



**SEARCH**

## Annual Report 2014-2015

*"I shall give you a talisman. When faced with a dilemma as to what your next step should be, remember the most wretched and vulnerable human being you ever saw. The step you contemplate should help him!"*

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### About SEARCH

Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH) is a voluntary organization working in rural and tribal regions of Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra. Gadchiroli district is situated on the eastern border of Maharashtra, bordering Chhattisgarh in the east and Andhra Pradesh in the south. The district headquarter, Gadchiroli, is about 175 km south of the nearest city Nagpur.

Gadchiroli is one of the poorest and least developed districts in India. While rest of the Maharashtra and India is marching ahead, Gadchiroli district with nearly one million populations, 36% of which are tribal is lagging behind in various parameters of human development index. The problem is compounded by the emergence of Maoist movement. Inspired by the social philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Drs. Abhay and Rani Bang founded SEARCH in 1986 after completing their public health training at Johns Hopkins University, USA.

### Our Vision and Mission

SEARCH's vision is 'Aarogya-Swaraj' or putting the 'People's health in the people's hands.' By empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their own health, SEARCH aims to help people achieve freedom from disease as well as dependence.

This is done by way of:

Community based healthcare and tribal friendly hospital  
Research  
Training and education for health  
Public Awareness  
Policy shaping

### Our programmes:

SEARCH strives to achieve its objectives through following eight key programmes-

Tribal-friendly hospital  
Home-based maternal, newborn and child care  
Tribal health  
Tobacco and alcohol awareness generation and control  
Life skill education  
Training and education for health  
Community health research programme  
Rural chronic non-communicable diseases programme  
Shaping policy  
NIRMAN

### Our Website:

[www.searchgadchiroli.org](http://www.searchgadchiroli.org)

### Write to us on:

**SEARCH**  
Po, District Gadchiroli,  
Maharashtra,  
Pin - 442605,  
India.

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**Phone:** +91 7138 255407  
**Fax:** +91 7138 255411  
**E-mail address:** [search.gad@gmail.com](mailto:search.gad@gmail.com)

To contribute please click here for bank details.



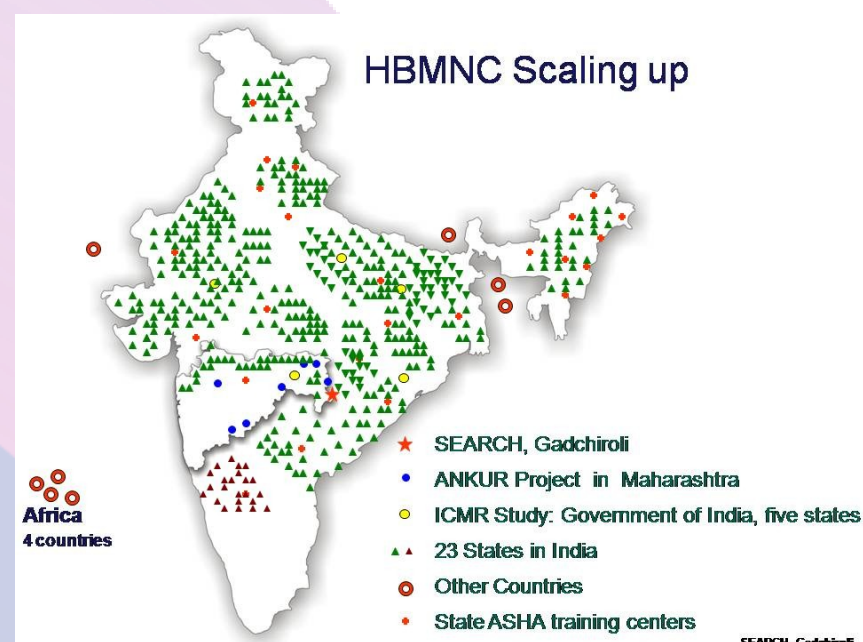


On the morning of 15th August 2014 as the country was celebrating its 68th Independence day, Rasika delivered her first, weak, fragile and premature boy child, at her father's house in Munjalgondi. Munjalgondi, a village of 230 population, is located in a remote tribal area. However, Rasika and her family chose to carry out the delivery in a traditional hut, in spite of the village health supervisor advising the family to take the mother to the nearest hospital. The baby was born with 5 signs of serious illness: fast breathing, low temperature, low birth weight of 1.8 kgs, lethargy and inability to breastfeed.



