



**Concerns**  
**Universe Foundation**  
*Movement for sustainable development*

**Annual Activity Report April 2020 - March 2021**

## INTRODUCTION

Concerns Universe Foundation (Concerns) was founded in 2001 by like-minded people with a passion to help underprivileged communities. Since then, Concerns have helped people reach their full potential by creating opportunities to lift themselves and their future generations out of poverty. Concerns began with one early childhood care and development centre in the Jeevanahalli slum and have now expanded to four child development centres, tuitions in two communities, an education sponsorship programs for school children, a community college and a community based and community driven health and development program.

Concerns began with the desire to address the need for quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in poor communities located in Bangalore East. Along with ECCE, Concerns started a health and development program for the communities which continue until now. During community visits, staff identified the need to educate and skill married women and dropouts, this led to the start of the community college, students who enrol get a certificate or a diploma qualification on completion which increases their ability to get employed and support themselves and their families.

## PHILOSOPHY

Our **philosophy** is to empower and transform individuals and work towards sustainable development in society.

## BELIEF

Concerns Universe Foundation **believes** that every individual has the potential to improve their own life and become both economically independent and socially dignified.

## VISION

We **envision** a community where everyone can achieve their educational, economic and social goals.

## MISSION

To realise this vision, Concerns works with urban poor communities and provides opportunities for education through child development centres, vocational training to enhance employability, improve economic status and promote the adoption of a healthy lifestyle.

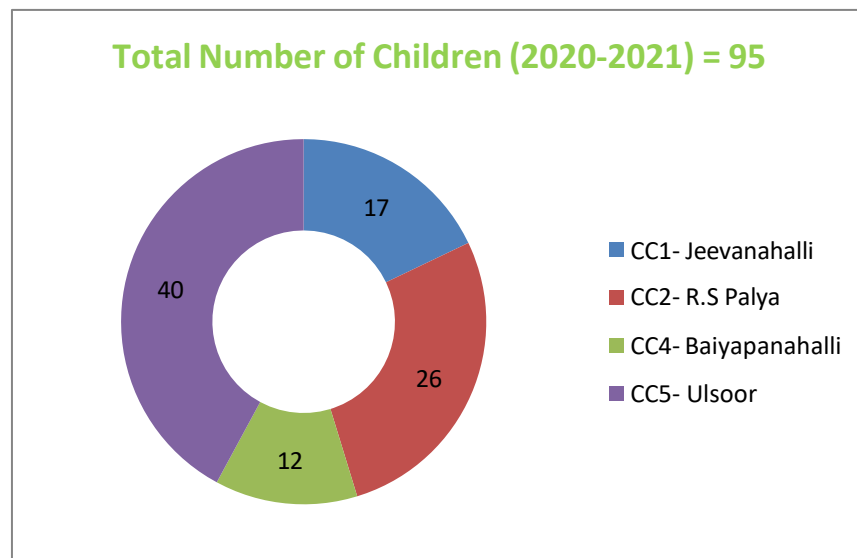
## OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To help the community to understand the importance of education and to prepare the children of the community to enter formal schools and perform better academically.
- ❖ “Prevention is better than cure”. To work with children and adults to give them the information and education needed to prevent illness and death.
- ❖ To help women develop outside the domestic environment by training them in health, nutrition, computers, life skills and other skills to make them more independent and dignified.

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

We recognise the importance of providing the children with valuable opportunities and experiences in these crucial formative years and aim to instil in them a positive attitude towards holistic education. The child development centres support working mothers by providing a safe place for their children during the day. At the centres, we engage the children in creative and physical activities. Songs are taught in different languages to improve the children's vocabulary and communication skills. With the use of visual aids and interactive games, we focus on teaching numbers and the alphabet. It helps the process of learning to read and write and prepares the children for formal schooling. The habit of school attendance and social skills are nurtured in the children. The parents also learn to appreciate the importance of education.

Due to the pandemic, we did our best to continue providing the children with education and nutrition. The following are some of the highlights of the academic year 2020-2021.



