

THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL IV



The HCL Grant is a recognition of the rise of community-led ecosystems, Non-Governmental Organizations – The Fifth Estate. The other four estates that democracy rests on are – the legislative, judiciary, executive, and the free press. These estates not only define the fabric of our society but also act as potent drivers propelling India to the next level of growth and prosperity. It is imperative that the growth process that we as a nation subscribe to is inclusive, and carries forward all sections of the society across geographies.

This is where the community-led ecosystems are destined to play a decisive role in building a stronger, future-ready India.



THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL IV

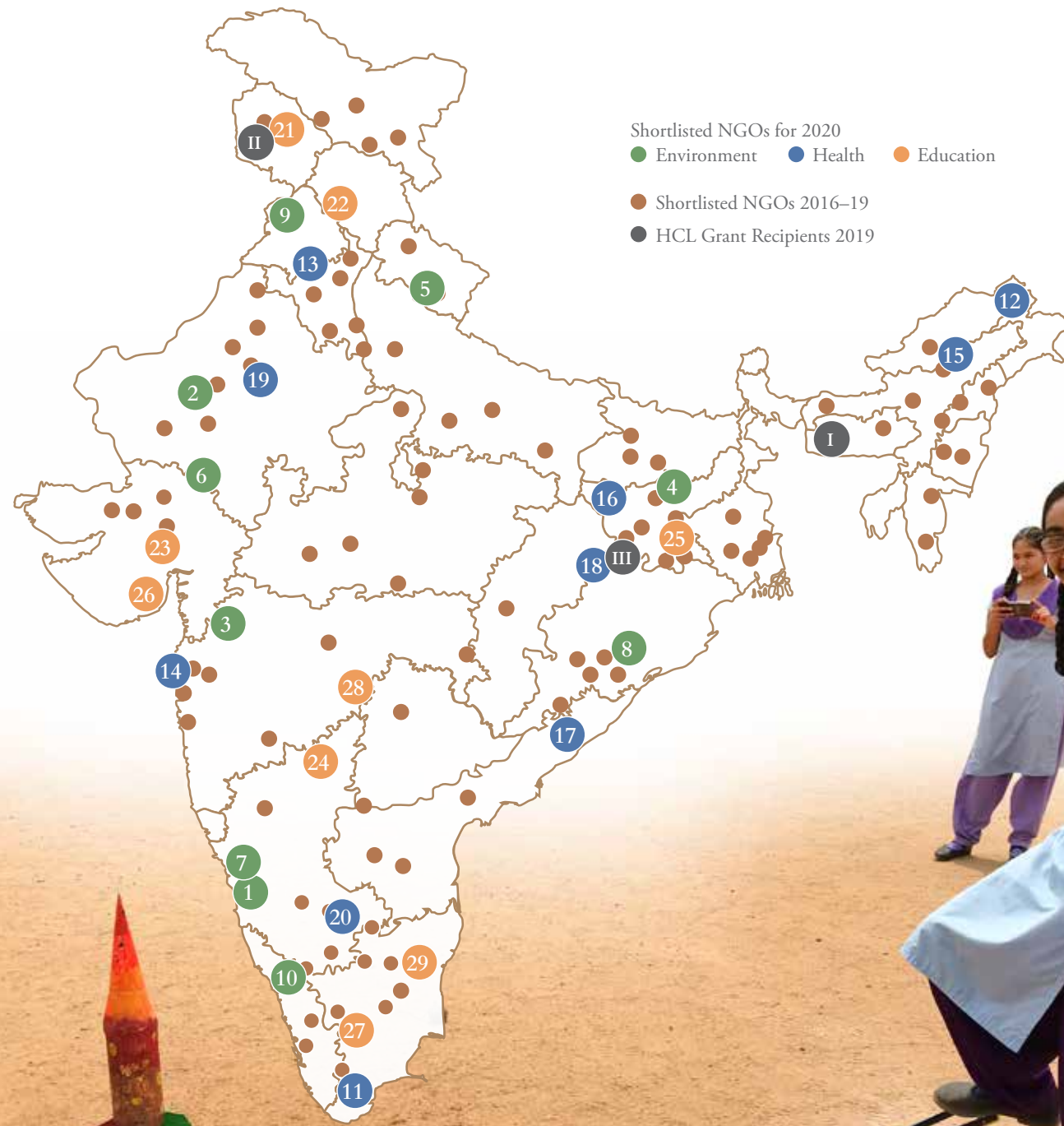
NGOs Transforming Rural India
in Environment, Health and Education



HCL

SHOWCASE
Roli Books

CONTENTS



The Collaborators 6
 The HCL Grant Methodology 16
 Jury 24

HCL Grant Recipients 2019

- I **ENVIRONMENT** Wildlife Trust of India 28
- II **HEALTH** She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs 32
- III **EDUCATION** Srijan Foundation 36

ENVIRONMENT

Finalists 2020

- 1 Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment 46
- 2 Tarun Bharat Sangh 54
- 3 Under The Mango Tree Society 62

Shortlisted 2020

- 4 ActionAid Association 70
- 5 Dev Rishi Educational Society 74
- 6 Development Support Centre 78
- 7 India Foundation for Humanistic Development 82
- 8 Lutheran World Service India Trust 86
- 9 Nature Conservation Foundation 90
- 10 PlanatEarth 94

HEALTH

Finalists 2020

- 11 Amar Seva Sangam 104
- 12 Karuna Trust 112
- 13 Operation ASHA 120

Shortlisted 2020

- 14 Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India 128
- 15 Amici di Raoul Follereau 132
- 16 Digital Green Trust 136
- 17 LEPRA Society 140
- 18 Pratichi (India) Trust 144
- 19 Society for Indian Institute of Health Management Research 148
- 20 The Banyan and The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health 152

EDUCATION

Finalists 2020

- 21 Bal Raksha Bharat 162
- 22 CORD 170
- 23 Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre 178

Shortlisted 2020

- 24 CfBT Education Services 186
- 25 Collectives For Integrated Livelihood Initiatives 190
- 26 Cohesion Foundation Trust 194
- 27 Industree Crafts Foundation 198
- 28 Jnana Prabodhini 202
- 29 NalandaWay Foundation 206

Behind the Scenes 210
 Credits 212

THE COLLABORATORS



SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN INDIA have built up robust policy frameworks. Complemented by strong governance and structured welfare strategies, this has pioneered well formulated Government schemes which are vast in scope, and diverse in their ameliorative intent: from Ayushman Bharat for interventions in health, to the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana for affordable housing; from Beti Bachao Beti Padhao for social and financial self-reliance for girls through education, to the Jan Dhan Yojana for financial inclusion. Yet, millions in our country remain untouched by these excellent programmes. A gap of such proportions between policy and its implementation occurs either due to deficiencies in the mechanisms of execution, social and economic exclusion or geographical remoteness, coupled with ignorance on the part of the beneficiaries about their rights and entitlements. The Government needs willing partners to bridge these gaps; partners who possess expertise, the community's trust, and an extensive reach, for scalable, sustainable developmental impacts. It needs Non-Governmental Organizations, or NGOs, whom Shiv Nadar, Founder & Chairman HCL, Shiv Nadar Foundation, has named The Fifth Estate.*

Through this growing body of committed entities and their drive to penetrate into, empower and build knowledge and capacity of communities, Government schemes can be strengthened and workable by the community itself. Instead of running parallel to each other, the convergence of efforts of the Government and NGOs can yield rich rewards for beneficiaries. NGOs can influence policymaking too, bringing their

field experience to bear on layering laws and executive decisions with on-ground realities and expertly deliberated directions for sustained growth.

The third partner in this triad is technology, a tool which can transcend distance and boundaries. As Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog said at the HCL Grant Ceremony in 2019 where he was the honourable Chief Guest, 'It is very difficult for the Government to be the catalyst and facilitator of change without actively engaging with the best and the brightest NGOs. It is my belief that it will be very difficult to transform India without NGOs and without the use of technology.'

The HCL Grant, a flagship CSR programme of HCL, is a powerful catalyst that leverages the combined strengths of each of these partners with all available resources and tools to achieve a quantum leap in impact that cannot be accomplished by any one of them independently.

The Grant, first and foremost, is an investment into the agents of change – the NGOs – who have the ability to influence the whole process of development from grassroot to policy – and then back again, creating a cycle of transformation that can last for generations. An exacting process of investigation and due diligence by the HCL Grant team, independent subject-matter experts and Governance Partners Grant Thornton has been established and refined over 5 years. It is vigilant, transparent and credible – and expects no less from the applicants. Through this method, three NGOs – one each in the categories of Environment, Health and Education – are chosen from thousands of applications

**Shiv Nadar said, 'The HCL Grant is a recognition of the rise of community-led ecosystems, or the Fifth Estate – Non-Governmental Organizations, the others being law-makers, independent judiciary, matured executive, and the free press. These estates not only define the fabric of our society but also act as potent drivers propelling India to the next level of growth and prosperity. It is imperative that the growth process that we as a nation subscribe to is inclusive, and carries forward all sections of the society across geographies. This is where the community-led ecosystems are destined to play a decisive role in building a stronger, future-ready India.'*

from across the country to receive ₹5 crore each, which will be infused into a project in their chosen area. In the 5 years of the Grant's existence, a whopping ₹51.5 crore (US\$7.25 Million) has been committed by the HCL Foundation towards rural development in these three categories.

However, the HCL Grant is much more than a financial initiative. It is a process of co-creation of the story of developmental transformation; the seed fuel, as it were, for the country's growth. The Grant works with the NGOs to strengthen their programme structures, mechanisms and governance frameworks. It is a stimulus of sorts, challenging the NGOs to introspect and ensure compliance with the stringent conditions of the Grant process from application to actual functioning, even after they have been chosen to receive the funds. In fact, the post-Grant process is one of collaborative design and monitoring of outcomes between the NGO, the community, and the HCL Grant team.

In the last 5 years of the HCL Grant's functioning, its effect has been felt in 11 of the Aspirational

Districts identified by Niti Aayog. It has reached over 5,00,000 beneficiaries and now aims to touch 10,15,000 people in 7,577 villages in 42 districts across 13 states and 1 Union Territory of India. It has touched the furthest reaches of India, like Kashmir and certain sections of the Northeast, where aid is infrequently available. Perhaps due to the consistency and pace with which it has been rolled out, NGOs have responded outstandingly to the Grant's outreach. The registrations are increasing every year from an increased number of states. There is a certain perseverance from the NGOs, some of whom have reapplied, indicating a real aspiration, understanding of the criteria and trust from the fraternity of organizations. The NGOs are applying stricter standards of transparency, accountability and governance to themselves to become eligible to apply. This has encouraged other corporate entities and the Government, too, to place their trust in NGOs and furnish them with resources to continue their good works.



BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CO-CREATION

For more effective communication of the process, purpose and accessibility of the HCL Grant, a systematic outreach programme has been in place for 3 years now. Through symposiums held across the country, meaningful interactions between the HCL Foundation and NGOs have clarified different aspects of the Grant process to potential applicants and made them aware of the infinite possibilities of forming partnerships. Between 2017 and 2019, 32 symposiums and 4 webinars elucidated the CSR mandate of the Indian Government (Section 135, Companies Act 2013), and trained NGOs in the application process from writing the proposal to its submission, including budgeting, and structuring

it for maximum impact and outcomes. Suggestions were made for linking proposals with district level departments or Government programmes, as these considerably fortify the proposal. Panel discussions bringing together Government, corporates, civil society and academia to deliberate on localized challenges, sectoral gaps and opportunities in the thematic areas of Environment, Education and Health in the context of that region, and how to align them with CSR. Previous Grant recipients share their experiences. In short, the HCL Grant is not only interested in screening the organizations that apply for it but also in helping them navigate through the process.



PARTNERS IN THE FIELD

The broad criteria used by the HCL Grant to identify the finest NGOs in the rural development landscape are clearly laid out. The proposed project must demonstrate long term sustainability through community-led, Government-linked programme frameworks; relevance to the context of the region and population; innovation – but going beyond just ideas to out-of-the-box solutions for real, on-ground implementation; seamless replicability and scalability across geographies and communities for posterity. The inclusiveness, financial integrity and modelling of the NGO itself also come under strict scrutiny.

The NGOs that have received the Grant over the last 5 years have been excellent partners. They have shown themselves to be exemplary with regards to the outcomes generated and have fulfilled the criteria to a

‘Through the concerted efforts of the stakeholders involved, i.e. CINI, the Gram Panchayat and the Health Department, the community members have become aware. There is a drastic reduction in the school dropout rate. There’s a lot of awareness now about not getting girls married before 18. Every 4th Saturday of the month there is a meeting which is a convergent platform of stakeholders and service providers who work towards this cause and plan together for each village of the Panchayat on how to raise awareness in these two issues and provide the required services.’
– Protima Haldar, Pradhan of the Malikpur Gram Panchayat, 24 South Parganas, West Bengal

The Collaborators

great extent, with inclusive development models that are innovative, sustainable, scalable and add equitable value. And they have garnered good traction from other stakeholders, too. Local collectors, panchayats, district level organizations, beneficiaries, community and field workers have all readily bought into and understood the value of working in concord with the Grant and its partner NGOs for effective results.

Going to School, the recipient of the HCL Grant for Education in 2016, whose project was underway in several districts of Bihar, has now been asked by the Bihar Government to extend its scope to all 38 districts of the state. The maternal nutrition project of CINI (HCL Grant recipient 2017 for Health) has now been taken up by the Government of West Bengal as an equal partner in its implementation. The She Hope Society of Women Entrepreneurs (HCL Grant Recipient 2019 for Health) operating in Kashmir has formed a committee for annual monitoring, with one HCL Grant consultant on the panel. The Grant funds will be used right away for an ambulance for kids, and the impact of that is particularly immediate in that context, where the conflict and ground reality are so horrific. And FES, the Foundation for Ecological Security (Grant recipient in 2017 for the Environment) has leveraged ₹20 crore of MGNREGA funds through the HCL Grant commitment of ₹5 crore!



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY (FES) HCL GRANT RECIPIENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, 2017

The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is committed to restoring and conserving Commons such as land, forest and water resources in the country, by promoting community-led institutions, securing tenure of commons using technology and leveraging public investments.

HCL Grant Project Title: Informed Collaborative Action for Resilience of Ecosystems: Conservation of Shared Natural Resources (Commons) through Community Institutions

Beneficiaries: Community institutions, rural households, Government staff, and NGO members

Location: Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha

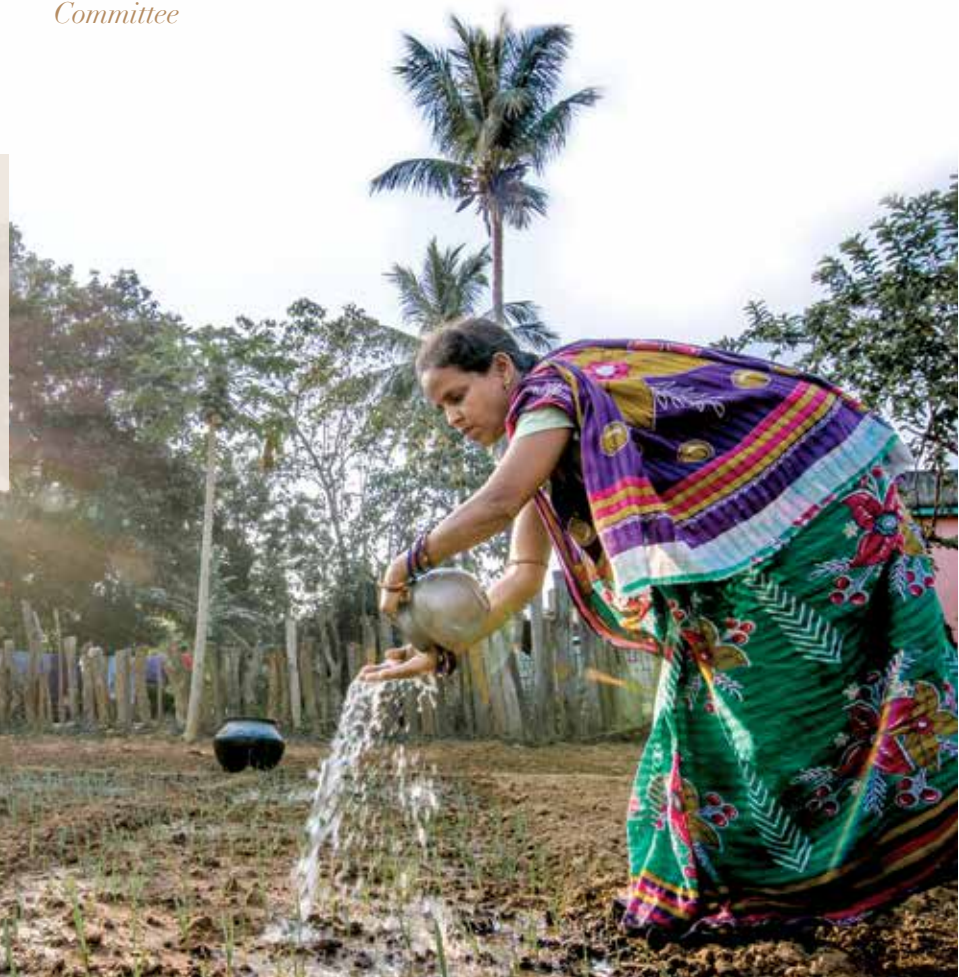
Impact

531 village institutions were formed and the processes initiated in another 70 habitations; more than 12800

(that's 85%) community members were trained and 50 Community Resource Persons were engaged and are being trained. 14000 hectares of common land and forest land have been brought under community governance, and 380 habitations are accessing tools for improved governance. 48 conservation plots are under ecological monitoring, and landscape level conservation plans are being developed. ₹3.12 crore (63%) of HCL Grant has helped to leverage ₹20 crore of MGNREGA funds by villages and panchayats of six blocks.

“We are experiencing the change ... Our protection and management has led to more fodder year-round for our livestock and water in our tank for longer durations. After restoration of commons and tank desilting, we have enough water for domestic use and for our livestock.” – *D. R. Venkatachalapathy, Member, Devarajpalli Village Development Committee*

Facilitated by FES, Ahalya Behara from Kankadahad district in Odisha, appointed as her community's representative by the village Panchayat, leads initiatives including financial training of SHGs, vocational skill training, setting up of small scale businesses; and organizing a Mela for financial security and banking awareness.



KEYSTONE FOUNDATION HCL GRANT RECIPIENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, 2018

Keystone's programmes have directly touched the lives of 15,000 tribal people in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, helping create sustainable livelihood options for people, organizing village institutions, sustaining traditional and cultural practices, putting into play knowledge derived from research and action projects, linking the indigenous peoples with decision makers and helping to influence policy relating to environmental governance.

HCL Grant Project Title: Hill Waters & Wetlands for Communities & Wildlife – Eco-Restoration, Applied Ecology & Advocacy in Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve
Beneficiaries: Indigenous and tribal people
Location: Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats

Impact

Keystone is now part of the board of the district level Nilgiris District Organic Farming Association that works to make The Nilgiris an organic district. Nurseries have been developed under the HCL Grant project with 46,432 saplings of 52 species being raised.

14.5 acres have been cleared of invasive species and 41,792 saplings of indigenous species planted. 4 tons of plastic, bottles, clothes and other mixed waste was collected from the stream's bank before restoration was initiated in the Kookalthorai valley. 35000 native species in the cleaned-up 1 acre area were planted. Farmers are now building compost pits.



‘We are trying to promote organic farming in the Kookalthorai region by conducting trainings, workshops, group discussions and sharing success stories and more. The main focus is to bring back the traditional practises and crops like millets and to share knowledge of sustainable farming, making the farmers think of ways that they can use their ecosystem for creating organic inputs like puchiverati (pesticide), panchakavya (growth promoter) the methodology used for preparation of compost and the methods to increase vermiculture in their fields. Through the last few meetings we found that the farmers are very positive as their investment in chemical inputs and fertilizer has reduced which was weakening their crops. The produce from Kookalthorai is transported to almost all parts of India through large companies.’

–Pratim Roy, Director, Keystone Foundation

CHILD IN NEED INSTITUTE (CINI) HCL GRANT RECIPIENT FOR HEALTH, 2017

CINI has been working with women and children's health in West Bengal and Jharkhand for over four decades and has reached over 5 million people. Its overarching aim is to enable poor people to take control of their lives and have a share in sustainable development through collective action and engagement with authorities and peers. CINI's unique Child Friendly Communities focus on the spheres of health, nutrition and education, and break the vicious cycle of poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, abuse, and violence. Its Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre model has been taken up by the central Government.

HCL Grant Project Title: 'Creating a Community-Based Safety Net for Better Health and Nutrition Outcomes for Children, Adolescents, and Women of West Bengal' through a life-cycle and community-based approach

Beneficiaries: Children (0 to 6 years), boys and girls (10 to 19 years), and pregnant and lactating mothers

Location: Three districts in West Bengal

Impact

The positive results of the HCL Grant supported program motivated the West Bengal Government to upscale the maternal nutrition components through training of frontline workers in the entire districts covering 49 blocks with technical support from CINI.

The results are already showing up. Anemia has reduced by 13% from baseline. 679 frontline workers have been trained

so they are better equipped to deal with maternal nutrition through community-based approaches; there has been a definite increase in their knowledge & skills. Programmes have empowered mothers to value themselves and their children, and focused interventions have been carried out with 481 pregnant women and 1,543 malnourished children. 4 rounds of Vision building exercises have been conducted with FLWs through simulation games across 205 ICDS centres. 281 Village Health Nutrition & Sanitation Committees have been strengthened and trained on their respective roles in community mobilization. 975 Mothers' Meetings were conducted at ICDS Centres, 12,971 adolescents reached and a total of 347 villages covered across 3 districts.

