

#### **"SAMIKSHA FOUNDATION – CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER TRUST"**

A CREATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN UNDERGOING CANCER TREATMENT

#### WWW.SAMIKSHAFOUNDATION.ORG

(since 2009)

#### 12th YEAR ANNUAL

#### **REPORT (2020-21)**

Report of our support activities and observations at the Kapur–SBM Pediatric Oncology Ward, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, and Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre, NH Bangalore, India recorded during the period of June 2020 to May 2021.

"Samiksha Foundation –Caring for Children with Cancer Trust "is a registered trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1881, document no. BNG(U)-BMH 237 2009-2010. Donations made to the Samiksha Foundation are deductible under Section 80G(2)(a)(iv) r.w.s. 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

*"Samiksha Foundation is a Pediatric Oncology Support Group, a Civil Society Organization, operating at Bangalore, India.* 

Disclaimer

This report is maintained on behalf of the "Samiksha Foundation - Caring for Children with Cancer" to enhance public access to information relevant to the work of the trust. Our goal is to keep this information factual and accurate. If errors are brought to our attention, we will try to correct them. However, the trust does not accept liability whatsoever with regard to the material on this report.



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# **FOUNDER'S NOTES**



"Leaving no one Behind" - Sandhya Sharad

Over the last 12 years, we have seen the enormous impact of cancer and its treatment on children's lives, and the critical need for quality paediatric oncology care. We are convinced that such care must include non-medical support focused on happiness and quality education, to prepare cancer survivors and thrivers for success in the rest of their lives. We continue to nudge medical providers and society to invest in creating learning facilities and partnerships to provide this care.

Quoting Daisaku Ikeda- honorary president of the Soka Gakkai and founder of the Soka School System in his recent observations on the Spirit of India during the coronavirus crisis on 4th February 2021 in an article called "Towards a new Renaissance of Life".

"Our world today is facing a crisis unlike any other as the coronavirus shakes the foundations of our global society and economy. Yet amidst this devastation, we are also seeing strengthening of an international spirit of compassion to ensure that no one is left behind. This concern to – 'Leave no one behind 'is the animating spirit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. I know it is also heartfelt with many young friends in India who are exerting themselves to encourage those around them to share in their time of suffering. "

It is with this spirit of resilience, that the core team at Samiksha has continued to serve significantly the rather small cohort of children with cancer even in the scale of the pandemic. Moving ahead in their pursuit of Happiness, no matter how impossible the journey seemed at times in this last year.

COVID has also proven that all children are on a level playing field if they cannot attend school for any reason, be it cancer or the pandemic. Hence it is society's responsibility to bring them all back on track with their schooling whatever be their circumstance.

As per the global studies, most children and young people with cancer will be able to return to school during and after treatment. The clinical team will advise the family on the right time for the child to return. Ultimately COVID-19 is just another infection that families of a child with cancer must be mindful of. This is alongside chicken pox, measles, herpes, diarrhoea, other bugs, and flu. All these can have extreme consequences for children with cancer. Children with cancer are high-risk, with unique needs. In the meantime, it is important that we continue to support them, even at home during lockdowns through remote learning technologies.

COVID-19 prompted a change to a new "Samiksha 2.0" strategy. Samiksha procured tablet devices for children in the wards and alumni to use. Then, Samiksha worked with an educational technology partner to create a digital learning platform, so that the children could continue to access high-quality learning content from home and the wards. The Foundation is always looking for volunteers and content creators who are willing to help create and update the content in vernacular languages.

Samiksha continues to support the children through a combination of remote and in-person teaching, providing tailored digital educational content on the Samiksha USky learning platform. https://samiksha.usky.in.

This was successfully launched in February this year building curiosity, courage and confidence in our children at NH and caregivers, doctors and the teachers.

Even in developing the unique Edu tech platform, we have avoided "sameness"- being highly creative, vernacular, versatile in our approach to this build, by including Arts, Crafts, Yoga and training for older children on our Platform being offered free of cost to the children.



As we continued working 4 days a week from our Center of Excellence at Koramangala, Bangalore, control measures such as hand and surface hygiene, cohorting to reduce number of daily contacts, and directional controls to reduce face-to-face contact remain key elements of maintaining COVID-19 to secure our working environments and minimizing risk.

#### Measuring success and happiness

Over 7700 children have benefited from Samiksha programs, and 5200 returned to school.

These are encouraging statistics. We have documented the observations and the qualitative impact of this work, in boosting the happiness of the children and caregivers. There is great potential for further research into the benefits of this focus on Happiness.

Samiksha Foundation is grateful to the volunteers, staff, donors, and medical providers who make our work possible, and the children and families who put their trust in us.

The team of new Trustees Ranjani Ramesh, Barnalee Sarkar, Director Dr. Manjari, advisors Vijaya Nanju, Aditya Sharad, Prem Kumar and Valli Narasimha, our teachers Vidyavathi and Parvathi, Amrithkala have all stepped up to new roles defying every pessimistic spirit that could pull them down. They have focused not only in meeting our targets in development of the Tech to Teach Platform, but also in successfully making the scholarships happen for 67 needy children this year, thus leaving no one behind!

As we brave on, there is no doubt in my mind that with this dedication, commitment and love for the children facing cancer, deep understanding of the path they have set out to walk upon, we have stepped up to summon our greatest wisdom, creativity and empathy toward writing a new chapter at Samiksha Foundation in 2021.

We welcome readers to learn more and contribute to our work at samikshafoundation.org.

#### Sandhya Sharad





# **MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEES**



#### Ranjani Ramesh

When the Covid pandemic hit us last year, we were forced to move out of our hospital Learning centres. So, we decided to launch Samiksha 2.0 - Tech to Teach program. We reached out to corporate volunteers through Chezuba - a web-based platform enabling skilled professionals from Tata companies to volunteer online with Non-profits worldwide. These volunteers helped us to collate the curriculum of various

states so that Samiksha could come up with its own curriculum - The Integrated Learning Program. The programme encompasses English, Mathematics, Sciences and Social Sciences - as well as co-curriculars such as Art, Craft, Music, and Yoga.

We had volunteers working on creating videos for all the academic and non-academic aspects. They also trained the teachers to use the technology that was being developed by our technology partner. We were able to distribute scholarships along with tabs for our alumni who were in need of tabs due to the virtual classroom environment for all.

After taking over as a Trustee, there were quite a few decisions and changes that we had to make to the foundation due to the pandemic. The transition from a traditional school to a tech-to-teach program and working on the implementation of the entire process during these challenging times was a learning experience for us all.



#### **Barnalee Sarkar**

Over the past one and a half years, mankind has gone through a phase of prolonged pause in the flow of life, a phase of trauma, suffering, helplessness, adjustments, understanding; and then, a transformation to a new set of scopes and possibilities into all spheres of life.

As our other valued members of the team have pointed out, we, at Samiksha Foundation, also have been trying to find newer ways to cope up to the current situation and continue to fulfil our mission.

We have taken time to unlearn the existing mode of work and adapt newer ways to reach out to the children undergoing cancer treatment, so that, they can continue with their academic and non-academic learnings from the safety of their homes.

Implementing the new methods have been quite challenging for the team, considering the section of the society we largely cater to. We are hopeful that our efforts will reach out to larger numbers at a time. However, the fact remains that human touch and physical warmth has a very positive impact on our children. As long as digital learning remains the only way to continue with our mission, we commit to try and find out ways, where we can make learning more interactive.

We are grateful to our team members who have lent their support whole heartedly to achieving the new goals. We also take pride in the humanitarian acts of our team members who have contributed to the society in its battle with the pandemic.

A lot has been done and a lot more is yet to be done, and I am convinced that together, we shall continue to make a difference.

Thank you for all you support over the past eleven years of our journey and more to come.

Regards...



# **MESSAGE FROM OUR RETIRING TRUSTEE**



Samiksha Foundation' s approach to education has always been holistic - adapting the SPECS model.

In its 11 years of working on the mission "Knowledge empowers and Happiness heals" with the motto "The pursuit of knowledge is the key to the pursuit of their happiness", each milestone brings greater confidence, new learnings and more vigour to the team at Samiksha Foundation.

For children undergoing cancer treatment and in distress, health, processing and

coping with emotions, self-worth, managing friends and relationships and continuing education within the limitation of resources and without mentors or a physical school or learning environment is a challenge and a dilemma.

A constant thought for us is " Can we do more and if so how?"

This evolves from the reality that for the Samiksha team, engaging with every student and caregiver is personal, involving care, nurturing to create optimism, positive outcomes and survivorship and ensuring support and services for student needs.

The strong connection between teachers, caregivers and students is now a recognised need in the current spotlight on challenges faced to provide effective education in the pandemic for children in distress.

2020 taught us hope, gratitude, patience, adaptability and importantly continuity, to heal, to educate, to be healthy, to be inclusive, to stay connected and to cherish the abundance with continued patience, love and gratitude.

To our Donors and Supporters and Volunteers, our sincere gratitude.

Warm Regards

Vijayalakshmi Nanjundeswaran



# **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**



Dear Friends,

In this present challenging scenario, each of us is struggling and trying to cope with the Pandemic and its fallout on both personal and professional fronts.

Ensuring that students continue their education has always been a problem but has got aggravated with the pandemic. A survey<sup>1</sup> by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Government of India highlighted that one out of every eight students enrolled in school or college tends to drop out midway and over 62% of all dropouts happen at the school level. It is nearly certain that the numbers

of children dropping out, after the pandemic hit, would have increased and the situation become much worse.

Realizing the importance of continuity of education, Samiksha has attempted to emerge as a "Ray of Hope" to our children. Our efforts have been focused on providing the children with provided formal education notwithstanding the closure of schools and colleges.

The Indian schooling system dates back to centuries where the Gurukul system was at the core. Using a similar template, Samiksha has worked to replicate this system at hospitals, keeping children engaged constructively through formal education, yoga & mediation, creative activities, etc. Our on-site face-to-face schooling system, perforce, had to be closed and we had to move out of hospitals in March 2020, once the lockdown was declared.

Samiksha Foundation created an opportunity in this adversity and has evolved to Samiksha 2.0, a technology-based teaching system. This system has an ability to reach and teach children staying in different States, cities and even to Tier 1, 2, 3 towns.

According to a survey conducted in 2018, approx. 42.6 percent of public primary students in rural India spent between Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 every month on private tuitions and more than 15 percent of public-school students opted for private tutoring in the same year.

Samiksha realized the need of financial support and tutoring, hence it decided to continue with the Scholarship program despite the pandemic.

The continuous tutoring initiative would not have been possible without the encouragement of our doctors and staff at the KCI and MSCC. The shift to technology was possible because of the USky platform. Our donors and sponsors played a huge part of sustaining our funds and last but not the least a special mention to our dedicated team, teachers and volunteers who have kept our collective morale high and maintained the momentum during these difficult times under the able guidance of Sandhya Sharad. Thank you all

#### Dr Manjari Bhatnagar

Director Samiksha Foundation- Caring for Children with Cancer Trust

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Akash Chandrashekar Gulankar 14th Sept 2020

# **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

#### Academics - Tailored remote support for each child

Samiksha teachers and volunteers provided **tailored educational support** during the lockdown (May 2020-June 2020) to **9 SSLC** students from Kannada, English, and Urdu medium schools preparing them for their 10th standard board exams which were rescheduled for June 2020. The teachers reached out to the students to understand their challenges and provided assistance through remote teaching methods, with great results. All 9 students passed, with them scoring between 53% -87%.

