

HCLFoundation

Catalyst

CSR Newsletter by HCLFoundation
November 2023



Table of Content

Key Highlights 4

Star team member of the month 5

Harit 6

Samuday 8

HCLTech Grant 12

Uday 14

My Clean City 27

Power of One 29

Sports for Change 30

My E-Haat 34

Academy 35

Global CSR 36

Dear Readers,

With the year coming to a close, November was a month of Children's Day, Cancer awareness, and celebrations. It was also the month where our Sports for Change workshop for Coaches brought 100+ of us together at the HCLTech Jigani Campus for 3 power-packed days filled with learnings.

And while we continued our pursuit of purpose, something pursued us: recognitions! Samuday and My Clean City were both awarded by the FICCI.

Read this and more in the November'23 edition of HCLFoundation's monthly newsletter - Catalyst.

Best Regards
Team HCLFoundation

Key Highlights

It was a moment of pride when DWP*, in their JAS quarter Townhall, held a R&R ceremony and as part of it, HCLFoundation was felicitated under the 'Enablers' category. HCLFoundation has an ongoing, long-term relation with the DWP team as their team members volunteer regularly across HCLF projects, pan India.



Awarded for 'Best Communication in Sanitation: Traditional' by FICCI

November 20, 2023: HCLFoundation was presented with the 'Best Communication in Sanitation: Traditional' award by India Sanitation Coalition - FICCI. This is a testament to the creative and intense behavior change communication campaigns rolled out under the Samuday by HCLFoundation programme in Hardoi to foster open defecation free villages and adoption of a clean and hygienic lifestyle with efficient waste management locally.

The award was presented at the ISC-FICCI Sanitation Awards Ceremony and India Sanitation Conclave 2023 by Padma Vibhushan Prof. R. A. Mashelkar and Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai (Chair, ISC).



Sports for Change Coaches Workshop

124 participants came together at the HCLTech Jigani Campus and the Padukone -Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence. Participants included Sports for Change(SfC) Partner Coaches, Program Managers, Leadership, HCLFoundation Location SPOCs & SfC Team.

Workshop Objectives: Empowering coaches with advanced skills and knowledge for grassroots to high-performance coaching across various sports disciplines.

Workshop Delivery: Combining practical and theoretical sessions, including exposure visits, interactive activities, discussions, and practical demonstrations over 3 days.

The workshop fostered a collaborative learning environment, equipping coaches with the know-how and tools for holistic athlete development and community impact.



(*DWP= Digital Work Place)



Star Team Member of the Month

Meet Shally Kaushal – an effervescent driving force from the team that brings us the prestigious HCLTech Grant programme. In a candid interview, Shally shares her incredible journey from an economics enthusiast to a passionate advocate for societal change.

Edited & condensed for clarity. Excerpts:

A Fusion of Passions:

Born in Himachal, raised in Delhi, Shally's academic journey traversed Lady Shri Ram College and Ambedkar University, culminating in a bachelor's and post-graduation – both in economics. She adds, "there was also a second masters, in social work." Her shift from economics to social work was, as Shally puts it, "this urge, this passion inside me – to make a meaningful impact on society."

A Catalyst for Change:

Shally's transformative experience during an internship with international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières ignited her commitment to creating societal change. "It's important that whatever you do should bring some change in society," she emphasizes, reflecting on her journey from hardcore economics to the development sector. When asked, what shaped her thinking like so, Shally responds quickly and succinctly, "My parents. And their altruism."

She also adds, "A programme with AIESEC during my uni days exposed me to the lives of underprivileged children. And so, I chose the path less traveled!"

What she means is that amidst career options offering lucrative returns, she chose the path of social impact. "I believe that you must pursue that one thing that gives you happiness at the end of the day," she asserts, highlighting in the same breath, "but you need resilience to pursue yourself in the development sector."

"Both sides of the coin"

Shally's journey led her to MSF, UNICEF, National Human Right Commission, Plan India and eventually HCLFoundation. Her role in forging partnerships and developing fundraising material laid the groundwork for her transition to a role with HCLFoundation, which delivers the CSR agenda of HCLTech. Shally lightheartedly remarks, "I have now experiencedz both sides of the coin – started with fundraising and now I am on the other side – 'giving' grants to NGOs!"

Empowering NGOs, and empowering myself:

Thus far, Shally's three-year journey with the HCLTech Grant programme has been marked by "learning to master versatility", she says, adding, "and in the process, fueling nonprofits towards nation-building." She fondly recalls her journey – from analyzing markets in a treasury consultancy role to today i.e. the process-oriented and structured '7-distinct stages' of the HCLTech Grant process.

