

RELIEF FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Chairperson's Note

Dear friends and well wishers of Relief Foundation,

As we step into 17th year of our existence and the milestones crossed we see the small yet lasting difference we have made in the lives of children and their families. It has been a learning and humbling journey especially after we moved out of the Corporate foundation whose affairs we were managing till March last year. Goodwill and confidence in our work got us making big leaps in creating a new level of participation in education for children. We seemed to have won their hearts and many children benefitted from the free-learning space at CASCADE. Our interest and capacity to start village resource centres for children gained focus. CASCADE, our family learning cooperative had parents who completely immersed themselves in making this a reality. They supported our every step with resources, participating in discussions and visits. By the end of 6 months we finalized this model and we are ready to implement it in any village across India, provided local youth feel the need for to build a time tested education system that will nurture peace and holistic learning.

A successful model of education needs the involvement of parents and community - for making the child's development into a productive being, a priority. Happy School Program is another arm of our work that gained in strength upon the arrival of a volunteer turned Committee member Juliette. We have made strides in documenting parameters for Child rights compliance in schools, by drawing evidence from our experiences of working, observing, supporting various educational institutions and Children's Homes in many states in India.

Our partnerships with a few organizations have seen fruition in terms of collaborating to increase our reach and educational content expertise.

In the months to come, please await our newsletters and spread the word around in your circles. We have sustained and made leaps thanks to you , the small groups of donors and organizations who have trusted and supported us at all times.

Signed

Vidya Shankar
Chairperson

Major Events in 2014-15

Relief Foundation's journey in the education sector with a focus on parent empowerment and teacher education continued in this year too. With special emphasis on rural areas, Rural Resource Centres based on Montessori philosophy, our experiments have once again proved that children cherish fear free learning and respond positively to freedom with responsibility. Our experience has been challenging yet rewarding.

CASCADE Montessori Resource Centre:

CASCADE a Family Learning cooperative offers space for families in learning and the training arm of Relief Foundation - Teachers Lab use the same space to train and orient teachers, parents and assistants entering Montessori environments. Parents who are looking out for learning that is uninhibited and participative found our space inviting and enriching. Few parents are now on the path of taking up Montessori courses to set up CASCADE like centres themselves. Trainee Fellowship candidates also participated in various courses we conducted as Study circles and reading seminars. Geography over Distance was a unique program we started with The Institute of Geographical Studies in Bengaluru. Visit from prominent educationists and organizations marked our eventful year.



We have completed 4 years of our existence and offered various services to over 100 families so far with cherishable memories



Career Counseling

Today's young people require right career guidance at the right age to choose a course @ 10th and 12th std. levels. This paves way to build a career path for them at a later stage. Not everyone is keen to pursue professional courses. There are many who still are not aware of the advantages in choosing a skill based courses available in ITIs and Polytechnics. Relief Foundation meets such children either individually or as a group and gives them the required counseling. Bala Mandir students who had completed 12th std. were provided with individual career counseling on 15th May 2014. Similarly, inmates of Ashram (an erstwhile Project by Shriram Foundation) were given individual career counseling which helped them to

successfully choose career paths and settle quickly into courses of their choice.



Educational Sponsorship & Rehabilitation Support

While the Government provides free education up to schooling, there are many students from private schools, colleges and polytechnics need financial support to continue their education. RF directly sponsored 26 students who are studying in different colleges. It arranged for donors to sponsor 34 students who paid the colleges and schools directly

Few Case studies

1) Subhashini* (name changed), aged 19, + have any family support. She was brought up by Ashram children's home for further rehabilitation in 2001. She moved out last year after completing her Plus 2 under our guidance. She is very good at drawing and painting and is currently pursuing graduation in fine arts in Government Arts College, Chennai. RF supported her in getting a seat in arts college. She is currently staying with her friend and is supported financially whenever required.

She has also got herself some part time job and is able to take care of her some of her expenses. She is very happy with this arrangement. RF always wants the children that it supports to acquire enough life skills to live on their own and take support only in case of absolute need. Subhashini is one of the examples.

