

Transforming
Rural Communities

IMPACT REPORT

2005–2019

790

villages

Our Reach

245657

lives



Light of Life Trust aims to transform lives of underprivileged rural communities, particularly children & women.

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Light of Life Trust Accreditation and Recognition

Accreditation by Credibility Alliance



Empanelment with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) National CSR Hub



GlobalGiving recognition Vetted Organisation, Site Visit Verified, Effective Organization & Top-Ranked Organisation in 2019

GuideStar Gold Seal for Light of Life Trust



About Us

Genesis & Background

The Founder and Managing Trustee of Light of Life Trust, Villy Doctor along with a few likeminded people came together and started Light of Life Trust. The vision was to transform the rural communities and the mission was to break the generational cycle of poverty, one life at a time. The hypothesis was that education would be the way to alleviate poverty.

Following a need assessment study of the local community in Karjat, Project Anando was launched in the year 2005 with 25 children in Karjat Tehsil, Raigad District, Maharashtra, based on the belief that no child should be forced to drop out of school.

The founding members focused their energies on establishing a community centre for women, a senior citizen home, a children's home and a medical diagnostic centre through Project Jagruti and a hospice and a Research & Development centre through Project Aangan.

Vision

“To transform lives of underprivileged rural communities in India.”

Mission

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

Project Anando

Initiated in 2005, the project sustains probable school dropouts by equipping them with skills to become independent and productive citizens through the holistic 3E approach:

- Educate
- Empower
- Equip for Employability

Project Jagruti

Initiated in 2009, the project supports the holistic development of underprivileged rural communities through three major programmes:

- Skilling and livelihood training
- Primary healthcare
- Environment conservation



LOLT Founder & Managing Trustee



Ms. VILLY DOCTOR, an excellent teacher, an educationist, a psychologist, and a therapist, Ms. Villy Doctor is the founder of Light of Life Trust (LOLT) and Satyavati Spiritual Foundation. She is the co-founder of 'Ormax', a renowned market research company. The former senior lecturer, St. Xavier's College and former visiting faculty, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai, she held the position of Head of the Department, Psychology, at Sophia College, Mumbai, for a decade.

Born in Mumbai to Parsi (Zoroastrian) parents, Ms Doctor grew up with strong ethical and spiritual values. A brilliant student, she graduated from the premier educational institute – St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and went on to obtain a Master's degree in Psychology. She also initiated a counselling and vocational guidance centre for young people to overcome drug addiction, alcoholism and personal emotional problems. Simultaneously, moved by the state of the mind in meditation, she was inspired to study various schools of thought in meditation through a 'Science in the Methodology of Personal Development'.

A deep interest in human nature led her to work in the field of consumer behaviour and eventually launch Ormax Consultants along with her husband. She worked with Ormax for ten years, after which she moved on to researching the role of meditation in stress relief and its use as a therapy. With the goal to benefit humanity and to set up Satya Meditation and healing centres across the globe, she set up Satyavati Spiritual Foundation in 2009. She has conducted many stress management and meditation programmes at the Google Headquarters – San Francisco, AOL – New Jersey, Tata Institute for Fundamental Research, BARC, Infosys Technologies Ltd and at various other institutions.

Compassionate, gentle, humble, giving and committed, Ms Doctor founded Light of Life Trust in 2002 with a vision to break the generational cycle of poverty – one life at a time. Since then, she has dedicated herself to transforming the lives of underprivileged rural communities, particularly women and children thereby empowering them to live with dignity and self-respect.

Light of Life Trust - Board of Trustees



Ms. GAYATRI RUIA, Trustee - A young and dynamic entrepreneur from the Ruia family, Ms Ruia has applied her entrepreneurial skills in the fields of art and fashion. She is also a Trustee of the Aakar Charitable Trust, a prominent organisation working in the field of early childhood education, water conservation and harvesting.



Mr. JITENDRA MEHTA, Trustee - A leading businessman, Mr Mehta is the Chairman of Special Projects - Rotary Club Bombay Sea Face. A philanthropic at heart, he played a prominent role in raising large capital through funds for the people affected by the devastating Tsunami across the Asian subcontinent. He is also the founder member, Chairman & Managing Director of the Mehta Charitable Trust.



Mr. MANOJ MURARKA, Trustee - Mr Murarka runs Batlivala & Karani Services Ltd., a 140 year old financial services company. He spends most of the time engaged in the world of philanthropy and mentoring teenagers. He also runs "Aahat", an NGO focused on uplifting the specially-abled artists in India. His passion is to mentor and drive non-profit social businesses towards more sustainable business models. He is seeking to create a social impact funding organization to maximize the impact for uplifting adolescent girls in rural India.



Mr. PUNIT B. ANAND, Trustee - Graduated from Government Law College, Mumbai, member of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa since 1989. His private practice in Mumbai since 1991 has a host of corporate and multinational clients. Mr. Punit Anand has been a legal advisor on pro bono basis for many individuals throughout his career. Joined LOLT as legal advisor in 2008, at the invitation of LOLT Founder Ms. Villy Doctor to work for the Trust. His work is pro bono for the Trust.

Senior Management



MR. PRADEEP KOPPIKAR - Chief Executive Officer, Emeritus, LOLT

Mr. Pradeep Koppikar is a graduate from IIT Kanpur and a post-graduate from IIM Ahmedabad. At the peak of his corporate career of 38 years at senior levels in India and overseas, Mr. Koppikar decided to return to India to pursue his passion full - time for educating underprivileged children. He was fortunate to lead LOLT's committed team to help its growth and serve the needs of rural communities. He believes a selfless service to the cause of education and empowerment of the needy is essential for our progress as a nation, and a way to serve God.



MR. RAMESH DASWANI - Chief Executive Officer, LOLT

Mr Daswani graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, following which he inherited and consequently grew a family business in the interior decoration accessories space. He brings with him over 30 years of experience in the field of business as well as social sector, a wealth of knowledge, and most importantly, self-awareness. He is also the Chairman of the CSR committee at the Indian Merchants Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an active member of Rotary International and the Cricket Club of India, and considers it every person's duty to give back in any way they can, small or large.



