



Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation
Restoring Dignity

To serve is to win



Annual
Report
2018-19



Mahatma Gandhi carried a deep compassion for people afflicted by leprosy. He had known persons affected by leprosy since his childhood. During the time Gandhiji was in Yeravada prison, he asked the Superintendent if he could meet Parchure Shastri, his friend who was affected by leprosy.

Gandhiji continuously nursed and hosted persons affected by leprosy at his home. He had actively embraced inclusive principles and rejected the stigmatisation of leprosy. He wanted to eliminate leprosy, saying: “Eliminating leprosy is the only work I have not been able to complete in my lifetime”.

Following the footsteps of Mahatma Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Patron S-ILF is working hard to mainstream persons affected by leprosy, thereby, trying to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi’s unfinished agenda of Leprosy Free India.

Mr. Sasakawa has been working for elimination of leprosy for more than 40 years. In India, the world’s most leprosy-afflicted country, he frequently visits the colonies of leprosy patients and interacts with people who have been suffering from severe discrimination, he extends support to improve their lives, restore their dignity and mainstream them and their families. For Mr Sasakawa’s contribution to leprosy eradication in India and across the world, the Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred upon him the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2018 on February 26th 2018.



Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Patron, Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation receiving Gandhi Peace Prize 2018 from Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

“I am very humbled to receive this prestigious award.”

-Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Recipient Gandhi Peace Prize 2018



I receive it together with all who have worked with me over the years. This award will certainly give us renewed encouragement from Mahatma Gandhi.

Over forty years ago, I came face to face with persons affected by leprosy for the first time at a leprosarium.

They were abandoned by their families.

They were rejected by society.

They were deprived of their freedom.

All because of leprosy. I was shocked to encounter the despair of those who could no longer live as human beings with dignity.

This is when I decided to devote my life to fight against leprosy.

Since then, I have been committed to the struggle against leprosy and its associated stigma and discrimination around the world.

Please imagine.

A person affected by leprosy having dinner with their beloved family.

Studying with you in the same classroom.

Working in the same environment.

Making their own decision of their lives.

This is the world that I seek to realize, but we are still in the midst of the journey.

We need strong commitments from governments, NGOs, and international organizations.

We need the courageous voices of persons affected by leprosy.

Together, we can realize a world where no one needs to suffer from leprosy nor its associated stigma and discrimination.

This is not an impossible dream.

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Highpoint of the year

‘Today, I have wings to fly!’

Amita’s heart is pounding with excitement. Today she is a cabin crew member of the airline which is preparing to leave the Delhi International Airport heading for Dubai. This is her maiden international flight. With a soaring spirit she completes the regular pre-flight safety demonstration, a much rehearsed drill for cabin crew members. Securing her own safety belt as the aircraft readies to take off, her childhood dream flickers in front of her eyes and she jolts herself back to the present, conscious of a dream transformed into a reality. Her smile is polite and very genuine because tucked away in her mind is the check list of gifts she has planned to bring back for her family – T-shirts for her father, a shawl for her mother, and befitting gift of a perfume for her choosy sister.

Amita is the younger of two daughters in a family affected by leprosy. Living in a leprosy colony, her father, a tailor by profession, provided with hardship for a family of four. Constant discrimination at every level, lack of respect, lack of dignity and equality were a huge setback for her young mind.

“One can still be prepared for discrimination from outsiders, but when your own relatives dissociate themselves from you it is a discrimination difficult to bear. When a rickshaw puller declined to take my cousin and me to our colony, I faced the worse embarrassment and humiliation in front of my relative. And in that moment I made up my mind that this cannot go on”, recalls Amita.

Amita’s dream was to fly; she wanted to explore the world to her heart’s content. And she knew that becoming an air hostess was a ticket for her to do so. How could this possibly happen, she wondered? Fortunately attending S-ILF’s career mobilizing session post her schooling, she knew she could apply for the H. H. Dalai Lama-Sasakawa scholarship and opt for airhostess training.

Successfully completing her diploma in Aviation, Hospitality and Hotel Management, Amita landed a job with the Leela Group of Hotels in Delhi, almost instantly. But that did not quench her eagerness to join the aviation industry. At the first opportunity, she applied to Indigo Airlines and was appointed as cabin crew at the airlines. Her salary was a boon for her family. But her dream of flying overseas persisted. Luck and appreciation for her hard work soon got her the promotion. Today, with a doubled salary, she hopes to fulfil another dream, a home of their own for her family, away from hurt and humiliation.

“I do realise that persistent hard work, works. It also brings you luck!” Hard work and luck played a role in Amita’s life and when she got promoted to fly overseas, her joy knew no bounds.

S-ILF is committed to open the skies for more Amitas; to help them fly and touch boundless goals, to hold their heads high; and to find more and more ways of their own to make Leprosy stigma-free. Amita has the power -the same power as Dimple Kapadia. To change many lives, create a happier world.

*(Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality).





OUR VISION

Our vision is integration of leprosy-cured persons and their families into society by ending the discrimination faced by them.



OUR MISSION

To end stigma against the disease and ensure equal social, economic and cultural opportunities to those affected by leprosy and their families.



OUR GOALS

- To increase social acceptability of leprosy-cured persons and their families through dissemination of scientific information; to create increased awareness about the disease; to bust myths in people's minds about leprosy.
- To create conditions that will enable them to have equal access to economic and educational opportunities.



OUR STRATEGY

- To enhance employability of persons affected by leprosy through livelihood generation, education and skill training for both formal and informal sectors.
- To match capacity building with market demand.
- To provide access to financial resources for self-employment.
- To encourage social responsibility among different sectors of society to provide equal opportunities in gainful employment to those affected by leprosy.
- To build partnerships amongst NGOs, self-help groups, corporate, and media to achieve our goals.
- To influence policy makers to achieve inclusion of leprosy affected in the government welfare programs.



Why S-ILF ?

S-ILF works for socio-economic development of the leprosy affected and their families

The world's worst stigma is associated with the persons affected by leprosy and their families. They are denied opportunities to earn a decent living, dignity of life and are dependent on alms and donations for survival. The worst affected by the social discrimination are their children as they are subjected equally, despite the fact that they are unaffected by the disease.

Over the past decade and more, S-ILF has been dedicated in working closely with the leprosy affected population. Several

programs designed and strategized at S-ILF contribute towards empowering them through access to a dignified means of earning, education and acceptance as equal human being.

Established in the year 2006, S-ILF was founded by Mr Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for the Elimination of Leprosy; recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize 2018 and Chairman of The Nippon Foundation. Mr. Sasakawa's dedication and relentless work in this field has been exemplary.

Who do we work with?

We work primarily with leprosy affected population and their families that are scattered in about 800 self-settled colonies all over India. Some colonies were set up by the Government and some by missionaries. Most of these, however, are settlements

that came up on public land, near hospitals treating leprosy, close to railway lines or river banks and some even in the vicinity of religious places or tourist spots.

Yohei Sasakawa

Patron, S-ILF



I would like to take this opportunity to say how honoured I am to have received the 2018 Gandhi Peace Prize in this memorable year marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. I humbly accepted this prestigious prize together with Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) and all who have worked with me over the years. I feel that we have received fresh encouragement from Mahatma Gandhi himself. Once again, I would also like to express my deep appreciation to Chairman Mr. Das, the members of the board, and the entire S-ILF team for their dedication and commitment.

It is an undeniable reality that India still accounts for 60% of new cases discovered worldwide today. But under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India has mounted an intensive campaign for early detection and treatment, as well as for raising public awareness. As I always tell people, we should not be discouraged if this results in a temporary increase in cases. I believe this is evidence of the efforts being made by all stakeholders to reach as many cases as possible.

However, we must recognize that persons affected by leprosy still face stigma and discrimination throughout society. Because of leprosy, they are deprived of opportunities to study, work, and participate in society.

In order to change the situation, I am pleased to see that S-ILF gives renewed hope to persons affected by leprosy through its integrated and holistic programmes that include education, capacity building, livelihood creation as well as advocacy.

Needless to say, it is essential to listen to the voices of the main protagonists in order to bring about change. Therefore, it is very encouraging to see S-ILF working together with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in support of those affected by the disease. Through this strong partnership, I believe we can be doing even more.

We are still in the midst of the journey against leprosy. Let all of us - persons affected by leprosy, governments, NGOs, international organizations - come together and realize a world where no one needs to suffer from the disease or its associated stigma and discrimination.

Tarun Das

Chairman, S-ILF



This Annual Report outlines the key areas of work and progress. Perhaps, the most outstanding event was the Gandhi Peace Prize awarded to our Patron, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, who received this at the hands of the President of India and the Prime Minister of India. Mr. Sasakawa continues to be our **"Inspiration"** and **"Mentor"**.

At the organisational level, we are stronger and better equipped to do more work both in the area of Livelihoods and Skills, which empower persons from the leprosy colonies. A pleasing development is that S-ILF now has staff on the ground, located and based in leprosy colonies, to

ensure that field work is implemented efficiently.

At the Youth level, S-ILF has continued its work of integration through Youth Festivals. These are very successful in addressing stigma and discrimination. We plan to sustain this activity.

At the time of writing, our General Elections are over. We have a new, strong Government with the Prime Minister starting his second term. In this, the 150th year of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi we hope to do more work, especially in partnership with the Government.

Vineeta Shanker

Executive Director, S-ILF



Year 2018-19 ended on a high with S-ILF's patron, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, receiving India's most prestigious award - the Gandhi Peace Prize 2018- for his enormous contribution to the elimination of leprosy globally and within India. We, at S-ILF, basked in his reflected glory, proud to have been a part of his journey since 2006. Another proud moment was receiving the Kalam Foundation's Innovation in Governance Award from none other than the Honourable Vice President of India.

Armed with a stronger communications team, we organised a number of successful events which caught the attention of both the vernacular and national media. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi retweeted our message on Gandhi Jayanti, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog and Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology graced our events as Chief Guests. The launch of a Global Appeal to end Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy found both the outgoing and incoming CII Presidents sharing the dais with the Secretary General of ICC. The event was made even more special by a moving message by Ms. Dimple Kapadia, herself once affected by

leprosy and Sonam Kalra, the renowned Sufi singer, singing with children from leprosy colonies. Chief Justice (Retd.) Dipak Misra led the discussion at a Roundtable on Leprosy along with Ms. Pinky Anand, Additional Solicitor General of India.

On the field, we forged ahead with our new cluster approach, fine-tuning the program with feedback from the leprosy community and its leaders, to better and more effectively meet the need of sustainable livelihood options for those living in leprosy colonies. The revival of the Community Development Fund, a community managed revolving fund, has enabled us to expand the reach of the livelihood funding and seen a resurgence of community involvement and ownership.

In the area of education and skills, integration of school dropouts into employed work force via skill training continues to be a major challenge. The difficulty is compounded by the fact that formal sector employment and in particular government (which are the aspirational) jobs, are not easily available. We are addressing this challenge by

exposing the students to new kinds of jobs available today and by trying to align students' aptitudes and interests to trades and training with the help of professional counsellors and motivators. The longer-term solution is, of course, prevention of dropouts. Towards this goal we have started setting up After School Learning Centres (ASLC) in the colonies, which offer tuition support to primary and secondary school goers, especially in the field of Maths, Science and English.