Debolina Paul is the 1st Auxilliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) of Bamandanga Tea Garden Sub-Centre, an extremely remote district in West Bengal. The sub-centre serves a population of four thousand, but the difficult geography and lack of sufficient ASHA workers makes providing services a real challenge, leading to a rise in home deliveries. In April 2018, CINI introduced the concept of a 'team' approach of convergence between the grass-root level front line workers like the ANM, ASHA & Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) workers. Debolina took this idea on board. She developed a strong team and assigned responsibilities, like tracking the pregnant and lactating women, and sensitizing the women on the importance of institutional deliveries. She herself took on regular home-visits for counselling. At the end of one year, Debolina had been able to convert the area into a zero home-delivery zone! Even the incidence of deliveries occurring in ambulances was controlled.



ELEUTHEROS CHRISTIAN SOCIETY (ECS) HCL GRANT RECIPIENT FOR HEALTH, 2018

The Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) started as a drug and HIV intervention initiative in the Northeast, bringing down the incidence of HIV among injecting drug users and antenatal women significantly. ECS then began to address the root causes of poverty and malaise, working in 46 villages in three districts. Through community action facilitated by it, people's livelihoods, health, literacy, and monetary transactions have improved manifold.

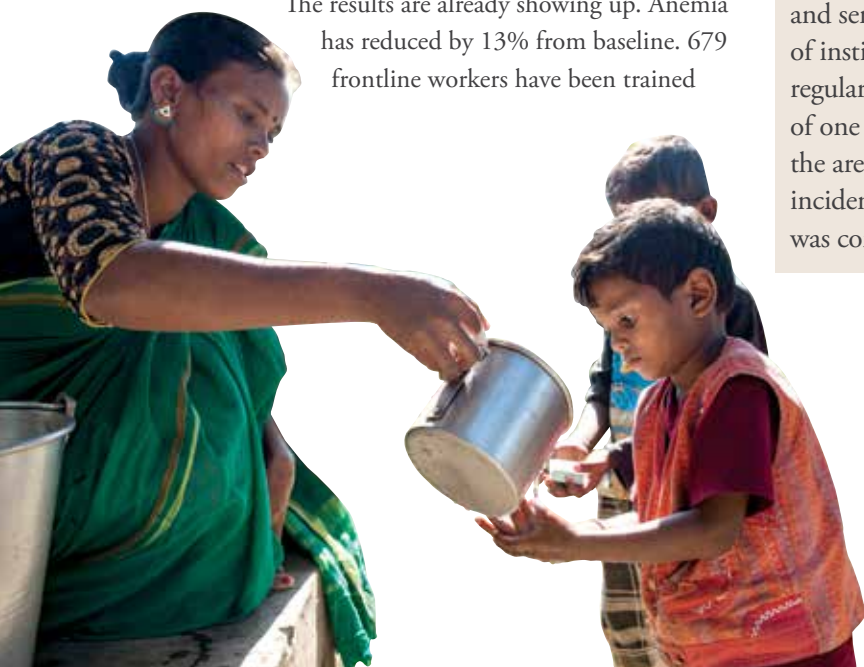
HCL Grant Project Title: ECS LifeConnect – Integrated Approach to Improve Healthcare Access and Prevent Maternal and Child Deaths in Nagaland

Beneficiaries: Mothers and children

Location: Tuensang, Mon, and Longleng districts, Nagaland

Impact

A State Level Health Steering Committee chaired by Chief Secretary (CS), Nagaland has been constituted to establish convergence among different Government Departments for HCL Grant Project villages. Two of the Primary Health Centres supported by the HCL Grant, Longpang & Changlansgshu, have been conferred with 'Kayakalp Award', given in recognition of cleanliness in public health facilities in districts, and empanelled with the AYUSH Scheme of the Government of India. Longpang PHC is a Public-Private Partnership model PHC managed by ECS in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland. Changlanshu PHC has been built from scratch jointly by ECS and the community. It was activated only in August 2018 after a doctor and a nurse was deployed through the HCL Grant supported project.



**GOING TO SCHOOL
HCL GRANT RECIPIENT FOR
EDUCATION, 2016**

Winner of the first ever HCL Grant in the field of Education, Going to School's story-based teaching methodology is now part of the curricula of 3,000 Government schools, reaching 500,000 kids. The design-driven stories aim to teach children 21st century entrepreneurial skills. Original content designed by GTS is now part of the NCERT curriculum and is taught to 10 million children every year.

HCL Grant Project Title: 'Be! Schools Programme', teaching children skills at school through stories, games and weekly action projects

Beneficiaries: Children and teachers of Government secondary, primary and KGBV schools

Location: Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts in Bihar

Impact

The Bihar Government has given a go-ahead for a State-wide scale up of the Be! An Entrepreneur programme of Going to School across the 38 districts of Bihar. The programme will now work with children in Grade 9 all the way up to Grade 12. Going to School and the Government of Bihar signed the MoU stating their support to print and deliver the story books for all children in all districts of the State after seeing the previous success in Bihar covering 10,13,00 children and 2,980 teachers through HCL Grant.



**MELJOL
HCL GRANT RECIPIENT FOR
EDUCATION, 2017**

MelJol's programmes, in particular its social and financial literacy modules, develop children's citizenship skills by focusing on children's rights and responsibilities. Its popular Aflatoun programme has been implemented in 11 Indian states reaching out to approximately 4,00,000 children and teachers as well. The goal is for children to begin thinking out of the box, and become the agents of a powerful shift in their own destinies and that of the social order of the community.

HCL Grant Project Title: Scaling up of the Aflatoun Social and Financial Education Programme

Beneficiaries: Children 6-14 years old and their families, teachers, and community members as resource persons

Location: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand

Impact

The Government of Chhattisgarh has agreed to roll out the 'Aflatoun'- Social and Financial Inclusion Program' across all Government schools in

Chhattisgarh after seeing the success of the initiative in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra & Jharkhand. The programme consists of five elements: personal understanding and exploration; child rights and responsibilities; saving and spending; budgeting and planning; and social and financial enterprise. Currently, covering it is covering 83,851 children across 720 schools supported by HCL Grant, and has trained 540 teachers through 16 training workshops.

Twelve-year-old Ajamal Hussan is a Class 8 student of Middle School, Jarba, in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. He is an active member of Roushan Aflatoun Club. He addressed the issue of unhealthy drinking water caused by the unclean water tank in school. He mobilized support from the school's children and complained to the headmaster and SMC President to ask for their basic right to clean drinking water. Following his efforts, the water tank has now been cleaned and all the school children, teachers and community members benefit from the fresh and healthy water.

**SIGHTSAVERS
HCL GRANT RECIPIENT FOR
EDUCATION, 2018**

Sightsavers in India functions through its multi-pronged approach encompassing 'Eye Health', 'Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities', and 'Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities'. It works with the Government and local partners to administer care, innovating new products to make surgeries accessible to all. It strengthens organizations and communities to develop practical and enduring solutions. Sightsavers has reached over 55 million people and has conducted over 36 million eye treatments since its operations began in India.

HCL Grant Project Title: Sambalan – Inclusive Education for Children with Visual Impairment in Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal
Beneficiaries: Children with Visual Impairment (CVI)
Location: Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal

Impact
Two Digital Learning Centers have been established in Jhalawar & Bhagalpur districts of Rajasthan and Bihar. 57,332 teachers were trained in the module provided by the organization across the State of Bihar through Government support. Bridge Course (Saksham), ICT training, Digital Literacy Centre, and teacher training were conducted. 43 CVIs were provided with support equipment, post capacity building in Jhalawar. The BRC centre of Bhagalpur and Jhalawar were equipped with printed materials for CVIs.

The success stories and footprint map of the HCL Grant are evidence that different agencies, bodies and persons working in tandem towards a shared goal can achieve remarkable results. Collaborating, co-creating and partnerships between Government and NGOs, between NGOs and CSR, between various

Government departments, between the different frontline workers, between community programmes and information technology, between communities and panchayats, between compassion and action. Coming together to generate tremendous strides in reducing the inequity and poverty rampant in our nation, and fortifying HCL Foundation's core DNA of sustained nation-building from the ground up.

'As a part of the proposal we intend to scale up our inclusive education programme into 5 backwards districts of Bihar, Rajasthan and West Bengal. So, we are talking about over 5000 children. But more importantly, crating digital books that will be linked to an online cloud server through which all children with disability can access the textbooks. Over 30,000- 40,000 children will be impacted through this intervention.'

– Jatin Tiwari, Senior Manager - Corporate partnerships, Sightsavers



The HCL Grant model collaborates with NGOs in the journey towards prosperity, identifying and conflating shared goals and values between them and the Government's efforts. Using tools like technology, it directly manifests international standards like the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sharpening them into measurable indicators of progress.

THE HCL GRANT METHODOLOGY



FOR 5 YEARS, the HCL Grant has established itself as a beacon that uses a consistent methodology of rigour and deep accountability to seek out the NGOs that are transforming rural India with the highest levels of impact in Environment, Education and Health. The synergy and engagement of the non-profits with the ethos and paradigm of the HCL Grant is manifested in multiple ways. 34 symposiums conducted in several cities (and this year 4 available for universal access as webinars) build awareness of the application process. The applications—and subsequently the shortlisted organizations—are screened using the essential criteria of sustainability, relevance, innovation, and replicability and scalability to assess the project applied for; and financial modelling and inclusion to assess the NGO itself. Field visits by independent senior consultants investigate and verify the proposals and the organizations. This year alone, field trips covered 56 NGOs in 21 States over 50 days. Audits and impact assessments complete this thorough and meticulously curated process, supported by the Grant’s governance partners, Grant Thornton. Thereafter, a sub-jury shortlists 10 organizations in each category and a final jury of eminent persons chooses the top NGO in each category to receive ₹5 crore each.

In 2015–16, Going to School, an NGO working in Education, received the first HCL Grant. In 2016–17, the recipients were MelJol for Education, Child in Need Institute for Health and Foundation for Ecological Security for the Environment category. In 2017–2018, the Eleutheros Christian Society was awarded the Grant for Health, Keystone Foundation for Environment, and Sightsavers for Education. In 2019, the awardees of the HCL Grant were the Wildlife Trust of India (for Environment), She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (for Health) and Srijan Foundation (for Education). In 2019, the two other finalists in each category received Grants of ₹25 lakhs each.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
The organization must be a registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e., Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or any other (in line with Section 135 of Companies Act 2013).
The organization must have registered u/s 12A (A) of Income Tax 1961.
The organization should have completed the below mentioned functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant under Education and Health Category – 10 years, Applicant under Environment Category – 5 years,
The organization should have completed the below mentioned working experience in rural areas in India on or before 31st March 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant under Education and Health Category – 5 years Applicant under Environment Category – 2 years
The organization should have below mentioned average expenditure for the last 3 financial years i.e., 2014–15, 2015–16 and 2016–17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant under Education and Health Category – ₹1.5 crores or above * Applicant under Environment Category – ₹0.50 crores or above * <small>* The expenditure refers to overall expenditure of the organization and not thematic wise.</small>
The organization must not be blacklisted by any government agency, donor or international agency.
The organization must not have any negative media coverage or any other controversy associated with it.
The organization should not have any political or religious affiliations.
The organization should have registration documents, audited financial reports, tax certificates and FCRA (if applicable) and/or similar documents depending on the nature of the funding/donations that it receives.

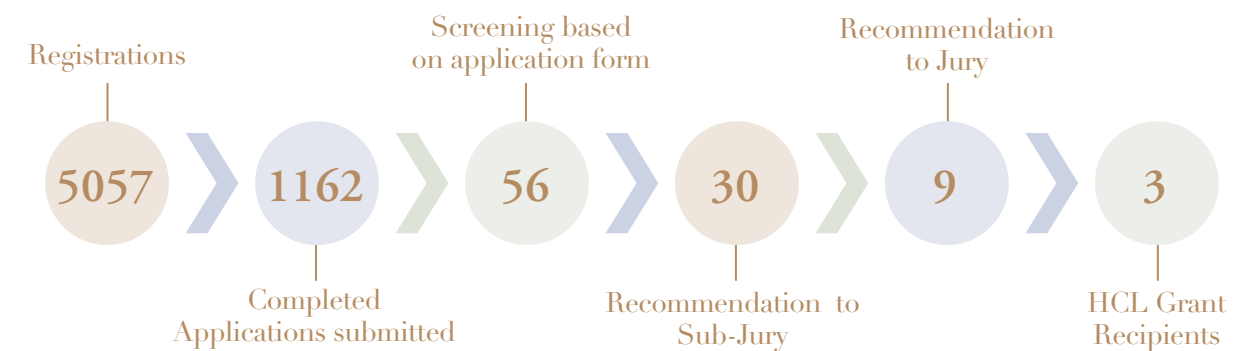
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- The proposed project must be in line with the provisions of Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013.
- The proposed project must be in rural areas.
- The Grant can be used to scale-up an existing project where co-funding is involved. However, HCL should be informed of all co-funders in advance and the organization must be able to clearly report how HCL Grant will be utilized and what impact it will create.
- Proposed project must be designed for direct implementation by the applicant organization, sub granting of HCL funds will not be allowed.
- Networks and Consortium organizations are eligible to apply for the grant, however, if selected, the organization must directly implement the project, sub granting of HCL funds will not be allowed.
- The organization must have good relationships with local administration in their geographic location.
- Grant amount will be ₹ 5 Cr for the awarded NGO in each category, and ₹ 25 Lakhs for the two finalist NGOs in each category.
- The organization should not have any pending litigations.
- Grant money cannot be used for infrastructure development such as construction, renovation, purchase of fixed assets like land, buildings, and vehicles, among others.

‘I was amazed at the rigorous process, the meticulous amount of work, and the great amount of screening for the HCL Grant process. And the very distinguished jury that it has. I have been through a whole range of awards given by the private sector, newspapers and by state and central Governments but I’ve never seen such a rigorous process ever before. It’s a process based on outstanding merit and performance on the ground, but it also ensures the clear outcomes which you have to deliver after winning the award. One thing I’ll learn from HCL Foundation and go back and implement (for the aspirational districts selection and funding)... that it’s not just about giving resources so that they can transform the districts but releasing these resources over a period of time so that they deliver based on those outcomes. I’m really inspired by what HCL Foundation has done - it’s put out resources and it’s challenged the NGOs, really made them perform, It has made us identify the best NGOs in India to help us transform the country. Niti Ayog will be delighted to work with these NGOs to transform the rest of India, delighted to partner with them and take this initiative forward.’

– Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Ayog, at HCL Grant Ceremony, February 21st 2019, HCL Campus, Noida

HCL GRANT SCREENING PROCESS 2019–20



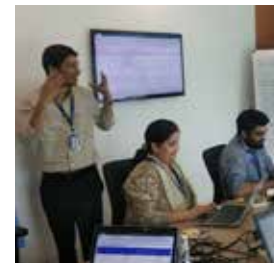
HCL GRANT 5TH EDITION PROCESS & MILESTONES



**14 MAR
2019**
HCL Grant
Portal Live



**20 MAY
2019**
Last date
for NGOs
to apply



**30 AUG
2019**
Field visit closure
with announcement
of Semi Finalists
(30 NGOs)

**10 OCT-30 DEC
2019**
• Due diligence of
Finalist NGO's
• Video Shoot
of Finalists

**27 FEB
2020**
HCL Grant
Jury Proceedings
and Felicitation
ceremony



**12 APR-13 MAY
2019**
8 Symposiums Pan-India
4 Online Webinars

**24-25 JUN
2019**
First shortlist
for the field
visits (45 NGOs)



21 JUN
Field Visit Kick-off Workshop

**30 SEPT,
1 & 3 OCT
2019**
Sub Jury Proceedings
- Environment,
Health & Education



PAN-INDIA OUTREACH THROUGH MASS MEDIA
ENGAGEMENT WITH 15 HCL GRANT RECIPIENT NGOs

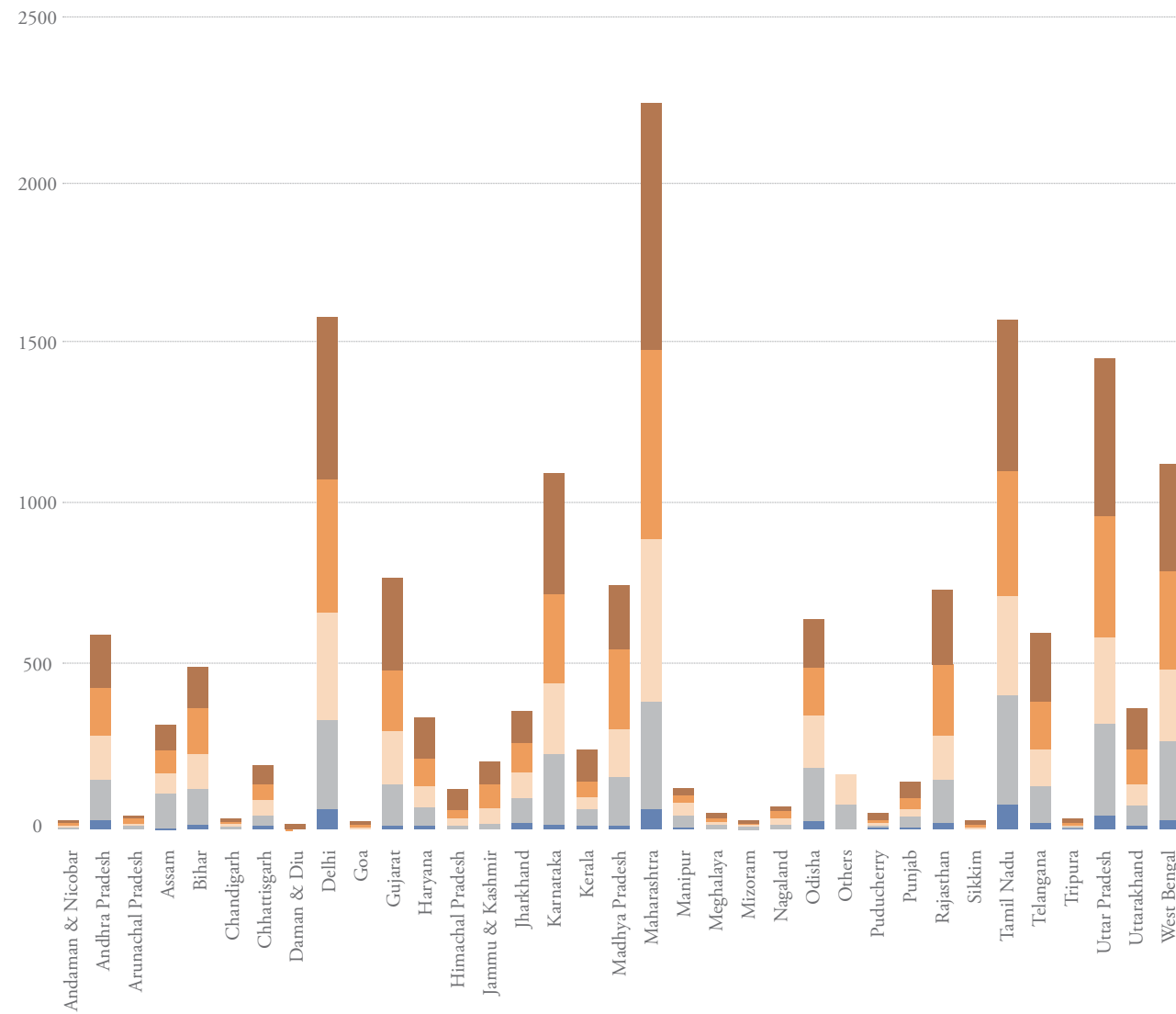
HCL GRANT A FIVE YEAR JOURNEY



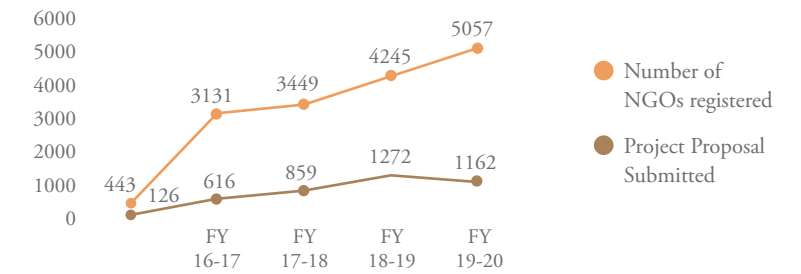
COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS

● FY 19 ● FY 18 ● FY 17
● FY 16 ● FY 15

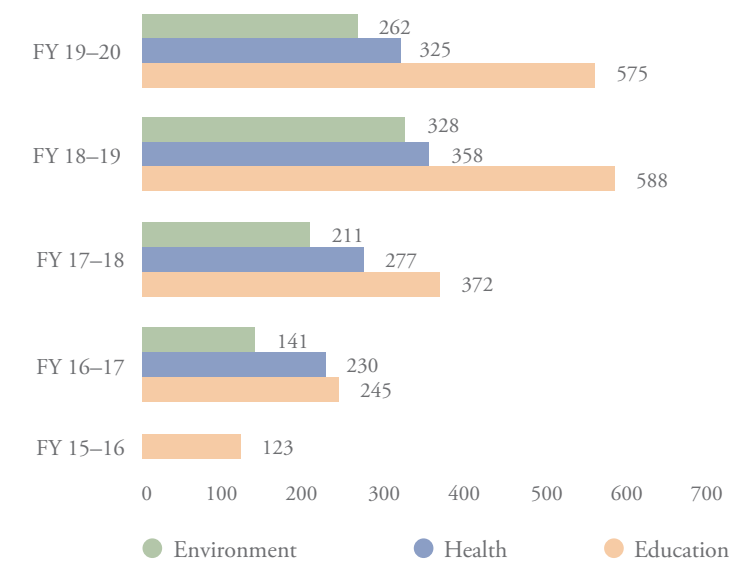
Total number of applications over last 5 years
2019 – 5057 2016 – 3131
2018 – 4245 2015 – 443
2017 – 3449



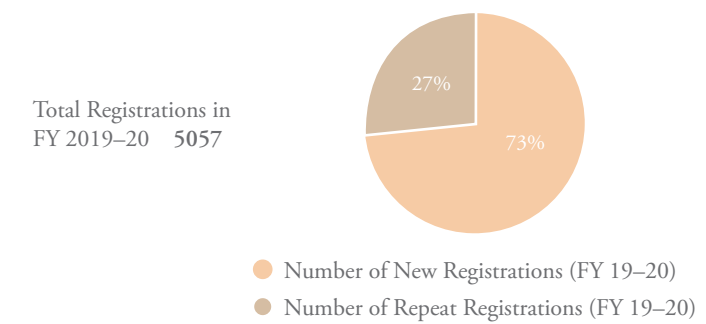
HCL GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS 2019-2020



CATEGORY-WISE HCL GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT REGISTRATIONS FY 2019-20



JURY



ROBIN ABRAMS

Director

Ms. Robin Abrams holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska. She was most recently interim CEO at ZiLOG, and

has also been the President of Palm Computing and Senior Vice President at 3Com Corporation. She was formerly the President and CEO at VeriFone. Before joining VeriFone in 1997, she held a variety of senior management positions with Apple Computers. As Vice President and General Manager of the Americas, Ms. Abrams oversaw sales and channel management for U.S., Canada and Latin America. Prior to that, she was the Vice President and General Manager of Apple Asia, where she was responsible for sales and marketing in the region. She spent eight years with Unisys in several senior-level positions. Her responsibilities included managing the delivery of business solutions focused on banking, airlines, government and networking. A portion of her tenure at Unisys included a five-year stint in Asia Pacific. The first twelve years of her career were in various management positions at Wells Fargo Bank (formerly known as Norwest Bank). She has served several U.S. public company boards including ZiLOG and BEA Systems (until it was acquired by Oracle) and is currently serving Sierra Wireless and Openwave Systems. She also serves on the Anita Borg Institute Board and several academic advisory committees.