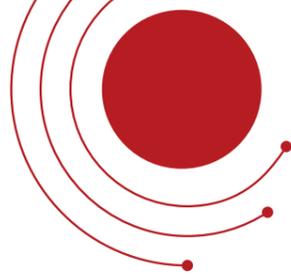
MR. PRADIP ROY - Hon. Consultant, LOLT

Mr Pradip Roy, Ex banker, Advisor, and former ED of DBI Bank Ltd., currently Director on the board of a number of reputed companies, derives tremendous joy, happiness and satisfaction in his honorary engagement with LOLT, leveraging his network for raising funds for LOLT interventions.

LOLT Initiatives

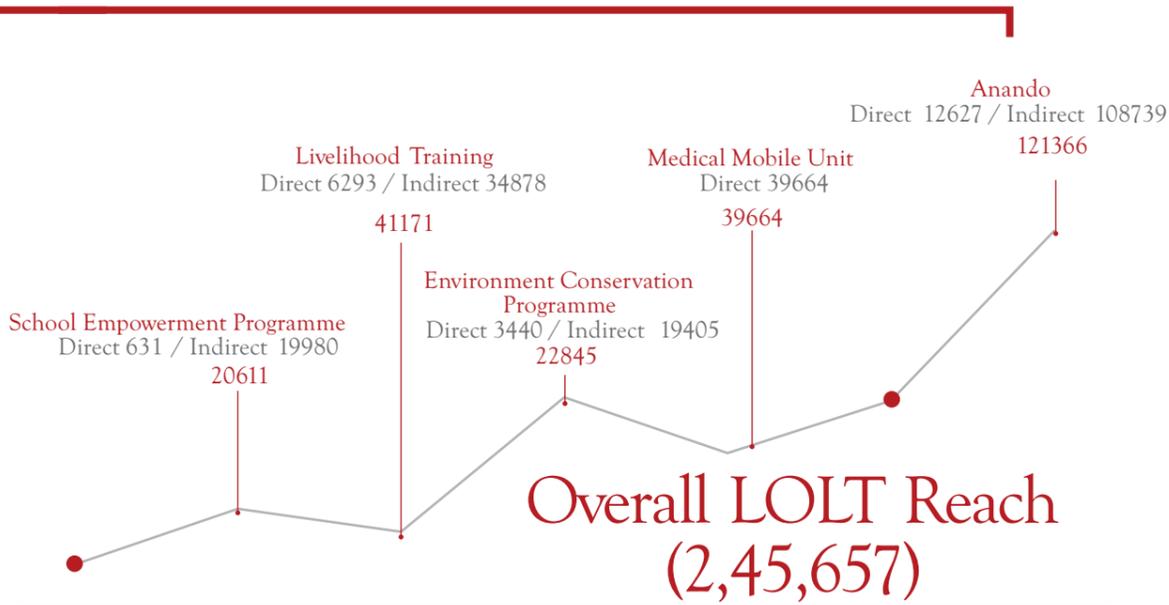
- Project Anando (Education)

- 1. Anando
 - 2. Anando Plus
 - 3. School Empowerment Programme
- 1.1 Student Friendly Supplementary Education Programme
 - 1.2 Anant Programme



- Project Jagruti (Community Development)

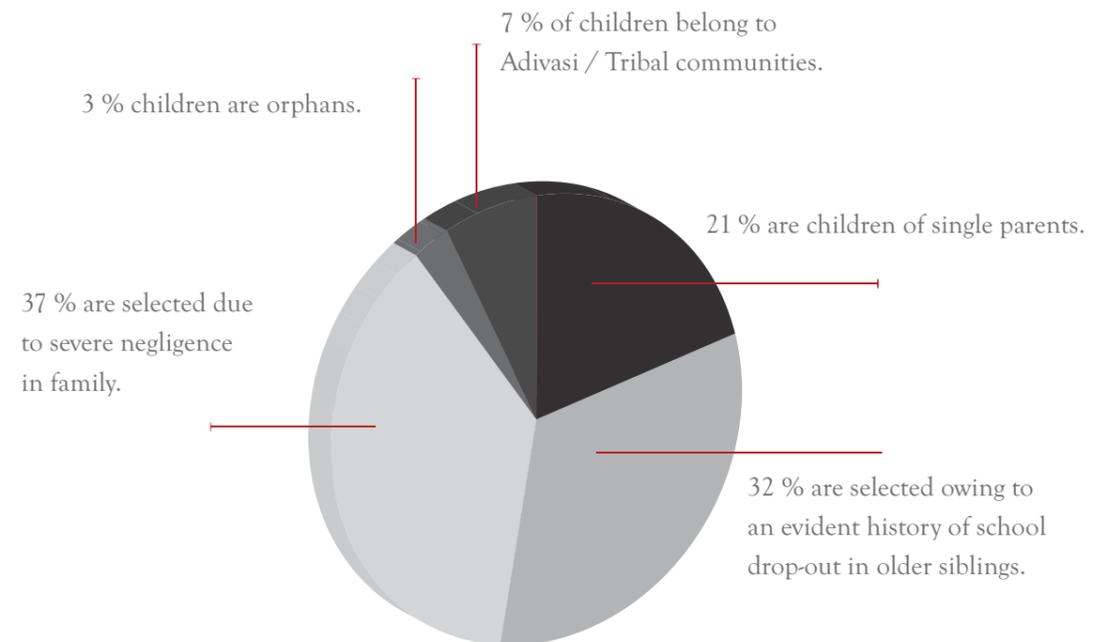
- 1. Livelihood Training
- 2. Medical Mobile Unit (MMU)
- 3. Environment Conservation Programme



