

THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL. VI



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



THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL. VI

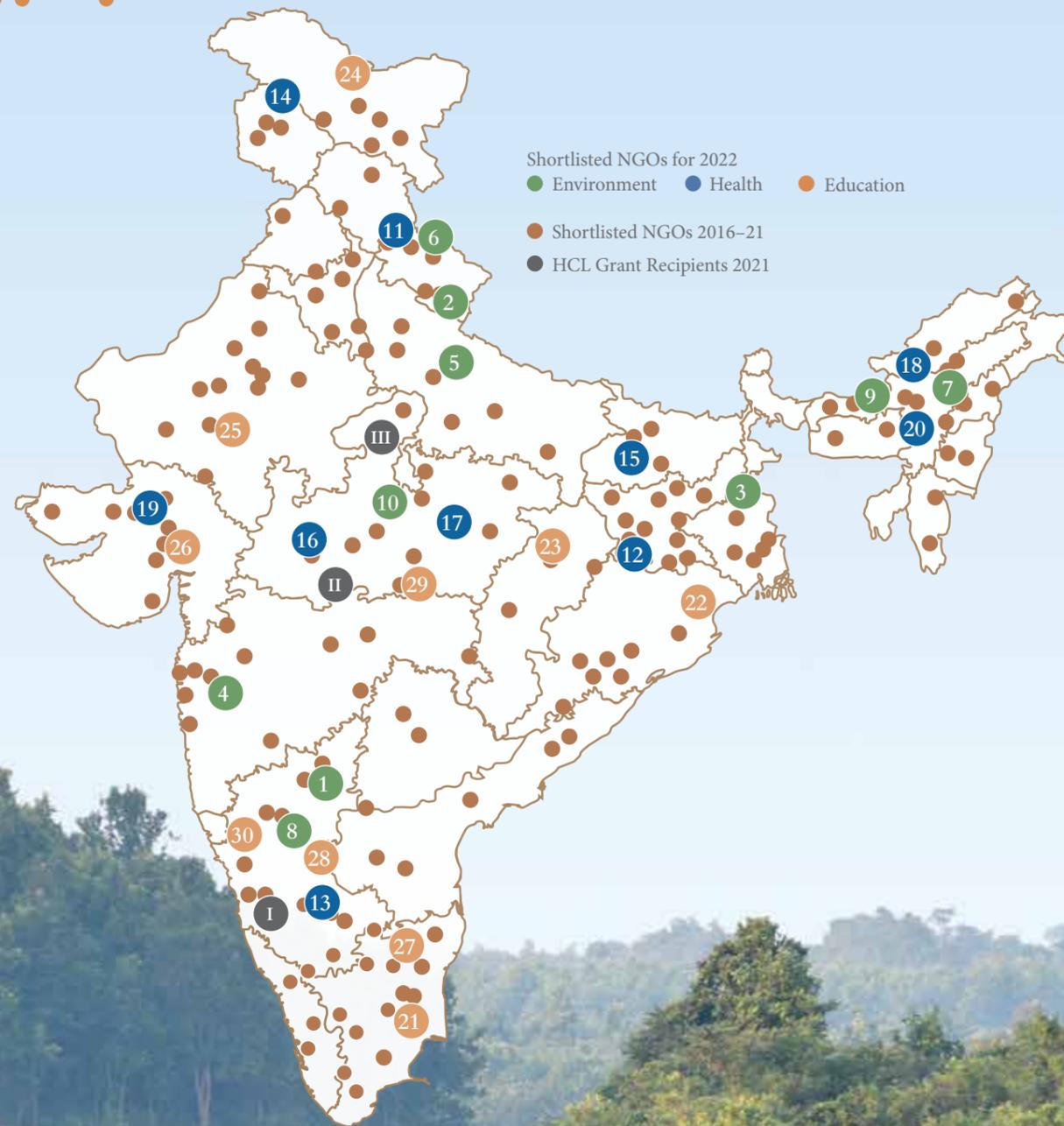
NGOs Transforming Rural India
in Environment, Health and Education



HCL

SHOWCASE
Roli Books

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THE HCL GRANT continues on its pathbreaking journey to activate deep changes in the rural development landscape of India. By working to infuse funds, strengthen and transform the capacities and governance of community-led ecosystems or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in rural India, the Grant lends its heft towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, as well as contributing significantly to nation building.

In the last seven years, the HCL Grant, a flagship programme of the HCL Foundation, has committed ₹ 79.25 Crore (US\$10.83 Million) to NGOs, or ‘The Fifth Estate’. Each year, three NGOs in the categories of Environment, Health and Education are chosen through a rigorous, thorough and transparent process. The criteria for selection of the NGOs that receive the Grant measure the Relevance, Innovation, Sustainability, Scalability, Replicability, Inclusiveness and Financial Modelling of the organization, and of the specific project applied for, and sifting out those whose programmes and interventions promise to revolutionize rural development in dynamic, holistic and far-reaching ways.

Besides the above engagements, the HCL Foundation organizes knowledge enhancement and capacity building of NGOs through its symposiums, this year

all conducted virtually. 4000 participants attended ten HCL Grant e-symposiums that had expert panelists discussing key issues like CSR laws and amendments, the challenges of leadership during crises, problems plaguing the social sector, and specific discussions in the three thematic areas.

The final 3 NGOs receive ₹ 5 Crore (US\$0.71 Million) each, and the other 2 finalists in each category receive ₹ 25 Lakhs (US\$0.04 Million) each. Besides this, over the next three to five years, throughout the period of the Grant, the HCL Foundation collaborates with the NGO to reinforce its governance and programmes so that the goals of social and economic empowerment, of equity, inclusivity and tangible progress are achieved.

LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Real development is driven by a combination of several factors that fortify the interventions of NGOs. The importance of CSR funding cannot be overstated. Government linkages and integration with existing programmes ensure scalability. Community ownership and participation in the programmes is the impetus for long-term sustainability. Exciting, innovative ideas and cutting-edge technology that bring these ideas to life address deep-rooted issues in fresh ways and deliver long-lasting solutions at scale.

However, there is one factor that brings all the above together into a coherent whole; that propels the impact of interventions sky-high, blazing a trail across the firmament. This factor is the committed leadership of the NGOs.

Take the eminent Dr. Mathew Verghese, nominated by Bill Gates as one of the Five Heroes in the field of Orthopaedics, Founder and Trustee of CURE India, who has trained thousands of doctors in the non-invasive treatment of clubfoot, or the redoubtable Dr. Vandana Shiva, recognized as one of the world’s foremost environmentalists, and her NGO Navdanya who have handed the conservation of biodiversity back into the hands of women from tribal and marginalized communities – the original sources of traditional knowledge. Then there’s Jagadananda, the force behind the Centre for Youth and Social Development that has trained generations of community development professionals in the remotest parts of Odisha, or N.S. Hema, a polio-afflicted powerhouse, founder of the Association of People with Disabilities, who pioneered community-based rehabilitation decades before the WHO CBR Matrix was defined.

Whether it is any of the above inspirational personalities, or Dr Dhir Jhingran who has introduced innovative learning methodologies for children in their own languages into government schools through the Language

and Learning Foundation – this passionate set of leaders, some highly qualified, others with years of experience in the sector, learning from both the

successes and failures under their belts, are the force behind the transformation their organizations have wrought in India – and they truly define The Fifth Estate.

What does it take for two doctors to give up their lucrative jobs and start an NGO for equitable and inclusive primary healthcare in the tribal hinterlands of India like Dr Prasanta Tripathy and Dr Nirmala Nair did when they started Ekjut? Or Ahindra Nath Ray, Dr Bera and now Amitava Ray who started community projects in the far flung areas of the Sunderbans and rural West Bengal through Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission? What makes a medical professional like Dr Vandana Gopikumar of The Banyan create quality care and treatment for the most deprived in society, those at the cusp of mental illness and poverty? What does it take to start a PRADAN like Deep Joshi and Vijay Mahajan did with a belief that a cadre of professionals working at the grassroots and the formation of self-help groups can turn around the lives of the poor dramatically? And then to help the government set up sector-changing programmes like the National Rural Livelihood Mission?

The answer is clear. It is a pure, selfless commitment of the highest order, suffused with the ethical principles that are the true foundation of progress and development. The HCL Grant celebrates this cadre of professionals who have blazed an uncommon trail and dedicated their lives and resources to realizing a dream of an India that is ready to embrace the future, peopled by communities who are active catalysts of their own bright tomorrows.



PARTNERS IN ACTION

The tremendous impact of the HCL Grant can be seen in the successful interventions of its partner NGOs on the ground. Every year, these remarkable organizations exponentially uptick the numbers of vulnerable people they reach with their good work. The reach, quality and sustainability of their interventions is astounding in part due to their outstanding leadership, innovation, and integration with local communities and governments at all levels, and in part because of their sheer grit and commitment to their causes, despite all odds.

SAAHAS

HCL Grant Recipient
Environment, 2021

HCL Grant Project Title:

Sustainable Waste Management Through
Community-Owned Rural Resource
Recovery Systems

Recipient of the FICCI Circular Economy Award, 2019, Saahas envisions India as a leading circular economy with zero waste communities, zero waste burning and zero waste to the landfill. Its projects have shown considerable impact in the areas of urban/



rural waste management and livelihood for informal sector workers through enabling successful source segregation of over 41 tonnes of waste per day and service to 58,000 houses. Its current focus is on 11 states to set up community-owned waste management systems in more than 91 villages.

The HCL Grant Project aims to implement segregated waste management systems in 140 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in four districts of Karnataka by making segregated waste collection and composting of biodegradable waste at village level through decentralization. It also aims at aggregation of plastic waste at the taluk level to increase recycling of plastic waste and reduce pollution caused due to improper waste disposal. It works towards dignified livelihood generation by creating new job opportunities where people work with dignity and self-respect in clean and hygienic environment. So far, Saahas has

facilitated segregated waste collection in 47 GPs out of the projected 49. Segregation levels have reached about 22 per cent in the households giving their waste. 43 GPs have waste management units. The reach of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) schemes of the government in the project impact areas have been extended. Innovative ideas have been demonstrated, like the establishment of a taluk-level Material Recovery Facility to manage plastic waste successfully as long as villages in the taluk practice source segregation and have good collection and transportation systems. This is the first demonstration, anywhere in India, of the successful functioning of dry waste aggregation centers as recommended in Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II guidelines.



INDIA HEALTH ACTION TRUST

HCL Grant Recipient Health, 2021

HCL Grant Project Title:

Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Outcomes in Tribal Areas of Madhya Pradesh (MANCH)

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

or lactating women and their families, enhancing the coverage and quality of services for institutional deliveries within the public-sector healthcare facilities and supporting real-time individualized data and reporting are the key objectives of the project. The Grant will help adapt and innovate interventions to reach 30,000 pregnant/new mothers, 25,000 newborns, 500 frontline workers, 235 clinical service providers like ANMs, doctors, etc.

Innovations are deeply embedded in the core structure of the project, such as the creation of a cadre of 'Mentors' who teach, guide and hand-hold frontline and facility-level health workers. A solar-powered digital ante-natal (ANC) kit is being used by ANMs to identify High-Risk Pregnant women during ANC/pre-natal care (PNC) check-up. This will help in the early identification of high-risk pregnancy cases. With the project resources, mini-skill labs for nurses and ANMs to practice core competencies for delivery and essential newborn care will be established in each of three blocks in Shahdol. In alignment with the National Digital Mission, IHAT is piloting implementation of a number of digital tools that enable real-time capture and monitoring of process-related programme data using work-flow platforms rather than routine data entry.



CRY

HCL Grant Recipient Education, 2021

HCL Grant Project Title:

UDAAN – Breaking Barriers and Rebuilding the Lives of Bedia Girls

Child Rights and You (CRY) believes that children should be happy, healthy and creative, and their rights should be protected and honoured in a society built on respect for dignity, justice and equity for all. Its projects have been implemented in the areas of education, health, nutrition, participation and protection of children in 19 states, and have benefitted at least 3 million children. The HCL Grant Project, UDAAN, scaled up from 8 villages in 4 districts to 28 villages in 6 districts. It helped replicate the tested model of working with the Bedia community of identifying, engaging and tracking the vulnerable children to restore their rights, connect them to mainstream education and bring in social transformation in the community to prevent adolescent girls from entering the commercial sex industry. For the identification of vulnerable girls, the team innovated six indicators and start engaging with them from the very beginning. CRY's work was presented to the Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribe Welfare Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh. The Grant helped reach more than 500 children and identify 250 vulnerable adolescent girls who are at risk and prevent them from entering the commercial sex industry in the project year 2020–2021.



Out of total of 421 adolescent girls, 267 (63 per cent) girls were identified as vulnerable. 437 children have been enrolled in the Child Activity Centers (CAC) and Digital Education Centres with the consent of parents, out of which 206 are girls including 131 girls in the age group of 10–18 years; encouraging alternate livelihoods targeting households with vulnerable girls; building the agency of boys as well as girls through life-skill sessions following Child Center Module, and networking and linkages with government departments to create conducive learning environments like making roads to increase access to school, develop school infrastructure and increase the number of hostels for children.

UNDER THE MANGO TREE SOCIETY
HCL Grant Recipient,
Environment, 2020

HCL Grant Project Title:

Keeping Indigenous Bees Buzzing and Supporting Biodiversity Conservation in Tribal Communities

Under The Mango Tree Society (UTMT Society) promotes the critical role of bees in the ecosystem among tribal communities of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Its people-centric projects ensure that small and marginal farmers are able to benefit from indigenous bees as pollinators, increasing yields and incomes. The project

Attending the beekeeping training has helped Amarlal Bharti move away from unsustainable honey-hunting practices, and made him conscious about protecting bees and their habitat. Like many others in his village, he was unaware about the role bees play in crop pollination and maintaining biodiversity. Amarlal currently has two filled beehives in his farm, because of which he has seen around 40 per cent increase in chickpea production and 60 per cent increase in pea production. He says, "UTMT Society is helping me learn different skills in beekeeping so that I can continue to practice it independently in future."

aims to increase awareness and conservation of pollinators, train smallholders in sustainable beekeeping and honey-harvesting techniques, promote bee-friendly sustainable agriculture through indigenous seeds, saplings, bio-fertilisers, and more.

The HCL Grant has helped expand UTMT Society innovations and interventions to new blocks and districts in 115 villages – biodiversity-rich areas with tribal communities in Gujarat (Dangs, Valsad and Tapi), Maharashtra (Palghar) and Madhya Pradesh (Chhindwara and Mandla). It has trained 1,730 smallholders in sustainable beekeeping with indigenous species, benefitting 5,190 smallholders and their families. It provides technical guidance to beekeepers and hands-on training to 121 Master Trainers. Located in remote places with poor connectivity, the local teams now operate smartphones to connect for meetings.



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

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

Save the Children works across 120 countries. Known as Bal Raksha Bharat in India, it works in 20 states. It seeks to build a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Working in concord with several partners, including the central government, it has impacted over 10 million children in India.

In 2014, Save the Children initiated a successful pilot project, Peace Education and School Safety in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). HCL Grant helped to scale up the programme, allowing children to learn in safe/peaceful spaces, and also implement its peace-education curriculum with Teachers as Peace Champions, designed with Jamia Millia Islamia University. Having secured the J&K Education Directorate's expression of

Azaan, son of a labourer and a student of class 6 fell into bad company and left school. Luckily, he met the Save the Children team where he learned about child protection and rights. He has rejoined school, and is a member of the NGO's children's group. He reaches out to child labourers, dropouts, and drug abusers, and helped the marginalized get rations during the Covid-19 pandemic. "My message to those children who have been through a bad childhood and lost hope in themselves is – our dreams can come true only if we have the courage to pursue them."



support, Save the Children is now scaling up the peace project in 60 government-run schools in Budgam and Leh districts, capacitating approximately 5,000 direct beneficiaries including children, teachers, communities and state administrators to undertake peace-building initiatives, safety audits, risk mapping and child safeguarding – in classrooms, schools and neighbourhoods. The larger ambition is to mainstream the innovative idea of peace education and school safety into the state's education system. It works to form and strengthen Children's Groups (CGs) and School Management Committees (SMCs). An enrollment drive with the Education Department in 2020 ensured that parents from the community and intervention schools began sending their children to the government schools.

WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA
HCL Grant Recipient
Environment, 2019

HCL Grant Project Title: Connecting Landscapes, Empowering People and Protecting Elephants – An Initiative to Secure the Baghmara-Balpakram Elephant Corridor and Protect the Wildlife Habitats of Garo Hills, Meghalaya

Through nearly 50 projects across the country, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) addresses its mandate to conserve wildlife and habitat, and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals in partnership with communities and governments. It has assisted the Forest Department in rescuing over 5,000 wild animals, conducts anti-poaching training, and has insured Forest Department staff. Government bodies such as the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC), Meghalaya State Forest Department, District Medical and Health Office are closely working with WTI on the project.

Livelihood and lifestyle of beneficiary families have been strengthened through

innovative interventions including skill development, eco-development and community support by 25 per cent for over 1,000 beneficiaries in five years. Livelihood and lifestyle improvement interventions for local communities include a computer centre and education support to students and youth; renovation of a government school for 350 students; offering livelihood opportunities for wage work for rejuvenation of fisheries, ponds, school renovation and plantation activities; restoring degraded habitats of 150 hectares in corridor forests with 150,000 standing trees through plantation and Assisted Natural Regeneration; getting 350+ hectares of land for afforestation; documenting wildlife movement and presence in the corridor village forests; and strengthening human-elephant coexistence in VRF villages. High electric fencing set up in the VRF's human-elephant conflict zone and assessment of biodiversity in the VRF sites has been done. At least 25,000 people have been sensitized on the importance of the natural and traditional heritage of Garo Hills and conservation practices.



SHE HOPE SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS
HCL Grant Recipient
Health, 2019

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

She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE) is an NGO working in isolated and border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to bring positive changes in the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) by providing them access to good healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities, and advocating for their rights. It operates at the institution as well as community level and provides innovative services to PwDs at their doorstep. Since 2009, SHSFWE has run rehabilitation sessions in villages. Artificial limbs, assistive devices and innovative, low-cost home modifications increase mobility and community participation. It supports disabled people's organizations and takes up advocacy



work so that the rights and entitlements of people with disabilities under the new laws are upheld. The organization has linkages and collaborations with government actors at both state and local levels as well as national and international NGOs.

SHSFWE leveraged approximately ₹0.21 crore from the Department of Social Welfare, benefitting 1,000+ PwDs. Four training programmes were organized for frontline workers (Accredited Social Health Activists [ASHA]/Anganwadi) with 172 participants. 25 individual homes of PwDs were modified as per the guidelines of universal design per year.

Fatima, a resident of Rohama block in Baramulla District, injured her spinal cord as a result of an earthquake that hit the valley in 2005. She dropped out of school after her 8th standard, as the nearest high school was 10 kilometres away. Her father, a wage labourer could not afford her treatment but wanted her to study and learn further. After her identification by the team of SHSFWE, regular consultations were scheduled by community workers to support her and to teach her family members simple techniques and exercise so that rehabilitation care could be given to Fatima at her home. The team also provided her a wheelchair and built a ramp. She has a Unique Disability ID to help her avail various benefits.



SRIJAN FOUNDATION
HCL Grant Recipient
Education, 2019

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

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

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

Vaidehi Devi is from Dhipa village, West Singhbhum. Her family was on the verge of malnutrition, including her pregnant daughter-in-law. Srijan Foundation under the HCL Grant Project supported Vaidehi Devi with the input of eight different types of seeds and net for a nutrition garden. Today, she grows a variety of vegetables including spinach, carrot, radish, okra, sponge gourd and bottle gourd. She can also feed her daughter-in-law fish, eggs as well as fresh fruits since she is able to save the money she used to purchase vegetables. Vaidehi has inspired 30 other women farmers from her village to start nutrition gardens in their backyards.

