



HCL GRANT  
**THE FIFTH  
THE ESTATE**  
NGOs Transforming Rural India

# A step towards Nation Building

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**HCL Grant Newsletter**  
September 2021- March 2022





### From Director's desk:

Over the years, the HCL Foundation has worked to be a catalyst for change, impacting the lives of people in underserved regions around the country.

It has been 7 years since HCL Grant started its journey with an objective to recognize, empower and strengthen non-governmental organisations (NGOs), doing path breaking work towards rural development. Since then it has touched 11,34,482 lives and through its current commitments, it aims to cover 22,92,504 people in 25,102 villages in 117 districts across 19 states and 2 Union Territories of India. It is our pleasure to present the HCL Grant Newsletter, which chronicles the program's remarkable journey.

The year under review witnessed a record number of applications for HCL Grant in the thematic categories of Environment, Health, and Education from across the country. It has been a true privilege for us!

Best wishes and heartfelt congratulations to the winning NGOs for bringing up innovative ideas for constructive change.

Warm Regards,  
Nidhi Punthir  
Director - HCL Foundation



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# HCL Grant Edition VII Roll Out

HCL Grant started its Stage 4 selection process with Field Level Due diligence of shortlisted top 47 NGOs across thematic categories of Environment, Health and Education on October 10, 2021.



**In order to conclude the field visit stage, Field Visit Consolidation workshop was conducted on November 19, 2021 in which top 30 NGOs, 10 in each category were shortlisted for the Sub Jury round.**

During the workshop, field assessors shared their experiences and enriching stories of their journey and findings of field audit to come up with HCL Grant Semi Finalists.



Welcome & Context Setting-  
Chaired by Ms. Nidhi Pundhir



Experience Sharing by  
Field Assessors- Chaired by  
Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra



Group Discussion among Field  
Assessors to shortlist top 10 NGOs-  
Chaired by Grant Thornton,  
Governance Partner



Group picture: Knowledge partner, Consultants, HCL Foundation Team

Like every year, the work of highly credible top 30 NGOs shortlisted in the Consolidation Workshop has been photo documented and published in The Fifth Estate - The HCL Grant Compendium VI which has been released on March 7, 2022. The comprehensive compendium highlights the proposals submitted by the organizations for HCL Grant, striving towards the empowerment of rural India. Each one of these case studies is examples of best practices in areas of environment, health and education, with evidence of meaningful transformation in the rural belt of this diverse nation.



**HCL Grant Sub Jury Meetings for Environment, Health and Education category was scheduled from December 14-15-16, 2021 respectively. The panel selected the below top three applicants in each category for the Jury round.**



Environment  
December 14, 2021



Health  
December 15, 2021



Education  
December 16, 2021



The project proposed for HCL Grant by top 9 NGOs selected in Sub Jury round is video documented in which the video team travels to the project location to capture a brief about the organisation and what it envisions to achieve by the proposed project.



## Video links of Top NGOs:

### Environment Category



Lokamata Rani  
Rashmoni Mission

### Education Category



Centre for Youth  
and Social Development

### Health Category



The Association for  
People with Disability



Pradan



Language and Learning  
Foundation



Cure International India  
Trust



Navdanya Trust



Banyan Academy of  
Leadership in Menal Health



Ekjut

HCL Grant Jury selected top 3 NGOs in the thematic category of Environment, Health and Education for the grant of 5 crores and 2 finalists in each category for the grant of 25 Lakhs on March 4, 2022.



**Robin Abrams**  
Chairperson,  
HCL Grant Jury  
& Board Member,  
HCL Technologies



**Shiv Nadar**  
Founder, HCL,  
Chief Strategy Officer,  
HCL Technologies,  
Founder & Chairman,  
Shiv Nadar Foundation



**Dr. Richard Lariviere**  
Sanskrit Scholar  
& President  
Emeritus of the Field Museum,  
Chicago



**B. S. Baswan**  
Former Director  
Indian Institute  
of Public Administration  
& Former HRD Secretary



**Pallavi Shroff**  
Managing Partner  
Shardul Amarchand  
Mangaldas & Co.



**Suresh Narayanan**  
Chairman & Managing Director  
Nestle India Ltd.

HCL Grant proudly announced its Edition VII winners on March 7, 2022.

