

# CONCERNS UNIVERSE FOUNDATION



## ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024

Concerns Universe Foundation is dedicated to empowering urban poor communities through education, skill training and community development initiatives.

By engaging with urban poor communities across Bangalore at the grass-root level, Concerns is able to understand the diverse challenges and strengths and is working towards sustainable development.

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Since 2001 Concerns Child Development program has provided nearly 2500 children with preschool education to prepare them for formal schooling and also providing supplemental nutrition, health check-ups and parental education.

With the demand for higher quality education in primary and secondary schools, from May 2023 we started using the KEY Foundation curriculum to help children transition into regular schooling. The KEY Curriculum provides a School Readiness Program (SRP), which ensures collective action by empowering the three main stakeholders involved in a child's life- namely, the school, the teacher and the parent. The School Readiness Program aims to create conducive learning environments at school and at home by creating empowered parents, equipped teachers and enriched classrooms to ensure holistic development of each child. The curriculum offers 26 weeks of parental engagement through 450+ pieces of digital content in Kannada, Hindi and English that is shared with parents via WhatsApp. (input from <https://www.keyeducationfoundation.org/>)

## ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED AT CHILD CARE CENTRES:

- In May 2023, KEY Curriculum training was given by the Key Foundation team on the method of teaching and materials to be used and parents' involvement through the CLAP program (Children Learning, Assisted by Parents). With the new Key curriculum, teachers are able to plan the daily activities of the children in a more systematic way, with weekly worksheet trackers and monthly check points to assess the progress of each child.
- Key Foundation check points have shown that children at all the CC centres have improved in their cognitive skills, motor abilities, sensory, language, social and emotional skills.
- Three new assistant teachers were appointed as part-time staff in May 2023.
- 178 children are on roll at the Child Care Centres from June 2023 to March 2024.
- Five Online training webinars have been conducted by Key Foundation for the teachers from June to December 2023.
- Parents Engagement Meeting is conducted by KEY Foundation online once in 3 months. Meetings were held in July and October 2023 and in March 2024.
- Teachers have conducted sessions for the parents on child rearing methods, health, basic hygiene practices, healthy food habits and other information to help them take better care of their children.
- Health Assessment for 178 children was done by Dr. Eileen. Prescription was given for some of the children who needed treatment and referral was done for further investigations. Vitamin A supplements and deworming medicine was given to all the child care children. Nearly 50% of the children were found to be underweight and these children were treated with additional nutrition in the child care centres and parents were given education on healthy nutrition.



**Children engaged in Creative work**



**Parents Meeting**

## Health Assessment



# Special Events at the Child Care Centres

- Independence Day celebration was conducted in August 2023 at all the Child Care Centres.
- A Children's Day program was conducted online by Key Foundation for all the Child Care children on 14th, 15th and 16th November 2023. Diwali celebration was also conducted at the CC Centres in November 2023.
- On December 21st and 22nd 2023, Sports day and Christmas celebration was organized by the ECCE students for the children at the 4 Child Care Centres.
- Pongal celebration was conducted at the CC Centres on 12th and 16th January 2024
- Parents meeting was held at all the Child Care Centres in March 2024. Parents were given the report cards showing their children's progress.
- Annual day was conducted at all Child Care Centres on 28th March 2024. The children were presented with a small gift.

**Annual Day Celebration**



**Independence Day Celebration - August 2023**



**Sports Day conducted by ECCE students - December 2023**

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- The academic year for the Child care centres will begin on 27th May, 2024.
- All the Child care Centre's will be closed in April for summer break.
- Teacher training by Concerns will be conducted in the first week of April.
- In the new academic year Child Care Centre's will continue using the Key Foundation Curriculum.
- Teachers will have a KEY Foundation pre-service training in May 2024, to be prepared for the new academic year.

# Community Development Initiatives

Since 2001 Concerns Universe Foundation has provided support to urban poor families—including men, women, youth and children in the following communities, Jeevanahali, Janikiram Layout, Old Baiypanahalli, Ulsoor, New Bagalur layout and Dhodigunta. Approximately 3000 people are approached every year.

## PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN

- **SUMMER CAMP:** Students engaged with their peers and enjoyed several creative activities about Self-awareness & other Life skills sessions. The summer camp was conducted from 24th to 28th April 2023 for 154 school going children from 10 years to 16 in Janakiram layout. Children felt good, developed their confidence, independence, social and leadership skills. Students were encouraged not to get involved in anti-social activities in their neighborhood and awareness was also given on how to utilise government schemes and benefits. The students will now be able to value their community and feel more motivated to make a positive impact in society.
- **TEEN'S CLUB IN GOVERNMENT AIDED SCHOOL & IN THE COMMUNITY:** Weekly sessions were conducted in four schools and four community development centres for 566 students. Theme based topics were taught through action songs, craft work, role play, team building, debate, group games, videos etc. Children gained self-respect and will take responsibility for their physical and mental wellbeing. The teen clubs help to prevent school drop outs, anti-social behavior and reduce child labour. Students have learnt to be empathetic citizens who could potentially improve the situation in their communities when they become adults.
- **Yours Truly Theater Team** conducted two sessions on 3rd November 2023 and 6th March 2024. 106 students from Janakiram layout participated in the program: This workshop was conducted to explore creation through creativity to help the children overcome mental and creative boundaries and to handle different situations. This workshop focused on 'FUN with art' through experiential learning.
- **Menstrual hygiene session:** Conducted in Jyothi School on 9th November 2023 & SMK School on 18th January 2024 by Christ University students. The awareness on menstrual hygiene was conducted including the demo using napkin and cotton cloth. 140 girls from 10 to 14 years participated in the session. The girl students were empowered to take control of their reproductive health, by reducing the risk of infections and health complications, eating healthy food, and maintaining good hygiene.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM:** 47 school drop outs were identified by the CHD team in the community. After encouraging the parents and children, 15 children re-joined school. The students were enrolled in the local Government and private school. Follow up was also done by the team regularly through house and schools visits. Older dropouts were encouraged to join the skill training programs at the Concerns Community College. Partial support was given to 4 students so that they could continue their schooling.



**Summer Camp at RS Palya Child Care Centre**



**Teens Club - Session by Yours Truly Theater Team**



**Teens Club in Jeevanahalli Community**

# Community Development Initiatives

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM:

- **Medical and Cancer Screening Camp:** Cancer screening camp was conducted in Janakiram layout and Ulsoor where 154 community members attended. The camp is organized by ICS team in collaboration with CUF for cancer screenings and promotes early cancer detection by expanding screening services and improving residents' understanding of breast and cervical cancers through screening camps and awareness to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Four women were taken for a follow up test for biopsy and repeat pap smear test to St. John's hospital and Shankara hospital by the ICS team. Results for all the women were negative for cancer and appropriate treatment has started for existing infection and follow up has been done after the treatment.
- **Cancer survivors support:** 2 cancer survivors have been supported and referred for palliative care at Karunashraya.



**Cancer Screening Camp**

## MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH:

- **HEALTH AWARENESS** was given to 213 women on prenatal and postnatal care, regarding hygiene, diet and vaccinations.
- **WELL BABY SHOW:** The well-baby show was conducted for young mothers, with regard to diet, hygiene, immunization, effect of malnutrition and family planning. 108 young mothers with their infants from 6 to 18 months old benefited from this program. Pre-assessment questions were filled to understand their practice on weaning food. General assessment was done to understand the child growth and development. Out of 108 children, 68 children were under-nourished. Benefit of using Government welfare programs and sample feeding practice videos were shared, including high protein diet and nutritious weaning food demo. Sample high protein packets were distributed to the mothers. The mothers were given guidance on how to make dietary changes, such as eating foods high in energy and nutrients. The mothers have been utilising the Government anganwadi and receive nutrition supplements and Bhagyalakshmi girl child benefit. They are regularly taking their infants for immunization and 70% of the children have improved in their health and have gained weight and are active.
- **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN IN DISTRESS:**
  - 1.6 women, who had domestic violence and crisis by their intimate partners, were referred to other service providers for counseling, residential destitute home and legal support.
  - 2.3 orphan girl children were staying with their grandmother, as she could not support their education or feed and care for them, they were referred to a children's home for safety and shelter.



**Well Baby Show**



# Community Development Initiatives

## ASSISTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO AVAIL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND SERVICES

- Guidance and support was given for 2452 community members to get documents through online application for the following Government schemes and benefits.

### EDUCATION SUPPORT:

- 4 students who have dropped out from school due to financial reasons, were identified by the CHD team and were motivated to rejoin school. Partial support was also paid for the students. The students are attending school regularly, are scoring good marks and they feel happy that they can continue their schooling.

