

**STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE OF UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT**

I am pleased to confirm that Aspirations Education which became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 continue to pledge our support to the Ten Principles and the Seventeen SGDs of the UN Global Compact which fall under the broad spectrum of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-corruption.

In the period commencing July 2018 to July 2019, as a Credible and Trusted Organization, we have striven to uphold the honourable principles of the UN Global Compact through our work with the less privileged people in the rural community, in many different areas of their lives. We have outlined our work that has been carried out to improve the situation of less privileged communities and a concise report on the work done during the past one year period is attached for your kind perusal.

We are happy to state that some International Universities, Organizations and Institutions have supported us through our Foundation viz Aspirations Education Foundation for Community Development (Guarantee) Ltd, which is our "Social Duty" arm, established to serve the rural and less privileged communities.

More information on our "Social Duty" program can be found on our website;

[Http://aspirations.edu.lk/foundation/](http://aspirations.edu.lk/foundation/)

Yours Sincerely,



Ajith Abeysekera

Chairman

Aspirations Education Foundation for Community Development

### **Communication on Progress for the period July 2018 to July 2019**

In line with the thinking, **“Development of Country through the Development of Village and School”** which Aspirations Education Foundation espouses, the foundation has always striven to expand and develop the existing projects and was able to introduce the Mango Plantation Project to three more schools in September 2018, at the rate of 50 plants per school backed by necessary technical and other support. The schools are located in below mentioned rural villages.

Gamini Maha Vidyalaya Vavuniya in Northern Province

Ritigaharawa Primary school in Badulla District/ UVA Province

Pethiyagoda Maha Vidyalaya in Badulla District/Uva Province



The very ambitious Mango Project that was initiated in 2013 in several schools and religious places and was totally supported and funded by the Aspirations Education Foundation for a period of 6 years, has now begun to generate a substantial income for those schools who have managed the plantation well. Out of a total of 2700 mango plants located in 31 schools and 7 temples, approximately 500 trees have been destroyed by fire, diseases, theft and wild animals. The remainder of approximately 2200 trees will be provided with technical support and maintenance that include fertilizing at regular intervals, pruning, clearing and provision of special carbon coated bags for protecting fruits, until such times the schools are capable of handling the plantation independently by themselves.

Purchase of new equipment for the maintenance work in Mango Plantation in schools, has been one of many supporting efforts carried out by the Aspirations Foundation.

- **Padavi Jayanth Maha Vidyalaya Padaviya-Trincomalee District**

A two day Basic First-Aid Training Programme was held in February 2019, in conjunction with St. John Ambulance Brigade at Padavi Jayanthi School for 60 students, twelve teachers and the Principals of the two schools, Padavi Jayanthi and Yaya 11/12, with the aim of establishing the first two St. John Ambulance School Brigades, in the area.



- ❖ In July 2019, contributed towards a seminar conducted in conjunction with St. John Ambulance Brigade, by providing logistical and other forms of support for the event. This seminar was conducted for the benefit of students as well as the parents in two separate sessions. During the seminar, two St. John Ambulance Brigade units were initiated in Padavi Jayanthi and Yaya 11/12 schools, and uniforms and badges for all new members were distributed, courtesy the funds raised by students of the Health Faculty of Deakin University.



- ❖ 500 carbonized, special bags were provided for the protection of Padavi Jayanthi School Mango crops.
- ❖ Gifts for the winners of “Home Gardening” competition held at Padavi Yaya 11/12 Main school in March 2019 was donated by the Aspirations Foundation.

- **Kulamangal School Malakam in Jaffna District**

- ❖ In January 2019, donated a Computer to Kulamangal School in Jaffna District, Northern Province. Fifteen Scholarships were granted for deserving students and employed a Volunteer Teacher whose salary is paid by the Aspirations Foundation. Additionally, ten Mango Trees were also planted in the school premises.



- A children's Playground Project was completed, equipped and handed over to Ritigaharawa Primary School together with play equipment in June 2019.



