

THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL. IX



HCLTech 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.

Steps for Doctor

Doctor



11/12th - Science



EET - Entrance Exam



BBS -> Syll

$R^2 = PQ + R$



THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL. IX

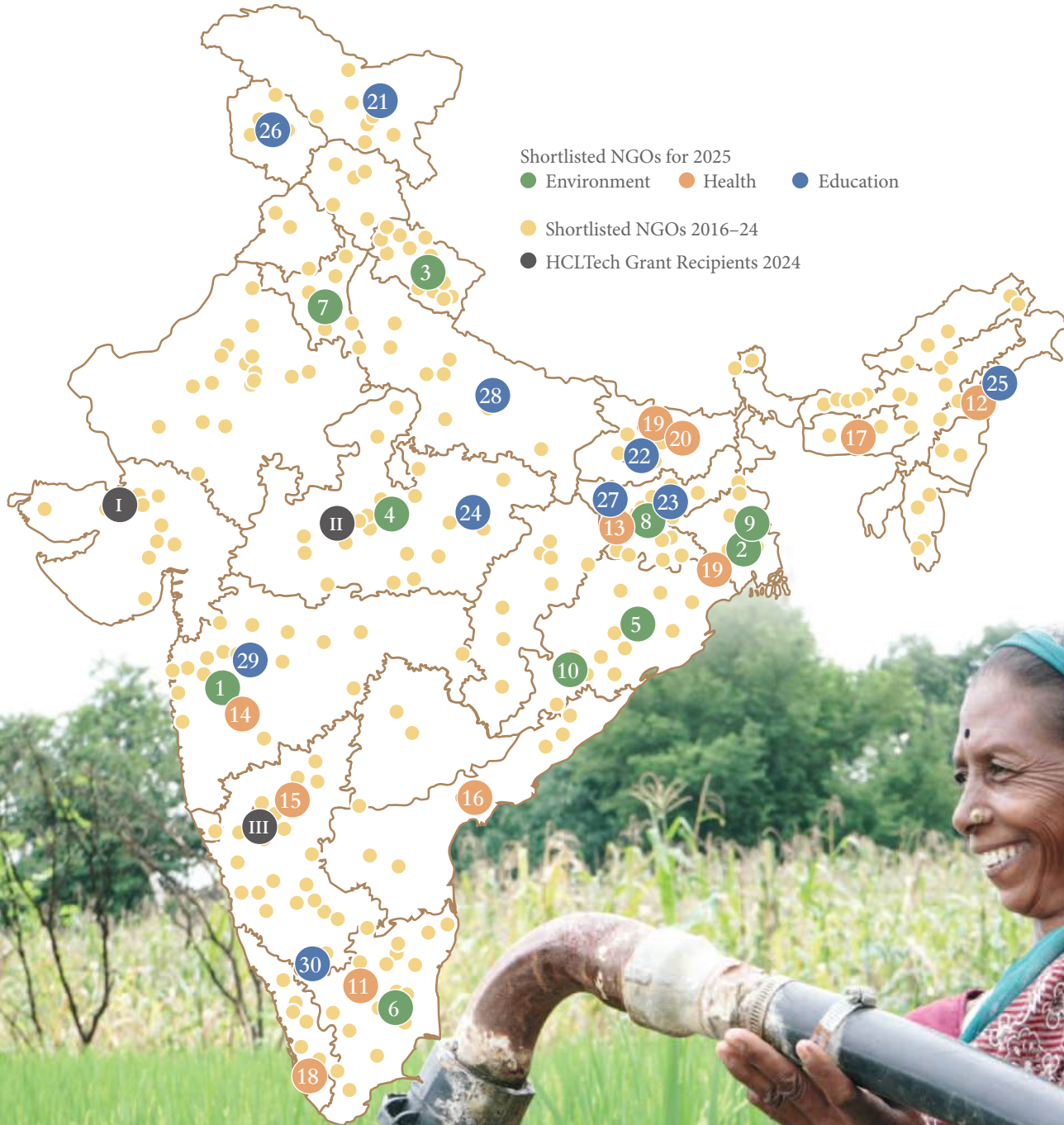
NGOs Transforming Rural India
in Environment, Health and Education



HCLTech



CONTENTS



Introduction and Impact Chapter	6
The HCLTech Grant Methodology	20
Jury	28

HCLTech Grant Recipients 2024

- I **ENVIRONMENT** The Corbett Foundation 32
- II **HEALTH** Sangath 36
- III **EDUCATION** Makkala Jagriti 40

ENVIRONMENT

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2025

- 1 Gram Gourav Pratisthan 50
- 2 Life Education and Development Support 58
- 3 Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission 66

Shortlisted 2025

- 4 Action for Social Advancement 74
- 5 Centre for Youth and Social Development 78
- 6 Coodu Trust 82
- 7 End Poverty 86
- 8 People Sciences Institute 90
- 9 Water For People India Trust 94
- 10 Watershed Support Services And Activity Network 98

HEALTH

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2025

- 11 Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation 108
- 12 Pallium India Trust 116
- 13 Pro Rural 124

Shortlisted 2025

- 14 Bapu Trust for Research on Mind and Discourse 132
- 15 FIND India 136
- 16 LEPRASociety 140
- 17 North East Society for Agroecology Support 144
- 18 Population Foundation of India 148
- 19 Project Concern International 152
- 20 Sri Someswarnath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT) 156

EDUCATION

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2025

- 21 17000 ft Foundation 166
- 22 Raised Lines Foundation 174
- 23 Yuwa India Trust 182

Shortlisted 2025

- 24 Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation 190
- 25 Antarang Foundation 194
- 26 ELFA International 198
- 27 Pratham Education Foundation 202
- 28 Sarthak Foundation 206
- 29 Slam Out Loud 210
- 30 The Teacher Foundation (Shraddha Trust) 214

Behind the Scenes 218

Credits 220

Title Page: *Antarang Foundation, shortlisted for the HCLTech Grant 2024 in the Education category.*

Opposite page: *Action for Social Advancement, shortlisted for the HCLTech Grant 2024 in the Environment category.*

INNOVATION WITH PURPOSE



A DECADE OF NATION BUILDING.

A decade of changing the rules of the game, of collaborating with partners to make a sustained difference. Ten years of blazing a trail of innovation and inclusivity, of resilience in times of pandemics and natural disasters. Of celebrating visionary leaders who work from the grassroots. And ten years of building strong connects between people and policies through the bridge of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The HCLTech Grant, the CSR initiative of HCLTech, has identified and supported an impressive portfolio of these NGOs or the Fifth Estate* who are generating innovative ideas and finding potential solutions towards a lofty purpose – of transforming the rural development landscape by galvanizing socio-economic growth and environmental protection through distinct ‘source codes’.

Through 58 path-breaking, relevant, scalable and replicable projects over these 10 years in the thematic areas of Environment, Health, and Education, the Grant has galvanized 1.8 million lives with a total commitment of ₹146.95 Cr (~US \$18 million). The process of the Grant has strengthened and been enriched with over 70,000 registrations and a presence in 22 states, 2 union territories and 170 districts of India. Each NGO recipient of the Grant has implemented original ideas for projects characterized by purposeful innovation,

inclusivity, socio-economic empowerment, government integration and community-led institution building to address the unmet needs of underserved, isolated, marginalized communities.

IN THE DRIVING SEAT

How does the HCLTech Grant activate purpose-driven innovation? We have distilled it down to a few integral frameworks.

1. Ecosystems of Social Purpose

For 10 years, now around the HCLTech Grant process, ecosystems of social purpose have been built in to fill development gaps and address systemic issues. Government integration to scale programmes exponentially, formation of community-based organizations for sharing of knowledge, training and market linkages, as well as buy-ins from local authorities, partnerships with universities for research and innovation, and associations with policy makers to advocate for top-down change have led to a vibrant ecosystem of cross-sector collaborative development in concord with key allies and stakeholders.

2. Celebrating Diversity and Passion

One of the most outstanding features of the HCLTech Grant is the wide spectrum of organizations, geographies, ethnicities and issues the proposed and selected projects address. From small NGOs like Plan@Earth to established ones like PRADAN; from the hinterlands of Maharashtra, to the craggy peaks of Ladakh, from the Sunderbans to Kerala, projects selected come from far and wide. The steady increase of NGOs

**so named by Shiv Nadar, Founder-HCL; Chairman Emeritus & Strategic Advisor to the Board-HCLTech; Founder & Chairman- Shiv Nadar Foundation*

from the north east like Eleutheros Christian Society and Meghshala Trust applying and/ or being selected in the top 30 is proof of our reach and intention.

3. Innovation Tech

The NGOs are assessed for taking technological innovation to the last mile, employing it to address societal, economic or environmental challenges in inclusive ways. The most widespread use of technology is to collect and analyze, data for informed decision-making and resource allocation, and monitor running programmes. Further, whether amplifying the work of community health workers through mobile apps (*India Health Action Trust, HCLTech Grant recipient, Health 2021*), or making government school children's lessons more accessible through local language integration into apps on tablets (*Meghshala Trust, HCLTech Grant recipient, Education 2022*); whether it is solar tech powering schoolrooms in the Himalayas (*17000 ft Foundation HCLTech Grant Finalist, Education 2024*), handing young people digital cameras to document biodiversity (*NIEDA, HCLTech Grant finalist, Environment 2023*), or optimizing agricultural practices (*PRADAN, HCLTech Grant recipient, Environment 2022*), the Grant spearheads the transformational impact of the digital revolution.

4. Corporate and NGO Leadership Come Together

The leaders of the NGOs, some unrecognized, others already on the global stage, are visionaries with an unwavering commitment to rural transformation. The board of HCLTech has come together with these champions of change to ignite their purpose with an investment of their own time and

expertise in existing projects. By building capacity or strengthening governance, speaking at symposiums or engaging with beneficiaries and local functionaries, they have leapfrogged organizations once driven only by passion to now being motored by professionalism as well.

5. Business Case

The process of qualifying for the HCLTech Grant is highly competitive. If a project is to be selected by the eminent Jury which is comprised of several corporate heads, it needs to be fortified by an appealing business case, with empirical evidence that the solution is creative and innovative, and will actually have an impact in the field. It needs to build up accountability and have a solid value proposition set to impress. And that the innovation for the purpose defined in the project proposal is measurable and helps create capital, whether it is human, technological, natural or social.

Now, when we see fishermen in Kerala bringing back plastic packaging from fishing trips under project DROP by Plan@Earth (*HCLTech Grant recipient, Environment, 2022*); or a sickle cell disease survivor giving birth to a healthy child (*India Health Action Trust, HCLTech Grant recipient, Health 2021*); or a young girl once facing a life of exploitation becoming a teacher through project Udaan by Child Rights and You (CRY, *HCLTech Grant recipient, Education, 2021*) we see the power of these community-led ecosystems to use innovation and out-of-the box thinking to achieve their defined purpose, articulating HCLTech's philanthropic vision and aligning with UN's Sustainable Development Goals, to work for 'people, planet and prosperity'.

A DECADE OF IMPACT

The NGOs the HCLTech Grant process attracts evolve, learn and grow each year, designing fresh, evidence-based models that really work on the ground. The project proposals are well thought-through, based on research and analysis of funding paradigms, aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and effective in their use of language and creative technology including videos. The pan-India Symposiums that have become the hallmark of the Grant process aid in this, actively supporting and empowering non-profit networks in India by gathering NGOs, experts, government officials, corporates, and policymakers across India on one platform. The symposiums, an effort by the HCLTech Grant and CSRBOX, delve deep into CSR themes, from sustainable development and environmental conservation to community engagement and capacity building. In this 10th year of the HCLTech Grant, we announced updated criteria, focusing on the scalability and replicability of projects, and a reduction of the average expenditure requirement in the Health and Education categories, easing the way for more organizations to qualify for grants.

Read on for the tremendous developmental impact that HCLTech Grant recipients over the last decade have demonstrated in the rural grassroots ecosystem in Environment, Health and Education. In concord with the SDGs these projects compellingly driving the Grant's promise of nation building.



India Health Action Trust, HCLTech Grant recipient in 2021, in the Health category.

Keystone Foundation

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT, ENVIRONMENT, 2018

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Hill Waters & Wetlands for Communities & Wildlife – Eco-Restoration, Applied Ecology & Advocacy

Location: Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats



Keystone's project is highly relevant to the Western Ghats where springs have been disappearing. It works through a holistic landscape-based approach to conservation and restoration within the designated landscapes of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) with PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups). The main objective of the project is to achieve water equity and water security for human and wildlife population in the Kotagiri region by bringing behaviour change within



Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

According to a survey conducted by Chrysalis India Pvt Ltd (n: 150 survey/KII):

- 96% households have sufficient water now, previously only 11% households had access to water
- 72% respondents now rely on Ground-level Reservoirs compared to only 9% pre-intervention
- 94% respondents have water availability at home; previously 31% had access to water within 250 meters
- 54% observed reduced human-wildlife conflicts, previously 91% villagers reported constant human and animal conflicts

SROI: Each unit of currency invested by HCLTech Grant through this programme has generated 2.45 units worth of socio- economic value for stakeholders.

the communities through applied research. It does this through working in partnership with communities, tea and coffee estates, local government; setting up of nurseries to promote native plant species for supporting eco-restoration work; monitoring water quality, quantity, land-use practices, wildlife movements and more.

Keystone is now part of the board of the district level Nilgiris District Organic Farming Association. Through workshops and training, it seeks to bring back the traditional practices and crops like millets and to share knowledge of sustainable farming,

making the farmers think of ways that they can use their ecosystem for creating organic inputs like *puchiverati* (pesticide), *panchakavya* (growth promoter) the methodology used for preparation of compost and the methods to increase vermiculture in their fields. Farmers are now building compost pits. 46,432 saplings of 52 species being raised in nurseries, 15.5 acres have been cleared of invasive species, 45,292 saplings of indigenous species planted across the project area, and 4 tons of plastic, bottles, clothes and other mixed waste was collected from the stream's bank before restoration was initiated in the Kookalthorai valley.

Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS)

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT FOR HEALTH, 2018

HCLTech Grant Project Title: ECS LifeConnect Integrated approach to improve healthcare access and prevent maternal and child deaths in Nagaland

Location: Tuensang, Longleng and Mon in Nagaland



Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) has brought down the incidence of HIV among injecting drug users and antenatal women in Nagaland significantly using innovative approaches and community action for livelihoods, health, literacy and more. Eight Primary Health Centres have been revived under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, benefitting 33,000+ people. A State Level Health Steering Committee chaired by Chief Secretary (CS), Nagaland has been



Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

In a study conducted by NOUS Consultancy in 2024–25 (n: 270 women), it was found that:

- 92% of women reported institutional deliveries
- 96% women reported that their children had received 'all vaccinations'.
- 98% of the women were able to reach a health facility within 30 minutes.
- 91% of the women respondents reported getting at least one check-up during their pregnancy
- 93% women reported that they received Iron+Folic Acid plus Calcium after the delivery. In most cases these supplements were made available for 1-3 months.
- 70% women reported their baby's birth weight as between 2 and 3 kgs

constituted to establish convergence among different Government Departments for HCLTech Grant Project villages. Two of the PHCs supported by the HCLTech Grant, Longpang and Changlangshu, have been conferred with 'Kayakalp Award', for cleanliness in public health facilities, and empanelled with the AYUSH Scheme of the Government of India. Longpang PHC is

managed by ECS in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland. Changlangshu PHC was built from scratch jointly by ECS and the community, and activated in 2018 after a doctor and a nurse were employed through the HCLTech Grant. The government has added a new building to the premises, boosting the capacity of the PHC manifold.

Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sightsavers India)

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT FOR EDUCATION, 2018

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Sambalam - Inclusive Education for children with visual impairment in Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal

Location: Jhalwar & Udaipur in Rajasthan, Bhagalpur & Jehanabad in Bihar, Howrah in West Bengal



Sightsavers in India functions through its multipronged approach encompassing 'Eye Health', 'Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities', and 'Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities'.

Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

In a study conducted by IIHMR University, Jaipur (n= 260 students & 85 teachers), it was found that:

- 99.9% of CVI enrolment in schools was ensured by 2023, which was 56% in 2020.
- 91% of CVIs developed the ability to read, 48% could speak English sentences and 54% were able to use a Taylor Frame for Mathematical calculations.
- 97% of CVIs found ICT tools support very significant contributing towards improvements in their learning.
- 98% of CVIs received some form of government assistance for inclusive education, including financial support

The HCLFoundation, in partnership with Sightsavers India, is implementing an 'inclusive education' project using innovations and interventions to enable quality access to education for CVIs (Children with Visual Impairment). 57,332 teachers were trained in the module provided by the organization across the State of Bihar through Government support. Bridge Course (Saksham), ICT training, Digital Literacy Centre, and teacher training were conducted. 43 CVIs were provided with support equipment, post capacity building in Jhalawar. The Block Resource Centres

(BRCs) of Bhagalpur and Jhalawar were equipped with printed materials for CVIs. 37 Children with Visual Impairment (CVIs) students passed their 10th and 12th board examination with flying colors. Through the successful advocacy efforts of the organization, the Government of Rajasthan has decided to scale the concept of "Model Resource Room Digital Learning Centres" to all 33 districts and provide laptops for 100 CVIs. Two Digital Learning Centers have been established in Jhalawar & Bhagalpur districts of Rajasthan and Bihar. The West Bengal government adopted this model and plans to convert their Block Resource Centres into Digital Learning Empowerment Centres(DLECs).



Under The Mango Tree Society

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT ENVIRONMENT, 2020

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

Location: Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh



Pollinators and bees are a vital part of our ecosystems – responsible not just for food security of humans but also all living beings. The project among smallholders in tribal communities aims at increased awareness, conservation of crucial pollinators like honeybees, and creating a supportive ecosystem for this. It tackles the issue in multiple ways - community wide awareness generation, training traditional honey hunters to stop honey hunting, training tribal farmers

in sustainable beekeeping with indigenous bees and sustainable honey harvesting techniques, usage of indigenous species of seeds and saplings to create additional forage for pollinators. As a result of improved pollinator cover, yields of rain fed subsistence farmers increase, leading to small surpluses that can be sold. This income reinforces the message to conserve pollinators and improves biodiversity.



Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

- INR 90,880 earned by project beekeepers from the sale of bee colonies.
- INR 10,99,250 earned by project beekeepers from the sale of honey
- 5,951.7 kg of honey harvested sustainably
- 12.5 kg wax collected sustainably
- 1544 beekeepers have also improved agricultural yield for 3,088 (1544*2) plot neighbours through better pollination
- 76,638 bee flora saplings and 4,019.15 kg of seeds have been distributed amongst project farmers, impacting the green cover of the area, providing forage & safe habitat for bees, improved nutritional intake for beekeepers and income from sale of surpluses

Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children)

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT, EDUCATION, 2020

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Promoting Quality Education through a Culture of Peace and Safe Learning Environments for the Most Marginalized Children of Jammu and Kashmir
Location: Budgam and Leh, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh



In the conflict-ridden geography of J&K, children do not have peaceful and safe spaces to learn. With 'Peace Education' and 'School Safety' as key solutions to continued instability in J&K, this innovative Project uses a peace-education curriculum with 'teachers as peace champions' (NCF's 2015 mandate). It aims to promote quality education across 60 Government schools through a culture of peace and safe learning environments for the most marginalized children in the district of Budgam & Leh, J&K and Ladakh. Its mandate includes strengthening of





Bal Raksha Bharat, Education category winner in the Vth Edition of the HCLTech Grant joined hands with Sports for Change by HCLFoundation to conduct the Union Territory Championship in Leh in May 2024. 170 athletes from 5 zones of Leh, Kharu, Changthang, Nubra and Khatse participated in the championship in the categories of Football, Athletics (including 60m and 600m), Long Jump, Shot put and Archery.