#### **Activities conducted during the academic year 2020-2021**

##### **❖ ECCE Collaboration:**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, different NGO's working with children collaborated through a Zoom webinar- "Harnessing group wisdom to provide meaningful ECCE during Covid-19 times". Various organizations decided to contribute online learning materials through a common WhatsApp group.

##### **❖ Revised ECCE Curriculum Module:**

To ensure that these unprecedented times don't affect the developmental aspects of the children in the child development centres, the ECCE curriculum module was revised by devising a home school method of education. The objectives of the revised curriculum are -

- Plan activities to ensure that the developmental milestones of children are not affected.
- Conduct effective parent education programs.
- Train parents to learn and pursue the home school method of education during phase one of implementation.
- Plan activities with home based materials and resources.



A parent practicing the home school method of education



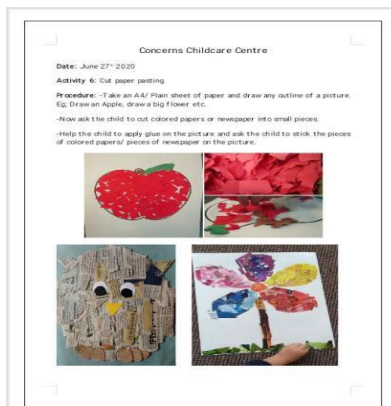
A child performing a stacking activity using home-based material

#### ❖ Training for Child Development Centre Teachers:

In the month of June 2020, training and brain storming sessions were conducted for teachers of the child development centre on, on-going challenges and solution for crisis and planning effective parent education programs.

#### ❖ Online Activities:

From 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, online activities, videos, and creative activities for the children in the child development centre were shared via common parents' WhatsApp groups.

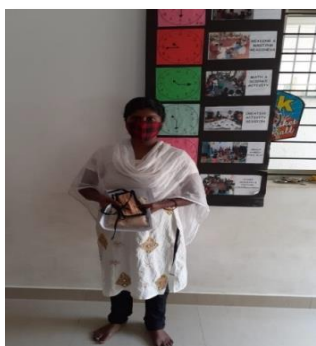


Sample of Online Activity Sheets



Worksheets done by children

#### ❖ Weekly Pack Distribution:



Weekly packs consisting of a high protein mix powder, worksheets, and masks were distributed for all children from June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 onwards

❖ **List of ECCE related workshops/webinars attended by Child Development Centre team members:**

These webinars and workshops helped the Child Development Centre Coordinator and teachers to plan the child development centre programs and online activities.

Date	Workshop/ Webinar
8 <sup>th</sup> June, 2020	How to send children safely to school during Covid times by Bangalore Baptist hospital.
11 <sup>th</sup> July, 2020	Parenting strategies for meaningful engagement
5 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020	Early learning pedagogy in virtual world by Heritage International (Setting up virtual preschool during lockdown and importance of continuing the learning process for preschoolers)
28 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020	NPO Governance legal environment & corporate engagement (Practices & prospects) by Credibility Alliance (Dealing and adapting to the recent changes of Government and policies in education system)
28 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020	Eminent educator's colloquium on future of education NEP 2020 (Emphasis on teacher training based on the new education policy)
29 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020	Nurturing curiosity through investigation – workshop by Artsparks (Fostering curiosity in children through art)
1 <sup>st</sup> September, 2020	Strengthening childcare committees in childcare centers/ institutions (Child protection policies and child rights protection protocol)
17 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020	ECCE unbundle series (Training for ECCE teachers by NCERT)

❖ **Story Telling Workshop:**

On 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, Shreya and Kanchana attended an online story telling workshop- “Tell away with me” conducted by Storywallahs. A self-evaluation tool and handouts were shared with participants.



❖ **Book Distribution:**

During the month of July 2020, children were provided with a set of 3 books (an alphabet writing book, a drawing book, and a



Children completing workbooks at home



picture book) and box of crayons for the academic year 2020-2021.

#### ❖ **Weekly Worksheets:**

Through the week children complete their weekly worksheets, creative activities, pre writing strokes, coloring worksheets, tracing sheets, etc. under the guidance of child development centre teachers and parents.

