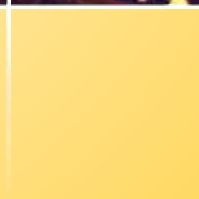
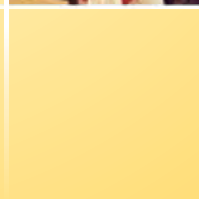
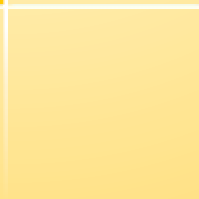
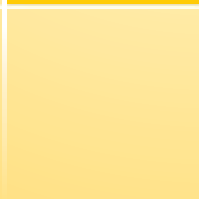
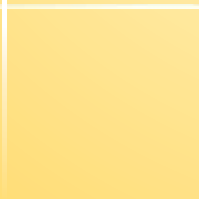
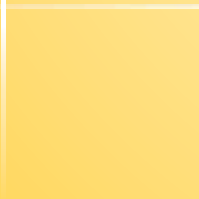
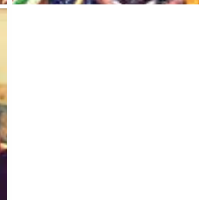
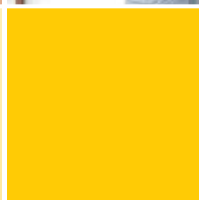
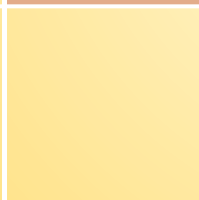
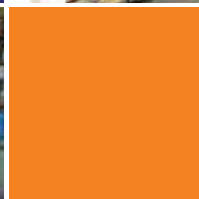
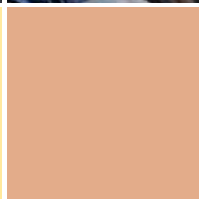
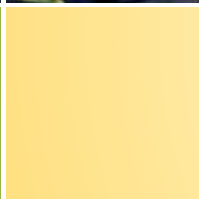
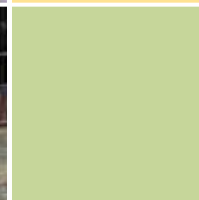
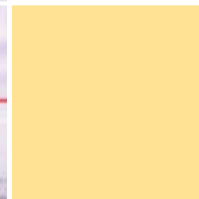
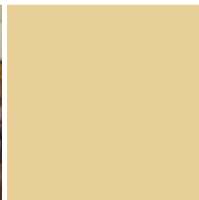




Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation
Working Magic

Annual Report 2015-16





“Let us all pledge to remove the discrimination against people affected by leprosy.”

Yohei Sasakawa

WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination,
Patron, Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation,
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation (TNF)

*At the Global Appeal 2016 to end stigma and
discrimination against leprosy, Tokyo*

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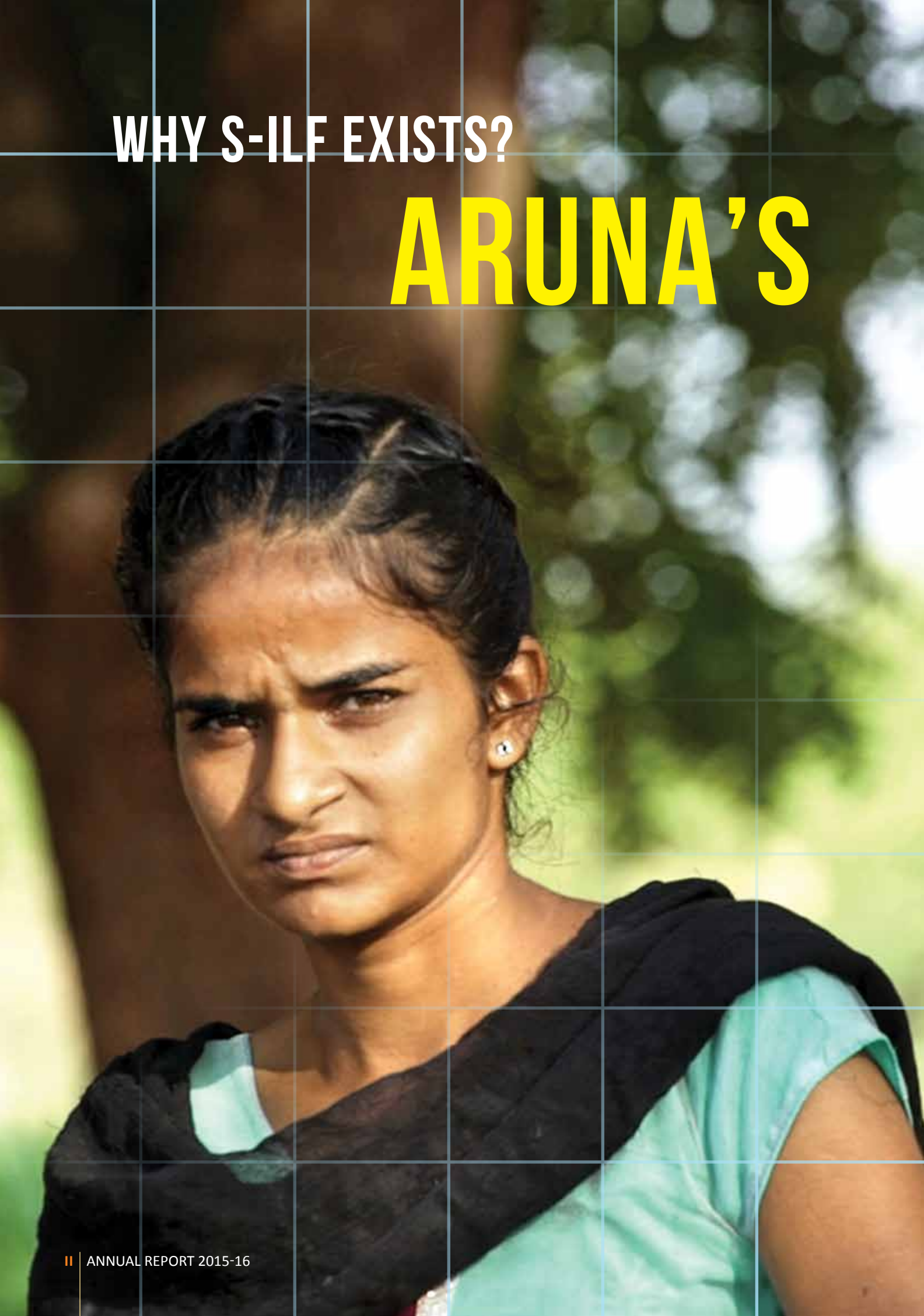
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WHY S-ILF EXISTS?

ARUNA'S



STORY

In the heart of Andhra Pradesh is the small town of Ananthapur and on the outskirts of this town is Prabhodaya Leprosy Colony.

In this colony lives a young, frail girl with strikingly sad brown eyes and a curious habit of hiding her hands when talking to people. Her name is Aruna and she is 17 years old. Since the last two years her life has taken a heart wrenching turn.

Aruna contracted leprosy at the age of 10. She was, however, not treated for her disease which initially showed up as just some patches on her skin. Poverty combined with a lack of information resulted in her parents not initiating any diagnosis or treatment. This neglect turned to fear as deformities began to set in. Fear soon changed to rejection, as her family of poor means considered the social and economic consequences of being labelled as a leprosy-affected family.

They sent her to the leprosy colony where the colony leader was kind enough to take her in. But she couldn't stay there and ran away only to be brought back again and again till it dawned on her that there was no place for her other than where she was now.

With the help of the colony leader, Aruna has been treated and today she is fully cured with only a slight deformity on her hands and a limp. Although she has found a new family, affection and support from the colony members, the sadness in her heart remains and comes through in her shy and timid smile.

In many ways, the tragedy does not lie in the fact that she got leprosy. Instead, what is tragic is that she wasn't treated in time – a step that could have avoided her deformities; that her parents rejected her, not knowing that the disease is curable; that social pressure and stigma compelled them to abandon her when she needed them the most.

S-ILF exists to work for a world without discrimination against people with leprosy. Stigma is the root cause for delayed or no treatment, both of which lead to deformities. Leprosy is fully curable, free of cost, only mildly infectious and not hereditary. There is a large need to spread awareness about these facts. S-ILF exists to spread this awareness and to empower those affected and their families by creating and supporting means of social and economic rehabilitation for this marginalized section of society.

Once Aruna regains her physical and emotional strength, S-ILF will ensure that she is skill trained to become economically independent.



ABOUT S-ILF

OUR STORY

Year 2005 was a glorious moment in the history of India's fight against leprosy. The country reached the magical number of having less than 1 new case per 10,000 population – the benchmark set by WHO for a country to achieve elimination of leprosy as a public health concern. Indeed it was no mean achievement to bring down the prevalence rate from around 50 per 10,000 at the time of independence to less than 1 at a national level.

While India euphorically celebrated this achievement by integrating its leprosy program into the general health program, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, founder of The Nippon Foundation, Japan shifted the fight to include the rehabilitation and integration of leprosy-affected people into mainstream society. From his innumerable travels to the several leprosy colonies spread across India, he was quick to realize that his mission of eliminating leprosy would not be over unless the stigma against leprosy-affected people was eradicated and they were reintegrated into society. He also realized that this fight



against the social stigma and discrimination, to be real, effective and sustainable would have to be led by leprosy-affected people themselves.

According to him the fight against leprosy is like the two wheels of a motorcycle; the front wheel is the medical treatment and care; the back wheel is that of social and economic rehabilitation of leprosy-affected people.

Having supported the front wheel for decades, Mr. Sasakawa, through The Nippon Foundation, of which he is the Chairman, took two visionary steps viz: one, facilitating the formation of the National Forum of leprosy-affected people (now renamed as Association of People Affected by Leprosy i.e. APAL) – an association of leprosy-affected people living in colonies across the country so that they could work together to lead the fight for their acceptance in society and their inclusion in the several welfare schemes of the government; and two, setting up of a foundation that would facilitate the economic empowerment of leprosy-affected people so that they could move out of the demeaning dependence on alms and begging and begin to earn their livelihood with dignity. Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), as this organization is called, came into being on 21st November 2006.



OUR VISION

To work for the integration of leprosy cured people and their families into society.

OUR MISSION

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

WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

We focus on working with leprosy-affected people living in self settled colonies which are members of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) framework. These colonies are usually settlements that came up spontaneously either close to the leprosy hospitals or on public land near drains, railway lines or rivers. Some colonies were set up by government and by missionaries.

There are approximately 840 colonies that we know about. These are scattered across India. There is no geographical concentration and some areas have larger number of colonies than others. These clusters usually form near religious or tourist towns or along river beds or in proximity of leprosy hospitals which were once the only places for treatment until Multiple Drug Therapy (MDT), the cure for leprosy was discovered.

Poverty combined with stigma renders them marginalized even among the marginalized.

OUR GOALS

- To create conditions that will enable leprosy cured people and their families to have equal access to economic opportunities
- To increase social acceptability of leprosy-cured people and their families through information dissemination

OUR PILLARS OF WORK

- Building capacity and training in livelihood activities for self and wage employment
- Providing micro grants and scholarships for self and wage employment
- Facilitating access to vocational training and higher education
- Providing microfinance opportunities
- Raising awareness about leprosy among all sections of society to fight the stigma



OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

S-ILF works on the premise that social and economic rehabilitation of leprosy-affected people and their families is critical to enhance their dignity and respect in society.

When leprosy-affected people are empowered with sustainable livelihoods, employable skills training and education they can lead healthy lives with dignity and their children, families, and communities can prosper.

S-ILF supports the leprosy-affected through information, capacity building and financial assistance to set up micro-enterprises and train for employable skills.



OUR PROGRAM GOALS

Recognizing that effective and sustainable reintegration into society would require both enhancing the capabilities of those affected to access market opportunities, as well as changing mindsets and attitudes, S-ILF has adopted a five pronged approach:

- To enhance employability of leprosy-affected people 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 and education
- To raise awareness in society about leprosy
- To build partnerships amongst NGOs, self-help groups, business and media to achieve our goals

S-ILF develops and supports programs which place leprosy-affected people and their families at the centre of development. We recognize that poverty, education, financial independence and dignity are all inter-connected and impacted by the underlying stigma associated with the disease, and our programs reflect this inclusive approach.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) was established in order to realize a society in which people affected by leprosy in India would be able to enjoy equal social, economic and cultural opportunities. S-ILF is working hard to bring about a sustainable change in the economic and social lives of people affected by leprosy, and I am encouraged and uplifted by your devoted efforts.

