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TRANSFORMING LIVES

2016-17: AT A GLANCE

Table Of Contents

Vision & Mission

02

Messages From The Board Of Directors

04

Letter From The CEO

08

Operational Highlights

10

Education

12

Healthcare

24

Livelihood

34

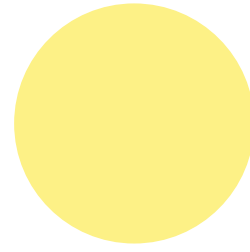
Rebuilding Communities Program

44

Impact By State – Last 5 Years

54

Vision And Mission



Vision

“To be a model social organization that enables and facilitates the under-privileged sections of the society to access quality education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities.”

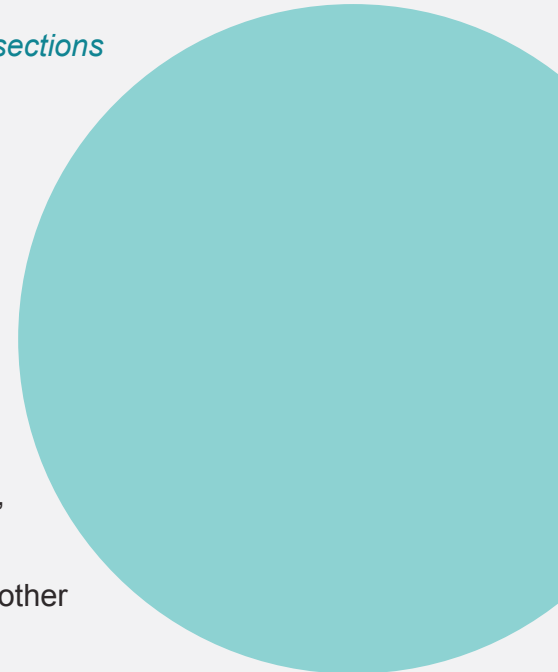
Mission

To work towards fulfilling the education, healthcare and livelihood needs of the under-privileged sections of the society.

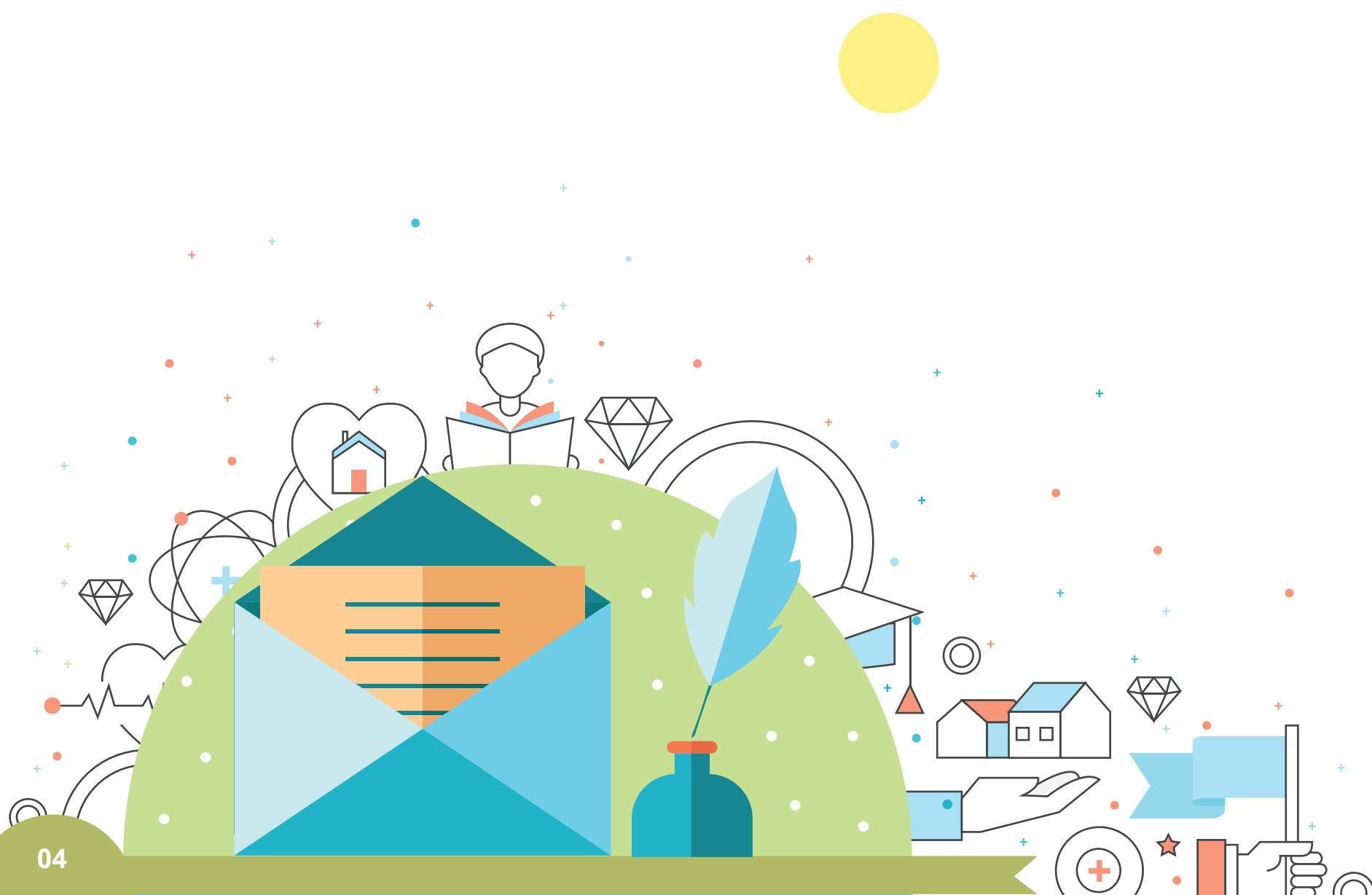
To provide financial and technical support to institutions for improving the quality of education, livelihood and healthcare.

To design and implement programs aimed at quality improvements in education, livelihood and access to healthcare.

To partner with NGOs, educational and healthcare institutions, government and other corporates for achieving the vision.



Messages From The Board Of Directors



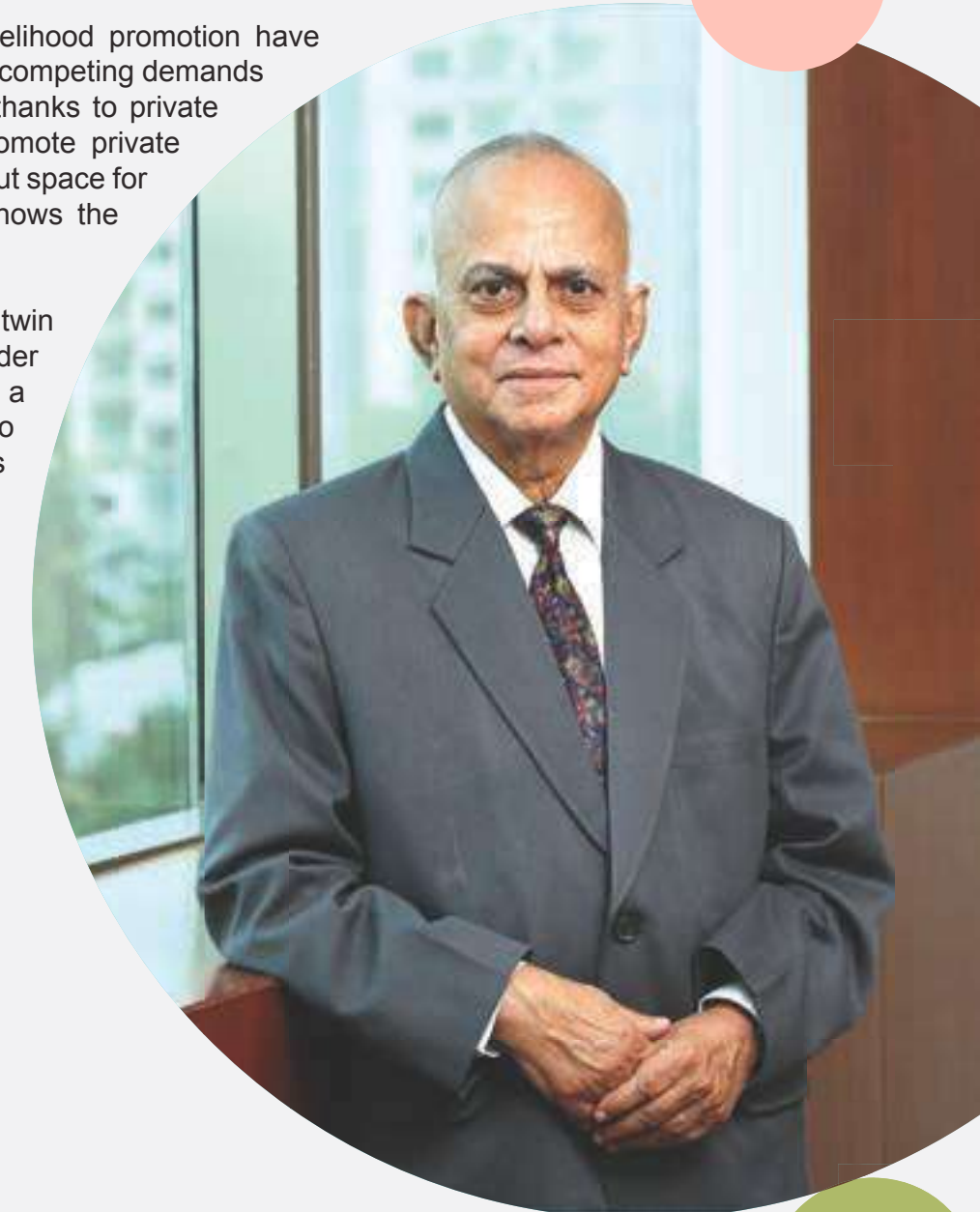
N. R. Krishnan MA.S. (Retd.)

“Over the last twelve years, we have been at work assisting charitable initiatives in the regions where Cognizant has a physical presence. We travel, meet with NGOs, individuals and institutions all dedicated to the cause of social welfare and seek out worthwhile avenues to extend our support. In the process, somehow, we have been, believe me, at pains to keep a low profile realizing that giving back is done best without fanfare. But, despite our efforts, we seem to be getting noticed and talked about. Without being falsely modest, one may say that our efforts are being appreciated. The credit for this should go, without question, to the Cognizant Associates.

Education, healthcare, skill development and livelihood promotion have been, primarily, in the realm of the state subject to competing demands on public resources. This situation is changing, thanks to private intervention and government’s willingness to promote private participation. This is where corporates can carve out space for themselves, individually and collectively. CSR shows the way to create such spaces.