Children with their  
completed weekly  
worksheets



#### ❖ **Mask Distribution:**

80 masks were stitched by the Concerns Team in the centres and distributed for the children in the centres and the community during the month of August 2020.

Masks stitched by the staff for the children



#### ❖ **Online Music Concert:**

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020, an online music concert, “Music for Change”, was organized to raise money to continue providing the weekly care packs for the children at the childcare centres.



#### ❖ **Distribution of Puppets and Head Bands:**

On account of children's day, headbands, puppets and chocolates were distributed to all the children in the month of November. These puppets and headbands

Children at the centres on  
Children's day



were prepared by the Community College ECCE student's as part of their practical classes.

#### ❖ Nutrition Distribution:

From the month of December 2020, with the money raised from the online music concert, eggs, HPM powder, and grains were distributed to the child development centre and community children. Monthly, 110 Children were given a dozen eggs, 82 children were given HPM packets and 92 children were given grains.



Nutrition distribution done in child care centres

#### ❖ Online Creative Activities:

Children need a lot of opportunities for creative thinking during their early childhood years. So children were kept engaged in creative art through online activities.



Creative activities done by children

#### ❖ Children's Assessment and Supplement Distribution:

In the month on January 2021, teachers did a height and weight assessment on the children in the child development centres. Along with the assessment 107

Height and weight assessment and supplement distribution



children received Vitamin A supplement (1 doze) and 113 children received Albendazole (1 doze).

#### ❖ Mask Distribution:

In the month of March, 80 masks were stitched and distributed for the children in the child development centres.

Mask distribution to children



#### ❖ Transformation story:

##### Story of Lakshita:



**Lakshita** is six years old and is currently attending the Concerns child development centre in Jeevanahalli. She joined the child development centre in the year 2020. Her mother works as domestic help and her father recently passed away in an accident.

During the lockdown period, the family was given ration kits from Concerns. She also received worksheets, books, high protein mix powder and nutrition to continue learning from home.

Lakshita was disturbed due to the loss of her father; she constantly questioned her mother about her father. In November 2021, as the child development centres re-opened her mother left her in the centre and started working as domestic help. Spending time in the centre has helped Lakshita overcome her loneliness and the loss of her father during the lockdown. She is now getting along with other children and participates in all the activities conducted in the centre.



## CONCERNS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Concerns Community College recognizes that every individual has the potential to improve their own life to become economically independent and socially dignified and therefore provides opportunities for the disadvantaged to enhance their knowledge and skills thereby increasing their employment opportunities.

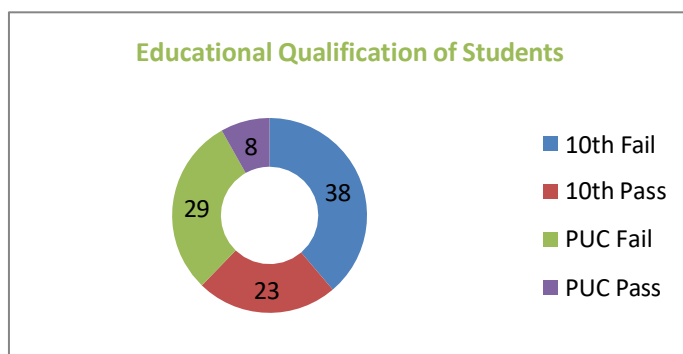
Due to the pandemic the classes for the academic year 2020 – 2021 were conducted online using Zoom.

The day began with a common assembly, following which the students were sent to their respective classes with the help of breakout rooms.

The curriculum was condensed and various activities, assignments, project work and work sheets were given and students were continuously assessed. Every Friday's practical class was conducted in the college in different batches while observing Covid-19 protocols.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Courses</u>	<u>Admission No</u>
1.	Early Childhood Care and Education	10
2.	Office Management	10
3.	Beauty and Wellness	30
4.	Stitch Craft	29
5.	Hotel Management – Bakery and pastries	11
6.	Integrated Course	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

The Concerns Community College faculty team motivated the students to do their higher studies. As a result, 12 girls joined Secondary level and 6 girls joined the Senior Secondary level in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Three students have joined Bachelor programs in different universities.



