Infosys Foundation Report

2016-17

BRIDGES WE BUILD TOGETHER

Bridges we build together

For organizations that work in the social sector, every day is about striking a balance. Between funds and people who need them, between remote locations in need of help, and suburbs and villages closer to the cities, between intent and action, and between goals and accomplishment. While trying to strike this balance, the Infosys Foundation tries to delve deeper, so that every engagement results in a lasting transformation.

The last 20 years have been a time of making deep connections, and building bridges. We have connected far-flung corners of the north-east to the big cities, taken talented local artists and craftsmen to a global stage, brought children into the net of sustainable education by ensuring midday meals, empowered women to seek economic independence, and opened doors to larger opportunities for communities and individuals with limited means. We work towards creating sustainable infrastructure and not just filling the current gap, and help in nation-building by being a valuable partner in government programs as well. Our sharpest focus is always on the underprivileged, and we continue to explore all possible ways of reaching the most vulnerable and under-served sections of our society.

Over the two decades of our journey, every life that we have helped change for the better, every smile we have brought to the face of a child, every indigenous art-form that we managed to bring back from the brink of extinction, has provided us the encouragement to walk the extra mile to make a difference. We are fortunate to have partners who share our values and commitment and have been working with us for the better part of these 20 years. We have tried to capture these valuable associations in the opening section of this report.

When we look behind us, we see the wonderful bridges we built together, and we are conscious of the many that are waiting to be built. The relationships we have forged along the way – with our partners, our end-beneficiaries, our employee-volunteers, and our well-wishers – are the pillars on which we will build the bridges of the future.

"Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean."

— Ryunosuke Satoro

Contents

Chairperson's message

Every day is a new beginning

In every community that we helped bring to the mainstream, in every local artist whom we took to the global stage, in every school or hospital we helped build, in every government project we supported, in every drop of water we helped conserve, in every young man and woman we trained, and in every child we helped feed and educate in these 20 years, we see a little bit of the change that we aim to bring about.

In 1996-97, when Infosys Limited was growing in strength and revenue, also growing within us was the need to give back to society some part of what we were earning. We wanted to connect resources with the need to solve some of the poverty-related problems of our country. And Infosys Foundation was born. Today, it is 20 years old, shaped and strengthened by myriad experiences and wide exposure to individual lives and livelihoods of communities.

Twenty years have changed a lot of things for us at the Foundation. We have grown in our projects, our reach, our scope, our partners, our beneficiaries and our funding. When we started, ₹30 lakh was all we had to make a difference. In our 20th year, we were blessed to be able to grant ₹289.44 crore in funds – making a significantly bigger difference than earlier.

In these 20 years, the Foundation's work has allowed me to travel across India – from the busiest cities to hamlets in the remotest of corners. Healthcare is one of our focus areas and I visit a number of hospitals and medical institutions every year. Whenever I enter the premises of a hospital, a familiar scene greets me – that of family members and friends of patients lying and sitting on the floor in hospital corridors and sometimes, even on the pavements outside. As is often the case, many patients come from far-off villages in the hope of better treatment, and have no means of renting accommodation. For the underprivileged patients being treated for long-term illnesses, the families have to endure the ordeal for long stretches of time. The sight never fails to remind me that the Foundation must continue to step in and take action. You will find that we have constructed *dharmashalas* and shelters in a number of places, including a *serai* in PGIMER, Chandigarh to assist the Indian Red Cross Society, another one in NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and an overnight shelter for patients undergoing eye surgery at the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute in Bhubaneswar, among others.

At the end of the day, our work revolves around simple human needs – food, shelter, education and basic amenities. But the path to solving these problems is far from simple and strewn with enormous obstacles. Still, as we go about finding solutions, every project brings us a deeper understanding of ground realities, leading to meaningful interventions. For instance, in our long association with the Akshaya Patra Foundation's massive midday meal program, we realized that a 'meal a day' for children was not enough, the meal had to be 'nutritious, child-friendly and safe'. This spurred us to invest in a high-tech, labor-optimized, quality-intensive kitchen in Hyderabad.

Till three years ago, our work was largely confined to states where Infosys had a campus. This gave us the ability to monitor projects through our local employee volunteers, keep the costs low and allowed us to give back to the states that had been a part of our journey. But since 2014-15, the increase in funds following the government's directive to listed companies to set aside 2% of their profits for CSR activities has given us the motivation and finances we needed to venture into the north-eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, and other parts of the country. Today, we support activities such as welfare projects in the underdeveloped tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, create child-friendly villages with the assistance of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation in Bihar, and build hostels for Kalyan Ashram in the remote reaches of Assam.

Yet another positive outcome of the higher outlay for CSR has been that we can now also work towards making projects more sustainable through multi-year funding, as in the case of Ranga Shankara in Bengaluru and the 20-year fellowship program at the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai.

We also understand that with greater funds come greater responsibility. On our part, while we are building bridges between people who are in need and the people who can help, we are also trying to incorporate good governance processes for higher transparency and accountability. Third-party assessments now offer us new perspectives and opportunities to learn.

In every community that we helped bring to the mainstream, in every local artist whom we took to the global stage, in every school or hospital we helped build, in every government project we supported, in every drop of water we helped conserve, in every young man and woman we trained, and in every child we helped feed and educate in the last 20 years, we see a little of the change that we aim to bring about.

We know that this is just the beginning. We know we have miles to go, and promises to keep. Our boots are strapped, our bags are packed, and we are ready for the next twenty.

– Sudha Murty
Chairperson, Infosys Foundation

Infosys Foundation Trustees

Creating value together

In the last 20 years, we have been privileged to collaborate with some of the most committed and respected organizations whose work speaks for them. In this special section, we bring you a glimpse of our association with five of our long-standing partners.

A bond steeped in culture

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB) was founded in 1938, and the Bengaluru center was set up in 1965. Infosys Foundation's partnership with BVB dates back to 1997, when it started supporting individual artists and community service programs of BVB's schools and other establishments. The scope of the association has widened over the years, extending even to the preservation of historical monuments.

3,000+ artists benefited across art forms

Classical and folk dance

Classical and folk music

Special and rare art forms

Classical and folk theater

Fusion art forms

Focus areas

Sponsoring artists for overseas performance

The Foundation provides grants to Indian musicians and performing artists through BVB for their performances abroad. So far, 100+ artists and troupes have been granted sponsorships.

Organizing outreach programs

As part of its cultural outreach program in partnership with the Foundation, BVB has conducted 267 shows across 11 states till date. Over 1,976 artists have performed in these events.

Books and publications

The Foundation funded the series of 18 audio cassettes of *Kumaravyasa Bharatha* featuring Dr. Mathoor Krishnamurthy and Hosahalli Keshavamurthy.

Building educational institutions

Three educational institutions of BVB in Karnataka, one each in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Shivamogga, have been supported by the Infosys Foundation.

Organizing cultural festivals at restored heritage sites

In 2016 and 2017, BVB and the Foundation presented two cultural festivals, one at the restored Someshwara temple and another at the Buddhist *vihara* of Anupu.

Supporting indigenous art forms

Over 80 indigenous art forms have been showcased under the outreach program. Most of these, such as *theeyattu* from Kerala and tribal dance forms, are rare and endangered.

"The core ideology, aims and objectives of both Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan are quite similar. Our commitment is to preserve, protect and promote our glorious culture and folk arts. The programs conducted in collaboration with the Foundation are testimony to this common vision. The impact the programs have had on the lives of children, and upcoming as well as struggling artists cannot be summed up using mere numbers."

– H. N. Suresh
Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Karnataka

Artists from Banasthali Vidyapith in Jaipur perform the *Bhavai* dance in one of the BVB-Infosys Foundation outreach programs.

Keeping hunger out of classrooms

Infosys Foundation joined hands with The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) in 2004-05 with donations towards midday meals for children in Hubballi. Drawing strength from the shared vision of ending classroom hunger and promoting education, the association of the two organizations diversified from sponsorship of meals to setting up of kitchens, disaster relief projects, and now, the establishment of an automated, hi-tech kitchen.

1. Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murty and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje visiting TAPF's kitchen in Jaipur; 2. Preparation of hygienic meals under way at TAPF's Bengaluru kitchen; 3. A midday meal in progress; 4. Sudha Murty at the Government Urdu School, Kaulpet; 5. Cooked food being loaded on to vehicles for delivery to schools in Bengaluru; 6. TAPF's drinking water project for schools in Rajasthan

"The Foundation's support has helped take The Akshaya Patra Foundation's (TAPF) programs to new heights. The Foundation has also supported TAPF in building a full-fledged automated mega kitchen, which will benefit 1,00,000 children. In other projects, the Foundation has helped TAPF bring basic sanitation facilities and water to communities, which is estimated to help 1,25,000 beneficiaries."

– Sundeep Talwar
Chief Marketing Officer, The Akshaya Patra Foundation

Akshaya Patra's midday meal program has been successful in reducing school dropout rates.

A meaningful collaboration towards better health and happiness

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and Infosys Foundation collaborated for the first time when the Foundation sponsored an award for the best outgoing student in the field of Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing / Diploma in Neurological Nursing in 2003. Since then, the partnership has grown in strength, with the Foundation granting funds for upgrading infrastructure at NIMHANS. The Foundation also funded the construction of a *dharmashala* for the institute in Bengaluru.