As you know, India achieved the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem at the national level in 2005. But if you visit any of the 800 or so leprosy colonies in the country you will see that, even today, residents lead uncertain lives and a majority must turn to begging for a living.

If people living in colonies are able to find work, then they will not need to beg; they will be able to take their place in society and live with dignity. Seeing an end to begging among colony residents and seeing colonies integrated into society has become my dream.

Over these nine years, as the most important pillar of its work, S-ILF has been expanding its activities to help people affected by leprosy living in colonies to become economically independent. Many successful examples can be found in enterprises that are the right fit for their area—and the secret behind this lies in the training carried out ahead of time by S-ILF staff and skilled mentors, and their meticulous attention to project implementation.



S-ILF has also placed emphasis on education and vocational training of the ‘second generation’—the children living in colonies. As a result, the number of young people finding work outside the colonies is gradually increasing.

There are still many issues to be tackled in leprosy. I would like to ask the S-ILF team to continue working to address these in cooperation with the organization of people affected by leprosy and local authorities so that people living in colonies can live in dignity. So that there are no more barriers between them and the outside world. So that they can come and go freely without fear of prejudice.

I thank all involved for your contribution so far, and I look forward to S-ILF’s continued expansion.

A handwritten signature in Japanese calligraphy, consisting of four characters: 佐川 陽平 (Sasakawa Yohei).

Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman,
The Nippon Foundation

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2015-16 was a good year for S-ILF as it expanded its reach to larger numbers of leprosy-affected families. This year it funded more than 48 new livelihood micro-enterprises, taking the total number of such projects to more than 238 over the last eight years. S-ILF also widened its geographical spread and now has reached out to more than 195 colonies in 18 states. This is no mean feat as the activities entail not just grants but in-depth training and intensive and sustained support till the enterprises become self sustainable. While it is proud of its achievements, S-ILF is acutely aware that not all the enterprises will grow into larger businesses and that some will inevitably fall on the way side often due to circumstances beyond the control of the project owners. This awareness has strengthened S-ILF's focus on helping to make these enterprises more sustainable by enhancing capacities and providing timely mentoring support.

S-ILF has also introduced scholarships for professional courses under the His Highness Dalai Lama Scholarship (HHDS) 2015-16. It funded 14 scholars from four states for courses in different professional streams ranging from B. Tech, B. Pharm, B.Sc Agriculture, Diploma in Optometry to MBA. It continued with its assistance to enable youth from the colonies to be skilled and placed in entry level jobs. For those youth who wanted to start their own micro-enterprises, it introduced a new program for entrepreneurship training and financial assistance. Under this program 13 youth have set up and are running their small enterprises such as mini stores for typing and photocopy, Chinese food and grocery.

In early January 2016, two of our nursing scholars were invited by The Nippon



Foundation to attend the 10th Global Appeal to End Discrimination against Leprosy in Tokyo. The launch of the Appeal was graced by Their Excellencies, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe and First Lady Mrs. Akie Abe, and the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, Mr. Yasuhisa Shiozaki. Sharing the stage with the dignitaries, it was a proud moment for S-ILF when one of the scholars, herself once a patient of leprosy and now a fully qualified nurse, read out the Global Appeal with a few other affected persons. Attending and speaking at the function was also Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, an MP from West Bengal who is the Convenor of the Indian Forum of Parliamentarians to Free India of Leprosy, an informal body which works closely with S-ILF. For the girls who participated, the excitement was palpable as this trip was one of many firsts – not only was it their first flight and first trip abroad, a first opportunity to speak in public and to taste Japanese food but also the first to take their place as equals on an international platform. The trip was a milestone and symbolic of the dreams of children of the leprosy-affected.

S-ILF remains committed to making those dreams a reality.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S.K. Noordeen'.

Dr. S.K. Noordeen
Chairman, S-ILF

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I would like to begin by paying tribute to our Advisory Board Member, Dr. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury who passed away peacefully on 27th October 2015. Dr. Chaudhury's staunch support of our work, his constant encouragement and the gentle way in which he ensured that we kept our focus, was inspirational and endeared him to one and all at S-ILF. We will miss him greatly but take solace in the thought that he would have been proud of our achievements in 2015-16.

This year, S-ILF has embarked on a detailed long term strategy development process to ensure we continue to be focused and grow from strength to strength as we near completion of 10 years of our existence. To achieve this goal, we now have Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India on our Advisory Board. We are confident that with the efforts invested we will gain greater success in our endeavors.

Livelihood, our flagship program made steady progress in bringing more states, more colonies and more affected people within its ambit. We added 51 new projects to our existing ones and ventured into new colonies and new states.

There are a large number of youth in the colonies who are looking to be gainfully employed. S-ILF's STEP UP program which seeks to get them job-ready has skilled 463 youth and placed 221 in entry level jobs. Even more encouraging is that these initiatives have helped to motivate others and more youth are coming forward for skill training.

Several youth have over the years expressed their desire to start their own businesses. S-ILF initiated a Youth Entrepreneurship Program this year under which it trained and supported 13 youth from two states to start their micro-enterprises. The highlight of this new program was that the state leaders themselves were appointed as their mentors – a landmark development for S-ILF to see the leprosy-affected taking lead roles in the creation of livelihoods.

It gives me even greater pleasure in reporting that one of these is a woman leader who not only



supervises a very successful tile laying enterprise started with S-ILF's assistance but has also gained enough confidence to advise and mentor youth to make their enterprises economically successful.

She is also one of the trainers trained under our Women's Empowerment Program (WEP). Introduced this year, WEP aims to help women address issues related not only to business activities but also in managing their home and family fronts. We also encourage them to become change agents and assist other women in the colonies.

Mentors, who help S-ILF's beneficiaries implement and address the challenges faced by the beneficiaries in managing their enterprises, are the bedrock of our program. This year we held our first mentors meet where we brought in 15 of our NGOs/mentor organizations and individuals. The interactive workshop focused on best practices and provided valuable inputs for further strengthening our program effectiveness and impact.

Advocating for the rights of leprosy-affected is central to our vision. We are glad to share that we participated at the launch of the Global Appeal 2016 to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against people affected by leprosy and have been working with our Parliamentary Forum and other NGOs to advocate for the passing of the Eliminating Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy (EDPAL) Bill.

Next year will be a milestone year as we complete 10 years of S-ILF when not only will we take stock of the last decade but also plan for a bigger push in the coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vineeta'.

Dr. Vineeta Shanker
Executive Director, S-ILF



S-ILF'S GOVERNANCE AND TEAM

OUR BOARD



Dr. S.K. Noordeen - Chairman
Chairman, Leprosy Elimination Alliance (LEA)
and Former Director (Leprosy) WHO, Geneva



Tarun Das - Member
Former Director General, Confederation of
Indian Industry (CII)



Syeda Imam Bilgrami - Member
Advisory Board Member and Consultant,
Creative Communications
(Education, Social Welfare, Communal Harmony, and
Nation-building)



Rathi Vinay Jha - Member
Retired IAS Officer, Former Director General,
Fashion Design Council of India



Tatsuya Tanami - Member
Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation,
Tokyo



Prof. Etsuko Kita - Member
Chairperson, Board of Sasakawa Memorial
Health Foundation, Japan

ADVISORY MEMBERS



Rajesh Srivastava - Member
Chairman & Managing Director,
Rabo Equity Advisors



Ravi Singh - Member
Secretary General & CEO of
WWF-India



Dr. Derek Lobo - Member
Consultant, Department of Public Health,
Manipal University, Karnataka State India

TRIBUTE TO DR. RANJIT ROY CHOUDHURY



"A highly accomplished professional and Padma Shri Award winner, Dr. Ranjit Roy Choudhury was an integral Member of the Advisory Board of S-ILF. I remember Dr. Roy Choudhury as someone who brought a lot of wisdom and experience to the table at every meeting but he did so with immense humility and composure. S-ILF will miss his guidance and direction."

Dr. S.K. Noordeen
Chairman, S-ILF

"Not one of us can forget the readiness with which Dr. Roy Choudhury held out valuable help at every one of our meetings: in real, practical terms – and in the gentlest, most reassuring manner. The respect he enjoyed from the many medical and government echelons gave us the confidence that we could genuinely move forward. S-ILF will miss him and his wise and practised guidance most acutely."

Mrs. Syeda Imam
Advisory Board Member, S-ILF

OUR TEAM



Dr. Vineeta Shanker
Executive Director

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM



Sanjeev Kumar
Program Manager



Atul Kumar
Program Officer



Khalid Sharfuddin
Program Officer

Rituparna Sarangi
Program Officer



Yogita Parkale
Program Associate



EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Tanzeel Khan
Programme Officer

Payal Gadhiok
Consultant (Part-time)



COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY



◀ **Aftab Pasha**
Programme Officer



Rachna Mantri
Consultant (Part-time) ▶

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE



▶ **Ram Autar**
Accounts and
Administrative Officer



▶ **Rajni Sharma**
Consultant (Part-time)



▶ **Vandana Nagpal**
Consultant



▶ **Ganesh Prasad Dhuria**
Office Attendant



▶ **Raj Kumar Masih**
Office Attendant & Driver



OUR PROGRAMS

2015-16 AT A GLANCE



NURTURING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

The integration of leprosy-affected people with society requires both enhancing capacities of those affected and their families to access market opportunities as well as a change in societal attitudes so as to end stigma and discrimination against people affected by the disease and their families.



LIVELIHOOD CREATION

S-ILF helps leprosy affected people to move away from a life of begging to one of dignity and economic independence through its livelihood program. S-ILF helps realize this dream of the people by providing financial assistance in the form of micro grants. To ensure sustainability, this is supported with a focus on enhancing business capacities of those availing of the grant. S-ILF does this by a series of training workshops, a mentorship program and a close monitoring of the program till the grantees can run their enterprises on their own.

S-ILF strongly believes that mere financial assistance will not lead to long term transformation given that leprosy-affected people usually have low levels of education, poor exposure and low risk taking capacities. Therefore they need to be skilled and supported so that they can stand on their own feet.

OUR PROCESSES

S-ILF works in close partnership with the Association for People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) taking its help to reach those leprosy affected people who want to set up micro-enterprises. S-ILF not only provides financial assistance to initiate livelihood projects but also actively participates in each step of the project i.e., from its identification and feasibility assessment to its implementation and monitoring. It takes the help of other local NGOs to assist the grantees in implementing the projects and providing timely guidance to meet the challenges as they arise. However, S-ILF takes care to ensure that the grantees are engaged in decision making at all stages.

SILF runs several training workshops to enable the grantees to have a good understanding of the processes needed to run their enterprises and to be aware of the challenges that they could face. Once they are ready, S-ILF supports them in their journey towards dignified livelihood by closely guiding them and monitoring their progress for a period of three years. By this time, they are independent and adept at running their projects in a sustainable manner.

Taking into account the previously approved grants, S-ILF has till today worked on a total of 238 approved livelihood projects reaching out to 195 leprosy colonies in 18 states across the country, positively impacting more than 2,000 leprosy-affected families directly.





Capacity development through trainings, workshops and exposure visits is essential to ensure the long term sustainability of the micro-enterprises. Our aim is to strengthen the technical skills and morale of the grantees so that they can, within a short period of time, sustain their enterprises on their own. This is achieved through micro-enterprise development training, business orientation workshops, enterprise formulation, book keeping, customized training, fostering market linkages, providing constant guidance through mentorship and finally by close monitoring to ensure progressive and productive livelihood. Financial assistance is provided directly into their bank accounts thereby cutting off all intermediaries and encouraging banking practices. Funding is staggered and disbursement is based on achievement of milestones. As a result, together with active participation of mentors and the beneficiaries, S-ILF is deeply involved in inculcating a dignified sense of ownership and accountability among the beneficiaries, towards their livelihood projects.

