

THE FIFTH ESTATE





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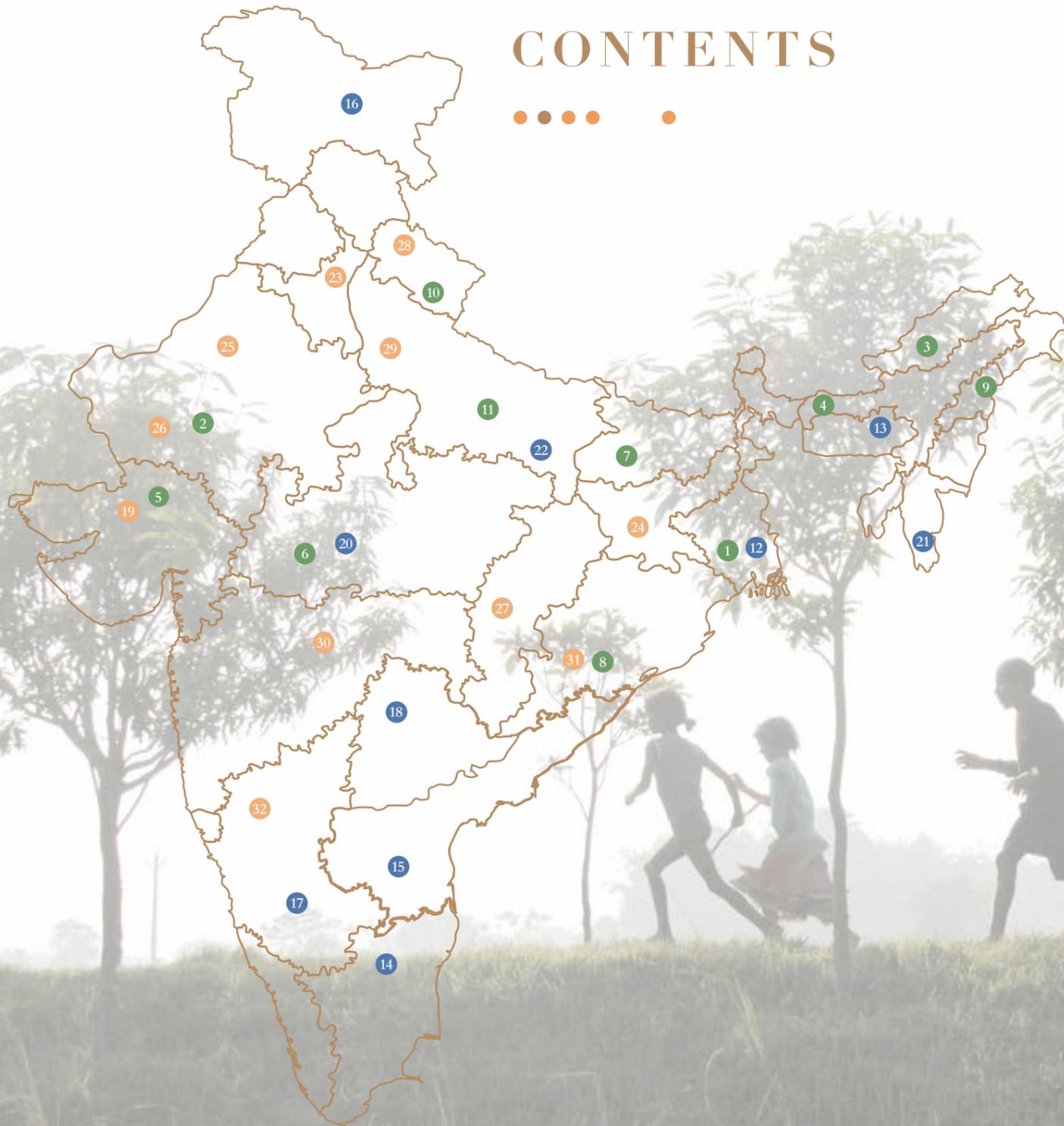
NGOs Transforming Rural India
in Environment, Health and Education



HCL

SHOWCASE
Roli Books

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NATION-BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP



A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

– Mahatma Gandhi

THE CONTRADICTION OF INDIA is its only unvarying quality. A repository of an indescribably beautiful culture. A political and military power, a steadfast and strong democracy, edging towards being a nation to reckon with in the world. A bright comet swooshing through the global economic horizon. Home to one of the most inventive, ambitious, creative, spiritual, and networked races in the known universe. Yet, 1 million children under the age of 5 die of malnutrition in India every year.* Illiteracy, gender discrimination, poor infrastructure, low agricultural output, unemployment, environmental degradation, and many such ills that affect India sit side by side with our galloping growth. That shooting star doesn't quite reach the distant hamlet that has just one bulb to light a whole village.

No single government, whatever its mandate, can realize our Constitutional objectives and rid India of inequity, of hunger, of enslavement, of disease. But with the succour of civil society, we can make a big dent in the concerns that plague us. Non-governmental, non-profit, independent, and grassroots organizations that represent the will of the people are proving to be 'the small body of determined spirits' Mahatma Gandhi spoke about. He, himself, had immense faith in non-governmental bodies, and his

followers were the progenitors of some of the earliest such organizations after Independence. Successive governments began to increase the role of NGOs in their 5-year plans. There is now a National Policy on the Voluntary Sector in place, which recognizes the crucial role that community organizations play in mobilizing local resources and implementing the government's development plans. Inspired by iconic people's movements of the past, today's non-profit people's collectives have become increasingly sophisticated in their approach to progress and advocacy, inclusiveness, rights-based approaches and participatory action. From being teachers of self-reliance, to acting as intermediaries between the authorities and the furthest unreached, to becoming vigilant influencers of policy and vigorous partners in public-private initiatives, NGOs have become indispensable to our evolution as a nation.

The HCL Foundation is the CSR wing of HCL Technologies. Its efforts are geared towards holistic and inclusive community development with a strong emphasis on employee engagement in development activities. Samuday, one of its flagship programmes, has invested heavily to improve social and economic conditions of rural citizens by fortifying education, skills training, livelihoods, and women's empowerment. Samuday impacts rural population in UP, with an aim to build model villages in collaboration with local and state governments. HCL Foundation's other stand-out programme is Power of One, where many development initiatives

are spearheaded or funded by contributions from its 100,000+ strong workforce. HCL Foundation considers that ₹ 1 a day and one hour/day/week/month/year/life of community service will make a fundamental difference. Thousands of HCL employees have volunteered and contributed to this unique project and its various components called My Community, My Scholar and My School, located in cities from where HCL operates.

HCL strongly believes in the power of grassroots empowerment. As Shiv Nadar, Founder & Chairman – HCL, Shiv Nadar Foundation states, 'Our country today resolutely stands on the strong foundation of four estates – democracy, independent judiciary, matured bureaucracy, and free press. These estates not only define the fabric of our society but also act as potent drivers propelling India to the next level of growth and prosperity. It is imperative that the growth process that we as a nation subscribe to is inclusive, and carries forward all sections of the society across geographies. This is where the community-led ecosystems are destined to play a decisive role in building a stronger, future-ready India.'

The HCL Grant is a recognition of the rise of these community-led ecosystems, or the Fifth Estate – Non-Governmental Organizations. The Fifth Estate are critical agents of change for India, and have made and continue to make meaningful, lasting impact on the lives of marginalized communities. The Grant comprises one of the highest value CSR infusions into India's development. About \$15 million (₹ 100 crore) will be made available, over a period of 5 years, to not-for-profit bodies who are doing path-breaking work towards nation building in rural India.

The recipient of the first HCL Grant (for education) in 2015 was the NGO 'Going to School', which has evolved an unconventional, story-based teaching methodology now being implemented in government schools in several states of India. In 2016, two more categories were introduced: Health and Environment. Grant recipients in each of the three categories are NGOs who are capable of achieving sustained socio-economic empowerment of

communities in Indian villages, which can be scaled and replicated.

The HCL Grant seeks an NGO partner with whom HCL Foundation will engage, enhance systems of management and governance, and offer support for sustainable rural development in their respective sector. With **The Fifth Estate**, HCL Grant has initiated what will possibly be the first ever sector-wide, comprehensive compendium of the most credible NGOs striving towards the empowerment of rural India. Volume 1 of the compendium headlines the shortlisted NGOs from 2016 and 2017 in each category. This will be disseminated across various networks, providing unprecedented visibility to the NGOs.

India's range of issues is so multifarious, its peoples so diverse, that the search for HCL Grant recipient cannot be based on the NGO's project idea, however innovative. The process is designed to hone in on those organizations which have the capacity to *implement, replicate* or *scale up* their ideas in the field, and make mighty changes to transform and enrich India's villages. Abiding by our core DNA: sustained nation-building, from the ground up.

*according to UNICEF Report, 2015

METHODOLOGY



THE SELECTION OF THE HCL Grant Recipient NGO is a progression involving engagement at all levels: the impact of the NGO, its governance and its people. It is a year long journey planned meticulously, implemented with due cautiousness, detail and depth. In 2015–16, Going to School, an NGO working in Education, qualified as the recipient of the first HCL Grant. HCL Foundation and Going to School now have a five year-long partnership, a technical and financial intersection as part of the HCL Grant Programme. In 2016–17, the impetus of the HCL Grant was to reach out to the more than 3.3 million registered NGOs across India and ensure their access to the application process. The challenge was to find the three NGOs most aligned with the overall vision: generating high-impact transformation in the areas of Environment, Education and Health while working in rural areas. This required

a deep investigation into the credibility, good works and the systems that fuelled the NGOs, to be certain of their capability to produce inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

A unique, NGO-friendly, screening model was deployed, a simple yet robust process, scientifically formulated, with multiple levels of assessments. Parameters included the originality, relevance and impact of the idea, innovation, scalability, replicability, and feasibility. The quantitative parameters included comparisons of coverage versus depth, financial allocations and more. The process was facilitated by a highly skilled and varied team of people, from Governance Partners Grant Thornton, carefully selected Independent Consultants for field visits, and the HCL Foundation team. The result is a selection paradigm that is transparent, democratic, and heavily audited every step of the way.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The organization must be a registered not-for-profit entity in India (A Society, Trust or a Section 8, previously Section 25, company).
2. The organization should have completed functional existence of TEN years in India on and before 30 June 2016.
3. The organization should have at least FIVE years of experience working in rural areas in India on and before 30 June 2016.
4. The organization should have an average expenditure of ₹1.5 crores for the last 3 financial years, i.e., 2013–14, 2014–15 and 2015–16.
5. The organization must not be blacklisted by any government agency, donor or international agency.
6. The organization must not have any negative media coverage or any other controversy associated with it.
7. The organization should not have any political or religious affiliations.
8. The organization should have registration documents, audited financial reports, tax certificates and FCRA and/or similar documents depending on the nature of the funding/donations that the NGO receives.

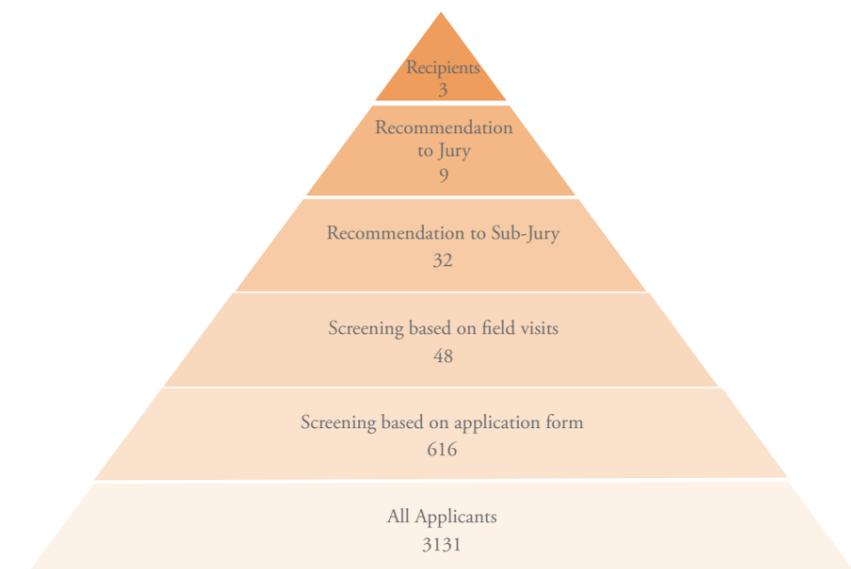
PROJECT IMPERATIVES

1. Proposed project to comply with Schedule 7, Section 135, Companies Act 2013.
2. Proposed project to cover at least 1 HCL site for 1 year under project implementation.
3. Proposed project to be in rural areas only.
4. Applicant organization to implement the project directly. Sub-granting is not permitted.
5. Proposed project could be “Scale up of existing project” or “Replication of existing project / model” or “Fresh project”.
6. Grant of up to ₹ 5 crores to be awarded for a period of 3–5 years, including coverage of HCL Site.
7. Grant money cannot be used for infrastructure development such as construction, renovation, purchase of fixed assets like land, buildings, and vehicles, among others.

‘Our team visited 8 states, 7 projects in 22 days or 528 hours. Travelled more than 20,000 km by more than 20 flights on 6 airlines, which took off or touched down at 9 airports (30 hours). Travelled by 2 trains (to and fro) covering 1554 km and 4 stations (30 hours). Team covered 2881 km by road (106 hours). Out of this 1728 km (51 hours) was through hilly, bumpy roads in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and risky roads in J&K. Team reached 26 locations including Delhi and capitals of 6 states. Visited 19 district or block HQs and villages of project sites.’

— *Dr Dhruv Mankad, MacArthur Fellow, HCL Grant Consultant (Health)*

HCL GRANT SCREENING PROCESS



Application Portal open for 60 days.

The applicant NGOs requested to send their project proposals and organization profiles.

JULY 2016



Due diligence exercised on all 48 shortlisted applicants.

Field visits to 48 project locations pan-India conducted by a team of experts.

32 NGOs selected for Sub-Jury evaluation.

OCT-NOV 2016



Site visits and assessments done for all 9 finalists by Governance Partner. Reports shared with the Jury.

Videos shot at the project locations by HCL Foundation also shared with the Jury.

DEC 2016-JAN 2017



SEPT 2016

Screening of applications conducted, based on a comprehensive framework and eligibility criteria.

A PMO represented by Governance Partner and HCL Foundation was set up to screen the applications.

48 applications shortlisted for Level 1 field visits.



22-24 NOV 2016

A dedicated thematic Sub Jury evaluation conducted.

One day designated to each category – Environment, Health and Education.

A detailed deliberation conducted on each shortlisted NGO (Environment: 11, Health: 11, Education: 10).

9 finalist NGOs selected from each category for Jury evaluation.

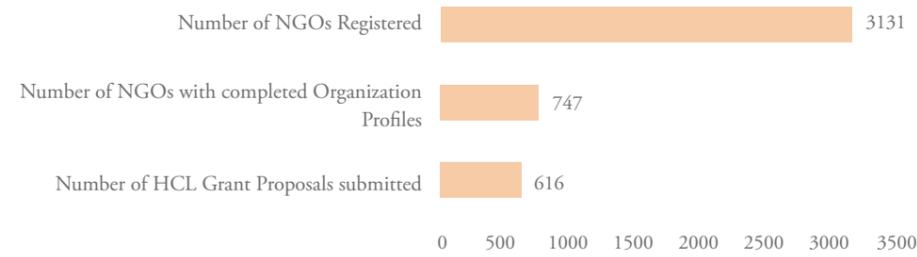


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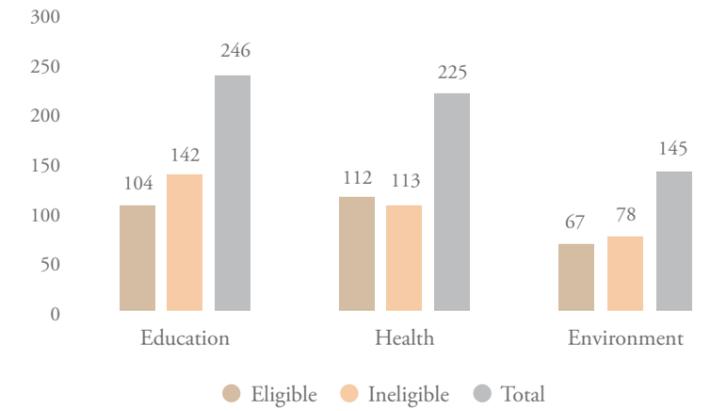
Jury – One day designated for detailed reflection and selection of HCL Grant Recipients.

1 NGO per category selected to be the HCL Grant Recipient.

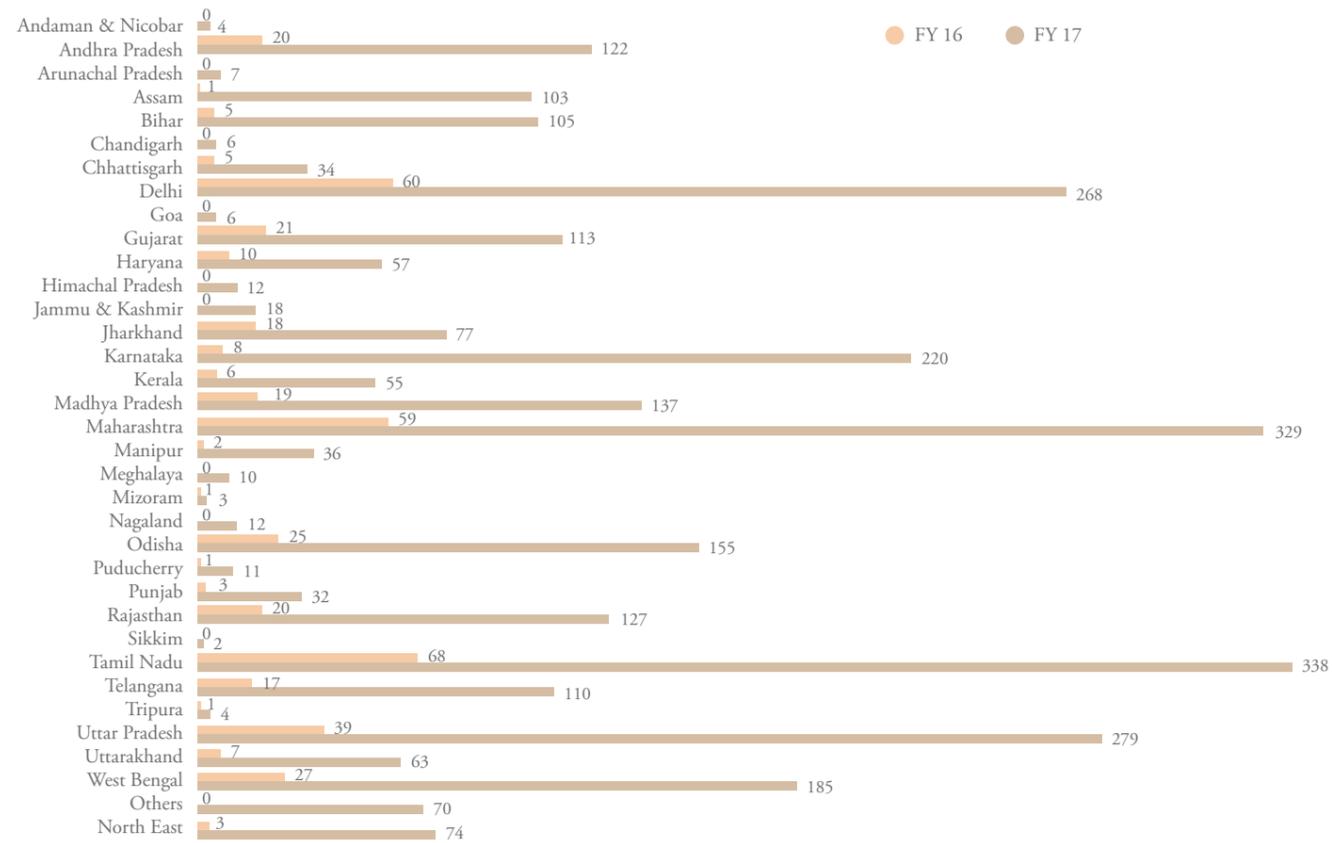
APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2016



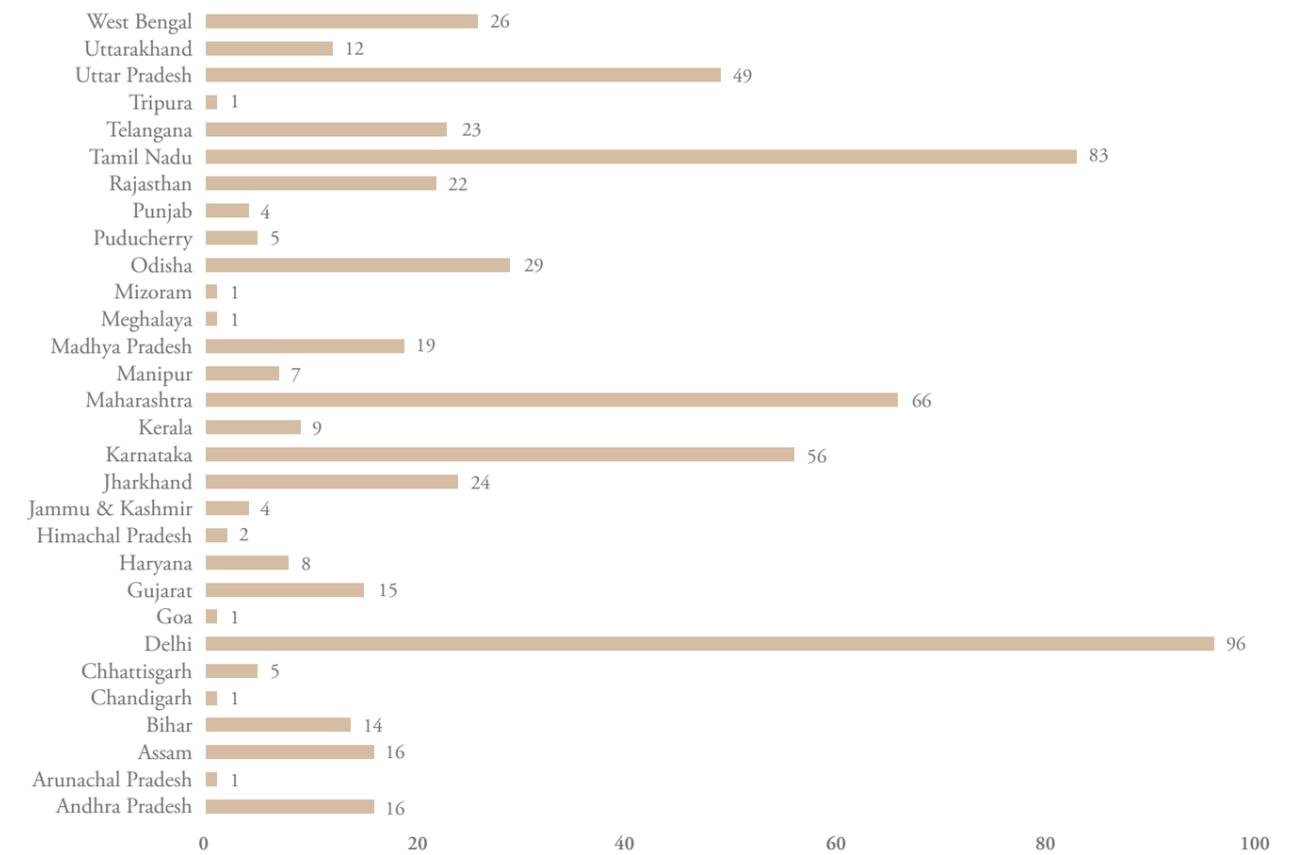
CATEGORY-WISE HCL GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS FY16 VS FY 17



STATE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLETE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TOTAL 616



JURY



ROBIN ABRAMS
Chairperson of the Jury

Former President of Palm Computing, and the longest serving Board member of HCL Technologies, she was most recently interim CEO at ZiLOG. She had been the President of Palm Computing and Senior Vice President at 3Com Corporation. She was formerly the President and CEO at VeriFone. Before joining VeriFone in 1997, Abrams held a variety of senior management positions with Apple Computers. As Vice President and General Manager of Apple Americas, she oversaw sales and channel management for U.S., Canada and Latin America. Prior to that, she was the Vice President and Managing Director of Apple Asia, where she was responsible for sales and marketing in the region. Abrams spent eight years with Unisys in several senior-level positions. She has served several U.S. public company boards including ZiLOG and BEA Systems (until it was acquired by Oracle) and currently serving Sierra Wireless, Lattice Semiconductor and FactSet. She also serves on the Anita Borg Institute Board and several academic advisory committees.



ISHER JUDGE AHLUWALIA
An eminent Indian economist, she is Chairperson of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a leading think-tank based in New Delhi engaged in policy

oriented research. Dr Ahluwalia's research has focused on policy oriented challenges facing the Indian economy in the areas of urbanization, sustainable public service delivery, macroeconomic issues, and industrial growth and productivity. She was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Services, the Government of India, from 2008 to 2011. Dr Ahluwalia is on the Board of Trustees of a number of national and international research institutions. She was a Board member of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) from 2010 to 2016. She was Chairperson, Board of Trustees of International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., from 2003 to 2006. She was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature.



MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA
HCL Grant, 2016

Leading Indian economist and civil servant, Ahluwalia was the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of the Republic of India, a position which carries the rank of a Cabinet Minister. He was previously the first Director of the Independent Evaluation Office at the International Monetary Fund. Ahluwalia has been a key figure in the Indian economic reform process. He played an important role in the team under Dr. Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister, which guided and implemented reforms from 1991 to 1996. As Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission from 2004 onwards, he supervised the preparation of both the Eleventh Plan (2007–08 to 2011–12) and the Twelfth Plan (2012–13 to 2016–17). The President of India awarded him the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour for public service.