Encouraged by the success of our women's empowerment workshops which have led to women taking on leadership

roles in the economic and community life, we plan to expand this into a Women's Empowerment Program to address the myriad issues faced by women in their roles as both bread earners and home makers.

As always, progress comes with recognition of the enormous amount of work that remains to be done. Like Mr. Sasakawa, who, in his acceptance speech, said that the Award has made him even more determined to achieve a leprosy free world, S-ILF too is ever more committed to maximise its reach and impact to create a leprosy free India.

Our Board

BOARD MEMBERS



Mr. Tarun Das, Chairman

*Former Director General,
Confederation of Indian Industry
(CII)*



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Member**

*Former Executive Creative
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National Commission For
Minorities, Govt. of India*



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Member**

*Special Advisor, The Nippon
Foundation & Managing Director,
Centre for Human Rights
Education & Training, Japan*



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Member**

*Former member of Indian
Administrative Service,
Chairperson, Plan India*



**Dr. Takahiro Nanri,
Member**

*Executive Director of Sasakawa
Health Foundation, Japan*



**Mr. Rajesh Srivastava,
Member**

*Chairman & Managing Director
of Rabo Equity Advisors*



Dr. Derek Lobo, Member

*Retired Regional Advisor for
Leprosy, WHO South-East Asia
Region*

Advisory members



Mr. Dinesh Trivedi

Member of Parliament



**Ms. Supriya Banerji,
Member**

*Regional Coordinator WMG,
University of Warwick & Former
Deputy Director General, CII*



Dr. P. K Gopal, Member

*President, IDEA India,
Advisor, APAL India*

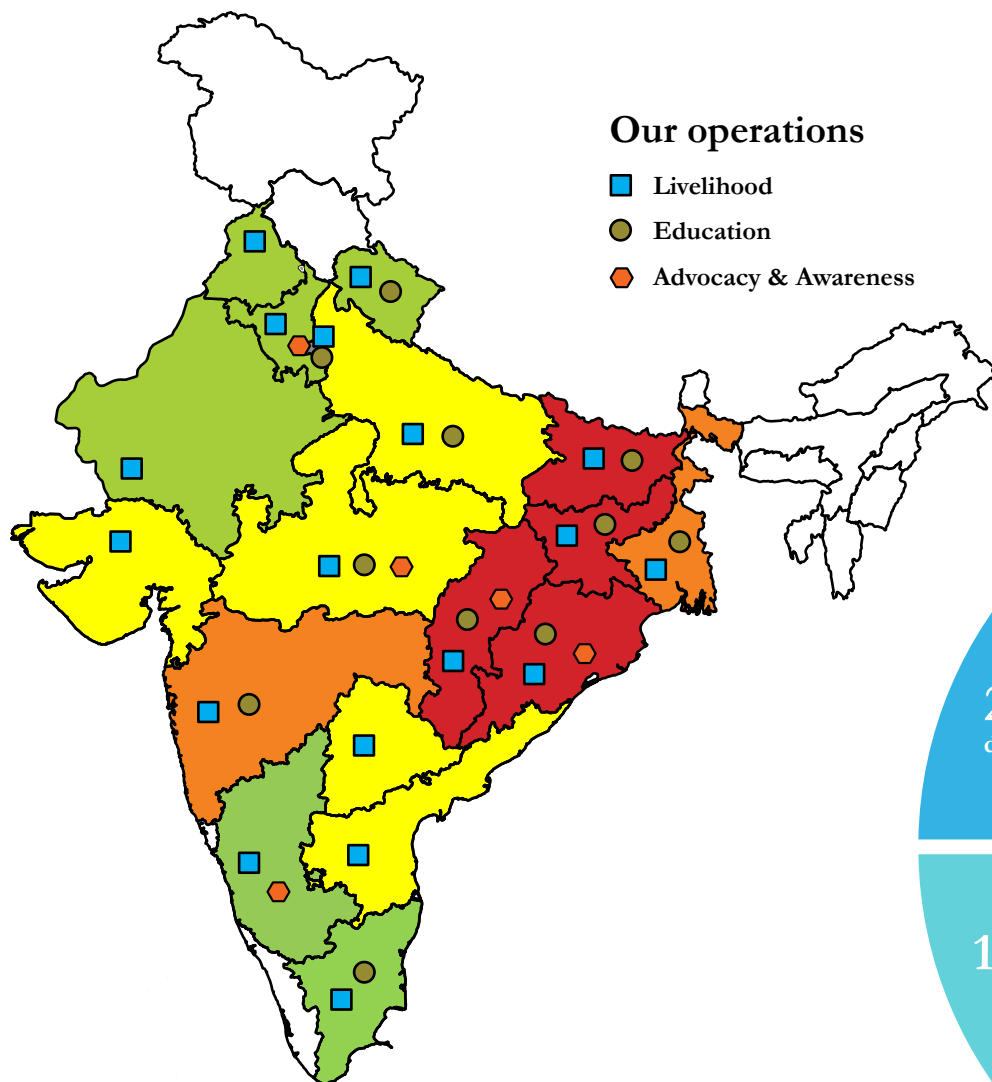


Mr. Ravi Singh, Member

*Secretary General & CEO,
WWF - India*



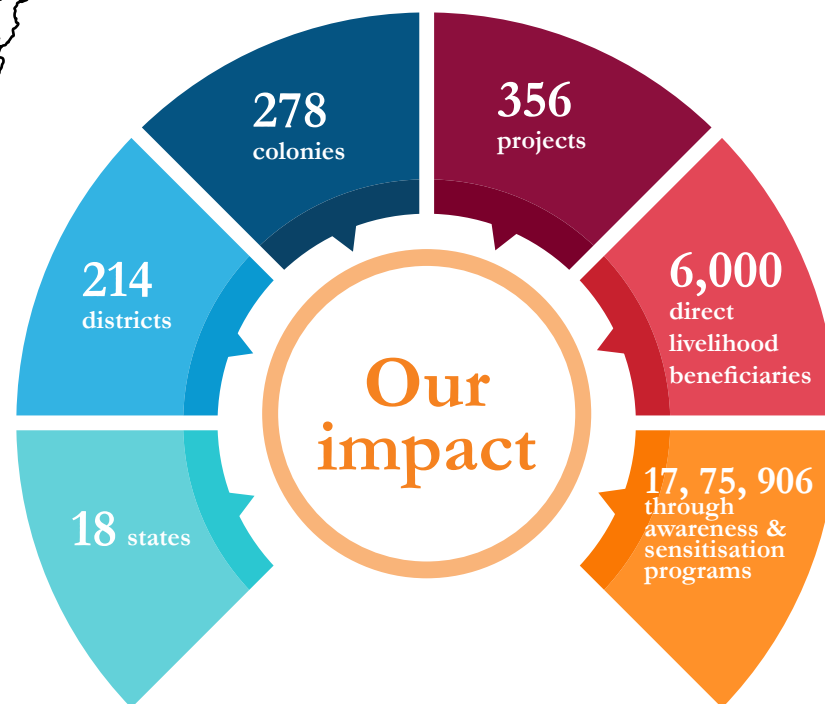
Current Footprint – S-ILF's Programs at a Glance



Prevalence rate of leprosy (>10,000)

- More than 1
- Between 1 to 0.75
- Between 0.75 to 0.50
- Between 0.50 to 0.25
- Less than 0.25

*As per NLEP 2017-18 report





Livelihood - Working to restore dignity

“Entrepreneurship creates new jobs and new businesses, new ways to deliver basic services, new ways of seeing the world—it’s the spark of prosperity.”

- Barak Obama at Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Kenya

Colony Development Fund

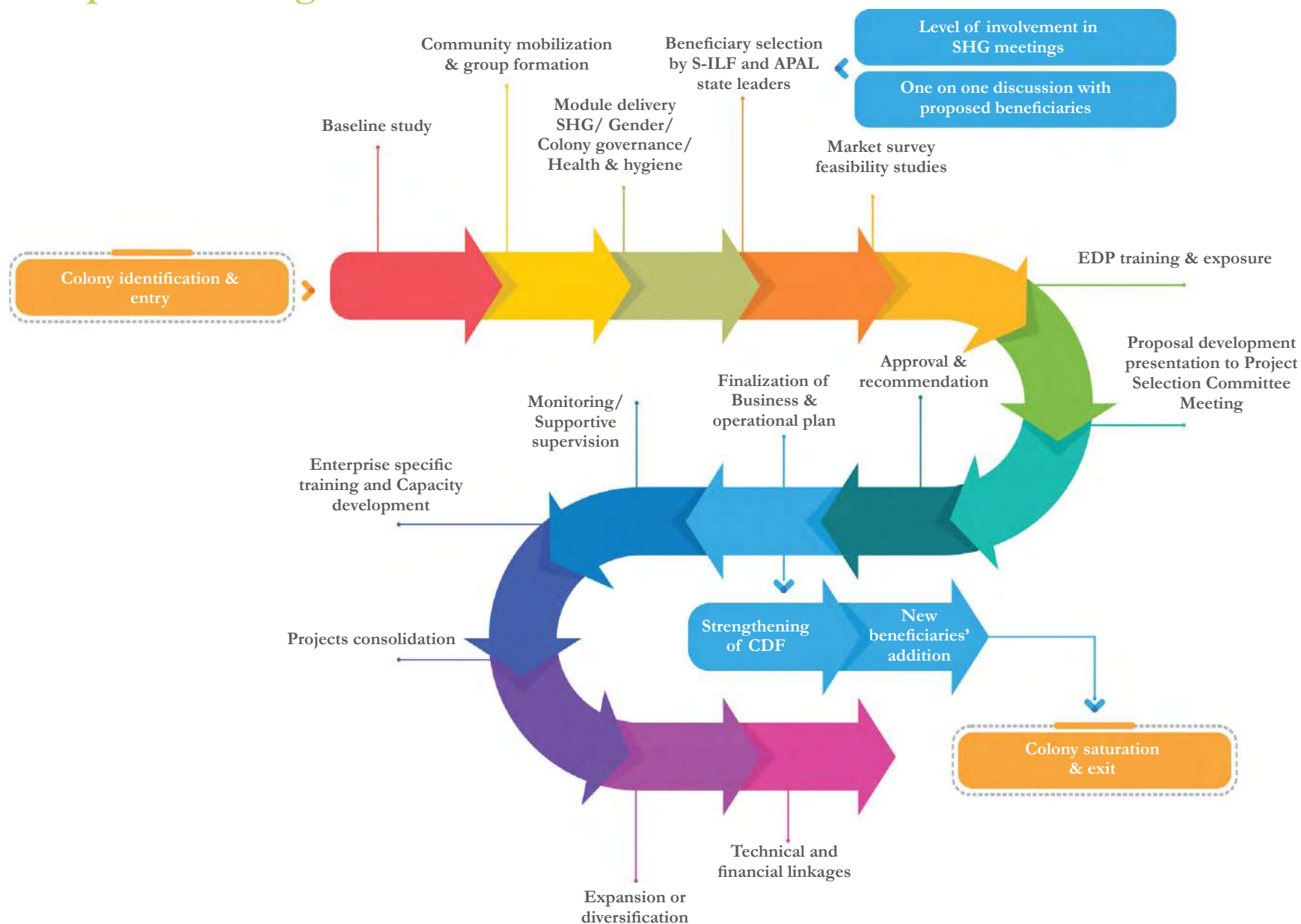
Through this initiative, those starting new enterprises with S-ILF funding, are encouraged to contribute the grant amount into the colony development fund once they begin earning a net profit. The payments are made in easy instalments into an account jointly managed by the project owners and colony leaders. The money collected is used to either expand the existing business or set up new ones, bringing in new colony members into dignified livelihood generation.

