

THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL. VII



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 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. VII

NGOs Transforming Rural India
in Environment, Health and Education



HCL

SHOWCASE
Roli Books

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THE VISIONARIES



THE UNITED NATIONS' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the benchmark against which countries around the world measure their development objectives, interlinking environmental, social and economic aspects with sustainability as the overarching goal. In India, the SDGs inform government policymaking at a fundamental level, from zero hunger to climate change to good health and clean water, gender equity and more. The HCL Grant, now in its eighth impactful year, stays true to its promise of nation building, aligning perfectly with the SDGs and the government's trajectory.

In the last eight years, HCL Grant, a flagship programme of the HCL Foundation, has committed ₹ 130.45 Cr (~US\$ 15.8 million) to 'The Fifth Estate' or NGOs transforming rural India today. HCL Grant is an infusion of funds into highly relevant, innovative, replicable and scalable, financially sound, inclusive and sustainable programmes by these NGOs, selected for their immensely impactful work. Beyond funding, the Grant strengthens and capacitates governance and leadership, and the rigorous selection process propels NGOs to clarify their vision, mission and impact through evidence-based, foolproof data and programming.

To complement the process of the Grant, 10 HCL Grant Pan-India Symposiums were conducted as outreach across India, bringing

NGOs, experts, government, corporates, and policymakers onto one platform, helping build capacity and clarify the Grant application process and CSR laws for the benefit of NGOs. Over 2,000 people attended these symposiums.

In the last few years, through its thematic categories of Environment, Health and Education threaded with inclusivity, socio-economic empowerment, and community-based institution building, HCL Grant has spearheaded measurable progress in the rural landscape. These are the very same themes, each of them critical to development, where the local, state and central governments have taken robust steps, demonstrating how visionary HCL Grant has been since its inception.

The National Health Mission envisages a decentralized, rights-based and community-led approach to strengthen the healthcare system, making it accessible, affordable and of high quality for all. These characteristics as well as its focus on inter-sectoral convergence and integration with the state government's machinery are mirrored in the high impact CSR efforts of HCL Grant, and its selection of relevant projects. For example, the project 'Community-based Safety-net' implemented by Child in Need Institute (CINI, 2017), has led to 16 per cent less underweight children, 14 per cent reduction in childhood stunting in the intervention area, and 12 per cent decrease in anaemia levels in pregnancy. In Nagaland, a community-owned healthcare approach, implemented over 5 years under the project 'Life Connect' in partnership with Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS, 2018), in 72 villages of Nagaland has had a staggering outcome: the maternal deaths during delivery are negligible now.

Following Article 48 of the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Indian government has committed to the Paris Agreement, 2015, through to COP27

in 2022, including clean energy, net-zero emissions by 2070 and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. The HCL Grant, through various projects, has proactively kept pace with these environmental commitments, and in fact, predated them by a few years in some cases. Recipient NGOs have worked to bring community-led sustainability into daily life and livelihoods, reforest and protect forests and wildlife, restore ecosystems, develop waste management processes and enhance biodiversity. The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES, 2017), through its project 'iCare', 'iCare' has brought over 26,000 hectares of commons under community governance. Tarun Bharat Sangh, (Finalist, 2020), is reviving and building rainwater harvesting structures for climate resilience. 'Connecting Landscapes...' an initiative of the Wildlife Trust of India (2019), has ensured 650+ hectares of elephant corridors is notified as VRF and 150 hectares of degraded habitats restored with 150,000 standing trees in Meghalaya.

The Government of India, through its National Education Policy, or NEP, follows the SDG4: 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'. This holistic approach reflects in the HCL Grant's fundamental definition of projects in education articulated in 2015 with the first ever HCL Grantee, Going to School. The NEP states, 'skills and values will be incorporated at each stage of learning'. The HCL Grant projects in education cover the spectrum, from early childhood education to skilling professionals and training teachers, and everything in between. Social and financial education (Meljol, 2017), digital

education for the blind (Sightsavers, 2018), going beyond mere reading and writing to new ways of learning (Going to School, 2016) and employing the child's home language for stronger foundations (Language and Learning Foundation, 2022). The Peace Module introduced by Bal Raksha Bharat (2020) in Jammu and Kashmir allows children to learn in safe/peaceful spaces.

Along with an alignment with state policies, the HCL Grant actively encourages partnerships with governments to exponentially scale projects and to plug the gaps in the implementation of the policies by government agencies, something NGOs are perfectly poised to do. For example, the HCL Grant commitment of ₹ 5 crores helped FES leverage approximately ₹ 43 crores through MGNREGA. The Peace Education curriculum has now been extended to more Union Territories through an MOU with the government. The CINI project was able to effect tremendous impact because the state of West Bengal was an equal partner. The Government of Chhattisgarh has implemented Meljol's social and financial education across 1300 government primary schools in the state.

Finally, critical to the success of any development paradigm is the cross-cutting of the three themes that the HCL Grant encompasses. Environment and health integrate effortlessly, but education is what empowers citizens to accept, access and claim benefits that they are entitled to. Crosscutting can multiply the effect of a project with targeted impact to reach a much wider base; it can be the flagbearer of inclusivity and comprehensive development, which are the needs of the hour.

PROJECTS WITH IMPACT

For the HCL Grant, partnerships are crucial. The Grant process scaffolds NGOs in their learning and working, helps them build capacity, construct standardized models and policies, strengthen leadership and networking. It enables them to formulate implementation strategies and solutions to problems which are inclusive, innovative, scalable and replicable in remote rural geographies; and most of all, it encourages partnerships with the government, institutions and corporates to ensure sustainability. As such, our partner NGOs are true-blooded collaborators with HCL Grant and its ideology. In the last 8 years, they have created projects that have had an indelible impact on the lives of beneficiaries at the last mile. Some of

these stellar projects and their outcomes are presented below.

PRADAN HCL Grant Recipient Environment, 2022

HCL Grant Project Title:
Restoring Eco-System by Promoting Nature Sensitive Endeavour – RESPONSE

PRADAN, or Professional Assistance for Development Action, was founded in 1983 with the belief that educated individuals can work towards eradicating mass poverty with empathy. PRADAN has formed 9,500 self-help groups (SHGs) and associated institutions in 1230 villages. Its integrated Natural Resources Programme is implemented in six districts



and has revived almost 90,000 hectares of degradable land. The HCL Grant Project results include increasing vegetative cover through perineal trees and in-situ harvesting of whatever rainfall is received, and its optimum utilization for round the year crop husbandry. The importance of collective effort is being realized and the women farmers have become more knowledgeable and skilled, adopting regenerative practices of cultivation. Simultaneously, the experience will be disseminated at a large scale through the CSO consortium and thereby establishing the need of the GO-NGO collaborative approach. The project area is subjected to natural resource degradation, seriously affecting productivity, forcing the residents to opt for chemical-intensive agriculture. These marginalized communities, because of limited livelihood options, have to step towards exploitation of nature – and the vicious cycle continues. The Grant project primarily focuses on breaking this cycle. Establishing an alternative agricultural system that focusses on restorative and regenerative principles is the pathway for this region to address its poverty and food insecurity. The Grant has made possible a programmatic and systemic approach to demonstrate the concept in a large patch across blocks and districts. PRADAN along with its partners will jointly work to align stakeholders like government, banks, PRI and corporates to community-led development for large-scale adoption. The concrete demonstration of the approach has helped to mobilize support from government and other stakeholders.

THE ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HCL Grant Recipient Health, 2022

HCL Grant Project Title:
Cot to Community – A Comprehensive Rehabilitation Approach for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury



The Association of People with Disability (APD) strives to create a world where equity, dignity and justice are assured for persons with disability (PWDs). It runs extensive programmes in rural and urban Karnataka to enable, equip and empower children and adults with a range of disabilities including locomotor, spinal cord injury, speech and hearing, cerebral palsy and mental issues. It has impacted over 5,00,000 PWDs from underprivileged communities. 15000 new cases of Spinal Cord Injury are added every year, but rehabilitation centres are very few. The HCL Grant Project covers 30 districts comprising of 14885 villages benefitting 36886 direct and indirect beneficiaries. It focuses on providing comprehensive

quality and affordable rehabilitation including physical, psychological, social and vocational rehabilitation to maximize functional independence for Persons with Spinal Cord Injuries (PwSCI) for better community inclusion. The implementation model, along with rehabilitation, includes ‘Building Sustainable Ecosystems’ and is a community-based approach that is replicable, and scalable across any geography. Rehabilitation is achieved through a 3 phase hybrid model including early identification, education of the caregivers and the PwSCI; mobility training and promoting functional independence in Activities of Daily Living; and transition planning for complete community reintegration by providing accessibility and promising livelihood models. The intervention model also incorporates appropriate sports and peer mentoring. The sustainability is built on enabling, equipping and empowering community stakeholders like government frontline workers, government officials, caregivers, disabled people organisations, self-help groups, local NGOs. The rehabilitation and follow-up support for PwSCI beneficiaries are life



long, so the government and community infrastructure and resources are tapped. This is achieved through creating model PHC’s, availing MGNREGA, disability pension, 5 per cent reserved fund for PwD (as per RPwD Act, 2016), and supporting the rural entrepreneurial model. APD has innovated a vehicle for the differently abled under the HCL Grant Project, converting a wheelchair into a transport vehicle – NEO FLY, as a step towards a sustainable ecosystem for PwSCIs to achieve a life of equity, dignity and justice.

“I was skillfully taught how to handle myself with my new, lightweight leg by the team of rehabilitation professionals from APD. They also enabled me with the opportunity to engage in para-sports and obtain support for my career and livelihood. I was so thrilled to hear my family and friends say that Bhimmambika is walking again and will soon learn to run as well,” says Bhimmambika, from Lebgeri, Koppal, Bangalore district.

LANGUAGE AND LEARNING FOUNDATION HCL Grant Recipient Education, 2022

HCL Grant Project Title:

Inclusion of Children’s Home Languages to Improve Foundational Learning Outcomes of Adivasi Children in Chhattisgarh

Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) was established with a view to build strong foundational skills and abilities of language and literacy in children so they can grow to their full potential. Its school demonstration programmes have been implemented in Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat and Bihar, impacting 2,50,000+ children in 5,000+ schools, and over the past 6 years, they have helped improve the teaching-learning practices of 1,80,000+ teachers and teacher educators, impacting the learning of 1 million children. The HCL Grant Project will help demonstrate a scalable model of multilingual education (MLE) that improves foundational learning and support the state government’s MLE efforts in Chhattisgarh. For this, a District Resource Group (DRG) has been formed. 32 DRG teachers are part of this group with a major command over the “Halbi” language and have expertise in language pedagogy. Capacity-building workshops to train teachers and distribution of reading material including workbooks and teacher guides for 300 teachers have been distributed to all 200 schools in the Project. At the state level, the Government

of Chhattisgarh has conducted a language mapping survey in all its primary schools to identify home languages and suitable MLE strategies. All materials/processes for the project viz learning material, teacher training etc will be co-created with GoC, thus ensuring their ownership and capacity-building for state-wide implementation. Language contexts in India vary within a small area therefore LLF uses a pragmatic approach using children’s home/familiar language (L1) strategically (new/hard concepts) to scaffold L2 learning in the first two years; the second language (medium of instruction) is used for simple texts that only need recall. Teachers use translanguaging (purposeful mixing of languages) to enable comprehension. 79 per cent of the child population in Bastar belongs to tribal (indigenous) communities such as Gond, Bhatari, and Dhurva. Through the project’s focus on including children’s home language in classrooms, the innovation reaches children who face significant learning disadvantages due to a language barrier.



SAAHAS
HCL Grant Recipient,
Environment, 2021

HCL Grant Project Title:
Sustainable Waste Management Through
Community-Owned Rural Resource
Recovery Systems

Saahas envisions India as a leading circular economy with zero waste communities, zero waste burning and zero waste to the landfill. Its projects have shown considerable impact in the areas of urban/ rural waste management and livelihood for informal sector workers through enabling successful source segregation of over 41 tonnes of waste per day and service to 58,000 houses. Its current focus is on 11 states to set up community-owned waste management systems in more than 91 villages. The HCL Grant Project aims to implement segregated waste management systems in 140 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in four districts of Karnataka by making segregated waste collection and composting of biodegradable waste at village level through decentralization. It also aims at aggregation of plastic waste at the taluk level to increase recycling of plastic waste and reduce pollution caused due to improper waste disposal. It

works towards dignified livelihood generation by creating new job opportunities where people work with dignity and self-respect in clean and hygienic environment. Segregation levels have reached about 22 per cent in the households giving their waste. 43 GPs have waste management units. The reach of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) schemes of the government in the project impact areas have been extended. Innovative ideas have been demonstrated, like the establishment of a taluk-level Material Recovery Facility to manage plastic waste Successfully. This is the first demonstration, anywhere in India, of the successful functioning of dry waste aggregation centers as recommended in Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II Guidelines. The project is empowering women to come forward and be the agents of social change. Saahas is not only working towards breaking the myths related to waste management being a petty job but also helping to achieve the Gandhian concept of “Nirmal Gram” through innovative materials. The local governance structure is extending full support to the project enabling the conducive environment of the project.



INDIA HEALTH ACTION TRUST
HCL Grant Recipient
Education, 2021

HCL Grant Project Title:
Improving Maternal, Newborn and
Child Health Outcomes in Tribal Areas
of Madhya Pradesh (MANCH)

India Health Action Trust (IHAT) works closely with national and state governments to provide technical support to projects in HIV prevention and care. It also drives sustainable change in thematic areas like maternal and child health, Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control, family planning, nutrition and strengthening health systems. The HCL Grant Project, MANCH (Maternal, Newborn and Child Health), launched in partnership with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the National Health Mission, envisages increasing the availability, quality and utilization of critical MNCH services across the continuum of care in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh. Its goals are to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes, and to generate knowledge to support the scale up of successful interventions among tribal populations across the state, nationally and globally. The funds support human resources, at district, health facility and community level, to technically



support and handhold district health staff, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs) and nurses in the health facilities, and frontline health workers within the tribal communities. The Grant will help adapt and innovate interventions to reach 30,000 pregnant/new mothers, 25,000 newborns, 500 frontline workers, 235 clinical service providers like ANMs, doctors, etc. A solar-powered digital ante-natal (ANC) kit is being used by ANMs to identify High-Risk Pregnant women during ANC/pre-natal care (PNC) check-up. With the project resources, mini-skill labs for nurses and ANMs to practice core competencies for delivery and essential newborn care will be established in each of three blocks in Shahdol. In alignment with the National Digital Mission, IHAT is piloting a number of digital tools for real-time capture and monitoring of programme data.

“IHAT has provided us with knowledge on maternal and child health, which we have begun to implement. We were not previously following work protocols, which we have started to do. We have learned a lot from the IHAT team which is useful to fulfill our work. IHAT Nurse Mentors are extremely knowledgeable and self-assured.”- Gayatri Marko, Staff Nurse-PHC Amzor-Block Jaisinghnaga

CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU (CRY)
HCL Grant Recipient
Education, 2021

HCL Grant Project Title:

UDAAN – Breaking Barriers and Rebuilding the Lives of Bedia Girls

Child Rights and You (CRY) believes that children should be happy, healthy and creative, and their rights should be protected and honoured. Its projects have been implemented in the areas of education, health, nutrition, participation and protection of children in 19 states, and have benefitted at least 3 million children. The HCL Grant Project, UDAAN, scaled up from 8 villages in 4 districts to 28 villages in 6 districts, replicating the tested model of working with the Bedia community of identifying, engaging and tracking vulnerable children for rights, education and social transformation in the community to save them from the commercial sex industry. The Grant helped reach more than 500 children and identify 250 vulnerable adolescent girls who are at risk. Out of total of 421 adolescent girls, 267 (63 per cent) girls



were identified as vulnerable. 437 children have been enrolled in the Child Activity Centers (CAC) and Digital Education Centres with the consent of parents, out of which 206 are girls including 131 girls in the age group of 10–18 years; encouraging alternate livelihoods targeting households with vulnerable girls; building the agency of boys as well as girls through life-skill sessions following Child Center Module, and networking and linkages with government departments.

A drop out from class 8, Savita (name changed) is a resident of Barkheda village of Guna District. Like other Bedia men, Savita's father is unemployed, and her mother is mentally challenged. Savita was under constant pressure from the family to start commercial sex work to support the family income, or get married. After continuous counselling and home visits, the CRY team was able to convince her family, and more importantly Savita herself, to join the Kishori (Adolescent) Group and gradually she became involved its activities, attending meetings regularly. She finally chose to continue her education and was facilitated to get admission in the government higher secondary school, Maksudangar. Team CRY is in touch with her and her family for further support.

UNDER THE MANGO TREE
SOCIETY

HCL Grant Recipient
Environment, 2020

HCL Grant Project Title:

Keeping Indigenous Bees Buzzing and Supporting Biodiversity Conservation in Tribal Communities

Under The Mango Tree Society (UTMT Society) promotes the critical role of bees in the ecosystem among tribal communities of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Its people-centric projects ensure that small and marginal farmers are able to benefit from indigenous bees as pollinators, increasing yields and incomes. The HCL Grant Project aims to increase awareness of bees' role in enhancing biodiversity, and conservation of pollinators, train smallholders in sustainable beekeeping and honey harvesting techniques, promote bee-friendly sustainable agriculture through indigenous seeds, saplings, bio-

fertilisers, and more. The HCL Grant has helped expand UTMT Society innovations and interventions to new blocks and districts in 115 villages – biodiversity-rich areas with tribal communities in Gujarat (Dangs, Valsad and Tapi), Maharashtra (Palghar) and Madhya Pradesh (Chhindwara and Mandla). It is critical in a rural beekeeping project to convert trained farmers into independent beekeepers. UTMT Society's intervention model of providing continuous handholding support by locally trained Master Trainers, demonstrated its efficiency in achieving this. UTMT provides technical guidance to beekeepers and hands-on training to 121 Master Trainers. Awareness of conservation of indigenous bees has been conducted among 4,000 tribal farmers and 1,730 smallholders trained in sustainable beekeeping with indigenous species, benefitting 5,190 smallholders and their families. Presently there are 1000+ beekeepers. Located in remote places with poor connectivity, the local teams now operate smartphones to connect for meetings.

"I want to pass-on my knowledge about bees and beekeeping to my children not just because ours is a family of farmers, but because I would want to sensitize them about pollinators in general and their role in conservation.", says Rohini Kalingade, 35 years, beekeeper from Palghar district, Maharashtra.

Trained in 2021, she took great interest and leadership in understanding and learning intricacies of beekeeping. She shares, "With the handholding support being extended I don't find beekeeping difficult at all. A striking difference observed while handling bees is, that they don't sting (most of the times) if handled carefully. This has boosted my confidence further."