Volunteers -Dr. Shailaja Raghuprasad, Anita Naolekar, Akshay Nagendra, Anjum Khan, Murtuza Zakiuddin, Ranganath and Nischitha Shekar, made time for these children in spite of their heavier 'work from home' schedules, providing **tailored educational support** to **7 students of 1<sup>st</sup> PUC** in Maths, Science, Computer Science,(commerce stream), Accounts, Economics (Arts stream) and English and to **2 students of 2<sup>nd</sup> PUC** in Accounts, English, Hindi, Business studies. Volunteer B.B Prakash has been providing **English language and communication sessions** for the students pursuing their degree.

#### Samiksha 2.0 -Tech to Teach Development work:

The primary goal to focus on the virtual initiative was to improve the accessibility and quality of course content for students across Grades 1 to 10 (Karnataka State, CBSE, ICSE boards and NIOS) and provide content in English, Kannada, Hindi, Bengali and Marathi for remote teaching and learning on our own dedicated Educational Digital Platform.

**November 2019-May 2020**: Teacher training Programs improving competencies of our teachers and volunteers through Training workshops conducted by "Learning Matters Pvt Ltd" – a 6-month long training program in English language and Alexa based Lesson Plans.

#### Corporate Volunteer engagement: (May 2020 to April 2021)

**'Chezuba',** - a volunteer aggregator for individuals and corporate volunteers helped with curriculum research and Upskilling.

Volunteers from various **Tata Group of companies**-Titan, Tata Projects, Tata Communications and TCSworked closely with the Samiksha team providing training in technological upskilling such as MS Office Training and Google Tools for educators as well as translation of existing AV content on the digital platform into Bengali.

Thanks to Rushikesh Sonawane, Malabika Dhar, Karmvir Singh Rana, Prasad Paulbudhe and Priya Malakar.

**'Goodera'** - another volunteer aggregator helped with volunteers for Database tasks and documentation. Thanks to Rikhiya Banerjee and Paridhi Khetan from Goodera for coordinating with us.

**'Novartis'** externs- Ankur Chauhan, Hima Kovvali, Manali Parab- helped with Database Management. **'USky**' team developed our Digital Learning Platform pro bono and continue to work on this development.

#### June 2020: 11th Year Annual Day

This Annual day was conducted virtually due to the pandemic. Samiksha Foundation's Core team members and a few of the long-term volunteers connected virtually and reviewed the year that had gone by as well as looking at the way ahead.

#### Internships: (June 2020 to May 2021)

Participating schools-

- Indus International School, Bangalore
- Mallya Aditi International School (MAIS)
- Greenwood High
- Christ Junior College



#### Education Program Development and Digitizing Curriculum Tasks included: (June 2020-May 2021)

- collating learning resources in various vernacular languages for grades 1 to 4 in EVS
- collating learning resources for classes 5 to 10 in Social Studies in various vernacular languages
- checking English language, EVS and Science resources as provided in the Karnataka State textbooks.
- connecting resources from Story weaver and Pratham books sites
- creating simple learning modules in Kannada for EVS from grades 1 to 4
- providing the creatives (PPTs and videos) for the online lessons
- creating lesson plans in Maths for the lower classes
- creating the curriculum for music for classes 1 to 8
- transcription of AV content on the digital platform (classes 3-10) currently in English for Maths & Science
- document translation support for English-Kannada & Kannada-English
- translation of the Art curriculum content into Hindi and Kannada
- translating the AV content on the digital platform in Kannada, Hindi and Bengali
- translation of PPTs, Class notes, Worksheets on the digital platform into Kannada, Bengali, Hindi
- mentoring students virtually in different vernacular mediums

Thanks to volunteers Anagha Rao, Sanjana Jadon, Akanksha Jayasheela, Shubhada Mudhol, Umesh, Akshata Iyer & Akshata Sujay (from Ek Prayaas), B.B Prakash, Gayathri RV, Akshay Nagendra, Arundhati Shyamkrishna and Sudakshana Beedikar and interns Ishta Kola, Navneeth Dhamotharan, Madhav Menon, Sameeksha Krishna, Shradha Desai, Vansh Goel, Chhavi Nahata, Chinmay Kalkur, Devrata Morarka, Dhruv Navada, Siddhant Patil, Vedarth Alva, Yash Raj, Dhiya V Shadakshari, Ishaan Sulaiman, Saket Iyengar, Amanda Haydon, Anushka Rai, Ananya Gupta, Nikita Agera, Ramu Muthuraman, Vir Shanmugam, Akshaan Shetty, Anushae Kara and Adityatej Ghosh for their diligent work on these completed and ongoing tasks.

**August 2020**: The Integrated Learning Program Manual of Samiksha Foundation was released. Upgrades continue through the year.

This is a comprehensive Education Manual that draws the road map for remote teaching for children in difficult circumstances, especially long-term illness that forces absences from school. The manual is a compilation of our work and experience of 11 years running the Samiksha Learning centers at the hospital Oncology wards successfully. This involved creating and collating resources to ensure a smooth transition from in-person teaching to virtual teaching - the focus being on grades 1 to 8, along the lines of the recently-announced National Education Policy (NEP 2020).

September 2020: MOU signed with USky Education Technology company as our Technology Partners.

#### ART curriculum and Craft Integration in the digital space: (October 2020-December 2020)

Art Lesson Plans followed for classes 1 to 8 at our Learning Centers (Courtesy - Artists Laura Martin and Yugashri SA) were put into mind maps presented through PPTs and videos.

Craft Curriculum was digitized, based on the classes conducted by A Thousand Cranes at our SFLCs.

Thanks to intern Dishita Ramesh and volunteers Ekta Poddar, Deepa Rajeev and Asha Ramjee for their dedication in this work.

**November 2020:** soft launch of the 'Samiksha-USky digital learning platform' available as a web app (https://samiksha.usky.in) and app, designed by USky. The academic content of USky Edu Tech Platform for students across Grades 1 to 10 in English for English, Science and Maths and content from Samiksha's 11 years of work conducted through Art, Craft, Music, Storytelling activities, created by Samiksha Foundation's team are integrated into this learning platform for the children, free of cost.



This partnership was made possible by Praveen Attaluri, Dr. Shanti Attaluri and Jayram Attaluri. USky team members Rehman and Apoorva have worked very closely with Team Samiksha to make this accessible to the students on a unique Digital Space, exclusive to them.

November 2020: Fundraiser "Tech to Teach" Campaign by "Bros on Wheels"

The No Shave November campaign, a month-long fundraiser, called by Bros on Wheels in partnership with Milaap.org kicked off from Samiksha Foundation's office at Koramangala on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

This campaign aimed to strengthen our commitment to empower children battling cancer to continue their school and learning using Beneficial technology. Donors and well-wishers from within the country and abroad helped procure 44 Tablets, and cover the cost

of annual Internet Subscription and Broadband connectivity at Samiksha CoE, which was the need for online classes. The Campaign reached the target (Rs.3,07,758) with tremendous effort and dedication which included a match of 5% for each contribution by Milaap.

The closing event held at the Samiksha office on 30<sup>th</sup> November, was attended by Director Pediatric Oncology (NH) Dr. Sunil Bhat, Ms. Rhea Daruvala from Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre, members of Bros on Wheels, representatives from Budli.in-India's first instant online ReCommerce portal and Samiksha Core team members.



The tablets procured were showcased at the event, along with the corporate in-kind donation of 25 tablets from KPMG. All Covid precautions were observed at the limited audience event.

Of these, 20 tablets were sent by speed post to students and 3 were collected in person. These students, from classes VIII to II PUC -alumni of the Samiksha Foundation Learning Centre (SFLC) at KMIO are empowered now, to access their online school/college sessions and lessons. 22 tablets are available to students and teachers at the Learning Centre at the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre-NH since March 2021.

#### NGO volunteer Engagement and Collaborations (November 2020-May 2021)

- Life Educare
- A Thousand Cranes
- St. Judes for Life
- Leukemia Crusaders
- BEETF Platform partners

Srividya from Life Educare (under the patronship of Dr. Dhirendra Mishra) conducted virtual workshops in Kannada on lesson planning for the teachers. The team is currently attending a training on 'Virtual Training Series for Educators' covering various aspects involved in virtual teaching by Ms. Lopamudra Dewan of Life Educare.

#### **A Christmas Miracle**

The meticulous planning and coordination by Ms. Alka (the social worker) and Prem Kumar (our Volunteer) to ensure help at the earliest, had become the source of immense joy to a 13-year-old girl, Suraiya, who attended the SFLC at KMIO. She was battling a relapse of Ewing Sarcoma- a cancerous tumour that grows in the limbs. The doctors had advised Palliative care for the child and given her 2 months to live.

All it took was one message to make her dreams come true, and help came pouring in from amongst our volunteers and other contacts. What followed was a true Christmas Miracle. She was able to travel back

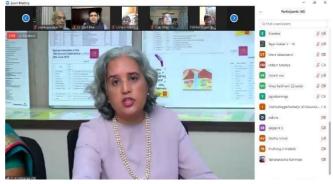




home in an airplane, courtesy SpiceJet, (free of cost for her and her father), and were driven to the airport by Mr. Krishnaraj. There were new clothes, a wheel chair for easy accessibility, a neck pillow, a brand-new smartphone, some wondrous goodies and some money for the father to take care of his child. These kind and generous donations in cash and kind came from donors-Ms. Anandini Bassi, Mr. Somenath Nag & Ms. Ranjana Nag, Ms. Supriya, Ms. Pratibha Shridhara Metgal, Shomrita Mandal and Shomrita's friend, which not only provided material comfort but a wholesome farewell. Suraiya passed away a few days after she reached her hometown. Her final homecoming was possible with grace and dignity. We are all grateful for the effort toward this.



#### The Samiksha Scholarship Program (SSP 5) 29th January 2021



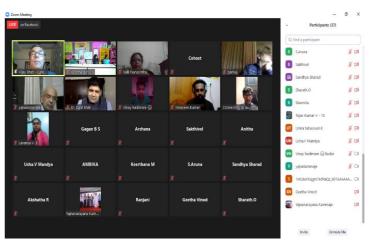
The Samiksha Scholarships Program (SSP) continues to support young cancer survivors who have studied at Samiksha. A new scholarship committee started the due diligence in October 2020 for the 5<sup>th</sup> Series that was held as a virtual event, arranged by Linzz events. Telecast live on Facebook and Instagram with 460 viewers who followed the program, about a 100 people- awardees, caregivers, donors, speakers, doctors, volunteers, well-wishers and family members of Samiksha team, attended through Zoom.

These included Mrs. Bhavani Nanjundeswaran-retired Trustee to the Foundation; Dr. C. Ramesh, Retired Prof. & Head, Dept. of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, KMIO.

The Foundation was represented by The Founder and Trustee -Ms. Sandhya Sharad, Trustee- Ms. Barnalee Sarkar and Director- Dr. Manjari Bhatnagar who also gave the welcome address. The team of Teachers-Ms. Vidyavathi, Ms. Parvathi, Volunteer- Prem Kumar and Ankitha Narayanaswamy were also present at the Samiksha Foundation office from where the event was beamed.