The year 2018-19 saw a contribution of ₹12 lakh for new projects which was distributed to initiate approximately 50 new business ventures across the states of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

S-ILF’s livelihood program aims at initiating, strengthening and scaling up livelihood activities through financial, technical and capacity building support so as to ensure that people living in leprosy colonies are able to earn decent incomes with dignity and self-esteem. The support continues at all stages of project development, ranging from awareness generation to mobilization, to business orientation, capacity building, market surveys, feasibility studies and market linkages. Until now, over three hundred micro-enterprise projects in different sectors (Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Processing, Manufacturing, Retail, Livestock and other service sectors) have been initiated

across 18 states. Since consistent community engagement is key for a holistic impact and for sustainability, the thrust of the programs is to develop and strengthen community based institutions like SHGs and improve the governance systems in the colonies. Interactive activities that focus on hygiene, cleanliness, integration into government schemes etc. have been created for continuous community participation.

The process at a glance



Socio Economic Survey

A socio-economic survey was conducted in 34 colonies of Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Maharashtra to document the initial status of the colonies with respect to housing, sanitation, education, health, livelihood and entitlements. This survey will assist in creating comparative analysis of the project outcomes in these colonies.

In FY 2018-19, additional projects under livelihood program were initiated in four states - Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra

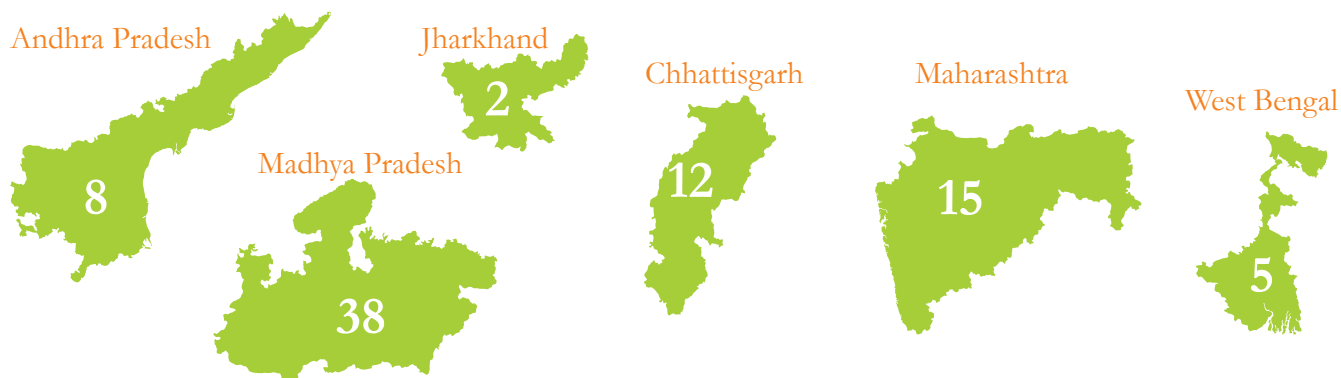
33 new livelihood projects (Group Projects – 20; Individual Projects – 13) were planned and rolled out in six districts of Madhya Pradesh, Indore, Barwani, Khandwa, Ujjain, Ratlam, and Sehore. These projects are a mix of both, farm based and non-farm based micro enterprises such as agriculture, livestock,

retail and services. 135 direct beneficiaries and more than 650 family members have been benefitted through these projects. The average profit every month in each project ranges in revenue between ₹9,000 to ₹11,000 for group enterprises, and ₹3,000 to ₹3,500 for individual enterprises. Expansion and diversification in selected projects has been initiated to increase the business volumes and profits.

22 new colonies (Jharkhand – 7; West Bengal – 6; Maharashtra - 9) in seven districts were identified for the implementation of the livelihood program. The community groups from these colonies were taken through multiple empowerment modules like colony governance, SHG management, gender, environment, health & hygiene.

S-ILF has developed 43 Group and Individual project proposals in Jharkhand & West Bengal. In Maharashtra, currently, 108 potential beneficiaries are being identified to be trained. There will be an extended grant support for approximately 90 group and & 18 individual enterprises under the project with BAJAJ CSR.

On-going state wise project status: Currently S-ILF has 80 on-going projects in 6 states.



Network building and partnerships

In order to develop skills, product value chain and market linkages, networks and partnerships are being established with various government and non-government agencies for capacity building interventions and training in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.



Capacity building and training

Capacity building, training and exposure support was extended to beneficiaries of several projects to optimise their entrepreneurial understanding and to ensure project sustainability.

10 exposure visits and training sessions were organised in different areas such as Poultry, Farming, Dairy Management, Tailoring/Stitching and more, with support from agencies such as BAIF, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Badlao Foundation, Samajik Parivartan Sansthan, and Chak-Kumar Association for Social Service (CASS), Uddahmi Praikshan Avam Vikas Samiti etc.

Mobilization support for the community in MP

Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur was approached for financial support worth ₹70,000 for one of the livelihood projects and After School Learning Centre in Indore. 18 tricycles were also distributed amongst persons with disability at the Sai Ram Avtar leprosy colony in Indore.

To Initiate and to Consolidate

- S-ILF will be strengthening the on-going projects and will also commence and intensify projects in Odisha and Bihar in the year 2019. The agenda initially includes ten colonies in each state for promotion of livelihood projects.
- S-ILF will drive the initiation of livelihood programs in four states - Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

From the Field

“Sowing trust, reaping dignity”



Jamburdi Hapsi, once a village on the outskirts of Indore, is now part of the urban sprawl as an outcome of the remarkable growth that Indore has witnessed in the recent past. Nestled in this expanding concrete jungle is Arunoday Red Cross colony, this leprosy colony, which is home to 55 households, was settled by a Christian missionary society about three decades ago. With a large number of persons suffering from physical disabilities, most households have resorted to begging as an only option



Motiram, one of the beneficiaries proudly says that

“S-ILF has helped us tremendously in developing our confidence; with increased yield of crops we are hopeful for a better future. Four of the beneficiaries have already quit begging and are leading a respectable life”.

for survival. On the other hand, fear of encroachment resulted in their starting cultivation on the land attached to the colony. With little knowledge of farming and severe financial constraints, the residents were unable to generate much income and have continued to rely on alms and donations as their main source of livelihood. Discovering this, two years later, S-ILF extended a grant to them for improving their agricultural practices. S-ILF funded seven residents identified by the Panchayat to cultivate the common land.

Within the framework of the livelihood program, S-ILF provided technical and financial support, opening avenues for beneficiaries to learn modern scientific agricultural practices through workshops. Concurrently, they were linked with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and agriculture experts for timely and regular guidance on improving productivity at every stage of the crop cycle, while helping them establish market linkages. A detailed business plan that included market study for product sale, investment in irrigation, seeds and tools was created for them. A desperate move to save land resulted in a growing business. The first crop showed a remarkable produce with more than a doubled output paving a way for stronger dedication and commitment towards further improvement.

Social recognition following rising incomes, being connected with a decent profession such as farming instead of begging, has elevated their status among neighbours and indeed, it has made them role models for others to emulate.

“Now Bags to End Begging!”

Vajragottu Paidiraju proudly exhibits how he tracks the sales of the rexine bags he and his group produce. To our surprise, he reveals that he is also on Flipkart and gets his payments on Paytm. “Last year we started only with school bags in a small area and earned good profits” Paidiraju says. “Now we are planning to spread out the business in the wholesale market.” Their artificial leather (popularly known as ‘Rexine’) products business has grown by leaps since it started in 2016.

It all started with a cup of coffee when his friends and some colony residents toyed with the idea of a business that could provide a steady income and prevent them from returning to begging.

They zeroed in on ‘Rexine’ bags. They were all confident of stitching good bags that they could sell in the market. As the idea crystallised their challenge remained raising the capital. They approached S-ILF for funding and their project was approved. There was no looking back after that.

The quality of the bags soon ensured a regular flow of orders. Their first order from another city was a milestone.

Gradually, the business expanded to include popular products like laptop bags, lunch bags and small pouches. On advice from a well-wisher the group registered on online portals like Amazon and Flipkart. Better revenue and increasing popularity provided an impetus to the group to work harder. They learned how to link their orders to Paytm and also how to track them.

Inspired by success, the group now plans and strategizes further business expansions. They not only adapt to the changing market demands with introduction of new products but are also equipped to deal with dip in sales during the off season. The low sales periods from January - March are effectively deployed by alternate business generating activities such as stitching and repairing seat covers and fibre sheets of auto rickshaws.

The group also contributes to the colony development fund while keeping a decent income to meet their individual needs. Their future plans include taking up a permanent shop, the licence for which has already been procured from the Municipal office.

Hard work, determination and hunger for success combined with the openness to learn and innovate have been a mantra for the success of this project.



From the beneficiaries



“The training provided by S-ILF not only helped us in establishing a new enterprise, but also restored our self-confidence in developing our personality which a client and customer looks for while signing a contract.”

-Project beneficiaries (Tent House, Indira Colony, Pahila Para, Ghoghra Champa, Chattisgarh)

“Before the project I was a daily wage labourer with no guarantee of regular work. Life was uncertain. S-ILF’s intervention not only gave me regular sustainable work but also improved my skills through training and establishing linkages with supporting agencies”.

-Lakhan, a Dairy Farm project beneficiary at Khandwa (MP)





Education - Bridging the gap

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” - Nelson Mandela



AFTER-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES (ASLC)

Learning outcomes in primary schools are very poor (Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2018*). In the case of children from leprosy households living in colonies, this is very true. The school drop-out rate is high.

S-ILF initiated a new program of setting up After School Learning Centres (ASLCs) in the colonies. Aimed at helping the students from class 6th to 12th, to improve their grades in Maths, Science and Computers, ASLCs were setup in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh viz Indore, Barwani, Dhar, Khandwa and Ujjain.

The response was overwhelming. Running up at the door were not only high school students but were very young students of class 1 and 2. What began as a program to help high school students, the centres now cater to all classes. Introduction of computers and digital learning are the next steps.

