

## RELIEF FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

### Chairperson's Note

As we enter the new financial year, we realize how Relief Foundation stood the test of time and conviction about centering all education processes around the child. Montessori education that as an organization we had signed into became our backbone of approach to all educational initiatives. More and more people started joining our movement very slowly and now we happily look back and say we have served children who were in our fold, to the maximum extent possible extending the culture and practice of respect up to their homes and communities.

The call to accelerate our work and its impact grew louder this year and we as a team left Shriram Foundation only to find ourselves stronger and better supported.

We are happy that we were given an opportunity to serve children in their programs as an anchor group managing all of their projects. The systems we have positioned will safeguard the interests of children hopefully in the times to come.

We hope to receive the continued patronage, good will and support from our well-wishers and donors as we march ahead into an eventful year with new ideas and an adventurous rural initiative.

Signed

Vidya Shankar  
Chairperson

## Major Events in 2013-14

Relief Foundation continued its experiments in the education sector with greater focus on teacher education, building leaders for the schools that included workshops, discussion forums partnering with like minded individuals and/or organizations.

### **CASCADE Montessori Resource Centre:**

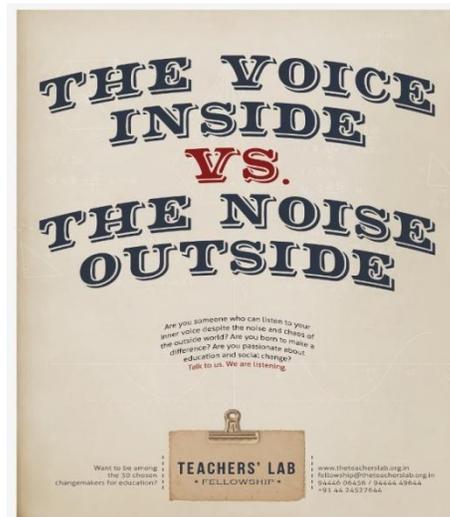
Our experiment with a Family Learning cooperative that doubles up as Teachers Lab to train and orient teachers, parents and assistants entering Montessori environments saw a leap with more informed parents - 22 children and families came together and shared the responsibilities of educating children during this year. 15 Montessori Fellowship candidates also participated in various courses we conducted as study circle discussions and parent forums.



### **Fellowship Programme**

The next batch of fellowship programmes on various subjects that included English, Science, Maths apart from the regular Montessori pre-primary and Elementary programmes were initiated with 10 candidates who were selected after rigorous interview process. All these candidates signed the fellowship agreement and underwent an intensive pre-course before attending the main training programme.

After completing their training, they would start to work in Pre-primary environments of children aged between 3 and 6 years in our partner schools starting from the academic year 2014-15 onwards. Funding was provided by Shriram Foundation.



English and sports fellowships were offered to new teachers from our partner schools. Sports training was given by a volunteer from Germany who spent about 3 months and taught the fellows both theory and practical. Those who attended the programme had an opportunity to understand and practice international standards and games in sports.



## Training Updates

Relief Foundation has always believed in creating leaders who can both the organization's goals and individual goals and strive hard to make sure that both work together so that not one goes against the other. In the last few years of its innovative practices in schools, Relief Foundation brought in the concept of a school leader, who is a management representative, but works closely with the school in its entirety. Starting from academic, parent interaction to working with the school staff, a school leader plays a pivotal role in shaping it and aligning it with the organization's goals.

With the idea of opening new schools in other parts of the country, Relief Foundation started recruiting new school leaders who underwent a rigorous interview process. A separate competency list for school leaders was evolved with emphasis given for schools. The entire training programme that started in August and went up to October focused was based on this competency list. Candidates who attended the programme were highly benefited from it.



## New Initiatives

1. Art is considered a therapy for everyone. It not only improves concentration but also provides a channel to exhibit creativity and talent. Unlike a traditional art teacher teaching that skill to children, we decided to give that opportunity to the teachers too, as most of the time they are the ones who are with children. In addition, when art becomes part of the curriculum and if teacher is equipped to teach art, it kills boredom in classroom and makes sure that every child is engaged. It also addresses behavioral issues. We partnered with an organization called NalandaWay Foundation, an NGO that works with children from different backgrounds and uses various forms of Art as a method to teach academics, and also address other issues that children face. Teachers from Primary and Middle school were selected for a training programme on the topic "Achieve Through Arts". NalandaWay also came up with a curriculum for this

purpose and hence it was easy for teachers to implement that in the class. After undergoing intensive training on art, teachers started implementing this in their classrooms. It was well received by children and teachers as well. Children started to see their teachers differently as the usual theory classes alone were replaced with interesting opportunities in art. The programme was monitored by a mentor from NalandaWay.