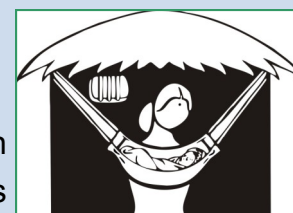
The supervisor of the tribal health team of SEARCH, told the Village Health Worker trained by SEARCH to administer antibiotic, taught the mother how to breastfeed, and advised to do so every two hours. He showed her how to use the shawl and the blanket to wrap the baby and keep him warm. The family was also provided health education. Eventually, after one and a half months the mother went back to Fulbodi with a healthy child of 2.6kgs.

This approach of saving newborns is called Home-based New born Care. With such small steps SEARCH strives to make a difference in the lives of the population that it works with.



## The Home-Based Neonatal and Child Care (HBNCC) Programme

This programme was developed in 1995 to reduce high infant mortality in rural Gadchiroli. The HBNCC has been accepted as part of the national health programme by the Government of India. The 39 villages where HBNCC was first developed, SEARCH's trained female village health workers or *Arogyadoots* (messengers of health) continue to provide their services free of cost to the community.



### HBNCC going national:

To assist the Government of India in scaling up the HBNCC programme, SEARCH has trained state trainers and programme managers from 27

states. In 2014-15, one camp was held to train state trainers from Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Now, nearly 800,000 ASHAs are being trained in India to provide HBNC to 20 million rural neonates each year.

### Implementing HBNCC in Jharkhand:

SEARCH has also been helping in the implementation of the HBNCC programme by community health workers under the National Rural health Mission (NRHM) in the rural and tribal regions of Saraikhela block of Jharkhand. SEARCH has provided technical assistance in planning, training of project personnel, providing training material and monitoring tools, monitoring of the implementation of the project on a sample basis, analysis of data collected and advice for course correction as per need. This year SEARCH helped in planning of the impact evaluation of the project.

**Project MANSI**  
A joint collaboration of SEARCH, America India Foundation (AIF), Tata Steel Rural Development Society (TSRDS) and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Jharkhand, since 2011.

### Home-based maternal Care:

SEARCH has developed a maternal component and tested its feasibility and impact by way of a field trial and thus expanded the HBNCC to HBMNCC. In 2014-2015, they provided services to 1,225 pregnant mothers and 875 neonates.

## Maa Danteshwari Dawakhana (SEARCH's Rural Hospital)

The tribal-friendly hospital of SEARCH provides healthcare to the tribal and rural population of Gadchiroli, and other neighbouring districts.



The hospital provides primary care as well as specialty care in gynaecology, internal medicine, neurology and pathology. The care for mental health, urology, spine care are provided on a periodic basis. The hospital also provides care for general surgical problems as well as in selected specialized surgical care areas such as gynaecology, urology, paediatrics, spinal and plastic surgery through periodic surgical camps, at highly subsidized costs, in collaboration with volunteering surgeons and anaesthetists.

The laboratory at SEARCH in addition to providing the routine biochemistry services provides services in cytology and histopathology.





SEARCH trains local tribal and non-tribal youths as nursing assistants and laboratory assistants. Currently six nursing assistants, mainly from the tribal area around SEARCH, are under training in the hospital.

This year the construction for a new dental clinic and an additional clinic room was completed, and the dental clinic has started offering services. The dental chair and other equipments were donated by Mr. Ranga Chari.

The hospital has also started implementing electronic medical records system for registration, billing and the laboratory with help from the software company ThoughtWorks.

### The Tribal Health Programme

The Tribal Health Programme of SEARCH works in 48 remotely located villages in forested areas in the Dhanora block of Gadchiroli district.

#### Providing village-level care through trained healthcare workers:

In order to reduce the dependence of tribal villagers on healthcare providers outside the village, SEARCH has trained local youth as village health workers called *Danteshwari Sevaks* (messengers of the tribal Goddess Danteshwari). They provide primary health care services for selected ailments such as malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia, anaemia, fevers, scabies and back and limb pain.