Project Anando

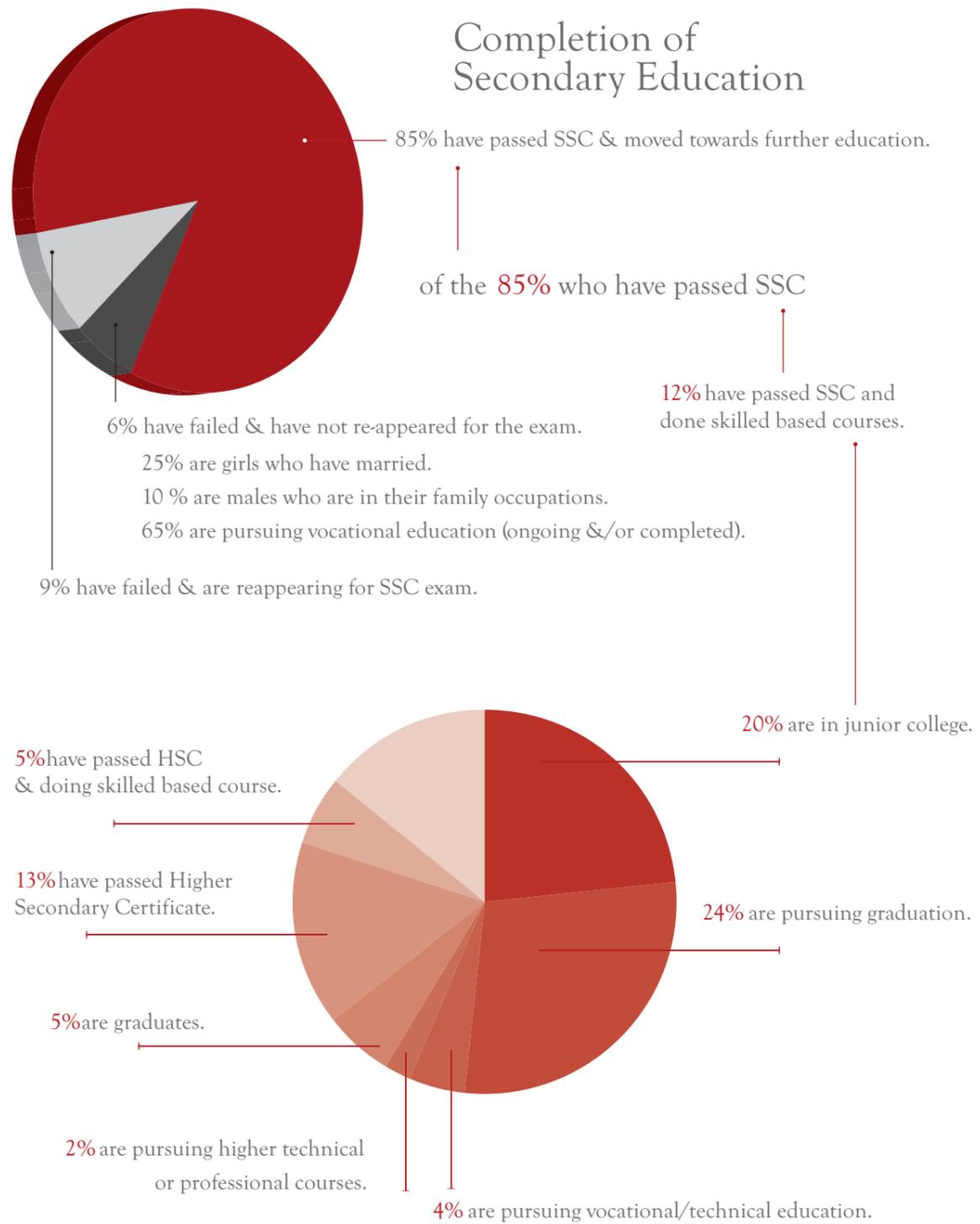
Project Anando, initiated in 2005, works towards uplifting underprivileged rural secondary school children by reinstating and sustaining them in schools and equipping them with skills to become independent and productive citizens. The goal is not just literacy but all round development of each child through our 3E approach, i.e. **Educate, Empower & Equip for Employability**, thus empowering the beneficiaries to embrace life changing decisions, choosing appropriate career paths.

Beneficiary Categories



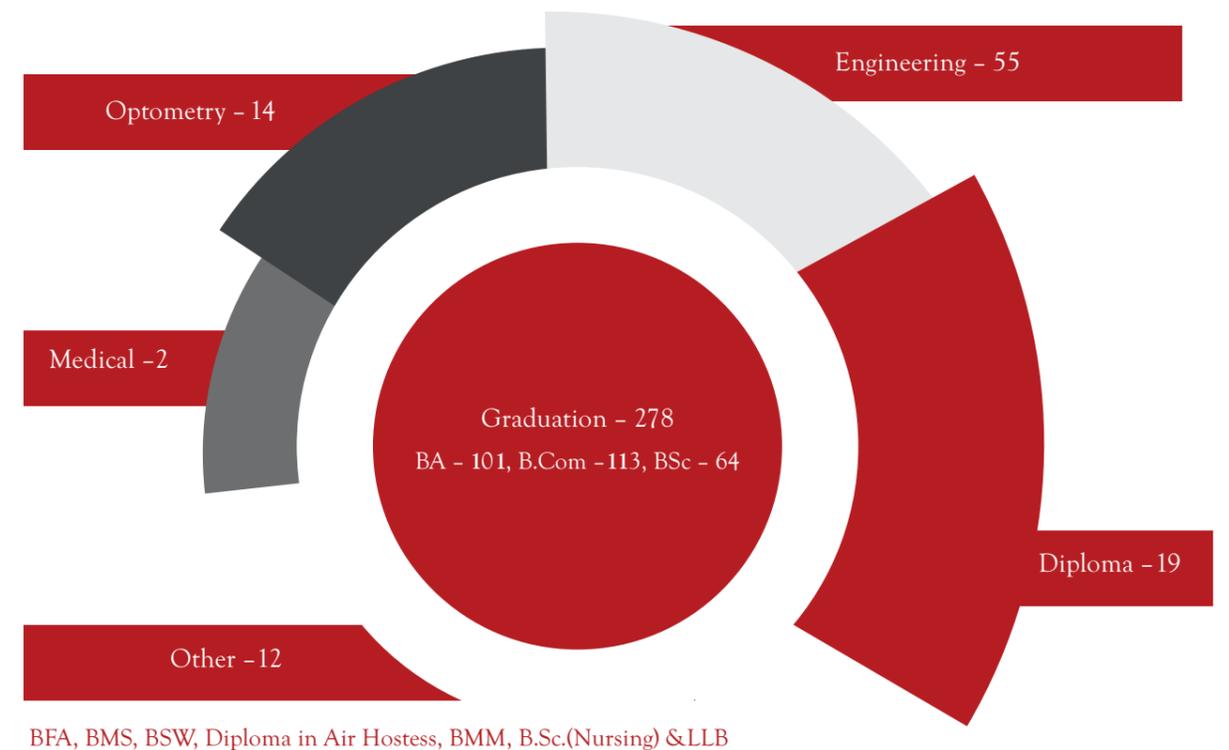
All students enrolled in Anando belong to families whose total household income is less than ₹ 4,500/- per month.