2. On the Vocational education side, we added two new skills for children to learn in one of our partner schools in Tamilnadu. They were basic Electrical skills and Block Printing using Organic dyeing process. With the addition of block printing, children the complete cycle of making clothes which included Weaving, Block Printing and Stitching. This experiment was a huge success as children proudly demonstrated these skills during donor visits and also explained to parents and visitors during Craft & Science exhibition. We are thankful to our partner organization Shriram Foundation for the cooperation



3. In another partner school, we implemented plastic free campus. We decided to involve children and staff members in this initiative. Apart from creating posters on the problems of plastics, we also cleaned the entire campus and placed bins wherever required. Children were educated to put plastics and papers separately. In addition, they were also educated to avoid bringing plastics to the maximum extent possible. As this was beginning, we did not ban plastic bottles.



## **Enabling partnerships for partner schools**

Children who needed extra support in public exams found it extremely difficult to write several papers continuously. State syllabus also does not provide with enough opportunities. National Institute of Open Schooling is a wonderful alternative for such students. It not only provides multiple subject choices, but also allows students to choose and write them in a period of 2 years. We decided to introduce this concept to the parents in one of our partner schools. We invited the Regional Director of NIOS Mr.Ravi to talk to the parents. It was so touching to see children who went through the NIOS stream sharing their experience. Parents really liked this concept.



## **School Development**

A school is a place which needs continuous improvements because of two reasons:

- Every child is unique
- Every year it gets a new batch of students

But unlike in corporate parlance where development means more business, in school context, it means improved access to quality education, better security for children, improved classroom facilities, new infrastructure for children and teachers and many more. From our experience of running and consulting for schools for several years, we decided to introduce audit system for the partner schools and also for any other school that may be interested in it. We decided to group all the areas of the school and brought them under 10 broad headings or parameters. Each parameter has a rating which the school has to meet. We also have evolved support systems for schools that want to improve in ratings. The theory behind this model is completely practical in nature as our years of field experience has gone inside and hence there is nothing that is theoretical but everything is practical and implementable. Our years of experience has now been given a shape and is replicable anywhere in India.

## **Moving Forward....**

Relief Foundation has always believed in its own identity. It is nearly 16 years since we started this trust and our learnings have been wonderful so far. The people, donors and other partner organizations who we met in this journey will always remain in our good memories.

After having associated with Shriram Foundation for more than 15 years now and running almost all of their projects,

which included but not limited to, budgetting, administration, recruitment, community outreach programmes, parent interactions, etc. Relief Foundation felt the need to continue its journey on its own in order to preserve its unique identity as a child development organisation. Hence, we decided to move out as a partner organization of Shriram Foundation ending March 2014. Relief Foundation had the opportunity to bring in changes in the lives of thousands of children and parents of them in the schools that it managed. We are thankful to Shriram Foundation for this partnership. Relief Foundation will start its own onsite projects from the next financial year onwards 2014-15, which will solely owned and managed by it apart from the couple of already existing projects. We look forward to reporting the updates and exciting learning from those projects in the next year's annual report.

#### **Core Team**

#### ***Board of Trustees***

Vidya Shankar  
Bala.J.Raman  
C.V. Vinod

#### ***Patron Advisor***

S.S. Rajasekar

#### **Members**

P.K Raghunathan  
Murali Krishnan

#### **Associate Organisations**

The Indian Institute of Geographical Studies  
- Dr. Chandra Shekar Balachandran who is a pioneer in Geography education as a central theme for education itself. He has partnered with us in setting up Geography Centres in one partner school and we hope to start a few more in the forthcoming year.

#### **Major Donors for the year 2013-2014**

Shriram Foundation, Chennai  
Shasun Chemicals, Chennai  
Ms.Sathyanarayana, Chennai  
Julia Rollings, Australia  
S,Shankar, Chennai  
Abu Koya, Bengaluru

**RELIEF FOUNDATION**

<b>Name</b> :	<b>RELIEF FOUNDATION</b>	<b>PAN</b> : AAATR3011J
<b>Address</b> :	New No.18, Old No.30, Sriram Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600041.	D.O.I : 10.09.1998. A.Y : 2014-15 Circle : DDIT (EXEMPTION -III)

**STATEMENT OF TOTAL INCOME**

THE TRUST HAS OBTAINED REGISTRATION UNDER SEC 12A OF THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961  
VIDE ASST COMM  
OF INCOME TAX ( H.QRS ) (EXEMPTIONS) , MADRAS, LETTER NO. DIT (E) NO: 2 (242) 98/99  
DT 09-11.1998