Last year, SEARCH has trained these workers in the use of Rapid Diagnostic Kits to detect Malaria. They can now diagnose malaria infection (*falciparum*) within minutes, give treatment and advise immediate referral for high risk patients. SEARCH provides ambulance services in these hard to access areas for transporting high risk and serious patients.

Patient visits and clinical services, by year		
	2013/14	2014/15
Total outpatient visits	27,222	34,680
Patient re-visits	15,501 (56.9%)	20381 (58.76%)
New patient visits	11,721 (43.1%)	14,433 (41.2%)
Inpatients	1,037	1,541
Surgeries	419	518
Pathology services		
Laboratory investigations	24,944	43,075
Cytology	58	58
Histopathology	105	143

Danteshwari sewaks treatment		
2013-14	2014-15	Increment
16,519	19,461	17.8



#### Mobile medical care (MMU):

SEARCH has collaborated with the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide healthcare in these remotely located villages through a mobile medical unit. The unit is run by SEARCH and visits each village once a month. Additionally, MMU team conducts regular health education sessions on topics such as preventive actions against malaria, anaemia among women, and harmful effects of tobacco. MMU also took part in providing treatment and promoting preventive efforts during the malaria epidemic this year.

20,605 clinic consultations

#### Danteshwari Jatra:

During the annual tribal health *Jatra*, SEARCH's tribal health team carried the palanquin of the Goddess Danteshwari to 48 villages. After the villagers worshiped the idol, meetings to discuss priority health issues of the community were held and health education through puppet shows and role plays was provided.



#### Our Healthy Ashram School' programme:

This year, SEARCH launched a new programme 'Our Healthy Ashram School' in three selected residential Ashram schools for tribal students from the field area of SEARCH. Currently the programme is helping close to 800 students. The programme targeted 10 selected health priorities like malaria, diarrhoea, anaemia, tobacco use and scabies. These were identified based on prior experience and consultation with school teachers. The activities included health education, training of teachers about common ailments, examination of children by MMU physician, oral evaluation of children by a dentist, checking haemoglobin levels and screening for sickle cell anaemia and providing treatment, where necessary.



Tobacco and Alcohol Awareness and Harm Reduction Programme



Tobacco use is very common in Gadchiroli and one out of two individuals in the district use tobacco. SEARCH has been working on the problem of tobacco and alcohol use for close to 25 years. Tobacco use often starts very early in rural and tribal areas due to social acceptance.

‘Tobacco Free School’ programme:

This programme focused on increasing the awareness about the ill effects of tobacco, motivate students to quit tobacco and promote implementation of anti-tobacco law COTPA by schools. Fifty schools were selected from the Dhanora and Gadchiroli blocks, where this programme was implemented.

97 teachers trained  
Awareness programmes in 45 schools  
Participation of 49 schools in elocution competition

Tobacco free women’s self-help groups’ programme:

For the last three years SEARCH has been working with women members of the self-help groups (SHGs) of Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM), the Government of Maharashtra’s Women’s Economic Empowerment Corporation. The activities included measuring tobacco use among SHG members by trained SHG members (*Muktidoots*), providing information on the harmful effects of tobacco and evaluation of tobacco users by dentists to identify oral diseases due to tobacco, counselling to quit as well as providing earthen money saving pots to save the money spent on tobacco.

About 10,000 SHG members from 3 districts



Project ‘Tobacco Free Gadchiroli’:

SEARCH conducts periodic sample surveys to estimate the expenditure on tobacco in Gadchiroli district. Last year people spent an estimated Rs 200 crores on purchase of tobacco products, posing a potential threat to the economic development of the district. Last year SEARCH started working with the district administration to reduce tobacco use in Gadchiroli district. Selected NGOs and faith-based groups also participated in the programme. On the Independence Day programmes were held in government offices and schools with the theme being ‘Tobacco Free Gadchiroli,’ under the supervision of district collector of Gadchiroli, Mr Ranjit Kumar.