Our Livelihood Program: Year 2015-16 in review



NEARLY 2,044
 LEPROSY-AFFECTED FAMILIES
 EMPOWERED

45 NEW PROJECTS
 UNDERTAKEN

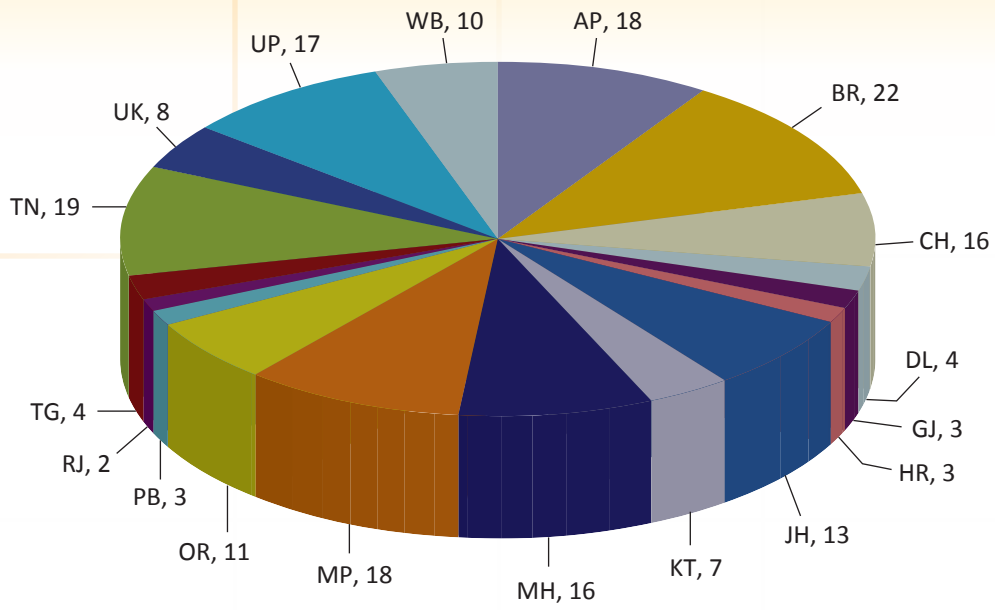
REACHED OUT TO
18 STATES

238 
 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD
 PROJECTS SUPPORTED

More than **16** 
 DIFFERENT TYPES OF
 ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

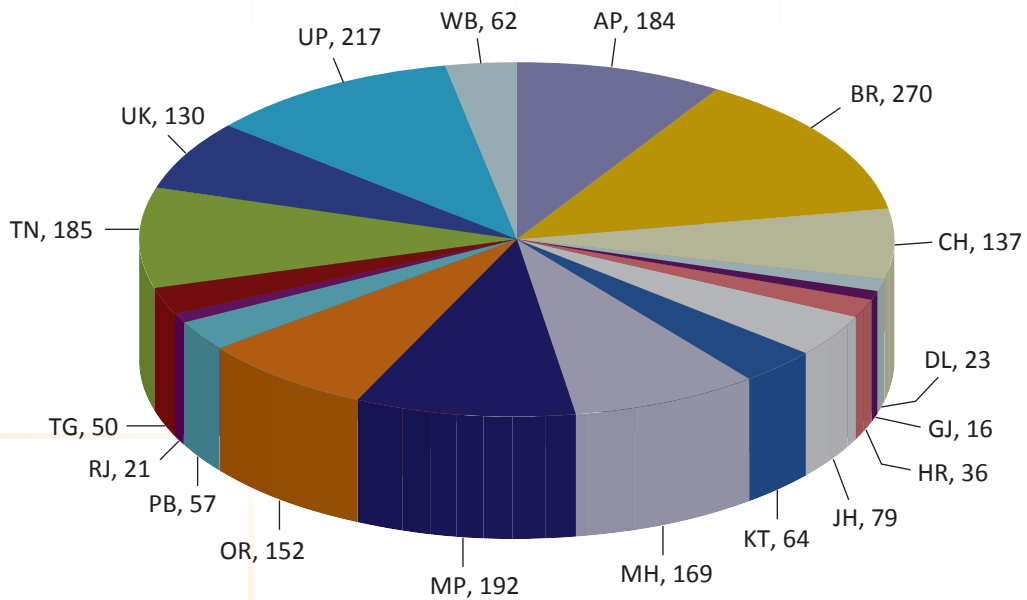
 PROVIDE
**SOcial AND ECONOMIC
 REHABILITATION**
 THROUGH LIVELIHOOD GENERATION
 AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

S-ILF's Outreach - 194 Colonies from 18 States

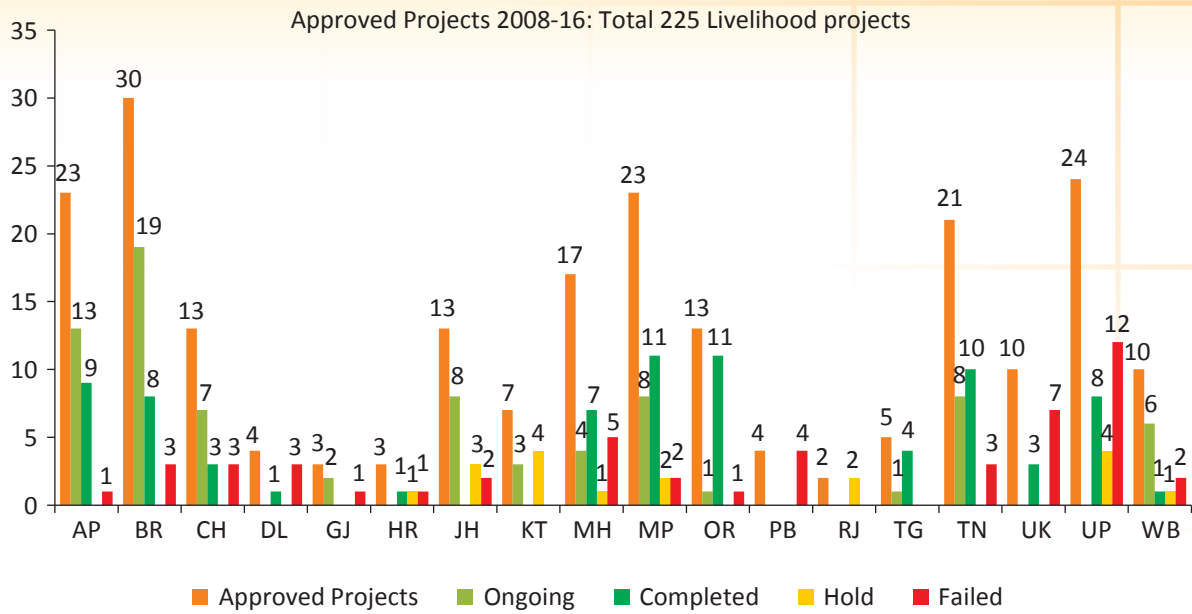


State-wise distribution of colonies where S-ILF livelihood projects 2016 have been undertaken

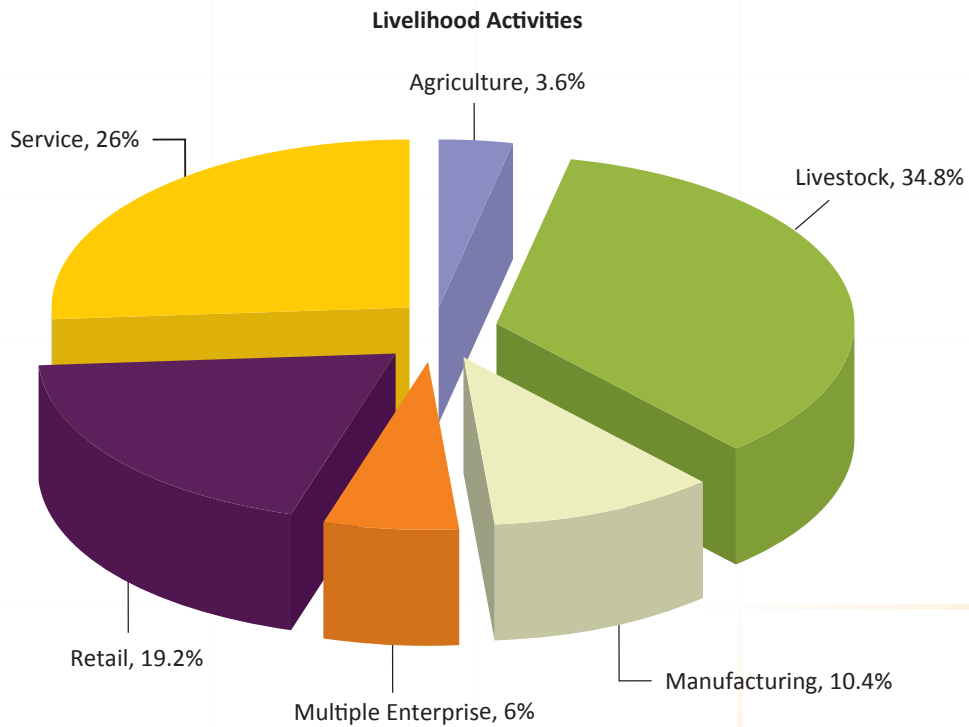
Total direct beneficiaries since 2008-16: 2044



State-wise distribution of beneficiaries of S-ILF's livelihood project assistance



State-wise distribution of livelihood projects approved till 2016



Distribution of projects according to types of activities

OUR PROJECT SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

This year too, the people from the colonies came forward with their ideas to start different livelihood projects like cultivation, livestock rearing, trading, petty manufacturing and providing services such as catering and decoration, tent house facilities, electrical services and so on.

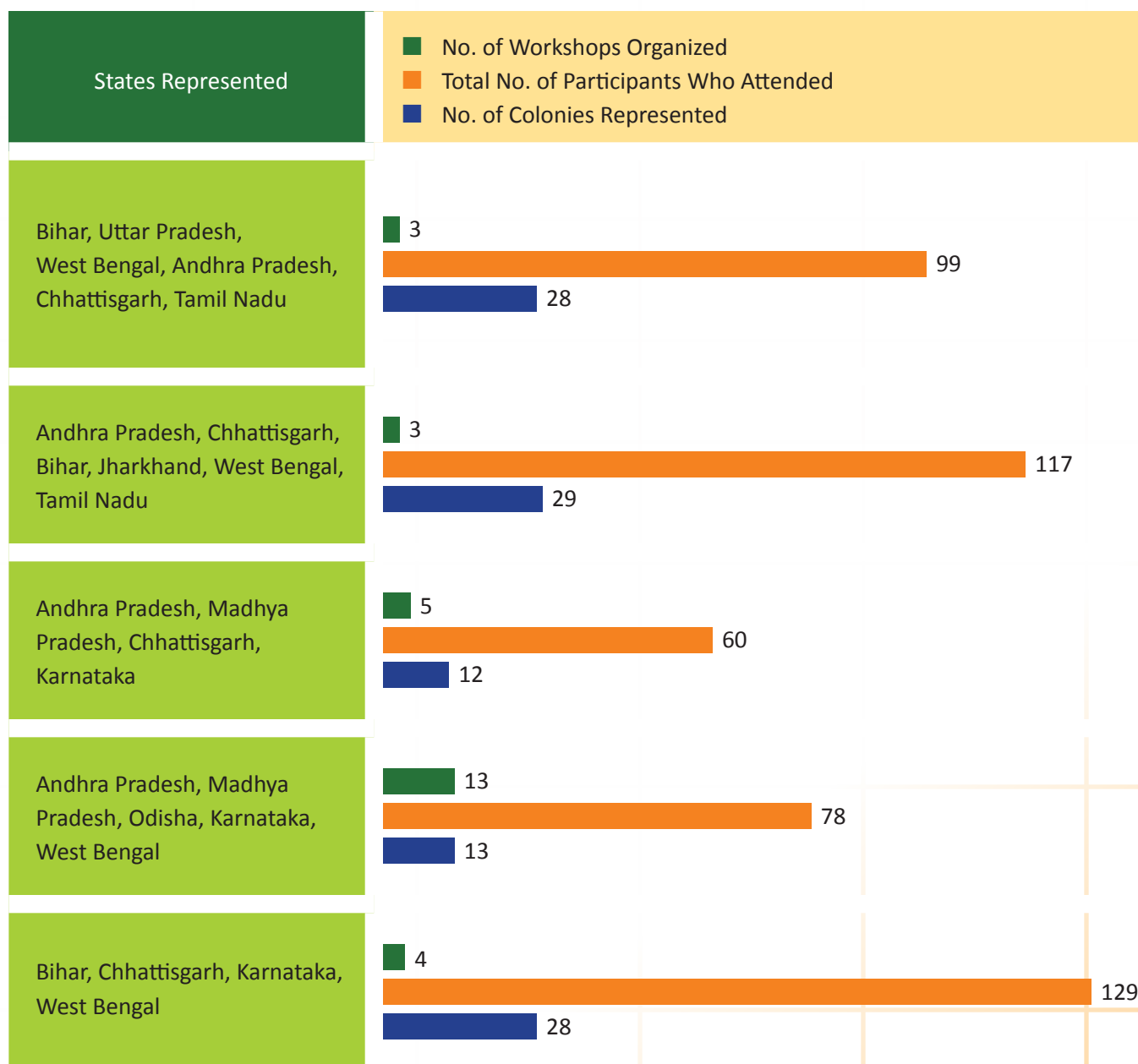
KEY LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES HELD THIS YEAR

Training Workshops/ Meetings	Purpose
Training for Socio-Economic Change (TSECs)	Orientation on different aspects of developing a business proposal like market research, identification of viable livelihood options, marketing, costing, pricing, and sales projection. Followed by participants submitting their proposals for which they conducted market feasibility with the help of S-ILF's local NGO partners.
Stakeholder Orientation Workshops (SOWs)	Training selected beneficiaries on S-ILF's funding mechanisms, financial management, roles and responsibilities, marketing, sustainability of the enterprise, entrepreneurship, best practices, livestock management, finalizing action plans and business plans.
Micro-enterprise Leadership Development (MELD)	Aimed at developing leadership qualities for those who need extra support to scale up their enterprise.
Training and Exposure (TAE) Workshops	Conduct project specific training through exposure visits to successfully running enterprises. Aimed at orientation for socio-economic change.
State Level Meetings (SLMs)	Provide a platform to share their experiences with their initiatives, present success and conduct discussions to find viable solutions to the challenges faced.