₹5 Crores  
(US \$ 0.655 Million)  
to winning NGOs  
in each of the 3 categories

₹25 Lakhs  
(US \$ 0.033 Million)  
each to remaining  
finalists

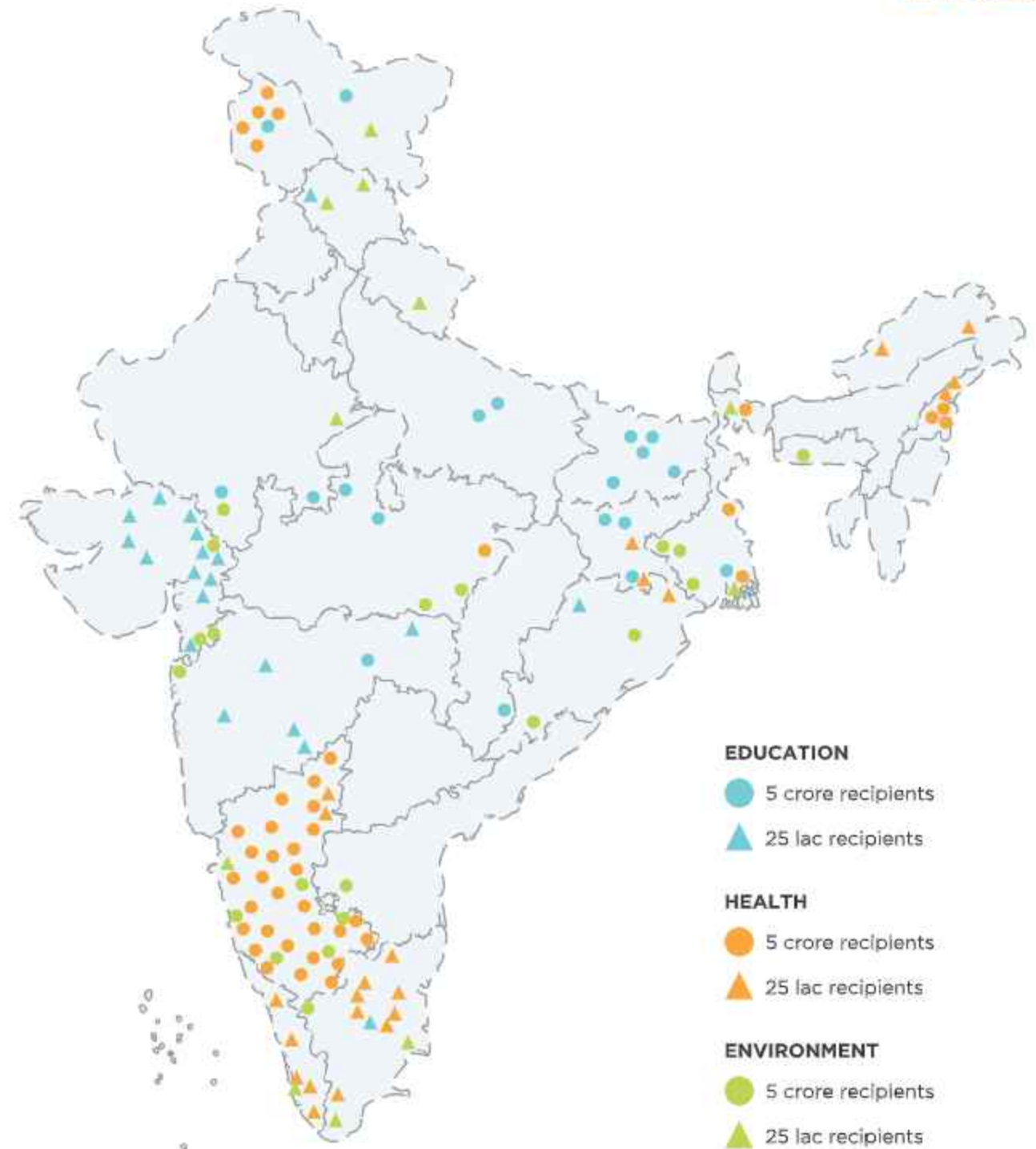
Category	Winning NGO (₹5 Crores)	Finalist NGOs (₹25 Lakhs each)
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>Pradan</b> Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN)	<b>Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission</b>
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>The Association of People with Disability</b>	<b>Cure International India Trust</b> <b>Ekjut</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Language and Learning foundation</b> Strong Foundation, Stronger Future	<b>Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health</b> <b>Cysd</b> Centre for Youth and Social Development