Implementation of Alcohol bans in Gadchiroli and the neighbouring districts

Daru Mukti Parishad (A conference to promote freedom from alcohol):

To promote implementation of alcohol ban in Gadchiroli district and discuss the planned implementation of forthcoming alcohol ban in the neighbouring Chandrapur district, SEARCH brought together politicians, civil society members and administrative officials from these districts. At the end of the conference a joint manifesto was released with a plan to work together to reduce the use of alcohol in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Wardha districts and create an alcohol free zone.

Representative surveys in three districts to measure alcohol use and economic expenditure:

In order to generate good quality population level data on alcohol use to help administrators and policymakers to implement the ban on alcohol effectively, SEARCH conducted a random sample survey of 3 districts to estimate the prevalence of alcohol use with the help of National Service Scheme (NSS) students from the Gondwana and Nagpur Universities, in Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Wardha. The result of this study was provided to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and District collector of Gadchiroli and Wardha.



Tarunya-bhan (Life Skill Education)

In order to increase awareness about reproductive health among adolescents and youth in Maharashtra, *Tarunyabhan* (which literally means awareness about youth hood) programme was started by SEARCH in 1995. This year, 7 *Tarunyabhan* camps were conducted in Gadchiroli district, and 14 in other neighbouring districts. A total of 8,827 youth participated of which 5,958 were girls.

Youth Sports Programme

SEARCH’s youth sports programme was started in year 2000 in the tribal villages to promote health through sports and keep youth away from addictions.

7 Tarunyabhan camps conducted in Gadchiroli district  
14 in other districts  
8,827 youth (5,958 girls, 2869 boys) participated



### Tribal and Non-tribal area youth sports

713 youth from 44 tribal villages participated in the Dr. Chari Memorial Tribal youth sports event. 218 teams participated in Kabaddi and Volley ball games. Youth sports were also held in non-tribal villages in the field area of SEARCH. 30 teams with 178 youth participants from 18 villages participated in these games.

### Rural Chronic Non-communicable Diseases Research Programme



This programme was started to address the emerging problem of non-communicable diseases in rural areas of India. SEARCH collects information on causes of death in 134 villages. Stroke has emerged as a leading cause of death in rural Gadchiroli. In order to reduce the deaths due to stroke SEARCH has developed a community-based programme. The programme will be tested in a field study.

#### Cancer Registry:

In order to understand and tackle the emerging problem of cancer due to heavy use of tobacco SEARCH has collaborated with the Tata Cancer Hospital, Mumbai in order to start a Population-Based Cancer Registry in tribal and rural Gadchiroli. Through this registry population-level information on cancers will be collected. This is the first population-based cancer based registry collecting information on cancers from tribal area in India.

### Public Health Research Programme



Currently, SEARCH is conducting research in the following key areas:

- Maternal, newborn and child health
- Reproductive health
- Demography
- Causes of child and adult mortality
- Malaria
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol use
- Chronic non-communicable diseases

Field practice area  
of 134 villages  
~1,00,000 total  
population



### NIRMAN

NIRMAN is a youth initiative started by SEARCH in 2006 to identify, nurture and organize young social change makers to address various societal challenges.

#### NIRMAN 6 batch:

The camps for the medical and non medical youth were conducted and were based on the theme 'from self to the society'. The activities included community life in the camp, living with the rural and tribal families, *Tarunya-bhan* debates and talks by social changemakers, group exercises, and discussions on selected books and articles.

#### Other highlights:

On the request of Tata Center for Technology and Design, IIT Bombay, a workshop on the theme of 'Technology at the Bottom of the Pyramid' was organized by the NIRMAN team at SEARCH for 33 fellows.

A workshop was organized for the NIRMAN youth working full time on the social issues. 'How to be an effective social change-maker' was the theme of the workshop wherein 34 youth participated.

In order to facilitate entry of NIRMAN youth into the social sector, NIRMAN is starting 'Kar ke dekho' fellowship.



Amrut Bang, coordinator of NIRMAN, was invited to participate in a national level brainstorming workshop at New Delhi by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to discuss the design of the Prime Minister's Youth Leadership Program that they plan to launch.