2011

Foundation stone laying for the first Dharmashala in the NIMHANS complex, a unique rest house facility within a hospital campus for caregivers. This set the trend for similar facilities at various other hospitals that had a huge influx of patients who came from far-off places to the city and could not afford accommodation outside.

2012

Inauguration of the Infosys Foundation Dharmashala that was built specifically for the attendants of poor patients.

The *dharmashala* comprises:

- **27** studio rooms
- **5** dormitories

Each room can accommodate 2-3 people, and a dormitory can house up to 20 people.

2014

Aiding mobile academic outreach facility at the Centre for Public Health in Kolar. Being mobile has enabled the team to reach out to some of the remotest villages of this district and extend mental healthcare and neuroscience facilities for patients, and also helped in training medical and allied professionals to expand the care-giving infrastructure.

2016

Hi-tech blood-bank mobile unit donated to NIMHANS. The unit is a fully air-conditioned bus equipped with collection and storage capacity of 250 liters of blood, and fitted with 12 foldable cots. It also includes equipment for providing emergency care with a self-contained generator set.

Dharmashala, the rest house facility sponsored by the Infosys Foundation at the NIMHANS hospital complex, Bengaluru.

"The Foundation addresses critical health needs of the community through its grants program. NIMHANS also serves people with mental and neurological illnesses and free treatment is given to almost 75% of the patients. This forms a common thread between the two organizations. We value the collaboration with the Foundation for the last seven years and we will further work together in extending our services to cover more people. The example set by the Foundation through its grants and commitment to the causes that it takes up has motivated other firms to contribute and participate with us."

– Dr. B. N. Gangadhar
Director, NIMHANS

A long-term commitment to communities

Prerana is one of Infosys Foundation's oldest partners. The association began in 2001 through the Pratibha Poshak, or Nurture Merit, where 100 children in two districts of Karnataka were awarded scholarships to continue their studies. The tie-up strengthened when the two organizations decided to conduct a survey among the *Devadasi* women in north Karnataka. A joint plan was drawn up based on the survey to help the marginalized women and their children. The project continues to transform the lives of the women and children as the Foundation offers its steady support to help them achieve far-reaching benefits.

1998-99

Program sponsorship for the **eradication of child labor**

2000-01

Setting up of a **resource center** for helping the **visually impaired**

2002-04

Scholarships for poor students from **rural areas**

2007-08

Initiating the creation of **learning centers** to augment secondary skills required for academic excellence and for being **job-ready**

Long-term support for destitute women and their children through **Nava Jeevana Mahila Okkoota** (NJMO)

2009-10

Support the **Swabhimani Janapara Vividhoddesha Souharda Sahakari Niyamitha,** a cooperative started by the NJMO for destitute women.

2011-13

Supporting the setting up of **libraries** for needy students

Prerana's *Nava Jeevana Mahila Okkoota* members in a discussion, Raichur district.

"I don't think we could have done as much of the work as we have managed to do without the Foundation's support. We have learnt from the Foundation to spend time and energy on one project rather than bite more than we can chew. The Foundation also helped us build our network and connect with other organizations working in the same space, many of whom we have collaborated with later."

– Abhay Kumar
Program Coordinator, Prerana

Joining hands to eradicate inequity

Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama was founded in 1991 by Swami Japananda in Pavagada in the Tumakuru district of Karnataka. Its aim was to provide healthcare facilities in the rural and backward regions. The first project that the Sevashrama took up was treating leprosy patients. It was during this time, in 1993, that Infosys Foundation made its first contribution to the Sevashrama. The association was renewed 10 years later, and since then, the Foundation has lent its support to many of the Sevashrama's projects.

1. Wheelchairs being donated by the Foundation to the Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama beneficiaries; 2. Food distribution to villagers; 3. Tribal trainees at the farm machinery workshop organized by the Sevashrama; 4. Advanced surgical equipment at the Swami Vivekananda Integrated Health Centre; 5. Eye check-up being conducted as part of the special camp; 6. Fodder being distributed for cattle in Pavagada

Infosys Foundation has been supporting Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama's drinking water project, *Pavana Ganga*, for the past six years.

"The Foundation is currently involved in nearly all of the 22 projects we are doing now. The two hospitals, the Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre and the Sri Sharada Devi Eye Hospital are being run with the Foundation's help. We also collaborate on the fodder and drinking water projects during the summer months in the region. We cherish the trust we share with the Foundation."

Swami Japananda
Chairman, Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama

Art and culture

Celebrating a slice of Buddhist history

Folk dance forms such as *Oggu* and classical forms such as Bharatanatyam were performed during the three-day festival at Anupu in December 2016.

History may be a thing of the past but its preservation and study are necessary for future generations to appreciate the cultural heritage, legacy and societal fabric of the past and the present. Infosys Foundation has been working towards the preservation of historic art and architecture through grant-making, sponsorship and advocacy.

An ancient Buddhist center dating back to the third century was unearthed during the construction of a dam in the late 1960s in Andhra Pradesh. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), realizing the significance and rarity of the find, painstakingly reconstructed the site at a place eight kilometers away from the dam. The site, Anupu, spread over 80 hectares, is now one of the world's foremost historical and cultural monuments of Buddhism.

The Foundation conceived the idea of hosting a cultural festival at Anupu to showcase the site's historical significance, encourage folk arts of the region and create awareness about the site.

Anupu was the seat of Mahayana Buddhism in India, the place where Acharya Nagarjuna preached the order. It contains a *Vihara* (Buddhist university), the *Harati* temple, and a large amphitheater. The intricacy of the structures lies in their divisions, the *stupas* having circular brick walls with cladding of limestone slabs, the *Simhala Vihara* housing two halls, one enclosing an image of the Buddha and the monasteries having limestone columns set in brick and stone walls. The Foundation had supported a similar project earlier, the restoration of the Someshwara Temple at Laksmeshwar in Gadag, Karnataka.

A festival is born

Infosys Foundation collaborated with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB) for the cultural festival, which was held from December 9 to 11, 2016, and featured about 350 performers.

The underlying theme of the festival was the celebration of India's cultural diversity in the lap of history. To bring this to the fore, Gautama Buddha's life and works were adapted to music and dance. Distinguished Buddhist monks from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were invited to begin the event with the traditional invocation (*Ashtamangala* prayer) for the festival's success. The folk art of Telangana (like the *Oggu*, *Dappu*, *Bonalu*, *Gossadi*, *Lambadi* and *Mathuri* dance forms) and Andhra Pradesh (such as the *Tappeta Gullu*, *Veeranatyam* and *Garagulu*) were performed aesthetically through the festival.

Heritage matters

Infosys Hyderabad's volunteers and BVB's Bengaluru Kendra team worked in unison to organize the event on such a large scale. The logo for the event was created using limestone (*Ayakpata*) to depict the transportation of Siddhartha's crown to heaven by the gods, accompanied by musicians. The logo is on display at the nearby Archaeological Museum in Nagarjunakonda now.

The organizers gave an undertaking to the ASI that extreme care would be taken to ensure zero damage to the monument during the festival.

The objective of raising awareness about our historic monuments was as important as the celebration of the site. To reach out to a wider audience, the story of Anupu was narrated in both Telugu and English to all the visiting schoolchildren. With the festival witnessing a huge turnout, the Foundation's efforts to highlight India's historic wonders received a boost.

All the world's a stage for the meeting of creative minds

Little Cloud storytelling sessions (left), and Summer Express, summer workshops for children, are two projects supported by the Infosys Foundation.

Theater, one of the oldest performing art forms, can be traced back to travelling storytellers whose stories of heroes and legends were passed down from generation to generation. But as technology gave birth to new audio-visual media, theater found itself up against the more popular and attractive forms of cinema, television and the internet. All across the globe, theater is carrying on a spirited fight to hold its ground. In Bengaluru, Ranga Shankara, run by the Sanket Trust, has been the flag-bearer of a quiet but steady reinvention of this art form.

Infosys Foundation found common cause with Ranga Shankara right from the time the world-class theater facility opened its doors in 2004. At the time, there were only around 25 groups engaged in amateur contemporary theatre activity in the city. Today, owing to Ranga Shankara's efforts, there are close to 100 such groups performing plays in different languages. The Foundation's grant is an integral part of the corporate funding that keeps the Ranga Shankara theater running and helps it realize the vision of its founders.

The show must go on

Starting with a policy of 'a play a day', Ranga Shankara now hosts around 400 plays a year. It offers one of the most affordable, fully-equipped theater spaces in India for performances by groups from around the country as well as abroad. Ranga Shankara has staged more than 5,000 productions of its own in 13 years, reaching out to an audience of more than 800,000 and building a knowledgeable audience base along the way. Ranga Shankara's thoughtful curation ensures that there is a common stage for plays of all languages, unlike the earlier practice of separate spaces for different languages.

The Foundation's grant is also used for outreach programs, which enable the art of theater to expand into communities, and grow in form and skill. Many of these programs are targeted at children. These include the Little Cloud storytelling sessions, Summer Express – a series of summer workshops, the AHA! International Theatre for children, and school shows. Summer Express has reached about 120 children in the last two years, 30 of them from special schools.

Other outreach programs include *Kannada Natakotsava* – a festival of Kannada theater, 'Train and Teach' workshops for aspiring theater workers, the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival held every year in October, and other multi-venue festivals.