Children's Groups and other community-based groups across 30 schools of Budgam on Peace Education, Child Rights and Child protection, an enrolment drive in the district in coordination with Education Department. Having secured J&K Education Directorate's 'Expression of Support', the Project undertakes to involve stakeholders in peace-building initiatives, safety audits,

risk mapping, and child safeguarding - in classrooms, schools, and neighborhoods. The larger ambition is to mainstream peace education and school safety into the state's education system through advocacy to sign MoUs for collaborations with, as well as offer technical support to new structures in the governments of J&K and Ladakh.

Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

- Transforming 60 villages and 60 schools into 'safe, peaceful havens'
- Peace Curriculum (with Jamia University) designed and piloted across 15 schools in J&K
- Scaling up this initiative to 60 government schools in Budgam and Leh Districts, J&K
- Around 72 children were enrolled in intervention schools
- Building capacities of 5000 children, teachers, communities (SMCs/ VECs), and state administrators (DIET/SCERT/DDMA)

India Health Action Trust (IHAT)

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT HEALTH, 2021

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

Location: Shadol District, Madhya Pradesh



Shahdol is a rural district with a large tribal population, and poor MNCH outcomes. The MANCH project, launched in 2021 in Shahdol district through a collaboration between NHM-MP, HCLFoundation and IHAT, is a pivotal initiative to improve health outcomes among tribal populations. The Project seeks to drive sustainable change and strengthen the quality of services at health facilities in partnership with the state government. It focuses on enhancing antenatal and postnatal care coverage, identifying and tracking high-risk pregnancies and newborns, addressing home delivery

challenges, and building the capacity of frontline health workers, including ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, ANMs, and Nursing Officers. After four years of intervention, the project has significantly improved maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) outcomes. onsite mentoring and mentoring of Nursing Officers and mentoring of outreach ANMs by Nurse Mentors, care of newborns training, District and Block Level Data Validation Committee workshops by Nurse Mentors, reducing home deliveries, CRSS (Community Response Strength System), gender workshops and more.

Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

- Reached 30,000 pregnant/new mothers, 25,000 newborns, 500 frontline workers and 235 ANMs & doctors
- Baseline Survey conducted
- A solar-powered digital ante-natal kit to identify high-risk pregnancies
- Mini-skill labs for nurses and ANMs for delivery and essential newborn care
- Onsite mentoring and mentoring of Nursing Officers and mentoring of outreach ANMs by Nurse Mentors
- District and Block Level Data Validation Committee Workshops by Nurse Mentors, Reducing home deliveries
- CRSS (Community Response Strength System)
- Gender workshops
- Digital tools for real-time capture and monitoring of programme data

The Association of People with Disability (APD)

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT HEALTH, 2022

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Cot to Community: A comprehensive rehabilitation approach for people with Spinal Cord Injury (PwSCI)

Location: Karnataka



India has 1.5 million spinal cord injury cases with 15,000 cases added annually. Sixty to seventy per cent of these are from poor villages and in between 16 and 44 years through road accidents or falling from trees. The strong linkage between disability and poverty, lack of insurance and fund allocations for rehabilitation services in India shows a need for a comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation model.

The HCLTech Grant Project aims to provide community reintegration for poor, rural PwSCIs for functional independence through a transdisciplinary, holistic model enabling them to lead lives of equity, dignity, and justice. It is a replicable, scalable, cost-effective rehabilitation model including physical, psychological, social, sports, and vocational services and creating an accessible and inclusive environment to enhance their quality of living. It addresses challenges such as delayed identification, inadequate healthcare, limited access to rehabilitation, lack of affordable assistive devices, insufficient awareness, and low motivation

Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

- Reached 2038 PwSCI in 2023-24
- Expanded from 8 districts in 2021-22 to 31 districts in 2023-24
- 56.3% of quadriplegic and 67.3% of paraplegic improved in Spinal Cord Independence Measure in self-care, respiration, and mobility.
- 157 PwSCI were provided with essential home modifications: toilets, ramps, and railings to make their environment accessible.
- 988 PwSCI accessed social security schemes, enhancing financial support.
- 205 new livelihood opportunities created for PwSCI with 504 beneficiaries
- 84 medals earned in wheelchair basketball, archery, and badminton at international, national, and state levels.
- 22,000+ individuals sensitized on Spinal Cord Injury awareness and prevention
- Introduced parasports to build confidence and awareness



through innovative tech and ideas including tele rehabilitation. The project has increased community awareness and access and empowered PwSCI through enhanced skills,

economic opportunities, and leadership for improved health, independence, and socio-economic inclusion.

Meghshala Trust

HCLTECH GRANT RECIPIENT, EDUCATION, 2023

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

Location: Gangtok and Pakyong, Sikkim



The northeast of India is a challenging region for NGOs to create a sustainable impact due to geography, improper infrastructure and accessibility to resources. The pandemic has posed unexpected difficulties. The Project promotes technology-based education complemented by adequate training and support, and innovative solutions to bridge the learning gaps - such as voiceover lessons, and stories and activities relevant to the region. It provides pedagogical skills and works to make teachers confident in using technology in the classroom. Teachers have requested help for second and third language content in Nepali, Lepcha and Bhutia. The Project hopes to preserve these indigenous languages and promote Sikkim's unique culture. To this end, an MoU was signed with the Sikkim Government and Meghshala on 25th July, 2024, marking the beginning



of the project. Thereafter, other activities have continued through all of last year like distribution of tabs, creating lessons, visiting classrooms and training of teachers in Gangtok and Pakyong.

Impact of the HCLTech Grant Project

Number of schools has grown to 200

- Number of teachers has grown from 344 to 750
- Contextualized lessons for the SCERT curriculum from grades 1-5

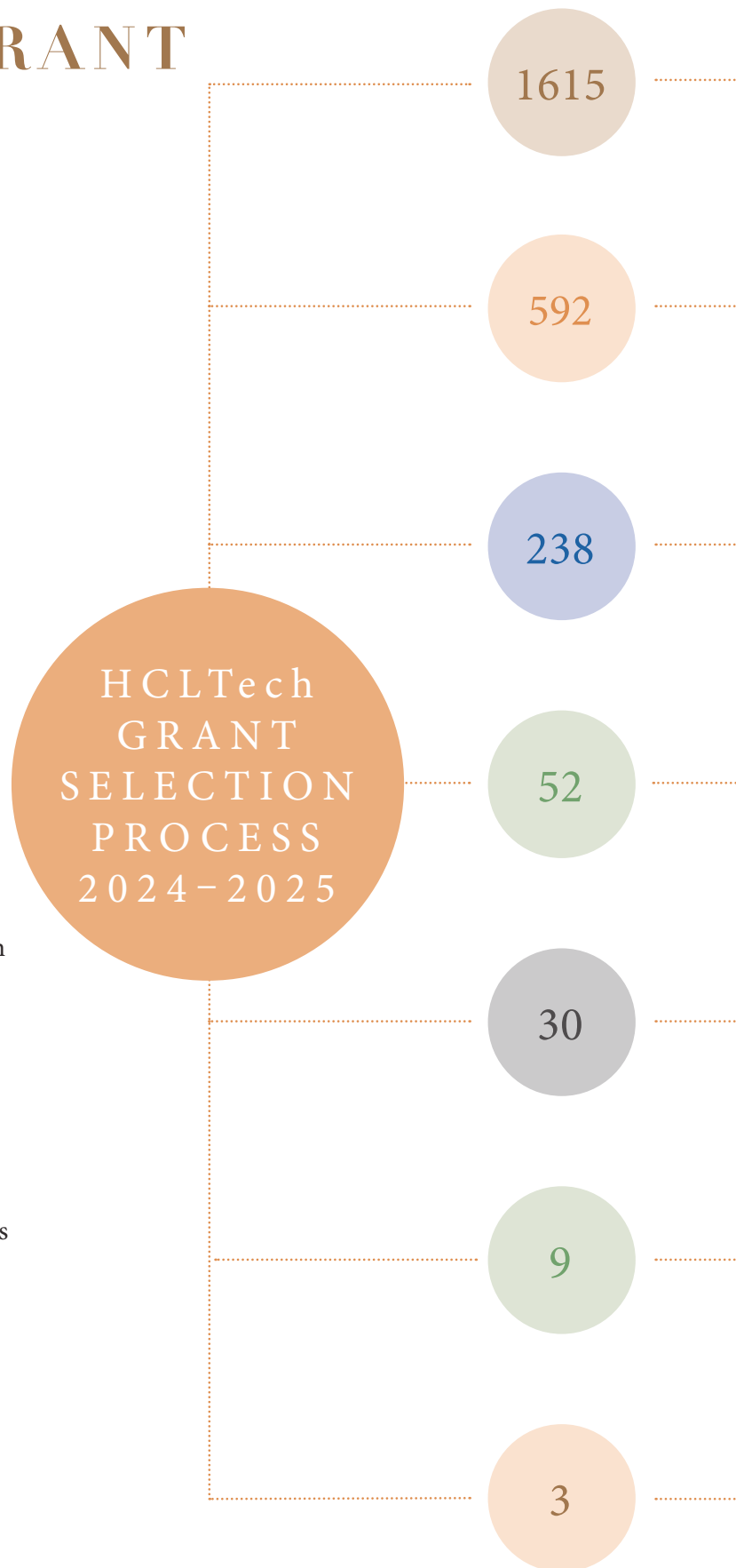
THE HCLTech GRANT METHODOLOGY



FOR 10 YEARS NOW, the HCLTech Grant, a CSR commitment by HCLTech through the HCLFoundation, has identified and supported non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are transforming India by making a measurable impact on rural development. The HCLTech Grant is awarded in three thematic categories, Environment, Health and Education to NGOs that deliver relevant, community-led, innovative and scalable projects that are inclusive, sustainable and financially sound.

The year-long process of selection of the Grant recipients is robust and transparent, scientifically formulated and rigorously audited by governance partner, Grant Thornton. A complex application process, thorough screening and due diligence, field investigations by Subject Matter Experts and impact assessments measure in detail and depth the impact of the NGO, its governance, its people and its synergy with the values of the HCLFoundation. Symposiums held in multiple cities across India clarify the application process for NGOs, allow networking opportunities and access to expert panels on CSR. A sub-jury shortlists 3 organizations in each category and a final Jury of eminent persons chooses the top NGO in each category to receive ₹5 Crore each.

HCLTech Grant recipients in Environment, Health, and Education receive ₹5 Crore (~US\$0.65 Million) each for four-year projects, while runners-up receive ₹25 Lakhs (~US\$0.03 Million) each for one-year projects. The total funding for the 10th Edition is ₹16.5 Crore (~US\$2.2 Million) for nine NGOs. This year, HCLFoundation has modified the eligibility criteria to focus on project scalability and replicability, reducing the average expenditure of last 3 financial years from ₹1 Crore to ₹50 Lakhs for the Health and Education categories.



STEP 1



APPLICATION SCREENING Applications are screened based on pre-defined eligibility criteria and the information and documents submitted by the organizations.

STEP 2



ABSTRACT REVIEW Organization profiles and project abstracts submitted by eligible applicants are reviewed by a group of Subject Matter Experts, sector experts from HCLFoundation, and our Governance Partner. The basis of the review includes a mix of objective and subjective parameters like Governance, Relevance of the Problem and Solution, Potential of Impact and Innovation, and others.

STEP 3



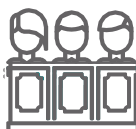
PROPOSAL REVIEW Organizations selected in Step 2 are requested to submit a detailed organization profile and proposal. These submissions are then reviewed by a group of Subject Matter Experts, sector experts from the HCLFoundation and our Governance Partner to select the most deserving NGOs. Additional review parameters include Capacity to Deliver, Financial Modelling, Sustainability, Inclusion, Potential for Partnership and Scalability, among others.

STEP 4



FIELD AUDIT Organizations selected in Step 3 go through an audit exercise which consists of a field visit by an HCLFoundation member and a Subject Matter Expert. Alongside, due diligence is conducted by the Governance Partner. The two teams undertake a joint review of the applications based on each other's findings and shortlist ten organizations in each category for the next stage.

STEP 5



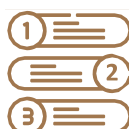
SUB JURY REVIEW A high-level panel of twelve members reviews the shortlisted applications after viewing case presentations made jointly by the HCLFoundation Team and the Governance Partner team. All the organizations reviewed at this stage are featured in the 'HCLTech Grant – The Fifth Estate' (Compendium). The panel selects the top three applicants in each category for the next stage.

STEP 6



DUE DILIGENCE The Governance Partner undertakes a detailed diligence exercise for all selected organizations. The exercise involves a review of relevant documents and information, background checks through various sources, visiting the organization's office and project site, discussions with the organization's personnel, executives, board members, and others.

STEP 7



JURY REVIEW A high-level panel of six eminent members reviews the shortlisted applications on the basis of case presentations made by the Governance Partner. One winner is selected in each of the three categories to be awarded a grant of ₹5 Crore each. The two runners-up in each category are awarded a grant of ₹25 Lakhs each.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. 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).
2. The organization must have registered u/s 12A of The Income-tax Act, 1961. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application for renewal of 12A certificate, subject to further scrutiny.)
3. The organization must have registered u/s 80G of The Income-tax Act, 1961. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application for renewal of 80G certificate, subject to further scrutiny.)
4. 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)
5. The organization must have the below-mentioned functional existence (as per their registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2024:
 - If applying under Education, Health and Environment category – minimum 5 years or above
6. The organization must have a minimum average expenditure of ₹0.50 Crore (as per income & expenditure account) for the last three financial years viz. 2020–21, 2021–22, 2022–23.
7. 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

1. 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.
2. The organization must have adequate experience of working in rural areas in India.
3. The by-laws of the organization must allow it to undertake a project in the proposed thematic category.
4. The organization must have a good rapport with the local administration in the proposed project's location.
5. The organization, including its governing body members, must not have any pending litigations.
6. The organization must not be blacklisted by any government agency/department/ministry, donor, or international agency.
7. 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.
8. The organization, including governing board members, must not have any negative media coverage or any other controversy associated with it.
9. The organization or its board members or employees must not have any political or religious affiliations.
10. The organization (if announced as winner or runners-up) must open a separate and new bank account for HCLTech Grant Funds.

PROPOSED PROJECT

1. 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.
2. The proposed project must be in rural area/s.
3. The proposed project must be designed for direct implementation by the applicant organization. Sub-granting of HCLTech Grant funds is not allowed.
4. The proposed project must be designed for a grant amount of ₹5 Crore (to be received from HCLFoundation) for a period of 4 years. It can be co-funded by a suitable donor that the applicant organization can bring onboard for any additional amount.
5. 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.
6. HCLTech Grant funds can be used to scale-up an existing project or for a new project where co-funding is involved. However, HCLFoundation must be apprised of all funders and stakeholders in advance. Additionally, the organization must be able to report the utilisation, outreach and impact achieved specifically through the HCLTech Grant fund.

WINNERS OF THE HCLTech GRANT

2016	GOING TO SCHOOL
2017	FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY CHILD IN NEED INSTITUTE MELJOL
2018	KEYSTONE FOUNDATION ELEUTHEROS CHRISTIAN SOCIETY ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND (SIGHTSAVERS INDIA)
2019	WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA SHE HOPE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS SRIJAN FOUNDATION
2020	UNDER THE MANGO TREE SOCIETY BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
2021	SAAHAS INDIA HEALTH ACTION TRUST CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU (CRY)
2022	PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION (PRADAN) THE ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (APD) LANGUAGE AND LEARNING FOUNDATION (LLF)
2023	PLANATEARTH INNOVATORS IN HEALTH (INDIA) MEGHSHALA TRUST
2024	THE CORBETT FOUNDATION (TCF) SANGATH MAKKALA JAGRITI

● Environment ● Health ● Education

HCLTech GRANT 10TH EDITION PROCESS & MILESTONES



1 1 MAY 2024
HCLTech Grant
Portal Live
Stage 1

2 11 JUN–19 JUL 2024
8 Physical Symposiums
Stage 1



3 5–25 AUG 2024
Abstract Review by SMEs, Governance
Partner & HCLF Thematic Leads
Stage 2



Environment

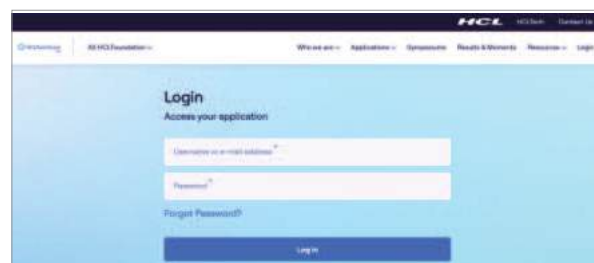


Health



Education

4 27, 28 & 29 AUG
Meeting with SMEs for
shortlisting Abstract review
for detailed proposal round
Stage 2



5 2–18 SEP 2024
Portal Live for 239 NGOs
shortlisted for detailed
proposal round
Stage 3

6 7, 8, & 9 OCT 2024
Meeting with SMEs for
selecting 45+ NGOs for field visit
& Kick off workshop Meeting
Stage 3