Academic Impact



Employment

Diverse career options chosen by beneficiaries - Even though majority of children are in junior college, graduation, diploma or vocational training, the diversity in career options chosen by LOLT children is very clearly visible & much higher as compared to the options chosen by their classmates.



1028 Anando beneficiaries are employed.



Economic Impact

Parent - Beneficiary Comparative Income Distribution

- 92% of parents earn a monthly income below ₹ 4,500/-
- 59 % of employed beneficiaries earn monthly income between ₹ 5,500/- to ₹ 32,000/-



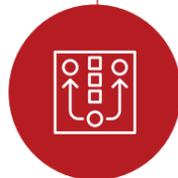
Social Impact

Age of marriages

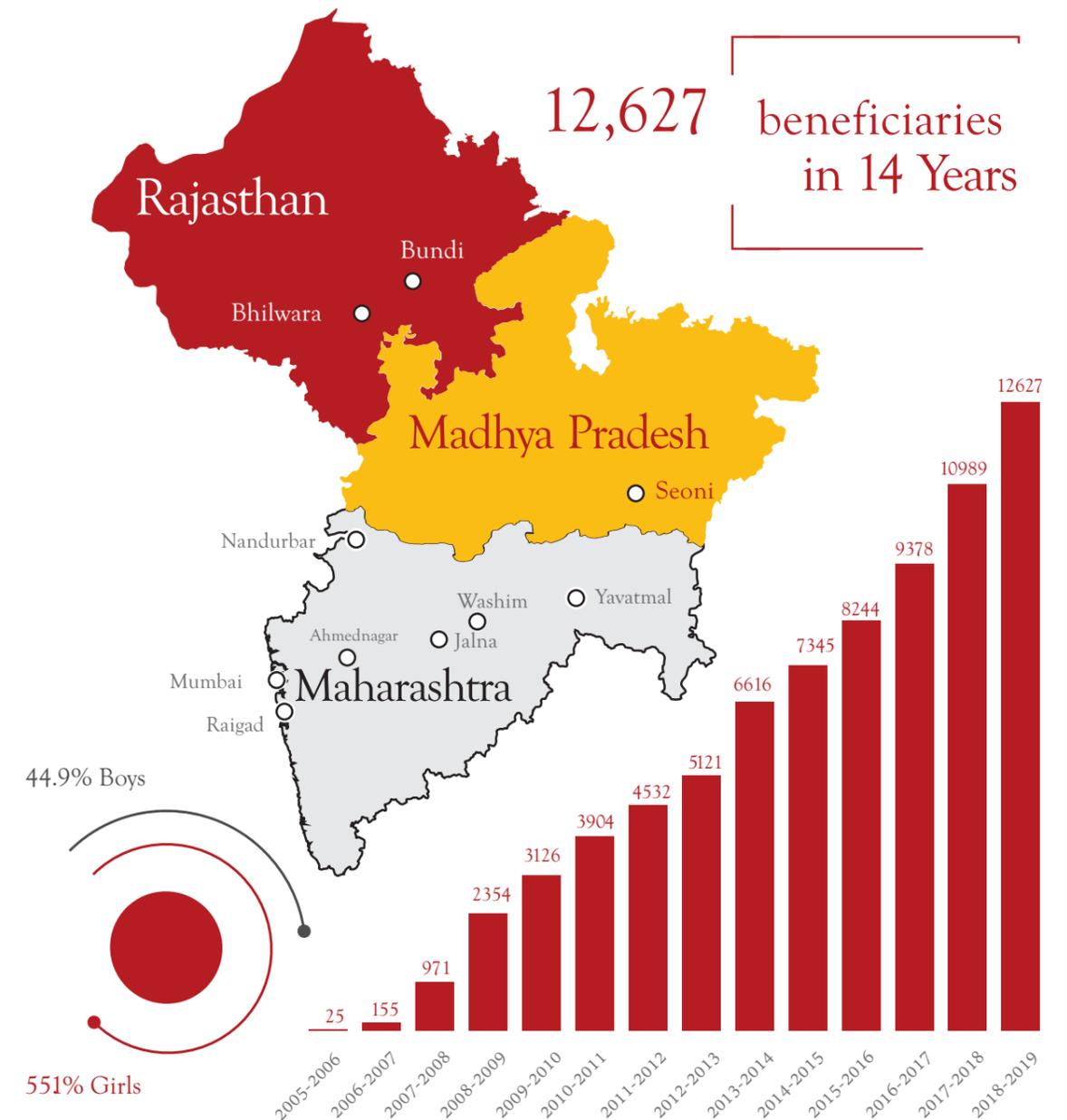
- 17 years is the average marriage age in the areas of intervention
- 21 years is the average marriage age of female beneficiaries of LOLT

Rural girls pursuing higher education

- 3000 plus female beneficiaries of LOLT are pursuing higher education currently.
- 56% of LOLT female beneficiaries are pursuing higher education, in comparison, the Maharashtra State percentage in the districts of intervention is 26%.



Anando at a Glance



- 12627 beneficiaries since inception
- 55.1% are girls & 44.9% are boys
- 5612 beneficiaries are currently pursuing higher education
- Operational in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states

Stories of Change

BHAGYASHREE WAYARE



Bhagyashree is a single parent child and at the time of enrolment with LOLT, her mother was the sole earning member who sold flowers for a living. She joined Project Anando in 2006, in the Chondhi Center, Alibaug. After she passed her Std X and XII exams with good marks, Bhagyashree decided to pursue the Diploma Course (Air Hostess Training) from the Frankfinn Institute. Having completed the course with an education loan, she worked hard to groom herself appropriately for opportunities to open up for her. She joined Merchant Hotel (5 star) in Navi Mumbai at a remuneration of ₹ 9,000/- per month. She moved as a receptionist in a corporate office where she also completed a Diploma in Logistics, Export and Shipping which enabled her to get a promotion in the same department earning an annual remuneration of ₹ 3,60,000/-.