For art's sake

A new initiative called 'Making Theatre' brought together 20 young directors from various districts of Karnataka for a 30-day directors' residency program in Bengaluru, with the ultimate objective of introducing quality theater to small-town and rural audiences.

Another program introduced in 2016 was 'Artful Teachers', a workshop for primary and higher primary school teachers in four districts of Karnataka – Davanagere, Mysuru, Hosapete and Belagavi – to help them use theater as a tool for teaching. Each center saw 25 teachers in attendance. Five teachers from these will be brought to Bengaluru to help create a syllabus for theater in schools.

Ranga Shankara has become more than a theater space, it has become a nerve center of the society we live in. Sensitive supporters like the Foundation that recognize the need to have robust institutions for dynamic creations help Ranga Shankara continue to serve the cause of theater.

Education

A full stomach leads to a full classroom

One lakh meals can be prepared in just a few hours in the hi-tech kitchen at Hyderabad, with automated mechanisms for all processes.

"No child in India shall be deprived of education because of hunger."

Working towards this vision, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) has managed to accomplish a difficult task in many government schools in India – keeping students in school by eradicating classroom hunger.

TAPF serves a wholesome midday meal to 1.6 million children in 13,000+ schools across India. Its aim is to feed five million children by 2020. Infosys Foundation has been a proud partner of TAPF since 2004, helping not only in providing nutritious food to schoolchildren but also in ensuring that the food is cooked with extreme care and cleanliness. The Foundation continues to support the midday meal scheme across various locations with a large corpus fund enabling smooth daily operations.

During the last year, the Foundation funded the establishment of a fully-automated kitchen for TAPF in Kandi, Hyderabad. The existing kitchen at Patencheru, Hyderabad is old and serves only 50,000+ school children every day. The new hi-tech kitchen will help TAPF provide meals to more than one lakh children per day.

A cleaner, cost-effective technology

The need to set up hi-tech kitchens was felt in tandem with the necessity for scaling up the infrastructure and green technology, along with the need to provide hygienic and wholesome meals. Research shows that the right technology could significantly reduce cooking cost and cycle time, while also reducing the carbon footprint by implementing green initiatives such as sewage treatment plants (STPs), effluent treatment plants (ETPs), and solar power. The reduction of human intervention will also lower the risk of contamination. Once functional, TAPF will apply for the MDM, FSSAI ISO certifications for the kitchen.

Some of the technological processes used in the kitchen include Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), advanced conveyor belts and mechanized trolleys, in addition to automated mechanisms to minimize human tasks such as cutting of vegetables. Large stainless steel cauldrons with easy-tilt mechanism can prepare 1,200 liters of lentils in just two hours. The use of steam reduces cooking time without compromising on the nutritional value of the food. Most importantly, the new technologies make the entire system cleaner, streamlined and cost-effective.

Minimum wastage

Waste-management processes have been implemented in the kitchen-operation cycle to turn food waste into biofuels and advanced STPs and ETPs to treat and recycle 92% of the waste water. The reverse osmosis-based water filtration plant ensures potable water for drinking and cooking operations. High-efficiency boilers will ensure minimum wastage of energy.

The hi-tech kitchen is expected to be functional within a year. The kitchen will be maintained and operated by TAPF's trained and qualified operational and quality professionals, and help the Foundation and TAPF in their crusade to end the scourge of hunger among school-going children.

After the storm, a new year in a new school

Students at Bhagavatula Charitable Trust school are encouraged to pick up skills like spinning yarn, tailoring and embroidery along with regular studies.

As Cyclone Hudhud raged and ranted in 2014, the coastal district of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh was hanging on to everything it had to not get blown away. At the residential Model High School of the Bhagavatula Charitable Trust (BCT), the boys' dormitory roof had collapsed, and the cafeteria and cooking shed were completely destroyed. While the girls were relatively safe in their hostel, all boys and most of the staff had to be housed in the main school building, which doubled up as a relief camp for the next one week.

Incidentally, Infosys Foundation had supported the construction of the school building in 2008. Even now, the school building functions as a school during the day and as a boys' dormitory at night.

After the devastation caused by the cyclone, the Foundation decided to construct two buildings for the school – one for boys and one for girls. The construction of two 15,000 sq. ft. buildings is complete and they will be inaugurated when the next academic year begins in June 2017.

Don't let them drop out

BCT, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization operating in Visakhapatnam since 1976, works towards transforming villages as models of learning so that every individual, able or differently-abled, is gainfully employed. It has conducted more than 100 pilot programs in the areas of agriculture, education, tribal welfare, healthcare, women's empowerment and rehabilitation of the challenged, many of which have become models for replication in other parts of the country.

The Foundation has been associated with BCT since 2000. BCT's focus on education and thrust on imparting skills such as tailoring, embroidery, spinning, horticulture and household work including plumbing and electrical

maintenance to school students aligns with the Foundation's vision of skill development at a young age.

In 1984, when BCT made a foray into education, there were no takers. Today, the enrollment rate at the school is 98.5%, and is a testimony to the success of BCT's non-formal education programs.

Lessons along the way

The fully residential Model High School has more than 200 students between the ages of 11 and 16. The new buildings built with the Foundation's grant will house a cafeteria and dining halls as well as residential dormitories for girls and boys.

The biggest challenge for BCT is to ensure that students stay to complete their secondary education. The sixth standard, in which the students enroll, poses the toughest hurdle, since the new environment and the tendency to become homesick lower their morale. To combat this, the school curriculum during this phase is not rigorously subject-oriented, but is a revision of older lessons and games, to keep the students engaged and interested.

Both the Foundation and BCT believe in adherence to values and not just deliverables. When the Foundation helped build the school and hostel buildings, BCT received a boost that, in turn, urged more people in the region to send their children to school. The Foundation's support has ensured that value-based, skill-oriented and rural-focused quality education can withstand the tests of time, literally and figuratively.

A little training goes a long way

Infosys Foundation sponsored the skill training of 240 students, and 214 of them found jobs in related manufacturing companies.

It is often contended that un-employability is a bigger problem in India than unemployment. Skill training and hands-on practicality are seen to be lacking in our young workforce. However, the bright spot is that several organizations are striving to change this scenario by offering quality training to urban and rural youth.

In 2015, Infosys Foundation joined hands with one such institution that equips young men and women within a short duration with skills that would not only make them employable but relevant for years to come. The partner organization is Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET), a premier national institute under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, that is devoted to skill development, technology support services, academic and research activities for the growth of polymer and allied industries in the country.

Securing their future with strong skills

CIPET goes the extra mile in reaching out to unemployed youth in every corner of the state, including all rural / remote areas and encouraging them to take up a skill training course. It also holds counseling sessions to showcase the advantages of the courses and their potential to create livelihoods. Interactions are arranged with successful alumni to convince the prospective candidates. The institute also participates in *panchayat*-level job fairs and education *melas* to spread awareness.

While Infosys Limited promotes the spirit of volunteerism by sponsoring and supporting employee-run trusts that take up local causes, the Foundation funds some of their projects to help them cover more beneficiaries. Akanksha, the CSR arm managed by Infosys volunteers of the Infosys Bhubaneswar development center, monitored the collaboration with CIPET, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar, in conducting free residential technical skill development training for 240 students in 2016-17. The students were

trained in four courses, each consisting of one batch of 60 students. As part of the project, placement opportunities were extended, and 214 of the 240 students found jobs in related manufacturing companies.
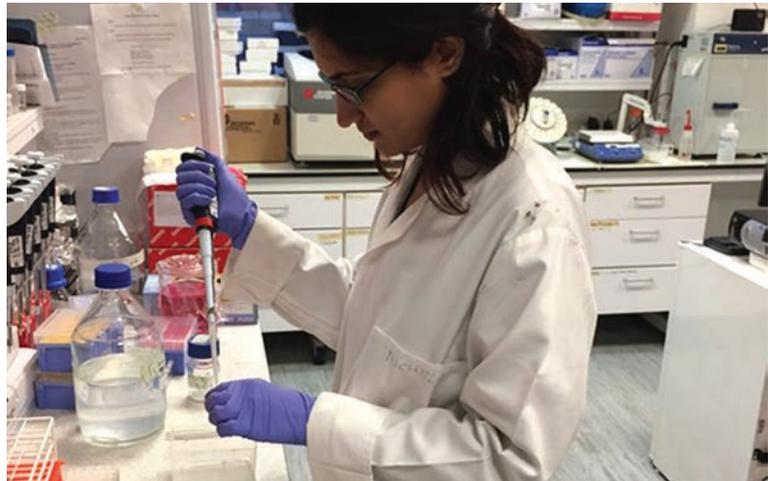
Along with the long-term courses, CIPET, Bhubaneswar offers this type of technical skill development and placement-linked training programs for unemployed youth from the economically weaker and otherwise disadvantaged sections of society. Some of these courses are Machine Operator Training on Tool Room and Plastics Processing, Plastics Mold Manufacturing, Training for Maintenance of Machinery, and Testing and Quality Control for Plastic Materials and Products.

Changing one life at a time

CIPET and the Foundation firmly believe in improving standards of living in communities by providing a sustainable form of development where individuals are taught skills that would help them stand on their feet and provide for their families.