B.S. BASWAN

Baswan was heading the Government Committee to review recruitment procedures for the higher civil services till August 2016. He regularly speaks on public policy issues at a number of institutions. He has held some of the key positions in the Government including Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie; Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Govt of India; Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals), Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India; and finally retired as Education Secretary, Government of India.



JOHN E. KELLY III

Senior Vice President, Cognitive Solutions and Research at IBM, Dr Kelly is focused on the company's investments in several of the fastest-growing and most strategic parts of the information technology market. His portfolio includes IBM Analytics, IBM Commerce, IBM Security and IBM Watson, as well as IBM Research and the company's Intellectual Property team. Most notably, Dr Kelly and his team were responsible for advancing the science of cognitive computing through his support for IBM Watson, the groundbreaking system that defeated two standing Jeopardy world champions in 2011. His top priorities are to stimulate innovation, develop and extend industry-specific business units and foster future areas for investment and growth.



RICHARD LARIVIERE

President and CEO of the Field Museum since 2012, Dr Lariviere's career in academia and business is grounded in expertise on India. His work with the Information Technology industry (beginning in 1992) comprised devising country entry strategies for American companies wishing to have a large presence in India. Among the companies he has worked with are Deluxe Corporation, General Instrument Corporation (now part of Motorola), Cisco Systems, Sabre Holdings, HCL Corporation, Perot Systems, MetLife, and others. His academic writing has garnered international prizes. He was a professor and Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin, Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor at the University of Kansas, and President of the University of Oregon. He has served on the Board of many prestigious organizations across the world. In Chicago, he is a member of the Advisory Board of After School Matters, member of the Board of the Chicago Cultural Mile, President of the Board of Art in the Center, Member of the Economic Club, the Chicago Club, and the Arts Club.



TOM MILLER
HCL Grant, 2016

Miller leads Anthem's information technology function. He has more than 30 years of experience in the field of technology, management, global initiatives and operations. Prior to joining Anthem, he served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Coca-Cola Refreshments in North America, and during his six years in Europe he was the Chief Information Officer of Coca-Cola Europe and Coca-Cola Hellenic Beverages in Greece. Formerly, he spearheaded a major transformation program to standardize the business processes, systems and data of Coca-Cola bottling companies worldwide. Tom was recognized by *Consumer Goods Magazine* as one of the top ten innovators in the consumer goods industry.



SHIV NADAR

Shiv Nadar established HCL in 1976 as an original garage startup, revolutionizing Indian technology and product innovation. Today, HCL is a \$7bn global technology conglomerate employing over 115,000 people in 32 countries. In 1994, Nadar established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is today the largest philanthropic organization in India having established six institutions covering the entire spectrum of education and benefiting over 10,000 students directly. So far the Foundation has invested close to \$600mn in various initiatives. Nadar has received several honours and accolades in the past, notable being the third highest civilian award – Padma Bhushan, bestowed upon him by the President of India in 2008. He was named outstanding philanthropist of the year in 2015 by Forbes.



PALLAVI SHROFF

Ms Pallavi Shroff has over 34 years of extensive experience in Litigation, Arbitration, and Competition Law. She has constantly been featured as 'Top Rated' lawyer by several international publications including Chambers and Partners 2017. She has been recognized as one of the Most Powerful Women in Indian Business by *Business Today* for four years in succession (2013–16). She has also been named in the C-Suite Women edition of *Business World* titled 'The Expert Arbitrator'. Shroff has been a member of the governing board of 'Save the Children' as well as advisory board of the NGO, Colours of Hope. At SAM & Co, Ms. Shroff introduced a Corporate Social Entrepreneurial initiative called Pankh, in which the Firm undertakes social initiatives including organization of legal awareness camps for the weaker sections of society.

SUB JURY

Environment

GH RAO President, Engineering and R&D Services (ERS), HCL Technologies

RUPAMANJARI GHOSH Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University

SG MURALI Chief Financial Officer, HCL Infosystems

RITA GUPTA Senior Vice President, Finance, HCL Corporation

Health

MANOJ GOPALAKRISHNA CEO, HCL Healthcare

SRIMATHI SHIVASHANKAR Vice President, New Vistas, HCL Technologies

ANUBHA BALI Head, Career Development Cell, Shiv Nadar University

NEELES AGARWAL Senior Vice President, Finance, HCL Corporation

Education

C VIJAYAKUMAR President & CEO, HCL Technologies

KALA VIJAYAKUMAR President, SSN Institutions

RAJIV SWARUP President, Shiv Nadar University

COL. GOPAL KARUNAKARAN CEO, Shiv Nadar School

RAHUL SINGH President, Financial Services, HCL Technologies

Finalists 2017

Development Research Communication
& Services Centre (DRCSC) **22**

Combining sustainable livelihoods and environmental preservation

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) **30**

Preserving 'commons' and empowering the community to manage them

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) **38**

Bringing conservation of wildlife and its habitat into the mainstream

Shortlisted 2017

Caritas India **46**

Helping communities actively participate in governance

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) **50**

Promoting environmental education and sustainable development

Corbett Foundation **54**

Fostering harmony between humans and the natural world

Ghoghardiha Prakhand Swarajya Vikas Sangh (GPSVS) **58**

Building capacity of people's collectives for sustainable development

International Development Enterprises India (IDEI) **62**

Sustainable technology, products, practices and markets for the small farmer

North East Network **66**

Amplifying women's voices on issues of environment

Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development
of Himalayan Areas (SUVIDHA) **70**

Working with small farmers and sustainable, organic agriculture

World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) India **74**

Championing the cause of wildlife and nature conservation



Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC)



SOME PEOPLE ARE GEARED for the future.

Their vision skirts distant horizons with immense clarity and foresight. The group of communications and rural development professionals who started the Development Research Communication and Services Centre are among such people. When they started the organization, they foresaw that communication, dissemination of information, and research were integral to the development process. So DRCSC became the go-to agency for NGOs, CBOs (community-based organizations) and individuals in central and eastern India, who wanted to highlight their struggles and achievements in the uphill battle for social justice.

DRCSC trained these other organizations to use media – like theatre and posters – to raise consciousness, and document the socio-economic issues of the people. ‘We developed a library, journal and news service to further our goals of mobilizing support for grassroot development initiatives, and to establish development education/awareness raising as a legitimate form of ‘charitable activity’, explains Ardhendu S. Chatterjee, Secretary, DRCSC.

Eventually, DRCSC shifted its focus to environmental issues. The organizations it was working with in east India began approaching it to help with agendas integral to those districts: degradation of natural resources and alleviation of extreme poverty by building rural livelihoods. Again, ahead of its time, DRCSC evolved a network of rural NGOs to work on sustainable agriculture and

Founded by a group of communications, media and rural development professionals in 1986

Vision To work for a sustainable future of the rural poor and marginalized communities free from poverty, hunger and environmental degradation.

Mission Ensuring food and livelihood security of the rural poor through sustainable management of natural resources on the basis of principles and actions that are environment friendly and restorative, economically appropriate and disaster resilient, and socially just, developed by mutual cooperation and action research.

*We look to the sky, we look to the sea;
mother earth is our destiny*



Learning new ways of earning and new ways of farming that don't hurt Mother Earth



Trained 17 non-profits and nearly 500 community groups to implement its models.

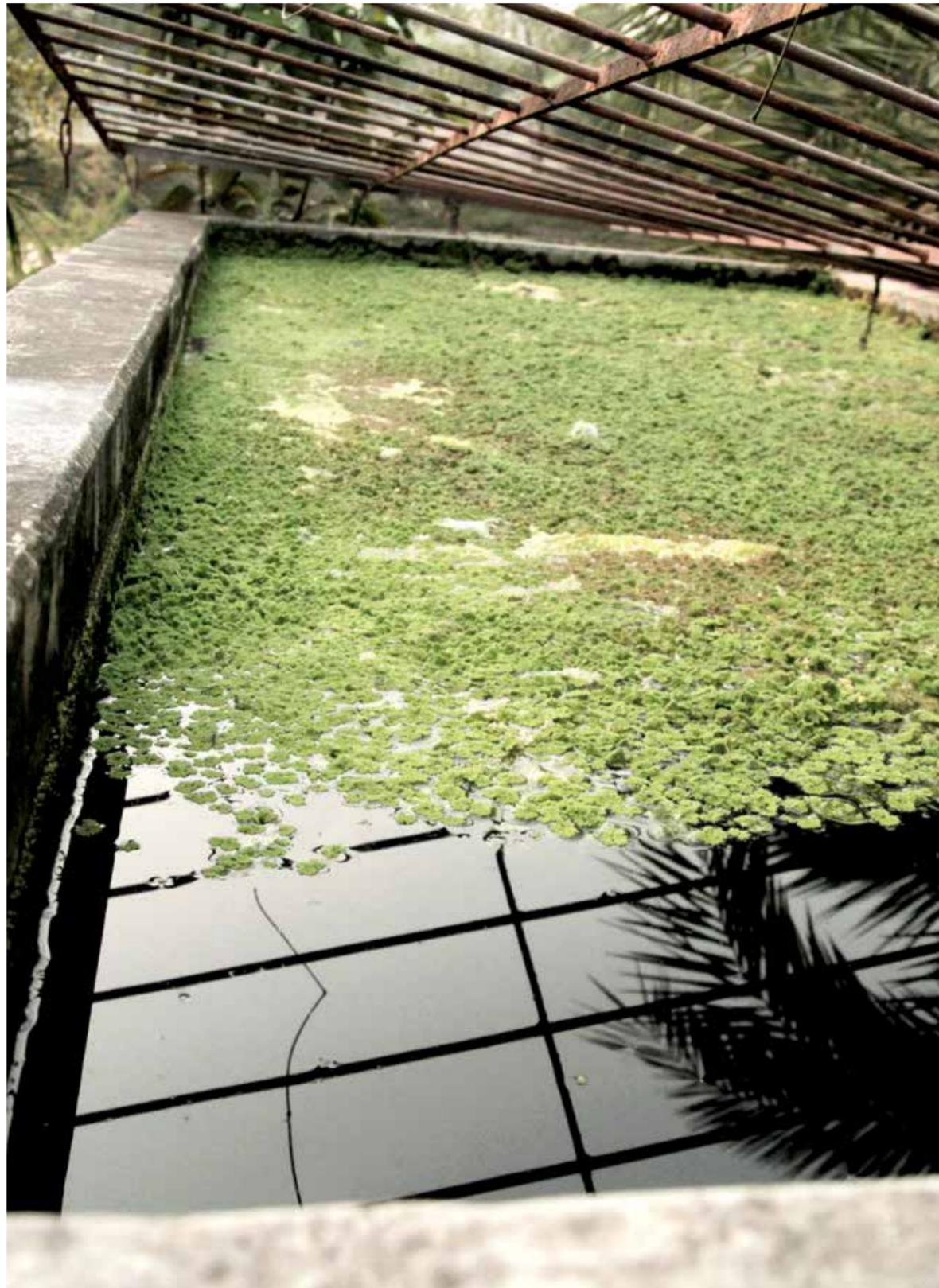
Food security programmes have impacted the nutritional status of over 10,000 women and girls.

Helped over 9,000 vulnerable households over the last 10 years to increase their food-secure months, and increase average income per household by at least Rs 10,000 per year.

Has directly helped implement over 5,000 home gardens and over 100 integrated farming systems.

bolstering food and livelihood security. It helped develop and implement training facilities and materials for natural resource management. The spread of these activities was ensured by the strengthening of its resource centres and network.

The third phase came about organically, and yet again, it was forward thinking and future-relevant. 'We focused on food-insecure communities in disaster prone eco-regions. There were fewer NGOs operating here, so we worked directly as an implementing agency,' says Ardhendu. Now, it harnesses the strength of the community and forms small groups of households, or farmers, or gardeners to implement projects and learnings collectively. He further explains, 'We have been successful in helping many groups to become self-sufficient in basic foods and to build up revolving funds, emergency grain stores, and seed saving and exchange networks. The next challenge is to develop marketing networks to ensure best prices for their surplus produce.'



Looking beyond farming for livelihoods

Using participatory tools, DRCSC monitors and evaluates resources available and indigenous knowledge and practices, and suggests ways to manage the natural assets and bio-diversity. All this is performed with the dual purposes of enhancing productivity and protecting the environment. It also works towards proving the naysayers wrong that livelihoods and environmental preservation cannot go hand in hand. Further, it encourages the emergence of eco-entrepreneurs.

DRCSC works in several areas: training marginalized communities – especially women and tribal people – to become self-sustaining in food and fodder and utilize resources well (this could include demonstration of improved kitchen gardens and it could include collaborative field trials); helping them market their produce; offering technologies to regenerate and use commons in the best ways possible for the good of the poor and through group management; pushing for environmental education for children from a very young age so that they do not enter the cycle of being unskilled labour; documenting traditional knowledge in ‘food production and

processing, seed selection and storage, nutrition and health care, water harvesting and storage...’ Also included is capacity building of small organizations so that they keep up documentation and libraries. DRCSC lobbies the government authorities using its field level evidence-based research to address problems and issues arising from the degradation of the forests, which were once the lifeline for local people.

One of its ongoing programmes, the Climate Change initiative in the Sundarbans in the aftermath of a disastrous cyclone, is an exemplary initiative for reducing climatic risks that illustrates DRCSC’s methodology well. It works on reconstruction of homes and rebuilding of livelihoods in that fragile ecology.

In short, DRCSC strives to preserve communities and ecosystems for posterity.

A man in a light-colored shirt and dark trousers is riding a blue bicycle on a dirt path that winds through a dense mangrove forest. The trees are tall and thin, with lush green foliage. The path is unpaved and appears to be a common route through the forest. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning, with soft shadows.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT 2017

‘Conserving Sundarbans: A World Heritage Site, through climate-resilient ecosystems and livelihoods’

The unique ecosystem of Sundarbans (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is one of the world’s most biologically diverse. Yet, the region is on the brink of devastation. Most of its four million plus residents are engaged in agriculture, but the land has been impacted because of coastal erosion, loss of mangrove cover, rising sea levels, unpredictable monsoons, and extreme climate events. Disaster preparedness is low, the region is energy deficient, and there is an absence of alternate livelihoods. Increasing populations put more and more pressure on the environment and natural resource availability.

The proposed 3-year project intervention addresses these very issues of the vulnerable coastal communities of Sundarbans. It seeks to empower households of small and marginal farmers, landless people and fishing communities by enabling their transition to sustainable and climate resilient agro-allied livelihoods through a participatory process involving local grassroot bodies.

The project blends the development of climate resilient ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods in the Sundarbans. The dependency on traditional fuel sources including kerosene and firewood will be lessened by enabling clean energy like solar lights, improved cooking stoves, and biogas plants. Community-based drinking water structures will alleviate women’s hard labour and ensure safe drinking water. To conserve the flora and fauna and natural resources, initiatives of mangrove plantation and multipurpose social forestry will be undertaken. Innovations in knowledge management and dissemination of insights from previous interventions will be done. There will also be rigorous monitoring, training and awareness building will ensure sustainability.

Beneficiaries: Small and marginal farmers, landless persons and fishing communities *Location:* Sundarbans



Replenishing our farmlands,
our bellies, and our souls



Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)



'In nature, nothing exists alone.'

– Rachel Carson

THIS FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH about our natural world seems to have been forgotten in the juggernaut of development. Fortunately there are organizations like the Foundation for Ecological Security, or FES, who uphold the interconnectedness of all things, and understand the devastating consequences if that connection is ruptured. Its primary concern is that water, soil, biomass – those lifelines of human existence – are not even in the reckoning of what is termed as 'infrastructure' today. In an effort to tackle environmental management from a different angle, FES works with forests and the idea of the 'commons', i.e., shared natural resources, like land, water, forests, and what are called 'wastelands' because of our colonial legacy. And that is a misnomer by any standards.

Commons are crucial for bio-diversity conservation and carbon sequestration. Received wisdom tells us that commons are best left undivided for full optimization and best managed collectively. FES looks at forests and commons not in isolation, but in the context of the social, economic, and ecological dynamics of the area. Conservation has much more meaning if it is perceived this way. For centuries, people, especially tribal populations and women, have depended on the forest for their livelihoods: fodder, timber, household needs, often subsistence through selling non-timber produce. From their grandparents,

Founded by Dr Amrita Patel in 2001

Vision Based on a holistic understanding of the principles that govern the inter-relationships of various life forms and natural systems, we look forward to a future, where the local communities determine and move towards desirable land-use practices based on principles of conservation and social justice.

Mission As 'ecological security' is the foundation of sustainable and equitable development, we are committed to strengthening, reviving or restoring, where necessary, the process of ecological succession and the conservation of land, forest, and water resources in the country





Using traditional and modern knowledge, we seek to preserve our precious commons

they have learned how much to take out of the forest so as to not despoil it. But today, their knowledge is not respected, and they have no rights over the land. Looking at satellite surveys, FES was initially shocked to discover how much forest and common land was degraded in India, through neglect in policy or over-development for agriculture or industry. Government initiatives were top-heavy, and fragmented at best, so FES developed a strategy to deal with the problem.

The first step was to make efforts to revive entire ecosystems by protecting bio-diversity, regenerating water tables, and so on. Healthy commons are not just invaluable for mitigating greenhouse gases, but they also make adjoining farmlands richer, and produce better crops. The next step was to develop the commons and empower the local community to govern their use as a collective, where every member has an equal say. The community already depends on these lands. Having knowledge of their rights, the government initiatives and laws they can access, judicious use of the lands, and how they can help with ecological conservation by seamlessly melding it with their lifestyle, vastly strengthens the chances of good governance and equitable use of these common resources for the good of the poorest and most marginalized among them.

FES works on giving teeth to local institutions, and training them to claim community rights over

forest produce. The third prong of its strategy is to not only improve the economic conditions of people in the area, but also help the villagers understand the dynamics of conservation. FES strongly believes that livelihoods and conservation can co-exist peacefully, and rural communities are the best placed to bring this collaboration to life.

‘The work would contribute to addressing serious issues of food, fodder and water scarcities as much as restoring the dwindling biodiversity and depleting soil health. Importantly, it would position rural people as equal citizens contributing both to nation building and addressing challenges posed by climate change,’ explains Jagdeesh Rao, Executive Director, FES.

Capacity-building of local youth and networking with the governments, other NGOs and local bodies; conducting research and applying the findings back into their programmes; working in tandem with universities from India and abroad, and building evidence-based data to inform policy – these are some of FES’s other activities. It has a holistic approach to its work, which mirrors the multi-level interventions it is making in eight states in India, including Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It uses technology cleverly, developing apps, which help in, says Jagdeesh, ‘... building the much needed body of data on commons in India, bringing in scientific rigour in the implementation of government programmes, and empowering local communities by “communing” scientific knowledge.’

Sustainability is FES’s mantra. It starts planning an exit strategy from the beginning. In fact, the programme that was seen by the field investigators of the HCL Grant process has been working without FES’s support for 10 years! With that as their gospel, the earth will surely prosper.

Works in 31 districts across 8 states

Touches over 6,500,000 people in 11,704 villages to improve management and governance of 6,770,000 acres of forests, common lands and farmlands.

Has set up a spatial platform with sound GIS and Remote Sensing capabilities, an exhaustive array of datasets covering 500+ social, economic and ecological parameters of the country and portals on biodiversity.



PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT 2017

Scaling up the 'Informed Collaborative Action for Resilience of Ecosystems (iCARE)'

Common land and water bodies are crucial for restoring ecosystems, carbon sequestration, bio-diversity conservation, and livelihoods of the rural poor. The proposed project builds on the extensive experience of FES of working with commons, and to decentralize the top-heavy approach to environmental management. It seeks to do this by involving all stakeholders and by building local institutions, and improving tenure rights over common resources. And also developing cost-effective, appropriate technology that complements the existing community knowledge to manage complex environmental problems.

The strategies for implementation are based largely on establishing village institutions and building their capacity for collective action. Other interventions aim at leveraging policies on conservation that provide spaces for the poor and women, and enable village communities to access, share, and conserve common lands. FES will build on this robust community base and leadership for scaling up to all the villages in the landscape. FES will use strategies including direct engagement, village meetings, training programmes, data platforms, media campaigns, and cultural events to engage different actors. FES will strengthen collaborative platforms of community institutions, government functionaries, academia and NGOs to jointly deliberate on issues of conservation, and channelling of public funds.

The project will reach out to 600 habitations, 45,000 households and 225,000 people in three years. 20,000 hectares of forest and non-forest common lands will be brought under protection. After the project is completed, FES intends to work with these communities for an additional three to four years for knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Beneficiaries: Rural vulnerable populations, with emphasis on women and deprived groups

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



The wild flourishes when boundaries disappear



Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)



Founded by Ashok Kumar and Vivek Menon in 1998

Vision Secure natural heritage of India.

Mission Conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments.

Wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will. – Theodore Roosevelt

If people were superior to animals, they'd take better care of the world. – Winnie the Pooh

IN RAJAJI NATIONAL PARK, in the foothills of the Himalayas, only one elephant was killed by a train between 2001–12, whereas before that it was a regular occurrence. Manas National Park in Assam was removed from the World Heritage Site list because poaching and terrorism had decimated its wildlife. It has now been re-instated on the UNESCO list. The degraded coral reef in Mithapur, Gujarat has been restored through a private–public initiative. Every one of these happy endings is due to the relentless efforts of Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), an NGO tirelessly striving to conserve wildlife and habitat for nearly two decades, specially tiger, elephant and rhino, and working with governments and communities towards conservation and managing human–wildlife conflicts.

Vivek Menon, its founder, says that WTI was started ‘to bring nature and wildlife conservation into mainstream society through appropriate conservation action that involves awareness, community involvement, ecology, rehabilitation and conflict mitigation, enforcement and habitat securement so that humans and wildlife co-exist with reduced conflict.’

The best part is that WTI manages to action them all, perhaps because of a diverse band of dedicated professionals passionate about conservation. There are



Over 50 projects being run in 23 locations in India.

15,000 frontline wildlife staff of over 150 Protected Areas have been imparted Level 1 anti-poaching training.

Provided insurance to 20,000 staff against death on duty.



Easing the struggle of man versus wild



other factors at play, too. WTI is known for its quick response to situations; and its streamlined processes, that combine 'private sector work ethics and an NGO heart'. It knows how to optimize human resources brilliantly through the creation of distinct skillsets.

These skillsets feed into WTI's numerous and varied projects, which in turn are manifestations of what it calls its 'Big Ideas'. Vivek enumerates these: 'Our attempt to study and vanquish the multi-billion dollar illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives. Our attention to the needs of individual animals as well as entire species. Our belief that long-term conservation success can only be achieved with the support and involvement of local communities. Our understanding that true conservation happens through the securement of neglected wild habitats. Our admiration and concern for those warriors on the frontlines of conservation, the forest staff that patrol our Protected Areas. And our acceptance that human ignorance is our biggest opponent and the spread of awareness our greatest ally.'

WTI ensures a holistic model of conservation. It combats wildlife crimes; and engages with communities involving them in conservation, shifting

to alternate livelihoods, and reducing dependence on wildlife. Training, insurance/relief and benefits for conservation personnel as well as producing awareness material and conducting research are integral activities. Other initiatives include acquiring land to clear animal corridors, rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife. And, on occasion, saving entire species, like the campaign to save the whale shark, once hunted by Gujarat fisherfolk, and now actually rescued by them.

WTI's main opponent is ignorance on every level. Vivek explains it beautifully: 'From ignorance comes the belief that we are somehow the "owners" of nature, ... that we can ravage the environment and that our lives will not only remain unaffected, they will be somehow better for having done this. From ignorance comes the belief that pangolin scales can cure cancer, or that rhino horns can cure impotence, or that ivory is removed from elephants without killing them. And from ignorance stems the lack of political will, which of course is crucial for anything to be achieved in India.'

The problems stemming from ignorance seem insurmountable. But if anyone can triumph over them, it is WTI.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT 2016

‘Connecting Landscapes, Empowering People and Protecting Elephants: An Initiative to Secure the D’ering–Dibru Saikhowa Elephant Corridor, Northeast India’

and

‘Enhancing the Human–Elephant Co-existence in Select Elephant Corridors of the Nilgiri–Mysore Landscape, Southern India’

Every year, more than 400 humans and 100 elephants die, and crops and property worth millions of rupees are destroyed because human development has left no room for elephants to wander and feed. One solution to manage the conflict is the creation of elephant corridors to link Protected Areas, which connect one large elephant habitat to another, thereby ensuring their long term survival. Before these corridors disappear owing to unplanned development, they must be secured and protected.

Part 1 The D’ering–Saikhowa corridor connects elephant populations of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The landscape also supports key fauna like tigers, leopards, Hoolock gibbon, and wild buffalo. In this corridor, WTI and the Forest Department will work with the local community and Self Help Groups (SHGs) to set aside some land for community conservation, plant trees to restore degraded habitat and mitigate climate change, minimize dependence of people on forests by introducing energy efficient chullahs, sensitize the public including children towards the issues involved, and strengthen the livelihood of local communities through direct support, capacity building training and channelizing social schemes of the government. The aim is to create a win-win situation for both the elephants and humans in the landscape.

Part 2 Protecting 10 high-priority elephant corridors connecting parts of the Nilgiri–Mysore region, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This initiative will create impact by deploying a cadre of ‘Green Corridor Champions (GCCs)’, who will be chosen from among NGOs and CBOs (community-based organizations) in the area.