BAL RAKSHA BHARAT (SAVE THE CHILDREN)
HCL Grant Recipient
Education, 2020

HCL Grant Project Title: Promoting Quality Education through a Culture of Peace and Safe Learning Environments for the Most Marginalized Children of Jammu and Kashmir



Save the Children works across 120 countries. Known as Bal Raksha Bharat in India, it works in 20 states. It seeks to build a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Working in concord with several partners, including the central government, it has impacted over 10 million children in India. In 2014, Save the Children initiated a successful pilot project, Peace Education and School Safety in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). HCL Grant Project helped to scale up the programme, allowing children to learn in safe/peaceful spaces, and also implement its peace-education curriculum with Teachers as Peace Champions, designed with Jamia Millia Islamia

University. Having secured the J&K Education Directorate's expression of support, Save the Children is now scaling up the peace project in 60 government-run schools in Budgam and Leh districts, capacitating approximately 5,000 direct beneficiaries including children, teachers, communities and state administrators to undertake peacebuilding initiatives, safety audits, risk mapping and child safeguarding – in classrooms, schools and neighbourhoods. It works to form and strengthen Children's Groups (CGs) and School Management Committees (SMCs). The outcome of the Project has been the formation and strengthening of child protection and SMC across 60 intervention schools of district Budgam and Leh, with a total of 2087 active members.

Farhat Ahmad, a member of the Children's Group, is studying in Class 7 at the government middle school, Hardumalpora. His father is a carpenter who couldn't earn much due to Covid 19. Farhat was about to drop out of school and join his father to work in apple orchards, when there was an intervention by Save the Children. Farhat was identified as the most dynamic and active participant in the Children's Groups formed by Save the Children in his school, with a keen interest towards betterment of children in his village. Since then, he has been continuously part of capacity building programmes regarding Child Rights, Child Protection Issues and Peace Education conducted by Save the Children. The family was linked with other NGOs for livelihood support and provided food kits under the Covid-19 emergency relief programme.



WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA
HCL Grant Recipient
Environment, 2019

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



Through nearly 50 projects across the country, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) addresses its mandate to conserve wildlife and habitat, and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals in partnership with communities and governments. It has assisted the Forest Department in rescuing over 5,000 wild animals, conducts anti-poaching training, and has insured Forest Department staff.

Government bodies such as the Garo Hills For the HCL Grant Project, the Autonomous District Council (GHADC), Meghalaya State Forest Department, and District Medical and Health Office are all closely working with WTI. Livelihoods and lifestyles of beneficiary families have been strengthened manifold through innovative interventions including skill development, eco-development and community support for over 1,000 beneficiaries in five years. Livelihoods and lifestyles of beneficiary families have been strengthened manifold through innovative interventions including skill development, eco-development and community support for over 1,000 beneficiaries in five years.

These interventions for local communities include a computer centre and education support to students and youth; renovation of a government school for 350 students; offering livelihood opportunities for wage work for rejuvenation of fisheries, three ponds, school renovation and plantation activities; restoring degraded habitats of 650+ hectares in corridor forests with 150,000 standing trees - 165,266 standing trees with 59 tree species under 50 genera and 29 families completing the proposed target; documenting wildlife movement and presence in the corridor village forests; and strengthening human-elephant coexistence in VRF villages. 650 hectares of corridor community land notified as VRF from 13 villages and more in pipeline, facilitating unhindered movement for elephants and other wildlife. High electric fencing set up in the VRF's human-elephant conflict zone and assessment of biodiversity in the VRF sites has been done. At least 25,000 people have been sensitized on the importance of the natural and traditional heritage of Garo Hills and conservation practices.



SHE HOPE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

HCL Grant Recipient
Health, 2019

HCL Grant Project Title: Humanitarian Assistance to Strengthen Inclusion and Safety of Vulnerable Persons Especially Women and Children in Conflict-Affected Areas Across six Districts of Jammu and Kashmir

She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE) is an NGO working in isolated and border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to bring positive changes in the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) by providing them access to good healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities, and advocating for their rights. It operates at the institution as well as community level and provides innovative services to PwDs at their doorstep.

Since 2009, SHSFWE has run rehabilitation sessions in villages. Artificial limbs, assistive devices and innovative, low-cost home modifications increase mobility and community participation. It supports disabled people's organizations and takes up advocacy work. The organization has linkages and collaborations with government actors at both state and local levels as well as national and international NGOs. SHSFWE leveraged approximately `0.21 crore from the Department of Social Welfare, benefitting 6,071 PwDs under the project till date. Four training programmes were organized for 172 frontline workers. 385 beneficiaries were referred to Hope Disability Centre by Asha/Anganwadi workers. 100+ individual homes of PwDs were modified according to guidelines of universal design every year. Local cobblers have helped 55 beneficiaries through minor repairs of prosthesis, orthotics, toilet chair, wheel chair etc.

SRIJAN FOUNDATION

HCL Grant Recipient
Education, 2019

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

Srijan Foundation engages with marginalized and socially-excluded communities, especially women and children, in Jharkhand. Areas of work encompass supporting elected women representatives, safe mobility of women, collectivization of women, promoting child rights and preventing child labour, sustainable agriculture and livelihood promotion, health, education, food security, and more. The HCL Grant Project has

strengthened multiple livelihood sources by training more than 5,000 women farmers in sustainable agriculture practices and livestock management practices through innovative means including verbal lessons, demonstrations and video shows. It has trained 100 Community Resource Persons for hand-holding support, set up Farmers Field Schools for practical training, promoted community practices like grain banks, nurseries, machan technique, mulching, organic pesticides, nutrition gardens and drudgery reduction at household level and in the agriculture sector. Srijan has helped leverage government schemes and 1,722 women were linked with the Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Gas Yojana.



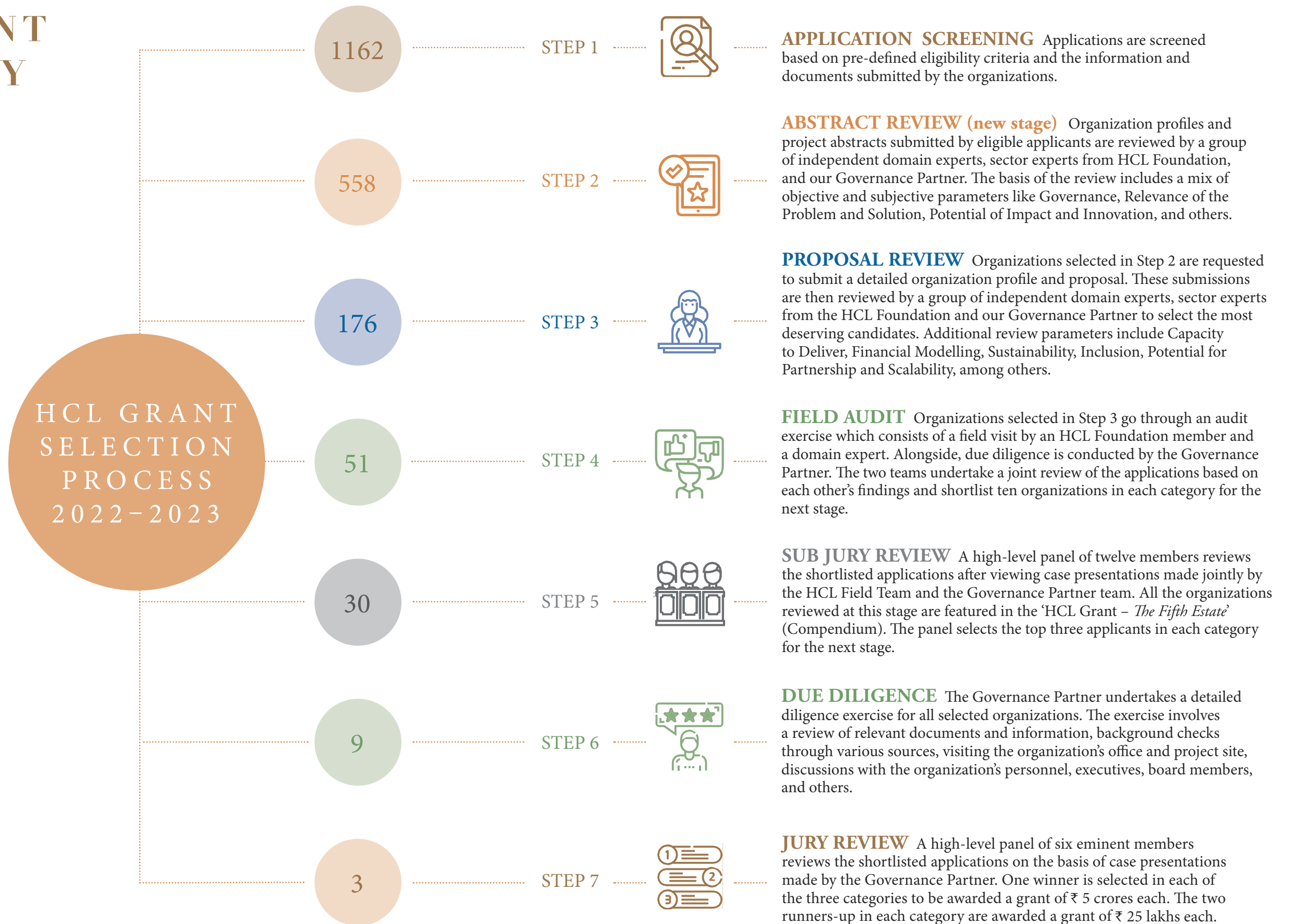
THE HCL GRANT METHODOLOGY



THE HCL GRANT IS AWARDED to NGOs that are demonstrably transforming the landscape of Environment, Health and Education in rural India. The selection of these NGOs is a complex, yet transparent process. It melds an intensive nationwide search, rigorous screening, and an application paradigm that is designed to spotlight the most innovative and committed organizations. In its 8th year, the HCL Grant journey has surmounted various challenges to become a beacon for igniting change at the grassroots. The screening criteria are – sustainability, relevance, innovation, replicability and scalability to assess the NGO's project, and financial modelling and inclusion to assess the NGO itself.

Pan-India symposiums are a crucial element of the process. Held online and offline, they elucidate the application process for NGOs as well as allow networking opportunities and access to expert panels. Due diligence, field investigations and audits are integral to the process, which culminates in Sub-Jury and Jury assessments to arrive at three final recipients of the Grant.

The HCL Grant awards three NGOs – one in each of the categories of Environment, Health and Education – a grant of ₹ 5 Crore (~US\$0.65 Million) for a 3-year project. The HCL Grant also awards ₹ 25 lakhs (~US\$0.03 Million) to the other two finalists in each category for a year-long project which is mutually decided with the HCL Foundation after the final Jury meet. The total committed fund for HCL Grant Edition VIII is ₹ 16.5 Crores (~US\$2.2 Million).



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The organization must be a registered not for profit entity in India i.e. either a Society or a Trust or a Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or any other organization (as prescribed under Section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013, the CSR Rules 2014, and its amendments).
- The organization must have registered u/s 12A of The Income-tax, 1961. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application for renewal of 12A certificate, subject to further scrutiny.)
- The organization must have registered u/s 12A of The Income-tax, 1961. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application for renewal of 12A certificate, subject to further scrutiny.)
- The organization must have registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as CSR Implementing Agency through Form No. CSR-1. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application, subject to further scrutiny)
- The organization must have the below-mentioned functional existence (as per their registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2022:
 - If applying under Education, Health and Environment category – minimum 5 years or above
- The organization must have the below mentioned average expenditure (as per income & expenditure account) for the last three financial years viz. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21:
 - If applying under Education and Health category – minimum ₹ 1 Crores or above
 - If applying under Environment category – minimum ₹ 0.50 Crores or above
- The organization must be in full compliance with applicable regulatory rules and must have valid documents for registration, audited financial reports, etc. Further, the organization must have valid and timely submissions for requisite statutory and regulatory compliances (wherever applicable). These shall cover (but not limited to) income tax, employee provident fund, professional tax, minimum wages, employee state insurance, goods and service tax and FCRA and / or other relevant regulation depending on the nature of funding/donations it receives.

PREREQUISITES

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

- The applicant organization must be a registered entity and qualify the defined eligibility criteria. Further, the name on the application form must match with the registration certificate and other regulatory documents such as PAN, Audited Financials, 80G, 12A, FCRA, etc.
- The organization must have adequate experience of working in rural areas in India.
- The by-laws of the organization must allow it to undertake a project in the proposed thematic category.
- The organization must have a good rapport with the local administration in the proposed project's location.
- The organization, including its governing body members, must not have any pending litigations.
- The organization must not be blacklisted by any government agency/department/ministry, donor, or international agency.
- The organization must not have faced cancellation of its license/registration/membership, etc., from the regulatory and/or statutory body. These shall cover (but not be limited to) FCRA, EPF, PT, Income Tax, 12A, 80G, GST, PAN, etc.
- The organization, including governing board members, must not have any negative media coverage or any other controversy associated with it.
- The organization or its board members or employees must not have any political or religious affiliations.
- The organization (if announced as winner or runners-up) must open a separate and new bank account for HCL Grant Funds.

PROPOSED PROJECT

- The proposed project must be in line with the provisions of Schedule VII of Section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013 and the CSR Rules 2014, and its amendments/clarifications.
- The proposed project must be in rural area/s.
- The proposed project must be designed for direct implementation by the applicant organization. Sub-granting of HCL funds is not allowed.
- The proposed project must be designed for a Grant amount of ₹ 5 Crores (to be received from HCL Foundation) for a period of 3 years. It can be co-funded by a suitable donor that the applicant organization can bring onboard for any additional amount. However, HCL Foundation must be apprised of all funders and stakeholders in advance. Additionally, the organization must report the utilization, outreach, and impact explicitly achieved through the HCL Grant fund.
- The Grant amount must not be used solely for infrastructure development such as construction, renovation, purchase of fixed assets like land, buildings, and vehicles, among others. Further, proposed infrastructure development costs must be spent in line with project objectives and activities defined.
- HCL Grant funds can be used to scale-up an existing project or for a new project where co-funding is involved. However, HCL Foundation must be apprised of all funders and stakeholders in advance. Additionally, the organisation must be able to report the utilization, outreach and impact achieved specifically through the HCL Grant fund.

RECIPIENTS OF THE HCL GRANT



● Environment ● Health ● Education

HCL GRANT 8TH EDITION PROCESS & MILESTONES



1 5 MAY 2022
HCL Grant
Portal Live
Stage 1

2 11 MAY–
17 JUN 2022
10 Symposiums



3 4 JUL–10 AUG 2022
Abstract Review
Stage 2



4 16 AUG–5 SEP 2022
Portal Live for 150 NGOs
detailed application form
Stage 3



5 26–28 SEP 2022
Meeting with Subject Matter
Experts for selecting 45+
NGOs for field visit
Stage 3 & kick off
Workshop Meeting



6 5 OCT–22 NOV 2022
Field Visit & Due Diligence
(35 days)
Stage 4



7 28 NOV 2022
Closure Workshop
to select 30 NGOs for
Sub Jury Round
Stage 4



8 14–16 DEC 2022
Sub Jury Meetings
Stage 5



9 20 DEC 2022
–1 FEB 2023
Video Shoot of
9 Finalists

10 16 NOV 2022
–15 FEB 2023
Roli Books
Coffee Table Book

11 20 DEC 2022
–20 FEB 2023
Due diligence
of Finalist NGOs
Stage 6



12 FEB 2023
Jury and Event
Stage 7

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

HCL GRANT KEY STATS

EDITION I–VIII

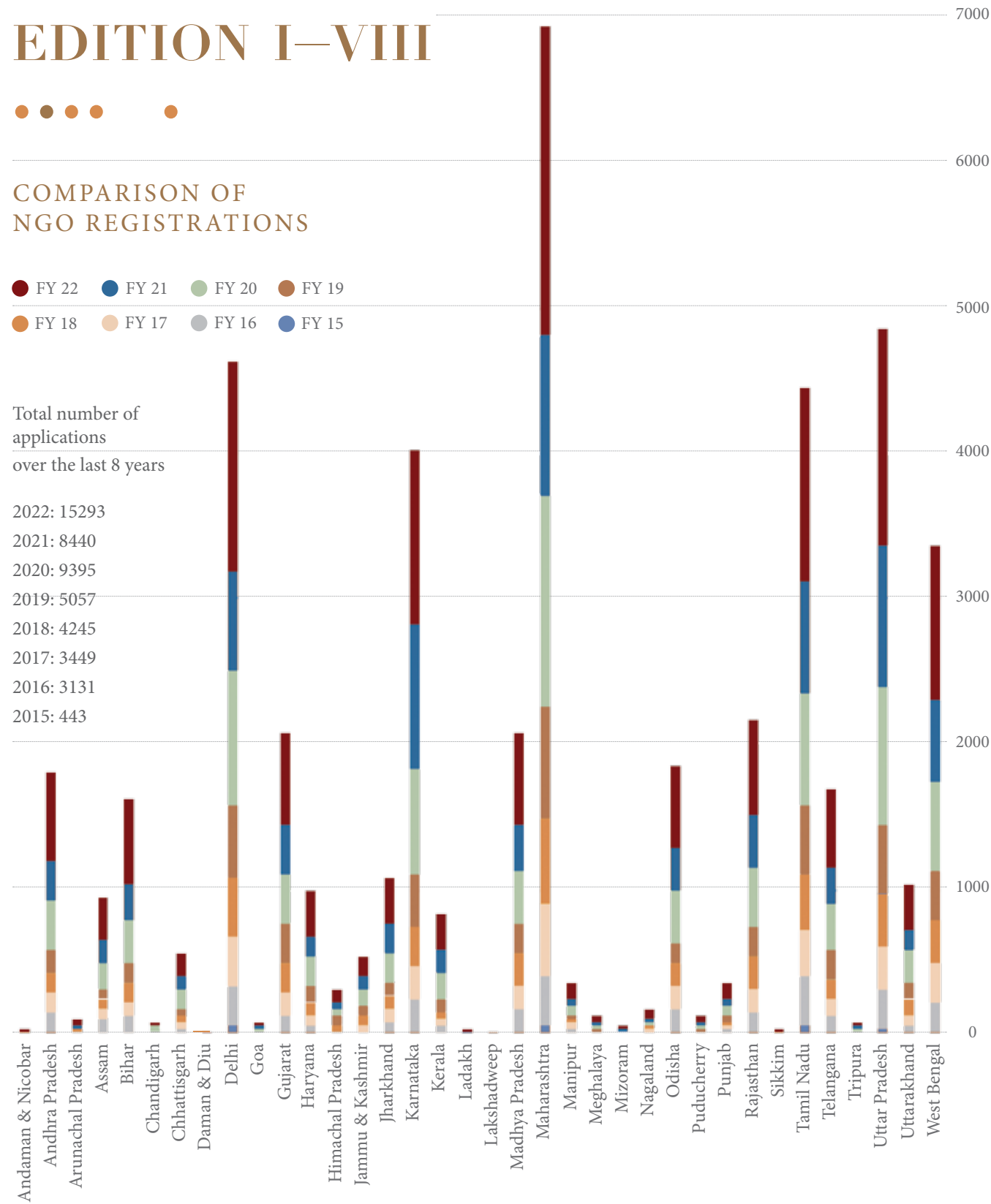


COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS

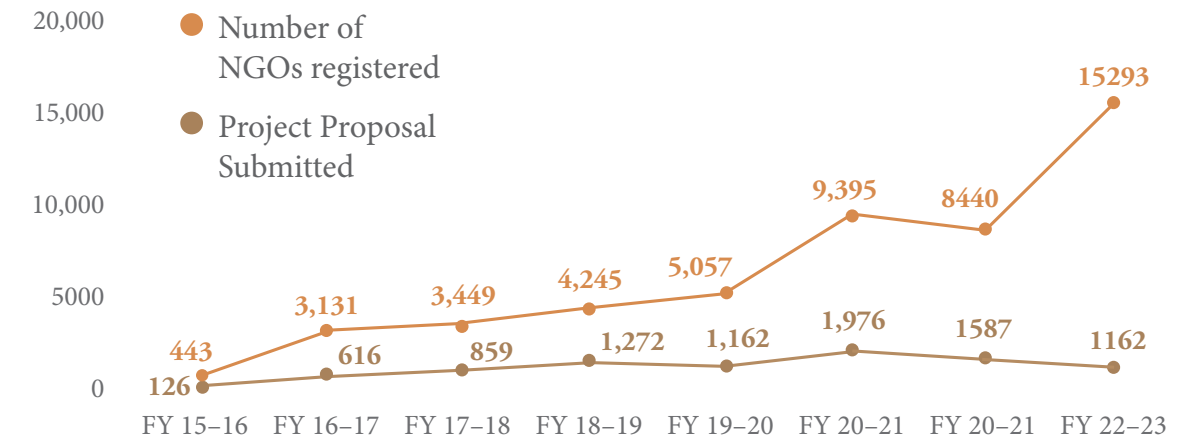
● FY 22 ● FY 21 ● FY 20 ● FY 19
● FY 18 ● FY 17 ● FY 16 ● FY 15

