

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE TRAINING  
PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC KITCHEN GARDEN FOR NUTRITION FOR THE SCHOOLS  
IN WARDHA DISTRICT**

The title of the given study is “Impact Assessment Study of the Training Programme on Organic Kitchen Garden for Nutrition (OKGN) in Wardha District Schools”. The given study has been conducted in Wardha District covering schools situated in Aashti, Deoli, Samudrapur, Selu, Karanja and Wardha tehsils. The team conducting the study adopted one group for validation of OKGN’s impact and reach in schools, after experimental research design. A survey was done for investigation and it was performed quantitatively. All the schools which attended training program conducted by The Sahayak Trust on OKGN prior to Oct 2017 were the subject of the study and are located in Aashti, Deoli, Samudrapur, Selu, Karanja and Wardha tehsils of Wardha district. Each school has been considered as an individual unit for this Impact Assessment Study.

The census method has been adopted and 579 schools in six tehsils of Wardha district have been investigated. The primary source of data of this study was the school authorities. The interview methods, as well as observation method have been adopted to collect the data.

The aims and objectives of the given study are listed below:

1. To study the impact of the training programme on OKGNs for the schools in Wardha district.
2. To explore the present status of kitchen gardens (KG) in the schools in Wardha district.
3. To explore the challenges faced by the teachers in maintaining OKGN.
4. To explore potential of introducing OKGN to parents through students and teachers.

To evaluate the suggestions received from the teachers and explore the possibilities for implementing and strengthening the concept of kitchen garden with the necessary intervention by The Sahayak Trust.

## **SCHOOL PROFILE**

1. Exactly one-fourth i.e. 25.0 percent of the schools are situated in Samudrapur tehsil;
2. Nearly two-thirds i.e. 63.0 percent are primary schools;
3. There are 84 centres covering 579 schools;
4. On average there are 67 students in a school; and
5. On average there are 3.9447 ( $\pm 4.10170$ ) teachers in a school.

## **STATUS OF ORGANIC KITCHEN GARDENS FOR NUTRITION (OKGNs)**

**Note:** The investigative unit conducted a survey using the data collection questionnaire. The findings are compiled by consolidating responses received during various discussions between the investigative unit and the schools and their students. The study was done in Jan 2018 of schools whose trainings were completed by Oct 2017. Where findings appeared unclear further verification has been done by visits or phone calls by The Sahayak Trust representative. Some respondents indicated during the verification exercise, which was conducted in Marathi, that the confusion arose because there were difficulties in understanding some questions as the study interview was conducted in Hindi in which the people being interviewed lacked fluency, and therefore some mistaken responses were documented in the survey form. For instance it was found when seeking details on phone regarding responses to Questions 9 and 10 that some schools having entirely OKGN were reflected in survey form as partially OKGN or entirely inorganic kitchen gardens.

### **Following are the highlights of the findings:-**

- I. Almost three-fifth i.e. 58.7 percent of the schools are having Kitchen Garden (KG) at present;
- II. Available KGs include 78.53 per cent KGs initiated before the training from The Sahayak Trust and remaining 21.47 per cent are KGs initiated after the training by Sahayak Trust. These percentages are from the 58.7 per cent as mentioned above
- III. 22.1 percent of the schools are facing fencing issues;
- IV. 21.6 percent of the schools are facing unavailability of water;

- V. 19.9 percent of the schools are facing unavailability of land ;
- VI. 15.0 percent of the schools have reported that the kitchen garden was destroyed during vacation;
- VII. 4.5 percent of the schools have reported that the seeds provided did not germinate;
- VIII. 3.5 percent of the schools are facing issues with animals eating the kitchen garden produce;
- IX. An average area of OKGN in school is  $145.3143(\pm 211.4017)$  square feet;
- X. 30.0 percent of the schools have temporary fencing;
- XI. Almost half i.e. 48.0 percent of the schools were having entirely organic kitchen garden before The Sahayak Trust's training;
- XII. Almost half i.e. 47.5 percent of the schools were having entirely OKGN after The Sahayak Trust's training;
- XIII. Among the schools having entirely organic kitchen garden before The Sahayak Trust's training, 72.2 percent of the school's KGs remained entirely organic and 8.5 percent were converted to partially organic and 0.7 percent converted to entirely inorganic KGs after the training. Whereas among the schools with partially organic KGs before The Sahayak Trust's training more than half i.e. 54.1 per cent of the school's KGs were converted to totally organic after the training, and among the schools with entirely inorganic KGs, almost three-fifth i.e. 56.3 percent of the school's KGs converted to entirely OKGN after the training. This clearly reflects that the training from The Sahayak Trust succeeded in converting available KGs to OKGNs.
- XIV. On an average  $2.9378 (\pm 2.8216)$  varieties of vegetables were planted before the training from The Sahayak Trust;
- XV. On an average  $2.4577 (\pm 2.8118)$  varieties of vegetables were planted after the training from The Sahayak Trust;
- XVI. In cooking of mid-day meals, on an average  $17.6908 (\pm 22.6490)$  percent contribution of the vegetables are from OKGN;
- XVII. Most i.e. 88.9 percent of the children liked to eat vegetables provided in their mid-day meal; of which more than two-fifth i.e. 45.0 percent of the students preferred the use of these vegetables in mid-day meal to high extent;

- XVIII. More than two-fifth i.e. 42.0 percent of the schools reported that the training provided by The Sahayak Trust was useful to high extent; whereas one-fifth 20.0 per cent of the schools reported that it was useful to very high extent;
- XIX. More than four-fifth i.e. 85.1 percent of the schools are using OKGN manual/book provided by The Sahayak Trust;
- XX. More than four-fifth i.e. 83.1 percent of the schools are using seeds provided by The Sahayak Trust;
- XXI. More than seven-tenth i.e. 70.1 percent of the schools are using DVDs provided by The Sahayak Trust;
- XXII. Nearly two-fifth i.e. 39.0 percent of the schools reported that children involvement in their schools on OKGN is to high extent; whereas more than one fifth 21.0 percent of the schools reported that children involvement in their schools on OKGN is to some extent; and 9.0 percent of the schools reported that children involvement in their schools on OKGN is to very high extent;
- XXIII. 4<sup>th</sup> standard students are involved in OKGN in more than half i.e. 55.8 percent of schools;
- XXIV. 3<sup>rd</sup> standard students are involved in OKGN in more than half i.e. 50.9 percent of schools;
- XXV. More than two-third i.e. 67.7 percent of the schools are informing parents about OKGN;
- XXVI. More than four-fifth i.e. 82.4 percent of the schools are willing to extend OKGN programme to villages through students;
- XXVII. More than three-fifth i.e. 61.7 percent of the schools are transferring OKGN to village houses through school;
- XXVIII. More than four-fifth i.e. 88.4 percent of the schools' teachers discussed with the students about OKGN;
- XXIX. More than half i.e. 54.6 percent of the schools have shown DVDs on OKGN to children.
- XXX. More than four-fifth i.e. 85.7 percent of the children reported that they would like to start an OKGN in their home;
- XXXI. More than seven-tenth i.e. 70.5 percent of the children's parents are aware of the OKGN activities in the school;

- XXXII. Out of all children interviewed randomly, more than half i.e. 55.8 percent of the children stated that they have seen DVD on OKGN
- XXXIII. One-third i.e. 36.0 percent of the schools reported that WhatsApp group is useful to some extent; and 30.0 percent of the schools reported that WhatsApp group is useful to high extent.
- XXXIV. Mean grade for kitchen garden of schools is 2.9689 ( $\pm 2.93571$ ) out of ten which comes under the category of poor kitchen garden.