



Reaching out with love

Annual Report 2019-20



VISION RESCUE - ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20 **FORWARD**



THE YEAR OF EMPOWERMENT

The year 2019 for Vision Rescue started out as the 'year of empowerment'. It was our 16th year of serving the poorest of poor children, their families and communities in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, and it was the year of refocusing on Vision Rescue's vision statement: empower people to find their purpose, enjoy their rights and live with dignity.

That word empower is powerful and it is core to who we are and what we do. I've always believed that we exist to give people a 'hand-up', not a 'hand-out' and that's what the word 'empower' embodies for me.

Vision Rescue doesn't merely give children hearty, healthy meals, books, clothes and stationary - all of which are here today and gone tomorrow. We believe we're called to give a core gift that keeps on giving: the gift of education. In our decades of work, we've seen the countless times over the empowering power of awareness and education to equip vulnerable communities towards driving positive change within themselves and their neighbourhood.



In the year gone by we've seen education empower children to think, grow and dream, even when their surroundings of poverty and struggle aren't conducive to growth. This year, we educated not just 1343 children within our 21 classrooms across some of India's poorest slum communities, but we were also able to engage 979 children through our onboard Bus Program for non-formal education, enroll 700+ children into formal schools near their slums, as well as engage an additional 1376 children from 14 municipal schools under our School Support Program to increase their academic engagement.

Furthermore, to sustain these children in education, we've provided over 232,200 nutritious meals through our weekday nutrition outreach, taken care of their healthcare needs, provided sports training and much more. Our team of case workers and community managers continues to work closely with each of our children's families and communities, empowering them with services such as vocational skills training, healthcare awareness camps, community awareness training - all aimed at strengthening each child's environment to support their education. Through each of these 'sustaining activities' we've witnessed firsthand that when we cut the ties that bind people to poverty, they are freed to find their purpose,

enjoy their rights and live with dignity.

2019 was also the year we witnessed the power of citizen interventions to empower communities. Through The Movement India we saw over 1200 volunteers serving selflessly to raise awareness about important social issues such as anti-human trafficking, rally together to teach our children, raise resources for schools in low-income communities and much more. The Movement India was able to spread into 10 cities nationwide besides Mumbai - Delhi, Shillong, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Kochi, Panjim & Pune - conducting anti-human trafficking awareness training for 6000+ people culminating the 10 India editions of the global Walk for Freedom, where 4600 walked across prominent landmarks & pledged to end trafficking in their lifetime.

As we step into 2020-21 with joy, hope and expectation in our hearts, we want to first thank YOU for your partnership that made the wonders of 2019-20 possible. It is your continued, sacrificial giving all through the last financial year that has enabled us to take big strides in education & nutrition, healthcare, skills training, municipal school projects and community development - all to free children from every form of exploitation and empower them to

accomplish their full purpose. For the year ahead, we're determined to #KeepGoing - keep loving, keep serving, keep doing good, keep praying, keep sharing, keep believing, keep listening, keep learning, keep smiling, keep celebrating, keep encouraging and keep dreaming - one resolve to persist for every month of 2020-21! Here's inviting you to join us on this incredible journey this year too as we keep Reaching Out With Love to children and their communities most in need!

Gratefully
Biju Thampy
Founder - Vision Rescue



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VISION RESCUE

OUR VISION

Empowering people to find their purpose, enjoy their rights, and live with dignity.

OUR MISSION

To free children from all forms of exploitation by engaging and sustaining them in education. This empowers them to change mindsets and make good life choices that promote intergenerational transformation

OUR WORK

To free children from all forms of exploitation by engaging them in education, Vision Rescue runs Beacon Learning Centres and Bus Programs that offer both non-formal and formal learning inside impoverished slum communities in Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai. To sustain children directly in education, we also provide them with Nutrition, Healthcare services and Sports education.

To sustain children in education, we also work closely with our children's families through a Case Management model that offers families opportunities to build their employability skills through our Vocational Training Programs and avail of our Healthcare services. This ensures that families' financial burdens and healthcare concerns don't disrupt children's pursuit of education.

We also work to transform our children's communities at large by conducting community development initiatives through our stationary hubs called Community Centres inside slums. Through our School Support Program

we also seek to empower and strengthen the municipal schools near our slums so that underprivileged children studying there from these slums can sustain in their education.

Finally, through The Movement India, we seek to match the skill abundance at colleges and corporates in India's megacities with the need abundance of India's slum communities. The Movement India mobilises Volunteer talent to serve in the areas of human trafficking, mental health and education for low income communities. TMI also runs large-scale Advocacy campaigns to awaken public consciousness to the needs in vulnerable communities, as well as invests in the growth of communities through Talent Development sessions.

OUR IMPACT IN 2019-20

OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN:

232,200 nutritious meals were served to our children every weekday after classes throughout the academic year.

Our Junior Football Boys team comprising 25 players won 7 matches to become Champions of the Don Bosco Football Cup 2019.

Over 3000 children in these 14 schools have been reached by our initiatives such as Teacher-training, Library Program, Life Skills Education, Health & Hygiene, Child Rights awareness sessions

1343 children enrolled in Vision Rescue's Beacon Learning Centres inside 4 slum communities in Mumbai, with a regular attendance of 1161.

506 children enrolled in formal school education in Mumbai through Vision Rescue Beacon Learning Centre & 264 children directly enrolled in formal education from the community. 519 children among these sustained in formal school education.

973 children underwent the first health assessment, 947 children the second health assessment; 902 children underwent health screening, 875 children benefit from pediatric camps.

Our Senior Football Girls placed second overall in the AFC Grassroots Football Festival organised by the Mumbai District Football Association.

979 children engaged in education through onboard Bus programs in Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai.

2538 children attended dental awareness programs & 1240 children benefited from dental check up camps

1376 students from 14 municipal schools are part of our self-defence, kabaddi and football & lifeskills coaching, with 120 students part of our advanced classes too



OUR IMPACT IN 2019-20

OUR WORK WITH FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES:

374 mothers, adolescent girls and young women were enrolled in our **skill training courses** in tailoring (60), mehendi design (121), paper craft (86), fabric bags (41) & fashion jewellery (66). **340** successfully graduated.

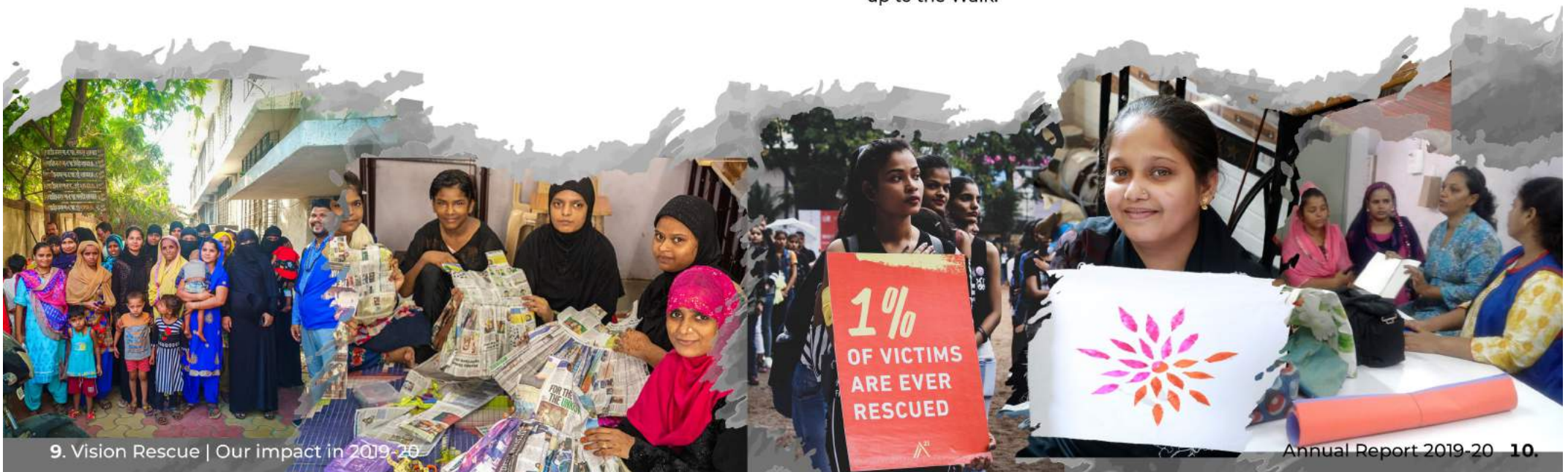
40 students successfully graduated the Culinary Training course and **33** have been employed at **renowned food & hospitality brands** such as Hotel Ramada, Hotel Renaissance, Love & Cheesecake, Theobroma, Tibbs etc.

2519 parents and other community members were reached through **healthcare awareness programs** & **1076** parents benefited from general **health checkup** camps.

Over **300 Community Champions** have been trained and empowered to advocate for education, healthcare, nutrition and community development among their own communities.

Through **The Movement India**, we engaged **1200+ volunteers** from colleges and corporates in over **60+ volunteering projects**, serving vulnerable communities nationwide.

The Movement India ran one of **India's largest anti-human trafficking awareness campaigns** - the Walk for Freedom - in **10 cities** with over **4600** participants. **6000** people were trained in anti-human trafficking awareness in the lead up to the Walk.



OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN

EDUCATION

Vision Rescue engages children in education through 3 programs conducted within some of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai's poorest slum communities:

I: Beacon Learning Centre - Pre-Primary & Primary - UNICEF notes that children 'learn to read' until 6 years, but from 7 years onward, they 'read to learn'. The first 5 years of a child's life are when they learn quicker than any other stage in life. So, it is crucial that Early Childhood Education is focused upon. Children of the age group between 3 to 8 years are engaged in formal education here at the Beacon Learning Centre. The Syllabus taught is equivalent to any good Montessori-schooling pattern. While children are enrolled in classes ranging from Nursery to Class 3, 75% of our students are in the pre-primary section. By imparting quality pre-primary education, we for ad-

ensure children are well-equipped for admissions to both private and public schools from Class 1 onward.

II: Beacon Learning Centre - Open Basic Education (OBE) - For children aged 8-14 who have dropped out of education or never been to school, we tutor them in the government-run Open Basic Education program of formal education. Students are currently enrolled for level A of the OBE programme for classes 1, 2 & 3. To catch up on the years lost without schooling, we prepare children for the annual OBE exam, following the clearance of which they are admitted into the formal schooling system. Every child at Vision Rescue's Beacon Learning Centres receives a hearty nutritious meal every weekday, in addition to health assessments and dental aid twice in the academic year. Vision Rescue's focus at these Centres is to

equip children for formal education, mobilise and empower their parents to enroll their children in formal schools once they have graduated from our programs. We follow-up with children who have been enrolled in higher classes to ensure they are sustained in education, and they receive necessary aid for tuition and family support.

III: In slum communities where physical setup of Beacon Learning Centres is not possible, we send our **Vision Rescue Bus** to the borders of these communities to reach vulnerable children there. Children onboard the Bus for quality non-formal education that serves as a bridging program into formal education.

They then take home a hearty, nutritious meal to share with their family too.

In the academic year 2019-20, we've run 21 classrooms at our Beacon Learning Centres inside four of Mumbai's poorest slums, reaching 1343 children, between the ages of 3 & 14, with quality primary and pre-primary education. Children graduate our courses and are then enrolled in formal education at municipal or private schools, following which we support the child and their family to sustain in education.





QUICK FACTS

32 million Indian children of age up to 13 years have never attended any school, according to the National Sample Survey Office - 2014. The majority of them belong to the socially disadvantaged class.¹

25 percent of school children in the 4-8 age group do not have age-appropriate cognitive and numeracy skills, according to the Annual Status of Education Survey 2019. This problem is compounded by poor early childhood education.²

30% of girls from poorest families have never set foot in a classroom, according to the 2020 Report by Right to Education Forum and Centre for Budget Policy Studies.³



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2019-20 EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

1343 children enrolled in Vision Rescue's Beacon Learning Centres inside 4 slum communities in Mumbai, with a regular attendance of 1161.

Over 75 percent of Beacon Learning Centre pre-primary students' parents and 80 percent of primary students' parents from the 4 slum communities attended Open House Meetings.

Children celebrated significant occasions such as Children's Day, Founders Day, Teacher's Day, Independence Day, Diwali, Christmas etc through festivities at our Beacon Learning Centres.

9 students in Class 3 Open Basic Education appeared for and passed the NIOS OBE exam with good grades.

979 children engaged in education through onboard Bus programs in Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai.

506 children enrolled in formal school education in Mumbai through Vision Rescue Beacon Learning Centre & 264 children directly enrolled in formal education from the community. 519 children among them sustained in formal school education.

240 parents visited the Summer Camp Exhibition put up by 350 Beacon Learning Centre students showcasing their work from the Summer of 2019.



STORIES OF CHILDREN EMPOWERED

Rehan

Rescued and restored



Rehan's community worker visited their home and found him severely bruised -punched in his eyes, chest and private parts - and unable to step outside his home. He had been subject to violent domestic abuse.

Rehan is just 4, but he's seen more than children his age should ever have to. He was a regular student at our Beacon Learning Centre in his slum community when one day he stopped coming to class altogether. Rehan's community worker visited their home and found him severely bruised -punched in his eyes, chest and private parts - and unable to step outside his home.

Rehan had been subject to violent domestic abuse. Our community worker roped in our medical team, who referred him to the nearest municipal hospital and Rehan was treated for his internal and external injuries. Our team continued to follow up on his recovery, and also began counselling his family.

Rehan's father and mother had both grown up in Mumbai, but never finished their

education because their families couldn't afford it.

Rehan's father was a child labourer, and though his mother had completed studying upto Class 10, she was married off immediately after school because of financial constraints. After marriage, the couple took up a one-room hutment in their present slum community. Their oldest child - Rehan - was born here.

This life of extreme poverty, without steady work or income, lack of education, and limited access to basic resources like water, electricity and sanitation took its toll on Rehan's father. And he began to act out against his family. Rehan bore the brunt this time.

Through counselling, Rehan's family began to understand the devastating effects of child abuse. They began attending Vision Rescue's parents' meetings, awareness camps and focus-group meetings, and Rehan's mother learnt how to protect her children from harm.

It's been a year-and-a-half since Rehan first walked through our doors. He came back to class after a few weeks away and today his family looks very different from when we first met them. More peace prevails in their home, Rehan's rights are safeguarded, and he's back to focusing on his education.



Irfan

Orphaned but loved



Irfan first lost his father, and soon after, his mother. He and his brother Farhan live with their grandparents now, our learning centre in their slum community is their safe haven.

Irfan has been a Vision Rescue student at our Beacon Learning Centre for two years now, but in 2019 he was orphaned. His father, an alcohol addict, finally succumbed to the bottle, and after 15 days, his mother disappeared with Irfan's four-month old brother, leaving Irfan and his younger brother Farhan alone in the slum community. The children now live in their grandparents'hutment in another part of their slum.

Vision Rescue first met Irfan when he was just three. His parents were uneducated and his father could barely make a living as a driver struggling with alcoholism. His mother Parveen wasn't even dreaming of an education for him because their very food and shelter were matters of daily uncertainty.

When our community workers met Parveen, she gladly enrolled Irfan into Vision Rescue's nursery and slowly began to dream of a brighter future for him. In class, Irfan loved drawing and reciting poems in Hindi and English. After a year in nursery, he graduated into our junior kindergarten and his brother Farhan joined our nursery.

Meanwhile, Parveen was enrolled into our vocational training course in mehndi design, and later our tailoring course as well. She grew so skilled, that she began to earn nearly Rs. 5,000 each month stitching clothes and applying mehndi at weddings!

That's when tragedy struck last month, and the children first lost their father, and soon after, their mother. While Irfan and Farhan live with their grandparents now, our learning centre in their slum community is their safe haven.

The children haven't dropped out of education, as is the case with many new orphans in Mumbai's slum communities. Instead, they've stuck with their classes only because of Vision Rescue's support for them. Our BLC has become their place of comfort and safety - a constant source of encouragement and upliftment through a tough season.



NUTRITION

4 am is the busiest time of the day at the Vision Rescue kitchen. Mixers whizzing, knives hacking, cauldrons bubbling, every staffer hard at work preparing a rich nutritious lunch for the 1343 children that will flood our Beacon Learning Centres later that day.

For many of our children, this is the only hearty meal they eat each day.

Every afternoon, after lessons, they take home a packed yellow lunch box filled to the brim with food that's tailor-made by our nutritionists to enrich under-nourished bodies.

We know that a hungry mind can't learn in peace. That's why from Vision Rescue's very inception, we've ensured that children have full tummies, thus

To date, we've served over 3.5 million meals to some of the poorest of the poor children in India, and to date, there's no greater joy than watching one of our children enjoy our home-cooked meal.

In addition to the mid-day meal, we conduct nutrition workshops to build awareness among parents, as well as assess the health of every child twice during the academic year.

Those diagnosed with malnutrition are immediately referred to a network nutrition clinic, given nutritional supplements as required, counselled through the year on proper diet practices and monitored until they cross over into good health.



2019-20 NUTRITION ACHIEVEMENTS

232,200 nutritious meals were served to our children every weekday after classes throughout the academic year

59 children, among our 1343 students, were diagnosed as having **Severe Acute Malnutrition** or **Moderate Acute Malnutrition**. Each child was given referral treatments and follow ups leading to complete recovery of 5 children and significant improvement for the rest.

60 parents participated in **awareness workshops** on the importance of adequate nutrition.

QUICK FACTS

46.6 million children in India are stunted - a third of the world's total as per the Global Nutrition Report 2018. ¹

68% of under-5 deaths in India result from malnourishment of children or their mothers, according to a 2019 Lancet study. ²

35% of all Indian children suffer from stunting due to lack of nutrition, 17% suffer from wasting and 33% are underweight according to the State of the World's Children report for 2019, UNICEF. ³

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STORIES OF CHILDREN EMPOWERED

Abuhurayyah

Breaking an intergenerational battle with poverty

Abuhurayya is a student in our junior kindergarten, who loves listening to stories and playing games in class. Abuhurayya's father Yusuf came to Mumbai from Bangladesh when he was just five years old. His own father had died in his village several decades ago, and with no source of income possible, Yusuf's mother packed the kids up and migrated to Mumbai to eke out a living.

She went to work as a housemaid, and her children, including Yusuf, became child labourers. At 5 years old, Yusuf kept himself alive by folding envelopes, packing perfumes, carrying construction equipment and selling vegetables for money. In the battle to survive poverty, Yusuf lost his childhood.

At Abuhurayya's first health assessment with us, he was diagnosed malnourished. He hardly ate a full meal, and the dirt from the drainage outside their home had given him a permanent cough.

Three decades later, Yusuf is now a taxi driver living in one of Mumbai's largest slum communities. He's married to Rehana, a house maid, and father to little Abuhurayya and Muskan, a teenage girl. At his children's birth, Yusuf swore that they would treasure their childhood, but life took them down difficult roads. The family lives in a semi-built house along an open drainage canal in Mumbai.

