



The Promise Foundation

For Mental Health, Education and Potential Realisation

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**ANNUAL REPORT
2016-17**

Introduction

The Promise Foundation (TPF) was established as a Charitable Trust in 1987, with the vision of conducting indigenous research to inform the development of applications for the potential realisation of children and adolescents from economically disadvantaged homes. Our programmes are particularly focused on addressing the gaps that lie within and between literacy learning (both academic and skill literacy) and decent livelihood. We focus on three critical points along the individual's development spectrum: cognitive stimulation during early childhood years, literacy learning during the primary school years and career and livelihood planning during the high school years.

Stimulation Intervention Programme (SIP): Focus on cognitive stimulation during the early childhood years



- Poor early childhood cognitive stimulation contributes to weak learning foundations and lowered attainments in later years.
- Our early childhood programmes reach children between ages 3 and 6 years.
- Our programmes are designed to provide comprehensive stimulation inputs to young children who are at risk to remaining cognitively under-stimulated.
- Our SIP prepares the young child for school.

Programme for Assisted Learning (PAL): Focus on literacy learning in the primary and middle school years



- Shaky learning skills in the primary and middle school years are a disturbingly common problem in India. These poorly consolidated early skills cause attainment gaps in the later years.
- Our programmes for assisted learning use insights from the social, developmental, cognitive and language sciences to provide students with enriched inputs that help them attain the expected levels of performance and remain engaged and learning within the classroom.

Jiva: Focus on career and livelihood development during the high school years



- Making decisions about the next step after high school is a critical developmental milestone during adolescence.
- Educational choices made at this stage lay the foundations for future career and livelihood progress.
- Students often make uninformed choices that leads to poor person-course fit, with is linked to drop out or poor preparation for work force participation in the future.
- Our Jiva programme helps the high school student learn the skills for self-mediated career decision making.

Report on Activities over 2016-17

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES TARGETING

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

Our approach over the last few years has shifted from a “Centre” based approach to the delivery of our services directly in the community. The objective of our Stimulation Intervention Programme (SIP) and Programmes for Assisted Learning (PAL) is to improve children’s’ access to quality stimulation and literacy experiences within their neighbourhood and at home. With a view to spreading our resources as widely as possible we have come up with innovations such a **mobile toy library, a mobile book library, village camps and the shabda majaa** programme.

Mobile library reaches 276 children in five villages in the Sarjapura (Bangalore) area

Our mobile toy and book library is sourced entirely through donations and gifts from children and their families in different parts of Bangalore. We spread our request for used toys and books through social media and word of mouth and this has led to the creation of a network of families around the city who collect toys and books they want to donate. Our teams then pick up the material, catalogue it and make in available to children who otherwise would not have access to such material.

Given below is a list of donors for the year 2016-17.

Names of donors	Type of Donation
Lakshmi Mundkur	Story books
A group led by Mini Krishna in her residential layout	Toys
Sherin Balachandran collected through her network of friends	Toys and story books
Sujata Kaul collected by placing a request on her intra-community email	Toys and Books
Narayana Hrudayalaya	Toys
Parents of the Centre for Learning, Bangalore	Toys
Lorraine Gonzalves, from her pre-school	Toys
Kavita	Story books
Krishna	Story books
Umeshwari Nadkarani	Toys and story books
Pratham books	Story books

Over the year we collected nearly 500 toys and 800 books. Our mobile library brought these toys and books into five different villages in the Sarjapura, Bangalore area.

It is to be noted here that this initiative is **not merely a toy and book distribution system**. Each visit is also includes culturally embedded phonics programmes for younger children and a reading programme for older children.

The programme is conducted every Saturday, since this is the time children are in their homes. Given below are glimpses into the mobile toy and book library.

Glimpses from our Mobile Toy and Book Library visits to villages



The Toy Library is carried in a toy trunk and has 60 to 70 toys for each village. Examples of toys in the trunk are board games and puzzles, balls, bats, rackets and skipping ropes, soft toys, kitchen sets, toy vehicles, wooden toys (building blocks, tops), craft sets, masks, musical instruments, cars, *buguri* (tops), sound making toys (drums, whistles, *tutturi*, *khanjira*), skipping ropes, rubber rings, books, puzzles, and rangoli plates. Children can borrow any toy they like, for a week and then return it after a week, for a new toy.



The Book Library is scheduled to parallel with children's school vacations and holidays and runs on a three month cycle, with breaks during exam periods. Families are intimated about each wave of the reading programme with a door-to-door campaign and announcements on shop fronts, temple walls, community halls and school notice boards.



The opportunity is also used to conduct face-to-face teaching-learning sessions for children, using the methods developed by Promise, to help them use the books they borrow to enhance their literacy learning skills.

Village camps and the Promise Shishukendra reach 56 children

In addition to the weekly visits to the target villages we hold camps during children's holidays. The camps are held both at the Promise Shishukendra as well as in the villages. The village community provides us safe secure spaces in which to conduct the camps. This includes the temple courtyard, an unused shop and a community hall. Given below are glimpses into our camps.