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

10 21 DEC 2024
–20 FEB 2025
Video Shoot of Top
9 NGOs
Stage 5



11 21 DEC 2024–
20 FEB 2025
Coffee Table Book
Volume IX
Stage 5

9 18, 19 & 20 DEC 2024
Sub Jury Meetings
Stage 5



8 3 DEC 2024
Consolidation Workshop
to select 30 NGOs for Sub
Jury Round
Stage 4



12 21 DEC 2024
–20 FEB 2025
Due diligence of
Top 9 NGOS
Stage 6

7 15 OCT–30 NOV 2024
Field Visit & Due Diligence
Stage 4



13 16 APRIL 2025
Jury and Winner
Announcement
Stage 7

HCLTech GRANT KEY STATS

EDITION I—X

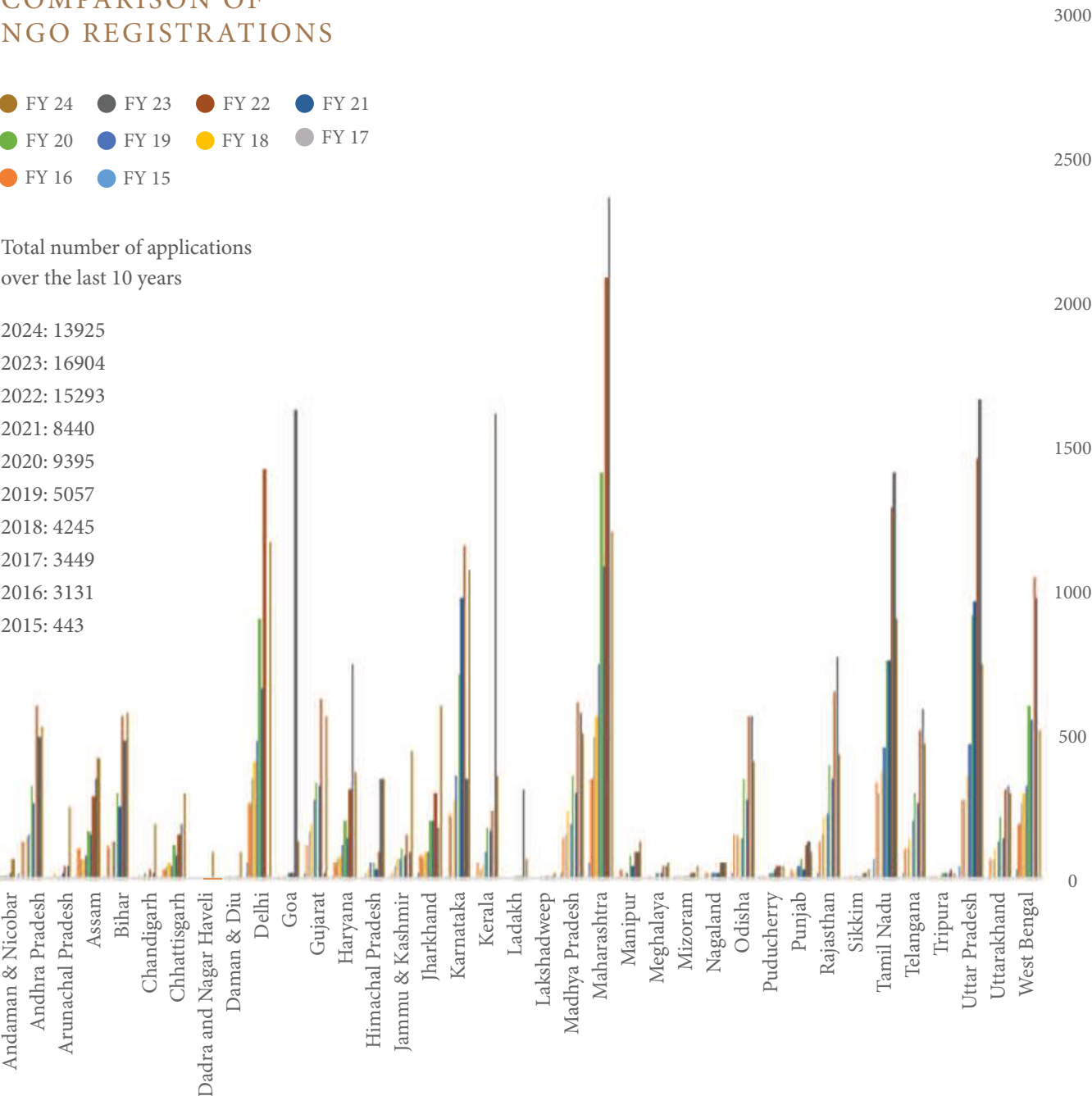


COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS

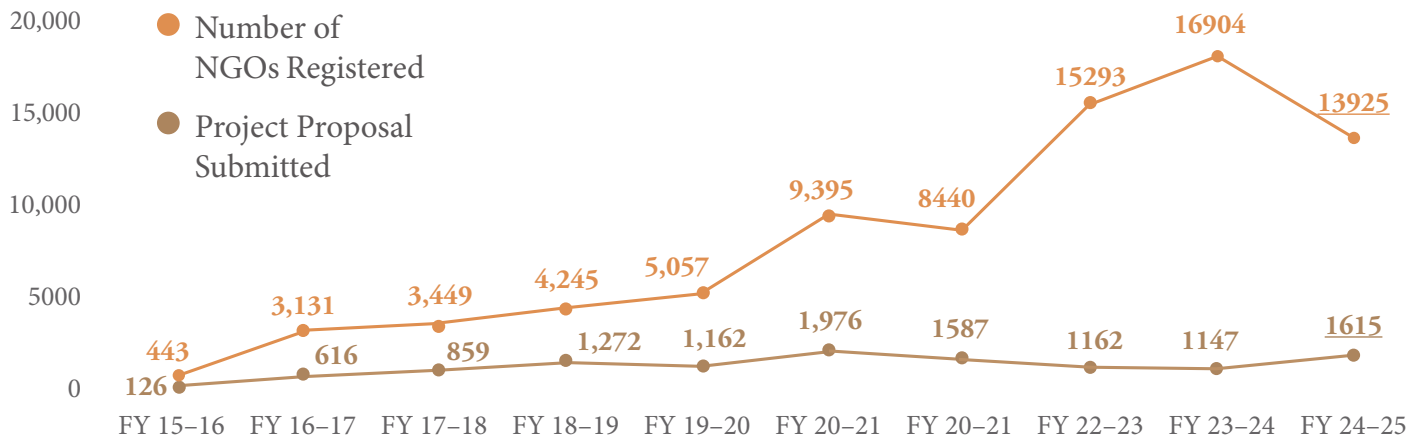


Total number of applications
over the last 10 years

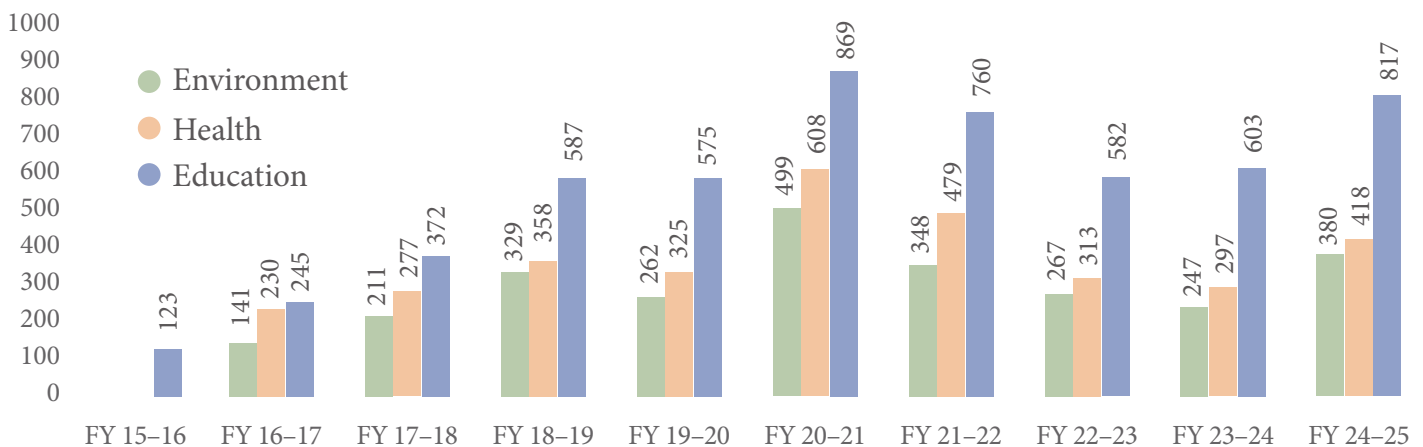
2024: 13925
2023: 16904
2022: 15293
2021: 8440
2020: 9395
2019: 5057
2018: 4245
2017: 3449
2016: 3131
2015: 443



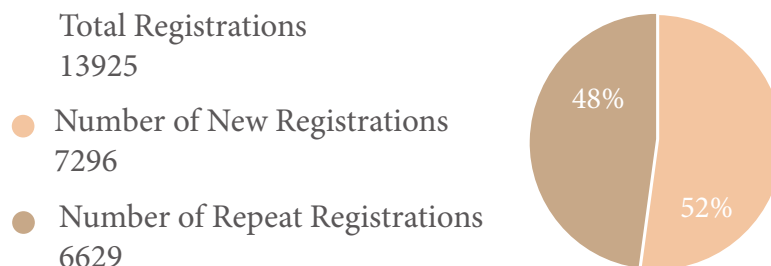
HCLTech GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS 2024-2025



CATEGORY-WISE HCLTech GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT REGISTRATIONS FY 2024-25



JURY



ROBIN ANN 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 HCLTech, Lattice Semiconductor and Factset Research. Mrs. Abrams was appointed to the Natcast Board (CHIPS Act for US).



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 Programme 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 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. He is the President of The Ludo and Rosane Rocher Foundation.



ROSHNI NADAR MALHOTRA is the Chairperson of HCLTech, a leading global technology company with annual revenues of over US \$13.8 Billion.

A visionary business leader, she drives the company's strategic growth and innovation while also chairing its CSR Board Committee. She is a Trustee of the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which has invested \$1.5 billion in building pioneering institutions for education and leadership development in India. Roshni serves on several prestigious global boards, including the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum and The Nature Conservancy. She has received numerous accolades, including France's Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur and a consistent ranking in the Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women.



PALLAVI SHROFF is the Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., with about forty 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 recognized her as one of The Most Powerful Women in Business in 2021- 23. Ms. Shroff is presently a director on the boards of Apollo Tyres, One97 Communications Ltd. (Paytm), PVR Inox Ltd, IndiGo Airlines and Juniper Hotels Ltd.

SUB JURY

Environment

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

SONIA ELAND Executive Vice President, APME Sales, HCLTech

RUSHIKESH CHAVAN Head, The Habitats Trust

SIKI GIUNTA EVP & Head, HCL CloudSmart Consulting & OS, HCLTech

Health

KRISTIN HAZLEWOOD Senior Vice President & HCL SWE-IO-Bigfix, HCLSoftware

MANISH ANAND Executive Vice President, Company Secretary, HCLTech

RAMACHANDRAN SUNDARARAJAN CVP & Chief People Officer, HCLTech

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

Education

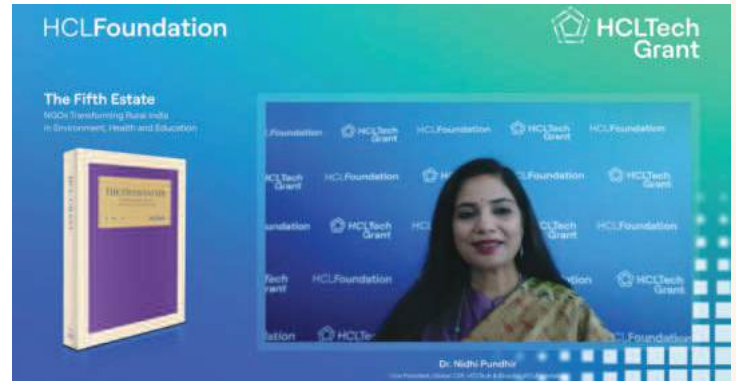
AMBIKA NATARAJAN Senior Vice President, HCLTech

DARIO DEBARBIERI Vice President & Head of Marketing, HCLTech

RAJ WALIA Executive Vice President, HCLTech

ROBIN SARKAR Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation

HCLTech GRANT RECIPIENTS 2024



*UNVEILING OF HCLTech GRANT COFFEE TABLE BOOK VOL.VIII by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir,
Vice President, Global CSR & Director, HCLFoundation*



ENVIRONMENT
The Corbett Foundation



HEALTH
Sangath



EDUCATION
Makkala Jagriti

HCLTech GRANT RECIPIENTS



2024

ENVIRONMENT The Corbett Foundation 32

Creating synergy between wildlife/bio-diversity conservation, and the welfare of forest communities

HEALTH Sangath 36

Reaching mental healthcare to underserved communities

EDUCATION Makkala Jagriti 40

Safe spaces for children for quality learning



Restoring pastures, reviving communities, raising incomes



The Corbett Foundation



The Corbett Foundation endeavours to enable wildlife conservation in tandem with sustainable development of forest-dwelling communities. Its programmes are a multi-pronged and integrated approach to conservation, to help create a future where wildlife and human beings coexist in harmony. TCF has implemented its programmes in over 650+ villages in the states of Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Founded by Late Dilip D. Khatau & Rina Dilip Khatau in 1994

Mr Kedar Gore, Director, The Corbett Foundation

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Guardians of Grasslands: Empowering Communities to Safeguard Pastures for the Long-term Conservation of Critically Endangered Bustards and Associated Species in Kutch, Gujarat

Beneficiaries: 130 households, 817 community members, 4551 livestock

Location: 2 villages and 16 indirect beneficiary villagers

The HCLTech Grant Project in Action

This project aims to transform 350 acres of degraded pasture into sustainable grasslands important for species including critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican, and vulnerable Asian Houbara. The project works towards habitat and degraded pasture restoration, biodiversity conservation, upliftment of local communities, providing equal opportunities to women, mitigating climate change, and encouraging young students to work towards biodiversity conservation for the often overlooked yet vital semi-arid grassland ecosystem and agro-pastoral landscape.

Working with the HCLFoundation

It was TCF's fifth attempt at the HCLTech Grant, and we are thrilled about our successful selection! The selection process is rigorous, but we see it as a valuable journey filled with learning and growth. Winning this Grant represents the culmination of an extremely detailed due diligence process and multiple rounds of thorough scrutiny. We want to inspire others to persevere and keep trying, as the demanding due diligence process strengthens and improves the organization.



The insights and feedback from subject experts and reviewers and the support of the HCL team are invaluable offering guidance to evolve as an organization!

The Impact of the HCLTech Grant

RELEVANCE: The grasslands are fragile habitats, home to a variety of flora and fauna, significant carbon sinks and vital fodder sources. Our project addresses the degradation of the grassland ecosystem by using a self-sustaining grassland model, which also supports the national Bustard Recovery Plan.

INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY: The project is based on traditional knowledge supported by science. 350 acres of degraded village pasture will undergo restoration, and enhance the production of high-quality fodder balancing ecological health with agricultural sustainability. Ten unemployed

youths from local villages are being trained as 'Guardians of Grasslands'.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY: In 2017, TCF developed a self-sustainable 50 acre grassland model, scientifically managed by the villagers of Kanakpar, producing 30,000 to 40,000 kilograms of grass annually, harvested by the villagers and stored for summer. This is a proven, successful and easily replicable restoration model for the Kutch region.

FINANCIAL MODELLING AND INCLUSION: This project combines traditional knowledge with modern science. However, restoring grasslands in drought-prone areas like Kutch significantly depends on rainfall. Thus, local indigenous grass species adapted to the climatic conditions have been targeted. Learning from experience in Kanakpar, we have improved the design of fencing for exclusion and the disposal of discarded *Prosopis juliflora*.



Stories of Impact

Vadilal Pokar – Member of Kanakpar village committee, Abdasa, Kutch-Gujarat

'The restoration of our village pasture by TCF has been a game-changer for Kanakpar! We have successfully restored around 50 acres of degraded pasture land. We have also won the International Pastoralists & Rangelands Award – 2021 for this work. Over the past five years, these acres have flourished into a self-sustainable grassland! We now harvest approximately 30,000 kilograms of grass fodder annually, ensuring that during the summer months, when other villages face scarcity, we have become self-reliant in fodder supply. Now, other villages are inspired by this model and are willingly initiating pasture restoration in their villages. With the remarkable support of HCL, we will be restoring another 100 acres of pastureland in our village. This time, we will also be empowering village women by involving them in developing a grass seed bank/nursery.'

Assessing biodiversity in order to protect it



Top: *Engaging with communities for better health*
Bottom: *Resources that help ASHAs make a difference*



SANGATH



Sangath endeavours to make quality mental health care accessible and affordable for all, by addressing mental health concerns through innovations including deploying community resources, digital technology, and stakeholder participation. Sangath won the MacArthur Foundation's International Prize for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2008 and the WHO Public Health Champion of India award in 2016.

Founded by a group of child development and mental health professionals in 1996

HCLTech Grant Project Title: SAHARA (Supporting All Mothers and Children Universally)

Beneficiaries: 750 ASHA workers, 750 anganwadi workers, 300 community health officers, 90 district health officials, 71,345 pregnant women, 25,000 parents of children aged 0–3 years

Location: 1,506 villages in 3 districts of Madhya Pradesh

The HCLTech Grant Project in Action

In the SAHARA project, we deliver an integrated maternal mental health and early child development integration to perinatal (pregnant and postpartum) women and their families through trained frontline workers Madhya Pradesh. Since the award of the Grant, we have got a buy-in from the National Health Mission and the Ministry of Women and Child. We have recruited a strong local team with stakeholder networks. We have launched a community awareness campaign. Around 400 ASHAs have gone through digitised and in-person training. Community screenings for perinatal depression, have identified 90 positive women and started counselling from ASHAs. The responsive parenting programme is being adapted to local contexts, with 45 videos.

Working with the HCLFoundation

The process of working with the HCLFoundation has been supportive and collaborative, with guidance from completing the application to understanding specific needs of our project. The HCLTech Grant team has been regularly following up on project deliverables and budget utilization.



We were invited to attend helpful capacity building sessions at the Partnership for Change Conference and the 'Effective CSR Project' at IIM Kolkata. Overall, the partnership has been a fulfilling experience, fostering growth and making a meaningful impact.

The Impact of the HCLTech Grant

RELEVANCE: There exists a vicious cycle of maternal depression and its impact on infant growth and early child development. Perinatal depression when associated with poverty magnifies malnutrition's impact on children's growth and cognition. Our project addresses this by training frontline health workers in services related to perinatal mental health and early childhood development.

INNOVATION: Deploying health workers from the community who are familiar and trusted, allowing for delivery of care at door-step; digital technology for high quality

training of large numbers of health workers at scale, and from distant places; the responsive parenting intervention via videos.

SCALABILITY: By leveraging digital technology, we are training the frontline health workers through a smart-phone accessible learning management system which is low cost and scalable.

SUSTAINABILITY: Our collaborations with the National Health Mission (NHM) and Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) in Madhya Pradesh are a big step towards the sustainability of the interventions beyond the project timelines. Frontline worker training ensures the continued delivery of services in their communities.

INCLUSION: Our intervention is delivered by ASHAs and Anganwadi workers who deliver care equitably to all, irrespective of religious or caste or class differences. All of our training videos readily available on YouTube, free for use.



Stories of Impact

ASHA workers and Beneficiaries, Narmadapuram District, Madhya Pradesh

ASHA - 'People come from Sangath and teach us, help us through online sessions; these greatly help us in our work. I would like to continue learning similarly and helping others in the future.'

Pregnant woman - 'After receiving counselling sessions from the ASHA, I feel good, my health is better, and my food habits have changed. Earlier, I did not feel like working, now I have an interest in working.'

Postpartum woman - 'I have started feeling wonderful after receiving the counselling sessions. The ASHA showed me pictures and helped me understand things. When I was in need, she helped me.'

ASHA orientation in progress



Top and bottom: : *Stimulating learning for Anganwadi children*



Makkala Jagriti



Makkala Jagriti aims to create a value-based social movement to empower children and their communities towards a brighter future through holistic development models. It works with early childhood education, primary education and youth in multiple districts across Karnataka, having cumulatively reached over 80,000 children and 500+ institutions. Its programmes create safe, nonthreatening spaces where children and youth can learn and develop and access quality learning.

Founded by Joy Srinivasan in 2003

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Transformation of Anganwadi ecosystem in vulnerable areas towards sustainably providing quality early childhood care and education to children

Beneficiaries: 12,500 children, 403 Anganwadi teachers, 341 Anganwadi helpers, 13 Anganwadi supervisors, 1 Child Development Project Officer, 1 Deputy Director, WCD Community and parents – 5,000

Location: H D Kote Taluk, Mysore district, Karnataka state

The HCLTech Grant Project in Action

This project aims to strengthen the early learning ecosystem through the capacity building of Anganwadi teachers, parents, and the tribal community in Karnataka's least urbanized Taluk. Support during these critical developmental years impacts future learning outcomes, health, and quality of life. The Grant has played a pivotal role in helping us establish a strong foothold within the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) system in HD Kote. We have built a collaborative partnership with the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) to design and implement an intervention to strengthen the capacities of supervisors, teachers, and helpers. This has allowed us to assess on-ground challenges, introduce need-based training modules and learning materials and create thriving spaces for learning. The Grant has strengthened preschool education in HD Kote by fostering institutional engagement, community participation, and sustainable learning models. With strong stakeholder involvement and innovative yet cost-effective approaches, this initiative is paving the way for systemic change in early education within the ICDS framework.



ಅಂಗವಾಡಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 880252520
ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1098
ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08228255320

Working with the HCLFoundation

We have received good support from the HCLFoundation team. We appreciate the trust that the team has placed on us to make sure that the project is delivered effectively and caters to the contextual needs of the region.

The Impact of the HCLTech Grant

RELEVANCE: The project aligns with the needs of the ICDS system in HD Kote, addressing gaps in early childhood education by equipping functionaries with the necessary skills and resources in one of Karnataka's most underserved regions, and thus also aligning with HCLTech Grant's goal of sustainable rural development.

INNOVATION: Working with CDPOs and Anganwadi supervisors and collaborating with the local ICDS leadership; working with the 'self'-workshops for stakeholders to tap into their personal strengths and potential; setup

of Anganwadi centers to be more learning-conducive and stimulating; the use of WhatsApp-based daily video sharing, a low-cost, digital learning tool for teachers and parents.

SUSTAINABILITY: Community engagement is the key pillar of sustainability in the project. The formation of parent groups for consistent support at home, monthly teacher and helper training, involving CDPOs and supervisors for institutional buy-in, and empowerment of Anganwadi teachers and helpers.