- 176 youth have worked full time in social sectors
- 129 currently working full time
- 8 working at SEARCH
- Contributed for more than 300 person years

### Beneficiaries' matrix

Health care provided to patients	105,226
Awareness programme	29,406
Training	410

Programmes of SEARCH	Services provided
Rural hospital	
Outpatient consultations	34,680
Inpatient admissions	1,541
Surgeries	518
Village health care programme	
Number of pregnant women who received care under the home-based neonatal care programme	1,225
Number of neonates who received care under the home-based neonatal care programme	874
Number of treatments provided by the female health workers other than HBNC	12,560
Number of treatments provided by the male health workers	13,762
Tribal health programme	
Number of treatments provided by the tribal village health workers	19,461
Number of tribal residential school students who were a part of the 'My Healthy Ashram-school'	771
Number of clinic consultations by the mobile medical unit	20,605
Number of pregnant women who received care under the home-based neonatal care programme	
Number of neonates who received care under the home-based neonatal care programme	174
Tobacco and alcohol awareness and cessation programme	
Students in the school health programme	7,564
Women self-help group members	12,124
Tarunyabhan (Adolescent sexual health education programme)	
Number of students who attended the camps	8,827
Youth sports programme	
Number of youth who participated in sports in tribal area	713
Number of youth who participated in sports in rural area	178
Training	
Training of teachers for the school tobacco cessation programme	185
Training of teachers for the 'My Healthy Ashram-school' programme	28
Training of state trainers for the home-based neonatal care programme	
Training of health assistants for the management of alcohol withdrawal in Chandrapur district	78
Public health practice workshop	48
Training of medical officers for the management of alcohol withdrawal in Chandrapur district	43
Visiting interns and fellows	13



## Other Educational Activities

### Public Health Practice Workshop:

In order to share its experience in public health, SEARCH holds a workshop for the Post Graduate students of preventive and social medicine and public health every year. This year this workshop was held for post-graduate students from Gujarat. 39 participants from various medical colleges in Gujarat participated in this workshop.

### Memorial service

A conference was organized on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary of late Thakurdas Bang, an eminent Gandhian and father of Dr. Abhay Bang. A Samadhi with the Charakha represents his memory. A prayer was organized in his memory, in which the Gandhian leaders and workers assembled from different parts of India.

### Community Life in *Shodhagram*

A close-knit community of around 100 people living in *Shodhagram*, the campus of SEARCH, meets regularly for evening prayers, 6 days a week and provides service to the community by means of cleaning the campus (*shram-yoga*), 2 days a week. All religious festivals are celebrated in the campus as SEARCH believes in the principle of '*Sarva Dharma Sama Bhava*' (equality of all religions). There are two grounds for physical activities and a gymnasium.

Internships — 13 interns from various national and international organisations worked at SEARCH



### SEARCH team

Total full time workers	102
Part time FemaleVillage Health Workers	32
Part time Male Village Health Workers	39
Part Time Danteshwari Sevaks	48

### Shaping policy

SEARCH directors, Dr. Rani and Dr. Abhay Bang have been contributing to the development of health policies in India by serving on several national and state level committees and commissions.

#### Dr. Abhay Bang:

At the national level, these include:

Chairman, Expert Group on Tribal Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, 2013

Member, High Level Committee on Tribal populations in India, Prime Minister's Office, 2013

National ASHA mentoring group, 2009 onwards (<http://nrhm.gov.in/communitisation/asha/minutes-of-asha-mentoring-group.html>).

Member, Audit Advisory Board, Controller and Auditor General, Government of India



At the state (Maharashtra) level-

Member, Kelkar Committee on 'Regional Imbalance and Balanced Regional Development' (<https://www.maharashtra.gov.in/site/upload/WhatsNew/KCR-23122014.pdf>)

Member, Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) of the State

Chairman, Committee on Tribal Health, The TAC

Member, The Chief Secretary Committee on Malnutrition and Child Deaths in Tribal Areas

Member, Committee on the Issue of Alcohol Policy in Chandrapur District

#### Dr. Rani Bang:

Member, Pre Conception and Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Committee