CF took a decision some years back to adopt the twin strategy of identifying thrust areas within the broader concerns of education etc., and to follow a programme based approach to select institutions to be assisted. This seems to have paid off as there is a distinct geographical spread of projects now. In particular, the National Capital Region is receiving greater attention than before and our Associates are making a mark there.

Let’s carry on.”



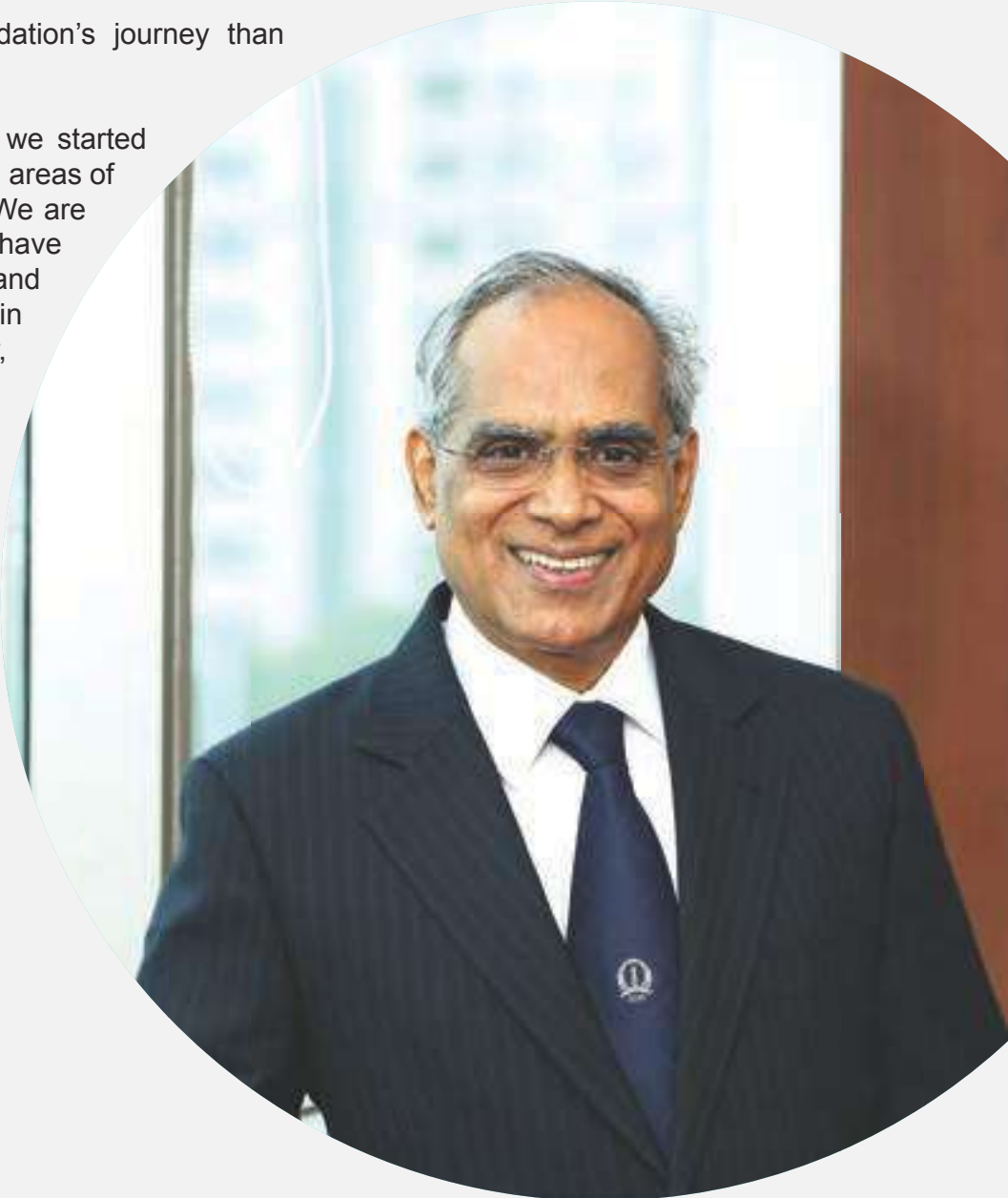
N. Lakshmi Narayanan

There is one kind of charity common enough among us. It is that patchwork philanthropy which clothes the ragged, feeds the poor, and heals the sick. I am far from decrying the noble spirit which seeks to help a poor or suffering fellow being.... However, what advances a nation or a community is not so much to prop up its weakest and most helpless members, but to lift up the best and most gifted, so as to make them of the greatest service to the country..
- Jamsetji Tata

"This quote is more relevant today in the Foundation's journey than ever before.

At Cognizant Foundation, 2016 was the year that we started making the transition to impactful capacity building in areas of research, innovation and long-term value addition. We are proud of the model and the legacy that we have established in providing education, healthcare and livelihood creation for the doubly disadvantaged in society. We have also been observing, quite proudly, initiatives by other foundations on the lines of the models we have established.

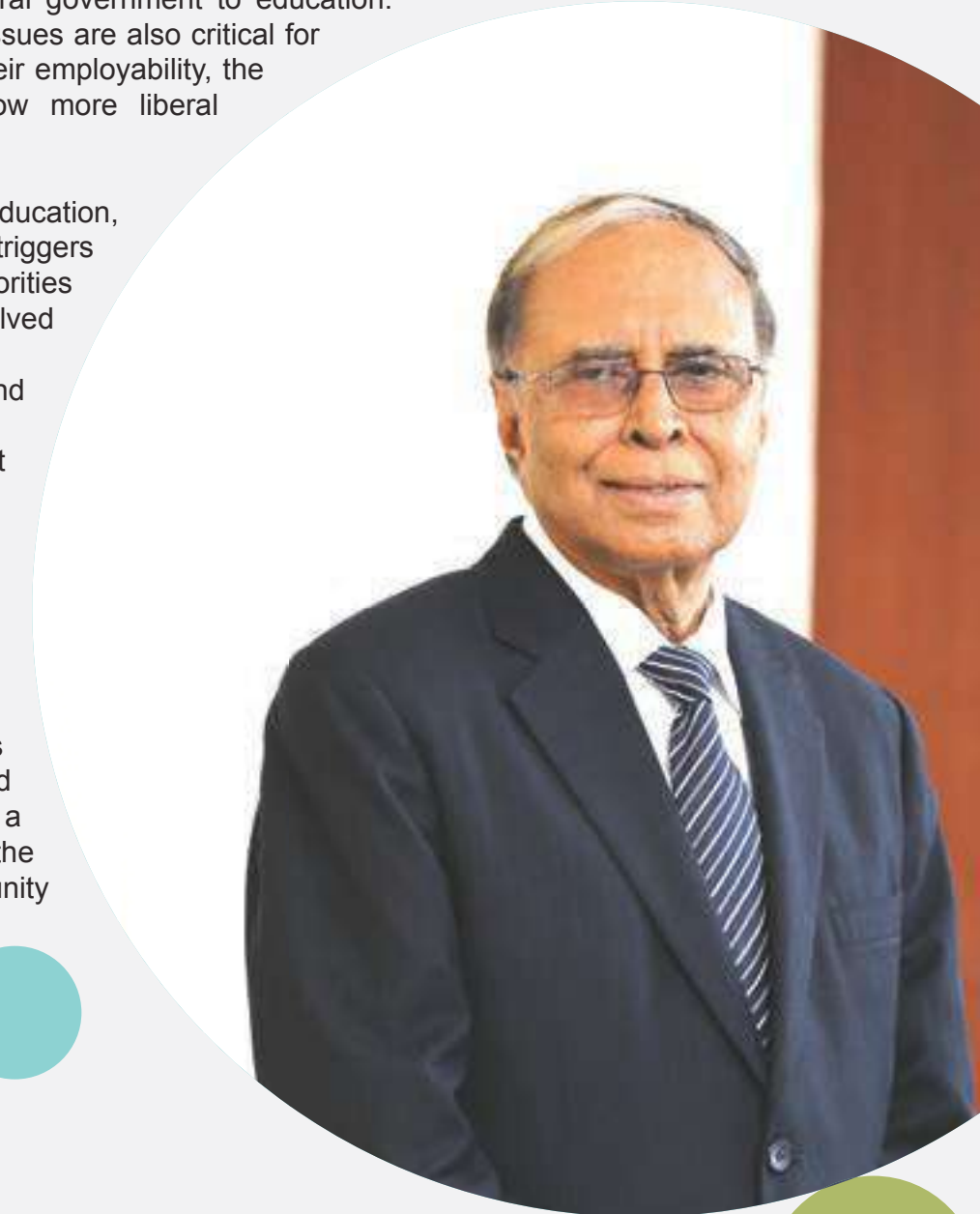
While continuing to help the needy and building a certainty in their future, I think the time has come for us to support and invest in higher order capacity that will bring about a long-term change and well-being in our country. Our initiatives in eye-care research and scholarships for higher education have intensified and we will see a marked increase in our activities and its resultant impact in nation building."



Dr. S. Ramamurthy

"In India we have yet to make humongous efforts to raise the standard of education and health to the levels of even some developing countries. With the population of 1.2 billion now propelled to increase further by 2025, of which about 30 per cent will be below 30 years of age, we have to make every effort to make the younger generation productive by investing adequately in education, health care and livelihood issues. The total spending allocation in the central government budget for 2017-18 is about Rs 22.5 lakh crores, of which the transfers to the State governments for education have been provided at Rs 0.55 lakh crores. With the projected budget deficit for the year set to touch 3.2 % of GDP it is unlikely more resources will be available from the general government to education. While investments in health care and livelihood issues are also critical for improving the quality of human resources and their employability, the present resource constraint is unlikely to allow more liberal resources for these sectors.

We in Cognizant Foundation, recognizing that education, health care and attention to livelihood issues are triggers to development, have treated these sectors as priorities for assisting the institutions and organizations involved in them, by providing financial assistance thanks to the generous contributions from Cognizant and and in coordination with its associates wherever possible. We appreciate the assistance we get from the working groups in various Cognizant branches and the voluntary efforts of the associates in the selection of deserving projects and follow-up. We keep constantly reviewing our target areas, selection processes for assistance and methodology for impact studies. Although the Foundation has completed twelve years since inception, we are proud to note that the initiatives we have financed to help the underprivileged and the poor have been sustained and have made a huge impact on the community. We hope that with the continued commitment of Cognizant to community related welfare activities and the associates' voluntary efforts the Foundation will keep growing in the years to come."