Shally notes how her journey went, "beyond empowering NGOs."

"This has, in equal measure, been a personal journey of self-discovery as I've developed my capacity during the process," she notes, reflecting on her evolution from an introvert to confidently addressing large audiences at the HCLTech Grant Symposiums and more. She also travels often and extensively – bringing her closer to the heart of NGOs' on-ground work.

A day-in-the-life of Shally

"...is filled with a symphony of calls!", Shally laughs. She is referring to how her day revolves around stakeholders, and how it spans across organizing field visits, managing video shoots, liaising with travel agencies, and contributing to the development of a compendium.

When asked about advice for those entering the social impact space, Shally outright discourages categorizing work as small or big, emphasizing that every contribution makes a difference. She mentions how it was her own openness to learning, regardless of task size, that has been pivotal in her journey. She shares a touching moment during a review call where an NGO CEO referred to her as a "one-stop solution." Such instances, she says, "become anchors during challenging times", providing the motivation needed "to persevere in a demanding role."

Looking ahead, Shally expresses a desire to settle personally and professionally. Her professional aspirations include delving deeper into partner management, contributing to society, and expanding her skillset. Her commitment to making a difference though – remains unwavering.

Shally is based out of New Delhi where she stays with her family. Despite being a lover of nature, its beauty and long walks, she admits to being scared of pets! Her culinary pursuits are inspired by her professional, experimentative chef brother and traditionalist-flavour-lover father! Shally loves sport, has an expertise in Taekwondo, but settles for the humble company of badminton – whenever she gets the chance.



Ghostnets of Kundapura

The shores of Madi beach from the Kundapura taluk in Karnataka are filled with ghost nets. When reached out to local fishermen it was estimated that more than 300 kgs of net were found at this particular beach. Through the Karnataka coastal conservation project, Harit by HCLFoundation in partnership with ReefWatch Marine conservation has been tackling the issue of Ghost nets by working closely with the fishing communities. Through the project these ghost nets were retrieved through a ghost net buyback policy while also creating awareness amongst the fishermen. Over the past four months over 2000 kg of these nets were prevented from being discarded into the ocean.



All about reptiles

A reptile awareness session took place at UPS Natkur School in Lucknow where 98 enthusiastic students learned about the fascinating world of reptiles. The session delved into the diverse characteristics, habitats, and importance of reptiles in our ecosystem. Through interactive discussions, captivating visuals,

the students gained insights into the coexistence of these creatures with humans and the significance of conserving their habitats – fostering a sense of environmental consciousness among the participants, encouraging them to appreciate and protect the biodiversity that surrounds them.



Women-led Mangrove plantation

Four new gram panchayats including Sahebkhali and Gobindakathi in Hingalganj Block, North 24 Parganas and Achintya Nagar and Heramba Gopalpur of Patharpratima Block, South 24 Parganas were added for mangrove plantation. Women SHG are leading plantation and maintenance of the site. The Mangrove plantation sites were diversified with associated organisms including mud skipper, crabs and shoreline birds – a positive sign showing richness of the ecosystem.



Artisans Based Craftpreneurship Development (ABCD)

Samuday by HCLFoundation's livelihood projects are committed to empowering the women of HarDOI by providing them with diverse livelihood opportunities at doorstep. In November, 12 new rug weaving centers, having 48 looms, were opened across different Gram Panchayats of the district. Samuday's Artisans Based Craftpreneurship Development (ABCD) project aims to create non-farm based livelihood opportunities for 200 individuals by engaging them into Hand-knotted rug weaving.



Children's Day Celebrated with a focus on Sanitation for better future

Children's Day was celebrated in a unique fashion in the government school of Bargawan Gram Panchayat of Hardoi i.e. with a focus on sanitation and hygiene. A human chain was formed with the help of 120 school students and teachers, promoting the message of cleanliness. The occasion offered an entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children. Other activities included – Hand wash games; Prayer on sanitation; and Awareness creation about clean environment.



Craft & Folk Arts Utsav

Crafts Council of West Bengal invited Samuday Crafts to showcase their handcrafted products at the Craft & Folk Arts Utsav from 6-10 November.

For Samuday Crafts, it was a great opportunity to penetrate the eastern market of India, understand the customer needs and gain feedback regarding their products. It also provided our artisans with a chance to connect with various clients and B2B buyers.



Floriculture has been actively promoted under the Crop Diversification project in Hardoi. Flower rearing is not only resulting in increased utilization of land area and productivity but is also an important source of income augmentation. This strategic intervention* enabled 200 farmers to earn an average income of INR 80,000-90,000 during this festive season by cultivating flowers as a cash crop.

