

THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL III



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



THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL III

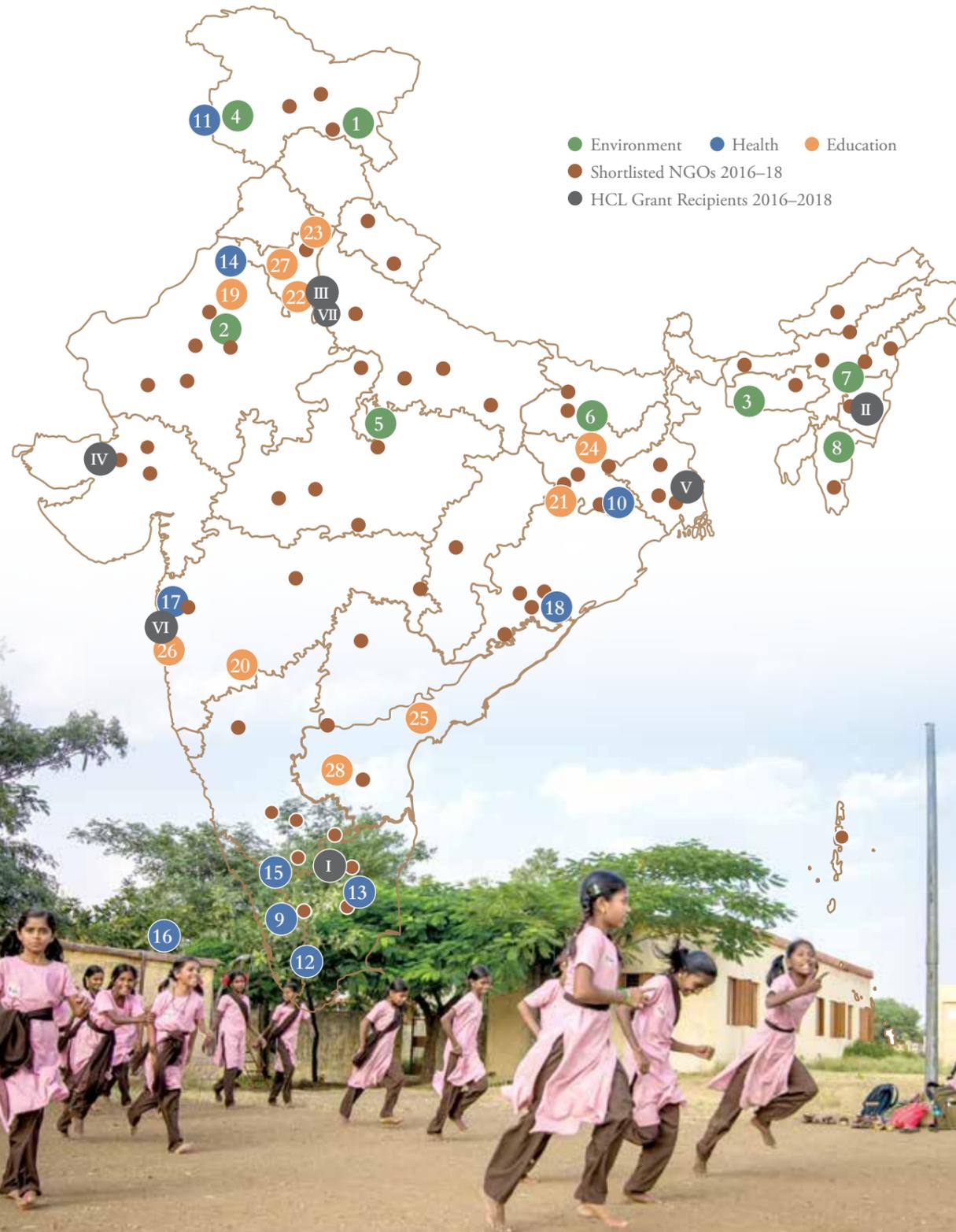
NGOs Transforming Rural India
in Environment, Health and Education



HCL

SHOWCASE
Roli Books

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THE TRANSFORMERS



INDIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY to make Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandatory for companies that exceed a certain turnover.* CSR, with the right spirit, intent and action, can do much to bridge the socio-economic divides and environmental crises that so fragment and regress India, and that the Government alone cannot mend. India's CSR spend has increased significantly over the years. However, nearly a third of our population lives in extreme poverty. Almost half of us do not have access to clean cooking energy and sanitation. Malnutrition is rampant – the list could go on. On the sustainable development index, despite burgeoning economic growth rates, India's ranking is very low.

How can a shift occur? If the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations are the goalposts, then CSR can potentially be the key player to eradicate poverty and hunger, ensure good health and well-being, promote quality education, gender equality, clean water and energy. But for this, besides complying with the law, a CSR plan must respect the growth and development of marginalized communities and protection of the environment, and it must align with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The HCL Grant is a CSR initiative by the HCL Foundation that has given wings to brilliant and committed NGOs across the country to create a revolutionary transformation in rural India. The past four years of the Grant have seen the emergence of a cadre of these remarkable community-led entities that have strengthened grassroots development, deepened impact, and scaled it. These NGOs share the HCL Foundation's purpose – to drive India towards equitable, inclusive and sustainable development, with an underlying theme of nation building. In its fourth year, 2018–19,



the HCL Grant will award a total sum of ₹ 16.5 crore (US\$2.3Mln) to nine NGOs: ₹ 5 crore (US\$0.7Mln) each to the top NGO in Education, Health and Environment for a five year period, and ₹ 25 lakhs (US\$0.035 Mln) each to the other two finalists in each of those categories.

Since 2015, HCL Grant projects have significantly altered over 3,00,000 lives. With inclusivity and gender woven into the fabric of the Grant itself, with a widespread and unbiased geographical spread, regional diversity that contextualizes development, and a due diligence process that is as stringent as it is thorough, the HCL Grant has formulated a new way forward to reach the unreached in the farthest corners of this vast nation through grassroots organizations. Built into the Grant's structure, beyond identifying the project that needs support, there is a system to fortify the organization itself, provide a methodology for implementation, and monitor the impact, sustainable in time and complexity.

The HCL Grant allows space for the most effective sort of CSR programming. Some examples:

CSR programmes that are designed to be legitimate means of achieving cohesive, sustainable development for the most vulnerable populations through The Fifth Estate, which works tirelessly to transform the rural landscape.

Based on the results of the programme engineered by Going to School, which teaches 21st century entrepreneurial skills through beautifully designed stories of heroism and ingenuity, the Government of Bihar has begun to support the NGO in making new content for grades 9–12.

CSR programmes that create holistic, innovative and strategic activities using technology and pragmatism.

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is committed to strengthening, reviving and conserving land, forest, and water resources in the country. The approach is geared towards developing cost-effective, appropriate technology that complements the existing community practices and Government programmes.

CSR programmes that reach out to multiple geographies with unique solutions, addressing cultural and regional specificities.

In isolated parts of mountainous Nagaland, defunct Primary Health Centres with little manpower and poor infrastructure were revived and replaced by a community-owned 'Public-Private Partnership' (PPP) model designed by Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS). In Kashmir, She Hope Foundation takes walking aids and rehabilitation tools to patients in their homes, however remote.

CSR programmes that engage with the Government and help in the roll out of its programmes for now and the future, ensuring sustainability and community ownership.

A generous percentage of agriculture activities are performed by women, but they are rarely recognized as farmers. The project by Srijan Foundation links with Government schemes and seeks to improve

the livelihood and income of poor women farmers, self-help groups and federations by educating, mobilizing, training and enhancing capacity of women in sustainable agriculture through community institutions.

To develop active collaborations with change-making NGOs, the HCL Foundation conducts pan-India symposiums. Here, NGOs have a chance to grasp the essence of the SDGs and nuances of the CSR Law. They begin to see sectoral gaps, and receive insights and opportunities across Education, Health and Environment. They are explained the details of the HCL Grant application right from process, to proposal, to submission. Panel discussions bring together experts from the Government, corporates, civil society and academia to discuss regional/local issues. The result was a ten-fold increase in registrations and applications for the Grant in 2018 from the time of its inception. Additionally, the third volume of the HCL Grant book, **The Fifth Estate**, compiles the vetted NGOs for easy reference for any corporate wishing to invest effectively in India's development process through their CSR programmes.

The impact of such programmes has been proven to be profound and long-lasting. Ultimately, if CSR initiatives like the HCL Grant become the norm, if businesses and Governments collaborate comprehensively with The Fifth Estate towards attaining the SDGs, then perhaps, our seemingly insurmountable challenges can be combatted head on. Only then can there be a tremendous kind of transformation, a tectonic shift in India's graph of progress.

* via Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013



THE HCL GRANT METHODOLOGY



THE SELECTION OF THE HCL Grant Recipient NGOs is not a linear process. Multiple, simultaneous levels of engagement with the non-profit entities – starting from awareness building symposiums to field visits, audits and impact assessments – are carried out with rigour, detail and depth. The shortlisting of the NGOs is based on deep and abiding synergy with the overall intent of the HCL Grant, i.e. generating high impact transformation in rural India in Environment, Education and Health. Sustainability and inclusion are important markers and naturally, credibility is all-important. The screening model employed is a unique one which scans the organization itself, not merely the project idea it puts forward. It is a thorough and robust process, scientifically formulated – democratic and transparent. Parameters include the originality, relevance and impact of the idea, innovation, scalability, replicability, and feasibility. The process is facilitated by a highly skilled and varied team of people, from Governance Partners Grant Thornton, carefully selected Independent Consultants for field visits, and the HCL Foundation team.

In 2015–16, Going to School, an NGO working in Education, qualified as the recipient of the first HCL Grant. In 2016–17, the recipients were MelJol for Education, Child in Need Institute for Health and Foundation for Ecological Security for the Environment category. In 2017–2018, the Eleutheros Christian Society was awarded the Grant in the category of Health, Keystone Foundation for Environment, and Sightsavers for Education.

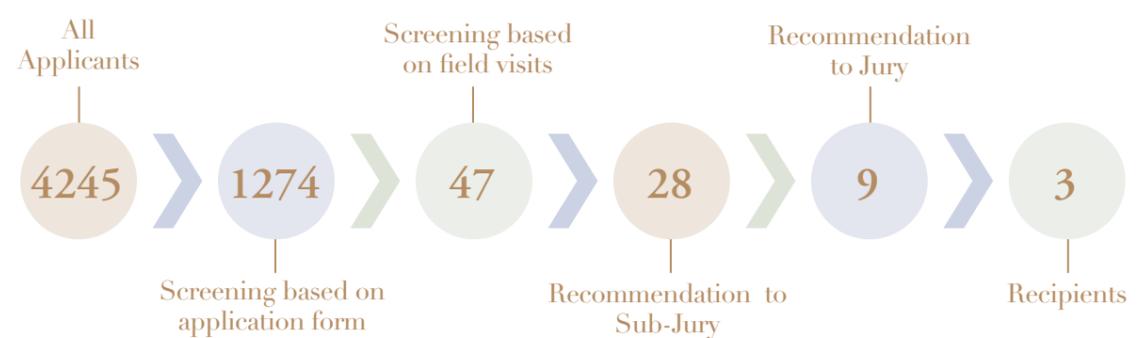
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
The organization must be a registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e. Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or any other (in line with Section 135 of Companies Act 2013).
The organization must have registered u/s 12A (A) of Income Tax 1961.
The organization should have completed the below mentioned functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant under Education and Health Category – 10 years, Applicant under Environment Category – 5 years,
The organization should have completed the below mentioned working experience in rural areas in India on or before 31st March 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant under Education and Health Category – 5 years Applicant under Environment Category – 2 years
The organization should have below mentioned average expenditure for the last 3 financial years i.e. 2014–15, 2015-16 and 2016-17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant under Education and Health Category – ₹ 1.5 Crores or above * Applicant under Environment Category – ₹ 0.50 Crores or above * <small>* The expenditure refers to overall expenditure of the organization and not thematic wise.</small>
The organization must not be blacklisted by any government agency, donor or international agency.
The organization must not have any negative media coverage or any other controversy associated with it.
The organization should not have any political or religious affiliations.
The organization should have registration documents, audited financial reports, tax certificates and FCRA (If applicable) and/or similar documents depending on the nature of the funding/donations that it receives.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- The proposed project must be in line with the provisions of Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013.
- The proposed project must be in rural areas.
- The Grant can be used to scale-up an existing project where co-funding is involved. However, HCL should be informed of all co-funders in advance and the organization must be able to clearly report how HCL grant will be utilized and what impact it will create.
- Proposed project must be designed for direct implementation by the applicant organization, sub granting of HCL funds will not be allowed.
- Networks and Consortium organizations are eligible to apply for the grant, however, if selected, the organization must directly implement the project, sub granting of HCL funds will not be allowed.
- The organization must have good relationships with local administration in their geographic location.
- Grant amount will be ₹ 5 Cr for the awarded NGO in each category, and ₹ 25 Lakhs for the two finalist NGOs in each category.
- The organization should not have any pending litigations.
- Grant money cannot be used for infrastructure development such as construction, renovation, purchase of fixed assets like land, buildings, and vehicles, among others.

‘Grants such as the HCL Grant facilitate knowledge exchange not only among organizations in the development sector but also between the development sector and the corporate sector. They act as bridges between the two sectors and lead to a mutually re-enforcing positive impact. While the development sector aids in making businesses more responsible and understanding generation of social capital, the corporate sector aids in making the development sector more efficient. The development sector particularly benefits from such partnerships as corporates help in putting in place important organizational processes like result orientation/framework, identifying core models and scaling up, and strong systems and procedures to achieve the stated outcomes.’ – Jagdeesh Rao, Executive Director, Foundation for Ecological Security; Recipient of the HCL Grant in the Environment category; 2017

HCL GRANT SCREENING PROCESS 2018–19



HCL GRANT 4TH EDITION PROCESS & MILESTONES



**4 APR
2018**
HCL Grant
Portal Live



**5 JUN
2018**
Last date
for NGOs
to apply



**11 JUL
2018**
Field Visit
Kick-off
Workshop



**3-5 OCT
2018**
Sub-jury Proceedings
& announcement of
Finalists
(9 NGOs –
3 per category)



**10 OCT-16 JAN
2019**
Due diligence of
Finalist NGOs



**27 APR-30 MAY
2018**
Pan-India Symposiums
(12 states)

**2-6 JUL
2018**
First shortlist
for the field visits
(47 NGOs)



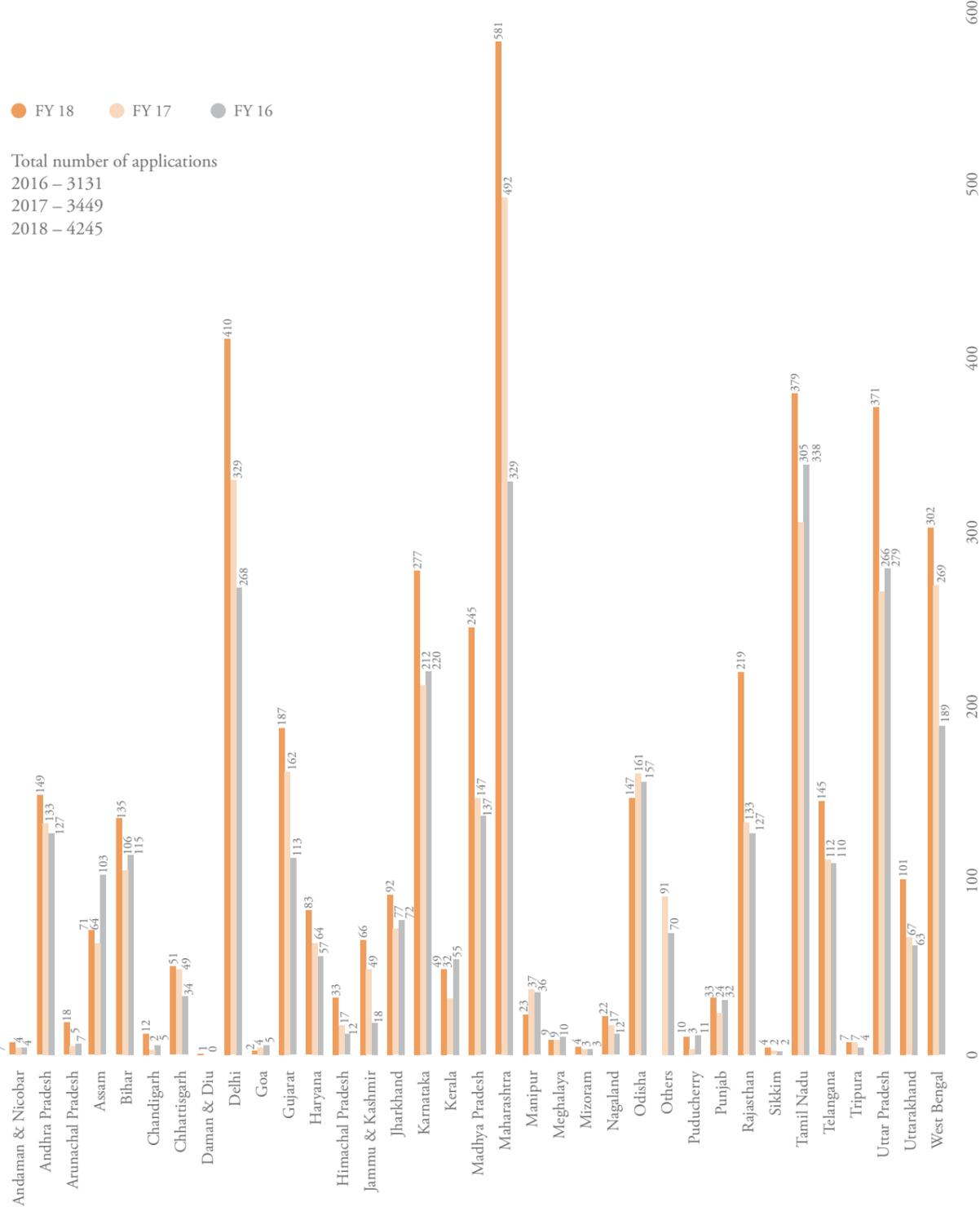
**5 SEP
2018**
Field visit closure
with announcement
of Semi Finalists
(28 NGOs)



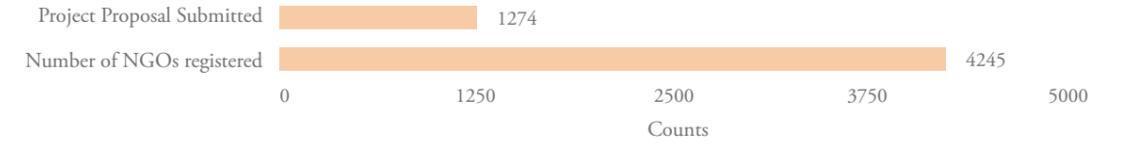
**21 FEB
2019**
Jury Proceedings
& Felicitation
Ceremony;
Announcement
of HCL Grant
Recipients

PAN-INDIA OUTREACH THROUGH MASS MEDIA
ENGAGEMENT WITH 7 HCL GRANT RECIPIENT NGOs

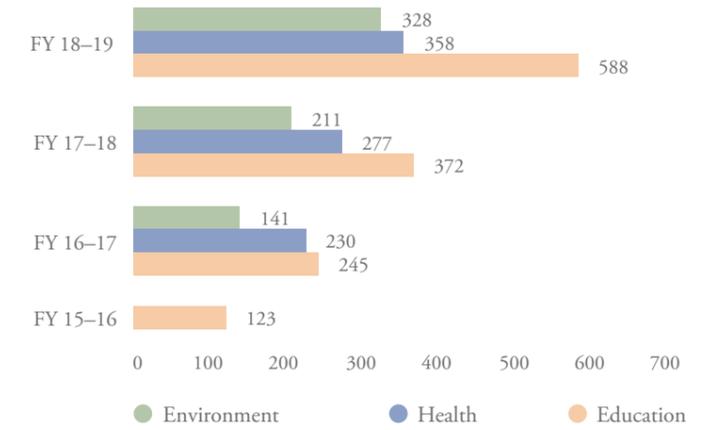
COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS



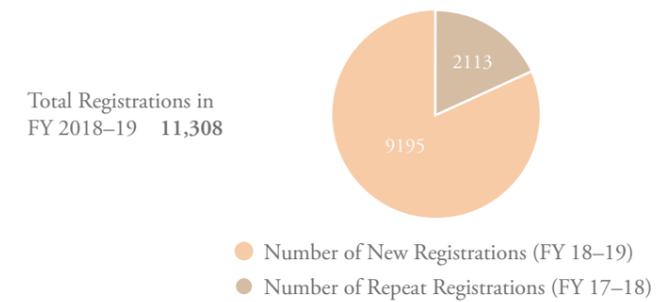
HCL GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS 2018-2019



CATEGORY-WISE HCL GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT REGISTRATIONS FY 2018-19



JURY



ROBIN ABRAMS

Chairperson of the Jury

Former President of Palm Computing, and the longest serving Board member of HCL Technologies, she was most recently interim CEO at ZiLOG. She was formerly

the Senior Vice President at 3Com Corporation and President and CEO at VeriFone. Before joining VeriFone in 1997, Abrams held a variety of senior management positions with Apple Computers. As Vice President and General Manager of Apple Americas, she oversaw sales and channel management for U.S., Canada and Latin America. Prior to that, she was the Vice President and Managing Director of Apple Asia, where she was responsible for sales and marketing in the region. Abrams spent eight years with Unisys in several senior-level positions. She has served several U.S. public company boards including ZiLOG and BEA Systems (until it was acquired by Oracle) and is currently serving Sierra Wireless and Openwave Systems. She also serves on the Anita Borg Institute Board and several academic advisory committees.



