

MANJARI CHARITABLE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT, 2023-2024

REGN NO. E 827 (Raigad).

PAN AADTM2390Q. No.PN/CIT(Exempt)/Tech/80G/332/2015-2016/519

## **Project Demographics**

Manjari Charitable trust works towards providing a holistic education and support to underprivileged children of the economically weaker section, including migrant labourers and daily wage earners. Some of these children come from difficult-to live-in family situations and poor living conditions. The trust provides academic support and counselling to these children, who are enrolled in government & government aided schools, attending classes 1 to 10. The trust also sponsors a few of the children, enabling them to complete HSC/ Diploma course, enabling them to then pursue either a vocational training, graduation, or in certain cases join a workplace.

## **Project Location**

Manjari Charitable Trust is a Non Government Organization working in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai in the state of Maharashtra, India. It was established in December, 2011 and is registered with the Government of India (Charity Commissioner, Raigad, Maharashtra, India). The trust develops learning programs to aid teachers and students who are a part of Raigad Zilla Parishad Prathamik Shaala, Kharghar Gaon and Khopra gaon. The trust also runs a Learning centre at Khopra gaon which works with both non-school going and school going children living in and around Kharghar and Khopra Gaon.

#### **Project Executive Summary - Problem**

Children in the urban low income communities, living in difficult situations including congested housing, overcrowding, insufficient nutrition etc., are forced into adulthood and becoming independent at a very early stage in life. Parents of such children leave early in the morning for work, mostly leaving the children unsupervised; where the children manage to independently navigate their daily routine from a very early age.

Occasionally children have behavioural problems due to their circumstances at home and or in the community. The teachers at Manjari Charitable Trust monitor and counsel such children and their families to ensure their general mental and physical well being.

Migrant labourers frequently change their location of settlement uprooting their children which hampers their education. Some of them, due to lack of awareness do not enrol their children in government schools, and even if they do, their children might not

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be at the same level as their peers that study within the same class. Children in government schools are assigned classes based on their age, and not on the basis of their existing level of knowledge. This results in students of different learning levels in the same academic year. Such children need personal attention, which teachers at government schools due to their immense workload and responsibilities are unable to provide. The Learning Centre at Manjari Charitable Trust provides personal attention these children, aiding them in their learning process.

Coming from low-income households, the children though having the academic potential to enrol themselves in Higher secondary or Diploma programmes and eventually either a under-graduate program or into vocational training, are held back due to lack of monetary support. The Learning Centre at Manjari Charitable Trust sponsors children who are keen on pursuing their education.

We believe in providing a positive and accepting environment to children wherein they develop the confidence and the zeal to learn new things. This would help children think independently wherein they are capable of taking their own decisions in future.

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# **Project Executive Summary - Solution Approach/ Activities**

The trust has a Learning Centre Teacher - coordinator, 6 teachers and 4 volunteers as a part of their team.

## **Objectives:**

#### The primary objectives of the Trust are:

- 1. To Counsel parents from low income groups on the importance of education in the lives of their children, and the change that education could bring.
- 2. To provide basic education to underprivileged children in the Learning cum Activity centre run by the Trust.
- 3. To develop the Learning cum Activity centre into a full-fledged Resource Centre including a Library, Maths & Science Laboratory and a Co-curricular activity centre.
- 4. To set up Library cum Activity Corners at Government Schools / Govt. Aided Schools.
- 5. To sponsor children from government schools enabling them to complete HSc (11 & 12th)/Diploma; and then pursue their vocational training or graduation.

# Focus Area of the Trust: Special Learning Programme for children from class 1 to 10 at Khopra gaon, Kharghar (2023-2024)

#### **Learning Centre Programme**

This learning centre has been established for children who go to the Zilla Parishad School and government aided schools within Kharghar. This centre is located within Khopara Gaon, Kharghar. This makes it easily accessible to the children. Children come to the centre before and after school hours, where the centre teacher gives academic support in all subjects, based on their classes and learning levels. Volunteers also interact with them teaching them skills such as stitching, embroidery, hand-work, painting etc.

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These teacher-student interactions happen within small groups. Along with these regular activities, special sessions are conducted by experts (counsellors, doctors, skill based learning educators etc.) on various social, health and skill based activities at the centre. Holistic support is given to the children, enabling them to be able to not just grow academically, but also empowering them with the ability to take their own conscious decisions, making them confident, responsible individuals. Currently a group of 130 children from classes 2 to 10 are a part of this programme





Science learning: Children understanding the concepts of vibrations, frequency & amplitude.

Yoga: Exercise and Improved ability to concentrate.

