



Yearbook
2019/20



Contents

- Messages From The Board
- 2019/20 At A Glance
- Healthcare
- Education
- Livelihood
- Responding To The COVID-19 Pandemic
- 15 Years Of Empowering Social Change



Messages From The Board





N.R. KRISHNAN

IAS (Retd.)
Director, Cognizant Foundation

“There is an adage in sports that the way one scores points is more important than the points themselves. So it is with Corporate Social Responsibility. Measured by this yardstick, the Foundation has been fortunate, over the years, in the number of projects it has supported and their relevance to its thrust areas of activity, namely Education, Healthcare and Skilling for Livelihood. This trend continued in 2019/20 also. The COVID-19 pandemic has given us yet another opportunity to be of service to the community all over the country.

For statistical interest, project spend on the three traditional domains went up by well over 40% compared to 2018/19. This was made possible

through an increased inflow of funds from Cognizant and the efforts of project-executing agencies. In addition, the ongoing “Rebuilding Communities” programme is on its way to a successful conclusion. Geographically, the Foundation’s operations could be widened to cover areas like the North-East which have remained inadequately attended to so far. As for places already being served, Cognizant Foundation has started making its presence felt in high-visibility locales like the National Capital Region.

The Foundation would like to express its grateful thanks to the Cognizant Management and the large body of Cognizant Associates for their enthusiastic support.”



K. BALAJI

Director, Cognizant Foundation

“For Cognizant Foundation, 2019/20 was yet another year of successful support in Education, Healthcare and Livelihood for the most deserving sections of our society. In monetary terms, the level of disbursements was the highest since the Foundation’s inception. The timely and efficient implementation of programmes such as the screening for and treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha is not a little due to the robust partner ecosystem so carefully developed and maintained by the Foundation’s hard-working secretariat. The role of the partner ecosystem was also clearly evident in the Foundation’s fulfilment of requests for assistance in the early days of the COVID-19 crisis in India.

We were able to respond quickly largely because we have implementation partners who could understand the needs, connect with the appropriate authorities, identify and align vendors, and rope in the right people to work in challenging conditions. This gives us every confidence that the Foundation can both deepen and widen its impact footprint in the years to come.”



DR. NANDINI RANGASWAMY

Director, Cognizant Foundation

“It is heartening to note that Cognizant Foundation has continued its commendable work during the current year. The activities undertaken by it and the Cognizant Outreach team are truly worthy of appreciation. I wish Cognizant Foundation the best in carrying the work forward.

While it has caused untold misery to millions across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic that broke towards the end of the year has had its positive outcomes as well. The three focus areas of the Foundation – Healthcare, Education and Livelihood – have witnessed changes which have never been experienced before. We have seen healthcare workers around us donning the mantle of care for humanity and rendering a level of service that all of us are grateful for.

Education has opened up a wider choice for the learners and innovative ways of course delivery for the teachers. Small and big entrepreneurs and businesses are inventing everyday products and services to maintain the livelihood of employees, vendors and customers. The Cognizant Foundation team has played a very significant role in supporting the needs of all the three sectors.

I pray that humanity gains compassion, service, and love for fellow humans from this unexpected and unprecedented calamity. Nature has its inimical way of teaching us lessons for the future. We are challenged to rise to the occasion, and we will. Cognizant Foundation can and will play a significant role.”



KESHAV DESIRAJU

IAS (Retd.)
Director, Cognizant Foundation

“As I write these words, Cognizant Foundation has extended over ₹11 crores to organisations and hospitals across the country to help them in their emergency responses to COVID-19. It is a mark of the Foundation’s commitment that we were able, in the face of the very sudden outbreak of the virus, to source proposals, identify organisations in need, re-order budgets and make necessary funds available. Clearly these activities will dominate our work plans over the current year and I would like to express my appreciation to our colleagues who, through lockdown, have worked on reaching funds to recipient organisations.

Cognizant Foundation’s work is growing and we are able to expand the scope of our interventions even within our identified priority areas. We are aware of the need to support organisations in regions where we do not, at present, have a footprint. We are constantly on the search for new partners, but we are also happy to continue supporting organisations we have worked with in the past.”



RAMKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY

Director, Cognizant Foundation

“This past year was a landmark year for Cognizant Foundation. It marked a decade-and-a-half of the Foundation’s extraordinary support to millions of people in the areas of Education, Healthcare and Livelihood. It also marked the strengthening of the focus on programme orientation, driving sustainable, long-term societal impact. And, most importantly, the year saw the Foundation join hands with NGOs with a pan-India footprint to meaningfully expand its outreach into regions hitherto not commensurately supported, including the North East of India.

In the early stages of the outbreak of COVID-19 in India, the Foundation took a lead in making protective gear and diagnostic equipment available

to frontline healthcare and other workers, and followed up with providing other critical medical devices, thereby helping arrest the spread of the disease, and save innumerable lives. Working closely with Cognizant Outreach, the employee volunteering arm of Cognizant, Foundation was able to establish last-mile connectivity and played a stellar role in mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

With increased funding, the ability to take on longer-term projects, a good roster of NGO partners with a pan-India presence, robust social impact assessment rubrics, and a highly experienced and active Board, the Foundation is today in a position to address much bigger issues and make the country a better place to live in.”



2019/20
At A Glance

Message from the CEO



RAJASHREE NATARAJAN

CEO, Cognizant Foundation

“We take great pleasure in sharing Cognizant Foundation’s Annual Report for 2019/20, along with a special report on our journey over the last 15 years which has impacted over 3.5 million lives across India.

Thanks to the generous support from Cognizant Management and guidance from the Foundation’s Board, we were able to reach out to more deserving communities and support them in the chosen areas of Education, Healthcare and Livelihood in the year 2019/20. We carefully selected our programmes with thorough secondary research on areas of dire need in the country, vetting of its alignment to the Foundation’s vision, Cognizant’s CSR

agenda and the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). Cognizant Foundation Projects are thoroughly evaluated to determine the robustness of field-level interventions in all stages from inception to completion. This has been possible only due to the enthusiasm of volunteers from Cognizant and the passion of our dedicated team. Our goal-oriented approach, a strong focus in nurturing innovation, relentless efforts in leveraging technology to promote excellence and strong partner network has helped us maximise the impact of our work. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their passionate support and commitment towards making our dream a reality.”