Member, Violence against Women committee

## Awards:

### Dr. Abhay Bang:

Social Award of Krantisingh Nana Patil from Krantisingh Nana Patil Lokvidyapeeth, Vita Dist : Sangali, (2015)  
Honorary D.Litt. from Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, (2015)  
Desasnehi Award from India Development Foundation, Bangalore, (2014)  
Kesharilalji Bordia Smruti Sanman from Jeevan Rakshak Charitable Trust, Udaipur, (2014)  
Sanjeevani Sanman, from Sahyadri Doodarshan, Mumbai, (2014)

### Dr. Rani Bang:

The Degree of D.Litt. from Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, (2015).  
Vidarbha Ratna Award from Ramkrushna Paikujji Samarth Smarak Samiti, Nagpur, (2015).  
Kesharilalji Bordia Smruti Sanman from Jeevan Rakshak Charitable Trust, Udaipur, (2014)  
Sanjeevani Sanman, from Sahyadri Doodarshan, Mumbai, (2014)



## Article published

Deshmukh SA, Kalkonde YV, Deshmukh MD, Bang AA, Bang AT. Healthcare seeking behavior for back and Joint pain in rural Gadchiroli, India: A population-based cross-sectional study. Indian J Community Med 2014;39:229-34.

## We are thankful to...

### Our Programme Partners (*alphabetical order*)

American India Foundation, USA  
Dist. Administration, Gadchiroli, India  
Government Dental College, Nagpur, India  
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, India  
Integrated Tribal Development Programme, India  
Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, India  
Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited, India  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India  
National Health Systems Resource Centre, New Delhi  
National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), India  
Nagpur University, India  
Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust (NRTT), India  
Sangath, Goa, India  
Tata Steel Rural Development Society (TSRDS), India

### Our Funding support for projects (*alphabetical order*)

American India Foundation, USA  
Cognizant Foundation, India  
Dalal Foundation, India  
Indians for Collective Action, USA  
Indira Foundation, USA  
Infosys Foundation, Bangalore  
MacArthur Foundation, USA  
Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited, India  
Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, Gadchiroli  
National Rural Health Mission, Government of Maharashtra  
Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, India  
Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra  
Wipro Cares, India

### Our well wishers (*alphabetical order*)

Anand Gokhale, Sangmner  
Anjali Yewalkar, Mumbai  
Charms Group, Mahasul, Nagpur  
G Corportion Pvt Ltd, Mumbai  
Kanhayalal Shardul, Aurangabad  
Kishore Parsuram Patil, Bangaluru  
Madhukar Bholanath Pathare, Mumbai  
Maharashtra Foundation, USA  
Mahesh V Balsekar, Mumbai  
MSS India VT Ltd, Mumbai  
Pushpalata P Bidwai  
Reliance Leap Lectrue Honorarium  
Saroj Kamat, Mumbai  
Signet Chemical Corporation Ltd , Mumbai  
Shekhar Nargudkar, Mumbai

### Our trustees

Shri. Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari  
Dr. Prakash Amte  
Dr. Upendra Vedpathak  
Dr. Sudha Joshi  
Dr. Rani Bang  
Dr. Abhay Bang