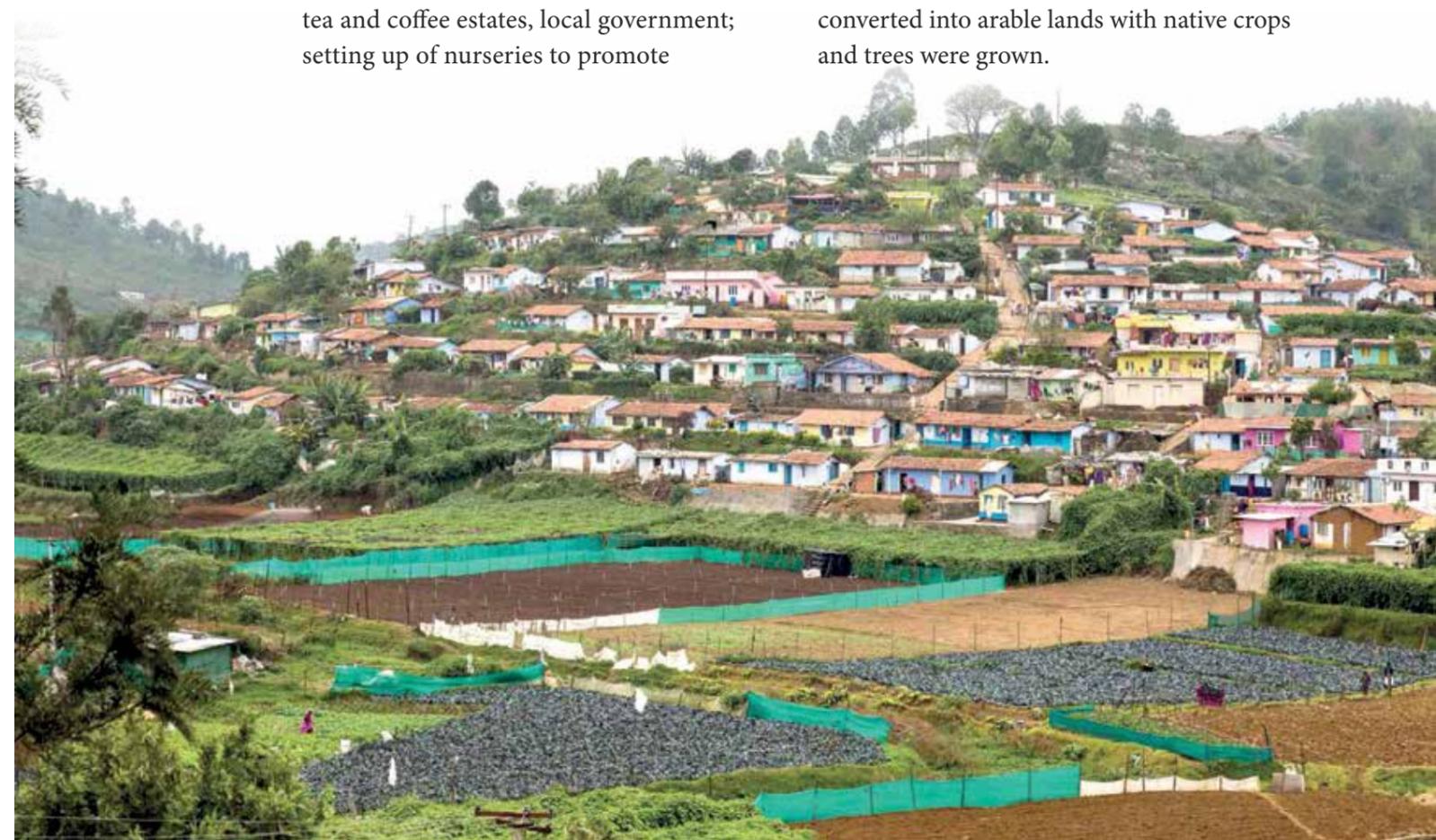
KEYSTONE FOUNDATION
HCL Grant Recipient
Environment, 2018

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

Keystone Foundation's programmes are highly relevant to the Western Ghats where springs have been disappearing. The programme also addresses human-wildlife conflict in the Kotagiri region. The main objective of the project is to achieve water equity and water security for human and wildlife population by bringing behaviour change within the communities through applied research. It does this through working in partnership with communities, tea and coffee estates, local government; setting up of nurseries to promote

native plant species for supporting eco-restoration work; monitoring water quality and quantity, land-use practices, wildlife movements, and more.

Keystone's programmes are innovative and inclusive, having directly impacted more than 22,000 lives including tribes like Todas, Kotas and Irulas, who fall under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Keystone has increased awareness about traditional and chemical-free agriculture, water issues, native species, and more, through radio programmes on Radio Kotagiri (the local community radio), reaching out to more than 10,000 people. It has set up a wetland park in Kotagiri in collaboration with INDCOSERVE, Tea Co-operative Federation in the Nilgiris. 200 acres of fallow lands (covered with invasive thickets) were converted into arable lands with native crops and trees were grown.



ELEUTHEROS CHRISTIAN SOCIETY

HCL Grant Recipient
Health, 2018

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

Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) has brought down the incidence of HIV among injecting drug users and antenatal women in Nagaland significantly using innovative approaches. Through community action facilitated by it, people's livelihoods, health, literacy and monetary transactions have improved manifold. Eight Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been revived under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, benefitting 33,000+ people. Two of the PHCs supported by the HCL Grant, Longpang and Changlangshu, have been



conferred with 'Kayakalp Award' and empanelled with the AYUSH Scheme of the Government of India. Longpang PHC is managed by ECS in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland. Changlangshu PHC was built from scratch jointly by ECS and the community, and activated in 2018. The government has added a new building to the premises, boosting the capacity of the PHC manifold. ECS was listed among India's Top 50 COVID-19 Last Mile Responders by the World Economic Forum. It established covid-care centres and initiatives in partnership with the district administration, church, tribal unions and other key stakeholders.

"I did not miss any of the ANC visits since I know it could save me and my baby. Delivering in the health centre is hygienic, safer and potential complications can be detected and dealt with in the right way. The baby was bathed, cleaned and cared well by the station nurse. I would like to encourage other mothers to go for antenatal care because it prevents complications, injuries and even death. I would also like to thank the project for all the health promotion activities and initiatives like the mothers' clubs, which have helped and moulded me a lot as a parent."

Pheilong, 35-year-old mother of three from Yongphang village, Nagaland

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND (SIGHTSAVERS INDIA)

HCL Grant Recipient
Education, 2018

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

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

Sightsavers in partnership with the HCL Foundation, is implementing an 'inclusive education' project in five rural districts of Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal, using innovations and interventions to enable quality access to education for Children

Bhavika is a CVI and studies in class 7 in a government school in Rajasthan. Her family is Below Poverty Line. Sightsavers India has given her a smartphone and she is constantly receiving support from the project staff. The project team successfully convinced Bhavika's father to get internet connectivity for her. She now dreams of being a teacher some day.

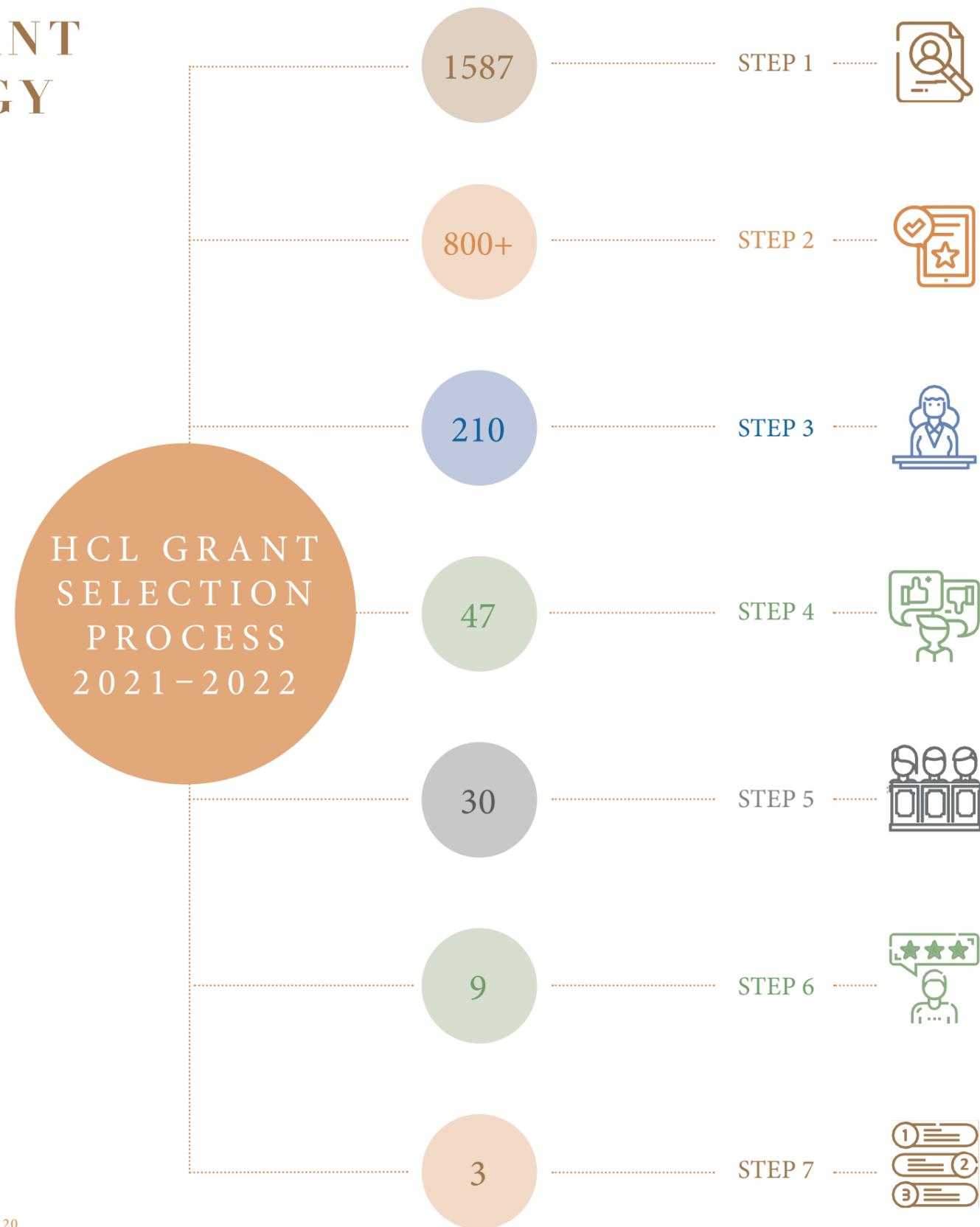


with Visual Impairment (CVIs). The Government of Bihar has provided training to 56,000+ teachers to create a conducive environment in schools for CVIs. 37 students with Visual Impairment (CVIs) passed 10th and 12th board examination with flying colours. Through the successful advocacy efforts of the organization, the Government of Rajasthan has decided to scale the concept of 'Model Resource Room Digital Learning Centres' to all 33 districts and provide laptops for 100 CVIs. The West Bengal Government adopted this model and plans to convert their Block Resource Centres into Digital Learning Empowerment Centres (DLECs).

THE HCL GRANT METHODOLOGY



A RIGOROUS METHODOLOGY lies at the core of the HCL Grant to aid in selecting the NGOs that are transforming the landscape of Education, Health and Environment in rural India. Since its inception in 2015, despite changes in regulatory environments, pandemics and operational challenges, organizations from all over India have participated in the application process with innovative models to catalyze rural development. The applications are screened using the criteria of sustainability, relevance, innovation, replicability and scalability to assess the NGO's project, and financial modelling and inclusion to assess the NGO itself. Pan-India symposiums (and e-symposiums for the two years of the pandemic) are held to clarify the process and build networks. Due diligence, including audits, field investigations and assessments is conducted by the HCL Foundation team, along with subject matter experts and a governance partner – Grant Thornton. The shortlisted NGOs are then reviewed by an experienced Sub Jury, and the three final recipients chosen by a Jury of eminent persons. HCL Grant awards the winning NGOs in each of the categories of Education, Health and Environment ₹ 5 Crores (US\$0.71 Million) for a 3–5 year project. The Grant also awards ₹ 25 Lakhs (US\$0.04 Million) to the other two finalists in each category for a one-year project decided in consultation with the HCL Foundation. The total committed fund for HCL Grant Edition VII is ₹ 16.5 Crores (US\$2.4 million).



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

ABSTRACT REVIEW (new stage) Organization profiles and project abstracts submitted by eligible applicants are reviewed by a group of independent domain experts, sector experts from HCL Foundation, and our Governance Partner. The basis of the review includes a mix of objective and subjective parameters like Governance, Relevance of the Problem and Solution, Potential of Impact and Innovation, and others.

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

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

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

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

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The organization must be a registered not for profit entity in India i.e., either a Society or a Trust or a Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or any other organization (if allowed to receive CSR funding by a relevant government body in line with Section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013).
2. The organization must have registered u/s 80G of The Income tax, 1961.
3. The organization must have registered u/s 12AA of The Income tax, 1961.
4. The organization must have the below mentioned average expenditure (as per income and expenditure account) for the last three financial years viz. 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19:
 - If applying under Education and Health category – minimum ₹1 Crores or above
 - If applying under Environment category – minimum ₹0.50 Crores or above
5. The organization must have the below-mentioned functional existence (as per their registration certificate) in India on or before 31 March 2020:
 - If applying under Education and Health category – minimum 10 years or above
 - If applying under Environment category – minimum 5 years or above
6. The organization must be in full compliance with applicable regulatory rules and must have valid documents for registration, audited financial reports, etc. The organization must have valid and timely submissions (wherever applicable) for – income tax, employee provident fund, professional tax, minimum wages, employee state insurance, goods and service tax, and FCRA and/or other relevant regulation depending on the nature of funding/donations it receives.

PREREQUISITES

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

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

PROPOSED PROJECT

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

RECIPIENTS OF THE HCL GRANT



● Environment ● Health ● Education

HCL GRANT 7TH EDITION PROCESS & MILESTONES

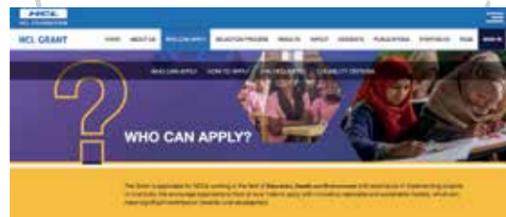


1 5 APR 2021
HCL Grant
Portal Live
Stage 1

2 15 APR-
21 JUN 2021
10
E-Symposiums



3 17-19 AUG 2021
Abstract Review
Stage 2



4 23 AUG-10 SEP 2021
Portal Live for 150 NGOs
detailed application form
Stage 3



5 20-30 SEP 2021
Meeting with Subject Matter
Experts for selecting 45+
NGOs for field visit
Stage 3



6 5 OCT 2021
HCL Grant Kick off
Workshop Meeting

10 20 DEC 2021
-20 FEB 2022
Video Shoot of
9 Finalists



9 14-16 DEC 2021
Sub Jury Meetings
Stage 5



8 19 NOV 2021
Closure Workshop
to select 30 NGOs for
Sub Jury Round



7 10 OCT-15 NOV 2021
Field Visit & Due Diligence (35 Days)
Stage 4

11 20 DEC 2021
-25 FEB 2022
Jury Preparations
& E-Coffee Table Book

12 20 DEC 2021
-20 FEB 2022
Due diligence
of Finalist NGOs
Stage 6



13 4 MARCH 2022
Jury and Event
Stage 7

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

HCL GRANT KEY STATS

EDITION I–VII

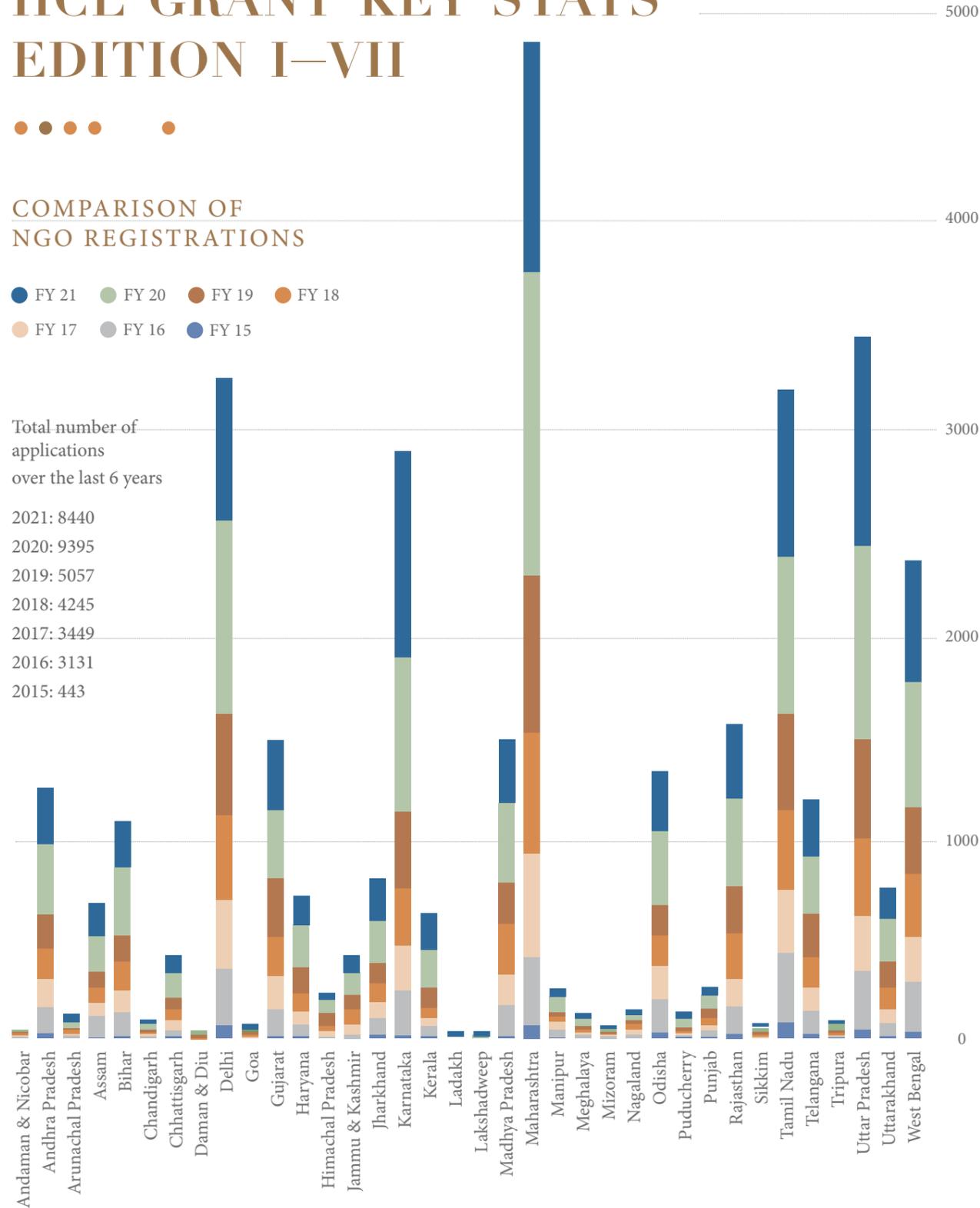


COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS

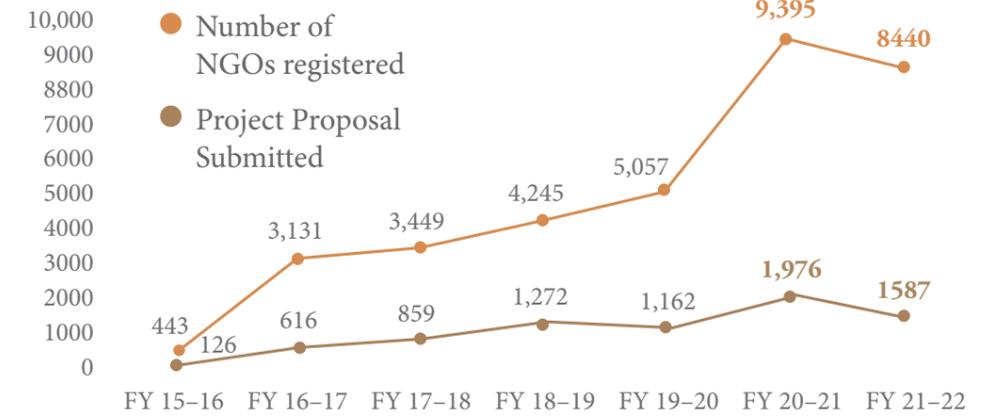
- FY 21
- FY 20
- FY 19
- FY 18
- FY 17
- FY 16
- FY 15