In 2015-16, a market feasibility assessment and proposal development was conducted for 38 projects across seven states. All 38 livelihood projects involving 241 leprosy-affected persons were approved in S-ILF's 14th Project Selection Committee Meeting (PSCM). The projects are located in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.

SUPPORTING OUR BENEFICIARIES THROUGH TRAININGS

For the success of the project it is important that the beneficiaries develop and take full ownership of the projects proposed by them. To equip them to develop proposals and handle the projects on their own, S-ILF conducts trainings at different stages of the project and continues to mentor them as and when needed.



“

I had participated in the Training for Social and Economic Change and now in the Stakeholder Orientation Workshop. I must say now I have a clear picture of how to bring more creativity to my business, how to give it a more commercial angle for better profits and long term sustainability.”

**Jaya Prakash, Coimbatore
SOW, March 2016**

“

S-ILF has given us so much of exposure and has supported us immensely to an extent we had never thought. I am proud to be a part of such a great exercise. I really feel confident as a result of the workshop.”

Pappu, Chakdola, SLM, July 2015

“

We have never been part of such meetings and discussions. It's a huge learning for all of us. Thanks to S-ILF.”

Mr. Satish, Latur, MEDL, 2nd Jan 2016



MEDL, JANUARY 2016



WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

MENTORS MEET

S-ILF conducted its first Mentors Meet with partner organizations to gain insight into their experiences working on S-ILF's projects in the colonies, since 2008. The workshop was exclusively designed for NGO partners and the format was participatory and centered around appreciative inquiry.

Two representatives each from each of S-ILF'S NGO partners (including the Chief Functionary and a Program Representative) along with S-ILF's Livelihood team and the Executive Director participated in the Mentors Meet which took place in New Delhi in December 2015. Twenty seven participants from 15 NGOs from 18 states participated in the two-day workshop. The NGOs made presentations sharing their experiences of working on S-ILF's projects and by showcasing the two best livelihood projects funded by S-ILF.





NEW INITIATIVES

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Very often young people do not want to leave their colonies to work outside as they are afraid of stigma. They are, however, keen to be self employed.

Attempts to integrate them in S-ILF's livelihood projects have failed largely on account of the generation gap. The older grantees do not take their views seriously and often accuse the younger people of being unaccommodating. In response, S-ILF has developed a Youth Entrepreneurship Program under which young people are trained to identify and develop small business enterprises which are then funded by S-ILF.

In this, the first year of the initiative, 22 aspiring youth from three states Gujarat (district – Surat), Maharashtra (district – Kolhapur and Ahmednagar) and Chhatisgarh (district – Janjgir Champa) were selected following an intense orientation program. The candidates were invited to attend a five-day

residential training on micro-enterprise proposal development. In all, 15 youth attended the training program that was held in New Delhi from 24th to 28th Aug 2015.

Post training, the candidates returned with a goal to identify at least three market feasible micro-enterprise proposals each with the help of their mentors (state leaders) including market feasibility assessments, cost benefit assessment and detailed business plan. Following the training, 13 youth submitted 39 proposals.

In October 2015, the 13 candidates were invited to participate in the second training on micro-enterprise development, in New Delhi. They discussed all their three proposals and finalized the best feasible proposal. They went back with an action plan to develop their final proposal to be submitted at the 14th PSCM. The proposals were submitted to S-ILF's 14th PSCM and all the 13 proposals were approved with a funding INR 4,57,610.

All the 13 approved projects have now commenced.



WHAT OUR BUDDING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE TRAINING PROGRAM...



We learnt a lot about running a business. It was a very useful session."

**Banawarilal
Champa, Chhattisgarh**



Through this training, we have found a hope, a path to move ahead in life."

**Babulal
Chhattisgarh**



This training has given us hope that we too can achieve something in our lives."

**Ishwar Ichalkaranji,
Maharashtra**



Earlier, all of us had no knowledge about running a business. The training has given us a path to uplift ourselves and our families financially."

**Ajay Kumar Berath
Champa, Chhattisgarh**



I have learnt about running a business and the various related needs and techniques."

**Saibanna
Surat, Gujarat**

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (WEP)



S-ILF's field research shows that wherever women are part of its programs, those programs are successful. However, we find that while contributing to the project these women are struggling to combine their traditional roles as homemakers with their project activities. For women to better participate in their projects they need to be supported and strengthened.

S-ILF's Women Empowerment Program (WEP), program provides a platform to discuss and address a wide range of personal and social issues which can enable these women to improve their day-to-day living and to develop them as Agents of Change, to help other women in their colonies and in the larger community. The aim of this program is to strengthen the capacity of these women so that they are able to handle the multiple tasks that they have to perform in their daily lives, so that, they are likely to run their enterprises in a more efficient and effective manner.

The first phase of this initiative was a workshop conducted in New Delhi in December 2015. The focus of the training was effective household and relationship management, parenting, health, nutrition, water and sanitation and financial management. A total of 20 women from 9 colonies across 5 states (Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal) attended this first workshop. The 2nd workshop focused on parenting, adolescents, reproductive and sexual health, gender, safety, career guidance and counseling of youth, personality development, financial literacy, decision making, life skills and leadership and mainstreaming.

The WEP has seeded the idea of the need for transformation in the colonies and created an immense buy-in among women. The results are evident in the confidence level of those women who participated. Therefore, S-ILF plans to further support this initiative to cover a larger population thus further strengthening the base of the livelihood program. Women who have participated in the workshops will lead the initiative.

FRUITS OF THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP



The workshop has kicked off a culture of changes."

Ms. Maya
Trustee, APAL



This exposure has taught me to take my own stand and create a space for myself within my family. I am now being able to handle my children much better. I want to further continue my studies, I want to learn and explore more."

Ms. Lata
Kolhapur, Maharashtra



Proud to be part of such a training. I have made great friends, we learn from each other and are now becoming a strength for each other. This time I didn't take my husband's support to travel to Delhi, I have come alone with my little daughter and have also got two new members (women) from our community for exposure."

Ms. Kaushalya
Belpahar, Odisha



I am a better informed person now. I have gained self-confidence. I now try to solve my problems on my own and do not depend on my husband to go to the market etc. I would rather help him in his work now."

Ms. Anjuna
Asansol, West Bengal



We have learnt essential life skills. We are now equipped with better knowledge about health and nutrition and are in the process of developing local networks to reach out to more women and support them."

Ms. Sukhwara
Champar, Chhatisgarh



TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



S-ILF has always endeavored to expand its outreach in order to support a larger number of leprosy-affected people. We believe that every step in this direction is worthwhile even if it reaches out to a small number of people at a time.

Since the past few years, S-ILF has been exploring possibilities of working for the rehabilitation of leprosy-affected tribal population in Jharkhand.

The objective of this initiative is to create awareness about leprosy in the general population and educate leprosy-affected people living in the villages to become aware of the government welfare schemes which they could avail of. Additionally, the aim was to mobilise local NGOs to start working for leprosy-affected people.

In early 2013, S-ILF and Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) jointly took the first steps by undertaking an assessment of the situation on the ground. S-ILF held workshops with different stakeholders including local NGOs, active stakeholders such as government officials, Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs), panchayat members, school teachers amongst others.



14 community level meetings were organized by S-ILF and mentor organizations in central and north east regions of the state. Further, a three-month awareness campaign was completed in 63 panchayats and 10 advertisement and information stalls were organized in each of the 10 blocks targeted. To date, 10 block level meetings with 403 stakeholders, which include the local medical practitioners, block level government officials, school teachers, village and block level elected representatives and local chemists have taken place in 6 districts (Hazaribagh, Chatra, Ramgarh, Saraikela, East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum) of central Jharkhand and south east part of Jharkhand. A one-day orientation meeting was conducted in Feb 2016 with 87 active stakeholders from all the ten blocks from 6 districts of Jharkhand.

All the 87 stakeholders have been tasked further to conduct a baseline survey to assess the socio-economic status and stigma level of the affected persons among the tribal community using a pre-decided questionnaire.

DIGNITY AND EMPOWERMENT



RISING TO DIGNITY AWARDS 2016

S-ILF's annual Rising to Dignity awards recognize the three best livelihood initiatives running over the last four years by beneficiaries of S-ILF's livelihood program.

AWARDEES TEAM 1

Nature of enterprise: Dairy project
Colony: Arunoday Parisar Colony
Location: Jurda, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh
Number of beneficiaries: Six (all women)
Names of beneficiaries: Sheela Jaiswal, Tiharin Bai, Dhan Bai, Sulochna Bai, Heerabai, Bhoori Bai
Mentor: Vandana Goswami
State Leader: Vijay Masih
Assistance provided: INR 2,77,500



On the outskirts of the small town of Jurda in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh is located Arunoday Parisar Kusht Ashram, a small leprosy colony. It is here that six middle-aged women took up the challenge of shifting from begging and menial labor to start a small dairy enterprise. A life time of social stigma and deprivation had eroded their confidence in themselves. After much deliberations they identified cow rearing and dairy farming as a feasible activity. With financial and technical support from S-ILF, these women bought seven jersey cows. The women initially depended on a middle man who would give them less than INR 17 for a liter of milk when the market rate was INR 32. To make matters worse, four of their cows died of illness.

This was a setback for the group. Later, they realized they had been duped by the insurance company. At this stage, they decided to give up the enterprise. Timely intervention by the State Leader, Vijay Masih, family members and S-ILF helped them to resurface with renewed determination. Following a series of counseling sessions and training workshops facilitated by S-ILF, these women resumed work to rebuild their enterprise.

The real turnaround began when the hotel manager where S-ILF conducted their training meetings gave them the order to supply milk to his hotel. Assured demand gave the enterprise the much needed stability and restored confidence among the women.

Today, Bhoori Bai, Dhan Bai, Heera Bai, Sheila, Sulochna and Tiharin are happy beneficiaries of the enterprise (Deshawati had to exit due to health reasons). With 22 cows and buffaloes this women's dairy enterprise is a thriving one. The secret to their success is a disciplined, team-led approach to work. Today, their cows are insured, their cow shed is well maintained and they have a number of committed buyers. Their husbands are also involved in the business. The women have upgraded their mud homes to pucca houses and bought their own sheep, goat and poultry to supplement their incomes.

Today, this group of empowered women is a source of inspiration to the local community and are instrumental in its growth!



AWARDEES TEAM 2

Nature of enterprise: Dairy project
Colony: Emmanuel Leprosy Colony, Katrapalli
Location: Jagampeta, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
Number of beneficiaries: 10 (all men)
Names of beneficiaries: B. Satyanarayana, B. Badrarao, K. Raghava, T. Suryanarayana, G. Sathiraju, B. Baburao, K. Apparao, A. Kondalarao, P. Badrarao, V. Chukkaiah
State Leader: K. Dhanamjay Naidu/ Subbarao
Mentor: Rural India Self Development Trust (RISDT), Rajahmundry
Assistance provided: INR 2,80,000



This is a group of 10 men, elderly or in their late-middle age, most of them with mild to moderate deformities, who have worked diligently in the past four years to transform their lives by jointly establishing what is now a thriving dairy business based within Emanuel, their leprosy colony.

Previously dependent on begging and a pension of INR 1000 for the leprosy-affected by the government, motivated by S-ILF these men took on the challenge to bring about a positive change in their lives. Despite no prior experience in dairy farming, the group decided to buy five healthy buffaloes with funding from S-ILF. Since then, they have demonstrated a keen business acumen and entrepreneurship, working cohesively with their group members, adhering to the pre-agreed business plan and guidelines by S-ILF. A few of the group members have attended training sessions by S-ILF to develop business management skills and effectively shared their learnings with the group.