* - India benefits from a diverse climate, making it conducive for floriculture. Flowers require less land and water compared to crops like rice and wheat, providing significant advantage. Floral crops offer higher profits with a shorter lock-in period from sowing to harvesting, making them economically attractive. In the past, farmers grew flowers as a seasonal crop and did not take advantage of market demand.



Swachhta Shapath at Schools: Inspiring Budding Green Leaders

Swachhta Shapath ceremonies were organized across 14 schools in Hardoi. 560 children pledged to maintain a clean environment, and motivate their families to adopt greener practices. These budding Green Leaders committed themselves to reducing waste, ensuring proper disposal, and minimizing the use of single-use plastics.



Initiation of new Nutrition Camp

As a part of the initiative to propagate village-level development and schemes, a Samuday-supported nutrition camp in Kothawan was inaugurated by public representative, local MLA Shri Rampal Varma. He was briefed about the nutrition screening, camp and follow-up process. He commended the work done by HCLFoundation in the path for eradication of malnutrition across Hardoi district.



NCD screening camps organized

To address the growing concerns and prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and advocate for preventive healthcare practices within the community, Samuday organized NCD screening camps in the proximity of two Primary Health and Wellness Centers of Gadoura in Sandila block & Kala Aam of Tadiyawan block of Hardoi. During the camp, individuals were screened and suspected cases were sent for diagnostic checks followed by specialist consultations through telemedicine. Counselling and medication were provided along with providing suitable information so that the continuum of care is met with future follow-ups.



State-Level orientation workshop organized on Digital Literacy, Coding, Computational Thinking (DLCC) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

HCLFoundation, in collaboration with SCERT Uttar Pradesh, organized a state-level workshop on DLCC & AI in Lucknow. More than 80 DIET Principals and lecturer from 75 districts of the state participated. The workshop aimed at equipping the DIET principals with the idea of DLCC & AI inclusion in academic curriculum for grade 6-8 and district level training plans by HCLFoundation & SCERT.

Chief guest Mr. M.K. Shanmuga Sundaram, IAS (Principal Secretary, Basic Education Department, GoUP) appreciated the concept and mentioned Samuday's pilot project. He also briefed about expansion of the DLCC project from next academic year in schools across 10 districts of U.P, covering 20,000+ students.



Training and orientation of Anganwadi workers in Hardoi

Samuday supported the training of Anganwadi workers(AWWs) in Bilgram, Kacchauna, Kothawan blocks of Hardoi for reinitiating hot cooked meals in Anganwadi centers. The sessions encompassed capacity building of AWWs on the significance of hot cooked meals, anthropometry of children below 6 years, and identification & categorization of SAM & SUW children. Along with AWWs, CDPO, BEO and PRI functionaries of respective blocks were in attendance.



Edition IX, Stage 4 – completed!

HCLTech Grant has successfully completed its Stage 4 of 'Field Level Due Diligence', wherein Subject Matter experts came together with the HCLFoundation team in the presence of Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCL Foundation; to select the top 10 NGOs under each category – Environment, Health & Education.

The NGOs who made the cut were identified based on their path-breaking work that makes a lasting impact. Eminent experts travelled over 1,53,000 kilometers to visit 46 NGOs across 22 states, 4 UTs and 68 districts to understand their work and present to the Sub-Jury.



Communities & Capabilities

Two day field visit was made by Mr. Robin Thomas and Mr. Rahul Kumar in Kolkata and Jhargram district of West Bengal for the Project – RESPONSE of PRADAN NGO (a 2021 environment category recipient of HCLTech Grant). The activities included team meeting & overview of project progress, onsite visit to water conserving structures, community meeting & interaction with Self Help Groups (SHGs), afforestation/plantation site visits etc.



NOIDA

Reading carnival

A reading carnival was organized in schools of Noida. A unique initiative in which interesting activities like flash card, tongue twisters, building words, spin the wheel and such were organized for children in different stalls to enhance their language skills.



Empowering Women

The Power of One Women Empowerment Programme commenced at the My E-Haat Display Centre, Noida, which saw 18 of our SGH women participate from three organizations in the pilot batch. Col Kassal leads sessions covering crucial topics:

- Basic life skills
- Enhancing self-efficacy
- Communication skills
- Emotional quotient and stress management
- Interviews and grooming
- Managing, leading, and team building
- Networking skills
- Conflict management and negotiation skills
- Time management and prioritization
- Business development and sales



CHENNAI

Mental health Matters

Navigating a transformative journey, a resilient 21-year-old Piku (anonymized for confidentiality), triumphed over poly substance dependence and psychosis during a two-month rehabilitation at the Banyan facility. Initially rescued from GG Nagar, Nerkundrum, the individual displayed commendable progress with psychosocial intervention. The family support he received most notably from his brother was critical to recovery.