- 2) Kadhir's (name changed) four children were referred by Child Welfare Committee. Their mother deserted them and father being handicapped could not provide for them. The children were attached to their father and wanted to stay with him. As a part of the rehabilitation program Kadhir was asked to find out a house. Now children and their father live happily together. Kadhir works as a gardener in a school nearby. Relief Foundation supports the family with monthly provision. In addition, whenever there is a requirement of any psychological or financial support, Relief Foundation extends that support. Sarathy (name changed), who is the eldest, is regularly counseled to take care of the family. He is currently studying in 9th std.
- 3) Shabnam* (Name changed) and her five children moved to Ashram hostel after her husband died due to health problems. She was soon counseled to move to a place nearby her children's school so that they could be a family again. Shabnam was apprehensive initially at this arrangement as she feared her own capacity. Her children somehow managed to convince her. Now all of them are staying together

in a rented house and Shabnam is working in a nearby tailoring unit. While the eldest daughter has moved to a Government school after completing 8th std., all the other children are studying in a nearby private school. Now they are all happily living together. Shabnam gets continued medical support as she has many health complications. In addition, monthly provision support is also provided to the family. Relief Foundation constantly supports the family with resources, advice and financial support when and where required.

This rehabilitation has made her older children take care of the younger ones, when she is away for work, and we have observed that Shabnam has gained confidence with more life skills and has progressed towards becoming a responsible mother. This is another example of how family rehabilitation works and definitely not institutional care for children who have parent(s).

CASCADE Rural Montessori Resource Centre

Jamnamarathur Centre

After having worked in the field of education particularly in rural areas for several years now, RF felt the need to launch its own educational initiatives in villages. While in the past RF had supported various schools in villages, this is the first time it has started its own initiative in a village called Jamnamarathur in Javadhu Hills, in Thiruvannamalai district in Tamilnadu. A

survey was done to identify the needs in this tribal belt. With positive response from the community, we decided to recruit people for training. For the first time, we recruited two tribal youth (graduates) from Jamnamarathur who are undergoing intensive exposure and orientation for 3 months in Montessori Philosophy and practice with us in Chennai. They will go back in May 2015 and work as assistants, with a Centre head who has done the full International training as a Montessori guide. An NGO called Centre For Indian Knowledge Systems, which works in Javadhu Hills for the past 4 years, has agreed to support RF in this initiative especially focusing on the environmental issues.

We are happy to Take Solutions for their support towards running of this centre.



Elavur Centre

RF worked in this village in Tamilnadu through a partner organization and ran a tuition centre before. With that experience and having been able to identify and train a young teacher from that village in Montessori Education for age 3-6 years children, RF surveyed this area to look into the possibility of starting a centre. Paranthaman, who hails from Elavur, is associated with RF for the past 7 years, is going to head this centre with

one assistant. The teaching assistant candidate is undergoing training in Chennai now and will go to the village in the month of June 2015. The initial survey work has been completed. The centre is expected to come in the month of July. Initially the centre will offer 3-6 years education and will later extend the hours to offer additional classes for children in the evening. RF is opening up sponsorship opportunities for this centre.



Melmangalam Centre

One of RF's core committee members has expressed an interest to start a centre in Melmangalam village near Periyakulam in Tamilnadu. A place has already been identified. RF is looking for the right candidate and financial support to start this centre. The centre is most likely to become operational in the next financial year 2015-16.

Other Centres

Apart from this centre, awareness is being spread to interested individuals and NGOs through personal and Skype conversations. In the next one year, we expect another 2 more centres to come up in Tamilnadu. RF will be happy to partner with interested individuals

and organizations to fund these projects. Apart from funding, it is crucial to bring intelligent and compassionate youth who are interested in Education and are ready to work in rural areas for children. RF will commit to start centres only after identifying such committed youth and getting their assurance through training and placement for at least 3 years in the centre.

New Initiatives

Legal Awareness Programme

This is a new initiative that Relief Foundation has started in partnership with the Department of Criminology, Madras University. As part of this legal literacy program, there will be:

- 1) Orientation
- 2) Survey and Focus Group discussions
- 3) Training and orientation on legal issues for women and children

RF is the key support organization in this project. The role includes framing questions, identifying villages, helping to collate data and planning for the training programmes that are going to come up in June 2015. The first step was taken in Elavur village where a small survey and focus group discussions were held. RF will continue with this work in the months to come.