ISHER JUDGE AHLUWALIA

Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia, an eminent Indian economist, is Chairperson of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a leading think-tank based in

New Delhi engaged in policy oriented research. She was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Services, the Government of India, from 2008 to 2011. She was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature.

Dr. Ahluwalia's research has focussed on policy oriented challenges facing the Indian economy in the areas of urbanization, sustainable public service delivery, macroeconomic issues, and industrial growth and productivity. Dr Ahluwalia was Chairperson, Board of Trustees of International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., from 2003 to 2006 and was on the Board of Trustees of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) from 2010 to 2016. She was a member of the Eminent Persons Group set up by the ADB President Kuroda, which submitted a Report: 'Toward a New Asian Development Bank in New Asia' to him.



B.S. BASWAN

Baswan headed the Government Committee to review recruitment procedures for the higher civil services till August 2016. He regularly speaks on public policy issues at a number of

institutions. He has held some of the key positions in the Government including Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie; Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Government of India; Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India; Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India; and finally retired as Education Secretary, Government of India. Post retirement, he spent time in the Planning Commission as a Senior Consultant and later served as the Director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration.



RICHARD LARIVIERE

Richard Lariviere has been the President and CEO of The Field Museum since 2012. In his time at the Field, he has overseen the museum's brand revitalization to better convey the museum as a scientific

leader and an active research institution, and he has endeavored to make the museum accessible to all audiences regardless of age, background, and abilities. Prior to his work at the Field, Richard held academic appointments at the universities of Pennsylvania, Iowa, Texas, Collège de France, Kansas, and Oregon where he was president. Dr. Lariviere's career in academia and business is grounded in expertise on India. A Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain, a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a Fellow of the American Oriental Society, in Chicago, Richard is a member of Economic Club, Commercial Club, Arts Club, and Chicago Club. He holds a B.A. (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.



SHIV NADAR

Shiv Nadar established HCL in 1976 as an original garage startup, revolutionizing Indian technology and product innovation. Today, HCL is a US \$ 8.1

bn global technology conglomerate employing over 127,000 people in 43 countries. In 1994, Nadar established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is today the largest philanthropic organization in India having established six institutions covering the entire spectrum of education and benefiting over 26,000 students directly. As of March 2018, the Foundation has invested close to US \$ 800 mn across the various initiatives. Nadar has received several honours and accolades in the past, notable being the third highest civilian award – Padma Bhushan, bestowed

upon him by the President of India in 2008. He was named outstanding philanthropist of the year in 2015 by Forbes.



PALLAVI SHROFF

Ms. Pallavi S. Shroff is the Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, with about 36 years of extensive experience. Her broad and varied representation of public and private

corporations and other entities before various national courts, tribunals and legal institutions has earned her national and international acclaim. Ms. Shroff is also the Head of the Litigation practice at the firm, with an extensive knowledge in matter of dispute resolution and arbitration. She also mentors the Competition Law practice at the firm. Ms. Shroff has been awarded 'India Managing Partner of the Year' by Asian Legal Business Asia Law Awards 2017. She has also been recognized as one of the Most Powerful Women in Indian Business by *Business Today*, five years in succession (2013–17). She has also been awarded the 'Disputes Star of the Year', India by Asialaw Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards, 2017.



JAMES D. SYRING

Jim Syring serves as Senior Vice President, Enterprise Operations Support, USAA. Jim is tasked with guiding and directing Corporate Services, Enterprise Security Group, Global Services Delivery and

Information Technology in supporting and protecting all USAA employees as well as our over 12 million members. Jim joined the USAA team in July 2017 after a 32-year career in the United States Navy. Reaching the rank of Vice Admiral, Jim served in numerous engineering duty officer assignments culminating with his selection as the 9th director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). In this capacity, he oversaw the MDA's worldwide mission to develop a capability to defend deployed forces, the United States, allies, and friends against ballistic missile attacks. A 1985 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Jim earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering. In 1992, he graduated from the Naval Post Graduate School with his Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Jim came to USAA to continue serving the military that protects our country. He also wanted to spend more time with his wife Ronda (retired USN Commander and USNA '84) and son Tyler. In his spare time, Jim enjoys running and golfing.

SUB JURY

Environment

SHASHI BANERJEE Principal, Shiv Nadar School, Noida
RUPAMANJARI GHOSH Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University
SANJAY GUPTA Executive Vice President, HCL Technologies
RITA GUPTA Senior Vice President, HCL Corporation

Health

R. RANGARAJAN IYENGAR CEO, HCL Healthcare
SRIMATHI SHIVASHANKAR Executive Vice President, HCL Technologies
PAMELA SRIVASTAVA Head, Sustainability, Shiv Nadar Foundation
BISHWAJIT BANERJEE Principal, VidyaGyan, Bulandshahr

Education

AMBIKA NATARAJAN Associate Vice President, HCL Technologies
RAJIV SWARUP President, Shiv Nadar University
COL. (RETD) GOPAL KARUNAKARAN CEO, Shiv Nadar Schools
ROBIN SARKAR Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation



Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Former President of India felicitates the HCL Grant recipient 2016, 'Going to School', in the Education category



The recipients of HCL Grant 2017 being felicitated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley. The recipient NGOs were 'Foundation for Ecological Security' – Environment, 'Child In Need Institute (CINI)' – Health, and 'MelJol' – Education



Unveiling *The Fifth Estate* Vol. I, the first ever compendium of path-breaking NGOs in India. L-R: John Kelly, Senior Vice President, Cognitive Solutions and Research at IBM; Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs; Shiv Nadar, Founder and Chairman HCL, Shiv Nadar Foundation; Robin Abrams, Chairperson of the Jury; Malcolm Gladwell, eminent author and speaker; and Richard Lariviere, President and CEO, Field Museum



The recipients of HCL Grant 2018 being felicitated by the Hon'ble Home Minister of India – Shri Rajnath Singh. The recipient NGOs were 'Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS)' – Health, 'Sightsavers India (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind)' – Education, and 'Keystone Foundation' – Environment



HCL Grant Event in March 2018



L-R: Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Vice Chairperson, HCL Technologies, Chairperson, HCL CSR committee, Shiv Nadar, Founder and Chairman, HCL & Shiv Nadar Foundation, Shri Rajnath Singh Hon'ble Home Minister of India, Dr Mabesh Sharma Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Culture; and Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, C. Vijayakumar, President and CEO, HCL Technologies

HCL GRANT RECIPIENTS



2018

ENVIRONMENT Keystone Foundation 18
Sustaining livelihoods and practices of tribal people in the Nilgiris

HEALTH Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) 22
Community-activated health models for the northeast

EDUCATION Sightsavers India (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind) 26
Equality, inclusion and education for the visually impaired

2017

ENVIRONMENT Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) 30
Preserving 'commons' and empowering the community to manage them

HEALTH Child in Need Institute (CINI) 34
Pioneering community health and nutrition

EDUCATION MelJol 38
Social and financial literacy for children

2016

EDUCATION Going to School (GTS) 42
Learning through the magic of stories



Keystone Foundation



Founded by Snehlata Nath, Mathew John and Pratin Roy in 1993

Keystone is a learning centre empowering people to engage with nature and livelihoods in innovative and harmonious ways. Its programmes have directly touched the lives of 15,000 tribal people in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Keystone helps create sustainable livelihood options for people, organizing village institutions, sustaining traditional and cultural practices, putting into play knowledge derived from research and action projects, linking the indigenous peoples with decision makers and helping to influence policy relating to environmental governance. Keystone has helped set up an enterprise for non-timber forest produce and organic produce, which is owned by 1,600 tribal people.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Hill Waters & Wetlands for Communities & Wildlife – Eco-Restoration, Applied Ecology & Advocacy in Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve

BENEFICIARIES: Indigenous and tribal people

LOCATION: Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats

THE ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE of interdependence of natural systems is the bedrock on which Keystone Foundation stands. And so it works hard to understand the connections between conservation, livelihoods and enterprise in communities. Keystone's work began with an in-depth study of the honey-hunters and beekeepers of Tamil Nadu. Keystone developed a methodology that combined indigenous knowledge, local materials and skills, with training in modern technologies, sales, retail and marketing of the produce. Programmes are diverse: pollination, water resources, human-wildlife interaction, health and community wellness, and environmental governance work towards the overall well-being of the community and environment.

We asked the Keystone Foundation team what the HCL Grant has meant to them:

On the Grant selection process

This was very professional and detailed; the experience was extremely rewarding and satisfying to our team. The Grant Thornton visit, the HCL field team visit, the photographer team – each team brought the best in us, challenged us, made us look at perspectives which we hadn't seen before. It was a fruitful exercise.



Progress on HCL Grant project thus far

The project has made good progress. All the sites work has begun, the native plant nursery is up, and meetings with the communities in the field areas have initiated dialogue. Massive drive in planting, cleaning of stream beds, identifying sources of water that are crucial both for humans and wildlife has picked up. Engineering structures like stone bund, check dams, and revival of local water sources have started in full swing. We have a good team of 20 persons from different walks of life – water stewards, wildlife stewards, technical people. Use of Android phones for Open Data Kit format data collection and quick data analysis is happening at all sites. A water theme festival is being organized for the coming week. Intensive advocacy with district administration is underway.

Bountiful nature preserved by the community



Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS)



Remote villages with ready health access: a miracle of modern India

Founded by Chingmak Kejong and Phutoli Chingmak in 1993

The Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) started as a drug and HIV intervention initiative in the northeast, bringing down the incidence of HIV among injecting drug users and ante-natal women significantly. ECS then began to address the root causes of poverty and malaise, working in 46 villages in three districts. Through community action facilitated by it, people's livelihoods, health, literacy, and monetary transactions have improved manifold.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: ECS LifeConnect – Integrated Approach to Improve Healthcare Access and Prevent Maternal and Child Deaths in Nagaland

BENEFICIARIES: Mothers and children

LOCATION: Tuensang, Mon, and Longleng districts, Nagaland

ECS' STRATEGY USES traditional methods combined with modern ideas like fostering leadership and participation in planning and decision-making among the disenfranchised – including women, children, and the elderly. Community-based activism is already threaded into the Naga culture, and such strategies can further implement it as a tool for change. Today, ECS has programmes for income generation, the formation of self-help groups, microfinance and more. It has partnerships with the Government of Nagaland (establishment of a Primary Health Centre through a public/private partnership, anganwadi programmes, and midday meal livelihood promotion, WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene), Wipro Cares (health outreach) and the Government of India (through 'NECTAR' including constructing of health centres, bee keeping, etc.).

On Winning the Grant

When ECS was shortlisted, we felt like winners, because we never imagined our work will find relevance. The initial feeling was that of sheer joy; but also, a deep sense of knowing that we are on the right path because of the recognition in the form of the HCL Grant award.



On the grant selection process

For us, the grant process (due diligence) was, in a way, like a capacity building exercise. The exhaustive scrutiny of our systems and processes has helped us identify gaps and areas that needed to be improved upon.

Progress on HCL Grant project thus far

The Grant has made it possible to make inroads and initiate work in some of the most remote and underserved villages in Nagaland. Outreach work has been initiated in 35 villages and a process with the community has started. With their active involvement, two of the non-functioning health centres have been activated. In Changlangshu village, we had set up a PHC, and because of the HCL Grant we have posted a doctor and a nurse there, set up a mini-pharmacy with storage for cold vaccines, and begun providing OPD and inpatient services.

Once fully activated, the PHC will cover eight villages in the area with a population of about 20,000.

The Grant has also provided the leverage to dialogue with the Government on the idea of working together to improve the health delivery system in the region. They have even agreed to constitute a convergence committee at the State level chaired by the Chief Secretary, Nagaland, of which HCL Foundation is a part.



Sightsavers India (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind)



Founded by Sir John Wilson in the 1950s in the United Kingdom. India operations started in 1966

Sightsavers in India functions through its multi-pronged approach encompassing 'Eye Health', 'Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities', and 'Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities'. It works with the Government and local partners to administer care, innovating new products to make surgeries accessible to all. It strengthens organizations and communities to develop practical and enduring solutions. Sightsavers has reached over 55 million people and has conducted over 36 million eye treatments since its operations began in India. It received the HCL Grant for Education in 2018.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Sambalan – Inclusive Education for Children with Visual Impairment in Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal

BENEFICIARIES: Children with Visual Impairment (CVI)

LOCATION: Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal

IN INDIA, which has the largest number of blind people in the world, Sightsavers strives to help the blind lead lives of equality and dignity, as independent and productive members of their communities. It works to ensure that people who are visually impaired or blind have access to preventive, curative and rehabilitative services without financial hardship. Working from within communities and mobilizing local partners, Sightsavers has been running the effective 'Inclusive Education Programme' to flow blind children into mainstream education, using ICT to enhance learning, and training teachers. The aim is to help children and adults reach their full potential without discrimination and with access to their rights like health, education, and employment.

We asked Sightsavers what being awarded the HCL Grant has meant to them:

On winning the Grant

The Grant gave us an opportunity to bring to light a little-known section of the development sector, i.e., the visually impaired community of India. Thank you for all the much-needed visibility and credibility and the publicity from the Grant, apart from, of course, the Grant itself. This will lead to a ripple effect that in turn leads to a higher quality of programme effectiveness in the development sector as a whole in India.



On the Grant selection process

The Grant process was extremely thorough and intensive. It gave us an excellent opportunity to see our own gaps and work on our strengths. In a way, the 7-month Grant process was a sort of capacity building for us – from the proposal writing process that forces the organization to plan their project in a logical framework, to the due diligence process that highlights gaps in the functioning of the organization as a whole. Even if we had not won the Grant, we would have gone away a much better organization than when we started.

Progress on HCL Grant project thus far

Our HCL-funded Inclusive Education (IE) project has been enabling quality education for children with visual impairments (CVIs) in remote rural areas. Progress in two districts of Rajasthan and Bihar:

- Established liaison with the state Government education departments for better coordination and timely implementation.
- Agreement reached with the district education offices for conversion of the government student resource centre into Sightsavers Digital Learning Resource Centres.
- Adoption of our Teacher Training module by the Government.
- All the project staff have been recruited (if not already present), oriented and placed in the identified locations.
- Assessment camps have successfully been organized at multiple places to assess and identify children with low vision and other visual impairment and prescribe specific solutions.
- State-level Master Trainers' training completed in Bihar. They will now train multiple Government school teachers in inclusive pedagogy and how to support CVIs in studying better in the classrooms.
- Convergence of Inclusive Education for the Disabled scheme and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for effective implementation and promoting education of the girl child.

Learning without discrimination



Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)



Founded by Dr Amrita Patel in 2001

The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is committed to restoring and conserving Commons such as land, forest and water resources in the country, by promoting community-led institutions, securing tenure of commons using technology and leveraging public investments. FES promotes the idea of the 'Commons' – lands maintained and used by the local community collectively – using technology to improve ecological and economic conditions. Winner of the 2017 HCL Grant in the Environment category, FES touches over 9,140,000 people in 16,600 villages to improve management and governance of 5,900,000 acres of forests, common lands, and farmlands across India.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Informed Collaborative Action for Resilience of Ecosystems: Conservation of Shared Natural Resources (Commons) through Community Institutions

BENEFICIARIES: Community institutions, rural households, government staff, and NGO members

LOCATIONS: Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha

‘We see grants not just as an award or infusion of money but as a means to scale up the impact that one wants to create. It was a learning experience for us as the process provided space to retrospect, identify gaps and ways to address them. It enabled FES and HCL to explore common ground and set out a shared vision for an effective partnership.’

– Dinesh Reddy, Programme Director, FES



‘We learned from FES how to get organized. Today, the Village Forest Committee has equal rights over the land. Any profit that comes from the forest gets equally divided between us and the Forest Department.’
– Damor Gobrabhai, Beneficiary, FES



Child In Need Institute (CINI)



Founded by Dr Samir Narayan Chaudhuri in 1974

CINI has been working with women and children's health in West Bengal and Jharkhand for over four decades and has reached over 5 million people. Winner of the HCL Grant 2016-17 in the Health category, its overarching aim is to enable poor people to take control of their lives and have a share in sustainable development through collective action and engagement with authorities and peers. CINI's unique Child Friendly Communities focus on the spheres of health, nutrition and education, and break the vicious cycle of poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, abuse, and violence. Its Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre model has been taken up by the central Government.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: 'Creating a Community-Based Safety Net for Better Health and Nutrition Outcomes for Children, Adolescents, and Women of West Bengal' through a life-cycle and community-based approach

BENEFICIARIES 82:108 children (0 to 6 years), 130,000 boys and girls (10 to 19 years), and 10,948 pregnant and lactating mothers

LOCATIONS: Three districts in West Bengal

'The impact of the HCL Grant is extremely far-reaching. Being a 5-year programme, it has helped us design the project in a manner that can go on to create a strong impact and not just focus on numbers. Most importantly, this tenure also gives a lot of opportunity for designing innovations, imbibing learnings from the various processes and reframing the interventions based on ground-level concerns.'

– Dr Samir Chaudhuri, Director, CINI



‘Earlier I didn’t know anything, that’s why my first child was born underweight. With this child, ASHA and CINI take care of me, my diet, my sleep, my well being.’
 – Tutuki Mondal, beneficiary, CINI

‘Earlier no one used to take iron tablets regularly. But now we go to all the meetings and we follow all the precautions explained by our CINI volunteers. I feel very confident that my child will be fit and healthy.’
 – Kiya Buito, beneficiary, CINI





MeJol



Founded by Jeroo Billimoria in 1991

MeJol's programmes, in particular its social and financial literacy modules, develop children's citizenship skills by focusing on children's rights and responsibilities. The winner of the HCL Grant 2016-17 in the Education category, MeJol's popular Aflatoun programme has been implemented in 11 Indian states reaching out to approximately 4,00,000 children and teachers as well. The goal is for children to begin thinking out of the box, and become the agents of a powerful shift in their own destinies and that of the social order of the community.

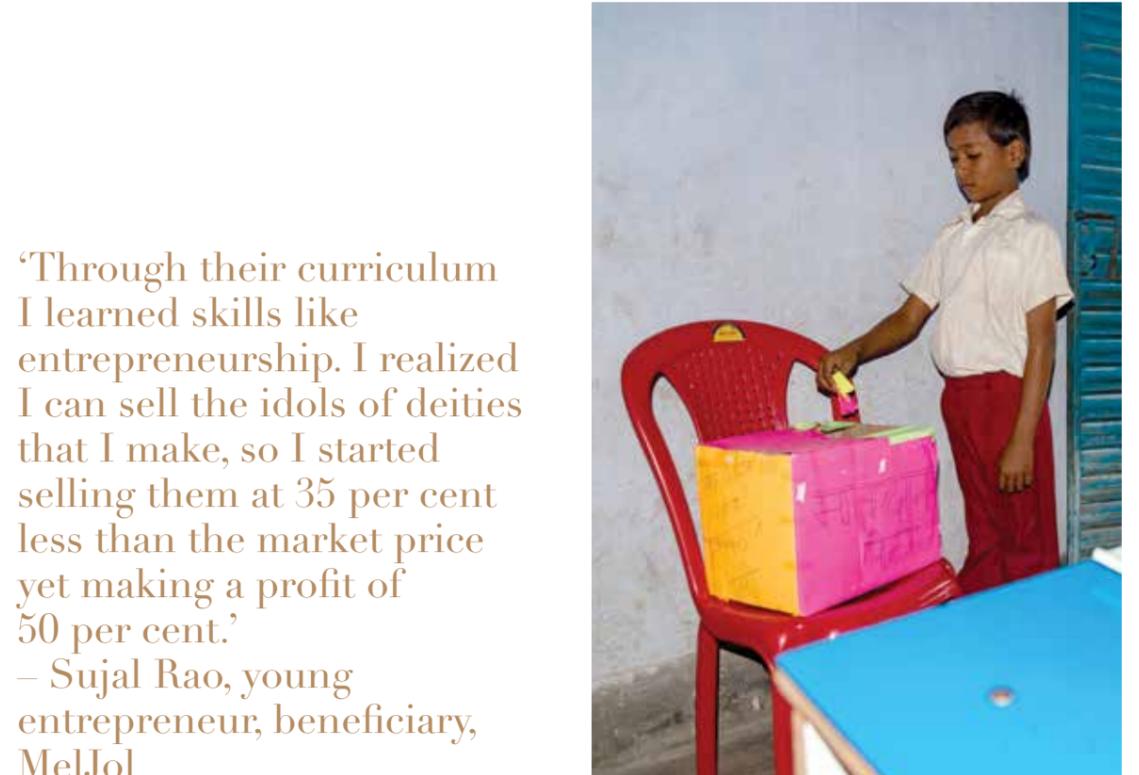
HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Scaling up of the 'Aflatoun Social and Financial Education Programme'

BENEFICIARIES: Children 6-14 years old and their families, teachers, and community members as resource persons

LOCATIONS: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand

'The HCL Grant Award has been an important milestone for MeJol as it provided an invaluable opportunity to reach out to children in the remote locations of six districts of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra. The timespan of three years has made for meaningful intervention. The workshops and events organized by the Foundation have provided networking and learning platforms for HCL Foundation Partners.'

– Pramod Nigudkar, CEO, MeJol



‘Through their curriculum I learned skills like entrepreneurship. I realized I can sell the idols of deities that I make, so I started selling them at 35 per cent less than the market price yet making a profit of 50 per cent.’
 – Sujal Rao, young entrepreneur, beneficiary, MelJol



Going to School (GTS)



Founded by Lisa Heydlauff in 2003

Winner of the first ever HCL Grant in the field of Education, Going to School's story-based teaching methodology is now part of the curricula of 3,000 Government schools, reaching 500,000 kids. The design-driven stories aim to teach children 21st century entrepreneurial skills. Its movies, 'Girl Stars, Going to School in India' have been seen by over 65 million children. Original content designed by GTS is now part of the NCERT curriculum and is taught to 10 million children every year. Its Be! An Entrepreneur programme adopted by the Government of Bihar will be replicated across all 36 districts of the state.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: 'Be! Schools Programme', teaching children skills at school through stories, games and weekly action projects

BENEFICIARIES: 1,01,300 children and 2,026 teachers of Government secondary, primary and KGBV schools; Total number of schools: 1013

LOCATIONS: Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts in Bihar

'The HCL Grant is a rigorous due-diligence and selection process that applies corporate governance principles to the fifth sector which is what the not-for-profit world deserves: seriousness, rigour, equal pay, rights, and a gravitas for the issues we're trying to change together.'

