

Vol. 13

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OUR MISSION

To break the generational cycle of poverty, one life at a time.

Over 15+ years we have impacted over **2,93,579 lives** across rural India. Our initiatives span across Education, Community and Skill Development, Healthcare Services & Environment Conservation through our flagship projects - Anando and Jagruti.

OUR BOARD

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- ▶ **Ms. Gayatri Ruia** - Trustee
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Light of Life Trust completes 16 years



Today is the 16th birthday of Light of Life Trust.

It is a big moment for us as we have impacted the lives of thousands of people in India. In rural India the underprivileged children need to break the poverty cycle through education and LOLT is just doing that. There're so many inspirational stories of our children making breakthroughs, turnarounds and bringing about the change in the economic life. Consider a child whose salary is more than Rs.10,000-Rs.20,000 earnings. Their parents still earn about 3000 to 4000 a month as domestic workers or labourers. Isn't this amazing? Isn't this what LOLT envisions? Breaking the Poverty cycle!!!

- Villy Doctor



On 23rd March 2021, Light of Life Trust completed 16 years of yeoman services enabling transformation of underprivileged communities in their efforts to break free of generational poverty especially in rural areas of our country. This day was marked with an online celebratory programme in the presence of LOLT Founder Ms. Villy Doctor, LOLT Trustee Mr. Punit Anand and the entire LOLT team.



EuroSchool Thane students brighten up the lives of underprivileged kids



Students of EuroSchool, Thane, Giya Iyer and (below) Yashika Sinesun

Thane school students raise ₹4 lakh for underprivileged children

PALLAVI SMART
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STUDENTS of EuroSchool in Thane recently raised ₹4lakh through a crowd funding campaign, to help provide smart devices for online learning to underprivileged children from Marathwada and Vidarbha. The initiative, in association with an NGO – Light of Life Trust, will bring smiles to the faces of over 500 school children who will be given smart tablets through the sum.

The pandemic has brought a new normal for all and for the education sector, it is online learning. But it is impossible without the required

smart devices and connectivity which has been a cause of concern for many children coming from underprivileged backgrounds. In these difficult times, many hands have come forward to help those in need. Students from several posh city schools have held similar drives to help underprivileged children. By raising this amount in 30 days, 48 students from EuroSchool have set another example.

"I really wanted to do something for the unprivileged students who can't pay their fees for school, can't afford devices for their online classes etc. Firstly, I created the fundraising page so that people could learn about the ini-

tiative and come forward to help. My parents were the first to support me by making a donation. Later, I shared the link on social media with my parents' help. Friends and relatives supported and we were able to raise a small amount," said Giya Iyer from std VI. Yashika Sinesun, a std VII student said, "The poor people of our country are constantly facing harsh circumstances and financial difficulties, especially in this pandemic. With this initiative, I hope that the poor children can get adequate education, which leads to a prosperous life and future." Yashika was also thrilled to be part of the initiative where students from stds V to X

participated to raise the funds.

Principal speak

Commenting on the initiative, Jyotsna Mayadas, principal, EuroSchool Thane, said, "This pandemic has created severe stress among large sections of our society, especially underprivileged children, who have been deprived of basic educational needs. The school believes that the benefits of education should reach every section of society. The work that Light of Life Trust has done with our students in this direction is exemplary. We are very proud of our students and their parents who have encouraged them."

EuroSchool Thane, in collaboration with The Light of Life Trust on the eve of Christmas and New Year, had taken up the noble humanitarian step of raising funds to support Anando students from Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. Students of Grade 5-10 of EuroSchool Thane, have collected funds of Rs 4 Lakh through an online crowdfunding campaign. This amount will be utilized in providing tabs and smartphones for the virtual education of underprivileged students. The prime objective of this crowdfunding campaign was to help under-privileged students whose studies were severely disrupted due to lockdown, with digital devices as they could not afford the electronic gadgets for their virtual education.

E-Learning Kits Distribution under Global Grants Project of Rotary Club

We thank Rotary Club of Mumbai Ghatkopar RID 3141 (Host Club India) and Rotary Club of Foster City - RID 5150 (USA), (International Partner Club), Rotary Club of Mumbai Queens Necklace RID 3141 (Supporting Club India) for partnering with us through their GLOBAL GRANT PROJECT - GG1979681 to provide 41 E - LEARNING Kits for our Anando students. The inauguration was done on 13th February 2021 by District Governor Mr Sunnil Mehra RID 3141, at our Jeevan Asha Community Centre at Tiwre, Karjat. These 41 E Learning Kits will be used in 41 Anando centres, across Maharashtra, MP and Rajasthan.