SURAJ DHANAJI PATIL



An outstanding Anando student, Suraj had a troubled family situation. With a widowed mother supporting the family, his contact with LOLT's social workers came at a critical time. He was academically inclined however faced downfall when he couldn't cope with the pressure. LOLT intervened to enrol him into BPO training program in which he flourished. Encouraged, he re-joined college and completed his B.Com with flying colours. While pursuing M.Com he joined LOLT as an English teacher. Today, Suraj works in the field of his choice as an Executive Officer with Axis Bank, Khopoli Branch earning ₹15,000/- per month and supports his family.



GAUTAM HATAGALE

Hailing from a small farmer family in Mantha, Jalna district of Maharashtra, it was a memorable moment for Gautam and the entire LOLT family when he cleared the Armed Forces exams in 2015 and got the opportunity to become a part of the Indian Army. He was neglected as a child but with the right support and conditioning at LOLT he found the courage to dream big and also completed his graduation in Arts. Currently, he is posted in Uttar Pradesh as a "Buddy" and is earning ₹ 27,000/- per month. He got married in March 2018, constructed his own house in UP, and is now supporting his wife to complete her graduation.

SHUBHANGI MORE



Shubhangi is a first generation learner from Khopoli - Vasrang slum area, who is a successful Ophthalmic Technician with Lotus Eye Care and Laxmi Eye Hospital earning ₹ 26,000/- per month. She grew up as a needy child; with a widowed, illiterate mother having to support 5 other siblings. After Std. Xth she had to drop out of high school. However, it was with inputs from the Anando Plus programme, that she re-gained interest and took admission in H.V. Desai Optometry College, Pune for Diploma in Ophthalmic Technician Course. She completed her graduation in Optometry through distance learning. Shubhangi is now the head of the family and is a proud owner of her own flat in Khopoli.

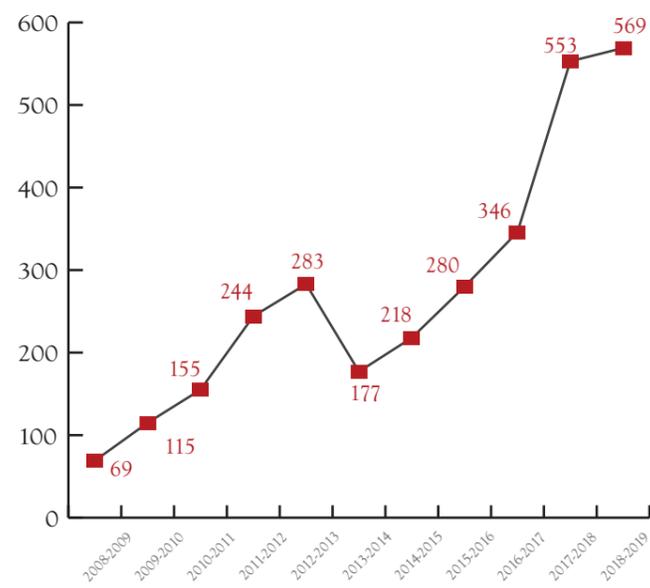
Anant Programme

Initiated in 2008, Anant is a collaborative Arts Education Project between Flowering Tree Inc., U.S.A and Light of Life Trust. It is a unique programme in song, dance, and story-telling that has empowered hundreds of children through training in instrumental and Indian vocal music, and folk & semi-classical dance. Anant provides opportunities and platforms to develop skills and experience in performing arts. Dedicated music and dance teachers, along with social workers staff form a strong dual pronged team that nurtures and guides Anant participants to overcome the challenges to their aspirations.

Kalpataru - A Musical

Kalpataru; a musical, is a production to showcase the talent of our Anant beneficiaries whom Anant teachers and the entire LOLT team have groomed. The first programme was performed by 27 beneficiaries, held on 23rd & 24th April 2016 in Mumbai & Pune respectively. An additional show was held in Mumbai on 9th September 2017.

569
Beneficiaries



Stories of Change



SONALI VAITE

A gifted singer but neglected child from Alibaug she completed SSC and HSC through the Anando Programme. Being academically bright she completed her ITI-Electrician course. Through LOLT's intervention and guidance she has passed two Gandharv Vidyalaya exams, and three Sugam Sangeet exams. She is currently working with ONGC at ₹ 9,000/- per month and supports her family now. Passionate about music, she continues to sing in orchestras as she loves to sing and act.



BHANUDAS CHAVHAN

Bhanudas, a fine tabla player and talented singer is an Anant Plus beneficiary from Kondiwade Centre, Karjat who comes from a musically inclined family. His father is a daily wage labourer due to which his family is dependent on a cousin who is doing well for himself. Unfortunately due to his cousin's insistence Bhanudas was only allowed to pursue tabla training under the Anant plus programme. The team recognised his singing skills and voice quality during the Anant production Kalpataru, where he got an opportunity to be the lead singer in the live performance. When his cousin heard the recording of his singing he was amazed. Impressed at his skill he was convinced that Bhanudas could have a bright future if he developed this talent also. Bhanudas has completed B. Com and is currently working under Project Jagruti as a part time computer teacher. Supported by LOLT he is currently training under Pdt. Ramdas Palsule who is fine tuning his skills so that he can be enrolled at Avartan Gurukul, Pune to professionally pursue his training as a Tabla student.

School Empowerment Programme

The School Empowerment Program (SEP) was started in 2012 with the aim to enhance and strengthen school teachers in interactive classroom processes, effective modes of parent & community interactions which would lead to increasing involvement and participation of all the key stakeholders in a child's life to ensure they are sustained in school to complete at least their basic education. **378 teachers** from **29 schools** have undergone training under the programme since 2012.



Highlights

Teacher's Training

Concepts introduced for the first time:

- Changes in classroom processes
- Creation of and effective use of teaching aids
- Innovative participatory techniques
- Application of social work tools.

Student Action Forum

- 12,000 plus students indirectly benefited

Parents Participation

- 95% of schools were not conducting parent meetings.
- Post intervention, a gradual increase was seen in the attendance of parents.

Shikshan Mahotsav

A unique annual forum in the form of an event ensuring development and participation of teachers with the aim to:

- provide a platform to express their thoughts/opinions/suggestions about the current education system.
- give them an opportunity to showcase their talents.