Having made sufficient profits, the group is now aspiring to use part of the income to buy 2-3 more animals. Every month, each member receives around INR 700-1500 after paying the overhead costs of maintaining the animals.

The group manages the dairy business in a disciplined manner. Their cowshed is always well maintained. The men buy fodder in bulk and in addition, the animals feed on fresh fodder that costs approximately INR 50 per day.



The buffaloes yield 15-20 liters milk every day which is sold at a price of INR 35 per liter. While the group members take care of the buffaloes, the milk is collected by the dairy farm staff, who are hired by them to milk the buffaloes as well. They have insured their buffaloes and ensure timely health checks and vaccinations for the animals.

This initiative has helped in spreading the message that with hard work and motivation it is possible to live a life of dignity despite all odds.



AWARDEES TEAM 3

Nature of enterprise: Pan and Cutlery Shop

Colony: Pandurangwadi Leprosy Colony

Location: Amravati University Campus, Amravati, Maharashtra

No. of beneficiaries: Six (four women, two men)

Names of beneficiaries: Godavari Parshetti, Shaila Thadkar, Sasikala, Pramila Chinche, Mohan Parsuram, Ramarao Ramkrishna

Mentor: People's Forum Dharamitra, Amravati, Maharashtra

State Leader: Sahebrao Patil

Assistance Provided: INR 2,50,000



Dependent primarily on a paltry pension and menial labor for survival, this group of four women and two men from Pandurangwadi, a leprosy colony located within Amravati University Campus, Maharashtra accepted assistance from S-ILF to take on the challenge of earning a living for themselves. They agreed to share the funds provided by S-ILF in half to initiate two different livelihood projects. The women planned to sell cutlery and the men aspired to sell household items. Initially the group leaders attended S-ILF-run training programs to learn about business planning, financial dealing etc. as they had no prior experience in running a business.

Today, Godavari Parshetti (65), Shaila Thadkar (65), Sasikala (60) and Pramila Chinche (47) run a successful sari and cloth material business, meeting the growing demands of the neighborhood and nearby villages. Their initial plan to sell cutlery did not take off as finding a shop they could afford was not feasible, given the costs involved. With their determination and entrepreneurial spirit they came up with the option of door-to-door selling. They learnt quickly that there was a larger market for saris and cloth than for cutlery if they were to sell door-to-door.

Having established a customer base, today these women buy saris and cloth material from the local wholesale market (approximately INR 10,000-20,000 at a time) and sell them going door-to-door. These women are respected in the community and customers now also visit their homes to buy goods. They have invested in a steel cupboard to store the materials safely. Every 15 days, the women take

stock of their funds and each one of them receives about INR 400-1000 based on the season. Usually during the Diwali and marriage season, the demand increases. The group members work for 3-4 hours a day for about 2-3 days a week. The group provides a loan option to their customers and collects the money over 2-7 months depending on the situation. The price range of their wares varies from INR 150-900. Saris are always in high demand. The women also cater to young girls and work constantly to meet the demands of the market. Their business acumen is praise worthy particularly.



Today these women exude confidence and effective interpersonal skills, not to mention exemplary resilience (having shown the courage to step out of their colonies to sell in near-by areas). This newly-found sense of independence and self-worth is one that they cherish! They wish they had discovered this path earlier in their lives.

After an initial struggle to gauge the market needs following a disillusioning start with sale of household items, Mohan Parsuram (44) and Ramarao Ramkrishna (50) decided to revive and expand their already existing, but sick pan shop instead. With funding from S-ILF they invested in a hard iron booth and had it painted in catchy colors. They began selling with renewed fervor and now stock better and higher selling items. Open from 8 AM to 10 PM every day, today the shop makes a sale of about INR 2500-3000 a day and both the group members make about INR 250 or more a day despite a monthly tax to the Amaravati Nagar Palika. Having re-established their shop, Mohan and Ramarao now plan to expand in order to diversify and sell other items including stationary items; and invest in a photocopy facility.

The pan shop is led by Mohan and the women's business by Shila Thadkar. The joint group accounts are maintained by Mohan.



SOME MORE SUCCESS STORIES

GHUNGROO PROJECT

Sheetalamata Kusht Dham Sewa Samiti, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh

Number of beneficiaries: 13

Names of beneficiaries: Anil, Sonu, Suresh, Tulsi, Jagdish, Prakash, Bunty, Savitri, Neeta, Saadhna, Gayatri, Sohan, Dharmendra

Assistance provided: INR 1,70,000

Inhabited by about 110 residents, Sheetalamata Kusht Dham Sewa Samiti is located in the outskirts of Ratlam.

Earlier engaged in begging and menial labor, this 13 member group started manufacturing small silver bells or ghungroos, used in silver ornaments in Jan 2010, with technical and financial assistance provided by S-ILF. Within a period of one year, each of the members started earning on an average INR 2,000 to 3,000 per month and at present the income is up to INR 15,000 per month. They have total



assets of more than INR 3 lakh, and they have created a revolving fund of INR 1,50,000.

Other youth from the colony have been motivated by these dynamic Agents of Change and they have started a separate ghungroo unit in the colony. Today all these youth have prospered and become role models for their community. Their socio-economic condition has improved over a period of time and some of the youth have also got married outside of the colony as a result of their newly found confidence and financial independence.

TILES FITTING PROJECT

Swadharnagar, Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Number of beneficiaries: 25

Names of beneficiaries: Ganesh Raju Magadam, Deepak Baban Sutar, Madhukar Shripali, Kashinath Shivram Ghatge, Dhanpal Parisanath Hervade, Arjun Shivram Kumbhar (Project leader), Prakash Babu Baaji, Santosh Gopal Kamble, Dinkar Pandu Patil, Maruti Sitaram Markar, Yuvrajshivram Ghatge, Murad Chandso Nadaaf, Prabhakar Bakase Ranavare, Iqbal Mubarak Fakir, Amrut Sutar, Ajit Patil, Ajay Koli

Colony leader: Maya Ranawade

Mentor: ILU, Pune, Maharashtra

Assistance provided: INR 1,00,500

This is a group of 25 enthusiastic men and youngsters from Swadharnagar Leprosy Colony in Kolhapur, Maharashtra running a thriving floor tile laying venture. They work jointly as a contractor group in Kolhapur town in small to medium sized construction sites.

These men started small. Initially, lack of sufficient resources restricted them from buying equipment to carry out this work more professionally and efficiently. However, following monetary and technical assistance from S-ILF, they have reached a place where customers seek them out. This is a testimony to their hard work and insistence on quality. In fact, today they are in high demand in the Kolhapur construction market.

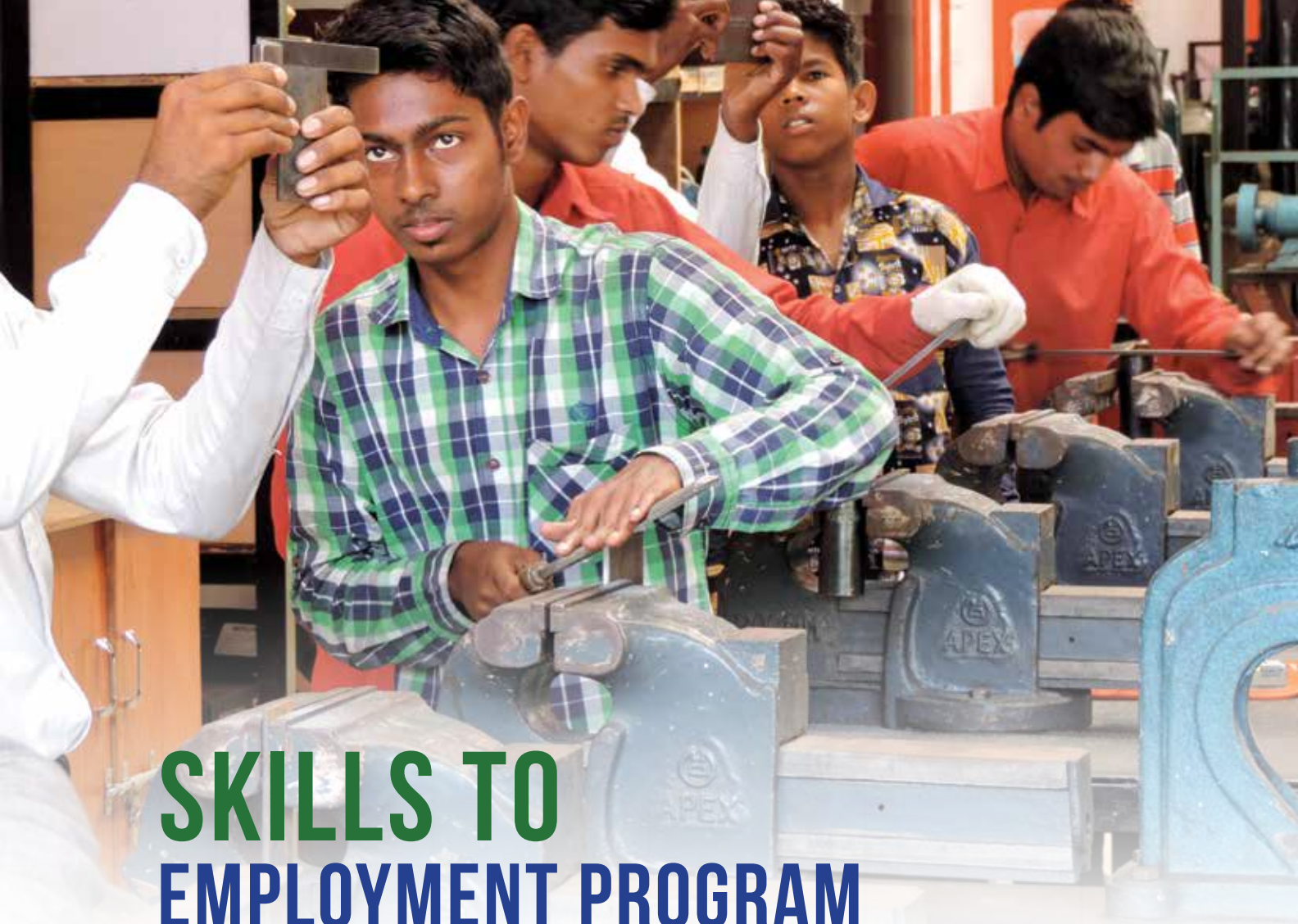


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This livelihood initiative is supported by a robust working chain. There is one main leader supported by a team of three other leaders. Under each leader there are 12-14 masons. With each mason works a labourer. With their remarkable determination and hard work, this group has now hired 10 additional people from outside their colony to support them in their tiling work. Each leader earns INR 500/per day, mason earns INR 350/per day and labor earns INR 250/per day. Twelve beneficiaries of this group have purchased a motor bike for commuting to their site of work and all of them are successfully contributing to the common fund.

Having achieved success financially, these men are supporting their families with pride and are able to provide a high standard of education to their children. Many of them have now invested in good schools and private tuitions for their children. Some of the families depended earlier on begging as an additional source of income. They have now withdrawn from begging completely.

Symbolizing success through social and economic empowerment, today the group is a role model for their community. They attribute their success to their hard work, determination, systematic planning and the continued support of their Colony Leader, Maya Ranavade.



SKILLS TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP UP)

The children of leprosy-affected families unfortunately face discrimination and exclusion even though they themselves do not have leprosy. Although their parents see education as a necessary means to both social and economic betterment, they are constrained by their poor economic situation and unable to send their children to good schools.

Not only are the levels of education in the government schools poor, the children often have to face discrimination sometimes even from teachers who are equally ignorant. In addition, often they are the first generation school goers and thus do not get the parental support that would push them to do well in school. Dropout rates are high and students give up after 7th or 10th grade. Even among those who complete grade 12, there are many who are either not inclined to go for higher studies and tend to look for petty jobs. The few who are interested in studies often do not have the economic means to pursue the courses of their dreams.

The only way to empower the youth and children of this socially suppressed group is to provide them practical skill training and education that makes them easily employable and financially independent.

With this thinking in mind, S-ILF's Skills to Employment Program (STEP UP) is aimed at addressing these children's needs. Under this program, youth who do not want to pursue higher studies are given skills training so that they become employable and can get entry level jobs. S-ILF has successfully collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to conduct an organized skill development program. Details of the same are provided later in this section.