Total number of applications over the last 6 years

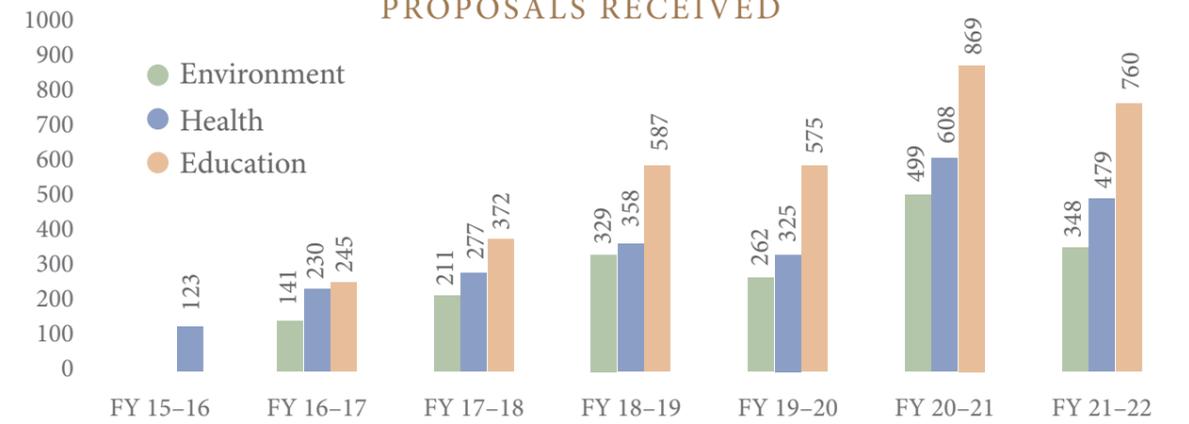
- 2021: 8440
- 2020: 9395
- 2019: 5057
- 2018: 4245
- 2017: 3449
- 2016: 3131
- 2015: 443



HCL GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS 2021- 2022

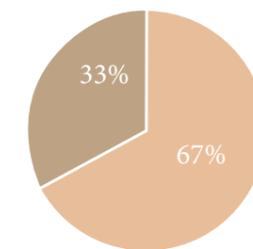


CATEGORY-WISE HCL GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT REGISTRATIONS FY 2021-22

- Total Registrations
8440
- Number of New Registrations
5635
- Number of Repeat Registrations
2805



JURY



ROBIN ABRAMS holds both a bachelor of arts and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska. She was most recently interim CEO at ZiLOG. She has

been the President of Palm Computing and Senior Vice President at 3Com Corporation, and President and CEO at VeriFone. She has been President and General Manager of the Americas for Apple Computers. Prior to that, she was the Vice President and General Manager of Apple Asia, where she was responsible for sales, marketing and market development in the region.

Ms. Abrams spent eight years with Unisys in several senior-level positions, including a five-year stint in Asia Pacific, managing the delivery of business solutions focussed on banking, airlines, government and networking. The first twelve years of her career were in various management positions at Wells Fargo Bank.

Ms. Abrams has served several US public company boards including ZiLOG, BEA Systems (until it was acquired by Oracle) and OpenWave Systems. She currently serves on the boards of Lattice Semiconductor, Sierra Wireless and FactSet Research.



SURESH NARAYANAN has over thirty-five years of rich and exhaustive experience in the FMCG industry and has held senior management and top leadership

roles in leading global companies. He has been on the Board of Directors of Nestlé India Ltd. since 2015. Mr. Narayanan joined Nestlé in 1999 as Executive Vice President for Sales in India, where he spearheaded major structural and strategic changes in Sales and Customer Management and set up the chilled dairy business. Since then, he has worked with Nestlé Indochina as Executive Director for Sales, Marketing and Food Services, and Nestlé India as Head of Sales for India, Sri

Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. He has been the Chairman and CEO of Nestlé Philippines and Managing Director of Nestlé Singapore Pte. Ltd.

Mr. Narayanan holds a master's degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and has a diploma from the IMD Program for Executive Development. He has been honoured at the Forbes India Leadership Awards (2017) as the Best CEO in the Multinational category. He was recognized among the 'Most Valuable CEOs' in 2019 by *Business World* and also awarded 'Best CEO – FMCG' for 2019 by *Business Today*. Under his leadership, in 2019, Nestlé India won the 'Best Governed Company Award for 2018' by Asian Centre for Corporate Governance and Sustainability.



BHARTENDRA SINGH BASWAN headed the Government Committee to review recruitment procedures for the higher civil services till August 2016. He

regularly speaks on public policy issues at a number of institutions. He has held some of the key positions in the government including Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie; Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Government of India; Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India; Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India; and finally retired as Education Secretary, Government of India. Post retirement, he spent time in the Planning Commission as a Senior Consultant and later served as the Director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. He currently lectures on Public Policy Drivers in various institutions and is working on a book.



RICHARD LARIVIERE is President Emeritus of the Field Museum in Chicago since 2020. Dr. Lariviere's career in academia and business is grounded in

expertise on India. His work with the information technology industry (beginning in 1992) comprised devising country-entry strategies

for American companies wishing to have a large presence in India. Among the companies he has worked with are Deluxe Corporation, General Instrument Corporation (now part of Motorola), Cisco Systems, Sabre Holdings, HCL Corporation, Perot Systems, MetLife, and others. His academic writing has garnered international prizes. He was a professor and Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin, Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor at the University of Kansas, and President of the University of Oregon. He has served on the Board of many prestigious organizations across the world. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Life member of Council on Foreign Relations, Life member of the American Oriental Society, and on the advisory boards of several American universities.



SHIV NADAR established HCL in 1976 as an original garage start-up, revolutionizing Indian technology and product innovation. Today, HCL is a

US\$10.8 billion global technology conglomerate, employing over 1,87,000 people in fifty countries as on 30 September 2021. In 1994, Nadar established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is today the largest philanthropic organization in India, having established seven institutions covering the entire spectrum of education and benefiting over 30,000 students directly. As of March 2021, the Foundation has invested \$988 million across 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.



PALLAVI SHROFF is the Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., with about thirty-eight years of extensive experience. Her broad

and varied representation of public and private corporations and other entities before various national courts, tribunals and legal institutions has earned her national and international acclaim. Ms. Shroff is the head of the dispute resolution

practice and also mentors the competition law practice at the firm. She has frequently featured in several international publications and legal directories. She has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chambers India Awards (2019). *Fortune India* and *Business Today* have recognised her as one of The Most Powerful Women in Business in 2021. Ms. Shroff is presently a director on the boards of Apollo Tyres, One97 Communications Ltd. (Paytm), Asian Paints Ltd., IndiGo and Juniper Hotels Ltd.

SUB JURY

Environment

ANURADHA KHOSLA Senior Vice President, Enterprise HR, HCL Technologies Ltd.

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

SHASHI BANERJEE Principal, Shiv Nadar Schools

RUSHIKESH CHAVAN Head, The Habitats Trust

Health

MANISH ANAND COMPANY SECRETARY, HCL Technologies Ltd.

KIRTI KARAMCHANDANI Head-Government Relations, HCL Corporation

PARVEEN JUNEJA Executive Vice President, Human Resources, HCL Corporation

DR. BIBEK BANERJEE Dean, School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Dean, Academy of Continuing Education, Director, University Strategy & Planning, University Professor of Marketing, Strategy and Economics, Shiv Nadar University

Education

ANUBHA BALI Director Career Development and Alumni Relations, Shiv Nadar University

AMBIKA NATARAJAN Vice President, HCL Technologies Ltd.

COL. (RETD.) GOPAL KARUNAKARAN CEO, Shiv Nadar Schools & Executive Director, Shiv Nadar University

ROBIN SARKAR Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation

HCL GRANT RECIPIENTS 2021




ENVIRONMENT
Saahas




HEALTH
India Health Action Trust




EDUCATION
Child Rights and You

HCL GRANT JOURNEY SO FAR



2020

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



2019

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

HCL GRANT RECIPIENTS



2021

- ENVIRONMENT** Saahas 32
Sustainable waste management at source through community initiatives
- HEALTH** India Health Action Trust 36
Reducing inequality in healthcare through sustainable programmes
- EDUCATION** Child Rights and You 40
Empowering children with education, nutrition, health and protection



Saahas



Recipient of the FICCI Circular Economy Award 2019, Saahas envisions India as a leading circular economy with zero waste communities, zero waste burning and zero waste to the landfill. Its projects have shown considerable impact in the areas of urban/rural waste management and livelihood for informal sector workers through enabling successful source segregation of over 41 tonnes of waste per day and service to 58,000 houses. Its current focus is on 11 states to set up community-owned waste management systems in more than 91 villages.

The HCL Grant Project in Action

The HCL Grant has helped us increase our impact and reach in rural Karnataka to villages across four districts of the state. Segregated waste collection has started in 47 Gram Panchayats (GPs) out of the projected 49. Segregation levels have reached about 22 per cent in the households giving their waste. 43 GPs have waste management units. We have extended the reach of the Swachh Bharat Mission, MGNREGS and the NRLM schemes of the government in our project impact areas.

Working with the HCL Foundation

By receiving the HCL Grant, we have become part of a team of high impact NGOs, all doing wonderful work in their respective fields. HCL Foundation has enabled interactions

Founded by Wilma Rodrigues in 2001

HCL Grant Project Approach: Waste segregation and processing at the village level for improved waste management and reduced negative environmental impact

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

Beneficiaries: 11,40,000 village residents

Location: 560 villages in Udupi, Ramanagara, Ballari and Dakshina Kannada districts of Karnataka



Top: Door-to-door awareness about source segregation
Bottom: Processing wet waste to make compost



between past and present recipients, which is very helpful. The application and selection process provides immense learning to the participating NGOs. The rigour of selection and the kind of questions that are asked give us insight into our own organizations. The Grant's due diligence process sets a benchmark in the development sector and provides immense credibility to the winning NGOs. Specific to the project, the HCL Foundation has assigned a point of contact for the project who is always available to our team to address any queries.

The Impact of the HCL Grant

RELEVANCE: Solid waste management is a priority area for the rural department of Karnataka, so the project is timely and important.

INNOVATION: The project demonstrates how, if the villages in the taluk practice source segregation and have good collection

and transportation systems, a taluk-level Material Recovery Facility can manage plastic waste successfully. This is the first demonstration, anywhere in India, of the successful functioning of dry waste aggregation centers as recommended in Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II guidelines.

SCALABILITY: The project demonstrates how successful pilots can be replicated across taluks and districts. From pilots in 5-6 GPs, through this project, we have expanded to more than 40 GPs in each of the four districts.

SUSTAINABILITY AND FINANCIAL MODELLING: The project is designed to be sustainable through its financial modelling.

As user fees for waste management are included in the project design, along with the necessary Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and capacity building activities, the sustainability of the system beyond the project timeline is assured.



Stories of Impact

Hampi Gram Panchayat, Ballari District, Karnataka

Based on the Waste in Waterbodies survey conducted by the Saahas Ballari team, supported by HCL, many waterbodies filled with waste were identified. In Hampi Gram Panchayat, during festive occasions, people would litter a particular well and water bodies nearby. There was a borewell about 10 feet from the well used by many people, but it had bad water with a lot of waste in it. Saahas spoke to the concerned Panchayat Development Officer and got the well cleared. Following this, it conducted door-to-door awareness sessions for the residents nearby and asked them not to litter the well anymore. Due to the intervention, the residents can now use a clean well without any waste. The quality of the water in the borewell has also improved.

Dry waste sorted and stored at the Dry Waste Collection Centre



India Health Action Trust



India Health Action Trust (IHAT) aims for meaningful impact on the lives of vulnerable and marginalized people. Working closely with national and state governments, IHAT provides technical support to projects in HIV prevention and care. It also drives sustainable change in thematic areas like maternal and child health, Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control, family planning, nutrition and strengthening health systems. IHAT has implemented several projects that have positively impacted lives of millions of vulnerable and marginalized people across rural and urban areas of various states in India.



Top: ASHAs using the ASHA Incentive Application, developed by IHAT
Bottom: Nurse Mentor doing a demo for staff nurses

The HCL Grant Project in Action

In partnership with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, we have initiated Project MANCH in Shahdol district. The funds from the HCL Grant are used for human resources to handhold district health staff, ANMs and nurses in the health facilities, and frontline health workers within the tribal communities. Improving the coverage and quality of antenatal care, institutional deliveries and postnatal care, and interactions between front-line workers and pregnant or lactating women and their families, and real-time individualized data and reporting are key.

Established in 2003 as a Charitable Trust

HCL Grant Project Approach: To ensure availability, quality and utilization of critical MNCH services

HCL Grant Project Title: Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MANCH) Outcomes

Beneficiaries: 500 ASHA, 200 ANM, 35 staff nurses, 20 doctors

Location: 478 villages in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh



Working with the HCL Foundation

The HCL Foundation is helping fulfil IHAT’s vision of meaningfully impacting the lives of vulnerable and marginalized people by addressing health and social inequities. The association has been productive and highly engaging, with the right professional temper and trust within the ecosystem. HCL’s Grant process is seamless. Besides infusion of money, the larger effect of the HCL Grant process is a validation and support to the Project’s objectives. The processes followed through the Grant Programme encourage equal opportunity to deserving organizations and exhibit transparency at every stage.

The Impact of the HCL Grant

RELEVANCE: Shahdol has a tribal population with suboptimal MNCH outcomes. The Grant supports Project MANCH and complements the government’s efforts to improve health outcomes here.
INNOVATION: The creation of Mentors for frontline health workers; the solar-powered

Digital ANC kit for ANMs to identify High-Risk Pregnant women; mini-skill labs to practice core competencies; and piloting digital tools for real-time capture and monitoring of programme data.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY: Process and product innovations that are scalable include the cadre of mentors, mini-skill labs, the Village Health and Nutrition Day and the ANC tool-kit, geo-mapping of healthcare facilities and use of digital tools for data capture.

SUSTAINABILITY: The project partners with the government at the state and district levels. The model leverages government resources for service delivery while IHAT supports capacity building and process streamlining.

FINANCIAL MODELLING: The financial modelling has created a robust environment to address human, material and infrastructural resources for the project.

INCLUSION: Project MANCH targets pregnant women, new mothers, newborns, clinical service providers and frontline workers in Shahdol district with over 50 per cent tribal and 100 per cent rural population.



Stories of Impact

Gram Dhamnikala, Singhpur, Suhagpur Block

During a home visit, ASHA Supervisor Mentor (ASM), trained to identify malnutrition among children, observed that an infant, Amit Kol, was severely malnourished, had breathing difficulty and required immediate clinical intervention. His parents wanted to visit a local quack as they could not afford treatment. The ASM explained that the infant needed immediate hospitalization and assured them that the treatment would be free at the District Hospital, Shahdol. After much effort, Amit’s mother was convinced to go to the hospital. The infant was admitted to the Paediatric ICU ward and treated for severe lower respiratory tract infection immediately.

A doctor training frontline workers on Reproductive Health and Family Planning Methods



Child Rights and You (CRY)



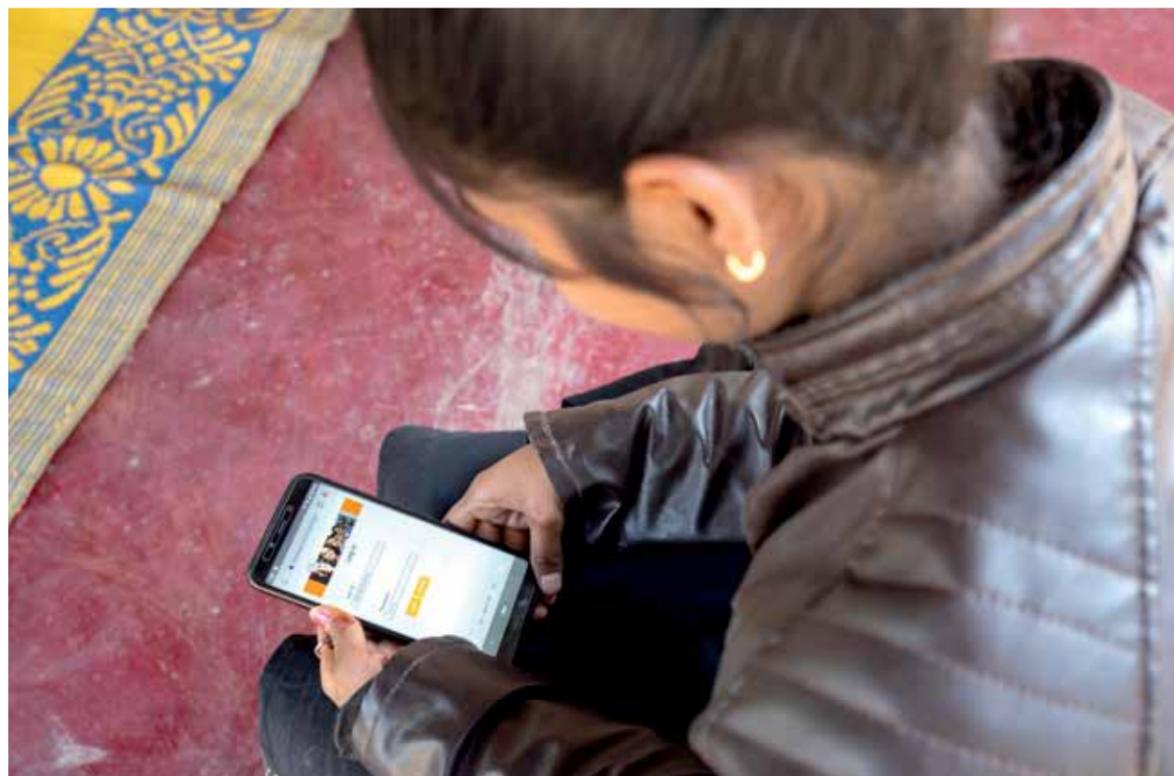
Awarded the most trusted NGO in India in 2018, Child Rights and You (CRY) believes that children should be happy, healthy and creative, and their rights should be protected and honoured in a society built on respect for dignity, justice and equity for all. Its projects have been implemented in the areas of education, health, nutrition, participation and protection of children in 19 states, and have benefitted at least 3 million children.

The HCL Grant Project in Action

The Grant helped us to upscale our project from 8 villages in 4 districts to 28 villages in 6 districts. It helped us replicate our tested model of working with the Bedia community of identifying, engaging and tracking the vulnerable children to restore their rights, connect them to mainstream education, and bring in social transformation among the community to prevent adolescent girls from entering the commercial sex industry. We also got a chance to present our work to the Denotified Nomadic, and Semi Nomadic Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Working with the HCL Foundation

For any tangible impact, it requires time and focussed intervention with the targeted



Top: Children of the Bedia community attending classes in the Child Activity Center in their village
Bottom: Student from the Bedia community doing the NIIT online exam on a smartphone



community. The HCL grant gives that liberty to work with the community in an in-depth manner and for a long time, which helps in planning and implementing the project with a holistic approach and bringing the desired result. The process of the Grant helps in strengthening an organization's implementation strategy as well as ensuring statutory compliance. The time-to-time inputs and capacity building workshops conducted by the HCL are also very helpful in knowing the changes and amendments in any law and policies.

The Impact of the HCL Grant

RELEVANCE: The Grant helped to reach more than 500 children and identify 250 vulnerable adolescent girls who are at risk, preventing them from entering the commercial sex industry in the project year 2020–2021.

INNOVATION: For the identification of vulnerable girls, we developed six indicators which could help us in early identification of vulnerable girls and start engaging with them from the very beginning.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY: The main idea behind this project is to replicate our existing strategies from 8 villages to 20 villages with the Bedia community. As a result, 20 CACs have been initiated and engagement with the children has been started.