– Lisa Heydlauff, Founder, GTS



‘Bihar is over populated, there are no jobs and that’s why people migrate to other places in search of work. My dream is to see every person in Bihar employed or gainfully work and for this I think together with the Government we must work on creating jobs encouraging youth to take advantage of these schemes. Entrepreneurship is one great way of creating jobs and making Bihar a self-dependent state.’
 – Shilpi Kumari, beneficiary, GTS



ENVIRONMENT



Finalists 2019

Students' Educational and Cultural Movement
of Ladakh (SECMOL) **52**
Alternative education and environmental innovation in the Himalayas

Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS) **60**
Community-based management and revival of water resources

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) **68**
Preserving wildlife and its habitat

Shortlisted 2019

Child Nurture and Relief (CHINAR International) **76**
Empowering children and marginalized youth in conflict-ridden Kashmir

Society for Development Alternatives **80**
Participatory action for ecological resilience and poverty alleviation

Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) **84**
Solutions for disaster readiness and climate change among vulnerable communities

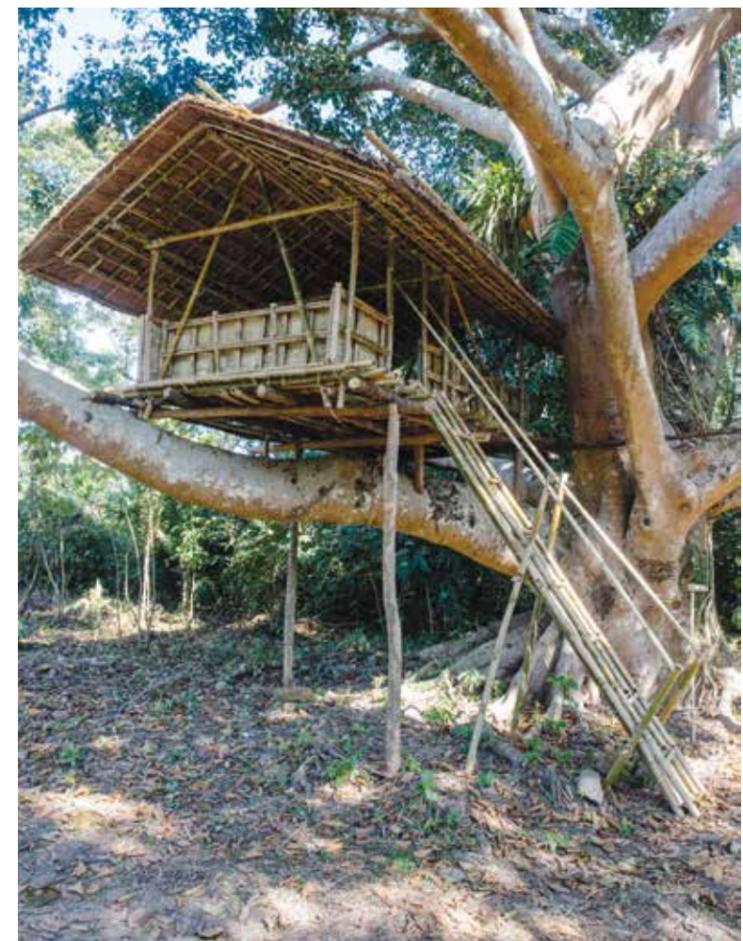
The Corbett Foundation **88**
Mitigating human-wildlife conflict

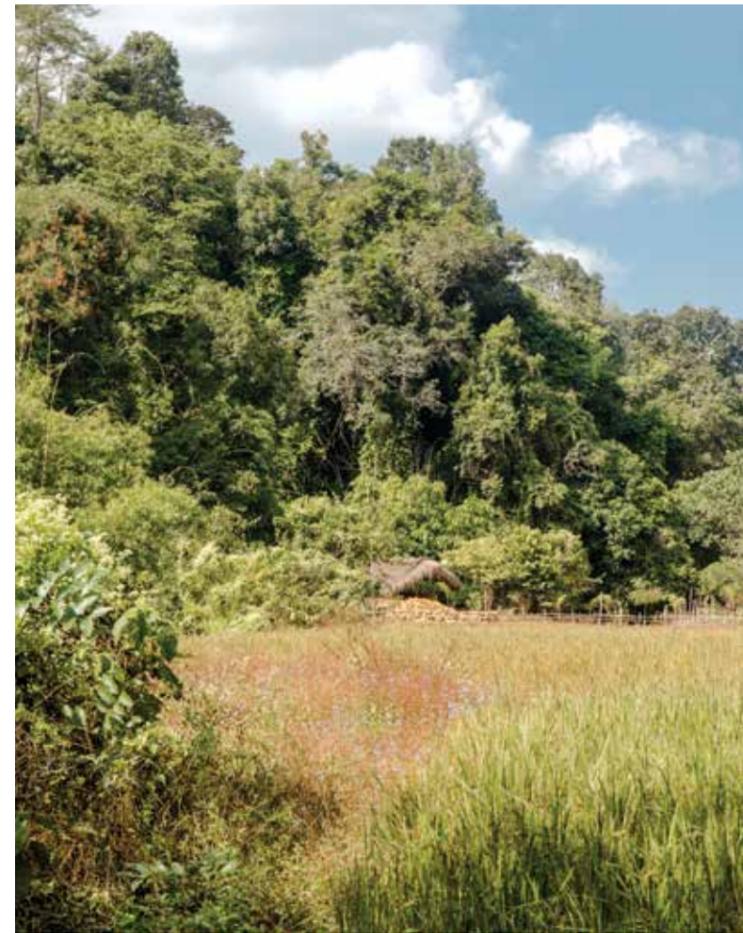
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) **92**
Research and knowledge for sustainable development

This category includes projects providing access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; combatting climate change and its impact; supporting sustainable conservation of flora and fauna; facilitating wildlife protection and conservation; protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands; conserving and rejuvenating natural water bodies; battling desertification, deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss; targeting pollution and promoting sustainable use of non-renewable resources; and making the community aware and involved in these processes. To qualify for the HCL Grant, the project must focus on direct action that leads to long-term impact, achieved through lasting behavioural change.



From waste management in Kashmir to disaster control in the Andamans; from restoring water bodies in arid Rajasthan to protecting wildlife habitats in Meghalaya – the NGOs shortlisted in the ENVIRONMENT category are making a measurable impact on fortifying sustainable practices across India. Innovative strategies combine with research and technical skills, so that humans, natural resources, wildlife – and ultimately planet earth – are the beneficiaries of their committed actions.







Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL)



Founded by Sonam Wangchuk in 1988

Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) is a non-profit organization in the Indian Himalayas. It was started by the youth to make the state school system more contextual and relevant. Its education reform project, launched together with the Government, village communities and civil society, resulted in the matriculation results inching up from a poor 5 per cent pass rate to currently a 75 per cent pass rate. SECMOL seeks to make Ladakh an example for the mountain world where all children rich or poor, rural or urban get meaningful education that prepares them for a life of dignity, in harmony with nature. It intends to create centres of excellence that demonstrate new possibilities in education and environmental interventions.

*Innovative and relevant ideas for sustainable living
Following pages (54–55) An ice stupa made by the students of the school sits patiently, waiting to replenish streams next summer*

STANZIN IS A BRIGHT YOUNG GIRL of 15 who lives in a mountain village in Ladakh. Till a few years ago, she struggled at her studies, unable to relate to the Government-set curriculum, which was contextualized to an urban setting, or to the medium of instruction. Passing her exams was an impossibility. Then SECMOL entered her life. Studying and then addressing the root of the problem, this vibrant NGO launched Operation New Hope in collaboration with the community, Government, teachers and civil society. It rewrote primary school textbooks in a way that resonated with the children because they were sensitive to their ways and geography – transforming the matriculation results to an astounding degree. Stanzin passed her exams with flying colours.

SECMOL believes in rural development through frugal innovations that create a profound and widespread impact. Turning the existing education system on its head was one initiative. And for those who could not engage with the system at all, SECMOL dreamed up another unique project: The SECMOL Alternative Institute, or SAI. Here, school dropouts could learn lessons born out of their own mountain environment, from a curriculum based on inventing solutions for actual tribulations faced by their people, rather than simply memorizing lessons by rote. This is education through application of knowledge!





Harnessing the elements for self-reliance



*An education of ideas that resonate with nature and the young people
Following pages (58–59) Stunning and desolate, Ladakh is in the lap of nature*

SECMOL believes that problems like climate change can be alleviated using school-level science and technology. It calls this process the relaunching of the students. And it all feeds back into collective action to conserve the environment. The results have been phenomenal. Says Sonam Wangchuk, Founding Director and President of the Board, SECMOL, ‘The innovations have ranged from solar-heated mud buildings that stay at 15 °C even when it is minus 15 °C in winter, and the Ice Stupa artificial glaciers that solve the problem of water shortage in the face of climate change – using which the ecologically damaged valleys are being restored.’ The campus is not connected to any grid for power; it composts its waste, grows food organically, and has reforested its environs.

SECMOL’s newest mission is to scale up SAI to an alternative institute, the Himalayan Institute of Live Learnings (HILLs), where the methodology will purely be ‘learning by doing’. Real-life solutions to real-life problems will be complemented by an enterprise wing with live labs for each school of the university. ‘For

example the School of Sustainable Mountain Tourism will run high-end solar-heated mud-built hotels and homestays. The School of Sustainable Architecture will develop a smart green city around the university, using earth and sun as its primary resources. In the same way, the School of Environmental Studies will take up the eco-restoration and flashflood control systems using massive artificial glacier-making in the entire Phyang valley,’ explains Gitanjali, Founding Member & CEO.

All its work, whether in education, environment or development is designed to enable and involve the communities SECMOL works with. Inclusion is a given in SECMOL’s programmes, which is why it works in the most ravaged areas, with children who are misfits in the system.



HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Scaling up of the project 'Overcoming Water Challenges and Combating Climate Change to Restore Damaged High-Altitude Eco-systems through Artificial Glaciers and Environmental Education'
BENEFICIARIES: Tribal communities
LOCATION: Phyang Valley, Leh, Ladakh

The project is a scale-up of two ongoing projects – constructing ice stupas or artificial glaciers to deal with an ecological damaged valley, and setting up a wing of the SECMOL Alternative Institute in the same valley to promote sustainable and innovative real-life solutions for its problems. The valley in question suffers from both droughts and flash-floods.

- The Ice Stupa project has sustained 5,000 trees using melting waters from the large ice cones, which are made by freezing the winter stream water when nobody needs it.
- Tourism and sustainable use of products from the newly reforested valley to make the project financially sustainable.
- Apart from academics, the university will have an enterprise wing with live labs where the students get to work and learn from real life projects. For example,
 - the School of Sustainable Mountain Tourism will run high-end solar heated hotels and homestays built using mud;
 - the School of Sustainable Architecture will have a project to develop a smart green city around the university;
 - the School of Environmental Studies will take up the eco-restoration and flash-flood control systems using massive artificial glaciers.



Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS)



Founded by Rajendra Singh in 1975

For more than three decades, Tarun Bharat Sangh has been working on issues crucial to rural India. Communities have learned to adapt to climate change by learning water conservation and water-use efficiency, and restoring local water cycles. TBS envisions rural development and empowerment through community-driven, decentralized management of natural resources among the very poor peoples of drought-ridden areas. Inspired by the Gandhian ideal of Swarajya, TBS's model has regenerated healthy, prosperous communities, and helped a 1,000 villages build more than 10,000 rainwater harvesting structures, turning them into 'white zones' from 'dark zones'. It has rejuvenated seven rivulets in the area. Forest resource management and bio-diversity are other focus areas. TBS has won several awards over the years for this exemplary work.

Giving farmers new hope with new interventions
Following pages (62–63) *Plentiful water through community effort*

THE FARMER LOOKS AT THE CLOUDLESS SKY BLEAKLY. If it does not rain soon, he will have to give up his ancestral land in Nyanna village and migrate to the city for work just like his neighbours. The wells in the village are nearly dry. The soil is useless and uncultivable. There is no fodder for livestock. His only son's marriage has been called off because no one wants to marry a daughter into such a desperately poor community.

For Tarun Bharat Sangh, this is all in a day's work. After they have been around for a while, everything begins to change. The rivers begin to flow and water bodies get recharged. Agricultural production goes up and food security strengthens. Women's drudgery reduces significantly and girls start going to school. Incomes increase, and social status rises. The ecological balance begins to restore itself as the biodiversity rejuvenates. It's not magic. It is a tried and tested model of community-owned natural resource management systems like small rainwater harvesting structures. The model is spearheaded by TBS, a remarkable organization, led by Rajendra Singh, often called the 'water man of India'.

The NGO came into being when a group of young men got together to help a community ravaged by fire. However, it was later, when they sought to educate children in a small village, Gopalpur, that their unique methodology was birthed. When no children came to class, Rajendra Singh spoke to a village elder who enlightened him. The children were too busy fetching





Tradition and innovation combine to conserve and regenerate resources



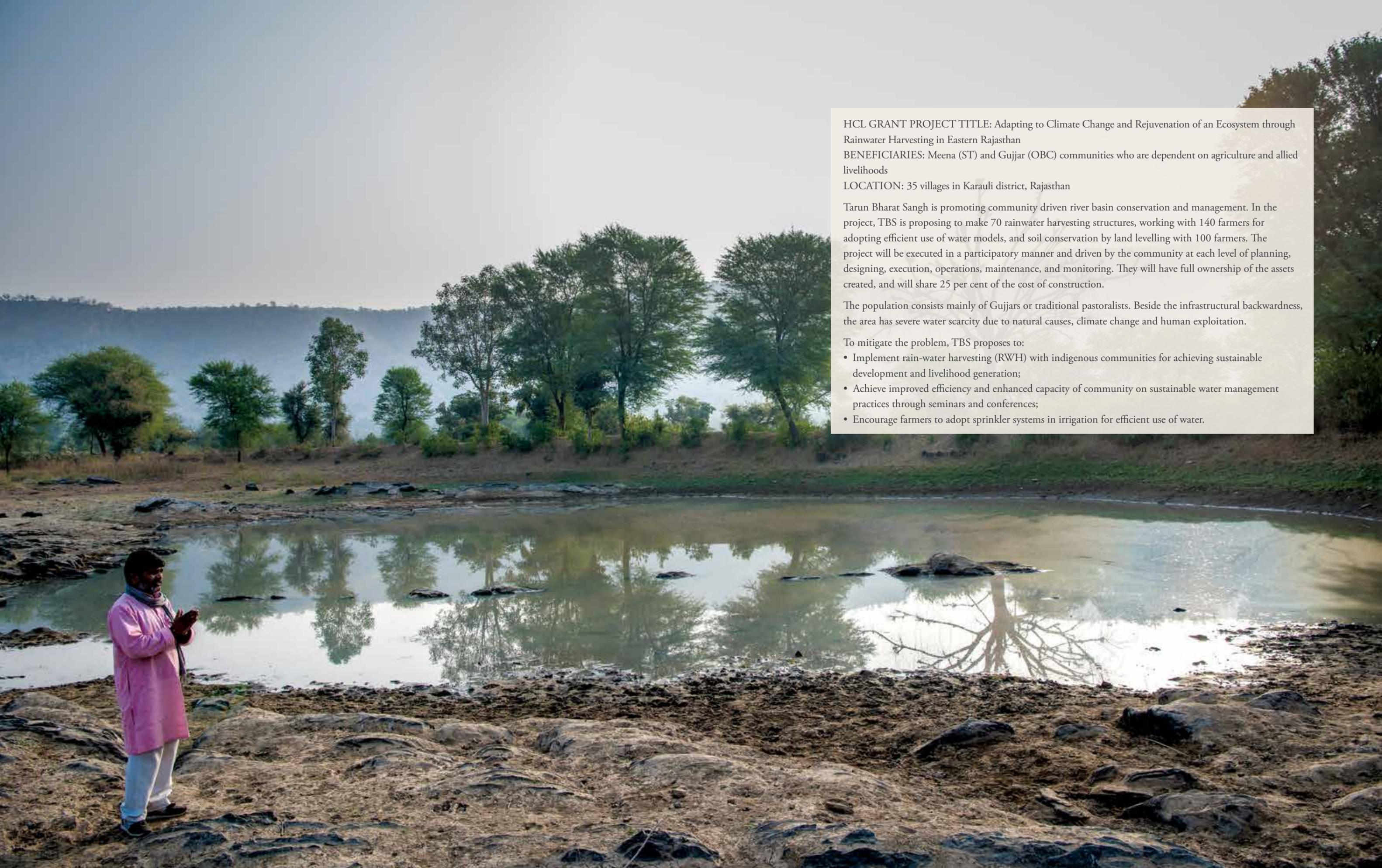
*When sustainability is the driver, agriculture and livelihoods flourish
Following pages (66–67) Nature's bounty is showered on those who preserve her resources*

water for their mothers – they had no time to study! What was needed, the elder explained, was water. The seed of an idea began to emerge. Initially reluctant, eventually the villagers came forward to help in TBS's plan to revive a traditional johad, which is a small earthen rainwater harvesting system. The rain gods were kind and the johad filled up within two years. The idea then spread like wildfire to neighbouring villages as well.

Water conservation never stops at that, and nor did Tarun Bharat Sangh's work. One of the many awards that Rajendra Singh has been given is the Stockholm Water Prize in 2015. The citation reads, 'Rajendra Singh's life work has been in building social capacity to solve local water problems through participatory action, empowerment of women, linking indigenous know-how with modern scientific and technical approaches and upending traditional patterns of development and resource use.'

Forest management, tribal rights, stopping illegal mining in Sariska National Park: these

are the other areas that the organization has impacted. Essentially, its struggle is that of the local communities against ignorance, yes, but also external, rampant development of the wrong kind. An Impact Assessment by SIDA on this NGO's work commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in India states, '... concerted efforts of TBS and the community over two and a half decades have significantly improved living conditions of the local community in addition to taking a big step to restore ecological balance and revive traditional knowledge systems and practices in the regeneration and management of natural resources. There is a marked awareness on community's rights and responsibilities.'



HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Adapting to Climate Change and Rejuvenation of an Ecosystem through Rainwater Harvesting in Eastern Rajasthan

BENEFICIARIES: Meena (ST) and Gujjar (OBC) communities who are dependent on agriculture and allied livelihoods

LOCATION: 35 villages in Karauli district, Rajasthan

Tarun Bharat Sangh is promoting community driven river basin conservation and management. In the project, TBS is proposing to make 70 rainwater harvesting structures, working with 140 farmers for adopting efficient use of water models, and soil conservation by land levelling with 100 farmers. The project will be executed in a participatory manner and driven by the community at each level of planning, designing, execution, operations, maintenance, and monitoring. They will have full ownership of the assets created, and will share 25 per cent of the cost of construction.

The population consists mainly of Gujjars or traditional pastoralists. Beside the infrastructural backwardness, the area has severe water scarcity due to natural causes, climate change and human exploitation.

To mitigate the problem, TBS proposes to:

- Implement rain-water harvesting (RWH) with indigenous communities for achieving sustainable development and livelihood generation;
- Achieve improved efficiency and enhanced capacity of community on sustainable water management practices through seminars and conferences;
- Encourage farmers to adopt sprinkler systems in irrigation for efficient use of water.



Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)



Founded by Ashok Kumar and Vivek Menon in 1998.

The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) addresses a range of conservation issues through nearly 50 projects spread across the country, covering two-thirds of India's bio-geographic zones. Its mandate is to conserve wildlife and its habitat, and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments. With strategies that are science-driven and field-proven, WTI's impacts are tangible. It has assisted the Forest Department in rescuing over 5,000 wild animals. Through its programmes, 16,000 frontline wildlife staff of over 150 Protected Areas have undergone Level 1 anti-poaching training, and 20,000 staff are insured against death on duty. WTI has a presence in several states of India including Meghalaya, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Keeping a close watch on our precious forests
Following pages (70–71) *We can be friends, and flourish together*

ONE PASSIONATE ORGANIZATION has been working to save a national park for several years. Situated in the northeast of India, Manas National Park was stripped of its UNESCO World Heritage Site status as there was no wildlife left in it. Insurgency, poaching and political instability had taken their toll. However, the Wildlife Trust of India did not falter. In partnership with international and local bodies, as well as the Assam Forest Department, the NGO got the park's special status reinstated in 2012. By restocking Manas with animals from other areas, setting up community programmes, generating alternate livelihoods, imparting anti-poaching training, and negotiating a political declaration by the Bodoland Territorial Council, WTI brought Manas back from the brink of disaster.

WTI was birthed to address the concerns that face the ecosystem and biodiversity today: shrinking habitats, extensive poaching and illegal logging, and human populations bursting at the seams causing human-animal conflict. Conservation of wildlife species, preservation of animal corridors, prevention of illegal trade of forest produce and animal parts, training and supporting field personnel, i.e., the forest officers, ensuring compensation and relief where needed, and also creating awareness and disseminating information are some of its day-to-day functions that are carried out with precision and almost corporate-style processes. Over 150 full-time professional,





Co-opting local communities to the cause of preservation through employment and alternate livelihoods



Passionate endeavours to protect shrinking wildlife habitats
 Following pages (74–75) *Clearing the path for animal movement through forest corridors*

consultants and volunteers from diverse fields, like biologists, sociologists, veterinarians, lawyers, business management, and communication specialists all united by a common love for wildlife, work tirelessly to achieve the organization’s crucial goals and resolve crises.