- **Inginiyagala Divisional Hospital- Monaragala District**

During the period June 2019 a Children’s Playground was established at the Divisional Hospital premises of Inginiyagala and complete with children’s play equipment was handed over to hospital authorities.



- **Illukkeputhenna Primary School - Bibile, Monaragala District**

In June 2019, Aspirations Education Foundation decided to work towards developing Illukkeputhenna Primary School further, in the following manner.

- ❖ A children’s playground was developed and equipped with a variety of play items for them



- ❖ Granted 5 scholarships from grades 1-5 for deserving students. Arranged to provide free lunch, three days a week for all students numbering 47.



- ❖ As suggested by the academic staff, Provided 20 sarees to 5 teachers to wear for school during the week.(As a uniform for staff)
- ❖ Commenced paying an allowance for a volunteer teacher to ease the acute staff shortage problem.

- **Senagama Maha Vidyalaya- Ampara District**

- ❖ During February 2019 period, gifts for the winners of all island “ Drama & Singing” Competition which was held at Senagama School was donated by the Foundation.
- ❖ 500 special bags for the protection of school’s Mango Plantation was given to school authorities.
- ❖ An oven was donated for the Home Science Lab at Senagama School.
- ❖ Initiated development of a Children’s Playground completed with play equipment at Senagama School.



- **An Electro Cardiogram Machine (E.C.G) was donated to Primary Medical Care Unit (PMCU) at Athakada in Madawachchiya - Anuradhapura District**



- **Divisional Hospital at Lunawa, - Moratuwa, Colombo District**

- ❖ **A Multipara Monitor was donated to the Divisional Hospital at Lunawa, by courtesy Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia.**



- ❖ In the month of July 2019, Aspirations Education Foundation established a Wound Clinic and handed it over to Lunawa Divisional Hospital.



- ❖ Aspirations Education Foundation & Edith Cowan University of Perth, Australia funded the renovation work of the Chest Clinic of the Lunawa Hospital





During the period June-July 2019, following community development work was carried out by the Aspirations Foundation.

- Continuation of the Scholarships Programme that is being offered to deserving students from underprivileged families, who live in remote and difficult areas, has been ongoing and also being expanded to include more students. At this point of time 35 School children and a total of five students from Universities and Technical Colleges are the recipients of such aid.
- Another ongoing project is the deployment of volunteer teachers to work with children in some rural schools where there is a serious shortage of teachers. Twelve such teachers are being paid a monthly allowance by the Aspirations Foundation and they teach the children, subjects such as IT, Math, Performing Arts, Sports and Languages including Primary Studies.
- Pethiyagoda Main School that did not have a Commerce stream due to the lack of teachers was given the opportunity to start the programme in August 2018 with the arrival of 2 Volunteer Teachers paid by the Foundation, to conduct all 3 subjects in Commerce Stream for the Advanced Level. The first batch of students will sit their Advance Level Examination in August 2020.
- An awareness seminar on “Human & Material Resources Management” was conducted in Digana, Kandy, for the benefit of Principals of 3 schools from Padaviya, Senagama & Okkampitiya.
- In January 2019, a donation was provided to Padagoda Main School in Pahalalanda, Ampara District to help Print Certificates for the award winners at their inter house sports meet.
- Donated funds to Kurulubedda School in Welikanda area in Polannaruwa District, North Central Province, for the Development and Maintenance work for their school premises in February 2019.
- Atlas Hall is a well reputed institution that prints tutorials and other helpful study material for students, publishes books and Q & A papers to help them in examinations. In September 2018, the Aspirations Foundation provided Q & A papers designed by Atlas Hall, targeting Advanced Level examinations, among underprivileged students from 15 schools in remote areas.

Aspirations Education ventured out to provide support and assistance to the marginalised rural community by extending through our core business of education by forming the Aspirations Education Foundation for Community Development.

Being connected to the education industry in more than one way, it was quite logical for the management to think of contributing towards education through the activities of the foundation and towards achieving these goals, Aspirations Education Foundation formulated and implemented action plans, eleven years ago.