SCALABILITY: Working with the ICDS leadership with a build-monitor-transfer model to strengthen capacity makes it possible to scale and replicate.

INCLUSION: The intervention directly benefits children from marginalized communities in a backward taluk, ensuring equitable access to quality early education for children who have typically been left out.



Stories of Impact

Mrs. Rajitha N, Supervisor, H D Kote Taluk, Mysuru District, Karnataka

'As a Supervisor, I can confidently say that the training provided to our Anganwadi teachers, along with the presence of Circle Coordinators in each area, has significantly contributed to the progress of preschool education. Makkala Jagriti's approach is truly commendable – they use very creative teaching methods and emphasize low-cost materials and locally available resources, which is both practical and effective for our context. The impact has been visible, and we look forward to more such valuable training sessions from Makkala Jagriti to continue strengthening our education system.'

Our games teach us the world

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2025

Gram Gourav Pratisthan 50

Enabling equitable distribution of water to vulnerable communities

Life Education and Development Support 58

Amplifying the voices, traditional rights and sustainable development of tribal communities

Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission 66

Promoting all-round sustainable development of rural populations

Shortlisted 2025

Action for Social Advancement 74

Empowering communities through sustainable, farm-based livelihoods

Centre for Youth and Social Development 78

Mobilizing tribal communities towards climate-resilient forest management

Coodu Trust 82

Creating pathways for self-reliance and resilience

End Poverty 86

Prioritizing small and marginal farmers to rise above rural distress

Peoples Science Institute 90

Eradicating poverty through the sustainable and equitable use of human and natural resources

Water For People India Trust 94

Innovating nature-based technologies to enhance access to safe water and sanitation

Watershed Support Services And Activity Network 98

Catalyzing participatory processes and community control over resources in marginalized, rainfed geographies

ENVIRONMENT





Water conservation, climate resilience and regenerative agriculture are the threads that connect the NGOs shortlisted for the ENVIRONMENTAL category of the HCLTech Grant this year. Through community institutions like Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), as well as the use of innovative technology melded with traditional wisdom, these organisations have successfully worked on drought proofing villages in Jharkhand, sustainable livelihoods in the Sunderbans and increasing farmer productivity in Odisha, strengthening the fragile relationship between humanity and nature on our planet.





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







Gram Gourav Pratisthan



Founded by the Late Vilasrao Salunke
in 1974

Gram Gourav Pratisthan strives to enable equitable distribution of water to people in village communities through sustainable methods. It envisages the creation of self-reliant clusters of villages (Panchakroshi), improving lives through scientific development of the watershed, sustainable and equitable use of water, organic agriculture, holistic healthcare and local leadership. Its work has impacted over 60 villages in Maharashtra in the severely drought-prone Pune and Satara districts, many of which were tanker-fed. Its work has benefitted over 1 lakh villagers of 22,200 families. The Panchkroshi model has positively impacted drought prone talukas of and Maharashtra where it has enabled sustained community participation in ecological governance.

Maintaining water resources for community welfare
Following pages (52–53): *Harnessing water resources to make lands bountiful*

THE DEVASTATING DROUGHT OF 1972 drastically altered the lives of more than 4 lakh people in Maharashtra. Crops and cattle perished and even drinking water was a luxury. Vilasrao Salunkhe, an engineer (later known as Pani Baba) decided to intervene with a solution that was innovative at the time: environmental regeneration and watershed development with community participation.

From its beginnings on barren land in Naigon village, this experiment, that increased green cover and crop productivity and brought the communities together to harness water in an equitable manner, was the genesis of the NGO Gram Gourav Pratisthan (GGP), and the 'pani panchayat'.

GGP works with the smallholder who depends on unpredictable rainfall for farming. Along with this uncertainty, there is the depletion of natural resources and climate change to contend with. Policymakers have not been able to address the multiple issues affecting these vulnerable populations, especially where it comes to rational and equitable distribution of water resources. 'The Pani Panchayat model is a comprehensive ecological solution of conservation of grassland, agrobiodiversity, watershed







Top: *Regenerating the community by planting trees and grasses on our lands*
Bottom: *Organic farming ensures our childrens' future*



We work hard to protect our water resources

Following pages (56–57): *Bringing equality and prosperity to all by sharing sustainable wells and irrigation methods*

development, equitable water distribution and crop-water management,’ says Dr Sonali Shinde, Managing Trustee of GGP. After its success, community irrigation schemes were established in more than fifty locations in Pune district and importance of treating water as a common property resource to which all – including the landless – have rights, was recognised.

After encountering another drought in 2012, GGP now works at a cluster level rather than a community or singular village. It is a model that aims to achieve holistic development of mutually interdependent villages that share essential local resources like land, water and energy, through local resource mapping, micro planning for resource conservation, food security and

gainful employment for the local youth through skill training. ‘Through our interventions we emphasise creating, nurturing and building capacities of local level institutions, local participation for informed ownership and maintenance of the asset created, harmonious and effective management of water, soil and biodiversity within the cluster. As an exit strategy, we hand over the project to village level watershed committee (Pani Panchayat) to maintain the infrastructures developed during the project.’

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Panchkroshi Parywaran Punuruthan

Beneficiaries: 18,764 villagers, 50 farmers, 10 Gram Panchayats

Location: 10 villages in Maharashtra







SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2025

Life Education and Development Support



Founded by Awadh Kishore Singh in 2005

LEADS' initiatives work towards an inclusive society where all the stakeholders, particularly the vulnerable, participate with full empowerment and gain equal access and control over services, resources and entitlements. Its commitment is to work for a democratic paradigm of development and governance. It seeks to institutionalize the idea that people must participate in the development and governance process of the state. It works in the areas of environment protection, water management, agriculture, alternative livelihoods, drinking water, health and sanitation in 3000 villages in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

*A united effort to conserve our life-giving water bodies
Following pages (60–61): Clean energy from alternative
sources is transforming rural futures*

THERE HAS LONG BEEN A BELIEF

that tribal people are backward, with no potential for development. This has led to their exclusion from the trajectories of growth and opportunity. There is, however, a global awakening that is honouring the deep connections with nature and indigenous knowledge these societies possess, and the well-developed social, political, and economic systems that have sustained them over generations.

Life Education and Development Support (LEADS) works in Jharkhand, where more than a quarter of the population is tribal. 'Our work aims to dismantle these misconceptions by fostering self-reliance, amplifying the voices of tribal communities, and advocating for policies that recognize their traditional knowledge and rights. By doing so, we strive to create a more just and inclusive society where these communities are valued as equal stakeholders in development. Our greatest success lies in our ability to create sustainable, scalable models of development. Through our interventions, we have demonstrated impactful solutions that have been replicated at state and national levels, influencing broader policy frameworks,' says Awadh Kishore Singh, MD and Trustee, LEADS.







Top and bottom: *Diversifying and intercropping increases our earnings and our yield*



Community Promoted Plants Nursery

Following pages (64–65): *Prosperity follows on the heels of sustainable agricultural practices*

Working to empower tribal communities in diverse ways, and working in the most remote areas with the most marginalized populations, LEADS has programmes in many domains. It provides life education to children and adolescents, catalyses women's empowerment, livelihood support to the poor and marginalized, natural resource promotion, technical skill up-gradation for employment generation, clean energy, health, and more. It works to strengthen local governance and build capacity of community-based organizations, believing strongly in the immense potential of individuals and communities to drive meaningful change. Every stage of every intervention actively integrates the community into it for planning, implementation and monitoring.

LEADS creates awareness of rights and entitlements within the community and

focuses on convergence with government schemes and welfare programs to amplify impact so that these misunderstood and underestimated tribal populations can be given their due push for development. 'By embedding sustainability and relevance into our programs through continuous engagement, skill-building, and institutional strengthening, LEADS ensures that the impact of our interventions extends well beyond the project duration, ultimately leading to lasting positive change within the community,' says Awadh Kishore Singh.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Promotion of Floral Biodiversity and Clean Energy for Sustainable Environment

Beneficiaries: 403,440 trees, 1,515 hectares of land area

Location: 90 villages in Jharkhand







SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2025

Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission



Founded by Late Ahindra Nath Ray
& Dr Sudhir Bera in 1988

Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission was inspired by the humanitarian and social service activities of Lokamata Rani Rashmoni. It strives to overcome poverty and create a healthy environment with equality and prosperity for all. Its programmes build all-round sustainable development of poor rural communities through alternate livelihood, conservation of biodiversity, climate resilient agriculture, women's empowerment, health support, and disaster relief. Its initiatives have benefitted over 2,360 farmers and 2,300 households across 39 villages of West Bengal.

Harvesting rainwater, a pond at a time
Following pages (68–69): *Growing nutritious plants*
brings earnings and health

THE UNIQUE MANGROVE WETLAND

called the Sunderbans is now a World Heritage Site, but it is also a fragile ecosystem. Climate change, unsustainable farming practices and ill-management of natural resources has aggravated natural disasters and poverty. Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission (LRRM) works in this environment to address livelihood issues by making agriculture more profitable through conserving local agro biodiversity, utilizing traditional knowledge as well as introducing modern techniques that are climate smart. Giving the community a chance to improve their incomes also reduces forest dependency and migration.

For several decades, LRRM has worked to increase awareness of the environment in rural areas of Bengal. Its methodology always involves the community, strengthening local institutions and building the capacity of community leaders while engaging with local governments. The installation of Improved Cook Stoves in large numbers has been one of their success stories, reducing the use of firewood and the dangers of collecting it from the forest, and bettering health of women. Women once involved in illegal collecting of fish and prawn seed are now rearing goats and earning well. New methods of farming







Top: *Our ancient crops are climate smart!*

Bottom: *The soil made magic with micro-organisms that enhance biodiversity*



*We learn that Azolla algae controls weeds and fixes the soil
Following pages (72–73): Indigenous paddy brings abundance and resilience*

have moved people from monocrops to using microbial inputs and indigenous seeds, thus generating profits. Backyard poultry farming and nutrition gardens are making families earn income and eat healthier themselves. Other activities LRRM has initiated include skill training and capacity building for rural unemployed youth and SHG women, preparing Peoples' Biodiversity Registers, conserving indigenous paddy, vegetable and fish varieties, planting of fruit saplings to create habitats for birds and food sources for humans, rainwater harvesting, and more.

'For our activities, in 2004, we received the Environment Excellence Award from the West Bengal Pollution Control Board and the prestigious Meghnad Award, 2006 from Department of Science and Technology,

Government of West Bengal. This recognition helped us to work in the forest fringe villages of Sundarbans under the guidance and support from GEF / UNDP which helped us a lot in learning and gaining the confidence of community. Immediately after that the government supported us to implement Eco & WASH in Sundarbans area, and the West Bengal Biodiversity Board entrusted us with documentation and conservation activities,' says Amitava Roy, General Secretary (Honorary), LRRM.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Conservation of Biodiversity for Life and Livelihood

Beneficiaries: 2360 farmers, 2300 households

Location: 40 villages in West Bengal



Conservation of Crop Diversity
Field for Demonstration & Experiment
ট্যাংরা মাল
Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission
Nimpith, South 24 Parganas, 743338



Action for Social Advancement



Founded by Ashis Mondal and Gangana Jayanthi in 1996

Action for Social Advancement (ASA) is committed to empowering and uplifting communities through sustainable farm-based livelihoods through inclusive participation, strengthening local institutions and gender equity. It strives to transform tomorrows by ensuring livelihoods of underserved rural populations by enriching natural resource, especially water, and regenerating landscapes. Its programmes are spread across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. ASA has benefitted over 1.78 lakh farmers with over 553,894 million liters of rainwater harvested for irrigation. More than 70% of members of ASA's Community-Based Organizations are women.

A stop dam makes water available even when the rains fail us

CHOTE VARKHADE, a farmer in Jamli village in Madhya Pradesh managed his smallholding in the same way his family had done for generations: heavily reliant on rainfall, with limited crop choices like maize and paddy, and small yields. With the intervention of Action for Social Advancement to construct a doha or earthen dam, Chote's livelihood has transformed. Effective water storage and distribution means that his output increased and he can diversify crops to include chickpeas, wheat and more. Simple maintenance by the Water User Group helps keep the doha in good shape. This single water structure supports 20 farmers and has significantly improved groundwater levels, reinforcing the community's resilience against climate change.

Marginalized farming communities in rural India have been badly hit by environmental and social factors. ASA believes that empowering smallholders through sustainable and regenerative agriculture, better water management and strong community-led initiatives is the pathway to a stable, self-sustaining, ecologically sound agricultural model. Beginning with a focus on small water harvesting methods, ASA moved on to developing a water-centric landscape restoration approach to combat larger issues



Top: *My farm pond irrigates my field and replenishes the Earth's water*
Bottom: *Ways of cultivation like System of Rice Intensification (SRI) yield rich results*



A dug well of productivity and income!

that were unfolding, like loss of holdings and natural resources. Eventually, it fused strategies of community-led, participatory processes, training and gender into its programme design.

ASA functions through a unique framework called the 'Livelihood Model'. 'ASA's aim is to foster the development of a Regenerative Production Landscape that encompasses people, nature, and their economy, while nurturing an agricultural ecosystem,' says G Jayanthi, Director of Action for Social Advancement, ASA. A three-pronged approach includes land and water resources development, promotion of sustainable agriculture technology and providing market access to farmers along with institutional credit.

Creation and bolstering of community institutions like Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups

(SHGs), mostly peopled by women, is an effective tool that impacts not only gender equality, but also enhances decision-making processes in the community. In the long term, these bodies begin to take independent ownership of initiatives in sustainable agriculture and livelihoods.

'Looking ahead, ASA envisions a future where digital integration, climate-resilient agriculture, and community-led institutions drive sustainable rural development,' explains G Jayanthi.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Development of Community Driven Regenerative Agriculture Production Landscape

Beneficiaries: 10000 small & marginal holders, 400 SHGs, 2 FPOs

Location: 60 villages in Madhya Pradesh



Centre for Youth and Social Development



Founded by Jagadananda and Prafulla Kumar Sahoo in 1982

Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) works towards improving the quality of lives of tribal, rural and urban poor in Odisha with a vision of an equitable society where women and men can freely realize their full potential, fulfill their rights and responsibilities and lead their life with dignity and self-respect. It uses issue-based research to influence policies from a pro-poor and rights based perspective, and works to ensure transparent, gender sensitive governance by building the capacities of people and organizations. Currently, it reaches out to more than 6 lakh people spread over 1,087 villages of 31 blocks in 11 districts of Odisha.

The fruits and leaves of our forest are plentiful and useful if we gather them sustainably

THOUSANDS OF TRIBAL WOMEN

and adolescent girls in Odisha changed their maternal health and hygiene practices through a peer education programme called SAMVAD, conducted through videos made by the community itself. The Internet Gram Saathini programme has facilitated nearly two million women in learning the internet and accessing information and entitlements online. The World on Wheels (WOW), a solar-powered bus with 20 laptops, a digital board and a linked-in-server with all curriculums has been able to bring computer learning to tribal and rural women and children to their doorsteps, making them a part of the digital eco-system.

All these are simple solutions that have had a profound impact on their beneficiaries. They emerge from the committed efforts of the Centre for Youth and Social Development. Using a combination of direct action and capacity building and building synergy among different stakeholders, CYSD works to empower the most vulnerable rural populations of Odisha, breaking the culture of silence around their exclusion.

‘Our vision to build resilient communities focuses on mobilizing community-led action



Top: *Learning how we can harvest sustainably and market profitably*
Bottom: *Regenerating our forest for a fecund future*



Mother earth gave us mahua for a livelihood that lasts

groups. By providing targeted capacity building and ongoing support, we empower these groups to address social injustices and advocate for their own development. We nurture a network of 822 Community Leaders to promote need-based development planning, enabling village communities to pursue grassroots agendas. We have signed MOUs with 80 Gram Panchayats to collaboratively facilitate participatory planning, implementation, and monitoring of development programmes,' says Haris Chandra Singh, Chief Operating Officer, CYSD.

Take Pramila Krishna, of Dangrapali village in Koraput who works as a Digital Champion with women's collectives and uses technology to help tribal women expand their businesses of selling Non-Timber Forest Products (like tamarind

and sal seed) at the best possible Minimum Support Price (MSPs), and right from their own village, as she has set up market linkages through CYSD's Banashree app on her smartphone. Pramila has been trained under CYSD's programme 'Transforming Tribal Women as Digitally Empowered Enterprise Leaders.' 'We don't have to rely on anyone to get the information we need; we directly talk to buyers. We can also easily transfer or receive payments with digital payment apps,' she says proudly.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Climate-Resilient Forest Management for Tribal Empowerment in Odisha

Beneficiaries: 15,000 women NTFP gatherers, 2,500 members of Van Surakshya Samiti, 600 elected PRI representatives

Location: 250 villages in Odisha



Coodu Trust



Founded by S.Jagadeesan in 2000

Coodu Trust seeks to create a sustainable and equitable society where marginalized rural communities have access to opportunities, resources, and the ability to lead empowered lives. It is committed to addressing systemic inequalities and fostering holistic development. Through education, skill development, sustainable livelihoods, and community empowerment initiatives, the Trust aims to uplift rural populations, amplify marginalized voices, and create pathways for self-reliance and resilience. It works in over 30 districts of Tamil Nadu and 86 blocks with the involvement of 534 panchayats.

A check dam today means more water for all tomorrow

‘COODU’ IN TAMIL MEANS SHELTER.

This committed NGO creates a nurturing space for growth and resilience for marginalized groups – women, farmers, and youth – through grassroots initiatives that transform the narratives of inequality. The cycle of deprivation is broken through poverty eradication by means of education, skill development, and microfinance. For women, fostering leadership, economic independence, and gender equity; for farmers, by promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), sustainable agricultural practices that help adapt to climate change and boost livelihoods; and for the youth, equipping young people with vocational skills with assured placements to alleviate unemployment and stop urban migration.

‘The turning point in Coodu Trust India’s journey came when we took up watershed development programmes at large scale. We influenced lives of thousands of poor farmers and agricultural labourers and converted more than a lakh hectare of wasteland. Coodu Trust earned the trust and gratitude of the communities it served due to visible results and stability in the income and their livelihoods,’ says S. Jagadeesan, Managing Trustee/Director, Coodu Trust.



Top: *We dig, we recharge, we future-proof our lives*
Bottom: *In this farm pond, are reflected our hopes*



Being part of the Farmer Producer Organization has boosted our turnover manifold

And so, it is through Coodu Trust functioning as a Cluster-Based Business Organization (CBBO) that Oddanchatram Agro FPO has created a thriving business model by aggregating maize and coconut, benefiting local farmers with enhanced market access and better prices. And it is through Coodu Trust that the rainwater structure made in his village increased Yesu Anthony's small farm's productivity exponentially and helped him diversify his crops. And it is through Coodu Trust that K. Saritha from Valvalmangalam village enrolled in a skill training course and learned to operate a sewing machine, eventually getting a job in a textile company and bringing home ₹7,600 per month. Saritha no longer feels like a burden on her parents and supports herself and her children independently.

'What sets Coodu Trust apart is its focus on long-term impact rather than short-term aid.

Programs are designed to foster self-reliance, equipping individuals and communities with the skills and resources to thrive independently. By blending traditional knowledge with modern techniques and maintaining an inclusive, participatory approach, Coodu Trust creates enduring change that uplifts the most marginalized, making it a trusted partner in development. Through these inclusive steps, Coodu Trust fosters a sense of belonging and equal opportunity, creating sustainable and transformative change for all,' says S. Jagadeesan.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Namathu Neer Thittam

Beneficiaries: 340 farmers, 22,700 community members and 60 MSMEs

Location: 18 villages in Tamil Nadu



End Poverty



Founded by Vinod Kaushik in 2009

End Poverty designs and delivers innovative solutions for the rural poor to make a positive and sustainable difference in their lives. Through community-led development initiatives, it achieves positive social, economic, and environmental change. The organization enables and empowers people through education, training, and capacity building and supports them with identifying solutions and making informed choices across major five thematic areas covering nine Sustainable Development Goals. It has over 60,000 beneficiaries reaching across 850 villages in 8 Indian states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.