#### Children completing 10th grade

13 children have completed  $10^{\rm th}$  grade in 2023. They were counselled based on their marks and interests, on their choice of subjects for their HSc (11th & 12th) or Diploma (technical education). From this group all the children went on to do their HSc

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## **Early Childhood Education Centre**

The Learning centre has started a programme of Early Childhood Education (Preschool children) for children of the age group 3 to 6 years. The children are from within the same community in Khopra gaon, where the Manjari Learning Centre is currently situated. The pre – school curriculum has been developed by experienced teachers of the Trust and experienced educationists. The curriculum has been derived from both Montessori and Kindergarten methods. The aim is to give children a safe and accepting space to experience, explore, create, and enjoy being the children they are in an atmosphere of peace and happiness.

## **Sponsoring children**

The Trust sponsors 2 children in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of BSc & 1 child who in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Diploma.

## **Current Strength & Space of the Manjari Learning Centre:**

- The Manjari Learning Centre now works with up to 130 children, between the preschool to 11th std. age groups.
- To accommodate these various age groups so as not to compromise on individual attention, we now have 6 teachers and 2 volunteers working in different shifts. We maintain a teacher-student ratio of 1 teacher for every 10 to 12 children.



Mixed age groups: interaction and learning through games

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• We currently have an **Intern**, an alumnus. After completing her HSc in 2023 March, she has been an intern with the Trust.

## **Special Activities during 2023-2024:**

- **1. Visitors:** We had visitors to the learning Centre through the academic year. This included:
  - i. The distribution of books and stationary by the family of Mrs. Sadhana (a resource person of Manjari, who we sadly lost to cancer in the year 2023)



Pic to left: Mrs. Sadhana with the children.

Pic to the right: Her family distributing stationary and sweets

ii. Mrs. Priya Pagare, conducted a meditation session. She spent time on following occasions to teach the children to make wall hangers using a subtle form of mdf clay.



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ii Ms. Radha, a pilot with United Airlines visited the center and the senior children were shown the movie 12th fail. The purpose behind both the events was to make the students understand the importance of hard work and perseverance. The children asked many questions to Radha regarding her profession and the children also gave her an insight of their lives.



## 2. Activites conducted by the teachers and children:

## i. Some of the Science activities and experiments done at the centre:

Science is always more relatable when it's done, observed and recorded.

- A few of the experiments were related to suspended particles in the air (https://youtube.com/shorts/slPTdyymdA8) & Magnetism (https://youtu.be/nA0F1DV17bU, https://youtu.be/wRQIMWigp\_k) as done by the middle school children.
- Concept of vibrations, frequency, amplitude through musical instruments.



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➤ Refraction & multiple reflection

# ii. Learning with the youngest children.

They learn English through songs, movement and art enabling connection between words and occurrences. (https://youtu.be/hxH5tCB0szk)





Left: Our youngest at the centre; circle time and conversations.

Right: Preparing for Diwali

## iii. Christmas at the Centre

Christmas is a time of reflection and thankfulness. Children and teachers, put together an afternoon of skits, songs and dances. All the age groups participated together; even

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inviting our alumni who are in college for the occasion. (https://youtu.be/eH4zU8sZFig, https://youtu.be/hKD13apqh1Y)





Left: The Middle school age group before their programme

Right: The most amazing **TEACHERS** of Manjari.

## iv. Yoga as a part of the weekly schedule:

Exercise helps children calm down and concentrate





Annexure 1: A few thoughts, their concerns and plans as shared by the teachers of Manjari.

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## Plan for the Academic year 2024-2025

## i. The focus of the programmes would include:

## > Specific to the Junior school age group

- a. Promote optimum nutritional standards during the formative years of the child's life to enable him to develop his innate physical and mental potentialities to the full.
- **b.** Promote a proper climate and to adopt measures for the healthy and balanced growth of the social and emotional aspects for the child's personality.
- **c.** Reduce educational disparities by providing planned environmental stimulation aimed at supporting development of the cognitive abilities of the child.
- **d.** Promote an environment of security, love and acceptance and to help the child to build up desirable attitude, values and behaviours.
- **e.** Protect the child against the social and mental hazards of an unfavourable social environment.
- **f.** Create community awareness of the needs of the school going child and to elicit and build community environment and participation in the programme.

#### ➤ Manjari Learning Centre Programme:

This programme will include all children attending the centre in the age/class groups of 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> std. There are 10-15 children per group; hence a total of approximately 130 children.

# The aim of working with these groups would be Academic learning, both age and level appropriate; but would also necessarily include:

- a. Social skills: the ability to empathize and interact successfully with their peer group, and also relate easily to adults.
- b. Language skills: the ability to have adequate language skills in order to benefit from experiences facilitating their cognitive, educational and social development.
- c. Executive function skills: the ability to hold and manipulate information in the brain, plan and regulate one's behaviour, problem solve, and be creative.
- d. Emotional self-regulation skills: the ability to adapt behaviours depending on the situation, to control impulses and to shift attention.