# HCL Grant Partnerships

## HCL Grant Footprints 5 Crore and 25 Lacs Recipients

Already committed INR 95.75 crore (~US\$ 12.5 Million) towards rural development in the areas of Environment, Health and Education through HCL Grant projects with an ambition to reach 22,92,504 people in 25,102 villages in 117 districts across 19 states and 2 Union Territories of India, of which the projects have already covered 11,34,482 beneficiaries



### Key Highlights

All HCL Grant Projects have provided evidence of the criteria used for their selection





**Child in Need Institute,  
HCL Grant Recipient, 2017,  
Health Category**

The project “Creating Community based Safety-net-for better Health and Nutrition” reached out to more than 1.5 lakhs pregnant women and children for safe delivery and healthy birth outcomes which led to the extension of the key learnings from 3 to 46 blocks across the state of WB with support from the Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, GoWB (Example of Scalability)



**Eleutheros Christian Society,  
HCL Grant Recipient, 2018,  
Health Category**

PHC Mopong awarded as the best performing hospital of Mon district under AB-PMJAY by Nagaland Govt. for 2021 (Example of Sustainability)





**Srijan Foundation,  
HCL Grant Recipient, 2019,  
Education Category**

Modern methods of farming practiced by female farmers in the district of Hazaribagh & West Singhbhum districts of Jharkhand have helped them increase their income.

**Vermin Wash:**

Acts as a plant tonic and helps to reduce several plant diseases, enhances plant & crop growth, helps in nitrogen fixation.



**Azolla:**

Provides local livestock feed, bio fertilizer, food and biofuel wherever it is grown.



**National Agribusiness Development Programme:**

Improves soil fertility, reduces cash expenses on chemical fertilizer, increased crop yield, supports organic crop production, reduced dependence on outside inputs.





**Under The Mango Tree Society,  
HCL Grant Recipient 2020,  
Environment Category**

A total 1619 farmers sensitized about indigenous bee keeping and in 1 year 230 farmers converted into beekeepers (Example of Relevance)



**Bal Raksha Bharat,  
HCL Grant Recipient 2020,  
Education Category**

Bal Raksha Bharat has secured J&K Education Directorate's 'Expression of support' to scale up Peace Education Model in 60 schools of Budgam& Leh (Example of Sustainability & Scalability)





**Ashoka Trust for Research  
in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE),  
HCL Grant Finalist, 2020,  
Environment Category**

To demonstrate a model irrigation tank, Aladikulam irrigation tank (17 acres' tank) of Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu has been successfully restored by ATREE through de-siltation, construction of steps and removal of invasive species like *Prosopis juliflora* and *Ipomea carnea*, benefitting locals and wildlife of Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR).