### HIGH PROTEIN MIX DISTRIBUTION:

- 884 HPM packet were sold for 35% off to the community members
- 34 HPM were given free of cost to the diseased and malnourished
- 108 HPM were given sample to the children as weaning for in Well Baby show

### CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING:

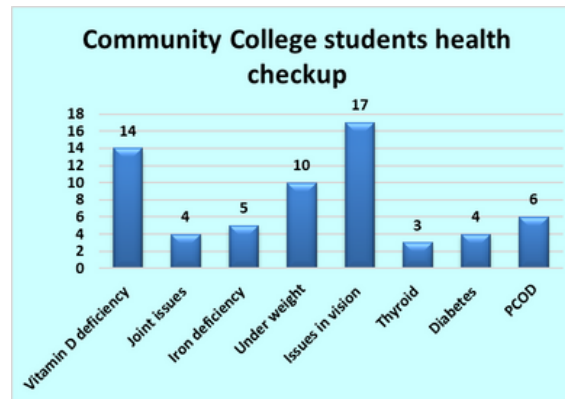
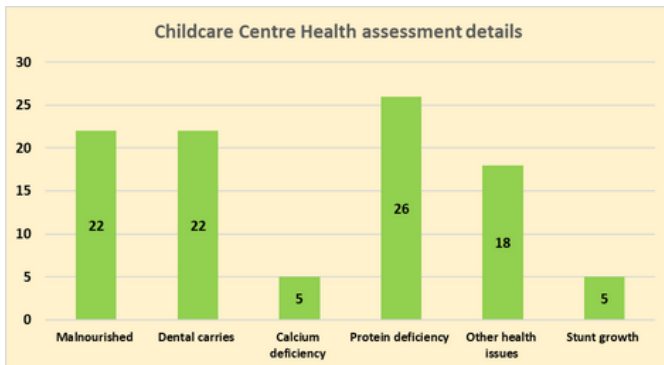
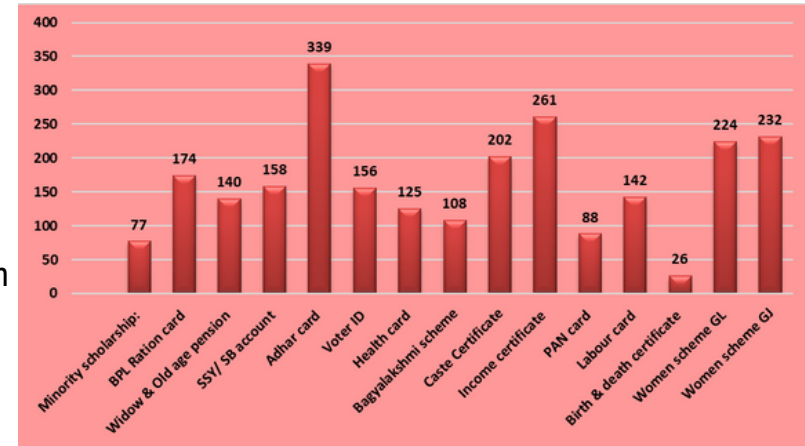
- The Community Initiatives team attended an online training for three days, from 10th to 12th July 2023. The training was about how to serve poor community families, especially teens and youth.

### HEALTH CHECK UP:

- Dr. Eileen Solomon conducted annual health check-up for 178 childcare centre children and 100 Community College students.

The tables below show the data collected from the health assessment:

Number of people assisted with various Government Schemes



# Community Development Initiatives

## CASE STUDIES:

### Well baby show:

Asha married with 2 children works as a house maid and lives in M. V. Garden Ulsoor. She has a daughter named Jeevitha who is two years and six months old. During a community visit the CHD team met the family when the child was one year. She was very weak, not able to sit or stand and she had no strength. The mother was encouraged to bring the child for the baby show. When we assessed the baby she was 5.5kg and severely malnourished with stunted growth. The parents were advised to give weaning food and she was given the Concerns high protein mix powder for daily nutrition. Regular monitoring was done in the family. Now the child has improved in her health and has gained weight. She is now 12 kg and we can see a lot of improvement in physical and mental ability. The family has planned to enroll the child in Concerns child care centre in the coming year, to ensure complete care, nutrition and monitoring.