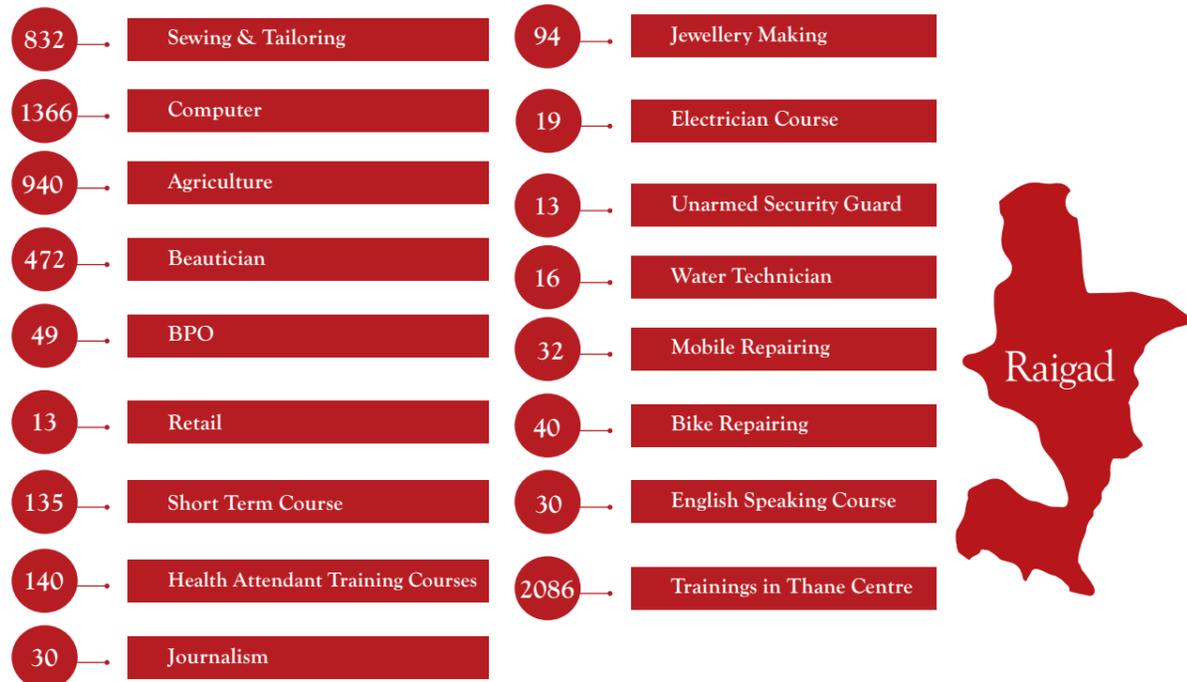
Project Jagruti

To advance, develop, and to empower the rural underprivileged communities with special focus on women and young girls through three critical programmes – skilling and livelihood enhancement programmes, primary healthcare & environment conservation.

Livelihood Training Programme

Spread across the Jeevan Asha Community Centres:

- Tiware • Kadav • Kashele in Karjat Taluka, Raigad District &
- Pokharan, Thane District.