Aladikulam tank before restoration  
activities were undertaken



Aladikulam tank after restoration



The steps before restoration

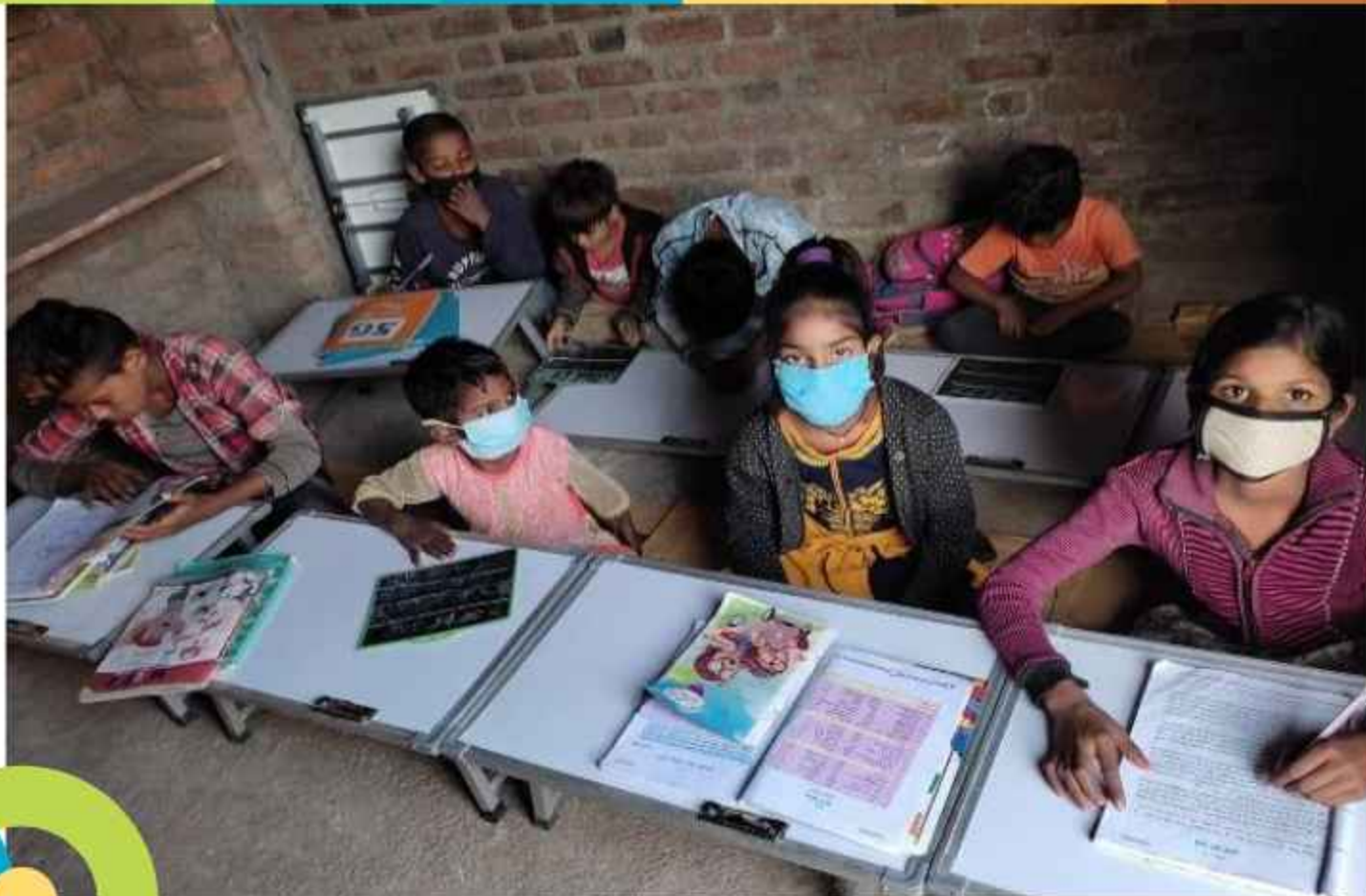


The steps were constructed to aid the communities



**Child Rights and You,  
HCL Grant Recipient, 2021,  
Education Category**

Under Project UDAAN: Breaking the Barriers -437 children of Bedia Tribe enrolled in Child Activity Centers of which are 131 are girls (10-18 years). (Example of Inclusion)