Jeevitha



Satish



### Back to school program:

Satish, a 14 year old boy, lives in Janakiram layout. His mother is mute and deaf and works as a house maid and the father expired 4 years ago. Due to financial issues the family could not pay his school fees so he discontinued his studies in 7th standard. During a community visit the CHD team identified him in the playground and motivated him and the family to send him back to school. As he had a lot of backlog of fee payment in the school, he did not get admission there. The CHD team supported him to join a different school with nominal fees and Satish joined and completed his 8th standard and is now promoted to 9th standard. Satish and the family are happy now that he could continue his studies.

### Support Given to patient with Chronic illness:

Amulraj, who is 45 years old, works as a security guard and lives with one child in Gajendhra nagar, Old Baiyapanahalli. His wife was working as a house maid. Two years back Amulraj suddenly became mentally ill. The community members referred him to Concerns. The CHD team visited the family and referred the family to admit him in Nimhans for further treatment and after tests they discovered that he is infected with HIV/AIDS. Due to this he became mentally ill. His wife also tested positive for HIV/AIDS and she also was discouraged and could not take care of her husband. As both Amulraj and his wife were sick, they could not send their child to school. Amulraj was referred to a rehabilitation home and was admitted for 3 months. Continuous follow up was done for him and his wife and child. Concerns supplied them high protein mix and medicine. Now after one year Amulraj is better in his health and his wife also is in good health. Concerns also supported the child by paying partial school fees and the child is continuing school. Now the family is happy, both Amulraj and his wife are back to work and taking care of their child and themselves.

Amulraj



# Concerns Community College

Concerns Community College reaches out to individuals who have lost out on opportunities due to circumstances, like early marriage, poverty and other issues. Those who enroll into the college are equipped to become employable. Since 2006, 900+ youth & women have been impacted. 70% of our graduates' secure employment on completing our program and have reported increased confidence and self-esteem.



**Graduation Day May 2023**



**Health Institute Exposure Visit**

- **Graduation Day** was conducted for 31 students on 25th May 2023. Students graduated from the Beautician course, tailoring course, ECCE Course and General Duty Assistant course. The CREST Team, Course Trainers and Chief guest were present to solemnize this occasion. Our students took the pledge towards their profession and the society.
- **Admission** was done for Beauty Therapy course, Basic Computer course, Tailoring and ECCE Course in June 2023.
- Three days of orientation and ice breaking sessions were conducted for all the new students. The rules and regulations of the Community college were also presented to the students.
- **Staff Training:** On 3rd and 4th July, 2023, two College staff, Mrs. Malleswari and Mrs. Parvathi, attended the Training of Trainers Meet at ICRDCE, in Chennai. They learnt about the introduction, purpose and dynamic of the training program, procedures to enroll students for NSDC, how to use the course curriculum, teaching methodology, group mock test, skill council, job roles, creation of NSDC Training center, Guidelines of assessment and Life skill training.
- **Need Analysis Survey:** The Community initiative team members conducted a Survey in April 2023 in 5 different communities with 410 community members through a Google questionnaire to analyze the need for Community College programs and based on that courses were conducted in 2023-2024.
- **Health Exposure visit** to various Health Institutions in Bangalore: The Community college students were taken by the Community Initiatives staff for an exposure visit to various medical institutions. Students were made aware of the various diseases and addictions and treatment options for the same. They are now more conscious of their own health and realize the importance of good hygiene and nutrition, to stay healthy.
- **A Class competition** was conducted within the respective trade skills. This was a good opportunity for the students to showcase what they have been taught so far and also to inculcate healthy competition among their classmates.



# Concerns Community College

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT



SPORTS DAY



TALENTS DAY



- **Health assessment:** Health Assessment was conducted on August 24th and 31st for 59 college students. Health assessment was conducted in February and March 2024 for 41 students from the new batch. 17 students were found to have nutritional deficiency, 15 have vision problems and 2 have thyroid issue. The students who were sick were given prescription for medicine and some of the students who had other health issues were referred to health institutions for further checkup and treatment.
- **Basic Life Support Seminar:** Basic Life support session was conducted in the Month of August by a team from Manipal Hospital. Students learnt about First Aid, how to treat a person who is unconscious, how to conduct basic CPR, how to check pulse etc.
- **Inauguration and Talent's Day:** Inauguration and Talents Day was held on 14th July 2023 for the batch that completed their course in November 2023. The current batch of students had the Inauguration and Talents Day on 23rd February 2024. The Inauguration is mainly to welcome the students as they start their courses. The talents program is a way to encourage the students to participate in various events like rangoli, painting, bangle making, mehendi, mad ads, puppet show, solo singing, solo dancing, group dancing, cooking without fire, face painting, making handmade decorations etc. The students enjoyed exhibiting their hidden talents and the others cheered them on. All the students were recognized and appreciated for their involvement and were presented with a gift.
- **Family Meet:** Family meet was conducted on July 26th 2023 and March 18th 2024. Parents/spouses and other family members were present along with the students. They were given awareness about the different courses, activities and programs of the college. They were informed about the history of the organization, rules and regulations and other information pertaining to the college.
- **Sports day:** On November 10th, 2023 Sports day was conducted for the College students to instill a healthy competitive spirit.
- **Industrial Partner visit to the College:** Ms. Chaitra Shree conducted a session on crochet knitting for the Tailoring students. Ms. Shirley, a Makeup Artist, conducted a seminar for the Beauty and Wellness students about Skin Analysis.