Total number of applications over the last 8 years

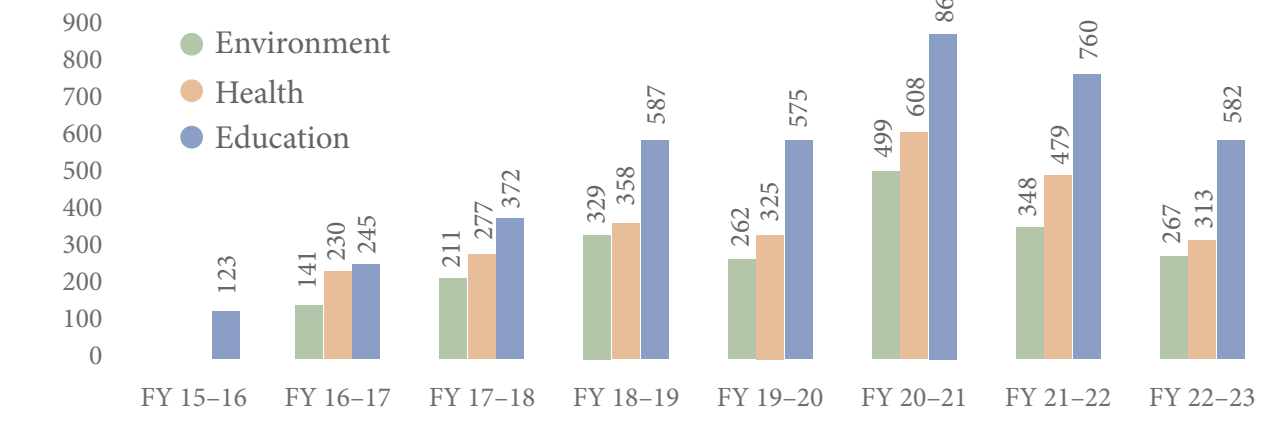
2022: 15293
 2021: 8440
 2020: 9395
 2019: 5057
 2018: 4245
 2017: 3449
 2016: 3131
 2015: 443



HCL GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS 2022- 2023

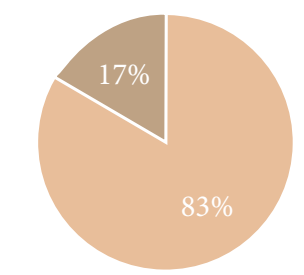


CATEGORY-WISE HCL GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT REGISTRATIONS FY 2022-23

Total Registrations
 15293
 Number of New Registrations
 12720
 Number of Repeat Registrations
 2573



JURY



ROBIN ABRAMS holds both a bachelor of arts and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska. She has been the President of Palm Computing and Senior Vice President of 3Com Corporation, and President and CEO at VeriFone. She has been President and General Manager of The Americas for Apple Computer. Prior to that she was the Vice President and General Manager of Apple Asia, where she was responsible for sales, marketing and market development in the region. Ms. Abrams spent eight years with Unisys in several senior-level positions, including a five-year stint in Asia Pacific, managing the delivery of business solutions focused on banking. The first twelve years of her career were in various management positions at Well Fargo Bank. Ms Abrams has served several US public company boards including ZiLOG, BEA Systems (until it was acquired by Oracle), OpenWave Systems and Sierra Wireless. She currently serves on the boards of Lattice Semiconductor and Factset Research.



SURESH NARAYANAN was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Nestlé India in August 2015 and is on the Board of Directors of Nestlé India Limited. He also serves as the Chairman of CII National Committee on Food processing Industries. He is an Independent Director on the Board of Asian Paints Limited and also on the Board of Governors of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Under Mr. Narayanan's leadership, Nestlé India has been recognized by several media houses and industry forums. He was recognized as 'MNC in India of the year' in 2022 by All India Management Association. In 2021, he featured amongst the Top 101 Male Gender Equality Champions Globally.

He was conferred CNBC-AWAAZ Best Performing Leader for the MNC category in 2020. He was also honoured as the Entrepreneurial CEO at EY Entrepreneur of The Year™ 2020. Business Today awarded him "Best CEO – FMCG" for two years consecutively in 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Narayanan joined Nestlé in 1999 as Executive Vice President for Sales in India. His international career commenced from Nestlé Indochina in 2003, he has also served in Philippines, Singapore and Egypt. Mr. Narayanan began his career as a Management Trainee with Hindustan Unilever.

He has participated in the Nestlé Leadership Program of the London Business School and delivered talks at NASSCOM forums, various Corporates, NUS School of Business -Singapore, American University - Cairo, Columbia University, Army War College Mhow, Naval War College - Goa and business schools such as IIMs and ISBs in India.



BHARTENDRA SINGH BASWAN headed the Government Committee to review recruitment procedures for the higher civil services till August 2016. 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. He currently lectures on Public Policy Drivers in various institutions and is working on a book.



RICHARD LARIVIERE Richard Lariviere is President Emeritus of the Field Museum in Chicago since 2020. 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. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Life member of Council on Foreign Relations, Life member of the American Oriental Society, and on the advisory boards of several American universities.



SHIV NADAR established HCL in 1976 as an original garage start-up, revolutionizing Indian technology and product innovation. Today, HCL is a US\$12.3 billion global technology conglomerate, employing over 222,270 people in 60 countries. In 1994, Nadar established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is today the largest philanthropic organization in India, having established seven institutions covering the entire spectrum of education and has directly touched the lives of over 34,000 globally dispersed students and alumni. As of March 2022, the Foundation has invested US\$1.1 billion across various initiatives. Nadar has received several honors and accolades in the past, notable being the third highest civilian award – Padma Bhushan, bestowed upon him by the President of India in 2008.



PALLAVI SHROFF is the Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., with about thirty-eight 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. She 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 and Business Today have recognised her as one of The Most Powerful Women in Business in 2021. Ms. Shroff is presently a director on the boards of Apollo Tyres, One97 Communications Ltd. (Paytm), Asian Paints Ltd., IndiGo and Juniper Hotels Ltd.

SUB JURY

Environment

ASHUTOSH SHARMA Vice President, Global Head Corporate Communications & Corporate Affairs, HCLTech

CHRISTINA HERDEN Director, Corporate Sustainability, HCLTech

RUSHIKESH CHAVAN Head, The Habitats Trust
SIKI GIUNTA EVP & Head, HCL CloudSmart Consulting & OS, HCLTech

Health

KRISTIN HAZLEWOOD Vice President & GM, BigFix, HCLTech

MANISH ANAND Company Secretary, HCLTech
RAMACHANDRAN SUNDARARAJAN Executive Vice President, HCLTech

TARUN THAKUR Vice President, Operations & Delivery, HCL Healthcare India

Education

AMBIKA NATARAJAN Vice President, HCLTech

DARIO DEBARBIERI Vice President & Head of Marketing, HCLTech

RAJ WALIA Senior Vice President, HCLTech
ROBIN SARKAR Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation

HCL GRANT RECIPIENTS 2022



ENVIRONMENT
Professional Assistance
for Development Action



HEALTH
The Association of
People with Disability



EDUCATION
Language and Learning
Foundation



UNVEILING OF HCL GRANT COFFEE TABLE BOOK VOL.VI by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR & Director, HCL Foundation

HCL GRANT JOURNEY SO FAR



UNVEILING OF THE HCL GRANT COFFEE TABLE BOOK VOL. IV by (L-R) **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Executive Director and CEO, HCL Corporation | Chairperson, HCL Technologies | Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation | Founder and Trustee, The Habitats Trust; **Shiv Nadar**, Founder, HCL | Chief Strategy Officer, HCL Technologies | Founder and Chairman, Shiv Nadar Foundation; **Kapil Dev**, a legend in the global world of cricket; **Prateek Aggarwal**, Chief Financial Officer, HCL Technologies; **Nidhi Pundhir**, Director, HCL Foundation



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

HCL GRANT RECIPIENTS



2022

ENVIRONMENT Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) 32
Alleviating rural poverty by promoting viable and sustainable livelihoods

HEALTH The Association of People with Disability (APD) 36
Honouring the rights, opportunities and dignity of persons with disability

EDUCATION Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) 40
Building strong foundational skills and abilities in language and literacy



Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN)



PRADAN, or Professional Assistance for Development Action, was founded in 1983 with the belief that educated individuals can work towards eradicating mass poverty with empathy. It envisions a just and equitable society where everyone lives and works with dignity. It strives to enable the most marginalized sections, especially rural women, to take charge of their lives and earn a decent living. PRADAN in West Bengal has formed 9,500 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and associated institutions in 1,230 villages. Its integrated Natural Resources Programme is implemented in six districts and has revived almost 90,000 hectares of degradable land.

Founded by Deep Joshi and Vijay Mahajan in 1983

HCL Grant Project Approach: A women collective-led approach towards reclaiming degraded land through adoption to a more non-extractive regenerative farming practices

HCL Grant Project Title: Restoring Eco-System by Promoting Nature Sensitive Endeavour – RESPONSE

Beneficiaries: 6,500 farmers from women collectives

Location: 50 villages from 3 districts of West Bengal

The HCL Grant Project in Action

We are very happy that we got the first position in Environment category and the opportunity to work with HCL Foundation. The project results include increasing vegetative cover through perineal trees and in-situ harvesting of rainfall and its optimum utilization for round the year crop husbandry. The importance of collective effort is being realized and the women farmers have become more knowledgeable and skilled, adopting regenerative practices of cultivation. Simultaneously, the experience will be disseminated on a large scale, thereby establishing the need for GO-NGO collaborative approach. The process has been very good so far, and we are hopeful our long-term association will bring large scale impact to the poorer sections of our country.



Top: Intercropping to increase yields by leaps and bounds
Bottom: Training in traditional techniques for better soil fertility and higher incomes



Working with the HCL Foundation

The association with HCL Foundation has been a great opportunity for us to focus more on environmental aspects. The timely interaction to solve issues, and participation in the HCL annual meet has helped us broaden our outlook to development and initiatives across the country. Apart from infusion of money, the association with HCL Grant has impacted our organizational process. The systemic process of appraisal starting from Grant Application to final selection was a concrete learning process and helped us articulate our work in a more intelligent and meaningful way.

The Impact of the HCL Grant

RELEVANCE: The project area has natural resource degradation, affecting productivity, forcing the use of chemical-intensive agriculture and exploitation of nature because of limited livelihood options. The

Grant project primarily focuses on breaking this cycle.

INNOVATION: An alternative agricultural system based on restorative and regenerative principles is the pathway for this region to address its poverty and food insecurity.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY: With the help of the Grant, we can now bring a programmatic and systemic approach to demonstrate the concept across blocks and districts. With its partners, PRADAN will work to align stakeholders like government, banks, local government and corporates to community-led development for large-scale adoption.

SUSTAINABILITY: The concrete demonstration of the approach mobilized support from all stakeholders. Women and their collectives, when made aware of the social processes causing their deprivation, and facilitated to articulate a vision of a good life in equilibrium with nature, exert their collective strength to achieve their goal.



Stories of Impact

Ajodhya Gram Panchayat, Baghmundi Block, Purulia District, West Bengal
In Hatnada village, less water led to monocropping leaving the lands uncultivated, and less productive every year. Families suffer food insecurity, resorting to woodcutting, which causes deforestation. Through meetings and training on Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM), PRADAN engaged with the village women's group. Employing the watershed approach, the women have submitted plans to transform 52 hectares of barren uplands into a mixed fruit orchard growing mango, guava, mosumbi and pomegranate. 10 water harvesting structures were also created on 19 hectares of adjacent land. The women then became more confident and further plans for 35 hectares were submitted to the government.

Multiple layers of crops, multiple means of income



The Association of People with Disability



With integrity, empathy, accountability, collaboration, excellence and diversity as its core values, The Association of People with Disability (APD) strives to create a world where equity, dignity and justice are assured for persons with disability (PWDs). It runs extensive programmes in rural and urban Karnataka to enable, equip and empower children and adults with a range of disabilities including locomotor, spinal cord injury, speech and hearing, cerebral palsy and mental issues. It has impacted over 5,00,000 PWDs from underprivileged communities.



The HCL Grant Project in Action

Since we received the Grant, our reach to the remotest geographies and the most vulnerable people has considerably increased. 2,962 direct beneficiaries suffering from Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) are going to be impacted with appropriate assistive devices, ramps, livelihood training and medical and rehabilitation support. We have spread to 14 districts in the first 6 months after receiving the Grant. Because of the Grant, we were able to portray the impact of tailored interventions for PwSCI at various state and national level events. This has garnered governmental attention and a promise to enhance the fund allotments for Spinal Cord Injuries Rehabilitation training.

Founded by (Late) N.S. Hema in 1959

HCL Grant Project Approach: Comprehensive bio-psychosocial Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and vocational training for socioeconomically challenged people with spinal cord injury.

HCL Grant Project Title: Cot to Community – A Comprehensive Rehabilitation Approach for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury

Beneficiaries: 2,962 persons with spinal cord injury and 2,962 caregivers

Location: 14,885 villages in Karnataka

Top: Life skill training for a brighter tomorrow
Bottom: Focusing on strength and balance in more ways than one



Working with the HCL Foundation

The entire journey with HCL Foundation was a great challenge and learning experience for APD. It has driven us to be updated with all CSR laws and made us follow stringent measures with respect to the governance & compliances. We can proudly announce to the world that APD is a 100 per cent compliant organization with all policies and documents being revised and updated. The Foundation not only provides funds but also handholds the management team in professional certifications and standardization of project management and follow up activities. The workshops and conferences organized for NGOs are a platform to network and collaborate with fellow organizations.

The Impact of the HCL Grant

RELEVANCE: The project 'Cot to Community' is the need of the hour as there is significant shortage of rehabilitation centers across India despite 15,000 new cases annually.

INNOVATION: The Hub and Spoke Model and the community participatory approach incorporated in this project are very innovative, and have optimized community connectivity.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY: Comprehensive rehabilitation is codified at different phases that could be replicated at institutional, community and home-based rehabilitation levels.

SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSION: The sustainability is built on enabling, equipping and empowering the community stakeholders like government frontline workers, government officials, caregivers, disabled people organizations, self-help groups, local NGOs that could acumen the needs of the PwSCI. The rehabilitation and follow up support for PwSCI beneficiaries are life long, hence we tap the government and community infrastructure and resources. This is achieved through creating model PHCs, availing MGNREGA, disability pension, 5 per cent reserved fund for PwD (as per RPwD Act, 2016), and supporting the rural entrepreneurial model.



Stories of Impact

Saidarshan, age 17

'I was shattered when I learnt that I had injured my spinal cord and would be wheelchair-bound for the rest of my life. I was referred to The Centre for Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation and Research of APD, Bangalore. Within two months of receiving rehabilitation treatments, I had mastered self-management abilities. All complications were expertly managed by the holistic approach of APD. My potential to excel in parasports was recognized. My ideal peer trainer in APD is Mr. Kantharaj, a para-athlete who has always been there to mentor and assist me. I will adapt to this new existence and become the survivor who helps others and benefits society.'

With determination and aids, the sky is the limit!



Language and Learning Foundation (LLF)



The Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) was established with a view to build strong foundational skills and abilities in language, literacy and numeracy in children so they can grow to their full potential. Its Demonstration Projects with early grades are currently running across 4 states; Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh impacting 7,70,000+ children in 13,000+ schools. Over the past 7 years, they have helped improve the teaching-learning practices of 200,000+ teachers and teacher educators in the government education system, impacting the learning of 2 million children.



Top: Using their home language for learning builds a stronger foundation
Bottom: Storytelling by members of the community makes classrooms truly come alive

The HCL Grant Project in Action

The HCL Grant Project will help demonstrate a scalable model of multilingual education (MLE) that improves foundational learning and supports the state government's MLE efforts in Chhattisgarh. For this, a District Resource Group (DRG) has been formed. 32 DRG teachers are part of this group with a major command over the "Halbi" language and have expertise in language pedagogy. Material review and development workshops have started with district officials to finalize the materials. Capacity-building workshops to train teachers have been completed with DRGs. Reading material including workbooks, teacher guides for 300 teachers, big books, CV cards, grid cards, collection of stories & poems, conversation chart, poem posters, etc. have been distributed to all 200 schools in the Project.

Founded by Dr. Dhir Jhingran in 2015

HCL Grant Project Approach: Inclusion of children's home languages in classrooms teaching through a high-quality multilingual education (MLE) program

HCL Grant Project Title: Inclusion of Children's Home Languages to Improve Foundational Learning Outcomes of Adivasi Children in Chhattisgarh

Beneficiaries: 9,000 children, 300 teachers, 200 headmasters and 109 other individuals

Location: 494 villages in Chhattisgarh



Working with the HCL Foundation

HCL has been proactively engaging to understand the project's progress and in resolving our queries, especially on financial reporting. Beyond the project, HCL has created multiple opportunities for partner NGOs to network and present their work to each other and a larger audience.

The Impact of the HCL Grant

RELEVANCE, SCALABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY: The National Education Policy 2020 and the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission (called NIPUN Bharat) emphasize children's home languages in the teaching and learning process in early grades. At state level, the Government of Chhattisgarh has conducted a language mapping survey in its primary schools to identify home languages and MLE strategies. The state government will be a partner in the Project for sustainability. All materials/processes for the Project viz learning material, teacher training etc will be co-

created with the government, ensuring their ownership and capacity-building for statewide implementation. All materials/processes for the Project viz learning material, teacher training etc will be co-created with GoC, ensuring their ownership and capacity building for state-wide implementation.

INNOVATION: Language contexts in India vary within a small area, therefore LLF uses a pragmatic approach using children's home/familiar language (L1) strategically (new/hard concepts) to scaffold L2 learning in the first two years; the second language (medium of instruction) is used for simple texts that only need recall. Teachers use translanguaging (purposeful mixing of languages) to enable comprehension.

INCLUSION: 79 per cent of the child population in Bastar belongs to tribal (indigenous) communities such as Gond, Bhatari, and Dhurva. Including children's home language in classrooms brings the innovation to children who face learning disadvantages due to a language barrier.