Operational Highlights

In 2019/20, Cognizant Foundation entered its 15th year of empowering change for the most marginalised and underserved communities in India. During this period, the Foundation was able to impact the lives of more than 3.5 million people through 385+ projects. This milestone was achieved thanks to partnerships with 270+ non-profit organisations and institutions, Cognizant Outreach team and Cognizant Associates, all of whom helped reach the unreached through their unwavering dedication.

The year witnessed the strengthening of the cross-cutting theme of prevention of disabilities and empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

During the year, the Foundation continued its efforts to sharpen its focus through a programme approach in which projects are not picked up at random, but are tailored and promoted to fit into a focal area of activity. Flagship programmes were scaled up in all key sectors - Healthcare, Education and Livelihood - through strategic partnerships with credible implementation agencies.

Operational Highlights

The year witnessed the strengthening of the cross-cutting theme of prevention of disabilities and empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The Healthcare flagship programme of “Preventing Avoidable Blindness” had its thrust on arresting the spread of preventable blindness, especially among infants and children. Under the umbrella of Education, the Foundation launched scholarship programmes with the aim of providing access to quality education for the visually challenged students and strengthening the special education ecosystem in the country. The Livelihood flagship programme empowered PwDs and helped them become self-reliant.

As part of the ongoing effort to extend its reach, Cognizant Foundation added the state of Odisha to its geographical focus, with the aim of adding other deserving geographies like the North East in 2020/21. The COVID-19 pandemic which struck towards the end of 2019/20 saw the Foundation gear up to equip frontline workers and healthcare systems to combat the invisible enemy.

2019/20 Impact By The Numbers



71
Projects



44
NGO Partners



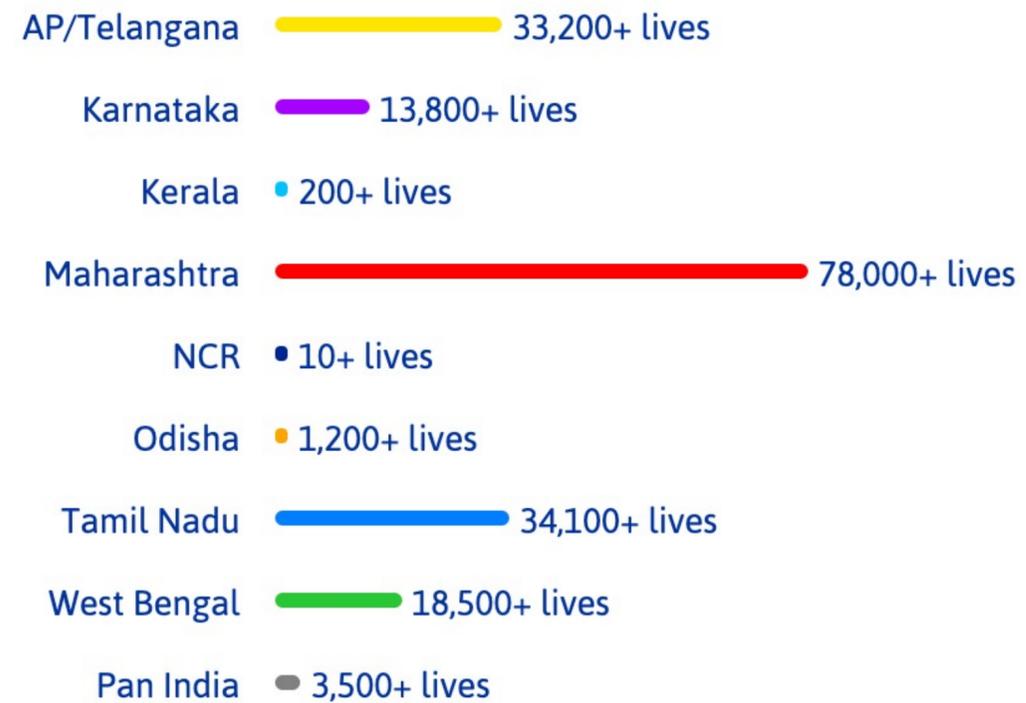
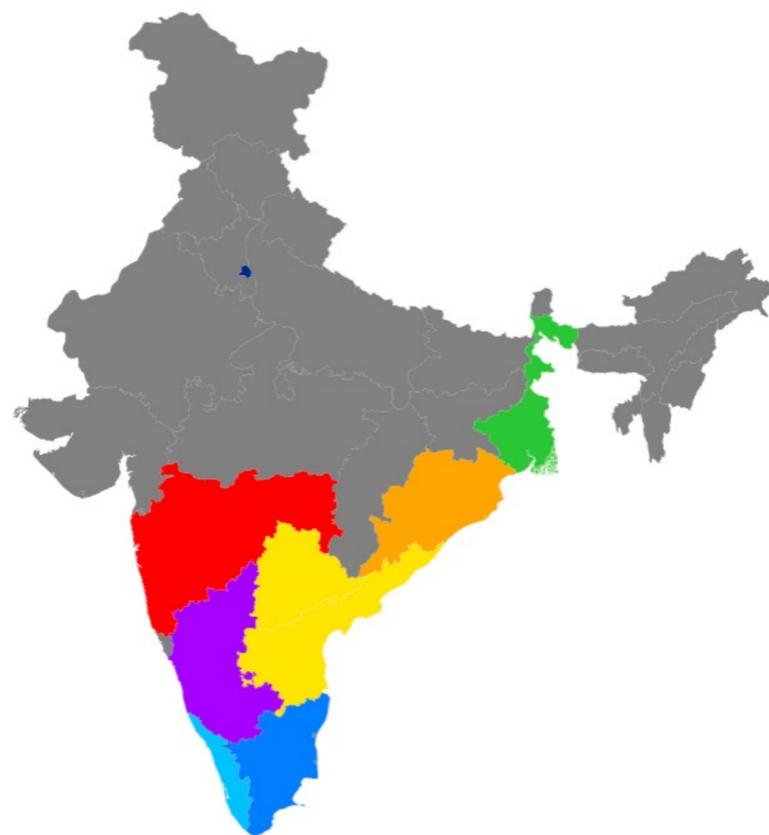
1,82,700+
Lives Benefitted

