devadasi System

**“Every child deserves a dignified life.”**

The Devadasi System in lower caste communities is an institutional exploitation of girls and young women, which gives a religious sanction to their prostitution.

Post puberty, girls are dedicated as Devadasis and sex work becomes their role in society. They face abuse, sexual exploitation and discrimination. Children of Devadasis who are not part of the system are also vulnerable to different forms of violence and exploitation.

Our project aims to protect and empower children of Devadasis through **education, imparting life skills, vocational training, child participation and community sensitisation.**

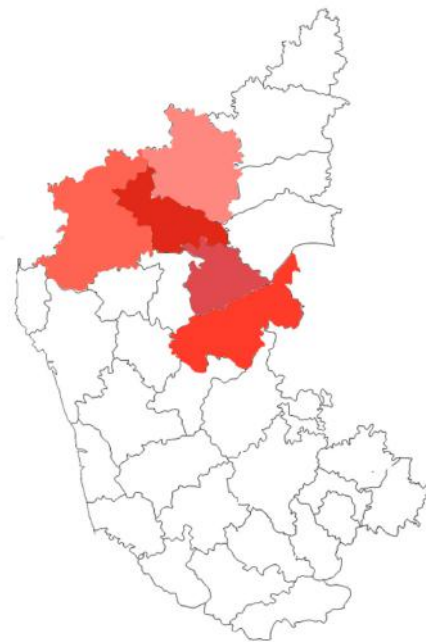
### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Devadasi system began as a form of worship through art, but with time, exploitation seeped in and lower caste families became its victims.



# WHERE DOES CHILDREN GOOD WORK?

The project works in  
**5 districts**  
of North Karnataka  
where the Devadasi  
system is prevalent.



- Belagavi
- Bagalkote
- Vijayapura
- Ballari
- Koppal



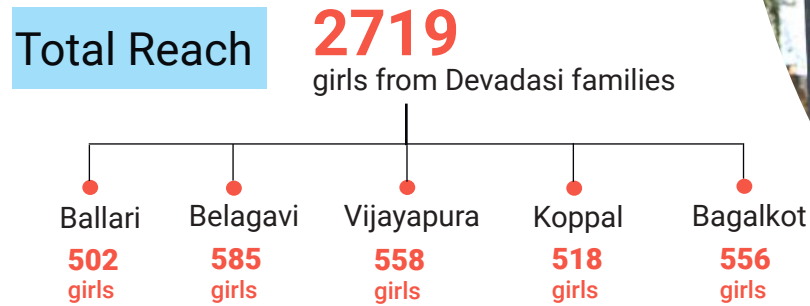
reaching out to  
**81 villages**

## DID YOU KNOW?

As per a survey by  
the Karnataka Women's  
State University there are

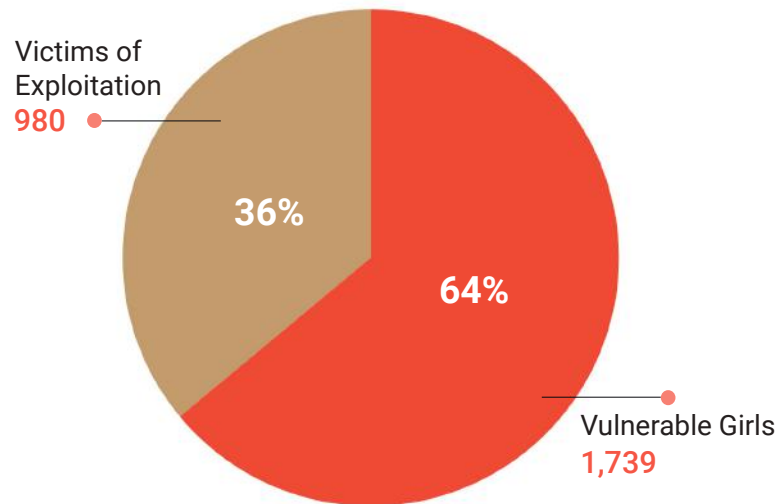
**80,000 Devadasis**  
in North Karnataka.

# CHILDREN GOOD ACTIVITIES 2020



## DID YOU KNOW?

The project has set up village notice boards for girls to write their issues which are later addressed by relevant authorities



Distribution of Girls reached out to

## Children as Change Agents

The project organises girls into Kishori\*\* Clubs where they are trained on life skills, advocacy tools, research tools, all with the objective of empowering them through participation in their own development.



**Training on Advocacy, Child Rights and Child Protection Laws**

**2719 children**

## Child Led Research



**Community Mapping**  
Children draw a village map and mark issues in different areas of the map

**81 maps | 110 Clubs**



## Kishori Clubs

Girls organised into a group for child led activities

**110 clubs**

**1-2 clubs per village**



## Life Skills Training\*

training on self confidence, decision making, communication

**2719 children**



## Photo and Video Research

Children learn photography and videography to document village problems

**200 children**

\*A life skills training book was provided with 10 modules Self awareness, Empathy, Critical thinking, Creative thinking, Decision making, Problem solving, Effective communication, Inter-personal relationship Coping up with stress and Coping up with emotions

\*\*A hindi term for adolescent girl



## CHILDREN AS CHANGE AGENTS



Sensitisation of children in a Kishori Club Meeting



Children working on a Community Map



A Kishori photographing unhygienic conditions in her neighbourhood



A self confidence exercise at a life skill training session



Advocacy with the Panchayat Development Officer



# CHILDREN GOOD ACTIVITIES 2020

## Education

*Provision of school supplies, education awareness and allied education support - creating an enthusiasm for learning and academics.*



### Formal Education Support

Books, stationary, uniform, school bag, tuition fee

**484 girls**



### Libraries set up

With supplementary reading material, and activity books

**78 libraries**

### DID YOU KNOW?

Children of Devadasis are discriminated against in schools, making them drop out. Being out of school, makes them more vulnerable.