When Mr. Jayraj, a 50-year-old battling schizophrenia in NSR Nagar was rescued by Karunai Illam, his initial struggle transformed into hope through tailoring therapy and medication. His initial days painted a picture of struggle – poor self-care, incoherent speech, auditory hallucinations and delusions. When family-reconnection attempts were met with neglect, tailoring, a skill deeply rooted in his past, became a therapeutic outlet.

Enabling Children Parliament in High and Higher Secondary Schools

In partnership with Organization for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation and towards the programme's aforementioned focus, the month of November saw:

- **Wall Painting Activity:** Implemented in Govt. Hr. Sec. School (Madambakkam) to enhance the learning environment, where students actively participated.
- **Comics Orientation Training:** Conducted in Pallavaram school, featuring 30+ comics highlighting environmental education – which saw positive response received from students.
- **Special Day Activity:** Enhancing Self Safety: Conducted in Govt. High School (Koladi) with Silambam Trainer's orientation on self-defense. Children Parliament students conducted a rally against gender-based violence and sexual harassment.



CHENNAI

Know Cancer, for No Cancer

In partnership with partner Cancer Institute HCLFoundation marked November with a focus on Community Awareness, and Patient Support and organized:

- **Youth Ambassadors for Cancer Control (YACC) Clubs:** Successfully reached 1430 school students, aiming to prevent tobacco initiation and create tobacco-free educational environments.
- **Cancer Awareness Bus:** Information on cancer prevention, lifestyle modification, treatment, rehabilitation, survivor stories, and awareness videos disseminated to the community.
- **Cancer Awareness Cycle Rally:** On National Cancer Awareness Day, a rally involving 60 college students spread awareness with placards. The event was flagged off by Thiru. Nelson, Dr. Swaminathan, and Dr. Baskaran.
- **Panel Discussion:** Prevention of Cancer through Lifestyle Changes: Marking National Cancer Awareness Day, a panel discussion engaged 110 college students. Prof. Kalpana Balakrishnan, Dr. Muthumani, and Dr. Baskaran addressed key aspects, including signs, risk factors, prevention strategies, and the significance of a healthy lifestyle. Participants found the program highly beneficial.



Micronutrient Support to HIV Affected Children

HCLFoundation along with NGO Partner CHES, distributed kits to community children, focusing on growth assessment, CD4, and Viral load evaluations. Educational sessions and counseling provided. 91 children benefited this month. Also an 'Anandha Illam Reunion' took place where the Project Director organized a reunion for old students. TANSACS joint director, ICH counselor, Advocate, Auditor joined the event, where successful stories of students in various fields were highlighted and data collected for future support.

Micronutrient Support to HIV Affected Children

Nutrition support provided to children in Stanley hospital and Institute of Children Health hospital, benefiting a total of 50 children. Additionally, 35 TB affected children and 20 AN Mothers affected by HIV/AIDS or TB received nutrition support in partnership with SIP Memorial Trust.



BENGALURU

Flashcard making event: Along with our partner with Head Held High Partner, the event was hosted at HCLFoundation campus on November 16, where participants crafted flashcards on various subjects, fostering interactive learning. A diverse group involved: 10 HHH trainees, HCLTech volunteers, and NGO partner affiliates.



Empowering communities An SHG Training on Disability Schemes, Communication, and Leadership at Bidaraguppe Dr B R Ambedkar Centre was conducted with AIFO India that covered disability schemes, communication, and leadership. Mr. Suresh from AIFO India provided insights; 25 SHG members benefited significantly.



Training for Solar Energy trade:

This is a women-focused program to enhance job opportunities in the Solar Sector with the Center for Sustainable Development. Classroom sessions and site visits were conducted; contributing to creating an interest in women for the energy sector.



Science session: Mantra for Change- Baseline assessment data collection completed in 10 schools.- Completed 2 electricity models in 6 schools; remaining 4 schools to be covered in December.- Students of GHPS Thirumagondanahalli created Simple Circuit and Study Lamp models.



Mental health training session

An emotion session was conducted in partnership with NIMHANS for Surana College students where activities aimed at understanding mental health were undertaken; 54 participants received certificates.



Awareness session for hygiene workers:

In partnership with SOCHARA, 8 community awareness programs on water and vector-borne diseases, menstrual hygiene, waste segregation, and domestic violence. Furthermore, 22 awareness sessions on waste segregation in 4 schools.