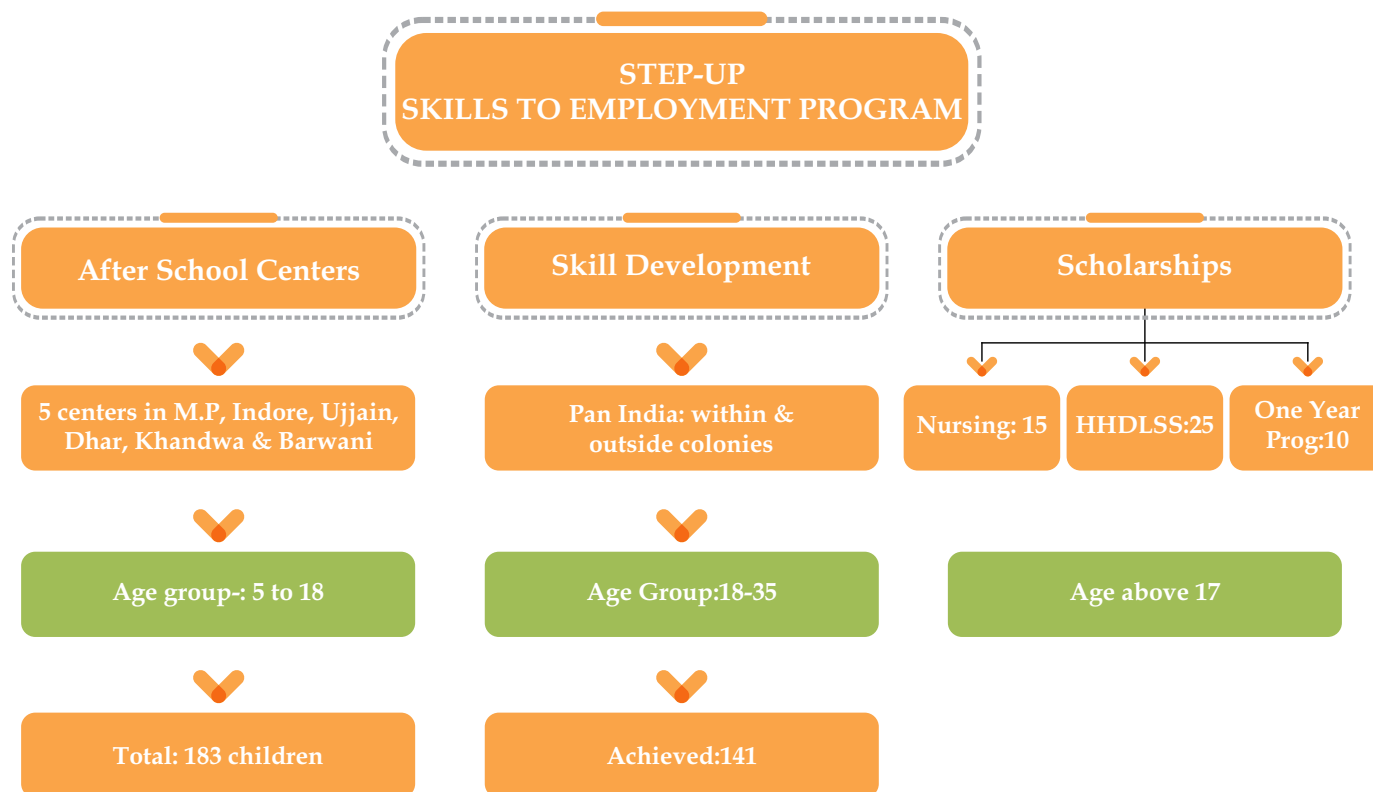
Parents affected by leprosy and residing in leprosy colonies are well aware of the importance of education. However, due to the stigma attached to leprosy and their financial conditions, they are unable to send their children to private schools. The government schools have lacked the academic resources, facilities and trained teachers which can provide the special attention that children require.

With government schools unable to provide what children need to cope up with the demands of today's times, there is a general disinterest among children leading to poor grades and finally, dropouts from school. Despite not being afflicted by leprosy, these children are not alien to discrimination and exclusion.

Through well researched programs, S-ILF is streamlining children from leprosy colonies to provide them better education and better futures.

SKILLS TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP-UP)

The skill to employment program comprises of After School Learning Centres, Skill development and scholarship programs. The program is aimed to provide a dignified life & social integration with the help of education and employable skills.



Skill development

With a goal to create opportunities, space and scope for the development of talent in the youth from leprosy colonies and to enhance their technical expertise, S-ILF focuses on skill development of youth.

S-ILF has successfully collaborated with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for skilling youth from leprosy affected families in nine states - Bihar, Chhattisgarh Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This FY has witnessed 141 youth enrolled under the program - 97 have completed their training and 42 have been placed in companies, hospitals, hotels, offices. To date 795 youth have been enrolled in different skill programmes, out of which 431 have been placed and 44 are still undergoing training.

The unique points of this program are:

i) Training is free of cost.

ii) 60-70% youth secure jobs post successful completion of the training.

S-ILF is supported by NSDC accredited training partners like Gram Tarang, Don Bosco Tech, Pratham Education Foundation, GMR Foundation, Wockhardt, PAN-IIT, ICICI Skills Academy, etc.

S-ILF has also signed an MOU with Don Bosco & PRATHAM to cover a vaster geographical location for better training and facilities for 100 students/trainees.

S-ILF focuses on the skill training needs identified by the youth in areas of service such as emergency medical technician, general duty assistant, hospitality, technical service operators for electrical, automobile, industrial sewing machines, refrigeration & air conditioning (RAC), computer hardware and networking, beauty parlour services, catering & cargo management.



Nursing scholarships

Due to shortage of financial support young women in leprosy colonies tend to drop out after high school education.

S-ILF initiated the Nursing scholarship program on demand by young women from leprosy colonies. The goal of these young women through this program was to take care of their families and others afflicted.

S-ILF's Nursing Scholarship Program provides wings to their aspirations to become dignified, responsible and financially independent women. Commencing with a batch of five girls, S-ILF stands at 15 scholarships this year. Since 2011, S-ILF has provided scholarships to 76 girls. Total 35 girls have completed

their course. Twenty-four out of them are working in hospitals in Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

S-ILF is running its eighth batch of nursing scholars. 52 applications were received for B.Sc. Nursing out of which 15 applicants were selected on basis of merit.

His Holiness Dalai Lama - Sasakawa Scholarships (HHDL-S Scholarships)

Since 2015, HHDL-S Scholarships provide an opportunity to meritorious children from leprosy colonies to pursue higher studies and attain professional qualifications for securing employment. The aim is to encourage and motivate younger children to aspire for higher education and to qualify for admission in professional courses. To date, 68 students have benefitted under this program from nine states namely, Delhi, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

In the year 2018-19, state level workshops were held in coordination with Association of People affected by leprosy (APAL) to guide youth about career choices and right institutions. Spanning over 8 cities- Indore, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Ranchi, Asansol, Pune and Raipur established local career counsellors were invited to take sessions in these workshops. The workshops were attended by 350+ youth, their families, and state & colony leaders. S-ILF received 159 applications after these workshops.

A selection committee comprised of representatives from APAL, The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation selected 40 youths on the basis of merit and their choice of courses. A personal interview followed, out of which 25 students received scholarship to pursue professional courses from reputed institutions.



Placement of HHDL-S Scholars

Vinita Gope has completed B.Ed course from Loyola College of Education, Jamshedpur draws a salary of ₹29,000/- per month.

Subhasmita Das has completed a Diploma course in Optometry from LV Prasad Eye Institute and draws a salary of ₹20,000/- per month.

Premshila has completed D.Ed (Spl Edu.) from J M Institute of Speech & Hearing in Muzaffarpur and earns ₹6,000/- per month.

Baseline survey

A baseline survey was conducted with 68 existing scholars of Dalai Lama as well as their families to study the impact of the scholarship program on the life of these scholars and their families.

It is significant to monitor and evaluate a program for its effective implementation so that it delivers projected outcomes. A baseline survey was conducted with 68 existing scholars supported under H.H. Dalai Lama-Sasakawa scholarship as well as their families to study the impact of the scholarship program on the life of these scholars and their families in coming times.



New initiatives of the year

One year scholarship program

S-ILF studied that several reasons deter youth from leprosy colonies from pursuing higher studies. In absence of a formal education, required skills or experience, the choices were limited to working in the unorganised sector to meet their ends.

Keeping this in view, S-ILF initiated 'One year' scholarship program for the youth, 10 students have been provided scholarships under this program with support from PEARL Global Industries.



Hard work pays off!

Mohan Barde

Mohan Barde arrived at Indore from Harshnagar's leprosy colony with a mere ₹120 in his pocket and a mind full of dreams of getting employment. He had heard about the opportunities open to people seeking employment in the financial capital of Madhya Pradesh. After a night spent at a relative's house, he set off in search of a suitable job but came back empty handed. Days of disappointment followed and he could not land a job. On the contrary, he had spent all of his meager cash and even had to sleep on a hungry stomach one night. But he was determined not to go back to where he had witnessed the agony of his parents and relatives' lives. One day, he found himself staring at a paint brush and a wall. Assured he would not go hungry that day, he started with a paint stroke. A year later he met the APAL state leader, Sarang Gaydhane, who understood Mohan's struggles in the city. Mohan's education was also limited to class

12th only. With Mr. Sarang's help he enrolled himself for a short duration skill course in bedside assistance, supported by Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation. The three months changed his life forever. With his ability & dedication Mohan got a job in a medical consultancy firm in Indore, where he received a stipend of ₹7,000. Overjoyed with his success he informed his family members, who were equally happy for him.

It is over four years since Mohan is living in the city of Indore. He never imagined he would ride his own bike till the day he bought one from his savings. Now he will be entitled to the travel allowances from his company which will be an additional saving for him. He is grateful to Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation for providing him the life changing opportunity.

“Power to change”

Rahul Malakar

The excitement of an international trip for a six-month internship in a four-star hotel is a feeling that anybody would want to experience. As Rahul Malakar began his plans for an internship offered as part of his Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management in Kuala Lumpur, his eyes were shining with anticipation of opportunities that were awaiting him; opportunities that he was more than eager to explore new avenues of knowledge opening up for him. As he packed his bags, his first expensive gift from his father, a pair of blue striped sneakers, brought a mist of tears in his eyes. The past began to unfold...

The eldest among three siblings, Rahul and his family lived in Asha Vihar Colony in the Dhanbad district of Jharkhand. Both his parents were afflicted with leprosy and that confined them, physically and socially, to the leprosy colony. His father had no formal education or professional training and that meant very meager earnings from a handful of odd jobs, enough to rustle up a basic meal for his family. Despite the hard work that scrap business involved, his income could provide no decent future for his children. Though not afflicted by leprosy himself he could not escape the stigma. None of this could dampen Rahul's spirits and he diligently worked for good school results

to join the Indian Army. Sadly, his hand got injured in an accident which shattered his dream of joining the Army. With no alternative plan, Rahul was demoralized and toyed despondently of joining the scrap business too. But his eyes and ears were open – and they were rewarded. On hearing that an NGO named Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation supports children in leprosy affected families to seek out a profession and future by providing fees for education and training, he applied to them for the HH Dalai lama Sasakawa Scholarship. Inspired by this support he excelled at the training and came second in his class making sure that an international chain of hotels recruited him for a six-month internship. His selection at Heritage Institute of Hotel & Tourism, Agra holds out to him security and the possibility to build more ambitiously on his dreams. Letting his father choose the bike he always wished for and the family a home that would save them from the pain of social stigma. And then, soon enough, the family holiday beyond the country's shores. His bright career in hotel management could well enable all that soon enough.