Impact Numbers by Sector



2019/20 Impact By The Numbers

Geographic Coverage





Donated By



Bringing quality **healthcare**
services within reach



Focus Areas



Preventing
Avoidable
Blindness



Promoting
Women &
Child Health



Capacity
Building in
Healthcare

Under the pillar of Healthcare, Cognizant Foundation implements programmes that bring quality healthcare within the reach of underserved people in the country.



91,400+ people

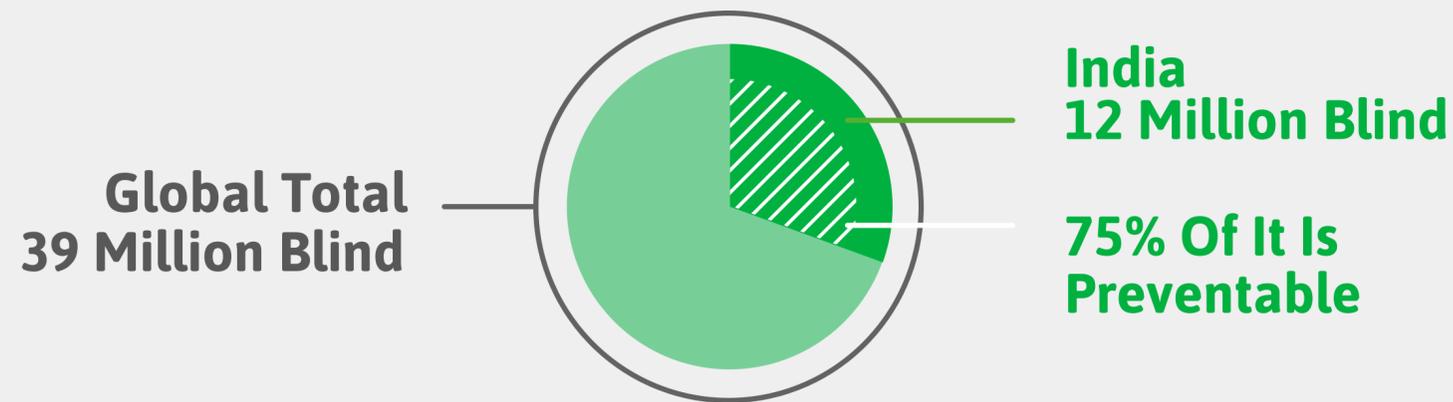
received access to quality healthcare in 2019/20



Preventing Avoidable Blindness

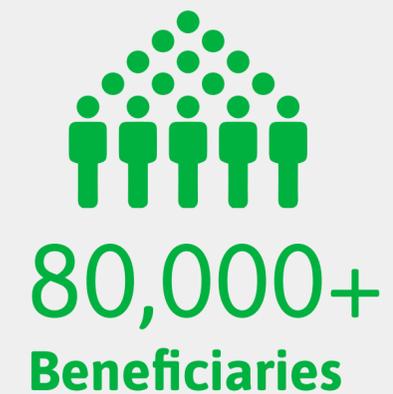
The problem

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT



The reach

OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20



Preventing Avoidable Blindness

School Eye Screening



Screen
2,00,000+
children in
3 years

Partners

Mission for Vision,
Mumbai
Tulsi Eye Hospital,
Nashik



99
Schools



51,600
Children
Screened



250
Teachers
Trained



1,300
Spectacles



200
Surgeries



"I did not know whether to be happy or sad. Happy, because my problem was getting a solution; sad because I could not afford that solution."

Shumi*, Class 10 Student

[Read The Story](#)



"What is unique about these initiatives is that it has enabled comprehensive eye healthcare for vulnerable communities."

Elizabeth Kurien
CEO, Mission for Vision

[▶ Watch The Video](#)

Preventing Avoidable Blindness

Screening & Treatment of RoP



Screen 10,000 premature babies in 3 years, across 5 states



2,623
Babies
Screened

Partners

L.V. Prasad Eye Institute,
Hyderabad
Mission for Vision,
Mumbai

H.V. Desai Eye Hospital,
Pune
Aravind Eye Hospital,
Chennai



207
Infants
Treated



A baby girl was born - premature, frail and suffering from RoP - a mere 4 days before the nationwide lockdown.

How the LVPEI-Cognizant Foundation team saved the infant's vision

[Read The Story](#)



“When you look into the baby's eyes and see the warmth and a smile, then you know that this partnership has really blossomed.”

Dr. Subhadra Jalali
Director, Retina Institute, LVPEI

[▶ Watch The Video](#)

Preventing Avoidable Blindness

Setting up and Running Vision Centres

Partners

Mission for Vision, Mumbai
Operation Eyesight India, Kolkata
Tulsi Eye Hospital, Nashik
Globe Eye Foundation, Bengaluru
Sundarban Social Development Centre, Sultanpur
Lions Club of Jamalpur Welfare Trust, Jamalpur
Greater Lions Seva Nidhi, Siliguri



Vision
Centres



27,600+
patients
screened



5,700+
spectacles



2,500+
surgeries



“They have filled my family’s life with light.”

Saving the eyesight of a farm labourer
from Maharashtra

[Read The Story](#)

Equipment Grants

Preventing Avoidable Blindness
65,000+ patients impacted every year

Equipment	Reach	Partners
PHACO Machine	4,000 Cataract surgeries per year	Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya, Sonapur & LEPRASOCIETY, Secunderabad
State-of-the-art Ophthalmic Equipment	2,000 Patients per year	Sundarban Social Development Centre, Sultanpur
Critical Ophthalmic Equipment	60,000 Patients per year	Sassoon General Hospitals, Pune
Optical Coherence Tomogram (OCT)	3,000 Patients per year	Lions Club of Jamalpur Welfare Trust, Jamalpur



“It felt like I was being surrounded by walls of darkness.”