While Yusuf and his wife head out to daily-wage jobs every morning, the children are looked after by their grandmother. Muskan dropped out of school, and refused to go back.

Abuhurayya spent his days roaming the streets with his friends until Vision Rescue enrolled him in our junior kindergarten.

At Abuhurayya's first health assessment with us, he was diagnosed malnourished. He hardly ate a full meal, and the dirt from the drainage outside their home had given him a permanent cough. Vision Rescue was able to provide Abuhurayya the vital medical aid he desperately needed. He receives nutritional supplements too from our healthcare team, a hearty nutritious lunch every day at our classrooms, and his body is beginning to grow out of malnutrition. Abuhurayya dreams of becoming a doctor when he grows up.



Little Rehana was born into this slum community and its poverty shows in her body. 50 per cent of the children below six are malnourished here, and Rehana was one of them.

Rehana lives in a slum community that has been razed to the ground by bulldozers twice in the last 15 years. The community is always on edge for when the bulldozers will come next but until they do, they make the most of life in a slum where over 75,000 cram into hutments with no access to municipal water, electricity or gas. Little Rehana was born into this slum community and its poverty shows in her body. 50 per cent of the children below six are malnourished here, and Rehana was one of them.

A year ago though, Vision Rescue met Rehana and admitted her into our Beacon Learning Centre inside her slum community. Rehana joined class but brought the lifestyle of the slum with her. Her home didn't have a toilet, and hence she barely bathed. With no water for personal sanitation, Rehana fell sick every few days and missed class often.

Right at the start of the academic year, Rehana was also diagnosed as both anaemic and malnourished during routine health assessments.

Rehana

A community's struggle with malnutrition

Our medical team soon swung into action with aid for her, and our community workers counselled her family on how best to help Rehana recover, starting with focused nutrition at home, and better hygiene practices for the family. In class Rehana also learnt for the first time about personal hygiene, and why that could be a reason for her frequent illnesses.

In a few months, Rehana began responding to the love and care she was surrounded by. She grew eager to come to class everyday, began bathing at the community latrines daily, and even started stopping her father from smoking tobacco at home. She loves playing sports at our learning centre and she rarely falls sick any more. A year with Vision Rescue and she's no longer malnourished or anaemic.



HEALTHCARE



Every child enrolled with Vision Rescue benefits from two healthcare assessments during the academic year. They are then closely monitored by our medical team and the child's personal community worker, to ensure that no medical issue deters their progress in education.

Besides these health assessments, our children benefit from routine immunisations, deworming programs, measles and rubella vaccinations and regular paediatric camps. As visible from the 'Quick Facts' here, these are key factors that hinder children born in poverty from thriving in education.

Our healthcare team has also networked with over 20 government hospitals, private institutions, nonprofits and medical colleges to create a robust system of referrals and expert visits.

This ensures that every one of our children can access adequate medical help for any condition they may have.

Every child also benefits from two dental screenings during the academic year, with follow up treatments and referrals as required. Regular dental awareness camps for children also help them maintain good oral hygiene year round. Through our healthcare initiatives, Vision Rescue aims to empower children from impoverished communities with the services they lack access to, freeing them to pursue their dreams in education.

QUICK FACTS

47% of India's poorest children are not fully immunized.¹

37% India ranks second, worldwide in the number of children unvaccinated against measles, with over 2.9 million children missing their first dose.²

1.2 million children below the age of 5 died from preventable diseases in 2015 alone, due to lack of timely immunization.³

241 million children between the ages 1 – 14 years in India are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms.⁴

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2019-20 HEALTHCARE ACHIEVEMENTS

973 children underwent the first health assessment, 947 children the second health assessment.

569 children and parents benefit from deworming awareness programs.

2538 children attended dental awareness programs & 1240 children benefited from dental check up camps.

1044 children underwent dental screening in the first term and 1004 in the second term.

4492 dental kits were distributed to Beacon Learning Centre children and children in our School Support Program in partnership with Colgate.

782 follow-up dental checkups were completed and 438 children were referred for treatment.

902 children underwent health screening.

875 children benefit from pediatric camps.



STORIES OF CHILDREN EMPOWERED

Rukhsar

The long walk to healing



Together with our partners, Vision Rescue fundraised for Rukhsar's surgery. She underwent casting once a week, ten times over, and then finally a tenotomy surgery. In November 2019, Rukhsar was able to switch to a Clubfoot Brace. She will be on this brace for 3 years now, following which her clubfoot will be completely corrected.

Rukhsar was born with clubfoot - a condition where babies' feet face inward, leaving them unable to walk if untreated. In most cases, it can be completely cured if diagnosed and corrected early, but for baby Rukhsar, born into a slum community in Mumbai, that wasn't an affordable option. She's five today but still struggles to walk.

Rukhsar's family lives in a slum community where municipal water reaches the entire population of over 50,000 people just for four hours a day. Rukhsar and her family spend Rs. 500 (7.17 USD) a month just on buying water from private suppliers. With Rukhsar's father earning a daily wage income as a load lifter, the family could just about stay alive paying for food, water, clothing and shelter. They chose to stop what basic treatment they had begun for Rukhsar.

When Vision Rescue found Rukhsar a year ago, she'd never been to kindergarten and had spent most of her short life playing on the streets of her slum community. "She's handicapped. How can she go to school?" asked her mother Hasinao. She was overwhelmed when she heard that our Beacon Learning Centre inside their slum community would gladly welcome Rukhsar.



In class, Rukhsar loves singing, drawing, playing games and learning through activities in class. She's so eager about her education that she even tells her mother, "If you're busy today, I can go to class by myself!"

While Rukhsar is happy expanding her mind in our classroom, our medical team began conversations with our partner hospitals, working towards providing her clubfoot subsidised treatment even though it's nearly five years too late. The doctors reported that Rukhsar required surgery to walk normally one day.



Together with our partners, Vision Rescue fundraised for Rukhsar's surgery. She underwent casting once a week, ten times over, and then finally a tenotomy surgery. After the surgery, the correction of the club foot on her left side was great, but the right side wasn't as satisfactory. It took 3-4 more castings on the right to set it correctly. In November 2019, Rukhsar was able to switch to a Clubfoot Brace. She will be on this brace for 3 years now, following which her clubfoot will be completely corrected. Vision Rescue is hand-holding her through this process and is in constant touch with her orthopedician to ensure thorough follow up. Rukhsar dreams of becoming a doctor when she grows up. She wants to reach out to children like her, born into poverty, but deserving of rescue and a promising future. We can't wait to watch her make these dreams come true!



STORIES OF CHILDREN EMPOWERED

Sunita

Even surgery couldn't stop her!

Sunita used to eat her mother's hair while falling asleep, and that's why her tummy had started to hurt. The doctors operated on Sunita, and found a ball of hair weighing nearly 20 gms inside her stomach.



Five-year-old Sunita has been a Vision Rescue student since 2017. Back then, she was in our nursery as a quiet, obedient little girl. She rarely spoke in class but did her best to be a part of every activity. Today, she's in our senior kindergarten and at the start of this academic year we noticed a marked change in her behaviour. She missed classes often and complained of stomach pain when she did come to class.

Our community worker encouraged Sunita's parents to take her complaints seriously. Her parents are both daily-wage labourers and a day off work means a day without pay, so they held off the doctor's visit as much as they could. They finally took her to one of

her to one of Vision Rescue's partner government hospitals for treatment. As her parents are both illiterate, our medical team assisted Sunita and her family through all the formal procedures.

After a series of tests, the doctors were unable to find the root cause of her illness. That's when Sunita's mother revealed that from her nursery days, Sunita used to eat her mother's hair while falling asleep. The doctors immediately operated on Sunita, and found a ball of hair weighing nearly 20 gms inside her stomach. The surgery took 12 stitches to close and Sunita still bears the scars.

After a month's recovery at home, Sunita came back to our senior kindergarten class earlier this year. She's no longer quiet and unresponsive during lessons. She's enthusiastic about every class activity and loves playing with her friends!



Ajay

Ajay had spent so much time with dirt near the trash pit that his skin had broken out into rashes.



Itching no more

All his life, Ajay has lived next to a dumpyard. He's grown up playing with rubbish and roaming through trash. He's spent so much time with dirt that his skin has broken out into rashes.

"He just won't sit at home. I don't know what to do," said Pempa, Ajay's mother, when she first met Vision Rescue's community worker. "There's no way he'll stay in your class," she concluded.

Even so, our community worker convinced Pempa to send Ajay to our nursery inside their slum community, and for the first few weeks, it looked like Pempa was right about Ajay. He would run out of class, and go straight back to the dumpyard to play. And every time he did that, we'd convince him to come back to his education.

Slowly Ajay began loving learning. He began to enjoy colours, drawing, singing and rhymes. He discovered that he loves being a leader - whether it's distributing crayons, slates or workbooks - Ajay is always ready to lead the way. And the best news? He's no longer a fan of the trash pit. He says he wants to study hard and become a policeman!

Ajay's transformation has been a joy to behold. Vision Rescue could give him the medical aid needed to heal his rashes, provide him with a daily nutritious meal, give him all his education materials, and best of all - support him with teachers and community workers who drew him off the streets and into a promising future.



SPORTS



Vision Rescue's Sports program began as a means to engage children uninterested in education, by incentivising sports training alongside our classes. Over the last 15 years, we've grown from just a senior boys football team, to now a senior boys cricket team and junior boys and girls football teams too.

At our programs these young athletes grow in their discipline, time management, sportsmanship and teamwork, thus ultimately arresting dropout rates at their formal schools. For the boys in our senior teams, the daily practice sessions have also been a way to channel their energies productively, rather than being drawn into the social evils that abound in their slum communities.