We thank our guest speakers- Mr. Vijay Bhat-Founder and Cancer coach at Cancer Awakens, Mumbai who delivered the Keynote address; Dr. Sunil Bhat - HoD Pediatric Hematology, Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant, Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Center (Narayana Health City), Bangalore, Mr. Yajnanarayana Kammaje- Philanthropist & Chairman and Director Sona Group of Industries, Dr. K.B Linge Gowda- Registrar (Evaluation) Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, Former Director, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore and Mr. Naveen Kumar-





alumni student of Samiksha, who shared their experiences and reflected on their association with Samiksha Foundation over the years. Former Trustee Ms. Vijaya Nanjundeswaran-Samiksha Foundation also addressed the audience virtually.

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#### SAMIKSHA FOUNDATION - CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER TWELFTH YEAR REPORT

The support for young cancer survivors' alumni of Samiksha saw the 5th Series concluded successfully where 67 students were awarded scholarships of Rs. 10,000/- each.

All 67 scholarships were disbursed-a total of 6.70 Lakhs from the corpus was released for this- by the first week of February2021.

(The videos playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRW\_TDAIwC2WbhDdfuCL9QQnEMZgM2 w5U)

# Christmas celebrations and Children's Cancer Day at NH - 15th February 2021

Christmas was celebrated at the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre. Dr. Manjari and volunteer Prem Kumar coordinated and organised gifts that were handed out by the Doctors and nurses to the kids in the ward(s) through the network of volunteers from Samiksha Foundation and others.

A wish tree campaign was also launched at the office of Smartworks Bangalore where a Christmas tree was placed at MSCC-NH for children

to share their wishes and the tree was then handed over to the Smart works team on 21st December to display at their office till the 1st week of January. Some of the gifts received from Smart works were distributed on International Childhood Cancer Day on February 15<sup>th</sup>. As the Learning Centres have not been operational, our Social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn had posts that reaffirmed our commitment to providing non-medical

support to these children on the occasion of World Cancer day (February 4<sup>th</sup>).

# Activities at the Samiksha Learning Centre @ MSCC in Narayana Health City (March 2021-April 2021)

9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 saw us return to MSCC-NH to work with the children for a limited duration (10:30 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays). We closed again after sessions on 1<sup>st</sup> April due to increase in Covid cases. Dr. Sunil Bhat, Director and Head of Pediatric Oncology at MSCC-NH, has been very supportive. Volunteer Prem Kumar coordinated with the Psycho-Oncologist, Rhea Daruvala from the Paediatric Oncology dept. and ensured that the children visiting the hospital on those days were given all possible mentoring, to

help catch up with their academics.

Through devices and other technology tools, the services to the children were enhanced. 22 Tablets have been made available at the Learning Centre for the students to access the digital platform as well as any other learning content that would be of use to them.

The teachers have also been using the Storyweaver and Pratham books websites to conduct Story telling sessions and platforms like Meghshala and YouTube to mentor Kannada medium students from the lower classes.













Student Attendance at- MSCC -NH – March-April 2021: This data reflects the student's attendance and does not reflect individual children.

Month	Below	LKG	UKG	Gr 1	Gr2	Gr3	Gr4	Gr5	Gr6	Gr7	Gr8	Gr9	Gr10	I		Degree /	TOTAL
	3 years													PUC	PUC	Diploma	
MAR	6	1	0	3	4	1	1	4	1	2	4	2	3	0	0	2	34
APR	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Total	6	1	1	3	4	3	1	7	1	2	4	2	4	0	0	2	41

Work on documenting the impact of our work over the last 11 years continues towards creating a narrative that will reach many more families and increase awareness of the need for non-medical educational support for children with cancer in the country. This is being done by a few students from Mallya Aditi International School (MAIS) as well as an external volunteer-Sujatha- who are working closely on this with our Founder.

Samiksha applauds the work of the externs, volunteers, and coordinators for their amazing enthusiasm and helping us, especially at these uncertain times of the pandemic. A big 'thank you' to all the volunteersincluding the semi active ones who have helped in their own little ways- Sandhya Maradi, Padma Visvanathan, Arati Arora, Anandini Bassi, Gayathri RV, Varalakshmi BV, Saba Hussain, Puneet Kumar, Girish Jayaraju, Subbulakshmi S, Purvi Shah, Mini Menon.

The Samiksha "Centre for Excellence" (CoE) is hence evolving for greater impact across the country!

#### Tribute

We pay loving tribute to Rafika Banu, a brilliant and hardworking Samiksha student and 4-time scholarship awardee who aspired to be a doctor, but unfortunately left us on 5 July 2020. This young student had appeared for her 2<sup>nd</sup> PUC exams and was preparing for the NEET exams as well, before the lockdown but couldn't make it for the 1 pending paper which was rescheduled for June 2020. The 2<sup>nd</sup> PUC results when declared, showed her having passed all subjects that she appeared for, successfully...

#### **Trust announcements**

We announced the retirement of two of our first Trustees, Mrs. Bhavani Nanjundeswaran and Ms. Vijayalakshmi Nanjundeswaran, who served the Trust since 2009 with dedication and love. They continue to support the core team. We welcomed our new Trustees Mrs. Ranjani Ramesh and Vidushi Barnalee Sarkar who took over actively since April 2020, overseeing and organizing the Samiksha Scholarships Program series 5 and Tech to Teach process of Samiksha 2.0.

As of March 2021, all the compliances relating to new FCRA rules are also being met as per regulations by the Ministry of Home Affairs. A new FCRA account has been opened at the SBI - New Delhi Branch to continue to allow foreign contributions to Samiksha Foundation Programs in Education and Social space.

#### New partnerships and initiatives

Samiksha Foundation looks forward to a new partnership with St. Judes for Life (Founded in the Memory of Mrs. Rani Vicaji), a unit of St. Jude India Child Care Centres where the Samiksha-USky digital learning platform will be made available to survivors living across the country with volunteers' mentor them virtually. A pilot is expected to roll out soon.



# **GLIMPSES OF ACTIVITIES-EVENTS DURING JUNE 2020- MAY 2021**

A few of the Scholarship awardees who received Tabs in January-February 2021 to help them access online lessons



Students, Siblings, Caregivers- all at work at SFLC, MSCC-NH- be it studying, reading, writing, drawing, gaming...March-April 2021























# SAMIKSHA TEACHERS & OTHERS REFLECT



#### VIDYAVATHI B.S, Teacher and Librarian

2020-2021 classmate Page \_ June - May. Day J. D. , D. T. ವಿಜ್ಞಾರಿಗೂ ನಮಸ್ಕಾರ, ನಾನು ವಿದ್ಯಾವಾತಿ 22. ವಿಶ್. ಸತೀಕ್ಷ್ ಹೊಡ್ಡ್ ತನ್ ಜನ್ಮ ನತ್ ನತ ದಾರಿ SES winn with App Du Book Block any 2. 2 கால குன் கில் கில் கில் கிலி bayed 2013 Augurt Rada Bendy Long காக் கமது திழக்கு, வாதுக்கி யாவிக் שובידי מהוא נתוך צח בשום שושנו אות. עיצו לעה הוא המשה לי בישם . האלוני האל Lity Bus Bout BE All 2028 ONNA But and the cond that the the menser Eravor 100 wer p. U.C राज्यता हार्ड क्रुड क्रिक राष्ट्र न्याय इन्द्राहरू हार्ड क्रुड क्रिक राष्ट्र ज्यायन इन्द्राहरू राष्ट्र क्रिकाम न्यायन Exzen Euse Ehores Everges on to Eagling on the Eagling works and some and the Eagling work and the Eagling ஆஸ் கத் விகர்கு வாத வநி சுத் they a . I day sid wood woodawedday

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Greetings everyone. I, Vidyavathi BS have been working for Samiksha Foundation for the last 12 years as a teacher and a librarian. Since last year, a monster called Corona has taught all of us a lesson. As it was not possible for any of us to go to school and teach the students, even in such a situation, the students were in touch with us. Some children requested for help in studies and volunteers helped teach lessons to such students in 10th and 2nd PUC. Thanks to this, the children were able to secure good marks in their exams. We too were not well versed with use of smart phones and computers. In such difficult times, we have learnt these skills and are using computers to make our work possible - Samiksha is the only reason for this!

Despite small children messing up when we try to teach them, we don't give up and continue teaching them. Samiksha also taught us in the same manner. We will never forget this.

As Samiksha trained us in computers and English, today it has helped us out to a great extent and our typing speed is also good. After this, we also identified worthy students who received scholarships. we asked them how Samiksha scholarships helped them and got voice recordings from them on this. They told us about their feelings and thoughts on Samiksha. We recorded these as well as noted them in our books.

After this, we participated in the No shave November campaign. We conducted the Scholarship program over Zoom in January. All the students as well as their parents were very happy after watching the Samiksha program. Mr. Gagan BS expressed his gratitude to Samiksha. He said 'your school not only provides education but also scholarships to these children. It's so good to hear their thoughts on how Samiksha has helped them,' he said. He continued that program is going very well and children are enjoying it from their individual homes. He thanked Samiksha for making this possible. I was very happy on hearing his words.

As part of our training, Ms. Srividya told us about making lesson plans. This helped us a lot in planning our classes. After this, our Samiksha -USky platform was launched. There is arts, crafts and storytelling on this and also USky has sessions on maths, science and English. It has courses in English for classes 1 to 10 and this helped us a lot.

In 2021, we started teaching children in NH hospital as well, as well as conducting classes using the USky and Meghshala apps.

Samiksha has even given tabs to the children. Due to this, it was easier for children to learn during lockdown. Harshitha, a 1st PUC student had a single phone at home and her sister too had online classes. So only one of them could attend classes at a time while the other had to miss. Thanks to the tablet sent by Samiksha, both can now attend their classes

We did not expect to learn so much in this one year. Corona has taught us all a good lesson this year. To help us realise all this, i would like to thank my friends in Samiksha. I will not be able to forget this past year.

Thanks





## PARVATHI K B, Teacher and librarian

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My name is Parvathi KB. For the last 11 years, i have been working as a school teacher at the Samiksha Learning Centre. I say this with a lot of happiness because of the kind of children and their parents that the school caters to. Due to the Corona virus in 2020, we were not able to go to school or see the children and their parents. School children should not be deprived of education. The organizers of Samiksha thought a lot about possible ways of continuing education for the children. In March 2020, classes via phone were started for 9th and 10th grade students. Akshay and Shailaja madam took the responsibility of educating these children. We found out what topics are difficult for the children as well as times convenient for them and arranged classes accordingly. The children were overjoyed as they were part of Team Samiksha. The parents were happy too. All the children secured high grades and we all were very happy with this. From 10th standard, Siyanath, Harshitha, Yunus Pasha secured first ranks. A big thankyou to Samiksha for helping educate such children.

As some of the 10th standard children didn't have phones, they took lot of trouble to teach them. Some kids had only basic phones. They used to learn lessons with the help of other children's phones. When we teachers opined that they might find it very difficult to learn this way in PUC, coordinators arranged tabs for 23 students. As those children couldn't come from far, they were sent through courier or post.