ISHER JUDGE AHLUWALIA

Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia, an eminent Indian economist, is Chairperson of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a leading think-tank based in

New Delhi engaged in policy oriented research. She was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Services, the Government of India, from 2008 to 2011. She was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature.

Dr. Ahluwalia's research has focussed on policy oriented challenges facing the Indian economy in the areas of urbanization, sustainable public service delivery, macroeconomic issues, and industrial growth and productivity. Dr Ahluwalia was Chairperson, Board of

Trustees of International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., from 2003 to 2006 and was on the Board of Trustees of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) from 2010 to 2016. She was a member of the Eminent Persons Group set up by the ADB President Kuroda, which submitted a Report: 'Toward a New Asian Development Bank in New Asia' to him.



B.S. BASWAN

Baswan headed the Government Committee to review recruitment procedures for the higher civil services till August 2016. He regularly speaks on public policy issues at a number of

institutions. He has held some of the key positions in the Government including Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie; Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Government of India; Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India; Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India; and finally retired as Education Secretary, Government of India. Post retirement, he spent time in the Planning Commission as a Senior Consultant and later served as the Director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration.



RICHARD LARIVIERE

President and CEO of the Field Museum since 2012, Dr. Lariviere's career in academia and business is grounded in expertise on India. His work with the Information Technology industry

(beginning in 1992) comprised devising country entry strategies for American companies wishing to have a large presence in India. Among the companies he has worked with are Deluxe Corporation, General Instrument Corporation (now part of Motorola), Cisco Systems, Sabre Holdings, HCL Corporation, Perot Systems, MetLife, and others. His academic writing has garnered international prizes. He was a professor and Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin, Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor at the University of Kansas, and President of the University of Oregon. He has served on the Board of many prestigious organizations across the world. In Chicago, he is a member of the Advisory Board of After School Matters, member of the Board of the Chicago Cultural Mile, President of the Board of Art in the Center, Member of the Economic Club, the Chicago Club, and the Arts Club.



SHIV NADAR

Shiv Nadar established HCL in 1976 as an original garage startup, revolutionizing Indian technology and product innovation. Today, HCL is a US \$ 8.1 bn global technology conglomerate employing over

127,000 people in 43 countries. In 1994, Nadar established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is today the largest philanthropic organization in India having established six institutions covering the entire spectrum of education and benefiting over 26,000 students directly. As of March 2018, the Foundation has invested close to US \$ 800 mn across the various initiatives. Nadar has received several honours and accolades in the past, notable being the third highest civilian award – Padma Bhushan, bestowed upon him by the President of India in 2008. He was named outstanding philanthropist of the year in 2015 by Forbes.



PALLAVI SHROFF

Ms. Pallavi S. Shroff is the Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., with about 37 years of extensive experience. Her broad and varied representation of public and private

corporations and other entities before various national courts, tribunals and legal institutions has earned her national and international acclaim. Ms. Shroff is the head of the dispute resolution practice and also mentors the competition law practice at the firm. For her legal acumen and thought leadership, Ms. Shroff has frequently featured in several international publications and legal directories. She has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chambers India Awards 2019. *Fortune India* recognised her as one of The Most Powerful Women in Business, 2018-19. She has also been recognised as one of the most powerful women in Indian business by *Business Today*, for seven years in succession (2013-19). Ms. Shroff is presently a director on the boards of prestigious Indian companies including Apollo Tyres, Trident Group, One97 Communications Ltd. (Paytm), Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., IndiGo and Juniper Hotels Ltd.

SUB JURY

Environment

ANURADHA KHOSLA Vice President, Enterprise HR, HCL Technologies

MAJOR GEN. GOPALAKRISHNAN JAISHANKAR Head, Dean Student Welfare, Shiv Nadar University

SHASHI BANERJEE Principal Shiv Nadar School, Noida

TRISHA GHOSE Project Director, The Habitats Trust

Health

APURVA KACKAR Chief HR & Marketing Head, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

KIRTI KARAMCHANDANI Head – Government Relations, HCL Corporation.

PARVEEN JUNEJA Vice President, Human Resources, HCL Corporations

R. RANGARAJAN IYENGAR CEO, HCL Healthcare

Education

AMBIKA NATARAJAN Associate Vice President, HCL Technologies

ANUBHA BALI Head, Career Development Centre, Shiv Nadar University

COL. (RETD.) GOPAL KARUNAKARAN CEO, Shiv Nadar Schools

ROBIN SARKAR Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation

THE HCL GRANT JOURNEY SO FAR



2019

Felicitating the HCL Grant Recipients 2019, are (L-R) Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Vice-Chairperson - HCL Technologies; Chairperson CSR - HCL Technologies, Robin Abrams, former president of Palm Computing and longest-serving Board member of HCL Technologies, Sourav Ganguly, President, BCCI, Former Captain of the Indian Cricket team, and Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog. The recipient NGOs were 'Srijan Foundation' – Education, She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs – Health and 'Wildlife Trust of India' – Environment



2018

The recipients of HCL Grant 2018 being felicitated by the Hon'ble Home Minister of India – Shri Rajnath Singh. The recipient NGOs were 'Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS)' – Health, 'Sighsavers India (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind)' – Education, and 'Keystone Foundation' – Environment



2017

The recipients of HCL Grant 2017 being felicitated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley. The recipient NGOs were 'Foundation for Ecological Security' – Environment, 'Child In Need Institute (CINI)' – Health, and 'MelJol' – Education



2016

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Former President of India felicitates the HCL Grant recipient 2016, 'Going to School', in the Education category

HCL GRANT RECIPIENTS

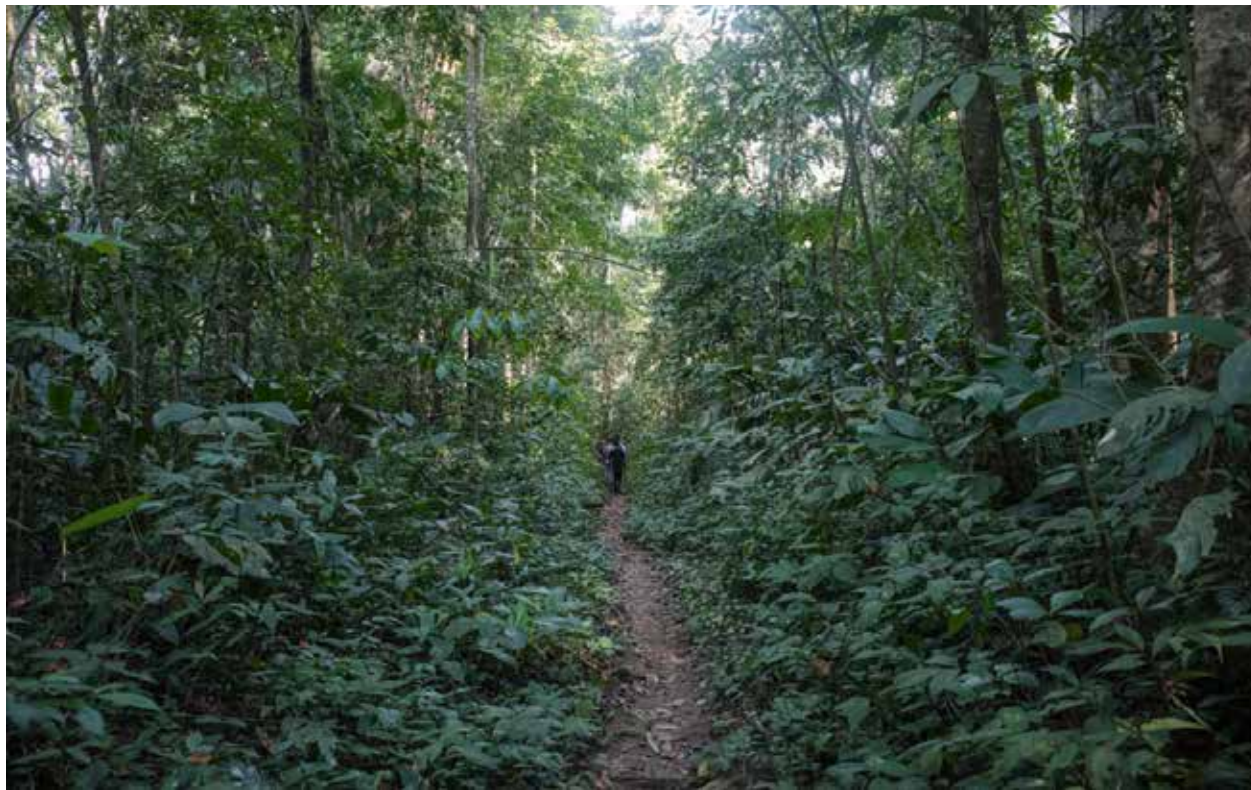


2019

ENVIRONMENT Wildlife Trust of India 28
Preserving wildlife and its habitat

HEALTH She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs 32
Mobility and opportunities for people living with disabilities in J&K

EDUCATION Srijan Foundation 36
Generating sustainable development from within the community



Wildlife Trust of India



The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) addresses a range of conservation issues through nearly fifty projects spread across the country, covering two-thirds of India's biogeographic zones. Its mandate is to conserve wildlife and its habitat, and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals in partnership with communities and governments. With strategies that are science-driven and field-proven, WTI's impacts are tangible. It has assisted the Forest Department in rescuing over 5,000 wild animals. Through its programmes, 16,000 frontline wildlife staff of over 150 Protected Areas have undergone Level 1 anti-poaching training, and 20,000 staff are insured against death on duty. WTI has a presence in several states of India, including Meghalaya, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Jammu & Kashmir.



Allowing elephants safe passage and humans safe living

Founded by Ashok Kumar and Vivek Menon in 1998

HCL Grant Project Title: Connecting Landscapes, Empowering People and Protecting Elephants—An initiative to secure the Baghmara–Balpakram elephant corridor and protect the wildlife habitats of Garo Hills, Meghalaya

Beneficiaries: Asian elephant, slow loris, tiger, clouded leopard, Hoolock gibbon, and other endangered species, as well as the villagers and the Forest Department

Location: Balpakram NP–Baghmara landscape, Garo Hills, Meghalaya

On Winning the HCL Grant

It gives us immense pleasure to see a leading corporate like HCL India recognize and support the conservation efforts of the Garo community through the HCL Grant. It also sets a big example for corporate India in their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitments for nature conservation.

The project aims to stitch together the Baghmara–Balpakram landscape, which is essential to secure connectivity for elephants and other key wildlife in the Garo Hills. The project is an affirmation of indigenous rights, self-government and community empowerment—creating a multi-level impact for not just wildlife but also a positive social and livelihood impact on the communities.

On the Grant Process

HCL Foundation has opened a vital door for agencies working in the development and environment sector to access valuable funds, and bring about a measurable



change for the degrading environment and benefit the communities involved. The robust due diligence and post-grant support that we have received from the HCL Grant team has also contributed significantly to improve our management efficiency, and we hope that in future, interacting with them will provide us with key tools to improve our internal project monitoring systems as well. The HCL team is highly sensitive and deeply involved in project implementation. It has worked diligently to allay concerns regarding usage of the funds, and has been in regular touch with our team with respect to implementing the project at the field level. It has also made special efforts to interact with our team for implementation-related activities, and also visited our office to help us understand the finer details of how grants are managed.

Progress on HCL Grant Project So Far

The HCL Grant allowed us to significantly scale up our activities in our flagship Garo Green Spine Project and ensure that the next five years will prove to be a potential watershed moment in the conservation history of our nation. The Balpakram NP–Baghmara landscape—part of Garo Hills Elephant Reserve and Indo-Myanmar hotspot—is a repository of rich biodiversity and with the support of the HCL Grant, we will be able to connect the islands of forests by notifying

1,000 hectares corridor forest as Village Reserve Forests (VRFs) for un-hindered passage of wildlife movement. The Grant has provided us with the drive and resources to work directly with the local communities who understand and are enthusiastic about providing protection to the large pachyderms. They are willing to set aside their land for the declaration of the VRF. The community empowerment creating a multi-level impact has resulted in not just wildlife habitat protection but also a positive social impact on the communities with regards to their livelihood and lifestyle. The larger anticipation is that the wider community will come together in the next few years and conserve the remaining stronghold of the Asian elephant while ensuring that the quality of life of the villagers is enhanced through alternate livelihood strategies. Currently, we are in the process of identifying various government schemes that are targeted to be leveraged and linked to communities of Meghalaya by lobbying with related departments and community support. These include the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, the National Rural Livelihood Mission, the Special Rural Works Programme (SRWP) and the Chief Minister's Special Rural Development Fund (CMSRDF).

— Vivek Menon, Founder Trustee, ED & CEO, WTI



STORIES OF IMPACT

During one of the community meetings organized by the WTI team, Mr Freederson N. Sangma, a public leader in the South Garo Hills region, explained the peaceful co-existence of nature and humans, and reminisced about how life used to be in the olden days. He recalled beautiful Rongchek village which had once been blessed with abundant streams and waterfalls. It was unimaginable to picture them getting dried out; however, that has already occurred. He pointed towards the age-old practice of 'jhum' agriculture as being a significant cause of this decline, and urged the Nokmas to recollect the past twenty years and the free existence of wildlife in the dense forest, where there were no question of where to get fresh drinking water with streams flowing in every season. He later concluded his speech by saying 'No forest, no wildlife; no wildlife, no human,' with an impassioned request to everyone to make concerted efforts to save the forest and wildlife.

Involving communities in conservation



She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs



She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE) is an NGO working in isolated and border areas of Jammu & Kashmir, aiming to bring positive changes in the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) by providing access to good healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities, and advocate for the rights of PwDs. Since 2009, SHSFWE has run rehabilitation sessions in villages for more than 10,000 people, including 650 mine/conflict victims. Some 17,056 PwDs, and those who are at risk of developing disabilities, have received rehabilitation. 4,028 assistive devices (like wheelchairs, crutches, toilet chairs, etc.) have been donated to increase mobility and community participation. The organization provided training in basic home-based rehabilitation care to 7,995 care givers and facilitated 144-low cost home modifications. It works in the areas of disaster risk reduction and empowering women as well.

On Winning the Grant

Operating in a conflict zone poses challenges of its own. SHSFWE has been working despite innumerable odds to provide succour to PwDs across the state of Jammu & Kashmir. The Grant has undoubtedly helped us to offer better services in our intervention areas and beyond. HCL has been a wonderful partner in terms of support, be it financially or otherwise. The Grant has definitely helped us to reach the unreached in the remotest corners of the state. Our community-based rehabilitation services have seen us going beyond set targets and delivering to the satisfaction of our beneficiaries.

Founded by Sami Wani in 2001

HCL Grant Project Title: Humanitarian Assistance to Strengthen Inclusion and Safety of Vulnerable Persons, Especially Women and Children in Conflict Affected Areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

Beneficiaries: Persons with disabilities

Location: Kupwara, Baramulla, Rajouri, and Poonch in Jammu & Kashmir



Rehabilitation services at the people's doorstep



On the Grant Process

HCL Grants, over the years, have significantly helped in altering lives of people in most inaccessible geographies and across a wide range of domains. The Grant has definitely enabled us to fortify our organization and augmented the capacities of our staff. It has eased implementation of services and enabled us to provide better services to our beneficiaries. It has enhanced our access to PwDs.

Progress on HCL Grant Project So Far

We have been able to enhance our donation of aids and appliances, prosthetic and orthotic devices,

augmented Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR), institution-based rehabilitation, occupational therapy, hearing and speech therapy, caregiver training and activities of daily life (ADL) training, and training of health workers. In totality, it has impacted every activity that we undertake for complete rehabilitation of our beneficiaries. We impart training to the personnel from Disabled Peoples Organization (DPO's) ASHA and Anganwadi workers, and medical professionals, and bring them up to speed with the schemes that the Government has to offer in these geographical areas.

— Sami Wani, Founder, SHSWE



STORIES OF IMPACT

Khushboo Najar, Seris, Ganderbal, J&K

Khushboo is seven. She fell from the second floor of her house at fourteen months. Her condition did improve after a surgery, but it rendered left side of her body weak. She started physiotherapy sessions at SHSFWE right away. However, owing to her limited economic means, it was decided to offer rehabilitation services at her home. She was also provided home adaptation wherein she was given parallel bars. Her condition has improved visibly, and her parents hope it will not be long before she is in school.

Musadiq Nisar, Lar, Ganderbal, J&K

Three-year old Musadiq suffers from a congenital neurological condition, hydrocephalus. He grew normally until seven months, and then his mother noticed that he was unable to control his neck and was not able to sit either, a delayed milestone. He was duly examined by physiotherapists at SHSFWE, who right away devised a treatment plan for him. He was given neck control and back strengthening exercises. The treatment had impressive results as Musadiq's neck control has considerably improved; he is also able to sit without support. Moreover, a home-based exercise programme was given to the caretaker of Musadiq, which includes basic exercises which a caregiver can regularly give to a patient twice a day at home to maintain and gain improvement.

Tilukula Surya Narian, Ganderbal, J&K

A para-military soldier, Tilukula, is from Andhra Pradesh but currently posted in Ganderbal. He is thirty-two years old and married with one child. According to Tilukula, his being a security related job, he was required to remain standing for long hours. This caused him acute pain in both knees, and pain and swelling in calf muscles. Upon examination by physiotherapists at SHSFWE, a treatment plan was devised. He was given ultrasound therapy, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) and moist heat therapy. After taking treatment for fifteen days, he has completely recovered and resumed his job.

Compassion and quality of care in a conflict zone



Srijan Foundation



On a quest for inclusive and equitable development in the state of Jharkhand, Srijan Foundation works to build capacity of community-based organizations and civil society, creating development models, articulating demands and realizing rights. It engages with marginalized and socially excluded communities, especially women and children. In 2017, it impacted the lives of 88,634 people directly, and 90,416 people through networks and alliances. Areas of work encompass supporting elected women representatives, safe mobility of women, counter trafficking and collectivization of women, promoting child rights and preventing child labour, alternative childcare programmes and disability programmes, sustainable agriculture and livelihood promotion, women, adolescent and child health, education, food security, and more.

On Winning the Grant

It has really been an immense privilege for us that our idea of amalgamating the concept of education and livelihood has been accepted and acknowledged by the HCL Foundation and all the stakeholders coming to learn more about it. The support from HCL Foundation has proved to be a boon both for Srijan Foundation as an implementing partner as well as for the beneficiaries, who are primarily women farmers. We now want to strengthen the present initiative and expand our support system to improve and increase the present coverage.

We focus on the overall empowerment of women farmers, reducing drudgery of women, and strengthening the community-based cadres. We want to establish ourselves as a resource-cum-support agency for women farmers, progressive farmers and

Founded by Swapan Manna (Chief Trustee), Pooja (President), Dipali Kumari, Manisha Mishra, Gautam Haldar, Rajeev Ranjan Sinha and Nitesh Kumar in 2001

HCL Grant Project Title: Educating Women Farmers for Better Livelihood Opportunities and Better Income Generation

Beneficiaries: 5,000 women farmers and their families

Location: Hazaribagh and West Singhbhum districts, Jharkhand



We nurture and grow our farms like our children



the Government and private stakeholders. We wish to create a better platform for people engaged in sustainable agriculture, climate preservation, livestock management and, above all, to create a hunger-free society and empowering women farmers towards self-sufficiency. This would give them more confidence to undertake the functioning of their enterprises by themselves.

On the Grant Process

The HCL Grant application process and the due diligence mechanism has helped us a lot to organize our thoughts and fortify our knowledge and skills. It helped strengthen the capacity of all our team members, and target beneficiaries to learn and participate in the process of implementation. The HCL Grant makes a deep impact in the transformation of the lives of the people dwelling in these remote geographical terrains in various sectors—be it education, health, livelihoods, etc.

Progress on HCL Grant Project So Far

The HCL team continuously and fully supports us, giving us opportunities to learn from others. The visits to our area have motivated us a lot as every member of HCL has praised our work and the strategies adopted in achieving the milestones. The very nature of the program has helped us to gear up our team to link the farmers with the existing government programs and schemes such as MGNREGA, ATMA, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), JSLPS-Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society, NABARD, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Birsa Agriculture University, local financial institutions/banks, Animal Husbandry and Horticulture and Agriculture Department, besides linking with Ujjwala Yojna, Social Security Schemes, etc. A strong relationship has been established with all the departments and opportunities are easily accessible to all the female farmers.