WTI works hard to co-opt the local communities, the people most impacted by human-wildlife struggles – for without their involvement, long-lasting conservation is impossible. Its Green Livelihoods project aims to reduce the dependence of local communities on wildlife or their habitats; for example, ending the dancing bears practice of the Kalandar community, or replacing Shahtoosh with Pashmina for weavers in Jammu and Kashmir leading to a decrease in the poaching of the Tibetan Antelope. WTI’s current project is with the Garo tribe in Meghalaya, where it has gained the confidence of the people by offering not only alternate livelihoods, but also health services, education, boats during the monsoon and

more. So much so, that the communities themselves have set aside nearly 3000 hectares of forest land for conservation by declaring it Village Reserve Forest.

Says Vivek Menon, co-founder of WTI, ‘From ignorance comes the belief that we are somehow the “owners” of nature”... that we can cut down forests and pollute rivers and seas... From ignorance comes the belief that pangolin scales can cure cancer, or that ivory is removed from elephants without killing them... And from ignorance stems the lack of political will... There is much that human ignorance is the cause of and that intelligence and awareness can cure. But this is no easy task.’

But if anyone is equal to this task, it is WTI.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Connecting Landscapes, Empowering People and Protecting Elephants—
An initiative to secure the Baghmara–Balpakram elephant corridor and protect the wildlife habitats of Garo Hills, Meghalaya

BENEFICIARIES: Asian elephant, slow loris, tiger, clouded leopard, Hoolock gibbon, and other endangered species. Villagers and Forest Department

LOCATION: Balpakram NP-Baghmara landscape, Garo Hills, Meghalaya

The Garo Hills Elephant Reserve and Indo-Myanmar ecological hotspot is a repository of rich biodiversity. The project's aim is to connect the islands of forests by notifying the forest corridors as Village Reserve Forests (VRFs) for unhindered wildlife movement by the empowered communities.

The Garo Green Spine of which this corridor is a part, is affected due to jhum cultivation, expanding settlements, plantations, mining, and increased human-elephant conflict. This corridor is vital in maintaining continuity of about 600 sq km of elephant habitat.

The strategy is to:

- Secure the Baghmara–Balpakram elephant corridor with 1,000 hectares of forest land notified as Village Reserve Forests and local communities empowered for continued conservation efforts in the landscape;
- Strengthen the livelihood and lifestyle of beneficiary families by 25 per cent through skill development, eco-development, and community support;
- Restore 150 hectares of degraded habitats in corridor forests with 150,000 standing trees;
- Assess and document the biodiversity of the corridor village forests and implement measures to strengthen human-elephant coexistence;
- Sensitize at least 25,000 people on the importance of natural and traditional heritage of Garo Hills for conservation.

The project is vital in bringing ecological justice, countering anthropogenic pressure and creating a win-win situation for both wildlife and humans.





Child Nurture and Relief (CHINAR International)



Founded by Irfan Shahmiri in 2003 (USA) and 2012 (India)

CHINAR International works in Jammu and Kashmir towards the empowerment of orphans, vulnerable children and marginalized youth in conflict areas through quality education and socio-economic initiatives. The multiple success stories they have catalyzed are heartwarming: children from the poorest communities who are the first in their families to pass class 10 or 12. Girls who have learned new skills, getting jobs and supporting their families. Government schools incorporating CHINAR International's innovations into their systems. At the moment, it supports 26 schools in six districts in Kashmir. The organization can deliver quality education to around 1000,000 children in the next five years as it scales up its programme. For the HCL Grant, CHINAR International has applied under the Environment category, addressing Rural Waste Management run as an enterprise by youth at the village level.

Far from civilization, a school is a lifeline for children

WARWAN IN JAMMU. 14 villages, 10,000 people. Lost to the outside world. No basic amenities. Poverty and a lack of education, exacerbated by harsh weather, isolating them for months. No hospital, no electricity and only one village with phone connectivity. Then one day some young people came to the area. They gathered the children and the youth, and began a series of interventions in education, counselling, employability, entrepreneurship and more. The world was transformed and the children emerged from the dark ages. After two years, the programme supports 450 children and is poised to scale up.

CHINAR International was started by an idealistic young Kashmiri who first enjoined his friends to start a home for 20 children impacted by the conflict in the area. The effort was purely humanitarian, and supervised from the US in collaboration with local partners. In time, however, Irfan Shahmiri quit his job and his life in the West and came back to Kashmir. He travelled all over his native land, trying to understand what was needed to help the children who led such challenging lives. Now, as the Global Executive Director, he describes them as '... the lost generation of youth with few economic opportunities, increasing rates of suicide and a general sense of hopelessness and despair. The conflict has crippled the education system ... For us, quality education and a path towards self-reliance is the only sustainable way out of the cycle of poverty and violence for children and youth respectively.'



We may not have much, but together we can bring change



Investing in children and youth reaps rich dividends

In 2012, the organization moved from institutionalized care to community-based care. It soon began to engage with the Government to effect transformative changes in the school system. The next step was clear: its strategy had to evolve, find community-led solutions for the pressing problems affecting orphans, vulnerable children and marginalized youth, which were sustainable and innovative.

‘Over the last several years, CHINAR International has been able to develop robust frameworks to address the challenges of children at home and school environment successfully. At the same time, the relationships with communities through dialogue and community mobilization events have become stronger with the role of community members becoming clearer,’ explains Shahmiri.

Its work was organized into four verticals: child development (ensuring quality education and sustainable livelihood), quality education (school transformation for holistic growth with the Department of School Education), youth development

(through counselling, skill development and entrepreneurship support), and crises relief (CHINAR was very active in the recent Kashmir floods and other disasters).

In more recent years CHINAR International has used advocacy, community relations, technology and sports as tools for bringing accelerated and lasting positive social change.

Shahmiri says, ‘CHINAR International’s fundamental approach is to provide children and youth with a positive and wholesome environment so that they can flourish and rise to their full potential – a positive environment at home, at school and finally in the community.’

HCL Grant Project Title: Grameen Paryavaran Preraks

Beneficiaries: Youth entrepreneurs, students, and teachers

Location: Kulgam and Pulwama, Kashmir



Society for Development Alternatives (DA)



Founded by Dr Ashok Khosla in 1982

Development Alternatives (DA), one of the world's first social enterprises, was set up with an idea to deliver sustainable development outcomes in a commercially viable manner. Its mandate is to help eliminate poverty and regenerate the environmental resource base through scalable methods. It works towards the design and large-scale dissemination of appropriate technologies, rational environmental management systems, and equitable people-oriented institutions and policies. Development Alternatives has changed the lives of nearly 7 million rural poor. It has significantly contributed to the regeneration of over 35,000 hectares of land, enhancement of 10 per cent in the incomes of more than 100,000 farmers in the region and across India. It has developed over 50 appropriate green technology solutions impacting over 1 million families, and saved more than 1.5 million tonnes of carbon.

Natural resource management to bring barren lands alive

TWO BARREN HILLOCKS in Bundelkhand were in for a surprise. Two years and 66,000 plants later, a green forest stood where before there was denuded ground. Rabbits, birds, mongooses, snakes and wild boar returned to their homes, and nearly extinct species revived. Perennial grasses began to grow. Miraculous as it may seem, this dramatic transformation was due to the farsightedness and determination of one NGO: The Society for Development Alternatives, or DA. Through moisture control measures that enable natural regeneration, and recharging ground water to control soil erosion, the land was made fertile. Endemic tree species like ber and flame of the forest grew and flourished there.

The founder of DA, Dr Ashok Khosla, is well versed in environmental conservation. He set up India's first environment agency under Indira Gandhi's Government and had a large part to play in the formulation of policy regarding the environment. Travels all over India and a deep understanding of the ties the rural poor have with the forests and nature as a whole influenced his thinking, and he decided to set up his own organization to attack the problems in the field from a unique perspective.

'It seemed to me that the business sector, Government and NGOs all had their own strengths but they could not solve the problems related to innovation, scaling up and sustainability. All three had to be done in the market place, to ensure that the products and services delivered respond to actual demand, multiply through self-financing mechanisms, and do not destroy



Employing technology and innovation for sustainable outcomes



Regenerating lands and livelihoods

the resource base. This requires good science and technology and good management – but above all, it requires a social orientation,’ says Dr Khosla.

DA therefore employs a business model to address the creation of sustainable livelihoods. This is what is now known as a social enterprise, but at the time it was a revolutionary idea. In the process, poverty alleviation and environmental conservation in the most backward areas are simultaneously addressed. It innovates and delivers eco-solutions – technologies, methods and institutions that help poor people build affordable houses, solve their water, sanitation and energy needs, and generate work using local resources and industrial wastes. It partners with the Government, civil society and local entrepreneurs to market these commercially. Scaling up the idea through partnerships and networks, DA has achieved tremendous impact. Other areas of work include creating green jobs at a large scale, and working out natural resources management models and clean technology solutions.

‘DA’s triple bottom line approach – economic,

social, and environmental well being – has been aligned with the knowledge, vision and aspirations of the local communities... We are inspired by just the hope of seeing a little girl’s face light up in the village when she gets a source of light, or is able to read or gets a decent life to live,’ shares Dr Khosla.

HCL Grant Project Title: Shubhkhal Villages Catalysing Transformational Change – Equipping Rural Communities to take Participatory Action for Ecological Resilience and Mainstream Environmental Concerns in Local Planning and Development

Beneficiaries: Youth, women, children, and farmers

Location: Tikamgarh, Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh; Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh



Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)



Founded in 1994 by Dr Manu Gupta and
Dr Anshu Sharma

SEEDS works towards transforming the most vulnerable into resilient and thriving communities through practical solutions for disaster readiness, response and rehabilitation. With its comprehensive interventions, it equips communities with appropriate tools and technologies, shares knowledge and skills and promotes linkages among stakeholders to prevent loss of life and suffering. SEEDS has initiatives in the areas of education, environment, health, shelter and settlements, governance and learning. It adopts a multi-hazard, local-leaning approach to empower communities through awareness generation, training and action. Having responded to every major disaster since 2000, SEEDS is recognized as one of the important humanitarian actors in India and Asia. It has reached over 180,000 children and built over 5000 homes. A majority of its resilience-building projects are carried out in the pan Himalayan and Eastern belt of India.

Making communities more resilient and helping them flourish

IT WORKED IN PATAN, not Bhuj in the 2001 Gujarat earthquake; in the Andamans and not Tamil Nadu during the tsunami in 2004; in Poonch and not Uri in the 2005 Kashmir earthquake. It reaches the unreached, hears the unheard, and boosts the capacity of the invisible, marginalized people who are not in the eye of the storm or, indeed, of the press. SEEDS, or the Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society, has always been interested in the impact of the depleting environment (and the consequent cataclysmic events) on communities. This area is much ignored: disasters are news, but not how communities could reduce their risk, protect their lives and livelihoods, make safer homes, protect their environment and adapt to climate change. Sensing the exigency of the cause, the founders of SEEDS began by working on building the resilience of these far-flung communities through disaster risk education and interventions where needed.

Using the community's indigenous knowledge pool, and splicing it with cutting-edge technology and modern techniques, SEEDS introduces innovative, cost-effective, environmentally appropriate solutions to the community in an accessible way. These aim at disaster readiness, response and rehabilitation customized to the region's culture and geography. For example, SEEDS programmes use local (and where possible natural) materials including salvaged material in the aftermath of a disaster, rather than importing foreign materials.



If floods are our fate, then we will sow water-borne crops, like makhanas



Training the community in disaster readiness and early warning systems for flooding

SEEDS fosters safe construction practices, climate change adaptation and community-based disaster management among vulnerable communities. In Nepal, after the earthquake, SEEDS partnered with 2,520 families to build new homes. This owner-driven approach not only put a roof above their heads – it built their skills and resources. Training and advice from experts meant that the people themselves were able to take the lead to effect a transformative change in their conditions.

‘Beyond the numbers, it is the less visible effects and long-term social impact that truly drives our work,’ says Dr Manu Gupta, co-founder of SEEDS. ‘A family who regains a home; a child who gets back to school; a youth group running an early warning system that saves lives; a community water source that has long-term impacts on health. All of these translate into time, money and assets saved for the community.’

Collaborating with the communities is only half the battle won. The real success came when the work done by SEEDS started getting recognized, scaled

up and replicated by the Government agencies and other NGOs. This started with the 2001 Gujarat earthquake when SEEDS made good headway in mobilizing support from diverse sources to create a model rehabilitation project. Since then, responding to disaster-affected communities, SEEDS’ impetus has been towards education in risk prevention, from basics like measuring water levels to more complex issues like preserving fragile eco-systems from breaking down post flooding. Everything SEEDS does is designed to strengthen local capacity of the highly vulnerable and help them with innovative solutions that build resilience.

Testament to their efforts is the fact that homes made by SEEDS are standing tall in areas hit by recurring disasters.

HCL Grant Project Title: Building Flood-Resilient Communities

Beneficiaries: Marginalized communities of Mahinshi Block

Location: Kosi flood basin, Saharsa district, Bihar



The Corbett Foundation



Founded by Dilip D. Khatau in 1994

The Corbett Foundation adopts a holistic approach to conservation with a strong component of local community engagement. Its programmes and projects have an overarching goal of mitigating human-wildlife conflict in critically important wildlife habitats. It has successfully implemented community-based conservation programmes in and around the tiger reserves of Corbett, in Uttarakhand; Kanha and Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh; Kaziranga in Assam, and in Kutch, Gujarat. The Foundation believes in collaborating with diverse stakeholders, be it the Forest Department, the local community, researchers, wildlife biologists and corporates. This multiple award-winning organization is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and of the Global Tiger Forum.

Encouraging alternative, sustainable ways to earn for forest communities

KAZIRANGA, ASSAM. The villagers wait expectantly. Every year the wild elephants and boars come in further into their fields and destroy more of their crops. Every year a few people and elephants get injured or die. But this year it will be different. This year, they have contributed bamboo and manpower to build a 9 kilometer long solar-powered fence. And they have set up *tongis*, or look-out points with rechargeable torches. Thanks to the Human Elephant Programme (HELP) initiated by the Corbett Foundation, this year not one elephant or human being will be hurt. And the crops will be safe. After the harvest, the fences will be removed so the elephants can traverse their ancient corridors in peace.

It seems simple enough, but interventions such as this have been arrived at after much deliberation and trust building with local communities. The Corbett Foundation believes that the only way to protect wildlife is to co-opt the communities that share some of their habitat. The larger impact of this is on the forests and ecosystems as a whole.

When Dilip Khatau returned to India after many years abroad, he saw that his beloved forests were denuded, the animals facing extinction. His response was to start the Corbett Foundation, a charitable trust that was sensitive to both humans and wildlife and which would strive to broker a harmonious co-existence between the two. Its first action was to start an on-the-spot compensation scheme for villagers in the buffer zone who had lost livestock to tigers and



Compassionate measures to manage human/wildlife conflict



Engaging the community to protect wildlife and habitats

leopards in the Corbett area in Uttarakhand. This almost completely stopped the retaliatory poisonings the villagers had been resorting to.

While recognizing the right of the villagers to carry on with forest resource-based livelihood generation activities or traditional hunting patterns, the NGO also saw that, perhaps, their use of those resources could not be as free as it was 100 years ago. In addition, many villagers were aiding illegal poachers in the jungle. To gain the trust of the people, and make the community partners and owners in the conservation activities, the Foundation started a primary health programme in the village. It also began to introduce alternative livelihood options and vocational training to generate sustainable development of the area.

This sustainable philosophy enriches all the programmes and projects of the Corbett Foundation, from protection of the Great Indian Bustard in Kutch, to the wildlife preserves of Kanha and Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh, and to the Brahmaputra flood

plains of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam. Besides Rural Medical Outreach and Veterinary Care, says Dr Naveen Pandey, Deputy Director and Veterinary Advisor, 'The Corbett Foundation has also launched solar-powered fencing, solar lighting, biogas, energy-efficient stoves, sustainable livelihoods and skills development, watershed development and environmental awareness and advocacy to address the issues of conservation around its areas of operations.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Safeguarding Biodiversity in Tamenglong district of Manipur from Hunting and Illegal Wildlife Trade through Biodiversity Conservation Education, Alternative Livelihood Initiatives and Habitat Restoration

Beneficiaries: The community members, with special emphasis on people involved in hunting and timber trade and the Manipur Forest Department

Location: Tamenglong district, Manipur



The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)



Founded by J.R.D. Tata, Sumant Moolgaokar, N.A. Palkhivala, Darbari Seth, A.B. Bilimoria, Sharrokh Sabhavalala, Kamalakar Hinge, and Jamshed Dadachanji in 1974

TERI strives to formulate innovative and cost-effective solutions for a sustainable future. It is a knowledge institution with global reach but deeply rooted in grassroots realities. The diversity of its engagements is only matched by its cutting-edge ideas. TERI's clean lighting and cooking solutions have impacted the lives of nearly 4.5 million people in rural India and parts of Africa. Nearly 600 small and medium enterprises in India have adopted its energy-efficient technologies and practices. TERI has helped over 200 buildings go green in India. Its sustainability programmes have reached 25,000 schools. TERI's global programme for clean energy, Lighting a Billion Lives, has illuminated 898,000 households, distributed 60,000+ improved stoves and 170,000 solar lanterns, and lit up 3,100 villages across 24 states and 13 countries.

Biodiversity-based livelihoods bring people back into the fold of nature

IN NAGA LORE, hunting of animals and birds was a sacred activity, and had to be carried out with care. Today in the beautiful forests of Nagaland, hunting happens not just for subsistence, but also for sale and even the commercial trade of animal parts. Eschewing traditional fishing practices, fish are caught with batteries and electricity. Swathes of forest area have been cleared for *jhum* cultivation. There is a dire need for spreading awareness and reinstating sustainable practices among the local population. Spearheading such an initiative through biodiversity-based livelihood opportunities for the local people, to compensate for sacrificing hunting, etc., is the Energy and Resource Institute. Now, the young people of the tribes are learning how to be nature guides, to document their biodiversity and monitor the ecology. Hunting and destructive fishing practices have mostly stopped. The ancestors of the people must be very pleased to see how their beloved forests are flourishing again.

TERI is a research and knowledge organization that advances the causes of sustainable development, energy access, protecting the environment and non-exploitative use of natural resources in India and the developing world. It was one of the first organizations to bring climate change centre stage. Its initiatives have evolved in the areas of policy and technology. Diverse and innovative, they range from designing energy-efficient and green buildings, to biotechnology, to helping communities conserve and protect their forests.



Sustainability and preservation of the forests is a common cause



A gentle co-existence with nature

For long-term impact, TERI makes robust efforts to link its research with practice and policy. These innovative solutions, primarily relating to clean energy, water management, pollution management, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience are implemented at the grassroots level – with pointers to gender equity and social inclusion – where they have the most impact. ‘If we are able to provide a section of rural populace access to clean lighting and cooking, or help micro and small enterprises adopt energy-efficient and environmentally benign technologies, or reclaim thousands of hectares of contaminated cropland and toxic wastelands, help conserve precious bio-diversity, or help different sectors become more resource-efficient, or help formulate policies that promote sustainability; those may be termed as successes,’ explains Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General.

The main pillars of TERI’s overall multi-disciplinary approach focusing on products, services, and policy analysis are research; knowledge assimilation and outreach; collaborations and partnerships with

Government, industry and academic agencies; and training and capacity building at different levels to widen the reach of its programmes. The ownership of the community being of paramount importance for any such endeavour, community engagement starts at the design stage of the intervention, right from the need assessment and identification of ultimate solutions. The Nagaland project is one such example. Another is that in their clean energy projects, women and youth are recruited as ‘Energy Entrepreneurs’ to further the sustainability and conservation agenda, planting the project firmly in the hands of the people themselves.

HCL Grant Project Title: Strengthening Community Conservation in a Biodiversity Hotspot
Beneficiaries: Local people, forests and wildlife
Location: Nagaland, Eastern Himalayas

HEALTH



Finalists 2019

Aravind Eye Care Systems (AECS) **102**
High quality affordable eye health for all

Ekjut **110**
Building healthier communities among the underserved

She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE) **118**
Mobility and opportunities for people living with disabilities in J&K

Shortlisted 2019

Development of Humane Action (DHAN Foundation) **126**
Ensuring entitlement for the poor

HelpAge India **130**
Working for the dignity, rights and empowerment of the elderly

Hemophilia Federation (India) **134**
Treatment, care and support for Hemophilia patients

Institute of Public Health + National Health
Systems Resource Centre **138**
Comprehensive, affordable, decentralized healthcare

Pallium India Trust **142**
Mainstreaming pain management and palliative care

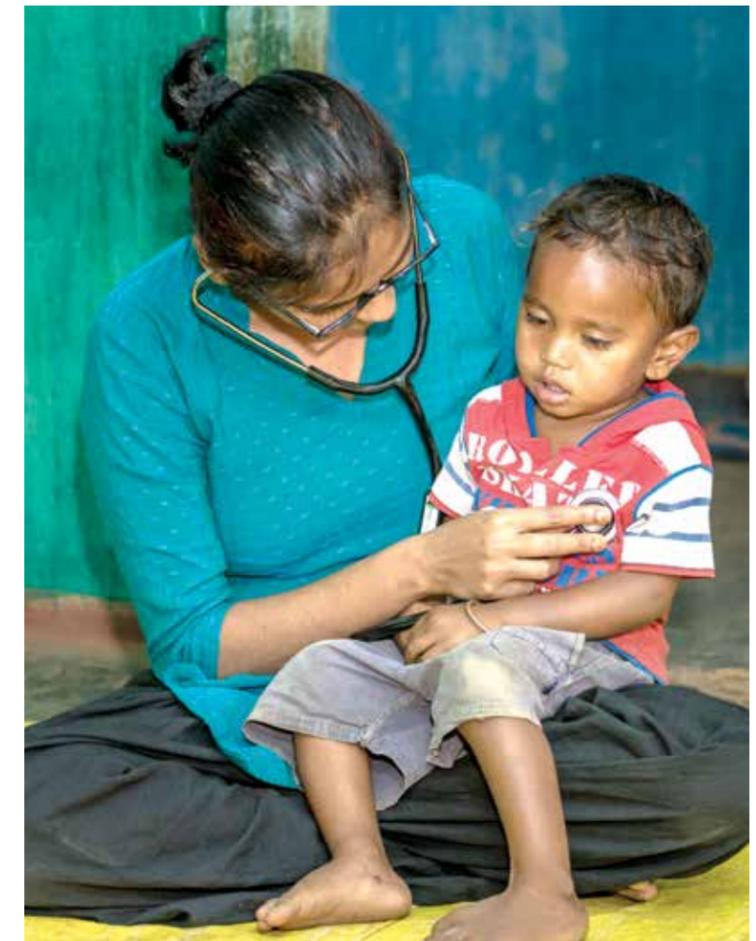
Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) **146**
Accessible and cutting-edge cancer care

Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) **150**
Promoting community health paradigms

This category recognizes projects that enable transformative work in the areas of equitable & universal access to health for all; equal access to clean drinking water; sanitation and hygiene facilities for all; prevention and elimination of water borne diseases; maternal, adolescent, child health and nutrition; and eradication of communicable diseases. To qualify for the HCL Grant, the project should complement state efforts towards achievement of the goals of the National Health Mission and support innovative, scalable models that will help the nation meet its targets in rural India.