These champions will be charged with the responsibility of sensitizing, motivating and mobilizing the local communities with the ultimate aim of ensuring safe passage for elephants by creating a sense of pride and ownership for the corridor among the community.

Beneficiaries: Humans and elephants *Location:* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka





Our living can be bountiful if we love the earth

Caritas India



THE WORD CARITAS IS LATIN for 'love in action'. Caritas India, a member of the worldwide network of Caritas Confederation, exemplifies its lofty purpose, with initiatives that target several issues faced by the forgotten peoples of India. Caritas brings its formidable experience of development to bear – through convergence and an integrated methodology – on its numerous projects. These are spread across many Indian states, in the far-flung and remotest areas of the north-east, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and more.

When it began in the 1960s, the organization focused on food, shelter and education. It soon saw that although this was necessary, it wasn't enough. Communities had to be given the reins of progress in their own hands for truly sustainable development and empowerment to occur. It began to implement what it calls its 'animation' methodology. By identifying inequalities, injustices, and iniquitous power structures, and by addressing them from a rights-based perspective, Caritas India has been able to help communities actively participate in governance and sensitize those in control of resources.

Its forays into diverse areas like poverty alleviation, community health, amelioration of indigenous people, gender and child rights as well as upliftment of tribal people, fishing communities, and other downtrodden groups, have been producing results. Linking with more than 200 partner NGOs and government bodies has allowed their work to be more impactful and far-

Founded in 1962 by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India

Vision Formation of a just and sustaining social order by upholding values of love, equality and peace.

Mission Restoration of human dignity of the poor and marginalized by partnering with intermediary organizations in extending support and facilitation and advocating for the rights of the people.



Our knowledge of nature is our most precious resource

reaching. It also facilitates interactions between funding agencies and grassroots level bodies.

Mainly, however, Caritas has been lauded for its disaster relief work in emergency response and recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and natural resource management. The aim is to move towards 'community-managed disaster risk reduction'. Its work with the earthquake-affected Latur and Kashmir, the tsunami victims in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Bihar floods have been much appreciated by the Indian government. When it comes to natural resource management, since the 1970s, when environment was not uppermost on anyone's minds, Caritas led initiatives in the field. It has been one of the frontrunners, working with the landless or small farmers and looking at conservation and restoration of water, forests and land, as well as livelihood development and food security.

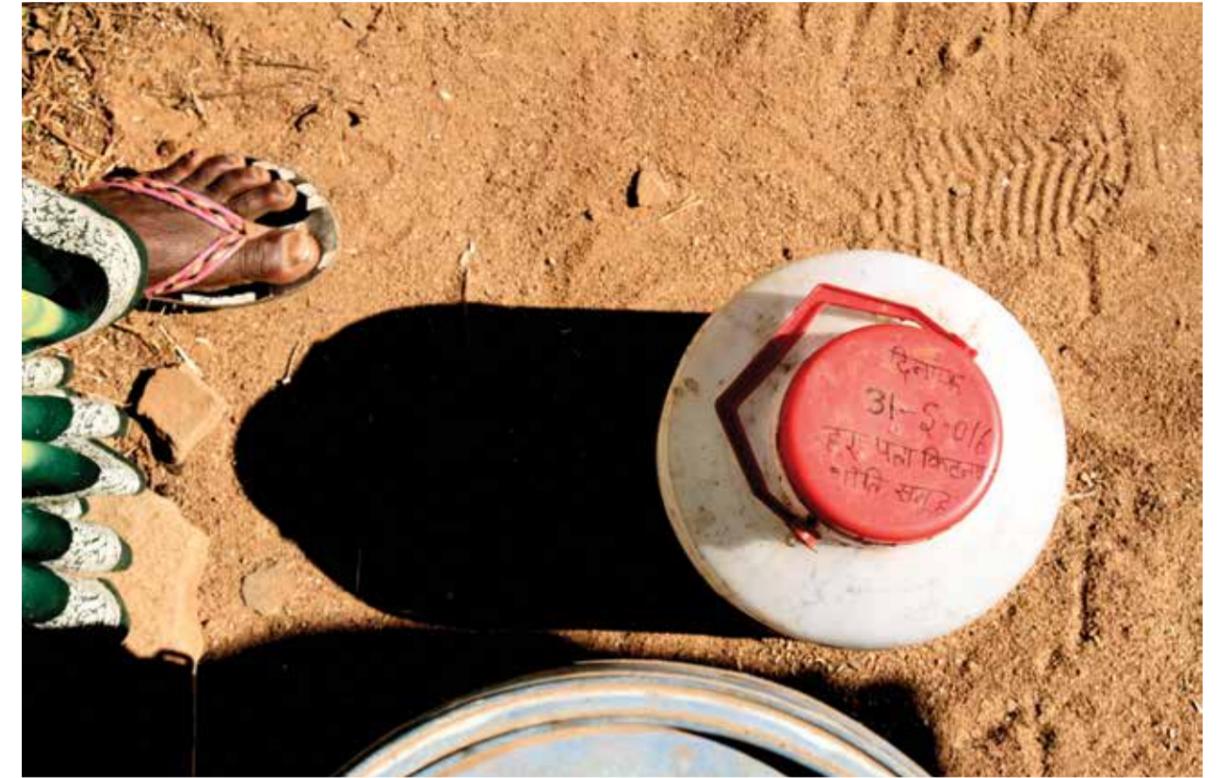
Most of its work is done through strengthening the community institutions themselves. 'Through various people's collectives, a process of empowerment and

skill development is facilitated, including linkages with financial institutions, etc. Besides, the quality of children's education, better health awareness, improved economic prospects, enhanced community participation in democracy, bargaining power with government officers, etc., which has been documented

In the past five decades, contributed significantly to nation building by supporting 22,945 projects to tune of over ₹ 13,730 million.

Supports the work of approximately 250,000 self-help groups.

Reached 12,183 villages with 11,245,100 people. Of these, more than 60 per cent of people were women and nearly 70 per cent were from tribal and Scheduled Caste communities.



Life is a journey from 'seed to seed'

by the research (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, TISS) team are also their areas of functionality.

Caritas India's project at Kurum village, Umra Panchayat, Jharkhand is a revealing example of its integrated approach. The tribal farmer families who were a part of this unique experiment included those that until a few years ago were facing acute food shortages. The Agrarian Prosperity Programme of Caritas India wrought a transformation in their lives. Nutrition and plentiful food is now a reality, with organic farming methods being deployed. These improve fertility of the soil, and eventually, abundant produce is obtained from kitchen gardens, which have brought about a healthy sheen and smiling glow to the faces of the community's children. Community-based actions have improved the water for drinking and irrigation. Women have mobilized themselves to form farmers' collectives, and are beginning their journey towards self-realization. Farmers have come up with a disaster-mitigation strategy; they have started borrowing under government schemes; non-

farming livelihood options are being generated, and social security for the elderly is now available. These measures have not only made a difference to development, they have altered perceptions.

Caritas India feels it has a long way to go yet. As the team says, 'We cannot rest content with our contributions, as poverty is increasing and the poor are being pushed more and more to the margins in a competitive, world market economy. We need to engage in a more effective way to bring about a paradigm shift.'

Project Title: Community-managed environmental conservations to improve ecosystem-based livelihood opportunities in 40 river erosion affected villages of Golaghat district of Assam

Beneficiary: Local Community **Location:** Project is proposed for 40 riverine villages on the banks of Dhansiri and Dayang in Golaghat district, Assam



*Livelihoods and nature sustain
together, hand in hand, rejoicing*

Centre for Environment Education (CEE)



Founded by Kartikeya Sarabhai in 1984

Vision To be an institution of excellence that plays a key role in local, national and global efforts towards sustainable development through innovations; be at the cutting edge of the fields of environmental education and education for sustainable development.

Mission Enhance the understanding of sustainable development in formal, non-formal and informal education through its work with schools, higher educational institutions, and policy makers. Integrate education as a key driver for change to demonstrate and advance sustainable practices in rural-urban communities, business and the public sector, meeting global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity conservation, positive Handprint actions that are environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially beneficial.

WHEN A CHILD GROWS with certain knowledge of things, he or she can spread that seed far and wide, deep and strong. And so it is with sustainability: teach a child to save a tree, and she might well save the earth one day. Education spearheads the change which will bring us closer to a sustainable society. This is the core belief of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), registered as the Nehru Foundation for Development, CEE Society. It is a Centre for Excellence supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It works to make environmental education, and education for sustainable development (ESD) an integral part of the school curriculum in India. Its conviction is that an early start will help children make sustainability a seamless part of their lifestyle.

CEE reaches out countrywide to urban and rural populations to spread awareness of environmental conservation among children, young people and adults, transforming their lives not just through the formal system, but also through community engagement. Influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Vikram Sarabhai, CEE, when it began, sought to evolve new ways of engaging with the environment. According to Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director, CEE, 'We realized that the whole area of applied education in its broadest sense meant communication, training, public awareness, participation, and consultation. All these were required if you wanted a truly participatory development process.'



I am a green entrepreneur, and proud of it

CEE uses technology creatively, and produces interactive teaching methods and materials from state-of-the-art thinking and design. 'We work on development priorities and provide educational inputs for them, which is a different way of approaching an issue,' the Director explains. Rooted in communities, its work includes poverty reduction programmes, helping with disaster management and water conservation in earthquake-hit areas, rehabilitation of villages and much more. The idea is to empower people through skills and knowledge of sustainable practices that can better their lives exponentially.

CEE's innovative programmes and materials address a plethora of concerns from climate change to biodiversity conservation, from saving turtles to engaging with zoos, from teaching farmers sustainable techniques to offering marginalized women the opportunity to access sustainable livelihood options. It works hard to build capacity within the community in the fields of education and communication so that

concepts of sustainable development are disseminated with enthusiasm and commitment. Inventing board games, forming online teaching modules, facilitation of self-help groups and rural knowledge centres are all in a day's work for this committed organization. At the same time, offering training on eco-friendly activities and green processes including organic

CEE's Science Express train travelled across the country and reached out to 6,000,000 people showcasing India's rich diversity.

The Pariyavaran Mitra programme introduced the idea of children being ambassadors of positive action for sustainability to over 200,000 schools and counting.



Cotton produce

cultivation for villagers are carried out in support of government schemes.

The programmes are designed to organically adapt themselves to diverse contexts, whether they are geographical, social, cultural or economic. 'We do not subscribe to a 'one size fits all' type of methodology,' explains Kartikeya. 'Many regional offices – each deeply entrenched in the state it is located in, and in the specific themes relevant to that region – act almost as an independent NGO.' At the same time, CEE has links with state, national and international networks.

Skilled professionals from a range of academic disciplines work together in a non-hierarchical structure, all striving towards a common goal. 'We would like to impact every school in India; we would expect nobody to grow up without experiencing nature. We would like every decision maker to be aware of environmental issues,' states Kartikeya.

CEE collaborates with more than 500 partners including small and big Indian and international

NGOs/CBOs (community-based organizations) and government departments like forest, municipalities, biodiversity boards and others, working to spark synergies across all sectors and avoid duplication of efforts.

CEE inspires efforts to save the earth. Its icon, the Handprint, signifies positive action towards sustainability and has been adopted all over the world. And where was it born? From an idea by a 10-year-old girl in Hyderabad. Like nature, CEE too nurtures life.

Project Title: Promoting green enterprises and entrepreneurs in villages in India

Beneficiary: Youth, women, small and marginal farmers **Location:** Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha



*In the end, fight against nature
is a fight against ourselves*

The Corbett Foundation (TCF)



*Tiger, tiger burning bright
In the forest of the night
What immortal hand or eye
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?*
– William Blake

INDIA'S TIGERS AND India's beautiful, abundant forests, far from shining bright, are equally in danger of burning out entirely. The fire is not literal: the destruction comes from poachers and the timber mafia; from agriculture and construction; and often, from the forest dwellers themselves in their everyday activities. Groaning under the pressure of population, cattle grazing, collection of non-timber produce to make *bidis* or liquor, cutting firewood for cooking – those traditional rights of tribal folk are now tilting the balance of the survival of forests and biodiversity. And of course – no forests means no tigers. At the same time, these people have no alternatives; government schemes do not reach them and they are led astray or duped by unscrupulous hunters or developers.

Founded by Dilip Khatau in 1994

Mission The Corbett Foundation consists of a group of dedicated men and women who are committed to the conservation of wildlife and nature, and to fulfilling the ambition that man and nature must live together in harmony.

In this scenario came Dilip Khatau, fresh from Africa all geared up to make a difference. Back there, he had seen how forests were best protected by the community itself, and how the eco-systems of forest and community flourished together. But, he also knew, the community had to receive some advantage or inducement to take on this responsibility. And so, he started The Corbett Foundation to create harmony



Work to conserve

between humans and nature, and convert conflict to co-dependence, albeit in a different way than had been done by earlier generations. Starting from the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, its work has spread to other important wildlife habitats, including Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam, and around the Greater Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

The organization attacks the problem on many fronts to achieve a holistic model of conservation. According to Kedar Gore, Director, TCF's goals are 'Reducing the human-wildlife conflict, bridging the communication gap between the local communities and the forest department, balancing the basic needs of the local communities with those of the conservation of wildlife and natural ecosystems, protecting the natural habitat from unsustainable and destructive projects, including the local communities as partners in the overall planning of the landscape, and providing basic, necessary

facilities to the local communities that made them feel "someone cares for us".

A diverse and committed team including experts in fields from science to management to public health and education works closely with the community on sustainable programmes. Some of these projects

Reaches out to over 50,000 people in over 400 villages through its Rural Medical Outreach Programme every year.

The Veterinary Programme provides vaccination and treatment to over 200,000 cattle annually.

The Pukaar Sustainable Livelihoods Programme has so far trained over 3,000 unemployed people from the tiger reserves of Corbett, Kanha, Bandhavgarh and Kaziranga with a success rate of over 70 per cent.



Cleaner energy, happier earth, healthier us

are: watershed management in Bandhavgarh, the Tribal Museum in Kanha, and solar powered lights for forest department check posts in several locations. Other initiatives include imparting awareness about conservation of water bodies, and introducing grazing plants as well as smokeless stoves or biogas stoves – all essentially geared towards protecting the eco-system and reducing forest-product dependence by the villagers.

One of TCF's highly successful projects is Pukaar, where vocational skills for sustainable livelihood options are passed on to villagers. Besides training, the project helps market products, ensure job placements, and create entrepreneurship opportunities. This allows the beneficiaries to willingly move away from weakening the ecosystem, and be more involved in its conservation.

Research and interventions to save threatened species are an integral part of TCF's model. One of the organization's first initiatives was an Interim Relief

Scheme in association with WWF, where villagers were given immediate help and compensation if their livestock or cattle were attacked by tigers or leopards. This stopped revenge killings of big cats almost completely. Another scheme introduced medical facilities for the denizens of these far-flung inaccessible villages. Yet another provided veterinary services for their domestic animals.

All TCF's labours tie in with its purpose – to protect precious wildlife habitats and corridors and to make sustainability a way of life; which will eventually safeguard the future of the tiger, and with it, our own future as well.

Project Title: Reforestation programme in crucial tiger habitat of central India

Beneficiary: Wildlife and local community

Location: Bandhavgarh-Sanjay Dubri Corridor in Beohari in Madhya Pradesh



Complex issues, simple solutions

Ghoghardiha Prakhand Swarajya Vikas Sangh (GPSVS)



Founded by Tapeswar Singh in 1978.

Vision Re-establishing Gram Swarajya (village self-reliance) based on principles of equity, justice, tolerance, and ahimsa (non-violence), and channelizing efforts towards a society in which moral revolution constitutes an integral parts of its functioning.

Mission To develop people's conscience to co-exist with nature; function with high moral values; develop tolerance towards all faith; propagate compassion and non-exploitative attitude in interactions; achieve dignity, self-reliance, equity, and sovereignty.

IN THE HEART OF RURAL Bihar, there is a small, yet powerful force of collective action that has, for the last few decades, transformed the lives of the people it touches. It is driven by hundreds of volunteers and many social workers, endeavouring together to ignite the fire of self-reliance in the hearts of some of the poorest, most marginalized people in India. This force is called Ghoghardiha Prakhand Swarajya Vikas Sangh (GPSVS), and its provenance is no less idealistic than its goals.

Inspired by the teachings of revolutionary thinkers such as Gandhi, Vinoba Bhave and Jayaprakash Narayan, a group of committed citizens formed the GPSVS over 40 years ago. Tapeswar Singh, the founder, was himself involved for 20 years in the Bhoodan movement for the rights of the landless, basing his work on non-violence, fraternity, tolerance, equity, and justice. GPSVS takes these ideals forward into its concentrated efforts in Madhubani, Darbhanga and other districts in Bihar, to create a model of empowerment at the community level and demonstrate the force of decentralized democracy.

The focus of the organization has always been on the formation of people's collectives like village councils and women's groups, and to build their capacity and sense of ownership for sustainable development. According to Ramesh Kumar, Chairman & CEO, 'Our work has impacted the community by making them empowered to take decisions for their development and struggle for it wherever it is required. The community is



Global charter indigenous approach

involved in planning, implementation and monitoring.’ GPSVS functions in concord with Panchayati Raj institutions to ensure maximum participation and self-propulsion of its programmes.

GPSVS engages with the deeply disadvantaged groups of society, the backward castes, the physically disabled, the women and children... the *antyodayee* (the last man/woman). It enables their basic rights like quality elementary education, reproductive and community health, along with employment through farm-based livelihoods, preserving indigenous skills, and vocational training. Its programmes encourage the formation of SHGs (self-help groups) and CBOs (community-based organizations) to work for gender justice, financial empowerment, and peace. Other interventions address traditional medicine, disaster response, and communal harmony. In recent years, its attention has also turned to ecological preservation. ‘Our vision for the future lies in adoption of community-based sustainable development which ensures protection of the local ecology without losing social imbalance,’ elucidates the Chairman.

GPSVS has travelled with its projects to the remotest villages, infusing empowerment and hope to thousands. But it is also involved with advocacy at the highest levels of government policy-making, relating to issues like ‘water, disaster and climate change, traditional health, land distribution among the poor and the civil society movement.’ A site of its

More than 20,000 people benefitting through the traditional health services.

More than 47,000 plants (fruits, medicinal & wood) are survived for agro & social forestry.

25 ponds & dabra, 19 dugwells revived.

Massive campaign on Water Literacy organized in north Bihar involving more than 16,000 stakeholders.

12,000 people are involved in Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction including school safety program in 577 schools.



A revolution to restore earth's balance

success is Jahalipatti village, where GPSVS initiated a Village Development Committee. This peoples’ collective has been instrumental in solving a plethora of problems faced by the village, including regeneration of water bodies for drinking and agriculture through the Integrated Water Resource Management. Ponds, dugwells, raised hand pumps, rainwater harvesting structures, etc., have been restored. Water-efficient farming is being practised, as is vermi-culture. Besides this, the introduction of training in rainwater harvesting and other smart sustainable practices has changed the quality of the lives of villagers. Awareness of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) translated into the use of the brilliant, indigenous earthen pot or *matka* filter to store and purify water, and a campaign to stop open defecation has reduced the spread of diseases manifold. This has truly been a collective community effort – democratic, inclusive, participatory, and most importantly, action-oriented.

Although GPSVS has been working in this sector for so many years, they are never static, and open to new thinking, and continuously evolving their

networks and processes. Linkages with other NGOs and stakeholders create long-lasting collaborations and partnerships. Professionals are brought in to make sure that efficiency and effectiveness, and best utilization of resources are in play. Technology combines with traditional knowledge to produce impactful results.

GPSVS is clear about its philosophy. As Ramesh explains, ‘Our “communitization” process is based on the principle of Gram Swarajya, where deep-rooted democracy and inclusive partnership work. The change in the life of the community we work for leads society towards equality, liberty and justice, in concord with sustainable development.’

Project Title: Restoration of local water eco-system by Integrated water management system to ensure sustainable livelihood in flood and drought (multi-hazard) prone area of Supaul, Bihar
Beneficiary: Local Community **Location:** Bihar



New ideas and richer prospects

International Development Enterprises India (IDEI)



Disruptive Technology is defined as 'one that displaces an established technology and shakes up the industry.'

THERE ARE 93 MILLION small farms in India. The farmers who own and depend on these lands to feed their families get a raw deal in every way. There is not enough water to irrigate their fields, and if there is, it is difficult to access it. They are at the mercy of rainwater or other vagaries of weather, which can destroy their crops and leave them vulnerable and in debt. They cannot afford quality agricultural inputs, or are ignorant of them. So, their farms barely yield enough for their own needs, and profit margins are abysmal. This means that there is no food security. Poverty also denies access to education and opportunity for children. The only way out of this appears to them to be migration, leaving behind everything familiar, all for a life of equal deprivation in cities.

But what if we change the way we look at these farmers, who comprise 500 million of our population? What if we see them as potential entrepreneurs, as customers, instead of as victims of circumstance and birth who need handouts? One organization decided to find out what this altered perspective could catalyze.

IDEI started off in 1991 as the India branch of IDE, Canada. Its founder, Amitabha Sadangi, appreciated the market-based approach of the parent body. He realized that small farmers in India 'had traditional knowledge but exposure to newer ideas,

Founded by Amitabha Sadangi in 1991

Vision: To provide long-term solutions to poverty, hunger, and deprivation.

Mission: To improve equitably the social, economic, and environmental conditions of families in need with special emphasis on the rural poor by identifying, developing, and disseminating affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable solutions through the market forces.



We hold our heads high as our thirsty lands get their due

farming practices, and most importantly, access to technologies that are cost effective, gender friendly, easy to operate and maintain are missing.’ These farmers, if made aware of the life-changing potential of such practices, products and technologies, could be the best customers for them. In 2001, IDEI became independent and started charting its own course. This is their ideology: ‘IDEI is in the business of poverty alleviation and envisages the integration of poor, smallholders with markets, both as buyers of inputs and as vendors of high value agricultural produce.’

IDEI chose to target the most dire constraint the farmers had: the lack of irrigation devices with which they could water their crops all year round. It decided to develop and market new or adapted technologies for irrigation directly to these farmers. Low-cost drip irrigation systems, manual treadle pumps, and other such innovations are environmentally sound, and have changed farmers’ lives in 16 states so far. And they have had a disruptive influence on the status quo of small-plot agriculture in India. ‘These technologies

IDEI promoted technologies have been adopted by more than 1.3 million households, thereby generating more than US\$ 7.4 billion (@PPP) as net additional income.

The adoption of KB TP and Drip Irrigation systems have contributed towards saving more than 680 million litres of diesel, and 880 million kWh of electricity. Water savings were more than 6 billion m³ and carbon emission reduction of 2.6 million tonnes eq has been achieved.

Employment has been generated both in supply chain and on farms – 2.5 and 610 million person days generating incomes of US\$ 800 million and 4.3 million respectively.



How on earth can we prosper if nature does not?

facilitate increases in agricultural productivity and related income, which can then be spent on better housing, healthcare, education for children, and asset building,’ IDEI functionalities explain.

However, the journey was not an easy one. ‘One of the most critical challenges was developing technologies that self-select the smallholder farmers and fit their small pockets. We listen to farmers. Deconstructing their ambitions and needs, we innovate, design, and implement. Harnessing technologies, agricultural solutions and breakthrough products is the core of IDEI.’ The solutions it creates are replicable and can be up-scaled. Other initiatives encourage related activities like village nurseries, and livelihood diversification to offer an alternative to farming.

Besides increasing water productivity, the organization’s goals encompass a host of other crucial interventions: boosting agricultural yield so that food is not scarce, and making farming more green and climate smart are some examples. It strives to create strong market linkages, works with government

bodies and strengthens supply systems. ‘In addition to implementing programmes itself, IDEI believes in conceptualizing, incubating, field testing, and leading innovative projects to the commercialization stage.’ Farmers often need to be convinced of the value of such technologies, but IDEI has mechanisms in place for awareness, marketing as well as helping with business development. It has even created the Krishak Bandhu (farmer’s friend) as a ‘premium smallholder-friendly brand’, under which, all its low-cost technologies are promoted.

The alternative gaze of IDEI sees small farmers as co-investors, as producers of value. It wants to liberate their entrepreneurial spirit through self-reliance and grassroots leadership so they can solve their problems and determine their own futures. That’s bound to shake things up or ‘disrupt’ them a little!

Project Title: NISHANT- Nurturing Initiative for Smallholders through Agriculture and Technology
Beneficiary: Rural Poor **Location:** Odisha



Through the lens of gender equality, we see a new dawn

North East Network (NEN)



Founded by Dr Monisha Behal in 1995

Vision NEN's vision is to build a society in the NER that upholds gender justice, equality and respect for human rights.

Mission NEN's mission is to take forward women's human rights through collective action by:

Creating a culture of peace, both inside and outside the homes, through women's active and informed involvement

Strengthening women's collectives, collective action and their leadership

Increasing women's representation in political, public and community processes

Addressing discrimination and violence against women in both public and domestic spheres, and ensuring safer spaces

Protecting the environment and bio-diversity through innovative initiatives, by engaging youth and women.

THE NORTHEAST OF INDIA is always perceived, despite its history of conflict and violence, as an evolved region with egalitarian thinking. The position of women, it is thought, is very strong there, with their matrilineal societies and non-orthodox social norms. However, reality is a far cry from this. North East Network (NEN) is an NGO that was one of the first to make inroads into gender violence and discrimination, both rife in the area. Says Dr Monisha Behal, Founding Director, 'Our strategy is to combine activism with advocacy from a liberal feminist perspective, conveying critical gender issues through dialogue and dissemination.'