S-ILF aims to identify more Rahuls from leprosy affected backgrounds to support them in achieving their dreams; transforming their lives by helping them choose paths that can restore their hopes; and above all, help them lead a life of dignity, equality and respect.





#LeprosyFreeIndia



Communications & Advocacy - Spreading the good word

“Sometimes, reaching out and taking someone’s hand is the beginning of a journey. At other times, it is allowing another to take yours.” - Vera Nazarian, The Perpetual Calendar of Inspiration



Global Appeal 2019: To end stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy

The Global Appeal is designed to increase awareness in society against the social stigma against leprosy worldwide. The first Global Appeal was held in 2006. This year it was launched in New Delhi, India on January 30, 2019. Global Appeal 2019 was endorsed by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and jointly launched by The Nippon Foundation (TNF), Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation (SMHF) and Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF).

The appeal was read by Mr. John Denton, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce, Mr. G Venugopal, Vice President, APAL, and Dr. Vineeta Shanker, Executive Director S-ILF in the presence of Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law and Justice, Electronics and Information Technology, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman, The Nippon Foundation, Japan.



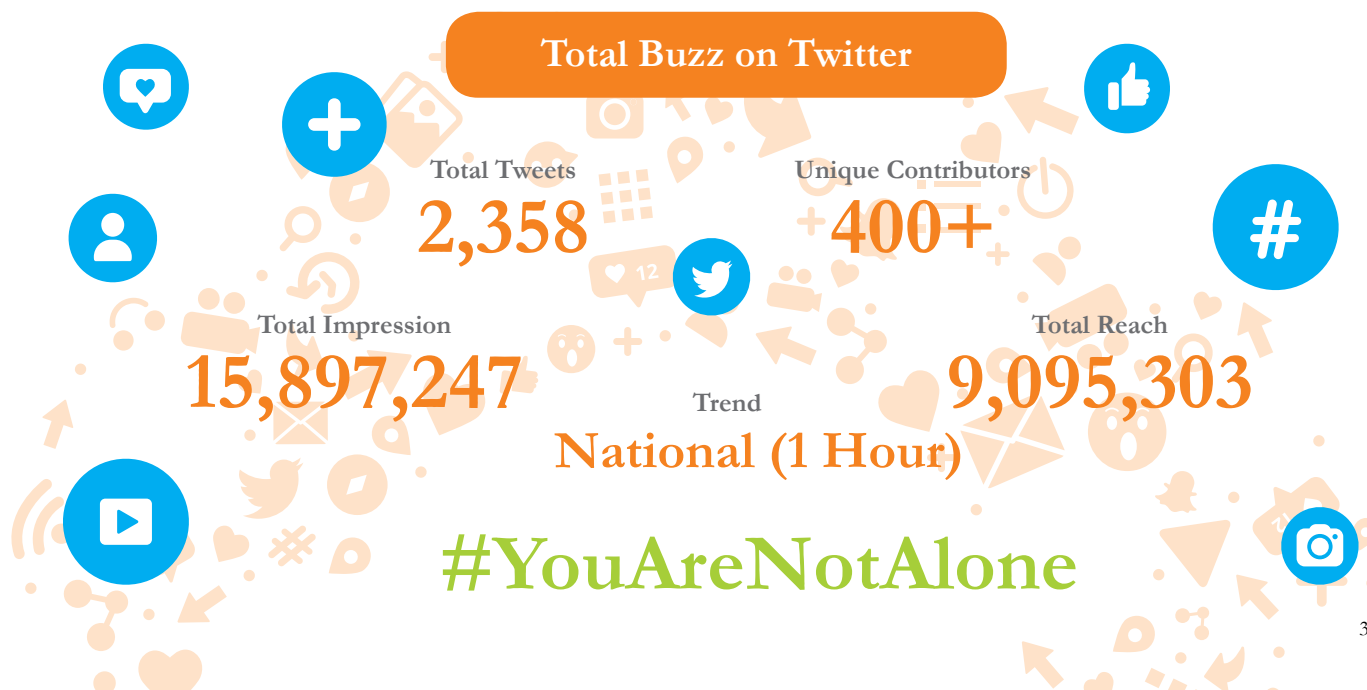
Eminent actress Ms. Dimple Kapadia in support of **#YouAreNotAlone** campaign for leprosy affected persons

#YouAreNotAlone

The immense effectiveness of the treatment has no better ambassador or icon than India's celebrated very beautiful actress, Dimple Kapadia. She was highly supportive of S-ILF initiated #YouAreNotAlone social media campaign to give persons affected by leprosy (PALs) a sense of inclusiveness; a collective hope for a better tomorrow with a combined strength to fight the disease and the stigma associated with it. Renowned actress Ms. Dimple Kapadia who herself encountered Leprosy at a very early stage in her life was very active in supporting the campaign. Her message to patients affected by leprosy & their families:

"I would urge all patients and their families to come forward and get them treated. Leprosy is not to be feared; it is not contagious and can be treated if diagnosed at the right time. Most importantly remember that you are not alone in this fight. Let us together spread awareness to end the stigma and discrimination against those affected by leprosy and their families."

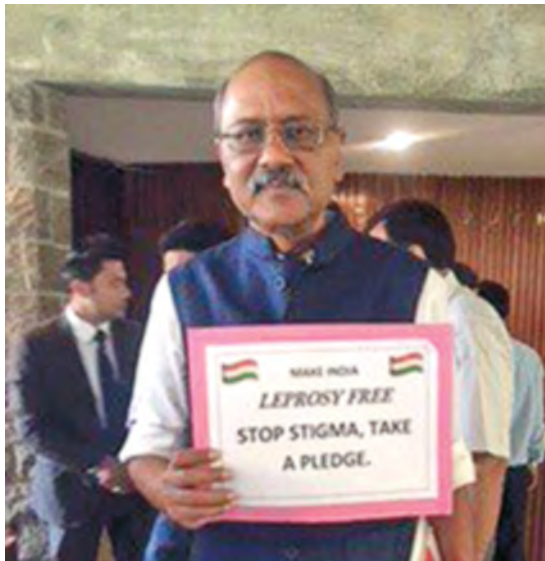
S-ILFs #YouAreNotAlone campaign was supported by Mr. John Denton, Secretary General ICC, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairperson NITI Ayog, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation to name a few.

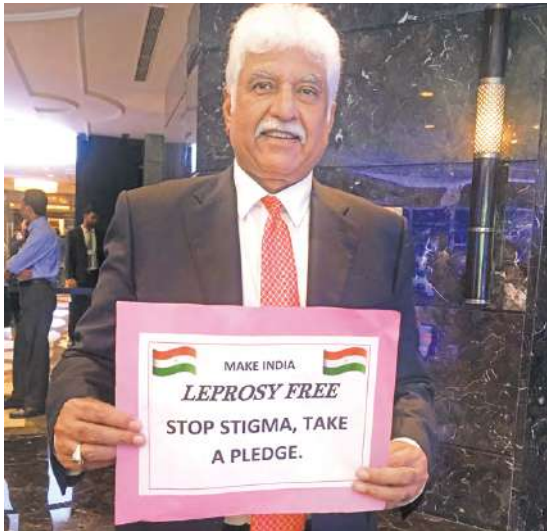


Awareness campaigns

Independence day

Lack of awareness and misinformation has led to myths & stigmas hard to eradicate. S-ILF strives continuously to eradicate stigma & discrimination through increased awareness in every stratum of society. A Campaign- “Make India Leprosy Free” was initiated around Independence Day to spread awareness. People from all over India participated in the campaign and posted their messages in support of the fight against leprosy on social media. From top-notch CEOs to journalists to common man and students participated in this Campaign.





Gandhi Jayanti:

S-ILF conceptualised and produced a short film on Gandhi Jayanti to showcase Mahatma Gandhi's relentless efforts to eradicate leprosy and how he moved with and among leprosy affected persons without any fear or discrimination. The film was appreciated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, which he re-tweeted. It was also re-tweeted by Mr. J.P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation, Mr. Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (IC), Housing and Urban Affairs & eminent actor Vivek Oberoi to name a few influencers.



PMs tweet:

Jagat Prakash Nadda Retweeted



Narendra Modi @narendramodi 23h

Excellent! Glad that your team is spreading awareness and initiating action towards curing leprosy. May it inspire others to work in this area too. My best wishes.



S-ILF @Sasakawa_India

As the nation marks #Gandhi150, we at the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation are pledging to devote ourselves to eliminate leprosy from our society. This was also a subject that Mahatma Gandhi spoke and wrote about...

Show this thread

DMRC Campaign:

S-ILF initiated an awareness campaign with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) from 21 January to 31 January 2019 to disseminate accurate information on leprosy among general public. Banners were put up at 20 metro stations close to hospitals or leprosy colonies. A footfall of approximately 17 lakh people was recorded during this campaign period.



Awareness Program

Lack of awareness and information has led to myths whereas leprosy is a completely curable disease. S-ILF strives continuously to eradicate stigma and discrimination through increased awareness in every strata of the society. We work with multiple stakeholders like school and college students, medical institutions, lawyers, social activists, policy makers, corporates and media houses to raise awareness.



Young Partners Program (YPP):

Under YPP, S-ILF reaches out to schools (both Government & Private) to sensitise the young minds to end stigma & discrimination against leprosy. In the year 2018-19 with the support of Ministry of HRD and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, S-ILF conducted sensitisation workshops in 28 Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi-NCR. Around 3000 students participated in the sensitisation workshops.

S-ILF also has an outreach program in private schools in Delhi-NCR. This year S-ILF conducted workshops in 3 private schools- New Horizon School, Air Force Bal Bharti School, and Mount Carmel School. More than 600 students participated in these workshops.

College Sensitisation Program:

S-ILF conducted sensitisation workshops in various professional colleges of Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. These day-long sessions exposed the students to several aspects of leprosy to develop an interest in them to study leprosy related issues.

S-ILF reached out to 12 colleges/universities - Delhi School of Social Work, Central University of Rajasthan, Oriental University, Choithram College of Nursing, Indore School of Social Work, Kalka Institute of Advance Studies & Research, Jamia Millia Islamia, Gautam Buddha University, Fairfield Institute of Management and Technology, Institute of Public Health & Hygiene, Prestige Institute of Management & Research. The workshops witnessed more than 1000 participants.