— *Swapan Manna, Chief Trustee, Srijan Foundation*



STORIES OF IMPACT

Gindung village, Manoharpur block in West Singhbhum

In March 2019, videos were shown by Srijan Foundation regarding health and nutrition, which focused on a balanced diet during pregnancy, complementary feeding, diet diversity, hand washing, and more. Shyama Soy, an educated person and wife of a Srijan Foundation member, encouraged the women in her self-help group to grow a kitchen garden for fresh vegetables so that they could have a nutritious diet during their pregnancy. She says, 'Women, since the very beginning, have been compromising on their food habits due to which they have suffered from various health problems. Also, the mothers were careless about their children's diet and the children ate junk food from the market. But after seeing the videos, the mothers have become aware of the balanced nutritional diet necessary for their children, like pulses, eggs, boiled potato, green vegetables, etc.'

ENVIRONMENT



Finalists 2020

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment **46**
Interdisciplinary knowledge and action for conservation and sustainability

Tarun Bharat Sangh **54**
Empowering communities to manage and conserve water resources

Under The Mango Tree Society **62**
Reducing poverty through beekeeping

Shortlisted 2020

ActionAid Association **70**
Social and ecological justice for marginalized communities

Dev Rishi Educational Society **74**
Livelihoods, health and conservation in the Himalayan foothills

Development Support Centre **78**
Enabling participatory natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods

India Foundation for Humanistic Development **82**
Creation of sustainable productive landscapes

Lutheran World Service India Trust **86**
Ensuring people's rights, sustainable livelihoods and community resilience

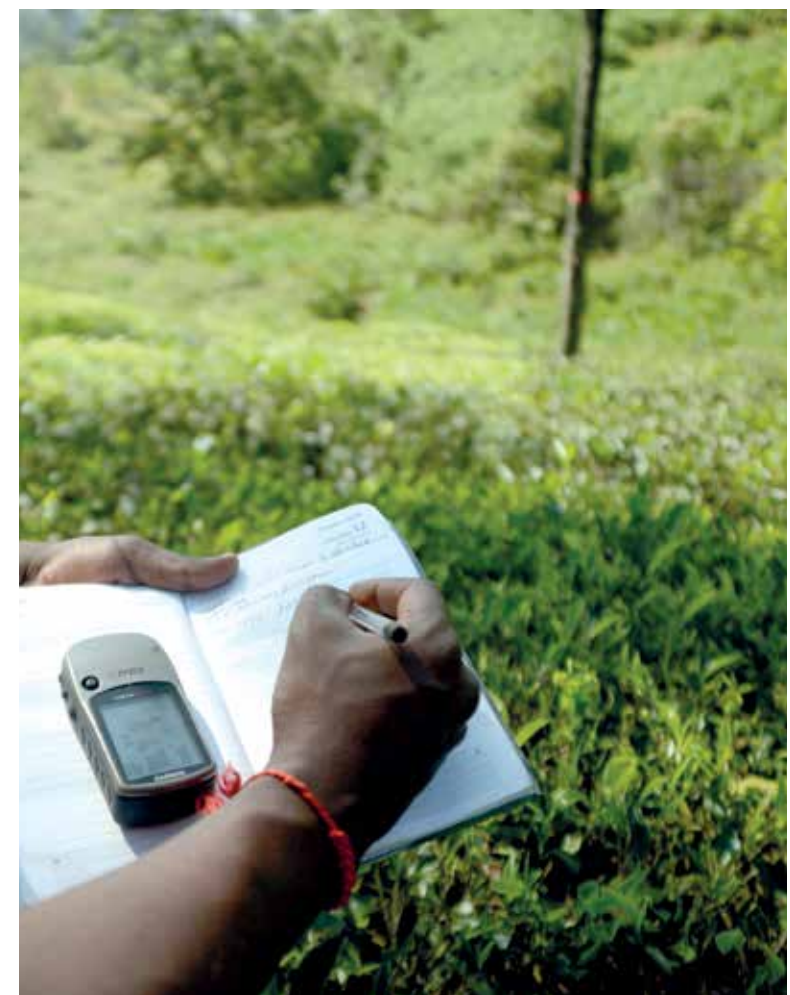
Nature Conservation Foundation **90**
Creative, community-based wildlife conservation, research and training

PlanatEarth **94**
Sustainable solutions for the community management of solid waste

This category includes projects providing access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; combatting climate change and its impact; supporting sustainable conservation of flora and fauna; facilitating wildlife protection and conservation; protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands; conserving and rejuvenating natural water bodies; battling desertification, deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss; targeting pollution and promoting sustainable use of non-renewable resources; and making the community aware and involved in these processes. To qualify for the HCL Grant, the project must focus on direct action that leads to long-term impact, achieved through lasting behavioural change.



From beekeeping as an antidote to poverty, to the protection of snow leopards; from door-to-door waste management to ensuring water equity – the NGOs shortlisted in the ENVIRONMENT category are making a measurable impact on elevating community-based sustainable practices across India. Innovation powered by research and technology works to promote harmonious engagements between humans, natural resources and wildlife – with the committed goal of preserving our beloved planet.







Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment



Founded by Dr Kamaljit Bawa, Dr Ganeshaiah and Dr Uma Shaanker in 1996

The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) is ranked among the top two environmental think tanks in Asia. Its mission is to generate rigorous interdisciplinary knowledge for achieving environmental conservation and sustainable development in a socially just manner; to enable the use of this knowledge by policymakers and society, and to train the next generation of scholars and leaders. ATREE's work spreads across the Western Ghats, the Himalayas, Kutch, wetlands of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and urban centres as well.

Storing up and protecting the earth's riches
Following pages (46–47): *Human well-being derives from the earth's bounty*

TODAY, IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE, action regarding the layered environmental issues we face has to be interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional. Biodiversity, sustainable management of ecosystems, and community rights must be carefully balanced and viewed through economic, social and policy lenses. ATREE is a pioneer in this approach. For example, working with the Soliga community in Karnataka, the organization initiated sustainable conservation through the harvest of non-timber forest products, simultaneously addressing the damaging spread of the invasive species *Lantana Camara*, creating livelihood opportunities for the tribal population by using the plant to make products, and evoking recognition of the first community forest rights under the Forest Rights Act in a protected area.

'ATREE is an academic institution that conducts applied research, while also training future generations of interdisciplinary academics, a think tank that informs public policy based on rigorous studies and a community outreach organization that aims to enhance the lives and livelihoods of local communities through the scientific insights it generates,' explains Dr Kamaljit Bawa, founder of ATREE.

Through five Community Centres around India, ATREE engages in biodiversity conservation in collaboration with local people—building awareness and capacity, and enhancing livelihood options. These centres are also pathways for researchers and PhD students to engage with local stakeholders—exchanging





Preserving biodiversity through research and community engagement



Science-based practices for natural resource management
 Following pages (50–51): *Enhancing lives and livelihoods without a cost to the environment*

knowledge, and facilitating the creation of maps, books, field guides and other valuable materials that articulate the complex link between people and ecosystems. In 2019, ATREE set up two new resources: the Centre for Social and Environmental Innovation (to promote environmental entrepreneurship and local leadership, among other things) and the Centre for Policy Design (aiming to improve and inform governance and public policies on the environment).

Successes include playing a major role in the nomination of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; boosting capacity of locals in Darjeeling towards managing human-wildlife conflict through community based strategies and monitoring; contributing to the conservation of Manas National Park and Kaziranga National Park; contributing to scientific knowledge on proper management of diverse aquatic ecosystems—from headwaters to estuaries, promoting the link between ecological and water security to enhance human wellbeing, and much more.

‘ATREE sees an India where ecosystem research

is not kept in a silo or an ivory tower, but becomes an integral part of how we plan to manage challenges that affect our livelihoods such as water security, climate change, invasive species, biodiversity loss, and concurrently, our human well-being,’ says Dr Bawa.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Achieving water security through the use of science and technology; fostering ecological entrepreneurs

HCL Grant Project Title: Bridging Science, Society and Stakeholders for India’s Water Security

Beneficiaries: Local communities dependent on aquatic ecosystems for water security, farmers, fisher-folk, Gram Panchayats, Forest Development Committees, district collectors, State Planning Committees, and Niti Aayog

Location: 50 villages in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal





Tarun Bharat Sangh



Founded by Sri Rajendra Singh in 1975

Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS) facilitates community-driven, decentralized natural resource conservation and management; the holistic concept of ‘Jal Jungle Jameen.’ Its philosophy rides on the idea of Gram Swarajya, or community self-reliance. TBS has helped a population of around 10,00,000 people in more than 1,000 villages in Rajasthan and Maharashtra by constructing more than 10,000 rainwater harvesting structures. Its founder Sri Rajendra Singh was named in the Guardian’s list of ‘50 people who could save the planet’ in 2008.

Melding traditional and modern techniques for water harvesting
Following pages (54–55): *The earth provides, provided we care for her*

TARUN BHARAT SANGH is in the business of birthing water warriors. At a crucial time in humankind’s history where rivers are dying, water levels are sinking and forests are vanishing, these warriors lead from the front in the battle against the exploitation of the earth. Using the traditional methods of rainwater conservation that lie in the community’s own pool of near-forgotten knowledge of land and water management, and combining them with a participatory approach, TBS has created an ecosystem which impacts people and the planet ecologically, socially and financially.

In the mid-eighties, there was a severe drought in Rajasthan. TBS, already formed as a group of people intent upon the welfare of society, found direction in the amelioration of this dire situation. They heard from local people and elders that the traditional water harvesting systems in the region, the ‘johads,’ had not been maintained as they once were. TBS began to construct a johad in Gopalpura village. Joining the team were people from the village and the neighbouring village, too. With the success of the first one, several more of these structures were built, providing employment, and more importantly, hope and empowerment among the people—that their future was in their own hands. The result was recharged aquifers, ground and surface water levels going up, a stop to land erosion, barren land becoming fertile, increased agriculture and milk produce, solving





Working together to bring water back to life



The wisdom of the past bears fruit in the present
 Following pages (58–59): *Defeating drought with gushing pride*

the problem of food security, and afforestation and ecological restoration.

‘The key for sustenance would be transfer of knowledge and ownership to the community itself. Through seminars and daily meetings, farmers/ community members gain confidence, receive guidance and training about the basic maintenance skills to conserve the structures, and the generated impact in future after the project period. The resultant financial benefits from increased agricultural production will enable them financially to maintain their Rainwater Harvesting structures,’ explains Sri Rajendra Singh, Chairman, TBS.

The NGO has been active in battling the illegal mining in the area, too: the PIL filed by TBS in the Supreme Court regarding this issue was taken up, and consequently, 470 illegal mines operating in the Sariska National Park were closed down. The effects of TBS’s initiatives have not stopped there. It is seen that as a community gets more water and disciplines

its use of natural resources, it grows more prosperous. This means all-round development on every indicator: health, nutrition, gender discrimination, drudgery of women, education, and so much more. And to ensure that these benefits continue, TBS gives guidance to young people on becoming climate crusaders.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Establishing water equity through community participation

HCL Grant Project Title: Adapting to Climate Change and Rejuvenation of an Ecosystem through Rainwater Harvesting in Eastern Rajasthan

Beneficiaries: ST and OBC communities dependent on agriculture and allied livelihoods

Location: 35 villages in Karauli, Rajasthan





Under The Mango Tree Society



Founded by Vijaya Pastala in 2009

Pollinators are under threat worldwide, and declining due to multiple factors—the use of pesticides, deforestation, commercial agriculture and unsustainable practices like honey hunting. The interventions by Under The Mango Tree Society (UTMTS) encompass awareness of the critical role of bees in the ecosystem, training, conservation, and also creating a supportive ecosystem where bees can thrive among 5,190 smallholders in tribal communities in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The people-centric projects ensure that small and marginal farmers are able to benefit from locally available indigenous bees as pollinators, increasing yields and incomes.

Creating a supporting ecosystem for the littlest conservators
Following pages (62–63): *Unlikely warriors in the fight to save the earth*

MANY EXPERTS BELIEVE that if bees become extinct, it will be the end of humankind. This may sound extreme but these little creatures are the champions of pollination, and without them, 7 per cent of our food—including vegetables, many fruits, nuts, oilseeds, as well as flowers—will not grow and flourish. This renders the work done by UTMTS under its ‘Bees for Poverty Reduction’ programme that much more important. This organization encourages beekeeping among subsistence farmers in tribal populations—not for the honey but to aid conservation—and at the same time, increase their yield, and that of their neighbours.

Many of these communities possess ancient knowledge about bees, however, they often follow the unsustainable practise of squeezing the honeycomb to extract honey. ‘Our intervention fuses the traditional knowledge of honey hunters with modern beekeeping in a way that is environmentally and ecologically sustainable,’ says Sujana Krishnamoorthy, Executive Director, UTMTS.

Through awareness building, field research, technology, training, bee flora innovation (i.e., distributing seeds and saplings of bee-friendly plants to enhance nectar and pollen availability), audio-visual aids and more, the NGO ensures that the host of benefits that accrue from keeping bees are communicated to the farmers. The farmers are





Eradicating misconceptions while respecting local knowledge about beekeeping



Bee boxes to save bees and increase crop yields
 Following pages (66–67): *Ecologically sound methods of beekeeping protect pollinators and benefit the earth*

encouraged to rear indigenous species of bees like *Apis Cerana Indica* and stingless bees like *Trigona* in their farms and backyards. The yield increases, they have more surplus to sell and the bees are saved from extinction. The nutrition of the family improves exponentially, too. So, a host of advantages accrue.

To get to where it is now, UTMTS has had to face many challenges, the most difficult being changing mindsets to move from honey hunting to keeping bees in boxes. However, the results speak for themselves. Says Jani Ishwar Vaghat, from Palghar, Maharashtra, ‘I had planned to go to the local market once a week to sell the surplus harvest from the bee flora. I ended up going every alternate day.’ Once the word spread, other farmers came forward to participate in the projects and the initiative grew steadily.

In 2013, UTMTS won the World Bank Development Marketplace award. Its model is unique among organizations working in the area, and its impact is very powerful. Says Ms Krishnamoorthy, ‘...by training ten people in a village in beekeeping, we actually impact thirty households as each bee box

pollinates not just the beekeeper’s crops but also the crops of the plot neighbours on both sides.’

Another plus is the emergence of allied professions that supplement the community’s income, including training honey hunters as colony spotters, hiring local carpenters to produce bee boxes and women’s SHGs (Self-help Groups) to make swarm bags/bee veils and run nurseries.

UTMTS’s commitment lies in conservation and biodiversity, but it has developed a model which allows economic benefits to humans too—proving that conservation and human progress can go hand-in-hand.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Increasing biodiversity through beekeeping

HCL Grant Project Title: Keeping Indigenous Bees Buzzing and Supporting Biodiversity Conservation in Tribal Communities

Beneficiaries: Smallholders in tribal communities and their neighbours

Location: 115 villages in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra





ActionAid Association



First Chairperson: Late Lakshmi Chand Jain;
working in India since 1972

ActionAid Association (AAA) is a social organization that works in solidarity with the most marginalized communities to further social and ecological justice. It believes in equality and justice for all, and supports the leadership and empowerment of the vulnerable in their struggle for a life of dignity as equal citizens of India, through enhanced democratic participation and structural transformation. AAA's engagements are spread across 24 states and two Union Territories in India.

Building drought resilience through sustainable means

ACTION AID ASSOCIATION (AAA), a registered non-governmental organization, has had a long history of working towards justice and equality for the poor and excluded. It is a part of the ActionAid global federation, with a presence in over 40 countries worldwide. It has been working in India since the seventies. In the nineties, it transitioned from a service-based approach to a rights-based approach, which engages with grassroots communities and supports their right to development, and works on the eradication of poverty through participatory means.

In 2006, AAA was registered as an Indian organization, and is governed by an independent general assembly and an independent national governing board. 'ActionAid Association seeks to work together with supporters, communities and institutions to create positive transformational change, and enable the protagonism of the people and communities we work with. Change is sustainable and permanent when vulnerable communities are able to assert rights and claim entitlements, as well as participate in governance processes, with the full acceptance of dominant social groups. This kind of change at the societal level is difficult to bring about, as it goes against entrenched social beliefs, practises and structures,' explains Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, ActionAid Association.

However, through on-ground action, influencing policy at national and international levels and knowledge building, AAA has made a dent in these rigid paradigms. Its interventions are diverse, geographically and otherwise. It works to ensure the



Promoting the idea of water commons



Strengthening community-led revolutions

rights of children—including nutrition, education, protection and overall well-being, through children and youth collectives, as well as engaging with the Government's education system. It is particularly driven towards women's issues, and uses the power of women's organizations to address violence and discrimination, and ensure participation and leadership of women in democratic processes. AAA works directly, and with grassroots-based civil society organizations, to build community-based capacities and formations to access entitlements, promote and assert rights, and play a proactive role in governance. It facilitates applying for, and acquiring land rights for homesteads and agriculture. Using the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, it has enabled the filing of thousands of claims. AAA promotes workers' rights; it helps the marginalized access rights and entitlements under government schemes; and it has initiatives in place for disaster preparedness and rehabilitation in case of humanitarian crises. Furthermore, AAA's mandate seeks to uphold diversity, pluralism, and secularism, and nurture spaces for inter-community solidarity and action.

Environment

Its participatory programmes are constantly reviewed and discussed with communities and their leaders, and the community's engagements with duty-bearers and the Government are kept alive and vibrant in order to be relevant and effective in the long-term—even after AAA's direct involvement ends.

'We see our success in the creation of wide networks of solidarity amongst vulnerable communities, and across gender, religion, caste, ethnicity, language and region. In an increasingly fragile world, we seek to advance the common good of all humanity, and concern for the environment,' says Sandeep Chachra.

HCL Grant Project Title: Building Drought Resilience and Addressing Water Crisis in Ten Villages of Jharkhand And Odisha by Developing Water Commons Through Collective and Sustainable, Community-led Processes.

Beneficiaries: Small and marginal farmers, sharecroppers, women and children

Location: 10 villages in Jharkhand and Odisha



Dev Rishi Educational Society



Founded by Sharad Sundriyal in 1999

Dev Rishi Educational Society (DRES) has been working in the livelihood and skills sector in the underdeveloped areas of Uttarakhand for decades. Striving to empower rural youth, it works to create social reform in not just livelihood generation and health but also in natural living, conscious habitats, environment and global learnings. Its attempt is to reach the remotest of villages and every listed or non-listed person without any discrimination of caste, creed or language.

Breaking the cycles of deprivation in the remotest geographies

THE BOY WALKS UP THE STEEP HILL and shivers in the cold Himalayan air. He is excited. His grandfather is a subsistence farmer, and his parents have long gone to the city to earn money for the family's survival. But his future will be different, for he is on his way to attend his apparel design class. This opportunity was made possible because of another young man, Sharad Sundriyal, who chose to dedicate his life to breaking the cycle of deprivation, unemployment and insular attitudes that the region was steeped in, by starting DRES. He says, 'We believe that development is holistic in nature and not a one-time agenda.' Besides enhancing the socio-economic status of the communities in the area, the organization generates awareness about environmental issues, conducts baseline surveys, documents, monitors and evaluates projects, and organizes events like career fairs, health camps and exhibitions.

To begin with, DRES became the local franchisee of the International Institute of Fashion Technology. Another project, Fashion and Textile Design Training cum Production Centres for Rural Employment, is an excellent example of sustainability and relevance—training the youth in skills related to apparel design and manufacturing, product design development and branding, and establishing marketing linkages.

Explains Sharad Sundriyal, 'DRES was the first institute to take professional and vocational skill education to deep pockets of rural Uttarakhand and convert the entire learning experience into the



The beauty of the mountains preserved through sustainable development



Focusing on the health of rivers

local and indigenous language... This initiation soon mushroomed into setting up of Tera Gaon (a hub of restaurants, recreation and rural craft) to provide rural artisans a platform for urban market linkages on a PPP mode with Rural Development Department, Uttarakhand; and setting up of Haritima (the first organic restaurant of Uttarakhand) with the Organic Board of Uttarakhand.

Eventually, it diversified into areas like health, education, water and sanitation, and environment. Through linkages with the Government and supporting its schemes for the upliftment of the local population, DRES has organized eye check-up camps, blood donation camps, health check-up camps, AIDS awareness campaigns, and more. It has facilitated a Management Information System (MIS) for the 'Housing for All' scheme, created one for 'Citizen Engagement Support for Peri-Urban Water Supply' schemes, and worked as a Knowledge Resource Centre for drinking water and sanitation with the concerned ministry.

With solid processes and systems in place for monitoring impact and quality, transparency and feedback in the field and in management, this NGO works hard to ensure engagement of all stakeholders at every level. Sustainability is built into the programmes it conducts through a participatory approach and community involvement.

HCL Grant Project Title: Kavach Yamuna—A Humble Attempt to Save the Saviour
Beneficiaries: The entire community, pilgrims in Yamunotri Dham, Zilla Panchayats, Gram Panchayats, Mahila Mangal Dals, Mandir Samiti, youth, media, and local administration and government departments
Location: 5 villages in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand



Development Support Centre



Founded by Shri Anil C. Shah in 1994

Development Support Centre (DSC) works to give knowledge-based support to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Government agencies and other stakeholders in the field of participatory natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods. It implements projects, builds capacity of key functionaries, conducts field studies and influences policy. Its reach has spread to 700 villages across Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan—working with 1.2 lakh rural households and promoting more than 1700 community-based organizations engaged in savings and credit, natural resource management and agriculture enterprise activities.

Building people's capacity for participatory development

WHEN THE APPROACH to rural development transitioned from the earlier top-down, Government-executed one to the participatory model, it was nothing short of a revolution. Communities managing the development process themselves—right from planning, implementation and monitoring—rested the ownership of its success in their own capable hands. They began to analyse their own problems and find solutions with minimal external support. Women worked and decided on matters shoulder-to-shoulder with menfolk. And every person in the community, regardless of position, caste or income, began to receive the benefits of the programme.

The transition wasn't an easy one, though, with every stakeholder having to redefine areas of functioning. In the area of community-driven, decentralized sustainable natural resource management, one organization helped to bridge the gaps between the key players. DSC was formed to provide knowledge-based support and create an enabling environment, including capacity building of policymakers, practitioners and villagers equally, and empower them to treat each other as trusted development partners.