In 2021, we are planning to provide education to kids of 8th, 9th, 10th, 1st and 2nd PUC. We have heard words of praise for Samiksha from the children and their parents, and we are very proud of this. We identify worthy students from 8th grade until degree for our scholarships program. We have been providing scholarships to them since the last 5 years and they are very happy. Divya, a degree student called up crying after she received the money in her account. "Samiksha has helped me a lot in my troubles. A big thank



you from my family and me to Samiksha ", she said. Such incidents give us a lot of mental satisfaction and we are very happy with Samiksha learning center's achievements. We teach Kannada and English lessons through apps like Meghshala and USky to kids from class 1 to class 10 on the tabs we have provided for them. It is very convenient for children to study their lessons this way. In spite of Corona coming to our country, we have continued education of these kids in this manner.

Samiksha is also providing education to children in Narayana hospital. Thank you to Samiksha team for providing education for these children.

Yours Parvathi ... Thank you everyone



# AMBIKA CHANDRASHEKAR, Storyteller expert

My name is Ambika Chandrashekar, working in Samiksha Foundation from past 12 years. I used to visit Kapur ward in Kidwai hospital every Tuesday and used to tell stories and tales which were inspiring, which used to help kids to say positive and motivated towards life.

I used to feel very happy when children showed up despite having so much pain. They were very enthusiastic and used to actively participate in all the activities like puppet making, storytelling, games and even yoga. We also celebrate birthdays of the children in Kidwai, which they enjoy a lot and we also try as much as possible to make them feel homely.

I even used to Narayan Hrudayalaya which come under our organization. We are very happy to give out service to our kids.

Due to corona virus, we stopped going to Kidwai and NH, but we also found a way to interact with all the kids. We have created an application through which we can teach and interact with children. I am also very proud to tell that during this pandemic we have helped many 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard students who gave their board exams and I am happy to say that they all passed with flying colors.

In 2021, we came up with tech to teach initiative where we provided tablets to 23 students who are studying in class 9 to 12. With that, as every year, we gave scholarships to 67 young cancer warriors.

I feel extremely privileged to work in such a great institution. I feel extremely motivated to do such kind of work when I see my colleges and all the volunteers. I would like to thank Samiksha Foundation for giving me this opportunity.



# VALLI NARASIMHA, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

"Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you've lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that's good."- Elizabeth Edwards

March 2020 onwards was a new dawn for us across the Globe as Covid-19 made its presence known forcefully. Healthcare workers toiled relentlessly, lives were lost, many recovered against odds and forged forward to help others cope. Life had a makeover of sorts. Things no longer were done the way they used to be done earlier.



For us at Samiksha Foundation too, we had to go back to the drawing board more seriously, since April 2020. May-June saw us getting a grip on the change in our (physical) work environments or rather absence of it, and once the lockdown was lifted, we resumed work at our Centre of Excellence (our office)- a temple for learning for the team from June 2020. Skill upgradation was the need of the hour for the team.

Catching up with the developments in the field of education was the focus, looking at ways to engage with our not so tech savvy and not very privileged students (who had poor to nil access to technology-be it devices or even internet connectivity) was what drove us to find solutions to such challenges. The rapport built by the teachers and volunteers in a physical environment had to be re-established in a way, in the virtual space. But then the team has always risen up and dealt with such challenges!

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." -Oscar Wilde

When I look back on the interactions, at the way the volunteers made time for these students- more so now that they were also working from home and much longer hours and literally through the week, we were not at all surprised that in spite of the tight schedules they had, they still managed to find time to teach these children, with all the limitations on hand.

Covid times also helped us connect to new people- aggregators who place volunteers with different organizations as well as volunteers from different parts of the country!

This past year has seen eight new volunteers join the education volunteers' group, planning to be with us for the long haul, bringing in their passion, wanting to make a difference. We continue to have batches of interns from high schools; there have been employees of corporates pitching in as part of various Volunteering projects- contributing their time and efforts to help with creating academic content, translating academic content available in English into vernacular languages, helped with in kind donations, especially devices for the students to use, etc.

Then there is our joy when the Samiksha alumni - especially the Scholarship awardees- call to ask how we are doing and sharing their achievements with us.

This year too, the mentoring of the SSLC students who would be appearing for the board exams soon (expected to be in June 2021) is being done virtually. Those in their I PUC (last year's SSLC students) having taken up Science, Arts and Commerce streams, continue to be mentored remotely by our volunteers in addition to some of the Scholarship awardees, who are pursuing their 2nd PUC. We wish all these students the very best!

By the time this report goes into print, we have been hit hard by the 2nd wave of the Covid pandemic but we are not letting it dampen our spirits...we are looking to accept a new normal when things settle and continue to work together to make a difference for not only these children but also for us. Diverging a bit from the motto of Samiksha Foundation- "The pursuit of knowledge is key to OUR pursuit of happiness."



# AMRITHKALA G PAI, Accounts Manager

A recent report published by National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) estimates that the number of cancer cases is likely to increase from 13.9 lakh in 2020 to 15.7 lakh by 2025, an increase of nearly 20%. However, the one good thing is that at least one-third of common cancers are preventable. According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), which said that one in 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime and one in 15 will die of the disease- a statistic put on the back burner and taken

lightly by people many a times. Samiksha Foundation aims to bring this forward to create more awareness.

I've been part of this Foundation for about a year and a half now and it's been a wonderful journey. Even though we are based in one city- Bengaluru, the Samiksha team pushes to reach out to more and more



deserving and heroic children and their strong parents. And to make a difference, feels great!

With our success in Samiksha Learning Centres at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, and Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Center, Narayana Health city, I've had the opportunity to connect with these children which was a fulfilling experience for me as I came back home with not only memories but also some valuable lessons.

As part of 2020, we hosted a month-long "No Shave November" campaign to spread cancer awareness and with the funds collected, we were able to add technology into education. This was a great move from our Founder, Director and team in an era where children learn to use smartphones before they learn to walk. This proved to be an essential part of life during such tough Covid-19 times. With this, we were able to reach out to these children seamlessly and assist them with everyday learning.

All this wouldn't have been possible without the support and love of all our donors and a sincere thanks to all of you. I feel really happy to be part of this lovely team.

Hoping for the Best, Amrithkala G Pai.

# EXCERPTS OF SPEECHES BY GUESTS AT THE SAMIKSHA SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM SERIES 5 VIRTUAL EVENT - 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

Note on the Samiksha Scholarships Program- Ar. Sandhya Sharad- Founder, Samiksha Foundation-available at: <u>https://youtu.be/xp72Dz\_yfy4</u>

Mr. Vijay Bhat - Author of "My Cancer is Me" -Cancer Coach and Counsellor, Cancer Awakens (The complete address is available at: <u>https://youtu.be/vnRxp1NI424</u>)

A big thank you to Sandhya for inviting me to be part of your very special event. I have known Sandhya for many years now and I have seen how she and her team have really grown, and matured, and developed and taken Samiksha Foundation to so many wonderful heights. I receive your newsletters and I really enjoy seeing what a wonderful impact that she and her team are making, so Sandhya thank you for inviting me.

I would like to celebrate and applaud all the teachers of the Samiksha Foundation, all the doctors and the administrators from the various hospitals who support this amazing initiative, and the parents of the children who participate in these programs. I know from my own experience-I had colon cancer 20 years ago, and I know that the only thing harder than having cancer yourself, is to see your child having cancer, and so I applaud and commend all those parents who are here today for the amazing journey that all of you have embarked upon, and finally I would like to celebrate and congratulate and applaud all the students who have been part of the program and who are going to receive their scholarships today. You have no idea how much you inspire me... how much you inspire all of us by what you are doing, so I just wanted to start my little 3-minute talk by congratulating all of you.

Sandhya asked me to speak about not just survivorship but what she called positive survivorship, and I liked that phrase a lot, in fact I don't call myself a cancer survivor... I like to call myself a cancer thriver, and the reason why I do that is because the word survivor, to me, is inadequate to describe the attitude that all of you have..... My work today is to help individuals and families take that journey from being victims in some cases to being survivors and then finally to becoming thrivers.

I would also like to say that particularly for children, because education is such an important thing and cancer can be such a difficult illness to deal with-both in terms of your treatments and in terms of your



physical, emotional needs etc.- that keeping the educational track going alongside your medical condition is very challenging, and I feel as if organizations like Samiksha are doing a marvellous job to make sure that as you are growing and maturing, your education does not suffer; in fact, your education is growing... it is developing just in the way that you are growing and developing...

Fr. Lancy Pereira the Principal of my college, and somebody who I greatly admired then, but he is also an expert on holistic and integrated approaches to cancers, as a PhD, as a microbiologist, as a life science expert from Cornell university in the USA, he is an educator and he is an expert, and he is the one who actually put me on the path to say that your cancer experience has value not only to you and to your family, but you can take your cancer experience and make it of value to others.

And so, for the last 20 years, alongside my own healing and alongside my own development, we have tried very hard to make sure that other people can also benefit from what we have learned, what we have researched, what kind of programs that we conduct- the awareness programs that we conduct etc. I would also like to point out to you that if you take the right kind of attitude just like you respect and admire all your teachers, I invite you to consider cancer to be a teacher as well. Just think about all the challenges that cancer has placed in your path... just think about all the challenges that you have become as a result of facing and dealing with this disease.

So in my work, and in our work, the way we look at cancer is to think of cancer as a teacher, to think of cancer as an adversity that we have to deal with but we can deal with it with courage, we can deal with it with fortitude, we can deal with it with the support of our parents, our families, our teachers all of those who are supporting us. But most importantly, cancer teaches us to draw upon our inner resources, not just the outer resources. I heard about the scholarships, I heard about the infrastructure, I heard about the curriculum, I know all the wonderful activities that you do those are all extremely important. But the message I would like to leave behind with you which is really about positive survivorship and Sandhya said is to learn how to draw inspiration from within yourself, and how you can take your own cancer journey and make it relevant and valuable and inspiring for others.

So, with that I would like to close my opening remarks. Once again, I congratulate all of you for your achievements, for your scholarships... I congratulate the Samiksha team, Sandhya, the teachers and everybody and with that I will hand over back to the Emcee to take this session further thank you very much.

# Dr. Sunil Bhat - Director and HOD-Pediatric Oncology and Hematology, Narayana Health City. (the complete speech is available at: <u>https://youtu.be/wB682IE1Y38</u>)

Good evening...Thank you for the lovely introduction. I just heard a term, cancer thrivers. I used to call them cancer warriors, but I think cancer thriver is probably a better term. Thank you, Mr. Bhat, for introducing that term today. So, all the cancer thrivers, dear parents, wonderful team Samiksha, and more importantly the volunteers and teachers, my co-panelists Mr. Vijay, we just heard insightful thoughts from him, Dr. Ramachandra, Dr. Kishore Murthy, Dr Appaji, and Dr. Linge Gowda and others on the panel, I extend you warm greetings from Narayana health city, Bangalore.

I'm very excited today that I have been part of the journey with Samiksha for the last few years. As we just heard I think this program is also coming prelude to a very important day that we celebrating on the 15th of February, where there is going to be the International childhood cancer day celebration. Sometimes people asked why celebration with cancer, but we are not celebrating cancer, we are celebrating the survivors- which was just highlighted very nicely by Mr. Bhat. It is one of the unmet needs which Samiksha has tried to address.