Clean air is the reward for managing my crop residue well

POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

DEGRADATION are deeply interlinked.

However, if resources are protected with the participation and knowledge of communities, both people and the planet flourish. This philosophy led the organization End Poverty (EP) to design programmes for restoration and conservation of the natural ecosystem and capacity building of the community in natural resource management and sustainable agriculture.

EP prioritizes small and marginal farmers from poor pockets of India, in particular, women farmers, to rise above rural distress. 'We implement projects through community led institutions like Village Development Committees (VDC) for rural development and agriculture and allied interventions, Water User Groups (WUG) for water conservation related projects, and Farmer Producer Collectives called FPOs for enterprise development at village level to cater to unreached populations,' says Vinod Kaushik, CEO of EP. These institutions are the backbone of EP's development interventions as they catalyse and facilitate rural development and ensure that the community has ownership of the programme and benefits directly from it.



Top: *No longer do I burn stubble and endanger my family's lungs*
Bottom: *Bringing ponds back to life is our duty*



Our future holds promise as we store crop residue instead of burning it

Imarti Jadav and her family are from a village in Madhya Pradesh. They used to depend on farming and animal husbandry for a living, until one day Imarti was introduced to the Guna Vikas Mahila Farmer Producer Company facilitated by EP. She also attended training sessions on modern dairy practices. As a result of this, Imarti earns more, gets her payments on time, receives a fair price for her product and productivity of her animals has increased.

Similarly, Virendar's life changed for the better through an intervention of EP. A resident of Shekhpura village in Karnal, Haryana, he would burn the stubble on his fields as he had no efficient and affordable methods for managing it. EP's Crop Residue Management initiative offered a sustainable solution. Farmers, including Virendar, were

provided access to balers and other equipment through Krishi Yantra Saathi and Custom Hiring Centers, then manage crop residue without burning, thus reducing pollution and improving soil health. By 2023, stubble burning incidents in Shekhpura dropped to zero. The baled stubble is now used as raw material in industries, fostering economic and environmental benefits.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Mitigating Climate Change through Crop Residue Management (CRM) and Sustainable Paddy Cultivation in Karnal district, Haryana
Beneficiaries: 5,000 farmers
Location: 30 villages in Haryana



People's Science Institute



Founded by a group of IIT-educated professionals and their friends in 1988

People's Science Institute's (PSI) mission is to help eradicate poverty through the empowerment of the poor, and the productive, sustainable and equitable use of available human and natural resources. It is known for its pioneering work in the fields of community-led watershed development, environmental quality monitoring and disaster-safe housing. Its activities are spread across the country with a focus on the central-western Himalayan states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the poverty-ridden Bundelkhand region impacting over 29.4 lakh people and 5.4 lakh households. It has received several awards, including the Earth Care Award, 2019.

Restoring pastures, reviving communities

THE SUKHA MUKTI ABHIYAN

(Palamu district, Jharkhand, early 1990s) organised poor, illiterate villagers into Pani Panchayats and trained them to build earthen dams to drought-proof themselves. Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (Odisha, early 2000s) is a programme of self-reliant development based on community-led micro-planning. Springs regeneration programmes were held in several Himalayan states (2009 onwards), and fluorosis mitigation (Dhar district, M.P., 2008 onwards). Droughts, floods, earthquakes and more in Uttarkashi (1991), Latur (1993), Jabalpur (1997), Chamoli (1999), Gujarat (2001), tsunami (2004) and Kashmir (2005) were responded to with urgency. All of these are initiatives by People Sciences Institute (PSI), which have directly fed into policies and programmes of central and state governments, the Planning Commission and Niti Aayog.

‘PSI is an organization of professionals with a clear and practical vision of nation-building, promoting water, food and livelihoods security through integrated natural resources management, and building community resilience for disasters and climate change. PSI has established a special niche for itself by undertaking projects on a large scale by using a systems approach to scale-up community-centered projects from a village



Top: *These trenches hold the solution to our water woes*
Bottom: *Napier grass ensures that the soil and water are conserved well*



Technology and innovation are the way forward

to a district-level, innovating social processes, administrative procedures and technologies,’ explains Dr Debashish Sen, Director, PSI.

PSI employs a professional, knowledge-based approach through domain-based groups like the Natural Resources Management Group, The Environmental Quality Monitoring Group, Disaster Mitigation and Response Group and the Innovations Group. This expertise combines with research and technological innovations like low-cost earthquake-safe houses, development of water quality monitoring kits, an intermediate-size hydram, a GIS-software program called Village Information System and more, to impact its interventions powerfully.

PSI’s participatory approach empowers communities and enhances local self-reliance in implementing development projects. People identify their problems, and then together

with PSI they analyse them, researching and discussing possible solutions. Local village-level institutions are organized and trained to implement these solutions. PSI provides technical and managerial support during implementation, and outcomes are periodically reviewed. Collaborations with and training of local NGOs ensures the work will be sustained in the long term.

‘We see ourselves as catalysts of change, using science and technology to regenerate nature and empower the marginalized through sustainable, equitable processes that also strengthen democracy at the grassroots,’ says Dr Sen.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Building Community Resilience through Nature-Based Solutions

Beneficiaries: 2228 households, 10192 people

Location: 50 villages in Uttarakhand



Water For People India Trust



Founded by Arun Deb in 2008

Water For People has a vision of a world where every person has access to reliable and safe water and high-quality sanitation services. Its pioneering programmes cater to the needs of communities, schools, and health care centres in the area of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Its initiatives have been implemented in 28 districts of West Bengal, as well as in Bihar, Maharashtra, Assam and Odisha, and have impacted over 2 million people through their projects.

Pioneering programmes in the Sunderbans

IT'S AN OFT-HEARD STORY IN RURAL INDIA. A village with no household tap water. Women and girls having to trek miles to fetch water which is not even safe for drinking. Piped water connections a distant dream. In such a scenario, in 2017, in Memna village in Maharashtra, Water For People India Trust brought hope. With support from the village's Water User Committee for strengthening the piped water supply scheme (PWSS), 80 functional household tap connections have been provided, ensuring that every household receives adequate and clean water daily for drinking and household needs. The organization works with a model called The Everyone Forever that catalyzes long term sustainability and inclusivity by selecting locations and communities that are underserved in water and sanitation.

‘Water For People India initiated its operations in West Bengal in 1996 through a program on arsenic mitigation. Based on the experiences gained from the project, we expanded our initiatives to integrated water and sanitation activities at the school and community level in West Bengal and Bihar. Water For People India Trust was established in 2008 in alignment with the same global



Top and bottom: *We are thrilled with the high ridge-low furrow model which allows rich harvests and fishing, too*



We keep an eye on our water sources

mission to provide improved access to water and sanitation services to all, under The Everyone Forever framework,' says Bishwadeep Ghose, Managing Trustee, Water For People India Trust.

Working in some of the remotest areas of eastern India, often with no electricity, mobile or road networks, the Water For People India Trust team have a deep commitment to their cause, which combined with technical expertise from State universities and a heartening response from the community has resulted in excellent long term outcomes from their interventions. A community-based arsenic filtration plant in Nadia continues to function even after almost two decades. Similarly, a metered piped water supply system run by the Gram Panchayat in Digambarpur, South 24 Parganas was awarded the President's Medal and continues to function even today.

Learnings on the ground are shared with the government and other NGOs to scale up best practices. The Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission have both been strengthened by this organization's collaborations with the government.

'The objective is to inculcate a scientific temperament and use technology and data to promote efficiency and effectiveness. Our projects also explore innovative nature-based technologies to amalgamate science and traditional knowledge,' says Bishwadeep Ghose.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Promoting Nature Based Solutions to restore mangroves and manage water resources in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal
Beneficiaries: 216 marginal farmers, 7,500 students, 2,000 plantations in community
Location: 2,042 villages in West Bengal



Watershed Support Services and Activities Network



Founded by late B.N. Yugandhar,
and Sri. M.V. Sastri in 1999

Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) articulates voices and needs of the people and agro-ecologies in marginalized rainfed geographies into public systems and policies to catalyse action at scale. WASSAN works in participatory processes, equity, gender, poverty eradication and enabling community control over resources to enhance sustainable livelihoods in drought-prone areas. Their work specifically targets smallholder farmers, farm workers, women, and tribal communities. One of WASSAN's primary programmes, Odisha Millet Mission (OMM), has impacted 30 districts of Odisha, benefitting over 2.4 lakh farmers and 4,000 women SHGs.

New machines make our work a breeze!

IMAGINE A CHICKEN BEING A SAVIOUR. That's what happened when a group of tribal women in rural Odisha engaged with a livelihood enhancement programme of Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN). By rearing desi poultry, breeds that are highly resilient, low maintenance and easy on the pocket, and adapt well to the tropical climate, these women have supplemented the strained traditional rain-fed agricultural earnings and the nutrition of their families by leaps and bounds. The chickens, technical knowhow and financial support is provided under a government scheme facilitated by WASSAN. 'We don't sell our flock at one go. These are our ready cash for any unforeseen event – our saviours,' says Budra Midiami of Mathili block.

WASSAN began its development journey focusing on watershed development. However, based on its experience in the field, it soon adopted a more holistic approach towards its goal of empowering marginalized communities through community-led initiatives in dry regions left out of mainstream trajectories of progress. 'After working on watersheds for 10 years in rainfed areas, evidence was showing that while NRM



Top and bottom: *Our ancestors smile upon us as we bring forgotten staples like tubers and finger millet back into the light*



Conserving our traditional foods which are superfoods

regeneration has happened, it is leading to unsustainable agriculture practices. For example, wherever check dams were built, instead of millets and pulses, farmers were growing rice and sugarcane even in arid landscapes. It became very evident that NRM alone will not address ecological sustainability, it needs to be integrated with production systems and livelihood approaches under an agroecological framework,' says Dinesh Balam, Associate Director, WASSAN, Odisha.

Another area of work is designing small innovative mechanisations through participatory approaches to help reduce the physical workload of farming families, especially women through WASSAN's tech team, 'Farm Easy'. This includes portable

solar carts for irrigation, cycle weeders, row seeders, multirow sprayers, women-friendly ragi threshers, Bio-input units and more. WASSAN promotes technology platforms – Millet Mentor to support millet processing, and Innovation Guild to developing innovation capacity at the village level.

'WASSAN works with ecological growth pathways by innovating on ground and connecting such innovations to scale and policy development,' says Dinesh Balam.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Forgotten Crops/Foods for Climate Resilience and Nutrition Security

Beneficiaries: 40,000 small and marginal women farmers

Location: 100 villages in Odisha

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2025

Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation 108

Committed to eradicating childhood blindness caused by Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)

Pallium India Trust 116

Integrating quality palliative care and training into healthcare for marginalized communities

Pro Rural 124

Bettering health outcomes and access to basic healthcare for underserved communities in the northeast

Shortlisted 2025

Bapu Trust for Research on Mind and Discourse 132

Enhancing inclusion and healthcare for people living with mental health issues and psychosocial disabilities

Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics India 136

Ensuring access to high-quality, affordable diagnostics at the point of care and in the community

LEPRA Society 140

Bringing dignity and access to treatment into the lives of people affected with Leprosy and other neglected diseases

North East Society for Agroecology Support 144

Protecting and popularizing indigenous food systems of the north east

Population Foundation of India 148

Improving outcomes in sexual and reproductive health through community-led strategies

Project Concern International 152

Developing holistic models for sustainable and equitable healthcare for the underserved

SANMAT 156

Providing pathways for underserved communities to get access to health, education and livelihoods

HEALTH





Addressing a diversity of health-related concerns in India, the NGOs shortlisted for the HEALTH category of the HCL Grant this year are making giant strides in improving curative and preventive health, as well equitable access to healthcare. From ROP in Tamil Nadu to sickle-cell disease in Jharkhand and lymphatic filariasis in Bihar; from community mental health and inclusion in Maharashtra to training of ASHA workers around the country; and from improving sexual and reproductive health among young women to reviving Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems (IPFS) these NGOs work thought mobilising the community to take control of their own health.





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







SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2025

Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation



Founded by Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham and Dr. R. Praveen Krishna in 2009

Primarily working on eye care with a focus on preventable childhood blindness, Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation is the public charitable trust of Radhatri Nethralaya, which provides free eye care to marginalized sections of the society. It was created with a primary purpose of eradicating needless childhood blindness, and guide patients from darkness to light. So far, its Vision on Wheels programme has screened more than 1 lakh babies for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) successfully in rural Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

*Preserving vision for babies from remote areas
Following pages (110–111): Taking ROP screening to
the hinterlands through Vision on Wheels*

300KM FROM CHENNAI, a group of trained healthcare technicians are assessing newborn babies. Using handheld retinal cameras, the babies are screened, and through teleophthalmology, the paediatric retina specialist at the base hospital is consulted. These technicians, a band of ‘women warriors’ from the Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation (GVRF) are looking for signs of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), the eye condition that causes blindness among pre-term babies.

GVRF is committed to the cause of ROP, a common cause of blindness. In India, there is a lack of screening programmes, very few trained specialists who can treat ROP and the cost of treatment is high. A distinct lack of awareness compounds matters, and makes ROP a huge problem especially among vulnerable rural communities. In order to combat this, GVRF set up the first ever ROP management programme in Government hospitals in Chennai and rural Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

‘GVRF ensures an inclusive eye care service by continuous training of its workforce to reflect on diversity of







Top: *You brought my vision back, doctor!*

Bottom: *Training government hospital nurses has boosted ROP health outcomes*



A delicate surgery for a pre-term baby with ROP

Following pages (114–115): *Our nurses are warriors on the frontline of childhood blindness*

patients, patient's values, needs, barriers community diversity, privileges and in the process, ensure full participation. When the GVRF team visits the babies in government hospitals for ROP screening, sincere attempts are made to train and involve the local optometrists and ophthalmology postgraduates and retina fellows. This is to encourage their learning and participation in the treatment process,' says Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham, Paediatric Retina Specialist & Managing Trustee, GVRF.

With a compassionate mission to ensure delivery of international standards of excellence in diagnostic and therapeutic ophthalmology to India's most vulnerable, GVRF has achieved excellent outcomes.

'An average of 10,000 preterm infants are screened for ROP per year. Till date more than 4500 preterm infants have been treated for ROP free of charge. On an average 400 preterm infants are treated for ROP in a year by us,' explains Dr Vedantham.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Vision on Wheels

Beneficiaries: 50,000 newborn pre-term babies, 200,000 parents and siblings of newborn pre-term babies

Location: 10,130 villages in 15 districts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh







SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2025

Pallium India Trust



Founded by Dr. M.R. Rajagopal in 2003

Pallium India's objective is to integrate quality palliative care into healthcare by collaborating with, and empowering care seekers, care providers and communities. It aims to stop needless health-related suffering to enable people to wake up to life, love and hope. Today it has reached 110,736 patients and family members in Trivandrum District, certified 11,206 healthcare professionals in palliative care programmes with projects in Kerala, West Bengal and Kashmir. It has collaborated with over 210 palliative care centres and 24 National Health Missions (NHMs) in 28 states and 6 union territories.

Care and compassion taken into patients' homes and into overall healthcare

Following pages (118–119): *Training and education of community health workers for pain relief*

A BREAKDOWN OF HEALTH can often mean a breakdown of many other aspects of a person's life: physical pain, depression, isolation, relationship issues, gender discrimination, financial problems and a general existential feeling of worthlessness are all common and lead to a great deal of suffering. In India, it is estimated that there are at least 7-10 million people going through such health-related suffering, which is completely unnecessary and avoidable.

From its beginnings as small palliative clinic in Calicut, growing into a scope of work that extends to the entire country and the region, Pallium India Trust has taken on the task of alleviating such suffering using its unique methodology: engaging the community and concentrating on the suffering of the person as a whole rather than on the disease.

'We work on a Demonstrate, Educate and Facilitate (D.E.F.) model. We strive to demonstrate quality palliative care delivery at our institute in Trivandrum which is also a WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Policy on Access to Pain Relief. We have telehealth, outpatient and inpatient services, but the emphasis is on home visits. Involving the community by recruiting and







Top and bottom: *Doorstep delivery of health and hope*



Difficult terrain is no hindrance to committed healthcare delivery
 Following pages (122–123): *Alleviating suffering in communities through smiles and palliative treatment*

training volunteers from within is also a key aspect of our initiative. We see education of professionals, medical and nursing students and the public as well through advocacy programmes as key to palliative care access across the country. And to facilitate, our body of experience enables us to provide technical support to other stakeholders - Governmental, Non-Governmental, Private, Civil Society, Public - especially in easing access to pain relief and palliative care,' says Dr M.R. Rajagopal, Founder & Chairman Emeritus.

Working with departments of health, Pallium has helped create the National Program for Palliative Care (NPPC) for the National Health Policy. 'Another key milestone has been the amendment to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) making medicinal morphine

easily available for pain relief to thousands of people in an economical manner,' explains Dr Rajagopal. Pallium India ensures that its interventions are inclusive through community outreach programmes, training of volunteers and healthcare professionals and teaching of palliative care even at the MBBS level. 'This will assist in treating the person as a whole rather than just managing the symptoms or diseases alone.'

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Developing a Sustainable Community Model for Palliative Care Integration with the Health System for Serious Health-Related Suffering (SHS)

Beneficiaries: 3000 individuals with serious health issues

Location: 3 villages in Trivandrum district of Kerala







Pro Rural



Founded by Paul Lokho, Athilu Khrasi,
& Late B.L. Jeam in 2004

Pro Rural supports the development of the underserved, particularly the youth, women, and the marginalized communities in the northeast of India. Its mission is to work with livelihood issues of youth and indigenous communities through initiatives modelled on the serene, peaceful village with the belief that a fullness of life embraces all of nature and the elements, facilitating good health and sustainable livelihood for all. Its programmes cover leadership, capacity building, youth engagement, and environmental conservation. With offices spread across Nagaland, Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, Pro Rural has covered over 260 villages and benefited 1.25 lakh people.

Community health programmes ensure I'm never too old to get better

Following pages (126–127): *Bringing good health to rural doorsteps*

IN THE NORTHEAST OF INDIA, the indigenous communities have a deeply held belief: that wealth creation depends on the collective health of the village community. What the community eats, drinks, and the availability and quality of natural resources becomes remarkably important. Pro Rural, an organization based in the region, works to strengthen this traditional yet very modern thinking about the connections between community health and sustainability, both of livelihoods, and of the earth.

Although the collective wisdom is so rich, the northeast lags behind in several development indices because of socio-economic and environmental factors, which create a cycle of poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion. Even basic resources that could enhance their livelihoods, health and well-being do not reach these communities. Working in such difficult terrain, where nature rules, and infrastructure is little to nothing, Pro Rural has persisted in bringing programmes for bettering health through mobile health clinics and rural dispensaries, as well as initiatives for economic and socio-cultural development.

Till recent years, the community was content in their own cocooned tribal life. But the urgency of child immunization, prevention of child and maternal mortality, universalization of primary



MOBILE HEALTH
CLINIC



Pro Rural





Top and bottom: *Transforming community health through free checkups and treatment*



Changing outlooks on health and quality of life

Following pages (130–131): *Linking the underserved with public health systems*

education, and poverty reduction focused our mission to bring access to basic healthcare to underserved communities while assisting and advocating the government to improve its services. 'It took 4 years to get people to attend our training programmes after having a few leaders trained, exposed and inducted as our staff', explains Paul Lokho, Founder-Secretary, Pro Rural.

Pro Rural has a three-pronged strategy which harmonizes the best of indigenous knowledge systems, development practices and sustainable technologies to make a difference in the lives of these hard-to-reach communities. The first commitment is for healthy, empowered communities through training in awareness and leadership, community-led interventions like village health committees and training of ASHA workers, and curative medical services. The second is catalysing sustainable livelihoods through well-designed programmes for farmers, youth and women fostering innovation and

ecological stewardship. The third commitment is towards the environment, by encouraging communities to take on conservation of forest patches, climate resilient agroecological farming, and supporting local bodies to design and implement better waste management programmes.