Enrolled students 6,293

Placement percentage 48% 3020 Placed

Story of Change

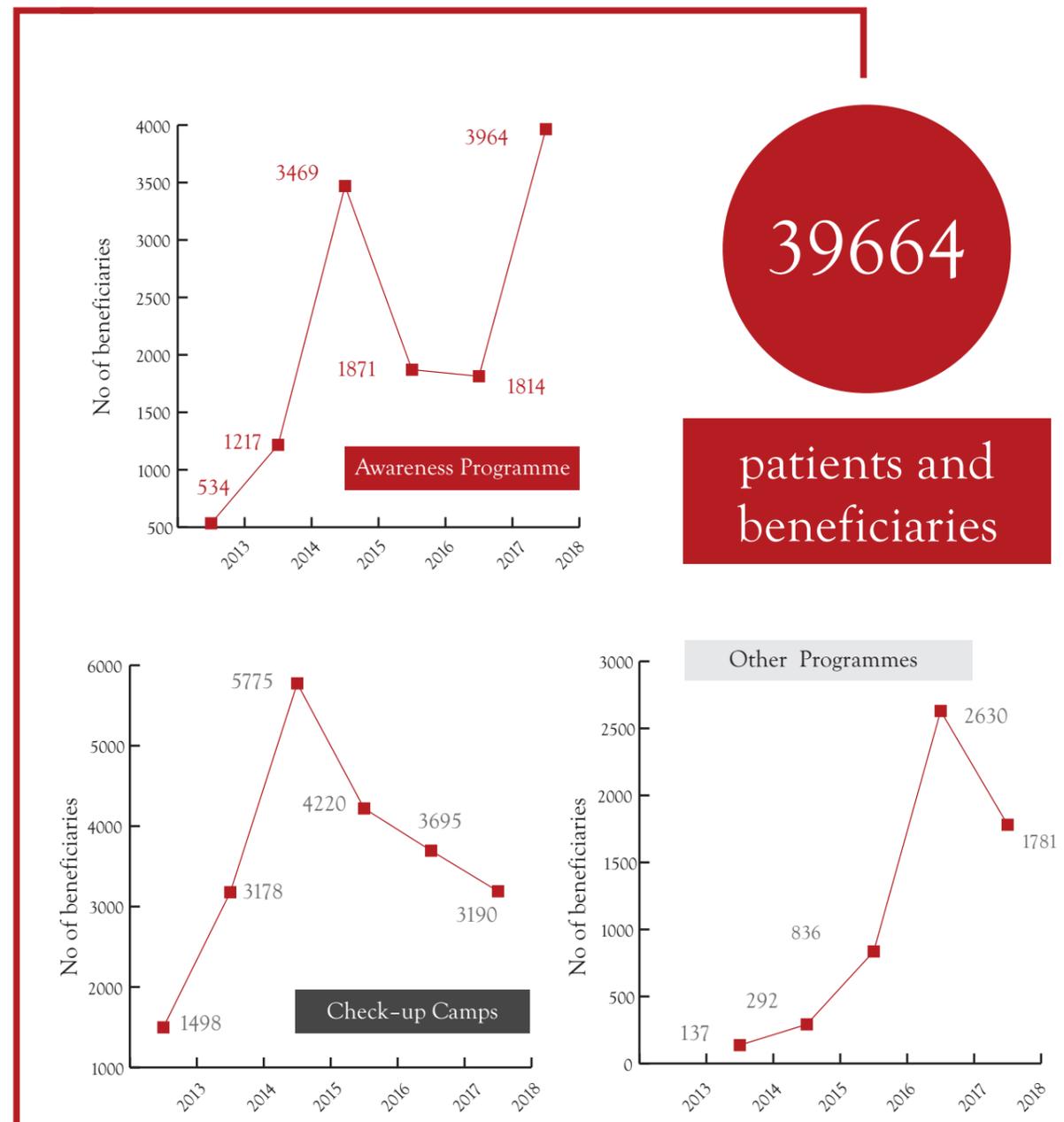


Nirguna Thombare

Nirguna's is a story of grit, determination, and inspiration; it is the story of a 30-year-old skilled, confident & courageous woman who has become an embodiment for 'empowerment'. Compelled to drop out of secondary school early on in life due to poor financial circumstances, Nirguna was married off to a complete stranger at the young age of 22. A troubled married life soon led to a separation from her husband. At that time, with little education and almost no skill set to support her, Nirguna felt helpless and went through a difficult phase in life due to low self-confidence, frustration and dejection. Two years ago, in March 2016, she came across LOLT's Jeevan Asha Community Center at Tiware and got a chance to interact with the team. Inspired by the different types of courses offered in vocational skills at the center and the optimism of the team, she enrolled for the Sewing & Tailoring and Beautician Training courses. From then onwards, there was no looking back. Slowly and steadily, as she became more engaged in work, Nirguna was able to overcome her challenges. With LOLT's support, she acquired income generation skills, became more confident, and learnt to communicate and carry herself with pride and dignity. In 2017, she gathered the courage to file for a divorce and finally brought an end to her distressing marriage. After successfully completing the two courses, Nirguna started to stitch & offer beautician services at her home. She became a part of the LOLT tailoring production unit at Tiware and started stitching school uniforms, cloth bags, and much more. In October 2017, she also enrolled for the Landscape and Lawn Development course and has started a small plant nursery with 5000 saplings in her own backyard. The nursery brings her an income of approx. ₹12,000/- every season. In addition she has now started cultivating vegetables too. It doesn't end here. She recently completed her short term courses in Toran, Mehendi and Jewellery designing at the Jeevan Asha community center and is currently earning ₹3,000/- to ₹3,500/- per month through various skills sets. A strong and independent woman today, Nirguna is paying-it-forward at LOLT by mentoring the other young girls and women at the community center. She is instrumental in decision making at her home and at the village level too now, and provides great support to her family of three.

Medical Mobile Unit

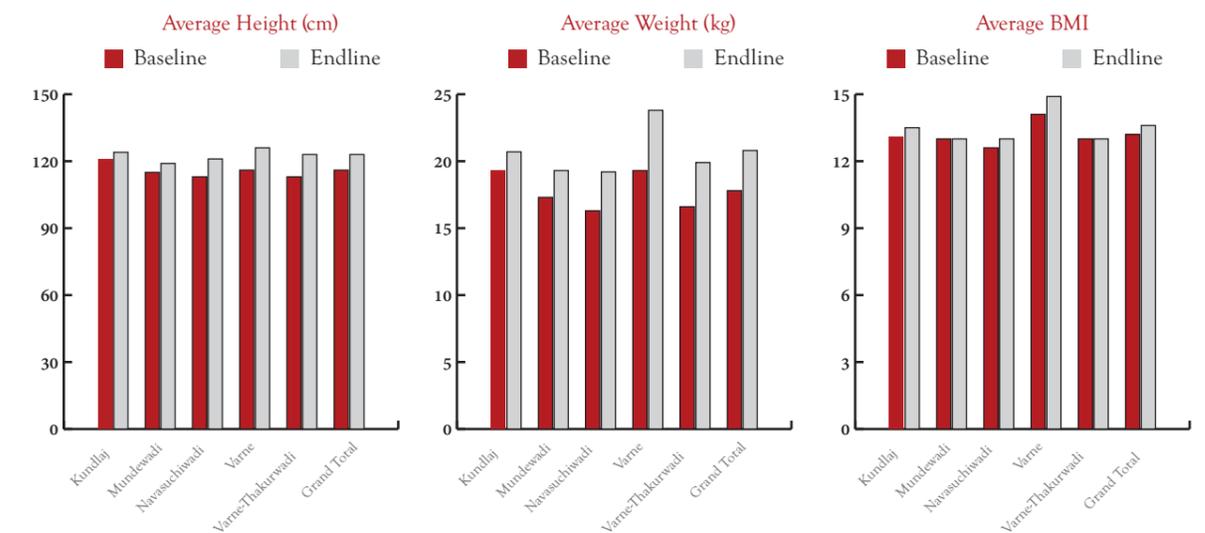
Medical Mobile Unit, operating since 2012, provides primary health care services to remote rural parts and tribal hamlets around Karjat Taluka that do not have access to any kind of medical facilities.



Weight Gain Programme

The programme initiated in 2018 aims to address the issue of underweight among children in the age group of 6 - 14 years. The total children covered under this programme are 123 across 5 Zila Parishad schools.

- In all five schools the weight gain showed at least 3 times more than control schools.
- Inter school data showed that Varne school children showed best weight gain and Mundewadi school children showed least weight gain.
- All children from the selected schools showed at least twice the weight gain at endline than at baseline of year 1.
- Difference in weight gain was as low as 200 gms to as high as 9 kgs within a period of 18 months.
- Average weight gained among tribal children was 3.2 kgs and non-tribal children was 2.7 kgs.