Letter From The CEO



S. Madhavan

“Development is about transforming lives of people, not just transforming economies”, says Joseph Stiglitz - Chief Economist of the World Bank. Over the last twelve years Cognizant and Cognizant Foundation’s efforts in the social sector have been aimed at transforming the lives of people from the most backward communities. ‘Transforming Lives’ is not a mere tag line; it is the very soul of the Foundation and its initiatives.

As in the previous years, in 2016-17 too, Cognizant Foundation has made deep impressions in the hearts of thousands of individuals and their families by giving them a way out of endless poverty and hardships; and thereby, a better tomorrow. I am pleased to report that we are witnessing strong growth in our flagship programs under the sectors of education, healthcare and livelihood. These programs have witnessed significant spend and have together impacted over 35,600 lives this year. This report gives an insight into the lives of some of our beneficiaries and the transformation that the Foundation has been able to bring about in them.

We had announced the launch of the Rebuilding Communities Program in our last year’s annual report. This program has since made significant strides in helping fifteen communities - affected by natural calamities - become self-reliant. We look forward to bring about integrated and sustainable development in these communities over the next two years.

None of this would have been possible without the unstinted support of the Cognizant Management and Associates, Cognizant Foundation Core Committees in various Cognizant Offices across India, Cognizant Outreach Team and our NGO partners. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of them for their invaluable contribution.

It is with great enthusiasm that I look forward to the coming years as Cognizant Foundation grows from strength to strength and continues to transform the lives of thousands of people belonging to the economically poorer sections of the society.



Operational Highlights



Through its programs, Cognizant Foundation has been striving to address some of the issues in our society in the areas of education, healthcare and livelihood. In the current financial year 2016-17, the Foundation has partnered with several credible non-governmental organizations working in these three areas to bring about transformation in the lives of the underprivileged. In addition to this, Cognizant Foundation launched its 'Rebuilding Communities Program'. This program works for the rehabilitation of communities affected by natural calamities.

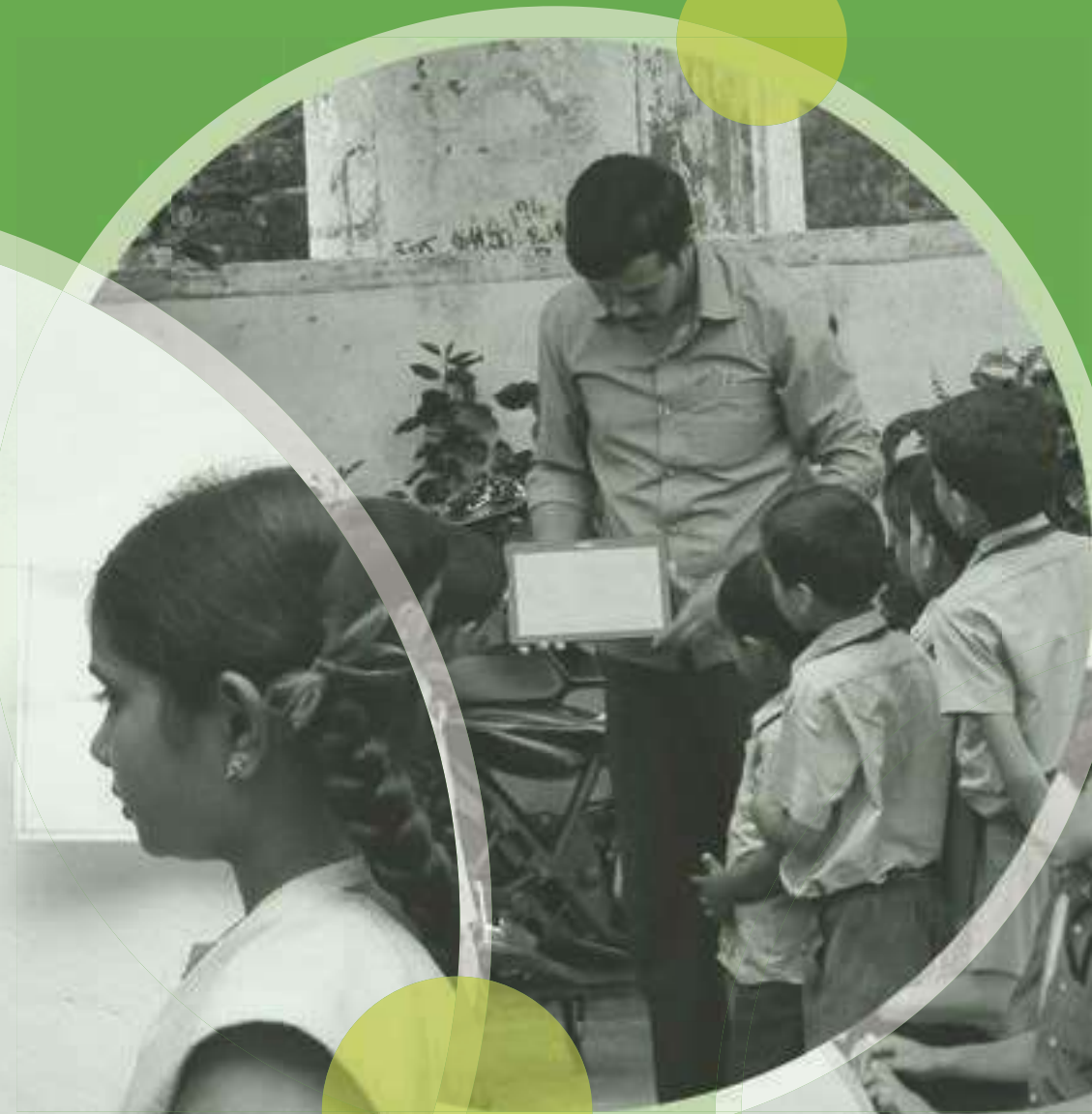
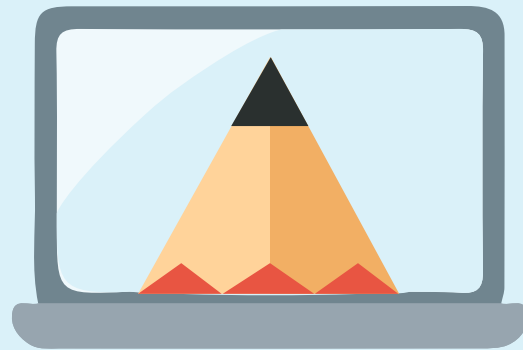
In the area of education, the Foundation has been focusing on making education affordable and creating vibrant learning environments in schools catering to rural and urban poor. The Foundation's programs in the healthcare sector sponsored the procurement of state-of-the-art medical equipment for blindness prevention initiatives and health interventions for women and children. The livelihood sector witnessed the Foundation's work in providing gainful employment for disadvantaged youth and women through short-term skill training programs.

Cognizant Foundation's Rebuilding Communities Program is a part of Cognizant's efforts to reach out to communities affected by the floods in Chennai - in December, 2015; and by Cyclone Vardah - in December, 2016. Under this program, the Foundation has adopted fifteen communities and is working for their rehabilitation. The areas of intervention are women empowerment, livelihood restoration, education, healthcare, skill building, housing and environment. This program will impact more than 25,000 lives over a three year period.

We continue to leverage NGO partnerships to transform the lives of the socially and economically backward sections of the society. As in the past, the Foundation enjoys the patronage of Cognizant Associates and the Cognizant Outreach teams in the various Cognizant offices who serve as its extended arms in their respective locations.