### **Events conducted during the academic year 2020-2021**

#### **❖ Trainers orientation and training about online classes:**

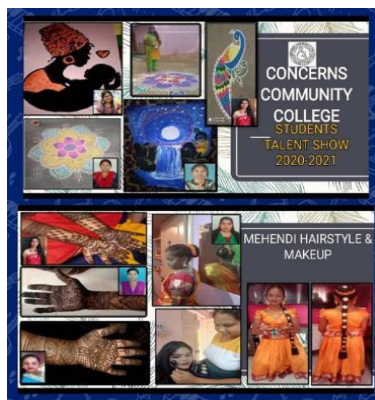
Due to the pandemic, we conducted an online orientation and training for the teachers and students. They were taught how to use the Zoom platform to conduct and attend the classes.

#### **❖ Virtual inauguration and Talent Day for the Academic Year 2020-2021:**

The students were welcomed to the new academic year through a virtual inauguration. They were given a chance to showcase their talents through dance, mehendi, art, and hairstyling and makeup.



Orientation was for conducted for all trainers and students



Virtual inauguration and students' talent day

#### ❖ ICRDCE visit to Concerns Community College:

On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, Dr Xavier Alphonse, S.J, Director of the Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), visited the community college for a review meeting with the trainers and the students.



Welcome and review meeting in progress

#### ❖ Counselling Sessions:

Online and offline counselling sessions were conducted by Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Chitra, and Mrs. Sangeetha for the community college students to help encourage them during these difficult times.

Mrs. Rose during the online counselling session



❖ **Virtual Christmas Program:**

The students put up a virtual Christmas program to celebrate the festival. It included singing, dancing, and a skit.



Christmas program in progress

❖ **Special Session by Dr. Vasudevan**

A special session was conducted by Dr. Vasudevan to encourage the students and spread some positivity during these challenging times. The title of this session was “I am God’s masterpiece”.



Session with Dr. Vasudevan in progress

❖ **Restore Group:**



A few student leaders were identified and trained to teach important lessons on life coping skills. These student leaders in turn taught their respective communities how to develop better lifestyle practices and how to apply these life coping skills in their everyday day lives.

Restore group training in progress



❖ **Workshop on Ergonomics:**

A workshop was conducted by GSS India in partnership with Concerns Universe Foundation India on how to maintain the right posture, improve comfort, and concentration levels in a workplace.



❖ **Practical Classes:**

Practical classes were conducted for the following courses:

Hotel Management-  
Bakery and Pastries



Beauty and Wellness



Stitch Craft



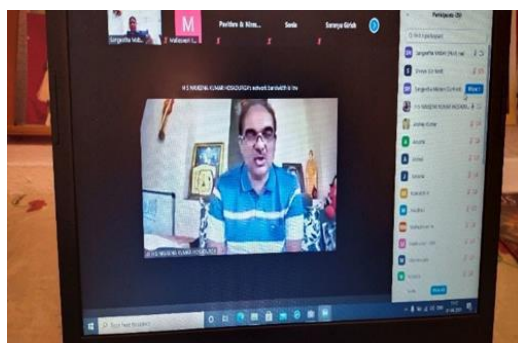
Office Management

#### ❖ Workshops conducted:

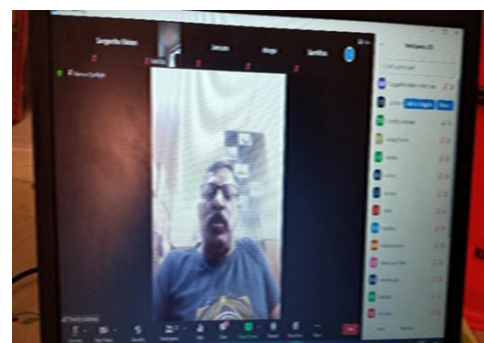
Numerous workshops were conducted throughout the academic year for the benefit of the college students. They are listed below:



Workshop for ECCE students on creating teaching aids



Workshop on financial management by Mr. Naveen Kumar



Session by Alcoholics Anonymous with Mr. Timothy Thomas





Online workshop on overcoming challenges in life by Ms. Jamuna Kutty, Principal of Hyderabad Community College.