Crucial interventions have been made for over 20 years in the areas of gender injustice in the form of training programmes (for example with police personnel), workshops, advocacy, and research. NEN is a crusader for pro-women laws, collective action, and participation of women in local governance as far as it is possible. Because of the conflict-ridden nature of the states it works in, it helps in access to entitlements, rehabilitation of displaced women, and participation in peace and development processes. The powerful Gender Responsive Budgeting is one of its very effective tools. Linkages with other non-profits add reach and sustainability.

However, what makes the organization's work so very unique is its committed and impactful presence at the intersection of gender empowerment and environmental protection. In the north-east,



A picture speaks a thousands words of a harmony of nature and humanity

the breathtaking natural abundance is in danger of decimation. NEN strives for women to be decision-makers in the areas of bio-diversity conservation and natural resource management. According to their website, ‘Women in rural communities have in-depth knowledge, practices and understanding of the natural environment, which remain unaccounted and invisible. NEN works towards strengthening women’s role and amplifying their voices in influencing policies at the community, state and global platforms on issues of environment, climate change, bio-diversity, sustainable livelihoods, food, and farming.’ In essence, women as farmers, women as leaders, women as change-makers.

The model village of Chizami in Nagaland is an example of how this idea has flowered beautifully. ‘The Chizami Resource Center is one of its kind – being a nodal point for women farmers collectives, social enterprise, governance and conservation education,’ states Monisha. Here, the work of the last

few years has resulted in environmental protection, improvements in health and economic conditions, indigenous foods being grown and traditional agricultural practices applied towards enhancing food security... And, most impressive is the fact that nearly all of these transformations have been accomplished by once marginalized women from the community, who are now successful farmers or weavers, and a major collective force in community decisions on health, environment, and more. ‘It is a holistic approach where gender is not seen in isolation but part of the larger ecosystem – where livelihood needs, conservation, youth engagement is all seen as connected to each other,’ explains Rita Banerji, Project Director, Green Hub, and founder, Dusty Foot.

NEN, in partnership with Dusty Foot Productions, involves youth in environmental initiatives by using innovative methods that will raise them from the despair of living with insurgency, or migrating to the metros for employment. Its one-of-a-kind project, Green Hub, engages young people from eight states in activities related to conservation, wildlife, indigenous knowledge and social change, by training them to make films on environmental topics. As Rita states, Green Hub has emerged as ‘a unique space, bringing together the youth from different states and communities, replacing conflict with convergence, transcending borders, language and identity.’

NEN dreams of a time when the north-eastern region of India will be a shining example of ‘new paradigms of conservation. It is a holistic approach where gender is not seen in isolation but part of the larger ecosystem – where livelihood needs, conservation, youth engagement is all seen as connected to each other,’ explains Rita. ‘Recognizing history, celebrating the present, and inspiring the future.’

NEN has offices in three states of the northeast region – Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, working across 61 villages and 16 districts.

Chizami Weaves today has a strong network of more than 300 women in Chizami and 10 other villages in Phek district, Nagaland.

NEN Nagaland has helped 150 farmers from eight villages to participate in millet-based farming and promoting sustainable agriculture through seed banks.

Green Hub Project in partnership with Dusty Foot connects youth and organizations across all 8 states of the northeast.

Growing archive of biodiversity and conservation stories at Green Hub with more than 500 species recorded, and 50 stories in 2 years.

Project Title: Green Hub – youth and community fellowship and video documentation centre for environment, wildlife, indigenous knowledge and social change **Beneficiary:** Youth and local community **Location:** Mizoram



Clean soil with no chemicals - my ancestors are please!

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



Founded by C. Vidya Sagar in 2004

Vision Striving to be the global leader for sustainable management of natural resources.

Mission To support the livelihood and wellbeing of farmers and rural community through natural sustainable organic agriculture and allied practices that serve, honour and protect Mother Nature.

ON A BEAUTIFUL AND CRISP morning, somewhere in the Himalayas, Soman set off for his little plot of land with a spring in his step. Soman lives in a remote village, eight hours by foot from the road. His tomatoes and chilli crops are flourishing, and he is gearing up to travel to the market to sell his produce. It wasn't always like this. Some time back, he noticed his yield was going down. That wasn't his only problem. The cost of his seeds and other inputs was very high, he had no access to good technology, and he was subject to climate disasters without warning. All of which meant his profit margins were minimal. He even considered moving to the plains to get a job and send money back to his wife and his aged parents.

Then Soman met SUVIDHA. Through its programmes, he learned about organic farming and how it could restore the fertility of his land, rewarding him with quality produce in the long run. He realized that the usage of chemicals had affected not only his land, but also the water, animals, and crop cycles. SUVIDHA offered him training, technical support, bio-organic inputs, and much more. He saw that what SUVIDHA was suggesting was almost like a return to the traditional farming methods of his ancestors, but with a good dose of modern technology and strong market linkages thrown in. 'I have earned a profit of ₹ 34,600 this year in comparison to earlier years. I was able to save around ₹ 15,000, which was supposed to be invested in chemical pesticides. Also, I have noticed



The mountain Gods bless our harvest, for we no longer poison their abode

that in organic farming, crops are less affected by pests and diseases.’

SUVIDHA is a unique organization that works with small and marginal farmers in often inaccessible villages in the states of Uttarakhand, Chhatisgarh, Odisha, J&K, and others. Committed to helping farmers and marginalized communities ameliorate themselves, with a ‘pro-farmer – pro-environment’ methodology, it targets a combined set of issues with strategies steeped in innovation and scientific research, determined to ensure replicability. ‘The Unique Selling Proposition of SUVIDHA is successfully linking environment and climate change with agriculture, livelihoods, alternative energy development and its utilization,’ explains Suraj Chand Rajwar, communication head of the organization.

Traversing inhospitable terrains and easing rigid attitudes, SUVIDHA helps aggregate farmers, form co-operative federations, and SHGs (self-help groups). It works with the community to enhance their

knowledge and capacity, and rework existing farmer business models. Initiatives in the areas of health, water, sanitation, education, income generation activities and more, complete its socio-economic upliftment activities.

Since it began in 2004, SUVIDHA has become well known through its impressive projects on the ground, but also for its research, monitoring, surveying and evaluation of initiatives in the area of agriculture, water and rural development, and rural financial services. Ensuring the consistent

Touched lives of more than 10,000 marginal farmers.

Facilitated 256 organized grower groups, more than 200 self help groups, 6 farmer producer groups and 2 cooperatives.



Making our own biogas plant

enhancement of the work it starts is integral to its ethos even after the project is over. SUVIDHA’s new orientation is towards countering climate change. Low carbon farming, innovative organic methods and the introduction of biogas have begun to benefit farmers, as well as improve lives of the women in the community by making some of their daily tasks easier. In the next five years, it hopes to have a Carbon Revenue model in place.

SUVIDHA is peopled by multi-taskers, and highly qualified professionals. Suraj describes the team. ‘Our success is based on scientifically experienced and administratively capable core group staff... well-versed in all aspects of rural, sustainable development projects, watershed management, bee-keeping, livelihood improvement, health and organic farming such as soil analysis, crop selection, developing organic manure, quality control, training, certification, and packaging as per national and international standards.’

Inspired by the remarkable women farmers of Uttarakhand, SUVIDHA dreams of self-sustaining villages where education, healthcare, and employment are guarantee to every single person. It hopes to ‘empower the farmer to the extent that farming grows from an employment activity to a successful enterprise governed by self.’

Project Title: Promoting low carbon farming to address climate change issues and providing economic benefits to marginal and small farmers

Beneficiary: Small and marginal Farmers

Location: Nainital, Uttarakhand



World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India



WHO DOES NOT RECOGNIZE the cuddly, black and white panda logo that has come to symbolize the committed fight to save wildlife from extinction? The World Wildlife Fund, or as it has been re-named, the World Wide Fund for Nature, is an organization of international repute. WWF India, an independent national organization within the global WWF network has been championing the cause of wildlife and nature conservation in India since 1969.

WWF India works across a number of important conservation landscapes and sites across the country from the high Himalayas to remote oceanic islands; from tropical forests to deserts; and from our last remaining grasslands to wetlands. WWF's priority species that it directly works to conserve include flagships like the tiger, rhino and elephant but also lesser known and equally important wildlife like the red panda, the gharial, the Nilgiri tahr, marine turtles, river dolphins, otters, the great Indian bustard and the black-necked crane.

Going beyond conservation of species and landscapes within the country, WWF India also has a significant programme on improving the health of India's rivers and wetlands. Working with the government, municipalities, citizens, farmers and businesses, it takes a holistic approach to river basin management. Currently, WWF India is engaged with multiple stakeholders to restore the Ramganga river which flows through Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

WWF India pushes for climate change action,

Founded as part of the global WWF network in 1969.

Mission To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

Preserving the majesty of the wild



Clean energy brings rich rewards

both mitigation and adaptation, through scientific and scalable approaches as well as through advocating lifestyle changes to reduce the human ecological footprint. It works with businesses to promote sustainability through the value chain. 'A key focus of the work is to influence major market players to shift their focus from risk mitigation and regulatory compliance to proactively developing sustainable strategies that promote positive environmental stewardship,' says Dr Sejal Worah, Programme Director at WWF India.

WWF India also works with farmers to improve production practices of key commercial crops that have an impact on the environment such as cotton and sugarcane. In all its field sites, WWF India works closely with local communities and strategies are based on treating these communities as partners, helping them adapt to changing climate and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Continues Sejal, 'We work

with local communities in all our landscapes to secure their interests and enable them to become powerful stewards of conservation.'

Naturally, awareness generation is a big part of WWF India's endeavour. Its manifesto states that it is committed to 'Enhancing active participation of all sections of society in nature conservation and environmental protection through environmental

Part of the WWF-International network, which has offices in more than 100 countries across the world.

Over 50 state, project and field offices distributed across more than 20 states in India making it the largest conservation organization in the country in terms of people and geographical spread.



First step towards conservation

education, awareness, and capacity-building.' Education for Sustainable Development is an area it is passionate about, working with governments, creating resource materials and training teachers so that sustainable thinking can become the core of the Indian education system.

Campaigns that have caught the imagination of the world greatly help in this regard. For example, the wonderful 'Earth Hour' campaign in which over 30 million people in India participated, 'by switching off their lights and joining a billion people worldwide to raise their voice on climate change.'

A diverse team of over 400 people with different skills working on the ground and at dozens of locations, in tandem with strong local networks and rock-solid credibility make this organization a frontrunner in its field. As an organization, it evolves constantly. 'We realize that through its work, WWF-India must strive to (a) provide thought leadership

on conservation which is evidence and science-based (b) be powerful nationally and influential locally by drawing on its network strength and strong presence in the field to influence policy (c) forge strong partnerships at all levels and in diverse sectors to enhance the impacts of conservation and sustainable development (d) continue to engage with tens of millions to create powerful coalition of supporters for the cause of conservation.'

Project Title: Water, people and markets: Institutions and technological innovations for a healthy Ramganga **Beneficiary:** Local community, flora and fauna **Location:** Bijnore, Moradabad, Bareilly and Shajahanpur in UP

Finalists 2017

Child In Need Institute (CINI) **84**
Pioneering community health and nutrition

Karuna Trust **92**
Taking quality healthcare to the remotest regions

Tamilnad Network of Positive People (TNP+) **98**
Building networks to empower PLHAs

Shortlisted 2017

Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) **106**
Ensuring accessible and affordable health for the poor

Hope Disability Centre **110**
Mobility and opportunities for people living with disabilities

Institute of Public Health (IPH) **114**
Bridging the gap between health research and policy

Lepra Society **118**
Fighting disease and prejudice

Mahila Housing SEWA Trust **122**
Habitat, environment and basic services for women

MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child **126**
Maternal and child health and nutrition

Mission Foundation Movement (MFM) **130**
Health, education and empowerment for vulnerable communities in Mizoram

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) **136**
Strengthening the calibre of health education and research





I smile, thinking of my child's healthy future



Child In Need Institute (CINI)



Founded by Dr Samir Chaudhuri in 1974

Vision CINI's overarching aim is to enable poor people, women and children to take control of their lives and have a share in sustainable development. We seek to break the vicious cycle of poverty, malnutrition, ill-health, illiteracy, abuse and violence, affecting in particular, children and women.

'Earlier, we didn't know about child rights. Now we know.'

'Now children talk to each other more, we call for meetings ourselves, convey important information to our friends.'

'We can help our friends if they are in trouble. We know about CHILDLINE.'

'We can talk about our problems in the panchayat. We could not do this earlier.'

'We can discuss our issues with adults.'

'We will not marry before we turn 18 years old.'

'We want to help children with special needs get the services meant for them.'

THESE MIGHT SEEM LIKE SMALL changes to most observers. But for the children who speak these words with confidence, they were ideas once as seemingly impossible as walking on the moon. The Child in Need Institute, or CINI, has been working with deprived children in West Bengal and Jharkhand for over 40 years. When it started, like most other organizations in the field, it focused on curative and direct service approaches in the fields of nutrition and health, using the holistic life-cycle model. Over the years, with changes in government policies and the evolution of international thinking on child rights, CINI forged ahead in a different direction.

According to Ranjan Kanti Panda, Deputy Director (Programme and Planning), 'CINI adopts a human rights-based approach to facilitate programmes,



Working with the government to give lost children and adults a chance at life

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UNICEF

বইয়ের কর্ণা



Child Friendly Communities (CFCs) empower us

fostering partnerships for local development among community actors, service providers and elected representatives.’ CINI has evolved a unique, integrated concept called Child Friendly Communities. It works on the idea of convergence: ‘Families, communities, schools, police stations, social and physical settings are committed to respect, protect and fulfill children’s rights in the spheres of health, nutrition, education and protection from all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence.’ Women and children are empowered to interact with governments and Panchayati Raj institutions, with their peers and other bodies, and to form their own groups for collective action to change their lives. The confidence comes from discovering one’s own agency and being in charge of one’s own destiny.

CINI is known for its community-based nutrition interventions through the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre. Its work in the health sector chiefly consists of closing the gap between health services and those they are meant to benefit. This is achieved through

health camps and awareness drives, and rigorous involvement at different levels from family to community to institution; basically, information and access that has saved numerous lives. CINI conducts trainings for government community health agents, the ASHA workers. And in the area of protection, it works to bring lost children – runaways, missing, sexually abused, or street children – out of their dangerous environments and give them a chance at life through its Child Protection Resource Centre. It has programmes for adults from disadvantaged groups too.

The strategy CINI adopts is to work in close concord with government and local bodies. For example, the RKSK (Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram) initiative of the Government has been consolidated and strengthened by the expertise and community involvement generated by CINI. Ranjan says this initiative, ‘has served to highlight the possible role of civil society organizations both as facilitators and technical resource agencies through a government



We learn that good health is not rocket science!

and civil society partnership.’ Other programmes that it has created have been adopted by state governments, like the malnutrition project to rehabilitate severely undernourished children, which became a part of the National Rural Health Mission, and the low cost Nutrimix they invented in the 1970s, nutritious food made from locally available cereals and dal, which was used in government health and nutrition programmes.

Has reached around 5,000,000 people in the states of West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Protection interventions for over 5,000 children through institution-based services and 21,500 children through community-based services.

Mainstreamed over 10,000 children into formal schools, both residential and non-residential.

Documentation of processes through various methods including a strong MIS enable the dissemination of CINI’s message. Advocacy and research are companions to the excellent network CINI has with national and international organizations, central and state governments, donors, as well as grassroots bodies. This supports scalability and sustainability of the development initiatives it undertakes.

Owing to her interactions with CINI, Jahannara successfully avoided early marriage. Papiya escaped an abusive home situation and now studies in school. Tohid got free surgery for his heart. Priyanka, the daughter of a labourer, is now an active member of the CINI Child Parliament that works against early marriage and child labour. And thousands of children received the nutrition they needed to survive. No wonder, then, that as Ranjan states, ‘CINI is recognized as one of the pioneers in the field of community health and nutrition and has received the National Award twice.’

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT 2017

‘Creating a community-based safety-net for better health and nutrition outcomes for children, adolescents and women of West Bengal’

A lack of awareness on health-nutrition issues and schemes, and limited access to government health facilities have affected the health and nutrition status of women, children and adolescent girls among disadvantaged communities. The government’s ‘Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health [RMNCH+A]’ is in place, and within its framework, community engagement in the access to healthcare is emphasized. However, little is actually done in this area. CINI’s project seeks to bridge this gap to make the entire process community-driven leading to creating a ‘community-based safety net’ and combating health and nutrition vulnerabilities through a more comprehensive life-cycle-approach.

Impact includes improving baseline for care of pregnant women, post-natal services, vaccinations, caring for underweight newborns and access to HIV services and more.

Building Child Friendly Communities (CFC), called the ‘CINI Method’ will be followed in the proposed project. This method establishes and/or strengthens sustainable community-based partnerships between government service providers, local self-government (PRIs), and the community. It ensures that services are child-friendly and woman-centric, and makes them the main stakeholders, empowered through knowing their rights and entitlements to participate in every aspect of the social development process. The project is designed keeping a rights-based approach in mind, to effect durable change in attitudes, practices and systems related to community development issues.

Beneficiaries: Children of 0–6 years of age, pregnant and lactating women, adolescent boys and girls

Location: West Bengal





A ray of hope for the medically bereft



Karuna Trust



CHRISTINA HAD FOUR CHILDREN, and she was pretty sure that she did not want any more. It's not that she was unaware of contraception; it's just that the nearest place to get hold of any contraceptive was a four-day trek away. Christina lives in a hilly, remote region of Arunachal Pradesh that government health services do not touch, and if they do, they are woefully inadequate. However, things are looking up. There is now a fully functioning Primary Health Centre just a few hours from her village, where she can not only acquire contraceptives but, she and her family access a variety of medical services. Best of all, the quality of diagnosis and treatment is superb. This is indeed a metamorphosis of the life-saving kind owing to the perseverance and commitment of the NGO, Karuna Trust.

Karuna Trust believes strongly that affordable and universal access to health care is every Indian's fundamental right. Seventy-five per cent of India's rural population depends on PHCs for healthcare. And so, the organization enters into Public-Private partnerships (PPP) with the government to revive ineffective PHCs or start new ones in the most inaccessible, insurgency prone or poor areas of India, whether they be in Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, or Rajasthan. Karuna Trust was the first NGO in the area of health to enter into a PPP, where funding infused by the government is complemented by the non-profit ideals and processes of the organization. This has created efficient and timely

Founded by Dr Sudarshan in 1986

Vision Based on the core teachings of Swami Vivekananda – Man making and Nation building. Man making process involves the building of dedicated and selfless workers through the teachings of Vivekananda.

Mission To develop a dedicated, service-minded team that enables holistic development of marginalized communities through innovative replicable models with a passion for excellence.



The PHC is a place of hope now

health interventions by highly qualified healthcare and management personnel.

In 1986, Dr Sudarshan, involved with fighting for land rights of the tribal population in a region of Karnataka, was moved by the state of leprosy patients in Chamrajnagar. He initiated a drive to eradicate the disease in the area. Seeing the success of this programme, the state government offered him and his team the PHC in Gumballi village...and thus was born a compassionate and unique paradigm of co-operation and successful impact.

Since then, Karuna Trust has evolved an innovative, ICT-enabled model for PHCs. The model is replicable and affordable. Aiming to fulfill the international norms of the Alma Ata Declaration (which reaffirmed health as a human right), it melds preventive, curative, promotional, and rehabilitative health services. Every PHC offers in-patient beds, and outpatient and emergency services, 24/7. Childbirth, minor operations, essential medicines and lab tests,

and management of diseases are all on the menu.

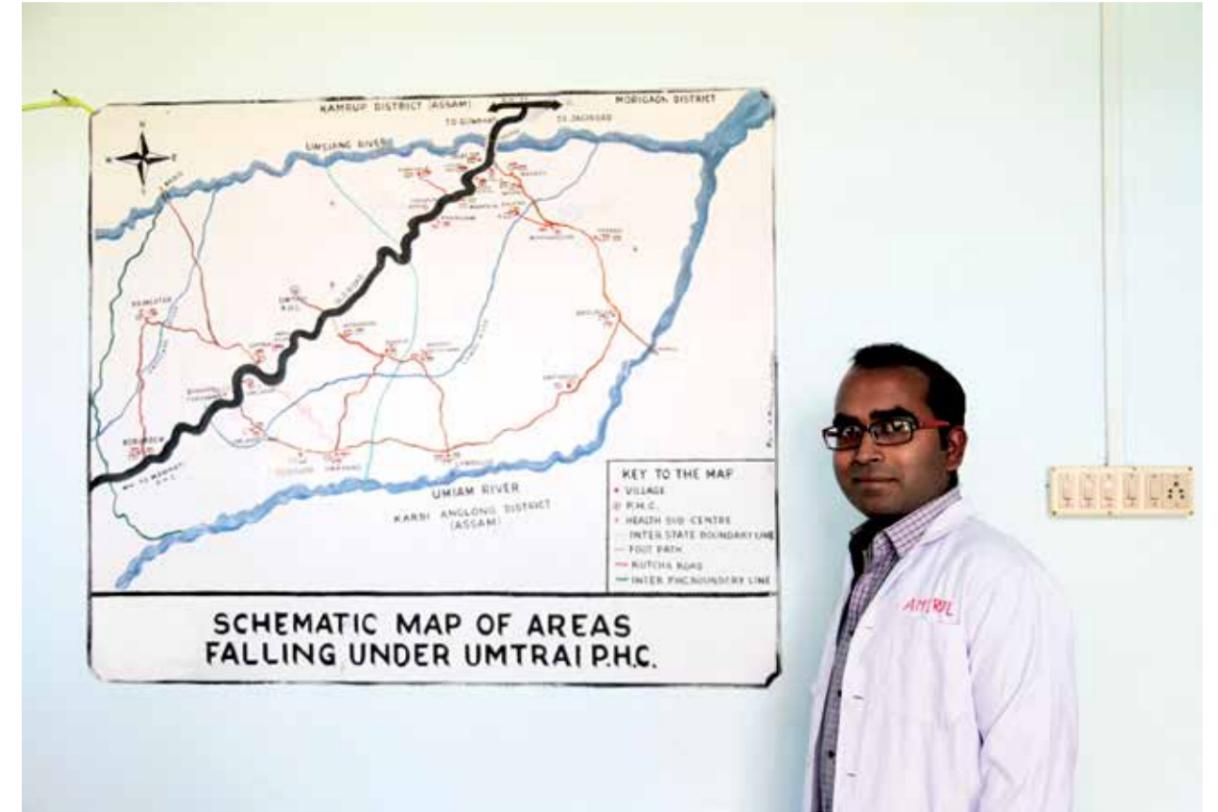
Mobile health units traverse difficult terrain to 'reach the unreachable', including the deployment of drones to get medicines to difficult areas.

And going beyond the traditional scope of PHCs, the Karuna Trust units offer eye care, dental care, mental health, telemedicine, education on reproductive rights, and so much more.

Manages 83 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 7 Mobile Health Units, 2 Citizen Help Desks and 1 First Referral Unit spanning across seven states of the country.

Providing free and assured primary health care service to 1.5 million rural people of India.

Successfully brought down the prevalence of leprosy from 21.4 per cent to 0.28 per cent in Karnataka in less than a decade.



Quality healthcare is no longer a remote possibility

A key strategy of the Karuna Trust PHCs is community participation, the cornerstone of every successful social initiative. Karuna Trust's model first educates the community leaders, and only then goes ahead with its awareness programmes. Eventually, the village health plan must emerge from this leadership itself, and activities of the PHC should be undertaken for posterity: in short they must own it! Karuna Trust trains community health workers, who then administer pre- and post-natal care, ensure immunizations of children, discuss family planning, and more. Health insurance schemes have been devised so that even the poorest can participate. Respecting and mainstreaming traditional medicine and local practices is part of their culture. The comprehensiveness of the plan does not end there. Secondary healthcare, projects concerning nutrition, water management, livelihood and sustainable development linkages, rescue and rehabilitation of mentally ill and homeless women, offering scholarships – these, and such initiatives, are

some of their integrated development programmes, which show a holistic healthcare thinking.

Establishing relationships with the community goes a long way in helping push their projects. 'Due to the challenging geographical location of our PHCs, it is very difficult for the government to take care of these communities. But, since we have created a rapport with the local community and have a proven track record of serving them, the community co-operates with us in managing these PHCs, be it building roads during monsoons, or carrying our health workers across swollen rivers on elephants or rope bridges.'

Eventually, their dream is to never allow a repetition of what happened to the young boy whose father died in his arms because of the lack of basic medical facilities. That young boy was Dr Sudarshan, and because of his vision, mortality rates and the spread of diseases have reduced drastically in the areas Karuna Trust works in. Because of him, so many more people can now be cured, be saved, be safe.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT

‘Upscaling Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) in Primary Health Centers (PHC) And Establishing a Model PHC at Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh And Preventive Health Campaigns in PHCs’

The project aims at scaling up the Karuna Trust PPP concept in 25 PHCs in the north-east. It also intends to create awareness through preventive campaigns on clean drinking water, sanitation, hygiene facilities, prevention and elimination of water-borne diseases in 20 PHCs in Karnataka as well as in the three northeastern states. All these activities can be implemented in the proposed model PHC at Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh. The goal is to supplement the state governments’ efforts in the PPP model and to create a ‘Centre of Excellence for Primary Health Care Delivery for Rural India’ so that it can be replicated at the district level by the state government. Also, to implement the Government of India’s ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ activities, i.e., WASH programmes in all 45 PHCs, including Karnataka.