Stories of Impact

PS Munjla, Cluster Taragon, Block Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Mrs. Khileshwari Nayak participated in the LLF teacher training in 2022. Her mother tongue is Chhattisgarhi. She was having trouble teaching because she was not able to communicate with students, whose home language was Halbi. The government has provided translated bilingual textbooks which are in Halbi, but there is no clarity on whether it could be used in the language period in class. She says, 'LLF's training is extremely beneficial for me. There is clear instruction on the usage of local language material which is culturally relevant to the children's environment. This will encourage students to be involved in the learning process. We were also trained in conducting language activities inside the classroom by following the balanced approach of language teaching.'

I can do my work all on my own

Finalists 2023

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune 50

Spearheading community-led biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism and education

North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) 58

Catalyzing sustainable use of natural resources and mitigating climate change for better livelihoods

Plan@earth 66

Innovating sustainable waste management and recycling processes among communities

Shortlisted 2023

Action for Social Advancement (ASA) 74

Strengthening linkages between sustainable management of water resources and people's livelihood security

BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development
(BAIF Livelihoods) 78

Integrating rural development, sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation

Collective Efforts for Voluntary Action (CEVA) 82

Engaging with communities to demonstrate that healthy forests mean secure livelihoods

Gramin Samassya Mukti Trust (GSMT) 86

Participatory action for sustainable management of forests, farming and livelihoods

North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS) 90

Protecting and popularizing indigenous food systems of the north east

Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN) 94

Enhancing livelihoods and regenerative agriculture through sustainable, community-based models

Society for the Upliftment of Villagers and Development
of Himalayan Areas (SUVIDHA) 98

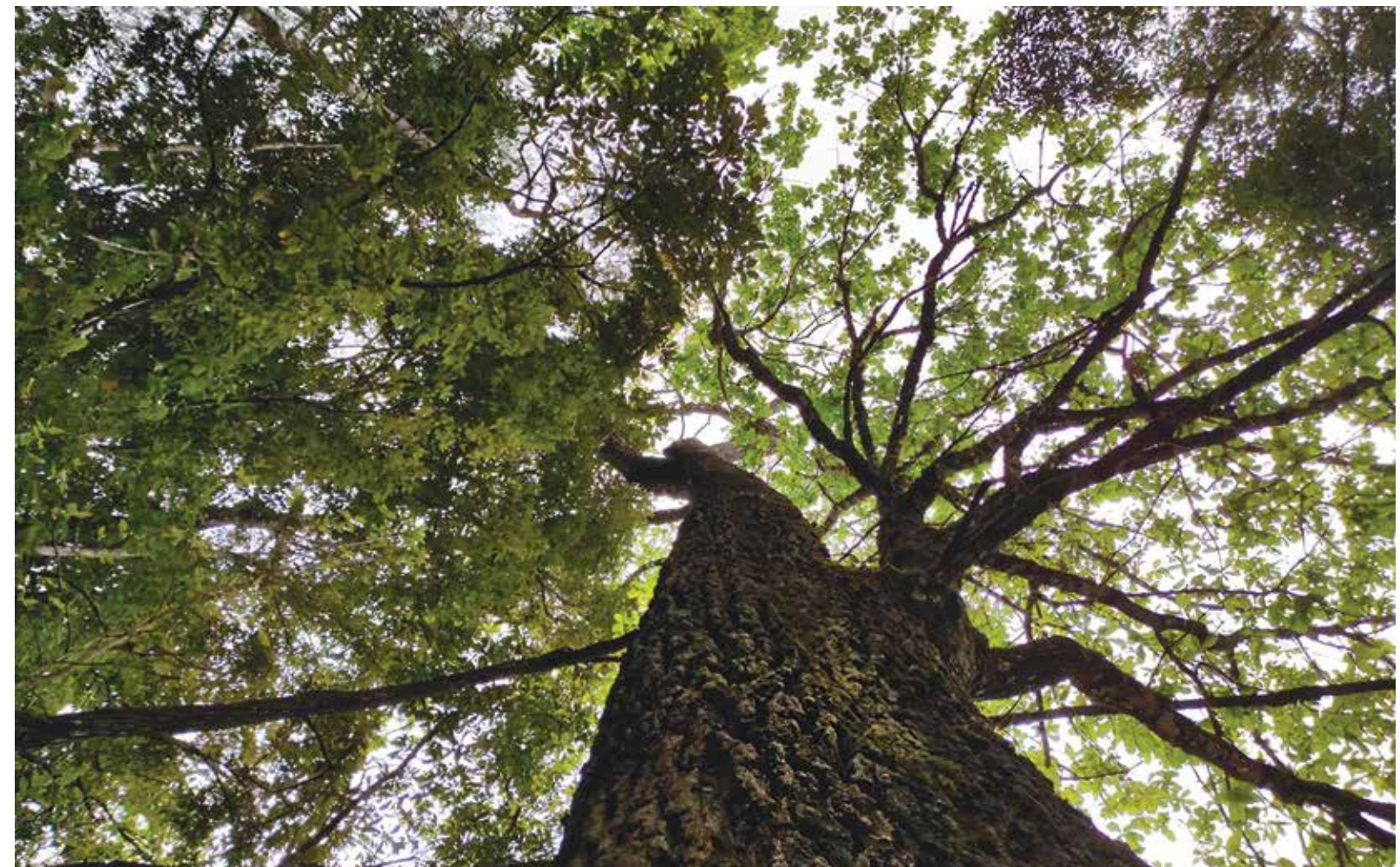
Building climate resilience through natural farming and environmental conservation

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold





Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune



Founded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 2006 and declared an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 2012

An autonomous public university, IISER Pune is dedicated to research and training in the basic sciences. It envisions being a scientific institution of the highest calibre where undergraduate education is integrated with state-of-the-art research. It aims to make the learning of basic sciences accessible and exciting through integrative teaching driven by curiosity and creativity. Enabled and mentored by one of IISER Pune's faculty members, the Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve won the India Biodiversity Award 2018, and seeks to protect the rich biodiversity of the region in Arunachal Pradesh through a community conservation programme.

Opening up the spectacular diversity of Eaglenest to school children and tourists
Following pages (52–53): *Preserving the rich biodiversity of the cloud forest zone of Eaglenest*

IN 2006, RAMANA ATHREYA, currently an Associate Professor of Physics and Biology from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune, discovered a new bird species in the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. He named it the Bugun Liocichla after the tribe which lived in the area. Prof. Athreya then began a pilot project with the Bugun community to map bird diversity in Eaglenest and promote bird tourism by the tribal community by training the youth as eco-guides and in tourism hospitality. The local people took over the project in 2010 and have sustained it successfully for over a decade, generating revenue and employment and establishing ownership as well as international acclaim. The 10 years of a profitable eco-tourism enterprise encouraged the community to voluntarily donate a large tract of its community-owned forest land to conserve the natural habitat of the rare bird. The combined use of the land for conservation and livelihoods shows a unique way forward for such models across the country, giving the community a chance to fulfil their socio-





A world of hidden splendour in Eaglenest
 Top: Bugun Liocichla – the first bird species discovered and described by an Indian
 Bottom Left: Tree frog *Rhacophorus rhodopus* Bottom right: Leopard cat



Locally relevant educational resources developed using biodiversity research
 Following pages (56–57): Local youth are naturalists, collecting data for academic and ecotourism purposes, like from these UV screens which attract over 200 species of moths

economic aspirations without unsustainable exploitation of their precious forest.

This remarkable project, the first of its kind in north-east India and perhaps in the country, resulted in the formation of the legally protected Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve. Young people from the community now safeguard the rich biodiversity they have inherited. They patrol the forests looking for signs of intruders, take photos of diverse rare species, and conduct workshops and hikes with children and trainee forest officers. Shaleena Phinya, a member of the team, has even made a film, *The Bugun and the Liocichla*, highlighting conservation efforts.

Prof. Athreya worked with the villagers, believing that conservation can only succeed if the needs and concerns of the local community are part of the solution. ‘As a

strategy, we are bringing tribal livelihoods, academic research and conservation together in such a manner that each component supports and enhances the other two, leading to socio-economic development, increased understanding of the ecosystem and biodiversity conservation,’ says Prof. Athreya.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Generating biodiversity knowledge and local capacity for ecotourism which will itself fund conservation, in perpetuity

HCL Grant Project Title: Self-sustaining biodiversity conservation through tribal livelihoods in Arunachal Pradesh

Beneficiaries: 400 sq. km of pristine habitats across 3200 m of elevation, hosting over 3000 species (recorded so far), and 2500 tribals

Location: 2 villages in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh





North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA)



Founded by a group of development professionals in 2012

North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) promotes rural livelihoods, safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as sports activities for poor households in the states of Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Its vision is driven by the need to ensure both men and women get equal opportunity to have a voice in relevant issues, and to provide knowledge and technical expertise, empowering people to transform their lives. It achieves impact through multi-thematic interventions in the field with communities and their institutions, and in partnership with local NGOs and the state governments.

Our hard work is bearing fruit and income from settled farm land

Following pages (60–61): *Learning how trenches can recharge springs and make soil more fertile*

‘WE WERE VERY SKEPTICAL AT FIRST. We questioned “how would digging a trench in the middle of nowhere increase the water source?” says B Lalrinnunga Chairman of the Springshed Committee of Chhuanthar Tlangnuam village in Mizoram. The challenges of preserving the biodiversity of an isolated, mountainous region where poverty and illiteracy are the norm are tremendous, a constant battle between livelihoods and conservation. This is where the North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) comes in. In the above case, the villagers whose natural springs were drying up decided to go ahead with the NEIDA project despite their misgivings, and were delighted with the outcome.

Starting with simple livelihood promotion activities, the NGO shifted focus over the years towards a project for natural resource management, rural livelihood and water sanitation. In 2021, the endline study showed significant improvement in farm practices and income generation of farmers from their livelihood activities. All programmes are in close conjunction with the community itself, building mutual trust which has led to success of initiatives despite roadblocks. ‘NEIDA has







Top: Precious water collected for the community from the revived spring
 Bottom: Mapping springs to conserve them for the future



Participatory rural appraisal to incorporate the wisdom of village people in programmes
 Following pages (64–65): Verdant plantations uplift and enrich lives

field level extension workers whom we call Community Resource Persons in every village that we cover. These are our important sources of village-based information. We also keep good relationships with the local community leaders to identify the gaps in outreach so that the development curve can be lifted in a holistic manner,' explains B. Lalrinkima, State Programme Coordinator, NEIDA.

Bringing inhouse expertise and a network of associate organizations, sharing and learning of technologies is streamlined. NEIDA has developed apps to give agriculture and livestock farmers advice on sustainable practices. A robust financial monitoring system ensures compliance and mobilization of community institutions at all levels makes the programmes sustainable in the long run. 'It is ensured that the community puts

forward its contribution of work toward the accomplishment of our project activities, whether it takes the form of inputs or labour costs associated with implementing the activities. By doing this, the community is assured of ownership,' says B. Lalrinkima.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Forest conservation of rainwater catchment area to rejuvenate springs and increase water discharge across twenty villages in four districts of Mizoram

HCL Grant Project Title: Spring Shed Based Watershed Development in Mizoram

Beneficiaries: 2800 households

Location: 20 villages in 4 districts of Mizoram





Plan@Earth



Founded by Sooraj Abraham, Gomathy Ramaswamy, Mujeeb Mohammed, Rasheed Ashraf in 2009

Plan@Earth aims to create awareness and concern among communities about the environment by educating them and implementing proper systems of waste management, streamlining recycling processes and offering sustainable solutions to reduce waste. The organization currently offers waste management and recycling services in 2 municipalities and 2 panchayats, catering to nearly 24,000 households in Kerala. Plan@Earth envisions communities that are conscious and self-reliant in waste management, who live by the principles of Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.

Plastic recovered from the sea by fishermen through the unique project DROP (Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic) Following pages (68–69): Water hyacinth chokes the inland waterways of Vembanad Lake, impacting fishermen's livelihoods and spreading dengue

THE WOMEN RESIDENTS OF

Angamaly Municipality are involved in a very crucial operation. Working as a collective, they gather plastic waste from each household for a small fee. The workers use smartphones and a QR system to streamline the process of collection and accountability. They scan the QR code sticker on each house, which then records the house's response – waste given, user fee paid etc. The plastic is stored in a rent-free space given to them by the Municipality from where it is taken away to be recycled.

The organization behind this unique project is Plan@Earth, formed by 4 teachers to tackle issues of waste management and environmental consciousness. 'Our role was to train the work force, streamline the collection process, troubleshoot, generate reports and monitor the project. Within 8 months we raised the monthly income for the workers' collective from ₹ 92,000 to ₹ 2.5 lakhs,' explains Sooraj Abraham, one of the founders of the NGO.

What started as a clean-up campaign with their students grew into Kerala's first successful system of door-to-door collection of dry waste in Kerala. Plan@Earth now





Top: School children enabled crowdfunding to launch Project DROP at Munampam Harbour
 Bottom: Bags made from nets are given to fishermen to bring back plastic from the ocean



Where the lake meets the ocean, the weeds sink, a blow to both ecosystem and livelihoods
 Following pages (72-73): Cleaning the ocean, one plastic bag at a time

manages over 60 tons of plastic a month and its model of collecting user fees has been adopted by the state government as well.

Using a combination of innovation, persistence in overcoming bureaucratic hurdles and a sustainable, community-led model, Plan@Earth targets small and big issues, from offering recycling/upcycling solutions to domestic plastic garbage, to engaging with local governments and building capacity among populations affected by environmental issues to find solutions to the problem themselves. The most marginalized sections of the community are employed to undertake the projects through workers' cooperatives which learn to manage the working and the funds on their own. This is a solution

that results in income generation for them, as well as a sense of ownership of the initiatives making them much more sustainable for the future.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Providing solutions to plastic polluting the ocean and invasive water weeds affecting several key districts of Kerala

HCL Grant Project Title: Recover and Recycle Plastic from Ocean and Protect Water Bodies from Water Hyacinth Infestation by Manufacturing Briquettes Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic (DROP) and Manufacture Briquettes from Water Weeds

Beneficiaries: Inland fishermen, marine fishermen and fishing-related workers

Location: 45 villages in 4 districts of Kerala





Action for Social Advancement (ASA)



Founded by Ashis Mondal and G. Jayanthi in 1996

Action for Social Advancement (ASA) strives to ensure the livelihoods of poor people with equity and dignity through natural resource development and large-scale agri-business expansion. Its goal is to establish a multi-stakeholder, inclusive model of regenerative agriculture through participatory action at the community level. ASA helps farming communities to develop, invest in and adopt innovative and locally appropriate sustainable water solutions to strengthen their livelihoods. It currently works in more than 3500 villages across 49 districts of 8 states, benefitting more than 7,00,000 families.

Easing irrigation and water woes for farmers through stop dams

SMALL FARMERS IN CENTRAL INDIA depend on the rains for their very survival. Climate change has wrought erratic monsoons and drought throughout the region, bringing them to the brink. Faced with crop failures on their tiny land holdings, they live lives of poverty, illiteracy, patriarchy and exploitation by moneylenders. The NGO, Action for Social Advancement (ASA) works to strengthen linkages between sustainable use of natural resources, especially water, and peoples' livelihood security. This is articulated through development of land, water, trees and livestock and promoting sustainable and organic agriculture to increase farm income and mitigate climate risks, as well as to create streamlined pathways for easy access to markets for farmers' produce. All the initiatives by ASA are administered by local community institutions from induction to implementation.

ASA's programmes encourage communities to take charge of recharging groundwater. Because of this, farmers can now grow more than one crop a year, increasing their productivity and income. 'Communities create and take full ownership of water infrastructure; they learn to adopt efficient



Top: Fish are a-plenty in farm ponds, increasing incomes for communities
 Bottom: Dug-wells enable cultivation even during non-monsoon season, for larger, bountiful returns



Cotton farmers picking their hard-earned harvests, which raise their incomes by 25-30 per cent

and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and connect with agribusiness markets for better incomes, all of which together triggers growth in farm production and productivity,' says G. Jayanthi, co-founder of ASA. At the same time, it engages with local governments to design, plan and implement water conservation infrastructure and crop enhancement initiatives, and state and central governments at a national and global policy level to improve water and agricultural systems for rural communities. Besides this, ASA has designed a well-regarded methodology to help in deciding funding priorities of government schemes like MGNREGA.

ASA promotes Farmer Producer Organizations, or FPOs. 'These producers' companies were groomed to produce seeds and different agriculture produce by

entering into buy-back arrangements with different companies. Apart from these the organization was involved in many consultancy assignments in diverse subjects for agencies such as the World Bank, UNDP, MP DPIIP, MSSRF and different government departments,' explains G. Jayanthi.

HCL Grant Project Title: Integrated Community Based Natural Resources Development with Focus on Water Resources Development for Enhancing Livelihoods of Tribal Farmers in Betul district, Madhya Pradesh

Beneficiaries: 13,802 small and marginal farmers, self-help groups and farmer's producer groups

Location: 60 villages in one district of Madhya Pradesh



BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development (BAIF Livelihoods)



Founded by Dr. Manibhai Desai in 2012, parent organization BAIF Development Research Foundation founded in 1967

BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development (BAIF Livelihoods) aims to build a self-reliant, sustainable rural economy, generating gainful employment opportunities through agro-based enterprises. The organization, inspired by Gandhian values, works in the areas of sustainable livelihoods, food security, safe drinking water, good health and gender equity, child mortality and literacy. Spread across over 98,000 villages of 13 states, it reaches out to over 4 million families, enabling them to overcome poverty and attain a better standard of living.

Increasing incomes manifold through climate smart farming methods

TILL SIX YEARS AGO, Lata Devi, from a small village in Champawat district of Uttarakhand, had never heard about climate smart agriculture. Along with her neighbours, she suffered water shortages, land degradation and low productivity from her fields and livestock. Then, BAIF Livelihoods began an intervention in her village. She began cultivation in a bamboo polyhouse, getting three crops a year. She shifted to growing capsicum, tomato, cabbage and cucumber which fetched her high prices in the local markets and fed her family too. She trained in roof top rainwater harvesting and gravity drip irrigation. Lata Devi now earns over ₹ 80,000 a year.

Like Lata Devi, for many poor people in the rural hinterlands, sustainable livelihoods have become possible through community-led programmes by BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development (BAIF Livelihoods). The NGO has been an impactful leader in rural development for over 50 years. Constantly taking on newer challenges like climate change and changed aspirations, it has developed participatory models that support integrated tribal



Top: *Harnessing the sun to draw water*
Bottom: *Rejuvenating springs for renewed life*



Cabbages thrive beautifully, protected by polyhouses

development through livelihoods and health, gender equality, optimum utilization of natural resources, increase clean energy access and more. With eight research and training campuses at the grassroots level, technology-driven scientific and action research feeds into its development programmes to achieve success.

‘Models developed by BAIF have been recognized and best practices have been adopted by various organizations as well as influenced government policies and schemes. BAIF has organized farmer collectives, producer groups, companies and federations to support farmers move up the value chain and gain better market access and value for their produce,’ says Dr. Raviraj Jadhav, Regional Director, North, BAIF Livelihoods.