Individual stories tell us that the CIPET courses have contributed financially to families who were struggling to make ends meet earlier. Bharati Das, a young woman with just a Class 8 certificate, enrolled in a Machine Operator Training course after her father died. She completed the course using the Foundation funding and found employment as a Plastics Processing Machine Operator with a firm in Rajasthan. She is now able to support her family financially. Many such stories testify to the success and value of the Foundation's partnership with CIPET.

Arming the battle against the big C

Dr. Purvi Thakkar, who received the Infosys Foundation fellowship, with her TMC colleagues and at work in the laboratory at King's College, London.

In Mumbai, the financial capital of India, there exists a world-class center for cancer treatment and research, which also boasts of a team of doctors passionate about the fight against cancer. Infosys Foundation has joined hands with the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) in their pioneering effort to facilitate more qualitative research into finding a cure for cancer.

TMC, which celebrated its platinum jubilee in 2016, works towards providing and promoting high-quality service, education and research in the field of cancer. Currently, the centre has two units in Mumbai – Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel and the Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) in Navi Mumbai, which together attend to around 60,000 new cancer patients every year.

Exchanging knowledge and expertise

The Foundation agreed to fund TMC in its endeavor to create a critical mass of clinicians at the centre in the next 15 years, who will have the proficiency in laboratory research and will bring their cross-disciplinary capabilities to bear on topical questions of cancer research in India. The Foundation will help send young medical faculty members and oncology trainee clinicians of TMC on a fellowship to world-class research institutions with which TMC has existing agreements. Every year, 2-5 researchers will benefit from the Foundation's endowment. The project will last for 20 years starting 2016.

In 2012, TMC and King's Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre and King's College London entered into an agreement for joint oncology research and exchange of students, scholars and young clinical faculty. The first clinician chosen for the fellowship provided by the Foundation is currently undergoing her training at King's College in a one-year research program. She is expected to complete the course by the second half of 2017.

TMC also has similar agreements for potential research student programs with MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto.

Encouraging research

For the program, TMC chooses young doctors, who are either part of the faculty or soon-to-be faculty. The fellowship project also encourages retention of the trainees sent abroad, because of the excellent infrastructure and clinical material at TMC and a robust intramural program for supporting research. Also, these individuals will be able to put their research training into practice immediately after completing the fellowship program. The publications and precise research training of the trainees shall be recorded on an annual basis.

The Foundation has always believed in continuous research in the field of medicine, and science in general. With more indigenous and endemic diseases being discovered, research into such diseases or strains will help in cure as well as preventive care.

The research conducted under this program has focused primarily on common cancers found in India, such as stomach, oral, cervical, breast and gall bladder cancers in adults and blood cancer and brain tumors in children. Some of the research papers / studies presented by researchers from TMC have debunked methods of treatment earlier employed, while others have attempted to identify high-risk groups and ways to make them aware of the deadly disease.

The partnership with TMC is part of the Foundation's continuous efforts to support the fight against cancer, so that people afflicted by it are not condemned to life-long suffering and helplessness.

Healthcare

Lending a robotic hand

The da Vinci surgical system donated by the Foundation is installed in a dedicated operating room with trained staff at Narayana Health City.

Automation is the future. And it is already here. In healthcare, automation is not just changing lives but saving them too. Infosys Foundation's project with Narayana Health (NH) gives us more than a hundred stories of how robotic surgery has helped both patients and doctors in just six months.

The Foundation collaborated with NH to set up the Infosys Institute of Robotic Surgery at Narayana Health City in Bengaluru and funded the procurement of the da Vinci Surgical System, one of the world's most advanced surgical robots. The Foundation's grant has helped the institute to enable access to cutting-edge surgical options for many people, while simultaneously training in-house surgeons in robotic surgeries.

Technology to the rescue

Reinforcing its belief in the power of technology to transform the world, the Foundation committed to NH's robotics program. The high-quality, minimally-invasive surgeries reduce the average length of hospital stay for keyhole / laparoscopic surgeries, and reduce the fatality rate in cancer surgeries. While doctors can be trained for robotic surgeries on this system, this also provides research opportunities for the use of robots in complex surgeries and the indigenization of such technology.

In just six months of its establishment, NH completed 100 surgeries, which was the first-year target, and trained around 10 doctors.

Until January 2017, NH doctors operated on 101 cases, 20 of whom were covered by government schemes and were given free treatment. Another 51 patients were given subsidized treatment and the remaining 30 paid for their treatment without concessions. Among the surgeries conducted, 36% were in obstetrics and gynecology, 31% in surgical gastroenterology, 30% in urology and 3% in pediatrics.

Unlocking the potential

The biggest advantages of the medical innovation from a patient's point of view is the reduced loss of blood, quicker recovery and faster discharge from the hospital. For instance, a patient who underwent robotic hysterectomy and removal of pelvic nodes for endometrial cancer, lost only 30 cc of blood as against 200-300 cc in a normal procedure, started having food four hours after the surgery and was discharged just two days after her surgery.

In another case, a 65-year-old patient was advised a bladder removal surgery and the placement of an external bag for urine collection. Normally, this procedure would require three weeks in hospital and a total recovery period of three to six months. Being a major contributor to her household, the patient could not afford the cost and loss of time. With a robotic surgery, she managed to leave the hospital within a few days and during follow-ups, showed good recovery.

For a surgeon, robotics opens up a world of opportunities where he or she can attempt complex and life-saving surgeries without worrying too much about post-operative complications. Robotics in healthcare is still in its early stages in India but its potential is clearly huge. The partnership of the Foundation and NH has placed a stepping stone in what could become a larger movement.

Safety and comfort for a speedy recovery

St. Jude Childcare Center offers art and craft activities for parents and basic education for children to help them cope with the illness.

Ishu Rajiv Kapoor is a bubbly three-year-old. A spirited little boy, Ishu spreads joy all around despite the tiring treatment for Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APML) that he is undergoing at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Ishu was diagnosed with the disease at his hometown in Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh, when he was only two years old.

Ishu is one of the many children at the St. Jude India ChildCare Centre in Delhi, the operations of which are funded by Infosys Foundation. The Foundation, recognizing the importance of the service that St. Jude offers to families in turmoil because of cancer, is supporting one of its most important centres.

The aim is to help families with children suffering from cancer who come to cities for treatment. Since hospitals do not treat the children as in-patients, their families have to look for shelter themselves for the duration of the long treatment. At this point, St. Jude Childcare Centre steps in to offer the needy families free housing, nutritional support, transportation to and from the hospital, educational and recreational facilities, art-based therapy, music therapy, yoga and counselling for the family, and training in new skills for income generation. Today, there are a total of 33 centers and 415 family units in five cities – Mumbai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata and Hyderabad.

Always cared for

Infosys Foundation believes that childcare is an integral part of improving healthcare in India and partnering St. Jude is an effort in this direction. All the children at the centre that Infosys supports, St. Jude's fourth in Delhi, are undergoing treatment at AIIMS. The centre, which has nine family units, saw 49 admissions – 14 new admissions and 35 returnees – from April 2016 to February 2017. St. Jude also promises the extension of these facilities to the families upon all subsequent visits for maintenance, follow-ups, check-ups and relapse. In the course of a year, two to three families may occupy one unit at the centre.

The staff at the centre includes a Centre Manager and a supervisory Centre Officer. Apart from the housekeeping staff, there is also a team of trained teachers and counsellors to conduct the various activities and counselling sessions. Hygiene at the centre is supervised by an infection control expert to maintain standard protocols.

A ray of hope for families

In a year, AIIMS registers more than 4,000 new pediatric cancer patients. St. Jude's centres in Delhi can take in only around 100 patients a year. The gap shows the potential in extending similar services, and also reveals the high chances of remission in the many hapless children.

Unofficial estimates suggest that there is a 70% chance of remission in St. Jude children. Studies show that childhood cancer is curable provided medical treatment is supplemented with hygienic environment, healthy nutrition and emotional support. The comfort and shelter offered by St. Jude with the support of Infosys Foundation have not only helped recuperating children but have also ushered in hope for many parents who felt it was the end of the road for them.

Quality healthcare, the bigger picture

The skywalk funded by the Infosys Foundation was built in record time at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

While medical treatment and diagnostics are usually the prime focus areas for the healthcare sector, facilitating secondary support such as providing accessibility to hospitals, strengthening lifesaving infrastructure such as blood banks, organ donor networks, etc., and helping patient caregivers are equally important. Infosys Foundation believes that without the development of these support systems, healthcare for the needy will be a difficult task to achieve. During the year, the Foundation has worked with its facilitators to support several aspects of auxiliary healthcare infrastructure.

A bridge across everyday woes

Isaac Newton once said, "We build too many walls and not enough bridges." The quote rang quite true in the case of the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, which had many new blocks and wards, but no easy passage or bridge from one block to the other.

The Foundation offered to solve this problem for the medical college, which began its operations way back in 1951. The proposal was to build a two-level skywalk / corridor connecting the main hospital block with the new outpatient (OP) block, blood bank and scanning rooms. Infosys Foundation agreed to fund the construction of the skywalk. Earlier, patients who had to reach the OP block from the main block or those who had to reach the scanning rooms had to cross the main road, always clogged with vehicles. It became even more difficult if the patient was on a wheelchair or stretcher.