Currently, PHCs in the remote tribal, hilly areas where Karuna Trust works are understaffed, underfunded, and under-equipped. Preventive and promotive healthcare is mostly absent as the emphasis is on acute illnesses. As a result, bad hygiene, open drains and similar issues make diseases rampant. Infrastructure is poor and ICT is not properly utilized to improve processes and outcomes.

Karuna Trust’s strategy to deal with these issues will include gap analysis, effective management, innovations, the use of technology, and community-level health activities including training and capacity building.

Beneficiaries: Tribal communities and other individuals served by the 45 PHCs

Location: Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur and Karnataka





My world is a safe, joyful place



Tamilnad Network of Positive People (TNP+)



DURING THE LATE 1980s and early 1990s, at the peak of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, discrimination faced by those with the disease was epic in proportion. People were fired from jobs, evicted from houses, thrown out of homes by families. Moral judgement, fear and ignorance led to stigmatization of patients, with no basis in scientific fact. Some of the worst sufferers were poor people, pregnant women and children. The government was slow to react, and the private sector, unresponsive. At this time, Rama Pandian, a clinical lab technician and pharmacist, himself a person living with HIV, decided to take some action. He set up the Tamilnad Network of Positive People (TNP+) in 1994, so that there could be a refuge for those left out in the cold.

Initially, the organization lobbied and executed strong advocacy initiatives to generate support for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, or PLHAs in Tamil Nadu. It also began providing basic services like counselling, treatment, care, and support to the infected and their families, especially to women and children. Having altered government thinking on the subject somewhat, the organization then registered as a trust, and began collaborating with the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) under the National AIDS Control Programme. TNP+ set up Community Care Centres (CCC) and Drop-in Centres to offer counselling and information to PLHAs on treatment options, as well as other services including supplementary nutrition and a short stay facility. Currently, as a sub-recipient of India HIV/

Founded by Rama Pandian in 1994

Vision To live in, and help build a world, where no human suffers an unfair disadvantage such as HIV.

Mission Meet every need that can be met; provide skills to negotiate barriers; stand up against injustice; improve systems and methods; and maintain ethical integrity.



Project Vihaan covers a total PLHA population of 213,000 in partnership with 40 district-level PLHA networks in Tamil Nadu and Pudducherry.



We love life... and now life loves us



From outcasts, we are now networks of transformation

AIDS Alliance – Global Fund, TNP+ is implementing ‘Vihaan’, a Care Support Center (CSC) programme in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

Adopting the UN Declaration of ‘Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA)’, TNP+ sought to, as the declaration states, ‘support a greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS at all levels and to stimulate the creation of supportive political, legal and social environments.’ It advocated for the free access to Anti Retro Viral therapy at all levels, and was successful. It pushed for employment for at least one positive person in all government and private organizations and NGOs that run HIV/AIDS programmes. It has created a website which answers confidential questions regarding any aspect of HIV/AIDS.

TNP+ organizes camps for tribal and rural persons for awareness about health issues and child rights; finds ways to eradicate alcohol and substance abuse; provides shelter, education, and health to children infected and affected because their parents are infected; and most important of all, it helps PLHAs organize themselves into networks of different types

and levels like the women’s network, and National Network for Positive People.

TNP+ works to build the capacity of the PLHA community and involve them in advocacy and networking with the government at local, state and national levels. This is the first step in influencing policy frameworks, as well as participation and self-reliance, all of which end in the most important facet of any not-for-profit’s work: sustainability. This last step has been an uphill battle. After 10 years of advocacy, the state government came on board in 2004 to set up the CCCs. Ten years later, many of the services offered by them have been withdrawn. The focus again, is on treatment rather than long-term measures that would have more impact on the lives of the patients, like economic support or nutrition. This has been particularly bad for children who are either orphans or cannot be taken care of by sick parents.

TNP+ is based on this philosophy: ‘True success is that empowered state attained by people and community to stand on their own feet.’ And that is what they gear their immense efforts towards for the PLHA community: quality of life through self-determination.



PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT, 2017

‘Improving Lives and Ensuring the Future of Children Impacted by HIV and AIDS’

There are an estimated 2.1 million people in India with HIV/AIDS and 6.54 per cent of them are children under the age of 15. Thousands of children are orphaned or semi-orphaned by the disease. Infected and affected children suffer psycho-social effects from the loss of their parents, or rejection because of their infected status. Because of a lack of finances, the children often drop out from school, or resort to theft, or are forced into labour, or worse still, trafficked. They have no coping mechanisms to deal with the huge changes in their lives.

TNP+ is committed to enabling children, youth and their families infected and affected by HIV and AIDS to live positively and productively. The impact of the project will be the empowerment of children, awareness on the part of their caretakers, an altered perception in society of these children, support from the community, including activists, religious leaders, etc., and more. For this, TNP+ will impart life skill education to the children, and capacity building for their families. It will make sure their essential needs like water, food, shelter, education and healthcare are met and psychological and economic support is given to both them and their families. It will work to ensure that the children make informed choices for their health and treatment. TNP+ will work to strengthen the capacities of the positive networks and link with the government on policy decisions in this regard.

Beneficiaries: Children infected and affected by HIV *Location:* Tamil Nadu



Gentle healing hands

Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)



Founded in 1943 by Sr Dr Mary Glowrey

Vision The Catholic Health Association of India upholds its commitment to bring 'health for all'. It views health as a state of complete physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being, and not merely the absence of sickness. Accordingly, CHAI envisions an India wherein people respect human life, and hold and nurture it to grow into its fullness.

Mission To promote community health understood as a process of enabling the people, especially the poor and the marginalized, to be collectively responsible to attain and maintain their health and demand health as a right, and ensure availability of quality healthcare at reasonable cost.

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION of India was started on a foundation of compassion. Moved by the plight of sick people in India, an Australian doctor left everything behind to come to this country and provide whatever succour she could. Together with 15 nuns of different congregations, Dr Mary Glowrey began a movement to co-ordinate healthcare activities of various institutions so that quality and affordable care could reach the poorest and most deprived all over the country. It envisioned nursing schools and medical colleges to help form a cadre of doctors and nurses who would share their values of whole-person care, offering physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being.

The turning point came in 1986, when it adopted a rights-based approach to health. The emphasis shifted to community health, to enable the poor and marginalized to take charge of their own health and well-being, and demand it as a right. In fact, in 1995, CHAI changed their name to the present one to indicate its 'strategic shift from a hospital-based to a community-health approach.' This shift made a tremendous difference in its impact.

CHAI's vast network of member institutions (MIs) includes big and small hospitals as well as health and service centres. Working together like an intricate web of compassionate care, the MIs have penetrated all parts of the country, especially those with limited access to healthcare. In collaboration with governments and other NGOs, CHAI works in the



Endeavours that heal mind, body and spirit

areas of mother and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, disability rehabilitation, disaster relief, tele-medicine and so much more. It uses the strength of the community: women as Community Health Volunteers are its 'angels of transformation'. SHGs help with health interventions to bring the benefits of government health schemes and their own programmes to the people, as well as support social initiatives. Innovative ideas like the '1000-day care to mothers and children', i.e., from pregnancy to the second birthday of a child, or the 'open defecation-free village schemes' have had far-reaching results.

Pooja is a girl from a poor family in Uttarakhand. Highly intelligent, she was disabled from birth. After her father was introduced to one of CHAI's member institutions, her life changed rapidly. It helped her get a disability certificate, railway concession, and a wheelchair. It suggested a visit to a government hospital, which performed free reconstructive surgeries, and encouraged her to go to school. Pooja says happily, 'Now I can go wherever I want to go without depending on any one's mercy and I can firmly plan for my future career prospects with great self-confidence and self-esteem.'

In its newest strategic shift, CHAI has addressed its biggest concerns: the deterioration of the noble profession of healthcare. Says Rev. Mathew, the Director General of CHAI, 'Today there is a growing tendency to look at healthcare as an opportunity for exploitation of those in the midst of suffering and sickness.' So CHAI has also increased its focus on health promotion. It leverages traditional knowledge

and skills. And to prevent exploitation of the dying, palliative and geriatric care facilities are added to the mix.

A new multi-level plan, Action 2020, repositioned the network and its workings. Using a participatory Strategic Planning Process (SPP), CHAI and its member institutions and other stakeholders were key in formulating this plan. For the next few years, CHAI will focus on strengthening its institutions and national and international partnerships. It will add more meat to their community-based work, which is already displaying a positive impact. 'We have health centres run by sister nurses in far-flung areas where there are no doctors...they are saving lives,' explains Rev. Mathew.

Other areas of focus include advocacy and research. 'So far our focus was on the grassroots. We have started managing our data and using it for influencing policy, to complement the government system, and plug its deficiencies,' he adds.

This flexible and organic approach, coupled with CHAI's strong core values, which lay emphasis on the spiritual aspect of healthcare and the personal, compassionate touch, coupled with affordability; amazing reach into the hinterlands of India; respect for diversity; and collaborative work that complements governmental programmes ensures that CHAI is a frontrunner in the health paradigm of India.

The smile on Pooja's face is testament to this.

Has 3,522 health care member institutions across the country.

Extends medical care to over 21 million persons in a year: 1,000 Sister-Doctors; 25,000 Sister-Nurses; 10,000 plus Sister-Paraprofessionals and over 5,000 Sister-Social Workers.

Project Title: Jagruti – empower communities to practice home remedies and use Ayurveda products from 2017–19 **Beneficiary:** People of Rangareddy and Medak districts of Telangana **Location:** Telangana



Happy to walk back into life

Hope Disability Centre



IN A SMALL VILLAGE in the valley of Kashmir, near the LoC (Line of Control), is a building two stories high. It is a fount of the dreams of thousands of people – young, old, farmers and tailors, Hindus and Muslims. People with disabilities for whom this is literally their ‘last hope’. In this building lie the means to a normal life. Here, they can go to school, learn a vocation, or get an artificial limb free of cost. Here, they can be rehabilitated to become part of the mainstream. And if they cannot physically reach the building, its support will reach them in their homes. Here they can hope.

This building houses the Hope Disability Centre, registered as the She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs, a non-profit, non-political, non-government, and non-religious organization. Started in 2001 by a young physiotherapist, Sami Wani, it initially had just two staff members and five patients. Over the years, working in the most difficult conditions, amidst violence, political unrest and bitter cold; through hard work, often frustrating fundraising efforts and some very crucial collaborations, HDC has grown by leaps and bounds. Its work with those afflicted with locomotor disabilities, as well as speech and hearing impairment, cerebral palsy and more has impacted thousands of people, who are either congenitally disabled or have been caught in the crossfire of conflict in the area. Government efforts in this area, both curative and rehabilitative, are negligible.

Founded in 2001 by Sami Wani

Vision A world where persons with disabilities avail equal rights and opportunities.

Mission Hope Disability Centre is working to bring positive changes in the lives of persons with disabilities by promoting access to good health care, education, livelihood opportunities and advocate for their rights.



I have my life and smiles back

Tie-ups with MEND, a New Zealand-based organization and the France-based Handicap International have built organizational capacity and added technical, specialized expertise for aids and appliances and rehabilitation. Not only do patients receive prosthetic limbs or surgery, they get hospital-level care and rehabilitation.

An exceptional model of community-based rehabilitation has extended HDC's reach. This means going to villages, and first creating awareness about causes, prevention and treatment of afflictions, besides dispelling prejudice. It means identifying those with disabilities and sending them to be treated at the Centre, or referring them for corrective surgery to hospitals. It means building ramps and donating hearing aids and wheelchairs, conducting physiotherapy sessions along with education camps. It also includes training for caregivers and training on activities of daily living, and setting up peer groups. HDC has a hostel for those who live too far away to go home after treatment each day, or those recovering from surgery. It also has

10,131 people with disabilities and who are at risk of developing disabilities have received physical rehabilitation services

9,060 persons with disabilities were provided follow up physical rehabilitation services

1,533 Prosthesis and Orthosis delivered

3,216 assistive devices (such as wheelchair, tricycle, crutches, toilet chair, etc) donated

4,055 caregivers received training on basic home-based rehabilitation care, proper use and maintenance of aids and appliances

110 low cost home modifications

350 poor people and persons with disabilities received livelihood support



A place of real hope

an inclusive school for children, and vocational training like basket-making and weaving, for older people.

HDC maintains strong connections with all stakeholders. It conducts workshops and training sessions for health and social workers in association with government departments. HDC's District Regional Centres tie up with hospitals for diagnosis and rehabilitation. It has linkages with the local police, hospitals and the army, and its non-political stance means that affiliated workers and associates are often allowed to venture into restricted areas to offer succor to the isolated, stricken and poor people, who may be stranded there. Actively involved in disaster relief, HDC organizes medical camps and rescue efforts in partnership with other NGOs. At the same time, advocacy is a big part of its agenda.

'We are continuously looking for progress by introducing scientific and innovative methods to be more relevant to community, by which we will attain acceptance and participation among our stakeholders,' explains the founder, Sami. 'People have

been shifted from bed to feet, and there is enhanced mobility and inclusion. The challenge is to make the projects sustainable.'

Fatima stepped on a landmine and lost her leg. Her eight children and husband were devastated. She now walks on her prosthetic leg with agility and grace. Talib was born with cerebral palsy – he couldn't walk, speak or feed himself – but now he is as proficient in his new wheelchair as he is with the latest mobile phone apps. Yasir had a congenital knee deformity and school was never even a remote possibility. He now wants to study more and become a teacher, and his artificial leg is his best friend.

Now that's giving people real hope!

Project Title: Humanitarian assistance to strengthen inclusion and safety of vulnerable persons especially persons with disabilities in isolated and conflict-affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir

Beneficiary: Disabled People

Location: Jammu and Kashmir



Standing at the threshold of a healthy life

Institute of Public Health (IPH)



ALL OVER THE WORLD, the emergence of evidence-based practice has vastly strengthened healthcare paradigms for individuals and communities. What this means is that the cutting-edge research conducted in the healthcare arena feeds back into the policies and laws that govern it. Sadly, in India, this excellent practice is largely missing. Why do we have so many pregnancy-related deaths? Why is TB still prevalent and exactly how effective were the measures to curb it? Surely, the answers to these questions should have a bearing on how we dispense public health. But in India, health policy is dictated not by what works and for whom, but by the vagaries and prejudices of individual decision-making by those in power at the time.

N. Devadasan and his wife Roopa are doctors who worked for 10 years with adivasis in Tamil Nadu. Realizing the limitations of working small-scale, he opted for a job with WHO in order to understand policy-making and its larger-level impact on healthcare especially for the poor and marginalized. But he was still not convinced that policy changes made at the highest echelons of government were enough to bring a change in the delivery of basic health to those most in need. 'This was what made us decide to start an organization which focuses on bridging the large gap that exists between the information generated from research and what gets incorporated into policy making. Our aim is to strengthen the health system through evidence-based decision-making generated through cutting edge research, advocacy of these findings to policy makers

Founded by Dr N. Devadasan in 2005

Vision To create an equitable, integrated, decentralized, responsive and participatory health system within a just and empowered society.

Mission Strengthening health systems to ensure healthy communities through a team of committed and value-based professionals.



Compassionate care for the poorest of the poor

and training them in making the best use of these results in improving health care provision.’

This was how the Institute of Public Health (IPH) was born.

When a poor person falls sick, it is not just his or her health that is compromised. The severe lack of accessibility to holistic healthcare services that are *affordable* has devastated many a family’s meager savings and taken a huge economic toll: people have to choose between food and medicines. Any healthcare ecosystem worth its while should not allow this heartbreaking situation. India shows a poor performance not only in comparison to western nations, but even compared to its neighbours like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. A fragmented, inefficient healthcare system is the culprit. IPH strives to change this.

‘We decided to focus on strengthening the government health services. If we improve this (even marginally), it will make a tremendous difference in the life of the poor citizens of our country. As the government is the single largest provider of health

care services, a small improvement in the public facilities will have a direct impact on millions of people,’ explains Devadasan, who is the Director of IPH. Working with the existing public health system, and public health bureaucrats is a strategy that leads to sustainability of projects, too.

Helped the Government of India design the National Health Insurance Scheme covering 160,000,000 individuals.

In the past 8 years, 12,000,000 patients have benefited through free hospitalization services.

Works closely with the Government of Karnataka and Government of India in reducing the use of tobacco. It has helped the Karnataka government to implement the Tobacco Control Act (COTPA) and make 26 of the 35 districts in Karnataka compliant with COTPA as per WHO guidelines.



Ensuring affordable and good health for those who need it the most

It was a stunningly simple premise. And governments seem to respond to it fairly well. A relationship of trust was born. For instance, IPH’s research on health insurance for the poor was the basis on which the Government of India designed RSBY (the National Health Insurance Scheme) for the poorest. Similarly, an assurance scheme for the treatment of non-communicable diseases for the poor was designed by the Government of Karnataka based on IPH’s inputs. Most primary health care centres do not have the wherewithal to treat such conditions like diabetes and hypertension. IPH’s project in Tumkur, Karnataka improves access to medicines and treatments for non-communicable diseases.

Peopled by passionate, motivated professionals with compassion in their hearts, some of whom have refused high paying jobs in order to work at IPH, the organization’s values and commitment are solid and unbiased. Says Devadasan, ‘All our projects are vetted with the lens of equity. So it is not enough to say whether a particular project will achieve a specific

objective. We also look at whether this project will achieve that objective for the poorest sections of society... This is a long term proposition, but already our work is producing effects.’

Training courses, innovative research, strong advocacy strategies and a dedicated team combine to root out the evils of the healthcare scenario. An overhaul of the entire system may not be possible, but IPH is certainly making inroads in the right directions. Concludes Devadasan, ‘At the end of each year, we review what we have done and ask questions like – “what difference did we make in society this year?” We strive to translate this evidence into policies or incorporate our findings into the existing guidelines, thus taking healthcare research to its logical end.’

Project Title: Universal and Equitable care for Diabetes and Hypertension across Karnataka (UniEqKare) **Beneficiary:** Patients with diabetes and hypertension, non-communicable diseases **Location:** Karnataka



Committed to eradicating the disease and the prejudice

Lepra Society



The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody.

– Mother Teresa

INDEED, IT IS THE prejudices, superstitions and misrepresentations in popular culture that surround this oldest of diseases that cause those with leprosy so much suffering. As a disease on the ‘eliminated (as a public health problem, which is different from eradicated)’ list of the WHO, the vast swathes of money and effort that went into its treatment and prevention in the last century have reduced drastically. However, it is far from being eradicated, and in India especially, the incidence of leprosy is still fairly high. LEPRO, with a background of over 90 years of working with leprosy, is the world’s leading authority on this disease. In India, its work is carried on by the LEPRO Society, which began its good offices in 1988.

Fortunately, leprosy is now completely curable through multi-drug therapy, so the thrust is on reducing its prevalence rate. Initially, LEPRO Society worked mainly with the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) of the Indian government for treating the disease. It continues to support the NLEP in addition to its work in rehabilitation and succor to those afflicted, patients who are more often than not from the most marginalized sections of society. This forms a large part of LEPRO’s work transforming their lives, and helping them rise above the discrimination

Founded by a group of eminent persons committed to the cause of leprosy, with support from LEPRO, UK, in 1989

Vision ‘To be a leader in reducing the incidence and impact of leprosy and other neglected diseases’.

Purpose Driven by our focus on leprosy, to enable children, women and men affected by leprosy and other neglected diseases to transform their lives and overcome poverty and prejudice.



A new lease of life, a new tomorrow

and poverty that this misunderstood disease plunges them into.

Leprosy often leaves behind traumatic after-effects like nerve damage if treatment is too little or too late. LEPRA evolved strategies to deal with this. These include prevention of disabilities services, reconstructive surgery services, providing special footwear and of course, socio-economic rehabilitation. Hundreds and thousands of people were impacted by this initiative. 'I was diagnosed with leprosy during my final year in college,' recalls Sita, a former patient. 'I continued my studies and my medication and by the time I was ready to work I had been "cured". I had to walk quite a distance and work for long hours. I developed ulcers on my feet and my husband started asking me to stay away as he said they smelled bad. I am not an unhygienic person but I could do nothing about the smell. Besides I was in so much pain. Then one day my husband asked me to go to my parents' house and not come back. I actually contemplated killing myself.' Luckily, Sita's story did not end in a tragedy, mainly because of the

emotional and medical support from LEPRA. Sita got a new lease of life. 'I also learned self-care for my wounds, but best of all was the special footwear they provided me with that made walking bearable. No sandals or chappals I had ever worn had given me so much relief.'

Riding on its solid collaboration with both state and central governments, LEPRA spreads its activities far and wide. In fact, post the 'elimination' phase, the Indian government chose to put leprosy under the general health services net. This proved ineffective for

During 2014–16, 30,650 persons accessed leprosy services.

8,761 persons with leprosy were prevented from disabilities or worsening of their existing disabilities.

15,856 persons with disability were provided with protective footwear to prevent ulcers in their foot.



Special slippers to make walking bearable

various reasons, and eventually, it was the NGOs like LEPRA who stepped up to the plate. LEPRA now has specialized referral centres in different districts which provide clinical expertise and specialist services, and work on strengthening government capacity – filling the gaps, as it were. They also help with technical aspects to support government programmes, besides offering physiotherapy, treatment of ulcers, and management of reactions and neuritis. According to Ashim Chowla, Chief Executive, LEPRA Society, 'The cross-cutting themes of our programmes include system strengthening, empowerment, equity, advocacy, gender equality, and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene). All these have changed lives and put smiles on many faces.'

Other diseases are priorities for LEPRA too. 'LEPRA Society's contribution to the government-led Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme and our work in the HIV/AIDS domain are widely recognized,' explains Ashim. LEPRA also works with malaria and other tropical diseases like lymphatic

filariasis among poor communities. Currently it is refocusing itself to its original mandate of leprosy-related work.

LEPRA Society has had a large part to play in the research surrounding leprosy in the areas of both treatment and transmission. Their overarching goal is to create awareness among stakeholders and the general public, and to address the painful discrimination faced by those who have suffered this disease, especially women, at the hands of both the law and ignorant societal attitudes.

Project Title: Enhancing leprosy case detection in Bihar and Telanagana states

Beneficiary: Leprosy **Location:** Telangana and Bihar



*A room of our own equals self-respect
of a different kind*

Mahila Housing SEWA Trust



RECENTLY, THE UNIVERSITY of Chicago invited ideas for innovations to tackle Delhi's gas-chamber-like pollution levels. One of the winners of that competition suggested roof-cooling technology to reduce the extreme heat in slum homes and cut household energy costs, freeing up resources for food, education and health. This remarkable idea came from the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT), registered as the Gujarat Mahila Housing SEWA Trust, Ahmedabad, a not-for-profit organization that focuses on affordable living, housing and infrastructure for poor women in the informal sector.

The Trust was set up in 1994. So far, MHT has primarily worked for poor women in the informal sector in urban slums, where people live in hot shanties with tin roofs, with no access to water or toilets. And now, it is investing in rural programmes and extending its unique methodology.

MHT is a hybrid: a social *and* technical body, which means it helps mobilize communities to demand their right to shelter and amenities like water and sanitation, electricity and roads; but it also *builds* those shelters or roads or toilets if there is a need. It trains women to get information and access to services, from basic needs to shelter loans and technical assistance, and liaises with government departments to demystify legal, administrative and bureaucratic processes and schemes for poor, mostly illiterate people. Geetaben Thakore, who lived in miserable conditions in a slum in Ahmedabad became a *Vikasini*, or development

Founded by SEWA in 1994

Vision Dignified Home, Dignified Work, Dignified Life

Mission To organize and empower women working in the informal economy and provide them technical services and capacity building to secure better habitat, environment and basic services.



My house is my domain and I will make it strong

agent with MHT, and she has been able to gather her community together to engage with private builders and local authorities to facilitate the building of new homes in a clean, spacious apartment block with working water and electricity connections. Besides being trained on how to deal with the paperwork and the *babus*, Geetaben had to convince her neighbours and lead them in negotiations with builders. 'I did not know I was so strong,' she says. 'After I joined MHT, I learned I can do it. And I will do it.'

'MHT shows that housing is integral to all aspects of a poor woman's life. Her employment is closely tied up with her house and the availability of water, toilets, electricity and safety. The home is the workplace for over 30 per cent of women workers, and in rural areas the home extends to the living space for people as well as cattle,' explains Bijal Brahmhatt, Director of MHT. However, home loans are still not looked at as being productive investments by institutional lenders. MHT has linked thousands of women with housing finance, and even private builders (like in Geetaben's case), to

come up with solutions that work for the poor.

MHT works closely with governments and local authorities. It strives to influence habitat policy in consultation with all stakeholders. Bijal further explains that, 'MHT has brought poor women, architects, engineers, academicians and scientists onto one platform to create people-centric, detailed project

Have already reached 15 million people and aim to expand outreach to an additional 1 million individuals by 2022.

Loans worth over ₹ 65.6 million have been accessed by 244 groups in four states.

Build resilience against climate change amongst 125,000 poor individuals in 100 slums in 7 cities of 3 countries.

Funds amounting to some ₹ 2.5 million have been given for housing finance.



We are the harbingers of change in our standard of living

reports for housing schemes.' The idea is to make the housing comprehensive, and include in-house water, individual toilets, and legal electricity.' CBOs (community-based organizations) have a huge role to play in determining their own environment, as well as future-facing, locally relevant climate resilient solutions that can impact housing policy. It trains individuals and panchayats on affordable and quality construction, including maintenance and disaster-resistant methods of building. It also helps with last-mile delivery of services through a for-profit company wherever there are gaps in the official mechanisms.