Village Camps



Themes for each camp differ. However the overarching objective is to provide children with inputs that would **strengthen their literacy learning foundations**.

Literacy learning support for children of migrant workers

Bangalore has attracted thousands of migrant workers who come here in search of work from all over the country. Many of them, though unqualified, are highly skilled. Yet, given their unqualified status, they are exploited by large companies and paid very low wages. They live with their families on the outskirts of Bangalore in temporary housing set up in shanty towns. The children of these workers have no access to education or cognitive stimulation. They are most often left **unattended and vulnerable**.

Over 2016-17 Promise continued its work in a migrant workers' settlement on the outskirts of the Yamare village, Anekal Taluk. We work for such families with two main objectives:

Mainstreaming of young children into the Angawadi system and creating access to RTE provisions

Through extensive **parent education** programmes we attempt to sensitise parents to the benefits of enrolling their children into the local anganwadi. This year we were successful in mainstreaming 8 pre-school aged children into the local anganwadi. These families were also educated and sensitised to health and nutrition for their children.



They were also trained on creating simple **home based stimulation opportunities** for their children.

Parents of older children were also informed about the RTE provision that invites children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to seek admission in private schools. The steps and stages that they were to follow were explained and the details of where and how to submit applications were provided.

Learning opportunities through the Shabda Maja Board

The Shabda Majaa Board is a large, attractive board installed in the community. It carries visual displays on a selected topic. The topic is **culturally grounded** in the images and practices of the local community. The visuals may be a folk tale or a topical theme like 'ramzan'. The central illustration is supplemented with reading materials tailored to the level of participating children. We have found children helping each other to access the material displayed on the Shabda Majaa Board and we therefore exploit this **cooperative learning process** in children's engagement with our materials. Once in 10 days, PAL specialists from Promise visit the settlement with new story material. The story cards are put in sequence and the illustrations are discussed in detail. Children of all age groups who are left unattended in the settlement attend the sessions Children attempt story telling in their home languages—Kannada, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Tamil. In this way, children's engagement with literacy learning material is strengthened. We have noted increase in children's interest to learn to read and increase in awareness amongst parents, of the need to send children to school.

Given below are glimpses into our Shabda Maja board activities in the Yamare settlement.

Shabda Maja board activities in the Yamare settlement



Over 2016 – 2017 a total of 12 new boards were installed.

These boards create low cost learning opportunities for children and contribute toward [change the literacy environment](#) in the child's immediate surroundings.

SCHOOL BASED INTERVENTIONS FOR CAREER AND LIVELIHOOD PLANNING

The Jiva Career Development Workshop

Jiva is the career guidance system developed by The Promise Foundation for India. The Jiva System is based on a comprehensive compendium of teaching-learning material for career guidance and counselling. This includes: Student Worksheets, Learning Cards, Career Information Cards, Careers Dictionaries and Flip Charts.



The Workshop

The student workshop is executed in the group format in schools. The workshop is activity-based and student-led. It comprises a series of activities supported by worksheets. The facilitator creates an environment for career discovery. Students engage in small group discussions with their peers and also engage in personal, introspective activities.

Four Elements of Career Guidance and Counselling

The Jiva system uses the Jiva Kit, to deliver career guidance using a four-step process as shown below:

Self-Discovery: The programme uses quantitative devices such as standardised aptitude tests and interest inventories. We also use qualitative methods such as identification of the student's accomplishments, hobbies, marks and grades. This data is combined to generate the student's potential profile which is a combination of the student's interests and aptitudes.

World of Work: Students are introduced to a wide range of careers, courses and institutions, entrance procedures and eligibility criteria. They also learn about educational milestones, qualifications and subject streams. Attitudes towards work and career beliefs are also discussed.

Career Alternatives: Students learn to combine information about themselves and the world of work and identify a specific set of careers to explore further.

Career Preparation: The workshop culminates with the student learning to generate and develop educational pathways and career plans.

Career Report: We prepare a career report for each student, with details about personal interests and aptitudes, career alternatives and career paths, with information about institutions for further and higher education. These reports are sent to the students approximately 6 weeks after the workshop.

Parent Engagement: The drivers of career decisions are often parents and significant others in the young person's life. Jiva actively includes parents in the guidance process.

Jiva Career Guidance Workshops for Government High School Students

The Jiva programme in **government high schools** is conducted with the endorsement of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction and the Block Education Officers of each taluk. Given below are glimpses into the Jiva workshops conducted in various government schools.