How the equipment donated by Cognizant Foundation empowers lives.

[Read The Story](#)



Preventing Avoidable Blindness Research

Fungal Keratitis Research

Recognising the need for quality research in eye care, the Foundation has supported premier eye health institutions such as L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad and Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF), Madurai for translational research. In 2019/20, support was extended to AMRF to conduct research in the area of Fungal Keratitis. It aims to help AMRF develop evidence-based methods for delivering personalised treatments to patients affected by the disease.



West Bengal
**Intensive
Therapy Unit**



Focus on Inclusivity
**Promoting Women
& Child Health**



2000

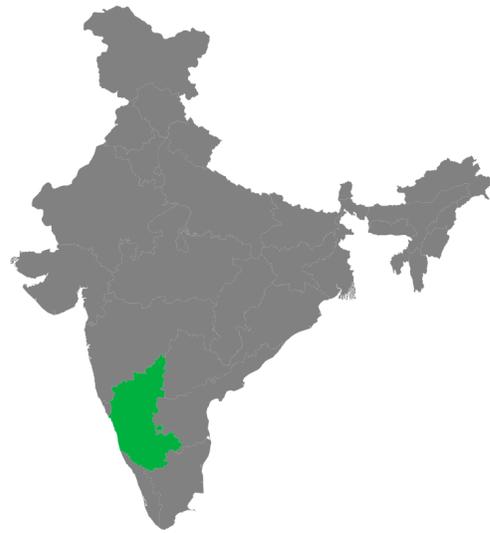
Underserved women
& children benefitted
every year



Partner

Ramakrishna Sarada
Mission Matri Bhavan,
Kolkata

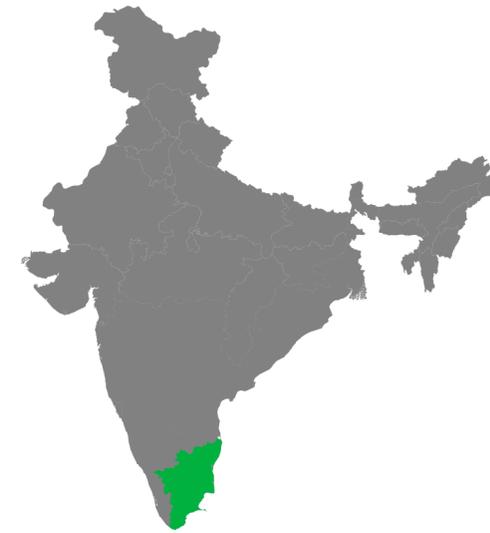
Capacity Building in Healthcare



Karnataka
Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy Unit

360
Patients a year

Partner
Bangalore Kidney Foundation, Bengaluru



Tamil Nadu
Automated Liquid Handling System

3,500
Patients a year

Partner
Jeevan Stem Cell Foundation, Chennai

Capacity Building in Healthcare

COVID-19 Support



“I am grateful to Cognizant Foundation and BKF for helping me through the lockdown.”

Rani Hegde*
A dialysis patient from Bengaluru

[Read The Story](#)

Enable access to quality **education** for
underserved communities in India

THANK YOU
COGNIZANT
FOUNDATION
FOR SUPPORTING
OUR EDUCATION

Focus Areas



**Scholarships
For Higher
Education**



**Capacity Building
in School
Education**



**Promoting
Vocational Technical
Education**

Under the pillar of Education, Cognizant Foundation works to enable access to quality education for the underserved communities in India. The Foundation's efforts are focussed on promoting equity, merit and inclusion by helping beneficiaries acquire knowledge which is relevant in the modern world.



80,600+

Learners empowered in 2019/20



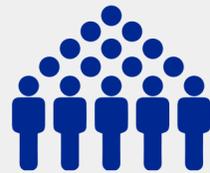
Scholarships for Higher Education

The reach
OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20



4

Scholarship Programmes



1,011

Scholars Supported



151

Institutions



20

States

Scholarships for Higher Education In Engineering & STEM

In 2019/20



503
Scholars
Supported



72
Institutions



20
States

Partners

Foundation for Excellence India Trust (FFE), Bengaluru
Christel House, Bengaluru
Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai
Swadha Foundation, Bengaluru
Cognizant Outreach



“(This programme) has clearly shown the power of giving and the impact it can create.”

Sudha Kidao
Managing Trustee, FFE

[▶ Watch The Video](#)



“I owe my success to the Cognizant Foundation-FFE Scholarship Programme.”

Bodulla Sahithi
Beneficiary

[Read The Story](#)

Scholarships for Higher Education In Engineering & STEM

“We are very happy that Cognizant Foundation has come forward to sponsor the tuition fees for 10 students in this programme each year, making it accessible to students from varied economic and social backgrounds.”



Prof. Madhavan Mukund

*Dept. Director and Dean of Studies,
Chennai Mathematical Institute*

“The Cognizant Foundation scholarship allowed me to focus solely on being a good student and researcher. As part of my thesis, I tackled a Computer Science problem with implications in Social Choice Theory.”



Ankita Sarkar

*M.Sc. Computer Science (2018-20),
Chennai Mathematical Institute*

Scholarships for Higher Education For Persons with Disabilities

Partner

Help the Blind Foundation (HTBF), Chennai

In 2019/20



200+
Students
Supported
for Graduate
Education



300+
Beneficiaries of
EMET Programme
for Job Readiness



6
States



“We are really thankful to Cognizant Foundation for their support without which we would not have achieved (our goals).”

Nataraj
Trustee, HTBF

[▶ Watch The Video](#)



“Through the EMET programme, I have reaped many benefits.”