Linking deprived and excluded communities to government schemes and their rights and entitlements is also a major part of Pro Rural's remit, in which it has achieved excellent outcomes.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Improve Health Care Access to Severely Under-Served Population in Tening Block, Peren District, Nagaland

Beneficiaries: 2000 women, 1000 adolescent girls, 1,000 aged people, 400 sick patients, 1000 children below 5 years old

Location: 119 villages in Peren district of Nagaland





Pro Rural

HEALTH OUT REACH
PROGRAM





Bapu Trust for Research on Mind and Discourse



Founded by Late Dr Bhargavi Venkatasubramaniam in 1999

Bapu Trust creates, pilots and monitors community inclusion programmes that enable the autonomy and independence of people living with mental health issues and psycho-social disabilities. It seeks to change the structural, social, legal and policy environment, so that they remain human rights compliant, just and fair to people with a psycho-social disability where they can realize all their human rights without barriers ‘.It has been working in areas of mental health across the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Its flagship initiative ‘Seher’ has benefitted 30 low-income communities, covering a population of approximately 8 lakh people.

Teaching inclusivity in community mental health

SONIA IS A 20-YEAR-OLD from Kashewadi, Maharashtra. She was mentally unwell, unable to engage with others, take care of herself or control her movements and actions. She had failed Class 10, and no conventional psychiatric treatment had worked. Her family had given up hope and society had stigmatised her. But with therapy delivered by the NGO Bapu Trust for Research on Mind and Discourse, both individual and group, using poetry, music, visual arts, theatre, play, voice and breath, homeopathic and psychiatric treatment, she decided to continue her education, enrolled into a computer course, started tailoring work and doing mehendi. She is unrecognizable now.

Making a departure from the way mental health and psychosocial disabilities are viewed and treated in India, Bapu Trust’s programmes like ‘Seher’ connect mental health with overall development models, addressing intersecting issues like gender, caste, class, and disability. Using an approach that emphasizes dignity, rights, inclusion, prevention and resilience, it has designed a strong, community-based inclusion model which ensures that persons living with mental health issues can have autonomy and independence, and are aware of their rights. Arts-Based Therapy (ABT) in a



Top and bottom: *Using art and alternative methods for training in therapy and compassionate care*



Bringing an awareness of mental health and inclusivity issues at the community level

safe environment provides creative, recovery-oriented interventions; and collaborations with local governments, grassroot organizations, and informal community groups empower communities to lead mental health initiatives, making the programmes highly sustainable.

Services are provided to marginalized groups like women with indigenous identities, trauma survivors, and persons with disabilities, in community spaces like public halls, or even under a tree. Beneficiaries of Bapu Trust programmes participate in decision-making and implementation of programmes, embracing inclusion and empowerment.

‘The organization’s 8-point recovery framework – Self-care, Nutrition, Social Justice, Working with Families, Peer Groups, Individual Support, Healthcare, and Circle of Care – ensures a holistic and integrated approach. We transitioned from a mental health service model to a disability model-focussing on barriers to participation, from

the clinical setting to community-based setting, from expert-driven programs to community-owned and led programs, from treatment to promotion, prevention, recovery, and inclusion, from mental to psychosocial. By fostering inclusion as both a philosophy and a set of practices, we ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of community well-being,’ explains Ninad Indulkar, Director, Bapu Trust.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Seher Community Mental Health and Inclusion Program

Beneficiaries: Women and men with identifiable mental health problems including 200 girls aged 13–17, 800 school-going children, 200 expecting mothers, 45 grassroots actors and community mental health workers

Location: 20 villages in 1 district of Maharashtra



FIND India



Founded in 2003 at the World Health Assembly, FIND India was established in 2007

FIND accelerates equitable access to diagnosis around the world, transforming lives by enabling timely detection and treatment, preventing the progression of diseases and saving lives. It works to close critical testing gaps that leave people at risk from preventable and treatable illnesses, enable effective disease surveillance, and build sustainable, resilient health systems. In partnership with countries, WHO and other global health agencies, FIND is driving progress towards global health security and universal health coverage. FIND India and has been working closely with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India the private healthcare sector, and other stakeholders to expand access to diagnostics.

The SHG helps screen household contacts of TB patients to co-ordinate testing

DIAGNOSIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO

HEALTH, yet nearly half the world lacks access to accurate, affordable tests. This gap is especially critical for tuberculosis (TB) - according to the WHO, 2.7 million TB cases went undiagnosed or unreported in 2023. Without proper diagnosis, treatment remains inaccessible, driving the disease's continued spread. With India bearing the world's highest TB burden, FIND India has been instrumental in expanding access to molecular diagnostics, supporting both public and private healthcare providers in deploying tools like CBNAAT (Xpert MTB/RIF) and Truenat, and improving TB preventive treatment for vulnerable populations. FIND has also played a crucial role in augmenting India's TB prevention efforts, particularly in addressing TB infection (TBI), where individuals carry the TB bacteria without symptoms. Through the Joint Effort for Elimination of TB (JEET 2.0) project, implemented across five states, FIND screened over 400,000 household contacts of persons with TB and placed 260,000 individuals on TB preventive therapy. The project's success laid the groundwork for sustainable TB prevention efforts, with four of the five states integrating TBI testing into their programmes.



Top and bottom: *Community-led monitoring and door-to-door screening has boosted TB diagnosis*



Awareness and screening go hand in hand to reduce transmission of TB

What began as an initiative to introduce rapid, affordable, quality-assured TB tests has evolved into a broader mission – driving diagnostic innovation and ensuring equitable access to quality testing to strengthen India's healthcare system. Beyond TB, FIND is also addressing other critical public health challenges such as pandemic preparedness antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and viral hepatitis.

'Accurate and accessible testing is the cornerstone of effective treatment. Our work is to ensure diagnostics reach the most vulnerable, closing the gap between disease and treatment and driving global equity. We connect communities, decision-makers, healthcare providers and developers to spur diagnostic innovation and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems,' says Dr. Sarabjit Singh Chada,

Country Director for India at FIND.

FIND India is also working to build a resilient healthcare system – enhancing laboratory infrastructure, training healthcare workers, and implementing airborne infection control measures in hospitals and clinics. A strong focus on women's health further drives efforts to bridge gaps in access to early detection and treatment, particularly for conditions like cervical cancer, while also empowering women as healthcare champions in their communities.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Integrate to Innovate: Bridging TB and NCD Care in Rural India

Beneficiaries: 1 million rural population above 18 years of age

Location: 147 villages in 3 districts of Karnataka



LEPRA Society



Founded by Late Dr. K V Desikan,
Late Mr. B M Kothadiya, Late Mr. R S Mani,
Late Dr Dinkar D Palande in 1989

LEPRA Society strives to create a world free from prejudice and disability due to leprosy and other neglected diseases. It works using evidence-led methods to reduce the incidence, transmission and impact of these diseases, and empower affected people to access treatment, manage the disease and disability, and live with dignity and equity. The organization also works with Lymphatic Filariasis, tuberculosis, HIV, eye care, malaria and disabilities arising from other diseases. LEPRA has reached more than 300,000 persons for early diagnosis, treatment, and services in 146 districts in 9 states - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana.

Customised comfort for Lymphatic Filariasis patients

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS (LF) is caused by the bite of an infected mosquito. This preventable disease affects thousands of people in India, carrying with it severe physical symptoms and social stigma, not to mention the loss of livelihood for the patient. Biram Tudu, from a tiny village in Odisha contracted LF, which led to a debilitating hydrocele. He suffered for 25 years until he came in contact with LEPRA Society. In collaboration with local ASHA workers, Biram was offered a free surgery. After a series of awareness and counselling meetings and linking him to the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) scheme, LEPRA finally convinced him, and he bravely decided to go for surgery. Two months later, Biram was a changed person. Healthier, more confident, and able to go back to work. His courage inspired others in his community to undergo the treatment, too. Timely intervention, compassionate care and the right support transformed Biram's life.

LEPRA Society has long been a champion in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in India. 'LEPRA Society delivers service through a network of referral centers for essential secondary care services, including referral of surgeries at the tertiary referral centres for the correction of associated



Top and bottom: *Learning how to clean my foot and apply my medicine so i can be self-reliant*



My new protective footwear eases my everyday life

disabilities and Hydrocelelectomy. These centers offer a wide range of services that include diagnosis, treatment, physiotherapy services, disability prevention services, counseling, and rehabilitation,' says Arun Kumar Kandukuri, Head – Programmes, RM & C. The care extends through satellite centres as well, bringing primary health to rural doorsteps. Community awareness sessions and training of community health workers help with early diagnosis, support and to address societal stigma. LEPRAs interventions are community led and participatory in approach. Together, these measures help control transmission of disease and make access to quality healthcare easier. Community-based rehabilitation support helps manage the long-term effects of these diseases both physical, and mental.

Along with medical interventions, Lepra Society strives to empower those affected by these conditions by their inclusion as equal

members of society through education, healthcare, and advocacy. Mobile units and technology like data entry apps developed by the organization help to plug gaps in the healthcare system. Innovations in research and practice buffer a more effective and evidence-based response to leprosy and LF.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: LEPRAs - Unlocking the Potential of Lymphatic Filariasis-affected People, to Pursue Inclusive, Fulfilling Lives using Technology through a Harmonized Patient Support Group Model (UPLIFT)

Beneficiaries: 5,00,000 population at risk residing in LF (Lymphatic Filariasis) endemic areas, 6000 LF Patients, 100 LF patients support group, 600 Government Health Staff and Private Health Providers, 400 PRI members

Location: 525 villages in 3 districts of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha



North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society



Founded by Phrang Roy in 2012

North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS) seeks to demonstrate that Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems (IPFS) are a game changer for climate resilience, and works 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.

Experimenting to enrich the soil in age old ways

THERE ARE MANY APPROACHES to fortify climate resilience. One of the less explored is Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. This approach connects people to delicious, flavourful and healthy local foods. It's also 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.

Empowering people through self-help groups, women and youth groups, it works from the bottom up, ensuring that the



Top: Glimpses and tastes of indigenous foods at a food fair
 Bottom: Banking indigenous plant seeds for posterity



A cafe that serves delicious and healthy local foods

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 Ranee, Executive Director, NESFAS.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Scaling of Nature-Based School Meals for Improved Nutrition Among Children in 100 schools of 3 Districts of Meghalaya, North East India
Beneficiaries: 5000 students, 3000 farmers, 300 teachers
Location: 100 villages in 3 districts of Meghalaya



स्वास्थ्य अपकेन्द्र, नजराहीह

हेल्थ एण्ड वेलनेस सेंटर

जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति, नवादा

आयुष्मान भारत

स्वास्थ्य अपकेन्द्र सह हेल्थ एण्ड वेलनेस सेंटर

हि, फलना

रोह (नवादा)

Population Foundation of India



Founded by the LATE JRD TATA in 1970

PFI works in the field of population dynamics, gender equity, and sexual and reproductive health. Its envisions a just and equitable society where all people enjoy their reproductive rights and works towards enabling women, men, and young people from underserved communities to make informed decisions about their fertility, health, and well-being. From 2005-2023, PFI worked to strengthen the community action for health (CAH) programme of the National Health Mission, which was implemented in 230,000 villages across 450 districts and 145 cities.

The community airs its views on sexual and reproductive health services

IN 2014, 16 women in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh tragically died due to botched sterilisation surgeries, casting a stark light on systemic issues in family planning. A fact-finding mission, spearheaded by Population Foundation of India (PFI), produced a pivotal report which fed into a landmark verdict of the Supreme Court in 2016. This judgement not only put an end to sterilisation camps but also emphasized a voluntary and rights-based approach to family planning as envisaged in the National Population Policy, 2000.

When PFI was founded 55 years ago, it complemented government efforts to address India's rapid population growth. It has evolved with the ever-changing landscape of public health and population dynamics, from promoting the 'small family' ideal, to a more holistic view that family planning needs to be integrated with maternal and child health. Now, it champions sustainable, gender sensitive and community-led population health strategies and policies.

'PFI's strategy aims to empower women, girls, and young people and works towards improving their sexual and reproductive health outcomes through four strategic pathways: strategic engagement with key actors and stakeholders; social and behaviour



Top and bottom: *Empowering communities to have a voice and access government health entitlements*



Clearing our doubts and getting check ups without fear

change communication; capacity building and technical support to the government; knowledge generation and amplification,’ says Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, PFI.

PFI has also developed innovative digital tools to promote awareness of entitlements, sexual, reproductive, and mental health, and online safety. Snehai, an AI-powered chatbot, offers a safe space on Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp for young people to learn about these issues. Educately, an e-learning platform and digital resource for educators disseminates information on adolescent health and wellbeing and is being used by over 18000 people.

‘PFI is deeply committed to ensuring that marginalized communities, especially women and girls, are not just passive beneficiaries but active participants in shaping their own healthcare systems. We have also sought to build partnerships with the government, civil society organizations, media and the

global development community,’ explains Poonam Muttreja. One such partnership with the government has been hugely impactful. PFI was appointed as the Secretariat of the Advisory Group on Community Action by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The group’s mandate was to guide governments in bolstering community action for health, one of five pillars of the national Health Mission from 2005 to 2023. This is now the largest community action programme in the world.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: SASHAKT

Beneficiaries: 150 health administrators, Block Programme Managers and facility in-charge, 4,300 medical officers and community health officers as master trainers, public healthcare functionaries and elected representatives as JAS members, 113300 community members

Location: 2,240 villages in 2 districts of Bihar



Project Concern International



Started in India by Project Concern International, USA in 1998

Established in 1998, Project Concern International (PCI India) envisions a happy, healthy and safe world for all. Through its evidence-based programming and sophisticated measurements, PCI India has designed efficient and scalable solutions to complex social issues. PCI India focuses on areas of health & nutrition, women economic empowerment, livelihoods and climate action, partnering with governments, private sector, multilateral and development organizations. Its developmental projects have positively impacted lives in 16 states, benefitting 17 million people.

Through our SHG, we can harness our collective strength to deal with health issues

WITH COMMUNITY at the centre of every intervention, PCI India pioneered the idea of integrating Self-Help Groups (SHGs) into its health and nutrition interventions, as key to sustainable transformation of health systems. This model was adopted by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) through which it was scaled nationally, impacting millions of marginalized people.

PCI India has been at the forefront of holistic programming for development in many domains. In health and nutrition, it has designed community-led programmes on maternal and child health, elimination of neglected tropical diseases, family planning and immunization, non-communicable diseases and sexual and reproductive health. Dr. Amrita Misra, Director, Health and Nutrition, PCI, says, 'Through our work with communities, we realized that improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations requires leveraging non-health platforms to raise demand for health services. We also understood that health outcomes are deeply tied to factors like community agency and empowerment. This led us to develop a holistic model that addresses these interdependencies to drive meaningful change.'



Top and bottom: *I listen to my mother about my child's health and nutrition, but I listen to Didi too*



I now know that my child will grow and prosper if she eats the right foods

Economic empowerment for women, engaging them in climate-based livelihoods and linking them with government schemes, working to reduce gender-based issues like violence and child marriage, and programmes on distributed renewable energy (DRE) through solarization of micro-enterprises are some of its other areas of work.

PCI India's unique ability to use behavioural science and human-centered design (HCD) approaches enables them to work with communities to co-create solutions rooted in reality by actively involving beneficiaries at every step, especially marginalized communities, women and girls. 'Inclusivity is core to our community engagement, capacity building initiatives, solution designing and program evaluations,' says Dr. Misra.

Using inclusivity and gender intentionality in all its programmes, as well as leveraging low-cost, innovative technological solutions, PCI India moves closer to its goal of holistic, sustainable development using the overall frame of 'lives and livelihoods' for 'people and planet'.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: ENRICH Initiative - Enhancing Non-Communicable Disease Reduction through Integrated Care in Health

Beneficiaries: 400 health workers, 94,691 people over 60 years old, 3,58,045 people 30-60 years, 25000 SHG members, 34,371 girls 9-14 years old

Location: 850 villages in 2 districts of Bihar



Sri Someswarnath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT)



Founded by Amit Kumar Choubey and
Nitesh Kumar in 2007

Sri Someswarnath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT) sees a future where every individual realizes their best potential and contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth. Sanmat's mission is to empower socio-economically vulnerable and marginalized communities through sustainable initiatives in health, education, and livelihood development. Through programmes in 6 states of India, 33,000 students have accessed scholarships, 28 lakh tribal and marginalized people received care in tribal welfare hospitals, 2.12 lakh individuals were vaccinated during COVID-19, and 40,000 tribal children were screened for malnutrition and given essential supplements.

Prioritising access to health among rural communities

IN A REMARKABLE FUSION of innovation and compassion, thousands of tech graduates in Chennai came together to contribute for tsunami victims. What started as an act of relief in 2005 turned into a mission for lasting change in the form of the Sri Someswarnath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT). Aiming to bridge the gap between government policies and the people they are meant to serve by collaborating with government systems, SANMAT works to facilitate access to food, healthcare, education, and employment for rural and tribal populations. And its main weapon is involving the community in designing each intervention for true relevance and impact.

‘We focus on promoting local talent and developing community ambassadors who understand the cultural and contextual nuances. We have introduced mobile health clinics and teleconsultation services to provide healthcare access in remote and underserved areas. We have been operating and managing residential schools for tribal children in Jharkhand, enabling them to access quality education without the burden of long-distance travel. Our residential skill-building centers target women and youth from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Scheduled Tribes, and Schedule Caste



Top and bottom: *Enhancing standards of equipment and diagnostics for tribal communities*



Remoteness of the village is never an obstacle for those who care

communities, equipping them with livelihood skills while addressing local barriers to mobility and opportunities,' says Amit Kumar Choubey, Founder and CEO, SANMAT.

A three-pronged strategy lies at the core of SANMAT's methodology: direct service provision, i.e., collaborating with the government through Public-Private Partnership models for entitlements and resources; capacity building of key stakeholders for sustainability of projects; and convergence with government programmes and advocacy to make deep changes for long term impact and inclusivity.

With a focus on process innovation, SANMAT's programmes are eminently scalable. Its investment in building community leaders, engaging all stakeholders and transferring on knowledge and skills makes projects sustainable. 'Our education programs for tribal children involve parents and community leaders, ensuring

the residential education initiative reflects cultural values and aspirations. Training village health workers ensures continuity of healthcare services beyond project timelines, while community educators champion tribal education initiatives.'

The use of digital tools extends the impact of SANMAT's initiatives. Using its CommCare app made its child health campaign to administer Vitamin A and Albendazole doses to 40,000 children from remote villages in Jharkhand, much more efficient, and it was completed in just 8 months.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Sickie Cell Saviour: Jharkhand's Comprehensive Care Initiative

Beneficiaries: 131,299 Scheduled Tribe adults, 104,012 Scheduled Tribe adolescents 9,693 Scheduled Tribe newborns (0–1 year)

Location: 599 villages in 2 districts of Jharkhand

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2025

17000 ft Foundation 166

Enabling quality education for children in the Indian Himalayan Region by augmenting government school learning

Raised Lines Foundation 174

Transforming education for the visually impaired

Yuwa India Trust 182

Using sport and education to change the lives of girls from marginalized communities

Shortlisted 2025

Agri Entrepreneur Growth Foundation 190

Educating and empowering rural youth and women as agri-entrepreneurs and community leaders

Antarang Foundation 194

Ensuring career education reaches more students for informed, self-aware career decisions

ELFA INTERNATIONAL 198

Combatting poverty by integrating educational and economic initiatives

Pratham Education Foundation 202

Effective, low-cost interventions to improve quality of, and access to, education

Sarthak Foundation 206

Bringing education and holistic development wellbeing to the doorsteps of marginalized communities

Slam Out Loud 210

Giving a voice to every child through Arts education

The Teacher Foundation (Shraddha Trust) 214

Designing and implementing professional development programmes and support for teachers in rural government schools

EDUCATION





The quality and inclusivity of education have headlined the projects chosen for the EDUCATION category of the HCLTech Grant this year. Introducing innovative learning resources in government schools in Ladakh, and tactile resources for STEM learning for the visually impaired; empowering girls through football in Jharkhand and careers education in Nagaland; livelihood opportunities for sustainable income generation in J&K and building capacity among schoolteachers in rural Karnataka – these are some of the exciting initiatives driving change among marginalised communities.