The 100-meter skywalk, a project that was under the consideration of the hospital authorities since 2000, was finally constructed in less than a year under the supervision of Infosys Thiruvananthapuram employee-volunteering group and the Foundation. It was inaugurated by the Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, on October 25, 2016.

The medical college attends to more than 14 lakh outpatients a year and thousands every day. The inpatient capacity of the medical college is 2,500. The importance of the skywalk, and its impact, can easily be gauged from these numbers.

A place to rest overnight

L. V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) in Bhubaneswar proposed to build an overnight shelter for its post-surgery patients from remote areas. Additionally, LVPEI also wished to extend specialized eye care services to poor patients for a year and build four OPD rooms, which would benefit 120 patients daily. Infosys Foundation supported the project in its entirety. The shelter named *Ashray* was inaugurated in May 2017. It can accommodate 17 patients at a time and will have basic amenities such as bed, chair and table, fan, light and toilets.

Specialized eye care services, including diagnostic tests, complex surgeries and medical care for patients with vision-threatening disorders, were extended to 1,973 patients in three months between January and March 2017. A total of 5,066 patients were treated in the OPD supported by the Foundation.

Safe blood for the needy

The Foundation donated funds for the establishment of a component separation unit in the Rashtrotthana Blood Bank in Hubballi, Karnataka, operated by the Rashtrotthana Parishat. The creation of the unit ensures supply of safe blood to those in need. Projects such as these help the Foundation cater to community healthcare in a holistic, sustainable way.

Destitute care

A salute to the men in uniform

More than a 1,000 families benefited from the various schemes by Infosys Foundation offering aid to families of martyrs or injured army men.

The word 'soldier' conjures up images of brave acts on the battlefield. But, our soldiers battle not just the enemy but also harsh climatic conditions, rough terrain and minimal living arrangements to fulfil their responsibility of protecting the nation and its people. The civil society, in turn, has the responsibility of supporting them when they are disabled in action, and taking care of the families of those who fall in the line of duty.

In 2016-17, Infosys Foundation funded projects in Delhi and Chandigarh to aid disabled veterans, and the families of martyrs. In a project to aid Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) martyrs, the Foundation reached the rural areas of many states, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

Support where needed

In Delhi, the Foundation worked with the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV), a forum created in 2016 as a single window for the redressal of veterans' issues and aspirations at the army headquarters level. The DIAV is dedicated to the needs of these men from the armed forces and the next of kin of all our deceased soldiers, and the Foundation project aims to provide monetary grants to eligible candidates. In addition, the Foundation also provided grants to the families of deceased soldiers all over India. A total of 990 next of kin benefited from the initiative.

On receiving a letter of recommendation from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Foundation initiated another project to give aid to the families of CAPF martyrs. The letter named more than 400 people who had lost their lives in the line of duty. It was important to track down the locations of the families and to assess the amount of aid required. The Facilities team of Infosys Limited sent out representatives from various development centers in search of addresses within a radius of 300-400 km to verify the credentials of the people listed. It was difficult to reach some areas in Odisha, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir due to terrorism and unrest, while in some areas of Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Uttarakhand, inclement weather (heavy rain, landslides and floods) was a problem. Following rigorous search that stretched for months, 194 families were identified and aid was provided by the Foundation.

Supplementing livelihoods

Meanwhile, requests from the Chandigarh administration of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board led to the Foundation offering aid to 100 ex-servicemen with 100% disability from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. The threshold was later reduced to 60% disability. This aid will enable the ex-servicemen to start their own small-sized ventures that will supplement their pensions and ensure a better livelihood for them.

Through these aid schemes, the Foundation continues to humbly give back to the brave individuals who put their lives at risk to serve the nation and to the families of the men in uniform.

Access to good healthcare, with a few worries less

The construction of the 317-bed Red Cross *serai*, supported by Infosys Foundation, will be completed in the next two years.

Travelling with an ailing person to a hospital far away is an ordeal in itself. Having to worry about accommodation makes the distress even greater. Commercial accommodation available around hospitals is usually expensive and out of the reach of poor families, who want to conserve their meagre savings for the treatment. Lodging facilities are offered by some hospitals, but the availability is never commensurate with the demand.

Infosys Foundation tries to improve ancillary facilities in medical institutions with the objective of improving the overall healthcare infrastructure in the country and making it more accessible to the poor. By lending support to the construction of a *serai* (shelter or resting place) by the Red Cross at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, the Foundation has taken another step forward in realizing its agenda.

Building a safe harbor

PGIMER attends to patients from the northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, and also caters to a number of overseas patients. Being one of the largest hospitals in north India, it is visited by more than 10,000 outpatients every day. The few *dharmashalas* on the campus can serve only a fraction of patients and families looking for accommodation. As a result, patients and attendants lying on open ground on the hospital premises is a common sight at PGIMER. The Chandigarh branch of the Indian Red Cross Society recognized the urgency of the situation and decided to build a new *serai* that would reduce the problem to a large extent.

PGIMER agreed to earmark 40,000 sq. ft. of land in the residential zone of the campus for the project while the Foundation decided to fund the construction of a state-of-the-art facility, equipped with a range of amenities for the lodgers. The 317-bed facility will have a waiting lounge, a cloak room, a pharmacy, kitchens, dining rooms and bathrooms. It will also have amenities such as elevators, heating and air conditioning systems, and power backup and ample parking space for both two-wheelers and four-wheelers.

Rest for caregivers

Rajnath Singh, the Union Minister for Home Affairs, laid the foundation stone for the project in September 2016, and construction began in full swing in January 2017. The project is expected to be ready for handover in two years.

Red Cross proposes to offer accommodation to patients and attendants at a minimal charge of ₹20 per person per day. Initially, the duration of stay is proposed to be capped at 10 days, with provisions for extension. A separate floor and isolation wards have been provisioned for patients with communicable diseases. Food and cloak room facilities will also be available at a reasonable charge.

The Foundation's support strengthens Indian Red Cross Society's resolve to bring quality healthcare to vulnerable people and communities. Thanks to the *serai*, patients and their families visiting PGIMER will soon have a safe place to rest within the premises while waiting for treatment.

Succor for the harsh summers

Jaladhare, the drinking water scheme by Infosys Foundation, reached 26 villages while the fodder scheme for cattle reached 164 villages.

In 2016, drought took a strong hold over various parts of Karnataka and the state government declared the state drought-hit. Of 30 districts, 24 were badly affected, especially the northern districts of Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur, Bagalkot and Gadag. This was the worst drought the state had faced in more than 40 years. The acute shortage of rain not only rendered people helpless, but also affected their cattle adversely. Cattle ploughing being the practice with the small-land-hold farmers, the drought was threatening to impact their future farming needs as well.

After taking stock of the dire situation, Infosys Foundation stepped in to help. Working closely with authorities concerned, the Foundation arranged for fodder and water for the livestock.

Under the project, free fodder and water were provided to livestock across 164 villages in six districts of north Karnataka. The distribution of fodder under this project was supported by government institutions and supervised by the Deputy Commissioner of Dharwad, elected members of the region, heads of animal husbandry departments and hundreds of volunteers. After thorough groundwork to determine the extent of the crisis and the worst-affected *taluks* and districts, government officials were taken on board to ensure that the fodder, feed and water reached the most deserving beneficiaries.

The project was executed from mid-April to the end of May and timely help from the Foundation helped save more than 95,000 livestock with 1,326.5 tons of fodder.

Relief for animals

A similar project of fodder distribution was undertaken by the Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama in Pavagada through its Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre. Infosys Foundation, a long-time partner of the Sevashrama, supported this project by funding the supply of fodder and water.

From April 15 to June 1, 2016, 110 tons of fodder were distributed equitably among 2,950 farmers who were given Fodder Cards to streamline the distribution equitably. In some cases, fodder was taken to villages and distributed. For instance, women from Kanivenahalli village came to the Sevashrama to collect fodder, but after a few of them fainted in the terrible heat while carrying it back, it was decided to directly transport and distribute the fodder to the village on a weekly basis. Fodder and water were also transported to Chikkanayakana Halli, located 10 kilometers from the Sevashrama. Every day, about 15,000 liters of drinking water was transported by tankers to several extensions of Pavagada.

Addressing a crisis

As part of the drought relief measures in north Karnataka, the Foundation also implemented a drinking water scheme, *Jaladhare*, in partnership with the Sankalpa Rural Development Society. Out of the many applications received from the respective village *panchayats*, 26 villages across two districts were chosen for the scheme.

For three and a half months, adequate quantity of safe drinking water was supplied to around 1 lakh people every day. This supply of safe drinking water kept the people away from water-borne diseases, which usually spread from unhygienic water sources.

Under the *Jaladhare* scheme, 3.41 lakh liters of drinking water was supplied to 83,337 people daily between March and June 2016.

Rural development

Small wonders in a big, bad world

Setting up a *Bal-Mitra Gram* takes three years, the first of which involves guidance from a social worker and building awareness among village residents.

A world where every child is protected, healthy and in school. A world where governments implement child-friendly policies to ensure holistic development and empowerment of children. This is the kind of world that the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) strives to create. The manifestation of this idea is the creation of the *Bal-Mitra Gram* (BMG) or 'Child-Friendly Village'. Infosys Foundation is supporting KSCF in its endeavor to establish child-friendly villages in Nawada district of Bihar.