Divya
Trainee, HTBF

[▶ Watch The Video](#)

Scholarships for Higher Education For Social Sciences & Special Education

In 2019/20



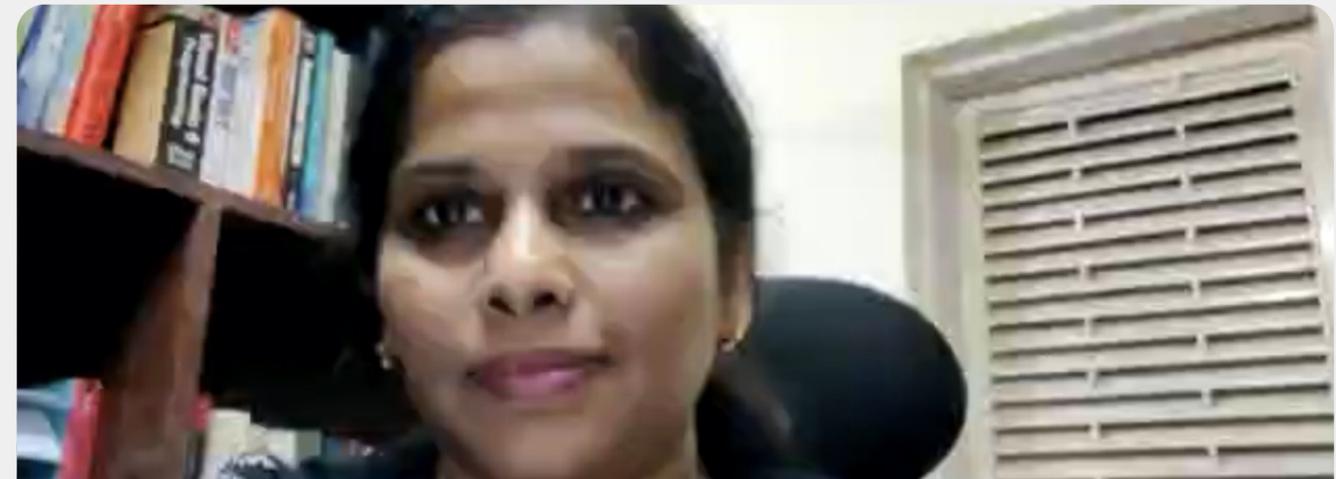
139
Scholarships
Awarded



16
Institutions



6
States



"We are truly thankful to Cognizant Foundation for rendering this unique scholarship for budding development practitioners."

Prof. Asha Banu Soletti
Dean - Students' Affairs and Placements,
Tata Institute of Social Sciences

[▶ Watch The Video](#)

Scholarships for Higher Education

For Social Sciences & Special Education

“The support given by Cognizant Foundation definitely helps fulfil the aspirations of students belonging to underserved communities, and also students who want to become teachers to children with special needs.”



P. Kamaraj

*HOD, Department of Special Education,
National Institute for Empowerment of
Persons with Multiple Disabilities*

“Thanks to the scholarship, I could focus on my studies and not worry about the expenses. I was able to clear UGC-NET in December 2019, and now I am eligible to become an Assistant Professor.”



Nivetha S.R.

*II Year Student, MSW (Aided),
Madras School of Social Work*



Capacity Building in School Education

The reach

OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20



78,745

Students



1,063

Teachers



174

Schools



10

Partners



5

States

Capacity Building in School Education

Promoting Digital Learning & STEM Education

Partners

Aide et Action, Chennai
Agastya International Foundation, Bengaluru
The American India Foundation Trust, New Delhi
IT for Change, Bengaluru,
Rotary Club of Chennai Kilpauk, Chennai
Madras School of Economics, Chennai

In 2019/20



73,845
Students



1,007
Teachers



134
Schools



"(The training) resulted in an informative and smooth way of teaching learning processes."

Firdos Ara Khan, Teacher,
Bangalore High School,
Jayanagar

[Hear The Message](#)



"We explore how tools can be used to create more engaging, interactive learning opportunities."

Gurumurthy
Director, IT for Change

[Watch The Video](#)

Capacity Building in School Education

Promoting Digital Learning & STEM Education



“Thank you for helping me see the world in a way I couldn’t before.”

Kishore
Student, Class 7

[Read The Story](#)



“I never thought that one day I will be able to access digital devices and gadgets to teach my students.”

Yerram Srinivas, Teacher,
ZP High School, Karimnagar

[Read The Story](#)



Promoting Vocational Technical Education

Cognizant Foundation works towards promoting Vocational Technical Education by supporting various trade-based technical skilling programmes. Only institutes which offer programmes that are benchmarked with industry standards, approved by skill sector councils provide and have exceptional placement services are extended support.

Promoting Vocational Technical Education

Career Value Enhancement for Youth and Persons with Disabilities

In 2019/20

Training in Electronic Mechanic Trade



36
Beneficiaries



Partner
**Nettur Technical
Training Foundation
(NTTF), Bengaluru**



***“Thanks to Cognizant
Foundation’s support
... I am able to focus
on growing as an
individual.”***

Raju V. Asangi
Trainee at NTTF

[Read The Story](#)

Promoting Vocational Technical Education

Career Value Enhancement for Young Women and Rural Youth

In 2019/20

Training in Vision Technician Course



11
Beneficiaries



Partners

L.V. Prasad Eye
Institute (LVPEI),
Hyderabad
Dr. Shroff Charity Eye
Hospital, New Delhi



2
States



*“I hope that Cognizant
Foundation never stops
supporting financially
disadvantaged students.”*

N. Sravani
Trainee at LVPEI

[Read The Story](#)



Promoting Vocational Education

Promoting Vocational Skilling Infrastructure

The Foundation supports some of the finest Vocational Technical Education institutions in the country by helping them strengthen their learning environment through state-of-the-art physical and digital infrastructure.