10 day workshop for students of the culinary course to give them practical exposure

❖ **Sale of chocolates and cushion covers made by students:**

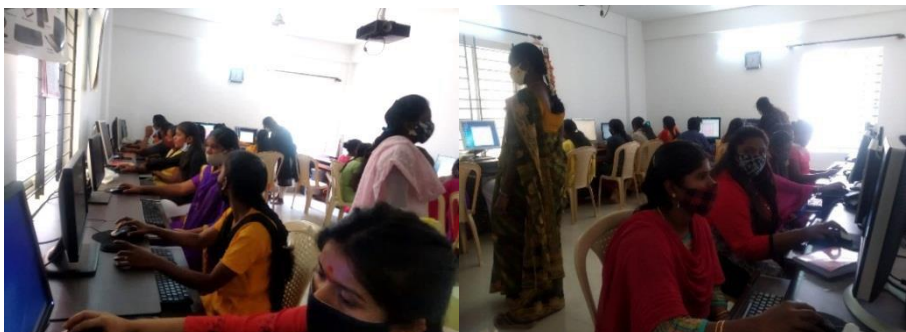
The culinary students prepared chocolates and put them up for sale. The sale was advertised on the social media pages of Concerns Universe Foundation and orders were taken.



Chocolates and cushion covers made for sale

❖ **Computer practicals for all course:**

To give all students practical experience, the students were allowed to practice their computer skills at the college.



Computer practical's in progress

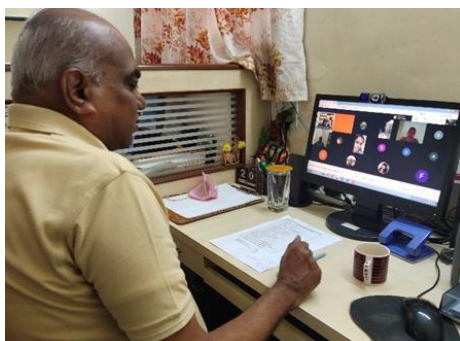
❖ **Resource materials for students:**

Resource materials were distributed to the students of the culinary, beauty and wellness, and stitch craft courses.



Resource materials for the students

❖ **ICRDCE- All India Community College Virtual Meeting:**



ICRDCE Chennai conducted an all India virtual community college meeting. Fr. Alphonse Xavier addressed all the principals and trainers and he encouraged and motivated them regarding the online classes. The latest updates on Concerns Community College were shared and the NSDC program plan for 2020 - 2021 was discussed in the meeting.

Fr. Alphonso Xavier

❖ **Dry ration kits:**

With the help of a local donor, dry ration kits containing rice, dals, oil, soaps, and toothpaste were distributed to the community college students and restore groups.



Distribution of  
dry ration kits

Contents of dry  
ration kits





❖ **Competition for the students of the beauty and wellness course:**



Beauty Culture and Hair Care Competition



Competition in progress

❖ **NSDC assistant beauty therapist course:**

20 Students enrolled in the course and all 20 students passed their NSDC Exams



Students writing their  
NSDC exams

❖ **Transformation story:**

**Story of Shanbagavalli:**



Shanbagavalli is twenty-five years old and is a single mother of a six-year-old child. She had to discontinue her studies when she married at seventeen years. After her husband left her, she worked as a domestic help to meet her financial needs. Though she desired to study further, since she had completed secondary schooling, she was unable to due to family responsibilities.