'The organization began its journey by conducting a series of training programmes for practitioners from NGOs and officers of the Government of Gujarat on participatory natural resources management and watershed management,' says Mohan Sharma, Executive Director, DSC. Eventually, the organization began direct implementation in the field with projects on watershed and participatory irrigation



From water to wealth through sustainable livelihoods



Field studies and research feed into a holistic model of conservation

management. ‘These pilot projects became the learning laboratories for the DSC staff as well as the trainees,’ Mr Sharma recalls.

But the true success of the NGO was when it began its integrated approach ‘from water to wealth’. This is a model of livelihood improvement which empowers the community by creating three verticals in each village: to manage supply and demand of water; to manage micro saving and credit needs; and to manage the agriculture value chain and develop infrastructure on water, agriculture extension and enterprise. Research, disseminating information and advocacy form other aspects of its work. DSC has also formed a network of NGOs called Sajjata Sangh for various projects on agriculture, water and land development.

The CBOs (community-based organizations) it has supported have been tremendously successful, financially self-sufficient, with ‘robust social and technical management capacities and long-term partnership with Government agencies,’ explains Mr Sharma. He gives some remarkable examples: ‘The Water User’s Associations in Gujarat have been

managing their canal irrigation for two decades so well that they did not take a single rupee from the Government for management. The Women’s Credit Cooperative Federation in Meghraj Talluka in Sabarkantha is providing micro-credit to members on their own. The Krushidhan Farmer Producer Company has achieved annual turnover of ₹17 crore by agriculture input and output supply activities.’ And according to researchers from IRMA Anand, IIM Ahmedabad, beneficiaries of DSC’s projects generated an additional income of about ₹ 29,000 per household per year per hectare from reduced cost, increased productivity and profitability.

HCL Grant Project Title: Improving Environment and Livelihood through Community-led Water-Governance and Natural Resource Management
Beneficiaries: Entire village community, tribal population, women, small and marginal farmers, landless persons, forest-dwellers, etc.
Location: 84 villages in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra



India Foundation for Humanistic Development



Founded by Jamuna Ramakrishnan and Reena Fernandes in 2011

The key areas of work for India Foundation for Humanistic Development (IFHD) are sustainable agriculture, livelihoods, social entrepreneurship, biodiversity conservation, greening food and energy systems. It was born to address unsustainable landscapes in India—like the crisis in agriculture due to depleting water, changing climate, fragmented landholdings, poor economies of scale, and more. The eventual aim is to uplift the lives of the marginalized and help other not-for-profit organizations manage programmes. Its flagship project, ProCIF, works in 18 states, supporting 68,000 small farmers, impacting 2,50,000 rural lives.

Our knowledge can save our world

IF WE HAD A CHANCE TO START OVER, to create a new world where the earth was respected and the connection between people and the planet was re-forged, we could no doubt be successful. One organization feels that all we need is a ‘reset button’ to realize this dream, and that the reset button is in each of our hands. The India Foundation for Humanistic Development was started by senior development professionals who had worked with the international NGO Hivos for several years. Its mandate was to revive India’s productive landscape sustainably and equitably in three ways: ecologically, economically and socially.

IFHD has three main programmes: the Producer Catalyst and Incubation Facility (Pro-CIF), which works with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), giving financial and technical support, and access to markets; Promoting Habitat (ProHABITAT), which works with communities to co-design and conserve biodiversity of critical ecosystems; and, Promoting Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (ProRASA), which builds the capacity of women farmers as soil and seed nurturers, promotes diversified agro-ecological farming and conserves water.

Or, as Aruna Rangachar Pohl, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and the force behind the NGO’s operations explains, ‘We will enable the creation of sustainable productive landscapes, where the forests, water and soil will be preserved, where farming will be more organic and renewable, where producers will get



Making communities stronger in the face of climate change



We worship the gods of the forest and they bless us with prosperity

their fair share, where communities will run their own viable enterprises, where there will be enough food to sustain and nourish everyone, where the traders will minimize their carbon footprints, where the urban consumers will understand the connections and consume with consciousness, where the rural people will not migrate to cities out of distress but live with their environment in perfect balance.'

IFHD engages with governments in order to advise, share knowledge, influence policymaking and aid in project implementation in their core domains. On the other hand, its team does not hesitate to jump in when required for action in the field, as they did in the recent floods in North Kanara (Karnataka) to get care packages to families stranded in inaccessible areas.

Determined to bring about change in the lives of the marginalized and investing in the agency of those very people in its crusade to advance sustainable development, IFHD has had many successes. Recounts Aruna Rangachar Pohl with pride, 'The smile of triumph and confidence in farmer Board members of an FPO on successfully transacting a

large business deal with a leading buyer, the wonder of tasting sustainably harvested honey straight from the honeycomb with the bees and children happily swarming around in a forest in the Western Ghats, the pleasure and pride on the face of a woman farmer who is successfully reviving traditional seeds...' These are the glorious outcomes that make developmental transformation a definite possibility.

HCL Grant Project Title: ProHABITAT: Participatory Restoration and Conservation of Endangered Productive Ecosystems and Enhancing the Climate Change Resilience of Local Communities
Beneficiaries: Local community institutions, Village Forest Committees, women's self-help groups, Parna Western Ghats Farmer Producer Company, school children, volunteers and the Forest Department
Location: 100 villages in the central Western Ghats, Karwar district, Karnataka



Lutheran World Service India Trust



Earlier known as LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE
Founded by the late Dr Ollav Hodney in 1974 (LWSI)
and the late Rev. A. G. Augustine Jeyakumar (UELCI)
and Bishop Dhiren Sahoo (NCCI) in 2008

The motto of Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) is ‘Empowering the last, the least and the lost.’ And indeed, its focus is vulnerable and disadvantaged people, including tribal people, women, children and transgenders. It works to ensure rights and entitlements through collective action, and to ensure ecological balance, community resilience and overcome poverty. Other areas of work include education, health, sanitation, livelihood enhancement, natural resource management, sustainable agricultural practices, disaster risk reduction, peace-building initiatives, and more. Its core development programmes are active in Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Jharkhand.

Disaster risk reduction for vulnerable communities

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION is an international organization which has been working in India for decades. Its India wing, Lutheran World Service India, began in 1974—right after the Bangladesh war, in order to help with the refugee crisis. Eventually, in 2008, the NGO was registered in India as a trust, LWSIT. Its programmes in the areas of sustainable livelihood, community resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate change, and farming and food security have ameliorated and empowered thousands of marginalized people by breaking the cycle of poverty and giving them control over their own lives.

The global website describes its mandate in India: ‘We work alongside communities to help farmers replace decades-old farming methods with climate-smart sustainable solutions... and improve yields and quality to ultimately generate higher income. We work with both women and men to ensure women are valued for their knowledge and skills, and that they are able to equally contribute to family decisions—especially about finance, division of labour and nutrition.’

Another major thrust area for some time now has been disaster relief. For example, in the aftermath of the tsunami in 2004, Cyclone Phailin in 2013 and the 2017 Bihar floods, LWSIT was present on site. A longer-term strategy is also in place. Village-level Disaster Management Committees, from among the community itself, are formed and trained to prepare plans to mitigate possible damage from such events.



Latitude: 19.899982
 Longitude: 83.395878
 Elevation: 342.32m



We work together to fortify our future and that of our beloved land



An immutable will to prosper

Working through a gender-inclusive rights-based approach, as well as an integrated, holistic approach, LWSIT has made large strides in its action areas. It also has initiatives in education, health, gender empowerment and peace, closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Linking with Government programmes, this NGO has had astounding impact on the lives of people in the remotest, most underdeveloped areas of our country. For instance, it has supported the Government of Odisha in the Million Wells Scheme—a Micro Watershed Project for tribal populations—and the Western Odisha Rural Livelihood Project. It also implements Government-funded projects like the Odisha Tribal Empowerment Livelihood Program Plus, the West Bengal Sworjgar Corporation Limited (WBSCL) program and Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) in West Bengal.

Kishore Kumar Nag, Acting Executive Director of LWSIT, explains that the NGO makes sure people know that ‘LWSIT is not permanent, rather, people/community is permanent, and they have to think for

their betterment and development. Secondly, that the action plan and activities are designed by the people themselves. For LWSIT, the true definition of success is empowerment.’

HCL Grant Project Title: Community-based Climate Change Related Initiatives

Beneficiaries: Forest-dependent and impoverished Schedule Tribe communities

Location: Lanjigarh Block of Kalahandi district in Odisha



Nature Conservation Foundation



Founded by T.R. Shankar Raman, Divya Mudappa, M.D. Madhusudan, Rohan Arthur and Charudutt Mishra in 1996

Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) believes in a world where nature and society both flourish through creative conservation, ethical methods and research. Responsible for designing Project Snow Leopard and many other impactful initiatives, NCF runs community-based conservation projects in over 100 villages—benefitting nearly 5,000 families across eight states and two Union Territories in India. Some 15,000 families are covered by projects, helping people coexist with wildlife like elephants and large carnivores that threaten human life and livelihoods. Its work has helped increase the safety of 75,000 people from fatal encounters with elephants.

Creative conservation to balance the needs of nature and humanity

BECAUSE OF INTERVENTIONS by the NCF, communities that used to hunt hornbills in Arunachal Pradesh now help to protect them fiercely. Local fisherfolk tell the NGO's teams about sightings of elusive marine species like the dugong. Other communities have learned to coexist peacefully with elephants in the wild, or have understood the value of conserving endangered species like the lion-tailed macaque and the snow leopard. The organization, through its outreach programmes, encourages diverse people—from plantation owners to schoolchildren—to become the guardians of nature or the champions of conservation.

NCF started very small. 'Wildlife conservation in India...has been approached in a high-handed manner that has typically led to further marginalization, rather than empowerment, of rural communities who live in or around our last remaining wilderness areas. Such imposition, in addition to being ethically questionable, is also typically based on inadequate understanding of ecology and human societies in question. The organization was set up to change that narrative. NCF aims at promoting science-based, socially responsible wildlife conservation approaches in India and elsewhere,' says Charudutt Mishra, one of the founders of NCF.

Involving local communities in running conservation programmes, conflict management, and livestock insurance initiatives, this determined NGO has created long-term partnerships in the field. Its compassion for both people and animals shines



Frameworks for a harmonious co-existence with the wild



Empowering rural communities to conserve wildlife

through, as does the deep research and grassroots understanding of the social, ecological, economic and historical factors that impact the environmental circumstances. The relationships formed with the communities who live in and around jungles give excellent insights into the local people's perspective and generational knowledge of the ecology, and feed into NCF's own research. It also partners with State Forest Departments, the armed forces and the district administration. These collaborations have led to the creation of eco-sensitive zones, species recovery plans and more guiding policy and strategy on conservation in large landscapes. Training, mentoring young people and education are other areas of engagement, with several PhDs emerging from NCF's academic programme. It also advises on conservation work in other countries in Southeast Asia and Australia.

NCF is the force behind India's Project Snow Leopard, a landmark action plan for the co-management of high mountain ecosystems and pastoral livelihoods. Its staff have served on many boards, including the National Tiger Conservation

Authority, the National Board for Wildlife, and the Elephant Task Force.

'Our immediate goals include strengthening conservation capacity and creating future conservation leaders through multiple training and capacity enhancement programmes; developing long-term ecological and societal monitoring systems in representative sites across India; and developing frameworks and instilling a culture of evidence-based conservation within NCF,' explains Charudutt Mishra.

HCL Grant Project Title: Conserving Wildlife Through Local Community Engagement and Empowerment in Biodiversity-Rich Mountain Landscapes of India

Beneficiaries: Rural pastoralists, agriculturists, plantation workers and indigenous tribal groups who live alongside important wildlife species in high conservation value regions

Location: 342 villages in Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam



PlanatEarth



Founded by Sooraj Abraham, Mujeeb Mohammed, Rasheed Ashraf, Sooraj P.S. and Sunil Sukumar in 2009

PlanatEarth works to engage communities with environmental issues. It offers solutions to local self-Governments and residents on how to manage municipal solid waste through the steps of reduce, reuse and recycle. It runs effective door to door collection systems, an efficient method of sorting, and forward linkages to recycling agencies. It is touted as one of the most effective waste management projects in Kerala, catering to over 24,000 households and recycling over 9,60,000 kilos of plastic waste a year.

Innovative ideas for our planet's protection

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT has banned single use plastic, the use of plastic in packaging, branded goods, events and more is still on the rise. The only solution to this gargantuan problem that affects not only our environment but that of marine and animal life too, is to drastically change our behaviour.

A group of teachers in Kerala grew concerned about this immense issue and came together to make a dent in its terrible impact by registering themselves as a trust named PlanatEarth. Starting off with awareness programmes, and realising quickly that this wasn't enough, the organization began to experiment with designing long-term, sustainable solutions involving the community itself. An obvious one was waste collection services, but then there was a problem of what to do with the waste. It grew to realise that the crux of the issue had to do with recycling.

'We started visiting recyclers in different parts of India with different grades of plastic, trying to understand their recycling value and problems with recycling. We were able to identify 62 grades of dry waste. Of this nearly 80% could be recycled, but the problem was that there were many grades with no takers at all. That's when we moved into upcycling, by making bags and items of home décor from non-recyclable grades,' explains Sooraj Abraham, Founder and Secretary of PlanatEarth.

In order to ensure financial viability and ownership of its initiatives, PlanatEarth started charging a user fee for collection of waste, something that was hitherto



Recycling plastics in creative and profitable ways



Door-to-door waste management for rural communities

unheard of. It was not an easy task, by all accounts, but by offering incentives and gentle persuasion, and awareness and sensitization workshops, the NGO has managed to begin charging for its services. Its programmes have taken off, especially in rural areas, where the communities it engages with have learned to segregate waste at source and how to store plastic waste without food residue and more. Littering is almost non-existent in those areas, and single use plastics are slowly going out of use.

‘We recruit the entire team from the local community and train them to do door-to-door collection, sorting and grading. We locate recyclers and supply all grades that can be recycled to them. The rest, we upcycle. We try to run sustainable operations using the user fee, revenue from sale of recyclables, sale of upcycled products and, sometimes, CSR funds.’

PlanatEarth dreams of a world where people have learned to live sustainably, with highly evolved purchasing and consumption, and disposal habits. It wants to move from village to village, emphasizing

its mantra of ‘reduce, refuse and reuse’, and providing innovative and effective systems for its implementation.

HCL Grant Project Title: Environment Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation through Management of Plastic Waste, Cleaning Water Bodies, Preventing Landfills, and Integrating Livelihood Means to Rural Communities Affected by Floods

Beneficiaries: Rural population of the area

Location: 20 villages in Idukki district, Kerala

HEALTH



Finalists 2020

Amar Seva Sangam **104**
Equality for people with disabilities

Karuna Trust **112**
Holistic healthcare for vulnerable and isolated communities

Operation ASHA **120**
Treating and preventing TB through community participation and technology

Shortlisted 2020

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India **128**
Fostering resilience and sustainable habitats among communities

Amici di Raoul Follereau **132**
Enhancing quality of life for people affected by leprosy and people with disabilities

Digital Green Trust **136**
Harnessing technology to improve agriculture, nutrition and health

LEPRA Society **140**
Transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy and other neglected diseases

Pratichi (India) Trust **144**
Promoting people-centred education, efficient healthcare and gender parity

Society for Indian Institute Of Health Management Research **148**
Creating new knowledge in healthcare systems, education and research

The Banyan and The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health **152**
Providing access to health and mental health care for the poor and homeless

This category recognizes projects that enable transformative work in the areas of equitable & universal access to health for all; equal access to clean drinking water; sanitation and hygiene facilities for all; prevention and elimination of water borne diseases; maternal, adolescent, child health and nutrition; and eradication of communicable diseases. To qualify for the HCL Grant, the project should complement state efforts towards achievement of the goals of the National Health Mission and support innovative, scalable models that will help the nation meet its targets in rural India.



Delivering babies in dense jungles; inclusion and mental healthcare for the poor; using technology to treat TB; offering digital platforms to improve nutrition; transforming healthcare through research and training – and so much more. Spanning diverse geographies, the shortlisted NGOs in our HEALTH category are making sweeping inroads into some of the most integral health issues facing rural India today.







Amar Seva Sangam



Founded by S. Ramakrishnan in 1981

Amar Seva Sangam works to create a society where People with Disabilities (PwDs) achieve equality of status, equality in opportunities and equality in access; where they are identified as differently-abled. It offers rehabilitation programmes through the 'Valley for Disabled Project' at the Sangam, providing residential, day-care, post-acute care, appliances, educational and vocational training facilities for disabled communities. Till March 2019, more than 50,000 PwDs have been rehabilitated through the Sangam. Its Village-based Rehabilitation (VBRI) is active in over 800 villages in Tirunelveli district; it reached out to 6,000 PwDs and formed 739 Self-help Groups (SHGs) of PwDs.

A life less ordinary

Following pages (104–105): *Equal access to learning*

AMAR SEVA SANGAM HAS A DREAM. A dream that it feels will be realized only

'...when all private schools have barrier-free facilities for students with disabilities; when all educational institutions provide equal access; when libraries are accessible; when a Person with Disability is called a "student", "passenger", "customer", "client", "child" without any prefix or suffix indicating his or her impairments; when temples don't disallow wheelchairs; when all bus, rail stations, and buses and trains give equal access for all; when pavements are free for movement for persons with disabilities; when tourist places are accessible to all; and when universal access standards are a matter of routine than exception.'

S. Sankara Raman, the Hon. Secretary of Amar Seva Sangam lists out the above, knowing all the while that so far even the tip of the iceberg has not been touched in India with regards to PwDs. Himself a person with muscular dystrophy and a wheelchair user, he gave up a lucrative job to join the founder of the organization, S. Ramakrishnan (also paralysed neck downwards), in his work to empower differently-abled citizens and develop models for self-help initiatives and improved quality of life in villages.

Starting with five children in a shed in Ayikudy in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, S. Ramakrishnan, along with a committed team, has steered Amar Seva Sangam into becoming a stellar organization that works in several different areas related to PwDs.





The joy of playful belonging



Communities of hope, leaders of change
 Following pages (108–109): *Making tomorrow brighter and better*

‘Our highly successful Village Based Rehabilitation Initiatives (VBRI) encourages the community to form self-help groups for rehabilitation as well as lobby for access to government schemes,’ says Sankara Raman. Within VBRI, the Early Intervention initiative, called the mobile Village Based Rehabilitation Initiative (mVBRI) addresses children below the age of six with developmental delays. Using a good level of technology, this programme, once centre-based, now has a wonderful system of home-based rehabilitation. ‘This programme is being scaled up by the Government of Tamil Nadu and we are pursuing the Central Government to implement it pan-India,’ explains Mr Sankara Raman.

There’s more. The Siva Saraswati Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School started by the Sangam allows the pursuit of quality education to rural children as well as physically and intellectually challenged students. And, inspired by the impact of the Early Intervention programme, it has started a similar initiative for children above six years, too.

The Sangam has been awarded the Dr Ambedkar National Award in 2017 and the Amazing Indians Award in 2016. Sankara Raman’s outlook, and that of the Sangam, is simple. Disability is a matter of perception. And their perception is that it is not limiting in any way.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Community-based Early Intervention programme to prevent and address disabilities

HCL Grant Project Title: Parent’s Participatory Rehabilitation Services for Children with Disabilities to Improve Their Functional Capacities and Better Participation in School

Beneficiaries: Children with disability

Location: 500 villages in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu

வகுப்பு- 5



அமர் சேவா சங்கம்
ஆய்க்குடி - 627 852

கிராம சார்ந்த மறுவாழ்வு துறை

விழிப்புணர்வு நிகழ்ச்சி
ஆலங்குளம் ஒன்றியம்

A. V. N. Middle School
Uthumalai

23.10.2019





Karuna Trust



Founded by Padmashree Dr H. Sudarshan in 1986

Karuna Trust strives to provide an equitable and integrated model of healthcare, education and livelihood, and enables holistic health development of marginalized communities. Using the model of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the NGO has grown from managing one Primary Health Centre (PHC) to now managing 71 PHCs, 7 Mobile Health Units, 2 Citizen Help Desks and 1 First Referral Unit— spanning seven states of the country and providing free and assured primary health care service to 1.5 million people in the remotest parts of India.

The panacea of hope
Following pages (112–113): *Sowing the seeds of holistic healthcare in the community itself*

KIDNAPPING BY DACOITS. Threats from underground militants. Remote, inaccessible locations, like Thingpuikhal in Manipur which takes twelve hours by road from Imphal, followed by eight hours on the Barak river in a small boat. Or the village in Arunachal Pradesh, which one has to trek for three days to reach. At each of these locations is a Government Primary Health Centre (PHC), once defunct, but now revived by a remarkable organization known as Karuna Trust.

The Trust serves the community by striving to reach the unreached. Under its PPP model, it manages only such Government health centres, like the ones mentioned above, with an aim to strengthen the public health care system for a certain period of time. Once the PHC is revived, the Trust hands over operations back to the State Government and moves on to the next project.

Karuna Trust provides not just curative treatments, but offers a holistic and innovative healthcare model. Its approach emphasizes preventive and rehabilitative services, integrating other determinants of health like water, sanitation, women and child development, and livelihood promotion into its offerings. Another objective is to upgrade the PHCs to IPHS (Indian Public Health Standards) levels.

‘... traditional medicine, mental health, eye care services through vision centres, epilepsy, etc., were not included in the Government Primary Health care services but are now included in Karuna Trust’s PPP model,’ explains Dr H. Sudarshan, Founder and Secretary, Karuna Society. ‘Using information



EMERGENCY REGISTER
HEALTH CENTRE ANPUM

ANPUM HEALTH CENTRE
EMERGENCY REGISTER

ANPUM HEALTH CENTRE
EMERGENCY REGISTER



Training and technology combine to make deliveries safer



High-end health for all, however remote they are
Following pages (116–117): *Healthy infants mean a flourishing society*

technology, the Trust has a telemedicine capability, has digitized health records and manages the essential supply chain using the cloud. Community participation is the cornerstone of the Trust's methodology. Building a rapport with the locals, the team trains the community members about the services that a PHC/SC has to provide and incorporates their inputs. They are people who sustain the health activities in the village,' he adds.