On 17th February 2021, distribution of E-Learning kits began under the initiative of Global Grants Project of Rotary Club. Further to this, training was also provided to all the SFSEP teachers and social workers, to make them proficient in operating these E-learning kits. The e-learning kits will definitely help rural students to develop their academic concepts through the use of applications and interactive learning.



Distribution of Tablets

In accordance to the digitization and online learning initiatives of Light of Life Trust, 137 tablets were distributed to groups of Std X students across Light of Life Trust Anando centres in Wahim, Jalna, Mangaon and Yavatmal districts. Groups of 5 – 7 students each were formed across centres for Tablet sharing and learning activities. This will result in peer to peer learning and better utilization of the resources along with participation in school online learning activities.



Water Wheels Distribution

On 3rd January 2021, 114 water wheels were distributed to the women beneficiaries from Bangarwadi and Ghutewadi villages. This programme was conducted in collaboration with Rotary Club of Bombay Hanging Gardens. Mr. Gautam Kanoje, Assistant Program Manager, Project Jagruti and President of Rotary Club of Bombay Hanging Gardens, Mr. Deepak Jhaveri along with Mr. Amrish Daftari and 25 club members participated in the programme.



Beautician starter kits distribution programme



Beautician starter kits distribution programme in collaboration with Rotary Club of Bombay Hanging Gardens was conducted at village Tiwara, Raigad District on 20th Feb 2021, at Cuffe Parade centre, Mumbai on 21st Feb 2021, and on 20th March 2021 at Murbad centre, Thane District & Nandurbar centre in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra. This programme was graced by Mr. Deepak Jhaveri the President of Rotary Club of Bombay Hanging Gardens, Mumbai along with his colleague Mr. Naveen in the presence of Ms. Kamal Damania, the COO of Light of Life Trust and the programme team of Light of Life Trust. This initiative would help budding entrepreneurs to start their own venture and become self-independent to earn their livelihood and support their family.



LOLT features as supporting partner



Under the Environment Conservation programme, Water Wheels were distributed to the women beneficiaries of the village in Karjat Taluka, Raigad District. Nilkamal Industries the manufacturer of the Water Wheels undertook the project to shoot a short movie on the same about the benefits of the product that they have given to the beneficiaries. A two day shoot was organised in Karjat and after the shoot the members of Nilkamal Industries and the crew members of the direction team appreciated the work of LOLT, the farmers' participation in the shoot and also distributed grocery kits to 40 farmers. Light of Life Trust features as one of their supporting partners in the credits of the short movie produced by Nilkamal Industries.



Distribution of solar kits



On 28th & 29th December, 2020 with support from Inner Wheel Club of Queens Necklace, Solar Kits were distributed to 125 beneficiaries from Pirkadwadi, Arkaswadi an Umbarnewadi village by the Project Jagruti team members.





Light of Life Trust was featured in March edition of Hashtag India magazine



We are very glad to share that Light of Life Trust, its projects, programmes and journey were featured in the March edition of the digital magazine, Hashtag India. A two page writeup appears on page 27 and 28 which features LOLT and we urge everyone to read the same and hope that our story inspires many of you to come forward and support our endeavours.



Scan the QR Code for the story.

The link for the story is as follows:

<https://www.hashtagmagazine.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Hashtag-Magazine-March-Edition.pdf>

You make us proud

We are very happy to share with you that our Anando programme student Ms. Vaishnavi Ramkisan Ahewar of Std. X from Pardi Takmor Center, Washim District participated in the Striders Maharashtra State Cross Country Championship 2021 at Phulgaon, Pune District on 31st January 2021. In this championship she secured 3rd position in the race category. We wish her all the best for her future participation and wish to see her participating at the National Level Competitions.