Corporate Sensitisation Program:

S-ILF conducted corporate sensitisation workshops at regional offices and conferences of CII which were attended by the CEOs

and senior CII officials. Extending the ambit of the program, a sensitisation workshop was held with Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The session witnessed the participation of 100+ CGBS personnel at their barracks in Mahipalpur, New Delhi. An oath to end stigma and discrimination was taken by all the attendees.



Training of Trainers (TOT):

S-ILF commenced training of Trainers programme in the year 2018 with the Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia. The year witnessed a training session with more than 100 paramedic personnel of CRPF, RAF and other related services.

These special trainings are aimed to prepare more trainers, who later would sensitise personnel/students in their departments. This program has helped S-ILF in reaching out to various academicians, corporate workers and security personnels.



Empowerment Workshops

Residents of leprosy colonies are unable to access several welfare measures extended by the Government due to lack of knowledge and awareness. As a part of advocacy, S-ILF conducted intensive workshops to advise the colony residents on the various Government welfare schemes available in their district. In the FY 2018-19, S-ILF has completed two empowerment projects in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka respectively.

To highlight two major issues of pension and land entitlements, S-ILF organised an empowerment meet on behalf of 33 leprosy colonies of Madhya Pradesh with the Ministers of the Madhya Pradesh Government at Bhopal in August, 2018. Two Cabinet ministers- Mr. Rustam Singh, Public Health & Family Welfare, and Mr. Vishwas Sarang, State Minister, Panchayat & Rural development co-operation attended this meet to interact with the



leprosy colonies' residents and hear their demands. The ministers promised resolution of these problems along with other issues like health, electricity and sanitation.

The colonies of Karnataka were in worse shape than Madhya Pradesh. Besides land and pension problems issues of roads, sanitation, water, toilets and civic works were identified in the early empowerment workshops. To call for solutions to these problems, S-ILF organised an empowerment drive where colony residents of seven districts met their respective MLAs to submit petitions for suitable actions required.

These empowerment projects have directly helped more than 600 households living in 16 selected leprosy colonies in these two states. Issues of pension, land entitlement and civic amenities in leprosy colonies were raised with the government.



Women Empowerment & Leadership Program

Gender discrimination towards women from leprosy colonies is an unfortunate, but a regular feature. The women are often victims of domestic violence with discrimination and abuse, even within the sanctity of their homes. This results in self-deprecation, with their hard work and contribution being overlooked by their families and, most times by themselves too.

S-ILF's Women Empowerment Program (WEP) supports every individual woman through a platform that provides an open and motivating environment where women are encouraged to come forward to discuss their personal problems. The forum also addresses social issues that contribute to impacting their day-to-

day life and find ways to develop them as 'Agents of Change'.

Launching this initiative, S-ILF conducted an interactive workshop in 2018-19 in New Delhi directed towards a basic orientation on health and socio-economic aspects of their lives. The agenda of this three-day event was to train the women in self-realization, effective household management, relationship management, parenting, health, nutrition, sanitation and financial management. The event witnessed a total of 29 participants with women hailing from 21 colonies across six states i.e. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

S-ILF's Women Empowerment Program (WEP), with emphasis on the need for transformation, has hugely impacted the women giving them a sense of confidence, a feeling of empowerment and an obvious enjoyment of implementing in their lives all the learnings from the workshops.



Youth Festivals

This year S-ILF organised two Youth Festivals at National and Regional levels. The purpose of these Youth Festivals is to bridge the gap between youth from leprosy and non-leprosy backgrounds to end the stigma and discrimination which students usually face in schools and colleges.

The Youth Festivals are designed with a clear intent to “celebrate inclusiveness” in a fun-filled, learning atmosphere, where everyone interacts as equals. The festival seeks to provide an opportunity for the youth from different colleges to interact with the youth from leprosy-affected colonies by participating in common creative activities such as dance, drama and music. The common platform encourages bonding between the youth, empathise with the ones denied an equal opportunity. This interactive festival transforms youth from non-leprosy backgrounds into goodwill ambassadors fighting the stigma against leprosy.

The regional youth festival was organised at Oriental University, Indore, and Madhya Pradesh from 19th-21st November 2018. 30 students from S-ILF’s education program and 30 students from colleges of Indore participated in this three-day residential event.

This unique event received an encouraging response and was extensively covered by mainline media.

Similarly, a National Youth Festival was organised from 26th-29th January 2019 in New Delhi in which 80 scholars from S-ILF’s education program and 80 Students from various colleges/ universities from across India participated.

Hon’ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman, the Nippon Foundation gave away the prizes to the winning teams at the finale. Moved and impressed by the camaraderie and the confidence among all young performers, the chief guest Dr. Rajiv Kumar emphasised the need for organising more such events in the future for the youth, to bridge the gap and end the age long discrimination.



Testimonials from participants

I would like to thank S-ILF for taking this excellent initiative to make India leprosy free. The aim of the youth festival is to spread the message of togetherness amongst the youth to fight the stigma. I was part of both regional as well as national youth fest which was an excellent opportunity for me. Thank you so much S-ILF for this unique initiative!

Adarsh Tiwari (Participant- National)
(Oriental university, Indore)



This Youth festival will always be close to my heart. I have never imagined such lively and happening event right in my hometown. When I got to know about this, I took leave and came to attend. These were the best 4 days of my life. I knew many other participants since they were also from different leprosy colonies, but there were other students too, whom I met for the first time. I made many new friends and will cherish them all through my life.

Mamta (Participant- National)
S-ILF Scholar, Nursing



I always start things on a positive note. When I came to this youth festival I got a team in which there were people from Jharkhand, Kerala, Bihar & Haryana. I enjoyed the whole youth festival and these three days were a life time experience for me that will always remain with me in my memories. I enjoyed mentoring these young minds and we won the best prize too.

Mohd Tariq (Mentor- National)
Freelance Theatre Instructor



When I came, I was unaware that this experience is going to be so amazing. I loved it. I usually get nervous before the final performance but I am thankful to the team, they really worked hard and made this experience special for me. Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation is doing a great job in inspiring and motivating the Youth. Thank you so much for all the support.

Jagriti (Mentor- National)
Dayal Singh College, New Delhi



I was given a chance to mentor a team for Dance or theatre, so I chose dance as that is my passion. I was so impressed by the energy of the participants that I chose one of the most energetic but difficult dances- Bhangra. I must say that the participants put up a great performance and I am very happy for their hard work. My best wishes for many more such events. All the best S-ILF! ”

Meghna Panchal (Mentor- Regional)
Madhya Pradesh School of Drama, Bhopal



I have participated earlier in many youth festivals across India but this was my first chance to mentor one such fest. I must say that this is the most unique youth festival I have witnessed in my life. The energy and commitment by these youth was phenomenal. In just two days, they prepared something which would have taken me a week at the least. I would love to be a part of every such youth festival now. ”

Pramod Parashar (Mentor- Regional & National)
Raja Mansingh Tomar Music & Arts University, Gwalior



It was a never forgetting experience for me and my friends. S-ILF organised a sensitisation workshop on leprosy in my college before this festival. The workshop was an eye opening moment. We busted so many myths about leprosy. This helped other students to mingle up with students from leprosy colonies, participated in this event. While participating, we all had only one identity- Youth. I will never forget these three days of my life. ”

Firoz Khan (Participant- Regional)
S-ILF Scholar, Indore



I am glad that I got the opportunity to be a part of this Youth festival. It was the priceless time I spend with beautiful memories. The fun n enjoyment that I had was beyond my expectations. I met some dynamic personality at this camp in the form of mentors, who worked on me to explore my talent and skill by which I am gifted. And I'm going to nurture this experience throughout my life. ”

Dolly Ahir (Participant- Regional)
(Choithram College of Nursing, Indore)





Round Table Dialogue on Leprosy

A Round Table Dialogue on Leprosy was organised by S-ILF on Anti Leprosy Day to end stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy. This initiated an open discussion to help identify and prioritize areas of action and create an action group of concerned stakeholders to bring an end to leprosy in the near future.

The dialogue also highlighted the landmark Supreme Court

Judgement of 14th September 2018 which ordered the Government to act on ending stigma against persons affected by leprosy through increased effective medical outreach and proactive initiatives for their social and economic integration.

The event was streamed live by Go News 24x7 and excerpts were published in prominent newspapers.



L-R: Ms. Rupali Tewari, Consulting Editor, GoNews 24x7, Justice (Retd.) Dipak Misra, Former Chief Justice of India, Ms. Pinky Anand, Additional Solicitor General of India, Dr. Mandeep Bhandari, Joint Secy, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Mr. John Denton, Secretary General ICC, Dr. Erwin Cooreman, Representative WHO, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy, Dr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Director General-Leprosy, Dr. Derek Lobo, Board Member S-ILF, Mr. Venugopal, Vice President, APAL, Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Executive Director, Sasakawa Health Foundation, Japan, Ms Seema Arora Deputy Director General CII, Mr. Ramesh Menon, Author & Columnist & Dr. Vineeta Shanker, Executive Director , S-ILF



L-R: Mr. John Denton, Secy. Gen. ICC, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Min. of Law & Justice, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Patron, S-ILF, Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, President, CII, Mr. Tarun Das, Chairman, S-ILF & Dr. Vineeta Shanker, Executive Director, S-ILF at the launch of Global Appeal 2019

Rising to Dignity Awards 2018

It is a fact that people affected by leprosy have suffered due to discrimination and stigma associated with the disease. It is also

a fact that they endeavour to put in optimised efforts to succeed in their initiatives. S-ILF's Rising to Dignity Award is presented to recognise their hard work and commitment to their livelihood enterprises enabling them a successful transition from begging to dignified livelihood. For the year 2018 two winners from Indore, M.P. and Vendrikal, Kamareddy district, Telangana were awarded in presence of Ms. Janak Palta (renowned social activist) on the occasion of S-ILF's 12th Anniversary at Indore.



New initiatives of the year

- First Youth Festival at Regional level was organised in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- Awareness campaign with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).
- Round Table Dialogue on Leprosy & launch of Global Appeal 2019.
- Media Familiarisation trip with prominent journalists to leprosy colonies in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- Kalam Innovation in Governance Award to S-ILF's Executive Director Dr. Vineeta Shanker for her work in the field of leprosy.



S-ILF's Executive Director Dr. Vineeta Shanker received the prestigious Kalam Innovation & Governance Award 2019 (KIGA 2019) from Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu for her work in the field of leprosy.



S-ILF's Chairman, Mr.Tarun Das presenting the citation given by Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, in presence of CII President, Mr.Rakesh Bharti Mittal.



S-ILF Executive Director Dr. Vinteeta Shanker with Dr. Mahesh Sharma - Minister of culture



Meeting with Mr. Prakash Javadekar, HRD Minister



Mr. Sasakawa, S-ILF Patron, with Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-chairman NITI Aayog.



Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Member of Parliament congratulating Mr. Yohei Sasakawa for winning Gandhi Peace Prize 2018



Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog felicitated by a participant at National Youth Festival 2019



S-ILF's chairman Mr. Tarun Das with Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Patron S-ILF at National Youth Festival 2019



Renowned sufi singer, Ms. Sonam Kalra, performing at the launch of Global Appeal 2019

S-ILF felicitated Mr. Yohei Sasakawa on receiving the Gandhi Peace Prize 2018

S-ILF felicitated Mr. Yohei Sasakawa on receiving the Gandhi Peace Prize which was attended by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Lok Sabha MP, Mr. Tarun Vijay, Rajya Sabha MP BJP, Mr. Vivek Tankha Rajya Sabha MP Congress, Ms. Pinky Anand, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Arun Maira, Former Member Planning Commission along with other prominent personalities.



Expanding wings- new office inauguration

To expand our horizon and reach out to maximum stakeholders, S-ILF office moved to a centralised location in Lutyens' Delhi. Our new office is now at Lodhi Road next to India Habitat Centre. It was inaugurated by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Patron S-ILF in presence of S-ILF's Chairman Mr. Tarun Das and eminent board members.



Our Allies

Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL)

APAL is a national networking organization of persons affected by leprosy. Founded in 2006 with active encouragement and help from the Nippon Foundation, Japan, APAL is an essential part of Mr. Sasakawa's vision of mainstreaming the affected population and their families to restore their dignity.

APAL provides platform for persons affected by leprosy to discuss their issues and take up matters pertaining to their rights and entitlements at various levels of State and Central Government. To mention a few, issues pertaining to their land rights, pensions, and specific schemes for disabled people, human rights issues, education and employment, housing sanitation etc.



The first President of APAL was Dr. P. K. Gopal. later this responsibility was shouldered by Mr. V. Narasappa from Hyderabad.

Currently, the APAL head office is in Hyderabad and the leaders (both nominated & elected depending upon the need and situation) have their respective state forum to address the issues of their communities.

Over the years, S-ILF has worked in close collaboration with APAL to strengthen its programs, building a significant trust and rapport between the two institutions. In FY 2018-19, a decision to strengthen the collaboration with frequent interactions and consultations was taken.

APAL leaders have helped S-ILF immensely in flagging off real concerns/challenges during program implementation resulting in S-ILF appointing Leaders as mentors/facilitators for implementing its livelihood projects.

People do not recognise us by our religion, caste or state. They only identify us as leprosy affected people. It is, therefore, very crucial for all leprosy-affected people to unite and fight together to end the stigma. Discrimination against us should stop. We have a long fight ahead and we will not stop until our difficulties are addressed and needs are fulfilled. I invite everybody to come forward and lend a hand to help leprosy affected people to lead a dignified life.

**Mr. V. Narasappa
President-APAL**



Donors



The Nippon Foundation
(TNF)



State Bank of India (SBI)



Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
(SDTT)



National Skill Development
Corporation (NSDC)



His Holiness The Dalai Lama
Trust (HHDLT)



Small Industries
Development Bank of India
(SIDBI)



Dewan Housing Finance
Corporation Limited (DHFL)



ITC Limited



Alar Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.



Pearl Global



Pearl Retail Solutions Pvt. Ltd.



LT Foods



Bajaj Auto Ltd.



Delhi Metro Rail Corporation



HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd.



Training partners



Don Bosco Tech
Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand,
Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,
Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal



Empower Pragati
Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand



**Pratham Education
Foundation**
Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya
Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha



GMR Foundation
Delhi



VAG InfoTech
Delhi



IIJT
Delhi



B-Able
Odisha



Gram Tarang
Odisha



Wockhardt
Uttar Pradesh



Simtej 7 Academy
Maharashtra



Friends of S-ILF

S-ILF has collaborated with organizations working in the field of leprosy through exemplary partnerships of joint efforts to eliminate stigma and discrimination against leprosy.



Netherlands Leprosy Relief Foundation
(NLR Foundation)



The Leprosy Mission Trust of India (TLMTI)



Lepra Society



National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People



Kalam Centre



National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP)

Supporters



Ministry of HRD



National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)



Embassy of Japan



Association for the International Exchange of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC)



Junior Chamber International, India



Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)



#LeprosyFreeIndia



Academic Institutions



Oriental University, Indore



Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi



Department of Social Work,
Delhi University



Fairfield Institute of Mgmt.
& Tech. (FIMT), affiliated
with Indraprastha University,
New Delhi



Gautam Buddha University,
Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh



Institute of Public Health
& Hygiene (IPH&H), New
Delhi



Central University of
Rajasthan



Choithram College of Nursing,
Indore



Kalka Institute of Advance
Studies and Research



Prestige Institute of
Management & Research,
Indore



Gargi College, Delhi
University



Ramjas College,
Delhi University





Kendriya Vidyalaya
Sangathan, New Delhi



Rashtriya Madhyamik Sikshan
Abhiyan (RMSA) Chhattisgarh



Indore School of Social
Work, Indore



MATS University, Raipur



Amity Institute of Social
Sciences (AISS), Amity
University, Noida



Air Force Bal Bharti School,
New Delhi



New Horizon School, New
Delhi



Mount Carmel School, New
Delhi



The Sri Ram School,
Moulisari Avenue, Gurgaon



Kalindi College, Delhi
University



Choithram International
School, Indore



Kasturbagram Rural
Institute, Indore

S-ILF in Public Eye

राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव यूथ अगेंस्ट लेप्रोसी का आयोजन

नई दिल्ली, जेएनएन। सासाकावा-इंडिया लेप्रोसी फाउंडेशन (एस-आईएलएफ) ने कुष्ठ रोग को लेकर युवा पीढ़ी के बीच जागरूकता फैलाने के उद्देश्य से राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव यूथ अगेंस्ट लेप्रोसी का आयोजन किया। नई दिल्ली स्थित इंडिया इस्लामिक कल्चरल सेंटर में आयोजित यह महोत्सव देशभर से हिस्सा लेने वाले कॉलेजों का फाइनल था, जिन्हें कार्यक्रम के तहत प्रशिक्षण दिया

Youth Festival- Dainik Jagran

लगातार कार्यक्रम का सफल आयोजन कर रहा है।



Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy greets students while Chief Guest Dr Rajiv Kumar (L), Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog looks on during the Youth Against Leprosy — The National Youth Festival organised by Sasakawa-India Leprosy in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Youth Festival -The Tribune

Youth festival held in Delhi to raise awareness about leprosy



New Delhi, Jan 29 To raise awareness about leprosy and surrounding it, a national youth festival was held in Tuesday by the Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (SIL) towards creating economic opportunities for leprosy-affected

The 'Youth against Leprosy' witnessed widespread participation

Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog who was chief guest said youth are harbingers of change and by bringing those affected by leprosy and their families to the

'As a member of the Indian government and as a citizen of the cause of leprosy and feel that everyone should come together to support those affected by leprosy and their families.

'It is important that we encourage early detection and treatment eliminated from the country. However, this can happen only together,' Kumar said.

According to the WHO, India accounts for around 60 per cent of the world's leprosy cases.

Youth Festival -Outlook

The annual youth festival by the SIL provides a platform

Youth festival seeks to end stigma of leprosy

Times News Network

Endore: In a bid to bridge the discrimination faced by people, who belong to a family of leprosy background and help them mingle with the mainstream society, a regional youth festival was conducted in city on Wednesday.

At this unique fest, 30 college students of non-leprosy background performed cultural programmes with 55 students of leprosy background.

Be it a folk or folk dances, when the college students performed on stage the audience couldn't make out who belonged to which background. Social worker Janki Palta, MC of the event, was chief guest of the fest.

'Our aim is to provide a dignified life and equal opportunities to those affected by leprosy and their families,' said executive director Dr. Vinod Kumar. The non-leprosy background students underwent some awareness workshops before meeting the leprosy background students to make them aware of the disease and all the myths and issues revolving around it, said Dr. Vinod Kumar, who had managed the festival.

The students stayed to



Patients get 'Rising to Dignity' award

From going door to door to sell sarees to opening a small shop at home, a city-based group of four women with leprosy background, got 'Rising to Dignity' award along with Rs 1 lakh cash prize on Wednesday.

'The journey wasn't an easy one for us as we belonged to the family of leprosy. Our parents had begged all their lives for a living. But, they had to choose since they were lepers and treated as outcasts,' said Neena Bhandari, who assured that her parents stop begging as she started earning.

ly practiced for their performances together, but interacted about their lives. 'I was unaware of the

Families will raise pension, land issues

The family members of 300 leprosy patients, who live in self-settlement colonies, have pledged to take up pension and land issues to public representatives, who come seeking votes.

'At present leprosy gets Rs 300 as monthly pension which is not sufficient for us. We have also been facing rehabilitation issues. Despite all these problems, we have always cast votes,' said Madhya Pradesh Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy leader Sarang Singhania.

ty which is ill-treated because of a disease. I have made several friends in the two-day camp and we will

जागरूकता और सही इलाज से कुष्ठ का उन्मूलन संभव

'यूथ अगेंस्ट लेप्रोसी' से अबतक 2,000 छात्र प्रशिक्षित नई दिल्ली। कुष्ठ पीड़ितों को अस्पष्ट जानकारी मुआवज़े के लक्ष्य में लाने के लिए छुआछूत भेदभाव को बढ़ावा देता है

Youth Festival -Dainik Bhaskar

क अपाध्यक्ष डॉ. राजा सासाकावा-इंडिया लेप्रोसी (एस-आईएलएफ) के जागरूकता फैलाने के

29TH TUESDAY



YOUTH FESTIVAL INDIA ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI 9:30 AM

Get ready to be a part for a youth awareness program — Youth Against Leprosy — a national youth festival organized by Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation. The program is aimed to raise the awareness levels about leprosy amongst the younger generation. The festival will be a finale of all participating colleges.

Youth Festival -The Sunday Guardian

Fest to create awareness on leprosy held

New Delhi: Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation organized 'Youth Against Leprosy', a national youth festival aimed to raise the awareness on leprosy among youths, at the India Islamic Cultural Centre here on Tuesday.

S-ILF's annual youth festival provides a platform for young people from non-leprosy backgrounds (students from different colleges/universities) to mingle and interact with youths from leprosy colonies. These interactions are aimed to bust myths and create social bridges among college youths regarding leprosy.

Yohei Sasakawa, WHO goodwill ambassador for leprosy eradication, was present as the guest of honor. Yohei Sasakawa has also been nominated for the Gandhi Peace Prize by the government of India for his commitment towards raising awareness on leprosy.

Youth Festival -The Times of India -late city edition

The Lancet report

WORLD REPORT | VOLUME 392, ISSUE 10148, P624-625, AUGUST 25, 2018

Experts fear a resurgence of leprosy in India

BY **Sophie Cousins**

India declared the elimination of leprosy as a public health emergency in 2005, but a resurgence could be going unnoticed. Sophie Cousins reports.

When G Venu Gopal began to show visible signs of leprosy infection 50 years ago, he was forced out of his community in the southeastern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. He was only 17.

"I had to leave my village and my studies to save my family and myself", the now 67-year-old said. "I didn't know anything about leprosy. My future was spoilt because of stigma and discrimination." Gopal left his village for Delhi, where he did not speak the language or know anyone. He soon realised he would only be welcome in a leprosy colony on the outskirts of the city where others like him lived.

