



2021-22 OMGMT ANNUAL REPORT



Om Gagangiri Maharaj Ashirwadit Trust



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF TRUSTEE



DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OM GAGANGIRI MAHARAJ ASHIRWADIT TRUST (OMGMT),

In Palghar District, tribal communities often endure social exclusion, limited education, and financial insecurity due to historical marginalization, geographical isolation, and cultural differences. OMGMT addresses these challenges through scholarships, vocational training, low-cost farming techniques, yoga and healthcare support, and women's handicraft workshops, aiming to empower and improve their quality of life.

We deeply appreciate our donors and collaborators who support our initiatives despite our limited budget. Despite the challenges posed by the Global Pandemic, we remain committed to our mission of assisting the people of Palghar District.

We extend our gratitude to **Svaroop Vidya Ashram** for their continuous support in educating local youth in yogic philosophy and health practices. Thanks to **Ammucare** of India for providing financial assistance for school uniforms and to **Jan Shikshan Sanstha** for supporting our vocational trainers' salaries. **Sulokchetna Pratishtan**, thank you for overseeing our natural farming education.

Special thanks to **Srila Chatterjee of Baro Market** and **Tulsi Christopherson** of Tribal Threads for purchasing designs from our Padukas Artisans workshop, enabling local women to earn income for their families. We also thank Manish Shah of **East India Company** for providing bicycles and opportunities for our seamstresses.

To all our generous donors who contributed to purchasing land for our future Natural Farming Demonstration Center and Vocational Education Center, we are immensely grateful. The land purchase has been finalized, blessed with Puja and Yagna, and marks a significant step towards our vision of creating a training center for natural farming and vocational arts.

We look forward to a new year with love in our hearts.

Warm regards,

Vijay H. Honkalaskar, Ph. D
(IIT Mumbai)



SWAMI GAGANGIRI MAHARAJ

He was a widely revered Indian Hindu saint and influential Guru of the Nath Sampradaya. Born in 1906, Gagangiri Maharaj was a rare combination of Yogi, statesman, social reformer, personal counselor, and shaman. His vision initiated a breed of self-reliant, industrious, brave, cadre of young people dedicated to creating a harmonious material world based on spiritual values. He asked his followers to be a model of social transformation by practicing spiritual values and creating a new society based on conservation and protection of the environment. His teachings emphasized living in a harmonious relationship with nature and preserving it. OMGMT humbly accepts his vision and guidance for their seva in the outback of rural India.



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OM GAGANGIRI MAHARAJ ASHIRWADIT TRUST

1. Established in 2006, Om Gagangiri Maharaj Ashirwadit Trust (OMGMT) is a Mumbai-based NGO dedicated to uplifting the tribal communities in Wada Taluka, Palgher District, Maharashtra.
2. Guided by a diverse board of trustees, including engineers from IIT and Adivasi social workers, OMGMT focuses on empowering marginalized populations, particularly Adivasi tribes, farmers, women, and children, towards self-sustainability.
3. Through education, training, livelihood generation, and spiritual and health interventions, OMGMT fosters rural development and community empowerment, employing appropriate technologies and watershed development strategies.
4. Recognized by the Indian government with 12A and 80G status, OMGMT provides tax benefits to Indian donors, reinforcing its commitment to transparent and accountable operations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Naresh Pandurang Mali | 4. Akshayrao Gopichand K |
| 2. Vijay H Honkalaskar | 5. Aniket Deo |
| 3. Gangu Prakash Garel | 6. Ashok Nana Churi |

POVERTY IS THE EVERYDAY CRISIS

Life in the outback of rural India is a daily crisis unimaginable to the inhabitants of modern cities. Because of the level of poverty and little infrastructure available, daily life is grueling, unforgiving, and literally life-threatening. Hauling water 5-8 times a day for family use, fetching firewood for cooking on wood stoves, and lack of consistent electricity are just a few of the daily challenges of living in the Forest area of Tansa River Valley./

In the 50 km surrounding Ganeshpuri of Thane District, Maharashtra, India, there are approximately 100,000 families or 600,000 people. Although it is only 100 km from Mumbai, the financial capital of India, this area is undeveloped and the people suffer from a lack of work, education, transportation, and government facilities and resources. About 48% of these families are illiterate, unskilled, landless, and live below the poverty level. They are suffering from easily treatable diseases and a lack of food. The majority of the hamlets are situated in inaccessible areas and are devoid of electricity and fresh water. They mainly depend upon daily wages to make their ends meet, often the most difficult work to be found, brick making. They are unaware of government programs and other opportunities.