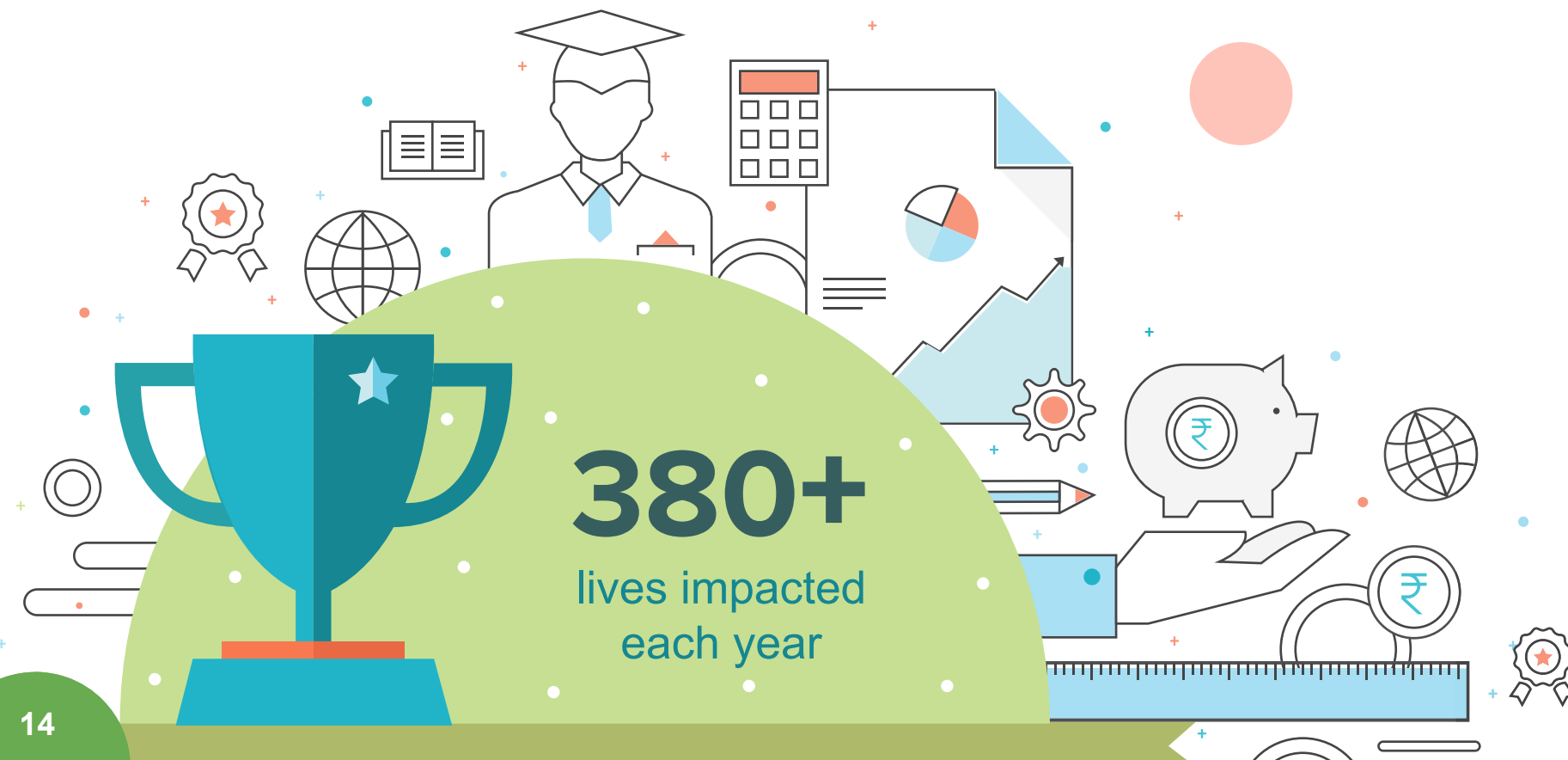
EDUCATION

Enabling equitable access
to quality education

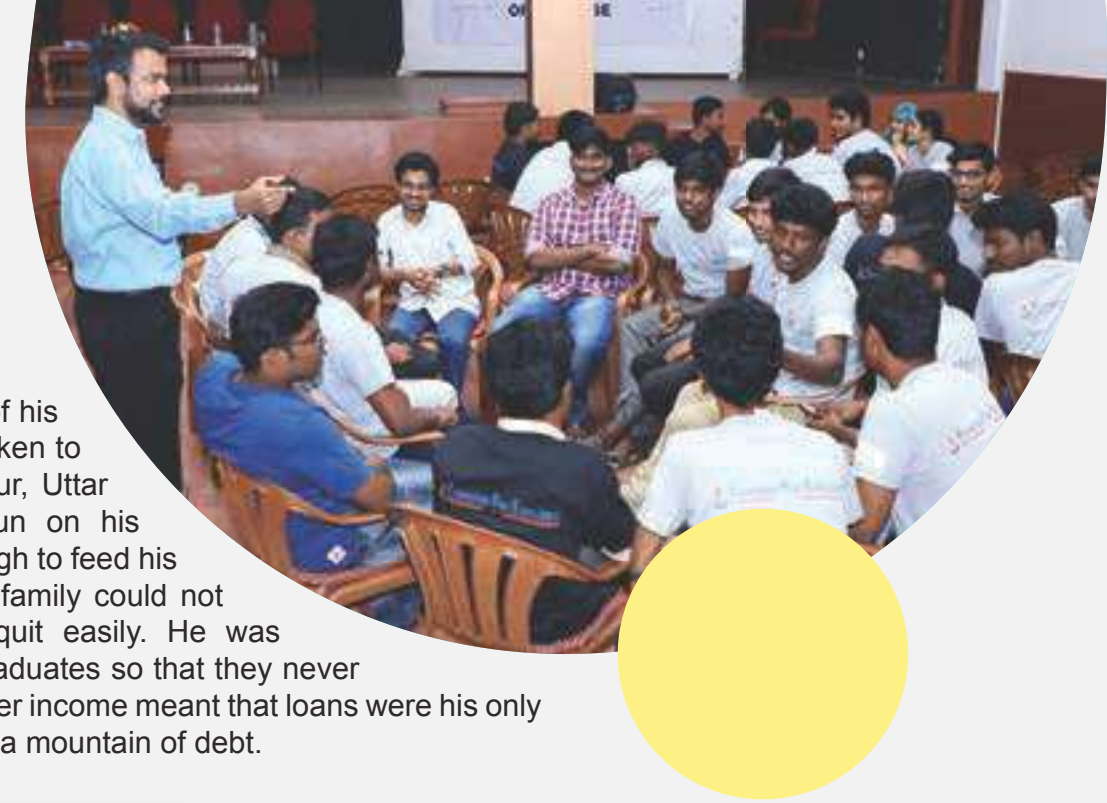


A Fillip To Scholastic Achievement

Competitive scholarships to meritorious students from disadvantaged backgrounds



Making Education Affordable



Ramakant Yadav's earliest memories are of his father struggling to pay off loans he had taken to educate his children. Hailing from Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh and toiling under the harsh sun on his one-acre land, his father barely made enough to feed his family of six. Education was a luxury the family could not afford, but the father was not one to quit easily. He was determined to turn his four children into graduates so that they never had to endure the hardships he did. A meager income meant that loans were his only recourse and this left the doting father with a mountain of debt.

Ramakant was deeply affected by his father's never-ending cycle of financial struggles and the consequent lack of respect for his family among the villagers. He knew it would be a few years before he could help pay off the loans and that the least he could do right now was to make his father proud - by excelling in his studies and securing a scholarship; thereby, freeing his father from further loans on his account. Ramakant did just that and joined Mechanical Engineering at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, Punjab, thanks to the Cognizant Foundation – FFE scholarship. Ramakant hopes to run his own company some day and help other struggling fathers give their children a better future.



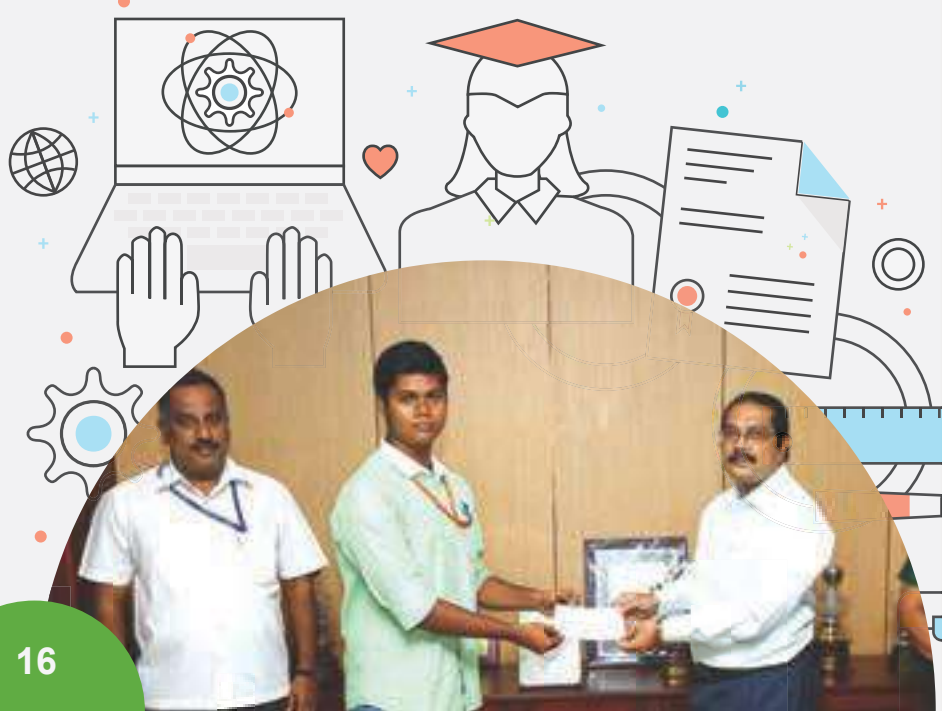
Creating Success Stories

Abipriya's story is one of fortitude. Born in Belukuruchi, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, Abipriya is the daughter of a farmer who barely makes enough to feed and clothe his family of four. Her father desired to educate both his daughters, as he believed that was their way out of poverty. He was discouraged by the people in his village - "Don't educate your daughters too well, otherwise you will not be able to find suitable grooms for them. Let them study until 12th standard and get them married off" they said. Abipriya was fortunate that her father ignored the well-meaning, yet, regressive voices.

Abipriya was selected for the B.E. Computer Science Engineering course in MIT, Chennai. Moral support from her family was abundant but financial support was another story altogether. With no assets to speak of, getting a bank loan was a challenge. It was at this point that Abipriya heard of the Cognizant Foundation scholarship. She qualified for the scholarship and got full financial aid for the four years of her undergraduate program. She graduated with a CGPA of 8.2 and landed a job with ZOHO, Chennai. She now earns ten times more than her father. Abipriya credits Cognizant Foundation for turning her into a success story and making her an example for the young girls in her village.



Cognizant Foundation awards scholarships to academically bright students with limited financial means to help them pursue their undergraduate education. The Foundation has two programs – the Cognizant Foundation Scholarship administered directly by the Foundation in partnership with 31 Engineering Institutions across the country, and another scholarship in partnership with Foundation For Excellence India Trust.




Creating Vibrant Learning Environments

ICT tools to improve teaching-learning process

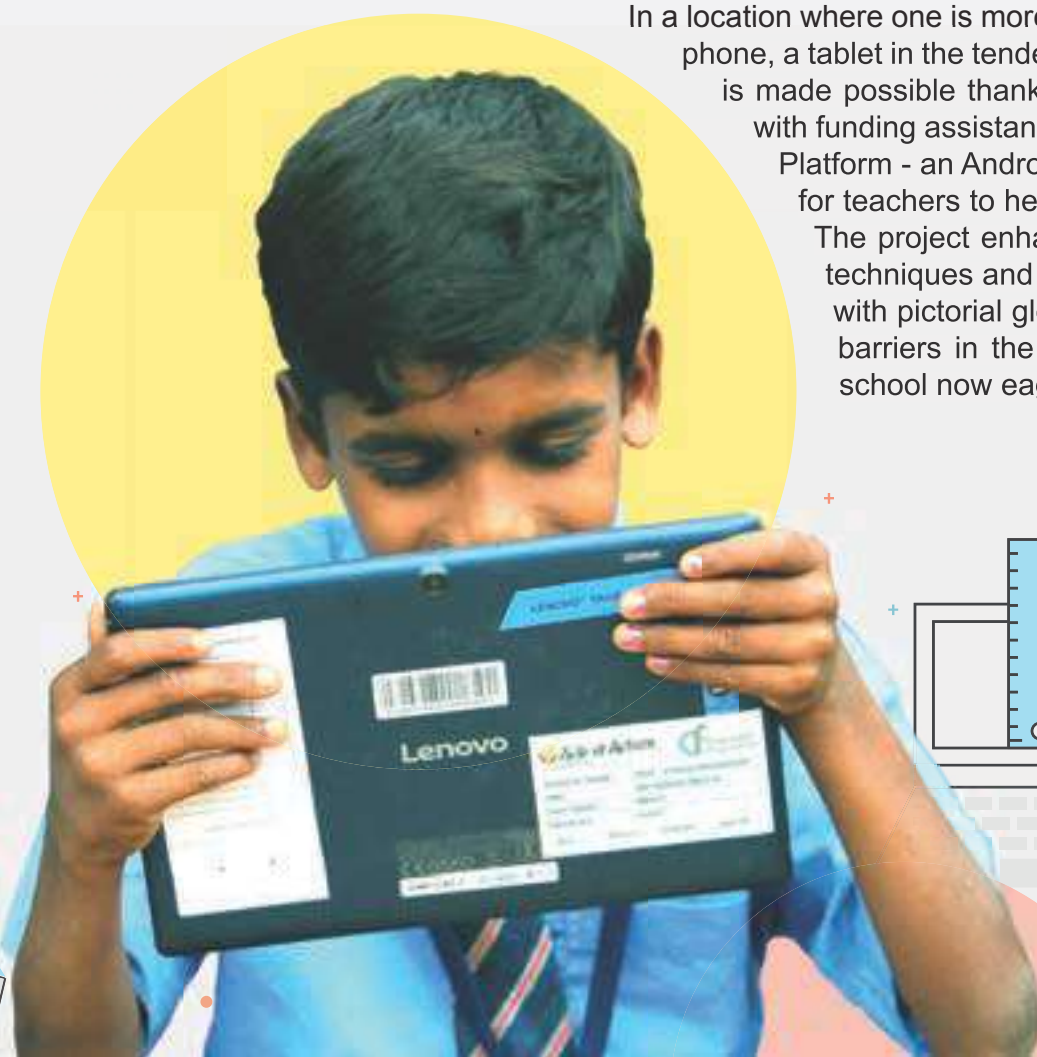


7,800+
lives impacted
each year

Reaching The Unreached



Imagine a group of students hunched over a tablet solving a Mathematics puzzle on place value; the distant trumpeting of a wild Asian Elephant shatters this image of an elite private school. The students - hailing from diverse tribal communities - attend the Government Lower Primary School (GLPS) in Chandakavadi. The school is situated in the heart of the BRT Wildlife Sanctuary - a reserve forest located in B R Hills which is a hill range situated in South East Karnataka. The sanctuary is a protected tiger reserve and forms an important wildlife corridor between the Western and Eastern Ghats.