SL. No	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	INCOME RECEIVED	2230500.00
	Less : Depreciation	47820.00
	<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>2182680.00</b>
	Less : Deduction u/s. 11 (1) of Income Tax Act 15 % of Rs.2182680	327402.00
		<b>1855278.00</b>
	Less : Amount Applied for Charitable Purposes under section 11 (2) of 1 T Act.	2187797.00
	EXCESS AMOUNT APPLIED OVER THE INCOME	-332519.00
	<b>Tax Payable</b>	<b>NIL</b>

Place : Chennai

Date : 28.06.2014

( Mrs. Vidya Shankar )  
Chairperson

Bala J. Raman  
Trustee

C.V.Vinod  
Treasurer

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2014**

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>CURRENT YEAR</b>	<b>PREVIOUS YEAR</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>CURRENT YEAR</b>	<b>PREVIOUS YEAR</b>
Audit Fees	5056	9556	Donation Received	2230500	2216025
Accounting Charges	10000	0			
Advertisement	51900	15500	Bank Interest		0
Bank Charges	13930	600	Other Income		0
Children Vocational Training Materials		43771			
Computer Maintenance Expenses	4200	8961	Excess of Income over Expenditure	-5117	0
Donation for Child welfare	41850	70000			
Educational Expenses and Sponsorship	61086	46510			
Electricity Charges	47082	18840			
Interest Paid to Bank		0			
Maintenance Expenses - for Home for needy		0			
Maintenance Expenses - VSR					
Montessori School	2105	55965			
Montessori Materials	180300	321727			
Office Maintenance	46959	6776			
Postage Expenses	4377	1391			
Petrol & Parking Expenses	21350				
Printing and Stationary	40272	18024			
Rent	455000	540000			
Repairs & Maintenance	21200	4000			
Salary	946300	616680			
Staff Welfare Expenses	25671	1002			
Telephone charges	30089	31947			
Transport Charges	0	8230			
Travelling and Conveyance	57170	36760			
Teacher Training Expenses	121900	12500			
Website expenses	0	18645			
Depreciation	47820	55928			
Excess of Income over Expenditure		272712			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2225383</b>	<b>2216025</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2225383</b>	<b>2216025</b>

As per our report of even date:

Mrs. Vidya Shankar  
Chairperson

Mr.Bala .J. Raman  
Trustee

C.V.Vinod  
Treasurer

R. Hemavathi  
Chartered Accountant  
Partner

Place : Chennai  
Date : 28.06.2014



**RELIEF FOUNDATION**

NO :14/2, "Devaki " , Dr. Radha Krishnan Nagar, III Cross Street, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600041.

**Fixed Asset Schedule as on 31.03.2014**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>WDV as on 01.04.2013</b>	<b>Additions During the Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rate of Depreciation</b>	<b>Depreciation for the year</b>	<b>WDV as on 31.03.2014</b>
Battery Prestolite 12 Volts	15147		15147	15	2272	12875
Books	71231		71231	15	10685	60546
		4950	4950	7.5	371	4579
Computer	3866		3866	60	2320	1546
Computer Software	45		45	60	27	18
Cycle	288		288	15	43	245
Digital U.P.S Crompton	10353		10353	15	1553	8800
Dvd Sound Machine	5227		5227	15	784	4443
Fan	464		464	10	46	418
		3500	3500	5	175	3325
Furniture & Fixtures	175618		175618	10	17562	158056
Hp Compact A90 Charger	1403		1403	15	210	1193
Office Equipments	76929		76929	15	11539	65390
Water Heater		3100	3100	7.5	233	2867
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>360571</b>	<b>11550</b>	<b>372121</b>		<b>47820</b>	<b>324301</b>

**Fixed Asset Schedule as on 31.03.2014**

Plant & machinery	15147		15147	15	2272	12875
	71231		71231	15	10685	60546
		4950	4950	7.5	371	4579
	288		288	15	43	245
	10353		10353	15	1553	8800
	5227		5227	15	784	4443
	1403		1403	15	210	1193
	76929		76929	15	11539	65390
		3100	3100	7.5	233	2867
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180578</b>	<b>8050</b>	<b>188628</b>		<b>27690</b>	<b>160938</b>
Plant & machinery	3866		3866	60	2320	1546
	45		45	60	27	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3911</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3911</b>		<b>2347</b>	<b>1564</b>
Furniture & Fixtures	464		464	10	46	418
		3500	3500	5	175	3325
	175618		175618	10	17562	158056
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176082</b>	<b>3500</b>	<b>179582</b>		<b>17783</b>	<b>161799</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>360571</b>	<b>11550</b>	<b>372121</b>		<b>47820</b>	<b>324301</b>