Their major livelihoods are paddy and vegetable cultivation during monsoon, wage labor work in construction-related work or brick kilns, and a job (mainly for youngsters) in a distant industrial area. Average land owning is around 1 acre (all are marginal farmers). Many tribes have acquired land owned by the forest department to carry out cultivation for the last two to three decades. A few families per village cultivate a second crop by digging small ditches in the basin of streams flowing through the village boundaries. The level of education is low with less than 10% of people passing the 12th-grade examination.

The villagers do not have a secure livelihood due to the following: lack of knowledge and practice of techniques to carry out the cultivation of the crops other than paddy, few employable skills, distant market, no transport service from the village, and poor education. Many people cannot afford to buy private vehicles due to unsecured income earning sources. Lack of habit of planning for expenses aggravates the problem.

The nearest healthcare center is situated at a distance of 2 to 15 kilometers from the villages. Due to the lack of transportation, people cannot avail themselves of health care services easily. Drudgery associated with daily activities (especially in firewood fetching and water fetching) is the major reason causing backache, neckache, and mental stress. Villagers suffer from a number of impure water-borne diseases. Nutritious food for the family has been reduced to a decline in cattle population and milk in the daily diet along with reduction of organic manure in the growing vegetables. Changing food patterns (from finger millet and traditional rice varieties, forest vegetables to hybrid rice and vegetables bought from the local market), cultivation practices, lifestyle, and liquor addiction are also the reasons for the increasing number of health-related problems.

Weakened social capital in the village has been the reason for the lack of planning and its implementation of village-level activities and projects that may address some infrastructural and health-related problems. Liquor addiction has fueled disputes in the village, thereby, has reduced social capital.

The present livelihood alternatives include agriculture, animal husbandry, wage labor work, unskilled labor in companies, and selling non-timber forest produce. Due to the depletion of the forest, the availability of non-timber forest produce, such as gum, fruits, and flowers, has reduced. The alternatives of wage labor work are sporadically available with uncertainty in the payments. The distant jobs are associated with longer travel on a daily basis with harsh work conditions.



YOGA & HEALTH

INPUT: Financial Resources invested: 1,56,120 rupees. Covering staff, transportation, banners, books, food bags, yoga uniforms, and menstrual pads.

OUTPUT: Due to the worldwide pandemic, the yoga program, inspired by Svaroopaa Vidya Yoga, was reduced to teaching at 8 schools and 850 students weekly yoga classes. 4 tribal youth were trained as yoga teachers to teach hundreds of students and adults. Education was conducted on feminine hygiene, good nutrition, and cooking for good nutrition. Food bags were given to 25 widows. 35 OMGMT staff members were taught emotional self-regulation through meditation and yoga.

OUTCOME:

Weekly yoga improved physical fitness, increased flexibility, and enhanced the mental well-being of students, women's organizations, school teachers, and parents. 25 widows were able to access better nutrition. Hundreds of families were taught the importance of good nutrition and how to cook for good nutrition. Young women were taught feminine hygiene management and encouraged to stay in school which helped reduce the shame of menstruation.

IMPACT:

Yoga in schools and villages helped participants manage stress, improve concentration, develop a positive outlook toward life, and foster a sense of community. Menstrual education and menstrual pads helped reduce the school dropout rate among girls and increased the confidence and expression of girls. Good nutrition improves the lives of elders and raises their standing in their communities.



NATURAL FARMING & FRUIT TREE PLANTATION



Input:
Investment of 7,05,365 rupees encompassed staff, transportation, natural farming extracts, supplies, fruit trees, seeds, educational tools, water catchment, and marketing.