In a location where one is more likely to come across a tiger than one would a smartphone, a tablet in the tender hands of primary school children is indeed rare. This is made possible thanks to the intervention of Aide et Action India, Chennai with funding assistance from Cognizant Foundation. Guru-G Teacher Assist Platform - an Android Tablet solution - is used as a classroom companion for teachers to help them design and deliver personalized lesson plans. The project enhances teachers' capacities to use innovative teaching techniques and thereby provide quality learning. The tablet also helps with pictorial glossary of words and sentences to bridge the linguistic barriers in the multilingual community. Children who once dreaded school now eagerly look forward to Monday mornings.

Learning Made Fun

Sudeep, bright-eyed and all smiles, waits at the door of the computer lab in his school. He can hardly wait for his teacher to open the door to start exploring. Today it is Mathematics - "Can parallel lines be above or below?", "Can any 3 sides form a triangle?", "How to draw perpendiculars?" - are some of the topics he is currently experimenting with. Sudeep loves his computer sessions and often has the teacher on her toes with his rapid fire questions.

Sudeep is one of those Class 8 students of the Jayanagara 9th block High School in Bengaluru who have discovered that Math can be magic. This school is part of the Teachers Communities of Learning (TCOL) Program implemented by IT for Change, Bengaluru with the financial support of Cognizant Foundation. The TCOL program has enabled teachers in government schools to use digital technologies for teaching-learning processes. The students are engaged in school-wide projects that integrate ICTs for interdisciplinary learning. This program has resulted in improved learning outcomes for students in core subject areas.

"In primary school we were not taught this way; the way mathematics is taught here - with the computers - I have learnt so much. I like Science and Mathematics and want to become an expert in these subjects", says Sudeep who aims to become a software engineer one day.



Cognizant Foundation helps educational institutions – that cater to the disadvantaged - to integrate Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) into their educational systems. This results in significant improvements in teachers' and learners' performances. This year, the Foundation has partnered with four non-profit organizations - Aide et Action India, Chennai; AIM for Seva, Chennai; Deaf Leaders Foundation, Coimbatore; and IT for Change, Bengaluru – for technology enabled teaching and learning in underprivileged schools.

Other Education Projects

Learning Aids for Differently Abled Children

Cognizant Foundation helps non-profit organizations, which cater to differently abled students, procure various learning aids. This year, the Foundation has partnered with three non-profit organizations – Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy, Narendrapur, West Bengal; Suniye, New Delhi and WORTH Trust, Katpadi, Tamil Nadu – for providing learning aids to the hearing and visually impaired children.

Quality Teaching Input

Cognizant Foundation continues to sponsor four Teach for India Fellows to provide additional teaching support in two Chennai Corporation Schools that cater to students from socio-economically disadvantaged families.

Learning Resource Centers

Cognizant Foundation partners with various NGOs to set up learning resource centers for the benefit of students from underprivileged backgrounds – both urban and rural. This year, the Foundation has partnered with four non-profit organizations – AID India, Chennai; India Literacy Project, Bangalore; Maitri Charitable Trust, Chennai and Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust, Chennai – for setting up village education support centers, multi-dimensional learning spaces and Montessori Centers respectively.



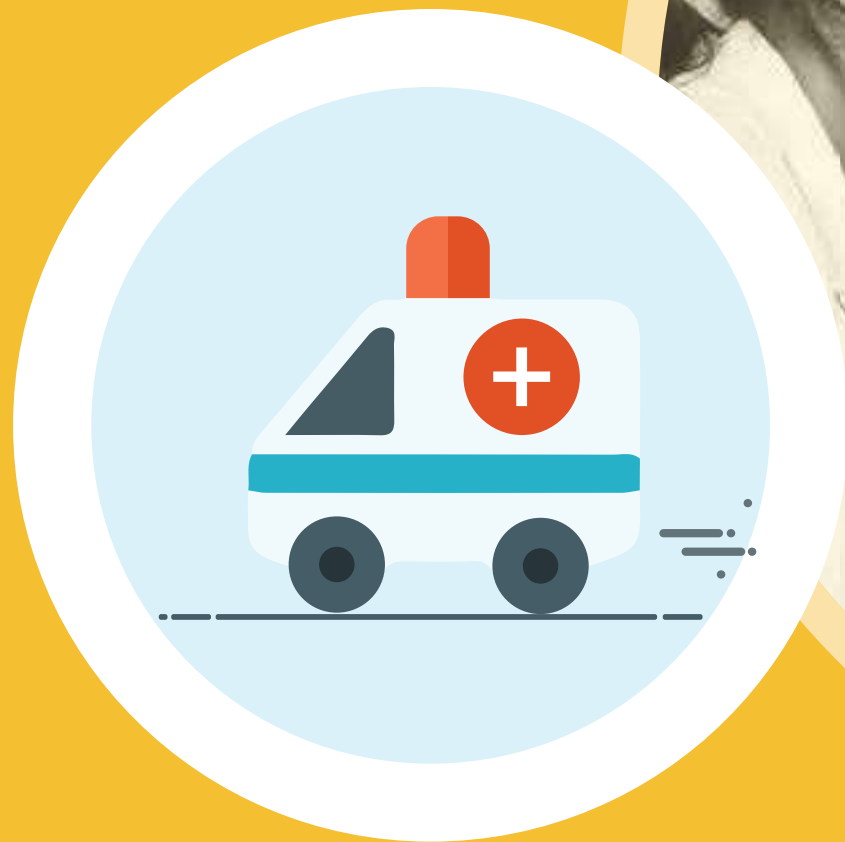
Welding Simulators For Vocational Training

Cognizant Foundation has commissioned two innovative welding simulators at Government ITI, Peenya, Bangalore, to help with the vocational training of students pursuing welding course in the institute. The welding simulators are developed by Skillveri Training Solutions Private Ltd., Chennai, which is a technology start-up incubated by the Rural Technology and Business Incubator of IIT Madras. The simulator saves 70% of consumables cost and delivers improved skill training.

3,200+
lives impacted
each year

HEALTHCARE

Bringing quality healthcare
within reach




Eradicating Avoidable Blindness

State-of-the-art medical equipment for blindness prevention initiatives




15,000+
lives impacted
each year

A Future Free Of Darkness



It was 5 a.m., the sun was yet to rise over Banin Nathpur village in Nadia, West Bengal. Annapurna Roy was up and unmindful of the darkness outside. At fifty two years old she needed no alarm clock to wake her up – this has been her routine for as long as she could remember. She offered prayers to Goddess Kali and went about her household chores. Annapurna had to get food ready for her children and her husband - a teacher in the village primary school.