Shanbagavalli heard about Concerns Community college and enrolled in the Office Management course. Despite the various challenges she faced as she juggled work, college and raising her child, she completed the course successfully through her handwork and dedication. During the skill training, she learnt office management skills, basic accounts and tally. She also learnt Basic English, Basic computers and life coping skills. These skills helped her build her professional skills. Earlier she worked in 3 houses to meet her financial needs to run her family. In March, she went for an interview and was selected. For three months, while she trained on the job, she would come to college in the evening to learn her practical. Now she works for a company as an Admin Assistant and earns a salary of Rs. 13,500/- a month.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### ❖ **Covid 19 awareness, distribution and referrals services:**

- Awareness about Covid was given to 2899 community members through phone.
- 1299 community members were motivated and referred to utilize and avail services from the local government and private health institution for Covid 19.
- 694 community members in four communities received free rations during Covid 19. These were funded and supported by donors and distributed through CUF to the community.
- 1513 face masks were distributed for free in the community to children, women, BBMP workers, vendors, sick people, beggars, elderly etc.

### ❖ **Community health awareness:**

- **Health awareness session:** 143 health awareness sessions were conducted in the community development centre and in the community for the community women's groups.
- **Follow up:** The community health team connected with 3362 elderly and sick people with conditions like TB, diabetes, hyper tension and others health issues. Those who needed treatment were referred to hospitals for further investigation.
- **Women and child health program:** The community health team connected with pregnant women and new mothers to give awareness on healthy diet, regular checkups, simple exercise, treatment, hygiene, weaning their baby, and timely vaccination for the baby. They were referred to hospitals for investigation and to avail services on pre-natal and antenatal care in primary health centres / clinics.
- Referral services were provided to 1976 community members to avail government health and education facilities, and other government schemes.

### ❖ **Health interventions in Janakiram layout & Ulsoor community:**

- **Reproductive health care for women:**  
On 27th November 2020, the team, Nimma Arogya, conducted an awareness session on reproductive healthcare in MV Garden, Ulsoor. 20 community women attended the awareness session. Women having reproductive health issues personally met Dr. Chethana from Indian Cancer Society. Some were given medicines and a few were referred to St. John's hospital for concessional treatment.
- **Free health camp to detect life style diseases:**  
On 28th and 29th November 2020, the team, Nimma Arogya, conducted a free health camp in Janakiram Layout. 390 community members attended the camp. The team from Vitor Health Sciences Pvt. Ltd used a kit to check sugar levels, hemoglobin, BP and BMI. Medical reports were generated on the spot. The health team gave them health advice on life style diseases. They were given a Namma Clinikk card for free doctor consultations for the next one month.

### ❖ **Community women savings:**

26 women in self-help groups in the Jeevanahalli community saved Rs. 21,600/- per month through recurring deposits in the local government bank which amounted to a total of Rs.2, 65,889/- for the year. These women work as Paurakarmikas and house maids and this money was used for their children's education.

### ❖ **Program for community children and youth:**

- **128 children benefited from back-to-school program:**

Due to Covid 19, children were unable to attend in-person classes and since many of them did not have smart phones and parents could not pay the school fees, they could not attend online classes either. The team encouraged the children and the parents to enrol the children back to school and attend regular and online classes. Apart from this, the team also encouraged 12 children who had dropped out of school, to re-join.

- **Education Sponsorship Program:**

Through Vatsalya Trust, partial school fees were paid for 34 students from two local schools and the Concerns team followed up with these students and encouraged them to attend online and off line classes regularly.

- **Computer program cum digital literacy:**

20 sessions on basic computers were conducted for men and women from two communities. Students were provided hands on experience for computer practical program and assessments were conducted.

- ❖ **High protein mix:**

2300 High Protein Mix packs were distributed to the community people, for free of cost, who are weak, poorly nourished, childcare children, community college students, sick people, pregnant women, elderly etc.

- ❖ **Pilot program initiated:**

- **Community neighbourhood WhatsApp group:**

The community team regularly contacted and shared health and education related information with 83 community women who are part of the neighbourhood community women's Whatsapp group. Weekly health sessions were conducted on women's role, responsibilities, women health, preventing domestic violence and on financial savings. These meetings included activities conducted with songs, physical exercise, debate etc.

- **Community teens club:**

90 youth aged from 10-14 years participated, included school going children, school dropouts, and special children. The activities conducted were, craft work, role play, team building exercises, debate, group games, videos etc. Annual day celebrations were held and gifts and snacks were distributed.