As per the countrywide census conducted by the Government of India in 2011, there are 43.5 lakh working children in the age group of five to 14 in the country. Unofficial sources say this number is higher. Projects like BMG ensure that children get the childhood they deserve and become aware of their rights.

The KSCF is the result of Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi's resolve to end child slavery forever. The Foundation shares KSCF's vision of a child-friendly world devoid of any violence against children, and it was not surprising that the two foundations found an ally in each other. Both organizations believe in the principle of social justice as a means to create an equitable society.

Building a child-friendly ecosystem

The objective of a BMG is to pro-actively guide the process of empowerment over a 2-3 year period until it becomes self-sustainable. During the process, all the different groups (children, youth, women, elders, influencers and elected village council officials) start listening to each other, respecting each other, recognizing the detrimental issues that hamper the lives of marginalized communities in the village, and taking part in each other's destinies in a positive and supportive way. The implementation of a BMG triggers an awareness-raising process that could structurally and irreversibly change the mindset of people living at the grassroots, often facing very difficult circumstances.

The distinguishing features of a BMG are empowered children, collective development, participatory democracy, child-centric decision-making, awareness of children's rights, and environmental consciousness.

KSCF is turning 20 villages of Nawada into BMGs. The implementation is in the initial stages. The selection of villages has been completed and staff has been taken on board. Household surveys will begin soon. The process, from identifying a village to the handing over of a fully functioning BMG, takes about three years. In the first two years, a social worker works closely with the village authorities to facilitate this process and in the next year, they take a step back and observe, stepping in only when necessary. For effective implementation, a BMG is usually made of 150 households, so there can be several in one village.

Breaking the vicious triangle

There are many examples of KSCF's earlier BMGs stopping regressive practices such as child marriage, improving amenities like sanitation and access to clean drinking water, and identifying problems of children and solving them.

In creating villages where every child has all her rights in place, KSCF aims to break the vicious triangle of child labor, illiteracy and poverty. The uniqueness of a BMG lies in the active participation of the village children in creating a legitimate democratic space for themselves in *panchayats*, communities, schools and families.

A call to arms to fight poverty

Halma held in March 2017 saw collaborative effort from 15,000 volunteers from 350 villages to build water harvesting structures.

It is not often that one comes across a social service organization that hesitates to accept funds for fear of disrupting a developmental model based on self-respect. Shivganga Samagra Gramvikas Parishad (SSGP), which works in the predominantly tribal areas of Jhabua and Alirajpur districts in Madhya Pradesh, is one such partner of Infosys Foundation. The Foundation also encourages sustainable development and creation of economic value for beneficiaries so that they can become independent over time.

SSGP works for the development of 1,300 villages in Jhabua. Most of these villages are made up of local tribes such as *Bheels* and *Bilalas*. Among Jhabua's many problems, the most pressing ones are related to the lack of groundwater and water resources. Although the region receives around 1,000 mm of rainfall every year, most of it is drained off because of the hilly terrain and rocky soil. Given the acute water shortage, the people of Jhabua, who are mostly dependent on small-scale agriculture, can only cultivate one crop a year. Lack of alternative sources of income causes large-scale migration that, in turn, keeps the region economically backward.

Skills hold the key

SSGP has made inroads in trying to impart alternative skills – and later, entrepreneurial skills – to the Jhabua youth. The aim is to facilitate a diversification of the economy, supplement income and tap the potential of tribal youth. The projects also focus on inclusive development.

Infosys Foundation has helped SSGP set up libraries in 900 locations to enlighten the curious young minds while the skill training and development facilities cater to almost 7,000 people. The training centers also work to identify the problems of the villagers and focus on leadership and organizational abilities to unite villages to resolve a common problem. A great example of this was seen when the Foundation helped the SSGP to host a *Halma* (an annual rainwater harvesting community effort) in March 2017, where more than 15,000 volunteers from 350 villages came together to build multiple water-harvesting structures. This one-of-a-kind movement was witnessed by around 700 guests from various parts of India.

Following the *Halma*, a *Gram* Engineer Training Camp was organized in Indore, where 210 Jhabua youths were trained for construction and repair of check dams. They then built 10 check dams in the district in a record 45 days' time. Together, the 10 check dams can conserve up to 150 crore liters of water per year.

No looking back

The Foundation has lent its support to various projects of SSGP. These include:

- A three-day youth empowerment training camp for village development, where 1,500 volunteers have been trained till now.
- A five- to seven-day camp for advanced skill development in animal husbandry, organic farming and bamboo work, which saw participation by more than 300 people.
- Two camps, each involving 32 youths, for entrepreneurship development. Three potential entrepreneurs were short-listed from these for support and incubation.
- Two camps for model village development.
- *Matavan* project, where afforestation is done with community participation.

In partnering with SSGP, the Foundation reinforces its belief in sustainable development and building a society that can stand on its own.

Removing obstacles from the path of education

The new Shishu Shiksha Samiti school building in Hajongbori, funded by Infosys Foundation, will be completed in fiscal 2018.

The north-east of India has a unique and rich culture, traditions, languages and art forms, thanks to the large number of tribes indigenous to the region. For organizations working in the area of tribal welfare, it is important to be able to strike a fine balance between imparting modern and mainstream education and skills and also helping the communities foster their traditions and culture.

In Infosys Foundation's endeavor to spread its reach in the north-east and help rural communities, it has tied up with Kalyan Ashram, an organization that has managed to find this balance.

A home away from home

Kalyan Ashram, affiliated to the Akhil Bharatiya Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, works predominantly in the Udalguri district, an area dominated by the Bodo tribe. Most of the Ashram's operations are centered on *adivasis* or tribal communities, who are offered education and vocational training, along with healthcare services and awareness of hygiene, rights, women's empowerment and disaster relief.

In its effort to encourage students from rural areas to continue their education at schools and colleges in towns, Kalyan Ashram builds hostels for them. This aspect of the Ashram's work aligns with two of Infosys Foundation's focus areas, education and rural development, and provided a natural platform for partnership. The Foundation has undertaken the construction of a hostel for the Ashram in Udalguri in fiscal 2017.

Kalyan Ashram's first hostel was built in 1979, with a capacity to house 50 boys. But the facilities were not enough. The Foundation undertook the construction of one hostel for boys in 2016.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the Jwhwlao Daimalu Boys Hostel was conducted at Udalguri on February 27,

2017. The hostel, when complete, will accommodate 100 students between Classes 5 and 10. The hostel is meant to provide boarding (and coaching too) at minimal cost to students from economically backward villages and families. This is aimed at arresting the dropout rate and encouraging students to keep themselves away from substance abuse and other such vices. The hostel provides free food, and boarding, besides facilities such as gymnasium and library, as well as arenas for sports or cultural activities. The Ashram also operates six other hostels.

Equal opportunity for girls

In a similar project, the Foundation contributed to the construction of a girls' hostel in Silchar for Saraswati Smarak Samiti, as part of its *Matrishakti* project. *Matrishakti* is the Samiti's women's empowerment project which provides education and skills training to women. The existing hostel of the Samiti could only accommodate six girls. The hostel constructed by the Foundation, which is nearly complete, will house 24 girls – from Class 9 to under-graduation levels – and provide them with free food and lodging.

A building for learning

The Foundation is also contributing to the construction of a school building in Hajongbori, Chandrapur for the Shishu Shiksha Samiti. The school of around 300 students currently functions in a makeshift building. The construction is slated to be completed in 2017-18 so that the next academic year can start in the new school.

In providing children from the tribal areas a roof above their heads, the Foundation has made it easier for them to enroll in better schools and colleges and encourage their aspirations for a better life.

One drop saved is one drop to share

In 82 working days, 86 farm ponds were dug in 11 villages of Navalgund *taluk* in Dharwad district.

Water is not just a precious commodity these days, it's priceless. Infosys Foundation, as part of its goals to preserve environmental resources, believes in conserving rainwater and providing freshwater in regions where it is hard to get.

A joint responsibility

When the rains fail, people tend to dig deeper to tap whatever water reserves remain under the ground. But what happens when there is little or no water there? Lackluster monsoons and the rising heat have left us with little choice other than to preserve the little rainwater we get. For farmers, this becomes doubly important as their crops can't be left at the mercy of uncertain rainfall.

Recognizing this need, Infosys Foundation launched the scheme to dig farm ponds to support the farmers of Dharwad district in north Karnataka. The project was called *Neer Sinchana*. The black soil of north Karnataka is suitable for farm ponds, as it has high water-retention capacity and low infiltration / percolation losses. The capital cost of five earthmovers was supported by the Foundation. The operational cost, including fuel, labor and operator wages, were borne by the farmer. With the Foundation's contribution, the cost of digging the pond was reduced by 50% and the time for construction by 25% from what it would have been if the farmer were to do it on his own.

A total of 86 farm ponds, most of which measured the standard size of 100x100x12 feet, were constructed in 11 villages of Navalgund *taluk* in Dharwad district. The work was completed in 82 days. An area of 258 acres was thus brought under assured irrigation, and water storage capacity of 35 million liters per pond was created.