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e. Self-regulation in learning skills: the ability to postpone immediate satisfaction to attain long-term goals, sustains attention, be persistent, and remain concentrated.

## ii. Sponsoring of children:

Children doing their HSC /Technical Diploma/Under-graduate courses would be sponsored based on the following criteria:

- a. Regular attendance and discipline at the centre during their 8th, 9th & 10th std years.
- b. Child's innate interest in continuing her/his education.
- c. Self motivation and willingness to work towards a goal (which the child herself/himself is looking towards).
- d. Humility and the innate willingness to help another living being.

## iii. Part time Teaching Internships (6 months), for Manjari Charitable Trust alumni:

Children who are currently pursuing their under graduation, will be offered the chance to join the Trust and assist teachers as a Teaching assistant. They will be given a nominal stipend. An experience certificate will be issued by the trust at the end of their internship.

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# BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2023

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#### Annexure I

## **Devi Rao - Teacher and Learning centre Coordinator**

I teach maths and coordinate all activities in the Manjari learning centre.

The Challenges I face while teaching our children:

The children are from the rural areas & urban low income settlements and have a fear of the maths subject. They are also having less interest with irregular attendance. This makes working with them more challenging. Their understanding and grasping levels are also different and varied.

By grouping children according to their learning levels (and not according to their academic class) in the elementary age group, we will be able to achieve better learning outcomes.

Frequently there are children who join the centre in the higher classes (High school age group) without any foundation in education. With such children, I need to start from the basic level.

We should be Kind, empathetic & friendly with children so that they can ask question and clear their doubts even if the answer to the question is obvious. I think that clearing the doubts from the basic level can help them gain interest in maths and academics in general and slowly they will gain their confidence.

## Kavita Shivashankar - Senior teacher

Children love it when English is taught in practical ways which they can easily relate to - ex simple drawings and questions related to the same, which can be answered in one sentence. Dialogue writing dialogues for imaginary situations for the older children and enacting them. The older children love drama while the younger ones love reciting rhymes -the medium is always a comfortable mixture of Hindi and English.

Their text books are used more for reading and their comprehension. Many a time with a little nudge on my part, they end up understanding the meaning of the sentence on

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their own. The challenging part is this method takes a lot of time and I involve only the weaker students; the children who already know the answers or are at a higher learning level, answer only when I ask them to. As a result of this method the weaker children gradually become more participative, although it depends on their regularity too which leads to another major problem, almost all of us teachers face -irregularity, majorly due to lack of immunity and life style issues.

With constant practice of writing skills in the form of letter writing, dialogue writing, story and report writing, a handful of the senior students have overcome the fear and hesitation to write, although there is plenty of room for improvement.

Regarding grammar the major challenge is availability of few questions in their text books for practice as a result there is almost zero learning in their schools. Reinforcement of the grammar concepts is consistently required. Doing and submitting the homework assignments in time is another problem which I face with most of the students. Only handfuls of them are extremely regular. This is more about discipline than just English language learning.

Arti Yadav - Science teacher working with the high school age group

Like every year, in 2023 we have paid more attention to children comprehension and implementation of concepts, rather than just learning. Sometimes as a teacher I do feel low as I don't seem to get the learning outcome irrespective of the effort put in.

Then again, when I think about it, their life is very different from ours; with a struggle for basic necessities, food, shelter, and so on....!

As teachers we do hope for the overall growth of children in the coming academic year.

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Pradnya Chintaman - Hindi teacher working with the middle school & high school age groups

This year was very challenging for me many of my students do not speak Hindi at home; & also the difficulty in reading and writing in basic Hindi. While talking in Hindi, many children tend to confuse Marathi words, adding them in the sentence. Working with the children by dividing them into groups based on their learning levels, they are now able to recognise words and make sentences from it.

With a lot of effort both by the students and me, there seems to be a significant improvement. Children are now quite confident in speaking and writing their thoughts in Hindi.

The coming academic year, the plan is to focus on improving their capabilities through projects and simple dramas in Hindi for easy conversation.

## Ekta Solanki: Teacher for the middle school mixed age group

I work with children of 5th, 6th and 7th standard levels teaching them Maths, Science and English through activities.

As parents of these children have migrated from different parts of India, the basic issue was the diverse languages they spoke and their difficulty with learning English/Hindi/Marathi,

To make their learning interesting, I work with them in maths and science correlating with our daily life and our routine activity. This has helped children understand concepts easily. Language learning happens as a separate session and also by merging my science and maths activities with language.

It gave me immense pleasure that children are putting in an immense effort to learn. They are also developing the habit of asking questions.

In coming academic year I would along with academics, try to inculcate the following habits in their daily routine; honesty, self-discipline, & focus on conceptual learning.