500+
Rural Students Benefit Every Year

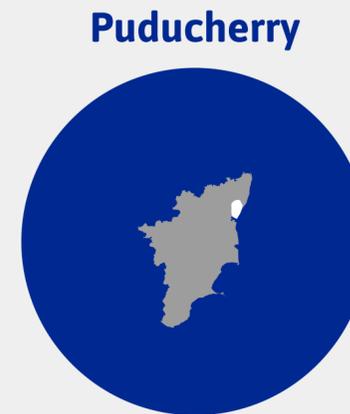
Institution
Swami Dayananda Saraswati Educational Society, Manjakudi



Support
Equipment for 2-year Diploma Courses in Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning and Mechanical & Power Electronics

465+
Rural Students Benefit Every Year

Institution
Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College, Puducherry



Support
Equipment for Computer Laboratory to launch Animation & Web Designing course



*Empower and enable underserved
persons with **skill training** programmes*

Focus Areas



**Skilling Underserved
Youth**



**Skilling Persons
With Disabilities**



Skilling Women

Under the pillar of Livelihood, Cognizant Foundation focuses on empowering and enabling underserved youth, persons with disabilities and women to gain employment. The Foundation collaborates with credible skill training providers and organisations in identifying, training and supporting job placement.

The reach
OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20





Skilling Underserved Youth



1,400+
Trainees



4
States



**Automobile repairs, IT/ITeS,
Electrical, Hospitality, Retail**

Partners

Aide et Action, Chennai
Don Bosco Tech Society, New Delhi
Hand in Hand India, Kanchipuram
Social Empowerment and Economic Development
Society, New Delhi
Pratham Education Foundation, Mumbai



“Even after I got placed, they did not forget about me and gave me the opportunity to get an even better job.”

Ganesh Pandurang Sadavare
Electrician Trainee
Pratham Education Foundation

[Read The Story](#)



Skilling Underserved Youth



“I am finally in a position to follow my dreams.”

Perumal, Trainee,
Don Bosco Tech Society

[Read The Story](#)



“All our recruits have performed exceptionally well.”

Mohan, HR Manager,
Nine Stars Information Technologies

[Read The Story](#)



Skilling Persons with Disabilities



660+
Trainees



3
States



**BFSI, IT/ITeS, Hospitality,
Retail, Tourism**

Partners

Cheshire Disability Trust, Bengaluru
Cheshire Homes India, Kolkata
Dr. Reddy's Foundation, Hyderabad
Sarthak Educational Trust, New Delhi
The Association of People with Disability, Bengaluru



"We thank Cognizant Foundation for supporting virtual training during COVID-19 lockdown."

Rana M. Philip
Chairman,
Cheshire Disability Trust

[▶ Watch The Video](#)



"I feel confident now, and I'm able to financially support my family."

Manohar
Trainee,
Cheshire Disability Trust

[▶ Watch The Video](#)



Skilling Persons with Disabilities



“We have trained more than 200 youth in the last 1.5 years.”

Srilakshmi Bellamkonda
Programme Head - DRF

[▶ Watch The Video](#)



In his own words, Vikram explains how he got placed thanks to the training provided at DRF, and Cognizant Foundation’s support.

[▶ Watch The Video](#)



Skilling Women



170+
Trainees



1
State



Home Nursing, Tailoring
& Apparel

Partners

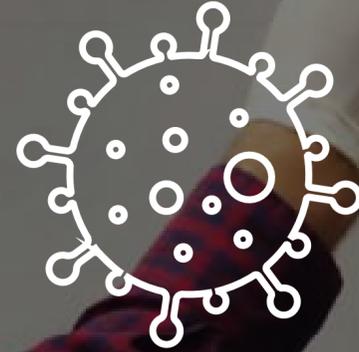
Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women (ANEW), Chennai
Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD), Namakkal



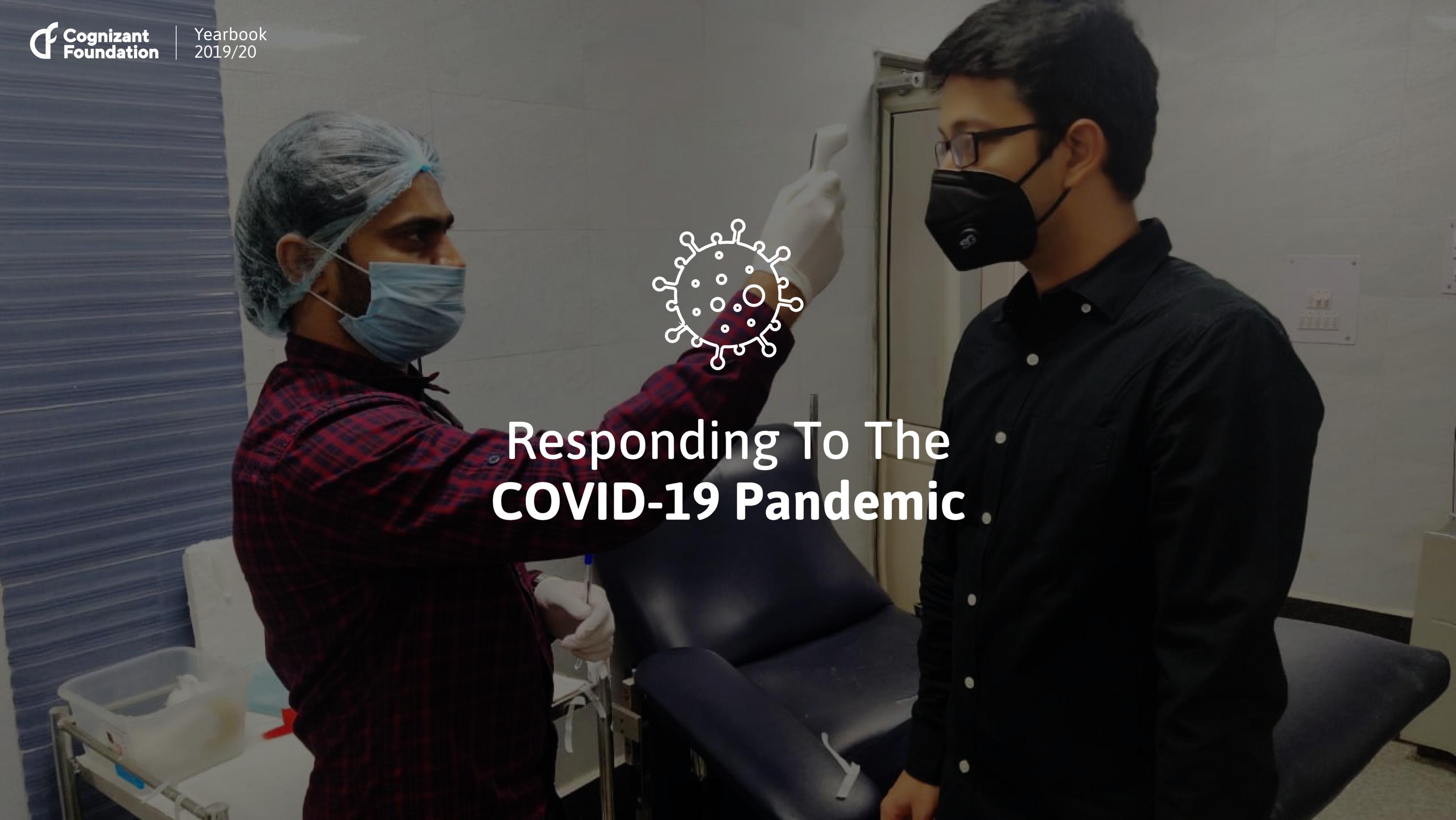
“Through my job as a nurse, I am able to make a meaningful contribution to society.”