You make us proud

We feel proud to announce that Ms. Sonali Santosh Vaite, Anando Plus student from our Alibaug Centre has secured a job in MSEB as an operator in Pen Taluka. When she was enrolled in Light of Life Trust as an Anando student she was a neglected child in the family but due to the support and guidance from the LOLT she completed her HSC in science stream and later completed her Diploma in Electrician from an IIT. She also showed active interest in arts and was a student of the Anant programme too, where she enhanced her singing and dance skills. She has also participated in many shows, events and has also done professional albums. Because of her varied interest and skill sets she has now secured a good job and will also undertake projects in arts as a performer. We wish her luck and success in all her future endeavours.



Help in need, is a help indeed



Ms. Vaishnavi Manwar, Anando Plus student from Mangrulpir Centre, Washim District was enrolled by Light of Life Trust when she was in Std. VIII. She is now completing her Second Year Diploma in Civil from Government Polytechnic College, Yavatmal with the support and aid from Light of Life Trust. A bright and clever girl in her studies, she had to face several difficulties in her education. She is dependent on her mother as her father suffers from mental issues and is not able to take up a job to support his family. She has an elder brother and a younger sister too. Since the household is dependent on the sole income from her mother's household work they are not even able to support their basic household necessities. It is just impossible for her mother to support the education of her children. Recently, she had to face another difficult situation when her younger sister was diagnosed with a chronic disease and was admitted to Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital, Mumbai to undergo treatment. In this situation now it seems very difficult for her to get any support from her family to support her ongoing education, but Light of Life is supporting her through all means so that her dreams of becoming an engineer are not shattered. Since, the pandemic outbreak last year the pattern of learning has shifted to online learning and she is finding it difficult to undergo that since she doesn't own a smartphone. This was noticed by LOLT and with all its effort from personal and local level fund collection she was provided with a smartphone so that her studies are not impacted. She has promised Light of Life Trust to pay back once she is able to earn her livelihood. We wish her all the best and look forward to her achieving her dreams and becoming a support to her family.

First parents meeting at Angul centre of LOLT, Odisha

On Friday, January 29, 2021, first Parent meeting was conducted by Light of Life Trust at Angul District, Odisha State. This meeting composed of interactive session between LOLT team members and parents as well as student beneficiaries regarding Anando Programme. The parents gave a very positive feedback regarding the activities and work done by the Light of Life Trust.



Bal Kala Mahotsav & Yuva Mahotsav

Bal Kala Mahotsav, an annual cultural event for Anando programme beneficiaries and Yuva Mahotsav for the Anando Plus beneficiaries comprising various cultural programmes and activities were organized across all the centres of Light of Life Trust.



Task force virtual training programme

In the months of December 2020 and January 2021, virtual training programmes for the Task Force groups were carried out at the state level by Light of Life Trust. These groups comprising of Anando Plus Programme students were segregated into Diamond, Golden and Silver categories according to the selection criteria. Training in topics like Establishing Youth Organization, Social Leadership and Me, Leadership & Team Building and Self Understanding (Dream & Vision) were undertaken by the LOLT team for the member of the groups. Light of Life Trust COO, Ms Kamal Damania and Light of Life Trust Head of Education, Mr Sudhir Kumar Gajbhiye shared their valuable inputs with the group members during the training programmes.



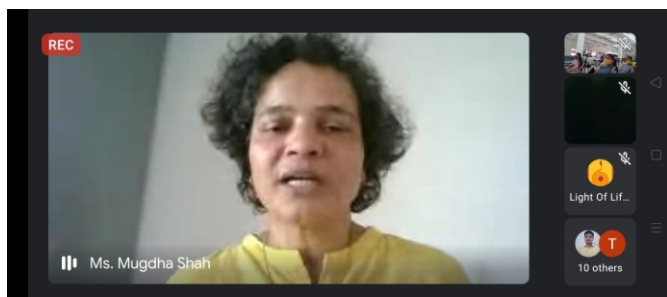
Anant team organizes Vasant Panchami celebration



On 16th February 2021, Anant team organized Vasant Panchami celebration at the Karjat project office of Light of Life Trust. This celebration was virtually graced by the Ms. Villy Doctor, the Founder and Managing Trustee of Light of Life Trust in the presence of Mrs. Sumita Ambasta & Mr. Chirstopher McLeod the founder of Flowering Tree Inc., USA, Ms. Kamal Damania - COO of Light of Life Trust, Mr. Sudhir Gajbhiye - Head of Education, Light of Life Trust and members of the programme team. 15 classical performances were presented in arts by the students of Anant and Anant Plus programme in front of the dignitaries. This celebration draws its reference from the time when people start giving the first lessons on education to their children. This custom is referred to as Vidyarambam and also known as Aksharabhyasam. Therefore, offerings and devotion are offered to Goddess Saraswathi to seek her blessings for spiritual and intellectual learning. The session was concluded by the guidance and feedback from the dignitaries.