MHT's remarkable thinking and operations have spread beyond Gujarat, to Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, and even to Nepal and Bangladesh. Many of its schemes have been highly successful, like the Parivartan initiative to ensure potable water and sanitation facilities. Take the Karmika School which trains women in 13 skilled construction trades. As Madhuben of village Bardi in Gujarat narrates, 'Initially, the masons used

to harass me; my family also mocked me but I was persistent. Now, I work as a mason after undergoing training at Karmika school and get ₹ 150–175 a day as against ₹ 60 as a labourer. Now everyone appreciates me. The toilet of my own house was damaged in the earthquake. I reconstructed it myself. I am a master mason now and train other women like me.'

MHT is constructed on its belief in the empowerment of women. 'If the habitat of women is improved, they invest in building productive assets in their name thereby improving their economic productivity and bringing about a transformation in their standard of living.'

Project Title: Women-led Integrated WASH-Plus Water Management for Disease Resilience
Beneficiary: Implementation of government programmes **Location:** Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand



Aware mothers and healthy children mean a community that goes from strength to strength

MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child



NINETY PER CENT OF THE complications that lead to maternal deaths and two-thirds of infant deaths are *completely* preventable. Then why do so many women die during childbirth? Why are so many babies dead before they can even begin to live? Why is malnutrition so rampant among young children? The answer might be that most poor people do not realize that good health is their right. That availability and accessibility to healthcare services especially pertaining to maternal health and/or care of newborn babies should be theirs without asking. That there is a continuum of care, which is needed from before conception to when the child is a few years old. That a mother must have the ability and option to take health decisions for her child and herself; and that if she is empowered, her child will most likely, not be malnourished or sick.

MAMTA is an organization whose goal is equity, and quality health for the marginalized, especially women and children. ‘Why should anyone get better access to healthcare services just because of gender, caste, creed, economic background, religion and disability?’ asks Dr Sunil Mehra, who started MAMTA after witnessing the dismal state of mother and child healthcare in a slum near his house. So moved was he by their state that he disbanded a thriving private practice and began clinical interventions within the slum community.

In the several decades of its existence, MAMTA has adopted the life-cycle approach towards maternal

Founded by Dr Sunil Mehra in 1990

Vision Working together in building a world that is just, equitable and inclusive.

Mission To empower the underserved and marginalized individuals and community through gender sensitive participatory processes for achieving optimal and sustainable health and development.



A continuum of care for mothers and children

and child health. Educating mothers on nutrition; conducting training and specialized classes on health, medicine and community development; dissemination of knowledge on these subjects and more. Collaborations with international organizations encouraged MAMTA to work with the community and create participatory models of running its programmes. Thereby setting the ball of ownership by the community rolling, and forming a commitment to being strongly evidence-based in its approaches.

Riding the tide of holistic development, MAMTA expanded its scope to include Young People's Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, including challenging gender norms and intervening in cases of early marriage; HIV and TB prevention, management, diagnostics, and dealing with the accompanying stigma; and non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and so on, which are known to be large contributors to global deaths every year. Today, its projects and initiatives run

exceedingly successfully, yet its true actualization is because, as the website states, MAMTA 'mobilizes community, strengthens health systems, networks and conducts policy level advocacy in close partnership with the government and public health systems, civil societies, academic institutions, corporate sector and community at large.'

The work it does on the ground and the research they conduct feeds into its advocacy and partnerships

Early marriage and reproductive health project with aid from the European Union implemented at 18 sites across three countries of South Asian region, i.e, Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

34,096 young people in India, 23,105 in Nepal, and 22,736 in Bangladesh were reached through peer group sessions.



Information is the currency of holistic development

with government agencies and programmes. This includes the forays into working with sexual minorities and other isolated groups. Adds Dr Mehra, 'Success lies both in improving coverage with inclusiveness, i.e., reaching maximum target groups with good quality and simultaneously, getting a sustained and increased donor base, with newer sustainable revenue models (social entrepreneurship) – while strengthening academic and community groups partnerships.' It has been proved over time that such integrated and holistic models of development are the most long-lasting. MAMTA also prides itself on its systems of working, which are transparent, accountable, and constantly evolving through learning. Web portals that disseminate information on sexuality and reproductive conundrums to young people, presentations to parliamentary committees on their core area findings, and technical support to other countries with similar issues are all part of MAMTA's achievements.

'My biggest inspiration is the change that we bring

in the communities,' explains Dr Mehra. 'I remember in 1995 when I visited one of MAMTA's adolescent development centres, the girls there came with poor self-confidence and literally no verbal communication; seeing them later smiling and asking questions, besides challenging what was offered to them continues to be my inspiration even in 2016.'

Project Title: Saving and improving lives of marginalized children (0–5 years) – An integrated community-based intervention model towards improving nutritional status and well-being of Under-5 children in 4 districts of Bundelkhand region **Beneficiary:** Mother and child **Location:** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh



*Ahead is a glowing horizon, where
dignity, health and knowledge are ours*

Mission Foundation Movement (MFM)



Founded by R. Vanlalzauva in 2002

Vision For Mizoram to have well-informed citizen and civil society organizations, which positively influence equitable and sustainable development for the benefit of the poor and the vulnerable. To work towards creating a better Mizoram which provides basic health, education and empowerment to every citizen.

Mission To make a society full of peace and harmony and to impart quality education to the youth and solve the unemployment problem. To improve the health status of the rural community, helping vulnerable sections of society, and promote the livelihoods of needy persons of society and the state.

IF YOU ASK A REASONABLY educated, average Indian about Mizoram, you'll probably get a limited response. This northeastern state of India is remote in every way. Its high levels of literacy, its equally high rates of unemployed youth; the incredible natural beauty of its isolated villages that have limited or no access to health and other facilities during monsoons; the vivid, exceptional culture of its tribes and the superstitions that forbid modern interventions ... Mizoram is a paradox in every way.

Understanding its people well, and the shortcomings of infrastructure and backwardness that have to be dealt with, the Mission Foundation Movement was set up to address the monumental issues facing them. The organization works in several areas, targeting the overall empowerment of its rural population, which lives in 830 villages, especially its youth. It works on socio-economic, cultural, health and livelihood initiatives, which are targeted towards holistic development.

A major focus area is vocational training for disenchanting youth, who are qualified but have no jobs and have fallen into unhealthy habits. MFM started vocational training centres to 'provide guidance, counselling, and training to drug abusers, alcoholics and downtrodden youths for earning practical skills in agriculture and allied services, industries etc,' states Zalianthanga, Executive Secretary, MFM. Certain courses it offers are rooted in the traditional livelihoods of the local people while others are more general. Mushroom cultivation,



In 2012 opened Community Health Clinic at Khamrang Village, Kolasib District covering 3086 population.

480 students have successfully completed the skills training course out of which 286 are employed



Now we can play, our cares forgotten

oil palm plantation, broom-making, handloom and handicrafts, and so on, are taught along with leadership programmes and army coaching, beauty and wellness, masonry and much more.

Health is another thrust area. MFM works with preventive care mechanisms to supplement the mainly curative efforts of government hospitals and health centres. It conducts free health clinics and ensures primary healthcare in hard-to-reach areas by establishing community health centres, which are more likely to attract villagers, otherwise wary and superstitious about more formal set-ups. Health education, awareness and training programmes for mothers, adolescents, and the aged, pertaining to communicable diseases and sanitation are part of its community strategy. Observing a serious shortfall in trainers and health personnel, MFM decided to develop human resource potential through formal education as well. In 2009, it opened a College of Nursing, affiliated to the Indian Nursing Council.

'Due to huge shortage of qualified personnel in



Inspiring others to strive towards better lives

pharmacy education in Mizoram, we have also started a Diploma Course in Pharmacy from the year 2013. The intake capacity is 60 seats per batch. The college is affiliated to the Mizoram State Council for Technical Education and Pharmacy Council of India,' explains Zalianthanga. MFM has made inroads into mental health treatment as well by collaborating with the National Mental Health Programme.

MFM recognizes the importance of linkages with government and other NGOs to expand its reach, networking with the ASHA-affiliated workers for its maternal and child health projects, or local authorities for partnering in other programmes. It also facilitates self-help groups for communities to take charge of their own well-being and improved standards of living, especially in the area of livelihood development. Zalianthanga elaborates, 'To create a successful programme, partnership is very important because the organization alone cannot work in this field. Partnerships with the community leaders as well as a

good relationship with the community people are more important as we need to support each other.'

MFM has secured a solid reputation for its work in Mizoram. The difficulties it faces in terms of bad roads, limited equipment, a shortfall of qualified personnel and the ubiquitous obstacle of funding (that can eradicate all the former), are met with optimism. He adds, 'In spite of all the obstacles and hardships we face, the zeal that we have clearly defines our organization. It is not just about "what" we accomplish but it is also about "how" we inspire and help others in leading a better, happier and healthier life. It is not even how much money we possess, but it is "living by our values" living consistently with them, and achieving a level of profound success that no one can take away.'

Project Title: Improvement of rural health
Beneficiary: Maternal adolescents, child health, and nutrition and eradication of communicable diseases
Location: Kolasib, Mizoram

खसरा	16-24 माह	0.5 मि.ली.	
वी0 वूस्टर	पोलियो	16-24 माह	दो बूँद
सीरईटिस(2)	जापानी बुखार	16-24 माह	0.5 मि.ली.
शक दवा	पेट के कीड़े	24-59 माह	400 mg की पूरी गोली
1-1" (दूसरे खुटाक तक)	रतौंधी	11 माह और उसके बाद प्रथम। बाद में अगस्त से 1 वर्ष की उम्र तक एक चुन्ना	1 मि.ली. (एक टाउ आई यू)
वी0 वूस्टर(2)	मलपोट्ट, काली खौसी टिन्नेस	5-6 वर्ष	0.5 मि.ली.
10	टिन्नेस	10 वर्ष से 16 वर्ष	0.5 मि.ली.

हरियाणा स्वास्थ्य वाहन सुविधा नम्बर 102

स्वास्थ्य वाहन सुविधा नम्बर 102 आपातकालीन स्थिति में निम्नलिखित के लिए बिल्कुल मुफ्त

- गर्भवती महिलाएं (42 दिन तक) एवं भ्रूजात शिशु (जन्म से 1 वर्ष तक)
- सड़क दुर्घटनाग्रस्त मरीज
- गंभीर रोग से भीथे जीवनयापन करने वाले लोग
- इमोपेडपैट्री में रहने वाले सभी वर्ग के व्यक्ति
- स्वतंत्रता सेनानी एवं भूतपूर्व सैनिक
- नैत्रदान करने के लिए

अगर सभी वर्गों को फिर आपातकालीन स्थिति में 7/- से प्रति किलोमीटर

दस्तावेजी सहित। अधिक जानकारी प्राप्त की जाये तो 102 पर कॉल करें। सुधीन की SMS पर भी सुधीन।

CONTROL HYPERTENSION SAVE LIVES

HYPERTENSION TREATMENT AT A GLANCE

DIABETES TREATMENT AT A GLANCE



Dedicated to health for all

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)



"Health is not everything, but without health, everything is nothing."
- Arthur Schopenhauer

WHEN A COUNTRY like India is entering a phase of exponential progress, it stands to reason that its health ecosystem will follow suit. That it will be of a high standard and with efficient mechanisms for health distribution in an equitable, affordable fashion. The truth is far from this. India's public health system is not in concord with its rapid economic development. Infectious diseases, high mortality rates, malnutrition- we suffer them all.

How can the healthcare paradigm be strengthened? One of the key strategies would have to be strengthening the caliber of health education as well as research which can transform policy and practice. Naturally, this would boost policy, programmes, and the delivery of health services. It would encourage innovative problem solving. In short, it would strengthen the whole system tremendously. Medical colleges were found not able meet this requirement. A national consultation, convened by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recommended the creation of a foundation which could speedily advance public health education, training, research and advocacy. This was the provenance of PHFI.

As a unique version of the traditional public-private partnership model, PHFI stands out as an institution of quality and commitment to a public purpose. The

Vision To strengthen India's public health institutional and systems capability and provide knowledge to achieve better health outcomes for all.

Mission Developing the public health workforce and setting standards; advancing public health research and technology; strengthening knowledge application and evidence-informed public health practice and policy



Strengthening healthcare systems from within

website explains it like this: ‘PHFI recognizes the fact that meeting the shortfall of health professionals is imperative to a sustained and holistic response to the public health concerns in the country, which in turn requires health care to be addressed not only from the scientific perspective of what works, but also from the social perspective of who needs it the most.’

PHFI has a multi-faceted approach, creating cross learning platforms by partnering with a diverse set of stakeholders ‘Dialogues with policy makers, civil society and academics are set-up on a multitude of areas in public health, ranging from tobacco control to what are women’s requirements in delivery of maternal health services, with the consultations extending from the grassroots to the national level,’ explains Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, President of PHFI.

Five Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPH) have been set up by PHFI in Gandhinagar, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Shillong in partnership with state governments. These are ‘envisioned as world class public health institutions capable of responding

to public health challenges of the state, region, and the country.’ The IIPHS offer post graduate and diploma courses on campus and through distance education. The diploma in public health management is linked to the National Health Mission, and has trained deputed medical officers from states across the country. Students come from all over the world to study under excellent

1,000 plus public health professionals graduated from on-campus programmes.

17,000 plus participants trained in short term programmes.

Over 1,300 participants trained through distance learning and scaling up rapidly.

120 plus multi-disciplinary faculty pool (core and adjunct), the largest in one institution in India.

2,125 research publications in scientific journals with an average impact factor of 5.4.



Boosting health by educating carers to global standards

faculty. Primary care physicians can come here for short term courses, too.

Research is an integral part of PHFI’s manifesto, enriching India’s health initiatives and policies, including exciting inputs into the all-important area of affordable care. For example, ‘Swasthya Slate’ initiative brings technology to midwives, or cutting-edge experiments by students intend to use drones for delivery of medicines. ‘PHFI recognizes scientific curiosity as fundamental to research and endeavours to cultivate an enabling environment for faculty, staff and students, to undertake studies in various disciplines of public health and drive the research agenda at PHFI and IIPHS,’ elaborates Prof. Reddy.

Adds Prof. Reddy, ‘Four funded centres of excellence in chronic diseases, disabilities, equity and social determinants and environmental health are leading applied research projects and capacity development in those areas.’ Technical engagements with the health programmes of state and central governments include, Prof. Reddy says, ‘HIV prevention, routine

immunization, allied health professional training, universal coverage, health accounts and budgeting, access to drugs, antibiotic resistance, tobacco control, environmental health, health workforce planning and public health cadre development.’

PHFI supports the improvement of core public health programmes like immunization, and also implements public health projects in crucial areas like maternal and child health. Sustainability and environmental concerns are also on its agenda. The work PHFI does is shared with all stakeholders and with the global community through faculty involvement in expert groups, as well as international conferences.

Such a comprehensive strategy is the foundation for fulfilling PHFI’s mandate of raising India’s health to the best global standards.

Project Title: Healthcare delivery model for improving survival and care of preterm and low birth weight babies **Beneficiary:** Children upto 2 years **Location:** Uttar Pradesh

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Making gender discrimination unacceptable

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Fostering inspired learning as the right of every child

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Breakthrough



Come my sister, let's jump high for
now we can touch the sky

A TRUCK LUMBERS DOWN a highway, painted blue and yellow. The truck driver swings her braid to one side as she changes gears...wait a minute! A woman truck driver? Look closely. The back of the truck is full of women, of all ages, heights and income levels, singing and dancing with abandon. The music is vibrant and free and strong. The lyrics say 'My heart is playing to its own rhythm today...'

This searing image of women's empowerment is from the video of the song *Mann ke Manjeere*, which was viewed by over 20 million people. It was the brainchild of an NGO that attacks gender issues in a brilliantly different way. Breakthrough, registered as the Breakthrough Trust, started by Mallika Dutt in 1999, is a hotbed of innovative strategies to make discrimination and violence against women unacceptable.

Breakthrough uses the power of contemporary culture, the arts and technology, including media and pop culture to get its message across in immediate ways. Ways that create dialogues and mainstream conversations on women's issues, and bring them out from behind closed doors. It corrals the might of social media, animations, music videos, and video games on youth. Theatre, music, and film are its tools, helping create vivid campaigns that shake people out of their complacency. For example, the *Bell Bajao* campaign against domestic violence had the whole country sit up and take notice of a form of abuse that has been hitherto hidden. Breakthrough targets men as much as women but in a positive way, to seek their support in making gender violence unacceptable. Men

Founded by Mallika Dutt in 1999

Vision We envision a world in which all people enjoy their human rights and live with dignity, equality, and justice. We can build this world by making violence and discrimination against women and girls unacceptable.

Mission Prevent violence against women and girls by transforming the norms and cultures that enable it.



The Bell Bajao campaign reached 130 million viewers in Phase I and 110 million in Phase II.

Breakthrough's video vans traveled 14,000 miles through cities and villages bearing this message to 7.5 million.

15,000 youth and community leaders trained.

76,000 people reached by community advocates.



Stepping on the first rung of empowerment



Educating boys to understand that gender violence is unacceptable

and boys who are exposed to its programmes have been seen to intervene directly when they encounter violence against women, as well as changing their own behaviour toward women. Breakthrough's award-winning campaigns headline that change towards equality and justice begins from home.

Breakthrough is rooted in the belief that 'Without multi-sectoral and holistic approaches, women may not acquire the means, confidence, or the necessary community acceptance to voice their concerns and ideas,' as Sonali Khan, Vice President & Country Director explains. Thus, its interventions are based on the life-cycle approach, which believes in the inter-connectedness of many gender issues right from childhood discrimination, sexual harassment, early marriage, through to domestic violence and more.

Breakthrough aims to reach people who have never been awakened to the ideas of gender equality and rights before, and create a public dialogue. Its campaigns often feature the use of selfies and Twitter. It runs leadership programmes where young boys and girls are trained and given campaigning tools and digital skills to become ambassadors of social change within their communities. Breakthrough's partnerships

with ad agencies, the government, corporates, schools, CBOs (community development organizations) and other NGOs lead to exciting collaborations and far-reaching impact. For instance, their campaign *Mission Hazaar* was adapted by the government's *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* programme for low sex ratio areas. Every campaign is accompanied by on-ground action in community mobilization activities, and there is deep engagement with the grassroots.

Finally, Breakthrough has a strong commitment to research and evidence-led programming. Explains Sonali, 'We use a gamut of research methodologies to learn from our own work, to create evidence for our own interventions, and share findings through research reports and meetings with other players.'

Breakthrough's latest initiative is in the state of Haryana, where missing girls are a serious issue. It stands firm on its thinking that men, women and youth must all be involved to break and challenge sexist ideas, and make vibrant spaces for women: a revolution of sorts. And in a larger context, says Sonali, it seeks 'to build a culture in which women's human rights thrive, enabling us all to be safe in our homes and limitless in our ambitions.'



PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT, 2017

‘Taaron ki Toli or Gang of Stars Programme’

Adolescence marks the developmental transition from childhood to adulthood. Research shows inter-gender dialogue, if introduced through school-based interventions at this formative age generates respect between boys and girls, and in the long run, leads to questioning of discriminatory social norms and behaviour. It creates opportunities and spaces for boys and girls to interact and deconstruct gender roles and sexual violence. Changing this group’s attitudes and choices about the treatment of girls and women can determine whether India’s skewed sex ratio and limited opportunities for women persist into the next generation.

Taaron ki Toli, the gender sensitization project for grades 6–9 in 150 government schools aims to do the above in a permanent way. These children can become social change actors as they grow up. Breakthrough will also engage men and boys in promoting healthier gender norms and working with communities to create safer environments. Using the HCL Grant, Breakthrough will attempt to deepen their intervention in the project for sustainable impact and learnings within the community, as well as scale-up the project to other states.

The strategy includes promoting equitable norms through teacher training, an interactive curriculum that includes classroom sessions, youth clubs and school activities. Linking these with parents and community through a media and communications campaign is part of the project’s agenda, as is linking with government education departments and initiatives.

Beneficiaries: Adolescent girls and boys

Location: Four districts of Haryana: Panipat, Sonapat, Rohtak and Jhajjar



A new sort of learning, both social and financial



MelJol



Founded by Jeroo Billimoria in 1991

Vision Work towards an equitable social structure within a pluralistic society i.e. one that is an integrated society, where different cultures co-exist.

Mission Develop children's citizenship skills by focusing on children's rights and responsibilities and providing them with opportunities to contribute positively to the environment using social and financial education tools.

THE WORD 'AFLATOUN' denotes an extraordinary person. It is also the Arabic name for the philosopher Plato. Fitting indeed, one of the most unusual and innovative programmes in the field of child rights today is called Aflatoun. The flagship programme of the NGO MelJol, Aflatoun offers a unique opportunity to children from the poorest homes, who go to government schools, or who have dropped out, or who are in the juvenile justice system. For 20 years now, it has worked towards 'helping young citizens think critically, learn about their rights and responsibilities, and gain financial knowledge and skills that will enable them to achieve their dreams.' The Aflatoun – Social and Financial Education (SFE) programme has transformed children and communities in 11 states in India, and in over a 116 countries around the world.

Learning is imparted through a little character called Aflatoun, a small fireball, who all children identify with, and who ignites their minds to a new sort of learning. This gives them the confidence to navigate their world with their rights and duties firmly instilled into their minds. MelJol believes that, 'Social Education teaches them to believe in themselves and become responsible citizens by understanding and being involved in social issues that affect them. Financial Education teaches the important skills of saving, budgeting and engaging in age-appropriate social and financial enterprises.' Children save money in Aflatoun banks and are linked with banking services through formal banks and post



*The freedom to grow, to bloom, to
aim for the stars*



Learning about myself, my rights, and how to save for a brighter future

offices. They learn a few essential banking operations like depositing and withdrawing from savings bank accounts, using ATMs, and more.

Those who meet children involved with the programme are impressed by the confidence and ingenuity they possess. Children save their pocket money to buy themselves things their parents could never afford, like bicycles, slippers, or text books. Yet others stand up against abuse and exploitation, and encourage their peers to go to school and be counted.

MelJol as an idea began in 1991 as a field action project by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. In the beginning, the effort through the Twinning programme was to bring children from different socio-economic backgrounds together so that they could see that they were not, after all, that different from each other. Later, post the Bombay riots, according to its international website, 'the programme responded by focusing on combating prejudice and discrimination through rights education.' Inspired by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, MelJol began experimenting with developing child-friendly curricula and teachers' manuals, and creating Aflatoun clubs, where children could be nudged into the activities of the project. Says the website, 'Through these clubs and making use of active learning methodology, the children were introduced to the concepts of personal understanding, self-exploration, child rights and responsibilities, as well as concepts of savings and social and financial entrepreneurship.' Eventually, MelJol was registered as a formal organization in 1999.

The Aflatoun SFE model is designed for children who are 6–14 years old. There is also Aflatot for 3–5 year olds, and Aflateen for 15–18 year olds. The founder of the programme has since moved to The Netherlands, and birthed an Aflatoun global initiative, which partners with several other bodies to spread

its message far and wide. Within India also, MelJol collaborates with the government. It hopes to integrate SFE with the government school curriculum, and engages with the state machinery to implement and plan the initiative. It networks with other NGOs to scale the programme upwards and outwards. The MelJol team explains that 'A major turning point for us was the year 2014, when MelJol became a knowledge partner of organizations like Plan India, Humana People to People, and Child Fund India. Aflatoun Social and Financial Education will be integrated in their programmes.'

MelJol also trains teachers to use its experiential methodology for optimum effectiveness and to fully develop the potential of the child. According to the website, at the end of the programme, children can usually do the following:

- 'Examine and reflect on their identities, values and beliefs, as well as their relationships with family, friends and communities.'
- Critique and investigate how rights are realized or violated in society.
- Describe and practice responsible use and accumulation of financial, natural and other kinds of resources (people, planet and profit).
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct planning and budgeting activities towards realizing a desired goal.
- Conduct enterprises that have a positive effect in their communities.'

With these incredibly important faculties in place, a child can become the agent of a powerful shift in his or her own destiny and that of the social order of the community. As the website explains it, 'MelJol seeks to rewrite the face of India's rural economy while dramatically reinvigorating the classroom as a space of experience and excitement.'

Working in 11 Indian states reaching out to approximately 400,000 children

Estimating its reach out to around 5 million children by the year 2018

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT, 2017

‘Scaling up the Aflatoun Social and Financial Education Programme’

Education should not just make our children literate, but also equip them with skills and knowledge to flourish both socially and financially. To survive in today’s frenetic job market, children need 21st-century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking.

MelJol follows a balanced approach to child development using social and financial education (SFE). The programme uses an active and experiential learning methodology, enabling a child to engage fully with the learning and develop his/her full potential. A joyful learning environment reduces dropouts as well. Aflatoun helps children become agents of change and make choices leading to social and financial empowerment.

Social education infuses life skills such as communication, empathy and self-awareness, as well as confidence and assertiveness in children. It teaches them to be aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Financial education encourages savings, thrift, budgeting operating bank accounts and engaging in age-appropriate social and financial enterprises. Social and financial entrepreneurial activities and initiatives encourage children from disadvantaged communities to manage their resources better and start social and financial micro-enterprises.

Long-term partnerships with the education department and school administrations will ensure sustainability. The eventual aim is to mainstream these programmes and integrate them into government school curricula where the poorest children can have access to them.

Beneficiaries: Children *Location:* Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand





*The answers lie within us:
we just need to look*

Urmul Setu Sansthan



IN THE SEARING HEAT of the Thar Desert, the poor and marginalized suffer endlessly. The lack of basic facilities, from clean water to education, ill-health and indebtedness, a lack of infrastructure and employment – often make life there a living hell. In hospitable terrain and far-flung villages mean access to government schemes and schooling is near impossible. In this difficult geography, came the Urmul Setu Sansthan.