When I used to work abroad and when I came back, I think what I realized early on in my career, is that we are too focused on treatments, which is important. I think to deliver treatments and to cure the

children is the prime goal of all the treatment units, but what we forget, I think, is that there is lots we have to pay and all. We know that 80-85 children now can be cured of cancer, I use the word cure not control. When we do that there are other aspects- there is a lot of costs that these children and their families have to pay, not only physical, mental, emotional, financial, as well as the hit they take on their education which is both academic as well as non-academic or non-formal. I think this gap is something which we still are very, I would say, addressing it in a very small way- it is a huge task, for the country of our size to address for all the children who are fighting this and overcoming this dreaded disease.

I think in that context, I really appreciate Samiksha and the efforts they have taken, first of all in identifying this unmet need, and also in the efforts they have been putting in all these years in addressing that. I should congratulate them, not because of the academic, corporal education they are delivering, and letting none of these children lose their years because of this treatment, which takes months and years. By the time you finish this treatment, you may be already two or three years behind your peers, and I think that itself is a big setback- an emotional setback, a psychological set back to these children, so I think keeping them on track, academically, I think what has been the prime moto of Samiksha, which is something that is really appreciable, but I think more than that what they have done knowingly or unknowingly, is that they have addressed a lot of psychosocial and psycho-emotional aspects of this.

There is a lot, I would say, non-academic activities which happen. Some of them are planned, and I would say some of them probably are not planned, but they deliver the outcome. It is so good to have the children sitting together in the classroom chit chatting with each other, the families coming together, sharing their good experiences and bad experiences. That by itself really brings moral up, and I just need to confess that since we have started this program, I think our treatment abandoned rates have really come down, otherwise, you know, treatment abandonment in India is a huge concern. Once you start treatment, the families will start falling off. They would, after few weeks or a few days, they would stop coming the hospitals because, you know, these are not good, placed experiences. I think with that I really need to confess that with just with a simple intervention like this we see more parents sticking together, more children completing their treatments. The so-called older parents or older children, who have been in treatments for a longer time, coming forward and supporting the other new-diagnosed children and their families. So, it's a great contribution in the lives of these children, their families, and also helping us-the treating centres who are busy getting the treatments done and sometimes have other constraints-financial, others, to address, at least we don't have to worry about one of the aspects which is education, which is really beautifully taken care of.

You know I think hard times throw challenges at you and make you stronger, as Mr. Bhatt already mentioned. I think one of things I have observed in children is that they definitely, once they are survivors, they are definitely better children, they are better human beings. I think that is something which has been researched and published, they are probably better and more resourceful components of the society as they have come true these hard times, I think that potential of theirs needs to harnessed and exploited for them to emerge as meaningful and important components of society later. I think Covid also showed and taught us a few lessons. Although it has been a drearily in 2020, I think this platform for example, at our homes we are all witnessing this, I am not sure in a physical meeting how many of us would have actually made an attempt to come and attend this program. I think what came up in 2020 again from the Samiksha Foundation, this brilliant idea of the digital leaning. I think the outreach of this program would be immense. When we address the children and the hospitals it is just the tip of the iceberg, because sometimes, most of the time, they may be at home they be out of the station, whatever you do physical education is still a challenge. I think having a digital platform is still going to address that gap but also have more and more child in the fold with limited resources, which you know Samiksha has or which anyone else would probably have. I think it is great step forward, so I congratulate Samiksha, Sandhya, for thinking of about it and having a great technical support team who I had a glimpse of a few weeks



ago. It seems to be wonderful, and more importantly it has been brought out in multiple language, I think which is going to be phenomenal, probably one of the best such kind of courses offered anywhere in the world.

Again, as I said, beyond academics and beyond education, the thought processes of Samiksha especially in the context of scholarships is a great idea. At the end of the day, we are dealing with resource limited settings we are dealing with challenged families who have not only come from economically challenged backgrounds, but at the same time probably spend their lifetime's earning and savings on this treatment which goes for months and years together. I think these scholarships are not only economic help for these children and their families, but also an element of reward or motivation that if we do well and we excel in our studies we will definitely be recognized and supported by Samiksha. I think this a great step towards that, and I am really surprised with this number, which is 67 this year, and I remember a couple years back when I attended the scholarship program it was a couple of dozens, now it has swollen up to 67.

I would also like to take this opportunity, on the behalf of Samiksha, to al the donors and philanthropist who have really made this possible and are donating to keep this mission and activity alive. Last but not the least, as I said, whether knowingly or unknowingly they are other aspects where Samiksha has king of helped us and the families- Samiksha on New year's eve and Christmas, I thinks some of the pictures are also shown on the slide show, conducted a small program where we went around and distributed gifts to the children, the gifts were, you know, modest gifts, but I could see the smiles on the children and the families, they were so excited when we entered the room with these goodies in our hands, so I think that even the small gestures can really make such a difference. What is really tells these children is that there is someone thinking about you, there is someone who is concerned about you there is someone who is not only interested in what chemotherapies you get and you know all these nasty dugs being given to you, and the nasty injections being given to you, but there are people who care about you- people who treat you as people and humans and not as patients, so I think that has been again a great contribution, and I am really glad that I am have been given this platform to talk to all of you.

We will continue to engage with Samiksha, and we will try to make the mission stronger and stronger in the years to come. Thank you again and thank you from all of us- from all the parents and children we have been looking after because I think those emotions and those elements of happiness might be very difficult to express in words, so thank you again and thank you for giving me this opportunity today.

#### Dr. Lingegowda KB - Former Director of KMIO (https://youtu.be/jWh5e8STIp4)

#### Namaste

I am extremely happy to speak about Samiksha Foundation who has been organizing several functions for the cancer affected children; and specially, other NGOs take part in feeding, providing drugs, providing clothes, and other needy things...but whereas Samiksha Foundation specially for the kids to continue their education and the scholarship program which they have been doing is excellent. In fact, I have quoted about these activities wherever I have gone outside the country. I wish Samiksha Foundation all the best in the coming years.

# Mr. Yajna Narayana Kammaje - Philanthropist and guest speaker (the complete speech is available at: <u>https://youtu.be/xK9dhZm3IIo</u>)

Thanks Dr. Manjari for calling to a unique function of this kind. For an entrepreneur and engineer this is unique because we don't generally see everyday doctors and patients every day as you people are. What Mother Teresa was doing with the TB patients in Kolkata is probably what Samiksha Foundation is doing a bit for the children of the Cancer institutes. Manjari approached me 3-4 years back saying that this is the kind of organization we are running, and as is well I have been associated with many organizations,

so I have done a small bit of it ....

I am happy that technology and innovation and the doctors, oncologists, are involved in this whole process. In the whole world, now today, it is not a very big disease it looks like and I know many people, like Dr. Bhatt said, who have survived and lived for many years happily, like Dr. Sunil was telling that you know after the cancer they are more confident and more fighting for social injustice, more confident people because they have come to a life saying that nothing can screw me up and even, I won cancer. So, this kind of attitude building, and happy living has been done and I visited the Samiksha foundation classes in Kidwai hospital where Dr. Linge Gowda was the director. Samiksha foundation is doing a wonderful job to the children and I am so happy that the missed number of years of education is made good by people teaching them.

The teaching alone is not a great thing, but it is the confidence that the children get with the teaching. I think that it is a great service that one can do because in back of the mind you are giving them and saying that we have somebody to back me up. I think as doctor was telling that the boy or girl who comes out of this disease, fighting this disease, will be a very good citizen in the society because you would have gone through the pleasure and pain- how to focus the pleasure and pain.

I continue to support the Samiksha foundation. Giving 67 people the scholarship of 10000 rupees is quite a big sum, and then probably you have a direct donation collection methodology. If anything can help, I did not know that it is a very big affair like this, but I can connect to people who are doing this kind of thing. I read the story of Samiksha, the 6-year-old girl, who has given this brilliant idea of starting this total trust, I wish the trust would become a big organization to help this kind of people. I was also going through some things and found that 38 to 40 people per million are the cancer patients- children patients. This means that 40,000 to 50,000 children in this country are cancer patients, so there is a big task actually.

Thank you very much for calling me, I will continue to associate with you, I will try my best to support the Samiksha foundation in the years to come. Thank you very much.

# Mr. Naveen Kumar – Alumnus of Samiksha Foundation Learning Centre at KMIO (the complete speech is available at: <u>https://youtu.be/hLOts1KTFKY</u>)

...My relationship with Samiksha is a decade old. In 2010 I was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia what is commonly called as blood cancer. In the initial days it was tough for me but with Samiksha, I liked my schooling days they were amazing like it was very easy for me to go back then. Samiksha is playing a major role for students, few people call it as an institution, few people call it as a school, some people consider as a life-changing place.

So Samiksha is a unique and rare organization and with the scholarship program also being given to the students, it is very beneficial for them. I was also a recipient of the scholarship back then...so I want to give a small message to students, also so many want to pursue higher education they have a clear set goal or many of them will not have clear goals but I see many who want to pursue engineering or be a doctor so what I personally have believed all these days is that if you believe that you can or cannot you are always right....so if you think you can then you will be doing that thing and if you think that you cannot do that it will never be possible... personally like to tell students to think always positively.

Currently I am working as an associate software developer in a software Corporation, so it's been almost a decade... it was wonderful time from then to here so I would like to thank Samiksha for all the things what have given me and I'm grateful to be part of Samiksha. Thank you



# **VOLUNTEERS SPEAK**



#### Dr. Shailaja R-

This is to share my experience teaching the kids in Kapur ward right from July 2019 to February 2020 and we both-myself and my husband-had taught the children whatever we could...so it was an experience of a different kind because I have been teaching for long time but teaching these children was a treat you can say in a way and we also learnt a lot, because they taught us many things which we take for granted in our lives...and it was a wonderful teaching experience and so I think it was a great

opportunity mainly more than anything.

Every day was different, every time it was different because we were teaching different people-different kids. We were meeting the parents now and then and could see how human resilience and strength comes from within; we interacted with them also. So, on the whole the Samiksha Foundation gave us this opportunity of course, but they had organised everything very well...they still have... and we hope to continue. Let's not think that we have done it yet.

Coming to the initiative to try to help the SSLC kids just going into the exam- even that was a very good thought and the children I think benefited a lot from the last run up. I taught two of them -one was Pasha and the other was Ashwini, she was a flower seller's young child and his father was a trucker; and he had the great dreams of going into the diploma. So, they were very focused and clear about what they wanted to learn from me, what their doubts were. So it was, I guess, a great thing and a good initiative, and more power to Samiksha for all the initiatives and more power to the organizers; and I wish that we will continue this good work for many more years.



#### Anjum Khan-

"Teaching SSLC students over phone (No Smartphone) and cross language subjects was a roller coaster experience". After multiple swap requests, I was finally given 3 students to teach- Jyoti (Social studies-kannada medium), Siyanath (maths-Urdu medium) and Shekar (Hindi-kannada medium). Little did I know that we will face so many challenges on our way, but nevertheless we could joyfully tackle it.