The benefits were also quick to be seen. In the *Kharif* season, there was enough water to irrigate the land two times for crops such as green gram, onion, chili and cotton, yielding a better harvest. The harvest will help the farmers recover their cost in digging the ponds. For instance, Nazeer Bavaji, a farmer of Bassapura village, was able to cultivate only 8 of his 20 acres in 2015. The low yield, due to lack of irrigation, earned him only ₹1 lakh. In 2016, he grew chili on 12 acres and onion on 8 acres, assured of the water from the pond dug on his farm. Now, he is expecting earnings of around ₹9 lakh.

Water purification plants in Udupi

Udupi gets an average rainfall of 4,000 mm a year but a good part of it is found to be ferrous and saline. Hence, water purification is mandatory to ensure that it is safe for consumption. The Reverse Osmosis purifiers available in the market are not affordable to people in the villages. Hence, Infosys Foundation helped local authorities in seven villages of the Udupi district to establish water purification plants to provide safe drinking water at affordable prices to the families living in the area.

The Foundation was responsible for the supply, installation and commissioning (after conducting quality tests) of the water purifiers. The installation of water purifiers provided villagers with easy access to safe water, thereby improving community health and benefiting at least 50,000 people.

Cleaning India with a new vigor

Infosys Foundation continues to fund the construction of toilets across schools and training centers under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The success of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or the Clean India Mission, depends on its conscious and voluntary adoption by communities and individuals. Even before the mission was launched in 2014, Infosys Foundation had been involved in projects that were meant to cumulatively result in a cleaner India.

One of the major challenges for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan program in India is the lack of proper sanitation facilities. Bad sanitation leads to the spread of diseases and vector-borne epidemics. To fight this, the Foundation gives utmost importance to projects that aim to establish proper sanitation facilities.

Continuing with the sanitation drive

In 2015-16, the Foundation had actively taken up the project of building toilets for 109 schools in Odisha. In 2016-17, the Foundation continued the work, funding the construction of toilets in government schools in Karimnagar and Rajanna Sircilla districts of Telangana and Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu.

More than 6,000 students benefited from the toilets that were constructed in seven schools in Karimnagar and five in Rajanna Sircilla. The Foundation provided the cost of construction material and labor, and contracts with vendors to complete the construction. In the four schools in Kanchipuram, more than 1,100 benefited from the toilets constructed. The construction of safe and modern toilets is expected to curtail the rate of dropouts in these schools, and encourage more enrollments.

Additionally, the Foundation also funded the construction of the toilet blocks at the Police Training School (PTS) for women in Mysuru. The PTS for women in Mysuru began in 2014 with an initial intake of 150 constable trainees. The infrastructure at the school at that time was adequate for 100 trainees. Last year, the number of trainees shot up to 290, putting tremendous pressure on the facilities, and the Foundation stepped in with funds for the construction of 16 toilets and 23 restrooms, including one each for the differently-abled. The construction is currently under way and is expected to be completed by mid-2017.

Dual benefit

Among other Swachh Bharat projects, the Foundation also completed the construction of a bridge-cum drainage-cover in Bavaninagar, Hubballi in north Karnataka. The open drain, located near a school and a residential area, was raising a stench. The problem was aggravated due to the dumping of garbage in the drain. The Foundation came to the assistance of the Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation by agreeing to cover the cost of the laying of a concrete road over the drain. The total length of the road constructed was 420 meters.

This completed road has not only eased vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area, but also put an end to the long-standing sewage problem. The model of construction and the materials used, as well as the idea to make the covering double up as a bridge, are set to be adapted across similar projects, according to the municipal authorities.

The year that was

Infosys Foundation continued to support a large number of projects across the five focus areas apart from the projects detailed in the previous sections. The support was primarily through grants provided to non-governmental and nodal agencies working on mid-term and long-term community development and empowerment programs. The list of projects undertaken during the fiscal 2016-17 is as follows:

Art and Culture

Artists and musicians: Sponsored the visa, travel and accommodation expenses of various artists and musicians for programs across India and overseas locations. The beneficiaries include Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Mysore Manjunath, Vishwesh Bhat, Hafiz Khan, Kuchipudi dancer Arunima Kumar, M. C. Sundaresh and Narashinhrao Shiggaon.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: Sponsored several activities of the Bhavan including, 1) travel and performance expenses of musicians such as Grammy Award winner Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Padma Shri Sumitra Guha, Padma Shri Sudha Raghunathan, Kala Ratna awardee Sesha Chary Daruri, Pandit Gopalkrishna Hegde, Charumathi Raghuraman, Ramakrishnan Murthy, Aishwarya S., Ananth Radhakrishnan, and Saketharaman S., Vidya Kamat, and Bharatanatyam dancer Srekala Bharath and Kathak dancer Rani Khanam for performances in the U.K. and 2) Lakshmeshwar music festival: Sponsored the music festival at the archaeological complex, which was attended by renowned musicians from various parts of the country.

Sree Ramaseva Mandali: Sponsored food and provided support for the Sree Ramanavami celebrations and the National Music Festival organized by the Mandali.

Patiala handicrafts: Sponsored sewing machines to artisans in Chandigarh, Punjab to help them continue with the traditional craft of *Phulkari*, an embroidery craft that is indigenous to this region.

Jaimini Bharata – Vachana Vandana Vyakhyana **programme:** Sponsored the educational program organized by the Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA).

Thuha Centre: Supported the building of a work area for the Thuha Centre in Patiala, Punjab, to enable *Phulkari* craftspeople to come together and work together.

International Yoga Day – Chandigarh: Sponsored IT infrastructure to ensure security adherence at the venue.

Lakshmeshwar Temple: Sponsored the renovation and restoration work of the 2,000-year-old Someshwara Temple at Lakshmeshwar in Gadag district, Karnataka.

Sudharma Sanskrit Daily: Supported the publishing of the Sanskrit newspaper, a one-of-its-kind in India.

Sankalpa Seva Sadhana: Supported programs that impart art education to jail inmates.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur: Sponsored tracking of the antiquity and climate of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage: Supported the preservation and maintenance of artifacts housed in the museum.

Cricket Association for the Blind in India – World Cup: Sponsored the entire cost of the World Cup for the Blind that was conducted by the Cricket Association for the Blind in India, in January 2017.

Bangalore Literature Festival 2016: Sponsored the conduct of the literature festival.

Sahapedia: Created a corpus fund for the development of online web modules on art and culture. The initiative will facilitate dynamic access to rich content, and promote dialog among members of different communities and groups.

Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum: Provided support to manage the operational expenses, upgradation of the museum through digitization of collections and maintenance costs including staff salaries.

Education

AMBA: Provided technology and program support for certified courses to make the pursuit of learning viable and competitive for all.

ARPAN: Supported various activities of the trust that cares for victims of child sexual abuse.

Avanthi Fellows: Provided support for operational expenses to promote affordable and quality education to disadvantaged students aspiring to enroll in India's top colleges.

Banaras Hindu University: Supported the digitization, indexing, storing, archival and retrieval of manuscripts and modernization of the University's galleries.

Bangalore Cyber Lab (Data Security Council): Supported training sessions for law enforcement officials on the topics of data protection, data privacy and cyber security.

Braille without Borders: Supported interactive sessions at the Infosys Thiruvananthapuram development center with the founder of Kanthari, a school for the visually impaired. The school formed the foundation of Braille without Borders, an organization that empowers blind people to become agents of change rather than victims of circumstance.

Door Step School: Supported the Grow with Books program – a program that aims to inculcate the habit of reading among students in Maharashtra, by providing access to books, supervised reading sessions and other related activities.

Dream a Dream: Supported the trust's Career Connect initiative that empowers young adults by offering the tools and foundation skills necessary for career development.

Government School Library, Bengaluru: Provided a corpus towards the purchase, printing and publishing of books for the government school libraries in Karnataka.

Harish-Chandra Research Institute: Supported and instituting Chair professorships for research.

Infrastructure development at premier institutions: Supported infrastructural facilities at the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Dharwad and an academic block at the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bengaluru.

Hindu Seva Pratishthana: Supported the payment of admission fees and purchase of school uniforms for orphan children.

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER): Provided scholarships for needy students.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur: Sponsored travel of eligible students to attend international conferences and for getting enrolled for higher education.

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi: Setting up the Infosys Center for Artificial Intelligence to facilitate work on both fundamental and applied aspects of artificial intelligence, and focus on areas such as robotics, machine learning, computer vision, AI for software systems and large-scale data analytics.

International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) – Tata Institute of Fundamental Research: Supported the first year of the ICTS Infosys Lecture Series, with the intention to build awareness of new developments in science among the public. The grants will also be utilized towards research collaboration and long-term partnerships with renowned institutions through supporting the travel and intellectual exchange of academic members, national and international.

Madhurmayee Adarsh Sikshya Niketan: Provided students with nutritional food and for covering educational expenses.

Madhyamika Shala Samithi: Created corpus towards the payment of teachers' salaries.

NASSCOM Foundation: Imparting skills on digital technologies at the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) centers for rural communities. The Foundation, in collaboration with NASSCOM Foundation, set up one center during the fiscal year.

National Centre for Biological Sciences (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research): Provided a corpus towards building global connectivity for scientific research. The grant was also utilized to encourage international travel to research laboratories outside India and collaboration among researchers across the world.