Mobilization and training for LGBTQIA+ community Project Vayati's skilling program in Bangalore with HCLFoundation and Solidarity saw 117 members mobilized; November sessions included PoSH training, workplace etiquette, interview readiness, communication, and mental wellness. 142 individuals trained on Foundation courses; 27 reached through mental wellness sessions.



HYDERABAD

Digital Lab inauguration at Govt. High School, Goshacut

HCLFoundation established a Digital Lab to enhance Digital & IT Skills. Inaugurated on Nov 7, benefiting 300+ government school students. District Education Officer, HCLTech Leadership, HCLFoundation representatives, school staff, and NGOs attended the event. Implemented by Nirmaan Organization.



Digital Lab inauguration at Govt. High School, Goshacut

HCLFoundation established a Digital Lab to enhance Digital & IT Skills. Inaugurated on Nov 7, benefiting 300+ government school students. District Education Officer, HCLTech Leadership, HCLFoundation representatives, school staff, and NGOs attended the event. Implemented by Nirmaan Organization.



World Toilet Day observance at Govt. High School

World Toilet Day was observed that saw a sensitization of students on clean and safe toilets. Awareness rally conducted with 200+ student participation and is being implemented by Modern Architects for Rural India (MARI).



KOLKATA

The month of November 2023 was adventure-filled for the children of Kolkata. Children at Mukti Rehabilitation Centre celebrated the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister - Jawaharlal Nehru Nov 14. The Gurukul children were also taken for an outdoor visit where they played games, participated in competitions and observed magic show.



The children at Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission for the first time participated in an electoral process to understand the functioning of democratic process. They together formed a Child Parliament in the school for the first time in which all students from Standard V to X took part in the voting process. The headmaster of the school briefed them upon the parliamentary process in India.

A five-member committee was nominated during the voting process and representatives were elected for each committee namely Health & Hygiene, Education, Environment, Sports & culture and overall progress of the students! The committee will conduct a review meeting in every month and shall be active till the current academic year, i.e., March 2024.



MADURAI

State Level LUNA Camp Success

At the Open Space Foundation organized Luna 2023 Camp at the state level, 8 students from Madurai were selected at the state level out of 68 statewide participants and felicitated with certificates and telescopes. (To put that in context, in the 24 Madurai Corporation schools where HCLFoundation's science Club is present at the school level, over 280 students participated. Out of which 48 students were selected at the district level and 8 students were successful at the state level.)



Inter-School Math Expo at MySchool

Hosted at EVRN CGHSS, featuring 68 students with innovative math models, in categories that included 'Fun with Mathematics,' 'Mathematics in Everyday Life,' 'Maths and Technology,' 'Geometry in Arts and Architecture,' and 'Probability and Statistics for Financial Skills.' HCLTech volunteers facilitated and congratulated winners.



Iron Deficiency Day at MySchool

300+ students were sensitized on iron-rich foods and distributed Iron Tawas. Also, a Hand Print Campaign was conducted among students to eradicate iron deficiency.



Child Rights Day Sensitization

On Child Rights Day, 36 parents from the communities where ECCD are present, were sensitized on children's rights i.e. explained about the dangers of child marriage, importance of girl child education, and distributed with child rights pamphlets through HCLTech volunteers.



MADURAI

National Science Day at Young Kalam Science Centre

On the occasion of National Science Day, 58 models entries were created by 6 participating schools. The District Educational Officer shortlisted the best models and shared relevant details with District Administration.



DE Methodology and Technology Training for Teachers

The training encompassed topics such as content preparation, video-making tools, and evaluation tools. Teachers were provided with content for better understanding of the subject concepts.



Road Safety Campaign

A campaign on road safety was conducted on "World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims", via a 'signal campaign' with the Police department and HCLTech Volunteers raising awareness on traffic rules and safety.



Happy Schooling Training for Teachers

A 'Leadership in Mental Health' training was conducted for School Heads and Municipal Corporation Education department officials, that focused on appreciative leadership mindset –notably the 'Discovery, Dream, Design, and Destiny' of Positivity.



NAGPUR

'A stitch in time'

Owing to the 'nature of the job', it is often seen that women engaged in sewing develop vision-related issues. To address the same in time, routine eye check-up camps were organized at the Mahal and Wadi Stitching centers which saw over 200 women getting screened and 38 women were given spectacles during this camp.



Diwali Stall at HCLTech campus.