SUSTAINABILITY: Efforts are made to include people from the Bedia community in the implementing process. Out of 20 CAC teachers, 18 are from the Bedia community and 6 of them are women.

INCLUSION: To integrate the Bedia community with the other communities in their villages, efforts are made to include children of other communities in the CAC and the digital learning center.



Stories of Impact

Village Basilgarh, District Guna, Madhya Pradesh

Mamta (name changed) is a class 9 student and travels 5 kilometres to school. She wants to be a teacher someday. Mamta lost her father few months ago, which caused instability in the family. Mamta's mother, Priya, started thinking of putting her into the traditional family occupation along with her sister. Through home visits, interactions with Mamta's mother and sister, and a key community person, the CRY workers convinced her family to let Mamta continue her education. She says, 'If the village didn't have the activity centre, I might not have had the courage to start my studies again as here a girl who passes class 8 is usually put to work.'

Children receiving their certificates of completion of the computer course from NIIT.

Finalists 2022

Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission 51

Sustainable development of rural communities through knowledge and resource sharing

Navdanya Trust 58

Strengthening biodiversity conservation as a foundation for sustaining the earth

Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) 66

Alleviating rural poverty by promoting of viable and sustainable livelihoods

Shortlisted 2022

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, India 74

Fostering resilience and sustainable habitats among communities

BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development 78

Integrating rural development, sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation

Mount Valley Development Association 82

Enhancing livelihoods, agriculture and education in the foothills of the Himalayas

NFD Centre for Environment Education Society (NFD CEE Society) 86

Generating environmental awareness through innovative programmes and materials

Sahyadri Community Development and Women Empowerment Society (SCODWES) 90

Restoring community natural resources and integrated development for vulnerable communities

Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA) 94

Constructing livelihood systems and addressing mass poverty among the underserved

The Corbett Foundation 98

Mitigating human-animal conflict and community-based conservation

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold





Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission



Founded by Ahindra Nath Ray and
Dr Sudhir Bera in 1988

Encouraged by the humanitarian Lokamata Rani Rashmoni, Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission (LRRM) strives for poverty alleviation, prosperity and equal access to a healthy environment for the rural community through skill development, capacity building, alternate livelihoods, sustainable use of natural resources and health support. LRRM's efforts have been recognized through the Environment Excellence Award and Meghnad Award, which helped them make headway into the forest-fringe villages of Sunderbans. So far, it has saved 22,500 tons of firewood, reduced 43,200 tons of CO2 emissions per year, increased carbon stock by 40,000 tons and been the source of 45,000 tons of O2.

*Nutrition garden for livelihood and health
Following pages (52-53): Improved Cook Stoves make
villagers smile*

IN A REMOTE VILLAGE of the Sunderbans, Tarini Khatua runs a small goat farm. In another, Chandana Mondal has a backyard farm. Kakali Halder makes ropes from jute. Purnima Bhuiya grows a nutrition garden to preserve her family's health as well as sell surplus vegetables to her neighbours. Lakshmi Samanta and many of her friends have been using Improved Cook Stoves for a few years and have seen a huge improvement in their environment and health. Such alternative livelihood options and improved quality of life have been made possible for these forest-fringe dwelling women by the training and support of a dedicated NGO called Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission (LRRM) under the guidance of the United Nations Development Programme.

Giving them the chance to improve their incomes also reduces forest dependency and migration. The villagers have been encouraged to cultivate indigenous varieties of crops using modern organic techniques, thus conserving the agrobiodiversity of the land, and ensuring food and seed security. 'We believe that alternate livelihoods and profitable agriculture will bring the positive changes in the area, which will protect the



মিস্ত্রি

কুড়িবাঁস

কুড়িবিঘা

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Using the Improved Cook Stove



Prawn seeds collection from the Sundarbans river
 Following pages (56–57): *Distributing indigenous fruit saplings for plantation*

mangrove ecosystem of the Sundarbans and its inhabitants,' says Amitava Roy from LRRM. Farmers have already helped the NGO conserve 42 varieties of indigenous paddy, which are extremely resistant to waterlogging and the storms so characteristic of the region.

Knowledge and resource sharing are at the core of this award-winning organization's strategy. It honours the local and traditional knowledge of the community and supplements it with scientific thinking to resolve local issues. It works to strengthen local institutions and build the capacity of community leaders, engaging with local government and panchayats. On the technology end, its web-based Beneficiary Management System helps manage beneficiaries, staff and programmes.

The difficult terrain of the Sunderbans, land of mangroves and tigers, does not deter

LRRM's committed officers. Amitava Roy says, 'We have been able to serve hundreds of marginalized people: forest-dependent people, those from the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste communities, landless farmers, poor daily and migrant labourers as well as tiger-victim families. In other words, we work for the furthest, unreached persons only.'

HCL Grant Project Approach: Cleaner, healthier, greener environment and health for poor rural, forest-fringe communities and biodiversity conservation

HCL Grant Project Title: Minimize indoor and outdoor pollution through community based local action

Beneficiaries: 75,000 households of forest-fringe dwellers in 50 villages

Location: 3 districts in West Bengal




Providing alternate Livelihood to the
forest dependent community of Sundarban
(সুন্দরবনে উদ্ভূত নিউবর মানুষের বিকল্প জীবিকার ব্যবস্থান)
Sponsored by: Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
Implemented by: Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission



Navdanya Trust



Founded by Dr Vandana Shiva in 1991

Navdanya is the oldest biodiversity conservation organization in India. It views conservation of biodiversity and protection of all life forms as a fundamental human duty, and that all humans have a fundamental right to knowledge, biodiversity, water and food. Navdanya's programmes for sustainable rural development have reached more than a million community members, including women, children and youth, across more than 20 states in India. Navdanya has set up 150 community seed banks across the country, trained over 5,00,000 farmers in food sovereignty and biodiversity-based sustainable agriculture, and helped set up the largest direct marketing, fair trade organic network in the country to support biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity conservation in the hands of women from tribal communities
Following pages (60–61): *Mahuwa, the pantry and pharmacy of tribal communities in the forest*

FOR THREE DECADES, Navdanya, led by the fiery environmental activist and scientist Dr Vandana Shiva, has worked to preserve biological and cultural biodiversity. Women centric and farmer-led, focussed on agroecological farming practices, food sovereignty and seed saving, this NGO, whose name means 'nine seeds' seeks to rejuvenate biodiversity-based rural livelihoods and achieve sustainable rural development through awareness and participatory programmes.

Dr Shiva, who is one of the pioneers of biodiversity conservation globally with her roots in the Chipko movement, created the first Community Biodiversity Register to document our rich indigenous knowledge. She has contributed to formulating national and international laws on biodiversity, which have fed into the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, through which local communities can now share the benefits of biological resources, leading to self-reliant, poverty-free communities.

The idea of community participation and people-led change is taken very seriously in all of Navdanya's programmes. Local people are empowered to be the agents of change for environmental protection and the sustainable





Top: Colours of biodiversity for natural dyeing and food colouring
 Bottom: Abir gulal – for a natural and safe holi



Bounties of biodiversity in the capable hands of women
 Following pages (64–65): *A women's gathering at Navdanya Biodiversity Centre*

use of natural resources as well as impacting policy. At the Earth University at Navdanya Biodiversity Centre in Doon Valley, students learn about biodiversity conservation through observation of 4,000 plant species, 70 bird species, and more than 100 different insect species. Navdanya also engages in cutting edge research about interactions and ecological flows of biodiversity across diverse ecosystems.

Navdanya believes that most of the world's big problems, be they economic or ecological, can be solved by the rejuvenation of the Earth's biological wealth in the hands of women. 'Women are the custodians of the indigenous knowledge of biodiversity and have the capacities to empower the youth by transmitting this knowledge to further uplift the community with sustainable biodiversity-based livelihood possibilities. Over the

next decade Navdanya will put biodiversity conservation as the key solutions to hunger, poverty and unemployment through women's leadership, community participation and participatory planning,' says Dr. Shiva.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Biodiversity conservation as a foundation for sustainable development and livelihoods among rural communities

HCL Grant Project Title: Documenting and Regenerating Women's Indigenous Knowledge to Conserve and Regenerate Biodiversity and Biodiversity-based Livelihoods

Beneficiaries: 700 rural women in 70 villages

Location: 7 districts in the states of Uttarakhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand





Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN)



Founded by Deep Joshi and Vijay Mahajan
in 1983

PRADAN, or Professional Assistance for Development Action, was founded in 1983 with the belief that educated individuals can work towards eradicating mass poverty with empathy. It envisions a just and equitable society where everyone lives and works with dignity. It strives to enable the most marginalized sections, especially rural women, to take charge of their lives and earn a decent living. PRADAN has formed 9,500 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and associated institutions in 1230 villages. Its integrated Natural Resources Programme is implemented in six districts and has revived almost 90,000 hectares of degradable land. PRADAN plans to reach 10 million people across 12,500 villages in seven states by 2022.

*Community planning with resource maps
Following pages (68–69): Fallow upland converted into
a mango orchard intercropped with vegetables*

IN THE TRIBAL HINTERLANDS, among forest-fringe communities, elders of the villages remember a time when the land was not hard and red, the water pooled just below the surface; when crabs and earthworms were found in the fertile soil energized by animal manure and not harsh chemicals; when the earth gave freely and farming was a prosperous occupation. PRADAN, or Professional Assistance for Development Action, works with such populations to attempt revive the earth and that utopian ideal.

‘PRADAN started working on demonstrating integrated natural resources management (INRM) especially for preserving water and soil. The moot idea was to increase the availability of water so that it could be used further for bettering agriculture and bringing more fallow land under green coverage, which would ensure economic return in foreseeable future,’ says Debasish De, Team Coordinator, PRADAN. Once it had demonstrated the success of its interventions, PRADAN brought the government on board through the state MGNREGS cell to scale up the programme called Usharmukti (‘salvation





Top: Women leaders from the SHG of Chakadoba village sharing their journey with the HCL Foundation consultant
 Bottom: Women group members implementing natural resource management work in MGNREGS



Water harvesting and conservation structures used for irrigation and fisheries have regenerated the flora and fauna of the area
 Following pages (72–73): Villagers from Birgi working on the degraded land which they have converted to a mango orchard using soil and water conservation measures

from barrenness’) to rejuvenate the seven dying rivers of the region through watershed management.

The result has been ‘large-scale impact in terms of rainwater harvesting and regaining the soil by creating permanent vegetation in the fallow lands. Moreover, it created the confidence that rejuvenation of land, soil and forest is possible at a scale, and flow of water can be increased significantly,’ says Debashish De. Introducing indigenous varieties of crops and organic practices to help them grow in the tough terrain has also borne fruit, restoring the ecology, bringing back flora and fauna not seen in decades and ensuring good returns for the farmers, all at the same time.

PRADAN engages with and enhances the collective agency of women in the

communities it works with, to empower them as well as increase their income. It brings in knowledge and technology, mobilizes people and institutions, facilitates linkages, all through leadership of women’s collectives.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Collective-led climate-resilient approach for sustainable, regenerative, farming and improving soil health among local communities

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

Beneficiaries: 6,500 farmers from women collectives

Location: 4,000 villages in 3 districts of West Bengal





Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India



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

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, India (AKAHI) began with a vision of providing sustainable habitats to communities, safety from natural disasters, and an improved Quality of Life. It has impacted more than 8,00,000 beneficiaries with programmes targeting sustainability, climate change, health and sanitation, water management and disaster risk reduction. AKAHI works to give communities access to disaster-resilient housing and quality basic services, and economic opportunities. Its work has been awarded for best practices and models, and recognized by the central and state governments as well as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, UNICEF and more.

Community-level tree plantation

THE AGA KHAN AGENCY FOR HABITAT INDIA (AKAHI) has developed a robust framework to improve the quality of life of marginalized communities by improving their habitat. Its interventions include low-cost, quality housing, sanitation, biodiversity, water security and management, and reversing climate change. It also strengthens the resilience of communities and works on disaster management with these at-risk populations.

Working in tandem with these communities and employing powerful tools like knowledge transfer, best practices, research and innovation, AKAHI's programmes seek to make the people the agents of change – self-reliant and empowered to manage their habitat sustainably and mitigate disasters. Programmes stress on awareness and social and behaviour change, communication, as well as training and capacity building.

'We have always been at the forefront in challenging situations and in most inhospitable circumstances, even during emergencies like tsunamis, floods and earthquakes,' says Tameeza Alibhai, Acting Chief Executive Officer, AKAHI.



Top: *Surface Bund*
 Bottom left: *Machan or watchtower*
 Bottom right: *Rainwater Harvesting School*



Well covering – net

Technology has been a driver of greater transformation, including the use of drones for disaster risk reduction response, satellite phones, early warning apps and a Water Governance Digital Platform.

AKAHI’s impact has been exponential and sustainable. ‘Other achievements include the multi-sectoral post-earthquake reconstruction project in Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh Relief to Reconstruction Project, designing the national seismic risk mitigation programme, and more,’ explains Tameeza Alibhai.

Some examples of programmes include habitat improvement like safe and green houses, early warning systems for flood management, planting trees, interventions for homes and schools like solid-liquid

waste management, menstrual health management, and more. AKAHI provided the largest institutional contribution of non-food relief material in 2018 Kerala floods. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, it reached thousands of frontline workers, improved COVID compliant WASH infrastructure and promoted community-level covid compliant health and hygiene behaviour, which benefitted over 10 lakh community members.

HCL Grant Project Title: Evidence Based Participatory Approach in Ecosystem Restoration for Climate Adaptation
Beneficiaries: 1,500 households
Location: 30 villages in 2 districts of Maharashtra



BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development



BAIF founded by Dr. Manibhai Desai in 1967, and BAIF Livelihoods in 2012

BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development (BAIF Livelihoods) was founded with the vision of building a self-reliant society assured of food security, safe drinking water, good health, gender equity, low child mortality, literacy, high moral values and clean environment. Inspired by Gandhian principles, it works towards creating sustainable livelihoods, enriching the environment and improving the quality of life for the marginalized. BAIF today reaches out to over 4 million families from 80,307 villages in 12 states, enabling them to overcome poverty and attain a better standard of living.

Tree-based farming for sustainability and income

IN THE BUNDELKHAND REGION OF UTTAR PRADESH where about 9-10 per cent families are landless and 80 per cent are small and marginal farmers; which has a scarcity of fertile land and water, livelihood opportunities are severely limited. In this underserved area, an agri-horti-forestry model, a watershed development programme and a breed improvement for livestock programme aimed at farmers are underway. Common to all these initiatives is a singular NGO called BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development (BAIF Livelihoods). The field action unit of the umbrella organization BAIF Development Research Foundation, it has a plethora of programmes for sustainable rural development, integrated tribal development, optimum utilization of natural resources, clean energy access and the social empowerment of communities.

“These programmes have been supported with strong scientific research and innovative technological support. Interdisciplinary themes such as women empowerment, community health, education and rural non-farm livelihood development have



Top: Building farm bunds to retain and recharge groundwater
 Bottom: Helping contain the practice of anna pratha where cattle destroy crops



Fencing to prevent attacks from wild animals and stray cattle

been an integral part of all development programmes and significantly contributed to improving quality of life of grassroots communities,' says Dr. Raviraj Jadhav, Regional Director, BAIF.

BAIF Livelihoods promotes process innovation and agriculture technology, builds climate-resilient smart villages and aids in the conservation of biodiversity. It invests in partnerships with government, local bodies and corporates, and engages in upgrading of skills and capabilities of the community to ensure participation and sustainability of interventions. It promotes farmer collectives, producer groups and federations to help get better market access and value for their products. Co-operatives for dairy, goat, poultry, vermicomposting, vegetable cultivation, bamboo products,

fisheries, etc. have been established, along with 3,000 women's SHGs. Programmes by BAIF have contributed to additional income for rural poor households amounting to ₹ 150 billion, developed 300 hectares under watershed and natural resource initiatives, and transformed 81,000 hectares of wastelands into fruit orchards and much more.

HCL Grant Project Title: 'Pahal' – Community Led Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience Building
Beneficiaries: 1,000 families
Location: 5 villages in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh



Mount Valley Development Association



Founded by Avtar Singh Negi in 1995

Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) works in the areas of livelihood, agriculture and education with local communities in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Its vision is to eradicate poverty through developing sustainable livelihoods, promoting good governance, minimizing social discrimination and developing entrepreneurship to reduce urban migration. MVDA has formed and works with 450 SHGs and 3 women's federations as well as nearly 7,900 school students to empower them through building capacity and enhancing knowledge. Its future goals include building climate-resilient agriculture and aligned livelihood, health and hygiene, and education programmes to 5,000 individuals by 2026.

Encouraging landraces, that is, locally adapted, traditional varieties of plants and seeds

1,200 WOMEN members of SHGs in Tehri Garhwal and Rudraprayag were supported by the NGO Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) to form 3 self-reliant women's co-operatives. Of these, Umang now successfully manufactures and processes agro-produce like millets, pickles, pulses, oil seeds, herbs, etc., with an annual turnover of approximately ₹1 crore. The co-operatives mobilize and empower women farmers, besides building market linkages, connects them with developmental schemes of government and enhances their managerial capacities.

'Our programmes are designed to create small-scale income generating farming and non-farming practices through collectivization in order to secure income at individual household level. Through capacity building of our beneficiaries, we help them build self-sustained livelihood options. We have ensured that gender equality and environmental sustainability remain integral by working with community-based groups and promoting environment-friendly interventions,' explains Avtar Singh Negi, founder of MVDA.



Top: Preparing Shivansh Khad or organic manure
Bottom: Using a weeder machine in paddy fields



Promoting the practice of line sowing in garlic fields

MVDA works with community-based groups (CBOs) to form a support system for agriculture, livelihood and education, with a dedicated focus on creating economic opportunities for small and marginalized individuals, especially women. Cognizant of climate change and its disastrous effect on agriculture, affecting the income and food security of vulnerable communities in the region, MVDA strives to ensure effective agriculture interventions and agrobiodiversity conservation. At the same time it works at creating opportunities for secondary sources of livelihood, both agrobased as well as technical and soft skills training in garment production.

Sushma Rana, a 36-year-old social science graduate, was trained at MVDA's Training/ Production Centre in Tehri Garhwal. Before

this, she used to stitch at home. During the three-month training, she learned about stitching patterns and automatic machines, and thereafter got a job in a production house, and expanded her start-up business, too. She says, 'After I joined the course, I realized that there is so much to learn and do in stitching work and I loved it. Now I can do my work so much better!'

HCL Grant Project Title: Adaptation of Climate-Smart Actions for Restoration of Environment by Formulation of CBOs/ Van Panchayats for Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities in Rural Himalayan Villages
Beneficiaries: 1,000 farmers
Location: 45 villages in 1 district of Uttarakhand



NFD Centre for Environment Education Society (NFD CEE Society)



Founded by Kartikeya Sarabhai in 1984

Nehru Foundation for Development Centre for Environment Education Society (NFD-CEE Society) strives to be an institution of excellence by playing a significant role in local, national and global efforts towards sustainable development. To integrate education as a key driver for change, it works with schools, higher education institutions and policy makers, and reaches out to youth and the general community to enhance their understanding about sustainable development. Its continuous efforts have earned many awards including Jal Nirmalta Puraskar (1997), National Award from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (2003), and National Social Innovation Award by the Ministry of External Affairs (2016).

Herds of elephants in the village paddy field

IN THE ASSAM-MEGHALAYA ELEPHANT CORRIDOR, the human-animal conflict is being managed through an unusual yet highly effective tool – education. Training of the community and its leaders in the use of tracking tools, geography, conservation practices, and communication and awareness programmes on the importance of biodiversity and alternate livelihood options could well be the way of the future for resolving such conflicts, as they impact the very attitudes of the community towards elephants. This unique project is the brainchild of the Nehru Foundation for Development Centre for Environment Education Society (NFD-CEE).