Website

Relief Foundation website has been completely revamped. Now you can read our 16 years of journey starting from the Juvenile Homes, how we entered into Education, the challenges we faced and the innovations we made, etc., apart from various updates about our work. Check our new website @ www.reliefoundation.in , We will be very happy to receive your feedback. RF also has a [Facebook page](#) where you can check latest updates about the work we do.

Newsletter

Relief Foundation re-launched its quarterly newsletter "Bala Lakshya Jyothi" after several years. While the primary reason was due to many quick changes that occurred as the organization matured, we were managing a Corporate Foundation and their projects for

more than 10 years. Relief Foundation focused on gaining experience in the field of education especially working with children in rural areas. RF wanted to renew regular connect with its donors and well-wishers through this newsletter that had stopped in 2004!. Through this newsletter, which will henceforth be sent to all the RF contacts on a quarterly basis, the idea is to provide updates about various initiatives of RF's and how meaningful intervention makes the required impact in the lives of children and their families.

Happy School Programme & CRCI

A school has to be a **Happy Place** for children to feel secure and respected. The environment needs to be inviting and the adults should play constructive roles. Research shows that when children are happy, their learning improves. With years of experience working in and offering support to schools across various part of the country, we are now in a position to offer evidence based training information to schools which are keen to become a hub of learning and social reform starting from Infrastructure to Classroom Practices and Governance.

Relief Foundation has created a matrix called Child Rights Compliance Index based on the fundamentals of Children as outlined by UNCRIC to aid schools to become much sought after by children. The CRCI is a tool that aims at pinpointing in a precise manner a school's performances in specific areas. From the results, if the management deems it relevant, a school reforming plan can be drawn out, which is where the Happy School

Programme takes its place. The Happy School Programme consists of a continuous engagement between the school and Relief Foundation.



Consulting for Existing/New Schools

RF supported and provided consultation to various schools in the areas of behavioral/academic issues of children or building infrastructure for the school.

- ❖ Relief Foundation donated a set of 30 activities with an information kit to start their own Resource centre for children at Gurukul Balwadi at Hebri, Karnataka



- ❖ Provided classroom material and management support to the teachers and school head for PBVK School in Shimoga District, Karnataka

- ❖ Provided Skype sessions for parents and teachers of CSR Memorial School in Madurai. These sessions included parenting skills, discussions on behaviour, classroom management and developmentally appropriate teaching practices
- ❖ We are helping Shishubala Montessori Academy in Moulivakkam, Chennai to set up classrooms and also oriented the parents and staff in Montessori philosophy
- ❖ We are helping the volunteers of Zariya, a NISER students' initiative aiming at providing social services, to set goals and teach children in local Government schools using Activity Based Learning methodology

Child Protection Policy

As a recommended practice, we have evolved a Child Protection policy for all the staff and members of Relief Foundation. It is published in our website.

New Members

2014-15 had a rewarding spell, with some new members becoming a part of RF's team.

Mr. Venkatakrishnan. R. RVK Associates, Chennai. (Trustee and Treasurer)

Committee members

Ms. Dipa Dixit, Advocate, New Delhi, former member of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Government of India and Trustee of J N Dixit Foundation.

Ms. Juliette Viard-Gaudin, Student of International Development, from France. A special mention about her: Apart from her deep interest to work for children, she was inspired by our work. Hence when we requested her to be part of the Committee, she readily accepted. We are happy that with her stupendous effort, CRCI has now a tool form, usable and implementable. She will spread the word on support required to take this work forward, to her circles in her country and also her Alma mater- University of Bath in UK.

Ms.Champakalatha - Vice President in Shriram Group and heads the gold loan division of the company for Maharashtra and Karnataka. She is a Chartered Accountant and a graduate from Indian Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWA).

FCRA

Relief Foundation has reapplied for FCRA in the month of February 2015 after we had closed it 3 years ago. Many of our foreign donors who supported all our school building related and training activities in the past have welcomed this step and have assured their support to RF. We are extremely thankful for their trust on our work.

Volunteers

Adwaith Surya

Ms. Rajalakshmi

Ms.Malini Vinod

Ms.Rengamani (our oldest volunteer 86 years old)

Core Team

Board of Trustees

Vidya Shankar

Bala.J.Raman

C.V. Vinod

R. Venkatakrishnan

Patron Advisor

S.S. Rajasekar

Committee Members

P.K Raghunathan

Murali Krishnan

Dipa Dixit

Juliette Viard-Gaudin

Champakalatha Venkatraman

Associate Organisations

The Institute of Geographical Studies, founded by Dr. Chandra Shekar Balachandran a pioneer in innovative Geography education.