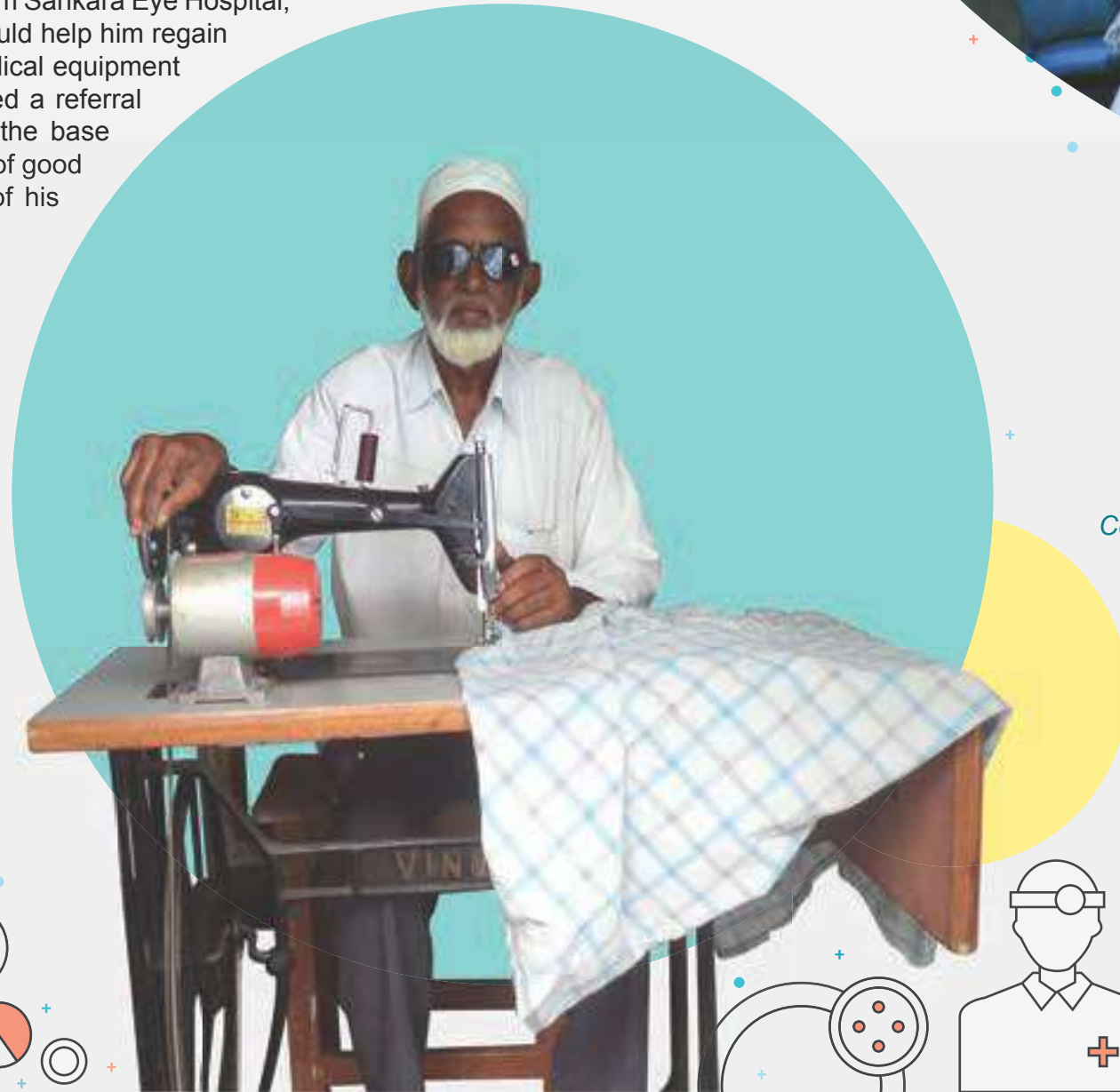


All was as well as it could be in her neck of the woods until Annapurna went to fetch water from the village hand pump; she suddenly experienced unexplainable blurriness of vision. She was diagnosed with Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion (BRVO) - a condition where branches of the retinal vein become blocked affecting central vision. The condition was curable and she was prescribed some tests and surgery. However, with six months to feed on an annual family income of Rs. 1.2 lakhs, affording the treatment was out of the question. Annapurna was fearful of turning blind and had lost all hope when one day her relative referred her to Susrut Eye Foundation. At the hospital, Annapurna was offered the OCT tests and injection with surgical microscope - free of cost, thanks to the funding support of Cognizant Foundation that helped the hospital procure the equipment. She is grateful to both the organizations for restoring her vision and saving her from a miserable existence.

Adding Life To Years

Khasimbee Syed is a tailor by profession and owned a shop with a steady clientele. He made a decent profit that helped meet his expenses and provided his family with a comfortable existence. However, in the last couple of years Syed was affected by deteriorating eye sight. In a profession whose hallmark is precision, this was a huge blow to Syed. He could not work like he used to; he read the measurements incorrectly or injured his fingers due to incorrect placement of needle. The low quality of his work resulted in his customers taking their business elsewhere. The sad state of affairs prolonged until one day Syed had to shut shop and switch to selling dress materials door-to-door.

Syed was depressed with the blow that fate had struck him and petitioned God incessantly for deliverance. His prayers were answered when a Health Visitor from Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur visited him. He explained to him that a simple surgery could help him regain his vision and it would be offered free of cost, thanks to the medical equipment donated by Cognizant Foundation. The Health Visitor gave Syed a referral card to an eye camp in his village. There, he was guided to the base hospital for Cataract surgery. The surgery has done him a world of good as he can now focus on his work. More than the restoration of his earning potential, Syed is grateful to have his dignity back.



Cognizant Foundation has adopted 'eye care' as one of its flagship programs in the healthcare sector. Over the years, it has been making significant contribution to quality eye health services and making it accessible to underprivileged rural and urban populations. This year, the Foundation has partnered with three non-profit organizations – Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur; Sri Vivekananda Sevashrama, Bengaluru and Susrut Eye Foundation and Research Centre, Berhampore, West Bengal – to fund the acquisition of state-of-the-art medical equipment for use in their programs for the prevention and control of blindness.



Improving Access To Quality Healthcare For Women And Children

Quality health facilities for women and children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds

Cancer Treatment On A Hospital Train For The First Time In The History Of Medicine

Mamata*, a forty five year old housewife, lives with her husband, three children and in-laws in Ajancur Taluk of Tikamgarh District, Madhya Pradesh. She helps her husband in the fields; her work is hard and tiring, but she does it to educate her children and give them a way out of their miserable existence. Mamata's life took a sudden turn for the worse when she discovered a hard lump in her right breast. Troubled by the lump she went to the local quack who assured her she would be healed in a matter of weeks.



She went about her daily routine with little knowledge of the gravity of the situation. After a month, when the lump grew in size she became anxious and visited a hospital in Tikamgarh; there she was diagnosed with breast cancer and was advised surgery at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh. For a family that existed hand to mouth on a monthly income of Rs. 6000, spending such an amount on surgery was out of the question. Mamata and her family reconciled to her fate thinking God must be punishing her for bad karma. Mamata was only worried about her children - about who would take care of them after her demise.

Life took a U-turn when her neighbors informed Mamata of the arrival of the Lifeline Express at Tikamgarh Railway Station. The world's first hospital on a train had a new cancer screening coach - thanks to the equipment donated by Cognizant Foundation. She was operated on the Lifeline Express for breast cancer at no cost. Mamata is doing well now and is looking forward to her future with hope.

Cognizant Foundation has adopted 'women and child health' as its second flagship program in the healthcare sector. It has been striving to make high quality health care accessible to a demographic that is often ignored. This year, the Foundation has partnered with two non-profit organizations – Bangalore Cantonment Rotary Trust, Bengaluru and Impact India Foundation, Mumbai – by providing grants to procure high-end medical equipment to offer quality health interventions for underprivileged women and children.

*Name changed to protect privacy

8,500+
lives impacted
each year

Other Healthcare Projects

Critical Care

Cognizant Foundation has provided financial support to Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), Saragur, Mysore, Karnataka, to purchase a set of critical and lifesaving medical equipment for use in Saragur's Vivekananda Memorial Hospital - a multi-specialty hospital. This support will benefit over 6000 patients every year.

SupportiForiMedicaliCamps

Cognizant Foundation has awarded a grant to Mahila Dakshata Samiti (MDS), Karnataka Chapter, for the purchase of a vehicle to help conduct medical camps and awareness programs in various parts of Karnataka. This support benefits about 4000 patients each year.

Urban Mental Health Program

Cognizant Foundation supported The Banyan, Chennai, in running its Urban Mental Health Program for a period of one year. This program addresses barriers to mental health care in urban areas. This support promotes early access to quality care, enhances patient wellbeing, and reduces disability and burden of disease. The project benefits over 900 mentally ill patients.



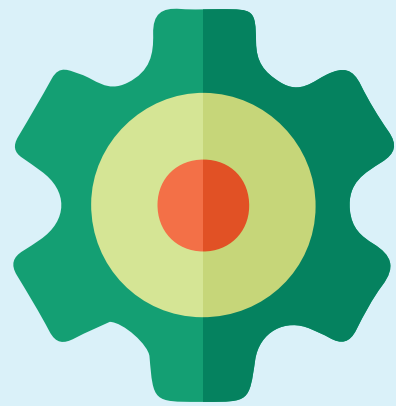
Diagnostic Equipment For DifferentlyAbled

Cognizant Foundation has helped the Institute for the Handicapped and Backward People (IHBP), Kolkata procure a Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry (BERA) equipment. The BERA machine helps with clinical identification and proper diagnosis of hearing, cerebral, vision and memory problems. It therefore assists in thorough evaluation, proper assessment, treatment and therapeutic management of differently abled beneficiaries of IHBP - who are about 1000 in number.