Talking about the experience with each student:

Siyanath- She is a bright child and needed help with Maths studying in Urdu medium. I assumed that I was supposed to teach her mathematics in Urdu vocal, but to my surprise the text was also in Urdu which I could barely read and understand. So, I decided to understand the chapters by referring to English version of the text book and explain the problems in Urdu. But the major challenge was to get the keywords right like for triangle it is "Maslas" in Urdu. I tried to get as much help as I could from my mother, but both of us have studied in English medium though we can read Urdu but Mathematics Urdu Jargons were literally bouncing on the head. With no Smartphone, I had to adopt some fun ways to explain maths verbally by having the Urdu dictionary open. The best reward of this funny journey was Siyanath's outstanding score in Maths-76!

Shekhar- This was the most challenging teaching experience where I had to teach this student Hindi who is from Kannada medium and does not know to read or write Hindi forget about understanding the language. I literally did not know where to start or rather how to teach Hindi in kannada language. Some basic teaching on the alphabets and translation of the chapters where he wrote the words in kannada. We actually could manage only simple chapters and poems because it was difficult with bad network connection and for a student with no interest in the subject it was difficult to get his attention during the entire call duration as it was one-sided conversation. But I am glad he passed with 53 marks!!



Jyothi- She is also a very bright student who did her own studies except for a few history chapters where she needed the help. I had to literally upgrade myself from basic Kannada speaking to advance vocabulary so that I could explain her Portugal invasion :P, What a conversation that was :D. As she did not have a phone to herself, it was difficult to adjust the timings based on her father's availability which was a blocker. But her scores were also impressive (88%).

Overall, it was a learning experience that made me realise that teaching out of comfort zone is the real teaching. Thanks to Samiksha for this great opportunity. I hope we work on all the shortcomings and help the students better.

# **OUR CHILDREN'S VOICES- Reflections of a few SSP 5 Awardees:**

(the reflections are available at: <a href="https://youtu.be/2RIpNqMIFqE">https://youtu.be/2RIpNqMIFqE</a> -00:00-5:05, 14:40-28:07)

#### Archana

Hi. I am Archana. I was admitted in Kidwai hospital for 7 months. Samiksha Foundation helped me a lot in many ways when I was admitted in hospital. They were making me to learn. Even though when I'm discharged from hospital, they're still helping me by providing a scholarship which is useful for paying a college fee. I'm very thankful for them and they're doing a very good job which inspired me a lot. Thank you, Samiksha Foundation, for providing a scholarship amount and making me to learn.

#### Geetha (translated from Kannada)

My name is Geetha, staying in Ram Teertha, Chittapura Taluk, Kalburgi district. There are five members in our house, four sisters and a brother. I am the eldest of all.

In the beginning there was just a growth which seemed to increase in size, but there was no fever. The doctors told me to go to Kalburgi. The doctors in Kalburgi said that operation was necessary and said it would cost one lakh rupees but they never gave us any hope. Later, we went to Solapur where all the tests were done and the doctors mentioned it may be cancer...asked us to go to either Mumbai or Bangalore. As we knew Bangalore really well, we came to Kidwai hospital and got admitted where I was introduced to Dr. Appaji and other doctors, who took good care of me.

Samiksha has helped me from the day I came to Kidwai. The teachers were really helpful. I was able to learn English and other subjects as well. I joined Kidwai when I was in the 9th standard. Later when I came to 10th standard, it was really hard for me to cope with my studies. But Samiksha helped me to study and understand all the concepts and I was able to pass 10th with flying colours.

Currently I am in my 2nd year of B.A and I have a goal to become a KAS officer. Right now, I am trying to clear KPSC.

#### Abhishek TM (translated from Kannada)

My name is Abhishek TM. When I was not keeping well, and I got admitted to Kidwai hospital I felt very pained in my mind. That day in the Kapur ward I saw the Samiksha school. My mother and grandmother were very happy. "From that day my son was cheerful and would almost run to the school to watch the picture stories, do yoga and play all happily so we hardly felt we were in a hospital"

His mother adds "As of today, he (Abhishek) is studying by himself in class 9<sup>th</sup>. I am very keen as a mother that he studies MBBS and it would be of utmost joy to me. We offer Samiksha Foundation our gratitude,"

#### Akshatha (translated from Kannada)

Before I came to the hospital, I used to repeatedly get fever. I was good at my studies. I used to get the First or Second rank. We showed it to several hospitals. In my hometown it was not possible to find any cause for the condition... Then at the Victoria hospital they did a check-up and they sent me to Kidwai



Hospital. At that time, things became rather hard for me. As time passed, I told myself to realize that my treatment was no different from any of the others. Then I took heart.

There is a vast difference between the life before treatment and after taking treatment. That is so because after having been through such hardships - to make it to a better stage is undoubtedly and truly an achievement. If I have something to tell other such children – then it is this that – take your injections, medicines and with the treatment a new world opens for you –these words will give you courage. At that time Samiksha Foundation was of great help to me.

Along with the treatment I made it a practice to continue my reading. The goals of Samiksha Foundation are that children should not be kept away from learning during their stay for treatment in a hospital. I received support to attend studies in college from Sandhya Mam and learnt self-discipline from her.

#### Ashwini (translated from Kannada)

My name is Ashwini. When I got cancer, I was studying in class VI. From 2014 to 2016 I used to get fever often. When we came to know that I had cancer everyone at home was terribly upset. I was taking treatment while being based temporarily in Kidwai Hospital. Then I was shifted to Kapur Ward. There all the Doctors took good care and started the treatment. Dr Appaji used to come and visit the ward twice every day. At first while taking treatment I had to struggle to keep my hopes up. But taking medicines following Dr Appaji's instructions and eating the fruits he told- my health started looking up.

The children all were going to Samiksha Foundation's school. I feared of going at first. I did not attend the first two days. On the third day I began to attend, and I liked it a lot. In the morning at 10 o'clock the Textbooks for the class which we were attending were given to us. We attended for nine months without fail. The teachers there taught us very well. Crafts, yoga, making drawings -Samiksha Foundation helped us learn many things. We were so happy when we went to the class. We did not know about Birthdays and every month there were Birthdays of children celebrated.

I got a scholarship for two years of study, this assistance was the sole means of support for my studies. The first year I bought books, medicines, and fees. In the second year I was studying my SSLC, I took a Tab and that came in handy for online classes. Right now, I am studying in Mysore at the CTC Polytechnic College in the First Year Diploma.

#### Deekshitha (translated from Kannada)

When I was studying In Class V... I had a growth in my neck. We showed it to a doctor in a private hospital in Mysore who referred us to Kidwai Centre in Bengaluru. We took admission in the Kapur ward. I was very fearful. In my ward all the children were small children – I took courage on seeing them. In the Kapur ward the Doctor visited 3 times a day to review us and gave us good care. Dr Appaji there visited us once a day and when he was with us, we believed that we were as good as cured – that's how we felt. I took treatment from 2010 to 2012.Now I am studying BCom. in the BGS Nagamangala College.

While I was taking treatment, all the children used to sit together and sing songs... At that time, I went to school after 3 to 4 days. I was able to learn so many activities during that time. The teachers cared for us very well and I was taught the lessons of Class V. Those learnings are even now as useful to me. They also held a birthday celebration for me for two years – I was so delighted.

I got a scholarship twice! I used the amount of the first one to pay for my College fees. The second year I bought College books and paid my fees with the scholarship. During the times when money was difficult, help was given by the Samiksha Team for which I am very thankful.

#### Umra Tabassum (translated from Kannada)

At first, I used to be feeling very tired. So, we went to a hospital nearby where they asked us to go to Kidwai for more check-ups. Then I was admitted there, nobody was telling me what I had. My friend told me that



it was a certain kind of disease. Then when I asked my mother, she said that "we didn't tell you because you would be scared." In the ward there were many small children. I was the only one older than all of them then, I was studying in class X.

For me at that time, Samiksha Foundation was very helpful in my reading, writing, listening to stories, and playing games. Later I wrote the class Xth exam, passed and now I am in the second year of PUC. In the future I hope to be in a software – 'Wipro' like company as an employee or a manager and getting to work there is what appeals to me.

#### Mohd. Niyaz (translated from Kannada)

Greetings to all. My name is Mohd. Niyaz, I study in Ist PUC, my native place is in HD Kote taluk, Mysore District. The first time I was in Kidwai hospital, I was so scared on seeing the place, the people...then in 2016 I was admitted the first time to the Kapur Ward. i got admitted in the morning...and later, people from Samiksha came. They spoke to my parents and asked them to send me to the school there. I joined the school and being there with other children and the learning lessons-all of it made me forget my fear and panic within.

Then in 2019, I got a scholarship of Rupees Ten Thousand from Samiksha for the first time. With that I was able to buy books, and other things necessary for my school. Then I got one more scholarship in 2020. This time when I came to the hospital, the check-up showed the blood levels in my body were down so I used the money for the blood ...

So, the Samiksha scholarship is very useful to me. To the Samiksha Foundation - the staff there and everybody, I wish to express my thanks ...

#### Harish Mallapa (translated from Kannada)

My name is Harish Mallapa, my native place is Bagalkot. When I was admitted to Kidwai I used to attend Samiksha's school. I got so much help for my education. There were so many books – syllabus books which i needed, story books, they also got us to do drawings - it really helped me.

I needed a scholarship to study and they have provided it. I am really thankful for Samiksha's support and hope to continue my efforts with their help.

#### Yashaswini C (translated from Kannada)

Greetings to everybody. My name is Yashaswini C. My native place is near Mandya – MG Layout. When I was 3 years old, I had many health problems – we showed it to places in Mandya – then we came to Bangalore, Kidwai hospital. Here they gave me good medical treatment. Appaji Sir, Aruna Mam, Kavita Mam – All took good care. There when I was taking treatment, I was a tiny child of 3 or 4 years. So then at the Samiksha Foundation school, Chitra Mam showed us pictures, taught rhymes. From there I completed my treatment, now I am home.

I am now at Kaveri High school, studying in the 9th standard. Samiksha Foundation has told that they will be giving a scholarship. This would be really helpful for my education and otherwise too. I thank the teachers of Samiksha Foundation and all here – Thanks...

#### Revathi (translated from Kannada)

My name is Revathi. When I was in class VII, I was admitted to Kidwai Hospital. There was a school there run by the Samiksha Foundation. I used to go there daily. At the school there was storytelling, songs and yoga and many things. In the school there was Parvathi Ma'am, Vidya Ma'am ...all of them helped me so much.

Now I am getting a scholarship and from that I am paying my fees, it's really useful to me. Like this I hope that the support continues and I request the same. I thank Samiksha Foundation – everyone there for all their help.



#### Jitendra (translated from Kannada)

I am Jitendra. We are four of us at home. When I was in class IV, I used to get fever often and pain in my legs. Then I went to Harihar and took treatment for two months. but I didn't get better. Then back at my place, a person who worked at Kidwai hospital told us to go there so we came to Kidwai and first took treatment for 15 days...and then 6 months. There the doctors looked after us really well – and they were so affectionate. Samiksha taught us to read and do drawings and we also attend magic shows. It made me really happy.

So now I am fine, I am at my native place and I do go to school – I study in class IX ...and you're giving the scholarship helps me pay my school fees and school bag and uniform – all this is from the assistance of the scholarship.