Awareness Session by our partner, Rallis India

On 9th & 23rd March 2021, virtual Awareness Session on Capacity Building and Business Development and Nutrition respectively were undertaken by Ms. Mugdha Shah, from our partner organization Rallis India. 96 beneficiaries jointly participated in these sessions both online and offline from Karjat, Murbad and Akkalkuwa centers.



TATA Starbucks volunteers with Light of Life Trust

TATA Starbucks in honour of International Women's day which is celebrated on 8th March, carried out virtual volunteering initiatives through the entire month of March 2021 for Light of Life Trust, for our girl and women beneficiaries. The volunteers were from TATA Starbucks and they covered various topics through 8 sessions via Google Meet. Each session lasted for about an hour and a half. The various topics covered were Work Life Balance - Balancing Careers and Life, Planning and Organizing, Awareness on Adolescent Health, Storytelling Skills (The Art of storytelling), Communication Skills, Stress Management and Balanced Diet and Nutrition.

We would like to thank Tata Starbucks for conducting these sessions for our LOLT beneficiaries and look forward to many more initiatives in the future.



News and UPDATES

Our support partner, Stone Shippers visit to LOLT regional centre in Rajasthan



On 18th January 2021, Mr. Ankit Mathur, representative from our support partner Stone Shippers visited Bijolia regional centre of Light of Life Trust in Rajasthan. He participated in the weekly team meeting of centre

and also guided & encouraged the team members about their work.

Visit by EuroSchool Thane to Jeevan Asha Community centre



On 20th March 2021 volunteers from Euro School Thane visited Jeevan Asha Community Centre, of Project Jagruti at village Tiwre, Karjat Taluka, Raigad District, they were accompanied by Ms. Sheela Iyer, Lead Marketing of Light of Life Trust. They overlooked the activities and programmes conducted at the project and also paid a visit to the Ankur demo plot and undertook plantation of saplings. They were very encouraged with their interaction with the beneficiaries and they paid keen interest in understanding the execution of skilling, livelihood and healthcare activities at the centre.

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Visit by a representative from Godrej & Boyce Limited



On 22nd January 2021, Mr. Tanaji Chavan a representative from the organization Godrej & Boyce Limited, Khopoli visited the Jeevan Asha Community Centre at Tiwre, Karjat Taluka, Raigad District. He inspected and overlooked the training programmes conducted for the rural youth, women and girl beneficiaries at the centre and was also informed about the initiatives under healthcare and environment conservation undertaken by Light of Life Trust.

Chance of Life – Virtual visit and interaction with children

On 18th March 2021, a virtual meeting was organized to present the review of our Anando Project to our partner organization, Chance of Life. Anando and Anando plus programme team presented the overall review of the year and also shared the highlights of the year.



8 Anando plus girl students interacted with Ms. Rita Steinau, the chairwomen of Chance of Life and shared their career developments. Ms. Rita Steinau appreciated the work of Light of Life Trust and extended her best wishes to the students and the entire Light of Life Trust team.

Bajaj Finserv – virtual visit & interaction with Anando Plus children

On 8th March, 2021, a virtual visit & interaction session was conducted by our partner, Bajaj Finserv. 26 Anando Plus beneficiaries and 10 parents across all three regions of Jalna, Mangaon and Nandurbar interacted with Ms. Pooja and Ms. Ruchira, representatives from Bajaj Finserv. This review meeting covered up the work done by Light of Life Trust in the given areas which were supported by our partner, Bajaj Finserv. We received acknowledgment of our good work from our partner, Bajaj Finserv for the good work taken up during the time of pandemic.



Preparation to initiate new Livelihood Training in Akola

We are happy to announce that, we would soon be commencing our operations in our new Livelihood Training Centre in partnership with Rallis India Limited (a TATA Enterprise) at Shivar, Akola District, Maharashtra State.