**Development of Humane Action,  
HCL Grant Finalist 2021,  
Environment Category**

92,00 meters of fishing canal restored in 1 year, benefiting 8 traditional fishermen through increased average income from INR 200-300 per day to INR 300-500 per day and around 50,000 seeds planted in restored canals. (Example of Scalability)



## Key Activities:

### HCL Grant Partners' participation in Sports for Change Winter Camp 2021

52 students and chaperones from 4 HCL Grant Partners- Krida Vikas Sanstha, Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha, Bal Raksha Bharat and She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneur participated in Sports for Change - Winter Camp 2021 in multiple sports including Volleyball, Athletics, Football, Kabaddi and Cricket.



## Voices from field:

### Sejal Chavhan participant from Krida Vikas Sanstha who was awarded as Best Performer of the winter camp 2021 in Bangalore says,

“ Every day coaches were reminding us to drink 3 to 5 bottles water and check the pulse, so I continued doing it and that has now become my habit. On the last day of camp, I got feedback related to my strengths as well as the scope of improvement in my game and I think this was the best part of this winter camp training for me. ”





## Jigmet Tsesket

Participant from Bal Raksha Bharat,  
HCL Grant Recipient 2020,  
Education Category

“ Coaches were very professional, humble and keen to impart training to the students. Practicing in such a delightful stadium with a pleasant environment and running on synthetic track was a great experience for me. I got the opportunity to interact with the children of different part of the country and know their culture, language etc. and also understood the importance of time punctuality and discipline in life. ”



## Salim Maqbool

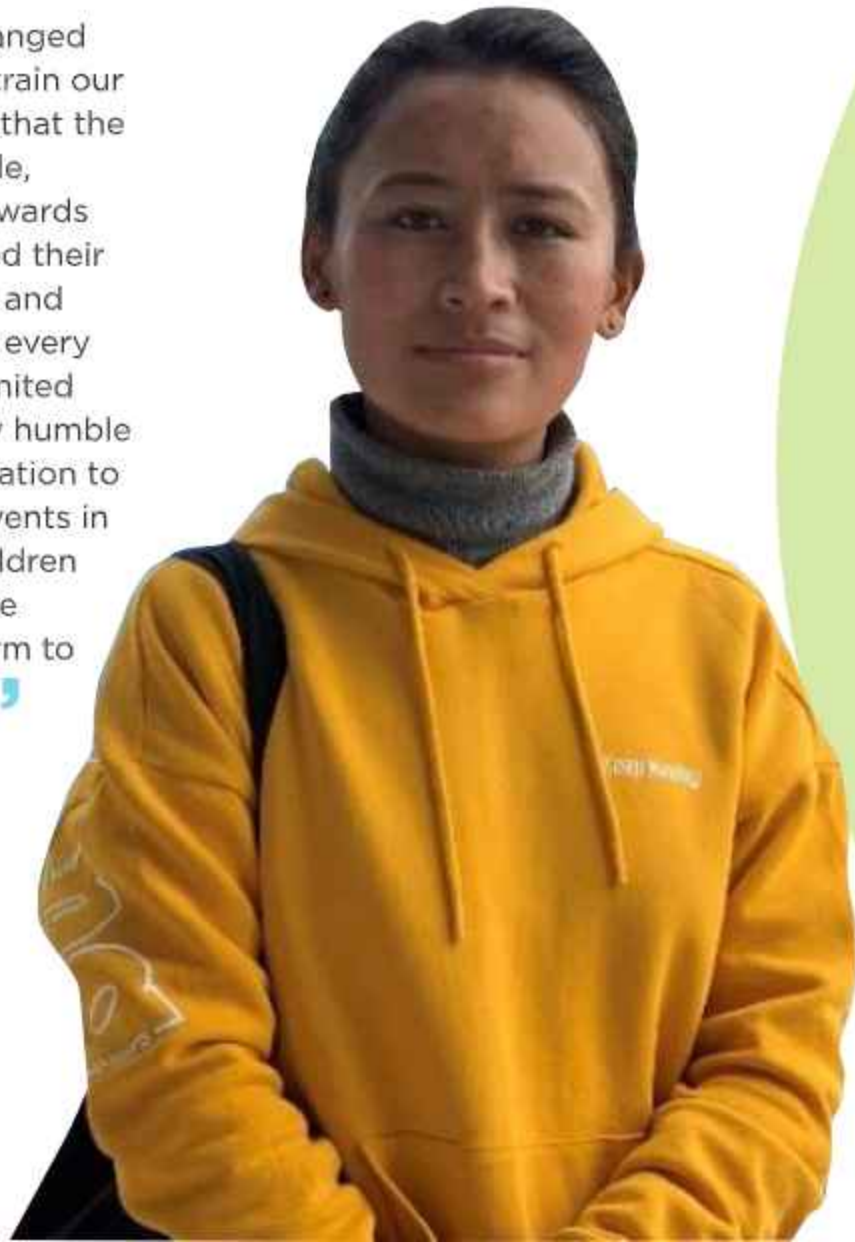
Football Player,  
She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneur,  
HCL Grant Recipient 2019,  
Health Category