This club encourages children to learn good habits and behaviours and to be regular to school. The club aims to prevent antisocial behaviours and to provide career guidance to strengthen the local community relationships.

- **Crochet training:**

Crochet training was initiated by Mrs. Shany Augustine of Pyara Bazar. The training was offered free to ten women of the community. Savitha, who is married and has 2 children, was selected by the trainer to produce crochet items on a regular basis. This program empowers women with a skill and they are encouraged to become economically independent.

- **In-service training/ staff development:**

The community health team was taught to use MS office, to send and edit reports, upload and download files on the internet, install and uninstall apps, use mobile banking, online shopping, use YouTube and



Google to prepare teaching aids and share with the community They are more confident and happier as they can apply it and share it with others.

❖ **Transformation story:**

**Story of Mohith:**



Mohith is a 13-year old boy studying in the 7th standard at RBANMS. He lives in M.V Garden with his parents and younger sister while his father works as a mason, his mother works as a maid. His younger sister is studying in the 6th standard in the same school.

Mohith was ill for many days and had lymph nodes in his neck. He visited local clinics, but the treatments didn't work. The community health team advised the parents to take Mohith to a government hospital for further investigation. He tested positive for tuberculosis in June 2020. Once the medication started, he began feeling better. However, a few weeks later, he discontinued the treatment, which led to the lymph nodes growing bigger. The team intervened and followed up, and now Mohith has completed his 6-month treatment. The team also provides nutrition like high protein mix powder, green gram, and eggs. Mohith was able to come out on his own, started gaining weight, and began cycling again.

### GOVERNING BOARD

SL.NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION ON BOARD	AGE	Whether paid a remuneration or not
1	Mrs. Gnana Chitra	Executive Trustee	60	Paid
2	Mrs. Vasantha Samuel	Treasurer	70	Unpaid
3	Mrs. Rebecca Anbu Thomas	Member Trustee	45	Unpaid
4	Mrs. Santhoshi Lewis (Member of the Governing Board until 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021)	Member Trustee	43	Unpaid

### DISTRIBUTION OF SALARY

Staff Full-Time	Female - 6	Male - 0
Part-Time	Female - 18	Male - 1
Consultant	Female - 0	Male - 1

< Rs. 5,000/-	Female - 5	Male - 0
Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/-	Female - 8	Male - 1
Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	Female - 5	Male - 1
> Rs. 20,000/-	Female - 6	Male - 0

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- Concerns Universe Foundation is registered under the Deed of Trust on 11.07.2001 in Karnataka.
- Concerns Universe Foundation is registered under 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 minimum norms with Credibility Alliance register no. CA/26/2018 valid till 07/10/2023

### OUR SINCERE THANKS TO:

Network for Social Change, UK	Concern India Foundation, Bangalore	Living Hope Community Church, Isle of Man	HI (Help India), UK
Credibility Alliance, Mumbai and New Delhi	Rhema for the Nations	Rotary, Manchester Breakfast, UK	Volunteers from overseas and India
National Union of Teachers, Birmingham, UK	ASK Outreach Trust (Action Saves Kids), Isle of Man	Mr. Ashok Mollahalli & family USA	Local Government and Private schools
Rotary, Ramsbottom, UK, St. Peter's Church India Fund, Manchester, UK	Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education, Chennai (ICRDCE)	Common Purpose Team Presidency College, Hotel Royal Orchid	Cox Town Dispensary DOTS Centre RNPTC, Bangalore Global Giving
India Share, Manchester, UK	Mrs. Hema Hattangady, Bangalore	International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE), Bangalore	

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Regd. Office Address:** No:4, Patel Hanumantha Rayappa Layout, Byrathi Cross, Kothanur Post, Bangalore -560077

**Field Office Address:** Concerns Community Resource Centre, No: 52, 1<sup>st</sup> Cross, Balakrishna Road, R.S.Palaya, Bangalore – 560033

**Phone Numbers:** 080-25475027, 09886720448

**Website:** <https://concernsuniverse.org/>

**Social Media:** Facebook: <https://bit.ly/2ZwRrTU>; Instagram- <https://bit.ly/3girzB6>