Once children graduate our education courses, we enroll them in formal schools that are quick to tap into the kids' sporting gifts. Just this year, three of our students Sameer, Manthan and Sajeer won Best Defender & Man of the Match titles for games played in the U-14 Don Bosco Football Cup 2019-20.

For many of the children in our slum communities, being professionally coached in sports is a dream that may never have come true without Vision Rescue. The exposure they receive playing and winning against more privileged teams at city tournaments, getting to escort Indian and international players before thousands in stadiums, and being scouted by professional sporting clubs, helps them see that they too can make a worthy living through sports.

STORIES OF CHILDREN EMPOWERED

Noor is also a gifted sportsman and he even won four medals at our recent Sports Day.



Noor

Finding hopes and dreams in sport

Noor was 8 months old when his mother took her life after his father walked away with another woman. His grandmother Shahnaz brought baby Noor into her tiny house that borders Mumbai's largest landfill, and this slum community has been home to Noor ever since.

Shahnaz is nearing her fifties, but she's worked as a housemaid for over a decade just to keep Noor and the rest of her family alive. Noor was 12 when Vision Rescue met him last year, and while he wasn't begging on the streets like thousands of other orphaned children like him because of Shahnaz's support, he could barely read or write as he'd never received a decent education. Noor was welcomed into our Open Basic Education course that helps older kids catch up on their years of lost learning.

Noor hated coming to class at first. He's gotten so used to spending his days hanging

out with friends near the garbage dump that being within a classroom was a strange experience. His grandmother, his Vision Rescue case officer and teachers persisted with him for months until he gradually eased into life at our Beacon Learning Centre.

Today, Noor even hangs out at our classrooms during his lesson breaks! He's aced his first and second term exams and is preparing to give his final exams with our education partner NGO Pratham.

With these results Noor will soon be able to rejoin formal education and complete school! Noor is also a gifted sportsman and he even won four medals at our recent Sports Day. He dreams of becoming a police officer when he grows up.

2019-20 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Our Junior Football Boys team comprising 25 players won 7 matches to become Champions of the Don Bosco Football Cup 2019.

Our Senior Cricket Boys team comprising 20 players won 3 friendly matches near Mankhurd, Shivaji Nagar slum community.

Mental Health awareness sessions were conducted for our sports trainees by Braveheart Football Academy.

Our student Sameer won the title of Best Defender at the Don Bosco Football Cup, and our students Manthan and Sajeer won the Awards of Man of the Match during the same tournament.

Our Senior Football Boys team comprising 25 players won 4 matches and drew 1 match to finish 3rd in the group stage of a tournament near Parel.

Our U-12 football boys team qualified for the premier division of the IDBI Junior Football League and the U-14 team qualified for the quarter-final of the MDFA Youth League.

Our senior football girls placed second overall in the AFC Grassroots Football Festival organised by the Mumbai District Football Association.

17 girls from our junior football team successfully completed the online digital literacy course - Digital Sakshar - conducted by Pratham Foundation.



SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The School Support Program aims to equip and empower municipal schools surrounding our slum communities with the best practices in education so that children from impoverished backgrounds can sustain in their studies.

We began this project with 233 children in 2018 who were handpicked by the partner schools for immediate, targeted intervention as their attendance in school was very low and they were at high-risk of dropping out. With these children, we launched weekly sports lessons in self defence and football after classes, accompanied with life skill programs, all tailor-made to incentivise education for them.

The results in 2018 were remarkable: 147 of these near-drop out children raised their annual attendance to above 60 percent!

In 2019-20 the School Support Program has grown to reach 14 municipal schools, training at-risk children in sports such as kabbadi, football and self-defence, as well as conducting resource-building initiatives, parent-engagement sessions and teacher-training programs for these schools to empower thousands more impoverished children to stick with their education.



2019-20 SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

1376 students from 14 municipal schools are part of our self-defence, kabaddi and football coaching, with 120 students part of our advanced classes too. All students are taught life skills too.

2 Kabaddi teams from Thane Municipal School trained by our coaches have participated in the DSO Tournament and 1 team came second.

We organised Parent-Teacher Meetings for the municipal schools in Shivajinagar and Cheetacamp for over 896 parents to rain them on topics such as the 'Importance of Education' and understanding their child's educational status.

43 of our self-defence students from municipal schools near the Shivajinagar slum community have been prepared for their Green Belt test and 4 in Orange Belt.

230 teachers from 14 municipal schools have attended two Teacher-training workshops conducted by Vision Rescue's teachers, on topics such as Classroom Management, teaching Mixed-Ability students.

Over 3000 students benefit from the dental awareness camp, oral checkups, and dental kits distributed by the Vision Rescue dental team.

Over 3000 children in these 14 schools have been reached by our initiatives such as Teacher-training, Library Program, Life Skills Education, Health & Hygiene, Child Rights awareness sessions.

A library program called Read Revolution was launched in partnership with The Movement India to develop interest in reading through fun games, craft, art and storytelling sessions for 1586 students.

Under Read Revolution classroom libraries were set up with over 1500 books crowdsourced from across Mumbai and gifted to the partner municipal schools. 64 class leaders were selected and trained to lead the library programs for students in their class.



OUR WORK WITH FAMILIES



2019-20 CASE MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

CASE MANAGEMENT

Vision Rescue exists to free children from all forms of exploitation by engaging and sustaining them in education. While our education programs engage children effectively, we've seen many children unable to learn freely as they are weighed down by the shackles of malnourishment, ill health, financial instability, addiction and abuse within their own family. To break children out of this bondage of poverty, we launched our Case Management System that offers a host of allied services to the child's family with the sole aim of sustaining the child in education.

Upon admission, each child is allotted a community officer who conducts detailed conversations with the child's family to determine the child's status index (CSI) score, which falls within High, Medium & Low.

The factors examined include the child's food security, nutrition, shelter, care, emotional health, legal protection, abuse and exploitation etc.

Based on this score, a thorough Family Care Plan is drawn up featuring specific goals for the child and family's upliftment. Through rigorous counselling techniques, each goal is broken up into clear tasks for both the child and family to accomplish along with Vision Rescue's support. Some tasks are as basic as maintaining better hygiene practices at home. Others may be as complex as a de-addiction program for an alcoholic father.

Some goals are accomplished by linking the family in need to one of our network organisations' services or by referring the family member to one of our internal programs.

For example, a mother in a family struggling with financial independence is referred to our vocational training program for employability skill development, or a father with a tobacco usage may be referred to our dental team for oral treatment.

Each task and goal is reviewed weekly or bimonthly at one-on-one meetings between family members and their respective community worker, and these are documented through detailed case notes. Every six months, the CSI rating is reviewed to track progress.

It is this in-depth process of closely monitoring and empowering families that has helped Vision Rescue not just engage, but sustain children in education. With burdens such as parents' lack of income, medical troubles, addictions etc lifted off the child's shoulders, they're now truly free to find their purpose, enjoy their rights and live with dignity.

1343 families of our children are being closely intervened and engaged with through our Case Management System.

687 families of our children have directly benefited from Vision Rescue's healthcare services during their times of sickness.

423 families have found employment or demonstrated improved financial situations after Vision Rescue's targeted interventions.

STORIES OF FAMILIES EMPOWERED

Reena & Ganesh

The journey to finding purpose



Reena dropped out of school to look after the four younger children, while her mother and stepfather worked to keep the family afloat.

Reena is 17 but she's far older than her years. When she was a little girl, her father left their home because he was struggling with a mental health issue. He left behind her mother Pushpa and three children, all under ten years. Pushpa immediately took up a job selling vegetables to keep the family alive, and Reena became mum to her younger brother and sister.

By the time Reena was in Class 7, her mother had remarried and two more children were added to the family - Ganesh and Saniya. Reena dropped out of school to look after the four younger children, while her mother and stepfather worked to keep the family afloat.

A year ago, Vision Rescue entered the picture



with skill training classes for adolescent girls like Reena who had been forced to give up on formal education. Reena joined our tailoring classes, and for the first time in years she got to focus on herself, build her skills and prepare for an independent future.

Next she joined our self-defence classes for skill course trainees, and today she's a part of our support group for adolescent girls. Here she gets to let her hair down for a little care-free girl time, talk about the things that matter with others her age and grow her self-confidence.

As for Reena's step-brother Ganesh, he's now in our junior kindergarten class right within their slum community! Every morning, Reena gets him ready for class and he comes in eager for his favourite part of the day - learning rhymes and poems! Ganesh has also received a nutritious meal every single school day, dental and health check-ups as well as sports lessons.

Our team of community workers has also provided counselling and support for Reena and Ganesh's parents who often succumb to substance abuse leading to volatile fights at home.

All these efforts in Reena and Ganesh's family are targeted at lifting off the shackles of poverty that bind this family, in order to free them into living lives where they can find their purpose, enjoy their rights and live with dignity

Ujma & Sifa

Education against all odds



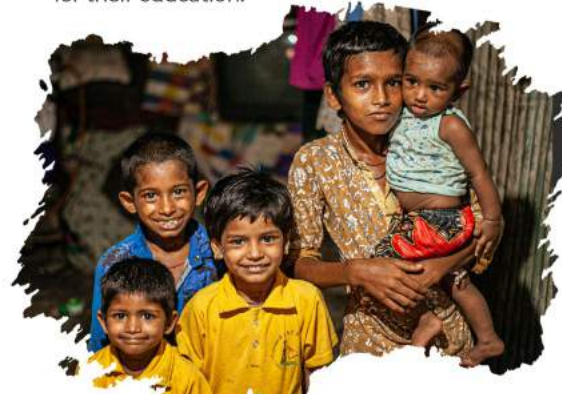
Today the children's mother, Salma - advocates for healthcare, education and nutrition in her slum community as Vision Rescue's 'Community Champion'.