Our STEP UP Program: Year 2015-16 in review

 **225**
YOUTH TRAINED IN
VOCATIONAL SKILLS

MORE THAN
15 DIFFERENT
VOCATIONAL
COURSES SUPPORTED 

REACHED
OUT TO
10 STATES

 **45** YOUNG GIRLS BEING
TRAINED TO BECOME QUALIFIED NURSES

PROVIDE
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
EMPLOYABLE SKILL TRAINING
AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES 

14 YOUTH AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR **HIGHER EDUCATION**
IN PROFESSIONAL COURSES

The unique characteristic of this program is that not only are the trainings provided free of cost, with the help of the training partners, S-ILF guarantees employment to 80% of the youth who successfully complete their trainings.

Although the start was slow and mobilization of youth for such trainings took time, over the last year, with several youth having been successfully trained and employed and there is an increased interest as well as enrolment in this program.

This program is not only an opportunity for skill development and employment of youth from a highly marginalized group but also a platform to earn a steady and stable income for a group that has traditionally relied on begging as the main source of earning.



HOW WE TRAIN YOUTH?

S-ILF works with accredited partners at the grassroots level to impart training. NSDC requires its partners to place at least 75 per cent of the trained youth.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH

S-ILF's skill training program is currently running in nine states of India – Bihar, UP, MP, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal with support from our training partners. This program focuses on attaining sustainable livelihoods for drop-out and unemployed youth through skill development training. This year, S-ILF partnered with two new training organizations for the program - Apparel Training and Design Center (ATDC) and All India Society for Electronics

and Computer Technology (AISECT). S-ILF has continued working with its previous training partners such as Indian Institute of Job Training (IIJT), GMR Varalakshmi Foundation, Gram Tarang, Don Bosco, Pratham Education Foundation and Simtej 7 Academy.

Youth have been trained in trades and roles like Bedside Attendant, General Duty Assistant, Automotive, Hospitality, Computer Hardware and Networking, Accountancy, Cargo management, Electricals, Data Entry Operator, Refrigeration and Air conditioning (RAC), Basic Computer, Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Operator, CCNA, Beautician, Basic Sewing Operator, Machinist, Welding, BPO & Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) and so on.



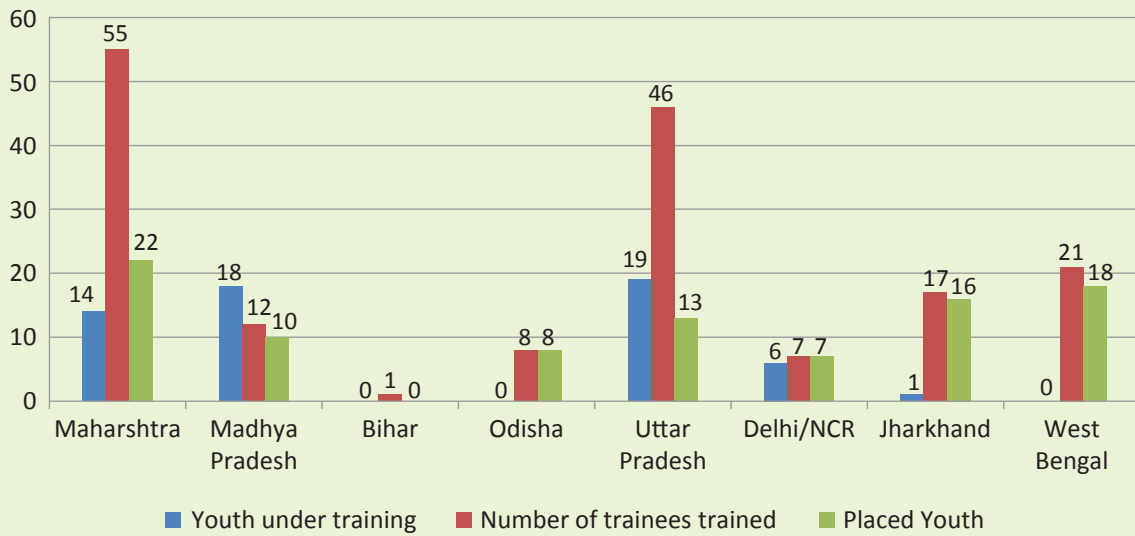
MOBILIZATION

This year S-ILF's efforts have been in reaching out to youth in colonies of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. State leaders of these states were oriented about the skill development program and provided all possible support in mobilization. State level workshops were organized in the respective state capitals to inform youth about skills training. These workshops gave opportunity to interested youth to directly interact with training organizations who also participated in these workshops.

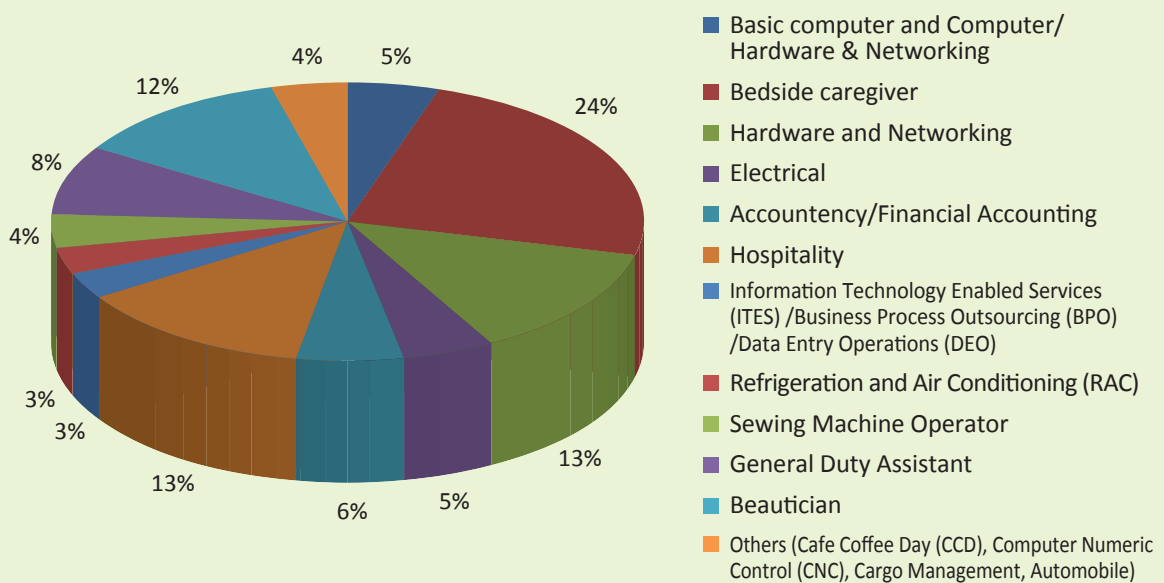
- 225 YOUTH TARGETED IN TOTAL
- 167 HAVE BEEN TRAINED
- 58 YOUTH UNDER TRAINING
- 94 YOUTH PLACED AFTER TRAINING

Some of the major employers of the trainees are Mahindra, Club Mahindra Holidays World, Voltas, Larson & Toubro (L&T), 3-5 star Hotels (Royal Orchid Hotels, Sayaji Palace, Fortune Landmark, Mirador Hotel, Della Adventure, Dolphin Hotels, Hotel Ananda Imperial, Hotel Capitol Hill, Marugarh Resort, Shilpi Resort etc.), AEGIS Limited, GE Capital, Knorr Bremse, leading hospitals like Portia Medical Institute, Vijan Hospital, Supert etc. Youth are earning in the range of INR 4,000 to 45,000 per month depending on the locations and trades.

Training Status to date



Trades Covered



MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION

S-ILF has been closely monitoring the trainings and placement of the youth. During the monitoring, some of the trainees and placed youth were interviewed and their statements were recorded, which were later developed into a 10-minute documentary film highlighting the success and impact of the project. This film is available for viewing on S-ILF's website www.silf.in.



OUR SUCCESS STORIES

SHIVSHANKAR MAHILANGE

Works at Novotel, Mumbai

Shivshankar Mahilange, a school dropout from one of the leprosy colonies in Champa district of Chattisgarh has seen poverty and struggle since a very early age when his father left his family. Shivshankar and three more of his siblings were raised by his mother who sells fish to meet the needs of the family. Being the eldest son, he had to take up the responsibility to assist his mother at a very early age as domestic needs were rising. Hence, he dropped out of school and started working as a daily wage labor. However, the earning was low and availability of work was erratic.

When S-ILF expanded its skill development program to Chhattisgarh. Shivshankar was connected with Pratham Education Foundation by the State Leader, Vijay Masih.

After a brief career counselling session, Shivshankar saw a promising future in the hospitality trade and attended a rigorous training at Pratham Education Foundation's Dhamtri Centre. He was optimistic about life after completion of the training.

Shivshankar was a committed learner during the training, and was dedicated to learning the skills imparted at the center. There is a visible positive transformation in his attitude and conduct post the training. Shivshankar along with the other trainees from similar backgrounds trained in management, communication, etiquettes, personality development and customer relation management along with the core competencies of hospitality i.e. production, food & beverage, front office and housekeeping.

After completion of the three-months training, Shivshankar appeared in an assessment exam, which he passed successfully. Later, he appeared in a placement interview and was hired by Taj Gateway Hotel, Ahmedabad with a monthly remuneration of INR 6,000 per month. Shivshankar worked for more than one year at Taj Gateway. Currently, Shivshankar is an employee of Novotel in Mumbai, where he earns INR 9,000 per month.





RANJIT KUMAR

**Cargo Officer, Delhi Cargo Service Centre,
IGI Airport, New Delhi**

Ranjit Kumar, a resident of a small town of Nawada, Bihar saw the plight of leprosy when his father was affected by the ailment. The stigma attached to the disease pushed his father to work as a dresser in Kusht Sewa Samiti, Kapasia Ashram to meet the needs of his family.

Ranjit realized education was critical to get rid of the stigma and make it big in his life. He never thought of abandoning his education despite the pressure to earn for the family.

After completion of his graduation, Ranjit started working in Mumbai where he did not see any substantial growth in his career despite working for almost two years.

A mobilization drive was conducted in Nawada district by S-ILF in the month of September 2014. It is here that Ranjit learnt about the opportunity for skill development being offered by S-ILF. He decided to opt for Cargo Management training by GMR Foundation in Delhi. Ranjit decided to quit his job and come to Delhi for the training.

In January, 2015 Ranjit started his training. During the training Ranjit was focused and sincere. Today, he believes that his life has changed and he has to progress further by utilizing the knowledge and training that he has received. He believes that the training has given him a spring board.

After completion of the three-month training, Ranjit got placed as a Cargo Officer in Cargo Service Centre located at IGI airport, New Delhi, with a monthly remuneration of INR 26,000 per month.

Ranjit believes that the training has transformed his life. He is now the primary bread winner in the family and aspires to make it big. He is looking forward to securing a job in Airlines Cargo Services. The progress and rise in confidence he has shown in the past few months is commendable and S-ILF is confident that he will be successful in whatever he does.

SALEEM

Program Officer, Orient Technologies

Saleem is the eldest son of a leprosy-affected couple from Purnia, Bihar who was forced to leave their home due to the stigma attached with the ailment. Saleem's parents initially settled in Bijnore but there was no respite from the stigma. They decided to migrate and finally based themselves in Tahirpur Leprosy Colony, New Delhi.

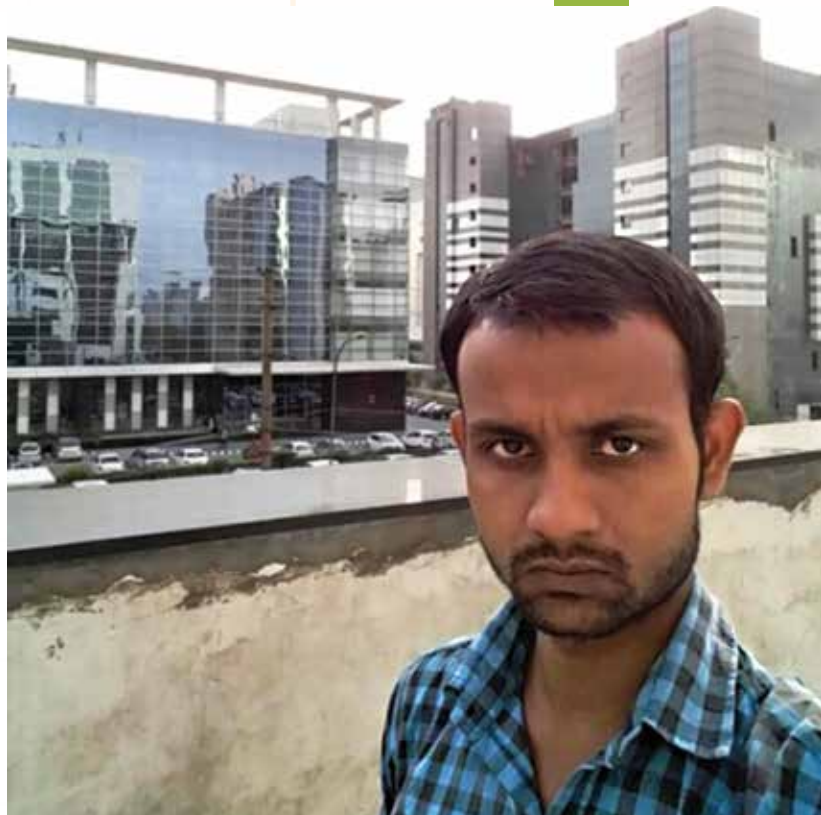
Earlier, Saleem's father worked in Lucknow where he used to make Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) shoes for leprosy patients. However, post retirement the family survived on a meagre pension provided by the government.