“ The standard of the camp was such that I have to push myself to be able to synchronize with the other players. Such camp gave me a lot of learnings. We played football on the beach which I witnessed for the first time in my life. The kind of arrangements which were provided were also once in a lifetime experience for me like travelling by aircraft and by a train. I will keep all the learnings in the back of my mind and will keep on practicing the game so that I would reach up to the expectations of my coaches. ”



## Tashi Yangzes Chaperone, Bal Raksha Bharat

“The organizer had arranged their best coaches to train our children and I noticed that the coaches are very gentle, humble and affable towards the children. They tried their level best in providing and supporting children in every way possible within limited period of time. It is my humble request to HCL Foundation to organize more such events in near future so that children from remote places like Ladakh get the platform to showcase their skills.”



## Impact Video Shoot of HCL Grant 2020 Recipients

HCL Grant team visited the geography of Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh for the shoot of Impact videos of Bal Raksha Bharat and Under the Mango Tree Society, 2020 recipients under education and environment categories respectively with the purpose to recognize the organizations for their work and capture the impact created at grassroots level in remotest pockets of the country.

The glimpse of the same can be found in the below video links:



6 years of  
HCL Grant Impact



Under the Mango Tree  
Society Impact



Bal Raksha Bharat  
Impact



## HCL Grant Virtual Partners Meet 2021

HCL Grant Virtual Partners Meet 2021 was conducted on November 23, 2021 for organisations associated with HCL Grant under thematic category of Environment, Health and Education to share their vision, ethos and strategies towards socio-economic development that have substantially contributed to nation building through effective CSR.

**Back ground of the project**

- Girl children from basic community are at multiple risk and vulnerabilities as the community is engaged in manual work of agriculture.
- Basic community was historically considered to be inferior towards the which have been excluded amongst the benefited groups of CSR.
- 65% in the age group of 10-15 years are most susceptible to be pushed into commercial sex by family, due being denied of education.
- The stigma of their nature of work and criminal history has been allowed mainstream population to accept them.

The project aims to bring social transformation in the community to have the youth of formal rights and education of biology through education.

**Project MANCH Launch**

Dr. Prabhakar Choudhary, the Honorable Health Minister of Madhya Pradesh launched the project MANCH on September 6, 2021, at Hotel New Co-Sales, in the presence of the Director Health Services, Deputy Director, and Director of the HCL Foundation, India Country Director HRH, Managing Trainer-MSU and others.

**Communications**

- Powerful, impact-oriented messaging
- Showcasing positive change in the communities
- Highlighting efforts and mobilizing support to the cause
- Promoting partnerships

**Key Points**

- Follow Child Protection Policy
- Showcase communities in a dignified manner
- Take consent
- Positive messaging, highlighting
- Content sensitive - COVID-19

## HCL Grant Virtual Leadership Connect Meet 2022 Environment Category

HCL Grant conducted Virtual Leadership Connect Meet on February 11, 2022 which brought together the leaders of HCL Grant partners to discuss innovative and pioneering work being done by them in rural and remote parts of the country.