Maternal and newborn health in tribal Jharkhand; neonatal eye examinations in the interiors of Tamil Nadu; vocational support for leprosy afflicted women in Maharashtra villages; palliative care programmes in Lakshadweep – and so much more. Spread across geographies, the shortlisted NGOs in our HEALTH category are making sweeping inroads into some of the most integral health issues facing rural India today.







Aravind Eye Care Systems (AECS)



Founded by Dr G. Venkataswamy in 1976

Govil Trust was set up to run Aravind Eye Care System, which strives to eliminate needless blindness. It delivers compassionate and quality eye care, affordable to all. With less than 1 per cent of the country's ophthalmic manpower, AECS accounts for 5 per cent of the ophthalmic surgeries performed nationwide. It has 91 facilities including Tertiary, Secondary, and Primary Eye Care Centres. Over 4.1 million outpatient visits were handled and 478,028 surgeries and laser procedures were performed at the Aravind Eye Hospitals in 2017–18. A majority of these were performed either free or at a steeply subsidized rate. The Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) telescreening programme covers a population of 50 million. On an average the team screens 20 preterm babies per day, making it one of the largest ROP telescreening programmes in the world.

*Compassionate care, affordable care, quality care for all
Following pages (104–105) Cutting-edge technologies and innovation
in eye care accessible to rural populations*

'IF MCDONALD'S CAN SELL billions of burgers and Coca Cola can sell billions of sodas, why can't I sell millions of sight-restoring operations?' asked a just-retired Government ophthalmologist. His name was Dr G. Venkataswamy, and his legacy has prevented avoidable blindness in thousands of patients in rural Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and beyond. The distinguishing feature of the care provided is that the profits generated from treating those who can afford care are used to treat those who cannot, and the surplus ploughed back into the hospital. The quality of care is the same for both; it is state-of-the-art, of international standards, and served with compassion.

AECS has pioneered an alternate care, self-supporting model that is of great value in a populous country like India where the Government needs all the help it can get in the area of healthcare. Starting in Madurai with just 11 beds (6 for free patients and 5 for paying patients), the facility has now spread to 13 branches. The healthcare is not limited to these urban hubs – Primary Eye Care facilities make a significant dent in preventable causes of blindness among the poor. 'AECS has started 73 vision centres across many villages in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry where there are no ophthalmologists. This is a community-based centre managed by optometrists with ophthalmologists in consultation via telemedicine technology. These facilities were started mainly to reach the furthest, unreached rural people and have been quite successful,' explains Dr V. Narendran,







Comprehensive screening for preventable causes of blindness right from birth



Compassionate outreach into the heart of rural India
Following pages (108–109) The revolutionary idea of cross-subsidization gifts sight to the poor

Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore.

The innovative, affordable care model of cross subsidization has been the subject of studies at Harvard Business School. The hospitals have well-equipped specialty clinics with comprehensive support facilities.

Cataract surgeries happen every 15 minutes through a unique assembly line process. Treating Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a preventable cause of childhood blindness, is a key initiative for AECS. India has the largest number of premature babies in the world; it also has the highest risk of ROP blindness because of sub-optimal neonatal care and lack of screening facilities.

An eye bank, rehabilitation of the blind, and teaching children with low vision to use their residual vision are important areas of service. The organization conducts research and also manufactures lenses. Nurses, doctors, and healthcare staff are trained

in ophthalmology as well as community eye care. Outreach programmes into Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Tripura and potential centres in Bangladesh and various African nations are in the pipeline.

Dr Narendran explains the ethos of the organization. He says, “There is commitment of our entire staff in preserving the values and culture of our organization. We aim to provide high quality and compassionate eye care to all, irrespective of their ability to pay or not.”



HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Use of Tele-ophthalmology in Screening of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) across Aravind Eye Care System

BENEFICIARIES: Preterm babies, neonatologists/ pediatricians, NICU nurses

LOCATION: 20,342 villages in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and in parts of Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

ROP is a preventable cause of childhood blindness. For this the babies need to be screened within one month of birth by a trained ophthalmologist. The defect can be corrected if screening is done on time. In India, ROP screening and treatment services are estimated to be 30 per cent lower than the present need. To fill up this lacuna in August 2015 Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore launched the ROP Telescreening programme.

- Trained technicians go to the rural neonatal intensive care units (NICUs);
- They take the fundus pictures with the help of a special retinal camera;
- Then they transmit these images through 4G network to the base hospital;
- There the ROP expert reviews and gives a report, which reaches the rural NICU immediately;
- The family is advised regarding the treatment.

Over the last three years, 15,000 babies have been screened for ROP and 269 babies have been successfully treated and saved from going blind. The NGO wants to replicate this in all its tertiary care centers in Madurai, Puducherry, Tirunelveli, Chennai, Salem, and Theni. It will also launch this programme on a massive scale across all its hospitals.



Ekjut



Founded by Dr Prasanta Tripathy and Dr Nirmala Nair in 2002

Ekjut is committed to improving maternal, newborn, and child health amongst underserved, marginalized communities, enhancing nutrition, addressing gender-based violence and more through strong community-based interventions. Ekjut advocates good governance, improving access to resources and quality of services underpinned by equity and environmentally sustainable development through the themes of Survive, Blossom, Thrive, and Transform. In the Ekjut trial (2005–08), reduction in neonatal mortality rates (NMR) was 31 per cent in three years – the reduction among those most marginalized was 71 per cent. Ekjut’s remarkable participatory Learning and Action intervention is now touching the lives of mothers and babies in 100,000 villages of India. At the peak of the programme, 2 million women from some of the most marginalized communities went through these empowering sessions for saving lives and building healthier communities.

Infusing the themes of Survive, Blossom, Thrive and Transform into the community
Following pages (112–113) *Leap-frogging into a healthy future*

IN A TINY VILLAGE in the tribal heartland of Jharkhand, little babies and infants gurgle happily in their crèche. Nearby, in the anganwadi, or rural childcare centre, situated in the same premises, their older siblings play, eat, and learn. In the evening, their parents arrive to fetch their children, well-fed and clean, from their safe, secure, stimulating space. When they grow older, the littlest ones will enter the anganwadi and eventually the village school in a seamless way.

Such innovative initiatives are the hallmark of Ekjut, an organization that works at the very grassroots level, partnering with the community to make significant changes in the health of people from vulnerable, isolated populations in India.

The founders of Ekjut, both doctors, left their corporate jobs and began a health clinic in a small town in Jharkhand. When people came to them for treatment, the doctors were appalled at the dire situation of health mainly among the tribal women and children of the area. Through collaborative research with University College of London, they arrived at a holistic methodology designed around inclusiveness and equity. Ekjut’s programmes rest on three pillars: empowering communities through community capacity-building with the help of ASHA workers who facilitate the community to identify the problems, develop and implement strategies to address them; monitoring the status of neonatal, infant, maternal mortality, under-nutrition among mothers and children, adolescents, women, etc., using





Learning to nurture our babies and our rights through peer support



The confidence to dispel ignorance together
Following pages (116–117) *See how much I've grown, Uncle!*

state-of-the-art and globally accepted techniques; and advocacy through publishing their findings in reputed journals and national and international fora in order to impact policy and practices. Ekjut enhances its work in the field through engagement with the Government, supporting scaling up of effective interventions.

The community is heavily invested in the design and implementation of the programmes, leading to sustained impact on the health of its members. They own the programme, contribute to it with time and money, and disseminate their learning to the larger group. The monthly Participatory Learning in Action (PLA) women's group meetings have been a huge success in creating confidence and awareness, and have strengthened the whole healthcare system considerably. The goals of survive, thrive, and transform that Ekjut has set are achieved through interventions that target mortality rates, nutrition, and youth-focused programmes respectively.

According to Raj Kumar Gope, a member of the Senior Management Team, Ekjut, 'Believing in capacities of people and keeping them at centre stage for building healthier communities is the key strategy of our work. We believe that communities are not empty vessels waiting to be filled up with top down messages; instead, they deserve to be treated as key stakeholders with respect in the spirit of co-learning. Building problem-solving skills amongst our partnering communities is at the heart of our strategy, and, for doing so, we include participatory processes, adult learning techniques, story-telling, games, etc., to demystify problems and seek their participation.'



HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Combating Malnutrition through Community Action
BENEFICIARIES: Women who participate in PLA meetings, or are counselled during home visits, children attending crèches alongside pregnant women, and lactating mothers
LOCATION: Singhbhum, Jharkhand

NITI Aayog documents (2018) acknowledge that undernutrition undermines child survival, health, learning capacities, and adult productivity. This project seeks to address undernutrition and wasting among children under three years through community-centric interventions: a) Participatory Learning and Action (PLA), b) home visits counselling, and c) operationalizing crèches in rural settings.

Through this project we propose:

- To show that the above 3-track approach can improve young children's feeding practices, dietary diversity and frequency, hygienic practices, prevention and care during illness, nurturing care, and reduce newborn, infant, and child mortality;
- Develop a theory of change, job-aids, and manuals for the three interventions;
- Build capacity of local facilitators to implement the interventions;
- Create a robust evaluation to measure the impact;
- Showcase the approach to policy makers and stakeholders through dissemination of findings and exposure visits;
- Support civil society organizations, development partners, and the Government for scaling up.

The services provided in the crèches will include feeding, protection, sanitation and hygiene, early childhood stimulation, etc. The PLA meetings will cover underlying and immediate causes of malnutrition, whereas home visits counselling will be on Integrated Young Child feeding practices and home care practices such as hygiene, hand washing at critical times, and care during illness.



She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE)



Founded by Sami Wani in 2001

She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE) is an NGO in isolated and border areas of Jammu and Kashmir aiming to bring positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities by providing access to good healthcare, education and livelihood, opportunities, and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Since 2009, SHSFWE has run rehabilitation sessions in villages for more than 10,000 people, including 650 mine/conflict victims. 17,056 people with disabilities and who are at risk of developing disabilities have received rehabilitation. 4,028 assistive devices (like wheelchairs, crutches, toilet chairs) have been donated to increase mobility and community participation. It provided training in basic home-based rehabilitation care to 7,995 care givers and facilitated 144-low cost home modifications. It works in the areas of disaster risk reduction and empowering women as well.

Walking tall with a new burst of confidence
Following pages (120–121) *We learn to be more than our disability*

FAYAZ WAS ONLY 5 YEARS OLD when he lost his sister and both his legs to an abandoned grenade in Kashmir. His father Riyaz, a weaver of shawls, managed the emergency treatment but couldn't really afford any more. Then SHSFWE entered his life. Fayaz was taken there and artificial limbs were fitted on him. He was trained on how to walk with his new legs, and his father was trained to be a caregiver. Physical rehabilitation began and soon SHSFWE started planning a bathroom modification for Fayaz. To his father's delight, the little boy was moving around and playing with his friends, and Riyaz is making plans to send him to school.

In a place like Jammu and Kashmir, where violence and conflict are a part of daily life, there is a desperate need for committed NGOs like She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs. The NGO has been able to encompass a host of activities and projects for the succour of persons with disability in the area. Its work includes community-based rehabilitation, institution-based rehabilitation, occupational therapy, hearing and speech therapy, donations of aids and appliances, providing prosthetic and orthotic devices, corrective surgeries and post-operative care, caregiver training and activities of daily life (ADL) training, networking for social support, disability certificates, and training of health workers.





Rehabilitation services at peoples' doorsteps



*Nothing is impossible when I have support from you
Following pages (124–125) One day, I will run*

Sami Wani started the organization inspired by his mother. The young physiotherapist with two employees worked out of a single room. It had an intervention programme in just one village. Now they are spread out all through the length of the state. He says, 'SHSFWE aims at ensuring the most vulnerable people have access to rehabilitation services. Families living in the mountains need to walk for miles to get to a rehab centre. And transport is expensive and not always safe. People with disability often feel shy or hesitant to go out of their home to avail health services because of the social stigma. For all these reasons, many people don't receive the treatment they need. We operate at the institution as well as community level and provide services to people with disabilities at their door step.' These services could include rehabilitation, building ramps, training family members on how to care for the patient, etc.

Believing that the inclusion of persons with disabilities and improving their community

participation can help in their mainstreaming, Wani and his enthusiastic team conduct awareness programmes and inclusive activities. They support disabled people's organizations and take up advocacy work so that the rights and entitlements of people with disabilities under the new laws are upheld. The organization has linkages and collaborations with Government actors at both state and local levels as well as national and international NGOs.

Through difficult conditions spanning violence, biting cold weather, and political conflict – finding allies in the police, the army, the Government, and hospitals – this NGO carries out its programmes with optimistic fervour.



HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Humanitarian Assistance to Strengthen Inclusion and Safety of Vulnerable Persons Especially Women and Children in Conflict Affected Areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
BENEFICIARIES: Persons with disabilities
LOCATION: Kupwara, Baramulla, Rajouri, and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir

The project aims at strengthening inclusion and safety and improving the quality of life of a vulnerable population including people with disabilities. Through provision of community-based and institutional rehabilitation services, capacity-building, and networking with Government and non-Government stakeholders, it hopes to reduce their vulnerability which arises due to chronic conflict in the targeted areas. It also seeks to improve knowledge on rights and entitlements leading to increased participation and inclusion.

Very few facilities are available for physical rehabilitation in Jammu and Kashmir, and their reach is even less. Locomotor disabilities caused naturally or by birth, due to accident or conflict are more prominent than other types of disabilities in these areas. So there is a need to prevent or reduce the impact of disabilities. Due to lack of facilities, persons with disabilities often feel shy to come out of their houses, thus minimizing their social participation as well.

The strategy is to deliver a quality physical rehabilitation service: rehabilitation therapy, provision of aids and appliances, caregivers' training, prosthesis and orthosis, and referral for other service provisions. The project will benefit 13,360 direct beneficiaries (including new and old physical rehabilitation beneficiaries, teachers, ASHA/anganwadi workers) and 66,800 indirect beneficiaries.



Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation



Founded by M.P. Vasimalai in 1997

DHAN Foundation strives to reduce poverty in India. It works across the themes of water, agriculture, climate change, gender, local governance, health, education, migration, and information communication technology for the poor. It believes in bringing highly motivated and educated young people into the development sector. Its goal is to help form community-owned democratic institutions for addressing larger development needs of communities in collaboration with mainstream stakeholders. 400 such institutions work in 14 states involving 1.76 million households. 200,000 adolescents have been targeted for anaemia reduction; 250,000 toilets have been constructed through microfinance support; about 1 million people have entered social security programmes; and 480,000 people have declared themselves out of poverty due to DHAN Foundation's efforts.

Learning as an enlightening path out of poverty

THE ELDERLY WOMAN sits on a chair in her threadbare saree. Her gaze is intense. It is fixed on a computer screen, and her work-roughened, age-gnarled hand sits on a mouse. She is accessing information on her bank account and her deceased husband's pension, which she will then print out and take home with her. She has travelled from her village to come to this Community Resource Centre, where she is now a familiar face. It's an incongruous but empowering image. Set up by an exemplary, enabling organization called DHAN Foundation, the ICT for the Poor programme is transforming perspectives and lives of rural people, especially women, in the areas where it functions.

DHAN Foundation works at the very grassroots of society. It seeks to support innovative development schemes in community banking, microfinance, water and agriculture, rain-fed farming, coastal conservation, and livelihood enhancement. Projects are focused on eradicating poverty and, more crucially, building up sustainable people's institutions. Another focus is bringing energetic and dynamic young professionals into the development sector to enrich it by developing fresh, novel interventions to combat poverty and create a fair and equitable society.

'When supply systems (e.g., the banking system, health providers) are organized and the demand system is not working, there is an imperfect market operation. That is why it is important to organize the poor, marginalized people to create an



Innovating development schemes and ensuring entitlement at the very grassroots



Enabling communities to control their own destinies

effective demand system. The first thing is ensuring entitlement,' explains M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director, DHAN Foundation.

Enabling the creation of institutions owned, controlled, and managed by the people themselves around specific themes, DHAN gradually steps out and the institution becomes a strong, civic body, sustainable in character, and able to address issues on its own. Some examples: Self Help Groups of farmers or women act as platforms for creating access to finance, technology, health, education, and other services. Poor and marginal farmers were organized to rehabilitate rural tanks for agriculture development, where they partnered with mainstream institutions and donors to raise the money required. The fishing community was organized to enhance the productivity of their livelihoods using microfinance as the key.

DHAN works with a collaborative model – DHAN professionals together with community leaders investigate and absorb ground realities, and evolve creative and holistic solutions. Further,

explains Vasimalai, 'The development approach of DHAN is connecting communities with mainstream institutions by creating enabling environments through demystifying technologies and systems. The methodology of DHAN is to initiate pilots/ experimentations on a particular development theme, to develop a model, and take the model to various contexts for its adaptation. On successful performance of the pilots, DHAN scales the model to a larger programme.'

HCL Grant Project Title: Sustainable Sanitation Connect Adolescents Anaemia and Morbidity for Leadership Empowerment (SCALE)

Beneficiaries: 200,000 rural people and 100,000 adolescent girls

Location: Dindigul and Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu; Beed and Nanded, Maharashtra



HelpAge India



Founded by Samson Daniel in 1978

HelpAge India envisions a society where the elderly have the right to lead an active, healthy, and dignified life. By 2020 it wishes to reach 14 million elderly people, empowering and enabling them to get their basic rights, quality healthcare, and services with ease. Its strategy is to aid the elderly to become independent, functional members of society. It has an extensive operation spread across 27 states with 127 project offices in India. HelpAge India runs Asia's largest fleet of Mobile Health Units for the elderly with 161 units across the country. It runs 32 physiotherapy centers, several 24x7 helplines, 5,543 elderly self-help groups, facilitates 40,000 cataract surgeries per year, operates five old-age homes, and provides cancer and palliative care.

Offering a sense of purpose and belonging to the elderly

INDRABALI WORKED on a construction site all his life. When he stopped working, he and his wife had no means of support. Their son could not afford to take care of them and their medical needs. Prabhavati was a social worker, but when she retired, there was no one she could turn to, as she had no family. Surekha lost her home in litigation and her daughter-in-law threw her out. She had nowhere to go. Surprisingly, none of these people, all in their 70s, are unhappy. This is because they have found HelpAge India, through whom they get medicines and physiotherapy, a roof over their heads, and friends to call their own.

The mobile health vans and old-age homes are only a part of the activities of this decades-old organization, which seeks to provide a dignified, healthy, and happy life to the elderly. India has the second largest population of the elderly in the world, but its formal mechanisms for their care, especially those who are needy or destitute, are negligible. If the family system forsakes them, they are literally thrown out into the cold. Their former productivity amounts to nothing as most of the unorganized sector has no pension system, and they are left to their own devices when it comes to health, social security, welfare, and basic means of sustenance.

HelpAge has a unique perspective. Says Mathew Cherian, CEO, "The turning point was our decision of moving from welfare to development of the elderly. We strongly believe that empowering and building the capacity of the elderly is the only way to



Dignity and free healthcare for the elderly



I'm independent and someone is looking out for me: that's all I need

improve the conditions of the elderly in the country.’ Programmes are geared to capacitate the elderly to earn their livelihood through the formation of Elder Self-Help Groups making them self-reliant. Besides this, HelpAge conducts cataract surgeries to restore sight, looks after basic needs of older people through its Support-a-Gran programme, runs elder helplines across the country, and provides relief and rehabilitation for elders in the aftermath of disasters. It helps with pensions and maintenance, and is involved in advocacy for laws and policy regarding senior citizens and welfare of parents. Its work covers the most vulnerable populations of the elderly and focuses on women, who make up 50 per cent of them.

‘We involve the community at all stages of the programme cycle and ensure sustainability is built in from the beginning. All of our Elder Self-Help Groups are formed and run through community participation. At the end of three years we help them grow into village and district-level federations and link them to Regional Rural Banks through which they are able to

run their operations smoothly and provide livelihood for their members. They create sustainable and inclusive finance,’ explains Cherian.

It is organizations like HelpAge that will take humanity forward into a more compassionate age.