Gowri
Home Nursing Trainee, ANEW

[Read The Story](#)



Responding To The COVID-19 Pandemic



The Reach



78
Institutions



9
States

In times of crisis, it is often those we don't see, the unsung heroes – the doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers, police officers, fire department personnel – who get us through.

Given Cognizant Foundation's strong focus in healthcare, our COVID-19 relief efforts focused on protecting such frontline workers and strengthening the healthcare system across Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal. This included the donation of over 6,13,000 units of protective gear for healthcare and frontline workers and over 1,100 critical medical equipment to strengthen health systems, along with other continued efforts.

Protecting Frontline Workers

76,000+
Personal Protective
Equipment (PPE) Kits



80,000+
N95 Masks



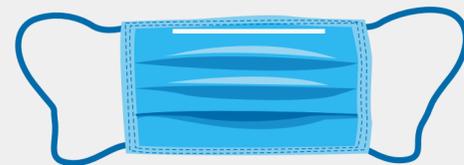
70,000+
Other Protective Gear



7,200+
Litres of Sanitisers



3,80,000+
3-ply Masks



1,100+
Medical Equipment





53 Government Hospitals Supported

The Foundation donated personal protective gear and critical care medical equipment such as ventilators, multi-para monitors, ECG machines and infrared thermometers to Government Hospitals combating COVID-19.



14 Police & Fire Departments Supported

Fighting shoulder to shoulder with healthcare workers are officials in the police and fire departments. We donated personal protective gear to such workers to keep them safe from the pandemic.



12 Not-for-profit healthcare institutions Supported

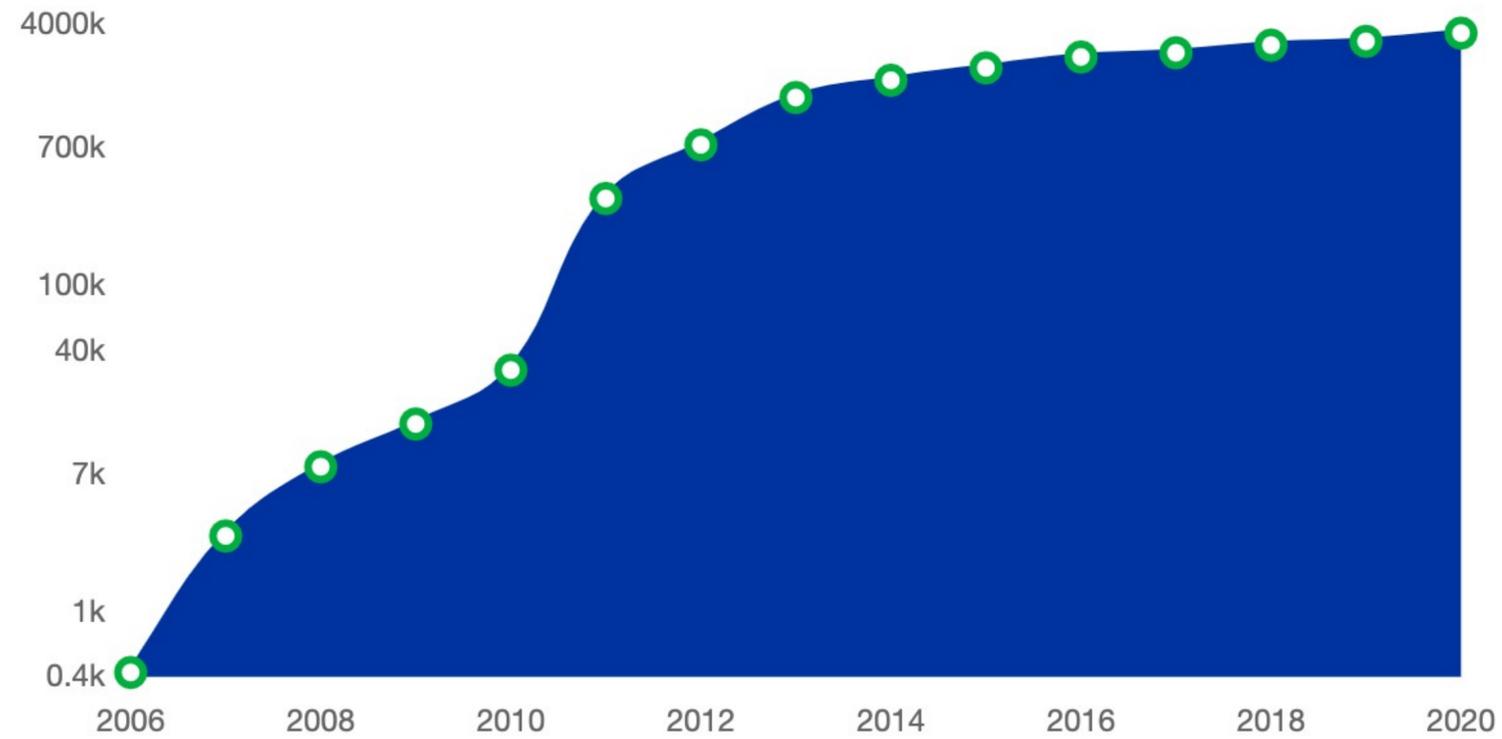
Support was extended to the Foundation's existing healthcare partners and other not-for-profit institutions with protective gear and critical medical equipment to help them combat COVID-19.