The organization is focussed on relationships and collaborations with partners at all levels – national, international and local, building synergies between the government, NGOs and itself for comprehensive impact. NFD-CEE develops innovative programmes and educational material, and builds capacity in the field of Education for Sustainable Development, which it envisages will be the call to action for long-term sustainability. It supports other agencies



Top: *Community awareness programmes on biodiversity and conservation*
 Bottom: *Elephant plant food being transported for plantation*



Crop damage by elephant herds

in the field in developing similar materials and programmes and also disseminates information through dialogues, directories and newsletters.

‘The strategy that we stick to is that we always work from the roots. Most of our environmental education targets primary and middle school children. With the communities we work with, we educate and provide training to workers, mother groups, villagers, etc. We set our vision and goal very clear and make sure that our approach always benefits the people, environment and society as a whole,’ says Kartikeya Sarabhai, Founder of NFD-CEE. Novel projects in education, communication and development endorse and propagate attitudes, strategies and technologies that are environmentally sustainable.

The organization works deeply with the community itself, involving people in the decision-making processes, while also building capacity and training them to be master trainers and leaders of programmes as well as resource people for other programmes. ‘We prepare a community development committee where they can plan, prepare and execute their views and tasks, and sometimes link them with government bodies,’ says Kartikeya Sarabhai.

HCL Grant Project Title: Saving Elephants in Assam-Meghalaya Corridor through Awareness and Restoration (SEAM CAR)
Beneficiaries: 1,000 families
Location: 50 villages in 2 districts of Assam



Sahyadri Community Development and Women Empowerment Society (SCODWES)



Founded by Dr. Venkatesh L Naik in 2005

SCODWES, or Sahyadri Community Development and Women Empowerment Society, helps people transform their lives with dignity and equality. Its goal is integrated development of tribes and indigenous communities, small and marginal farmers, and Endosulfan pesticide-affected victims and their families in Karnataka. SCODWES is a 100 per cent compliant organization, has ISO 9001:2015 certification and is accredited with the Guidestar Gold Transparency Certificate. It works in 18 districts of Karnataka with a beneficiary base of 1 million plus, which is growing every day.

Protecting the Sacred Groves

DEEP IN THE WESTERN GHATS, more than 100 kilometers from any major city, SCODWES, or Sahyadri Community Development and Women Empowerment Society, runs its programmes that cover health and sanitation, sustainable agriculture, capacity development, creating livelihood opportunities, rehabilitation, ecology and environmental development for the tribes, indigenous communities and small and marginal farmers in the area.

Initially, SCODWES was supported by the state Department of Agriculture to implement its 'Savayava Bhagya Yojane' through which several agriculture and watershed development projects were implemented by the NGO in Karnataka. This involves soil and water conservation, introducing farmers to organic methods of agriculture and mobilizing thousands of them into federations and farmer producer companies (FPCs) so that they can have a collective voice. SCODWES also works to strengthen the capacity of the communities through participatory involvement in social and environmental management and builds capacity of farmers for sustainable use to



Top: Discussion with Sacred Grove village communities
Bottom: Exploring Sacred Groves



Protected water body adjacent to the Sacred Grove

natural resources. ‘The FPC produce is being introduced in the e-markets like Kalgudi, National e-Market Limited and Rashtriya e-Market Services, which will give a global market as well as a great price for the farmer produce,’ says Dr. Venkatesh Naik, Executive Director, SCODWES.

SCODWES also has successful and widespread healthcare interventions including a pioneering Mobile Medical Unit project in Karnataka to take good healthcare to the doorsteps of the rural and tribal populations in three districts. It also sets up Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) in remote villages, for example, in Diggi, a village in Joida taluk, which otherwise lacks even basic facilities like electricity and roads. During the Covid-19 pandemic, SCODWES Team Sanjeevini provided a highly effective medical response service in the remote areas of Uttara Kannada.

The current project for which the HCL Grant application has been made aims to rehabilitate the forests of the central Western Ghats, one of the eight biological hotspots, by rejuvenating and forming sacred groves, which have traditional and global environmental significance.

HCL Grant Project Title: Rehabilitating Degraded Forests and Enriching the Existing Forests for Global Advantage through Rejuvenation of the Existing & Formation of New Sacred Groves of Central Western Ghats of Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka
Beneficiaries: 1,11,100 villagers, farmers, students, youth, tribes and indigenous communities
Location: 250 villages in 1 district of Karnataka



Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA)



Founded by Aswini Bhattacharjee
and Parag Barua in 2011

Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA) envisages a vibrant, democratic and developed society that is harmonious and peaceful, and where every individual is empowered and lives a dignified life. It strives to alleviate mass poverty through sustainable development of the marginalized communities in the north-east of India. SeSTA's work has impacted nearly 60,000 rural women across 20 districts of the Northeast. The organization has won the World Bank's India Development Marketplace Award, Chief Minister's Best Action Award for Community Development as well as the prestigious Polestar Award in the Social Impact (livelihoods) category.

Use of women-friendly weeding tool

NEW VARIETIES OF RICE that give much higher yields. Solar lamps to replace expensive kerosene lights in a remote tribal hamlet. Starter loans for one woman's duck farm. Forcing authorities to fix a bad road by exerting the power of the collective. Empowering women to facilitate peace in ethnic conflicts. These are some of the extraordinary achievements of Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA), which works in the eight states of the Northeast.

'SeSTA works with rural women through community-based collectives. This involves creating collectives at different tiers at the village level and the block level, with clear roles and responsibilities. The different actors at each of the tiers are also clearly delineated. It is through these strong women's collectives at the grassroots level that SeSTA works on sustainable agriculture, clean energy, Natural Resources Management, improved livestock, promoting micro-enterprises as well as entitlements while keeping the agenda of gender justice as the core,' explains Pradyut Bhattacharjee, Executive Director, SeSTA.



Top: Improved paddy transplantation
 Bottom: Community Training on nutrition garden



Village-level planning process

Its work especially impacts women and youth, by building their capabilities so that women are safe and secure, have the space to raise their voice against various social evils, and are able to collaborate with stakeholders; and the youth are skilled, informed and enterprising, for advancement in life and livelihood in a sustainable manner. It endeavours to build capacity of the community and community institutions so that they can function on their own.

SeSTA focusses on scaling up the use of technology in data collection and analysis. It uses a robust measurement framework for monitoring, evaluation and learning and an Android-based mobile app for data collection. It has also developed a loan management software, a livelihood tracker app, for the Mahila Kisan. It has been

continuously collaborating with State Rural Livelihoods Missions across the north-east and will continue to strengthen this partnership to reach the largest number of people and support vibrant villages and communities where every citizen is empowered and lives a dignified life.

HCL Grant Project Title: Strengthening Ecology by Revitalizing Wetlands or Beels and Reviving Indigenous Aquatic Life in India's Largest River Island of Majuli in Collaboration with Government Institutions and Scaling Existing Pilot across Assam Through Women Led Collectives
Beneficiaries: 3,000 members of the Beel management committee
Location: 60 villages in 1 district of Assam



The Corbett Foundation



Founded by Dilip D. Khatau in 1994

The Corbett Foundation (TCF) seeks to preserve and protect wildlife and nature with the involvement of forest-fringe communities. It focuses on finding solutions to reduce human-wildlife conflict and other conservation challenges. With the belief that humans and nature must live together in harmony, TCF aims to undertake ecological research to support species conservation and habitat protection, provide sustainable livelihoods to reduce dependence on natural resources, provide healthcare and veterinary services, and promote overall sustainable rural development. It has been awarded the WWF-PATA Tiger Conservation Award, Kirloskar Vasundhara Mitra Award, and more.

Difference between grazed and ungrazed reforested plot

IT IS ONLY WHEN A SYNERGY can be established between wildlife conservation and the welfare of communities that live on the fringes of the forest that the future of our wilderness habitats can be ensured. The Corbett Foundation (TCF) has dedicated itself to this task, building up trust with local communities who cared little for the biodiversity around them. They indulged in poaching, killing tigers and leopards who ate their livestock and were totally dependent on the forest for their livelihood. TCF brought in an understanding of these issues through several measures over the decades.

TCF strives to protect wild species and their habitats, and works in prime Bengal Tiger habitats in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Maharashtra. It has been instrumental in the conservation of some of the last remaining Great Indian Bustard habitats in Kutch, Gujarat, and the One-horned Rhinoceros habitat in Assam.

Its multidimensional and holistic approach includes the Interim Relief Scheme for villagers who have lost livestock to tigers and leopards to discourage retaliatory killings, and a Rural Medical Outreach Programme for



Top: TCF team watering saplings for a habitat restoration project
 Bottom: TCF fences open wells to prevent wild animals from falling inside



Villagers collecting fodder grown by TCF under its stall-feeding project in Kanha National Park

people living in remote forest-fringe areas. These two successful programmes slowly brought over the village populations to the side of conservation. Reforestation projects to rejuvenate habitats, grassland restoration for fodder, fencing of wells so that animals do not fall in, providing energy efficient cook stoves to rural communities are some of its other successes. Research, conservation action and awareness, watershed development, veterinary health, education for conservation, fostering sustainable livelihoods and policy interventions are other initiatives by TCF. Developing apps and early warning systems and other uses of technology are also aiding it in its work.

Naturally, empowering and involving the communities in these interventions is extremely important. 'TCF provided 15

kilometres of solar fence at the outskirts of Kaziranga National Park and Nagaon Forest Division (in Assam) to prevent 1,000-acres of farms from being raided by elephants. The fence is being maintained by local communities and successfully provided almost 100 per cent crop protection in the last five seasons,' describes Kedar G. Gore, Director, TCF.

HCL Grant Project Title: Restore and Rejuvenate Forests for a Long-Term Conservation of Tigers and Other Mega-species in the Central Indian Landscape with Active Community Engagement

Beneficiaries: Students, tigers, youth and villagers

Location: 25 villages in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

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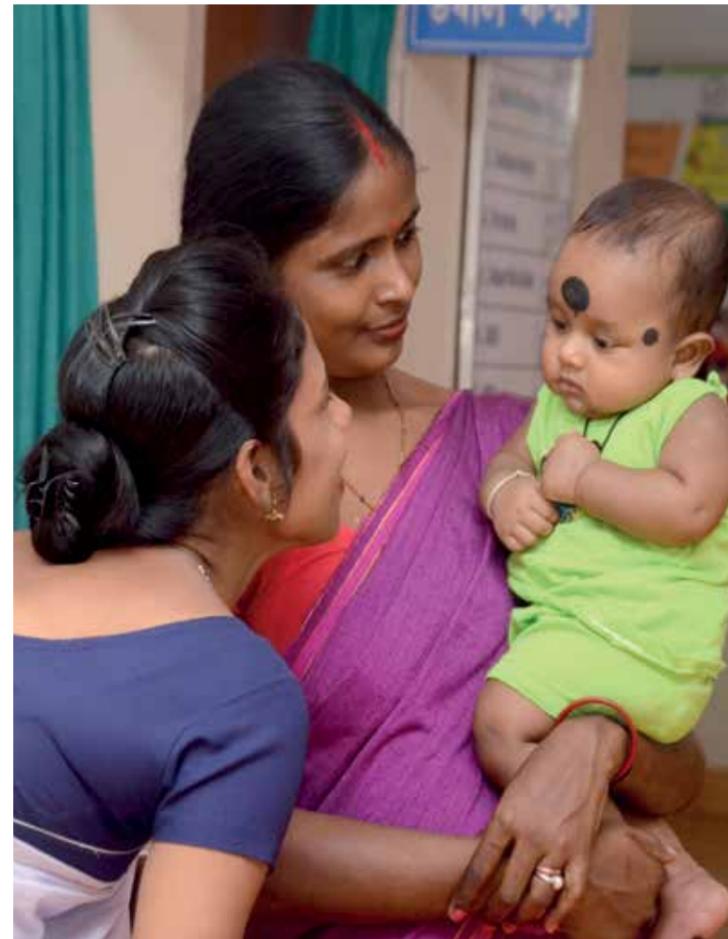
Strengthening universal and stigma-free access to healthcare

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold





CURE International India Trust



Founded by Dr. Mathew Varghese
& Dr. Santhosh George in 2009

CURE International India Trust (CURE India) envisions an inclusive society where people with disabilities have equal education opportunities and lead an independent and productive life. They work with children born with clubfoot, providing them affordable and effective non-surgical treatment. Training over 5,500 healthcare professionals in the Ponseti Method, they have treated nearly 50,000 children and are currently working with an additional 15,000, offering them free world-class treatment through 314 designated clubfoot clinics in partnership with 29 state governments. CURE India has set a national model on timely healthcare and access to inclusive education, and further aims to create designated clubfoot clinics in 715 districts of India in the next five years.

Defeating clubfoot brings smiles and hope to parents
Following pages (110–111): *Plaster cast application to correct clubfoot*

EVERY YEAR IN INDIA, 40,000 children are born with clubfoot, a congenital deformity that twists the foot downward and inward, making walking difficult or impossible. So when international organizations that work with clubfoot management approached Dr. Mathew Varghese and Dr. Santhosh George to start a clubfoot programme in India, they didn't hesitate. And so was born a highly successful programme that uses affordable, effective and non-surgical interventions to correct clubfoot among the poor and vulnerable sections of society.

One of the key reasons for CURE India's tremendous reach is that instead of creating a parallel, standalone disability elimination programme, it partnered with the governments of 29 states of India. 'The network of clubfoot clinics are in government hospitals, where the treatment is provided by the government doctors. The community health volunteers (ASHAs), *Anganwadi* teachers and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) team identify and refer children with clubfoot to the designated clubfoot clinics. The public health system owns this initiative and the role of





Mothers with children in Cure India's Clubfoot Clinic in Bihar
 Following pages (114–115): Dr. Mathew Varghese examining the correction of the foot of a child born with clubfoot



CURE India counselor teaching parents
 Top: The importance of bracing
 Bottom: Gentle stretching

CURE India is crucial but minimal so that it is sustainable,' explains Dr. Santhosh George, Founder Director of CURE India.

CURE India uses techniques like the Ponseti Method, which includes serial casting and long term follow up with special shoes called Foot Abduction Braces. These shoes are handmade and modified in India by technicians, who are themselves persons with disability, instead of relying on expensive braces imported from abroad. Constant follow ups and home visits help ensure the effectiveness of the treatment.

The HCL Grant Project CURE India is applying for concerns the education of children with this disability, who are often left out of the education loop. 'CURE India has initiated several state level programmes to ensure that children with birth deformities and developmental delays are given timely

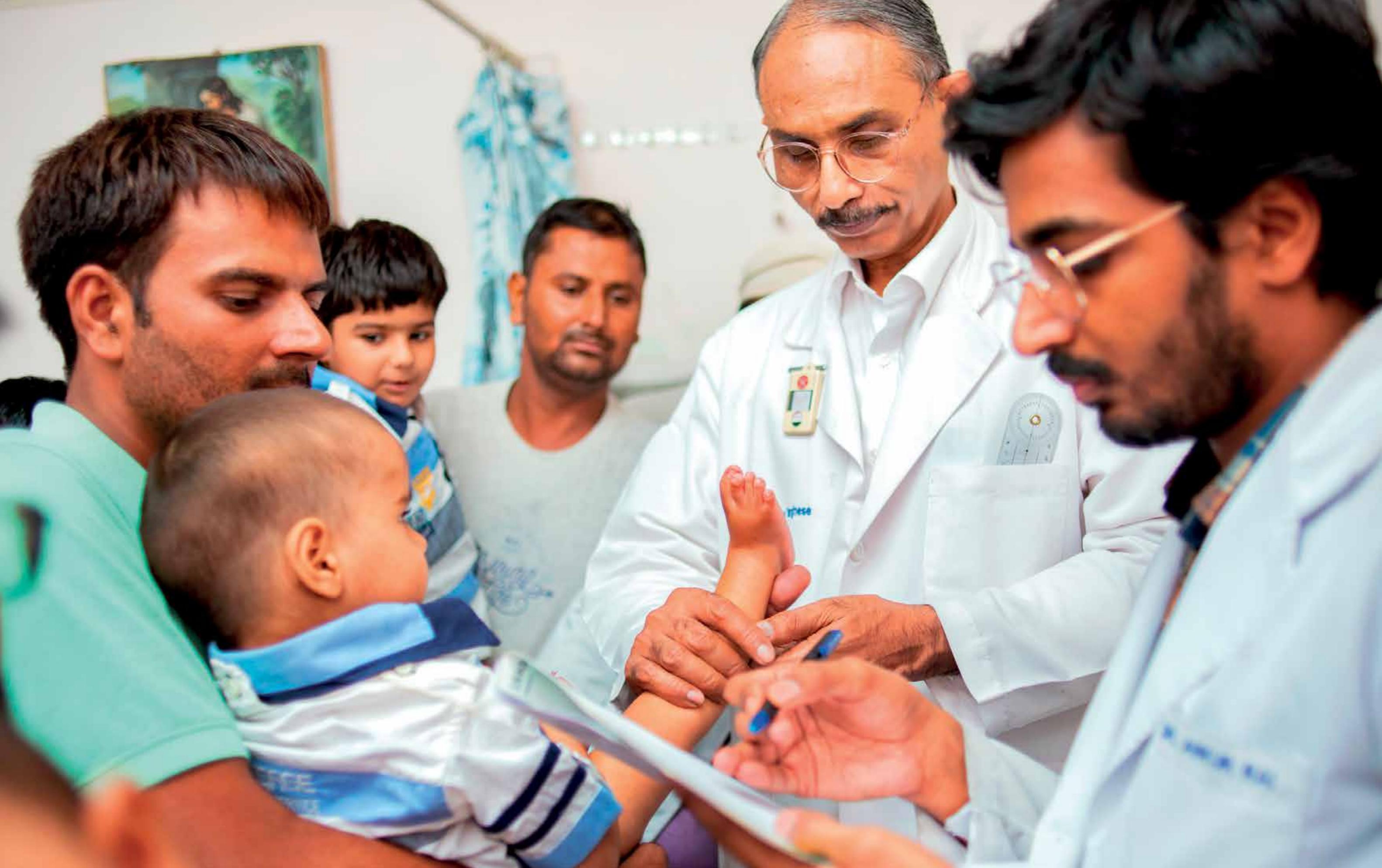
access to healthcare, rehabilitation and inclusive education so that irrespective of their social, financial and physical conditions they have quality life, education opportunity, and an independent and productive future,' says Dr. Mathew Varghese, Founder Trustee of CURE India.

HCL Grant Project Approach: Eliminating clubfoot by empowering public healthcare professionals through improved detection, referral and treatment of clubfoot

HCL Grant Project Title: Ensuring Inclusive Education for Children with Birth Defects and Children Affected with Development Delays with Special Focus on Children Born with Clubfoot

Beneficiaries: 10,000 children

Location: 130 villages in 8 states and 1 Union Territory





Ekjut



Founded by Dr. Prasanta Kishore Tripathy and Dr. Nirmala Nair in 2002

With a goal of building healthier communities, and with a focus on equity and environmentally sustainable development, at the heart of Ekjut's vision is a world where every human being has a right to life with dignity, that respects and celebrates life and diversity, and where the voices of people guide the decisions that shape the quality of their lives. It works towards the improvement of child health, and nutrition of underserved and marginalized communities through empowerment and community-based interventions. Ekjut believes in evidence-based research and its first trial paper was published in the *Lancet* journal, which also received the 'Trial of the Year' award.

The example of a tree helps young people understand the influences on their lives and growth
Following pages (118–119): *Young people taking up the responsibility for developing nutrition gardens in their village*

THROUGH ITS UNIQUE community engagement platform 'Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)', Ekjut works to improve the health and nutritional status of mothers, newborns and young children. Monthly meetings of women's groups, led by a facilitator, identify and prioritize problems facing the community and then find solutions and implement them together. To make the process more engaging, adult learning devices like story-telling, games, use of picture cards, demonstrations or role-plays are used during the meetings, which are conducted in the local dialect and are flexible on venue and timings.