Project participants engaged in making hand made products ranging from apparel to millet based food products participated in the Diwali Mela at HCLTech Campus by setting up stalls of their respective products. Sales of over 15,000 were recorded during the fair.



Science Exhibition

A Science Exhibition was organized by the Education office, Nagpur Municipal Corporation. It was inaugurated by Ms. Anchal Goyal, Addl. Commissioner, NMC and saw over 100 children (who are all a part of the HCLFoundation supported STEM project) take part in the exhibition.



VIJAYAWADA

Talent Hunt

Talent hunt conducted to the trainees of Yuvakendra to bring their hidden talents to enhance their spontaneity and confidence.



Guest lecture

A guest lecture on career growth in Retail sector and workplace etiquette to the trainees of Yuvakendra skill development centre



Right Skills. Bright Future

20 youth were enrolled in to a new batch of core employability skills course at Yuvakendra Skill Development Center



Diwali Exhibition Stall

Diwali Exhibition stall was set up in the HCLTech Vijayawada campus where Kalamkari printed apparel, Kondapalli crafts and more were showcased.



National Cancer Awareness Day

In partnership with Mamta – HIMC, diverse awareness activities across 5 communities were organized, emphasizing discussions at screening centres in commemoration of World Cancer Day.



FLW Training

November also saw a one-day capacity-building training session for 31 front-line health and ICDS Department functionaries. The training focused on preconception care and danger signs, enhancing the participants' knowledge and skills in these crucial areas.



New-born Week observed.

Also organized were diverse awareness activities during the New-born Care Week (November 15–21) to emphasize the significance of new born care



The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

Under HCLFoundation's My Worth Project involving 12 schools, the focus is on hygiene and WASH for schoolchildren, the assessment gauged the current state of WASH components and proper sanitary napkin usage among girls. Developed in consultation with the project team, the assessment form specifically addressed school health, targeting upper primary students in grades 6 to 8.



LUCKNOW

Cricket Competition to mark Children's Day

Inclusive Sports for All Genders - A cricket competition was hosted at BKT Inter College, featuring two teams from classes 6-8. Our goal is to challenge gender stereotypes by actively involving girls in outdoor sports like cricket and football. The inter-college format promotes this initiative, acknowledging the dynamic role of schoolgirls in sports. This activity serves as a valuable lesson for male students, fostering an understanding that girls can equally excel as players.



Khushal Parivar Diwas

Khushal Pariwar Diwas was celebrated across seven intervention slum communities to raise awareness about family planning, diverse contraceptive methods, and the importance of maintaining smaller families. The occasion saw the enthusiastic involvement of Medical Officers in Charge (MOICs), community leaders, and Frontline Health Workers (FLWs). The highlight of the event was the recognition and honoring of eligible couples practicing small family norms or utilizing contraceptives.



Workshop on 'Negotiation' life skill

Creative workshops on life skills were conducted for adolescents in all the intervention communities. The topic for this month was "Saying No" (Negotiation skill). The workshop was organized with the aim of equipping young minds with effective negotiation skills, fostering resilience, and promoting a sense of self-empowerment. A total of 49 adolescents participated in the workshops.



Diwali Carnival

A Diwali Carnival was conducted at HCLTech Lucknow, where My E-Haat by HCLFoundation partners also participated and exhibited variety of jute, chikankari and khadi products from Barabanki and Lucknow artisans.



LUCKNOW

STEM lab inauguration

HCLFoundation has installed 12 science labs and 1 robotics lab in the Government schools supported by HCLFoundation in Lucknow.

Science is integral to Education. Through our STEM interventions, Uday by HCLFoundation promotes the scientific acumen amongst young people, esp. girls from underserved communities – to help them achieve academic excellence and break all barriers to live a dignified life.”

The lab was inaugurated by Mr. Ajay Gupta, Senior Vice President in Lucknow.



Aspiring entrepreneurship workshop at AMC LKO CANTT

A five day Aspiring Entrepreneurship Workshop (AEW) was conducted with support of HCLFoundation in which 35 Army veterans were part of the workshop. On the culmination day of the workshop they presented their business plan in groups on ideas such as Organic compost, CSC centre, Garment shop, Security Business, Dairy farming, etc. made with the help of I-create team. HCLTech volunteers also joined in on an activity where they had to negotiate and make a sale to showcase their business skills!



Session at Govt ITI

A session on interview preparedness and resume making was conducted by our NGO partner Grey Sims learning foundation at Mahila Govt. ITI, where HCLTech volunteers also joined in and shared their valuable inputs. HCLTech DWP account senior employees took mock interview and gave tips to crack interview for ITI Students.