Output:
Training reached 34 villages, educating 255 farmers on 13 natural extracts. Seeds were distributed to 540 farmers, with 642 fruit trees given to 128 Farmers. They sold produce in distant markets, and 5 communities learned about watershed development.

Outcome:
34 villages adopted sustainable agriculture, boosting yields and health without pesticides. Farmers accessed larger markets, improving livelihoods. Watershed projects ensured consistent water supply. A model farm for education is in development.

Impact:
Natural farming fostered environmental consciousness, converting 60 hectares into eco-friendly habitats. Biodiversity flourished, aided by fruit tree plantations. Health benefits from nutritious produce reduced pesticide exposure. Socially, communities strengthened, preserving farming traditions. Self-made inputs cut costs, enabling children's education.





WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT



Input:

An investment of 11,55,993 rupees covered expenses such as staff salaries, fabrics, sewing materials, machinery, marketing, workshop rental, electricity, and internet for a women's artisan workshop.



Output:

45 women were employed, receiving training in handcrafts, textile production, and other skills. They learned workshop management, design, marketing, and sales, fostering collaborations with designers and international markets. Bicycles were given to 15 seamstresses for transportation by the East India Company.

Outcome:

Empowered artisans gained confidence, teamwork skills, and a sense of responsibility, meeting deadlines and producing quality items. Improved economic conditions led to independent and dignified lives, impacting their families positively.



Impact:

Increased financial support from women improved the communities's quality of life. Women became role models, encouraging education and delaying marriage for their daughters. They catalyzed change, inspiring new ideas for personal and community development.



EDUCATION, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMPUTER LAB

INPUT:

Financial Resources invested: 1,41,285 rupees covering scholarships, staff, transportation, computer equipment, classroom rent, electricity, Internet, and cooking supplies

OUTPUT:

OMGMT provided financial assistance to 22 girls for tuition, fees, books, uniforms, miscellaneous fees, and transportation. Personality enhancement was provided as well as tracking the girls' successful completion of education.

A computer lab of 10 computers and one full-time teacher bridged the digital divide for 30 tribal and underprivileged children each month. Basic computer knowledge, information technology, and hands-on training were provided daily.

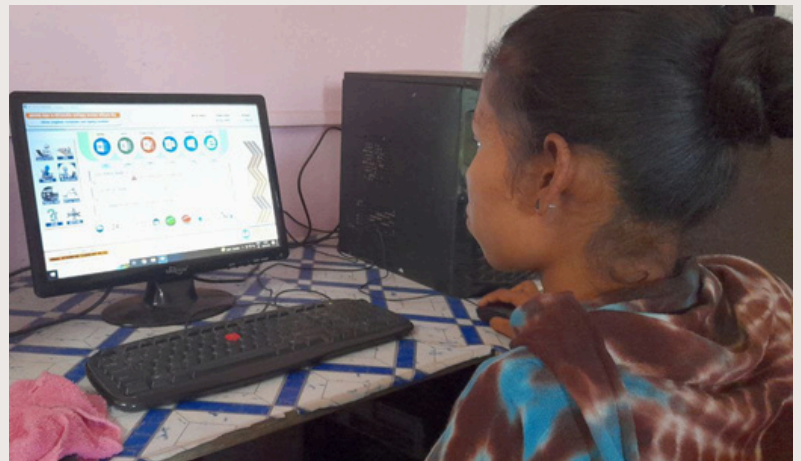


OUTCOME:

Financially needy girls were able to overcome the barriers to accessing quality education and pursue their educational dreams. The girls grew in self-worth and confidence. Empowered students with computer skills enhanced career prospects. Students exhibited improved confidence as their technical understanding and proficiency improved.

IMPACT:

Computer classes empower students to compete in today's technological world and create a pathway for their socio-economic development, and an improved overall quality of life. Girls transformed their lives and helped to break the cycle of poverty for their own future, their families, and their communities. Some of the scholarship girls went on to study medicine, pharmacy, agriculture, mass communication, nursing, and education.