#### Siyanath Desai (translated from Hindi)

I was finding it difficult to cope with the online classes during the Covid time and was unable to attend the assisted learning sessions conducted by Samiksha volunteer Dr. Shailaja. Then I got a pleasant surprise when I received my scholarship award in early January. I also got a tablet to help with lessons. I am very thankful to Samiksha Foundation. The only phone that was in the house was with my father who would be away from home for long hours. Now I have my own device to learn and study and reach out to Samiksha Teachers.

# **CARETAKERS' VOICES – (Translated) reflections of Caregivers at SSP 5:**

(the reflections in Kannada are available at: <u>https://youtu.be/2RIpNqMIFqE</u> - 5:06-14:39)

#### Meenakshi- mother of Tejas Kumar (Tejas is a scholarship recipient since the 1<sup>st</sup> series)

Namaskara! My name is Meenakshi. Tejas Kumar is my son's name. Since the age of six he had some health issues so we came to Kidwai Hospital and got admitted to Kapur Ward. There we were taken good care of by Dr Appaji – he helped us on all matters- health and wellbeing of the child.

In the year 2009, a group called Samiksha started activities of a voluntary nature for the welfare of the kids...they looked into education, health, games and other ways of encouraging the children. I thank Sandhya Aunty for this. To the teachers – Vidyavathi and Parvathi and Manjari Aunty, I convey my thanks.

Samiksha Foundation, for the children's educational needs and to compensate the parent's expenses towards their education etc., started a scholarship scheme which is proving very useful to all and also gives some measure of relief to the parents. So once again on behalf of all of us, I express my sincere thanks to Samiksha.

#### Sarvamangala- mother of Sneha (Sneha is a scholarship recipient in the 5<sup>th</sup> series)

Namaskara! I am Sarvamangala, I came to Kidwai in 2000 March with my daughter who had leukemia – her name's Sneha, she was in class IV then. It was the month of March when her school exams were to be held so it was an odd time to be visiting the hospital to attend to her health. Here the Doctors made all arrangements for her chemotherapy. We were there in Kidwai for roughly 7 ½ months ...and on one side we were concerned that my daughter would be simply losing a year of her schooling and besides we were disturbed as to why she had to be unfortunate to face this at such a tender age... was it something we had neglected or whether something about ourselves that went against us...and even a regret of perhaps not realizing that her treatment could have started a year before- these nagging questions in the back of our mind were deeply troubling .

So, in all this here at Kidwai, Samiksha Foundation's help meant so much. Our daughter was then in class IV and was just the right age to be in class V which didn't happen due to her illness (which remained a disappointment) ... Samiksha there had established a school and created an environment just like a school... and they gathered all the children and gave them a bridge learning facility, giving the children a



positive feeling, and get the students to come out of the hospital environment Besides they discovered the talents in each child and gave the right need-based support. Also, they have a system where scholarships are provided ...and we are ever obliged to them.

For 7 ½ months, there used to be injections radiation, chemotherapy, and in that to have a school like place to divert the mind of children, to have so many activities suited to the children's needs. I always will owe them lifelong gratitude. There are so many children elsewhere like here. Samiksha has provided the children with the moral support, education and students funds, they give as the need arises – it could be financial means for parents who can't afford it, could be education support or the positive counselling to the child.

That Samiksha's goals are so noble is something which I thank them for, with all my heart. And as for myself, I do have a self-interest in this because I pray to God to give me the same spirit of service and the strength as Samiksha has- to help others and may Samiksha's presence last for a thousand years and for the sake of thousands of children whose life is made fulfilling by creating such an environment and to be the guiding light for them is what I would cherish.

My daughter is in class IX & in a few months she will complete IXth.it gives me such a joy to see her grow, from being then in class IV to now. I also thank all the teachers there – Parvathi Ma'am, Vidyavathi Ma'am all of them gave so much encouragement to my daughter. She's not forgotten the lessons, the syllabus. I pray that all of Samiksha's teachers, others, may have a long life and strength to continue their great work.

#### Bheema Prasad's Mother (Bheema Prasad has been a scholarship recipient since the 4<sup>th</sup> series)

My greetings to Samiksha Foundation. Samiksha foundation has benefitted so many, and in particular my son too, in studies – we availed help by way of a scholarship through Samiksha and again my sincere thanks here. Their scheme aided my child for his education and so many others too stand supported for their studies, health and wellbeing- all facilitated by Samiksha Foundation. I remain always obliged to them. I seek that they and Madam founder (of Samiksha) be endowed always with Health, Longevity and Plenty – wholeheartedly! You see it's a matter of immense joy to me - that my son overcame this ailment which was far from an ordinary thing – blood cancer! During this time, Samiksha has been a support.

I would want for Samiksha to flourish across the state, the country and all over the world. It's something to work towards. The foundation laid already, needs to be strengthened and it is God's own will that Samiksha's purpose here on earth is quite literally a miracle... In a world which craves for riches to outlast generations – they (Samiksha) are made differently. They are so much a part of Kidwai hospital, of Kapur ward and Samiksha's school are all one, here after.

Children, wherever in any corner of the country, they may be seeming to not matter to anyone and are left with barely a hope when diagnosed with cancer... I would like to express my genuine gratitude to those who established Samiksha foundation... who take up the purpose of supporting such children and their education.



# DONOR LIST – April 2020- March 2021

Donors list for FY April 2020-March 2021 includes corporates, businesses and individuals who have also made in kind donations.

Donors	Donors	Donors
Prashit G	Tasneen Khan	Tania singh Khosla
Ayushi Agarwal	Radhika Narayan	Naveen Kumar G
Lynette Leo	Madhuri V	Satishchandra R Trasi
Sourav Jain	SriKrishna	Shruthi
Chandra Kiran	Ashish Lingamaneni	Smitha T R
Nimisha Gupta	Manne Murali Krishna	Sandeep Pagey
Nikita Agrawal	Samrajym Mulpuri	Shruti Mohan Kondi
Harshil Seth	S. Devendra Rao	Chitra Vaidya
Prity Reddy	Priti Rao	Wg Cdr AK Vyas
Aditya Yadav	Dixit Ram	Global Calcium
Gunjan Agarwal	R Rao	Sudhindra J
Ashwini Menon	Gazal	Satish Krishnamurthy
Vandeeta Gupta	Supriya	Savita Subramanian
Smita Srivastava	Pankaj Gangal	Ravishankar Nanjundeswaran
Kirti Sinha	Nandikap	Parekatt Das
Rahul Gupta	Arati Arora	Daksheish Mehta
Kirti Garg	Suresh K P	Deepak
Shivani Bang	Shruthi Ashok	Arati Dar
Shubham Ganguly		
Nimisha's Friends	Ajay Kumar Bhatnagar Murali K R	Shashi Ashok Kumar Gupta Monica Vohra
Hunar Kaur Walia	Y Prem Kumar	
		Lalitha Dharmavaram
Kartik Voleti	Pankaj Narain	Roopa Ratnakar Kamath
Janaki Anant	Anandhi Ravichandran (Swaravedika)	Somnath Chattopaddhyay
Narayani Ramachandran	Sukeet B J	Swarup Ramachandra Sundaresh
Harsh Jain	Sunil Thampy	Deekshith H
Rajni Agarwal	V Venkata Subramanian	Srividya Viswanathan
Meet Chhagani	Aaradhya Rajesh	Jaya Narayan
Yatindra	Rajesh P V	Anish Shekar
(VSRADHAK) Deepa Radhakrishnan	Sudha	Dr Lakshminarayana KS
Girish J	Mohandas A V	Vijaya Lakshmi Ramesh
N Lavanya	Sandhya Rajesh	Narayan Partha
Mangilal Rathi.	Amruthaa Rajesh	Indus International School Pvt Ltd
Kalyani Ravishankar	Yajna Narayana K	Nasscom Foundation
Rohini DA	Kanishk Gupta	Accel Partners
Deepak Shivashankar	Chanchala P Acharya	The Himalaya Drug Company
Yelamanchili Satya Koteswara Rao	Jayaram G S	B S Hajela Education Trust
Satya Sai Divi	Vikram Dalal	Sunita Bery Memorial Trust
NSN-BrosOnWheelsOfficial –thru Milaap	Karthikeyan N	Arun Ayyavu
Sharanya Bhat Thonsay Raghavendra	Sumukh Thejappa	Tamanna Irshad
Suraj Nair	Sreeraj Nair	Aditya Sharad
Nancy Kapri	Vidya Gowdru Shankaramurthy	Shweta Ram
Hema Ananda Rao	Nivi Thiagarajan	Sivakumar G
Sangeeta	Nikhil Joshua D'Souza	Amanpreet Kaur
Vishwas Suryanarayana	In Kind- tabs by KPMG	Matching grants by GitHub, Adobe Inc. Happy Living, Microsoft, Apple, Google (source-BlueSnap) through The UK Online Giving Foundation

More Details and Names available on request.



# **MAKING A DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION**

If you haven't already given to the Foundation, please do consider supporting us now. For details please contact Dr. Manjari Bhatnagar or email us at <u>admin@samikshafoundation.org</u>

Visit our donate page on the website- <u>https://www.samikshafoundation.org/donate-page</u> for specific program(s) to donate for.

You can choose the activity or program that you want to support and choose the date on which this donation should be given through our NEFT facility with Axis Bank, Bangalore.

We have started a special Education Campaign – for Rs.2500/- per month per child.

We wish to secure at least 100 donors per month from this campaign. 75% of this will be used for the education of children admitted at hospital, 10 % will be kept to build a scholarship fund for surviving children who are doing higher studies and 10% to support the siblings of these children, 5 % for the administration of this campaign.

Trust registration Nos. under the Income Tax Act of 1961:

Our Certificate under section 12A R/w Section 12 AA (1) (b) (i) of the Income Tax Act 1961- NO: DIT(E)BLR12A/S-2338/AAJTS8922L/ITO(E)-3/Vol 2012 2013 DATED 10/4/2012 Pan No: AAJTS8922L

80G tax exemption certificate no: NO: DIT(E)BLR/80G/5/AAJTS8922L/ITO(E)-3/Vol 2012-2013 dated 10/04/2012

# <u>Our Bankers</u>

*Indian Donators*: Axis Bank – Bangalore Main Branch, MG Road, Bangalore Trust SB Account No. 909010035466397 | IFSC: UTIB000009

*Foreign Currency Donators*: State Bank of India - FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch, 11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001, India. Account Number: 40043329141 | IFSC: SBIN0000691 | SWIFT/BIC Code: SBININBB104

FCRA Donations through **Benevity causes** - through your employer's portal with the following details:

Organisation/cause name: Samiksha Foundation - Caring for Children with Cancer Project name: Education program for children with cancer

Your donation will be processed via the UK Online Giving Foundation, which will distribute the donation to Samiksha Foundation.

# **Office Address**

No.915, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Koramangala 6<sup>th</sup> Block, 80 Ft. Road, Bangalore 560095

Email:admin@samikshafoundation.org | happinessquotient@gmail.com

# **Our Auditors**

Vasudev Pai and Associates, S- 401/402, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore

Audit records and Balance sheets are available on request.