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





17000 ft Foundation



Founded by Sandeep Sahu, Sujata Sahu
and Sonam Dawa in 2012

Working in over 350 schools across
Ladakh and Sikkim, 17000 ft
Foundation aims to reverse migration
by enabling children to thrive in
frontier communities, augmenting
education systems that instill
confidence in families to build their
future in the region. Currently, it
works directly with up to 20% of all
government schools in each border
district of the IHR, helping the
government scale its programmes
across the remaining schools.
Hundreds of schools have a 17000
ft library, playground and classroom
furniture in their premises. Its aim
is to provide quality education
accessible to 500,000 children of the
region by 2028.

A Himalayan classroom with lofty goals
Following pages (168–169): *Playing and learning together*
in the Anganwadi

THE CHILDREN ARE EAGER TO

LEARN. The teachers are committed. But
the 65000 government schools in the remote
Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) have poor
infrastructure, inadequate learning resources,
and insufficiently trained staff due to the harsh
terrain. Very few have libraries, computers, or
playgrounds, leaving parents with no choice but
to send their young children to urban centres
for a good education.

17000 ft is an organization that selects
government schools in the IHR as pilot schools
to showcase tangible outcomes in education. It
then advocates with the government to scale and
replicate these programs across the region, with
the goal of ensuring equitable, quality education
for children in these remote areas so that every
child, regardless of background or location, has
access to the same educational opportunities.

The methodology includes transforming
schools with child-friendly infrastructure,
quality learning resources and technology
upgrades, and capacity enhancing teacher
training programs. It conducts extensive
awareness campaigns, empowers the
community, builds relationships with
government officials and involves parents in
different ways to foster a sense of ownership
and cultural inclusivity.







Top and bottom: *Training committed teachers in innovative methodologies*



Our library books are a doorway to the world outside
 Following pages (172–173): *Enhancing teachers' capacity empowers the community by leaps and bounds*

‘We have transformed government schools along international borders, directly impacting children in inaccessible areas. Over 55% of our beneficiaries are girls, reflecting our dedication to gender equity. Our initiatives benefit children from diverse backgrounds, including tribal populations and minority communities,’ says Sandeep Sahu, Co-Founder & Director, 17000 ft.

To address delivery and monitoring of programs in these far flung areas with little or no connectivity, electricity or infrastructure, 17000 ft has designed innovative technological solutions to ensure effective program penetration and impact, including an Offline Monitoring App for Data Collection and a specially designed Solar-Powered Digital Learning Solution, DigiLab for blended learning.

‘The turning point for 17000ft came in 2021 when we expanded our operations very successfully to Sikkim where we have been lauded for our efforts. Recently, we have been invited by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to extend our programs to their remote schools, furthering our mission in the Himalayan region,’ says Sandeep Sahu. 17000ft is now collaborating with the Government of Ladakh to strengthen the Foundational Learning and Early Childhood Education across the region.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Strengthening Early Childhood Education (ECE)
Beneficiaries: 5500+ children, 1150+ Anganwadi workers and parents
Location: 1150 villages in 2 districts in Ladakh







SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2025

Raised Lines Foundation



Founded by Prof. M. Balakrishnan,
Prof. P.V.M. Rao, Dipendra Manocha,
& Dr. Piyush Chanana in 2018

Raised Lines Foundation envisions a world where visually impaired individuals have equal access to education and opportunities, empowering them to maximise their potential. By developing innovative, tactile, and affordable learning resources that make STEM subjects comprehensible for the visually impaired, it seeks to transform education for them. With a presence in 20 states, RLF has made strides in this mission by developing assistive technology, building capacity of teachers, creating awareness to break stereotypes and promote equity, and collaborating with governments and communities to ensure long-term access to quality education for visually impaired students.

Exploring India by touch

Following pages (176–177): *I see colour with my fingers
for the first time because of raised lines*

G.V. OVIYA IS A VISUALLY IMPAIRED

STUDENT. A bright and committed girl, she made history as the first blind student to sit for the Tamil Nadu CBSE Class 10 board exams independently. It wasn't an easy journey for her, particularly in STEM subjects like math and science, which often rely heavily on visual aids. Her textbooks had textual content in Braille and audio formats, but there were no diagrams. How could she then understand essential concepts like shapes, maps, graphs, etc? This is where Raised Lines Foundation (RLF) came in.

'Recognising the visual-intensive nature of school curricula – from alphabets and numbers (e.g. A for Apple with a picture of an apple) to STEM education involving chemical structures, geometric diagrams, illustrations of systems and processes, and geographical maps – we identified a significant educational gap for visually impaired students. In 2015, we established the Centre of Excellence in Tactile Graphics (CoETG) at IIT Delhi, with support from MeitY, Government of India. Tactile graphics are images designed through raised lines and texture that a visually impaired person can touch and comprehend. RLF has 70+ books and aids, covering 1st to 10th STEM education, conceptual learning and training manual, activity sets, and more. We developed







Top: *I can read 'A is for Apple'!*
Bottom: *Hungry fingers learning together*



Tracing a human face with fingers that can 'see' makes training a visually impaired teacher a breeze
 Following pages (180–181): *Tracing the Taj with our fingers and imagining its splendour with our minds*

indigenous processes to produce affordable tactile resources at scale,' says Pulkit Sapra, CEO of RFL.

Oviya was a beneficiary of RFL's accessible and affordable educational tools. The specially designed tactile books helped her to grasp complex diagrams and concepts in subjects where visual representation is crucial, empowering her to study topics that are often considered difficult for visually impaired students. She gained immense confidence, determined to pursue her academic goals. And she achieved them – with an 89.04% score. RFL drives change through initiatives like its 'Touch, Learn, and Shine (TLS) Program' which combines awareness building, enabling access and targeted training to ensure adoption in the classroom. All RFL resources are custom designed in close consultation with teacher, making them

relevant for each standard. RFL advocates for tactile resources to be covered under government subsidy schemes so that they can become more accessible to more people. It also pushes systemic changes in education policies for visually impaired students. 'As RFL continues to break barriers in education for the visually impaired, the journey ahead is filled with even greater possibilities. Every tactile book and every empowered student brings us one step closer to a world where learning knows no limits.'

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Touch Learn and Shine

Beneficiaries: 5225 visually impaired students and around 200 special educators and teachers

Location: 38482 villages in multiple districts across 3 states in India



I H

2

जुबों में से
से आगरा
द्वारा
नकी

वैश्विक
से एक है।
ई गई थी।
जस्थान से
जित









Yuwa India Trust



Founded by Franz Gastler in 2009

Yuwa India works in the field of education, specifically with girls from impoverished families in rural Jharkhand. Yuwa uses sport and education to put every girl's future in her own hands and build character, confidence and courage. Currently, more than 600 girls play each day on Yuwa's teams, making it one of the largest girls' football programs in India. Over 30 girls from Yuwa have spoken at universities, TEDx events and other conferences across India and around the world. Yuwa School was Jharkhand's first school to achieve 100% online learning during COVID-19 lockdowns.

*Playing football gives me wings
Following pages (184–185): Learning to speak confidently
in public gives me an advantage*

IN RURAL JHARKHAND, a girls' football team, coached by committed older girls, playing matches on unused farm fields, has created a counterculture. One where it's cool to be an ambitious girl. Where education is a means to a stellar future. Where the team functions as a self-help group. Where camaraderie and community have led to a drop in child marriage (in a region where 6 out of 10 girls are child brides), and taught young girls about their rights, and their health. Football, education and lifeskills go hand in hand for a transformative experience.

This remarkable initiative which grew from one football team to many, is the brainchild of Yuwa India. Football anchors the NGO's organic programmes. Education is delivered through Yuwa School 'to give girls the tools they need to become empowered citizens, discover their own identity, and prepare for admission to universities in India and abroad. Girls in Yuwa School are taught in English and learn from world-class educators from India and abroad. Today, 80% of Yuwa School graduates have received full scholarships to quality universities, including Harvard, Oxford and Ashoka University, putting them on a path to break out of the cycle of poverty –







Top: *Dribbling my way to self-confidence*

Bottom: *Thinking, acting, speaking independently, we navigate our tomorrows*



Getting set to present to my class in English

Following pages (188–189): *I work hard to follow my dreams, and coach younger girls to find theirs through football*

permanently,’ explains Rose Thomson Gastler, Education Director, who founded the school.

The girls love to come to practice, and they love going to school, too. Positive peer pressure ensures they show up – and if they don’t come, their team seeks them out. The Yuwa staff also identifies the particularly vulnerable girls and engages with their families to build trust. This has reduced drop-out rates significantly.

Participatory processes for design and implementation of programmes and making decisions, a student parliament and weekly class meetings add to the sense of ownership. ‘Yuwa has been recognized with awards for best use of technology in education by the

Jharkhand Chief Minister’s office, and FICCI. Additionally, we plan to launch India’s first mobile app designed to prevent child marriage,’ says Rose Thomson Gastler. The ripple effect has been tremendous. ‘Looking at the Yuwa graduates’ astonishing successes, families in Jharkhand and beyond are now reimagining their daughters’ futures.’

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Yuwa: Girls Coaching Girls for a Brighter Future

Beneficiaries: 3000 children (girls)

Location: 17 villages in 2 districts of Jharkhand







Enhancing Agriculture,
Enhancing Lives.

THE STOP
OLUTION
R
RMERS



Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation



Founded by the Syngenta Foundation India & Tata Trust in 2019

Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation (AEGF) works to empower rural youth to uplift farmers while fostering agri-entrepreneurship among them. It seeks to fuel the spirit of enterprise in agriculture through knowledge, innovation, and youth participation, creating scalable, sustainable livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers. Its programmes create a cadre of agri-entrepreneurs who can advise smallholder farmers (who constitute over 86% of India's farmers) on challenges like inefficient resource use, market access, and climate-smart farming practices. The organization currently has a presence in 13 states, having trained over 21,000 AEs, positively impacting 24+ lakh farmers and transforming 31+ lakh acres of farmland.

Being an agri-entrepreneur is a source of pride and of income!

MANGALA KRISHNAJI SATONE comes from a smallholder farming family in a Maharashtrian village. However, she always had an entrepreneurial spirit and aspired to better her family's income. Following her dream, she now runs a business which supports over 270 farmers with agri-inputs, nursery services, and crop advisory. Her family's income has increased exponentially, and her contribution is 70% of the household earnings. She further plans to expand her business venture and benefit more than 600 farmers.

This unique combination of achieving financial independence while driving local agricultural development, is a unique feature of the course that empowered Mangala: the Agri-Entrepreneur (AE) program by the Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation (AEGF). 'AEGF seeks to address systemic challenges faced by rural communities, particularly smallholder farmers, by educating and empowering rural youth and women as Agri-Entrepreneurs (AEs). These AEs act as community leaders, providing advisory services, linking farmers to resources, and fostering innovation in sustainable farming. The program promotes gender inclusivity, economic empowerment, and environmental



Top: Educating the farming community on best practices and innovations

Bottom: Women farmers learning the benefits of digital banking and financial inclusion



The Prime Minister applauds women entrepreneurs, their resilience and successes

sustainability by transforming farming into a knowledge-driven, entrepreneurial ecosystem,’ says Pankaj Shukla, Chief Operating Officer of AEGF.

A 45-day training program combined with two years of continuous mentorship ensures that the rural youth and women are equipped with all the knowledge they need to become community-based solution providers. They learn agronomy, financial management, and leadership. Entrepreneurship is emphasized, in order to create people who can act as true catalysts of change. It is a holistic and scalable model, and driven by technology like the AE Digital Diary. It builds capacity as well as linkages within the ecosystem, making AEs ‘one-stop solutions’ for farming communities.

The program has shown that besides helping farmers with advisory support and services, AEs have impacted their

communities by improved agricultural practices, increased productivity, and enhanced livelihoods. And this is besides their success stories spawning role models to hugely inspire others.

‘By breaking barriers of literacy, geography, and gender, our program ensures that inclusivity is not just a goal but a fundamental driver of sustainable development in rural communities,’ explains Pankaj Shukla.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Farming for Tomorrow: Agri-Entrepreneurship Initiative for Sustainable Development, Gender Inclusivity, and Farmer Empowerment
Beneficiaries: 200 rural youth
Location: 200 villages in 4 districts of Madhya Pradesh



Antarang Foundation



Founded by Priya Agrawal in 2013

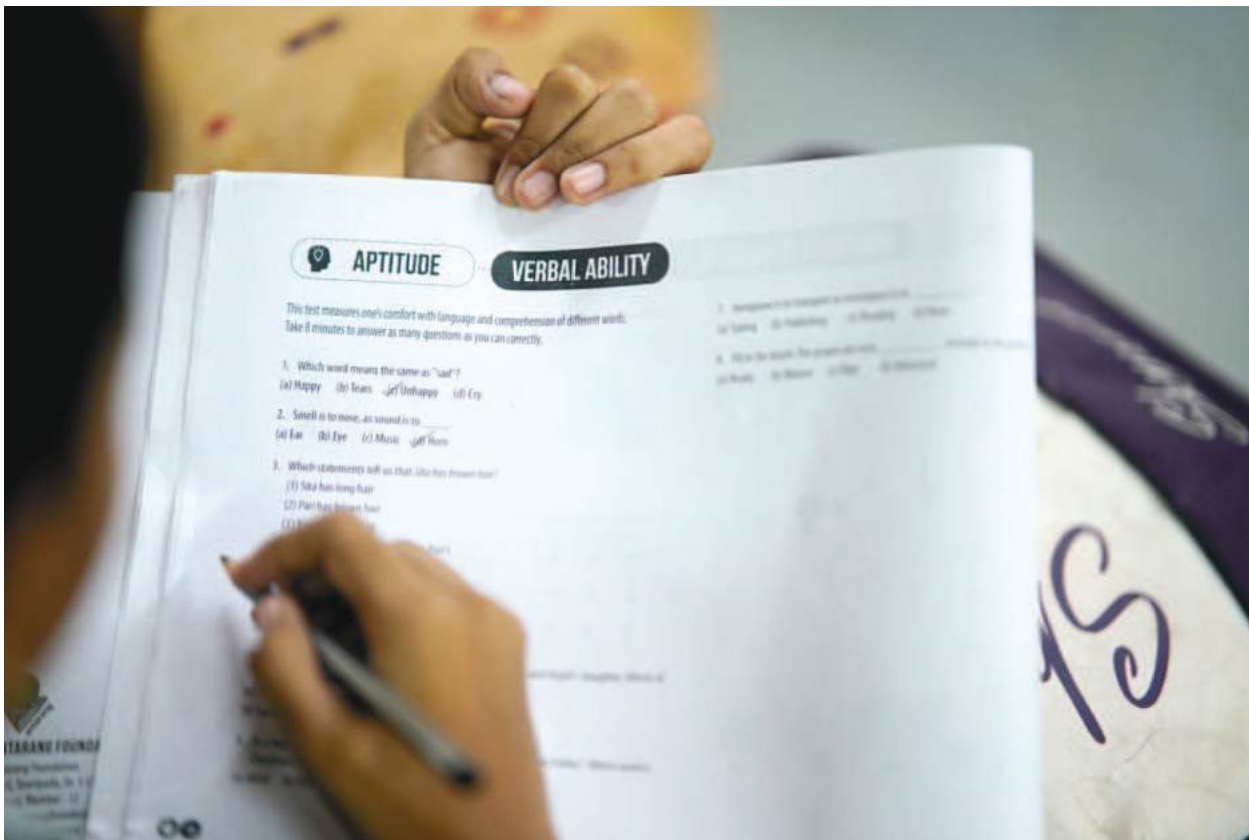
Antarang Foundation envisions a world where all young adults make career choices aligned to their unique aptitudes and interests, develop essential skills and make informed school-to-work transitions. Working in the areas of education and school to work transitions, with geographic reach in 6 states, Antarang currently directly reaches 3,60,000+ students, with 62% being young women and over 50% from marginalized communities. 88% of their beneficiaries have transitioned into EET (Education, Employment, or Technical Training).

My career trajectory is in my hands!

INDIA'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

CRISIS IS REAL. 103 million youth, 30% of them 15–24 years old, are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Technical Training). Antarang Foundation's Career model aims to address this glaring issue. Its 4-year intensive school-to-work transition model delivers career awareness and readiness programs embedded in government high school curricula by a cadre of trained career facilitators sourced from the community itself. Young people, especially from underserved communities, have little information on diverse career pathways available to them based on their aptitudes and interests. Other problems like a lack of role models in their community and gender, caste and social biases against who does what kind of work, and who gets access to digital resources or skilling can also impact this problem. So, in order to ensure that career education reaches more youth across the country, Antarang developed CareerAware for Grades 9 and 10 which lays the foundation for students to make informed, self-aware career decisions.

CareeReady for Grades 11 and 12 focuses on employability skills and workplace



Top: The facilitator explains that possibilities for a career that suits my abilities and interest are endless
 Bottom: Psychometric testing for interests, aptitudes and realities helps me make the right career choice



Taking career education to far flung regions

readiness. Its initiatives are different from other skilling and training programmes, as its focus is on student aspirations and transferable future-focussed work readiness rather than a skill that industry needs immediately; and different from other job placement models, because Antarang recognizes that there are many paths to socio-economic mobility besides employment in the formal economy, including higher education, entrepreneurship, or trade.

‘In Yamunanagar, Haryana, Antarang adapted learning materials to address dialect differences and make the curriculum relatable. Antarang also conducted thorough regional research to decouple career names from caste names. Antarang provides free career counselling to underserved youth in government schools from urban cities

like Mumbai to hilly regions of Nagaland and aspirational districts like Dharashiv, Maharashtra to Badgaon and Girwa in Udaipur. Combining offline resources such as student career workbooks, OMR-based career diagnostic tools and a 24/7 career chatbot, Antarang enables personalised career guidance even in remote areas with limited digital access,’ explains Priya Agarwal, Founder-Director, Antarang Foundation.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Pathways to Aspirational Work: A Career Program for Disadvantaged Grades 9-12 students in Nagaland

Beneficiaries: 24551 children and students

Location: Over 750 villages across Nagaland



ELFA International



Founded by Nawab Mehran Khan in 2016

Working with youth, women, children and other vulnerable groups across Jammu & Kashmir, ELFA International (EI) strives to promote access to quality inclusive education, livelihood and income generating opportunities. Its actions are focused on addressing poverty, marginalization, conflict, and natural calamities in the region. It works at improving the living conditions and promoting respect for the economic and social dignity and fundamental rights of marginalized communities. Over 5.81 lakh people benefit from its various initiatives across thematic areas like Healthcare, Livelihood, Education, Environment, Leadership, Food Security and Winterization, IDRR including around 95,000 children and over 1,70,886 youth and women.

Community classes bridge gaps in awareness of gender rights

IN A CONFLICT-RIDDEN REGION like Jammu and Kashmir, marginalized groups deal with a whole slew of unique issues, including safety, climate disasters and inaccessibility due to difficult terrain. ELFA International (EI) seeks to address these challenges through its strategic programmes which focus on quality and inclusive education to empower these groups through knowledge and skills, as well as enhancing livelihood opportunities for sustainable income generation. And by integrating educational and economic initiatives it gives a strong thrust to combat poverty.