Whether it is artificial insemination for livestock, the Wadi model (agri-horti-forestry), or watershed development transforming wastelands to orchards, BAIF’s initiatives have been internalized by NABARD, the Ministry of Tribal Development and the Animal Husbandry department and implemented on large scale in association with the NGO. BAIF’s programmes have contributed ₹ 150 billion in additional income for rural poor households.

HCL Grant Project Title: Ecological Advanced Rural Transformation for Humanity
Beneficiaries: 2000 tribal villagers
Location: 22 villages in one district of Uttarakhand



Collective Efforts for Voluntary Action (CEVA)



Founded by Dr Haresh Sharma in 2012

Collective Efforts for Voluntary Action (CEVA) works in the Western Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh at the grassroots level for indigenous communities living in one of the most remote and tough terrains of India. The organization supports indigenous communities in the areas of agriculture, forest-based livelihoods, community-led tourism, women's empowerment, health, strengthening local producers, and biodiversity through sustainable use of natural resources. Today with more than 40 volunteers, eight Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), 64 self-help groups and 6 Mahila Mandals, it has been able to reach over 8000 direct beneficiaries and over 12,000 indirect beneficiaries.

Fostering change through community awareness and training programmes

WHEN PEOPLE BUY GOURMET PRODUCTS like hazelnuts, black cumin, and wild garlic, they often do not stop to think: who cultivates them, forages for them, brings them to the markets? Little do they know that many of these are plants collected by women from forest dwelling communities in a remote Himalayan region called Pangi. Middlemen, overharvesting of endangered plants and climate change plague these communities. Collective Efforts for Voluntary Action, or CEVA, helps such women and farmers to market goods online and offline for better value. Participatory interventions help mitigate climate hazards, protect biodiversity and explore sustainable use of natural resources. CEVA spearheads a powerful movement to empower communities to recognise their rights, and entitlements to government schemes.

CEVA's early work began to be supported by NABARD and other institutions. 'We believe that indigenous communities of the Himalayas deserve to find their path to development and one that convergences with their social-cultural values and a deep consideration of the fragile Himalayan



Top: *Secure, sustainable livelihoods for all*
Bottom: *Stunning Pangi landscapes*



To market! Pangi Hills products processed and packed by indigenous women

ecosystem,' says Dr Haresh Sharma, Director of CEVA.

Over the years, CEVA, through vibrant engagements with communities and local governments, has proven that healthy forests mean more secure livelihoods. Its teams are picked from the community itself so that all programmes are rooted in the real needs and challenges of the people, combined with the goal of indigenous-led sustainable development. This is also useful because these communities are very close-knit and untrusting of outsiders. Dr Sharma says, 'CEVA works as a facilitator, as an enabler. It's the people who have identified the issues and challenges of the landscape, and the solutions are also co-envisioned and co-created, and so is the implementation.'

Some of their most successful interventions are taken forward through Farmer Producer Groups, or FPOs. CEVA works with these groups, building capacity and guiding their processes. Despite initial reluctance, the FPOs now have hundreds of members, and have received national acclaim for their apple, walnut, and hazelnut farming.

HCL Grant Project Title: Greening Landscapes and Local Livelihoods in the Himalayas

Beneficiaries: 22 self-help groups, 1 Farmer Producer Organization, 400 non-timber forest produce harvesters

Location: 33 villages in 3 panchayats of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh



Gramin Samassya Mukti Trust (GSMT)



Founded by Dr. Kishor Moghe in 1990

Gramin Samassya Mukti Trust fosters healthy, self-reliant, gender-just and self-governed communities. Its mission is to build capacities of Panchayati Raj institutions and community-based organizations among tribal people to address their issues of sustainable livelihoods, gender discrimination, health, education and accessing government entitlements. It has promoted and strengthened over 2000 community organizations in 2067 villages in Maharashtra's Yavatmal and Chandrapur districts covering over 135,000 people, besides working with about half a million people from poor and marginalised communities in 7 other districts of Vidarbha region on natural resource management-based livelihoods, forest management and food security.

Rejuvenating streams by widening and deepening them to recharge a precious resource

WHEN GRAMIN SAMASSYA MUKTI TRUST (GSMT) began its work, it focussed on improving village delivery systems of health, livelihood and education for some of the most socially and economically oppressed communities in India. However, with experience in the field, its members understood that the deeper need was to build and strengthen governance by people at the village level. This could be achieved by strengthening Gram Sabha processes and ensuring participation of women, in order to truly empower the community.

Working in areas where climate change, illiteracy, unsustainable agriculture and the degradation of forest resources and biodiversity have left communities poverty-stricken and vulnerable, GSMT has a predetermined set of interventions at the community level in order to promote sustainable development and ecological security. It works to enhance the capacities of village panchayats and community-based organizations (CBOs) to encourage sustainable management of agricultural lands, efficient management of forest resources, health and education, as well as natural



Top and bottom: *Carefully collecting Mahua blooms to reap the bounty of the forest for a good livelihood*



Applying the Doha Model technique to recharge the river and its streams

resource management-based livelihoods. Participation of women in development processes and leadership training are other major thrusts. Working in concord with government and other institutions, as well as networking and advocacy build a holistic approach to the problems faced by the communities in its lens.

‘GSMT believes in the participation of the target community from the very beginning of the programme interventions. GSMT begins with participatory study, issue identification, discussing community action plan (CAP) and implementation of the same in the operational areas. At the outset, the village and the area planning is done by Gram Sabha and Gram Sabha Federations to ensure ownership of the community,’ says Dr. Kishor Moghe, Chairperson, GMST.

GMST’s name translates as the ‘Trust that resolves rural issues’. Its work is of the utmost importance as it impacts the poorest of the poor like Kolam and Madiya tribal groups. It empowers small and marginal farmers, single women, unwed mothers, female sex workers, women living with disabilities and HIV, children, landless families and migrant labour, as well as widows of farmers who have committed suicide.

HCL Grant Project Title: Sustainability through Working with Nature
Beneficiaries: 14,496 tribal & other forests dependant farmers, women & landless labour
Location: 17 villages in 2 districts of Maharashtra



North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS)



Founded by Phrang Roy in 2012

NESFAS has a vision to show the world that Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems (IPFS) are a game changer for climate resilience, and seeks to revive, defend and promote these systems through various agro-ecological approaches. It addresses issues related to food security and sovereignty, health, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, green energy, and most importantly, preserving biodiversity in the north east of India. NESFAS works with 130 communities of the region, combining traditional knowledge systems and modern science. It is recognized as one of the Beacons of Hope by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food.

Soil experiments conducted using agroecology and participatory research help revive traditional practices

THERE ARE MANY APPROACHES to fortify climate resilience. One of the less explored is Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. Not only does it connect people to delicious, flavourful and healthy local foods, it's a direct path to preserving biodiversity and enhancing nature-based livelihood opportunities. North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS) recognizes the role of indigenous communities as the age-old guardians of agro-biodiversity. It creates programmes that respect this wisdom and the culture and identity of the people it emerges from, forming inclusive partnerships for action and advocacy, and enhancing skills with modern innovations to address problems like nutrition and health that the community faces.

'NESFAS, led by local young people, highly acknowledges the crucial role of women as custodians of biodiversity, food, land, people, nutrition and more. Our work is closely driven by the Indigenous Peoples' values of sharing, caring and consensus building,' says Phrang Roy, Founding Chairperson, NESFAS.



Top: Community seed banks safeguard and preserve indigenous seeds and encourage seed exchanges in the community
 Bottom: A cooking demonstration by indigenous chef Joel Basumatari enriches mid-day meals for children, enhancing nutritional diversity through local recipes and ingredients



Delicious and healthy indigenous food at a Mei-Ramew Cafe, which serves and innovates local foods and ingredients

Empowering people through self-help groups, women and youth groups, it works from the bottom up, ensuring that the community guides its own development strategy through trained local facilitators and leaders to sustain the projects for the long term. Key messages and knowledge are disseminated through storytelling and audio-visual communications. Local and state government policymakers are co-opted into the projects with constant dialogue. National and global partnerships have taken NESFAS's message further afield.

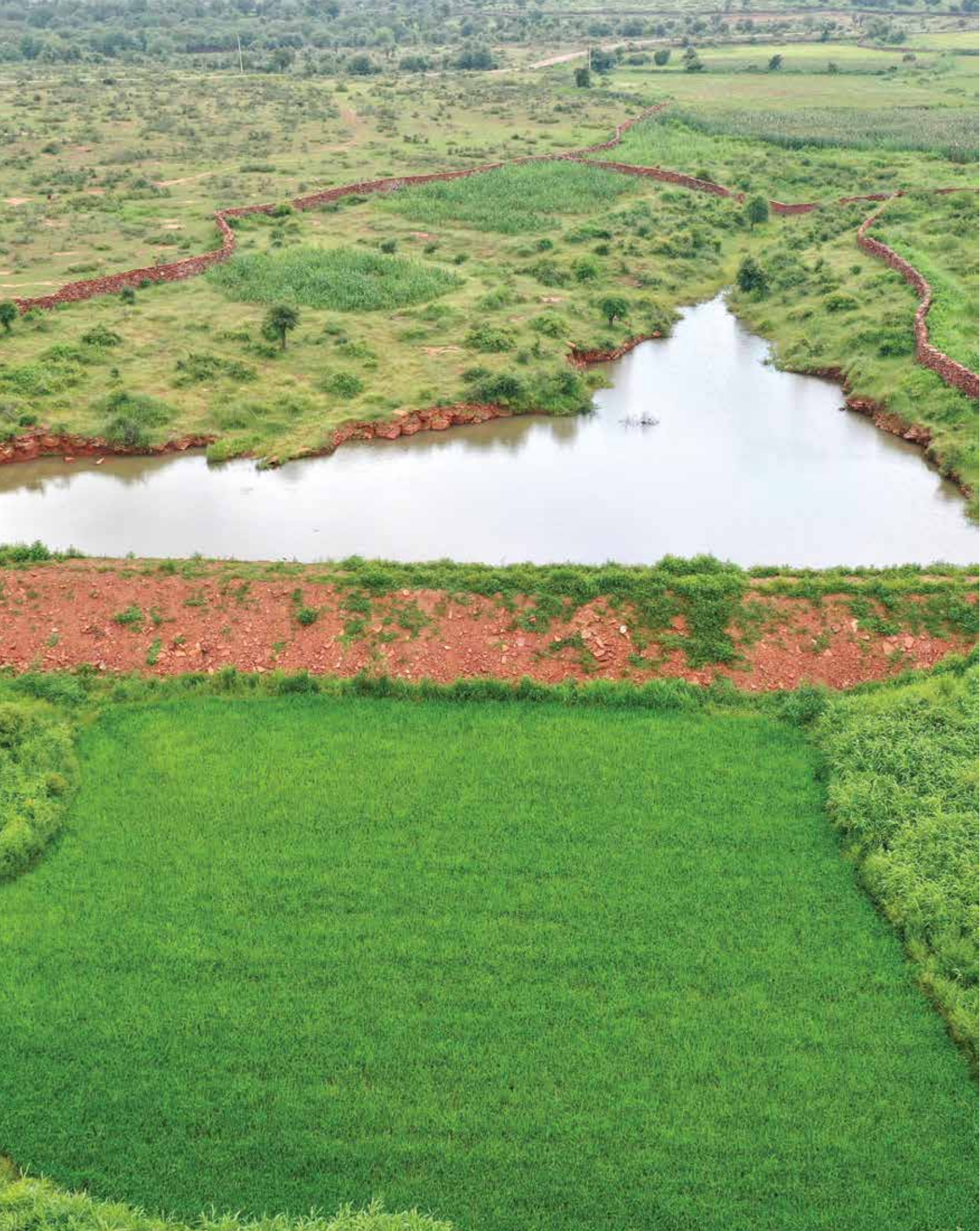
A good example of how NESFAS has integrated its mission into the needs of the community is its participation in the '1000 days campaign' with pregnant and lactating mothers. 'One of the important components to attain a healthy start for a child is a nutritious diet during pregnancy and as

the child grows. In this context, NESFAS has approached the 1000 days campaign from a food perspective whereby the focus was on enhancing the intake of green leafy vegetables locally grown and available in the everyday diets while not excluding the medical services that a pregnant woman and a child need to avail,' explains Pius Rane, Executive Director, NESFAS.

HCL Grant Project Title: Connecting People and Nature for Improved Health, Nutrition, Food Security and Green Energy for Rural Development

Beneficiaries: 14,400 farmers, students, children, young mothers, adolescent girls and more

Location: 100 villages in 6 districts of Meghalaya



Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN)



Founded by Ved Mitra Arya in 2000

SRIJAN envisions holistic development in people's lives by addressing rural poverty, vulnerability and inequity. It promotes sustainable and self-reliant models of rural development through interventions like livelihood programmes in agriculture and horticulture, natural resource management, and dairy and livestock. It works to build self-managed community institutions, with special emphasis on women and farmers. Starting out with small projects in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the organization currently caters to over 125,679 rural families from 1,537 villages from the most impoverished regions, spread across 6 states, in a bid to reach out to the poorest and tackle poverty.

Earthen dams for harvesting irrigation water and recharging ground water, too

WHEN FARMERS ARE COMPELLED to stop cultivating their lands and start working as unskilled manual labour, they have reached the lowest level of poverty. With fallow lands that have lost productivity, lack of water resources, climate change and most importantly, a lack of organization, they see no hope for the future. Self Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN) works with these communities to empower them to face their problems head on and find collective, sustainable solutions for them.

'SRIJAN's journey started by designing a World Bank funded District Poverty Initiative Project in Madhya Pradesh. During the initial years, our focus was on the conservation of water, rehabilitation of tanks and creation of irrigation resources through promoting user groups and self-help groups of women. It then began work on productivity enhancement and developing agricultural value chains for market linkages. Now, the focus has shifted to promoting sustainable livelihood models keeping ecology and restoration of natural resources as key considerations,' says Nitesh Kumar, Project Leader, SRIJAN.



Top: Sowing plentiful orchards in village backyards
 Bottom: From saplings to trees, we watch our futures grow



Amidst the fields, an oasis of water for irrigation, groundwater replenishing and precious silt

With community institutions like self-help groups, women producer groups etc., at the core of its model, Srijan works to build capacity for multiple livelihood-based activities to increase incomes of beneficiaries. Climate smart agriculture, soil health, and water conservation work hand in hand with modern agricultural technology and credit linkages. The execution of the programmes is through training community members as facilitators and leaders. ‘Examples include creating new cadre of skilled service providers such as Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi (friend of agriculture, animals), and creating leaders in community institutions such as directors on the board of producer companies. Yet another example of capacity building is farmers’ training for adopting new package of practices for an existing crop or climate smart

agriculture, (soy, paddy) or for cultivating an entirely new crop (pomegranate, custard apple) or undertaking entrepreneurial activities,’ explains Nitesh Kumar. Partnerships with government institutions and other NGOs multiplies the impact of Srijan’s programmes. Best of all, community institutions and federations are the changemakers who demand their rights and entitlements from the government directly.

HCL Grant Project Title: Sustainable Environment by Promoting Climate Smart Farm Initiatives at Aspirational District Karauli in Rajasthan
Beneficiaries: 6000 small and marginal farmers
Location: 100 villages in one district of Rajasthan



Society for the Upliftment of Villagers and Development of Himalayan Areas (SUVIDHA)



Founded by Deepak Pandey in 2004

SUVIDHA endeavours to eliminate poverty, unemployment, poor health and illiteracy for those who live in under-served regions of the country. It engages in sustainable management of natural resources, while supporting the livelihood and well-being of the rural community through 'Pro Poor – Pro Environment' initiatives. Besides agriculture and climate change, it works in rural development, women's empowerment, education and health in Odisha, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. So far, this award-winning NGO has empowered 2,25,000 farmers, and improved the lives of 1.5 lakh households.

A women-led micro enterprise producing dried spices generates substantial incomes for their families

IN MANY STATES OF RURAL INDIA, a quiet revolution is taking place. A climate change mitigation programme has provided thousands of bio-gas units to the homes of marginal farmers. The households have stopped using wood for cooking up to 80 per cent. The air they breathe is cleaner. The women do not have to labour to cut down trees. The health of the forest and biodiversity has flourished, and GHG emissions are significantly down. Even the human-wildlife conflicts have reduced. The initiative is called Project Prayas, by the Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development of Himalayan Areas, or SUVIDHA. Certified under the 'Gold Standard - Switzerland' the project is the first of its kind in North India.

A committed team with experience in managing government and private projects works to implement Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) technologies in rural areas. SUVIDHA's earlier projects successfully introduced organic, sustainable agricultural practices to small farmer communities in isolated mountain villages, increasing crop productivity and incomes. 'There is a huge



Top: Biogas plants reduce carbon emissions, protect biodiversity, reduce women's work and minimize human-wildlife conflicts
 Bottom: Grid-based large scale plantations of arecanut trees bring prosperity and mitigate climate change



Solar-based community tanks bring clean and safe drinking water, reducing women's drudgery

potential to tap the natural ways of farming and make it more productive by capacitating local communities to contribute substantially to their lives and economic prosperity. SUVIDHA initiated small grant projects to promote organic farming with support from state government agencies. The change in the working mindset of farmers was slow but effective to understand the larger potential of low volume and high value crops and organic brands,' says Deepak Pandey, founder of SUVIDHA.

SUVIDHA's pioneering work on sustainable farming has been well acknowledged by Government of India. The CDM projects are also recognized as tremendously impactful. Executed through Village Development Committees to ensure ownership of the projects by the people

themselves, the interventions are closely monitored by the NGO. Peoples' collectives manage micro-business enterprises created through the programme. Future plans include a state-of-the-art information sharing center on climate change mitigation. The ultimate goal is to create replicable projects which can act as roadmaps for sustainable development.

HCL Grant Project Title: Promotion of Clean Development Mechanism Technologies to Combat Climate Change in Indo Himalayan Region
Beneficiaries: 6000 households
Location: 30 villages in Biswanath District, Assam

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Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold





Innovators in Health (India)



Founded by Manish Bhardwaj and Jagdeep Gambhir in 2010

Innovators in Health India works towards ensuring healthcare for the rural poor through innovative and community-based approaches, especially in cases of tackling tuberculosis (TB), mental health, maternal and neonatal health care. The organization works by strengthening public health institutions, empowering grassroots workers and community-based referrals. It collaborates with international experts and government organizations. Its interventions have doubled case-finding rates of tuberculosis for 3,000,000 rural poor, and cut neonatal mortality in half. It has scaled its interventions for TB care in 3 districts of Bihar with a population of 15 million.

*Taking TB testing to rural doorsteps
Following pages (110–111): Spreading awareness about
drug adherence and nutritional food to save lives*

IT TAKES A PRESUMPTIVE TUBERCULOSIS (TB) patient in India an average of 3 visits to a health facility to be diagnosed*. This is obviously a serious deterrent for daily wage earners, who are the poorest and most vulnerable. A few years ago, one NGO decided to counter this problem by taking the service to the patients' doorstep instead. This path-breaking idea of the Innovators in Health (India), or IIH, is now standard procedure.