The vital feature of Karuna Trust-managed PHCs is that they function like a Government PHC, implementing its schemes—like the National Health Protection Scheme, Family Welfare Scheme, etc.—and other schemes in areas like blindness control, HIV/AIDS, leprosy, cancer, diabetes, pulse polio immunization, reproductive and child health, etc.

The provenance of Karuna Trust goes back to the founder's childhood, when he lost his father because of lack of medical facilities. Determined to do something about this, he became a doctor. He set up a school in the tribal belt of BR Hills in Karnataka (made famous

by the notorious bandit, Veerappan), and also began a crusade for the forest-dwellers' rights. While dealing with leprosy in the area, Dr Sudarshan and a group of other selfless workers set up the Karuna Trust. Impressed by his dedication, the Government granted him one PHC in the area to manage. The rest, as they say, is history.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Increasing the rate of institutional deliveries in very remote parts of Arunachal Pradesh by strengthening the Government's systems

HCL Grant Project Title: Converting Home Deliveries to Institutional Deliveries by setting up of Village Delivery Huts (VDH), and to enhance delivery skill of health care staff using appropriate technology and innovations

Beneficiaries: Pregnant women

Location: 719 villages in 10 districts of Arunachal Pradesh and 4 districts of Meghalaya

FAMILY WARD

MALE WARD

Responsibility of Patient
 In Karuna Trust managed PHCs in Arunachal Pradesh

1. Patient or the attendant of the patient has to provide complete and accurate information of the patient including past illness & medication if any
2. Give respect and honour to the medical staff, follow the hospital rules and regulations, and maintain silence
3. Don't bring your own medical instruments, bottles, bedside table, etc. inside the ward and the patient. It may disturb you and the patient. You are requested to leave your shoes, bags, and mopping before you leave
4. Don't eat and drink inside the ward and don't take any food materials out of the ward as it will attract flies and cockroaches.
5. Don't use the hospital & bed linen for your conveyance.
6. Please follow the hospital norms and instructions. If you have any changes in your health, please inform the staff.
7. Don't bring pets (dog, cat etc.) inside the hospital
8. Restrict your visitors as the patients need absolute rest
9. Wash your hand before & after touching the patient with soap and water. Close the tap after using the sink and toilet

Services provided in this PHC is free, don't pay any service charge

You are entering smoking zone





Operation ASHA



Founded by Sandeep Ahuja and Dr Shelly Batra in 2005

Operation ASHA works to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) across developing countries. It employs pioneering technology to provide cost-effective, comprehensive TB services, and offer last mile delivery of medicines and other services to the poorest of the poor. Operation ASHA currently serves 12.5 million people through a team of over 350 field workers, 150 community partners and 4,000 village workers in India and Cambodia. Its model has been replicated in India and in eight other countries. Besides TB, it also offers treatment, education and prevention for hemophilia, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and adolescent and menstrual health.

Easing access to TB treatment for the rural poor
Following pages (120–121): *Integrating with Government facilities to extend the reach of services*

WORKERS IN OPERATION ASHA'S Tuberculosis Centre noticed something odd. People from neighbouring houses who had TB would not come to them for treatment but travel to more distant centres, often giving up halfway because of the time and money required, which can be detrimental to the patient. The reason was that these persons did not want anyone to see them going into the TB centre, for a TB patient in India is often ostracized by friends and family. 'So, we removed the word "TB" from our signboards and took many steps to camouflage our workers as primary health care workers. It seems like a simple change, but for many patients, it marks the difference between disease and death, and a healthy life post-treatment,' recalls Sandeep Ahuja, the IRS officer who co-founded this committed NGO.

Such a sense of working with the community is a hallmark of Operation ASHA. Its strategy in dealing with this difficult disease—which kills one Indian per minute—is to take high quality treatment, as well as diagnostics and education, to people's doorsteps; people who live in remote villages and slum areas, whom society has shunned, and the Government cannot reach.

The model is implemented by local health workers, chosen from within the community itself. They run tests on those who have symptoms and refer patients





Last-mile delivery of care for the poorest of the poor



Good health at the touch of a screen
 Following pages (124–125): *TB diagnosis and care channelled through health workers from the community*

to doctors. The use of technology (like the bio-metric eCompliance developed in partnership with Microsoft Research) is built into the model for detection, counselling and monitoring by the health workers.

Says Sandeep Ahuja, ‘The most important part of our methodology is close coordination with the Government, which provides us with all the medicines, doctors and diagnostic facilities. This reduces our costs tremendously, eliminates duplication of services and saves costs so that the donor funds last much longer...Technology and community participation ensure that solution is eminently scalable and replicable. Advocacy with stakeholders and Governments helps improve policy and financial sustainability.’

The success of Operation ASHA is expressed wonderfully in this comment by the Country Director of the World Bank in India, ‘If this model could be rolled out everywhere where there is TB, we could stop multi-drug-resistant TB and save so many lives! What Operation ASHA does is literally deliver the

elusive “last mile” in service delivery. The mile that lies in between well-intended Government programs and results on the ground. And they do it with relentless focus and incredible efficiency. What if we could develop Operations ASHA for other problems as well? It would be incredible!’

HCL Grant Project Approach: E-compliance towards Tuberculosis medicine, using technology to achieve complete doses

HCL Grant Project Title: Eradicating TB and Achieving Mission of the Prime Minister/UN SDG Goal3 through a Community-Driven, Patient-Centric, Technology-Supported, Low-Cost Model to Improve Rural Conditions

Beneficiaries: Poorest of the poor, living in remote, mountainous villages

Location: All villages in Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh





Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India



Founded by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat SA, Aga Khan Health Services India and Aga Khan Education Services India in 2000

The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India (AKAHI; formerly known as Aga Khan Planning and Building Services India) has directly impacted more than 8,00,000 beneficiaries from marginalized and poor communities through improved housing, habitat development, and water and sanitation. It works to ensure that these communities begin to manage their habitat sustainably and self-sufficiently, with the ability to cope if a disaster occurs—thereby improving the quality of their lives, giving access to services and opportunities, and enabling them to become agents of change.

Bringing health out of hiding

CLIMATE CHANGE IS MORE IMMEDIATE, real and catastrophic for some people than others. Most impacted by environmental threats are communities that live in vulnerable habitats which are at risk from natural disasters, and with poor access to amenities. The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India seeks to enhance the ‘Quality of Life’ of such populations through innovative strategies born of its decades-old experience in the development field.

AKAHI’s programmes are holistic in approach and designed around training and capacity-building on environment, sustainability, climate change, health and sanitation, water management and disaster risk reduction. The idea is to strengthen the coping mechanisms and resilience of people and empower them with economic opportunities, knowledge, technology and research. The goal is self-reliance, and the methodology is inclusive and community driven. ‘The aim is to develop local institutions and individuals as models and leaders to set them on the path for development with ownership, vision and goals,’ explains AKAHI’s CEO, Surekha Ghogale, adding, ‘We see change on a multigenerational level because we have long-term commitment to communities and geographies.’

At the same time, the organization has strong ties with the Government and civil society institutions, and engages with them in domains like habitats and emergency response as well as schemes such as Housing for All, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc. Other



Forging deeper connections with community through health education



Starting empowerment early

initiatives like behaviour-change communication and developing children to be ‘environment champions’ through ‘Child-to-Adult’ communication have been successful, too. AKAHI has been active in offering multi-sectoral post-earthquake reconstruction in Gujarat, and Jammu and Kashmir, and has also been involved with the Andhra Pradesh Relief to Reconstruction Project.

‘For the HCL Grant, AKAHI has proposed Project GARIMA, aiming for deep engagement with the community from different angles by dealing with the health status of girls and women in the reproductive age group. The project is designed to engage multiple stakeholders, and focus on different aspects of safe and sustainable Menstrual Health Management (MHM),’ explains Anita Miya, Program Head.

AKAHI has been lauded by several of its partners and collaborators—including the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, The National Disaster Management Agency, the UN Habitat Dubai International Award,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, the state Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra, as well as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) awards for ‘best practices and models’.

Says Ms Ghogale, ‘Successfully catering to qualitative aspects such as beneficiary satisfaction, dignity, resilience, sustainability and economic growth through its programmatic interventions has been the biggest achievement of the organization.’

HCL Grant Project Title: GARIMA

Beneficiaries: Adolescent girls, particularly girl students out of schools, and women

Location: 60 villages in Jawhar Block of Palghar, Maharashtra



Amici di Raoul Follereau



Founded by the Late Dr V. Ekambaram in 1998

Amici di Raoul Follereau's (AIFO India) mission is enhancing the quality of life of people affected by leprosy, and for people with disabilities. In this pursuit, it engages in leprosy control, averting disability, timely diagnosis, treatment, cure and care. To address the social aspect of this difficult disease, it helps to rebuild communities affected by leprosy and disabilities. Presently, Amici works in fourteen states, including eight Northeastern states. Through its community-based inclusive development project, Amici has helped detect and treat 67,000 people affected by leprosy in the last five years.

Compassionate care for the excluded

AMICI MEANS FRIEND. And there are few who need friends more than people suffering from leprosy. Besides the physical symptoms and debilitation that come with the disease, the afflicted have to deal with the stigma of this misunderstood condition, isolation and economic deprivation. Amici di Raoul Follereau engages with those affected with leprosy—especially the more vulnerable ones, like children and people with disabilities—and addresses related issues, including early case detection, health education, adequate treatment, disability limitation, reconstructive surgery, management and rehabilitation.

Started by an eminent Indian leprologist involved in the leprosy elimination programme since 1950, the organization initially worked in leprosy control, providing Multi Drug Therapy (MDT), logistics and financial support programmes. Later, as part of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), it scaffolded the initiatives of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Now that the disease is considered 'eliminated,' the resource allocation to the area is limited. But there are still millions of people affected in India, accounting for 60% of the world's leprosy population. Every year, 1.3 lakh new cases are detected, and out of every 100 new leprosy cases, nine are children, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). These people still need treatment and care. They need to be able to access rights and entitlements. They need



Community-based early detection can save lives



Dignity and quality healthcare go hand in hand

basic facilities. Amici continues the support post-elimination, with its focus now intensively in the Northeastern states of India.

Amici's technical expertise is used by the NLEP as well as WHO, and it leverages the existing healthcare system to carry out its activities. Its work includes 'participating in planning, monitoring, supervision, evaluation, training and learning materials development, provision of technical support/expertise, provision of aids, appliances, essential medicines in case of need and non-availability to patients,' explains Dr Jose Manikkathan, Director, Amici.

In order to ensure sustainability, Amici's programmes combat the preconceptions about leprosy through awareness and education. The initiatives are community-based and inclusive, designed with the beneficiaries and stakeholders' involvement.

Says Dr Manikkathan, 'Amici believes that true success will be achieved when a person who is suspected to have leprosy visits the general government hospital without social stigma, and gets diagnosed and

treated; when every person who is affected by leprosy is diagnosed before onset of deformity; and when every person affected by leprosy can live in their own home with self-respect and dignity.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Leprosy Disease Control, Prevention of Transmission to Public and Healthcare for Leprosy Affected in 4 Districts of Upper Assam

Beneficiaries: Newly detected leprosy-affected, leprosy-affected living with deformities, leprosy-affected in need of reconstructive surgeries, lepra reaction and ulcer care.

Location: 5,316 villages in Assam



Digital Green Trust



Founded by Rikin Gandhi in 2008

Digital Green uses digital platforms to provide targeted messages to improve livelihoods, health and nutrition in rural communities across South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. It has collaborated with over fifty organizations across nearly twenty countries. Since 2012, it has worked with the Government of India's National Rural Livelihoods Mission and the National Health Mission and their state-level counterparts to train over 17,000 frontline workers who can pass on the knowledge and information to over 1 million smallholder farmers.

Gearing up grassroots workers

IN A TINY ROOM in a remote village in Jharkhand, a woman fiddles with a small device. Suddenly, a video begins to play, projected on the wall. In it, a farmer talks about a new technique of planting seeds which has increased his yield; in another video, a young mother explains the importance of vaccinations for newborns. The audience murmurs in assent and awe. The messages are clear, the learnings profound.

This unique intervention is part of the charter of Digital Green, an NGO that harnesses the infinite possibilities of technology in the areas of agriculture, nutrition and health. Started as a project of Microsoft Research to explore the idea for small-scale agriculture, the organization is now an independent body. It partners with governments to train grassroots-level workers to produce, disseminate and monitor the impact of short, locally relevant videos which tell of ways to boost agricultural livelihoods and nutrition. The videos serve to communicate information and knowledge in the rural landscape in a more effective and understandable way, as well as build capacity of field and community workers. It has also ventured into using mobile and IVR-based (Interactive Voice Response) platforms to penetrate the communities with its targeted messaging.

Says Rikin Gandhi, Executive Director, Digital Green, 'We started producing videos for the farmers we were working with, and found that the first



Harnessing the might of video for health and livelihood messaging



Interventions of the community by the community

two questions that people would ask were, “what is the name of the farmer in the video?” and “which village is he or she from?” So, we figured that...(it) had to star local farmers to create that connect with the viewers. In a controlled trial, we found that the approach was ten times more cost-effective, per rupee spent, than a conventional extension system.’

Digital Green has trained thousands of government workers in video production skills, making storyboards and projecting the videos using a small device called a ‘pico’ projector. The videos are made in the local language, keeping local sensitivities in mind. After the video is made and shown, there is an in-depth discussion with the audience.

The NGO has been designated the National Support Organization by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Government of India. It also has fruitful partnerships with several states’ rural livelihood and health missions. Such collaborations open up access to self-help groups, especially of women—who help disseminate the content in their communities in a widespread manner, and who

influenced the organization’s shift to include health and nutrition in their agenda.

Pinky Devi from Nalanda district, Bihar, says, ‘Around fifty farmers in my village have adopted Systematic Rice Intensification method; and thirty-five have kitchen gardens in their homes after attending these video disseminations, increasing their farm output, and gaining food security and ensuring nutritious food for their families.’

The videos and other messaging are truly of the community, by the community and for the community.

HCL Grant Project Title: Sustained Digital Health Extension: Promoting Improved Nutritional Practices Using Community Video and ICT Approach to Integrate and Scale Within Existing Government Partners

Beneficiaries: Women of reproductive age, pregnant women and mothers of children under 5 years of age

Location: 25 villages in Jharkhand and Uttarakhand



LEPRA Society



Founded by Dr K.V. Desikan, B.M. Kothadiya, R.S. Mani, E.A. Neil Winship, V.V.L. Narsimharao, Dr Dinkar D. Palande and K. Bhogishayana in 1989

LEPRA Society seeks to reduce the incidence and impact of leprosy, lymphatic filariasis and other neglected diseases. It also seeks to eradicate the disability, exclusion, stigma and discrimination that persons affected with these diseases undergo. Its leprosy programmes for early diagnosis, treatment and services are operational in 147 districts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. These programmes have reached more than 3,00,000 persons. Using research, innovative healthcare models, piloting promising healthcare practices and replicating them in the community, the NGO has improved access to quality services to unreached populations.

A hop, skip and jump to good health

THERE IS A CERTAIN MARGINALIZED GROUP of people in India that lives in ghettos, with no rights or entitlements. There are about 100 laws in modern-day India that discriminate against them. The Government does not recognize their plight, and Government workers are not equipped to help them. The affected people themselves have no knowledge of how to manage their chronic situation. This disadvantaged lot of people are those suffering from leprosy and other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Ever since leprosy was put on the 'eliminated list' by the Indian Government, money, resources and programmes for its detection, management and treatment have dwindled. Yet, there are thousands of new leprosy cases every day, especially among the poorest of the poor. LEPRA Society seeks to address this inequitable gap.

'Our work is driven by a focus on leprosy with a purpose to enable children, women and men affected by it—and other neglected diseases—to transform their lives and overcome poverty and prejudice,' says Jayaram Parasa, Head of Programmes, LEPRA Society. Its approach has four strong thrusts: empowering and building capacities of affected people to fight for their rights and entitlements, and a life free from discriminatory laws, attitudes and practices; promoting equity for women and children; strengthening public health systems by providing technical assistance to Government agencies and caregivers, and stepping in where the Government is unable to; and, fostering research and innovative methods for effective treatment, new diagnostic tools and better preventive measures.



Productive partnerships with the Government and the community



Showing neglected diseases the light of day

An excellent track record and productive partnerships with the Government in the preventive, curative and rehabilitative aspects of leprosy and other tropical diseases give LEpra Society an advantage. ‘We strive for a world in which the social consequences of leprosy shall cease to exist, and where women, men and children will seek medical help without fear of discrimination—just as they would for any another health condition,’ explains Mr Parasa. In particular, it is invested in training healthcare staff to help those affected practice self-care at home.

The proposed project for the HCL Grant, Ending Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) through Women-led WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene), initiated with American Leprosy Mission as pilot, will demonstrate sustainable impact among vulnerable communities in the area, and sustained accountability of their duty bearers through women-led initiatives. Investing in women-led WASH is a cost effective, sustainable solution with greater value for money to effectively end transmission of NTDs causing disability, stigma and poverty.

Health

LEpra Society measures its impact through health, economic and social audits of its programmes. Informed by evidence and expertise, its interventions have gone a long way towards reducing the transmission and the physical, psychological, social and economic impact of leprosy and other neglected diseases.

HCL Grant Project Title: Ending Neglected Tropical Diseases through Women Led WASH—Accelerating Impact through Women’s Self-Help Groups
Beneficiaries: People affected by NTDs, communities at-risk of NTDs, village water and sanitation
Location: 219 villages in Samastipur district, Bihar

143



Pratichi (India) Trust



Founded by Professor Amartya Sen in 1999

With initial funding from the Nobel Laureate's Nobel Prize money, the Pratichi (India) Trust works to enhance capabilities, expand social opportunities and enliven marginalized people's agency through both humanitarian interventions, action-oriented research and democratic debate. It promotes greater equity and efficiency in the areas of education and health, with emphasis on gender equality. Its programmes have run successfully in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, and now extend to Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Odisha.

Looking towards a lifetime of possibilities

THE NOBEL LAUREATE PROFESSOR AMARTYA SEN was always convinced that people-centred education, efficient healthcare policies and gender parity were the chief drivers of a country's progress. So, when he won the Nobel Prize in 1998, he used part of his prize money to set up a unique organization to make inroads into developing these very areas. The Pratichi (India) Trust, and the research body under it, called the Pratichi Institute, combine research and practical on-ground action using research as a tool for social change as well as the foundation of it.

To begin with, the Trust participated in humanitarian efforts after the Odisha cyclone and the Gujarat earthquake. Thereafter, it ventured into fostering inclusive development in India with a multidimensional focus on 'primary education, elementary healthcare, gender equity and people's democratic rights.' It manifested its vision by carrying out several research studies in its domains of concern, and then organizing public discussions and interactions with stakeholders and diverse members of society. These included parents, teachers, university professors, frontline healthcare workers, government officials, and more. The move towards community engagement, supported by advocacy and direct action, has led to much impactful change being initiated.

Of its many successful interventions, notable is when the Trust was involved with helping the West Bengal Government implement its stalled



Involving Adivasi communities in the processes of change



Untiring efforts to reach the neediest

mid-day meal programme. The Trust formulated a report on the issue which was used in advocacy and policymaking. In Jharkhand, a health initiative by the Trust reduced communicable diseases, but the true success was, the team feels, 'that the entire village population was actively involved in the process of change—they led the awareness campaigns, advocacy programmes, agitations at the government offices, and so on.'

Untiring in its efforts to reach the most needy, vulnerable people who are side-lined because of caste, class, religion, gender or ethnicity, Pratichi Trust has brought many issues to the fore that need addressing. It has handed the responsibility to the people themselves to participate in the process of progress by collecting data, writing reports and even books.

And it all came from the mind of one man who stood for what he believed. As Professor Amartya Sen says, 'The Nobel award ... gave me an opportunity to do something immediate and practical about my old obsessions, including literacy, basic health care and gender equity, aimed specifically at India and

Bangladesh. The Pratichi Trust, which I have set up with the help of some of the prize money, is, of course, a small effort compared with the magnitude of these problems.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Improving Health of Adivasi Women
Beneficiaries: Adivasi women and girls, and other community members
Location: 292 villages in Dumka district, Jharkhand



Society for Indian Institute of Health Management Research



Founded by Dr Ashok Agarwal in 1984

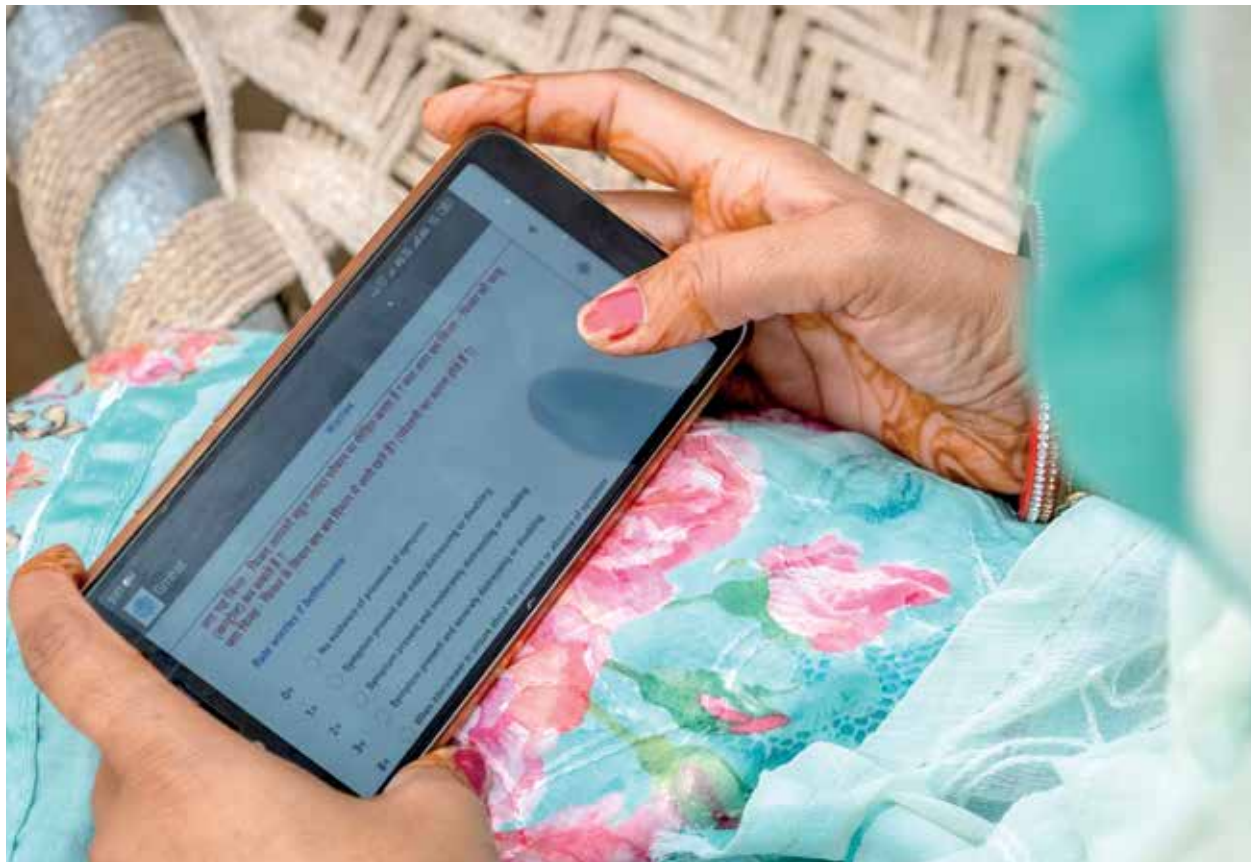
The Indian Institute Of Health Management Research (IIHMR) is a pioneer organization working to create new knowledge in health system management. It is engaged in health management research, policy research, programme planning and evaluation in the health sector. Building knowledge, and strengthening leadership and strategic management skills of human resources for health and quality of care is its major driving force. Over 3,000 management graduates in hospital and health management have emerged from its educational programmes. IIHMR has conducted over 700 research studies and projects for evidence for better policies and strategies.