Urmul is an acronym for Uttari Rajasthan Milk Union Limited. Originally, the organization was set up as a trust of the milk co-operative. Later, it took on its own identity, led ably by the legendary Sanjoy Ghosh. The addition of 'setu', which means bridge, to its name was not an accident. For over 25 years, the organization literally has been the bridge that has allowed the community in this district of west Rajasthan to cross over from marginalization to self-actualization.

Urmul works in diverse areas, mostly with women and children. It has programmes that support education, notably secondary education, and has initiated residential education camps for girls called the Balika Shivirs, which prepare girls to join mainstream schools. These have been a lifeline for many a young woman to pursue education over early marriage. It works with health – improving medical services and morbidity rates, as well as sanitation and water issues. It has programmes for early childhood and child protection. Disaster management projects have been extremely successful, and initiatives for fodder depots and grain banks have aided in times of drought. The organization provides livelihood training for youth, as well as training for farmers on agricultural practices.

Founded by Sanjoy Ghosh in 1987

Vision To lead the poor towards self-reliance by making available to them, a package of development services that they themselves decide on, design, implement, and eventually finance.

Mission To organize communities for collective action, developing their skills and levels of confidence to lead them to self-reliance. Given the harsh physical geography of the Thar, the thrust of Urmul Trust initiatives has been to offer security of food, fodder and water.



Collaborated directly with over 300 village panchayats in over 500 villages in western Rajasthan.

Partnered with more than 30,000 families in various programmes over 25 years.

Organized 58 residential education camps helping 3803 adolescent girls pursue their primary, secondary, higher secondary and graduation level education.

Coaching camps to prepare girls for competitive exams like police constable, Patwari, etc., have been organized, benefiting 308 girls.



We may be poor, but our lives are rich with learning and fun



Growing together, having fun, makes my confidence soar

Starting with just six villages, and not deterred by the non-existent roads and transport facilities, the NGO has grown, and has opened the doors of development for the people of the area.

The strength of Urmul's work lies in its innovative capacity-building programmes. Its long-term goal is 'To lead underprivileged sections of the villages, especially women and children, towards self reliance by providing them a package of developmental services, which they themselves decide on, design, implement and eventually finance that would enable them upgrade their quality of life.' To this end, it toils to strengthen village institutions and SHGs (self-help groups) for children, women, farmers and more. The idea is to enable the community to take ownership of every project, and make all decisions collectively at the grassroots level. Micro-finance schemes and loans further fortify self-reliance. Urmul promotes social entrepreneurship and encourages community-based groups to engage in advocacy for various issues. Urmul's website clearly states, 'We are now investing

on working with the government in planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes to ensure better delivery and reach.' At the heart of its work lies a belief in the participatory process and in collective action, and simple trust that the community is the best protagonist of change within itself.

If one speaks to Mayawati, who is from a poor family of six children, she elucidates how Urmul convinced her parents to allow her to study. She attended the Balika Shivar and eventually the coaching camp for the police constable exam. And now, she is a spokesperson for the NGO in her college. 'I know now that everybody is to be treated with equality, how discipline is to be maintained, how to apply certain rules in school and in my life, and how to speak confidently.' Mayawati has completed the basic teacher-training course, and is now preparing for the Rajasthan Administrative Services exams. It is indeed a long way for a girl from Bikaner district to come... and, the bridge she is walking on towards her gleaming future, was built by Urmul.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR HCL GRANT 2017

‘Scaling up the ongoing project Girls’ Empowerment through Education’

Although primary school admissions have increased in India, the dropout rates of girls in secondary school stand at almost 62 per cent.* The reason for this trend is rooted in patriarchal thinking about the importance of education for girls, and also due to poverty, or, the sheer distance girls often have to travel to attend school. There is also a lack of good women role models from these areas who can influence girls and motivate parents to continue girls’ schooling. Parents need to be made to understand the benefits of educating their girls to higher levels. For example, highlighting job opportunities for girls in the village itself, including becoming ASHA or Anganwadi workers, or even women teachers, which can encourage parents to educate their daughters. Urmul will ensure the sustainability of the project through supporting community-based models, which encourage and promote education for girls.

The proposed project focuses on secondary and graduation level education for girls from disadvantaged rural families/communities. They wish to scale up their programmes of residential and non-residential educational camps in the areas of:

- Preparing girls for competitive exams for government services like Police, BSTC, B.Ed., government teacher, bank clerk, local government services etc.
- Providing an opportunity to disadvantaged rural girls to pursue their higher education (10th, 12th and graduation level education)

Beneficiaries: Adolescent girls in rural areas Location: Bikaner, Rajasthan

*according to an ASER study, 2012



अनुमति के बिना आवासीय बालिका शिक्षण शिविर में प्रवेश वर्जित है।



*School makes us smile, school makes us smart,
and it makes our parents stronger, too*

Bodh Shiksha Samiti



Founded by Yogendra Bhushan and others in 1987

Vision To participate in the formation of an egalitarian, progressive, and enlightened society by contributing to the process of evolution of a system of equitable and quality education and development for all children.

Mission We believe that schools are community institutions and are embedded in that context. The goal of schools is not just limited to benefitting the students but the entire community. We believe that the entire community and teachers should rise in consciousness while engaging in theory and practice. So, the goal is to evolve a system of equitable quality care and education for each child.

SCHOOL IS BORING. And when you are part of the most deprived communities in the country, what passes off as education is a farce (that is, if you go to school at all).

However, it needn't be so. The happy, bright faces at any of the Bodhshalas set up by the Bodh Shiksha Samiti will emphatically prove this. Education is the birthright of every child, but holistic and enriching education is an imperative that often seems unachievable. Education that is child centric, co-operative, contextual, based on games and practical exercises, that considers art and sports as important as academics, and which is dispensed in a fear-free and joyful environment – such an education is possible. And more so if the community takes control of it.

Bodh Shiksha Samiti was started in 1987 with eight children under a tree in the Gokulpuri slum of Jaipur. Slowly, as the community began to trust the initiative, they donated land and labour, even mobilized funds for the school. Yogendra, one of the founders of Bodh states, 'We researched the international discourse on education. We worked towards making every child feel respected and loved, and on contextualizing the learning materials to the need and interest of the children. We challenged the traditional examination system and introduced ongoing assessments. We did have roadblocks: the community couldn't initially understand how 'play' can be a comprehensive method of teaching and why we believe that corporal punishments are bad.'



Who says school is boring?

The driving force was a strong belief that equitable, quality education with a progressive curriculum must reach every child of marginalized, or BPL groups. To this end, the Bodhshala became a resource school, which verified and validated what they call the common school model, with all its experimental theories and digital materials. Eventually, they reasoned, the community should be able to take over the reins, co-own and manage the school. One Bodhshala grew into several, and today, these schools are an epitome of what can be when intelligence is applied to learning.

Bodh's strategy is multi-pronged. Besides its own schools, it sets out to strengthen existing systems of teaching and learning in Rajasthan. Bodh offers technical support to the government for large-scale educational reform projects. It develops exciting methods and tools of teaching derived from games the children already play in which they encourage locally sourced materials. It trains teachers, community members, local, and other government officials in

Impacted over 2 million students and 80,000 teachers in Rajasthan.

Its best practices in improving education quality were adopted in all 60,000 government schools in Rajasthan and many in Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Jharkhand.

Its own schools and partnerships with the government have so far directly supported around 200,000 students to finish their elementary education and reached out to support more than 9.5 million students through system strengthening work.



A progressive curriculum, innovative materials

these methods to build 'intent' and capacity. It also shares ideas related to evolving curricula and materials, teacher training, research or advocacy. It works ceaselessly to influence policy, which is has in the case of the Right to Education Act.

It is a simple thought, really. It is a kind of education that doesn't merely empower a child well beyond her parents' wildest imaginings...it empowers the community as well. It brings about a shift in consciousness about the tremendous power of education for transforming the future of their children for social change, and for building an egalitarian India.

Bodh's holistic and child-based best practices have been adopted by several other schools and states. Bodh has also started Manas Ganga, residential senior secondary schools for girls. Dropout rates have dropped drastically in these areas. Based as they are on continuous dialogue, all of the schools impacted or started by Bodh report extensive community participation. Teaching and learning processes are validated by actual student and community experiences, and constantly modified to reflect ground realities and feedback.

Sushma is pursuing her BEd. and wants to be a chemistry teacher. She remembers a time when she had to fight her father to go to school. But, once entrenched in the Bodhshala, enjoying every minute of her school day, her potential shone and only a blind person could miss how brightly. She sat in a circle with her classmates, learning concepts from puzzles and songs. She was encouraged to ask questions, and was never told to shut up and sit down. Her school had no principal, only gentle, creative teachers from whom she imbibed her lessons beautifully. She grew up to be strong and to believe in herself, and to love learning. Reaffirming what Yogendra states: 'For us, success is the success of marginalized communities that celebrate learning and are engaged in a continuous process of their own betterment.'

Project Title: State initiative for quality education – supporting the state in effectively implementing the whole school transformation programme at scale by providing technical support at state and district levels **Beneficiary:** Teachers and students at government schools **Location:** Rajasthan



Opportunities and care for the forgotten and forsaken, hallmarks of a just society

Cohesion Foundation Trust



Cohesion: Noun; the action or fact of forming a united whole

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

Vision We see ourselves as an organization committed to striving for a world in which people and the natural environment are in harmony with each other, a world in which people, men and women, are in harmony with each other, a world in which all have enough to meet their genuine emotional and physical needs, and a world in which the diversity of humankind is celebrated.

Mission Cohesion, guided by transparency and accountability, is committed to sustainable socio-economic development of the vulnerable in under-served areas with special focus on women.

NO DEVELOPMENT WORK can carry on in isolation. Good ideas need planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, networking with government and other agencies and, most importantly, sustainability. They also need to address a gamut of issues, which radiate outwards from any single issue. For example, providing disaster relief alone is not enough. To ensure that the community will be able to survive the next flood or earthquake, their food security and livelihoods need to be strengthened, their overall health needs have to be addressed, drinking water has to be readily available for humans and livestock, insurance schemes have to be in place, and disaster mitigation funds have to be collected.

‘Most organizations were working on a theme (such as women empowerment, health, education) but missing other aspects, which result in holistic development when integrated. There were live examples when organizations working on Natural Resource Management had closed their eyes if violence against women or alcoholism were prevalent among the community for whom they worked. The idea of Cohesion was to address these aspects in a holistic manner,’ explains Team Cohesion.

True to its name, the bringing together of these many parts to make holistic development possible is what Cohesion Foundation does. Started in 1996



Learning without interruption for children of migrant communities

by a team of professionals from IIMA, IRMA, TISS and NIIT, each experienced in a different facet of development, Cohesion extended support to other organizations in 'project finance & management services; designing & maintenance of impact assessment and Management Information Systems; research, capacity building, democratization of development process & empowerment; advocacy works, etc.'

In 2001, it made a strategic shift into implementation of projects related to female empowerment and rural upliftment in certain states like Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, where they have had an immense impact, and it has been repeatedly awarded for the effort. It works mainly in the areas of 'natural resources, human resources and management, focusing on disadvantaged sections from caste, gender and class perspectives.' Efficiency and commitment to development, as well as sound processes were its hallmarks, and so it created strong linkages with government, civil society, and corporate bodies.

Cohesion Foundation has certain objectives. It

helps communities in a manner that integrates every aspect of development, from water and agriculture, to education, health and habitat. It aids other organizations to find the right personnel for projects. It develops and implements participatory approaches in the gender and poverty spaces. It works with research and its application in urban/rural development. It is involved with disaster relief and assistance. And it

Facilitated 264 women self-help groups covering 4,109 women.

The Learning and Migration Programme (LAMP), supported by Tata Chemicals and AIF, set in the remote desert of Kutch started in 3 villages has now scaled up to 6 partner NGOs from 7 districts in around 439 migration prone villages of 9 blocks, covering access to education for about 50,000 children.



Self-help groups are my strongest supports

trains people, and organizes workshops and seminars to further the knowledge and skills needed for holistic and participatory development methodologies.

With a community-focused and bottom-up approach, Cohesion evolves practical, grassroots level solutions for mainstreaming gender, supporting livelihoods, decentralizing resources, and helping extremely vulnerable communities. For example, organizing women farmers in the remote, tribal areas of Gujarat, or ensuring means of education for the children of salt pan workers in Kutch, Cohesion enables these peoples to form their own institutions to access government schemes and other rights, enhance their livelihoods and education and help build their capacity. And it ensures that every project is sustainable. Its goal is to address economic, social and political poverty so that the solutions can be holistic. In the words of Team Cohesion, "The organization has local teams for implementation, which enhances traditional knowledge and makes it easier for interaction with the community. The readiness of

organization to go to the most deprived location is also its uniqueness.'

Cohesion's biggest strengths are its networks and partnerships at national, state and community levels. From UNICEF to the Indian government, from universities and SHGs to Panchayats, it has linked together, worked with, facilitated and aided in the processes of development, in its unceasing efforts to create sustainable development and social justice.

So Team Cohesion's words thus ring true when it describes itself, 'Cohesion is an organization of common people with uncommon determination.'

Project Title: Mainstreaming tribal population in Chhattisgarh for inclusive development through 'Education for a Better Tomorrow' **Beneficiary:** Students, schools **Location:** Chhattisgarh



Inspired learning models for excellence

Learning Links Foundation



WE LIVE IN A WIRED WORLD. Constantly evolving; fast paced; exciting, yet frenetic. To navigate this world, we need to learn a whole new set of skills, develop alternate mind-sets and intuit where to access relevant information. But, in India, this level of learning is not available to everyone. The inequities of our education ecosystem are only matched by its lack of quality and efficacy.

Enter Learning Links Foundation (LLF), a not-for-profit trust, built on the deeply ingrained belief that every child has a right to quality education. Started by Dr Anjee Prakash, a dedicated educator, LLF's endeavour is to incubate talent and 21st century skills in a balanced and non-discriminatory way. 'Learning Links Foundation aims to improve systems so that more people are able to create the futures they envision for themselves, their communities and societies.' And so, it strives – besides raising the standards of education, both formal and non-formal – to foster citizenship amongst the youth, and support sustainable social innovation and entrepreneurship.

LLF's beginnings lay in the area of building educators' capacities. However, time and experience revealed that to achieve a sustained transformation, it would have to engage with each level of the education value chain. This entailed capacity building for education departments of state governments, school leaders and educators, as well as skill-building and economic self-sufficiency for empowering the youth. It involved technology-integrated education,

Founded by Dr. Anjee Prakash in 2002

Vision To foster a bright future where education is optimally delivered and learning is truly inspired.

Aim To achieve excellence in education by creating a learning environment, which allows for diversity, creativity, and builds an ability to shape the learner's future.



Education that lifts, enriches, equalizes, and brings joy

to help improve digital fluency, critical thinking and collaborative skills among youth who have little or no access to technology, and encourage them to solve community issues through the use of technology. And it necessitated advisory services to influence education policy, research and reforms.

Since 2012, the organization has shifted its focus to an all-inclusive, scaled-up model of impacting stakeholders. It has a holistic methodology: alignment, strengthening, and sustainability. An ISO 9001:2008 certification makes its functioning even more sound. To make itself completely future-ready, LLF has an eclectic talent pool of educationists, former teachers and principals, and people with experience in project management and advisory support who develop path-breaking solutions, create new operational models, study potential impact, and reveal new possibilities for their partners. Says Agnes Nathan, Principal Partner at LLF, ‘This is why Learning Links Foundation is able to offer solutions spanning a wide spectrum of interventions such as whole school transformation,

assessment based reforms, STEM education, digital citizenship, entrepreneurship development and skill building, and integrating ICT in education.’

For example, government schools in Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat have benefitted from LLF’s assessment-based reforms. Teachers are mentored and government officers are engaged to strengthen

Provided opportunities for professional development to over 1,300,000 teachers, across 35,000 schools and 4,200 colleges of education in 19 states.

Almost 170,000 community children and youth across 25 states and 5 Union Territories given a chance to work on technology-driven socially relevant projects.

Empaneled with the Department of Science and Technology and engage in programmes that have impacted more than 30,000 girl children



Building blocks for a vibrant tomorrow

classroom assessments. Learning materials to help plug gaps in knowledge are provided. And an education MIS has been introduced to measure learning levels.

Besides, LLF has a diverse spectrum of partners and stakeholders. It partners with the ecosystem by supporting and strengthening its existing frameworks. It collaborates with government agencies, including the state education departments, SCERTs and NCERT, and the Department of Science and Technology, as well as multilateral funding agencies such as UNICEF and OECD.

Most importantly, LLF is linked with communities: students, youth, parents and grassroot organizations. Unbiased initiatives seek to reach the poor, disadvantaged or isolated. Like the one that promotes entrepreneurship and scientific temperament among girls; or their community development programmes that use ‘shared infrastructure’ where youth from the community can use school infrastructure like computers and playgrounds after school hours. Programmes themselves are executed

by resources culled from the local community, which gives a sense of ownership and promotes sustainability.

One of LLF’s most impactful efforts is the Gyan Shakti Programme. These schools, which educate socially and economically backward children, are undergoing whole-school transformation. Says Usha Bhaskar, the Programme Manager for Gyan Shakti, ‘This programme has helped some intervention schools to be declared model schools by the government, instilled a sense of pride in students, parents and teachers... increased participation of students in national and international events, increased school admissions and reduced absenteeism.’

Inspired by the *guru-shishya parampara* of education that includes holistic well-being, Dr Prakash and her excellent team are absolutely driven by the positive change they see when a child experiences ‘true learning’.

Project Title: Evidence inspired Teaching (EiT)
Beneficiary: Students and teachers **Location:** Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu



We paint endless possibilities, fulfilled dreams, and a realization of self

Pardada Pardadi Education Society (PPES)



Founded by Virender Sam Singh in 2000

Vision To eradicate female discrimination and provide gender equality. This will allow women to have an equal share in the continual growth of their country.

Mission To provide an education that will allow women to become economically dependent and socially enlightened which, in turn, will create a society in which all children will have an opportunity to grow to their fullest potential.

WHEN RITA AND HER three sisters left their dilapidated shack everyday to go to the Pardada Pardadi School, little did they know that in a few years Rita would be traveling to the US to study and represent the organization. Little did they imagine that one day they would, together, make a beautiful, *pucca* house for their mother and themselves to live in, in that very village where they had been forced to subsist on the fringes of society. Such change does not come easy. It takes years of struggle against horrific patriarchal attitudes. It takes the courage of mothers, who against all odds send their girls to school because they believe in a better life for them. It takes courage, yes, but also education, employment, and self-awareness on the part of the girls. But when change comes, it impacts not just that particular girl, it ripples through her community.

PPES is an organization that creates an enabling environment for such changes in the Anupshahr district of UP. Started by Virender Sam Singh, retired head of DuPont South Asia, its foundation rests upon the idea that to change India, women must be empowered as women leaders are strongest agents of change. Just like great-grandparents (*pardada* and *pardadi*) teach their children on their knee with affection and commitment, girls must be taught social and economic empowerment from early childhood

Pardada Pardadi Educational Society also qualified as finalist last year (2016)



Starting an exciting new journey of empowerment... who knows where we can reach?

in order to break the cycle of poverty and abuse, and bring about inter-generational transformation.

The organization does its exemplary work through four verticals: value-based education at its school; economic empowerment through vocational training and skill building in areas like small-scale manufacture and sale of sanitary pads, a call centre, tailoring, and *agarbatti* making; community development involving the girls and their mothers through self-help groups (SHGs), dairy best practices, insurance schemes, etc; and comprehensive training in matters of health and hygiene, including sexual health, and installing toilets and solar lights. And underlying every initiative is the focus on self-esteem and inner growth for the girls, which comes through lessons in leadership, ethics, health, and citizenship.

'When we started we had a narrow vision: that education and employment are enough. But 16 years later we know better. The change has to be multi-

Has created an enabling environment for education and rural development for 1,400 students from 62 villages and 4,000 female members of self-help groups spanning 73 villages.

Over a period of 16 years has put 3,000 girls through its educational system

A PPES graduate earns an average of ₹ 15,000 per month, 5 times that of an average woman in the same area.

Has socially empowered the girls and women in Anupshahr such that the average age of women at the time of marriage has risen from 14-16 years to 19-24 years.



Livelihoods prosper, our lives and our daughters' paths transform

layered, and it is the people, who have the solutions. We are just enablers,' says Renuka Gupta, CEO. Starting out, the organization managed to get 45 girls to come to school. This was mainly because of the incentives offered: besides education the girls get three meals a day, books and school supplies, two sets of uniforms each year, a bicycle after 6th grade, healthcare, and money for every day of school they attend. To the dismay of the teachers, they found that most of the girls took the books, money and cycles, and then stopped coming to school. It was an unexpected windfall for the parents, who had no foresight.

But slowly, the organization began to make some inroads into the patriarchal hinterland of Anupshahr. Renuka remembers with pride, 'Seven years ago, some of the girls who already had some exposure asked me – why do you want us to learn stitching and all that? I asked them, what do you want to do? I was stunned by their answers. They wanted to learn to be health professionals, IT professionals, engineers...' So, PPES sent girls out to acquire technical training after facing the task of convincing their parents. Now, of the 1,400 girls in school, whenever there is an opportunity to

go out, hundreds jump at it. The girls have studied computers, IT, fashion, hospitality, become nurses and yoga instructors. 'And it is not just professional training but grooming, becoming a responsible citizen, even adding a fun element into their lives,' explains Renuka. 'If I could, I would have two schools like ours in each district of India. 3,000 girls in each district! Imagine what they could do!'

These are the girls and women who are the change-makers in their communities. Because they are financially independent and they are socially respected. Because they question age-old practices, the age of marriage has increased. They know themselves and take their own decisions, they choose the boys they want to marry. They know about family planning; they influence how money is spent in homes. They campaign against abuse and gender discrimination and alter their parents' mindsets. And they will pass on their ideas and beliefs to their children. That's true sustainability.

Project Title: Education towards a gender empowered society **Beneficiary:** Girls and women **Location:** Western Uttar Pradesh



Our collective vision is one of thriving in a just society

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)



THE TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES needs very little introduction to anyone who is aware of the field of human development and social policy in India. Any student who wishes to acquire the best education in social work, development and management, aspires to study at this prestigious institute. What many don't realize is that its manifesto extends to research, assessing and helping implement policy around social welfare, and field action projects in the most crucial areas of the development sector like health, water, livelihoods, education, and so much more.

Started in 1936, the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work became a deemed university as TISS under the Government of India in 1964. During this time, it has been lauded as one of the finest educational institutions in the country with the most incisive curriculum. The end result? Finely trained professionals, who can implement the social sector programmes of the government in an exhaustive way.

TISS outreach training benefits thousands of people from marginalized groups all over India. Says Tanmay Nayak, Director, National University Students' Skill Development (NUSSD) Programme, 'The blend of academic knowledge and practice skills enables us to design scores of annual training and capacity-building programmes for government, industry, and non-government welfare and development professionals. Simultaneously, grassroots personnel are trained in skills such as financial and digital literacy, participatory programme planning, evaluation and management.' One of its responses to the changing times was the NUSSD Programme in

Founded by JRD Tata in 1936.

Vision To be an institution of excellence in higher education that continually responds to changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge, towards creating a people-centred, ecologically sustainable and just society that promotes and protects dignity, equality, social justice, and human rights for all.



Acquiring the art of employability and civic responsibility

collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2013. According to one survey, despite the millions of students graduating from colleges every year in India, only 19 per cent engineering graduates are employable and only 5 per cent graduates from other streams are fit for employment. ‘The Institute believes that the current framework that differentiates education (offered by schools and Universities) and vocational skills (offered outside the school and University system) is not serving a large majority of the people, and those who receive education from the formal system are not skilled enough to gain productive employment,’ explains Tanmay.