Started as a student group in MIT, Boston, IIH's first interventions were aimed at solving the issue of adherence to TB drugs through technology. But when it started working among rural communities in Bihar, its members began to comprehend that the core problem was the lack of basic care, right from identification to completing treatment, and of trained staff. 'In less than 3 years of our presence we quadrupled TB case finding numbers in a comparable population where we were not present. This brought in a lot of attention from the National TB Program and our model of operation was looked deeply into,' says Manish Kumar, Trustee, IIH.

IIH's model of TB care is a community-based, patient-centric one, based on international guidelines, with emphasis





Top: Chasing down TB cases for diagnosis and treatment to the last mile
 Bottom: Stressing the importance of testing right



Using technology and testing to stay ahead of the problem
 Following pages (114–115): Health workers from the community itself dispense drugs and advice, making the programmes so impactful

on strengthening the public health system in sustainable ways. To this end, capacity building of members of the community and forming support groups are important components. Channelling community referrals, door-step screening and diagnosis support through the government ASHA workers allows for a deep level of penetration in rural India. IIH members, chosen from the community itself, visit homes to urge patients to get treated, help deliver drugs or collect sputum samples. 'During floods when ASHA's movements get restricted, our members hire boats to deliver drugs for weeks/months until the water retreats, without charging any money,' says Manish Kumar.

Using international expertise, hotspot mapping, preventive treatment protocols and engaging with health departments and

policymakers to replicate its evidence- and data-based models, IIH leads from the forefront of the battle to eliminate TB in rural India.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Providing universal TB care in rural Bihar through our model aligned with SDG 3 embedded in a patient-centred and evidence-based approach

HCL Grant Project Title: Universal Tuberculosis Care through Active Case Finding and Treatment Support in Rural Bihar

Beneficiaries: 10,800 notified TB patients from public health facilities, 10,665 household contacts of TB patients, 3856 community health workers, 3400 informal healthcare providers

Location: 1260 villages in Samastipur District, Bihar





MAHAN Trust (Meditation, AIDS, Health, A-deaddiction, Nutrition)



Founded by Dr. Ashish Satav and
Dr. Kavita Satav in 1998

MAHAN Trust works to take health and nutrition to the last tribal. Its interventions have brought about significant change in the recovery and mortality rates of tribal people in the poorest regions of India. Through community-based initiatives, research, monitoring government healthcare systems and strengthening of local governance, it has achieved a 68 per cent reduction in both malnutrition and the child mortality rate. It is the only NGO working towards the holistic upliftment of tribal people's health in Melghat, Maharashtra and has impacted the lives of over 5 lakh people in the area through advocacy and influencing government policy.

*Brightening the rural healthcare landscape
Following pages (118–119): Training village health
workers to strengthen the system from within*

THE UNNECESSARY and preventable death of a little girl due to superstition and lack of access to good healthcare was the spark that ignited the formation of MAHAN (Meditation, AIDS, Health, A-deaddiction, Nutrition) Trust by two committed doctors. Setting up their OPD in a mud hut in an inaccessible, hilly region of Maharashtra, they surmounted many obstacles to establish their interventions in a community rife with malnutrition, extremely high child and maternal mortality rates and childhood blindness, and no recourse to good medical facilities.

MAHAN's preventive and curative community health projects work to not only improve mortality rates and nutrition, address addiction, Tuberculosis, HIV and other health conditions, but also to strengthen the government health system and counsel people to go to hospitals for deliveries and sickness. Its home-based childcare programme has trained village health workers from the community, themselves semi-literate, to penetrate the deep-rooted preconceptions of people towards healthcare, especially for neonatal and antenatal care and malnutrition. Setting up ICUs with minimal resources in tribal areas





Top and bottom: *Better nutrition and quality health for all*



Door-to-door blindness prevention has saved the sight of thousands
 Following pages (122–123): *Ensuring the community's health through life-giving nutrition farms*

and using telemedicine to treat patients in different geographies have benefitted these communities greatly. MAHAN's blindness control programme has screened over three lakh people and treated thousands of others. Its holistic approach includes preventive, promotive and curative care, primary and secondary care, grassroot to policy level activities, services, research and legal interventions. Behaviour-change programmes and hospital monitoring programmes go hand in hand with providing local therapeutic food according to WHO-UNICEF standards.

'We regularly conducted surveys, scientific studies, gramsabhas (community meetings) to understand problems of tribal people. Experience, preferences and health needs of community members were used to design the methodology. We worked in close association with the traditional health system. We realized

that mortality and malnutrition is a health priority of the community and designed our outcome measures accordingly. Our model is safe, culturally acceptable, affordable, approachable, achievable with local resources, externally validated and hence sustainable and replicable for reducing mortality and malnutrition in resources-poor rural India,' says Dr. Ashish Satav, co-founder, MAHAN.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Reducing morbidity and the mortality rate among tribal communities

HCL Grant Project Title: Integrated Approach to Reduce Malnutrition, Blindness and Deaths of Tribals

Beneficiaries: 3,07,400 children and patients

Location: 300 tribal villages of Melghat, Maharashtra and 100 tribal villages from 3 districts of Madhya Pradesh.





Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust (SSRDP)



Founded by Vinod Kumar and Ajay Tejaswi in 2001, inspired by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankar

Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust (SSRDP) has a single-minded focus to empower rural India through access to better health, quality education, technology and applying community-led environmentally sustainable solutions. SSRDP works in tandem with the government, corporates, volunteers and partners in its mission of creating long-lasting change among the lives of rural communities and help them lead a healthier, more secure, prosperous and dignified life. Its efforts have so far empowered 3.1+ million youth across 29 states and Union Territories.

Left and Following pages (126–127) Meditation, leadership training, community service and skills training to transform prisoners' lives. This image has been partially blurred to protect the identity of the individuals

SSRDP ENGAGES WITH UNEMPLOYED YOUTH, women, marginalized groups and the under-served, and empowers them through its unique approach of UPLIFT (through the medically-proven breathing technique, Sudarshan Kriya (SKY), meditation and more); TRANSFORM (through leadership training and community-led service activities); and EMPOWER (through skills and certified vocational training as well as supporting employment and entrepreneurship opportunities).

Health is not the mere absence of disease. It encompasses a violence-free society, disease-free body, stress-free mind, inhibition-free intellect, trauma-free memory and a sorrow-free soul. Amar Kumar was 19 when he was jailed for murdering a man in his village in Tamar over an extra-marital relationship. Ratu resident Amarjeet Sahu, 35, spent 7 years in jail for murder over a land dispute. They are now self-employed as electricians earning over ₹ 20,000 per month and employing other villagers. Both underwent the unique SKY programme, which helps prisoners overcome depression, stress, negative emotions, criminal tendencies and other mental health issues to foster





Top: Empowering Rural Youth to become 'Drivers of Change'
 Bottom: Guiding & skilling local youth to solar electrify their village



Enabling solar-powered smart classes in 50+ border government schools
 Following pages (130–131): Empowering youth with industry specific skills in 66+ centers including 22+ Government ITIs

overall wellbeing. They then underwent basic electrician and solar training, helping them lead a dignified life post release. SSRDP has been working in 25 prisons across 12 states, benefitting 5600+ prisoners. A recent program of SSRDP, which piloted at the Ludhiana Observation Center, is first of its kind where the focus is behavioural transformation of children in conflict with law, through natural self-healing techniques vis-a-vis external counselling support.

This far-thinking organization empowers people at the grassroots to become 'drivers of change.' 'The core of all our initiatives is to facilitate behavioural transformation of individuals, with an aim to develop & strengthen their mind and value system and empower them holistically,' says Air Commodore R N Merani (Retd), Chairman Trustee of SSRDP. SSRDP has created a cadre

of people who are driving positive change among their communities. The process of transformation that begins with behavioural change and leads to an integrated approach to development is sustainable when the entire community is engaged and is driven by inspired leaders from within.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Facilitating creation of a stress-free, violence-free, healthy society

HCL Grant Project Title: Project Srijan

Beneficiaries: 20,000+ beneficiaries

Location: 2000 villages across Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka & other states

Hybrid Solar Home System
Transforming homes



DC Micro Grid Solution
Energizing communities

A large electrical control cabinet with a metal mesh door, containing various components like a monitor, fans, and switches. It is part of a demonstration setup.

A smaller electrical control cabinet similar to the first one, also containing a monitor and fans.

Another electrical control cabinet, part of the series of demonstration units.

A final electrical control cabinet in the background, with a circular window visible behind it.





Chotay Taray Foundation



Founded by Arjumand Makhdoomi in 2000

Chotay Taray Foundation works towards a world free of exploitation and discrimination, with equal opportunity for all. It seeks to empower children with multiple disabilities so that each child becomes an independent, useful member of society. Focused on the areas of disability, mental health, livelihood, youth advocacy and education, its programmes have impacted over 8000 adults and over 4000+ children across 8 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. It has worked with partners like CRY, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund and Give India on core child rights verticals like children in need of care and protection, children in distress, out of school children, the Juvenile Justice Act, and child friendly spaces.

Enhancing the functional capacities of children with disabilities through community-based rehabilitation

IN ANY REGION OF CONFLICT, the most vulnerable group are the children. In Jammu and Kashmir, decades of violence and uncertainty have left a deep impact on the youngest and most marginalized citizens. Losing family, dire poverty and the lack of access to resources due to difficult terrain has meant that mental and physical disabilities among children are rife, with no succour in sight. The NGO Chotay Taray has been working for over two decades to address these issues with children and other groups in the most isolated geographies. Its aim is to change the ongoing narrative, so that these children can experience a safe and healthy environment and meet their maximum functional capacities.

Starting with gaining the community's trust, Chotay Taray Foundation has created a process for identifying, assessing and rehabilitating children with disabilities. Surmounting obstacles like lack of financial aid and professional expertise, and learning to apply the Disability Act and its provisions, the NGO has evolved from an institution-based system to community-based interventions, where the people are intrinsically involved in the programmes. It has thus been able to



Top: Giving children with disabilities a chance to shine through a music performance by them
 Bottom: Self-expression through art therapy bridges behavior and symbolic language for children with disabilities



Identifying and registering beneficiaries for the Child Development Programme which encompasses education, nutrition and health

make significant inroads into transforming the lives of the children and giving them hope for a brighter future.

Chotay Taray Foundation's programmes include delivering quality home-based rehabilitation services, health camps, health worker training, sensitizing the community on preventive approaches for disabilities and prenatal and neonatal care. It also works to help children with disabilities access their entitlements like disability pensions as well as providing appliances, prostheses etc. Volunteers are chosen from within the community to ensure continuity of the services during lockdowns and shutdowns. Dissemination of information and communication, resource development awareness and teacher training are also part of their agenda.

'We focus on changing behaviours and practices at the grassroots level and influencing public policy at a systemic level – thereby creating an ecosystem where children are made the nation's priority,' says Arjumand Makhdoomi, founder of Chotay Taray.

HCL Grant Project Title: Improve Mental Health and Social Well-being of People Living in Remote and Border Districts of J&K and Contribution to SDG 03
Beneficiaries: 10,000 people with mental health issues, 4000 caregivers of people with mental health issues, 38 lay health workers, 1000 frontline workers, 2000 teachers and parents, 3200 students
Location: 2434 villages in 8 districts of Jammu & Kashmir



Jan Vikas Samiti (JVS)



Founded by Immanuel George in 1996

Jan Vikas Samiti (JVS) envisions empowerment of the marginalized and underprivileged, particularly women, persons with disabilities and those belonging to scheduled castes, through a process of sensitizing and organizing them for socio-economic upliftment. With a focus on education, employment and equal rights, its interventions include community health and WASH, livelihoods promotion and skill training for women and youth. It has engaged with 98,000 women about domestic violence and substance misuse, facilitated linking of 832 self-help groups with banks for credit linkage, and set up over 50 health camps in 26 villages. In 2012, JVS became the Strategic Partner Organization for Liliane Foundation for North India for a project on Inclusive Development of Children and Youngsters with Disabilities.

Facilitating parents' engagement for home-based therapy

AN INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT represents the interests of the village and their families to decision makers. An Adolescent Girls Group is a great support for the village children as they grow. The Expectant and Young Mothers Group is a platform for learning related to child bearing and caring. The Mahila Vikas Samiti is an advocacy forum where women take up their concerns. The process of empowering communities to form such need-based groups for solidarity, to highlight issues and take collective action is a core strategy of Jan Vikas Samiti (JVS), which uses animation and advocacy to mobilize communities towards integrated, participatory, sustainable social change and a humane society.

JVS's founders began by conducting education and community health programmes in 20 villages in Varanasi district, starting a slow but impactful change in mindsets and behaviour among marginalized and under-served communities like Dalits, Musahars, and also women. In 2001, it formed 60 self-help groups (SHGs) and helped link them with banks for credit. This number has



Top: Teaching Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for true independence
 Bottom: Creating physical supports and intellectual growth for children



Daily rehabilitation at home on a video call through the SAMBHAV mobile app

now grown to over 800. JVS also chose to include disability into its paradigm of development work, starting with identifying and rehabilitating 22 children; this number has now grown to over 6000. Its innovative and highly replicable tele-rehabilitation project for early detection and early intervention through a portal and a mobile app has exponentially increased the impact of its programmes to remote areas. JVS's inclusive work with children with disabilities has been awarded by the state government.

Chandran Rymonds, Executive Director, JVS says, 'The organization, since its inception, has focused on building "social capital" and thereby the active participation of people in development actions. During our visits to the villages, we facilitate the

identification of issues affecting them in families and as a community. The issues are then prioritized by them, followed by strategies and action plans to address them. All interventions are led by the people, while we provide technical support and financial support where necessary.'

HCL Grant Project Title: SAMBHAV- Tele-Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities
Beneficiaries: 5000 children with disabilities, 5000 parents and caretakers, 50 staff members
Location: 1150 villages in 43 districts of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand & Madhya Pradesh



JSI R&T India Foundation



Founded by Dr. Sanjay Kapur in 2014

JSI R&T India Foundation seeks to strengthen public health initiatives and promote equity, quality and access for vulnerable communities across India. With several programmes in place in the country, and an impact-driven portfolio that includes nutrition, supply chain and tuberculosis control and prevention, it is focused on improving the health and well-being of vulnerable communities through innovative, evidence informed, and replicable strategies in partnership with government, private sector and civil society. Its programmes with corporate partners have impacted maternal and child health and nutrition of over 10,000 under-5 children, over 100,000 adolescent girls, as well as 30,000 plus pregnant and lactating women.

Making good health real for vulnerable communities

WITH A STRONG BELIEF that a nation is only as strong as the health of its people, JSI R&T India Foundation addresses urgent healthcare issues to transform the landscape of health and nutrition in India. In a bleak scenario where quality healthcare is unaffordable and inaccessible to much of the population, this NGO has created solutions that are sustainable, locally owned, data-driven and have tremendous impact on the vulnerable communities it works with.

Niraj Agrawal, Chief Functionary and Director, JSI R&T India Foundation says, 'From immunization to nutrition, supply chain to capacity building, we help to move the wheels of health system turn smoother and faster so that babies can thrive, mothers can smile and preventable diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia are prevented. We support and leverage platforms for national and state governments, corporates and civil society to collaborate and push the public health agenda further.'

In 2017, one such corporate partner, Essar Foundation invited JSI Foundation to undertake a situational analysis and help structure its CSR policy on health and nutrition in Gujarat. Based on this, Essar



Top: See how tall I've grown!
 Bottom: Bridging gaps through counselling and compassion



The spark of technology to ignite awareness of maternal and child health

Oil (now Nayara Energy Limited) requested a comprehensive maternal and child health strengthening project to be implemented in 15 villages surrounding its refineries. This successful project was then scaled up to become Project Tushti which was co-created with the Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Gujarat, covering the whole district in 2019.

Such inclusive, replicable projects which reach the last mile are the hallmark of JSI Foundation. It functions in close collaboration with frontline workers, community institutions, primary health centres, anganwadi centres and local leadership. 'Additionally, we work with facilities in the remotest areas like tuberculosis units and sub-centres to

strengthen delivery of quality services to the last mile,' says Niraj Agrawal.

As its website states, 'Where there is a model, we use evidence to show the best way forward, where there is a behaviour gap, we use communication to enable change.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Project SHAKTI: A technology driven resilient ecosystem in Uttarakhand
Beneficiaries: 11,000 pregnant women, 10,000 lactating mothers, 62,000 children under five, 42000 family members, 2450 frontline health workers, 490 medical officers
Location: 3500 villages in 2 districts of Uttarakhand



Pain and Palliative Care Society (PPCS)



Founded by Dr Suresh Kumar, Dr Rajagopal, Dr Molly John, Dr Ganapathi Rao, Dr Ramdas, Ashok Kumar & Sri Thikkodiyam in 1993

Pain And Palliative Care Society (PPCS) runs a palliative care model that goes beyond conventional biomedical care. Its overarching mission is to use this model of care to build compassionate communities. Working through community-led palliative interventions, it seeks to alleviate the suffering of people who have prolonged debilitating illness by providing affordable holistic care which combines physical and psycho-social care. The organization has treated over 60,000 patients without any fee over the last two and a half decades in the state of Kerala. It has been designated by the WHO in 2010 as the first Collaborating Centre in Palliative Care in low and middle-income countries.

Compassionate care from volunteers eases the suffering of the severely ill

CONVENTIONAL HEALTHCARE IN INDIA has no room for incurable, progressive illnesses and old age with multiple illness, which are seen as failures of the medical system, and disregarded. The Pain and Palliative Care Society (PPCS) goes beyond the clinical care and physical pain, and creates interventions in psycho-social and spiritual care which are essential to ease the suffering of terminally ill patients. Seeing the gap in the system, a group of doctors in Calicut (Kozhikode) began providing institutional palliative care. Because the concept was fairly new then, PPCS began training health care professionals and non-professionals, and establishing outreach home care as well as encouraging trained individuals/groups to start local initiatives.

The NGO has since evolved, reorienting the healthcare system and promoting community-based palliative care services through sensitization and training in an effort to make the models more suitable for local needs. 'In addition to delivering services in collaboration with trained people in the local community, we have structured training programs for the members of the community, highlighting the role of non-



Top: Home-care options allow for gentle spiritual healing
 Bottom: Innovative models for in-patient care



Boosting community involvement and fundraising for palliative care

professionals in care, encouraging trained volunteers to initiate programs in their area,' says Dr. K. Suresh Kumar, Technical Advisor and Founder Director. An innovative mobile application for palliative care and death literacy helps with networking, support, and training and includes a range of features such as online forums, tutorials, and resources for volunteers. Local self-governments support PPCS's programmes which are run by the local community members and the panchayat councils.

PPCS has a policy research and training arm called the Institute of Palliative Medicine (IPM). The NGO is working to make palliative care part of the primary health care system in the state. The grassroots level engagement by PPCS has

led to wonderful results. Palliative care is now a household term in Kerala, with over 2000 community-based palliative care units with trained volunteers in that state alone. PPCS's slogan 'palliative care is everybody's business' has become extremely popular, and has helped to influence policy in this regard.

HCL Grant Project Title: Community-Owned Holistic Care for The Elderly, Terminally and Chronically Ill
Beneficiaries: 20,000 individuals/patients
Location: 2 villages in Kozhikode district in Kerala



Rise Against Hunger India



Founded by Hatim Dawasaz,
Hatim Amreliwala, Dola Mohapatra in 2014

Rise Against Hunger India (formerly Stop Hunger Now India) is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. In line with SDG 2 i.e. Zero Hunger, the organization aims to end hunger by nourishing lives, empowering communities, responding to emergencies & building a strong movement against hunger. Programmes work towards building resilience and self-sufficiency among the food-insecure, vulnerable groups. The organization has aided over 2.1 million lives in India, with about 22 million meals served and other livelihood support given throughout the country.