12,000+
lives impacted
each year

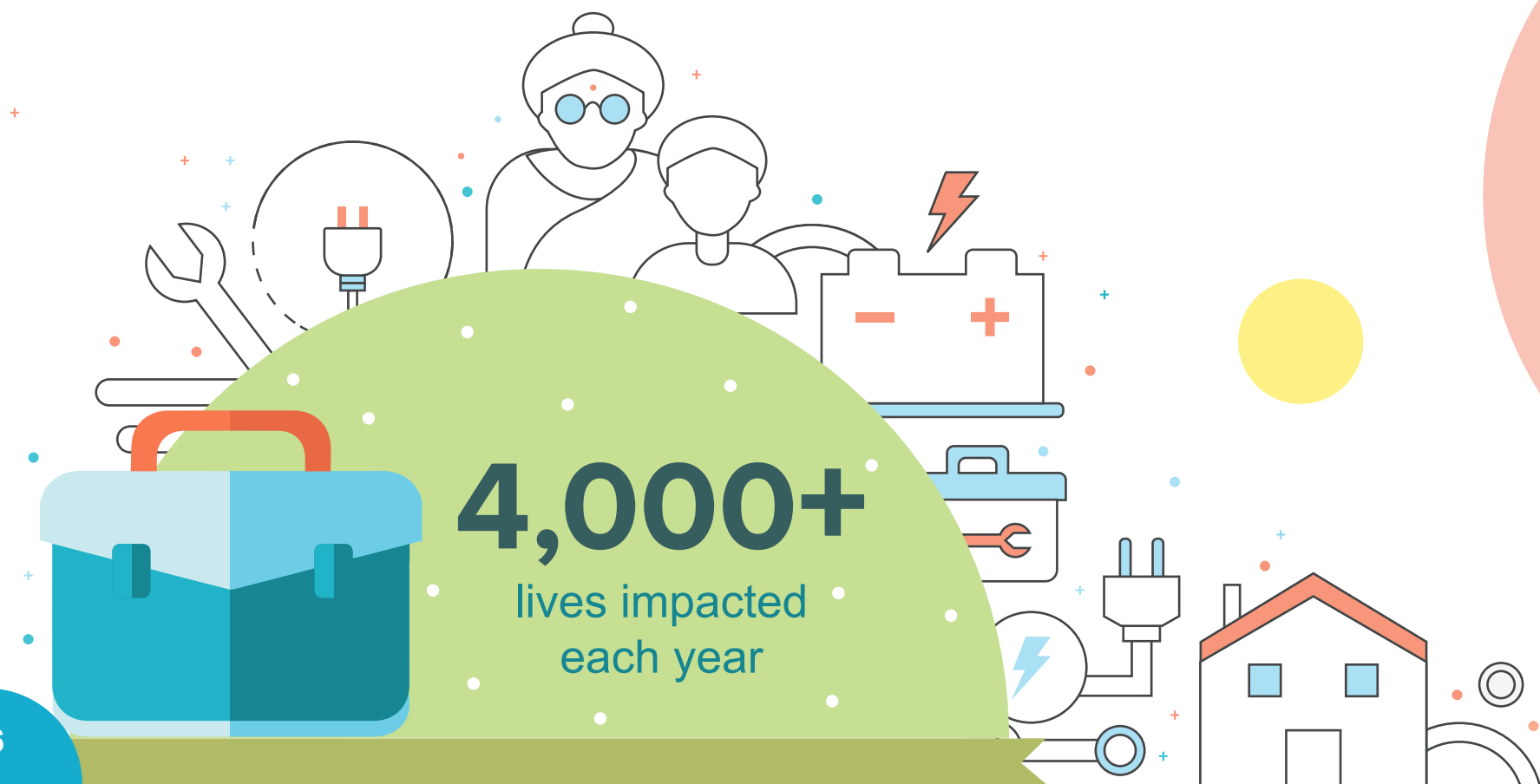
LIVELIHOOD

Enabling inclusive development



Gainful Employment For Disadvantaged Youth

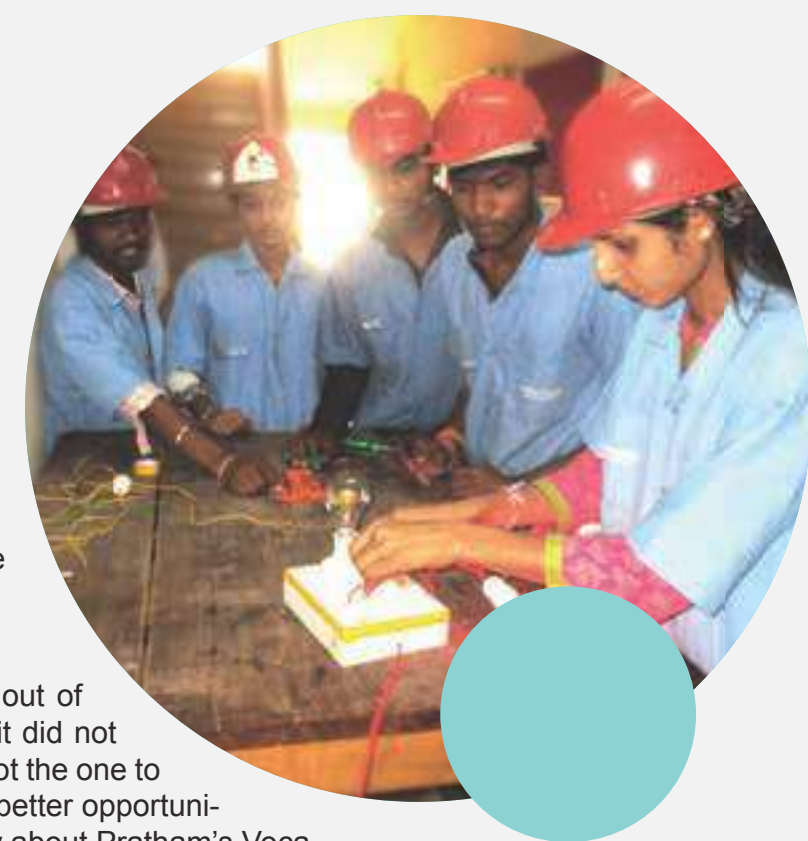
Short-term skill training programs to make underprivileged youth and women employable



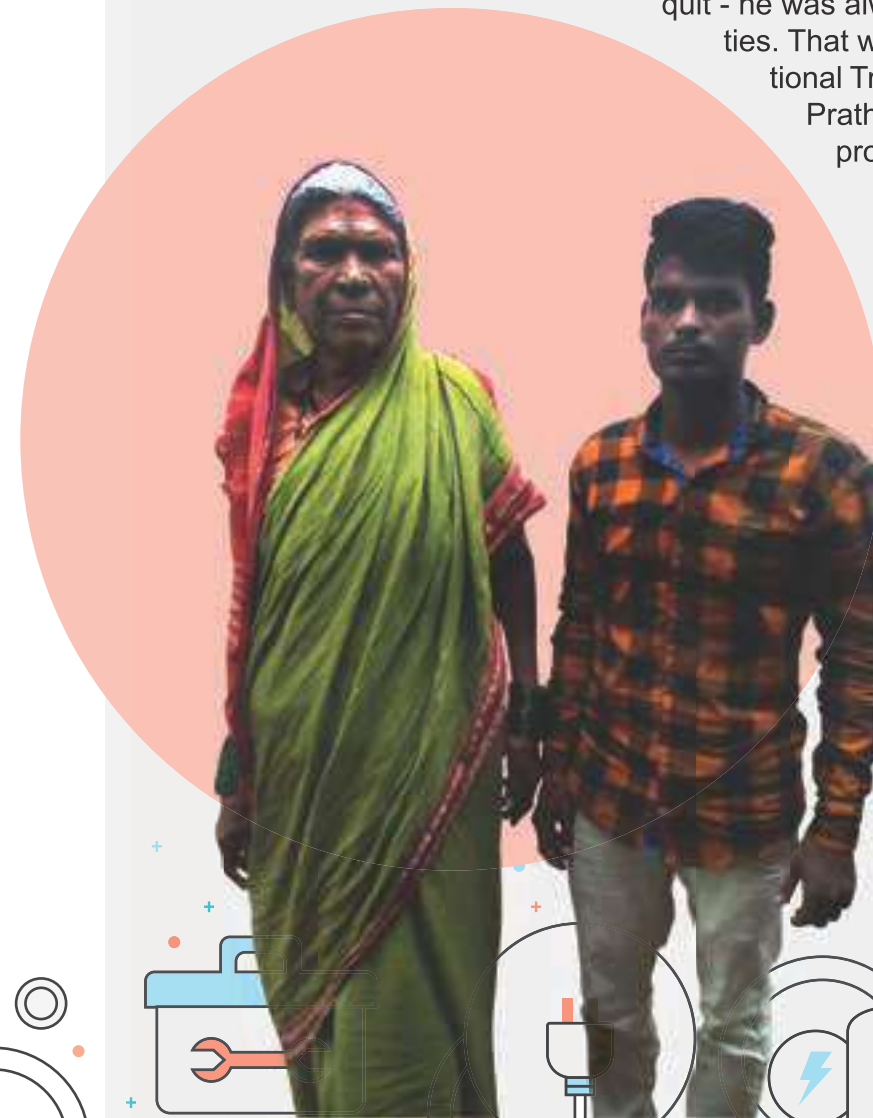
4,000+
lives impacted
each year

A Helping Hand To Escape The Clutches Of Poverty

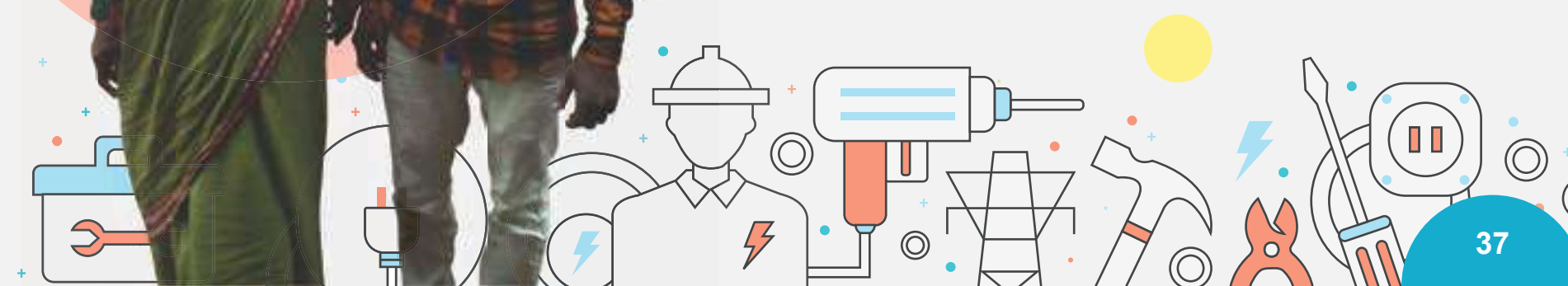
Born in a small village in Satara District in Maharashtra, Ranjit Gula Bhaosale had to drop out of school after Class 8. Ranjit was young when his parents passed away so his maternal grandmother brought him up. She owned a small piece of land, but she could barely fulfill her own needs with the paltry sum she earned from farming it.



Looking at his grandmother's struggle, Ranjit decided to drop out of school and start helping her. As altruistic as his decision was, it did not improve their monthly income. But Ranjit was not the one to quit - he was always on the lookout for better opportunities. That was when he got to know about Pratham's Vocational Training Programs; he decided to get trained in Wireman Electrical course at Pratham's center in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The training in the center was provided free of cost to the youth, thanks to Cognizant Foundation's support.



Ranjit completed his training successfully and was placed with Matoshree Services where he earns Rs. 8000 per month. He spends a part of his salary on himself and gives the rest to his grandmother. Ranjit and his grandmother could not be happier.



Economic Empowerment Made Possible

Thirty two year old Jaya Bharathi - a native of the Saidapet slums in Chennai - is the second of four sisters. Born in abject poverty to a lorry driver father and a housemaid mother, the family's income was meager and life was hard. Although Bharathi married Babu at the age of twenty four it did not change the quality of her life. Babu, the breadwinner, works in a tyre factory making hardly enough to get by. The couple have two daughters – seven and four years old. The elder daughter is a child with special needs needing speech therapy - an expense that her family could never afford on her husband's paycheck.

Bharathi has a Bachelors Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology that she completed on a Government scholarship. Though she desired to work and support her daughter's therapy she was repeatedly turned down - despite her qualification - due to her lack of computer and English skills. This sad state of affairs took a turn for the better when Bharathi heard of the skill training program offered by Asha Deep Foundation in partnership with Cognizant Foundation. Through the training, she acquired a working knowledge of computers and learnt to speak fluent English.



Thanks to these qualifications, she landed a job as Laboratory Technician in Dr. Vijayalakshmi Clinic in Velachery, Chennai. She is grateful to Cognizant Foundation for helping her to become economically empowered as she earns Rs. 15000/- a month and can support her daughter's treatment.



Light At The End Of The Tunnel

Like any poor youth, Sailesh Thapa has his own story of struggle, hardship, endurance and then the moment of joy. Twenty three year old Sailesh belongs to Pacheng village in Sonada, West Bengal. His parents passed away when he was a little boy leaving him and his elder sister to fend for themselves. Sailesh had to drop out of school after Class 8 as the expenses became unaffordable. Sailesh did odd jobs to earn whatever he could to help his sister. This was a dark and dreary period in Sailesh's life as he was clueless about his future. He desired to be engaged in gainful work and earn well so that he could support his sister.

It was at this time of internal turmoil that Sailesh came to know about Don Bosco Tech Society's skill training center in Sonada run with the funding support of Cognizant Foundation; the centre offered skill training courses to help youth like him. Sailesh enrolled himself in the Hospitality – Housekeeping domain. It was a demanding course, especially given his lack of education. But Sailesh was no quitter; he worked hard and passed with flying colors.



Today he is employed in the Housekeeping department of Malabar Ocean Resort and Spa, Nileshtar, Kerala, with a monthly remuneration of Rs. 8000/- along with food and accommodation. Sailesh is proud of his achievement, as he is able to help his sister monetarily as well as save for his future.