# Concerns Community College

- **Trade skills Exposure Visit:** All the students had the opportunity for an exposure visit to places where their trade skill is being used. Tailoring students visited Tarangani Studio in Sadashivnagar, where fabric dyeing and block printing is done. They also visited a Government Centre for dyeing, weaving & block printing. Computer Course students visited Geojith Company in Ramamurthy Nagar, where they learnt about the corporate business world, the importance of savings and different benefits of banking, government and private companies. Beauty Therapy Students attended a full day Seminar about hair and facial treatments and each received a certificate of participation and a beauty kit. ECCE students visited the Building Blocks play school to observe how preschool children are taught and how the teachers use different tools and teaching aids. All the student were made aware of how they can use their work skills and the different opportunities available for employment.
- **Alumni and Industrial Partners Meet** was held on 23rd September, 2023 at the CUF Resource Centre. Mr. Anthony Jude, CEO of Pathcom Pvt. Ltd., was the Chief Guest. Other Industrial Partners were also invited as guests along with the alumni and current batch students and their family members.
- **Graduation** for 37 students was organized on 1st December 2023. Students made a pledge to use their skills for the betterment of the society.



Family Meeting March 2024



Trade Skill Exposure Visit August 2023



Alumni and Industrial Partners Meet  
September 2023

## TESTIMONIAL:

Shilpa enrolled for the Self-employed Tailoring course at the Community College in June 2023 and graduated in December 2023. She has completed her schooling up to 3rd standard. She is also married with two daughters and was at home just following the usual house-wife routine. Shilpa was encouraged by the community college staff to join the tailoring course. She decided to enroll for the tailoring course as she was able to keep her older daughter in the Concerns child care center. So the timing for her daughter and herself was suitable. During the course she found it difficult at first, but later on as she kept practicing she was able to move forward in the course and she learnt basic embroidery, how to stitch frocks, chuddidar pants, sari blouse and other garments. She also enjoyed attending the community health classes, as she got to know what is good for her health, and it helped her to give nutritious food for her children as well.

Shilpa is currently working from home as she can take care of her daughters. She has started doing alterations, saree falls, fitting, neck designing, skirts etc. She also takes orders for embroidery and gets paid per piece.

She is earning about Rs. 10,000/- every month.



SHILPA

## Visit to Destitute Home



NSDC Batch

## Self Employed Tailoring and Assistant Beauty Therapy

- **Visit to Destitute Home:** On 17th November 2023 the Community College students were taken to The Ark mission of India, a destitute home. Students had an exposure to understand the function of the home and people's condition. All the students brought provisions and products that can be used by the people in the home and committed to support in the future as well. Students were made aware of the difficulties that destitute people face. They felt the need to help and serve people who are in a less privileged condition.
- **Health & Life-coping sessions** are conducted once a week for all the students.
- **Bosch Soft Skills:** 32 Students completed the Bosch soft skills training and assessment in December 2023.
- **Internship:** Beautician students were able to do a two week practical internship in October 2023, at different Beauty Parlors.
- **NSDC Exam:** The NSDC Final exam was conducted on 11th December, 2023 for 28 students, 15 Self-employed tailoring students and 13 Assistant Beauty Therapy students. All 28 students received their results and the NSDC and Concerns Community College certificates in January 2024.
- **Final assessment** for Computer students was done in November 2023 and students received the Community college certificate in January 2024.
- **Staff Training:** College Staff Mrs. Bettina & Mrs. Suchitra attended a training session conducted by ICRDCE team, in St. Joseph's Institute of Skills (SJIS) Mysore Road on 29th January 2024. Training was given on student enrollment process into the NSDC Portal on the Skill India Digital website.
- **ECCE (Early Childhood Care & Education)** course students conducted sports day for the Concerns child care centres in December 2023 followed by a Christmas celebration.
- The ECCE students also had the opportunity for internship in January 2023, where they went to different schools for two weeks, to teach and learn through a hands-on experience.
- ECCE students did their final exams on 27th and 28th March 2024 and completed their course. They will receive the Concerns College certificate in April 2024.
- **A new batch** of students have enrolled from January 2024, for Computers, Tailoring and Beauty Therapy courses. At present there are 37 students attending classes at the Concerns Community College.