*Years of
Empowering
Social
Change*

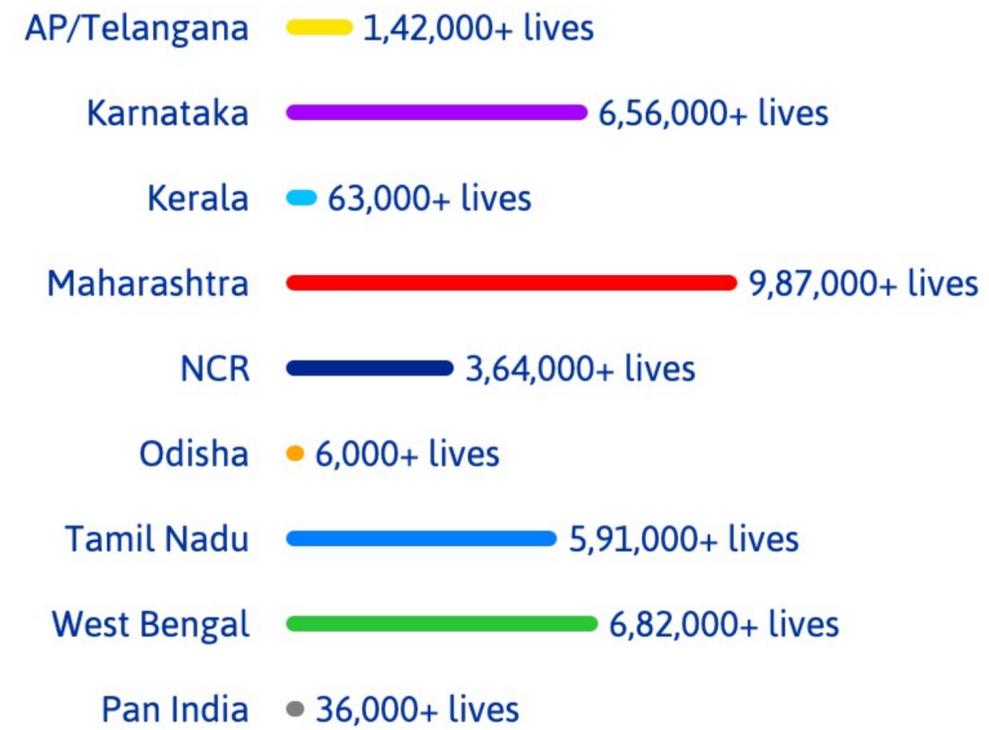
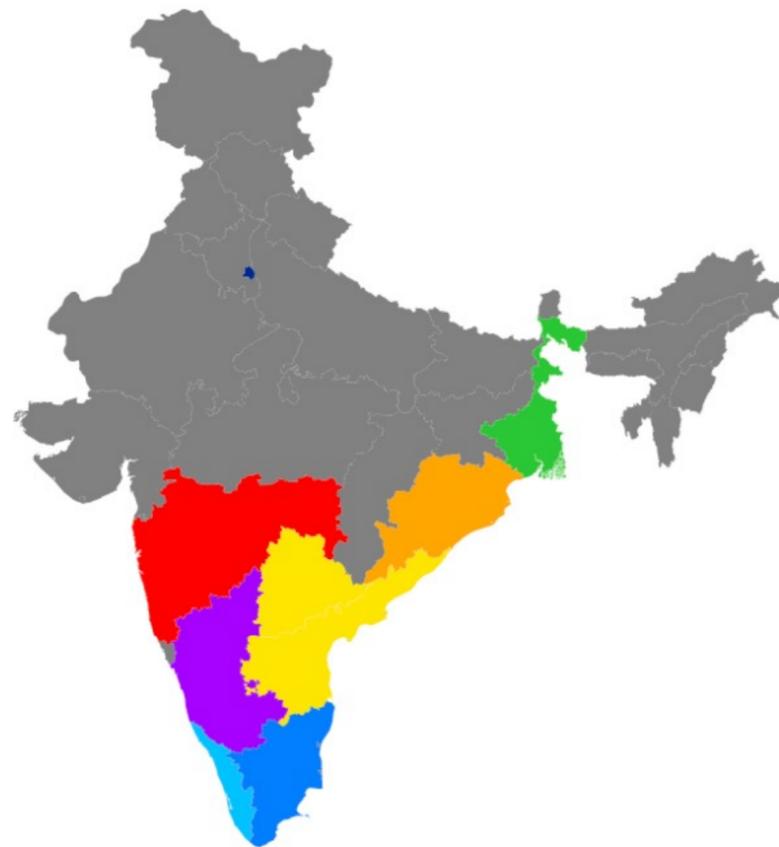


Journey Since Inception in 2005



3.5 million+ lives
have been impacted across India

State-wise Impact





270+ NGO Partnerships



2.7 million+

Lives impacted
through Healthcare
initiatives



7,59,000+

Students and teachers
enabled with quality
Education



18,500+

Underserved
individuals skilled



25,000+

Lives impacted through
the Rebuilding
Communities
programme

Standing up for the Change-makers

Across all our pillars inclusivity has been Cognizant Foundation's continued focus and one of the most-significant drivers of social change.



www.cognizantfoundation.org