HCL Grant Project Title: ‘Vayoswasthya’ – A Village Transformational Initiative towards Integrated Healthcare for Elderly
Beneficiaries: The elderly, the community, Panchayati Raj Institutions, the youth, the public health team at district and community level, self-help groups
Location: Solan district, Himachal Pradesh; Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu



Hemophilia Federation (India) HFI



Founded by Ashok B. Verma in 1983

The Hemophilia Federation (India) HFI, was established by a group of Hemophilia patients with a vision that saw ‘Hemophilia without disability, Children free of pain.’ When it began its work in India, the disease was little understood, with respect to both diagnosis and treatment. HFI aimed to fill these gaps, starting from providing treatment to quality care, psycho-social support, stability, and respectability, through economic rehabilitation. HFI also works on research and prevention of hemophilia through Continuous Medical Education (CME) programmes with the medical fraternity and also lobbies the Government and other organizations to include it under the National Health Programme and other welfare schemes. The organization is based in Delhi and has 92 chapters in India. So far it has identified and registered approximately 19,270 patients. HFI is a member organization of the World Federation of Hemophilia based in Canada. It works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Aids Control Organization (NACO), with a Special Cell for HIV+ PwH that provides subsidized/free treatment.

Succour for those who had given up hope

IN 1979, A VERY ILL YOUNG MAN received help from an unexpected source. Suffering from hemophilia, he had a severe bleed in his leg. Through a chance encounter, a brilliant Italian doctor agreed to treat him for free. He only had to get to Italy, which he managed with help from family and friends. Before he came back, the doctor, Professor Mannucci, impressed upon the young man that he should aid others back in India who had this unfortunate disease, others who were not as lucky as him.

The young man, Ashok Verma, armed with this noble vision, started galvanizing support and discussions about the little known condition all over India. A few years later, the Hemophilia Federation (India), or HFI, was officially established. Its mandate at the time was simple: to reach out to hemophiliacs, and help them with information, awareness, and treatment.

Hemophilia is a genetic disorder that happens to 1 in 10,000 men (women are only carriers) because of the inability of their bodies to produce the anti-hemophilic factor, or AHF. Although not usually fatal, it causes excessive internal or external bleeding and often leads to amputations, HIV, painful crippling, and, of course, much difficulty in navigating normal life. It has no known cure, and can only be managed by infusing concentrated AHF into the patient. Expensive



Creating an environment of support for patients and families



Finally, someone who understands my condition and can help me

and not easy to access at the time, the treatment left most patients out in the cold and doctors had little knowledge either.

Veteran Wg Cdr S.S. Roychoudhury, CEO of HFI, relates, 'In the early 1990s, HFI started an organized movement especially in the field of care and management of hemophilia in India. The Calcutta chapter set up a blood bank with a component manufacturing unit of its own.' HFI began importing the product from Italy, and the AHF became available in India in small vials of 100, 200, and 500 units @ ₹ 2/- per unit, the cheapest in the world.

In 1998, the HFI evolved in engagement with persons with hemophilia (PwH) in India. A project with the organization DANIDA gave a new perspective. HFI began to develop its infrastructure, learned how to lobby and raise funds, and began to work in the areas of training doctors, lab technicians, and physiotherapists in diagnosis and management of the disease. Explains the CEO, 'The project launched several activities such as providing psycho-social support to the PwHs and their

family members, developing self-reliance and leadership skills through camps, empowering carrier women through formation of youth and women groups at chapter level, increasing public awareness on prevention of hemophilia through carrier detection and pre-natal diagnosis, economic rehabilitation to the needy PwH and their family members, etc.' A National Hemophilia Registry (NHR) was also collated.

Today, many young men and their families are grateful to the HFI and its local chapters for giving them a new lease of life and optimism for a better tomorrow.

HCL Grant Project Title: 'A Gift of Life' – Providing Anti-Hemophilic Factor (AHF) to Persons and Children with Hemophilia
Beneficiaries: Adults and children with hemophilia
Location: 330 villages in 26 states of India



Institute of Public Health + National Health Systems Resource Centre



Founded by Dr N. Devadasan in August 2005

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) seeks to create an equitable, integrated, decentralized, responsive, and participatory health system to ensure healthy communities through a team of committed and value-based professionals. Its research was used by the Government to design a health insurance scheme for the poor, where in the past eight years, 12 million patients have benefited. The National Health Systems Resource Centre's (NHSRC) mandate is to assist in policy and strategy development and technical assistance to the states, and capacity-building for the Ministry of Health. IPH and NHSRC co-created the Comprehensive Primary Healthcare System (CPHC), and they will now help the Government implement it efficiently. IPH, with its strong research and implementation base and NHSRC, with its solid linkages with the Government, will together catalyze the effective rolling out of CPHC.

A handy window to good and affordable health

BECAUSE OF ONE ORGANIZATION, children are not exposed to tobacco products in their schools and colleges, people are protected from oral cancer because chewing tobacco has been banned in Karnataka, and all restaurants have disallowed smoking in their premises (protecting non-smokers from passive smoking). Indirectly more than 6 crore people in Karnataka have benefited from the work done by the Institute of Public Health (IPH) on tobacco control along with the Government of Karnataka.

IPH works closely with the Government to try and make inroads into achieving comprehensive, affordable healthcare. Although the Government's health systems are afflicted with poor governance, inadequate financing, insufficient human resources and materials, and most importantly, a lack of accountability and motivation, the Government is still the largest provider of health services to the poorest and most needy. Even a small improvement in the dissemination of its services will be advantageous to that vulnerable person who desperately needs care but cannot afford it.

IPH adopted three strategies to strengthen the Government health system: conducting Applied Research to generate evidence from the field, using this evidence to Engage with policy makers and practitioners, and finally Training the Government health officials on better implementation and management of the healthcare delivery services. The mandate includes using research and best practices to better the public health paradigm of India, especially for poor and marginalized sections of the society. As of



Strengthening Government healthcare paradigms



Enhancing the delivery of health and well-being in novel ways

today, IPH has trained more than 1,000 Government officers ranging from programme managers to joint directors of health, from Government school teachers to assistant commissioners of police.

Over the past 13 years, IPH has directly influenced health policies and practices in India. For example, its studies on health financing influenced the design of the Government's National Health Insurance Scheme that has benefitted more than 33 million patients over a period of 10 years. Its work on tobacco control with the education and police department has resulted in a reduction in tobacco use in Karnataka by 18 per cent between 2010 and 2017. Its work on involving the private sector for TB control has been accepted by the Ministry of Health as an important strategy to increase early detection of TB patients and its work on primary care for diabetes and hypertensive patients, has resulted in some changes in the national policy for non-communicable diseases. Today, most of IPH's faculty are on various Government committees and try to ensure that policy making is evidence-based and pro-poor.

'I have a dream where people are investing in their health rather than in their illness. So people are aware and make informed choices about tobacco and alcohol, about junk food, about exercise, and about mental health. And the Government facilitates all these through appropriate legislations and regulations,' explains Dr Devadasan.

HCL Grant Project Title: Strengthening Comprehensive Primary Health Care in India
Beneficiaries: 1.25 million people including pregnant mothers, children below five years, adolescents, patients with diabetes /hypertension, elderly adults, TB patients, and malnourished children
Location: Tumakuru, Karnataka; Rayagada, Odisha; Chaibasa, Jharkhand; Dhule, Maharashtra; The Dangs, Gujarat



Pallium India Trust



Founded by M.R. Rajagopal, K.S. Lal, C.V. Prasanth and Binod Hariharan in 2003

Pallium India Trust's byline, 'care beyond cure', signifies its deeply committed attitude towards ensuring the dignity of persons with life-limiting health conditions. Its vision is an India in which palliative care is integrated in all healthcare so that every citizen has access to pain relief and quality palliative care along with disease-specific treatment. It pioneered the idea in India by co-opting members of the medical profession and community volunteers to its mission of mainstreaming palliative care. Quality palliative care, setting up palliative care centres, palliative care education, governmental and media advocacy, research and information are its core functions. An average of 25 patients receive home visits everyday. 2,000 professionals and volunteers from all over India have been trained, and more than 20 palliative care centres across the country catalyzed by this incredible NGO.

Care beyond medicine, care beyond cure

IT'S NOT AN UNUSUAL STORY. She lived alone in a thatched hut, which contained a bed, a stove, and a chamber pot. She could not climb on the bed and lay on a straw mat on the floor. Her lower limbs were too weak so she dragged herself around the room on her arms. She was an old, old woman, whose family had abandoned her to her fate. She had only one set of visitors: the team from the NGO Pallium India Trust, who offered her pain relief, physiotherapy, and empathetic human interaction. She now moves around her home with a walking frame, and has even reconciled somewhat with her family because of the volunteers trained by the NGO.

Palliative care means care beyond medicine, especially for those whose condition has no cure. However, most treatment in India is only disease-focused, ignoring a very human, low-cost form of care through which the quality of life of a patient can be improved exponentially. Medical students are not trained at all in palliative care, and no systems exist in hospitals, ICUs, or burn wards for it.

Dr M.R. Rajagopal, Chairman and Founder of Pallium India Trust says, 'The transformation of the healthcare system over the last half century involved significant growth of technology and our ability to conquer more diseases. Unfortunately, along with that came a downturn in the human touch in medicine. "Health service" got transformed to "healthcare industry".' As an anaesthesiologist, Dr Rajagopal sought to provide pain relief, till he learned that his patients needed more than just that. They needed



Training the community and volunteers in the ideas of palliative care – the human touch



My affliction does not bar me from productive and satisfying work

emotional, social and spiritual support, rehabilitation, help to restart earning a livelihood again, or ensuring that their children continue their education. The organization was created by him and several colleagues to provide access to palliative care to the impoverished, on the heels of the work done in Kerala by the Pain and Palliative Care Society (which has been around since 1993 in Calicut).

Since then Pallium India Trust has spearheaded the palliative care movement in Kerala and other centres all over India. Besides offering quality palliative care at its centres, it partners with the community, training volunteers to carry on the good work in remote areas or with more vulnerable populations like older people, women, children, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer persons (LGBTQ), or people with special needs. Awareness-generating programmes, need-based research, and promoting palliative care education are all part of its core agenda. It has filed a PIL in the Supreme Court for improved access to palliative care.

Its main impact, however, has been in its efforts

to integrate palliative care into the healthcare system in India. ‘We were the major force behind the amendment of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act by the Indian Parliament (2014), which facilitates medical use of essential narcotic drugs. We also catalyzed the formulation of a National Programme for Palliative Care by the Government of India in 2012, and the State Palliative Care Policy in Kerala in 2008,’ explains Dr Rajagopal.

HCL Grant Project Title: Advancing the Idea of Palliative Care for Ensuring the Dignity of Persons with Life-Limiting or Life-Threatening Conditions in India
Beneficiaries: Doctors, nurses, and social workers; rural community volunteers and general public seeking information; persons in life-threatening or life-limiting conditions
Location: 30 villages in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh; Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu; Koppal, Karnataka; Aizawl, Mizoram; Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep



Tata Memorial Centre (TMC)



Founded by the Dorabji Tata Trust in 1941; now a fully funded Grant-in-Aid institution of the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy.

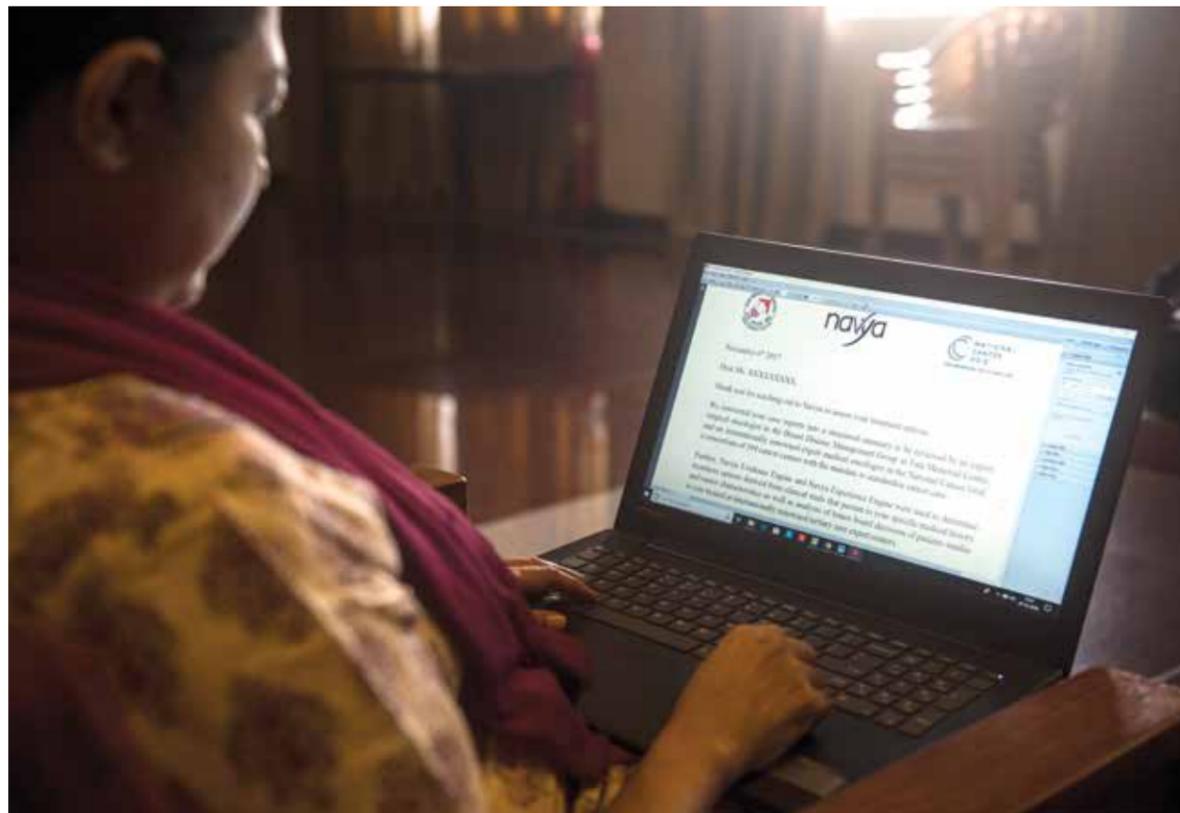
The Tata Memorial Hospital was commissioned by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Eventually, it was taken over by the Government, and merged with the Cancer Research Institute to form the Tata Memorial Centre. TMC is now the country's oldest and largest tertiary care expert cancer centre. Oncologists at TMC are world-renowned for their evidence-based treatments, and have a solid reputation for providing unbiased, objective, equitable cancer care for all. Last year, over 69,000 cancer patients registered with TMC for cutting-edge therapeutics and evidence-based treatment. 60 per cent of these were treated for free. Believing that every cancer patient has the right to an expert opinion, TMC created TMC Online to provide universal access to expert cancer care. For only by scaling affordable access to expertise can the scourge of cancer be contained.

Treating and curing the scourge of cancer for the needy

A RETIRED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE from a small town in Odisha was diagnosed with oral cancer. His family took him to different doctors and received conflicting opinions: one doctor recommended surgery, and the other, chemotherapy. Eventually, they asked a nephew in Mumbai to help. He had heard about a unique service where one could get medical advice from the country's best oncologists practicing in the country's premier cancer hospital, for a small fee. The nephew uploaded the reports to the website. Within 24 hours, a patient advocate called him. In a couple of days, he had an opinion, which he communicated to his local oncologist, and his treatment was underway. The hospital is the Tata Memorial Centre, or TMC, and the service is called TMC Online.

Combining the best of Government support augmented by private philanthropy, TMC is the largest tertiary cancer centre in India. Its mandate is to lead from the front in cancer care, strategy, and policy. Besides offering quality oncology expertise, it educates students, professionals, and the public about cancer, and has a robust and innovative research programme. Those who enter its doors can be assured of the best possible treatment, which is affordable and cutting-edge.

Access to cancer care in India is difficult. The lack of qualified doctors (WHO recommends one oncologist for 100,000 people; in India it is 1:800,000) and remoteness from tertiary cancer



Reaching millions of patients with expert opinions on cancer treatment



Disseminating valuable medical information through technology

centres usually located in metro towns lead to a great disparity in care. Those who manage to reach these centres have to suffer crowds and long waits as experts are few. Doctors in smaller towns are often not experienced, and may not have kept abreast of the latest medical research and practice. Misdiagnoses, wrong advice, and costly alternatives lead to sub-optimal results in cancer outcomes.

In such a situation, wouldn't it be incredible if such patients had access to TMC's services? It would improve their chances of cure, longevity, and quality of life exponentially. This was why TMC Online was created.

'TMC Online was a unique concept whereby patients would upload their medical reports, trained operators would structure them into a short, easy to read format with all the necessary data (physician-speak) from the patients, and send to experts online – multiple experts who could review and opine in one to two minutes when they had a free moment – and then a consensus report written in simple language was sent

back to the patient within one to three days,' explains Padmashree Dr Rajendra A. Badwe, Director, TMC.

Affordable and scalable, TMC Online partners with local cancer NGOs, district hospitals, and awareness drives in tier-2 and -3 cities to disseminate information about its innovative services. Poverty and geographical distance all become irrelevant when technology is used with compassion: bringing the best minds in cancer to those who need it the most.

HCL Grant Project Title: 'TMC Online' – Expert Cancer Opinion Service. Universal access to evidence-based treatment plans for cancer patients in rural India, who have no access to tertiary centre
Beneficiaries: Newly diagnosed cancer patients, or those facing a decision, needing to assess response to therapies, or deciding between further therapy versus supportive care
Location: www.navya.care



Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI)



Founded by health and development professionals under the leadership of Father James Tong in 1974

Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) is a secular, charitable organization. It is a federation of 27 state Voluntary Health Associations, linking together more than 4,000 health and development organizations, grassroots-level community health programmes, as well as more than 100,000 village health workers across India. VHAI, for more than four decades, has been pursuing a vision of making health a reality for the people of India, prioritizing the poor, by promoting community health, social justice, and human rights related to the provision and distribution of health and development services in India. Its strategies aim for sustainable and innovative initiatives for health and community development. VHAI has collaborated with WHO-SEARO for the South-East Asian region.

A people's movement for health and welfare

KHAGEN AND HIS WIFE, landless agricultural workers, live in a tiny village in North Tripura. Their five-year-old daughter Sharmila is a bouncy, bright girl, the apple of her father's eye. When Sharmila fell sick, her body burning with fever, Khagen was dismayed. There was a downpour outside and the nearest primary health centre was 14 kilometers away. Suddenly, Khagen remembered the smiling, helpful community health volunteer he had met at the community meeting last month. Maybe he could help. And indeed, Shyamal was the right person to turn to. He tested Sharmila immediately, found her to be positive for malaria, and started treatment. Today Sharmila is healthy and playing merrily with her friends. On follow up visits, Shyamal was pleased to note that the behavioural change communication had worked, and the family had started using a mosquito net at night.

It is thanks to the stellar efforts of the Voluntary Health Association of India that many such stories have happy endings. 25 leaders of missionary hospitals came together to form the Coordinating Agency For Health Planning (CAHP), working on community-based healthcare, and to establish people-centered preventive, promotive, and rehabilitative health efforts. Eventually, CAHP morphed into VHAI with a new organizational structure. A central body and member organizations carry on the work of this remarkable NGO, which seeks to strengthen a 'medically rational, culturally acceptable, and economically sustainable' healthcare system in India.



Health education at the grassroots makes tomorrow's generations vigorous



I've found a way out, there's no holding me back!

VHAI's work encompasses many facets of a comprehensive healthcare paradigm. Realizing the pivotal role of nurses, auxiliary nurses, and village health workers in community health, it engineered several training and orientation programmes for them. Another key effort was in documentation, communication, and dissemination of information to aid the health programmes. Says Dr Bhatnagar, Executive Director, VHAI, 'The great success of our published materials urged VHAI to go into books and audio-visual materials on health subjects like community health, hospital administration, child health, maternal health, communicable diseases, anaemia, and various other diseases. It is perhaps the largest centre for health education materials in Asia.'

VHAI believes that supplementing Government health services makes sense in India where the largest provider of these services is the State. Project Axshya, a tremendously impactful collaboration with the Government has reached well over a million households for information, awareness, testing, early

diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis through rural healthcare providers.

Disaster relief and rehabilitation, a successful campaign against tobacco use, and other such initiatives have made VHAI an eminent force in the field of health for the masses.

Besides all this, VHAI has been chipping away at 'emerging challenges and issues like social justice in the provision and distribution of healthcare, equitable and reasonable sharing of goods/services and other health resources, promotion of primary healthcare, the right to health as a human right, and development of indigenous systems of medicines,' explains Dr Bhatnagar.

HCL Grant Project Title: Ujjawal – Women Empowerment Approach to Improve RMNCH+A Indicators in Ganjam district of Odisha

Beneficiaries: Adolescent and young couples reached through community influencers, like peer educators, self-help groups, anganwadi workers, etc.