Ujma has grown up watching her family battle poverty. Her parents Raju and Salma fell in love, braved their family's disapproval and chose to get married though they came from different castes.

This meant that they had to make a life for themselves all alone. They moved into a 'kachcha' (makeshift) home in one of Mumbai's largest slum communities with over 3000 other hutments, housing over 5000 children, and began a family.

Raju earned a daily-wage income from the odd jobs he could find - construction labour, catering, load-lifting - and Salma became a mom to Akram. As their family grew to include Aarif, Ujma and Sifa, all dependent on Raju's lean, erratic income, life became tough.

Every facility, ranging from water to toilets, came with a price tag in their slum community. Raju and Salma could just about feed, clothe and educate their two older children. By the time it was Ujma and Sifa's turn, there was no money left for their education.



Ujma and Sifa found refuge at Vision Rescue's Beacon Learning Centre in the heart of their slum community. Every morning, they'd run to class excited about learning through singing, dancing, art and poetry. The girls dream of becoming teachers and doctors one day.

Back home, Raju had slipped into alcoholism and domestic violence, and Salma had developed tuberculosis. Ujma and Sifa's community worker spent months counselling Raju, and our medical team helped Salma recoup. She was quarantined so that the children would be safe, and the children continued to stick with their education against all odds because you uplifted their family.

Salma was also gifted nutritional supplements and counselling during her last pregnancy. She safely delivered baby Sayma, and today Salma advocates for healthcare, education and nutrition in her slum community as Vision Rescue's 'Community Champion'.

They say it takes a "village" to raise a child. It has been Vision Rescue's honour to be Ujma and Sifa's village in times of trouble.

SKILLS TRAINING



In 2016, we launched our Skills Training program for mothers of our Beacon Learning Centre children, for their older adolescent sisters who had dropped out of education and for young, unskilled women in our target slum communities. The aim of this program is to help women become financially independent so that they can eventually sustain their children in education in the years to come.

What began with just tailoring and mehendi design courses has today grown to include courses in fashion jewellery, paper crafts, fabric bag, hairstyling and much more, with 374 beneficiaries just this year! We've also had the privilege of offering short-term employment opportunities to many graduates to complete orders for the products they make. Others have chosen to get self-employed, supplement the income source in their home and most importantly grow confident in their skills and self worth.

Like many developing countries, India too faces an uphill climb with respect to equal opportunities for women. The girl child's life is threatened right from birth with sex selective abortions; she's at a higher risk of dropping out of education, being married off underage and giving birth early. Empowering women with skills for livelihood not only sets their children up for success, but reduces their vulnerability to social evils such as human trafficking.

In 2018 Vision Rescue was also able to launch a Culinary Training Institute in partnership with Open Gate International, USA. This year 40 students successfully graduated the course and 36 were placed in jobs at esteemed brands in the hospitality industry across Mumbai. We look forward to expanding these Skill Training ventures to impact hundreds more in the days to come.

QUICK FACTS

7 million girls go missing every decade in India from sex selective abortions and newborn death by neglect.²

8 million people live in modern-day slavery in India, which includes those trapped by trafficking for sex, labour, organs, marriages, according to the Global Slavery Index 2018.³

76% of victims of human trafficking are women and girls, says the National Crime Records Bureau of India.⁴

40% of girls aged 15-18 are not attending school, according to a report by the Right to Education Forum and Centre for Budget Policy Studies. India's current literacy rate of women is only at 65%.¹

40% of graduates from vocational training courses in India find employment says the World Bank.⁵

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2019-20 SKILLS TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS

Students at the Culinary Training Institute underwent **industrial visits** to external sites such as Hotel Renaissance & Sutherland Global Services. They also underwent **soft-skills training** on topics such as facing corporate interviews, table management & serving, tex-mex cuisine, as well as a field trip to a national park organised by Tata Motors.

In partnership with Dr. BMN College (Autonomous), we've **introduced courses** in fabric printing and block printing in the last financial year. **Special week-long modules** on Hair Styling, canvas painting, notebook making, greeting-card design and postcard painting were also conducted for trainees.

57 youth from four slum communities joined our second, third and fourth batches of students at the year-old Vision Rescue **Culinary Training Institute** in partnership with Open Gate International.

374 mothers, adolescent girls and young women were enrolled in our **skill training courses** in tailoring (60), mehendi design (121), paper craft (86), fabric bags (41) & fashion jewellery (66). **340** successfully **graduated**.

Orders for **7500 paper bags, 8000 bracelets, 2000 Vision Rescue school bags** were completed and sold as part of **generating income** for our skills training graduates.

40 students successfully **graduated** the Culinary Training course and **33** have been **employed at renown food & hospitality brands** such Hotel Ramada, Hotel Renaissance, Love & Cheesecake, Theobroma, Tibbs etc.

123 graduates from the skills training course are currently **engaged in business** ventures, some as self-employed entrepreneurs, others at external enterprises or through Vision Rescue's network.



STORIES OF WOMEN EMPOWERED

Mazida

From drop-out to community leader

Mazida lives in an iron-sheet hutment at the corner of a street frequented by drug peddlers. She's mother to Rehan, Eram and Ayat, and every time her children step into the streets of their slum community, she has her eyes peeled for their safety. She herself hardly ventured out until one sultry afternoon in April 2017 when our community worker stepped into their home, and Mazida had a conversation that changed her life for good.

Mazida opened up to Vision Rescue about her history - about how she had dropped out of school in class 7, married a man from her neighbourhood a few years later, settled into an unsafe slum community north of Mumbai, had three children in quick succession and ended up in a life where she was too poor to educate her children. She couldn't see a way out because she barely had an education herself.

She then couldn't believe her ears when she heard about our learning centre right in the heart of their slum community that would gift her daughter Eram with quality primary education for free and even train her in vocational skills so that she could earn a living!

Mazida jumped at the chance - little Eram joined our nursery and Mazida came to our tailoring class with her baby Ayat on her hip. In six months, Mazida graduated with flying colours, and little Eram blossomed in class. While Eram loves singing poems and wants to become a doctor, Mazida has big dreams of her own now.

Mazida is also now secretary of our Self Help Group for graduates from our Skill training courses. In this role, she leads a group of women who earn from their new-found skills, save their profits at a bank and collectively complete multiple income-generating projects for their Group.



She works as a tailor, earns to support her oldest child Rahat's education in a formal school, and is now learning bracelet-making at our community centre.

Mazida is also now secretary of our Self Help Group for graduates from our Skill training courses. In this role, she leads a group of women who earn from their new-found skills, save their profits at a bank and collectively complete multiple income-generating projects for their Group.

"Earlier I used to always tell myself that I can do nothing to improve things for my children, but today I have so much confidence and belief in myself!" says Mazida.

From a drop-out to a leader in her community - what a journey of transformation Mazida has undergone! Today, Mazida is a 'Community Champion' in her locality, telling other women about the power of education for them and their children. She can't wait to see more lives transformed the way hers has been.



Kavita: When Kavita fell in love with Dyaneshwar and married him, she took a gamble on her future. Their parents were against them, and Dyaneshwar didn't have a steady job, but the couple still chose to fight the odds and make a life together. They settled into one of Mumbai's fastest growing slum communities about six years ago and have lived there since. Life was a tightrope walk because Dyaneshwar could find work only erratically and by now, they had two children - Adiya and Ajit - to look after as well.

Last June, our community worker met Kavita and the children while on routine scouts of their slum community. Both children hadn't ever been to school, so Aditya was enrolled into our junior kindergarten and Ajit, our nursery. The children love all our sports as well as song-and-dance games. They both want to grow up to become policemen.

As soon as her children joined our learning centre, Kavita enrolled in our mehendi designing course. She did well there but was unable to complete the course for personal reasons. However, she later joined our bracelet-making course and was one of our best graduates here.

Today she doesn't just generate an income with her new skill, she's a key member of our resource purchasing team! She loves the local markets, and is great at scoring the best deals for all our jewellery raw materials.

Her most recent achievement though, is becoming a Vision Rescue community champion.



Kavita now advocates among her slum community's women about education, nutrition and healthcare for them and their children. She's on our Community Champion's Development Program, and has participated in every training and field visit so far.

Kavita is most passionate about educating women about appropriate menstrual hygiene. She even brings the women she speaks to to our community centre so that they avail of our sanitary pad vending machine services!

As for Dyaneshwar, our community workers were able to use their networks to get him a stable job in catering. With both parents empowered to step out of extreme poverty, Vision Rescue is excited for the future of their children Aditya and Ajit.



Today Kavita doesn't just generate an income with her new skill, she's a key member of our resource purchasing team! She loves the local markets, and is great at scoring the best deals for all our jewellery raw materials.

Kavita

Empowering parents to empower children

HEALTHCARE



2019-20 HEALTHCARE ACHIEVEMENTS

In vulnerable slum communities plagued by poverty, access to quality healthcare is one of the foremost challenges most families face. And when a parent falls sick, it's usually the children who bear the brunt of it. They either take on the family chores, neglecting their education, or at worst, drop out of school and take up child labour to combat the mounting costs of healthcare.

As a majority of families in urban Mumbai slum communities are migrant labourers from rural India, they also often lack basic government documentation of identification and address proof. Without these vital papers, municipal hospitals are unable to provide subsidised treatment, thus pushing parents towards treat-

ment at private hospitals with expensive rates. Additionally, a majority of parents in slum communities have low literacy rates, making them even more vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation.

All of these issues present hurdles to sustaining in education. To counter this, our healthcare services for families of our children are two pronged. First, our medical and dental team conduct extensive awareness sessions throughout the year on topics key to the physical well-being of those living in impoverished and unhygienic slum communities, such as oral hygiene, handwashing techniques, HIV/AIDs awareness, seasonal diseases etc.