The meet was an opportunity to address the course of actions and best practices developed by the partners, surmounting the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic in order to work towards broader visions and achieving the goal of attaining transformative sustainable development.



# Stories of Transformation: Reaching the Unreached

## Wildlife Trust of India

### Lighting up lives!

In the twenty-first century, certain areas in the country still lack access to power. One of them is Halwa Ambeng, Bolchugre, and Dambuk Atong village in Meghalaya's South Garo Hills. A total of 79 households from three villages (Halwa Ambeng-36 HH, Bolchugre - 14 HH, and Dambuk Atong - 29 HH) have been

provided with home solar lighting systems as part of the community intervention exercise under the HCL Grant project "Connecting landscapes, Empowering people, and Protecting elephant - An initiative to secure the Baghmara - Balpakram elephant corridor and protect the wildlife habitats of the Garo hills, Meghalaya."



## Saahas

### Evolving today to make tomorrow better

People in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka have protested due to misinformation about the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) as a landfill site and other negative consequences. With over 40 people protesting, it seemed difficult to move forward with the formation of Jigani RRF and Karkala RRF. An intervention under the Paripurna project of HCL Grant, where team Saahas sensitized the locals about difference between a landfill site and RRF, not only eliminated people's fears, but also put a stop to the protest, creating a positive environment in the community

and allowing the work on establishment of both of these RRFs to proceed forward. Kushal Kumar, a member from Yedapadavu Gram Panchayat says, "Initially we had thought a new landfill site is being constructed for dumping waste for all Panchayats, so we protested. After team Saahas sensitized us about the project explaining us about what is MRF and how it will be beneficial for us by creating job opportunities for locals and also after visiting Udupi MRF and witnessing that there was no foul smell in the unit, we were convinced with this project."



## She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneur

### Beacon of Hope!

Hailing from a poor family with no means of income as her father has expired long ago, Mubeena-a case of Post-Polio Residual Paralysis (PPRP)- was psychologically down in dumps when Hope Disability Centre's one of the community workers identified her in 2020.

Despite economic hardships and physical disability Mubeena was passionate about her studies, but the thoughts of dropping out of her studies would often cross her mind.

Without a father and her mother having suffered from a stroke, supporting five sisters can be daunting and distressing without any regular means of income and a deformity on top of it can be taxing psychologically. It can tell upon the mental strength of anyone when she has to shoulder so many responsibilities alone.



It would need endless sessions of counselling for She Hope team to keep her morale up.

Upon assessment, Mubeena was found to be suffering from right leg PPRP with shortening of limb. At that time, she was going through a mental turmoil due to economic crisis in the family and her deformity also led to numerous challenges for her to carry out day to day activities. Team spent extended hours of counselling sessions with Mubeena to help her to get out of the mental rut that she was in and persuaded her to keep her studies ongoing.

A rehabilitation plan was simultaneously put in place in accordance with the protocols followed by the organisation. Her initial exercise plan was initiated to build her range of joints and strength of muscles.

She was also provided walking aids at regular intervals by Hope Disability Centre(HDC) to

augment her accessibility.

Despite challenges galore, she has gone on to complete her graduation and is currently doing her Masters in English. It is an achievement in the face of difficulties that life has been throwing her invariably.

She continues to receive support from HDC along psycho social counselling.





## Eleutheros Christian Society

### Healthy mother for a healthy child!

Thaonyu, thirty-three-year-old is the resident of Tamkoang village, Nagaland. She has four children - a girl and three boys. Before the intervention of Eleutheros Christian Society under its HCL Grant project in the village, she was not aware of any of the health issues that are there related to women and children. But after ECS came in, she slowly started learning about the importance of health particularly on pregnancy and child care. With the help of the health workers, she went and did ANC check-ups during her pregnancies. After the deliveries, she enrolled all her children under immunization. Her husband Changkhao says, " We are thankful to ECS for providing nutritional supplements during the lock down period last year. Thaonyu was severely anemic with a hb

count of only 5.9 g/dl. With the help of regular counselling and nutritional support through ECS, her hb improved to 12.9 g/dl."