### **Up holding of Basic Human Rights by continued work towards upgrading educational facilities**

At the outset, the Foundation only offered Scholarships for the needy students in order to help them with the continuation of their education and at the same time identified the need for teachers in several schools where there existed an acute shortage of teaching staff for certain subjects. Aspirations Foundation worked to remedy this problem to some extent by engaging the services of volunteer teachers and paying allowances to them for past several years and continue to do so till date.

Once the Foundation started to work closely with the rural schools, the management soon realised the issues that were being addressed by the Foundation was just the tip of the iceberg. There were many other pressing needs the schools were desperately trying to find solutions for. Some of these issues were brought to the notice of the Aspirations Management and as a result many other initiatives as described below were initiated.

Over the years the Foundation has heavily contributed to help some of the rural schools of the country by helping them build additional structures to house more classes, restoration of dilapidated buildings, construction and development of children's play areas equipped with play items, bearing the cost to establish electricity supply to a school and provision of drinking water facilities for children in another school. Further, the Foundation continues to provide free lunch for children in a poverty stricken area where parents are not able to even offer proper meals to their children.

We discovered that due to the poor quality or inability to receive a basic education in their youth, most of the parents were lacking in basic awareness skills that are important to any human being. In order to alleviate this problem the Foundation conducted a series of work-shops, seminars and other models to educate the parents and children in ways to improve themselves. Lot of work had been done to empower the women in these under privileged families by training them in several types of cottage industries to help them enhance their family income and a community hall has been built for this purpose in one village and a second one is being planned.

Several successful First-Aid training programmes have been carried out over the years for teachers and students in several schools in a continuing effort to impart the necessary knowledge to the student population in enabling them to handle a range of medical emergencies. These projects have been augmented by donations of hospital beds and First-Aid boxes including medicines to the respective school first-aid units.

### **Our contribution towards enriching the Environment**

The most ambitious of all, known as the "Mango Project" was initiated 6 years ago by cultivating a special variety of mangoes known as "Tom JC" which has a very good local and export market, with the intention of helping schools fund their own expenses through the sale of mango crops. All logistical, technical and other required support and encouragement was rendered by the Foundation in planting approximately 3000 mango plants in many schools and temples, to enrich the

environment. The purpose of this project was twofold as students and parents had the opportunity to gain a Scientific- knowledge on Agricultural Methodology, while on the other hand providing nutrition to the users.

More importantly, 2 divisional hospitals and a primary medical care unit has been provided with life-saving medical equipment and a new chest clinic and a wound clinic were developed and commissioned in conjunction with the funds raised by an Australian University.

The main source of funding for the Foundation is basically through channelling of part of the income that is generated by Aspirations Education through their core business of student placements to Foreign Universities, which is an absolutely free of charge service for the students. Foundation receives donations from well-wishers from time to time and a few foreign universities have conducted fund raising campaigns for pre designated projects in Sri Lanka, which are also facilitated by the Foundation in implementation.

#### **Proper Division of Labour and fair Remuneration which is above the existing market rates**

Foundation renders their services to all those who need them without reference to their cast, creed, nationality or religious faith. Further, Aspirations Education staff themselves are of many ethnic and religious denominations.

As detailed above, Aspirations Education, has always done their utmost in adhering and upholding the Main Principles of United Nations Global Compact, by contributing to improve and provide education to the needy which is a basic Human Right and through our Mango Plantations we continue to help make improvements towards environment and provide nutrition to the consumers and income to the schools as well as those who are engaged in the maintenance and logistical support of the plantation. Though our core business is not heavily labour oriented, division of labour has been fair and remuneration has generally been considered as above market rate. Aspirations Education has made regular contributions towards Employee Provident Fund (EPF) and Employee Trust Fund (ETF) as required by law and many staff welfare initiatives are in place that helps keep staff turn out to a bare minimum.

#### **Anti-Corruption**

As a business, Aspirations Education is totally against corrupt practices and does not subscribe to Anti-Corruption as none of the activities of our business model or foundation work create a platform that comes under the purview of anti-corruption as we do not engage in areas of operation that involves any type of funding of students aspiring to travel overseas for education, and as all our services to students are provided absolutely Free of Charge.