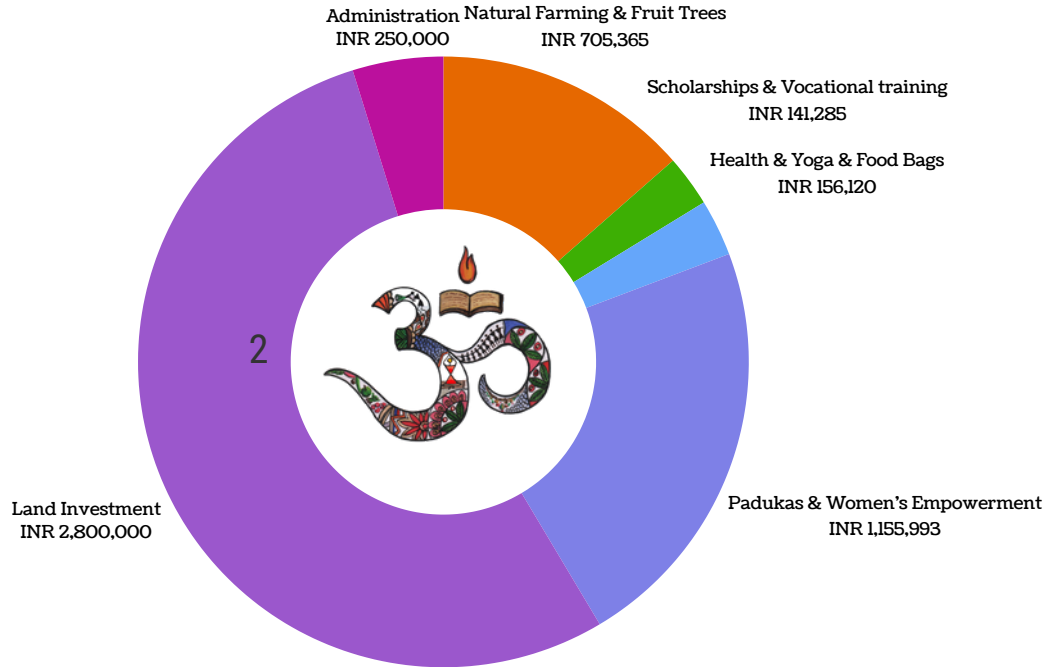
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Year April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022

For every ₹100, you gave,

- ₹13.5 was invested in natural farming and tree plantations
- ₹3 was spent on Health, Yoga and Food Bags
- ₹3 spent on Scholarships, Computer Lab, and Vocational Training
- ₹22 spent on Padukas salaries, materials, marketing
- ₹55 Land investment
- ₹5 Administration.

PROGRAMS AND OPERATING EXPENSES



REVENUE AND SUPPORT (INR)

- Contributions
INR 41,98,912
- Padukas Sales
INR 8,70,500
- Interest
INR 10,703
- TOTAL REVENUE
INR 50,80,115

PROGRAMS AND OPERATING EXPENSES

- NATURAL FARMING PROJECTS
INR 7,05,365
- SCHOLARSHIP
INR 1,41,285
- Health & Yoga, lab
INR 1,56,120
- PADUKAS
INR 11,55,993
- Land Investment
INR 28,00,000
- Administration
INR 2,50,000

TOTAL SPENT
INR 52,08,763

NET ASSETS (INR)

BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR
INR 5,41,476

CHANGES IN CASH ASSETS
INR 25,76,651

LAND VALUE
28,00,000

**TOTAL NET ASSETS
INR 59,18,127**

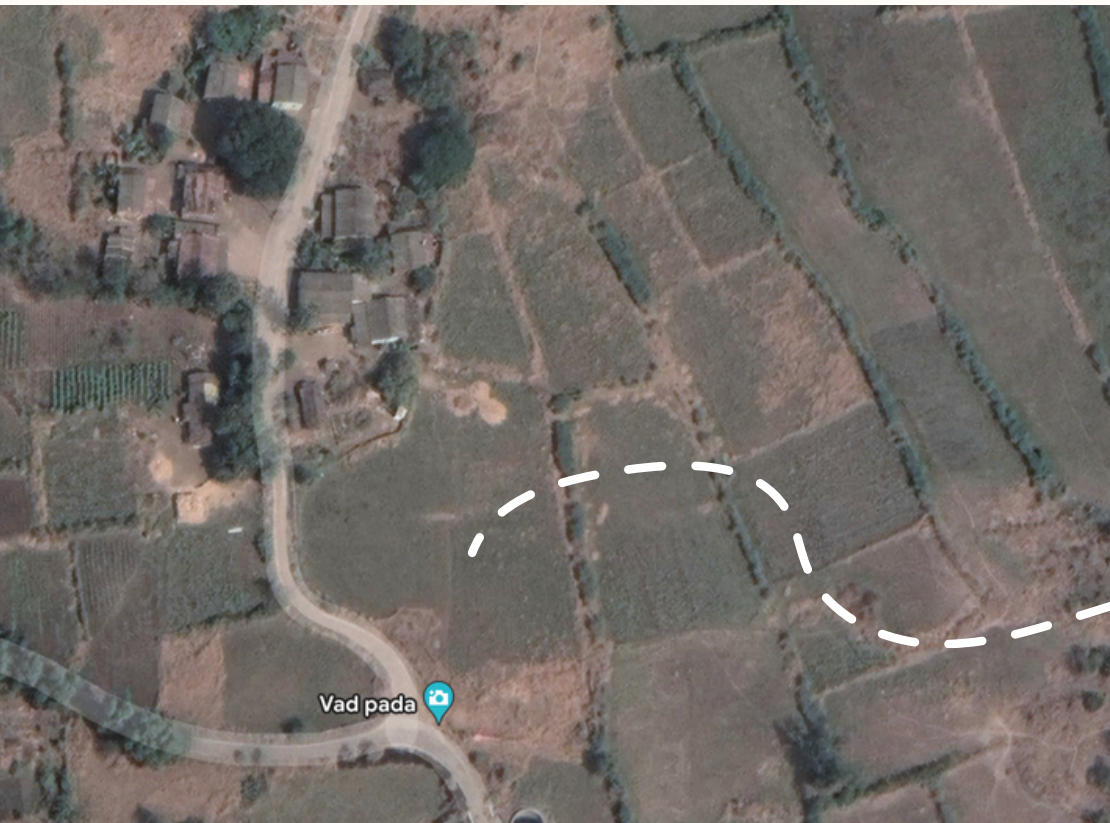
PHOTO GALLERY



ASHIRWADIT NATURAL FARMING DEMONSTRATION CENTER AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The Grand Vision of a Natural Farming Demonstration Center and Vocational Training Center

In 2021, the Om Gagangiri Maharaj Ashirwadit Trust purchased a beautiful acre of farmland at the foot of Mandagni Mountain in Vadpada. The trust had been searching for suitable land for several years and was fortunate to find this prime piece of land situated within a friendly Adivasi neighborhood. OMGMT's goal is to create a working training center to demonstrate natural farming, vegetable cultivation, the production of herbal extracts and farming inputs, and other vocational arts. Since 2015, OMGMT has been teaching natural farming theory and techniques and has envisioned having a permanent place to hold classes and demonstrate farming techniques. Purchasing this land is a dream come true. We welcome everyone to visit our future home of our Demonstration Farm and benefit from the knowledge that will arise from our teachers and trainers. We look forward to exchanging information and techniques with others dedicated to improving natural farming methods and adapting them to our local Adivasi population.

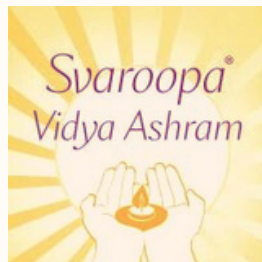


OUR PARTNERS



JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN
 Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India
 Scheme of Support to Jan Shikshan Sansthan(NGO's) for Skill Development

BARO
 MARKET



EAST INDIA COMPANY[®]

**SULOKCHETNA
 PRATISHTAN**



OM GAGANGIRI MAHARAJ ASHIRWADIT TRUST

Reg.No E-4042/05 Thane(Registered U/S 80-G (S)of I.T Act.1961)
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IFSC-FDRL0002123
(Federal Bank)