Cigarette disposal bins installed

On November 8, awareness-cum-installation of Cigarette disposal bins were carried out in the vending zones of Noida Sector 3 and 126. Twelve bins were handed over to the vendors who were informed that the responsibility of the bins solely lies with them and they should ensure its usage and safety. During the installation, all stakeholders were informed and requested to dispose the smoke filters responsibly in the bins. They were provided thank you cards made of recycled cigarette butts.



Plastic-free Diwali campaign

The Diwali of 2023 was promoted as 'Plastic Free Diwali' under My Clean City by HCLFoundation programme. The intention of the campaign was to inculcate in citizens a sense of cleanliness in beautification.

It was conducted at Godavri market with a plogging drive in market periphery and followed by hands on Do-It-Yourself (DIY) candle/diya making, plants' pots & poles painting in vicinity of market.



Featured in FICCI-ISC Compendium unveiled at India Sanitation Conclave 2023

Under My Clean City, a project on Plastic Waste Management awareness has been going on in market areas of Noida. The team successfully conducted the pilot project with an innovative communication campaign called 'Plastic Heist'. A successful case of the same was showcased and submitted to ISC-FICCI. The case study has been successfully recognized by them and published in the Business of Change series, titled 'Cities in Crisis: Best Practices on Curbing Plastic Waste Across Urban India'. The compendium was unveiled at the India Sanitation Conclave on November 20, 2023.



Two biogas plants inaugurated in Noida city

This month under My Clean City program, two biogas plants were inaugurated – one at Shri Krishna Maa Jalpa Bhavani gaushala in Sector 15A, Noida, and another at Shri Jee Gausadan sector 94. Each plant (Model name – Sistema 200) has a storage capacity of 70 cu. m. per day and capable of mitigating GHG emissions in the range of 250-305 tons of Carbon Dioxide per year.

Each biogas plant will allow efficient processing of 2000-2200 kgs of cow dung waste daily, producing clean energy in the form of biogas that will support 13 households and 1 commercial connection at sector 15A gaushala, while the one at sector 94A supports 38 households. Also, ~5200 litres of slurry (rich in NPK) will get produced at each gaushala, which they can sell and earn revenue from. This slurry has good nutrients for soil for agricultural/horticulture purposes.





3,554
Volunteers



11,356.5
Hours



11,850
Programme
Participants

Diwali celebrations by volunteers in Bengaluru and Noida with various programme participants, to spread festive cheer and warmth.



Celebrations at AIFO Center with People with Disabilities; 10 volunteers (Bengaluru)



Celebrations at SHEOWS Home for the Elderly (Noida) with setting up of stalls, supporting sales and indulging in festivities with the residents; 06 volunteers (NOIDA)



Informative Edu-card/Flash card making workshop with 30 HCLTechies, Yuvakendra Trainees and Govt. School students in collaboration with PoI partner Volunteer to facilitate and enhance volunteering in Bengaluru location.

3 Day Youth Leadership Training program

HCLFoundation-supported Slum Soccer had organized a 3-day Youth Leadership Training program at Slum Soccer Academy, Bokhara. A total of 20 participants were selected from various sports and schools of Nagpur, to undergo this training and learn to lead in their schools and communities. In the training, 11 volunteers from HCLTech led sessions and engaged the participants. The training also upskilled the participants equipping them with life - and leadership skills both, on and off the field.

📍 Nagpur



Soaring higher, higher, higher!

Soaring higher, higher, higher!

November – like the months before it, was filled with our athletes making the cut and securing representations at the next 'higher' forum. Below is a roundup of a few such achievers...

Who: Shamuga Priya (GNES cricket player)

What, where: selected to represent Tamil Nadu State Cricket Team Under-15 Women's squad to take part in BCCI State Women's Under 15 One Day cricket tournament will be held in Haryana.

📍 **Chennai**



Who: 11 Girls (SVF cricket SDC players from Sanatan Dharma Inter College, Meerut)

What.: Selected for SGFI State U-19 Cricket Team

Selected Players: Tanishka, Swati, Apsa, Dolly, Lucky, Saloni Yadav, Kavya, Riya, Awantika, Shashi, Kristeena

📍 **Lucknow**



Who: 3 Football girl players from NGO partner Maatru Pratishthana.

What: Selected to represent Karnataka State Senior Women's Football team

📍 **Bengaluru**



Who: 4 Football Girl players from SVF SDC centers

What: Selected to represent Lucknow University Football Team in upcoming North Zone Inter University football tournament

Selected Players: Archna Vishwakarma, Siya Kashyap, Surabhi Maurya, Ayushi Pal



On a winning streak!