The financial condition of the family had forced Saleem to start working at an early age. He decided to continue his education through Delhi's Open University, IGNOU so that he could earn a living. However, the lack of skills has prevented him from securing a sustainable job.

During a mobilization drive conducted by S-ILF at Tahirpur Leprosy colony, Saleem was identified as a potential beneficiary of our Skill Development program. He was connected by S-ILF with their training partner, Indian Institute of Job Training (IIJT). Here he opted for a 6-month Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) course in Computer Networking. Taught by a highly experienced teaching faculty, the course curriculum was a perfect blend of theory and practical curriculum.

After completion of the training, Saleem applied for an internship with Orient Technologies. His dedication and hard work payed off when he was offered a permanent position with a monthly salary of INR 12,000.

Today, Saleem is the sole bread winner for his family. He has plans of acquiring an advanced training and CISCO certification from CCNA. Given his dedication, we are confident that he will realize his dream very soon.





NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Responding to a persistent demand from girls living in the colonies for assistance in pursuing a nursing degree, S-ILF's first intervention in the field of education was the setting up a nursing scholarship program for girls from leprosy colonies.

This program commenced in 2011, with support from the SBI. S-ILF has been sponsoring scholarships for a Degree/Diploma in Nursing. Initially, five girls from leprosy-affected families were sponsored to pursue their dreams in nursing. All five scholars have completed their course and have been successfully placed. The girls are now working as nurses in hospitals, one girl is a Nurse Mentor at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Shravasti, UP earning INR 30,000 per month, one is a nurse in Bharti Vidyapeeth deemed University Medical College and Hospital in Sangli, Maharashtra earning INR 11,000 and one scholar is placed in St. Stephen's Hospital in Delhi earning INR 25,000, one is working in a hospital in Dehradun earning INR 10,000.

Today, S-ILF is running its fifth batch of nursing scholars. Forty five girls from leprosy-affected families have benefitted through this program to date.



Megha and Roshani with Mr. Sasakawa at the Global Appeal, 2016, Tokyo

Nursing Scholars attend Global Appeal 2016, Tokyo, Japan

The Nippon Foundation invited two of S-ILF's nursing scholars – one from its first nursing batch and one from its second batch to Tokyo to attend the Global Appeal 2016. Megha Janardhan Shinde and Roshani Pawar traveled to Tokyo with Dr. Vineeta Shanker to attend the event. Roshani was invited to read out the declaration along with the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe. This was a moment of great pride for the girls and their families.



Reading of the Declaration by Mr. Shinzo Abe, PM of Japan along with S-ILF's nursing scholar, Roshani and other dignitaries at the Global Appeal 2016, Tokyo.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE



"I am deeply thankful to S-ILF for giving me the opportunity to visit Japan and be part of the Global Appeal for Discrimination Against Leprosy-Affected People. Thank you for encouraging me all along. My experience is surely unforgettable for me. I learnt a lot during the visit and at the conference. I would like to extend my hearty thanks to the Nippon Foundation for their hospitality during the stay".

Megha Shinde, Staff Nurse, Bharti Hospital, Sangli, Maharashtra



"After completing Class XII, I was worried about my future and higher education as my father is a construction worker. Then I learnt that there is a foundation which provides scholarships for nursing especially for girls from leprosy colonies. I decided to apply for this scholarship. I got the application form easily from the internet. I was selected and I got admission in the four year course for B.Sc. nursing in Bharti Vidyapeeth. My fee of INR 45,000 was paid directly to the college by S-ILF and in addition to that I got a monthly pocket money of INR 1000 in my personal bank account. This money was useful in buying books, notebooks and research papers. When I was in the second year, I was invited by S-ILF to Delhi for their annual Anti Leprosy Day event. The foundation provided me a ticket for my travel and accommodation. I also got an opportunity to share a few words on the stage. I felt very proud and happy. Today, I have completed my B.Sc. Nursing with a distinction and am waiting for my registration so that I can get a job as a nurse. I want to heartily thank S-ILF and all members who work for the foundation."

Sonali Maruti Lad, Maharashtra

Completed BSc Nursing in August 2016 from Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Nursing, Miraj, Sangli, Maharashtra.



HH DALAI LAMA - SASAKAWA

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For most students from leprosy colonies who have completed their Class XII, professional higher education remains only a dream given their economic circumstances. Professional courses are expensive and scholarships offered by government and private organizations are very few. Knowing this, children do not aspire to acquire professional degrees and instead opt for a general BA or BSc degree. In the current Indian context, such a degree has hardly any value in securing a well-paying employment. HHDL - Sasakawa Scholarship aims to provide an opportunity to meritorious children from leprosy colonies to pursue higher studies and attain professional qualifications that will make them employable. Set up as a





long term program, it also aims at encouraging and motivating younger children to aspire for higher education and to work hard to qualify for admission to these courses.

The scholarship covers their tuition and academic costs as well as their hostel, boarding and living expenses. S-ILF strongly believes that providing financial assistance to pursue the education matching an individual's interests and aspirations can prove to be a life-changing intervention.

In 2015-16, 14 scholars from four states, namely Delhi, UP, Odisha and Bihar were granted the scholarship for pursuing professional courses from reputed institutions.

CHASING DREAMS

"I am grateful to S-ILF and the HH Dalai Lama Foundation for giving me this opportunity. I belong to a poor family of seven. My father works as physical labourer and my mother stays at home. I have had no financial support to study but somehow managed to pass grade XII.

Thanks to the grant, I will complete my B Tech in a few years. I intend to work hard and become an engineer. Not only do I plan to support my family but those children like me who need support. But first I need to reach that position. It's a long way but at least I have the opportunity now."

Akbar Alam, Bharat University, Chennai

Recipient of the HHDL - Sasakawa Scholarship 2015-16





"I am honored to be chosen as one of the recipients of the HHDL-Sasakawa Scholarship. Thanks to the entire team behind this for their generous support.

After my father's death in 2002, we faced many difficulties financially. Growing up in the less privileged Jaganath Leprosy Colony has not only come with financial and academic challenges, but has also helped me realize the value of medical education. I have just begun my career as a freshman and can already report that my academics are off to a great start. My plans at this stage are to complete the Diploma in Ophthalmic Technology (DOT) and then to study Bachelors in Optometry. My academic pursuits would not have been possible without the generous support from S-ILF."



Sushmita Dash, Scholar enrolled for the Diploma in Optometry at L V Prasad Eye Institute, BBSR Odisha

Recipient of the HHDL - Sasakawa Scholarship Program 2015-16

**Using her interpersonal skills, Sushmita has managed to get 22 cataract operations free of cost at her institute for leprosy affected people from the colony. Kudos to this young girl.*

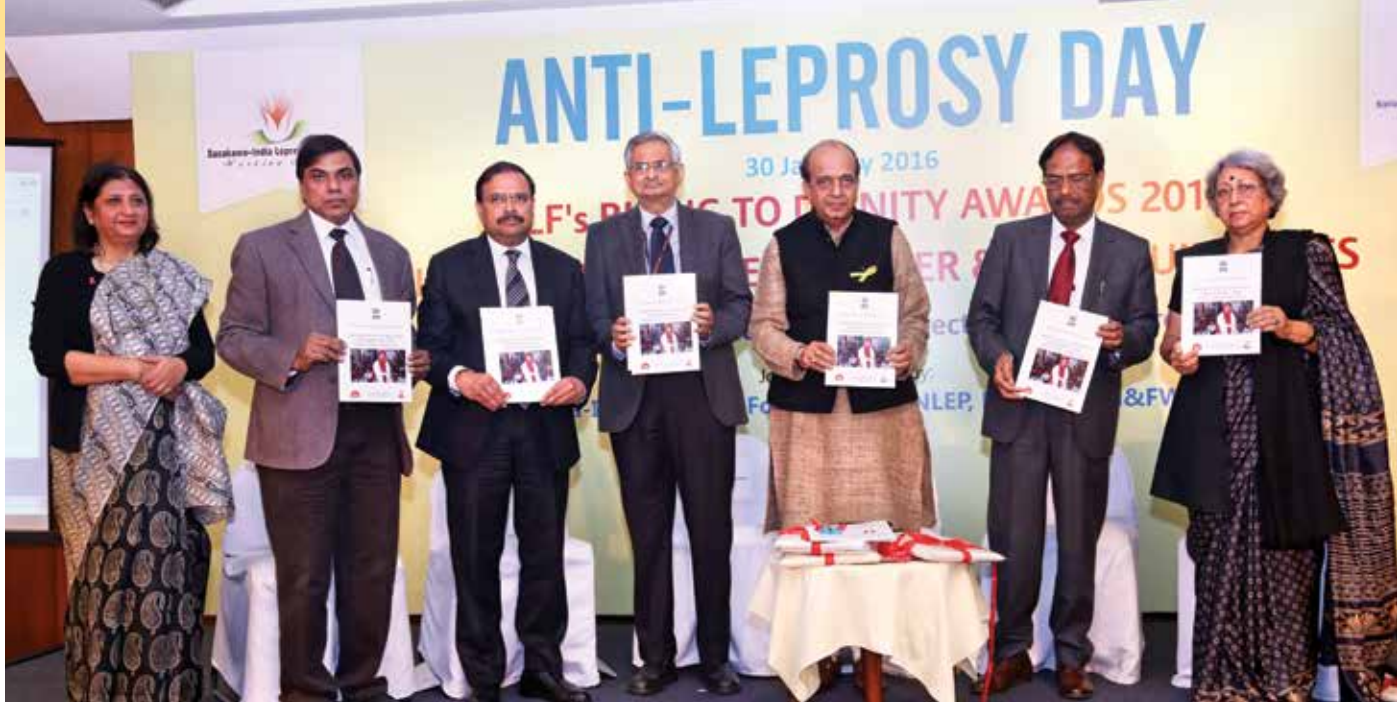
"I would like to express my gratitude for the scholarship assistance you have provided for my freshman year of college. I am excelling academically and maintaining a 9.2 Grade Point Average (GPA). This would not be possible without S-ILF's support. I feel that a degree in Bachelors in Computer Application will enable me to assist people in this marginalized community and make a difference in the lives of others technically. The Dalai Lama-Sasakawa scholarship provided by S-ILF has really been a blessing in my life! Thank you again for believing in me and helping me continue my college education. God bless you all as you continue to make a difference for students in our area!"



Akash Kumar, scholar enrolled in Bachelors in Computer Application Course, Presidency College, Bangalore, Karnataka

Recipient of the HHDL - Sasakawa Scholarship Program 2015-16





Release of the National Leprosy Elimination Program (NLEP) E-Newsletter by the MoHFW at S-ILF's Anti-Leprosy Day celebrations 2016

L to R: Dr. Vineeta Shanker, Dr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Director General, NLEP; Mr. C K Mishra, Addl. Secretary & MD, NRHM, MoH&FW; Mr. Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Secretary Health, MoH&FW; Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, Convenor, MP Forum; Mr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General Health Services (DGHS); Mrs. Rathi Vinay Jha, S-ILF Board Member

OPENING MINDS, FIGHTING STIGMA OUR COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY WORK

Though easily treatable, leprosy still strikes fear in a country like India. Lack of knowledge about the disease has led to the perpetration of misinformation and misconceptions resulting in a deep rooted and widespread stigma against the disease and those affected. This is true not only among the uneducated but also among the educated. The negative perception of the disease is manifested in discrimination against and exclusion of not only the leprosy-affected but also their families and a denial of their basic human rights. Special and concerted efforts need to be made to eradicate social stigma. Societal mind-set has to be changed through awareness generation and advocacy.

So far, S-ILF's efforts have been primarily on rehabilitation of those affected and their families. This year, S-ILF has stepped up its role in awareness building.