## Child Rights & You

### Beating the odds!

Beating the odds is almost synonymous with this one! Defying societal norms, Palak (Name Changed) went ahead to re-start her journey of learning after a gap of 3 years; she is persistent in her pursuit. In her village Korasa, it's not easy for girls to pursue education - they're either told to learn household chores or are trained by women in commercial sex to join the traditional occupation. In a Bedia village, the fate of a girl is decided by her family based on their economic condition, once she attains puberty.

Child Rights and You (CRY) with the support of HCL Foundation started working in the village Korasa in June 2021. It is a small village situated 65 km from district Headquarters Sagar. CRY started its work in Korasa with the

Establishing Child Activity Center(CAC) and adolescent girls group that aims to empower children in villages with wings of knowledge and transform them into agents of change within their immediate realities of the village and community life.



The adolescent group was conceived to address a variety of concerns of adolescents in the project village. The adolescent group provides children a platform where they can voice their opinions and express themselves. Through these groups, CRY ensure a conducive and nurturing environment for our children in the villages. Adolescents' groups provide an alternate path to vulnerable children through Life skills Module (Child Center). These groups also help in creating a support system for each child in the form of peers. Prior to the formalization of

adolescent groups in the village Korasa, special focus is given to enrolling the girls who were identified as vulnerable to enter into commercial sex industries. Palak, an 8th standard drop-out since 2018 was listed as one of the vulnerable girls among 14 other girls in Korasa. She became a part of the CRY adolescent group. Being in a nurturing environment where conversation related to identity, individuality, and decision-making talks happened through games and role-playing. She grew in confident and decided to stand for herself.

Palak's elder sister is active in the commercial sex industry and the only bread earner for the family of five members. Palak's father like the rest of the Bedia males does not contribute much in the family income and the mother does the household work. Palak was under constant pressure from the family to join the commercial sex to supplement the family earnings as her elder sister is earning less now due to having a child and aging in the commercial sex industry. Palak who had only two choices like other girls of her age opted for a road that is less travelled by the girls of her age. Confident Palak,

stand up to her parents when they started to force her to start working in the commercial sex industry to earn for the family and denied to bow down and joined the CAC and reinitiate her education.

She is now more determined to do well in her life - not only for her family but for the entire Bedia community! Palak's stand for self has become an inspiration for other girls in the community to resume their lives by exploring more options than the two imposed by the community upon them!





## Krida Vikas Sanstha

### Goal!

Isha Sillare, 18 years old, comes from a humble background. She has 5 members in her family. Being her father the only breadwinner made it difficult for her to continue her education. She didn't even have enough money to buy bags and books making it difficult for her to continue her education. But when Krida Vikas Sanstha supported her financial aid she got the chance to not only complete her education but also enrolled herself in college and now pursuing BSc in Mathematics from Hislop College Nagpur.

Isha started playing football in 2017. With her dedication and perseverance, she achieved a milestone which no one has ever been achieved in her family nor in her community. She played Schools Division State Tournament in Aurangabad and became the top scorer. Later, she went on to play Schools Division

National Tournament in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in 2018, and 2019 respectively. Not just that, she has also been an excellent student in academic as well. Passing with more than 90% in 10th and 88% in 12th she has become a perfect example.

She was initially denied to play football just because she is a girl, but today her family is proud of her of what she has achieved in sports and education.

She is now engaging more than 60 girls in 2 different villages. Having experience, the power of football, she wants to provide this opportunity to other girls in her village and around, to come forward and achieve their dreams. The community she belongs to is so conservative and patriarchal that girls are supposed to do household chores, and sports are considered a taboo.

*She believes  
football has the power to change the behavior,  
perspective and mindset of people and community.*









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To know more about HCL Grant

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