Started by a group of doctors, Ekjut began its work in the areas of maternal and child health. 'Being based in the district provided the added benefit of viewing things from the community's perspective better – the disparities, the levels of marginalization and the dire need for improving health. Collaborating with academic institutions from the start had the advantage of disseminating the results to a wider audience,' says Dr. Nirmala Nair, Secretary, Ekjut. Its impact increased exponentially over the years as it began to





Top: Young people discussing gender transformative behaviours, building their confidence and resilience



Bottom: Children of an upgraded high school in Sharda, West-Singbhum



The Ho communities of Jharkhand celebrating the Baba festival of flowers
Following pages (122–123): Participatory Learning and Action group meeting

partner with the government and networks to scale up its interventions, as well as invest in research.

Equity and inclusivity are built into Ekjut's programme design, as is reaching underserved populations. Results of its interventions have been published in journals, including the *Lancet*. 'In the Ekjut trial (2005–08), reduction in neonatal mortality rate (NMR) was 32 per cent in 3 years and among the most marginalized was 71 per cent. When ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) implemented the intervention, there was 31 per cent reduction in NMR and among the most marginalized communities was 62 per cent in 2 years,' says Dr. Nair.

The PLA model has been piloted, designed, tested for effectiveness and efficacy for impact on newborn mortality, maternal

mortality and postnatal depression. It is now being tested on newer themes including gender-based violence, adolescent health and well-being, as well as non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and mental health.

HCL Grant Project Approach: To address the underlying determinants of undernutrition and reduce the incidence of common mental disorders among adolescents and youth

HCL Grant Project Title: Participatory Community-Led Intervention with Youth Groups to Improve Nutrition and Mental Wellbeing

Beneficiaries: 36,157 adolescents and youth, 10–25 years old

Location: 100 villages in Jharkhand





The Association of People with Disability



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

With integrity, empathy, accountability, collaboration, excellence and diversity as its core values, The Association of People with Disability (APD) strives to create a world where equity, dignity and justice are assured for persons with disability (PWDs). It runs extensive programmes in rural and urban Karnataka to enable, equip and empower children and adults with a range of disabilities including locomotor, spinal cord injury, speech and hearing, cerebral palsy and mental issues. It has impacted over 5,00,000 PWDs from underprivileged communities. APD has received the NCPEDP-Mindtree Helen Keller Award in 2019, the Award for contribution to Mental Health from NIMHANS and the E-Innovation Award from MUGU International Foundation in 2018.

Hand rehabilitation in progress
Following pages (126–127): *Mother as therapist during self-management training*

STARTED BY A 17-YEAR-OLD polio-affected person, The Association of People with Disability (APD) looks at disability through a different lens. It works to nurture an inclusive ecosystem and empower PWDs by facilitating access to good rehabilitation services, their rights and entitlements, equal opportunities and dignity.

APD's lifecycle approach goes all the way from early intervention, inclusive education, livelihood opportunities, spinal cord injury rehabilitation, research, training, developing assistive and adaptive technology, policy and advocacy and symbiotic partnerships to scale up its interventions in the best possible manner.

From community-based rehabilitation and local networking and supporting the creation of federations and other community-based organizations, to corporate engagement for building awareness and accessing innovations and research, APD has numerous collaborations in place. It works with the government in a technical and advisory capacity, as well as programmes like empowering PHCs to become models for basic management interventions related to PWDs.





Top: Retrofitted bike transfers
 Bottom left: Spinal cord injury rehabilitation through the community
 Bottom right: Encouraging entrepreneurship and self-reliance



*Making homes, including toilets, accessible to all
 Following pages (130–131): Building strength and conditioning at the Rehab Institute*

With a firm belief that no one must be left behind, APD strives to fulfill important needs of PWDs like creating a barrier-free environment in educational facilities, public places and enhancing accessible transportation across India. Besides this, APD creates peer trainers across India to support the rehabilitation and empowerment of PWDs and strengthening the ecosystem through awareness, capacity building and sensitization of various stakeholders in the community for sustainability.

APD's Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) programme is unique as it addresses not just the physical but the psychological, social, vocational and sports/recreational issues through comprehensive rehabilitation, which the government and other institutions do not offer. 'We follow an individual family service plan

with need-based assessment, goal setting and intervention plans that is delivered through five levels of services from intense support to tele-rehabilitation, with three approaches: center-based, camp-based and home based,' says Dr. N.S. Senthil Kumar, COO and Executive Director, APD.

HCL Grant Project Approach: To assure life with equity, dignity and justice for socio-economically challenged people with spinal cord injury through better health, rehabilitation services, employment and reduction in caregiver's burden

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

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

Location: 14,885 villages in Karnataka





Chotay Taray Foundation



Founded by Arjumand Makhdoomi in 2000

Chotay Taray Foundation (CTF) works in the areas of disability, mental health, livelihood and education, and has reached thousands of women, men and children across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond, especially through projects and partnerships on education, skill and sustainability development, child protection, women empowerment, youth advocacy, peace justice and strong institutions. It has worked with many national and international organizations such as CRY, UNICEF and Give India on core child rights verticals like out-of-school children, the Juvenile Justice Act and child-friendly spaces. CTF has impacted 4,000+ children, 8,000 people with disabilities and 160 unemployed youth, and has trained 39 senior police officers.

Behavioural Therapy for children to enhance positive behaviours

CHOTAY TARAY MEANS 'LITTLE STARS'. This committed NGO works in one of the most difficult regions of India, Kashmir, where violence and the unpredictability of the conflict have left many little ones orphaned, destitute and impacted in physical and psychological ways. The scarcity of resources and organizations to help persons with disability (particularly children) prompted Chotay Taray Foundation (CTF) to start their programmes in the state. It persevered against the odds, gained the community's trust, and began its work of getting disabled children enrolled, identified, assessed and then rehabilitated.

Offering quality home-based rehabilitation to children to increase their physical and functional independence, CTF reached out to the community directly. 'Most of the field interventions are designed on the basis of community needs. The community is completely involved. Further, the volunteers working under different programmes are from community itself so as to continue the services even if there are lockdowns and shutdowns and the progression is not affected,' explains Arjumand Makhdoomi, Founder of CTF.



Top and bottom: Family counseling equips the family with important skills



Adolescent counselling uses interventions like Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

CTF's interventions include making people aware of entitlements under the Disability Act, getting them disability certification, pensions and other benefits. It conducts awareness workshops, teacher and health worker training programmes and organizes health camps. It facilitates donation of aids and appliances as well as prosthesis and orthotics. In the last few years, it has added programmes addressing mental health services, livelihood promotion, quality education, child protection and a 24/7 child resource centre. During the Covid-19 pandemic, it has continued its interventions through tele-counselling over audio/video calls.

CTF has partnered with and been recognized by organizations like CRY and UNICEF. 'We focus on changing behaviours

and practices at the grassroots level and influencing public policy at a systemic level, thereby creating an ecosystem where children are made the nation's priority,' says Arjumand Makhdoomi.

HCL Grant Project Title: Improve Mental Health and Social Well-being of People Living in Remote and Border Districts of J&K and Contribution to SDG 03

Beneficiaries: 14,000 people with mental health issues, 5,600 caregivers of people with mental health issues, 30 lay health workers, and 2,400 frontline workers

Location: 2,426 villages in Jammu & Kashmir



Doctors For You



Founded by Dr. Ravikant Singh in 2007

Doctors For You (DFY) works towards providing sustainable, equitable, effective and efficient healthcare services to the most vulnerable individuals and communities with the firm belief in 'health for all'. Its goals include combating maternal and child malnutrition, and building disaster-resilient health, education and livelihood systems. DFY's hard work has been recognized through the British Medical Journal Award in 2011, and its founder is the first and only Indian to be awarded the SAARC Youth award. DFY currently works in 23 states with 3,700+ staff. It has administered more than 8 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines in 18 states across India and treated over 55,000 Covid-19 patients.

Registration process for cancer screening and awareness programme

WORKING WITH TATA MEMORIAL CANCER HOSPITAL, Mumbai, and the Government of Bihar, Doctors for You (DFY) aims to provide comprehensive cancer care for the low-income population of North Bihar. Such commendable initiatives are all in a day's work for DFY, which works to ensure quality medical care and sustainable health services for vulnerable communities in rural/tribal areas during crisis and non-crisis situations, as well as emergency medical aid and training in emergency risk and response for people affected by natural disasters, conflicts and epidemics.

Its lofty goals include strengthening the RMNCH+ (reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health) programme across India, improving access to non-communicable diseases and injuries care services, preventing and controlling drug-resistant TB, as well as doing research that impacts public health interventions in the field and at policy level including the successful Public Interest Litigation for the ban on gutka.

'As per DFY's theory of change, sustainable change cannot be achieved



Top and Bottom: Oral cancer screening and patient counselling procedure at village level



Breast cancer awareness and self-examination training session for ASHA workers

just with health interventions. Health, nutrition, livelihood and education-based interventions are key to bring long term development,' says Dr. Ravikant Singh, Founder of DFY. DFY strives to fortify the Public Health System by mobilizing resources and investing in partnerships with governments, NGOs, corporates and the community itself. Involving the community in the projects is integral to the success of its interventions.

During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, DFY has been one of the leading medical humanitarian response organizations, running more than 40 Covid-19 centres in India for vaccination and treatment.

'We are setting up a dedicated disaster response unit at DFY, which would be first

of its kind not only in India but also in the South Asia Region. DFY is now planning to start various medical, paramedical and nursing institutes to produce well-qualified workforce for public health system strengthening in the long term,' explains Dr. Singh.

HCL Grant Project Title: CanCure
Beneficiaries: 6,31,200 men and women (30-65 years of age), 2,00,000 high risk individuals (<30 years), 800 health workers, 30,000 school students and 600 school teachers
Location: 600 villages in Bihar



Family Health India



Founded by Dr. Bitra George and Mr. Sharad Malhotra in 2008

Family Health India (FH India) envisions a world where all individuals and communities have the opportunity to reach their highest potential. It strives to improve the quality of life of the most deprived and marginalized sections in lasting ways through empowerment, strengthening community leadership, management capacity and locally-driven solutions for human development. Working in areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and integrated rural development, it has partnered with the Government of India for the prevention, control and management of vector-borne diseases.

Health camp in Badaun district

PENETRATING THE REMOTEST and least-served geographies of India is no easy task. Family Health India (FH India), set up by FHI 360, an international NGO, has reached tribal and rural belts in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and created impact in the area of public health, nutrition and education. These programmes are only possible if they are community-driven, designed to build capacity and collaborative in nature. Thus, FH India invests deeply in partnerships with different stakeholders. It works to build local bodies like Panchayati Raj institutions and SHGs, strengthen community structures, and scale up through State Health Missions, Women and Child Departments, Rural Development and Social Welfare Departments. It engages with community volunteers and health educators to strengthen last-mile healthcare.

‘We adopt cost-effective solutions that are sustainable over the long term. Our core skills and experience lie in behaviour change communication, community engagement, programme management, technical innovations, research-driven programme,



Top: Long Lasting Insecticidal Net (LLIN) demonstration
 Bottom Left and Right: Measures to reduce waste creation at source



Village meeting to discuss primary health services and solid waste management

policy making and scaling up to reach large populations with proven solutions,' says Dr. Bitra George, Founder, FH India.

Areas covered by FH India's interventions include vector-borne diseases, HIV and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), family planning and reproductive health, maternal and child health, health systems strengthening, integrated health and development, and infectious diseases, including TB. It has managed CSR development projects for corporates, as well as for WHO and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM).

'FH India makes sure that we involve the community at various stages (planning, implementation, evaluation, and redesign). We adopt a participatory approach in the

entire project cycle so that the skills and knowledge gained by the current groups of communities are transferred and replicated in other geographies in India. One of the key strategies that FH India uses in projects is to create a large cadre of community volunteers to ensure a trained pool of human resources in the community even when the project funding ends,' explains Dr. Bitra George.

HCL Grant Project Title: EMBED Plus – Eliminating the Threat of Malaria in 10 Endemic Districts of India
Beneficiaries: 37,50,000 community members
Location: 1,000 villages in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh



Ipas Development Foundation



Founded by a group of development professionals in 2008

Ipas Development Foundation (IDF) views women as the core of families and communities, and their well-being as central to national health and stability. IDF works to dismantle barriers and foster the full realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, which are essential to the achievement of their physical, mental, spiritual, political and economic well-being. IDF works through direct interventions, partnerships with 11 state governments and by nurturing Civil Society Organizations and local networks. It has trained more than 18,000 providers in the public health system on safe abortion and comprehensive contraception services, and strengthened over 6,000 public healthcare facilities to improve the lives of 5,00,000 women and girls each year.

Outreach sessions by youth leaders with young women made engaging with the use of games and story cards

IN INDIA, ONE WOMAN, usually between the ages of 15–24 years, dies every 15 minutes due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Ipas Development Foundation (IDF) addresses this crucial issue, creating an ecosystem that is respectful, responsive and supportive to the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs and rights of women and girls.

‘Our comprehensive approach utilizes a range of efforts with an eye on innovations and sustainability – awareness building among individuals; sensitization of families and communities; health system strengthening; building grassroots-level capacities for local advocacy and action; state-level engagement for financing and ownership; and national-level initiatives for supportive policies and guidelines,’ says Vinoj Manning, Chief Executive Officer, IDF.

Starting its journey with the goal of reducing abortion-related deaths and disabilities, IDF has now scaled up its reach by partnering with state governments, aligning with their ongoing programmes to offer sustainable training systems for abortion and contraception, train



Top: IDF-trained youth leader discussing women's sexual health and reproduction topics with young men
 Bottom: Community level awareness building session on sexual health and reproduction by IDF-trained youth leader



IDF-sensitized health provider addressing a young girl's queries

providers and ensure service delivery in the remotest areas. With the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, it helped transition abortion from merely a medical procedure to a woman-centered comprehensive service. It is now the go-to partner for the ministry, aiding in the formulation of national policies and technical standards for abortion and contraception.

The healthcare delivery system built by IDF works with women in rural communities directly. Community programmes are led by women it trains as leaders. IDF's research at the community level includes a study with 900 women and girls from three states to understand the impact of Covid-19 on their sexual and reproductive health.

'We leverage technology at multiple levels – both in our regular programmes and to drive innovations,' says Vinoj Manning. An example is the interactive AI WhatsApp chatbot developed by IDF called Disha *didi*. 'The bot is a one-stop digital resource for SRH that provides credible information for youth when they need it, in a medium that they prefer.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Transforming Health & Lives of Rural Young People and Adolescents in Two States in India
Beneficiaries: 1,40,000 adolescents, 48,000 young women, 19,200 partners of young women
Location: 600 villages in Assam and Madhya Pradesh



Lords Education and Health Society



Founded by Sunil Wadhvani in 2003

Lords Education and Health Society (LEHS), commonly known as WISH Foundation, strives to create an equitable healthcare system and make quality primary healthcare available and accessible to everyone. With a vision of quality healthcare for all by improving PHCs through innovation and systems strengthening, they have covered a population of over 140 million, with 44.87 million patients-consults, till date. Their tireless efforts have won them several awards and recognition including ‘Best Start-up in Healthcare’ by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, at Ayushman Bharat Summit 2019. They aim to facilitate access to affordable and high-quality healthcare for 100 million persons in the developing world by 2027.

ANM and ASHA on a home visit to support maternal and child health

FOR INDIA TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, primary healthcare needs to be considerably strengthened. Lords Education and Health Society (LEHS) works towards this very goal through its flagship programme in India, WISH (Wadhvani Initiative for Sustainable Healthcare). This programme, through a Public Private Partnership model, leverages the advantages of partnering with the government to augment the quality of primary healthcare services. Through innovations and bringing in financial and technical resources, LEHS|WISH makes healthcare accessible and affordable to underserved communities through a fully compliant, operational and resilient healthcare delivery system.

These partnerships with the states are as its website states, ‘the fulcrum of the LEHS|WISH healthcare delivery model’s success and sustainability’. LEHS|WISH first partnered with the Government of Rajasthan in 2015 to pilot the Primary Healthcare Systems Strengthening model in 32 rural PHCs. Thereafter, it helped the Delhi Government set up Aam Admi Mohalla Clinics in 104 locations across Delhi. Implementing these models, as well as others



Top: *Tele-consultation in progress*
 Bottom: *Training of healthcare workers*



Health camp for adolescents

like Technical Support Units (TSUs), Digital Health and Wellness Centres (d-HWCs), healthcare innovations and capacity building of health human resources, it has been able to create positive impact through MOUs with other state governments in Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and as a response to Covid-19 pandemic, in Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, too. LEHS|WISH has so far strengthened over 700 primary healthcare services and ensured delivery of quality healthcare services.

As Rajesh Ranjan Singh, Chief Executive Officer, LEHS|WISH, says: 'The WISH trajectory of growth and transformation has followed the 4Ps – Project, Platform, Program, and Policy continuum, wherein Project refers to direct implementation of healthcare services through diverse models

in multiple geographies; Platform offers a suite of scalable primary care solutions selected prudently based on evidence and experience; Program refers to strategic advisory support to state governments through Technical Support Units; and Policy defines the thought leadership aspirations in the Primary Healthcare domain.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Augmenting Sexual Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (SRMNCAH+N) services Through Strengthening the Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) in Tea Garden Hospitals of five districts of Assam
Beneficiaries: 25,47,704 children, 18,39,477 adolescents, 20,64,060 women
Location: 5,361 villages in Assam



SEWA Rural



Founded by Dr. Anil Desai, Dr. Lata Desai, Dr. Dilip Desai, and Dr. Pratima Desai in 1980

SEWA Rural, or the Society for Education Welfare and Action Rural, endeavours to reach and assist the poorest of the poor through health, medical and education related service delivery and research programmes for overall and integrated development of disadvantaged sections of rural, poor and tribal society in general, and of women, children and the elderly in particular. It has been awarded the SASAKAVA & Public Health Champion Award from WHO, the Mac Arthur Award, the SKOCH, Digital Inclusion Award, the Bajaj Award, and has an article written about its excellent work in *Reader's Digest* in 1989.

Creating awareness about addiction for young people

INSPIRED BY GANDHI AND VIVEKANANDA, four young professionals determined to fulfil a dire need in the remote Bharuch district of Gujarat. Illiteracy, poor health infrastructure and poverty defined the lives of local people with no succour from government or voluntary organizations. The fledgling NGO dived into the deep end by providing preventive and curative health services for the tribal community through a small existing maternity home that they took over. These efforts won over the people, providing access to quality medical services almost free of cost. 'Over the years, like-minded professionals with commitment and dedication to serve society also started joining us, owning the spirit of the organization. Soon the medical work spilled beyond the four walls of the hospital, providing community-based outreach healthcare services at peoples' doorsteps,' says Dr. Pankaj Shah, Managing Trustee, SEWA Rural.

SEWA Rural was the first NGO to partner with the government to manage a PHC. Since then, the organization has grown



Top: Teaching adolescents the importance of nutrition
 Bottom: Distribution of iron tablets to ensure health



Learning about reproductive health using games

steadily, expanding to Vocational Training, Women Development and Empowerment and Adolescent Health. Underlying its programmes is a community-led, participatory and scientific, research-based approach combined with a social service ideology and a spiritual outlook, in order to achieve its goals of reaching the 'last human being'. SEWA Rural's digital application, ImTeCHO, for maternal child health, has been rolled out throughout Gujarat (as TeCHO+), and its base 250-bed hospital is recognized as a First Referral Unit by the government and UNICEF.

The community has responded tremendously by participating in the interventions, even offering 'man, material, money and time' to ensure the success of programmes. 'SEWA Rural has built a strong

rapport and credibility with all sectors of civil society including the government and other stakeholders, like corporates, philanthropic organizations and individual well-wishers from India and abroad,' explains Dr. Shah.

HCL Grant Project Title: Reaching the Unreached: Integration of m-Health Technology and Life Skill Education to Empower Adolescents Residing in Rural Tribal Area of South Gujarat
Beneficiaries: 20,000 rural tribal adolescents, school going, out of school and dropouts
Location: Bharuch and Narmada districts, Gujarat



Solidarity and Against The HIV Infection in India (SAATHII)



Founded by Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan in 2002

With the motto of ‘Expanding Access, Reducing Discrimination and Promoting Inclusion’, SAATHII, or Solidarity and Against The HIV Infection in India, strives for universal access to health and rights for the most marginalized. It focuses on strengthening and expanding stigma-free access to healthcare, and legal and social protection services for communities discriminated due to their gender identity and/or sexuality, HIV and/or TB vulnerability. SAATHII currently supports private and public sector hospitals in 24 states and union territories, and works towards the reduction of neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births; it further aims to contribute to the reduction of MMR to less than 70 deaths /1,00,000 live births by 2030.