Building capacity among communities using devices like this millet processing unit

HUNGER IS NOT AN ISOLATED CRISIS. Food and nutrition security are irrevocably interlinked with poverty, inequity, conflict, climate change, discrimination and poor healthcare. This is why Rise Against Hunger India addresses hunger and malnutrition, but also their underlying root causes.

‘The origin of the organization goes back to some soul-stirring questions by a corporate partner to the US office of Rise Against Hunger (then known as Stop Hunger Now). The question was: how are you going to address global hunger if you did not do anything in India? Prompted by this, a formal organization was locally registered in 2014 to drive hunger action programs locally,’ says Dola Mohapatra, Executive Director, Rise Against Hunger India.

From providing food and aid to the poor, the strategies eventually shifted towards sustainable food and nutrition security, and building capacity among communities to meet future food needs. Interventions aim to improve access to and availability of quality food at household level, healthcare, water and sanitation, and behaviour change for caregivers and practitioners.

The NGO works in the most deprived geographies through 4 pillars: Nourishing



Top: Bringing healthcare to people's doorsteps with mobile vans
 Bottom: Creating a sense of ownership of programmes among the community



Adding nutrition to school meals

Lives (fortified nutritious meals and supplements to address 'hidden hunger' caused by micronutrient deficiency); Community Empowerment (increasing income from livelihood-programmes, promoting climate-smart agriculture, technology and local collectives); Emergency Response (supporting disaster-affected populations with food and nutrition, medical care and restoration of livelihoods); and Growing the Movement (creating hunger action champions and fostering partnerships with corporates, local institutions and research agencies.)

The community is consulted at every step, including identifying the most vulnerable people like the destitute, widows, elderly people, people with chronic illness, physically and mentally challenged persons and more. 'Before starting any activity, field teams

conduct a series of participatory planning sessions, qualitative consultation with the elders and the traditional leaders. All field animators and volunteers are hired from the local communities/tribal groups. Mobilization activities are organized with youth, school children, women's groups etc.,' says Dola Mohapatra.

HCL Grant Project Title: Healthcare and Technology for Naxal Affected Area in Khairput

Beneficiaries: 500 pregnant women, 500 newborn children, 110 frontline workers, 5500 participants for knowledge enhancement, 1000 people in need of rapid response ambulance, 15,000 individuals in need of diagnosis

Location: 214 villages in Malkangiri district of Odisha



Sahaj Sansthan



Founded by Baburam Bishnoi in 2000

Sahaj Sansthan seeks to empower communities with a vision of gender equity and enable an aspirational, value-led environment. It strives to end poverty and social injustice through well-planned and sustainable programs in health, education, livelihoods and climate change in the state of Rajasthan. With its primary focus on women, children and marginalized communities, it gives a voice to the most vulnerable so that they can lead lives of dignity. It works by mobilizing community-based organizations like self-help groups, anganwadis, panchayats, village health sanitation and nutrition committees to be accountable and instrumental in generating local solutions for sustainable change.

Widening access to healthcare by engaging both care providers and communities

IN THE UNFORGIVING DESERTS OF RAJASTHAN, people live lives of deprivation in isolated hamlets that are untouched by development. But one lakh people in this area have received health check-ups and treatment through camps at their doorstep. Using secondary data, villages with high disease burdens or low coverage of essential services are mapped. This data is then presented to the block medical officer and with their input, the most underserved are identified for the camps.

This extraordinary initiative is run by Sahaj Sansthan, an NGO that has been employing community participation and gender equity to propel the empowerment of marginalized people. Working at the intersection of issues like water and health, livelihoods and infrastructure, Sahaj seeks to break the cycle of poverty for these families. 'In an isolated village a family seeks a regular source of water. Through community support and labour contribution this family constructs a rainwater storage unit. Further sanitation needs can also be fulfilled through a toilet and bathroom. As the woman is relieved from fetching water from far off sources each day, she can pursue livelihood options like



Top: Taankas, rainwater harvesting structures, transform the lives of women and the health of communities
 Bottom: Door-step check ups by specialist doctors at mega health camps save countless lives



Interactive training builds capacity of ASHA, anganwadi and ANMs for best practices

opening a shop or a tailoring school,' explains Baburam Bishnoi, Founder-Chairman of Sahaj.

Sahaj believes in creating a supporting environment for change from within the community by enabling and capacity building with all stakeholders like families, local committees, elected representatives, health workers, schools and more. For example, when rainwater harvesting taankas are being constructed, the beneficiary families contribute in terms of planning and labour, which creates ownership. When toilets are being made in government schools for girls, the school management committee is given the responsibility of maintaining them. One such school even made an enclosure around a water tank to shelter it from sandstorms.

'The region is very different from other parts of the state due to its desert conditions and requires local expertise for successful programs. To do this we want to generate impact evidences beyond anecdotes and contribute to the global learning through our practice and ideas,' says Baburam Bishnoi.

HCL Grant Project Title: Delivery of Comprehensive Primary Healthcare till the Last Mile

Beneficiaries: 4200 health service providers, 2520 Jan Arogya Samiti members

Location: 799 villages in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan



Society for Advancement in Tribes, Health, Education and Environment (SATHEE)



Founded by Dr. Niraj Kumar in 1996

SATHEE has a vision of a hunger-free and just society for sustainability. It works towards socio-economic empowerment through enhancing the capacity and skills of tribal communities, OBCs and other marginalized populations. Its programmes focus on women's empowerment, water, sanitation, food and nutrition, natural resource management and disaster response, in the states of Jharkhand and Bihar. In the process, 11,200 children have been given access to education and health, 3000 women connected to self-help groups for livelihood activities; 2000 families have changed hygiene behaviour and 89-100% immunization has been achieved in specific areas.

Cultivating community health and sustainable livelihoods through nutrition gardens

IN THE SANTHAL PARGANA REGION, 36 per cent of children under five are stunted, 29 per cent are affected by wasting, and 45 per cent are underweight. These tragic numbers indicate the status of 'undernutrition.*' The overall development and progress of the country seems to have left these communities untouched and surviving in isolation, oppression and acute poverty for so many generations. Government schemes are aplenty, but lack of access and awareness do not permit their benefits to reach people. The Society for Advancement in Tribes, Health, Education and Environment (SATHEE) has been working tirelessly in this area for over two decades, battling issues like children's nutrition, child protection, reproductive health, trafficking and child marriage. It employs participatory models and builds capacity towards people's self-reliance using local resources and skills, as well as connecting people to their entitlements.

The roots of the organization go back to a group of researchers who conducted an 'Ecological Survey of Paharia Community



Top: Celebrating indigenous and nutritious foods through the Poshan Festival
 Bottom: Sensitizing the community about malnutrition



Nutrition lies in our hands

in Santhal Pargana' for the Government of India in 1988. They then began to initiate actions within the community which is classified as PVTG, or Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

All SATHEE's programmes are based on the principle that the community's participation and ownership is crucial. SATHEE seeks to revive the traditional tribal self-governance mechanisms that have served these communities in the past. Community cadres are included in the decision-making bodies, and creating and replicating models is done with the support of local leaders and the community. SATHEE also provides technical support to local governance. A robust MIS at the field and coordination level supports the real time execution of the initiatives, and data collection afterwards.

'The organization's operating approach is to understand and study in detail the issues and problems with the support of the local community and institutional champions. We take the support of all stakeholders in the process. We also try to ensure transparency and accountability at organization, community and governance levels to make the efforts effective,' explains Dr Niraj Kumar, Director, SATHEE.

HCL Grant Project Title: Campaign to Eradicate Child Marriages and Malnutrition of Adolescent Girls in Core Tribal area of Santal Parghana, Jharkhand
Beneficiaries: 18,627 adolescents, teachers, parents, frontline workers
Location: 185 villages in Godda District, Jharkhand

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Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold





Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan (Guria India)



Founded by Ajeet Singh in 1988

Dedicated to fighting child prostitution and trafficking of women and children, Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan has gained national and international recognition for its work. Through initiatives focused on imparting education, healthcare, legal assistance, awareness, rescue and prevention for women in prostitution and their children across north India. Guria India has rescued 6074 persons from slavery, made legal interventions in more than 3245 criminal cases against traffickers and has created vigilance groups of rural women numbering 42,000 including at the Indo-Nepal border. It has also taken on advocacy, government advisory and policy influencing roles.

A whisper of hope in the lives of children from red light areas through holistic education
Following pages (168–169): *Vocational training makes our tomorrows brighter*

WHEN AJEET SINGH WAS ONLY 17 YEARS OLD, he adopted 3 children of a sex worker. A few years later, the plight of such second-generation children forced into sex work prompted him to start an organization focused on preventing child prostitution and trafficking of women and children for forced labour, prostitution, and other forms of sexual exploitation. Starting with a school on the roadside with five students, Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan (Guria India) is now a nationally and internationally respected NGO working in the area, and influencing relevant policy.

Understanding early on that the issues it works with are interlinked and can only respond to integrated solutions, Guria India moved beyond surface level interventions to a holistic end-to-end strategy that addressed the problems from structural, cultural and community-led approaches. Ending the dependence of the sex workers and their children on the criminal nexus that is invariably the backbone of the trade, through the 'tools of education, art therapy, laughing classes, meditation, feeding birds, health, entitlements, vocational training/livelihood, cultural programs, emotional support, dignity and protection of already victimized women and children from corrupt police and criminals





Top: Theatre class connects me to the wider world
 Bottom: Fostering creative skills in art and crafts as art therapy for children of the red-light area



Mobilizing women's vigilance committees that actively prevent trafficking and promote education
 Following pages (172–173): Strengthening adolescent vigilance groups through quarterly sports events

and much more, in order to ensure liberty so that they avail alternate opportunities,' says Ajeet Singh, Founder and Director of Guria India. Ajeet Singh has also adopted as his own, a Bedia village in Madhya Pradesh, involved in intergenerational prostitution.

Such interventions as well as record numbers of rescues and a strong legal push through PILs and sustained intervention in 3200 criminal cases against traffickers have led to the first child prostitution free red-light area of India in Varanasi and the largest ever conviction (41 traffickers/brothel keepers) in a single sex trafficking case in Allahabad. Guria India believes that change can only emerge if there are interventions through mobilization of civil society and people's participation at all levels, i.e, the source villages, transit and destination points of sex trafficking. It also engages with ageing sex workers and ex victims of sex trafficking,

as well as witness protection programmes for those involved in prosecutions to prevent re-trafficking.

Ajeet Singh says, 'The community is the biggest motivator, contributor and supporter for the beneficiaries and the best monitoring agency for our projects.'

HCL Grant Project Approach: Developing a base/field office for food preparation, store room, workshops, life skill training, art therapy classes, career counselling, coaching classes & health camps

HCL Grant Project Title: Preventing Sex Trafficking of At-Risk Girls Through Education and Food Support in Villages & Red-Light Area

Beneficiaries: 375 at-risk girls from villages / red light areas

Location: 75 villages in 3 districts of Uttar Pradesh





Meghshala Trust



Founded by Jyoti Thyagarajan in 2013

Meghshala believes that it takes empowered teachers to lead enlightened classrooms. An organization for teachers by teachers, Meghshala Trust leverages technology to design education that levels the playing field for all children, making them thinkers and the conservers of society and the Earth. The organization has revolutionized the teaching practices of over 15,000 teachers across the country, enabling them to go from being lecture-based to interactive leaders of learning, especially in resource-constrained settings. Beginning with interventions in Bengaluru, Mysore, and rural Mangalore, Meghshala has now extended its footprint to Meghalaya, Sikkim, Manipur, and Delhi.

Learning the ABCs using manipulatives makes learning engaging and a lot more fun!
Following pages (176–177): *Catalyzing active participation engages students in classrooms*

IN MOST INDIAN CLASSROOMS, students ‘learn’ by memorizing entire textbooks, with no real understanding of context, or any paradigm of critical thinking. Meghshala Trust was formed to help raise the standards of ‘performance and engagement for every learner’ through the one input that has the highest impact: teachers, in particular those in government schools. ‘We use technology in innovative ways, to produce a high impact in training teachers to teach students to become empathetic, progressive thinkers and learners. Our prime focus is to provide in-class adaptive training to teachers in government schools who can supplement teaching skills in already existing academic instruction. Our goal is not to replace a teacher’s purpose in a classroom but rather enrich her role and help her feel empowered,’ says Jyoti Thyagarajan, founder of Meghshala Trust.

Meghshala works with the objective of redefining education as ‘a process of creating lifelong learners who think critically and are curious and innovative.’ Lessons designed with this intention were initially implemented by providing laptops and computers to teachers. However, the absence

ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳು

೧೫

1. ದೇಶದ ವಿವಿಧ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹೋರಾಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರನ್ನು ಒಗ್ಗೂಡಿಸುವುದು.

2. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಏಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಉಂಟುಮಾಡುವುದು.

3. ಪ್ರಾಂತೀಯತೆಯನ್ನು ತೊರೆದು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯತೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವುದು.

4. ಜನತೆಯ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮುಂದೆ ಇಡುವುದು.





Top: Bringing precious books to young minds in regions with no access to libraries
 Bottom: Inspiring lessons that are more like adventures through just a small tablet



Hands-on activities, animated or visual content and group discussions make teacher training session meaningful
 Following pages (180–181): Using storytelling as a learning device to make lessons come alive

of electricity and/or the internet in many locations posed a problem. Meghshala (which translates aptly as ‘school on a cloud’) then developed an android-based mobile app that offered free, high-quality lessons for Grades 1 to 8, with a multilingual interface – making the intervention highly adaptable and replicable. And for those remote places where even phone connectivity is a problem, Meghshala has developed offline content and an offline content distribution device to deliver the lesson database to teachers. Observation debriefs are held to help teachers assess their classroom teachings. The app also collects back-end usage data which is later analysed for trends and shared with the stakeholders.

Meghshala’s initiative has had remarkable impact, implemented as it is with mentorship and continued guidance of the beneficiaries. Jyoti Thyagarajan

says, ‘We also work directly in partnership with the existing government system and they are involved with the project from its inception to the project closure. After five years, government officials, school leaders, and teachers will not require any additional support to implement the project.’

HCL Grant Project Approach: Using technology in education and preserving & promoting indigenous languages in Sikkim by developing NEP (SCERT)-aligned content for teachers

HCL Grant Project Title: Technology Enabled Teacher Capacity Building - A Case for the State of Sikkim

Beneficiaries: 700 government schools, 2700 primary and secondary teachers of government schools, 63,000 students from grades 1-8

Location: 460 villages in 4 districts of Sikkim





Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)



Founded by the Sir Dorabji Trust in 1936

TATA Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is a charitable trust working to create a people-centred, ecologically sustainable and just society. It works in higher education and has a legacy of academic excellence, teaching social work, development and management, and producing committed professionals. It is involved in research, policy support, and field action programmes and engaging with government institutions. The Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE), is an independent centre of TISS. Its initiative, Connected Learning Initiative (CLIX) reaches out to communities in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Telangana and Assam, enabling the Right to Quality Education for all children by helping teachers respond to changing and diverse needs.

New ways of learning through tech-enabled, hands on interactive experiences

Following pages (184–185): Teachers' professional development exponentially impacts students' learning

IN MIZORAM, the literacy rate is over 90 per cent. However, the learning achievements of its students are behind the average of the National Achievement Survey of India. This is why Mizoram was one of the states chosen for The Connected Learning Initiative, or CLIX. An initiative of TISS and MIT, USA, for high school students from underserved communities, it offers high quality, interactive, Open Education Resources (OERs) for teaching and learning. Students learn through tech-enabled, engaging, hands-on experiences in Digital Literacy, Mathematics, Science and English, integrated with value education and skills relevant to the 21st century.

Studies conducted by TISS show that children's learning is directly impacted by teachers' professional development. CETE, the TISS Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education, works towards 'empowering teachers, improving professional development standards, supporting teachers, strengthening education ecosystem and advocating strengthening of policy,' says Prof Padma Sarangapani, Chairperson, CETE, TISS, CLIX Principal Investigator. Conflating the two aspects, Saurav Mohanty, CETE, TISS CLIX-Co Principal Investigator adds, 'Our

LESSON PLAN
Topic: _____
Tool: _____
Skills: _____
Learning Steps: _____
Students will _____
① Do pair work
② Collaborate
③ Discuss
④ Create
Assessment: _____

1. Write your LPs on a paper.
Give details of what students
do in each step.
Group member takes a photo
and uploads it on TTSR
01-2018 course using mobile
Write responses to 3Self review
and attach it to LP & self review
on TTSR app





Top: *Redefining teaching-learning processes*
 Bottom: *Stimulating government school children with tech-enabled learning*



Encouraging educators to think out of the box
 Following pages (188–189): *Inclusive teaching-learning processes with thoughtfully integrated technology*

award-winning field action research projects, such as our flagship project CLIX, focus on teacher development and inclusive teaching-learning processes employing thoughtful use of technology.’

The CLIX project in Mizoram is the sole non-state technology initiative working in school and teacher education there since 2015. It operates in tandem with the existing school infrastructure and the local community, which is a hallmark of TISS projects. It not only enhances skills of teachers, headmasters etc, but also to encourages them to tinker, source, adapt and adopt specific pedagogies in the classroom or computer lab, which feed into their teaching processes.

Whether in programmes for education, or with prisoners, transgender or denotified communities, or for mental health and counselling, TISS ‘focuses on working with the locals and the systems on the ground

to ensure that the project is adopted by the relevant stakeholders and continues its journey to benefit society,’ says Dr Anusha Ramanathan, Assistant Professor, CETE, TISS, CLIX Co-Principal Investigator.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Integration of technology in teacher education and in government schools via collaboration of local institutions and the Directorate of School Education, Mizoram

HCL Grant Project Title: CLIX 3.0: MZ-SUITEConnected Learning Initiative (CLIX) 3.0: Mizoram: Support Unit for Integration of Technology in Education (MZ-SUITE)

Beneficiaries: 59,400 students, 594 teachers, 150 pre-service (trainee) teachers, 50 teacher educators, 15 state officials 11 MIS coordinators

Location: 746 villages across 11 districts in Mizoram





Bhoomika Vihar



Founded by the Late Arun Kumar Singh in 1996

Bhoomika Vihar envisions a society free of all forms of gender-based violence aided by its mission of holistic transformation in girls and women from the poorest families and marginalized sections into leaders, peer-educators and change-makers. It seeks to provide good livelihoods, and encourage their participation in economic growth, thus reducing inequalities, ensuring gender equity, as well as ending poverty and dependency. It has socially, educationally and economically empowered approximately 5 lakh women and adolescent girls from north-eastern and central regions of Bihar into mobilizing their families or community for their rights and protection.

Education organizes my thoughts and gives me a voice

WHEN I WAS 16, my family was being forced to marry me off. I gathered my courage and stood up against the tradition. I am now proud to be a first-generation graduate from my family,' says Aasha.