Jiva workshops government high schools



Given in the following table are the details of our Jiva Government High School programme over 2016-17

Name of Institution	Location	Number of students
Government High School	Kugoor, Karnataka	56
Government Girls High School	Anekal, Karnataka	50
Government High School	Attibele, Karnataka	40
Morarji Desai Residential School	Attibele, Karnataka	39
Government High School	Sarjapura, Karnataka	29
Total		214

Jiva Career Education Sessions for Parents

Parents are key factors in the career decision making process. Career guidance that does not include parents in the process often shows very poor outcomes. Therefore, the Jiva workshop extends to parents as well. These sessions are designed to educate parents about career choices and provides them with important information pertaining their child's career development. This includes information about government schemes for the economically disadvantaged, information about short term courses, scholarships and other provisions that are available to them. All students receive a career report individually tailored to their profile. The structure of the report is explained to the parents so that they are able to easily understand the information provided.



The Jiva certificate in basic skills for career guidance and livelihood planning

With a view to building the capacity of others for the delivery of career, Promise conducts a **certificate course** in career guidance and livelihood planning. The course is conducted over 8 days, covering basic concepts in career guidance and training the candidates in skills to use the Jiva Kit to delivery career guidance in their locations. To receive a license to practice the Jiva method all candidates are required to complete the course and then complete a set of field work exercises independently. About 40% of the course focuses on grounding trainees in the **conceptual foundations** of career psychology, while the rest of the course emphasizes **skill development** for the delivery of career guidance services in a variety of contexts.

Given overleaf are glimpses into some of the batches conducted over 2016-17.

Certificate in Basic Skills for Career and Livelihood Planning



Successful trainees receive a complete **Jiva Kit** and are skilled enough to establish their own career guidance centres. The table overleaf provides of the candidates trained over 2016-17.

Jiva Basic Skills courses over 2016-17

Date	Number of Participants	Place
June 28th to July 5th, 2016	5	Cochin, Kerala
		Tirichirapalli, TamilNadu
		Dhandhuku, Gujarat
		Mira Road, Mumbai
		Vapi, Gujarat
April 5th to 12th, 2017	8	Pune , Maharashtra
		Kannur, Kerala
		Bangalore, Karnataka
		Jalandhar, Punjab
		Surat, Gujarat
August 2nd to 9th, 2017	5	Alipurduar, West Bengal
		New Delhi
		Shillong, Meghalaya
		Davanagere, Karnataka
		Salem, Tamil Nadu

Jiva workshops in other parts of the country

Jiva workshops are held in Bangalore, as well as other parts of the country. Those who receive the license to practice the Jiva method establish their own career guidance centres and services in their cities and towns. Together, they compose the **Jiva network**. Given below is an overview of Jiva workshops conducted in private and aided schools in Bangalore and other parts of India.

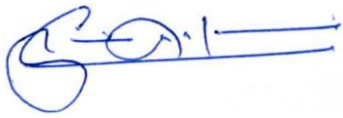
2016-17		
Name of the Institution	Place	Number Of Students
BGR Higher Secondary School	Bongaigaon, Assam	219
Delhi Public School	Dhaligaon, Assam	231
Sri Kumarans Children Home (CBSE)	Bangalore, Karnataka	207
Sri Kumarans Children Public School (ICSE)	Bangalore, Karnataka	112
Sri Kumarans Children Home (TSF)	Bangalore, Karnataka	92
Sri Kumaran Childrens Academy (CBSE) - DKS	Bangalore, Karnataka	38
Sri Kumaran Childrens Academy (State) -DKS	Bangalore, Karnataka	25
TVS Academy	Hosur, Tamil Nadu	35
TVS Academy	Tumkur, Karnataka	38
Total		997

Jiva workshops through the Jiva Network		
2016 -17		
Name of Counsellor	Number of Students	Geographical Area
Naushad Awadia through the Aga Education Services	30	Dhari
	20	Una
	27	Mahuva
	39	Maliya Hatina
	24	Keshod
	53	Surat
	29	Porbandar
	3	Rajkot
Salim Amirali Jiwani through the Aga Khan Education Services	22	Hyderabad
	15	Ahmedabad
	15	Surat
	12	Botad
	15	Surendranagar
	6	Chennai
Heena Virani through the Aga Khan Education Services	14	Aurangabad
	1	Mumbai
	14	Andheri
	26	Pune
Lareen Charania through the Aga Khan Education Services	50	Vapi
	19	Pune
Shamshuddin Vadsariya through the Aga Khan Education Services	11	Secunderabad
	30	Hyderabad
Swati Lahoty	1	Jaipur
Shobhit Narain Agarwal	4	Lucknow
Laila Vinod Thakkar through the Aga Khan Education Services	19	Raipur
Sahil Jafarali Himani through the Aga Khan Education Services	12	Ahmedabad
	20	Sidhpur
	1	Jamnagar

End note

The 2016-17 saw a continuation of The Promise Foundation's work to provide services linked to the cognitive stimulation of children in the early childhood years, development of literacy learning skills amongst primary and middle school students and career guidance and livelihood planning services for high school students.

Our plans for the future are to expand our services and build the capacity of others to deliver these services in other regions of the country and at a larger scale.



Gideon Arulmani,
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Bangalore, India.