### Awards from

Jivan Rakshak Chritable Trust, Mumbai  
India Development Foundation, Bangalore

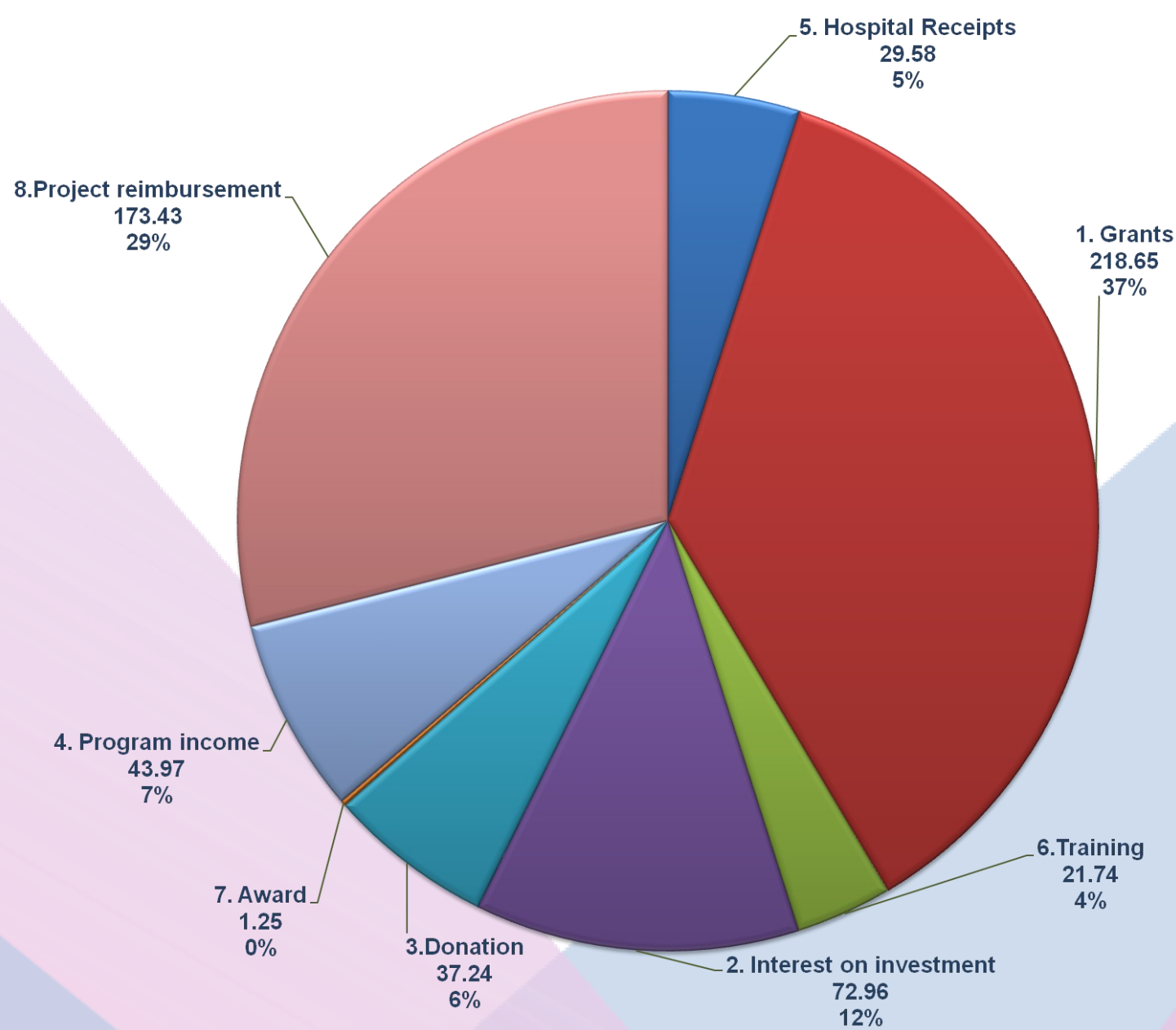
**And many more...**



*We are thankful for*

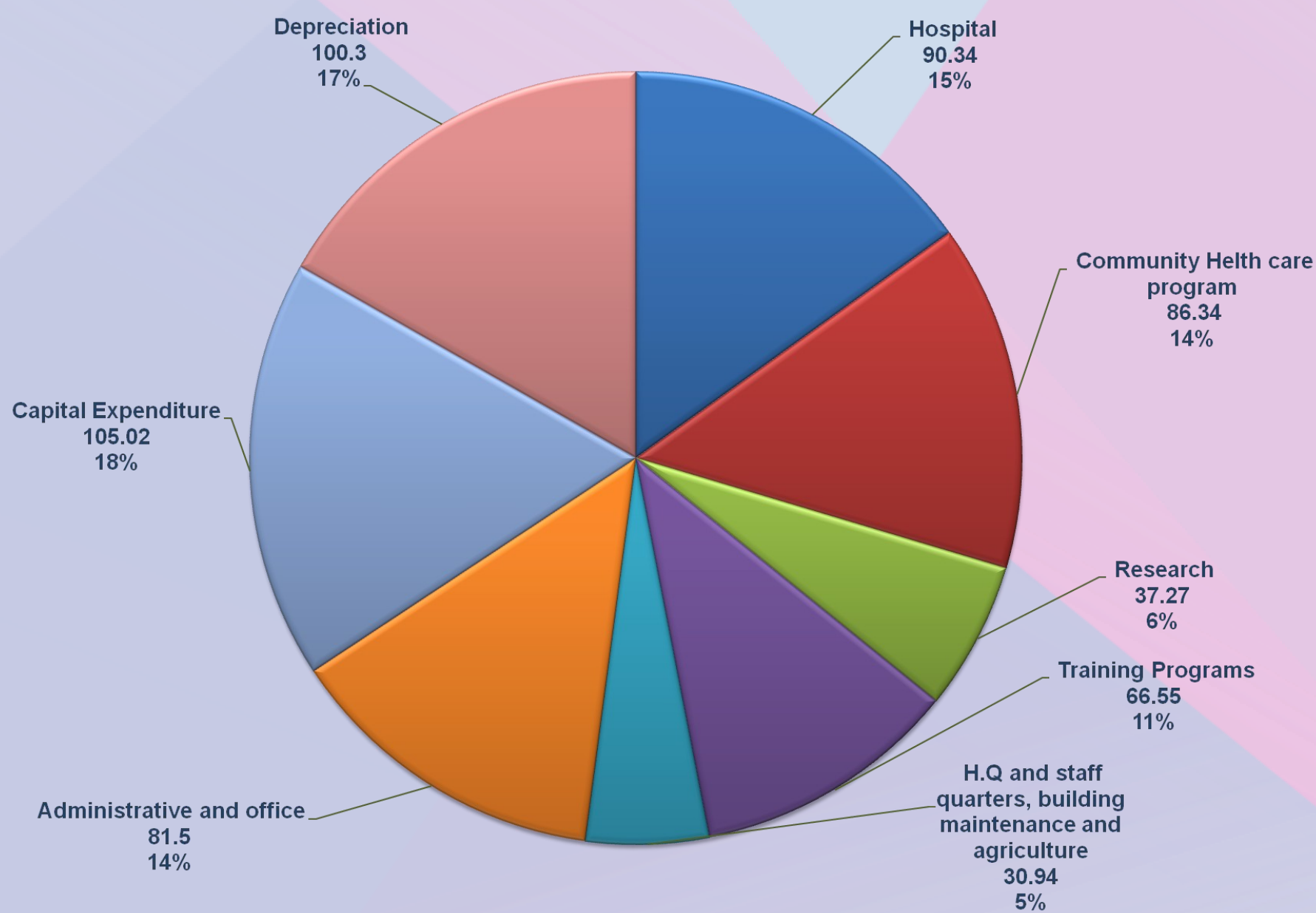
2014-15 Income

Rs. 598.82 (In lakh i.e. hundred thousand)



Expenses 2014-15

Rs. 598.82 (In Lakh i.e. Hundred Thousand)





**Dear Friends,**

We hope that you have gone through the salient features of various aspects of work of SEARCH. Perhaps now you would like to

Visit SEARCH and observe the work of SEARCH

Explore possibility of partnership with SEARCH for **implementing the proven models developed by SEARCH**

**Obtain training** in specific field where SEARCH has training to offer

Invite **Adolescent education team** to hold camp/programme at your institute

Contribute to the efforts of SEARCH by **offering your expertise or services**

Send your students for a **study tour** to experience the methods of community service

**Participate in dissemination** of the information on the work of SEARCH through your writings such as articles for newspapers or periodicals

Obtain **copies of publications** published by SEARCH itself or by other agencies (books, research papers, reports, information brochures)

**Contribute** by way of donation in cash or kind (**Bank details**)

*Bank Details :*

Account title -	SEARCH Central A/c
Bank Name -	Bank of Maharashtra
Branch -	Gadchiroli
Account No. -	20132954389
IFS code -	MAHB0000940

There are many other ways in which we can establish and develop the partnership. Please feel free to contact us and obtain further details on specific matters of interest. We are looking forward to friendship with you.

Best wishes,



**"Go to the people  
Live among them  
Love them  
Listen to them  
Learn from them  
Begin with what they know  
Build upon what they have"**

**- Lao Tsu (Founder of Taoism)**