Our girls football team in partnership with Sudeva FC participated in the Delhi Women's football league competition and playing a few matches in the month of November.

Match-1

Final Score: 3-2 | A win! | HCLFoundation Sports Scholar Jingngam Wangsu was awarded a Player of the Match

Match-2

Final Score 4-0 | A dominating win! HCLFoundation Sports scholar Ms.Kirti was awarded a Player of the Match



Four of our Kabaddi girl players from Sports Village Foundation from Sports Development Centers (SDC) participated in the Inter University Kabaddi Championship. Senior girls Kabaddi team clinched the 1st place, securing a Gold.

The outstanding performance of Preeti, Vanshika, Kumkum, and Anjali led to their selection for the All India University Championship.

📍 Bengaluru



Who: Kabaddi Girls team from HCLFoundation supported partner MAATRU Pratishtana.

What: Took partners took part in SGFI State Level competition representing Bengaluru Rural District and emerged as winners.

What's next: 3 Players Preethi, Kumuda and Tanisha selected to represent Karnataka State!

📍 Bengaluru



Who: SVF SDC Girls Football

What: players participated in Asmita Khelo India Women's Rugby League organized by Indian Rugby Football Union & Rugby Association Uttar Pradesh.

Yayy moment: Our Senior Rugby Team secured 1st Place Gold Medal and Cash Price of Rupees 50,000.

📍 Lucknow



Who: Our Junior Football Girls team from Vidyanagar Government School

What: Represented in DMC School Football Tournament and emerged as winners.

📍 Bengaluru



Who: Krida Vikas Sanstha (Slum Soccer) boys football team

What: Took part in YMCA Under-17 Football tournament and emerged WINNERS with cash prize of INR 10,000!

📍 Bengaluru





A research paper on Fostering Resilience: "A Sustainable Livelihood for Artisans", co-authored by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Gaurav Majumdar, Vikas Dargan and Ayushi Maheshwari was presented at the ICON 2023 Sustainable Design Practices international conference held at NIFT Kangra.

The paper elaborated on the strategic capacity building interventions under My E-Haat initiative and its compounding impact.



Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Gaurav Majumdar, Vikas Dargan & Ayushi Maheshwari from HCLFoundation team presented a research paper on "Leveraging Technology for Authentication of Crafts" at the 4th International Conference on Recent Trends and Sustainability in Crafts, hosted at IICD, Jaipur.



A research paper on Fostering Resilience: "A Sustainable Livelihood for Artisans", co-authored by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Gaurav Majumdar, Vikas Dargan and Ayushi Maheshwari was presented at the ICON 2023 Sustainable Design Practices international conference held at NIFT Kangra.

The paper elaborated on the strategic capacity building interventions under My E-Haat initiative and its compounding impact.

Corporate social responsibility and its implication in India 2-day workshop for professionals

A workshop organized by CII Telangana with Academy by HCLFoundation in Hyderabad. The 2-day workshop was curated for professionals in the corporate and social sector – with an objective to utilize the expertise of Academy by HCLF, so that professionals may know and update their knowledge on the CSR rules and amendments and the best practices to follow to create an impact in the society.

The 2-day session focused on rules and laws of CSR in India, the best practices and approaches to follow, the project implementations and management, reporting, tax and audit requirements and compliances to follow. The sessions were highly interactive with an illustrative learning approach where real case studies were dealt as examples along with the suggested solution for the problems from the field.

A total of 52 members registered for the event and 43 attended the sessions from various corporates and NGOs of Hyderabad.

The program culminated on a high, with the presence of Mr Arunabh Mithra, VP, HCLTech, Mr Kishore, VP, HCLTech and Mr M S Sudheer Babu, Director of Skills at Tech Mahindra and Ms Aruna Mantena Deputy Director CII Telangana.



Global CSR

HCLTech Australia achieved another milestone in their Reconciliation Action Plan journey, having formalized the endorsement of inaugural 'Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan' in collaboration with Reconciliation Australia. Since 2006, RAPs have provided a framework for organizations to leverage their structures and diverse spheres of influence to support the national reconciliation movement. This will now serve to ensure that HCLTech's future efforts deliver positive and lasting impacts with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and communities.



The HCLTech Romania team were invited at the 5-year Anniversary Gala of the Roman Food Bank - the first Food Bank in Romania. HCLTech Romania was nominated as Ambassador, due to the volunteering work carried out by HCLTechies in the last 2 years.

In an equally delightful course of events: HCLTech Romania signed 7 partnerships with Non-Government Organizations in Romania, such as Save The Children.



HCLFoundation

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