Second, our healthcare teams conduct numerous health camps throughout the year bringing expert doctors into

slum communities so that families can be examined right within their locality. Moreover, we also handhold unwell parents with either direct first-aid treatment by our team or referrals to our network of 20+ hospitals, nonprofits and medical colleges for subsidised treatment followed by regular home visits and monitoring. These efforts ensure that the family's health issues don't disrupt children's right to education.

2519 parents and other community members reached through healthcare awareness programs.

694 parents attended awareness sessions on health and hygiene, 770 parents learnt about seasonal diseases and general health, 560 attended our deworming awareness sessions & 159 parents learnt about the importance of timely immunisations at our awareness workshops.

365 patients were treated at our network hospitals through referrals from our healthcare team

1076 parents benefited from general health checkup camps, and 95 community members underwent HIV/TB screening camps.

432 community members attended the dental awareness programs; and 341 parents benefit from our dental check-up camps.

STORIES OF FAMILIES EMPOWERED

Chandni & Shrunissa

A helping hand down the years...



Chandni's father had no money to take her to hospital, as he had spent everything on his wife Shrunissa's last delivery and its surgical complications. His words at that time were, 'If my wife and daughter are meant to live, they will. There's nothing more I can do.'

Chandni is five, and she's the second youngest among five children who live off their father Shabuddin's meagre tailoring ncome. Food had always been scarce in their tin-sheet home in the slum community, and Chandni's body, like her siblings', had borne the brunt of years spent in lack. When we first met Chandni, in 2016, she was malnourished.

Her father had no money to even take her to hospital, as he had spent everything on his wife Shrunissa's last delivery and its surgical complications. His words at that time were, "If my wife and daughter are meant to live, they will. There's nothing more I can do."

When we met Chandni, she and her mother were truly struggling. Chandni and Shrunissa were immediately referred to one of our partner municipal hospitals for priority treatment. Both mother and daughter took time to recover, and Vision Rescue was able to handhold them through the process.

Today, Chandni is in her third academic year at our preschool inside her slum community. She loves drawing and reciting poems in class and she even wants to become a teacher herself! Besides the nutritional supplements, the daily meal

she's received every day has strengthened her body and she is no longer malnourished.

As for Shrunissa, she was so overwhelmed by the support given by our team in her time of desperate need, that she grew to confide in our community worker. She opened up about facing marital issues and domestic violence often. Our community worker could counsel the family and the couple are on the road to restoration.

A few months ago Shrunissa mentioned that her older two children were down with fevers and coughs often. She listened to our community worker's advice and got both children examined at a neighbouring health centre.

It turned out that the fevers were tuberculosis. The children were started off on the nine-month treatment course and are being guided and monitored through the process.



Recently, the youngest in the family, Tamanna, joined Vision Rescue's nursery too and she can't wait to grow up with us just like her sister Chandni has over the years!

In the three years that we've known Chandni, her malnutrition, her mother's illnesses, their domestic situation, and her older siblings' illnesses were all risk factors in preventing her from sticking with her education.

Through sustained and systematic interventions, Vision Rescue was able to mitigate these risks, and ensure that Chandni continues to grow in education.



OUR WORK WITH COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY CENTRES

Vision Rescue's vision is to empower people to find their purpose, enjoy their rights and live with dignity. For families and communities in impoverished slums that begins with equipping them with knowledge and tools for self empowerment that are specific to their situation. For this, we have established four stationary hubs within the slum communities of Kalwa, Mandala, Shivaji Nagar & Maharashtra Nagar in Mumbai called Vision Rescue Community Centres from where we reach out to the slum community members here.

At the Community Centres, our team of Community Workers led by Community Managers aims to raise leaders for community development from within the slums themselves.

In 2018, we launched the Community Champions Development Program (CCDP), where key individuals are

trained throughout the year to become agents of social change in their own society.

As parents themselves, these 'Community Champions' are experiencing firsthand the transformative power of education for their children. Over 300 of them now volunteer weekly with us as 'Champions' that advocate for education, healthcare, nutrition and community development among their own communities.

As part of CCDP, our 'Champions' receive training on topics pertinent to their world, followed by a practical applications field visit. In 2019-20 a they've learnt about police processes, children's rights, legal documentation, etc, and visited their local police stations, ration card offices, and most recently the municipal schools around them so that they are familiarised with official admission processes and unafraid to admit their older

children to school. After every training and exposure visit, our 'Champions' get to cascade their learnings with their friends and family.

Besides CCDP, our Community Centres within each slum community are home to weekly awareness workshops and focus group meetings that teach participants about tackling the social issues they face on a day-to-day basis.

And lastly, each Community Centre works to network extensively with the other nonprofits, government bodies and businesses operating within the area, so that we can share our best practices, capitalise on each others' strengths and together uplift communities into self empowerment.



2019-20 COMMUNITY CENTRES ACHIEVEMENTS

300+ parents were chosen as 'Community Champions' and enrolled into the year-long Community Champions Development Program where they are trained each month on a pertinent social issue followed by a field visit to the relevant community development body such as police stations, child rights committee etc.

In partnership with the NGO Doctors for You, nine of our handicapped beneficiaries received adjustable crutches and ankle braces.

By networking with NGO Pratham, 20 mothers from our community are receiving Computer Training.

A group of 25+ Community Champions in the Kalwa community volunteered to paint our classrooms.

On World Shoe Day, footwear brand INCS presented 1026 pairs of shoes to our children and their family members, gifting honour and dignity to each recipient.

Three Self-Help Groups have been opened for women graduates from our Vocational Training programs, to process orders for their businesses & independently save their earnings.

In partnership with NGO Manav Vikas Santha, Belapur, 40 community members received free training in advanced painting techniques followed by employment opportunities in this field.



STORY OF COMMUNITY MEMBER EMPOWERED

Taslima & Ujefa

A force to reckon with

Taslima never got to finish school. She was married away early, works as a maid to earn her living and her husband Siraj finds odd jobs that pay him a daily wage. The couple have two children - Ismail who studies in Class 9 at a formal school and Ujefa who's in Vision Rescue's Beacon Learning Centre nursery inside Taslima's slum community.

Even before Ujefa joined our classes though, Taslima joined our team of Community Champions - this is a group of changemakers within our slum communities whom we train to advocate for better education, healthcare and nutrition practices within their neighbourhood.

Taslima attended every one of our training sessions, joined us on all our exposure visits, and almost immediately began putting her learning to use. She began to find children in her community who were out of school, and she volunteered to accompany their parents to the nearest formal school to get them enrolled there.

She then learnt about the formal processes to admit someone sick into a hospital and she was soon accompanying unwell children or their parents to the nearest healthcare post and filling out their admission forms!



Next Taslima learnt about the importance of hospital births for pregnant women and she took part in several street plays to raise awareness about this among her community's women.

As many women here are too poor to even get to a hospital to deliver their babies, this slum community is known for unmonitored and unsafe home births followed by untreated complications for both mother and newborn.

Taslima is now also a mentor to a group of pregnant women in her community, with whom she checks in on the progress of their pregnancy, intake of adequate nutritional supplements and even accompanies them for routine checkups.

Vision Rescue believes that it is people like Taslima who will spearhead the empowerment of their slum communities. Collectively they are changing the lives of thousands each day, one conversation at a time!



Taslima is now also a mentor to a group of pregnant women in her community, with whom she checks in on the progress of their pregnancy, intake of adequate nutritional supplements and even accompanies them for routine checkups.

STORY OF COMMUNITY MEMBER EMPOWERED



As our Community Champion, Ruksana now advocates for education, nutrition, healthcare and more within her neighbourhood, and she receives training from our experts on topics that are crucial to the growth of her community.

Faizan & Ruksana

Empowered to empower others

12 people. One makeshift hutment. That's three-year-old Faizan's jam-packed home in a slum community that borders Mumbai's largest garbage dump. Everyone here belongs to Faizan's mother's side of the family. Faizan's memories of his father are hazy.

Their community, though, remembers Faizan's father far too well - he was an alcoholic drug addict who abused his mother on the streets. A while ago, his parents separated, and Faizan and his older brother Adil came to live with their mother Ruksana and her family - making a total of 12 members in a household that survives on the daily-wage income of two women.

Faizan's mother Ruksana is brave beyond her years. As a single mother of two in a community that undermines women, she's determined to give her children the best she possibly can. She works as a tailor, and alongside her sister Farzana, they feed their household of 12. While some months bring in a basic income, others have been lean. There have been times when the neighbours have given the children in their home food to survive the day.

Through all her struggles, Ruksana ensured that her older child Adil stuck with his education. He studies in a public school near their slum community. However, Ruksana couldn't afford education for Faizan.

That's when Faizan was enrolled into our Beacon Learning Centre inside their slum community. Faizan has rarely missed a day of class at our nursery. He loves reciting nursery rhymes and he even won four medals at our Sports Day last month!

We have also roped Ruksana into our Community Champions Development Program. As our Community Champion, Ruksana advocates for education, nutrition, healthcare and more within her neighbourhood, and she receives training from our experts on topics that are crucial to the growth of her community - such as financial planning, Government schemes, poverty alleviation plans etc.

We're grateful to sow sweet dreams of hope and ambition in this family's heart today!



THE MOVEMENT INDIA

OUR WORK

The Movement India (TMI) is a social impact team that works through advocacy, volunteering and talent development to meet needs in the areas of human trafficking, mental health and education for poor income communities.