Major Donors for the year 2014-2015

Take Solutions, Chennai

Shasun Chemicals, Chennai

Abusha Foundations, Chennai

Ms.Sathyanarayana, Chennai

Julia Rollings, Australia

S,Shankar, Chennai

Abubaker Koya, Bengaluru

Mr.B.S.Raghavan IAS (Retd)

Parents of CASCADE Montessori Resource Centre, Chennai

NAME :	RELIEF FOUNDATION	PAN:	AAATR3011J
ADDRESS:	New No.18, Old No.30, Sriram Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600041.	D.O.I.:	10.09.1998
		A.Y.:	2015-2016 EXEMPTIONS
		CIRCLE:	CIRCLE I CHENNAI

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	AY 2015-16	AY 2014-15
1	INCOME RECEIVED	2610000	2230500
	Less : Depreciation		47820
	NET INCOME	2610000	2182680
	Less : Deduction u/s 11(1) of the Income Tax Act @15%	391500	327402
		2218500	1855278
	Less : Amount Applied for Charitable Purposes u/s 11(2) of the IT Act	2595998	2187797
	EXCESS AMOUNT APPLIED OVER THE INCOME	(377498)	(332519)
	Tax Payable	NIL	NIL

Mrs.Vidya Shankar
Chairperson &
Manging Trustee

Mr.Bala J. Raman
Trustee

Mr.C.V.Vinod
Trustee

R. Venkata Krishnan
Trustee & Treasurer

Place : Chennai
Date : 30.07.2015

RELIEF FOUNDATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2015

EXPENDITURE	31.03.2015	31.03.2014	INCOME	31.03.2015	31.03.2014
To Audit Fees	5056	5056	By Donation Received	2610000	2230500
To Accounting Charges	10000	10000			
To Advertisement		51900			
To Bank Charges	630	13930			
To Children Vocational Training Materials	98500				
To Computer Maintenance Expenses	6500	4200	By Excess of Income over Expenditure		5117
To Donation for Child welfare		41850			
To Educational Expenses and Sponsorship	148550	61086			
To Electricity Charges	23076	47082			
To Maintenance Expenses - VSR Monteswari School		2105			
To Monteswari Materials	171113	180300			
To Office Maintenance	32134	46959			
To Postage Expenses	3194	4377			
To Petrol & Parking Expenses		21350			
To Printing and Stationary	29814	40272			
To Rent	309000	455000			
To Repairs & Maintenance	5739	21200			
To Salary	670000	946300			
To Staff Welfare Expenses	2075	25671			
To Telephone charges	54400	30089			
To Travelling and Conveyance	17840	57170			
To Teacher Training Expenses	122302	121900			
To Website expenses	44845				
To Depreciation		47820			
To Payment for Building	788000				
To Purchase of Computer	48410				
To Purchase of Books	4820				
Excess of Income over Expenditure	14002				
TOTAL	2610000	2235617	TOTAL	2610000	2235617

As per our report of even date:

Mrs.Vidya Shankar
Chairperson & Managing trustee

Mr.Bala J. Raman
Trustee

Mr.C.V.Vinod
Trustee

R. Venkata krishnan
Trustee and Treasurer

Place : Chennai

Date : 30.07.2015

RELIEF FOUNDATION

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

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS AS ON 31.03.2015

		31.03.2015	31.03.2014
LIABILITIES :			
Corpus Fund			
Balance as on 31.03.2015	653346		653346
Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure	14002	667348	653346
Creditor for Expenses - as per Schedule		107358	122250
		774706	775596
ASSETS :			
Fixed Assets - as per Schedule		324301	324301
Advances and Deposits :			
Rental Advance		106000	106000
Cash at Bank - Indian Bank		341555	334004
Cash on Hand		2850	11291
		774706	775596

As per our report of even date:

Mrs.Vidya Shankar
Chairperson &
Managing Trustee

Mr.Bala J. Raman
Trustee

Mr.C.V.Vinodkumar
Trustee

R. Venkata krishnan
Trustee & Treasurer

Place : Chennai
Date : 30.07.2015