Equipped To Face Life's Hard Knocks

Nirmala and her husband were the proud parents of two sons – one pursuing his MA in Madras University and another in Class 9. Theirs was a happy family with the father donning the role of the breadwinner - until tragedy struck in the form of his sudden demise. Left with no means of support, the younger son discontinued his studies to work as a sales boy. The family decided that the elder son should complete his graduation so he can get better employment and thereby take care of the family.

Nirmala was heartbroken to see the family responsibilities on the tender shoulders of her younger son. She wanted to support him financially to ease his burdens, but could not - as she neither had the educational qualifications nor experience to land a decent job. It was then that she came to know about ANEW's Home Nursing training offered with the funding assistance of Cognizant Foundation. She got trained at ANEW and is now employed as a Home Nurse at Anna Nagar, Chennai, earning a monthly income of Rs. 12,000. Nirmala is heartened that her income has enabled her younger son to go back to school and look forward to a bright future.

Cognizant Foundation's flagship program in the livelihood sector is the skill training of disadvantaged youth and women from poor socio-economic backgrounds - both rural and urban. Under this program, short-term skill training courses are offered in trades ranging from electrician to Customer Sales Representative; in addition to this, they are provided with life skills training - English and computer literacy - to help them gain skills that would guarantee them decent jobs leading to economic independence.



This year, the Foundation continues its partnership with five non-profit organizations – Aide et Action India, Chennai; Association for Non-Traditional Employment for Women (ANEW), Chennai; Dr. Reddy's Foundation, Hyderabad; Literacy India, New Delhi, and SEEDS, New Delhi – in their skill training initiatives for underprivileged youth and women. Cognizant Foundation also partnered with five new non-profit organizations in this area. The organizations are - Asha Deep Foundation, New Delhi; Don Bosco Tech Society, New Delhi; Hand in Hand India, Kanchipuram; Pratham, Mumbai and Samaritan Help Mission, Kolkata.



REBUILDING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Building self-reliant communities




Integrated And Sustainable Development Of Communities

Rehabilitating communities affected by natural calamities

Creating Women Entrepreneurs

Jamuna is a thirty one year old woman living with her husband and two sons in Periyar Nagar, Medavakkam, Chennai. Being school dropouts, Jamuna and her husband could not get good jobs resulting in financial hardship for the family. They were determined to provide their children with good education so that at least they didn't have to worry about where their next meal would come from. Their dreams for their sons' future was in jeopardy as Jamuna's husband, a painter, could find employment for only ten to fifteen days in a month; his earnings were hardly enough to meet the family's living expenses.

Jamuna used to work in a leather company before she got married. She had an idea to start a household enterprise doing small jobs for leather companies so that she too could contribute to the family income. However, she did not have the funds to turn her dream into reality. She came to know of the Self Help Groups (SHGs) started by DHAN Foundation under the Rebuilding Communities Program of Cognizant Foundation. She became a member of Sembaruthi SHG and received a livelihood enhancement fund support through which she set up her enterprise. She began getting small orders from leather companies to produce small size purses and now makes Rs. 8,000 per month. Through her income she is making sure that her sons continue their education. Jamuna is proud to have become a woman entrepreneur who is able to provide jobs to four other women who are also SHG members like her.



25,000+
lives impacted
each year

Poverty Alleviation Through Women Empowerment

Jayalakshmi hails from Sithalapakkam village of St. Thomas Mount Block, Chennai. She was married fourteen years ago to a tailor and the couple was blessed with two children. Although the family had limited resources and lived in a small hut, they were happy and content. It all changed when Jayalakshmi's husband became addicted to alcohol and drugs. He began beating her daily and subjected her to mental torture. His lifestyle soon caught up with him and he succumbed to stomach cancer four years ago, leaving Jayalakshmi and her two kids destitute.

Jayalakshmi went into depression which eventually reflected in the emotional wellbeing of her daughter and son. The school teachers advised her to pull herself together for the sake of her children. She decided to look for a job to support her family. The only job she could find was as a household maid since she had no qualifications to speak of. When DHAN Foundation adopted her village under Cognizant Foundation's Rebuilding Communities Program, Jayalakshmi got a job as a field staff in Sithalapakkam; this not only tidied her financially but also boosted her self-esteem, as she was able to help other vulnerable women stand on their feet.

During Cyclone Vardha, Jayalakshmi's hut collapsed when a big tree fell on it. She had to shift to her mother's house as hers became unlivable. She received housing fund support through the Cognizant Foundation program through which she reconstructed her hut into a small house where she lives happily with her daughter and son.



The devastation caused by the unprecedented rains and flood in Chennai in December 2015 and by Cyclone Vardah in December 2016 led to the social and economic deprivation of thousands of families in and around Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Cognizant chose Cognizant Foundation as one of the channels to execute relief and rehabilitation work among these families. The Foundation launched its Rebuilding Communities Program (RCP) to rehabilitate fifteen communities affected by the natural calamities. RCP is being implemented through two NGO partners – DHAN Foundation and Hand in Hand India.

Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation is a grass-roots professional development organization that has more than two decades of engagement in the area of community rebuilding - through poverty reduction and women empowerment.

DHAN is implementing Cognizant Foundation's RCP in nine panchayats of St. Thomas Mount Block, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu, over a period of three years. The beneficiaries of this intervention are predominantly daily wage laborers, construction workers, housewives and petty shop owners from poor socio-economic backgrounds. Some of the key interventions in this program are:

- Women empowerment – promotion of SHGs and enterprise creation
- Livelihood restoration
- Housing – repair of badly damaged houses
- Education – remedial tuition centers
- Health – health camps and anemia reduction programs
- Skill building programs

Fishing Her Way Out Of Destitution

Bhuvaneshwari lost her husband when she was barely twenty five years old. She lives in the Poonkunam Panchayat of Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu. The forty five year old mother of two sons eked out a living by selling produce from her farm. The family used half of their farm yields for consumption selling the rest to meet their other expenses. The recent natural calamities of the Chennai floods and Cyclone Vardah and the consequent damages to their house and fields put the family in a severe cash crunch. Bhuvaneshwari was forced to borrow from the local moneylender - for these emergency expenses - landing her in an eternal cycle of debt and misery.

There appeared no way out of her abysmal situation until one day her village was adopted under Cognizant Foundation's Rebuilding Communities Program, implemented by Hand in Hand India, Kanchipuram. Bhuvaneshwari was one of the beneficiaries of the livelihood interventions under this project. As she had a small pond in her fields she was trained in fish farming and given 2,500 fishlings of Common Carp. She was also trained to cultivate Azolla – an aquatic fern that is low cost and low maintenance as well as rich in protein – that can be used as nutritious feed for the fishlings.



In a span of three months, the fishlings have grown in size to weigh around 2.5 kgs each. Bhuvaneshwari says, "I can sell the fish for Rs. 130 each and generate good revenue to plan for a second fish farm and strengthen my enterprise".



Hands-on Learning

Supriya is a Class 5 student in the Government Primary School in Munnithikuppam Panchayat of Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu. She is a first-generation learner who, at the insistence of her mother, does not miss even a single day of school; her mother knew that her daughter's only chance at a better life was through education. Unfortunately, school wasn't of much help for Supriya who was a slow learner – in Class 5 she could neither read words nor sentences, only alphabets. She attended school to keep her mother happy but she was no better than some of her peers who worked the fields with their families.

One day her teacher asked Supriya to attend the Children Learning Centre (CLC) set up by Hand in Hand India under the Cognizant Foundation's Rebuilding Communities Program. The CLC is an after-school learning center where slow learners from government schools are taught core subjects through the play-way method. Children are taught with teaching aids that include Maths and Tamil kits; these consist of Abacus, measurement apparatus and shape blocks. Children are motivated to come to the center and love to play and learn through shapes, numbers and letters.

In just seven months of attending the CLC, Supriya is able to read sentences on her own. "My favorite subject is science and I look forward to coming to the center more than going to school", she adds cheerfully. Her teacher is happy to note that Supriya is no longer a silent spectator but an active contributor in class.



Hand in Hand India (HiH India) is a public charitable trust that works to alleviate poverty through a unique integrated community development approach. HiH India renders services in five key areas - child labour elimination and education, self-help groups (SHGs) and women empowerment, skill development and technology, health and environment.

HiH India is implementing Cognizant Foundation's RCP in six panchayats – in Kanchipuram and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu - over a period of two years. The beneficiaries of this intervention are predominantly farmers, daily wage laborers, housewives and petty shop owners from poor socio-economic backgrounds. Some of the key interventions in this program are:

- *Women empowerment – promotion of SHGs and enterprise creation*
- *Education – learning centers, ICT tools and transit school*
- *Housing – renovation of badly damaged houses*
- *Health – rural health clinics and health camps*
- *Skill building programs*
- *Environment – solid waste management, pond deepening and renovation, RO units, azolla cultivation, kitchen gardens and avenue trees*



Impact By State

Lives impacted annually for the last five years

AP/Telangana

20,700

Number of projects

15

- Education: 11,100 | Projects: 6
- Healthcare: 8,000 | Projects: 5
- Livelihood: 1,500 | Projects: 3



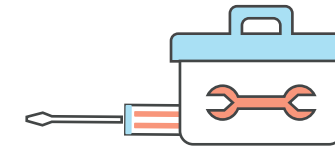
Karnataka

1,65,600

Number of projects

32

- Education: 29,000 | Projects: 11
- Healthcare: 1,34,400 | Projects: 16
- Livelihood: 2,200 | Projects: 5



Kerala

26,400

Number of projects

5

- Education: 10,000 | Projects: 1
- Healthcare: 15,200 | Projects: 2
- Livelihood: 1,200 | Projects: 2



Maharashtra

1,20,600

Number of projects

16

- Education: 6,100 | Projects: 5
- Healthcare: 1,14,200 | Projects: 9
- Livelihood: 300 | Projects: 2



NCR

51,400

Number of projects

4

- Education: 8,000 | Projects: 2
- Healthcare: 43,000 | Projects: 1
- Livelihood: 200 | Projects: 1



Tamil Nadu

85,600

Number of projects

51

- Education: 18,200 | Projects: 22
- Healthcare: 38,400 | Projects: 15
- Livelihood: 3,400 | Projects: 9
- Community Rebuilding: 25,500 | Projects: 2

West Bengal

1,13,300

Number of projects

21

- Education: 5,800 | Projects: 3
- Healthcare: 1,04,500 | Projects: 13
- Livelihood: 2,900 | Projects: 5



Pan India

42,500

Number of projects

3

- Education: 550 | Projects: 2
- Healthcare: 42,000 | Projects: 1