EI has a partnership-based model, 'working with like-minded organizations and community members to enhance resource mobilization and ensure that interventions are relevant and sustainable. EI tailors its programs to be responsive to community needs, adapting quickly during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic by providing essential resources. The organization also focuses on capacity building through training for teachers and community leaders, which strengthens educational outcomes and resilience against challenges,' says Nawab Mehran Khan, Founder, EI.



Top: *Training the leaders of tomorrow*

Bottom: *Together we can overcome barriers to menstrual health and information*



We become strong both in body and mind with sports our grandparents played

These challenges are diverse. Youth unemployment is rife in the region. To counter this, EI holds essential skills training workshops for young people in conflict resolution and entrepreneurship. To catalyse collaboration between stakeholders, EI brings together government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations to pool resources and expertise, which enhances its programmes. And by promoting education and income generating activities relevant to the local context, EI helps overcome socio-economic barriers to improving the lives of the communities it works with.

EI's commitment and methodology has led to many successes. Its pioneering school safety programme in partnership with the Department of School Education, Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, and

UNICEF, has evolved the 'Whole School Safety Program.' This initiative has done wonders in the field of school safety through measures like safety checklists, audits, disaster preparedness plans, and training almost 20,000 master trainers and peer educators. Other programmes like awareness, sensitization and community sessions on Menstrual Hygiene Management, vocational courses for women, and advocacy and sensitisation about child abuse have made real, on-ground impact in sustainable ways.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Jammu & Kashmir Whole School Safety Program

Beneficiaries: 111,520 students

Location: 1000 villages in 20 districts in Jammu and Kashmir



Pratham Education Foundation



Founded by Farida Lambay and
Madhav Chavan in 1995

Pratham Education Foundation is an innovative learning organization that aims at improving the quality of education in India through effective, low-cost interventions that address gaps in the education system. Working from the belief that quality education is the cornerstone of societal progress, its programmes include vocational training for the youth, second-chance education for women, and digital learning. With its mission: ‘Every child in school and learning well’ it works to ensure all children attend and thrive in school with strong foundational skills. Pratham's initiatives reach millions of children annually across 20 states and union territories.

Education has changed my perspective on the world

AS PER ANNUAL STATUS OF
EDUCATION REPORT (ASER) 2022, in rural areas in India, only 52.8% of grade VI children could read a grade 2-level text, and just 56.6% could perform basic subtraction. The gap between high enrollment rates (98%) and low learning outcomes among children in India is alarming. Pratham Education Foundation strives to bridge this gap, and provide holistic learning, including 21st century skills to children from vulnerable communities.

Starting with pre-school classes in community spaces in Mumbai slums, Pratham has developed innovative programmes for children in primary grades. Aligned with the NEP 2020, Pratham's initiatives aim to strengthen foundational learning for children aged 6–14, expand beyond basics with diverse, tech-integrated learning, and empower parents and communities to actively support education.

Pratham's ‘Teaching at the Right Level’ (TaRL) approach is a successful initiative which groups children based on learning needs rather than grades. It has been adapted beyond India, showcasing its global relevance. TaRL is implemented either directly by Pratham instructors through Learning Camps in schools and communities for primary school children,



Top and bottom: *Science made fun through innovative means*



Locally available materials aid our learning beautifully

and as a part of a Pratham-government partnership programmes, which includes embedding TaRL in the school day, and capacity building of teachers.

‘Our methodology is designed to create a transformative impact by combining evidence-based practices with a community-centered approach. This includes assessment and building of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) using the TaRL methodology; teacher training; creativity and eco clubs to connect children to their daily lives, hobbies, and local environment; Education for Education which means courses in lifeskills, including financial literacy, basic digital literacy, and first aid; and multi-lingual content and tools that allow children and teachers to bridge tribal dialects,’ says Rukmini Banerji of Pratham.

Limten Mossang, an eight-year-old from Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh has

been a beneficiary of Pratham’s programmes. He once struggled to stay engaged in school, and was assessed to have difficulty with words, sentences and basic maths, and was reluctant to participate in class. The Pratham co-ordinator offered strategies to the teacher to better support Limten. Through the combined efforts of Pratham’s team, the teacher, and Limten’s family, he gained confidence and showed noticeable improvements in both his skills and attitude toward learning.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Building 21st Century Skills in Upper Primary School Children to Ensure Holistic Education in West Singhbhum District of Jharkhand
Beneficiaries: 15,500 children and teachers
Location: 1,686 villages in 1 district of Jharkhand



डरो मत

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ + 4 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ + 8 \\ \hline 17 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ + 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



परिवार
शिक्षक

बोलो
बताओ

Sarthak Foundation



Founded by Kshama Hastak in 2013

Working in areas of health, education, gender, youth empowerment, diversity and inclusivity, Sarthak Foundation has a vision of fostering happy, empowered children from marginalized backgrounds through its mission of holistic development. Its programmes provide children with access to equitable education, physical and social-emotional wellbeing and financial skills. Its initiatives, like Yellow Rooms and Yellow SLATEs, are running in 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh, serving around 2,900 children, with 56% being girls. Its programmes have benefitted more than 11,000 children in UP, with plans to expand into underserved regions of Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Smart boards for smart kids

INSIDE ONE OF UTTAR PRADESH'S POOREST SLUMS stand two brightly painted doors. Behind them is a safe, nurturing space, where children from the local community are slowly transformed into well-rounded individuals. Here, from two educators, they study maths, STEM subjects and languages; they learn about financial literacy, and social/emotional wellbeing, as well as hygiene, health, gender equality and substance abuse. This space is Yellow Rooms, which brings education and wellbeing to the doorstep of marginalized communities.

Initially offering basic educational support, Sarthak Foundation soon realized that the cycles of deprivation that limited the potential of young people required a more holistic, community-driven approach that would transform the narrative of inequality and create empowered individuals.

Sarthak's life altering Yellow Rooms engage with children, parents and the community for long periods and at depth, dismantling the multidimensional barriers like health issues, domestic violence, drop-out rates and gender inequities these children face to getting a good education. Sarthak addresses these through holistic programs like Naitik Shiksha,



Top and bottom: Strengthening values and breaking gender barriers through interactive sessions



Yoga calms our minds and meditation makes us mindful

counselling, awareness sessions and parent-teacher engagement. Sarthak strives to ensure that 100% of the children in the community are enrolled in formal schools. It even helps with college admissions and funding.

Its Social-Emotional, Physical and Ethical Training (SEPEt) programme integrates values, emotional intelligence, and socio-cultural sensitivity, fostering inclusivity and breaking stereotypes related to caste, gender, and religion. Community meetings, medical camps and health check-ups build engagement with the community, and its children's Panchayat empowers children and parents to take active roles in decision-making. Many of the children who have been through the Yellow Rooms have now found success: Pooja, the first girl from Yellow Rooms to complete her education is doing a Master's in Physical Education. Neha, who excelled academically, is now interning at

Sarthak and pursuing law. Sanjana dreams of being a voice for community rights and justice, and Ayushi has a Bachelor of Visual Arts, and is an artist in the making.

'Situated right in the middle of the community, the Yellow Rooms work for years and become engines of transformation. We think that Yellow Rooms are magic!' says Kshama Hastak, Founder of Sarthak. Combining this innovative thinking with community mobilisation, and now embedded in government schools in UP has helped Sarthak to design its own unique, long-term, immersive model, becoming a catalyst of change in marginalized communities.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Sarthak Yellow Rooms

Beneficiaries: 1000 children

Location: 10 villages in 1 district of Uttar Pradesh

Virasat

SPOKEN



Slam Out Loud



Founded by Jigyasa Labroo and Gaurav Singh in 2017

Slam Out Loud believes that every child has a voice that enables them to change their lives. It works to transform arts education in India and form safe, creative spaces that enable children to express themselves through the arts while developing Social Emotional Learning skills. Programmes include building creative confidence skills like imagination, analytical thinking, curiosity and empathy in children aged 9–16 from underserved communities. The organization works with teachers and professional artists and has impacted over 217,000 students across multiple states while training 1,600+ teachers to implement SEL in classrooms.

At Spoken Fest '24, speaking out, expressing ourselves, makes our world bigger and brighter

IN INDIA, any sort of learning beyond foundational numeracy and literacy isn't a priority. At the same time, 7 out of 10 children have social and emotional issues, and 60% of Indian children deal with anxiety and stress. The NGO Slam Out Loud (SOL) believes that Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in government schools is imperative to address these issues – and that art is the best way to bring SEL to the Indian classroom.

This is a challenge. For example, Delhi, with the most advanced government schooling system in the country, only has 1 art teacher for every 1,400 students. SOL addresses this challenge through its unique methodology. With a goal of scaling arts-based SEL across India by embedding it into public education, and at the same time, strengthening government school capacity through teacher training and direct student engagement, SOL aims to ensure equitable access to creative education and SEL for all.

SOL works through two distinct, innovative models. The Jijivisha Fellowship places artist-educators in classrooms across Delhi, Pune, Mumbai, and Bangalore who then deliver year-long, arts-based SEL



Top and bottom: *Celebrating young voices from unheard communities*



Power comes from speaking our innermost thoughts out loud

sessions tailored to the unique needs of each classroom. The Arts for All (AfA) programme works to make sustainable, at-scale impact by collaborating with state governments like Punjab and Maharashtra to integrate SEL into the weekly arts period of public schools.

‘Our curriculum adapts to local contexts, ensuring cultural relevance and addressing intersectional issues like gender and climate. Additionally, we create open-source arts-based SEL resources, which have reached 4.7 million children across 19 countries via platforms such as DIKSHA and UNICEF. These resources enable scalable SEL access, even in resource-constrained settings,’ says Jigyasa Labroo, Co-founder and CEO.

SOL works to make its models accessible – from working with first generation learners in tribal schools to designing

resources easily integrated into classrooms; using low tech methods of disseminating information, to involving the parents and local artists in community projects. Its work has been recognised by Harvard, the World Bank and HunderED and the positive outcomes are measurable, in numbers, as well as lives transformed. Ask Supriya Kumari, SOL student from Delhi, who went from shy student to spoken word performer at SpokenFest and TedX. Or Deepak, a 14-year-old from Punjab who was invited to perform his poetry at Kala Ghoda Arts Festival in Mumbai.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Arts for All

Beneficiaries: 7,750 teachers and schools

Location: 11,105 villages in multiple districts of 3 states



The Teacher Foundation (Shraddha Trust)



Founded by Maya Menon in 2002

The Teacher Foundation (Shraddha Trust), referred herein as TTF, is a trust with the intention of empowering educators to become energetic, effective, reflective practitioners and life-long learners. It is a centre for teachers, of teachers, by teachers. Its core value lies in the conviction that ‘our schools are only as good as their teachers.’ The organization works in the areas of foundational literacy and social emotional learning. Over 102,500 teachers have been trained, and at least 10,025,000 children have benefitted from its initiatives.

Fortifying the building blocks of education through inclusive learning

THE TEACHER FOUNDATION

(SHRADDHA TRUST) has been addressing some vital questions for more than two decades. How can teachers include every child in the learning process? How can teachers meaningfully engage their students in pair and group work? How can teachers adapt curriculum and pedagogic processes to be inclusive? Are all students getting equitable opportunities to participate in the classroom learning processes and beyond?

TTF has long since recognized that improving the quality of school education in India hinges on the quality of teachers. In India, teachers are undertrained and under-supported. They teach the way they were taught. But TTF has brought a change in this by designing and implementing professional development programmes and teacher support in government schools in villages and underserved communities in India using a practitioner approach.

‘TTF’s enduring focus has been to enable and inspire teachers and headteachers; embedding great teaching practices through building internal capacity in schools; fostering gentler, more positive and purposeful school cultures for overall



Top: *We all have the right to a good standard of learning*



Empowering teachers to become changemakers

institutional wellbeing. Unlike any other teaching resource and technology, teachers do not have a shelf-life! An empowered and competent teacher never gets out-of-date,' says Maya Menon, Founder Director, TTF.

TTF's approach is a combination of training workshops, school-based support and coaching and self-reflection. It is based on international educational research and practices. It is also a pioneer in integrating social-emotional learning and mental wellbeing of staff and students into its strategy. The focus is not just on WHAT teachers learn, but HOW they learn it. The training process used is always non-judgmental, interactive, collegial and practical. Once they experience this person-centred methodology, teachers use the same in their classrooms with children. And the results are astounding.

Maya Menon explains, 'TTF has worked across multiple geographies, building the

capacity of government school teachers. In every program, without exception, we witness a remarkable transformation in teachers' attitudes – from being negative and resistant to becoming positive, proactive, and open to change. Teachers shift from a mindset of learned helplessness – 'We can't do anything; the system, students, and parents are to blame' – to a sense of efficacy: 'We can make a difference, however small it may be.'

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Fostering Holistic Development of Rural Primary School Children with a Focus on Foundational Proficiency in Reading Skills and Social and Emotional Competencies Through Training and Supporting Teachers

Beneficiaries: 13,530 teachers, lecturers and students

Location: 927 villages in 1 district of Karnataka

BEHIND THE SCENES



HCLFOUNDATION TEAM

Dr. Nidhi Pundhir – Senior Vice President, Global

CSR, HCLTech & Director, HCLFoundation

Simi Suri – Associate Director, HCLFoundation

Dr. Santanu Basu – Deputy General Manager, Harit

Prijoe Tharu – Associate General Manager,

HCLFoundation

Robin Thomas – Associate General Manager,

HCLTech Grant

Anuj Srivastava – Senior Manager, HCLTech Grant

Rahul Kumar – Manager, HCLTech Grant

Shally Kaushal – Deputy Manager, HCLTech Grant

Rimisha Nag – Program Officer, HCLTech Grant

Anisha B Chacko – Program Officer, HCLTech Grant

Dr. Ushas George – Program Officer, HCLTech Grant

Umakant Pandey – Group Operations Head, Samuday

Dr. Chethana Thirthahalli – Business Lead, Health

Faiq Alvi – Senior Sector Lead, Samuday

Maanavendra Singh – Senior Sector Lead, Samuday

Riti Mehrotra – Sector Lead, Samuday

Sudha Kumari – Associate Sector Lead, Samuday

Nishtha Saxena – Associate Sector Lead, My Clean City

Sahebrao Govindrao Sonkamble – Associate Sector

Lead, Samuday

Manu Khanna – Senior Manager, Sports

Joshua Livingstone – Senior Manager, Uday

Shashank Khare – Manager, Education, Uday

Marshal Kumar – Manager, HCL Harit

Mahender Kasula – Manager, Uday

Ravi Kumar Sharma – Deputy Manager, Harit

Bapanapalli Srinivasulu – Deputy Manager, Uday

Prabakar Ignatious Prince – Deputy Manager, Uday

Prakriti Khar – Deputy Manager, Pol

Santosh Kumar – Deputy Manager, Harit

Udita Mitra – Associate Project Coordinator, Samuday

Namrita Singh – Associate Manager, Uday

Mohammad Saqib – Associate Manager, Uday

Shyam Sundar B – Associate Manager, Harit

Shweta Joshi – Senior Program Officer, Uday

Pragati Gore – Senior Program Officer, Harit

Vikrant Kamboj – Senior Program Officer, Samuday

Daram Vikas Emmanuel – Senior Program Officer,

Samuday

Dr. Bhavya Rajeshkumar Bhagat – Senior Program Officer, Samuday

Puneet Sharma – Senior Program Officer, Samuday

Eilaaf Fatima Ansari – Senior Program Officer, Uday

Satabadi Borpatra Gohain – Senior Program Officer, Uday

Harshal Ghule – Senior Program Officer, Uday

Joseph Dev Anandh N – Block Coordinator, Samuday

Parvathi V Gopal – Program Officer, Uday

Shailja Singh – Program Officer, Samuday

Anjali Mishra – Program Officer, Uday

Deeksha Sharma – Program Officer, Uday

Meenakshi Bhardwaj – Program Officer, Uday

STRATEGY OFFICE

Sundar Mahalingam – President, Strategy HCL

Corporation & Shiv Nadar Foundation

Rajat Chandolia – Associate Vice President, Marketing

& Branding, HCL Corporation Marketing and

Communications

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ashutosh Sharma – Vice President, Corporate

Communications & Corporate Affairs, HCLTech

Siddhartha Bhatnagar – Senior Manager, Corporate

Communications, HCLTech

HCLTech GRANT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

Dr. Dhruv Lalitkant Mankad

Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain

Mudunuru Venkata Narayana

Saurabh Biswas

Dr. Chandanathil Pappachan Geevan

Dr. Udita Ghosh Sarkar

Avani Kumar Varma

Mohd. Dilshad

Dr. Chandreyee Das

Dr. Shafia Yaseen Wani

Shashank Shekhar

Nilamadhab Prusty

Nikhil Pant

Santosh Kumar Sharma

GOVERNANCE PARTNER

Grant Thornton Bharat LLP



NGOs play a critical role in driving changes at the grassroots, addressing the pressing needs of underserved communities and fostering sustainable development. Their dedication and tireless efforts help transform lives, create opportunities and build resilient societies. We at HCLFoundation are privileged to support these remarkable organizations, empowering them to expand their impact and create lasting change. Through initiatives like the HCLTech Grant, we are committed to nurturing innovative solutions and strengthening the capacity of NGOs to deliver meaningful and measurable outcomes.”

—Robin Abrams, Chairperson, HCLTech Grant Jury (India and Americas) and Ex Board Member, HCLTech

“This year marks the 10th edition of the HCLTech Grant, a milestone that showcases the impactful work of NGOs making a significant difference at the grassroots level. We are honored to support these organizations as they drive sustainable change in underserved, remote regions. Each winning NGO exemplifies our commitment to creating measurable impact through scalable and replicable models of change. This celebration underscores HCLTech's leadership in strategic CSR and nation-building.”

—Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, SVP, Global CSR, HCLTech & Director, HCLFoundation

Pallium Trust, shortlisted for the HCLTech Grant 2024 in the Health category



CREDITS



TEXT

Ruchika Chanana

DESIGN

Misha Oberoi

PHOTOGRAPHY

17000 ft Foundation: 163 (top), 164 (bottom), 166, 168–173
Action for Social Advancement: 4, 47 (top), 74, 76–77
Agri Entrepreneur Growth Foundation: 190, 192–193
Antarang Foundation: 2, 165 (top left), 194, 196–197
Bapu Trust for Research on Mind and Discourse: 105 (top), 132, 134–135
Centre for Youth and Social Development: 48, 78, 80–81
Coodu Trust: 82, 84–85
ELFA International: 165 (top right), 198, 200–201
End Poverty: 86, 88–89
FIND India: 105 (bottom), 107 (bottom), 136, 138–139
Gram Gourav Pratisthan: 50, 52–57
Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation: 107 (top right), 108, 110–115
LEPRA Society: 107 (top left), 140, 142–143
Life Education and Development Support: 49 (bottom), 58, 60–65
Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission: 47 (top right), 49 (top left & bottom), 66, 68–73
Makkala Jagriti: 40, 42
North East Society for Agroecology Support: 144, 146–147
Pallium India Trust: 106 (top), 116, 118–123, 219
Peoples Science Institute: 90, 92–93
Population Foundation of India: 106 (bottom), 152, 154–155
Pratham Education Foundation: 202, 204–205
Pro Rural: 124, 126–131

Project Concern International: 156, 158–159
Raised Lines Foundation: 165 (bottom), 174, 176–181
SANGATH: 36, 38
SANMAT: 156, 158–159
Sarthak Foundation: 206, 208–209
Slam Out Loud: 163 (bottom), 210, 212–213
The Corbett Foundation: 32, 34
The Teacher Foundation (Shraddha Trust): 214, 216–217
Water For People India Trust: 94, 96–97
Watershed Support Services And Activity Network: 98, 100–101
Yuwa India Trust: 164 (top), 182, 184–189

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

ISBN: 9789349474949

Published by Roli Books, 2025

M-75, Greater Kailash-II Market
New Delhi-110 048, India
Ph: +91-11-4068 2000
E-mail: info@rolibooks.com
Website: www.rolibooks.com

Text and Photographs © HCLFoundation

Printed and bound in New Delhi, India