The Movement

EDUCATION

60,00,000 school-age children in India are out of school right now, a majority of them from slum communities across our metropolitan cities. We connect urban-poor, unschooled children to education opportunities through Mission Admission - a III-Phase project featuring data collection drives, school admission campaigns and

learning activities in slums. We reduce drop-out rates among at-risk children through education support programs for low-income schools near slums.

61. Vision Rescue | The Movement India : Advocacy & Talent Development

MENTAL HEALTH

India is the most depressed country in the world, with 1 in 4 Indians struggling with mental health challenges, according to The World Health Organisation (2017). We break the silence around this taboo topic at The Hangout - a fun, large-group engagement session for colleges and corporates that kick

starts crucial conversations about mental health. We equip ordinary citizens to be effective first-responders to those battling mental health in their immediate community at Phases II & III of The Hangout.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

India has 8 million citizens caught in forms of modern-day slavery such as bonded labour, sex trafficking and forced marriage, according to The Global Slavery Index (2018). We run advocacy campaigns across colleges and corporates raising social consciousness about the reality of human trafficking in India. We are also the India hosts for the annual, global Walk for Freedom - the world's largest Walk organised by the nonprofit A21 across 450 locations in 50 countries to raise awareness about human trafficking.



ADVOCACY & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Raising awareness among citizens in urban colleges and corporates about key social issues and empowering them to take concrete actions for positive social change.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVOCACY

Educated communities through in-person sessions and online campaigns about the reality of human trafficking and slavery in India today, key signs to spot it and effective ways to stop it. The goal of these training sessions is to raise an army of first-responders to the crime of human trafficking in India.

Over 6000 participants across colleges and corporates were trained in anti-human trafficking awareness sessions in 10 cities across the country as part of the lead up to the Walk for Freedom 2019 campaign.

Over 4600 citizens participating in the 10 India editions of the annual, global Walk for Freedom - the world's largest Walk organised by the nonprofit A21 across 450 locations in 50 countries to raise awareness about human trafficking. The Movement India was A21's India partner & host for all 10 Walks.

MUMBAI WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 1200 PARTICIPANTS



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Vision Rescue
YWCA of Bombay
Harmony Foundation
Rescue Foundation
Perana
Waste Management Society
Transforming Lives Foundation
Justice Ventures International

COLLEGES

St. Andrew's College
Wilson College
Mithibai College
Chandrabhan College
IBS Mumbai
Rizvi College
VESCOF
Whistling Woods International
Lala Lajpat Rai College
Valia College
MD Shah Mahila College

CORPORATES

HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd
Teleperformance
Fedbank Financial Services
Sutherland Global Services



Thousands gear up to 'Walk for Freedom' across 10 Indian cities to raise awareness about human trafficking

'The Movement India' and 'A21' partner with 47 colleges, corporates and NGOs across India to organise the silent Walk at public spaces in 10 cities on October 19th, 2019.



PRESS COVERAGE



BUSINESS WORLD NEWS BAND MID-DAY MUMBAI THE HINDU 94.3 RADIO ONE



CHENNAI WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 1000 PARTICIPANTS



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

- Vision Rescue
- Charis Foundation
- Cross Global
- Feed Of Love
- Justice & Hope

CORPORATES

- HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd
- Fedbank Financial Services
- Sutherland Global Services
- Indium Software
- Tata Consultancy Services
- Excel HR Facilitations
- AWLC - RLSS
- Samsung

COLLEGES

- Women's Christian College
- Patrician College
- Stella Maris College
- Madras School Of Social Work
- Madras Christian College
- Sathyabama Institute of Science & Technology
- Loyola College
- Loyola Institute Of Business Administration



Chennai to 'Walk for Freedom' to raise awareness on human trafficking

Organised by the Movement India, over 1,000 people are expected to join the march in Chennai which will start from and circle back to Besant Nagar.



PRESS COVERAGE

Chennaiites to 'Walk for Freedom' on Oct 19

Chennai: The Movement India and 'AZI' will be up with 47 colleges, corporates and NGOs across the country to organise a short walk at public spaces in Chennai and nine other cities on Saturday.

The 'Walk for Freedom' is the world's largest event to raise awareness against human trafficking, and will take place in 450 locations across 50 countries simultaneously.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) 40.3 million were caught in various forms of modern-day slavery globally. Of these, right now, there are eight million people trafficked in the country for sex, labour, organs, forced marriages and domestic servitude, according to the Global Slavery Index 2018.

The Walk for Freedom comes to India for the third year in a row, hosted by The Movement India, a volunteer mobilisation platform based in Mumbai.

This is the second year that Chennai is participating in the global event. Over 3,000 participants have already signed up at ten Indian cities - Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Kolkata, Shillong, Kochi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Pune for the Walk.

In the short walk, it is hoped to help end



THE INDIAN EXPRESS EDEX LIVE DTNEXT INDIAN EXPRESS DECCAN CHRONICLE TIMES OF INDIA THE HINDU

Freedom walk on October 19

As part of raising awareness against human trafficking, The Movement India is organising Walk for Freedom at Besant Nagar on October 19. The walk will be conducted from 6.30am to 8.30am. Those who are interested can register on www.themovementindia.com.

Walk for Freedom 2019: Chennai gears up to raise awareness against human trafficking

In the lead up to the event, the Movement India has conducted over 40 awareness workshops about human trafficking reaching over 4,500 participants across India in the past couple of months.

Written by Jasvinder Kaur | Chennai | Published: October 12, 2019 7:54 PM

Walk for Freedom: Why thousands of students, citizens are walking the talk on human trafficking

12:58 PM Oct 18, 2019 | Sheersha Ghosh



KOCHI WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 800+ PARTICIPANTS



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Love in Action

CORPORATES

HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd
 NeST Technologies
 NOA Info Solutions LLP
 Fedbank Financial Services
 Sutherland Global Services

COLLEGES

UC College
 St Teresa's College
 Rajagiri College Of Social Sciences
 Sacred Hearts College
 Kerala University Of Fisheries And Ocean Studies
 Government Law College
 Bharata Mata College
 Cochin University Of Science And Technology



67. Vision Rescue | The Movement India : Advocacy & Talent Development

PRESS COVERAGE

The collage includes several newspaper clippings and articles. One prominent article is from 'WALKATHON' titled 'Walk for Freedom: World's largest walk to raise awareness against human trafficking', dated October 12, 2019, at Rajendra Madan. Another article is from 'NEW INDIAN EXPRESS' titled 'NEW INDIAN EXPRESS MATHRUBHUMI MANORAMA MANORAMA NEWS TV 24 NEWS RADIO MIRCHI RED FM'. Other clippings include 'മനുഷ്യക്കടത്തിനെതിരെ 'വോക് ഫോർ ഫ്രീഡം'' and 'വോക് ഫോർ ഫ്രീഡം കൂട്ട നടത്തം 19ന്'. There are also photos of the event and a portrait of a man.

68. Annual Report 2019-20

HYDERABAD WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 300 PARTICIPANTS



PRESS COVERAGE

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

YMCA Of Greater Hyderabad
Audio Garage

CORPORATES

HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd
Fedbank Financial Services
McDonalds
Magic FM
Uber

COLLEGES

St Mary's Centenary Degree College
Wesley Degree College



'Walk against human trafficking, slavery' being conducted in Hyderabad



SHILLONG WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 479 PARTICIPANTS



PRESS COVERAGE

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

- Bosco Integrated Development Society
- Childline Shillong
- Faith Foundation
- Grassroot Shillong
- Indian Institute Of Professional Studies
- Martin Luther Christian University
- North East Network
- Reach Ministries
- Spark
- Singhania Printing Press

COLLEGES

- St. Edmund's College and Women's College



...aid. ...stel. ...s said he was ... campus for some ... alleviation ... (PTI) ...



People participate in the 'Walk for Freedom' to raise awareness about human trafficking in the city on Saturday. The walk was organised by The Movement India where over 450 citizens from corporates, colleges and NGOs took part.

...bowl over city ...ver

RUPANG - PRE EVENT
RUPANG - POST EVENT
THE SHILLONG TIMES
BATESITY
RED FM 93.5



DELHI WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 250+ PARTICIPANTS



PRESS COVERAGE

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Tejas Asia

CORPORATES

United Consultancy Services
HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd

COLLEGES

St Stephens College
Symbiosis College Of Law



Outlook

THE NEWS SCROLL

19 OCTOBER 2019 Last Updated at 7:16 PM | SOURCE: PTI

Over 250 Delhiites participate in Walk for Freedom

New Delhi, Oct 19 (PTI) Over 250 people participated in the Delhi edition of the global Walk for Freedom to raise awareness against human trafficking.

- UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
- BUSINESS STANDARD
- REPUBLIC WORLD
- OUTLOOK INDIA
- ARUNACHAL TIMES
- THE SHILLONG TIMES
- YAHOO.COM
- DEMOCRATIC ACCENT
- PTI



BENGALURU WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 70+ PARTICIPANTS



PRESS COVERAGE

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

- Little More Love
- WMS
- Cross Global
- Bachpan Bachao Andolon
- Oasis
- APSA
- Karnataka State Commission For Protection Of Child Rights

CORPORATES

- HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd
- Fedbank Financial Services
- Headout Inc
- WIPRO
- Tata Consultancy Services



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📍 PANJIM WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 150 PARTICIPANTS



PRESS COVERAGE

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Bethesda Life Center

COLLEGES

Goa University
Carmel College For Women
Don Bosco



October 19
Walk for Freedom
The Movement India and 'A21' partner with 47 colleges, corporates and NGOs across India to organise the silent walk at public spaces in Panjim and 9 other cities. This is the first year that Panjim is participating in the global event. NGO Bethesda Life Centre is the lead organising partner for the Panjim edition of the Walk. Walk route: Starting from and returning to Kala Academy (open area behind Parking), via Dayanand Bandodkar Marg and Miramar Circle. To register: visit www.themovementindia.com
Venue: Kala Academy (assembly point), Panjim
Date: October 19, 2019
Time: 7am - 8am

GOMANTAK TIMES NAVHIND TIMES HERALD THE GOAN



PUNE WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 150 PARTICIPANTS



KOLKATA WALK FOR FREEDOM 2019 | 450+ PARTICIPANTS



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Action For The Rights Of The Child

COLLEGES

Symbiosis Institute of Business Management

CORPORATES

HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SESSIONS

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Cross Culture
International Justice Mission
Campus Crusade
World Vision
Habitat For Humanity
Bhumi
Missing Girls
Indian Pluralism Foundation

COLLEGES

Symbiosis Institute of Business Management

CORPORATES

HDFC Sales Pvt Ltd



MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

The Hangout

Kick-started crucial conversations about mental health and equipped citizens in colleges and corporates to be first-responders to those battling mental health troubles, through face-to-face interactive sessions. The goal of these sessions is to prevent suicides among youth.