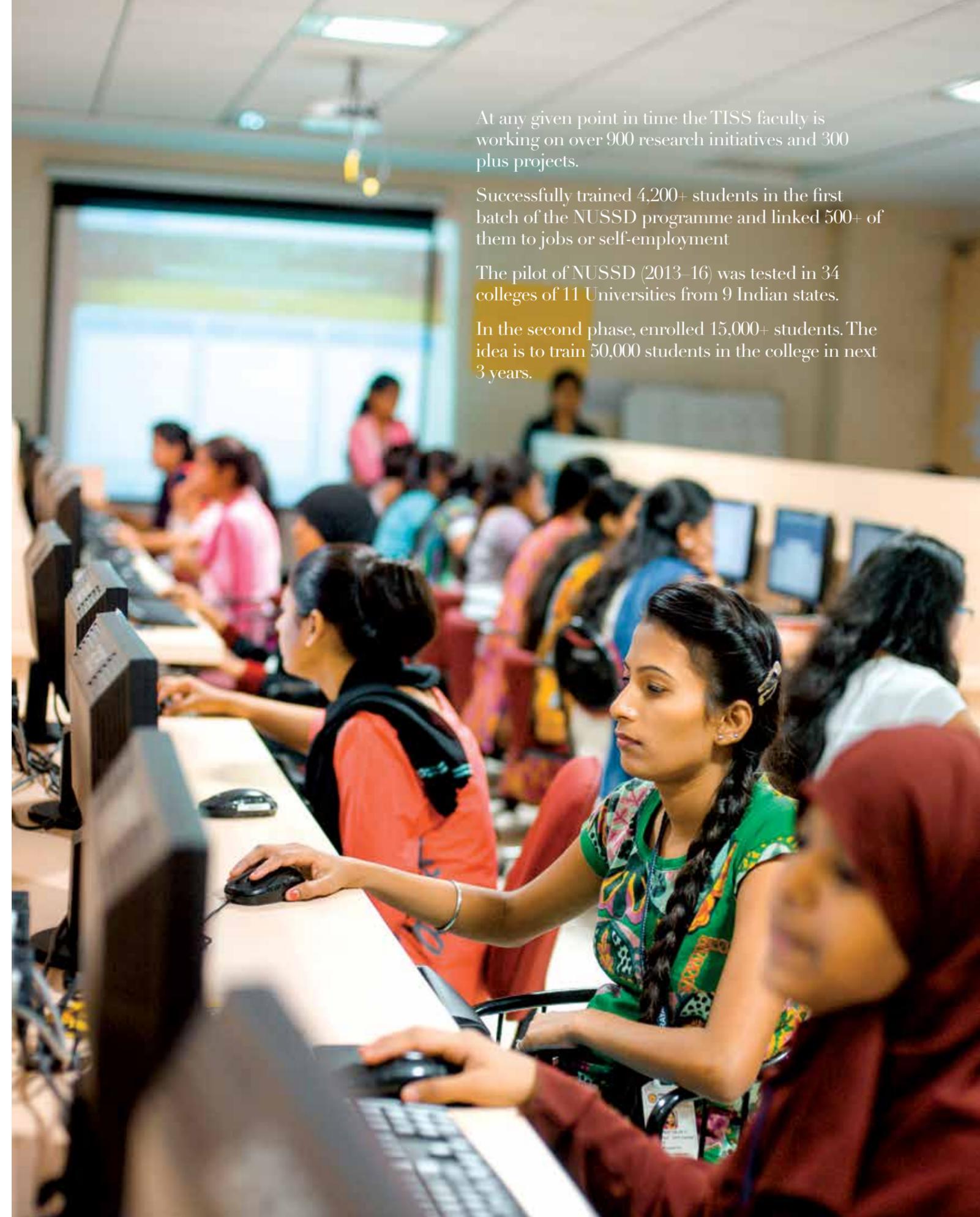
Thus, the thrust of the NUSSD project is to train college students from disadvantaged backgrounds (often the first learners in their families) in employment-oriented skills through 1500 hours of especially created material that is enriching and stimulating. The methodologies used are Activity Based Learning and Participatory Methodology, and students are evaluated through the process of Continuous Assessment. Students are trained over three years concurrent to their normal college period. The foundation courses teach English, computers, leadership, legal, and financial literacy, working with

communities, etc., following which, they are allowed to choose a domain course. For example, a BA History student could acquire a Diploma in Tourism. Most pertinently, there is a component of practical work experience. Students undertake internships and community development projects, which ‘inculcate students with values of civic responsibility and teaching them to work together effectively in complex environments to find practical solutions to some of India’s most pressing social issues,’ elaborates Tanmay.

One of the most remarkable things about NUSSD is the multiple stakeholder involvement. The Government of India has partnered with TISS on the pilot of the programme, which began in 2013. Several universities and colleges came on board thereafter. In its second phase, the programme will work with corporates and state governments. In 2015, the UN Steering Committee on Children and Youth proclaimed the NUSSD programme among the ‘best skill development practices’ in the country.

Project Title: National University Students’ Skill Development (NUSSD) Programme

Beneficiary: Students **Location:** Open to work anywhere in India



At any given point in time the TISS faculty is working on over 900 research initiatives and 300 plus projects.

Successfully trained 4,200+ students in the first batch of the NUSSD programme and linked 500+ of them to jobs or self-employment

The pilot of NUSSD (2013–16) was tested in 34 colleges of 11 Universities from 9 Indian states.

In the second phase, enrolled 15,000+ students. The idea is to train 50,000 students in the college in next 3 years.



Enlivening the community with quality healthcare

The American India Foundation (AIF)



Founded by business leaders from the Indian community in 2001.

Vision To contribute to building an India where all people can gain access to affordable education, health care and livelihood opportunities, and where all Indians can realize their full potential.

To engage, inform, and inspire those passionate about India by building a trusted bridge and secure channel for philanthropic funding from the United States and other regions across the world, and its effective investment in the most innovative and scalable projects in India.

To uphold principles of secularism, transparency, and accountability in all of our activities.

Mission The mission of AIF is to eliminate poverty and catalyze social and economic change in India.

WHEN THE TWO LARGEST democracies in the world join hands to tackle developmental issues, the impact can only be tremendous. The American India Foundation brings together NGOs, American Indians, philanthropists, corporates, young Americans and a host of beneficiaries, to ‘contribute to building an India where all people can gain access to affordable education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities, and where all Indians can realize their full potential.’

Born of a conversation between AB Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India and Bill Clinton, former President of the United States, AIF’s first initiative was to formulate an inclusive plan for reconstruction in the aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, for which it raised money from friends, family and social contacts. Thereafter, guided by humanitarian values, AIF began to work in its identified core areas: education, health and livelihoods, as well as in leadership development, with special focus on girls and women in its high-impact interventions. Perceiving that the work ahead was of complex and huge proportions, AIF’s programmes – in 23 states of India – are built on multi-stakeholder partnerships. As its objectives state, ‘Working closely with local communities, AIF partners with NGOs to develop and test innovative solutions, and with governments to create and scale sustainable impact.’

In education, AIF’s signature project is the Learning and Migration Programme (LAMP), which





My little one and me are flourishing thanks to our Sahiya (health worker)

targets children of migrant workers whose education suffers due to their parents' itinerant lives. LAMP works with school management committees to offer these children safe seasonal hostels to stay in and access to a continuous education. It also conducts community-based advocacy around the Right to Education Act. AIF's other educational program, Digital Equalizer, aims to bridge the digital divide by introducing technology into government schools, and builds capacity among teachers to strengthen and support the learnings.

MANSI (Maternal and New-born Survival Initiative), a public-private partnership model, seeks to improve local health systems and empower communities to care for their own within the resources available. Over the years, it has demonstrated tremendous success in reducing maternal and child mortality through home-based care given by the Sahiya (community health worker) in Saraikela Kharsawan district of Jharkhand, a geography where

the need is acute, and is now being scaled up in other states of India.

AIF's programmes in livelihoods reflect the needs of society, the country's economy and the environment. MAST (Market Aligned Skills Training) gives unemployed young people employability skills and helps them procure entry-level jobs. This was one of the first skills development projects in India. The ABLE (Ability Based Livelihood Empowerment) program trains persons with disabilities in fundamental and specialized skill-sets, and facilitates their entry into the job market through a robust advocacy platform for disability inclusion, promoting inclusive growth in India. Rickshaw Sangh mobilizes rickshaw pullers to access social benefits and loans, so that they can buy

Impacted the lives of 3.1 million of India's poor through programmes in education, livelihoods and public health.



Curiosity is the font of creativity

their vehicles, thus transforming them into vehicle owners and protecting them from the cycle of debt.

The William J Clinton Fellowship Program for Service in India 'builds the next generation of leaders committed to lasting change for underprivileged communities across India, while at the same time strengthening the civil sector landscape to be more efficient and effective.'

A wholly inclusive and innovative set of solutions makes AIF stand out in its field. Its 'venture philanthropy' approach is to identify and seed unique models and need-based programming, which is then scaled up using linkages through networks with governments or other collaborators. Nishant Pandey, Country Director AIF, explains, 'In order to meet India's long-term development challenges, we have realized the need to be responsive, open, and adaptable to rapidly changing needs on the ground and listen closely to the voices that often go unheard. And, even though our solutions are intended to create large-scale

change across the country, they begin and end with real people.'

Project Title: Digital Equalizer Program
Beneficiary: Teachers and students
Location: Odisha



*If we act together, as one powerful force,
we can climb higher... and higher*

The Concerned for Working Children (CWC)



Founded by Nandana Reddy in 1977

Vision A sustainable and ecologically balanced world where all children are respected citizens and abled protagonists, who realize, experience and practice all their rights through their participation in equitable partnership with adults to establish and maintain together a secular, equitable, just, non-discriminatory world.

Approach We believe not just in listening to children, but in empowering children to identify their own problems and construct their own solutions, and in enabling adults to partner with them.

‘**NO! WE WILL NOT** let you do this!’ said the young boy, firmly. Saying this he took the little girl’s hand, and surrounded by a group of children, they stalked out of the wedding *mandap*, leaving the parents, the priest and the guests open-mouthed in shock.*

This is not a scene from a primetime mega-TV serial.

It is a representation of a section of children in Karnataka who have been empowered to find their own solutions to the problems afflicting them and their communities. Stopping child marriages is just one of the actions these children partake in. They participate in local government. They raise their voices against injustice. They organize themselves into unions to demand their rights: education, freedom from fear and exploitation, and a safe environment.

The Concerned for Working Children, or CWC, is the organization behind this movement to make children agents of change and democracy. Says Kavita Ratna, Director for Advocacy CWC, ‘Children having an agency, an opinion, was missing in all areas of engagement with children. We began working very deeply with their own understanding of their reality, by giving them control over that reality.’

CWC’s initial work was mainly in the area of child labour, but its take on the issue, informed by intense field work, was much more nuanced than the established norm. Instead of banning all children’s

**fictional reconstruction, not based on any one real life event*



Skills for navigating our rights as well as our duties

work and penalizing children and their parents, CWC believes that certain kinds of work are good for children (just like children in western countries are encouraged to take on part-time jobs). ‘The right kinds of work can be not just safe for children, but actively beneficial to children’s growth and learning. A combination of such work with education offers the best basis for many children to develop skills, experience and confidence,’ explains their website.

But CWC’s definition of child labour is clear: it includes any work that is exploitative and affects the growth and development of children, and it is opposed to all such work.

What CWC seeks to strike at then are the root causes of child labour: poverty, marginalization, migration to cities due to environmental degradation of rural areas, and more. CWC targets children’s issues by starting extension schools for education and vocational training. And those who want to stop working can join

their school, Namma Nalanda Vidya Peeta where they can stay and acquire a well-rounded education.

Core to its working is the praxis method. Every learning on the ground at CWC (and there are many each day) is converted into advocacy programmes, influencing and challenging policy and law on children’s rights at national and international levels. India’s first report on child labour, the 1978 Gurupadaswamy Report, came into being because of a question raised in the parliament by the founder of CWC, Nandana Reddy. Since then, CWC has been involved with drafting the Child Labour (Prohibition

Touched the lives of more than 250,000 children and adults in the past five years.

Nominated for the Nobel Peace prize three times, in 2012, 2013 & 2014.



Let us study, let us play: and through those, we will find our way

and Regulation) Act, 1986 – India’s main law relating to the subject. Its members have been part of the NCERT council and the National Curriculum Framework. It also functions as a consultant to several international agencies and the UN.

And, it trains children in advocacy and information management. Who better than the children themselves are equipped to find the best solutions for the problems they face? It impacts the whole community when children research and analyze the effects of alcohol shops in the village; or counter abuse at different levels within the community; or simply map the path to the pond in their village, suggesting which bits need fencing so that they don’t slip and fall in on their way to school.

Working with children holistically, CWC is steeped in the amelioration of marginalized communities of adults like migrant labour, craftspeople and artisans. Strengthening political

decentralization in policy and on the ground in Karnataka, getting the governments closer to women and children is an integral part of its work.

Partnering with children, with communities, with global movements of reform, and with the Indian government allows CWC a holistic, multi-pronged way of working. Every small victory is celebrated, which is important in a scenario which is statistically and in actuality so dismal. For their endeavours, CWC has been nominated for the Nobel Peace prize three times. That’s not surprising, for their vision is unique, their approach innovative, and their commitment, tenacious.

Project Title: Democratic education as an empowering tool to bring socio-economic transformation **Beneficiary:** Children, Community Members & Parents, Teachers, educationists and government officials **Location:** Karnataka



Let me teach how it's done



Going to School



Founded by Lisa Heydlauff in 2003

BIJALI, A VILLAGE GIRL brought the carnival to her tiny village against all odds. Maya heroically saved her village from a storm. On another occasion, she re-installed their electricity! Such stories of bravery and ingenuity are the meat of an unconventional teaching methodology invented by the NGO Going To School (GTS). With design as the propellant, GTS creates graphic novels, apps, films, and games, using the magical power of storytelling to spark learning in children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Learning that does more than offer them better chances of employment – it opens up brand new worlds for the children. Worlds in which children just like themselves (Maya and Bijali, for instance), are the intrepid heroes of vividly illustrated tales, leaping out from poverty to start sustainable and socially relevant businesses. Transforming their lives and those of their communities. Transmitting the message that ‘Everything you ever needed to change the world is inside of you.’

Concerned about high dropout rates in secondary schools in India, especially of girls, Lisa Heydlauff started GTS in 2003. ‘What came first was the idea that a children’s story could change the way children see their lives and education. I chose children’s stories because it’s stories that make you believe in possibility, sometimes so strongly that you dare to change your life.’ This book was called *Going to School in India*, and from that beginning, a difficult but rewarding journey began.

A journey to engage children, enough to convince them and their parents that they should stay in school, that school could be fun, and to teach them real world skills that would bridge the gap between the education they receive and what they actually need for employment.

The stories GTS creates are born out of intensive research, portraying what the children would like to see or change in their lives: the content is thus co-created with the children. ‘Our vision and use of colour, texture, light, design, art, to create children’s stories was in response to existing educational texts and textbooks that were largely black and white and did not use art to convey meaning,’ explains Heydlauff. According to the proposal submitted for the HCL Grant, GTS ‘uses a Human Centered Design approach, which in turn is reflected in each “skills” story. The experience of reading the story and completing the skills action project in their community gives kids the experience of being change-makers, leaders, problem-solvers, and entrepreneurs where they live.’ The ‘skills’ include entrepreneurial, cognitive and socio-emotional skills, besides literacy, critical thinking, empathy, integrity, and risk-taking. They also include actual workplace skills like communication, teamwork, financial management, making business plans, and more. For example, mapping rural markets offers children a comprehensive and practical understanding of logistics, pricing and trade. Children build newsrooms from junk and then learn how to report stories, use cameras, and broadcast news.



Let us study, let us play: and through those, we will find our way



Innovative materials that make learning magical



Lisa Heydlauff receiving the HCL Grant award, 2016

Armed with an MoU with the Department of Education, government of Bihar to work in 3000+ government schools valid till 2018, GTS has reached thousands of kids through their Be! Schools programme, which received the HCL Grant in 2015. The Bihar state government has mandated that government schools run the GTS class every Saturday for two hours. In the past, their mini-

Works in 3,000 government secondary, primary and KGBV schools across Bihar and Jharkhand reaching 500,000 kids.

Be! Schools programme implemented in 1,425 schools, impacting 150,000 children [50% girls] spread across Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Its movies, 'Girl Stars, Going to School in India' have been seen by over 65 million children.

Its original content incorporated in NCERT curriculum and read by 10 million children every year.

movies for television on *Pogo* and *National Geographic* have swollen their reach exponentially. And, they have published over a million children's books and games. Going beyond working with students, GTS has initiatives which train teachers to form better learning environments, and also works with district-level education officers to understand the importance of such environments and support them. The government of Bihar uses GTS's teacher training methods, and NCERT has incorporated their stories in their syllabus.

Such an excellent record deserves accolades, and GTS has received them in spades. From the *Wall Street Journal* to *Google*, from *CNBC* to *Citibank*, they have been awarded for their innovative and creative content and initiatives, which are easily scalable, their dedicated and talented team, and their long term vision to incorporate entrepreneurial skill learning in national and state level government school curricula. Says Heydlauff, 'Our definition of success is if children read our stories and are inspired, know they can be who they want to be in the world and grow up to change the world around them driven by empathy, 21st century skills and a fierce sense of fair play.'



Bachpan Bachao Andolan

(Association for Voluntary Action)



Founded by Kailash Satyarthi in 1980

INSTEAD OF KAILASH SATYARTHI'S ideal world for children, we have a very different one. Children can be seen working everywhere: slogging in our homes, begging on the streets, working in the fields, holed up in airless factories making firecrackers, or toiling under the blazing sun in quarries. Yet, till very recently, child labour was an issue ignored by governments, society, and even the media.

One organization did not take this situation lightly. Bachpan Bachao Andolan, registered as the Association for Voluntary Action, has been a flag bearer for child rights since 1980. The world has recognized its contribution: its founder, Kailash Satyarthi won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his exemplary work in the field, including rescuing over 83,000 children from fates worse than death.

BBA's methods are innovative and often unconventional. They include rescues and raids in collaboration with enforcement agencies, 5,000 km-long marches across the country, theatre and travelling circus acts, or filing PILs. Through its campaigns, the organization has effected tremendous change in the area of child rights violations, including influencing policies and their implementation for protecting children. Some of its campaigns have led to enactments of statutes like the Right to Education Act, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and global policies like the ILO Convention 182 on child labour.

BBA's methodology is a holistic one, going from investigation and rescue to rehabilitation and

mainstreaming of rescued children. Boys are placed in a short term home called Mukti Ashram where they receive medical help, food, clothing and essentials. They are also counselled in unusual, often fun ways so that they develop trust in their environment again, and then, they are reunited with their parents. For children who have no homes to go back to, BBA has started a long-term facility, Bal Ashram. Here, children receive formal and non-formal education and later, skills training so that they can find employment. The All India Legal Aid Cell on Child Rights set up with government legal services agencies provides legal representation to survivors and legal advice and support to families, and has helped to set case law precedent in cases of child rights, trafficking and abuse of children. Research and knowledge management forms a critical pillar of Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

In an effort to aid in prevention of child labour, BBA has created a unique model, *Bal Mitra Gram*. This initiative mobilizes and empowers the whole village to advocate against child labour and for education, gender equality, village infrastructure, and more. The local community and the Bal Panchayat members have been instrumental in tackling challenges like errant teachers in school, exposing erroneous policies in mid-day meal schemes, and raising their voices for a separate lavatory for girls. Their contribution to improving systems from within, which directly impacts enrollment and retention of children in schools, is commendable. BBA strives relentlessly to make a just and equitable world for children. One where our society's soul can be revealed as compassionate.

'I dream of a world which is free of child labour, a world in which every child goes to school. A world in which every child gets his rights.' — Kailash Satyarthi



Bringing light to our communities through education and solar power

Barefoot College



Founded by Sanjit Bunker Roy in 1972

IMAGINE A COLLEGE where people with degrees are not allowed. Picture a learning space where the poorest person is held up as the richest in knowledge. Visualize a school where every subject is taught using practical examples from the children's own lives and the life of their community. Barefoot College is all of these, and so much more, with a presence in India and 81 other countries of the world.

Marie is an illiterate and poor grandmother from Sierra Leone, who, along with housewives from Ladakh, shy young girls from Afghanistan, and their rural Indian counterparts, has travelled all the way from her home to Barefoot College. Here, she has learned how to fabricate and maintain solar home lighting systems so that her village can access energy, her children can study longer, and enterprise can develop. Here, dentistry and basic medicine are taught to people who cannot even write their own names, by teachers who are sometimes themselves semi-literate. Sanitation, nutrition, and healthcare are part of the lesson plan for villagers who come here to learn skills to ensure a better quality of life for their own communities.

Besides demystifying technology, the Barefoot College uses the sustainable practices and methods already in the collective knowledge pool of the rural dweller – village wisdom, as it were – as a primary resource. Rainwater harvesting for drinking and

sanitation using traditional methods and learning to live without fossil fuels are part of the curriculum. Students build homes that can withstand local calamities, with the experience passed down through generations. As Sanjit 'Bunker' Roy, the founder of Barefoot college says, it is a place '...where the teacher is the learner and the learner is the teacher.'

In 1972, a young Roy decided move to Tilonia village in Rajasthan, giving up lucrative job prospects. Thus began a remarkable journey where illiterate people have become engineers and doctors, migration to cities has reduced, and rural crafts have been revived. Where women are the main drivers of change. Where children with no access to education are given digital learning in night classes powered by solar lamps. Where democracy is built into the syllabus.

The Barefoot College runs *balwadis* or crèches. Bridge Schools have been formed for children who have no access to educational opportunities and they impart knowledge in a unique way, by redesigning curriculums that are place-based, issue-based and develop strong civil society skills. On completion of the 5-year programme, children join mainstream education with maximum success.

The Barefoot College is driven by the notion that impoverished rural people often living on less than \$1 a day can find their own ways forward. And, that this sort of development is far more effective and sustainable than a top down infusion of information by outside experts.



Bountiful harvests and livelihood learnings that sustain the earth

Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP)



Founded by Sunil Khairnar in 2001

PRAVEEN SITS GLUED to his radio. Outside, dusk brings the cows from their grazing, and his family from their fields. His father frowns to see Praveen at the radio instead of studying. But what his son says next surprises and delights him. The government of Madhya Pradesh has launched a scheme that will benefit small farmers by offering seeds at a much lower cost. Praveen informs his father about where to apply for the scheme and what the last date is. 'But how did you know about this, my son?' asks his father. 'I heard it on 90.4 FM, Kisan Vani, *babuji!*'

The community radio channel is just one of the unique initiatives of the Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP). Since its inception, it has been innovating ways to communicate with and improve the lives of thousands of small farmers and rural citizens across India. Its disseminators of information have ranged from postcards to telephones, to call centres and radio, and now mobile phones and the internet. The spread of crucial knowledge happens through interesting projects like the very popular Kisan Call Centre and the e-krishaksahayogi (an app for farmers that uses animation videos). Real time interactions with experts through live conferencing and live auctioning of vegetables in *mandis* go a long way in bringing communities together and enhancing their knowledge bases.

ISAP also focuses on livelihood development in non-farming rural professions. Village interventions

include women's empowerment through SHGs (self-help groups), micro-enterprise creation, trainings and the promotion of environmentally sound methods. And to make all the above possible, ISAP acts as a two-way bridge between rural communities and experts, governments and other stakeholder organizations. Besides ICT related activities, ISAP also helps negotiate stronger positions for agricultural producers, facilitating market linkages, spread of information, and access to government schemes by bringing them together in groups at the village, district and national levels.

But it doesn't stop there. The impact of ISAP's training programmes has been immense. Take Bhakti, from a poor family, who decided to enroll for the ISAP training course in sales and marketing and is now working in a luxury mall in Goa. Or Deepanjali, daughter of a single parent, who completed the ISAP training for Bed Side Patient Assistant, and who now, works in a hospital in Secunderabad at a good salary. These girls would have had a very different future without ISAP.

Training of rural youth in agri-businesses, capacity building, and the popular entrepreneurship courses for agriculture graduates called ACABC, are other tools deployed to accomplish ISAP's remarkable work. Dr Bablu Sundi from Ranchi, who started an agro-veterinary centre; Sajid Husain, from Baramulla in J&K, who began a poultry rearing business; Navreet Kaur, who stormed an all-male bastion in her village in Punjab to become a successful farmer – all of them have the pride of being owners of their own successful businesses.



Working as a community, we can transform our world

Prayatn Sanstha



Founded by Malay Kumar in 1992

VETERANS OF THE DEVELOPMENT field know that true sustainability is ephemeral... unless beneficiaries of development are seen as resources. If empowered, they can break out of the cycle of deprivation or injustice they are caught in. Like Premwati, an illiterate 55-year-old rural housewife, who with training and encouragement, rose to become a member of the panchayat in her ward and continuously improves the lives of the women in her community. This is the philosophy upon which Prayatn Sanstha is built: helping people help themselves.

Since 1992, Prayatn Sanstha has made powerful interventions in Rajasthan, UP, and Madhya Pradesh. In education, it strives to reduce dropouts, especially for the girl child, and improve the quality of learning. It has engineered reproductive and child health, HIV/AIDS and community health initiatives. It has created a home for children (including leprosy patients) in Varanasi. It works on gender equality and social justice including pathbreaking programmes based on female foeticide, child marriage, domestic violence and more, including the highly successful Chahat Hai Jine Ki programme. Its agendas include employability and skill development and it confronts issues dealing with climate change and natural resource management. 'Prayatn visualizes a just society wherein everyone has equal opportunity to grow, and is aware of and capable

to critically analyze their own situation, and in this process realizing their potentials, equality and equity, freedom, dignity and human rights.'

Prayatn Sanstha's model of development has been arrived at after years of experimenting with community level action; teaching communities how to create their own mechanisms of programme planning, implementation and evaluation to deal with village issues. Its success can be measured through individual triumphs. Like Ratiram and Shrimati's daughter Deepa, who wants to be a police officer. Once a dropout, who was kept home by parents in penury to help with household chores, she is now their pride and joy. Interventions by Prayatn made her education and her family's prosperity possible at the same time.

Its model is easily replicable and has been used by other agencies in India and abroad. A child labour eradication programme led to over a 100 children leaving work to join school. Its work has influenced government policy: the campaign against sex-selective abortions in Dhaulpur, Rajasthan led to a State cell being formed and even the suspension of doctors. (Dhaulpur is now a model village where the sex-ratio is increasing because of Prayatn Sanstha's interventions.)

For the HCL Grant, the organization proposed a project dealing with education and employability skills. And it wants to pass ownership on. 'In Prayatn's context, we believe that we are successful if we are able to develop community based systems and mechanisms which continue our work even after our withdrawal,' says Kumar.

CREDITS



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HCL Grant is so much more than the fund itself. The mark of the strategic value of any grant is leverage. From the focus on governance and sustainability, sharing of best practices and how corporates/and their employees can engage with NGOs – HCL Grant delivers on strategic value for the NGOs of India and for India's Fifth Estate. It is exciting to be a part of this kind of *leverage*.

— Robin Abrams
Chairperson of the Jury



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