## Vocational Training



### Computer and Tally Course

**197 girls**



### Tailoring Course

**66 girls**

*Job Oriented Vocational Training of older girls in in-demand skills which have job prospects in the region. With jobs post skill training, the girls are financially independent and do not have to resort to sex work for a living.*



## Community Awareness

Community members sensitised on the ill-effects of the Devadasi system and need for protection of Children of Devadasis.



**Temple priests sensitised**  
who practice dedications  
**107 priests**



**Community Awareness**  
through IEC material, outreach  
**6283 people**

## Interface with the Government, Law Enforcement Agencies and Media Houses

Training and sensitisation of Government officials and Law Enforcement Authorities on the laws against the Devadasi System and their role in protecting children from the system. Media houses sensitised on the need for reporting stories on the system, keeping in mind the sensitivities of the context.



**Sensitising Para-Legal Volunteers**  
**164 people**



**Sensitising Government Officials**  
**145 officials**



**Lobby and Advocacy with the Government**  
**14 meetings**



**Media Sensitisation Workshops**  
**334 media officials**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Kishori girls took the initiative to sensitise communities on gender-based violence by **pasting IEC materials** in prominent places.



# CHILDREN GOOD COVID RESPONSE

In **36 villages** of all  
project districts



## Dry Ration Distribution

*A kit contained cereal, dal, spices,  
oil and sugar for 2 months use.*

**2215 kits**

to **1135** families from Bagalkot  
to **1000** families from Vijayapura  
to **80** families from Belagavi

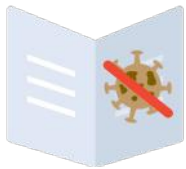


## Hygiene Kit Distribution

*A kit contained facemasks,  
sanitiser, hand soaps, towel,  
hand gloves.*

**2215 kits**

to **1135** families from Bagalkot  
to **1000** families from Vijayapura  
to **80** families from Belagavi



## COVID Awareness

*Preparation of pamphlets, posters,  
banners and audio visual materials  
and awareness raising by Kishori  
girls.*

**7000** community members



## Distribution of E-tabs

*E-tablets with pre-loaded  
educational content, specifically for  
girls writing their SSLC.*

**60 e-tabs**

shared by 5 districts



## Psychosocial Care

*To reduce anxiety and panic during the  
pandemic, girls were given drawing kits  
and took part in art contests*

**2161** children

## Livelihood Generation

*Through mask  
stitching*

**4500** masks







Door-to-Door COVID Awareness by Kishori Club members



Ration distribution to Devadasi families



Art work by children using the drawing kits given by the project.



# CHILDREN GOOD KEY IMPACT 2020



## First Generation Learners

362 girls write their SSLC exams and are the first to do so in their families



## Government Action

With the girls' efforts to sensitise the Government, the authorities have addressed many community issues



## Girls' coping mechanisms improve

Through life skill training, girls have developed resilience and self worth.



## Girls become self reliant

Through vocational training, girls move towards financial independence and freedom.



## Respect from community

With children of Devadasis solving community issues, members have developed more respect for them





Children spearhead awareness raising in communities



The girls trained in tailoring were given orders to stitch masks



Continuation of education through E-tabs



# CASE STORY 2020

"We come from a village called Sivapur in Belagavi district. In this village, there were **no toilets** and people used to defecate in the open.

This caused a lot of **hygiene and health related issues** which became worse during the pandemic.

As a Kishori group, we decided to address this issue. TdH-NL had installed a **notice board** in our village and on that **we wrote about the need for toilets in our village.**

In the next 15 days, the **Government began constructing public toilets.**

The construction process is going on and we as a group are **so happy** that we could **bring about a change** for our village people.

The village members are also very happy and proud of us. They talk to us with **more love and respect.** "



**Dr. B.R Ambedkar  
Kishori Group**



# FEEDBACK from stakeholders



**Mr. Kallappa**  
Temple Priest

“GOOD has taught me about all the Acts against the Devadasi System. Now, I strongly oppose the dedication of girls as Devadasis and spread awareness.”



**Ms. Suvarna Rani**  
Kishori Club Member

“The life skills manual was very useful to us. We learnt about how to communicate, be confident, make good decisions and how to cope with problems.”



**Ms. Gangavva Basappa**  
Devadasi woman

“Our children go through so much trauma, and in schools they are made fun of. Now thanks to GOOD, they are coping better. Also with the help of Police, GOOD is preventing dedications, which is great.”



**Ms. Kaveri**  
Community Member

“The awareness material distributed by the girls was very useful. We were so inspired that children are taking the initiative to help the community.”



**terre des hommes**



**stops child exploitation**

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Terre des Hommes Netherlands is an international child protection organisation working to tackle exploitation of children at the roots. In India, TdH-NL works to address child labour, empowers victims of child marriage, addresses exploitation of children in the Devadasi system and advocates against child marriage and child trafficking.