Location: 600 villages in Ganjam district, Odisha

EDUCATION



Finalists 2019

Agastya International Foundation (AIF) 160
Stimulating science learning among underprivileged children

Jnana Prabodhini 168
Education for leadership and change

Srijan Foundation 176
Generating sustainable development from within the community

Shortlisted 2019

Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI) 184
Community-based rehabilitation for persons with disability

Centum GRO 188
Empowering and supporting India's deaf population

Life Education and Development Support (LEADS) 192
Enabling the marginalized to access their rights and resources

M V Foundation (MVF) 196
Committed to ensuring that all children go to school

Masoom 200
Strengthening night schools for poor students

S M Sehgal Foundation 204
Catalyzing good rural governance

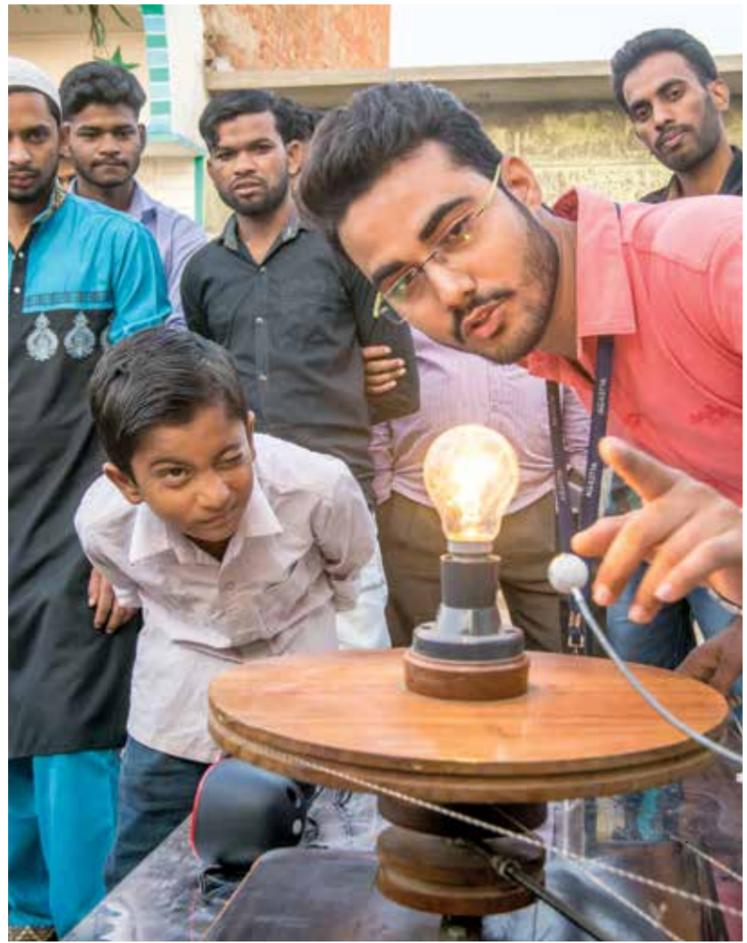
The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) 208
Equality and dignity for people affected with leprosy

This category covers projects which support the Right to Education and strengthen primary, secondary and higher education; promote lifelong learning opportunities through skill development; work with adult literacy; advance girl children's and women's education and empowerment; and ensure digital literacy for all. To qualify for the HCL Grant, projects should be designed around equitable, inclusive and quality education, thereby strengthening state systems and attaining sustainability in rural development.



Spreading the seeds of learning far and wide, the NGOs shortlisted in the EDUCATION category of the HCL Grant work through exciting new methodologies. From science education in the deep interiors of Chhattisgarh to night schools in Maharashtra; from improving schooling for the deaf in Haryana to education for leadership and change in Assam – these are only some of the out-of-the-box projects they spearhead, engaging with local communities.







Agastya International Foundation (AIF)



Founded by Ramji Raghavan and Mahavir Kumar in 1999

Agastya International Foundation (AIF) is a charitable education trust that runs one of the world's largest mobile hands-on science education programmes for economically disadvantaged children and Government-school teachers. Through all its programmes, which are scaleable and sustainable, Agastya has reached over 10 million children and 250,000 teachers in 19 states in India. Agastya aims to transform and stimulate the thinking of underprivileged children and teachers through different outreach methods. Its vision is an India of creators, tinkerers, solution seekers, and leaders who are humane, anchored, and connected. Its operations stretch across the country, from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Meghalaya in the east; from Mundra in the west to Karaikudi in the south. They have also been able to impact children from the deep interiors of the tribal belt like Sukma and Dantewada in Chhattisgarh.

*Curiosity allowed a free rein leads to wonderful outcomes
Following pages (162–163) One experiment at a time, we are
ensuring a shining tomorrow*

DIVYA CREATED ORGANIC ROPE as an alternative to nylon rope. Geetha innovated a drink with natural preservatives. Girish made a robot and dispelled superstitious beliefs using science. Jyoti funded her education by tutoring her peers. Mahesh invented an alarm clock that wakes you up by spilling water on your face. Naveen built an electric arc furnace for reshaping metal. Rajesh made models for early warnings about earthquakes and tsunamis. Soumya wrote and published a book on general knowledge and invented a solar water heater. The list goes on, and the most awe-inspiring part is that none of these creative innovators are more than 18 years old. What they have in common is an incredible NGO called Agastya International Foundation that seeks to spark curiosity and nurture creativity in the Government schools of the rural hinterland. Agastya's vibrant theme is to spark Aah! (curiosity), nurture Aha! (creativity), and instil Ha-ha! (confidence) to promote the creative temper in children from rural and impoverished homes.

Agastya's main 172-acre campus in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, is an astonishing place. It has an interactive museum, an open-air ecology lab, maker spaces, and more. Here children learn through experiential, hands-on, and project-based methods. In village night schools and mobile science labs, children are stimulated and exposed to complex concepts in maths, science, and art. Agastya reaches into a pool of





Making science education hands-on and relatable



Unconventional methodologies and spaces make for vivid learning
 Following pages (166–167) *Exploring new worlds of knowledge and wonder*

retired scientists to design and create unconventional and counter-intuitive science models and experiments. The lessons are fun, interactive, and integrated, and they infuse children with creativity and confidence. Some programmes train teachers, others are for school dropouts. Some are taught by professionals volunteering their expertise and time, others by a member of the community itself. The focus is on reaching the underserved in rural locations across the country. It is also on the constant lookout for partners (Government and non-Government) and force multipliers (teachers) to scale its impact.

Getting its lessons into the Government school's agenda is a daily challenge, taken on with gusto. The ultimate goal is to scale up, replicate and sustain the programmes that have almost miraculously transformed these young people's lives; to 'raise the ocean by a millimeter.' This is a far cry from India's colonial-age educational system, which lacks inventiveness, facilities, and motivated teachers, and

is irrelevant in today's knowledge-based, innovation-obsessed world.

Going forward, Agastya proposes to add more digital and blended learning models into its programmes, as well as mix in more from the arts and design into the modules to make the learning more holistic. There is a quality assurance system to underpin consistency in the teaching methodology.

Ramji Raghavan, the J. Krishnamurti-inspired, banker-turned-educator, and founder of Agastya, says, 'By creating opportunities to acquire transformative hands-on learning and behavioural skills, Agastya's programmes raise motivation and self-belief and develop critical/creative-thinking skills. Instilling such skills is essential to raise India's capacity to acquire, assimilate, transform, and exploit information, knowledge, and capital to create an innovative, productive, and prosperous society.'



HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Experiential, Hands-on Science Education and Digital Literacy (iMobile Programme) for Rural India

BENEFICIARIES: Class 6–8 students from 70–80 Government schools

LOCATION: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand; Patna, Bihar; Shillong, Meghalaya; Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

The iMobile programme focuses on integrated, inclusive learning to improve literacy levels in science, digital, language, and numeracy, and make learning long-term and fun. The programme will also inspire teachers.

The reach and benefits of the programme are:

- Each iMobile Lab generates around 12,000 exposures[†] per academic year;
- Mapping hands-on science models to the science curriculum of schools, Agastya has built a large repertoire of hands-on science models. Also to make science concepts appealing and engaging for the learner;
- As it is language neutral, the programme will give opportunities for learners to improve both vernacular and English skills;
- Science Fairs by Young Instructors where beneficiaries can impart their skills to the rest of the school, building on their confidence, self-belief, and communication;
- Orientation to IT-enabled science and community projects where the technology and science skills they have learnt can be leveraged to improve their everyday life.

[†] Exposure – An exposure is a measure of Agastya's reach, i.e., a count of the number of times Agastya has face-to-face interactions with an individual (child/teacher/community member).



Jnana Prabodhini



Founded by Dr Vinayak Vishvanath alias Appa Pendse in 1962

Jnana Prabodhini means ‘awakener of knowledge’. This NGO has been working in the field of nurturing intelligence among children for 50 years. It was founded by an educationist and professor of psychology, inspired by Swami Vivekananda’s philosophy. A social experiment in man-making education to create future leaders to transform India has led to five regular schools and various enrichment programmes in Maharashtra, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, and the northeastern states. A continuum of education is envisaged, from pre-school to post-graduate courses, and, real life situations too. Its goals are propelled by making quality education available to all sections of society, especially the deprived and the marginalized, in order to make them valuable, contributing members of society. It also works in research, rural development, women’s empowerment, health, and youth organization.

*Education that fosters change-makers and leaders
Following pages (170–171) Unique teaching tools create out-of-the-box thinkers*

WHAT DO CHILDREN of migrant labourers and tribals, beedi workers, women in purdah, leprosy patients, and sex workers have in common besides being disadvantaged and vulnerable? The answer is that they have all been touched in some way by Jnana Prabodhini, an NGO that focuses on the development of physical, mental, intellectual, and spiritual qualities of people in general and of the youth in particular. Its aim is a novel education – embedded with a methodology involving thinking and intelligence, experimentation and research – that creates leadership qualities, motivates social change, and facilitates positive attitudes. Leading to a generation of young people from all classes and sections of society who strive to understand and solve the problems of India.

When the NGO began operations, its founder was inspired to create a class of young people who would lead the country to better days. Together with psychologists and educators, he developed a pioneering model for gifted children’s education. The extraordinary research conducted evolved a battery of tests that determined 120 facets of intelligence. Rural and urban children both tested well for many facets; interestingly very differently from each other. The children grew up to be successful in different fields, and gave back to society in a multitude of ways – conducting camps for children, sports and adventure activities, helping with disaster relief and rehabilitation, peace initiatives, and more. The next step was the establishment of formal schools, with a healthy percentage of rural and underprivileged children also on their rolls.





Real education goes well beyond basic literacy



*Higher order thinking for underprivileged students
Following pages (174–175) Intelligence develops rapidly in the right environment*

In the 1990s, Jnana Prabodhini took up the cause of the children of sugarcane workers, building what came to be known as Sugar Schools for them, and employing its unique curriculum. This proved to be a significant move. Thereafter, it began a series of projects in non-formal education for the deprived. Jnana Prabodhini now works in diverse fields such as education, of course, but also research, rural development, women's empowerment, youth leadership development, national integration, and health.

Understanding the great need for higher order thinking and skills in today's knowledge-based economy, and conceding that regular schools provide basic literacy and nothing more, it extends quality educational inputs to thousands of young people all over India through outreach projects, camps, magazines and more. Teacher training is another major thrust to co-opt educators into the unconventional methodology Jnana Prabodhini has developed. An Educational Resource Centre, civil service exam guidance, study tours, and more make for a wider base

for the organization. The community is involved in all initiatives, and the attitude and values expounded have a lasting impact far beyond the classrooms themselves. Programmes create awareness among parents and policy-makers about the defects of the rote-learning and exam-based education system in India, and influence them to support a newer, far more effective learning method.

HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: SAKSHAM – Enrichment Programme of Life-Skills for Rural Children in the 21st Century

BENEFICIARIES: 24,000 upper-primary students – children of nomadic and tribal communities and migrant labour

LOCATION: Maharashtra, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh

The project aims to impart 21st century skills and attitudes to upper-primary students from 100 rural/tribal schools in nine districts from three states through specially trained facilitators working with teachers and parents. The overall aim is to teach children leadership, analytical and entrepreneurial skills, and civic duties so that they are able to integrate themselves into the knowledge economy. Over a period of three years, the children will learn higher level skills in a joyful environment through games, activities, group tasks, arts and craft etc. The programme is based on Jnana Prabodhini's extensive research on the structure of intelligence.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To implement a large-scale project with substantial geographical reach;
- To reach students from socially marginalized and economically backward communities, offering them a hope for better life;
- To involve teachers, parents, and community in providing an enriched learning environment to the children;
- To use scientific data-collection and appropriate research methodology to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the programme;
- To evolve strategies for sustainability, including training of teachers and preparation of handbooks and training manuals, for inclusion in Government policy.





Srijan Foundation



Founded in 2001 by Swapan Manna (Chief Trustee), Pooja (President), Dipali Kumari, Manisha Mishra, Gautam Halder, Rajeev Ranjan Sinha, and Nitesh Kumar

On a quest for inclusive and equitable development in the state of Jharkhand, Srijan Foundation works to build capacity of community-based organizations and civil society, creating development models, articulating demands, and realizing rights. It engages with marginalized and socially excluded communities, especially women and children. In 2017, it impacted the lives of 88,634 people directly, and 90,416 persons through networks and alliances. Srijan Foundation is implementing 25 projects in nine districts. Areas of work encompass supporting elected women representatives, safe mobility of women, counter trafficking, and collectivization of women; promoting child rights and preventing child labour; alternative childcare programmes and disability programmes; sustainable agriculture and livelihood promotion; women, adolescent, and child health; education, food security, and more.

Growing our own food strengthens our community
Following pages (178–179) *Planting the seeds of prosperity*

RANI FOUND HER VOICE through a self-help group in her village. From being afraid to talk in front of men and elders, she and her group began to question everything. They asked why the elected representative of the Panchayat was not doing his duty. They asked why Rani could not stand for election. They faced down threats from people because of their courage and outspokenness. Rani won the election and she took up issues that made a big impact on her community: chairs and tables for the village school, constructing a road, closing down of a polluting rubber factory (she turned down a bribe), and much more. And all along her journey, she received support and training from an organization that believes firmly in challenging and empowering the community to stand up for itself.

Srijan Foundation works directly with the community, particularly with marginalized women and children. Its aim is to address the structural causes of child labour and gender-based violence and injustice. This committed organization was formed when a group of young professionals working in the development sector felt a need for more innovative strategies to build the capacity of the community and grassroots organizations in Jharkhand and Bihar.

In the last five years, the organization has grown by leaps and bounds, with a multiplicity of projects reaching a broader geography and a targeted population. Its relationships with donors and the Government have deepened. It is also able





Working together, we know we will thrive



Learning and training for the challenges ahead
Following pages (182–183) *Collective action spurs positive yields*

to influence Government policy and planning at the local levels. The work is in the areas of, like in Rani's case, empowering elected women representatives, safe mobility of women, counter trafficking, and collectivization of women; promoting child rights and preventing child labour; alternative childcare programmes and disability programmes; sustainable agriculture and livelihood promotion; women, adolescent, and child health; education, food security, and more.

Says Swapan Manna, Secretary of Srijan Foundation, 'SF is the lead agency of three state-level networks – Jharkhand Anti Trafficking Network, Task-Force (alternative childcare), and ASHMITA (gender issues), and participates in advocacy, technical support activities, and sharing of resources with state/national/international level organizations.'

Srijan Foundation is recognized as an excellent technical resource by the Government, non-profit agencies, and other stakeholders. The Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society has recognized

them as a State Resource for sustainable agriculture and sustainable livestock. The organization is a blend of grassroots workers and rural development professionals. It strives to create replicable, sustainable models of progressive development for the community to own and manifest. For example, the women MGNREGA 'Mates' promoted and trained by them will engage in MGNREGA work even after the NGO exits from the community. 'We have developed systems for continuation of our programmes in the medium and long-term and we ensure that local level skills transfer takes place. The established models are developed within the community space, so that the people have enough scope to see, learn, and adopt,' explains Manna.



HCL GRANT PROJECT TITLE: Educating Women Farmers for Better Livelihood Opportunities and Better Income Generation

BENEFICIARIES: 5,000 women farmers and their families

LOCATION: Hazaribagh and West Singhbhum districts, Jharkhand

95 per cent of agriculture activities are done by women but they are never recognized as farmers. The project seeks to improve the livelihood and income of poor women farmers, SHGs, and federations by educating, mobilizing, training, and enhancing capacity of women as farmers in sustainable agriculture through community institutions. Linkages with Government schemes are also built in.

The features of the initiative are:

- Training and capacity-building processes in sustainable agriculture and livestock management theoretically through discussions and presentations in the classroom;
- Demonstration of tasks/models in the field and the classroom;
- Exposure to various immersion sites, institutions, and agriculture and research institutes;
- Interface with Government officials, financial institutions, trainers, etc.;
- Seasonal training package (80 days per year/4 to 5 hours per day), which includes both classroom, field level practice sessions, own site development processes, etc.;
- Teaching different models of food and nutrition security to ensure year-round food availability;
- Joint nursery, management of seed bank, and process documentation (template based/MIS);
- Institution-building and community-based cadre to sustain the project;
- Introduction of drudgery reduction tools/equipment and capacity building educational training on various sustainable agriculture models, and strengthening/developing of community-based institutions;
- Mobilizing and engaging men and adolescent boys to avert gender-based violence and promote gender equality.



Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI)



Founded by the late Mita Nundy and Divya Jalan in 1978

Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI) works to enable people with disabilities to live with dignity, make all decisions about their lives, pursue equal opportunities, and belong and contribute to families and communities. It focuses on those who are doubly disadvantaged by gender-based violence and discrimination, poverty, caste, or minority status. AADI and its multidisciplinary team work with people of all age groups with physical, intellectual, cognitive, mental, sensory, and multiple impairments. Adopting a collaborative approach with people with disabilities and their families, the team addresses mental health, education, livelihoods, shelter, leisure, citizenship, etc., through individual and group sessions. AADI started work in the Ballabgarh Block, Faridabad district as an outreach model and transitioned into a cross disability programme in 81 villages. AADI believes in changing the world, and not people.

Disability is no obstacle when you're determined to learn

DEEPAK HAS ALWAYS wanted to be a doctor. Nothing has deterred him from his course – not taunts from detractors, not his financial disadvantages, not even his cerebral palsy. Through it all, he's had one steadfast friend: AADI, one of the oldest and most committed organizations for people with disability. AADI helped Deepak with his health, education, and mobility from the time he was eight. They also helped him file an RTI about the OBC and Physically Handicapped person quota for medical studies from the Ministry of Health. And that's how he's finally on the road to realizing his dream: Deepak has got admission and hostel facilities for the MBBS course in Rohtak Medical College. He is the first person from his village to ever have secured a medical seat.

Before it was AADI, the organization was known as the Spastics Society of Northern India (SSNI). Starting with an education programme, it broad based into a parent-training programme for families of people with disabilities. Going further afield, it began rural operations where a majority of people with disabilities dwell, and where the misconceptions and marginalization required urgent intervention. The scope widened to include all forms of disability, and thus began the first Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme in north India. It started the School of Rehabilitation Sciences (SRS) to train special educators and therapists. To complete the cycle, AADI initiated a skill training and livelihood programme for adults with disabilities.



Fun and games show no prejudice, whatever your ability



Rehabilitation and healthcare access for the differently-abled

Over time, the NGO began to make its services more relevant and inclusive in keeping with global thinking, including rights, sustainability, and empowerment in its scope. Its cross-disability approach gave it the depth of experience to influence policy in various forums from the Planning Commission to UN Committees. It played a major role in bringing to life the Persons with Disability Act in 1995 and the Rights of Persons with Disability Act (2016) and in including people with disability in the 2001 and 2011 Census. With the Right to Education Act (2010), AADI aligned its work to develop policies and practices for inclusive education. The training wing, SRS, focused on the capacity building of mainstream professionals, school teachers, doctors, therapists, architects, etc., towards creating inclusive service providers. In 2002, the NGO changed its name to AADI in keeping with the transformation in its methodology.

AADI understood the need for a lifecycle approach to empower people with disability. Says G. Syamala, Executive Director of AADI, 'Some organizations reached out to children, others provided early intervention services, and yet others provided services

for education. These services existed in silos; people living with disability are not vertical compartments. The child who came to school was also the child who needed personal mobility support and rehabilitation, link to health services, and training on life skills. The same child grew up to need access to training for livelihood, microfinance, and support for forming relationships.'

A collective effort from the NGO, families, experts, and, of course, the very people they set out to help has propelled AADI to a point where they are developing national models for disability programmes to address the various gaps in the way we look at people with disability. The aim is to bring financial, legislative, human resource, and Government strength to bear upon the right of people with disability to participate in society and the economy, and determine their own futures.

HCL Grant Project Title: Sashakt – Inclusive Programming for Realization of Right to Education at All Levels for Persons with Disabilities

Beneficiaries: People with physical, mental, intellectual, sensory, and multiple disabilities, and their families

Location: Ballabhgarh Block, Faridabad, Haryana



Centum GRO (An Initiative by Centum Foundation)



Founded by Dr Alim Chandani in 2016

Centum Learning, an ISO 9001:2015 certified company, is a global organization in the talent transformation space. Centum Foundation is its CSR wing. Through its initiative, Centum GRO, it also empowers deaf individuals in India with skilling and to avail respectable jobs in different domains. Recently, India passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which guarantees access, equality, and non-discrimination. Centum believes in aligning its work with this agenda – building a future for the younger generation so that they turn out to be exemplary individuals and change the deaf history of the country. Since its inception two years ago, 400 youth have been trained and empowered. This multiple award-winning NGO lives by the credo, ‘Nothing about the Deaf, without the Deaf.’

You speak, I sign; our dialogue continues just fine

ANU NAIR IS A BACHELOR OF ARTS. But she is no ordinary graduate; she has a degree in Applied Sign Language Studies. ‘While I was still looking to grow in my career, I got to know about an NGO which aims to empower the deaf in India. I learnt more about deaf culture, deaf identity, and most importantly, that I too can become a deaf role model. Their teaching methodology was altogether a new experience for me. Games, trips, leadership activities, etc., helped me discover my hidden talents. Today I feel accomplished being a teacher at Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow. Thanks to Centum for making me so confident in life.’

Centum GRO initiative was borne out of a desire to make a significant change in the lives of India’s large and almost invisible deaf population (7 million at last count). Explains Sanjay Bahl, President, Centum Foundation, ‘Through our Centum GRO initiative, we are trying to go all out to discover the challenges faced by PwDs in India in securing employment so that we can address them and develop a comprehensive skill development ecosystem accordingly. Through our initiative we are trying to understand their experiences and possible encounters with obstacles at their workplaces. A person’s disability needs to become an attribute and not a liability... we are working towards that.’