'Because of poverty and deprivation, my studies were stopped after class 6. The members of the Balika Panchayat introduced me to Bhoomika Vihar and started providing financial assistance for my studies. Today I am studying in Class 12,' says Komal.

These are Voices From Field, young partners of Bhoomika Vihar from marginalized communities. This NGO works to actively overcome the social and cultural taboos and barriers that limit the empowerment of women and children like Komal and Aasha, to encourage them to take control of their own lives and become role models and leaders in their communities. Its first initiatives comprised connecting with village communities through media like *nukkad natak*, or street theatre, music and traditional folk shows that carried messages against gender discrimination and violence as well as ideas of creating a better future for all.



Top: Learning led by girls and driven by our community bears great fruit
 Bottom: New ways of learning and sharing help in retention and well-being of mind



We will ourselves change what the world thinks of us

‘With new leadership, the organization got new energy and thought to scale-up the initiatives through networking, innovation, capacity building of staff and volunteers. The new age leadership and partners also brought the competencies to cater to a larger segment through technological intervention and enhanced managerial capabilities,’ says Shilpi Singh, Director, Bhoomika Vihar. Its interventions are articulated through collaborations with the community itself, as well as with Panchayati Raj and government institutions, social representatives, media and other stakeholders.

Bhoomika Vihar now has a variety of initiatives which include the Balika Panchayat, the HE4SHE app to sensitize boys and men in colleges to women’s rights, another

app to track government entitlements, facilitating daily wage labourers to become computer graduates or complete their school education, generating awareness of sexual and reproductive rights, rescuing girls from prostitution and cross-border trafficking, talks and films made for college audiences, and capacity building with adolescent girls and women through life skills and grassroots leadership.

HCL Grant Project Title: Wheels of Creative Learning
Beneficiaries: 6000 schoolchildren and 200 teachers
Location: 160 villages in 5 districts of Bihar



Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development (CORD)



Founded by Swami Chinmayananda in 1985 as Chinmaya Rural Primary Health Care and Training Centre (CRPHC&TC). Merged into CORD in 2003 by Swami Tejomayananda with Dr. Kshama Metre leading programmes since inception.

CORD envisages rural prosperity the rural way, by preserving and enhancing rural India's immense diversity. It promotes sustainable development by enabling marginalized people – especially women and the disabled – to transform their lives, and emerge from poverty and disempowerment. CORD reaches 60,000 women in Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. It has nurtured 1473 Mahila Mandals & 2652 self-help groups, trained over 45,000 bankers, NGO members and government functionaries, empowered 15,000 farmers & developed 155 panchayats as replicable democratic models.

Gait training makes me run for joy!

OF ALL THE MARGINALIZED peoples in India, People with Disabilities (PwDs) are probably the most vulnerable. Faced with a multitude of issues like poverty, lack of health, education, accessibility, employment and inclusion, they are often untouched by the sweep of development. But if they are empowered, they can fight a multitude of battles to rise to the fore. Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development, or CORD, believes the answer lies in their four core principles, called "PISNa" or 'churning': Participation, where the community is an equal stakeholder in development; Integration, indicating the interconnected issues of the rural community; Sustainability by building the capacity of leaders and communities; and Networking, with ongoing government programmes and panchayats.

Beginning work with maternal and child health in the foothills of the Himalayas, CORD learnt from the community that isolated health programmes were not adequate. A holistic outlook was required, with programmes encompassing primary preventive health, livelihood, access to micro credit, social justice and more in order to achieve real change.



Top: Mothers and children arrive at CORD's Education, Counselling and Guidance Centre
 Bottom: Helping autism with Sensory Integration therapy



Mainstreaming marginalized voices through rural advocacy forums of PwDs, their families & friends

CORD works towards education, action and inclusion of marginalized groups such as PwDs in panchayat-level community-based organizations including women's groups and disabled people's organizations. Here their social, economic needs are met and voices are heard and mainstreamed. It does not work in isolation but supplements and complements government efforts at the grass roots.

Take Reena Devi (name changed). With deformities in both her legs, she would drag herself around the house. After she was introduced to CORD's Community Based Inclusion and Development Program for PwDs, she received a wheelchair and became a member of the Mahila Mandal. Reena now has access to her unique disability identification card, disability allowance etc. The programme has also helped to construct

ramps in her house. Through the livelihood program, she was given 50 chicks which she rears at home, contributing ₹ 3000 per month to her family's income. That's empowerment in action!

HCL Grant Project Title: Multidisciplinary Replicable and Scalable Panchayat Based Inclusion and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities (PwDs) through Effective Education and Action in District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

Beneficiaries: PwDs, families and community groups, elected representatives of panchayats, anganwadi workers, ASHA, schoolteachers, government functionaries, NGOs

Location: 585 villages in Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh



Digital Green Trust



Founded by Rikin Gandhi, Prof. Kentaro Toyama, Prof. Rajesh Veeraraghavan and (late) Dr Vanaja Ramprasad

Digital Green Trust believes that improving agricultural prosperity can improve the lives of millions of farmers and their families. It thus empowers smallholder farmers to lift themselves out of poverty by harnessing the power of technology and grassroots-level partnerships. The organization has reached out to and benefitted 2.5 million farmers in over 16,000 villages, nearly 90 per cent of them women. It works to increase smallholder farmer income by training frontline workers, connecting farmers to markets and improving health outcomes in rural areas, and is now a leader in using technology for global development and prosperous communities.

Making better farming decisions using data

IN A SMALL ROOM IN A VILLAGE IN INDIA, a video screen flickers over the absorbed faces of the women watching. Speaking to them in their own language, the video is part of the agricultural public extension system. It provides access to information which enables the women, who are from the farming community, to make better decisions based on data, and increase their productivity and profitability. The videos are disseminated on the ground by trained extension workers to small groups in order to reach the poorest women.

This unique initiative was started by Digital Green Trust. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director (Program Operations) for Digital Green Trust says, 'Digital agriculture is a priority for the Government of India. Connecting smallholder farmers to digital technology can transform the way agriculture is practiced in India – from improving productivity to realizing higher market returns and enhancing agency and strengthening resilience.' For those who have smartphones, information is passed on through WhatsApp groups or through content platforms. Those who



Top: Training frontline workers to handle pico projectors
Bottom: Video dissemination training



Learning about good agriculture practices through a universal medium

have basic phones can access targeted audio advisories through IVR. WhatsApp Chatbots use AI for communication and feedback. 'Independent studies have shown that this approach has resulted in an average 27 per cent increase in yield and a 17 per cent increase in the net income of farmers. Most importantly, the cost of the extension is reduced 8 times under the video-based approach.'

Digital Green Trust works closely with the farmers themselves to understand pain points and design solutions. The idea is to use technology as a tool to accelerate sustainable agriculture outcomes and help farmers, collectives and governments to make data-based choices. 'Going forward, we want to ensure that farmers are empowered to make decisions, and

technology and data provides relevant choices. Use of data and digital connectivity will aim to reduce existing equity gaps, connect farmers to markets, enhance their agency and negotiation skills. This will be a paradigm shift in the way technology is applied in the farm sector,' says Ravi Shankar Sharma.

HCL Grant Project Title: Dakshyata
Beneficiaries: 20,000 women farmers
Location: 166 villages in 2 districts of Odisha



Jhamtse Gatsal Children's Community (JGCC)



Founded by Lobsang Phuntsok in 2006

Tibetan for 'garden of love and compassion', Jhamtse Gatsal is a community, home and school for orphaned, abandoned and at-risk children, more than half of whom are girls. It has a vision of profoundly improving lives through the active practice of love and compassion, education and leadership. The organization caters to the neediest children of the remote villages in the district of Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, also training teachers, engaging with the community and working with the state government of Arunachal Pradesh to replicate its innovative educational model. Today it has more than 125 children in its care, including 20 graduates who are pursuing higher education in different parts of the country.

Giving children a holistic education encompassing heart, mind, and body

IN THE NORTHEASTERN-MOST REACHES OF THE HIMALAYAS, where India, Bhutan and Tibet meet, a quiet revolution is taking place. A former Buddhist monk has melded his spiritual learnings with 21st century education, bringing a change in the lives of children through a unique NGO called Jhamtse Gatsal Children's Community (JGCC). The practice of love, compassion and wisdom integrated with education helps children from diverse backgrounds of trauma and adversity thrive and provides them with a secure home, a transformative Pre K-12 education, digital literacy, and a commitment to their well-being. Its philosophy also manifests as care for the environment through sustainable practises and health, and care for the community through outreach work.

The former monk, Lobsang Phuntsok, the founder of JGCC, started with 34 children from surrounding villages, three teachers, and a handful of support staff. The organization has now grown to be a vibrant community and model learning centre in transformative education, sustainable development, and social entrepreneurship. He says, 'We believe that to develop a



Top and Bottom: *Educating the body with essential skills like masonry and farming to actively contribute to society*



Mindful eating, mindful living

creator's mindset, we need an adequate learning ecosystem, curriculum, and physical infrastructure which effectively integrates the three essentials of educating the heart, mind, and body. What is required is a demonstration model to showcase the policy in action, which we believe our hands-on, experience-based Jhamtse Educational Model can provide.'

Members of JGCC travel by foot to remote villages along the borders to meet families and children in need who would benefit from its programmes. Collaborations with Dell Technologies and NavGurukul provide laptops and educator resources, respectively. Lobsang Phuntsok conducts training sessions for government teachers and speaks at conferences around India and internationally to introduce holistic

education methods to make children the real agents of change in the world. He says, 'We raise and educate our children like tiny seeds with immeasurable potential to grow into healthy, thriving, and bountiful trees. They are not something the adults carve or shape, like a log of wood. With right nurturance, guidance, and a conducive environment, the child's potential emerges from within so they can create the future they desire.'

HCL Grant Project Title: The Three Essentials for the 21st Century: Educating the Heart, Mind, and Body
Beneficiaries: 10,000 learners, 600 educators, 20 facilitators, 150 schools
Location: 218 villages in Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh



Makkala Jagriti



Founded by Joy Srinivasan in 2003

Makkala Jagriti was founded as a safe learning space for children from marginalized communities. The organization strives to create ecosystems that support holistic learning and development for children and youth from under-served communities, helping them discover their talents and bring back hope, self-confidence and curiosity into their lives. Makkala Jagriti has reached over 70,000 children in our work through government schools, anganwadis, childcare institutions and direct work in urban poor communities by creating conducive learning environments in and around the community, to build a sustainable and equitable society.

Happy, bright and inviting spaces for children's learning

WHEN SOMEONE BELIEVES IN A CHILD, that child can have a limitless and bright future, no matter in which milieu he or she is born. This is the driving philosophy behind the work of Makkala Jagriti, whose name fittingly translates as 'children's awakening' in Kannada. The NGO works with children of all age groups to build safe, non-judgemental spaces of meaningful and enriching learning for children from marginalized communities.

Its programmes seek to propel a social movement, where all those in the child's environment like parents, teachers, schools and community leaders are engaged, empowered and sensitized to support the child's learning and progress.

Started by Joy Srinivasan, who herself came from a family of meagre means, and who learned first-hand that education can be transformative and empowering, Makkala Jagriti has striven to make learning more accessible and joyful for children, including dropouts, through its flagship SPICE (Socio-Emotional, Physical, Intellectual, Creative and Ethical) model. Gaining the confidence of stakeholders was initially challenging, but now its programmes are ingrained into the fabric of



Top: Pre-school learning made fun in the anganwadi set up
 Bottom: Getting everyone on the same page with anganwadi teachers' training



Holistic development in community learning centers

the communities it works with, and function in tandem with government infrastructure.

In fact, Makkala Jagriti's most successful programmes have emerged from collaborations with the Department of Women and Child Development and the Department of Education of the Government of Karnataka. These partnerships opened doors to institutionalize and scale up its ideas of holistic learning and development in government schools, anganwadis and childcare institutions in the state. Working with community groups has ensured sustainability of its programmes. It has since evolved into a knowledge partner for the government with an impetus on public policy advocacy and formulating replicable and scalable models of holistic development for early, primary and youth education.

'We have children who were first generation learners growing up to become role models in their communities. To cite a few examples, Mercy is now a bank manager in a reputed bank, Murali became a World Taekwondo champion and is presently a Taekwondo teacher, and Prabhu presently is a program coordinator with Makkala Jagriti,' says Sunayana Chatrapathy, CEO, Makkala Jagriti.

HCL Grant Project Title: Transforming Rural Anganwadis into Spaces of Enhanced Early Childhood Care and Education
Beneficiaries: 12,500 children, 403 anganwadi teachers, 341 anganwadi helpers, 13 ICDS supervisors, 1 Child Development Project Officer, 1 Deputy Director, WCD
Location: 451 villages in one district of Karnataka



QUEST



Founded by Nilesh Nimkar, Atul Kulkarni and others in 2007

Quality Education Support Trust (QUEST) strives to enrich the learning experience of under-served children through the professional development of teachers and educators and parent awareness. It tackles Early Childhood Education (ECE) through action-research in pedagogy and by developing innovative solutions to bridge gaps between early childhood and elementary education. The organization currently runs several education programmes for tribal and rural schools, teachers and teacher educators in government schools across 24 districts in Maharashtra. Its interventions have reached over 1800 Anganwadis from 11 districts in Maharashtra and have provided quality ECE to over 54,000 children.

Children engaged in an Emergent Literacy activity with an anganwadi worker

IF THE FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING ARE WEAK, a child is bound to face challenges all her life. In India, Early Childhood Education (ECE) for children from underprivileged communities occurs mainly in anganwadis through the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) of the government. In the state of Maharashtra, a network of over 1 lakh anganwadis which provides ECE to lakhs of children between the ages of 3 and 6. Although the coverage is good, the quality of this education leaves much to be desired. Quality Education Support Trust (QUEST) works within this existing educational structure and implements innovative models that provide quality education at scale. By building capacity and involvement of the anganwadi workers, supervisors and ICDS functionaries, as well as engaging with parents to enrich the learning experiences of children, QUEST envisions anganwadis as vibrant, inclusive centres of early learning.

Besides strengthening the system, QUEST ensures that its programmes are based on modern approaches, research-driven and specific to the rural and tribal contexts they work in. Workshops, blended-mode courses,



Top and Bottom: *Enriching the quality of Early Childhood Education with physical activities and free play*



Fostering education that is more than rote learning, through books and visual content

manuals and videos instill the pedagogy and practices in all stakeholders. Assessment tools measure the quality and impact of its initiatives on learning outcomes. The programmes promote the use of children's home language in the classroom for better learning and inclusivity. A unique 'learn at home' programme and app for shared reading integrate technology into the programmes, as does a learning management system for anganwadi workers to plan and monitor inputs. Efforts are made to ensure the community gains ownership of the programme to sustain it in the long run.

Nilesh Nimkar, Founder Trustee and Chief Functionary, QUEST, says, 'Children who receive the intervention for three years in the anganwadi are more school-ready

than children in the control group. The study also assessed children in grades 1, 2 and 3 after they had left the intervention and found that there was a substantial and statistically significant gap between control and intervention groups even in these grades when they were receiving no intervention from QUEST.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Strengthening Quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Rural Maharashtra

Beneficiaries: 65,580 children, 159 resource groups, 116 anganwadi sevikas and 1093 non-resource group anganwadi sevikas

Location: 4826 villages in 6 districts of Maharashtra



Society For Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY)

Founded by Dr Kiran Seth in 1977

SPIC MACAY's intention is to enrich education in India by increasing awareness about different aspects of Indian heritage and inspiring young minds to imbibe the values embedded in it. It seeks to conserve and promote an awareness of the rich and heterogeneous cultural tapestry amongst the youth through a focus on the classical arts, with a hope that the beauty, grace, values, and wisdom embodied in these arts will influence their way of life and thinking and inspire them to become better human beings. On an annual basis, SPIC MACAY arranges more than 5000 programs in more than 1500 institutions, across almost 1000 cities, touching over 3 million students.

Dr. Srishti Budhori MD, a physician and a passionate Bharatanatyam dancer who has performed all over the world mesmerizes students

THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS across india have attended its programmes. Renowned classical singers and dancers have performed in them. Volunteers from all walks of life are its backbone. It is said that it has single-handedly brought India's performing arts heritage back into the lives of young people. This is the Society For Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Among Youth, or as it is popularly known, SPIC MACAY.

SPIC MACAY's founder, Dr. Kiran Seth, was a graduate of IIT, Kharagpur and later got his PhD from Columbia University. He was often asked why he chose to promote music and dance when he could have been spending that time on research. However, he felt passionately that this very 'music and dance' had a powerful and transformative, almost spiritual impact on a young mind. 'If we can transform the atmosphere of the concert hall to that of a place of worship, we could open the third eye of perception.... it would go a long way in creating the ambience conducive for touching the highest heights, both by the artists and



Top: Rakesh Chaurasia, flautist, nephew of Hariprasad Chaurasia, playing the bansuri, the Indian bamboo flute. Vijay Ghate, tabla player, was awarded the "Padma Shri" award in 2014
 Bottom left: Geeta Chandran, Bharatanatyam dancer and vocalist, is a visionary artiste and celebrated for her work in theatre, dance, education, videos and films.
 Bottom right: Kala Ramnath, Indian classical violinist, was awarded the Sangeet Natak Academy Puraskar in 2016 and belongs to the Mewati gharana



Dr. Srishti Budhori engaging with students, bringing Indian traditional forms to the fore

the youth,' explains Kunda Mahurkar, Chairperson.

The first event SPIC MACAY organized was a performance in 1978 by the Dagar brothers. Only five people attended that event. Today, it has become a household name with a tremendous reach. This recognition has been possible through its 4 pillars: artistes, educational institutions, volunteers and supporters. The artistes are of the highest calibre, award winners in the categories of Indian classical music and dance, folk, poetry, theatre, traditional paintings, crafts, yoga and more. Educational institutions open their doors and facilities to the NGO. SPIC MACAY is run entirely by volunteers in the spirit of service, with emphasis on participation without hierarchy. Finally, supporters

include the government, corporates or individual donors and philanthropists who provide funding to sustain the organization and its programmes.

'We wish to nurture a solid value-based education, which involves the absorption of aesthetics and spirituality in an increasingly technical, mundane, and competitive world,' explains Kunda Mahurkar.

HCL Grant Project Title: HCL FOR SPIC MACAY

Beneficiaries: 50,00,000 school and college students and youth, 3,000 teachers

Location: 250 villages in 21 districts of all 7 sister states of the North-East, and Sikkim

BEHIND THE SCENES



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‘The HCL Grant has become India’s gold standard of corporate philanthropy. Watching the impact of this program over the past seven years has been both moving and powerful. May the Nadar family’s leadership in such endeavors long ripple through Indian society.’

—*Richard Lariviere*

‘Serving on the Jury of the Shiv Nadar Foundation has been a learning experience, and a rewarding one. Despite having worked for the Government of India and travelled extensively across the country, I wasn’t really aware of the remarkable performance of a number of NGOs, quite a few of which have kept a low profile. Credit must go to the team at the Foundation and from Grant Thornton, whose professional approach and legwork make our task and that of the sub-jury a lot easier.’

The Jury meetings involve a fair amount of banter, hobbyhorses, a sense of fair play and a critical look at the sustainability of the initiatives taken by each short-listed NGO.’

—*Bhartendra Singh Baswan*



CREDITS



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