New strategies for old problems

THE HEALTH OF A NATION'S CITIZENS is central to its development. In India, since the 1950s when healthcare as a concept was first introduced, vast sums of money, human resources and technology have been employed to improve access to and affordability of healthcare, and to improve its standards. However, the impact has not been deep or proportionate. The IIHMR was formed by a group of people who understood that this gap was because of poor management of health systems, a lack of leadership capabilities among health professionals and also the nearly-complete absence of research to feed policy and planning in the domain.

To this end, IIHMR has, over the last few decades, exceeded this brief. It has 'developed a new pathbreaking discipline of health management by integrating concepts and principles of public health and management sciences with a mission to improve standards of health of the people through management research, education and training in the national and global perspective,' explains Dr S.D. Gupta, Chairperson, IIHMR.

Courses like its two-year Postgraduate Programmes in Hospital and Health Management, Pharmaceutical Management and Rural Management have changed the way hospitals and health systems are managed in India, the Middle East and South Asian countries. Research emerging from the organization impacts development of health and population policies, strategies, programme monitoring, and evaluation



Evolving the paradigms of healthcare through capacity building



Participatory methods to enable universal access

and generation of new knowledge. And its training programmes strengthen technical and managerial capacity building of programme managers, NGOs and researchers working at different levels.

Designated as an 'Institute of Excellence' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and a WHO Collaborating Centre for District Health Systems—working on assignments with Governments in India and developing health systems in other countries like Afghanistan, and collaborating with global institutions like the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health—IHMR possesses several capabilities which it uses in different areas, including primary health care and maternal health to HIV/AIDS program management, gender, ethics and rights, mental health, health insurance and the economics and finance of health, and much more.

Successful programmes include an early contribution to family planning with an innovative, alternative programme, Vikalp; the rural Integrated Water Supply; Sanitation and Health Education

Program where piped water and toilets were supplied to desert villages; and the multi-country project studying the implementation of polio eradication programmes in collaboration with Johns Hopkins. Each initiative is participatory, involves gender-sensitive planning and engages key stakeholders throughout.

HCL Grant Project Title: Mental Health Action Research (MeHAR): Enhancing Availability of Skilled Human Resources for Mental Health and Well-being
Beneficiaries: Frontline health workers (MOPHC, AYUSH staff, ANMs, AWWs and ASHAs), PRImembers, VHSNC members, teachers, faith healers; NGOs, students, SHGs, and police personnel
Location: 330 villages in Alwar district, Rajasthan



The Banyan and The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health



Founded by Dr Vandana Gopikumar and
Vaishnavi Jayakumar in 1993

The Banyan believes that the needs of those who live in the margins are the collective responsibility of society. It enables access to health and mental healthcare for the poor and homeless through comprehensive, creative clinical and social care approaches. It works with over a million people in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra, offering hospital-based care, inclusive living and housing in rural and urban neighbourhoods, as well as well-being-oriented community and clinic-based mental health solutions.

Fostering a community of acceptance and inclusion

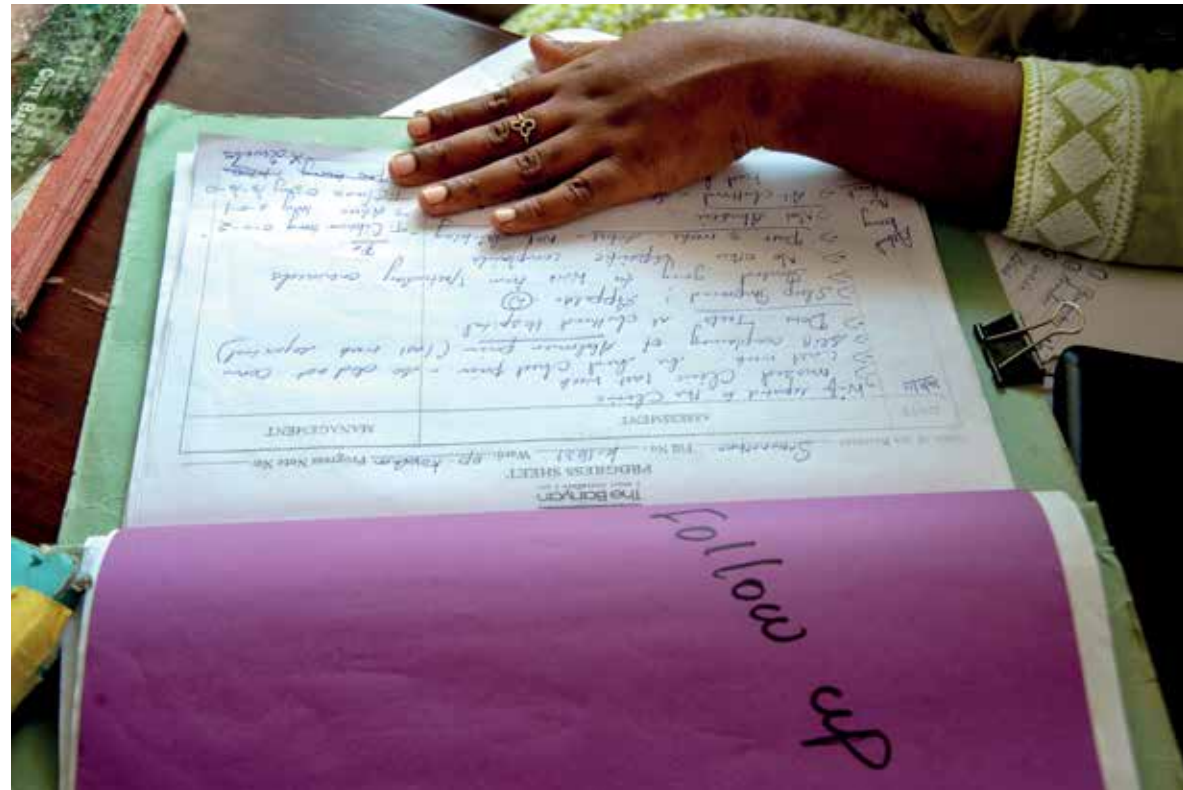
A DAUGHTER'S WEDDING is a poignant moment for a mother. For M, this was extraordinarily true: she had been reunited with her family after twelve years. In that time, she had been homeless, mentally ill and living in extreme poverty—the most vulnerable combination of circumstances. That is, until she was taken in by a small organization called The Banyan, which had started in a three-bedroom house in Chennai. As the organization grew, M flourished, too—she received medical treatment, shelter, and above all, acceptance for the first time. And eventually, she was ready for reintegration with her family.

'People who are different, and poor, are often marginalized and excluded. The Banyan's aim, in addition to bridging the service gaps to effectively meet the needs of persons with mental illnesses, is to also challenge the artificial boundaries between normal and abnormal, and foster a community that promotes acceptance, inclusion and celebrates difference,' explains Dr Smriti Vallath, Head of Research, The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM) and Clinical Psychologist at The Banyan.

Beginning with a hospital for emergency care, the organization discovered that early identification, treatment, and quick rehabilitation and reintegration were the best roads to recovery. It created assisted living facilities and graded levels of community living; and then, facilitated some groups of service users getting gainful employment and living in group



Addressing social and health vulnerabilities in communities



A clear mandate to ameliorate those who are homeless and suffering from mental illness

homes—functioning independently yet supporting each other. Now, The Banyan has four distinct areas of intervention for people in psychosocial distress: The Centre for Emergency Care and Recovery; The Centre for Mental Health and Livelihoods for skill development and employment; The Centre for Homelessness and Social Vulnerabilities for street-based outreach and civil society participation; and The Centre for Mental Health and Inclusive Development for housing. A successful programme of preventive health care and well-being services, NALAM, is in place, as well as continuity of care services like aftercare and community outreach.

Besides direct initiatives in the field, The Banyan has a sister organization, BALM, to foster mental health professionals in India, in association with TISS (the Tata Institute of Social Sciences). Says Dr Vallath, ‘In addition to strategic replication partnerships with Governments and civil society organizations, we partner with select universities to integrate research, education and practice such that evidence-based service provision and outcomes are improved for

people with mental health issues living in poverty and homelessness.’

The Banyan strives to ensure that its service users are able to reclaim their agency and space to participate socially, economically and culturally in the fabric of society.

Dr Vallath says, ‘Many little things can mean success—an upset woman laughing, or a non-trusting person trusting. Success for us in the real world means truly reintegrating a homeless person with severe mental illnesses back into their own community to live, aspire, prosper and sustain.’

HCL Grant Project Title: Child & Adolescent: Suicidality in Rural Youth
Beneficiaries: Children and adolescents from tribal, SC/ST and other marginalized communities
Location: 50 villages in Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu

EDUCATION



Finalists 2020

Bal Raksha Bharat 162

Ensuring children's rights to nutrition, education and protection

CORD 170

Evolving participatory, comprehensive, integrated and sustainable development processes

Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre 178

Innovative teaching-learning methods to make science fun

Shortlisted 2020

CfBT Education Services 186

Changing lives by improving the quality of education in sustainable ways

Collectives For Integrated Livelihood Initiatives 190

Co-creating strategies to improve incomes and enhance lives

Cohesion Foundation Trust 194

Strengthening people's institutions and empowering women

Industree Crafts Foundation 198

Socially and economically empowering artisans and indigenous craftspeople

Jnana Prabodhini 202

Education for leadership and change

NalandaWay Foundation 206

Making learning joyful by taking the arts into classrooms

This category covers projects which support the Right to Education and strengthen primary, secondary and higher education; promote lifelong learning opportunities through skill development; work with adult literacy; advance girl children's and women's education and empowerment; and ensure digital literacy for all. To qualify for the HCL Grant, projects should be designed around equitable, inclusive and quality education, thereby strengthening state systems and attaining sustainability in rural development.



The NGOs shortlisted in the EDUCATION category of the HCL Grant work through exciting new methodologies. Education for children, rural women farmers, and for People with Disabilities; education for leadership and change; learning through the arts; empowering communities through improving strategies in education – these are only some of the out-of-the-box projects they spearhead, for sustainable, holistic learning for marginalized people.







Save the Children (Bal Raksha Bharat in India)



Founded by Eglantyn Jebb in 1919

Save the Children works across 120 countries. In India, known as Bal Raksha Bharat, it works in twenty states—reaching the most marginalized children, with the motto of leaving no child behind. It is focused on giving children ‘the right start’ so that they go on to achieve their full potential. It seeks to build a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. It works in concord with several partners, including the Government, and has so far impacted over ten million children in India.

Giving children the right start
Following pages (162–163): *Stimulating minds, building inner strengths*

IN 1931, Mahatma Gandhi signed the United Nations Declaration of Rights of the Child. This document was drafted two decades earlier by a visionary, Eglantyn Jebb, who sought to end the cycle of poverty and give children universal rights for the first time. It was this same visionary who founded Save the Children, which after four decades of work in the country, was registered as Bal Raksha Bharat in India.

Working with the idea that children are the decision-makers of tomorrow, this committed organization works to ensure that children get the ‘right start,’ the opportunity to learn and protection from harm of any kind. It strives to let the voice of the most unreached child be heard loud and clear. In India, it has made inroads in the following key themes: education, child protection, health and nutrition, child poverty (adolescents and skilling) and humanitarian responses. Its mandate is clear: achieving a world where no children die from preventable causes, miss out on learning or are subjected to violence.

To achieve its goals, the NGO works to reform systems and attitudes, and share knowledge and build capacity in partnership with governments, civil society institutions and the private sector. ‘We have driven impact by creating evidence through high quality programmes, and by advocating policy changes to strengthen the functioning of existing service-provision institutions. We mobilize and engage key stakeholders to support our cause, and this is done





Amplifying children's voices and agency



No child left behind

Following pages (166–167): *A community that works together for the rights of its children*

by amplifying children's voices and agency through media attention and strategic communication. We also approach and work towards partnerships and new fundraising models,' explains Bidisha Pillai, CEO of Bal Raksha Bharat. The organization seeks to develop innovative, replicable and breakthrough solutions to address the issues facing children today.

Its programmes are designed keeping the child at the centre, involving them and the community right from the planning stage. With an eye to sustainability of its endeavours, it ensures participatory working within the programmes. For example, forming School Management Committees that play a significant role in ensuring the quality of education in schools; rights awareness programmes by creating children's groups; and organizing children's task forces to engage with disaster risk reduction projects.

'A child's right to nutrition, education and protection are non-negotiable; and with combined commitment and collaboration, every child must get

what they deserve. With this, we hope organizations like us will not need to exist another 100 years to bring these changes for children,' asserts Bidisha Pillai.

HCL Grant Project Approach: In conflict affected areas, investing in the soft skills of children through peace-building modules

HCL Grant Project Title: Promoting Quality Education Through a Culture Of Peace and Safe Learning Environments for The Most Marginalized Children of Jammu & Kashmir

Beneficiaries: Students aged 6-14 years, teachers, master trainers, head teachers, education administration, community leaders and members

Location: 60 villages in Budgam and Leh districts of Jammu and Kashmir





CORD



Founded by Swami Chinmayananda & Swami Tejomayananda respectively in 1985 in Himachal Pradesh and nationally as CORD in 2003

CORD (Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development) is a rural development initiative to enable poor and marginalized people, especially women and the differently-abled, to transform their lives, health, and social and economic status through participatory, comprehensive, integrated and sustainable development processes. It directly reaches 50,000 and indirectly impacts 5,00,000 people in six states of India. It has nurtured 1,096 Mahila Mandals and 2,147 self-help groups, trained 40,000 bankers, NGO members and Government functionaries/stakeholders, empowered 10,000 farmers and developed 85 Panchayats as replicable models.

Self-help groups: India's new destiny makers
Following pages (170–171): *I am not a beneficiary, but a partner in my own progress*

GEETA IS A CHANGED PERSON. Once abused by an alcoholic husband and plagued by poverty, she was at the edge of despair. And then her youngest child fell ill. She had reached the end of her tether when someone told her about a maternal and child health centre that had just opened in the next village. This was her first interaction with CORD, then called the Chinmaya Rural Primary Health Care and Training Centre (CRPHC&TC). Since then, her journey has evolved along with that of the organization that gave her a new lease of life and empowerment.

Talking about the turning point in its trajectory, Dr Kshama Metre, National Director and Trustee, CORD, says, 'It became clear to us that sub-primary preventive health services and nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, livelihood and access to micro-credit, and social justice— along with a holistic, remedial addressing of the multiple negative influences impinging on the poor people's lives—was the only way to make meaningful and relevant change.' The multiple, interlinked issues that impacted the lives of the rural poor could be addressed only by empowering the very people who were the beneficiaries of the programme—in this case, the women—to be key players in its planning and implementation.

And that is how Geeta found herself part of a self-help group within a Mahila Mandal, a CBO (community-based organization), interacting with





Empowerment emerges in diverse ways



We march to the beat of our own drums
 Following pages (174–175): *Leading emancipation from the frontline*

the Panchayat in her village, working to find local solutions to problems, and demanding entitlements and systemic changes by collectively raising her voice with her community.

CORD's all-programmes strategy is based on four core principles called 'PISNa' which translates as 'churning'. These include Participation, where the community is an equal stakeholder in the development process; Integration, indicating the interconnected issues of the rural community; Sustainability, by building the capacity of the leaders and communities; and Networking, with ongoing Government programmes, facilities and people in the Panchayat.

Besides the Mahila Mandal, CORD facilitates other CBOs like Youth and Men's groups, Adolescent Girls' Groups, and Chinmaya Umangs—a rural advocacy forum of People with Disabilities (PwDs). It also runs a training centre in Sidhbari, in Himachal Pradesh, to disseminate experiential grassroots learnings and evolve the process of participatory development.

In 2003, after eighteen years of working in the foothills of the Himalayas, CORD was constituted as a national level trust to expand its good work to other parts of the country. As Dr Metre states, 'The resultant impact of CORD programs...is that the people... are equipped to use their own energies and wisdom to grow and evolve further consistently and persistently.'

HCL Grant Project Approach: Strengthening the rural Panchayat systems towards inclusion

HCL Grant Project Title: Multidisciplinary Replicable and Scalable Panchayat Based Inclusion and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities Through Effective Education and Action

Beneficiaries: PwDs, their mothers/families and community groups, elected representatives of Panchayats, Anganwadi workers, ASHA, schoolteachers, Government department/functionaries, NGOs, etc.

Location: 400 villages in 100 Panchayats of Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh





Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre



Founded by Dr Vikram A. Sarabhai in 1966

The Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC) seeks to create a love for science and science-learning among students, teachers and the public with an understanding that it would help them participate more meaningfully in the social and democratic life of the nation. Begun by an inspirational pioneering scientist, the Centre—through inculcating innovative teaching-learning methods—hopes to make children future-ready by developing their skills in emerging technologies, critical thinking, design thinking and problem solving. It has also trained and held workshops with over 15,000 plus Government school teachers in Gujarat.

Inspiring a spirit of inquiry in young minds
Following pages (178–179): *New gaze, new perspective, new learning*

IMAGINE IF SCIENTIFIC TEMPER and rational outlook were a normal part of life. Imagine if children studied science for the love of its purity. Imagine if teachers taught it with passion. If this were the case, perhaps our society's problems might have found quicker and better solutions. One of India's breakthrough scientists, Dr Vikram Sarabhai, better known as the man behind ISRO and IIM, Ahmedabad, was keen to improve the quality of science education in India. Thus, was born the Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre, a space where people could come together to explore methodologies and techniques for the teaching of science and technology. 'In the proper teaching and learning of science and its methods, he saw an instrument for enhancing human values in society,' explains Dilip Surkar, Executive Director, VASCSC.

The mandate of the organization is to first instill the fundamentals of science into students; then to inspire the spirit of inquiry and scientific thinking through experiments, audio visual and other innovative, experiential methodologies. The basic idea is to make science-learning joyful and fun, and keep up with the latest trends, too. This ensures that lessons are imbibed deeply and stay with the student for life, often creating innovators in the process.

The initiatives of VASCSC are open to children from all backgrounds, economic levels or genders; in





Hands-on, interactive methodologies to rewire the circuits of science education



Science can be fun!

Following pages (182–183): *Inculcating a passion that can change worlds*

fact, most of them are free. It works within the school system so that its programmes are more easily accepted and sustainable. Teacher-training modules and capacity-building of science educators who are already a part of the educational system is a cornerstone of the Centre's effort; and it, too, has sustainability built into it. The importance of hands-on teaching-learning, using low cost and locally available materials is emphasized in these sessions.

VASCSC has been around for decades, and has been a pioneer of ideas like the first interactive exhibition; the first open laboratories; the first mathematics laboratory; the first science playground; and the first active use of computers (BBC microcomputers) in science education. It uses formal and non-formal techniques to impart education in a subject that will eventually help the community as a whole to make informed, rational choices in everyday life. It has set up other science centres, as well as school space clubs.

Some of VASCSC's most popular and far-reaching programmes have included the Science Express (the mobile science exhibition), Mobile Science Labs, Bal Vigyan Mela to reach out to tribal and other children, and much more.

HCL Grant Project Approach: XXXX
HCL Grant Project Title: Joy of Science—Improving Quality of Science Education in Schools of Gujarat
Beneficiaries: Students and teachers from schools catering to backward/tribal/remote regions of Gujarat
Location: 100 villages in Gujarat





CfBT Education Services



Founded by the CfBT Education Trust, UK, with G.V.S. Prasad as the Indian subscriber to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company in 2003

CfBT Education Services, an affiliate of the Education Development Trust, UK, aims to advance education for public benefit, employing evidence-based, sustainable solutions. It seeks to create a world where everyone's life is transformed through excellent education, helping to fulfil their potential and benefit society. It has worked in far flung villages in Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and more. Its work has been replicated by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Enhancing the quality of education through participatory methods

SHANTI IS PART OF A SELF-HELP GROUP in her village. Together, the women have raised their collective voices on many issues. Now, they are part of a project where they review the quality of education their children are getting at the Government school. Thanks to CfBT Education Services, the school can now be held accountable for absentee teachers, low learning outcomes and dropouts, as well as children shifting to private schools by the School Management Committee that Shanti is a member of. In this particular project, the tool is a simple mobile application.