Reach: 900 participants trained in Mental Health Sessions - The Hangout.

LALA LAJPAT RAI COLLEGE



MD SHAH MAHILA COLLEGE



MITHIBAI COLLEGE



RIZVI COLLEGE



SUTHERLAND GLOBAL SERVICES



VALIA COLLEGE



WHISTLING WOODS INTERNATIONAL



EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Trained students at municipal schools in reading skills and the importance of developing a love for books - through art, craft, games and theatre activities - all based on books that would soon be a part of the classroom libraries being crowdsourced by The Movement India in these schools. These awareness workshops & resource building are part of The Movement India's Read Revolution project.

Reach:

1586 students trained at the Read Revolution awareness workshops.

14 BMC & TMC SCHOOLS NEAR SHIVAJINAGAR, CHEETACAMP & KALWA SLUM COMMUNITIES



VOLUNTEERING

Creating opportunities for anyone, anywhere to serve the needy with their time and talents.

2019-20 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Engaged 1200+ volunteers in 60+ volunteering engagements.

Saved Rs.7.44L through volunteering projects with over 5000+ man hours.

A Volunteer Management System was launched during Walk for Freedom 2019 and helped successfully onboard 7600 participants.

We boarded 34 NGOs, 41 colleges and 17+ corporate institutions to The Movement India's network pan-India.

KEY VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

Read Revolution

Through Read Revolution - a book donation drive across Mumbai's colleges and corporates - we helped crowdsource and setup libraries with over 1800 catalogued books in municipal schools near low income communities. The colleges and corporates that conducted on-campus book donation drives for Read Revolution include Sutherland Global

Services, Times Pro, HDFC Sales, St Xavier's College, BMN College of Home Science, Rizvi College, St Andrews College, Lords Universal College of Law and Shri MD Shah Mahila College. Classroom libraries in 14 BMC and TMC municipal schools were launched as a result of this campaign.

Computer Lab setup

13 computers were donated by Sutherland Global Services and set up for the benefit of students in a municipal school in Shivaji-

Nagar slum community. This was the school's first computer lab.

Mission Admission Phase 1, 2 & 3

Mission Admission is a project to improve education among children in vulnerable communities. In Phase 1, volunteers surveyed the slum community at Malvani, Mumbai to find children who had no access to education. In Phase 2, volunteers assisted the Vision Rescue teachers in the Beacon Learning Centres at Kalwa, Shivajinagar & Maharashtra Nagar slum communities, to

conduct summer camps, celebrate special days, cocreate interactive activities, etc. In Phase 3, volunteers conducted weekend tuitions throughout the year for children in need of academic assistance in the Mandala slum community.

READ REVOLUTION



COMPUTER LABS SETUP

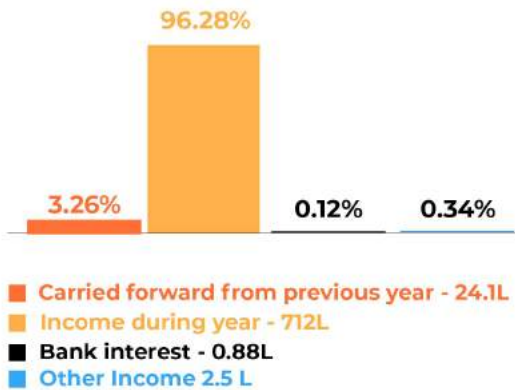


MISSION ADMISSION

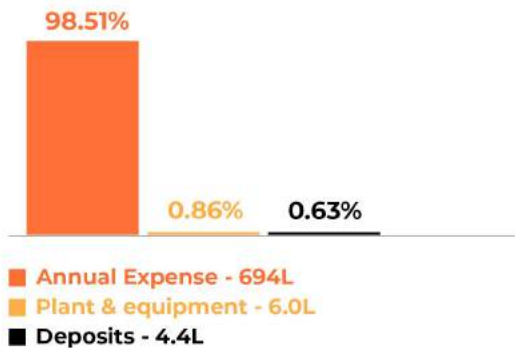


ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

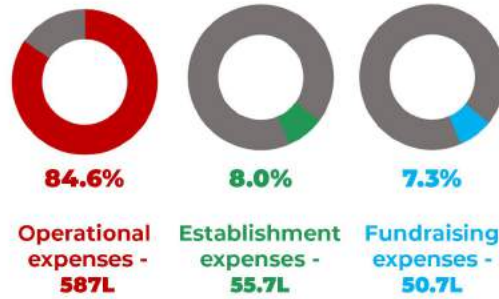
OVERALL INCOME



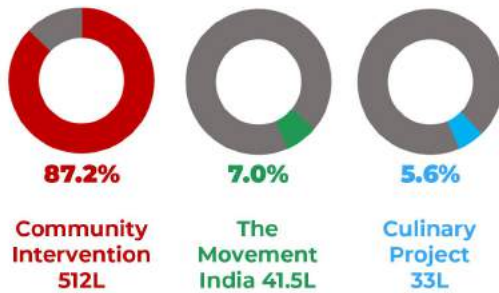
OVERALL EXPENSES



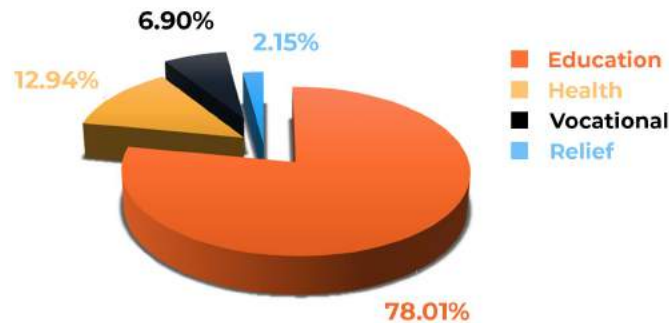
ANNUAL EXPENSES



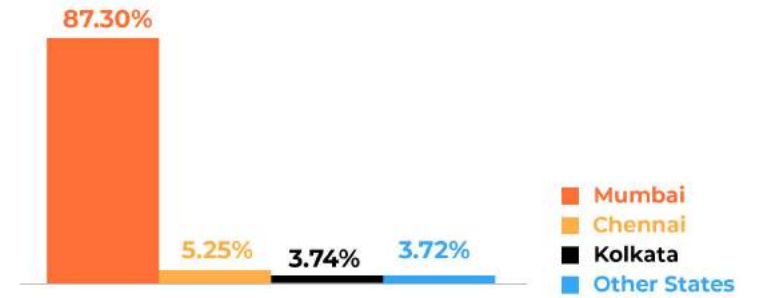
OPERATIONAL EXPENSE



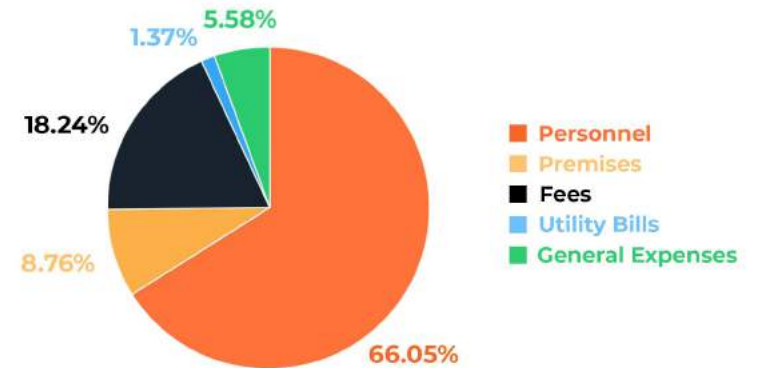
COMMUNITY INTERVENTION



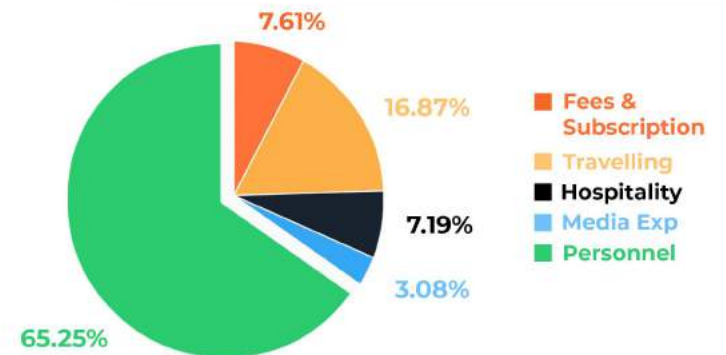
COMMUNITY INTERVENTION - LOCATION WISE



ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSE



FUNDRAISING EXPENSE





Reaching out with love

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