The methodology Centum GRO uses is unique in many ways. Its emphasis is on introducing



Three critical agendas: Interaction, Innovation and Inspiration



Sign Language is a tool for empowerment and confidence

Sign Language in every area including education, employment, or even entertainment. Internationally, Sign Language is now seen as an empowering tool for the deaf. However, Indian schools for the deaf still believe in the old idea of oralism and often ban sign language.

Three keywords define the training paradigm at Centum GRO – Interaction, Innovation, and Inspiration. Critical thinking skills are enhanced and entrepreneurial talents encouraged. The teachers, most of whom are deaf themselves, find unconventional and innovative ways to teach, like visual aids and multimedia resources. The training for the teachers themselves is done through presentations on inclusivity and they are encouraged to learn basic Sign Language.

A combination of ‘embrace and empathy’ has resulted in tremendous results for Centum Foundation. The future of hundreds of young people has been secured because they now have the confidence in themselves to go out there and get a job. Several give back to the community by volunteering with deaf organizations and schools and impart best

practices to the hearing world. They are empowered and they make their own decisions about their lives.

Centum Foundation on its part is now aiming to make inroads into the farthest reaches of northeast India, where such programmes have never penetrated before. ‘I am proud of this initiative that works towards building a more inclusive society. Through this, we hope to bring an opportunity for the deaf to be treated as equals with other citizens with dignity and respect,’ says Sanjay Bahl.

And Centum GRO is making sure that need is fulfilled.

HCL Grant Project Title: Empowering Deaf Students by Improving Education in Deaf Schools of India

Beneficiaries: Deaf children from the age of 3 to 18 enrolled in Government schools

Location: Five villages in Haryana and three villages in Meghalaya



Life Education and Development Support (LEADS)



Founded by A.K. Singh, Mahendra Kumar, A.K. Parira, Shelly J. Kerketta, and Nauri Nag in 2005

The core purpose of Life Education and Development Support (LEADS) was to promote community-based organizations among vulnerable populations through a powerful empowerment process. Starting work from the community and taking it up to the state level has been the core strategy of LEADS. Its lofty vision is to create an inclusive society where the marginalized gain equal access and control over rights, services, resources, and institutions. LEADS has developed excellent relationships with the Government, and national and international NGOs, some of whom have adopted its models of development. Its school development programmes have been implemented in 10,000 Government schools in Jharkhand. It works with more than 1,200 anganwadi centres on nutrition and WASH. In fact, LEADS made history of sorts when on Global Handwashing Day in 2017, it enabled handwashing for nearly 200,000 children.

Unfolding human potential

THERE IS A SMALL VILLAGE called Sundari with a tribal population in Jharkhand's heartland. It has a middle school with just one teacher. Enrolment is scarce, and dwindling. The villagers and the School Management Committee (SMC) are sadly, indifferent. One day, an intervention happens, which, through meetings and training, motivates the SMC to pull its socks up. Slowly, a sense of ownership of the school builds among the community. After a few years, five teachers join the school. Enrolment picks up, and a couple of years later, a kindergarten is added with 17 new students. There is no room for them, so the community led by the SMC repairs an old room for the little ones.

Transformation is an everyday job for the NGO Life Education and Development Support, or LEADS. Started by a group of rural development professionals, its interventions, whether they are in educational development like in Sundari village, or about rights under the RTE (Right to Education) Act, or hand washing campaigns, are aligned with its ideology, explains A.K. Singh, Managing Trustee and Director. He says, 'Ensuring rights of every individual will provide ample scope for development of all sections of society, which will further help in unfolding human potential and building confidence of the poor and marginalized communities.'

LEADS' activities start from grassroots initiatives, to creating development models on different themes, to facilitating other actors like the Government,



We are integral to our community and we will help it thrive



Life education for vulnerable communities

NGOs, community-based organizations, CSR, and individuals to spread and scale the impact.

LEADS has an unwavering belief in people's knowledge, skills, and experience. Its approach is purely participative. Empowering the tribal community, providing life education to children and adolescents, women's empowerment, livelihood support, natural resource promotion, technical skill up-gradation, health etc., are key strategic thrust areas. LEADS is the convener of the Jharkhand Right to Education Forum, and has created a fool-proof model of RTE compliance, which is being replicated widely by the Government and other agencies. It works towards capacity building for advocacy among the community so that they can change their own futures with confidence. Strengthening local self-government, creating publications and documentation, and promoting community organizations like the Bal Sansad and women's self-help groups are all part of its mandate.

A dedicated group of professionals and volunteers give their time and commitment to furthering the

goals of this noteworthy NGO. Partnerships with international and national bodies take its ideology far and wide. 'Our mission is to realize the idea of a society consisting of free and equal citizens who are able to come together to solve the problems that affect them. The commitment is to work for a paradigm of development and governance that is democratic. We seek to institutionalize the idea that development and governance should work in association and not in isolation,' says Mahendra Kumar, Treasurer and Co-founder of LEADS.

HCL Grant Project Title: Improving Quality and Inclusive Education Through School Development Plan and its Realization (SDG-4) in tribal dominated Khunti district of Jharkhand

Beneficiaries: Elementary school children, school management committees, and teachers' unions

Location: Khunti, Jharkhand



M V Foundation (MVF)



Founded by M. Anandam in 1981

M. Venkatarangaiya Foundation has shifted the parameters of discourse and practice on child labour, education, and child rights everywhere. It has catalyzed change in societal norms for education and gender equality, against masculinity and gender discrimination. The pioneering strategy of residential bridge schools for out-of-school children has been widely adapted by the Government and NGOs across India and internationally. Its present focus is on developing strategies for universalizing education for adolescents, especially girls aged 14 to 18. It has a one point agenda – children must not work; they should go to formal, full-time school. Due to its efforts, over a million children have been enabled to join full-time, formal school; 1500 villages are child labour-free and all children are in school. In addition, 25,000 adolescent girls have been retained in school and 8,000 child marriages have been prevented.

Every child must learn, every child must fly

WHEN HE WAS 14 YEARS OLD, Pandari Nath ran away from home with the help of M V Foundation. With a dream of education in his heart, and spurred on by a campaign against child labour in the village, he escaped a life of tending cattle. Instead, he went to school. At M V Foundation's bridge camp, he was the only completely illiterate child. But there was no holding this boy back! Within a year, he had completed class 7 and been admitted to the Government school for class 8. Pandari Nath is a walking success story of how children flourish when their rights are respected: he is now pursuing a PhD in plant genetics transformation. His new dream? Going to the U.S. to study further.

M V Foundation is a remarkable organization that fights a brave battle for universalizing education. In its view, every child who is not in school is a child labourer, and must be enabled to go to school immediately. It has developed a host of strategies for mainstreaming children, which are eminently replicable. Bridge schools for older kids, direct admission for younger ones, follow-up programmes to ensure retention, and help with formalities and hostel admissions, even training education activists are part of the action plan. Its strongest thrust comes from the forums it has created within villages for safeguarding child rights as well as those it has formed with Government schoolteachers. A multi-pronged approach targets the community, gram panchayats, as well as the Government to remove the obstacles that stop children from entering or going back to school.



Letting children be children, free from work and discrimination



No early marriage for me – I'm going to study!

‘These children include dalits, minorities, girls and boys, the physically challenged, children working on farms, street children, migrant children, children in hotels or construction sites, and in any form of labour that keeps them out of school,’ says R. Venkat Reddy, National Convenor of MVE.

In recent years, M V Foundation’s agenda has become more focused. Adolescent girls aged 14 to 18, one of the most vulnerable and unreached groups because of the high possibility of marriage at their age, have become the focal point. The constraints on this group to drop out of school are many, from child marriage to gender-based violence, from patriarchy to restrictive definitions of masculinity. The NGO seeks to address them all by engaging with societal norms and existing laws and policies. And at every step, it is the community and local institutions trained and capacitated by M V Foundation who implement the actions. As a result, there is improvement in every area. Child marriages and dropout rates are down; retention, enrolments, and school attendance are up.

The transformation in the present lives of the children in the project areas is tremendous, but the impact on their future is exponential.

HCL Grant Project Title: Catch Them Young – Addressing Gender Security, Violence and Masculinity in Rural Schools
Beneficiaries: School children (boys and girls), village youth, parents, the teaching community, village-level Government functionaries, and ultimately the entire village community
Location: 193 villages in Gadwal, Telangana



Masoom



Founded by Nikita Ketkar in 2008

Masoom is the only organization in India working for underprivileged students studying in night schools. Its strategy is to empower, strengthen, and transform night schools for better learning and enable the students to achieve their full potential through educational and policy support, leading to better skills and job opportunities. Masoom has grown from two schools in 2008–09 to 59 schools in 2017–18. It is adopting more schools across Maharashtra state to cover more than 15,000 students. Attendance and pass percentages, as well as numbers of those getting a first class, have shot up. Around 250 teachers have been trained by Masoom, and advocacy efforts have ensured that the Central Government evening meal scheme is accessed by 4,000 students, including non-Masoom students.

Studying after work for underprivileged children

ANISH HAD TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL in class 9 because his father passed away and his family couldn't afford to send him to school anymore. He started doing odd jobs and brought home a few thousand rupees a month. But a spark still burned in his breast. So when he was urged by the NGO Masoom to join night school during an enrolment drive, he did not hesitate. He completed his SSC, then got a scholarship to do a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Kohinoor Technical Institute, Mumbai. Now 32 years old, he works as a technician in a security company, and in his spare time, he's a home electrician. He makes over ₹ 20,000 a month.

Masoom has many such success stories under its belt. Its work is primarily in the area of helping night schools through its Night School Transformation Programme, a highly scalable and replicable model. Based on the participatory research she conducted, the founder of the NGO, Nikita Ketkar decided to focus on three main areas of change and engagement. These include infrastructure – basic amenities like nutrition, books, labs, computers, and so on; capacity building with stakeholders including trustees, school heads, teachers, students, parents, and non-teaching staff; and undertaking advocacy for awareness and influencing policy among the public and decision-makers like the Government. Because of Masoom's efforts, night schools are getting more funding, providing meals, and enabling students to buy books at a subsidized rate from the authorities.



At work all day, I cannot wait for my evening class to come



A second chance at learning for school drop outs

The students at the night schools are usually between 12 to 30 years old, and are first generation learners. They are mainly day school dropouts and work in the daytime as couriers, office boys, or housemaids. Their homes are usually in a slum and they have a web of negative influences around them. Some of Masoom's schools have visually impaired students, too. Nikita Ketkar says, 'I chose night schools because the students who come to study in these are self-motivated and committed. In spite of working throughout the day they find time to come regularly to night schools and study.'

Masoom reaches out to the community, to parents and neighbours of school dropouts, and conducts enrolment drives and home visits to cajole students to return to school. It recently signed an MOU with the Maharashtra State Government to implement a quality education programme in night schools. It is in the process of setting up School Management and Development Committees (SMDCs) in the night schools it works with, fixing responsibilities

for them like making the School Development Plan, coordinating with the local community leaders and donors, generating funds from other sources for development of schools, monitoring the academic progress of the children, supervising finance, management, etc. These measures are the foundations of sustainability, creating systems for community ownership of the programme once the NGO exits.

HCL Grant Project Title: Night School Transformation Programme

Beneficiaries: Day-school dropouts/migrants in the age group of 12 to 25 years

Location: Ahmednagar, Mumbai, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Pune, Sholapur, Thane – all in Maharashtra



S M Sehgal Foundation



Founded by Dr Surinder (Suri) Mohan Sehgal and Edda Sehgal in 1999

The Sehgal Foundation strives to strengthen community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change across rural India. It seeks to create sustainable programmes for managing water resources, increasing agricultural productivity, and fortifying rural governance, interlinking each initiative with women's empowerment. Through its efforts, there has been a marked positive impact, especially through the digital literacy programme for which it has applied for the HCL Grant. The statistics are significant among students: awareness about the Right to Education Act increased by 83.1 per cent. 21.4 per cent no longer think cooking is a girl's job. 48.4 per cent now know how to use a computer. The Foundation has a strong presence in Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

Engaging the community at every level

VILLAGE SAKRAS. A group of girls knock on each door. Their aim is to convince sceptical and superstitious parents that immunization is good for their children. By the end of the drive, the girls wear triumphant smiles. They have managed to bring 17 children back into the immunization process, and motivate 68 other families to have their children immunized. These girls are members of the digital literacy and life skills education project run by the Sehgal Foundation in their area. One of the girls, Kiranvati, sums up the programme beautifully. 'It has served as a platform for us to put on our thinking caps, look at the world from a different perspective, understand who we are and what we want to be, and plan how we can bring about positive change. The components of life skills, good governance, and digital literacy are all very important.'

The digital literacy programme is part of the rural good governance strategy of this NGO, which focuses on three thematic areas, namely – social justice, food security, and water security. When it started in the very isolated Nuh district of Haryana, the organization focused on a model they called Integrated Sustainable Village Development (ISVD), encompassing water management, agriculture development, family life education, and rural health. Over the years, it began to understand that none of its initiatives were sustainable without the component of rural governance. It then redesigned its thinking.

Today, its programmes cover agricultural management, water management, and good rural



Transforming lives through positive peer support



Gender empowerment at the forefront

governance. The slant is towards empowerment of women and girls, and the participation is paramount. Says Dr Suri Sehgal, founder of the NGO, 'Our definition of success is when the community takes ownership of the projects and can say, "We have done it ourselves".' Village level institutions like Village Development Committees (VDCs), women's collectives, and capacity building of panchayat members all contribute towards this participatory process where the community is engaged at every level, from project initiation, to implementation, completion, and sustained follow-ups. Besides partnerships related to funding, the organization has consolidated relationships and collaborations with other agencies, universities, Government departments, and technical experts.

An integral part of the Sehgal Foundation's work centres around children and students. 'After training in digital literacy and participatory sessions on life skills education and governance, students are able to voice their concerns, take collective action to address

governance issues, and use their knowledge to help themselves, their families, and communities by accessing and availing their rights and entitlements. The centres provide a platform for them to come together and develop a positive peer culture, share their experiences, and develop comradeship, which was so far missing in their life, especially among the girls. Their perspective on gender roles is enhanced. Some of the sessions imparted are on self-identity, goal-setting, emotions, communication skills, interpersonal relationships, values, and gender equity.'

A truly transformative process for young minds.

HCL Grant Project Title: Project Roshni
Beneficiaries: Rural youth from the most backward districts of India, between 13 and 25 years old
Location: Muzaffarpur, Bihar; Nuh, Haryana; Karauli, Rajasthan; Ramgarh, Jharkhand



The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI)



Founded by Wellesley Cosby Bailey in 1874

The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) is a 144-year-old organization that has made deep inroads into giving a dignified life to people affected by leprosy. It aims to achieve transformation of communities, dispel the fear and stigma associated with leprosy, and ensure that people affected by it are included in the development process. Starting with leprosy homes, today TLMTI runs 14 hospitals, two clinics, six vocational training centres, and several community development projects spread across 10 states of India. Over the years of its existence, TLMTI has treated and cured millions of people. From 2013 to 2017 a total of 3.2 million people visited its hospitals for consultation; 291,828 marginalized women were supported through empowerment initiatives and 15,944 people with disabilities were supported for disability management.

Vocational training emancipates and empowers

RAMAWATI, SWATI, Mangla, and Sandeep are all young people starting out their careers. They work as tailor, administrator, computer programmer, and technical machine operator, respectively. Looking at them, you would never think they share a history of misery, discrimination, and illness as persons affected by leprosy or persons from families affected by leprosy. Fortunately for them, they all came in contact with a compassionate, enabling organization called the Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI), which gave them a new lease of life through its vocational training centres.

Leprosy, that much blighted, much misunderstood disease causes not only pain and physical suffering, but also severe social stigma and isolation. The superstitions and myths that surround it make those affected by it undergo much deprivation and degradation of all kinds. When the Leprosy Mission was formed, in the late 19th century, there was no cure for it. An Irish missionary and his wife saw the pathetic state of leprosy patients in India and were moved to raise funds and awareness for their amelioration in their country. They built a home for patients in Punjab, then in the south, and eventually a hospital in Bengal. Later, in the 1980s, when multi-drug therapy, or MDT, was discovered to cure leprosy, many of these homes became hospitals.

The organization, now global in its spread, seeks to change mindsets and levels of awareness about



Prosperity, community acceptance and the right to live with dignity are mine now



Learning a trade, ensuring my future

the disease among people and the Government. It aims to provide early detection, affordable care, and timely treatment for communities. Further, it works to empower these communities to form collectives of people affected by leprosy to claim their fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of India. The NGO also engages with the Government, influencing policy to create an environment where people affected by leprosy can live as equal citizens.

Explains Dr Mary Verghese, Executive Director, TLMTI, 'Our programmes consist of healthcare, sustainable livelihood, community empowerment, advocacy, research, and training. We plan to achieve our objectives through a holistic approach to addressing the needs of the marginalized community, especially people affected by leprosy and persons with other disabilities.'

Projects initiated by the NGO are placed amongst the poorest and most vulnerable people in India. They are emancipated, employed as staff, and given a sense of confidence in their abilities to live a normal life

Education

in the world. The focus is squarely on programmatic and financial sustainability to ensure long-lasting outcomes.

'TLMTI is one organization, that despite the dwindling focus on leprosy globally, has not shifted its focus from leprosy despite diversification into other community needs. We are part of a global fellowship with local registration; a grassroots presence through direct implementation but with a global perspective.'

HCL Grant Project Title: College on Wheels – Empowering Women in Rural India through ICT enabled Community-based Vocational Education (Project Samavesh)

Beneficiaries: Young girls and women between the age group of 15 to 40 years marginalized due to leprosy, other disabilities, or poverty

Location: 150 villages in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh

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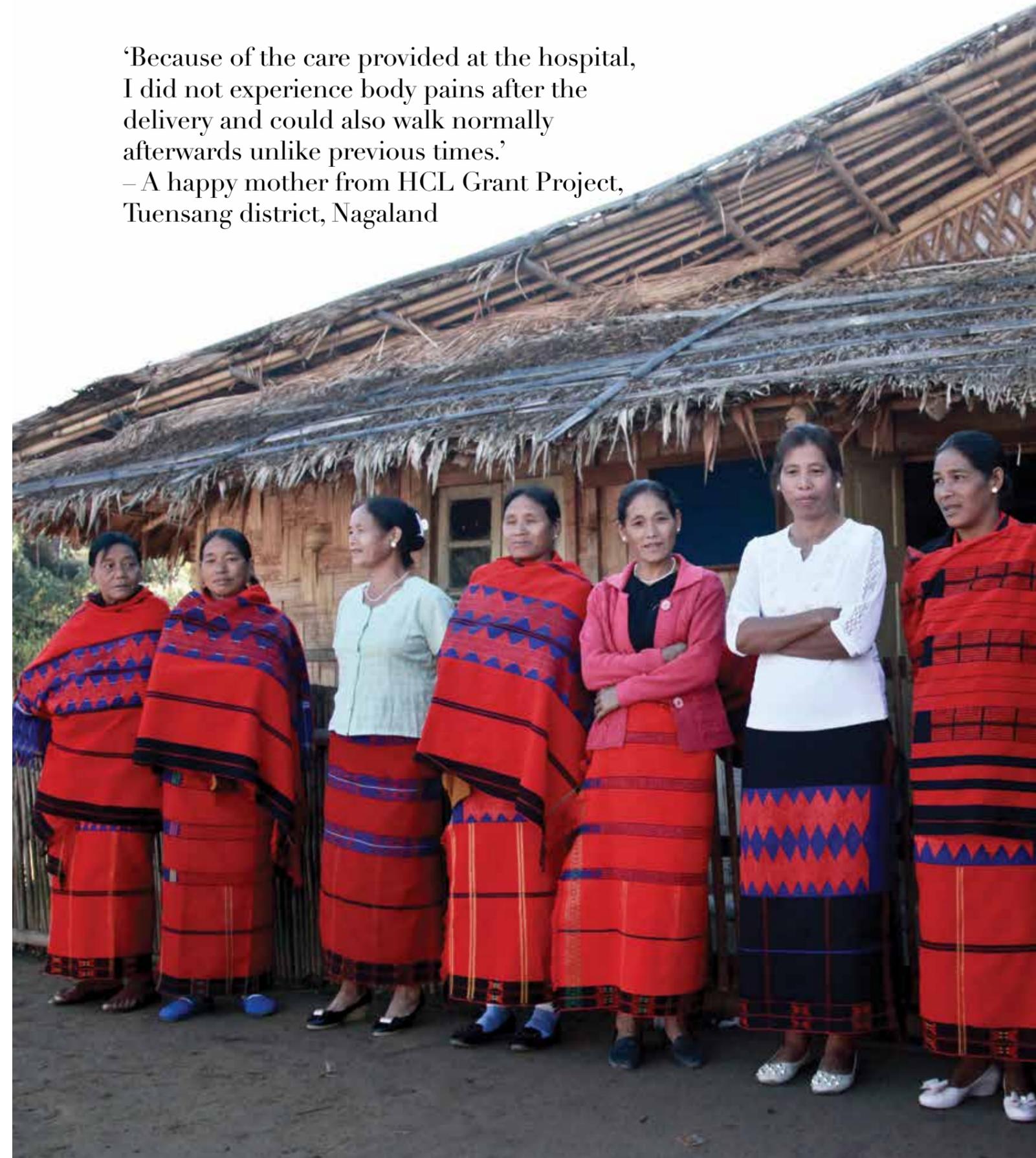
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‘Because of the care provided at the hospital, I did not experience body pains after the delivery and could also walk normally afterwards unlike previous times.’
– A happy mother from HCL Grant Project, Tuensang district, Nagaland



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