CfBT India is affiliated to the Education Development Trust, UK. 'We work with Government and non-Government organizations, as well as donors and funding agencies, towards enhancement of quality in education by providing a range of services—from thought leadership in schools to parent and student orientation programs,' asserts the website. Its areas of work include advising, designing and delivering on system reform and school improvement services (school reviews are part of this), education consultancy to governments and other parties, education stakeholder capacity-building, and training and support for educators—especially in remote, rural areas, enhancing English language skills, and quality of teaching and learning.

CfBT's first initiative in India was a research project exploring public–private partnerships in education, which analysed teaching, as well as



Excellence in learning monitored by the community



A scorecard of accountability and transformation

educational and financial standards in local schools. The outcome of this was that CfBT Education Services designed a Whole School Improvement Programme (WSIP). The WSIP is an integrated approach to school development that focuses on capacity building of all stakeholders in the school.

An earlier project in Andhra Pradesh where women's self-help groups—under the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty in Warangal—set up and operated their own early learning centres; they raised awareness of the right to education, and became involved in school quality monitoring with the help of a simple visual scorecard and a traffic light rating system. The unqualified success of this programme led the Government of Andhra Pradesh to adopt and replicate it on a larger scale.

'We do not raise funds via the public. Our revenue is generated by winning education-related contracts from Governments and public or private bodies. What sets us apart is that any surpluses are reinvested into educational research and development. Our research programme is freely available and aims to improve

educational practice on the ground while widening access to research,' explains G.V.S. Prasad, Executive Director, CfBT Education Services.

HCL Grant Project Title: Supporting School Improvement Through Improved Accountability to Community (SIAC)
Beneficiaries: Government schoolchildren of selected locations
Location: 300 villages in Anantpur district, Andhra Pradesh



Collectives For Integrated Livelihood Initiatives



Founded by a group of individuals and institutions in 2007

Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI) is an associate organization of the Tata Trusts, and works towards making a sustainable difference in the quality of life of tribal and rural communities in the Central Indian tribal belt. Through its Mission 2020 programme, it is developing seventeen blocks as regional drivers for growth and opportunities. It made nearly 30,000 families 'lakhpati' through livelihood promotion till March 2019. The target is to do the same in an irreversible manner with nearly 70 per cent households from 100,000 families. CInI is working to give access to quality education to around 71,000 children in 487 Government schools.

Fulfilling potential, fulfilling dreams

A WOMAN ON A SCOOTY may not be very inspiring for most of us. But for communities in the tribal belt of Central India, she has come to be a powerful totem: a symbol of freedom, prosperity and empowerment among people who have—for far too long—been deprived of a quality life. The 'scooty didi' can go anywhere she pleases; she can take her produce to the market, and her children to school. This aspirational mascot was born from the Mission 2020 Lakhpati Kisan—Smart Villages programme run by CInI. The focused programme above works on strategies to improve incomes, and for enhancing life and life choices.

CInI, through its Central India Initiative, aims to transform the lives of tribal households in the Central Indian tribal belt through building knowledge and scaling up programmes in thematic areas of agricultural productivity stabilization, forest-based livelihoods, water resource development, drinking water and sanitation, digital literacy, microfinance and strengthening community-based organizations,' says Ganesh Neelam, Executive Director, CInI.

Although this region, which comprises parts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Odisha, has some of the oldest civilizations in the sub-continent, with a layered rich culture as well as plenty of rainfall and healthy vegetation, other factors like extremism and remote, difficult geographies have conspired to keep its denizens in abject poverty, with a lack of opportunities to improve their lives.



Bringing positive changes in learning outcomes in tribal areas



Improving academic skills as well as non-cognitive ones through holistic education

The work of this award-winning organization encompasses several verticals, and in each of these, community participation and stakeholder involvement are paramount in order to fulfil its goal of deep-seated, long-term impact. The focus is gaining trust and co-creating solutions with the community so that their real needs can be addressed. At the same time, CInI's engagement with Government and civil society institutions, as well as collaborations with knowledge partners, has fed into its strategies and programme design. Advanced technologies in agriculture, sanitation, energy, water and more have further enhanced the impact.

For the HCL Grant, CInI has applied for funds for their education programme. Operating since 2008, this initiative works with Government schools, teachers, and the community to improve learning and all-round skills for children in the tribal belt. Says Ganesh Neelam, "The School Improvement Program has been successful in bringing about positive changes in the learning outcomes...the students' scores in English and Hindi languages, and Math

have improved; besides, non-cognitive skills such as punctuality, discipline, love for learning, regularity, respect for elders, self-confidence, leadership, etc., have also been developed. There is a growing involvement of the parents and community members in the educational process as well.' And best of all, neighbouring districts are demanding that the programme be replicated in their schools, too.

HCL Grant Project Title: Navigated Learning for Aspirational Districts—A Unique Google Maps Approach to Attain Grade Level Competencies
Beneficiaries: Children, teachers, district administration and the state education department
Location: 100 villages in Khunti district, Jharkhand



Cohesion Foundation Trust



Founded by Pavitar Kapoor, Tarun Das and Rajesh Kapoor in 1996

Cohesion Foundation Trust is determined to empower vulnerable communities to manage their day-to-day livelihood, health and education needs in a sustainable manner. It works with a special focus on women in under-served areas through direct action, and support services for social processes to the development sector. Areas of functioning include farm and non-farm-based livelihoods, micro-finance and micro-credit, education and other child rights related issues, water and sanitation, health, disaster preparedness and management, and decentralized governance. Starting out in 3 districts of Gujarat, Cohesion now works in 11 districts, 255 villages and 6 slums of 3 states—reaching out 44,145 direct beneficiaries, of which 65 per cent are children.

The joy of acquiring and sharing knowledge

WHILE WORKING IN KUTCH, Gujarat, after the earthquake, early on in its journey, Cohesion Foundation Trust's team was thoroughly inspired by Puriben from Fulpara village—one of the stakeholders of the project they were undertaking there. She said, 'We have decided that we will do field-bunding, conserve water and build check dams. Eventually, we will make the entire area so green that we will forget the droughts forever. And we will be so independent that we will not need any external organizational support anymore.'

This statement, and the intention behind it, are the perfect definition of sustainable development—a holistic, participatory, people-centred model. Cohesion's quest, thereafter, has been guided by this very idea.

Cohesion started off as a collaboration of development professionals who sought to aid other organizations with their competence in diverse areas—including community organization, project finance, designing and maintaining impact assessment, Management Information Systems (MIS), research, capacity building, documentation, democratization of development processes and empowerment, advocacy, and more. A few years down the line, the NGO decided to segue into direct implementation of projects—contributing to the development of practical solutions at a grassroots level, addressing economic, social and political poverty. 'Cohesion's key strategy,' says Rajesh Kapoor, CEO, 'is to develop linkages with other institutions that have specializations in



Sustainable and invigorating models of mainstream education for vulnerable populations



Making the community stronger and happier through education

specific themes. This enables us to contribute more meaningfully to the accomplishment of the overall objectives of development.’

Cohesion’s experience in the education sector began in 2005 in Kutch with the children of salt workers. It worked towards enhancing their livelihood security. As the organization grew, it articulated three main roles for itself: implementation functions, support functions, and research and advocacy. The work with the most vulnerable and geographically remote rural communities—the tribal people—for their rights and livelihoods began in earnest, and soon scaled up exponentially. A few years later, Cohesion began to focus on striving for the rights of women farmers—extending to developing integrated models of social, economic and political empowerment of women through a rights-based approach. By working on strengthening people’s institutions and empowering women to make decisions, it drives development of a lasting kind.

‘Cohesion believes that strengthening the productive capacity of human and natural resources

on which communities depend for their livelihood will lead to reduction of poverty. A participatory approach questions the dominant structures of power and asks for redistribution of resources and community control over these resources instead of them remaining in the hands of a few. Its mission and vision supports that participation should aim at empowerment of the community, wherein the process would lead to enhancing the ability of individuals to decide and take control over matters affecting their own lives,’ says team Cohesion.

HCL Grant Project Title: E-Lakshya—Towards Building the Enabling Environment for Developing Replicable Models for Mainstream Education of Deprived Tribal Children in Remote South Gujarat
Beneficiaries: Children between 6-14 years old for primary school/elementary education; children between 15-18 years old for secondary and higher secondary school; and children between 3- 5 years old
Location: 50 villages in Navsari district, Gujarat



Industree Crafts Foundation



Founded by Neelam Chhiber and Gita Ram in 2000

Industree Crafts Foundation steers artisans and indigenous craftspeople towards a sustainable livelihood through self-owned creative enterprises. It works with women from marginalized communities to access global and local markets and become wealth creators. The ventures it has supported have crossed revenues of 6 million USD, become self-sustainable, increased incomes of more than 5,000 women from between 3x and 8x, and impacted another 58,000 through financial inclusion and skills development. It has given the world beautiful products, and socially and economically empowered the creators of those products.

Celebrating and incubating indigenous craftsmanship for modern markets

OFFERING WOMEN from marginalized communities a livelihood changes more than their financial status. It impacts their health, their education and their ability to make decisions within their families. It puts them in the driving seat of their own lives. And if it's a livelihood for artisans of local crafts, supported by a solid manufacturing and marketing ecosystem, you have a mix that is sheer empowerment. Industree Crafts Foundation was born out of a for-profit enterprise, and has now evolved, in the words of its founder Neelam Chhiber, into a 'link between creative producers and modern supply chains, establishing a model that can enable India's vast rural population to rise to the challenge of supplying to global markets and spur economic growth at the grassroots level.'

When she was a student at the National Institute of Design, Ms Chhiber began to understand why the indigenous artisan's work found no markets. She began working with these grassroots producers and with government agencies, but then realized a different approach was required. And so, Industree Crafts Pvt Ltd was born, selling crafts sourced ethically from rural artisans and made from indigenous materials to urban consumers. This led to the opening of a retail store in Bengaluru which stocked clothes, food and home products made by these artisans. Taking the products to global markets was the next move. All this while, working intensely with the rural creators of the products, Chhiber began to see that the real change would be propelled by a non-profit arm, Industree Foundation. Its aim was to 'engage with the schemes



Sustainable livelihoods through self-owned artisan enterprises



Collective creativity at the grassroots for urban consumers

that the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) has for artisans and craftsmen.’ The model of self-help groups was adopted so that the producers were themselves the owners of the enterprises, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the initiatives.

Now the Foundation works as an incubator for such producer-owned entities, building capacity in hard and soft skills, helping them with design inputs that will appeal to contemporary tastes, facilitating marketing channels, ensuring a free flow of capital and the use of technology to lower costs. Two of the companies incubated by Industree Foundation, Ektha Apparel and Bangalore Greenkraft, are among India’s largest producer-owned companies—exporting their products to international markets and sharing the profits among producer members. Industree’s products are well-loved by consumers, and Ms Chhiber’s expertise and ideas have been adapted and used by the Indian Government, as well as small producers in 52 countries through the Commonwealth platform.

Industree Foundation’s most recent and exciting

project is the Mission Creative Million, which will impact a million creative producers over ten years through strategic interventions in the creative manufacturing sector—moving them from an informal existence to something more stable, and infinitely more powerful.

HCL Grant Project Title: Enterprise Creation for Farm and Off-Farm Producers in Banana Natural Fibre Value Chain

Beneficiaries: Dalits, OBC, fish workers and other marginalized communities

Location: 13 villages in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu



Jnana Prabodhini



Founded by Dr Vinayak Vishvanath, also known as Appa Pendse, in 1963

Jnana Prabodhini's ideology is based on leadership development and leadership education to transform India. It has generated a movement to motivate every person's intelligence for social change. It works in the areas of education, research, rural development, health, awakening of women's power, leadership development, national integration and social entrepreneurship in districts of Maharashtra, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh. Its novel Sugar School Project for children of migrant labour has benefitted more than 18,000 in the fifteen years it has been running.

Leadership development for social change

DR JOY GUILFORD'S Structure of Intellect measures over 180 different facets of human intelligence. Jnana Prabodhini was an NGO working in rural areas on a variety of issues. Its team travelled to several villages in the area to test this model on children from different backgrounds. The results showed that both rural and urban children possessed great intelligence, but of very different types. The organization started an experimental school for gifted children in Pune, using novel methods for developing thinking, leadership and social skills among children. The curriculum was unique, especially for the time: it actually integrated rural development, national integration and social change activities with school education.

What sprang from this experiment was a group of children who grew up to become successful, socially-conscious professionals who thought differently and acted with initiative. They had pride in India's unique heritage and were extremely motivated to strive for social change and transform their country. These young people were sent to different places to conduct camps and programmes in order to spread Jnana Prabodhini's philosophy of education. With their well-developed social consciences, they were prime movers in social causes—including rehabilitation after natural or man-made disasters and participation in peace initiatives.

The organization has been, since then, steadfastly working to harness potential and talent from all strata of society, moving from formal education to the



Nurturing the protagonists of tomorrow



Enriching Government schools with innovative programmes

non-formal education— especially for the deprived. It rescued children from hard labour and began rehabilitation centres for them. Another initiative, called the Sugar Schools, was birthed to educate the children of the seasonal migrant sugar-cane cutters and workers. Forty-two such schools were begun by young people, inspired by Jnana Prabodhini’s model. ‘It was later adopted as a policy initiative with the Government of Maharashtra, making such schools obligatory for sugar factories. This was a landmark success for Jnana Prabodhini in the field of nurturing the overlooked talent of deprived children,’ explains Dr Vivek Kulkarni, Senior Executive Committee Member and Training Centre In-charge.

In the past few years, Jnana Prabodhini has focused on conducting enrichment programs for rural and urban schools in many states of India. It conducts research in order to evolve the methodology of what its founder V.V. Pendse calls ‘man-making education’. It then seeks to apply these methods in formal, informal, urban and rural settings. Through outreach

programmes, camps, publications and more, it ensures that quality education reaches the unreached, and teachers, too. Engagement with parents and policymakers is an imperative, and to define the value of an education different from the exam-oriented, competition-heavy one India is burdened with today.

Says Mahendra Sethia, Project In-charge, ‘Currently, our focus group in formal and non-formal education is school-going children. But we realize the need to move beyond that. We plan to effectively adapt our methodology for man-making education for age group of fifteen to twenty-five.’

HCL Grant Project Title: Bharari—A Flight
Beneficiaries: Upper primary students, and primary and secondary school teachers from rural schools
Location: 90 villages in Osmanabad, Pune and Raigad districts of Maharashtra



NalandaWay Foundation



Founded by Sriram V. Ayer in 2003

NalandaWay Foundation takes the study, appreciation, and experience of visual and performing arts to underprivileged children, children from conflict zones, or who have been through riots, earthquakes or floods. Its work has impacted over 2,00,000 children in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir. The Art Arattai Aarpattam children's festival in Tamil Nadu involved 1,00,000 kids. The Arts in Education programme covers 1,000+ teachers and 34,000+ students. Its Art Labs have helped 3000+ students with foundational, and advanced visual and performing arts skills so far.

Entering into joyful learning

NALANDAWAY FOUNDATION began its work with street children in Chennai. When the children were asked why they had dropped out of school, they replied that it was because studying was boring; or that what they studied didn't make sense. The subject their disdain was most targeted at was history. NalandaWay Foundation brought in a theatre professional who developed one chapter from the school history book into a play and gave the children parts in it. After the play was successfully performed, the children were given a test on the same topic. All of them scored very well. Learning moved from cramming dates and long-ago happenings into their minds; it became history brought to life!

Incidents such as this gave NalandaWay Foundation its unique charter: to take the arts into classrooms in order to make learning joyful. In India, school curricula are tedious, classes are textbook and rote-learning based, and teachers are unskilled in ways of engaging learners. Combined with difficult situations at home (both financial and social), children from marginalized, rural and urban slum populations drop out of school frequently. These children just don't learn well, sustain interest, or stay long enough in school. Introducing art, performance, music and more into their classrooms has been proven to change these very factors.

'We also realized that art helped children express their issues and fears. When we were working with child labourers, they made a short film about their



Redefine classroom experiences through the power of the arts



Expressions of unconventional learning

experiences. A few girls in our community radio project spoke about issues surrounding menstruation. Art helped these children understand the world around them. It was also therapeutic,' says Sriram Ayer, Founder and CEO, NalandaWay Foundation.

The organization's initiatives include an Arts in Education programme for primary students to nurture creativity, and to build capacity in teachers for this sort of learning; the Delhi and Chennai Children's Choirs for music education and performance; and Art Labs for children from underprivileged backgrounds who show promise in fine arts, craft, music, dance, drama and media. The School Mental Well-being program builds emotional resilience and social connectedness. And finally, there is Fundango, unique, technology-enabled, specially designed devices that promote learning through a combination of storytelling, movement, theatre and custom workbooks.

Battling traditional mindsets and the rigid structures of conventional teaching/learning, NalandaWay has forged ahead on its untrodden path.

It has partnered with UNICEF, received multiple awards and formed partnerships within India and outside to scale up and evolve its programmes. More importantly, it has brought a depth and enjoyment to learning experiences for thousands of children.

HCL Grant Project Title: School Mental Wellbeing Program

Beneficiaries: About 20,000 children in class 1-5, 800 teachers, 100 school leaders and 30,000 parents from 100 rural schools

Location: 100 villages in Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu

BEHIND THE SCENES



HCL FOUNDATION TEAM

Nidhi Pundhir – Director, HCL Foundation
Simi Suri – Deputy General Manager
Dr Santanu Basu - Manager, Green Spaces,
HCL Uday
Prijoie Tharu - Manager HCL Uday (South)
Robin Thomas - Deputy Manager, HCL Grant PMO
Anuj Srivastava - Associate Manager, HCL Grant
Rahul Kumar - Sr. Program Officer, HCL Grant
Joshua Livingstone - Deputy Manager
Newton Raj - Deputy Manager
Namrata Sinha - Deputy Manager
Meha Tiwari - Associate Manager
Arpit Asthana - Deputy Manager
Marshal Kumar- Associate Manager
Samuel Ebenezer - Deputy Manager
Janani Arunagiriraj – Program Officer
Kadhija Mohamed - Program Officer
Sakshi Shah - Program Officer
Shruti Misra - Program Officer
Sonal Birla - Program Officer
Tarun Anthony - Associate Manager
Sanya Grover - Program Officer
Shashank Khare - Education Officer

STRATEGY OFFICE

Sundar Mahalingam – Chief Strategy Officer,
HCL Corporation & Shiv Nadar Foundation
Rajat Chandolia – General Manager, Marketing &
Branding, HCL Corporation

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ravi Kathuria – Senior Vice President,
Corporate Communications, HCL Technologies
Devneeta Pahuja –General Manager,

Corporate Communications, HCL Technologies
Isha Kharbanda – Associate General Manager,
Corporate Communications, HCL Technologies
Sundari Sivasubbu - Sr. Communications Specialist,
HCL Foundation
Aditi Chawla – Communication Officer,
HCL Foundation

HCL GRANT CONSULTANTS

Dr. Dhruv Mankad
Mohd. Dilshad
M V Narayana
Shashank Shekhar
AK Verma
NM Prusty
Dr. Arun Mani Dixit
Dr. CP Geevan
Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain
Saurabh Biswas
Dr. Udit Ghosh
Dr. Shafia Wani
Pooja Sharma

TEAM SHIKSHA INITIATIVE

Al Furqan Shah Khan – Deputy Project Manager
Lalitendra Bhartiya – Deputy Project Manager
Preeti Sharma - Academic Lead

TEAM SAMUDAY

Alokkumar Yadav - Associate Sector Lead
Maanavendra Singh - Associate Sector Lead
Nidhi Saxena - Associate Sector Lead

GOVERNANCE PARTNER

Grant Thornton India LLP



What is impressive is the clear vision with which the HCL Foundation has developed and evolved over the years. The key to this progress has been the over arching-lens of “relevance”. The vision, mission, the high quality programs & the impact, all of this is leading to a high degree of ‘relevance’ for the communities we work in, the NGOs we partner with and the entire HCL eco-system. —Ms. Robin Abrams, Chairperson of HCL Grant Jury and longest-serving Board member of HCL Technologies

CREDITS



TEXT

Ruchika Chanana

PHOTOGRAPHY

Anushree Bhattar = 18, 20-21, 34-35, 36, 37, 50 (above), 84, 86, 87.

Arun Vijai Mathavan = 99 (above), 100 (below), 101 (above left and right), 110, 112-113, 114, 115, 116-117, 126, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 138, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145.

Betoka Swu = 92, 94, 95, 213.

Dhruba Dutta = 51 (below), 88, 90, 91.

Faisal H Bhat = 26, 28-29, 38-39, 40, 41, 49 (above), 50 (below), 51 (above left), 56 below, 57, 58-59, 76, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 101 (below), 118, 120-121, 122, 123, 124-125, 188, 190, 191.

Harsha Vadlamani = 196, 198, 199.

Haziq Amin Qadri = 3, 60, 62-63, 64, 65, 66-67, 134, 136, 137, 184, 186, 187, 204, 206, 207.

Raunak Hazarika = 49 (below), 51 (above right), 68, 72, 74-75.

Ronny Sen = 70-71, 73.

Shams Qari = 4, 7, 30-31, 32, 33, 42-43, 44, 45, 99 (below), 100 (above), 102, 104-105, 106, 107, 108-109, 150, 152, 153, 157 (above), 158, 159, 160, 162-163, 164, 165, 166-167, 168, 170-171, 172, 173, 174-175, 176, 178-179, 180, 181, 182-183, 192, 194, 195, 208, 210, 211.

Tiatemjen Kezevilhou Jamir = 22, 24-25.

Tejal Pandey = 146, 148 (below), 149, 157 (below), 200, 202, 203.

OTHER SOURCES

Going to School = 6.

HCL = 10-11, 16.

SECMOL = 52, 54-55, 56 (above)

Navya Care/Tata Memorial = 148 (above)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

ISBN: 978-81-939846-1-1

Published by Roli Books 2019

M-75, Greater Kailash-II Market

New Delhi-110 048, India

Ph: +91-11-4068 2000

E-mail: info@rolibooks.com

Website: www.rolibooks.com

Text and Photographs © HCL Foundation

Editor: Neelam Narula

Project Editor: Anisha Saigal

Design: Misha Oberoi

Layout: Naresh Mondal

Pre-Press: Joyti Dey

Production: Gaurav Sharma

Printed and bound at Thomson Press, New Delhi