Tea garden workers participating in a Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) activity

IN RURAL AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, the stigma faced by people with HIV and other diseases like TB often deprives them of their right to quality healthcare. Solidarity and Action Against the HIV Infection in India, or SAATHII, seeks to change this narrative of exclusion. ‘Our work extends beyond inclusion in healthcare to inclusion in education, workplaces, legal aid and government schemes to reach unreached persons and communities,’ says Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan, Founder of SAATHII. Although its initial interventions focussed on HIV, learnings from these were applied to other areas of health, such as TB, maternal and child health, transgender health, and more.

SAATHII works with a range of partners for its interventions. It strengthens service provider groups and community collectives through training in technical aspects of treatment and care, advocacy, grant writing, etc. It works as a technical advisor to governments, providing training and mentorship on treatment and diagnostics. It is the technical partner for national programmes including maternal and child



Top: Interactive PLA activity using picture cards
 Bottom: Street play to raise community awareness about health at a tea garden



A SAATHII Skills Lab nurse demonstrates intra-partum care

health, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and training for over 20,000 staff of the National AIDS Control Programme using a national Learning Management System.

And finally, it engages with the private healthcare sector by building capacity on standardized care, as well as sharing data with the government to inform policy. 'We also invest strongly in strengthening community systems, and ensuring community voices are heard in development dialogues,' says Dr. Raghavan.

A ten-year private sector intervention to promote prevention of mother-to-child transmission in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra has been adopted by the Government of India to be scaled up across the Indian private health sector.

It also pioneered the first e-learning course to train public health personnel in research methodology and data analysis. Its IVRS based system, m-Maitri, helps impart health literacy and gather feedback from pregnant women diagnosed with HIV. Such innovations have led this remarkable organization to achieve real impact.

HCL Grant Project Title: Fast-Tracking Progress Towards Reducing Maternal, Child and Adolescent Morbidity and Mortality in Assam Tea Gardens
Beneficiaries: 10,000 pregnant and lactating women, 2,500 infants and children, 400 healthcare providers and 2,500 adolescents
Location: 177 villages in Assam

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Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold

Gatefold





Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM)



Founded by Dr. Vandana Gopikumar, Vaishnavi Jayakumar and Balraj Vasudevan in 2007

BALM, or Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health, seeks to fill the gap that exists in the mental health landscape in local contexts by creating a cadre of mental health professionals and a grassroots level workforce. It offers education and undertakes action research that facilitates model building, human resource development, social entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship, and mental health service user engagement. BALM was a Drafting Committee Member of the National Mental Health Policy, 2014, and the Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy, 2017, and has been appointed to the National Human Rights Commission, Central and State Mental Health Authorities.

BALM diploma alumni home visit, offering support to a family going through psycho-social distress. Following pages (168–169): Diploma alumni organizing neighbourhood learning centres for children

MENTAL HEALTH IS AN ISSUE that is severely neglected in India, more so for at-risk populations like the homeless, poor, indigenous communities, the disabled, children, victims of violence, abuse and discrimination, and the elderly. Originally a research, training, capacity building and advocacy initiative of the mental healthcare NGO, Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM) works among mental health professionals to develop leadership and comprehensive mental health solutions in 17 districts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

BALM sees the urgent need to create a non-specialist community based workforce and mainstream mental health into physical health, education, employment, social care, governance, and development. Its programmes cover integrated mental health education in the community through evidence-based curricula that combine theory and practice. The community participates in fieldwork practices and research, and collaborations with other non-governmental organizations or corporate bodies enrich their initiatives. Awareness about and involvement in the diploma programmes breaks barriers and enables increased engagement, de-stigmatization and



English
Question words
How - ఎందుకు ఎక్కడ
With whom - ఎవరితో ఎక్కడ
For whom - ఎవరికి ఎప్పుడు
How far - ఎక్కడ
To whom - ఎవరికి ఎప్పుడు
How many - ఎన్ని
How much - ఎంత
By what - ఎవరితో
How long - ఎంత
When - ఎప్పుడు
Where - ఎక్కడ
Who - ఎవరు
Why - ఎందుకు
What - ఏమి



Top: *Diploma alumni facilitating a support group meeting for caregivers of persons with mental illness*
 Bottom: *Diploma alumni facilitating mental health awareness at rural work sites*



Diploma alumni facilitating outpatient clinic access for persons with mental illness
 Following pages (172–173): *Diploma alumni on a home visit to address psycho-social distress experienced by a family and children*

co-operation regarding the programme in the community. An example was when Childline was used for prevention of child marriage with the support of the community.

Community Mental Healthcare diploma programme participants are chosen in inclusive ways. ‘The policies include encouraging service users, minorities, marginalized (PWDs, LGBTQIA+, rural and tribal population, etc.),’ says Dr. Vandana Gopikumar, co-founder, BALM. With no age restrictions except being an adult and conducting programmes in regional languages in locations that people can access are other strategies employed by BALM. ‘Partnerships with the government, NGOs and local educational institutions result in them offering their infrastructure for conducting the classes and carrying out field visits and fieldwork, ensuring skill upgradation of their

field staff by enrolling them as participants,’ explains Dr. Gopikumar.

BALM’s website states, ‘Research, social action and public policy influence have always been our pivots, as has building effective and ethical leadership in the mental health sector, sensitive to the needs of vulnerable individuals and communities.’

HCL Grant Project Approach: Diploma programmes in community mental healthcare at panchayat level to increase trained workforce for better treatment of mental disorders, support services for persons at-risk and care-givers

HCL Grant Project Title: Scale up of Diploma in Community Mental Health Care

Beneficiaries: 1,000 gram panchayats (3,000 villages) across 20 districts

Location: Tamil Nadu





Centre for Youth and Social Development



Founded by Jagadananda and Prafulla Kumar Sahoo in 1981

Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) envisions an equitable society where every individual can realize their full potential, fulfil their rights and responsibilities, and lead their life with dignity and self-respect. CYSD promotes an inclusive development approach for those who face discrimination and limited access to resources, services and entitlements, social participation and protection. It works to ensure transparent, gender sensitive, accountable and democratic governance through capacity building. Its programmes have been highly impactful: SAMVAD has helped 23,000+ tribal women and adolescent girls, Internet Gram Saathini has facilitated 1.7 million women and World on Wheels has benefitted 4000+ tribal school children.

Involving the youth in health promotion action
Following pages (176–177): *Supplementary learning for tribal children*

IN THE REMOTE, tribal belt of Odisha, a solar-operated bus, digitally equipped with 20 laptops, a digital board and a linked-in-server, goes from hamlet to hamlet. The World on Wheels (WOW) as it is called, has, in fact, changed the world of the communities (particularly women) in these villages by making the digital ecosystem accessible to them.

This is just one of the programmes of the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) to empower marginalized communities and break the ‘culture of silence’ and the inequity that envelops them. It works through ‘evolving effective forms of participatory action for sustainable development, participatory learning and training for capacity building among community-based people’s organizations, and participatory enquiry into and action on the policy deficits vis-a-vis the poor,’ explains Haris Ch. Singh, Chief Operating Officer, CYSD.

CYSD was initially instrumental in creating a supportive/enabling environment for a thriving voluntary sector in Odisha. This included encouraging women to form SHGs, mobilizing community action





Top: *Opening up avenues through digital literacy for rural women*
 Bottom: *Empowerment through digital education for women SHG members*



Building solidarity among tribal children through sports
 Following pages (180–181): *Sensitizing the community about social security programmes*

groups, especially among the youth, working on literacy programmes and entitlement literacy, etc. It also moved into rural livelihoods system and food security, natural resource management, micro-credit and women's entrepreneurship. Some of these models were recognized by the government as effective interventions and replicated through Mission Shakti, Watershed Missions and more. CYSD is also focussed on building resilience in communities to climate change and disasters. It has since evolved from the role of a community-level change agent to that of a change catalyst at the policy level.

As Jagadananda, Founder of CYSD, says, 'What makes the organization unique is its dual strategy of intensive direct action and extensive capacity building and resource support for replication and multiplication. Strategic and multi-layered partnerships

with development practitioners and policy framers, the state intelligentsia, academia, as also the apex research institutes of national and international repute, and alliances with several national and international forums provide cutting edges to CYSD, making its development interventions life-changing, effective and futuristic.'

HCL Grant Project Approach: Establishing a community-based learning ecosystem in schools through supplementary education programmes on hygiene, health and government entitlements

HCL Grant Project Title: SAMADHAN
Beneficiaries: 20,000 children, 10,000 pregnant and lactating mothers, 15,000 adolescent girls, 8,000 left-out beneficiaries, 1,000 volunteers, and 100 Gaon Mitra
Location: 200 villages in Odisha





Language and Learning Foundation



Founded by Dr. Dhir Jhingran in 2015

Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) was established with a view to build strong foundational skills and abilities of language and literacy in children so they can grow to their full potential. Its school demonstration programmes have been implemented in Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat and Bihar, impacting 2,50,000+ children in 5,000+ schools, and over the past 6 years, they have helped improve the teaching-learning practices of 1,80,000+ teachers and teacher educators, impacting the learning of 1 million children. LLF has been awarded Best NGO in Education and Literacy at the Global NGO Expo, 2021, and the Best Field Initiative Award, 2019, from the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES).

I can read words and letters!
Following pages (184–185): *Story reading and poem activities that make learning fun*

LEARNING POVERTY, as defined by the World Bank, is when a child of ten cannot read a simple text and comprehend it. In India, 33 per cent students in Grade 3 fall into this definition. 37 per cent of Grade 3 students had similar problems with mathematical concepts.* This predicament is due to a host of factors: teacher quality and training, a teaching learning process that doesn't meet the mark, children having to learn in a language not their own, a lack of awareness, and more.

Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) seeks to change this, working with children from families with low literacy levels and from marginalized communities on innovative early learning methodologies and multilingual education. 'Responding to the requests from some state governments to show effective implementation on the ground, we decided to start demonstration programmes in a set of 200–300 schools in a state,' says Dr. Dhir Jhingran, Founder and Executive Director, LLF. These demonstrations were very successful in showing the tremendous on-ground impact of its strategies and good practices in literacy

*National Achievement Survey, 2017

आहत पुस्तकें
शिक्षण के लिए





Read aloud sessions for learning through stories
 Following pages (188–189): *The pride of a child who has learned to read*



Top and Bottom: *Children discovering the exciting world of literacy*

and multilingual education if they are scaled up through the government structure.

‘LLF’s instructional design helps include children’s home languages and cultural resources into the curriculum. The teaching-learning process supports inclusion of every child and ensures that struggling learners receive ongoing additional support. Spiral curriculum allows for frequent revision and reinforcement of previously taught lessons. Assessment based remediation work is done to support these struggling learners,’ explains Dr. Jhingran. It also conducts continuous professional development for teachers and supports state governments in the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Mission named ‘NIPUN Bharat’ by the Ministry of Education. LLF’s programme Har Ghar School (meaning ‘every home is a school’) helped improve

student learning significantly during the pandemic, as did online courses.

Gender equity is built into its models, as is community and parental participation in the child’s discovery of literacy.

HCL Grant Project Approach: To demonstrate a scalable model of multilingual education that improves foundational learning and supports the state government’s efforts at implementing quality multilingual education

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

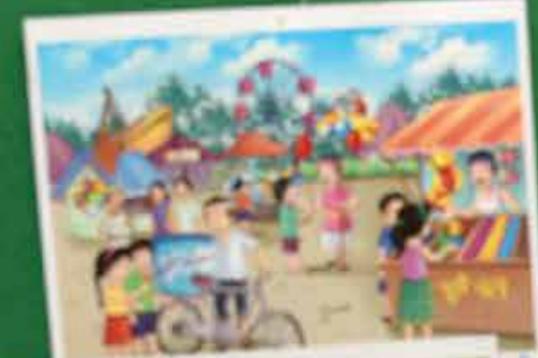
Beneficiaries: 9000 children, 300 teachers, 200 headmasters, and 109 other individuals

Location: 494 villages in Chhattisgarh



प्रयोगिक संस्करण
प्रारम्भिक भाषा शिक्षण
सुगम-1
अभ्यास पुस्तिका
कक्षा-2, वर्ष-1, 2020
परिचालन: स्कूल शिक्षण परिषद, दिल्ली

SOMETIME IT'S BETTER



मोटूराम
हलवा





17000 ft Foundation



Founded by Sujata Sahu and Sandeep Sahu in 2012

17000 ft Foundation (17000 ft) strives to improve the quality of and access to education in the remotest and toughest regions of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). It has continually worked towards transforming the lives of high-altitude frontier communities and developing them into self-sustaining, resilient and thriving regions by improving the government school education system, creating awareness about remote villages, generating opportunities for income and exposure, and strengthening communities. Envisioning a world where geography and distances create no barriers to opportunity and growth for all children, 17000ft currently has programmes in Ladakh and Sikkim, and hopes to have a footprint in at least three more states in the IHR in the next five years.

Exploring the books in one of the 17000 ft libraries

IN SEVERAL REMOTE VILLAGES in the IHR, children no longer have to leave their homes to go to schools in faraway places. They no longer drop out. Instead, they can go to the nearest government school and receive a quality education that is customized to their needs and replete with innovative techniques and interactive digital content to help them learn better.

This has been made possible by 17000 ft Foundation (17000 ft), an NGO that aims to give children in these villages access to life-changing education. Working with existing government schools, it seeks to fill the gaps in their working. It upgrades school infrastructure, setting up playgrounds, libraries, solar lighting, carpeting and age-appropriate furniture for classrooms. 'Our Library Programmes improve exposure and better reading skills. We train teachers to ensure access to better pedagogies and teaching methodologies, and implement highly specialized Digital Learning Programmes, meant for areas with neither electricity nor connectivity,' says Sujata Sahu, Founder of 17000 ft.

17000 ft's interventions have changed the perceptions of the local people about



Top: 17000 ft students in the DigiLab
Bottom: A child learning from a tablet at home



A school with a view in Ladakh in winter

what a school is, and created a safe, joyful environment for children to learn in. The local community is mobilized to take ownership of the school. ‘Thanks to the encouragement and continuous involvement of 17000 ft, we were able to approach the government and get our school upgraded. Our school had only two rooms before, now it has eight classrooms and two floors,’ says Javed Kaka, Village Education Committee Chairman, Karkitchoo, Kargil District.

Several government schools have been adopted by 17000 ft and its scalable model has impacted thousands of children. Improved learning and reading, the electrification and digitization of villages and high quality infrastructure are one side of the coin. ‘Its biggest impact has been on

the exposure that it has been able to give to children of these forgotten villages and the dreams and aspirations that it has inspired, and most of all, the feeling that they are equal in every way to children elsewhere in the world,’ says Sujata Sahu.

HCL Grant Project Title: Enable Children in Remote, Off-Network Areas of Ladakh Who Have Been Left Out of Learning Due to Lack of Mobile Connectivity, to Get Back to Learning by Ensuring Them Access to Digital Learning at Home

Beneficiaries: 5,000 government elementary school students

Location: 100 villages in Leh and Kargil



Bodh Shiksha Samiti



Founded by Yogendra Bhushan in 1987

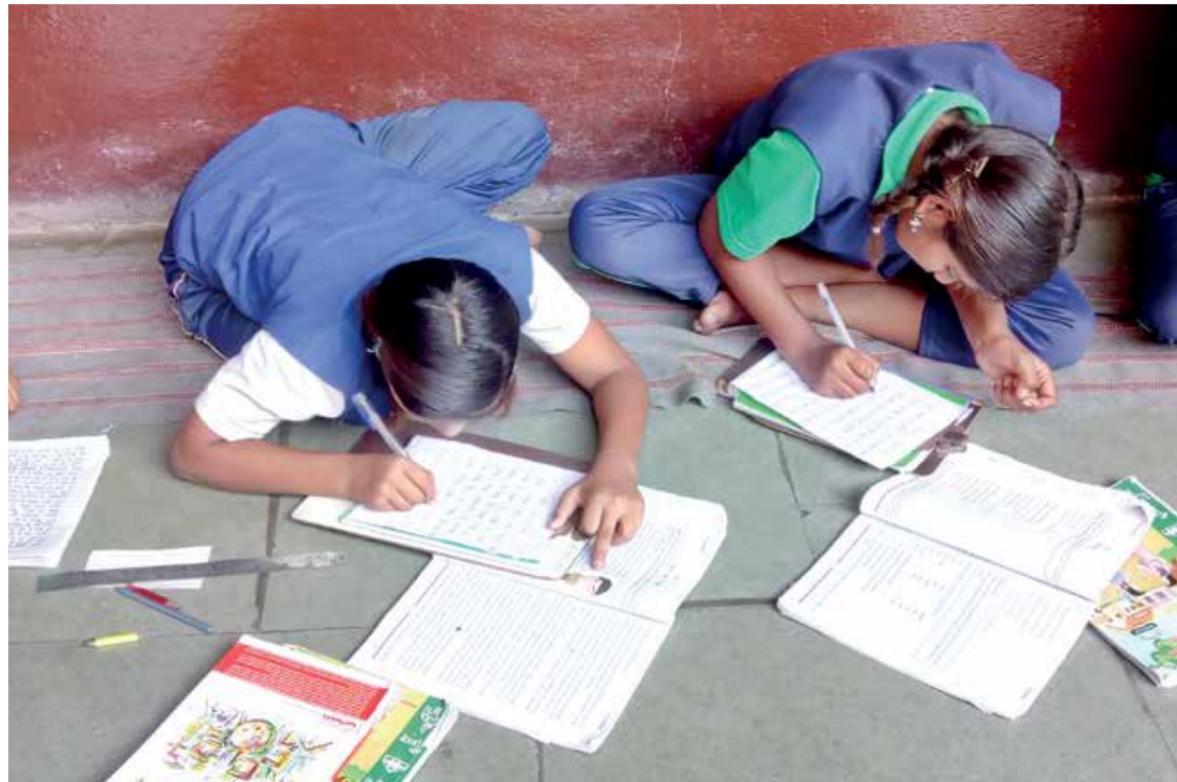
Established in 1987 as a charitable society, Bodh Shiksha Samiti (BSS) works with urban and rural communities towards forming a society that is egalitarian, progressive and enlightened. Having worked on more than 30 projects and with over 30 partners across India, it envisions building a conducive environment where children can transcend the limitations of their specific contexts and become empowered and enlightened individuals. BSS has impacted over 2 million students and 80,000 teachers in Rajasthan, and its education practices have been adopted in 1,00,000 government schools across Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Jharkhand.

Scientific learning through doing

AT BODH SHIKSHA SAMITI'S (BSS) COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, called Bodhshalas, children from marginalized communities get access to an extraordinary education. Committed teachers implement a holistic curriculum and development-based pedagogy, which includes art, music, drama, sports and IT along with innovative methods of teaching. The result, as one parent says: 'Children don't even mind skipping their breakfast to reach school on time. Such is the influence of Bodhshala on the children.'

BSS was started by a group of young activists who understood the need for an equitable, quality education for children from vulnerable backgrounds. The first Bodhshala was started in 1987 with eight children under a tree in Gokulpuri, a slum cluster of Jaipur. Soon, a community school began in a temporary structure constructed by the people themselves on land donated by them.

Since then, BSS has evolved a highly successful and lauded framework and design of curricular goals, pedagogy and materials towards quality schooling and equal opportunities for children from all backgrounds. It believes that the traditional classroom and the role of the teacher need



Learning that brings out each child's potential



The confidence of education

reform, and that the learning process must bring out the potential and individuality of every child.

The schools are led, managed and owned by parents, the community, teachers, and children's collectives. 'In one village, the community unanimously decided to contribute Rs. 150 per child towards the school. This amounted to about Rs. 40,000 per year. The community used the money to dig a borewell, beautify the school premises, cover the rocky surface with matter to make a safe playground for children, and pay for the electricity connection and bills every month,' says Yogendra Bhushan, Founder of BSS.