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

## INCOME GENERATION THROUGH CONCERNS STITCH CRAFT UNIT (SCU)

The Stitch Craft unit started in April 2023 by purchasing tailoring equipment from Fair Konnect.

This initiative was started at Concerns to help empower women from the community with skills and employment. The unit was recently upgraded with new tailoring machines, thanks to the support of Adhyan Charitable Trust, through Mrs. Shuaiba Rahman, who is an advisor for the unit.

The unit consists of two tailors, one cutter and a manager.

From April 2023 to March 2024, we had 14 clients. Among them, Liz Jacob – Kids Clothing, TIJUD – Women's Clothing and Mudnur Anthology – Women's Clothing, are still continuing. 125 Choir Robes were made for the CSI East Parade Church as a one-time order.

The unit has spent Rs. 6,54,850/- and received income of Rs. 3,45,120/- from April 2023 to March 2024.

Since this is a new initiative, there was a lot of learning and a few challenges were also encountered. We have a consultant to guide us on how to maintain records and how to increase production so that we can break even and to generate income for the organization.



# MANAGEMENT UPDATES

## GOVERNING BOARD

SL. NO	NAME	DESIGNATION ON BOARD	AGE	Whether paid a remuneration or not
1.	Mrs. Gnana Chitra	Executive Trustee	63	Paid
2.	Mrs. Vasantha Samuel	Treasurer	73	Unpaid
3.	Mrs. Rebecca Anbu Thomas	Member Trustee	49	Unpaid
4.	Mrs. Santoshi Lewis	Secretary	47	Unpaid

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- Concerns Universe Foundation is registered under the Deed of Trust on 11.07.2001 in Karnataka.
- Concerns Universe Foundation is registered under the Income Tax Act 1961 vide unique registration number AAAAC1523HE20161.
- Concern Universe Foundation's 80G unique registration number is AAAAC1523HF20219 Income Tax Payment Account number on AAAAC1523H.
- Registration under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. Registration number 094421129.
- Accredited for desirable norms with Credibility Alliance No. CA/28/2023 valid for a period of 5 years from 10th Feb 2024 to 09th Feb 2029.

# Staff and Salary Details

<b>Full time Staff</b>	Female - 16	Male - 0
<b>Part-time and Contract Staff</b>	Female - 8	Male - 0
<b>Consultant</b>	Female - 2	Male - 2

## Staff Salary Distribution

Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 10,000/-	Female - 3	Male - 0
Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	Female - 16	Male - 0
Rs. 20,000/- Rs. 30,000/-	Female - 3	Male - 0
Rs. 30,000/- and above	Female - 2	Male - 0

## OUR SINCERE THANKS TO

Adhyan Charitable Trust, Bangalore	PIL – Pacific International Lines, Bangalore	Credibility Alliance New Delhi	Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education, Chennai (ICRDCE)	KEY Education Foundation, Bangalore
Living Hope Community Church Isle of Man, UK	Rotary, Ramsbottom, UK	Rotary, Manchester Breakfast, UK	Mr. Reuben Dorairaj, SGM Bangalore	Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare
India Share, Manchester, UK	ASK Outreach Trust (Action Saves Kids), Isle of Man, UK	Mrs. Shuaiba Rahman Giving Tree, Bangalore	Mr. Ashok & Mrs. Hema Hattangady, Bangalore	Bob & Hilary Help India UK
Dhwani Foundation - Asteya Services	Local Government and Private schools	Common Purpose Team	Dr. Vasudevan, Counselling at Comfort Zone, Bangalore	
Indian Cancer Society, Bangalore		Cox Town Primary Health Centre, Bangalore		Positive Revolution Amani Institute

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Social Media: Facebook: <https://bit.ly/2ZwRrTU>; Instagram- <https://bit.ly/3girzB>