Project Potential Trust: Granted funds towards participation in *Jagriti Yatra*, a 15-day-long train journey across India to meet change-makers and leaders from smaller towns, thus unleashing a movement of enterprise-led development. The grant was also utilized to purchase a multi-utility vehicle for the Trust and organize training and soft skills workshops.

Public Health Foundation of India: Provided scholarships to needy students.

Ramakrishna Mission, Delhi: Sponsorship of the Awakened Citizen Programme, a comprehensive three-year program that aims at equipping students with soft skills, character-building techniques and other life-skill building tools.

Ramakrishna Mission, Narottam Nagar: Created a corpus towards the maintenance of the higher secondary school.

Rayat Shikshan Sanstha and Ramakrishna Mission, Shivanahalli: Supported the educational requirement of the girl child.

Score Foundation: Supported Project TASK, a skill development initiative for visually impaired students.

Shraddha Trust: Created a corpus towards Project *Belagu* that gives the disabled an opportunity to live their lives with dignity. The funds were utilized to impart training on improving personal interactions and soft skill development.

Shree Ananthnagar Vidyaniketan: Supported the construction of a school building.

Special Olympics Bharat: Sponsored national-level athletes to participate in the Special Winter Olympic Games.

Sree Guruvayurappan Bhajan Samaj Trust – Unnati: Supported the construction of a girls' hostel.

Student Tracking System: Created a corpus towards rolling out Student Tracking System in schools in Vijayapura and Udupi. The tool is intended to be a tracker of the child's growth from the formative years, with data on enrollment, attendance, academics, health-related statistics among other heads.

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research: Created a corpus towards research on condensed matter.

The UVCE Foundation India: Created a corpus towards the grant of student scholarships.

Usha School of Athletics: Provided the technical expertise required for the scientific training of the wards.

Healthcare

Bangalore Medical College Development Trust (BMCDT): Supported the establishment of a global bone marrow donor registry in India to help patients of south-eastern origin.

Centre for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR)-IISc: Supported the infrastructure development for research activities.

Chandigarh government schools and the Akshaya Patra Foundation: Provided funds for the distribution of sanitary napkins for girls in government schools in Chandigarh through Akshaya Patra Foundation, and to children in schools in Jaipur.

Chandigarh Hospice Hospital: Supported the setting up a web-based hospice management system, two oxygen concentrators, air conditioners and generators, and distribution of medicines.

Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram: Supported the purchase of medical equipment for the college.

Karnataka Chinmaya Seva Trust: Supported the set-up of an imaging center equipped with an MRI machine to cater to poor patients.

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology: Supported the renovation of the hospital that included waterproofing, construction of elevators, alterations to *dharmashala* and construction of an Operation Theater complex.

Kollam relief activities: Supported the buying of emergency medical and surgical equipment treatment of victims injured in the Kollam temple fire in Kerala.

Minto Eye Hospital: Supported the infrastructural maintenance of the hospital.

Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Chandigarh: Supported the construction of a multi-purpose hall and teachers' quarters.

Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math: Created a corpus fund towards providing medical help for poor people.

Regional Cancer Centre: Sponsorship of Infosys Chair Academic Excellence for promoting research, advanced training, and for supporting student and faculty exchange programs in India and abroad.

Rotary Bangalore Peenya Trust: Supported dialysis treatment for poor patients.

Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust: Supported advanced vitreoretinal surgeries for needy patients.

Sankara Eye Hospital: Provided financial aid to the economically weaker sections in diagnosing retinal problems and offer free surgeries.

Seva Sadan: Supported the Medicare expenses of women and children in the hostel.

Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama: Supported the maintenance of hospital in Pavagada and treatment of leprosy patients.

Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology: Created a corpus fund for providing eye care and related surgeries for the poor. The interest from the fund was used to perform 161 retinal surgeries, purchase and maintenance of medical equipment and renovation works.

Medical expenses: Granted funds to nine needy individuals suffering from life-threatening diseases.

Destitute care

Ashraya houses, Kalaburagi: Supported construction of houses under the Government of Karnataka's housing scheme, Ashraya, for the economically and socially backward.

Bahrain destitute care: Sponsored air tickets for the return to India of Indians who were victims of human trafficking and abuse in Bahrain.

Bala Samrakshana Orphanage: Supported the construction of toilets at the orphanage.

Blanket donation for poor: Supported buying and distribution of blankets for needy people in Chandigarh. 1,410 blankets were donated during the year.

Chittaprakasha Charitable Trust: Supported rehabilitation and residential care for the homeless.

Electric vehicle for disabled: Supported the distribution and retrofitting of electric vehicles for the disabled.

Electronic City police station: Sponsored office furniture as part of infrastructural support at the Electronic City police station.

Khushi Trust: Supported the delivery of food and relief materials for the Bihar flood victims.

Nazma Begaum: Provided funds towards purchase of clothes for destitute children.

People Welfare Society: Provided infrastructural support at the Society's office.

Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu: Supported free education and medical facilities to the poor.

Ramakrishna Sarada Mission: Supported women self-help groups, to help them create better lives for themselves and their families.

Seon Ashram Trust: Supported the immediate needs of the mentally and physically disabled inmates of the ashram.

Sholinganallur police station: Supported the renovation of the police station that was severely damaged in the incessant rains in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Society for Assistance to Children in Difficult Situation (SATHI): Supported the rescue and resettlement of runaway children, and children separated from their families found on the railway stations and left in government children homes.

Sree Chitra Home: Supported the purchase and distribution of cots and sanitary pads to the girl inmates at the home.

Umeed Vidya Kiran School: Sponsored the purchase and setting up of computer equipment to impart digital literacy for needy students.

World Wide Fund for Nature – India (WWF-India): Supported programs that involve the protection of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

Rural development

Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math: Sponsored the drought relief efforts across Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Parmath Samaj Sevi Sansthan: Sponsorship of projects focusing on hunger relief and supporting livelihoods in drought-affected areas of Bundelkhand. The key theme of the project was to intensify community-based intervention for negating the impact of drought among socially excluded groups.

Ramakrishna Sarada Mission: Supported the education and development of tribal girl children in Arunachal Pradesh.

Konappana Agrahara *panchayat* office: Sponsored the creation of infrastructural facilities at the office.

Diagnostic laboratory, Kolar: Supported the construction of a diagnostic laboratory at Kolar to ensure better healthcare facility for the people of the region.

North Karnataka drought relief: Sponsorship of *Aquasafi* water-testing interventions, and helped in water distribution in drought-affected areas, and supported maintenance charges for drought relief activities in and around Hubballi.

Mudipu road construction: Supported the infrastructural development of Mudipu, a hitherto remote area that did not have adequate surface transport connectivity hindering development in the area.

Bannerghatta Biological Park: Sponsored the construction of enclosures for zebras and giraffes in the zoo, and also provided funds required to build enclosures around the biological park.

All India Movement for Seva: Supported the education and healthcare facilities for people living in rural areas.

Annigeri Shikshan Samstha: Created a corpus to enable the building of a drinking water plant by the Samstha.

Belase gram panchayat: Sponsored an ambulance to provide emergency medical support for the people of the region.

Bhatkal Education Trust: Supported the infrastructural development of the trust.

Electronic City police station: Supported infrastructural support for the Konappana Agrahara police station.

Govanithashraya Trust: Supported the construction of a water tank at Pajeer near Mangaluru.

Government schools: Sponsored the supply of newspapers in schools across north Karnataka to help students gain knowledge.

Government schools, Chandigarh: Sponsored water purifiers to various schools in villages.

Haliyal PVC pipelines: Sponsored the building of PVC pipes and fittings as part of the Haliyal Project in Rajasthan, which seeks to supply drinking water to villages, at affordable rates.

Haliyal tank rejuvenation: Sponsored the final payment of the silting work for the water tanks in Haliyal.

Konkan Education Trust: Sponsored the construction of the trust building at Kumta.

Kudubi Samaja Bhavan: Sponsored the construction of the Kudubi Samaja Bhavan's building at Udupi.

Kharvi Bhavan: Sponsored the construction of a training center at the Kharvi Bhavan, Udupi.

Lower Palar Division, Kanchipuram: Sponsored the construction of a tank bund in the Lower Palar basin division area in Kanchipuram as a measure to protect the city from floods.

New English Medium School, Honnavar: Sponsored the construction of a building of a new English-medium school in Honnavar to encourage quality education among the rural youth.

Prerana: Sponsored educational facilities and support to underprivileged children living in rural areas.

Ramakrishna Sarada Mission: Provided support required for running of the Nivedita Educational Institution. Created a corpus fund required for undertaking projects related to the development of the tribal girl child.

Sri V. R. Deshpande Memorial Trust: Sponsored the buying and distribution of sewing machines to empower rural youth at Haliyal in Karnataka.

Sneham Social Welfare Foundation: Sponsored the construction of toilets for boys and girls across five government schools across villages near Chennai.

Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre: Created corpus funds for bearing all the expenses incurred by the hospital for treatment of poor patients.

Saraswati Smarak Samiti: Sponsored the construction of the *seva kendra* building. Also, sponsored a medical van to improve the healthcare services offered by the *kendra*.

Swachh Bharat drive, Yelahanka-Hebbal: Supported the Swachh Bharat drive undertaken by the students of Kendra Vidyalaya in Hebbal, Bengaluru.

Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama: Sponsored the digging of borewells for supply of drinking water to Pavagada.

Notes

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