BSS's innovative methodology has been adopted by mainstream schools, where its rigorous innovative training design, content quality, delivery and implementation has enriched several projects, including a long-

term engagement with the Government of Rajasthan. 'Starting with the Department of Education agreeing to replicate the complete model of Bodhshalas in ten schools of Jaipur city, the partnership extended to BSS becoming the technical resource agency for the State, giving academic and pedagogical support to all 70,000+ elementary schools including 10,000 adarsh schools under State initiative for Quality Education (SIQE) programme since 1995,' explains Yogendra Bhushan.

HCL Grant Project Title: Aarohan: Educational Equity and Excellence for Adolescent Girls

Beneficiaries: 2,000 adolescent girls, 57 subject volunteers, 4,000 parents, 19 hostel wardens, and 57 government teachers

Location: 200 villages in Rajasthan



Friends of Women's World Banking, India



Founded by Elaben Bhatt in 1981

Friends of Women's World Banking, or FWWB, was founded with the objective of providing financial and capacity-building services to organizations promoting livelihoods and self-reliance of poor women, envisioning an equitable society based on social justice where women are active partners in holistic development. These interventions have benefitted 60 million low-income women in reaping the benefits of socio-economic empowerment. Through different programmes on water and sanitation, agriculture and livelihoods, entrepreneurship, solar power, FWWB intends to continue retaining its focus on women by scaling up its intervention to reach out to 1 million women in the next five years.

Bhavna Parmar, an electrician, fixing a series light for one of her customers, and transforming gender and livelihood perceptions

THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF WOMEN harnessed by SHGs, federations and co-operatives in rural India is a force to be reckoned with for positive, last impact. One of the pioneers of this movement in India is the indomitable Gandhian Elaben Bhatt, the founder of the iconic Self-Employed Women's Association of India SEWA. Elaben also founded Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB) to help women entrepreneurs from low-income households access financial services, build capacities and use the collective as a springboard to emerge out of poverty. It endeavours to empower them at an individual as well as group level.

Many women who run microenterprises cannot scale up their businesses due to a variety of reasons, including socio-cultural and religious norms, and movement restrictions for women. This limits their access to financial management skills, adequate infrastructure and market linkage for their product that could help them grow. 'FWWB initiated a women entrepreneurship support programme eight



Supporting women in manufacturing and trading livelihood activities through building business management skills, like
 Top: Daksha who sells basic food items from her shop
 Bottom: Radhesana preparing aluminum utensils in her own work shed



Dipika Bhatti sells the delicious snack, pani puri, from her cart

years ago to fill this knowledge and skill gap, enabling women to run sustainable businesses. Under this programme, it has provided varied inputs in the areas of financial education, business planning, basic financial management, marketing, product diversification and packaging, etc., says S.S. Bhat, Chief Executive Officer, FWWB.

It also began to train women in digital literacy including the use of smartphones and get them to join digital platforms, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic. Digital bookkeeping through apps is also part of this training.

‘Having attained the expertise in dealing with low-income women in providing them the access to financial services, we now embark on the next stage of development to see graduation of these micro-entrepreneurs

to develop into professional entrepreneurs and move to the next level of understanding of business nuances in and develop capabilities of the present time to run their businesses efficiently and have influence on the local ecosystem for greater decision-making power,’ explains S.S. Bhat.

HCL Grant Project Title: Nurturing Women Entrepreneurs
Beneficiaries: 15,000 rural women
Location: 87 villages in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland



Hand in Hand India



Founded by Dr. Kalpana Sankar
and Dr. Percy Barnevik in 2004

Hand in Hand India (HiH India) works with poor women, children and communities to not only provide them dignity, but also the hope and choice for sustainable development. With a focus on alleviation of poverty, access to education, affordable healthcare, skill development, financial inclusion and clean environment, the NGO also nurtures social entrepreneurship. HiH India has successfully created 4.5 million jobs and enrolled 3,43,703 out-of-school children back in school; their goal is to create 10 million jobs by 2025. Their years of hard work have been recognized through awards like the Pradhan Mantri Bal Kalyan Puraskar (Child Welfare Award), Nari Shakti Puraskar, and Global Award for Women Empowerment.

Education at their doorsteps

FROM THE SILK LOOMS OF KANCHEEPURAM to the mica mines of Bihar, from coconut kilns to remote villages with debilitating poverty, Hand in Hand India (HiH India) has empowered child labourers to transform their lives and move from a bleak future to a bright, hopeful one.

HiH India's integrated approach to poverty alleviation is a multidimensional programme targeting the mother and the family, not just the child, addressing issues of health and employment. For instance, the mothers of the child weavers were trained to use a Jaquard machine and given subsidized credit to buy them. Its solid waste management programme is comprised of Green Friends (sanitary workers) arising from marginalized groups. Through smart classrooms and mobile apps, the power of technology works to increase reach and efficacy of its programmes. The community is their backbone. 'Right from the early days, we worked with the community and local government. We created a strong network of child rights protection committee members to monitor if children were out of school and ensured children stayed in school,' says



Top: Primary health services for the community
 Bottom: Green Friends undertaking solid waste management (SWM)



Empowerment and advocacy for women

Dr. Kalpana Sankar, Managing Trustee, HiH India.

The job creation model HiH India pioneered focuses on the holistic empowerment of women through SHGs, financial and digital literacy, skill training and entrepreneurship, as well as forming federations to effect higher levels of change. This model has been replicated in several countries like South Africa, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Brazil, and in India, it has created over 4.5 million jobs, with the goal of reaching 10 million by 2025.

HiH India has gained global recognition as well as grassroots success. ‘This includes the children who graduated from our residential or transit schools and who have become engineers or are working with the

government; children of women who we have trained as entrepreneurs who have made it as doctors and advocates. We want every child to be where they rightly belong – at school and living a full childhood complete with education, sport, friends and family,’ states Dr. Sankar.

HCL Grant Project Title: Leveraging Technology for Continued Education of Unreached and Vulnerable Children During and Post-Pandemic in Madhya Pradesh
Beneficiaries: 3,000 children, 3,000 adolescents, 3,000 mothers, 100 school teachers, 500 SMC/CRPC members
Location: 50 villages in Madhya Pradesh



Makkala Jagriti



Founded by Joy Srinivasan in 2003

Makkala Jagriti believes that there is no limit to how far a child can go. It works towards creating ecosystems that support holistic learning and development for children and youth from underserved communities and engages with all the stakeholders around a child as well as public policy advocacy. It propels a value-based social movement that empowers children and communities towards a brighter future. It has partnered with the Department of Women and Child Development to implement programmes statewide. Its *Anganwadi* programme also has a statewide impact, potentially reaching 13.5 lakh children across 66,000 *Anganwadis*.

Fostering happy, bright and inviting spaces for children's learning

THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWER of education can be seen clearly in the children who have been part of Makkala Jagriti's programmes. Mercy is a manager in a reputed bank; Murali became a world Taekwondo champion and is now a Taekwondo teacher; and Prabhu is a programme coordinator with Makkala Jagriti itself. Not only are these young people employed, confident and empowered, but they are excellent role models for the marginalized communities they belong to.

'Joy Srinivasan set up Makkala Jagriti to create safe and child-friendly spaces where children from marginalized communities could gather after school hours and engage in meaningful and enriching learning activities,' says Sunayana Chatrapathy, Chief Functionary of the NGO. Along with creating these safe spaces and child-centred programmes, engagement with parents, sensitization of teachers, schools and government functionaries were also necessary to build trust and capacity, as well as create a sense of ownership of the programmes and the children's holistic development within the community.



Top: Anganwadi teachers working with engaging Teaching-Learning Materials sometimes created by themselves
Bottom: Teacher welcoming children to the Anganwadi in new and exciting ways to make them feel welcome



Anganwadi teachers having fun while learning during a training workshop which are designed to increase their knowledge, skills, and self-esteem

However, the collaborations with the Department of Women and Child Development and the Department of Education of the Government of Karnataka have led to Makkala Jagriti's real successes. These partnerships opened doors to institutionalize and scale up its ideas of holistic learning and development in government schools, *anganwadis* and childcare institutions in the state. Working with community groups like School Development Management Committees in schools or Bala Vikas Samitis in *anganwadis* ensures sustainability of its programmes in the long term. During Covid-19-based restrictions, the creation of digital content and its dissemination through smartphones, social media platforms and

web conferencing tools ensured continuation of its programmes.

'Going forward, we would like to build Makkala Jagriti as a knowledge-based organization that will continue its implementation on the ground and also focus more on creating knowledge for the sector, generating evidence for public policy advocacy while remaining true to our vision of creating a value-based social movement,' explains Sunayana Chatrapathy.

HCL Grant Project Title: Transforming Rural Anganwadis into Spaces of Enhanced Early Childhood Care and Education
Beneficiaries: 7,000 children, 7,000 parents, 525 *anganwadi* supervisors, teachers and helpers
Location: 231 villages in Karnataka



Peepul (Registered as Absolute Returns For Kids)



Founded by Kruti Bharucha in 2010

Peepul dreams of a world where every child is enabled and supported to reach their full potential irrespective of their background. It ensures that children from vulnerable sections, often first-generation learners, have access to high-quality, holistic education through high-engagement teaching practices. Peepul partners with the government, co-creating interventions and offering policy support to shape a future where no child is left behind. From working in three government schools with 500 children in 2017, it now works on both direct and systemic scale programmes with two state governments, impacting 9.5 million children across 1,10,000 schools and 3,00,000 teachers.

A Peepul team member discussing her portfolio activity with a teacher

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN INDIA, despite efforts, have not been able to improve learning levels of children due to a combination of policy, implementation, and governance issues. Peepul believes that change is possible in the government school system with the right interventions to strengthen the system. It has proven this through its different models in collaboration with governments, transforming learning for children from vulnerable communities.

Peepul first started its journey with an intervention in a government school in Delhi in partnership with a municipal corporation. Enrolment increased greatly through community engagement. The classroom itself was a child-centred and engaging space, which demonstrated huge improvements in learning: 85 per cent of the students met or exceeded grade-level expectations. The model was replicated in two other schools, with continued success.

‘To bring about lasting change in the government school system, we had to work deeply with the government teachers, principals and school leaders to support the adoption of high-engagement practices that would lead to better student learning. In 2018,



Top and Bottom: Innovative classroom activities being conducted by teachers



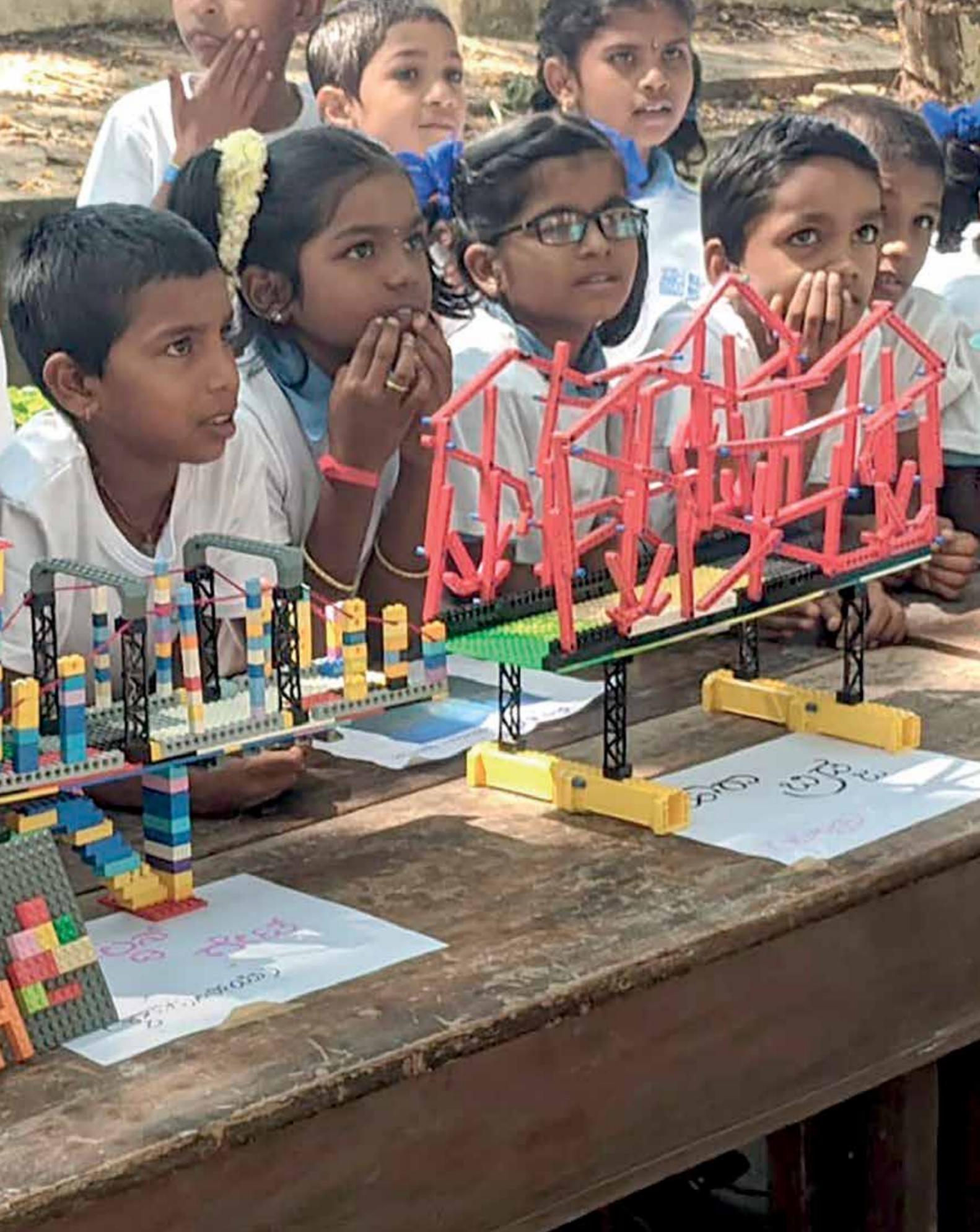
Staff discussing the course diary

we started a teacher training programme to work with government teachers and skill them on adopting new innovations in pedagogy and teaching practice,' says Kruti Bharucha, Founder of Peepul. 'We are the only organization in India that both directly runs school operations (in our exemplar schools) as well as works on more systemic issues with state governments.'

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Peepul started a digital teacher training initiative in partnership with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. More than 90 per cent of Madhya Pradesh's 3,00,000 government school teachers engaged in the courses, with another 1,50,000 teachers across the country also having completed at least one course. 'The CM Rise programme has now evolved into a systems strengthening initiative focussed on creating high-quality

teachers for every child in the state, and has been recognized as a best practice by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and leveraged by other states in India,' explains Kruti Bharucha. The success of this prompted Peepul to design a system strengthening initiative in partnership with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation called Project Parivartan, also remarkably effective so far.

HCL Grant Project Title: CM Rise – Teacher Professional Development: Empowering Government School Teachers as Last-Mile Support and Educators to the Poorest and Marginalized Communities across the State of Madhya Pradesh
Beneficiaries: 2,65,000 teachers
Location: 58,364 villages in 52 districts of Madhya Pradesh



Pragatee Foundation



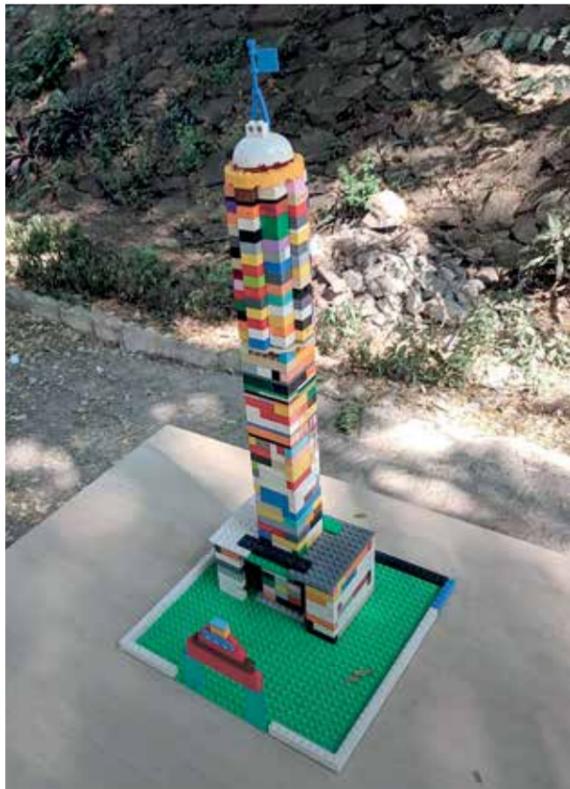
Founded by Ravi Sonnad in 2005

Pragatee Foundation is committed to the empowerment and emancipation of women, children, youth, the aged and underserved rural populations. Its project Enabling Leadership (EL) runs on the vision that ‘Every child can be a leader, a role model, a positive contributor and a global citizen’. It aims to develop leadership skills in adolescents with unequal access to quality education. Through programmes that use football, music and LEGO-type building blocks, EL currently empowers more than 5,000 underserved adolescents in rural and urban areas with leadership skills that will enable them to take responsibility for themselves, their communities and the world around them. EL aims to reach and impact 1 million children by 2030.

A student group presenting their ‘LEGO Bridge’ project at the showcase event

AT THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR, the Enabling Leadership (EL) project organized a community-wide event for the ‘Build Maya’ (LEGO-based) programme. At this event, the children in the programme from rural government schools showcased their LEGO structures, and the stories behind them, on stage. ‘The innovation and creativity on display, the enthusiasm of the villagers and the changes in behaviour and mindset seen by the parents gave us the confidence to go from being an experiment to a formal programme,’ says Ravi Sonnad, Founder and CEO of the Project.

Starting with just one box of blocks donated by children from the USA and Singapore, the programme bore fruit in remarkable ways. Eager children began to improve their focus, collaboration and communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as getting a glimpse into design and architecture by building structures in their sessions. The programme was extended to more villages, and rural students grades 4–9 enrolled in a six-year play-based curriculum that focuses on technical as well as leadership



Top: Discussions and group work are part of the Build Maya pedagogy
 Bottom: Students build impressive structures ensuring that all constraints and criteria set are met



A student presenting at the community showcase event

skill outcomes. Young graduates from the villages were locally hired and trained in EL's experiential learning pedagogy. The projects that students worked on involved their family and community members, too.

'We are investing in building an extensive library of session content, standardizing the materials required by each child, classroom and school by year, and developing a blended learning programme (for both students and teachers) that uses technology to create an effective learning journey,' explains Ravi Sonnad. The classes are open to all, are gender-equal to give girls opportunities in STEAM, and schools are chosen based on how under-resourced they are.

EL involves parents, the Block Education Officer, school principals and teachers, and the Panchayat, which leads to community

ownership of the intervention. EL now receives calls from school principals to start the programme in their schools, and even suggestions to make it part of the curriculum rather than just an after-school activity.

HCL Grant Project Title: 'Inspire, Ideate, Implement': Investing in Leadership Development of Underserved Adolescents in Rural North Karnataka through a LEGO-based STEAM Programme
Beneficiaries: 1,200 adolescents
Location: 6 villages in Karnataka

BEHIND THE SCENES



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Grant Thornton India LLP

“The HCL Grant demonstrates our on-going support to help NGOs build frameworks of social change. While navigating the stop-and-start nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NGOs have also scaled up their transformational work. Their robustness and accelerated on-the-ground impact are testimonial to their passion and zeal for bringing inclusion, prosperity, and dignity to lives in the communities at the last mile. We are confident that the Grant will go a long way in scaling their innovative solutions.

Over the years, the HCL Grant has set standards in the areas of enhancing accountability in civil society, accelerating systemic change, strengthening government response and fortifying the change-making quotient of communities. In the past 6 years, our HCL Grant recipients have worked closely with local populations across India to design and implement pathways to transformative change.”

– Robin Abrams, ESG & Diversity Board Committee Chair,
Board Committees Member-Nomination and Remuneration,
Audit, Risk Management, HCL Grant Jury



CREDITS



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