# SAMIKSHA FOUNDATION - CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER TRUST

#915, 80 Ft Road, Koramangala 6th Block, Bangalore - 560095

	DESCRIPTION	As a 31.03.2		As at 31.03.2019				
-		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs			
sou	RCE OF FUNDS							
A	Corpus Fund							
a)	Opening Balance	52,85,755	1	31,42,249				
	Add : Contribution towards Corpus	20,28,400		31,18,300				
	Add : Contribution towards Corpus - FCRA	-		4,52,353				
	Less : Scholarship Paid	(7,30,000)		(6,40,000)				
	Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	(9,81,975)		(7,87,147)				
			56,02,179		52,85,755			
b)	Current Liabilities							
	Creditors for Expenses	88,700		17,700				
			88,700		17,700			
			56,90,879	-	53,03,455			
APP	PLICATION OF FUNDS							
A	Fixed Assets - Schedule - A		33,695		46,173			
в	Current Assests							
	Cash in Hand	27,121		39,267				
	SB Account at Axis Bank - General	54,66.254		51,64,178				
	SB Account at Indian Bank - FCRA	46,460		988				
	Security Deposit - Rent	28,500		28,500				
	Advance Recoverable	63,499						
	Advance Tax & TDS	25,349	56,57,184	24,349	52,57,282			
*			56,90,879		53,03,455			
_	Notes on Accounts : Schedule - B				-			

Balance sheet as at 31.03.2020

For and on behalf of Board of Trustees

As per our report of even date for VASUDEV PAI & CO., Chartered Accountant Firm Registration No. 004560S

BANGALORE Trustee Founder/Trustee mulut any

J. Vasudura Par.

T VASUDEV PAI Proprietor M.No.020906 UDIN: 21020906AAAAAE1234

Place : Bangalore Date : : 30,12,2020

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# SAMIKSHA FOUNDATION - CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER TRUST

#915, 80 Ft Road, Koramangala 6th Block, Bangalore - 560095

DESCRIPTION	As 31.03		As on 31.03.2019			
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
INCOME	-					
Voluntary Contribution Received Voluntary Contribution Received - FCRA Interest Received from Bank	12,36,543 44,417	12,80,960 1,85,461 <b>14,66,421</b>	9,44,861 70,052	10,14,913 1,48,582 11,63,495		
EXPENDITURE						
<ul> <li>a Employee's Cost</li> <li>b Administrative Expenses</li> <li>c Awareness Programme Expenses</li> <li>d Birthday Party &amp; Events Expenses</li> <li>e Creative Play &amp; Activities Expenses</li> <li>f Education Programme Expenses</li> <li>g Spritiual Programme Expenses</li> <li>h Depreciation</li> </ul>	1,42,920 3,92,876 1,87,730 26,022 2,39,911 13,89,460 57,000 12,478	24,48,397	2,30,975 2,42,227 1,00,632 80,784 1,74,241 10,11,248 91,500 19,036	19,50,64		
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		(9,81,975)		(7,87,14		

# Income & Expenditure for the year ended 31.03.2020

For and on behalf of Board of Trustees ANGALORE Trustee Founder/Trustee \*

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As per report of even date for VASUDEV PAI & Co., Chartered Accountant Firm Registration No. 004560S

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T VASUDEV PAI Proprietor M.No.020906 UDIN : 21020906AAAAAE1234

Place : Bangalore Date : 30.12.2020

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#915, 80 Ft Road, Koramangala 6th Block, Bangalore - 560095

# Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31.03.2020

NPart Querter Hor		To Creditors for Expenses	To Interest Received from Bank-SB	To Voluntary Contribution Received - FCRA	To Voluntary Contribution Received	To Contribution towards Corpus	- Indian Bank	To Opening Bank Balance - Axis Bank	To Opening Cash Balance		Receipts
the start		88,700	1,85,461	44,417	12,36,543	20,28,400	886	51,64,177	39,267		Amount (Rs)
Printing Costs By Birthday Party & Events Entertainer Expenses Gifts, Fruits & Vegetables for Children	By Awareness Prógramme Bounce Back - Event Cost	-	Reimbursement of Expenses - Nagavalli Telephone Charges Paid	Rent Paid	Office Expenses Printing Costs	Auditors Remuncration Gifts to Staff & Others	By Administrative Expenses	51,64,177 Reimbursement of Expenses - Manjari	Honorarium Paid - Dr Manjari Bhatnagar Honorarium Paid - Sunitha Harish	By Employees Cost	Payments
2,000 15,000 11,022	1,85,030	81,651	9,610 17,547	1,40,407	30,170 53,613	20,060 15,148		8,600	1,21,000 13,320		
26,022	1 87 730	3,92,876						1,42,920			(Rs)

#### SAMIKSHA FOUNDATION - CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER TWELFTH YEAR REPORT



Kinger Her	Travelling/Conveyance/Food Expenses	Staff Welfare Expenses	Reimbursement of Expenses	Printing Costs	Misc Expenses	Driver/Offic Boy	House Keeping Expenses	Health Insurance - Staff	Donation Paid Banisvidya Memorial Trust	Honorarium Paid - Vijayalakshami	Conveyance - Nagavalli Narasimha	Honorarium Paid - Nagavalli Narasimha	Bags, Books & Stationery & Purchase of Material	Salary & Bonus Paid - Staff	By Education Program	Volunteers Meet	Conveyance - Volunteers	By Volunteers Expenses	Travelling/Conveyance/Food Expenses	Salary Paid - Ambika	Purchase of Material	Office Expenses & Printing Cost	Event Cost	By Creative Play & Activities	гаушения
	Trave	Staff	Rein	Print	Misc	Drive	Hous	Heal	Dona	Hone	Conv	Hone	Bags	Sala	By E	Volu	Conv	Ву V	Trav	Sala	Purc	Offic	Ever	Ву С	(Rs)
																1			ż						monthe



Place : Dangatore Date : 30.12.2020			TOTAL				•			Receipts
			87,87,954		(* (*					Amount (Rs)
\$ martuale	Founder/Trustee Trustee	For and on Behalf of Board of Trustees	TOTAL	By Closing Balance at Bank - Axis Bank By Closing Balance at Bank - Indian Bank	By Advance Tax & 1158 By Closing Cash in Hand	By Advance Recoverable	By Creditors for Expenses	By Scholarship & School Fees Paid - Corpus Account	By Spiritual Programme Contribution to Yoga Institute Yoga Teachers' Honorarium	Payments
			87,87,954	54,66,254 46,460	27,121	63,499	17,700	7,30,000	30,000 27,000 57,000	Amount (Rs)



Vasudev Pai & Co

Chartered Accountants

#### CERTIFICATE

We have audited the account of **SAMIKSHA FOUNDATION** - **CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER**, #915, 80 Ft Road, Koramangala 6<sup>th</sup> Block, Bangalore - 560095, having FCRA Registration Number : **094421719** in the State of Karnataka for the Quarter ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, and examined all relevant books and vouchers and certify that according to the audited account:

- The Brought Forward Foreign Contribution at the beginning of the Quarter was Rs. - 31,302/-
- Foreign Contribution received by the Association during the Quarter 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020 was Rs. 13,795/-.
- (iii) Interest accrued on Foreign Contribution and other income derived from Foreign Contribution or interest thereon received by the Association during the Quarter 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020 was Rs. 399/-
- (iv) The balance of un- utilized Foreign Contribution with the Association at the end of the Quarter 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was Rs. 45,496/-
- (v) The Maintenance of accounts of Foreign Contribution and records relating thereto in the manner specified in Section 19 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (42 of 2010) read with rule 17 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011 by the Association during the Quarter 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020 – Maintained wherever Applicable.
- (vi) The information in this Certificate and in the enclosed Balance Sheet and Statement of Receipt and Payment is correct as checked by us.
- (vii) The utilization of Foreign Contribution received for the purpose(s) it is registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 by the Association during the Quarter 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020 is Rs. NIL.

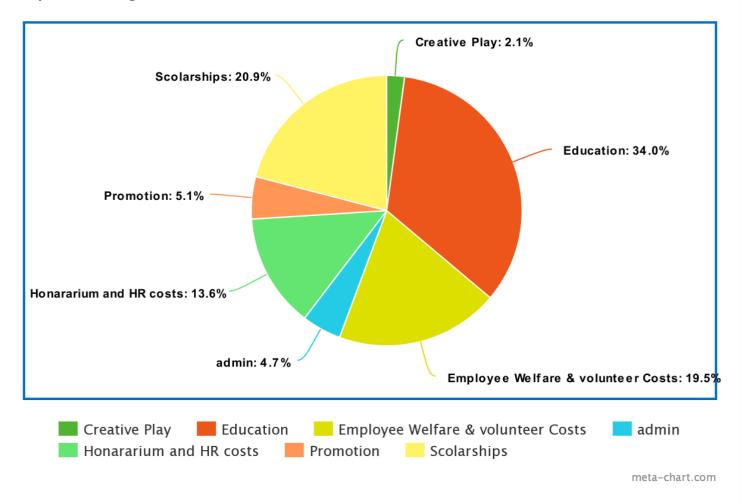
For VASUDEV PAI & CO., Chartered Accountant Firm Registration No. 004560S

Pa. ) Vasudues T VASUDEV PAI Proprietor M.No.020906 UDIN : 21020906AAAAAI4601 Place : Bangalore Date : 30.12.2020

S-401. South Block, Manipal Centre, 47, Dickenson Read, Bangalore - 560 042. Ph.: 080-25581163 / 2509 2099 E-mail : tvpai13@yahoe.com / vpc401@gmail.com



# Spends- at a glance for FY 2020-2021-





# **DEDICATED AND PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS MISSION**



#### **OFFICE BEARERS AND CORE VOLUNTEERS (2020–2021)**

Name	Function
Dr. Manjari Bhatnagar	Director of Samiksha Foundation
Ms. Vidyavathi B. S	Teacher and Librarian
Ms. Parvathi K. B	Teacher and Librarian
Ms. Ambika Chandrashekar	Storytelling specialist
Ms. Padma Vishwanathan	Longtime Volunteer (Software Professional)
Ms. Barnalee Sarkar	Trustee & Special program coordinator and teacher (Dancer)
Ms. Ranjani Ramesh	Trustee & Admin Core support (IT professional)
Ms. Nagavalli Narasimha	Volunteer & Education Coordinator
Mr. Aditya Sharad	IT and website support
Ms. Tania Khosla	Advisor to the Trust (Graphic Designer)
Mr. Naveen Jagannathan	Volunteer and supplier of fruits every Saturday (Software Engineer)
Mr. Prem Kumar	Volunteer Activity Coordinator at MSCC-NH (Financial Consultant)
Mr. Girish Jayaraju	Volunteer and Core team (Software Engineer)
Ms. Aakanksha Jayasheela	Longtime Volunteer
Mr. Puneet Kumar	Volunteer (Real Estate Management consultant)
Ms. Sandhya Maradi	Longtime Volunteer (Wealth Management)
Ms. Amrithkala Pai	Accounts Manager for the Trust
Ms. Vijayalakshmi N	Retiring Trustee and Volunteer (Management Consultant)
Ar. Sandhya Sharad	Founder and Trustee Samiksha Foundation (Architect, Teacher and Social
	Entrepreneur)



"There is always sunshine and rainbow in the lives of these children. We have to learn to see it!"



Samiksha Foundation - Caring for Children with Cancer www.samikshafoundation.org Facebook: <u>https://facebook.com/samikshafoundation</u>