Fast-forward five decades, Gopal still lives in the Tahirpur Leprosy Complex in rough conditions, with about 9000 people living with leprosy and their families. There are more than 800 colonies across India.

Gopal, vice president of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, an organisation that works to improve the lives of those with the disease, says stigma and discrimination are fuelled by a misunderstanding about how leprosy is transmitted. Even though he has been cured for decades, people believe he is contagious.

"I wanted to be a doctor", he says, "but look, I'm stuck in a colony. A lack of awareness about leprosy has created misconceptions about it. That's why you see all these colonies."

Such stigma propels people into a life of poverty and exile. Many hide their disease and go untreated because of fear of discrimination. Gopal knows he is one of the lucky ones because he does not have to rely on begging to survive, which is the harsh reality for many of those affected by leprosy.

India and leprosy

Leprosy, a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae* is transmitted via droplets from the nose and mouth and has an incubation period of 1–20 years. It primarily affects the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and eyes, leading to disfigurement and nerve damage. Leprosy is curable with a multidrug therapy of dapsone and rifampicin. Clofazimine is also added for patients who have multibacillary disease, a condition diagnosed by a skin smear. The drug combination, which lasts between 6 months and 2 years, kills the pathogen and cures the patient. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent disability.

In 2005, India announced the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem when the prevalence rate reached fewer than one person per 10 000 people at the national level. But experts now fear the announcement was premature.

"In 2005, while we were applauding ourselves, we did not look deep enough to see the regional variations. That, in itself, should have given us a pointer that this problem was far from over", said Vineeta Shanker, executive director of the Sasakawa–India Leprosy Foundation, an organisation that focuses on creating economic opportunities for leprosy-affected people.

"The government is in a state of denial about the levels of leprosy in the country", she said.

Experts argue that the "forced elimination" of leprosy in 2005 diminished the country's ability to fight the disease and that the rhetoric led people to believe it no longer existed.

Vijay Garg, a leprosy expert based in New Delhi with 30 years' experience, said the 2005 elimination announcement was a mistake because "later, the government realised new cases are everywhere". He added that he sees new leprosy cases at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital in Delhi regularly, which means "the reservoir is still there".

Today, India accounts for 60% of the global burden of the disease worldwide. In 2016–17, there were 135 485 leprosy cases detected, according to the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. That translates to a prevalence of 0.66 per 100 000 people.

However, experts believe that this is an underestimation of the true number of cases. A sample survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research between 2008 and 2011 found there could be as many as 250 000 new cases of leprosy in India each year.

In stark contrast to the official announcement 13 years ago, India's National Health Policy 2017—which will guide the policy direction of the country over the next decade—set elimination of leprosy as a "national target". It states that the policy "envisages proactive measures targeted towards elimination of leprosy from India by 2018".

"In our enthusiasm to announce elimination, the government moved leprosy to our public health programme rather than to have a focused mission—a vertical mission—to tackle it", Shanker said. "Unfortunately, what this move did was dilute efforts on the ground. Suddenly, this huge force of people who are trained experts in identifying leprosy were lost. It went down in the government's priorities."

Mary Verghese, executive director of The Leprosy Mission Trust India, the largest organisation focused on the disease in the country, said that after elimination was declared the country moved to voluntary case reporting. As a result, between 2004 and 2007, research shows new case detection dropped by 75%. "Everyone thought leprosy was no longer there, so there was a reduction in resources and funding available", she said.

Henk Bekedam, WHO representative to India, said the country was a "priority country on leprosy based on the number of new cases and new grade 2 disability cases reported annually" to the agency. However, he said the integration of the leprosy programme into general health reflected the "appropriate public health strategy".

The Divorce Bill: De-stigmatising leprosy sufferers



Vineeta Shanker

It is heartening to note that the government has finally taken note of the huge lacuna in the country's laws which still include clauses that discriminate against those who happen to be affected by leprosy. Recently, the government made a commendable move towards the elimination of leprosy discrimination in India with the Lok Sabha passing the bill removing leprosy as a ground for divorce. In today's age, when leprosy, being a bacterial disease, is treatable, and a person becomes non-infective within 24 hours of starting treatment, the grounds on which the law was made no

contribute to the improvement of the overall social environment and the negative perception around leprosy.

It is worth noting here that even today there are around 19 national and state laws and possibly more municipal and local body laws that discriminate on the basis of leprosy. In fact, the law commission had, in April 2015, suo moto drafted an EDPAL (Eliminating Discrimination Against Persons Affected by Leprosy) bill, which sought to render null and void any law/case which discriminates on the basis of leprosy. This bill would have obviated the need for the tedious parliamentary oversight on clause by clause examination for contravening tenets. Unfortunately, despite having been taken up by a number of NGOs, this bill has not found a suitable champion



cured globally in the last two decades. The strong message that this Bill sends is that leprosy need not be feared. It is in line with the protection of human rights of those affected by leprosy. India

stigma against the disease is unwarranted. The need to address the issue of stigma in India is critical. Today India has the highest prevalence rate of leprosy

ling the disease and bringing down the new cases to Eliminate Rate – which is less than one per 10,000 population. India too achieved it at the national level as far back as 2005. Unfortunately, however, since then the progress in the elimination of leprosy as a public health concern has been slow and in absolute numbers – stagnant.

The government has in recent years taken cognisance of this and intensified its efforts on multiple fronts to detect, diagnose and treat those affected. Most of these efforts on the medical side have resulted in many more cases being identified and in being identified before the onset of leprosy-related disabilities. This, in turn, will help in interrupting the transmission of the disease and eventually lowering its incidence in the country.

It can no longer be hidden. Late detection and treatment, even though it can cure the disease cannot reverse the nerve damage and disabilities. It also results in the continued transmission of the disease.

To address the stigma, greater social awareness and a change in the social environment where leprosy is no longer feared and those affected are accepted and included is essential. To this end, the recent Divorce Bill is a step in the right direction. It gives the right social message.

The good work begun by the government on the social front needs to be further strengthened. The discriminatory clauses in the different laws need to be annulled; affirmative action to include those affected within the social welfare net needs to be stepped up; above all a

S-ILF's Executive Director, Dr. Vineeta Shanker's opinion piece in DNA



The Hindu Business Line - cover page story on leprosy.



‘Some of the pictures used in this report are for representation purpose only, and not necessarily means that they are S-ILL’s direct beneficiaries.’

Financial Statements

Sources of Funds

As on 31-03-2018		Particulars	As on 31-03-2019	
₹ In Lakhs	%		₹ In Lakhs	%
5251	82	Trust Fund (Corpus)	5873	83
1010	16	Reserves & Other Funds	1183	17
138	2	Sundry Liabilities & Provisions	4	0
6399	100		7060	100

Application of Funds

30	0	Fixed Assets	53	1
3580	56	Investments in scheduled Banks	3055	43
2241	35	Investments - Others	2692	38
548	9	Other Assets	1260	18
6399	100		7060	100

Income

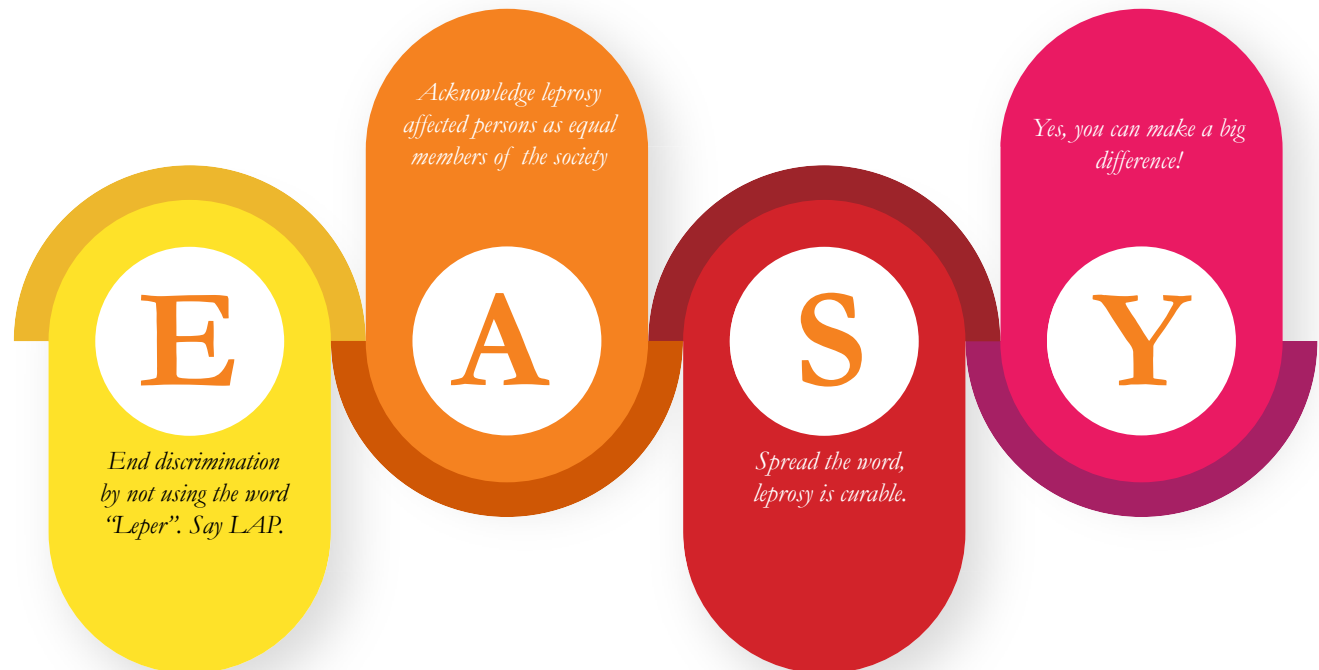
For the Year Ended 31st March'18		Particulars	For the Year Ended 31st March'19	
₹ In Lakhs	%		₹ In Lakhs	%
48	9	Domestic Grants & Donations	159	18
102	20	Foreign Grant	306	35
373	71	Interest on Investments & other Income	399	46
523	100		864	100

Expenditure

Expenditure on Objects of the Trust (Including Grant Related expenses)				
125	21	Livelihood Program Support	175	21
53	9	Communication & Advocacy	68	8
135	23	Education	221	26
18	3	Events	107	13
151	26	Administrative Expenses	121	14
99	17	Surplus/Deficit transferred to the Balance Sheet	149	18
580	100		840	100

How you can engage:

Each one of us can make a small beginning by becoming a brand ambassador to fight the discrimination against the leprosy-affected and their families. Making the difference will be **E.A.S.Y.** as you can see:



Our Team



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Executive Director



Rakesh Jha
Program Head



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*Program Manager
Communications & Advocacy*



Charu Gaba
*Program Manager
Education*



Sanjeev Kumar
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Ruchira Shree
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*Project Associate
Education*



Payal Gadhiok
Consultant



Rajni Sharma
Finance Lead



Ram Autar
*Admin &
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**Sujatha
Krishnamachari**
*EA to Executive
Director*



Ganesh Dhuriya
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