Story of Change



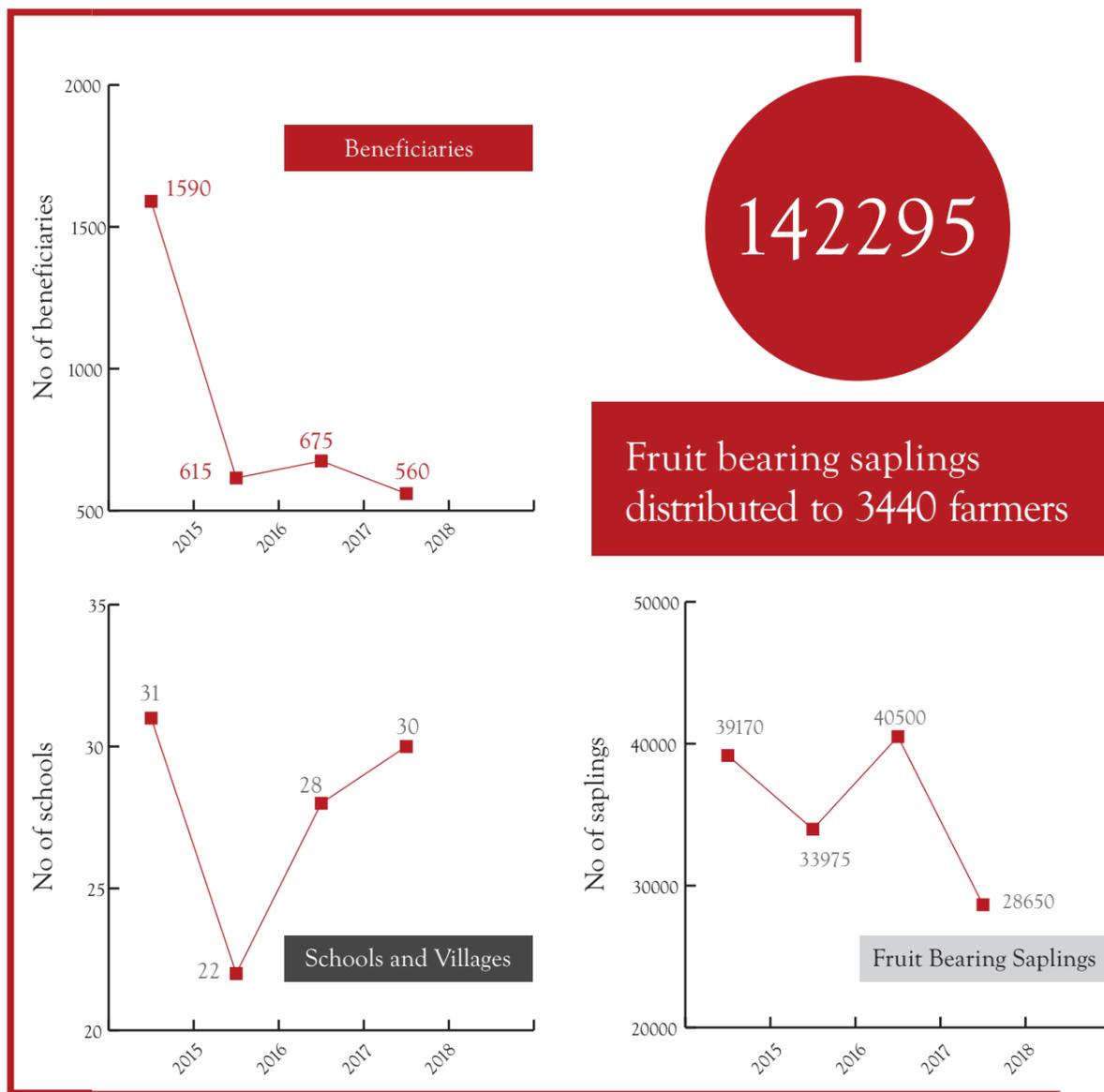
Ragini Chaptre

Two and a half year old Ragini during one of our health camps was diagnosed with Congenital Tailpes Equino Varus or Club Foot. Ragini was referred to a medical mega-camp at Kashele Rural Hospital organised in collaboration with MGM Hospital. Ragini was then treated with the application of plaster cast. However, this treatment added to Ragini's distress and discomfort. With LOLT's constant support and guidance,

Ragini's father admitted her to the Vignaharta Hospital where she underwent surgery. Currently, the toddler is recovering well and will soon be able to walk with a normal gait.

Environment Conservation Programme

This program was initiated with an aim to provide additional source of income to poor farmers with the distribution and close monitoring of fruit bearing saplings to them.



Stories of Change



Rahu Dev Wara

Rahu, a 64 year old uneducated farmer from Khandan, Karjat planted 60 fruit bearing saplings in 1 acre of land. In addition he also planted 100 more plants on the same plot. To mitigate water shortage he dug a 4 x 6 ft. pit. He fenced the area for cattle protection and followed all the inter-culture practices. Looking at his tremendous efforts he was awarded the Adarsh Shetkari, Karjat Tehsil (Best farmer) award at a function held by the Raigad Press Club on 31st July 2017 in the presence of the Raigad Prant

Officer, Tehsildar and Block Development Officer and many prominent regional journalists. His plants are now bearing fruits and so are his efforts.



Valku Dharma Dhole

Valku Dhole a hardworking and humble person was surviving by farming on a small plot of land. He was selected as a beneficiary under LOLT's Environment Conservation Programme through which he not only received 35 fruit bearing saplings but also learnt about additional sources of income through goat rearing & cultivation of leafy vegetables. He works really hard to look after the 35 fruit bearing trees that he planted on his own land. He carries water over a distance of 1.5 kms to ensure they

grow well. All his plants have survived and this summer he was able to reap his first fruit harvest of guavas and custard apples. He is very happy and has gained further confidence once his plants have started bearing fruits. After harvesting the paddy crop he has been able to cultivate leafy vegetables. He has also initiated goat rearing on a small scale. As he saw success of his efforts he gained confidence in his ability to do much more than only farming in order to support his family.



Student Engagement

- 25 American School of Bombay
- 500 The Cathedral & John Connon School
- 60 NSS Hill Spring International School
- 9 Kids4Kids - Share & Care Foundation
- 30 Symbiosis International School
- 111 Universal Business School

Corporate Engagement

- 60 Allcargo Logistics Ltd.
- 200 Axis Bank Foundation
- 360 Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 12 DCB Bank Limited
- 50 Dewan Housing Finance Limited
- 50 GlaxoSmithKline
- 80 Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd.
- 160 Morgan Stanley
- 300 Phoenix Market City Resources Pvt. Ltd.
- 10 Rochester Institute of Technology



LOLT Partners

LOLT Partners

Contact Us



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