Leprosy play performance by students of Shri Ram School, Mousari Avenue at S-ILF's Anti Leprosy Day celebration 2016



Leprosy play performance by students at the Shri Ram School, Mousari assembly

YOUNG PARTNER'S PROGRAM (YPP)

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

With the support of National Human Right Commission (NHRC) in the last few years, S-ILF has sensitized 3000 children from 30 government schools in Delhi. The sessions have included a Q&A session and poster making competitions following which the best entries have been awarded at S-ILF's annual event.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Earlier last year, S-ILF began its outreach to private schools in Delhi, beginning with students of Class XI and Class XII at Vasant Valley School. Aimed at raising awareness about leprosy amongst students, a student council has been formed in the school to carry forward the awareness program among other students of the schools and also in other private schools.

A well-attended awareness session was held in The Sri Ram School, Mousari, Gurgaon in August 2015 following which Class XI students scripted and presented a play with key messages about leprosy at their school assembly in December 2015; and subsequently also at S-ILF's annual event. Well known theatre expert, Sukhesh Arora from Yellowcat Theatre trained the students in dialogue delivery and message dissemination. The students who participated are now committed to the cause and are planning to spread awareness in other schools, to create a social media campaign, and plan to run a series of fundraising events for the cause as part of the Anti-Leprosy initiative of the school's Social Club.

RAHGIRI AND COLLEGE SENSITIZATION PROGRAM

S-ILF works with a street theatre group, 'Kaarwaan-é-Ghalib', who performed at S-ILF's annual event last year. This year, this group performed for several Raahgiri street events in Delhi and at annual cultural festivals in Jesus & Mary College, Gargi College, Hansraj College and Kalindi College. Forty four students from Hansraj College volunteered to engage with activities related to the cause.



College street play

RISING TO DIGNITY AWARDS ON ANTI LEPROSY DAY

Martyr's Day on 30th January is marked as Anti Leprosy Day in India. Every year, S-ILF gives away its Rising to Dignity awards at a public event presided by a dignitary. These Awards are given to the three most successful S-ILF supported livelihood projects and carry a citation, a trophy and a cash award. The winners are invited to Delhi. For many it is their maiden trip outside their community, the first time to be recognised in front of 200-250 people and to make a speech in front of so many people. This year, the event was attended by leading dignitaries including Mr. Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India (GoI); Mr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General, Leprosy; Mr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Director General Leprosy (DDGL); Mr. Sunil Sharma, Joint Secretary, Administrative Head, Leprosy Division, Mr. C.K. Sharma, Addl. Secretary & MD, NRHM, MoH&FW, Mr. Dinesh Trivedi- Convenor, MP Forum and Mrs. Rathi Vinay Jha, S-ILF Board Member.

PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

In 2012, at an international symposium organized by S-ILF, a few Members of Parliament came together to form an informal forum of Parliamentarians to free India of leprosy. Mr. Dinesh Trivedi and



From left to right: Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, MP; Mr. Ninong Ering, MP; Mr. Yaskhi, ex-MP; Ms. Sushmita Dev, MP; Ms. Supriya Sule, MP; Mr. Neeraj Shekhar, MP along with Dr. Vineeta Shanker at the signing of the National Appeal on 6th, August 2015 for removing discrimination against the leprosy-affected.

Mr. Madhu Gaud Yaskhi are its Conveners. The forum cuts across party lines and members commit to raise issues surrounding leprosy in the Parliament and in their constituencies as well as use their good offices to help leprosy-affected people in reaching the relevant authorities. More than 60 MPs have signed up as members.

The Forum Convenor, Mr. Trivedi and S-ILF's Executive Director met with Mr. Ram Naik, Governor of UP on 23rd June 2015 in Lucknow to request for support to address the high prevalence of leprosy in the endemic districts of UP and to make government welfare schemes more accessible to the leprosy-affected.

On 6th August 2015, the Forum members including Mr. VP Singh Badnore, MP; Mr. Ninong Ering, MP; Ms. Sushmita Dev, MP; Mr. Neeraj Shekhar, MP and Ms. Supriya Sule, MP along with Mr. Trivedi and Mr. Yaskhi met. The key focus of the meeting was to decide on the action plans for MPs to take forward the Eliminating Discrimination against Persons affected by Leprosy (EDPAL) Bill 2015 in the then, ongoing monsoon session of the Parliament.

EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS IN ODISHA AND KARNATAKA

Residents of leprosy colonies, although among the most poor and marginalized, are largely unable to access the several welfare measures of both the state and national governments for lack of knowledge



Odisha Empowerment Workshop Participants



Karnataka Empowerment Workshop

of the available schemes and on how to go about applying for the same. S-ILF therefore introduced a program of empowerment workshops for residents of different colony clusters to inform them of the different schemes available, enable them to identify the schemes under which they qualify and the benefits of which are needed by them and also to train them on writing their petitions and seeking meetings with concerned officials. These workshops are conducted with local NGO partners and focus on building capacity of participants to take lead in seeking integration in existing welfare schemes such as BPL cards, housing under Indira Awas Yojana, Anganwadi schemes as well as getting land pattas etc.

In the year 2015-16, S-ILF held two sets of workshops in the states of Odisha and Karnataka. As a result of this initiative, residents of six different leprosy colonies in Odisha met with their MP and MLA, as well as heads of some of the concerned local offices and submitted their petition to them. The meetings were covered in the local media. One of the major accomplishment of the workshop was that it was the first time that people from different colonies came together for a joint action in seeking redressal of problems they have faced since long.

On similar lines, an Empowerment workshop, as a pilot project, was initiated in northern parts of Karnataka. The area is well known for its backwardness with regards to its leprosy colonies. The first phase of the workshops was held in four districts, where various government schemes were discussed with the participants.

OUR PARTNERS

ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY (APAL)

In 2005, an informal organization named “National Forum” was founded as part of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa’s vision to create a united voice for those affected by leprosy. It included leprosy affected people from most states of India. Dr. P.K. Gopal was selected to be the President of National Forum. For the first time in the history of leprosy and the battle against it in India, people affected by the disease united to hold their own National Conference on the 19th December, 2005. Again in 2006 another National Conference for the people affected by leprosy was conducted in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi with the support of The Nippon Foundation. Around 700 leprosy-affected persons from various states of India participated in the conference. The Chief Guest was the Vice President of India.

The Nippon Foundation has provided support for the organization since its inception in the belief that individuals cured of the disease should play a leading role in rooting out discrimination.

In order to develop the second line of leadership for the organization Dr. P.K. Gopal resigned and Mr. V. Narsappa was elected as the President of National Forum on 22nd December 2012. The office was shifted to Hyderabad and there was a need to register the organization again in Hyderabad. As per the Government rule the name of the newly registered organization was changed to Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL).

APAL is now working with the Central and State Governments for the empowerment of people affected by leprosy. APAL has state leaders in 23 states of India to fulfill the objectives of APAL and works with S-ILF in its projects for economic rehabilitation for those affected people who live in leprosy colonies. APAL also takes an active part with S-ILF in the implementation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama-Sasakawa Scholarship program for the benefit of children who live in the leprosy colonies in India. APAL is supported by The Nippon Foundation, Japan for its various programs.

OUR DONORS



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION (TNF)

TNF has provided S-ILF a corpus fund to run its activities. Since S-ILF's inception, TNF has been the main donor for S-ILF's activities.



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

NHRC has partially funded S-ILF's Young Partners Program (YPP), where school children are sensitized about leprosy.



STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)

One of our first donors, SBI provided a grant for sponsoring 10 girls to pursue nursing degree and diploma. They also sponsored our Anti Leprosy Day – Rising to Dignity awards 2013.

SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST (SDTT)

SDTT committed a grant for sponsoring 25 girls for nursing scholarships. They agreed in principle to fund this program in the future.



NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NSDC)

NSDC provided a grant for training 350 youth from leprosy-affected families residing in UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh in entry level skills.

HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA TRUST (HHDLT) AND THE NIPPON FOUNDATION (TNF)

HHDLT and TNF provided funds for His Holiness The Dalai Lama - Sasakawa Scholarship for higher professional education for children from leprosy colonies in states of Delhi, UP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, M.P and Odisha.



SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA (SIDBI)

SIDBI has given a one-time donation for Training on Socio-Economic Change in Bihar in 2013. Thirty three residents from Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal participated in this five-day residential workshop.



MENTORS

To implement a project successfully and provide support services for our grantees in meeting the day to day challenges, S-ILF has a mentorship programme with local, grassroots organisations and individuals. These organizations or mentors carry the same values as S-ILF believes in. Most of the S-ILF's Mentors are new to the field of leprosy but aligned to S-ILF's values of empowerment and self reliance. The following are S-ILF's partners:

ACTION FOR DISABLED & DEPRESSED IN INDIA (ADD INDIA)

President/Chairman – Mr. M. Thangarajan

Location – Salem, Tamil Nadu

ADD India has been working since 15 years in the field of social development in and around Salem district. They are working closely with the department of Health, Agriculture, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Their major focus is social empowerment and legal support towards the target communities.

ADD India is S-ILF's partner in mentoring livelihood projects in districts of Salem, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Kancheepuram and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

THE CENTRE OF ADVANCED RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (CARD)

Head – Dr. Vivek Sharma

Location – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

CARD is Head Quartered in Bhopal. CARD believes in mainstreaming development and a community-based natural resource management approach to reduce rural poverty.

CARD is S-ILF's partner in mentoring for a large project in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

DHARAMITRA

Secretary/In charge – Dr. Khadse (based in Amravati)

Location – Wardha, Maharashtra

Dharamitra was founded by a group of scientists, primarily focusing on sustainable rural development through the application of appropriate science and technology alternatives. They have been working with support from CAPART, NCSTC, Government of Maharashtra, UNDP, SWISSAID etc.

Dharamitra is S-ILF's partner in mentoring livelihood projects in districts of Amravati and Akola, Maharashtra.

JAGO FOUNDATION

Head – Mr. Baidyanath

Location – Dhanaydih, Giridih, Jharkhand

Jago Foundation is based in Dhanaydih, Giridih, Jharkhand.

The organization is S-ILF's partner in Bokaro, Dhanbad, Jamtara and Deoghar, Jharkhand.

JANKALYAN

Head – Mr. Prasen Raptan

Location – Sindhanaur, Raichur, Karnataka

Jankalyan seeks to create an enabling healthy environment, where all individuals have equal access to social, cultural, educational and political institutions with an economically secured livelihood. It works for community welfare, agriculture, water resource development, renewable energy harnessing, health, entrepreneurship development and marginalized communities.

Jankalyan is S-ILF's partner in mentoring livelihood projects in districts of Hospet, Bellary, Karnataka.

MAHATMA PHULE SAMAJ SEWA MANDAL (MPSSM)

President – Mr. Pramod Zinjade

Location – Solapur, Maharashtra

MPSSM was established in 1982 by the initiatives of the local youth of Pothare village of Karmala block. They handle projects related to agriculture, livestock development, floriculture, watershed development etc. They have support from funding agencies such as Oxfam, Indo German Social Service Society, AFARM, Water Aid, Save the Children, Australian High Commission and many more. So far they have worked in 17 districts and 24 blocks in Maharashtra.

MPSS is S-ILF's partner in mentoring livelihood projects in Solapur and Latur.

MANAV KALYAN TRUST (MKT)

Head - Mr. Lallu Bhai

Location - Sabarkantha, Gujarat

Manav Kalyan Trust is working for societies' most ignored communities and aiding tribal people achieve sustainable livelihood with special focus on women empowerment in one of the poorest and most deprived belts of Gujarat state. It started in 1984 with the specific objective of strengthening and empowering the vulnerable tribal and pastoral groups of Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Kutch district, Gujarat and has a long history of motivating the tribal and pastoral community towards attaining their rights. MKT is S-ILF's partner in Sabarkantha, Gujarat.

MANAV ADHIKAR SEVA SAMITI (MASS)

Head – Mr. Chitranjan Hota

Location – Sambalpur, Odisha

MASS pursues to facilitate action, research, training, networking and advocacy for the socio-economic and ecological development of the downtrodden by promoting their participation in these activities. It also works at a macro level promoting research, training, networking and advocacy.

MASS is S-ILF's partner in mentoring livelihood projects in western region of Odisha in Belpahar, Jharsuguda, Hatibari- Sambalpur, Brajrajnagar.

MS. MAYA RANAVARE

Member of Executive Board - APAL

Location – Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

S-ILF has been working towards raising the capacities of the primary stakeholders and supporting them to realize their potential. S-ILF contracted Maya as the first Mentor (from our primary stakeholders) to facilitate the Centering Project in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

Maya has been actively supporting and taking up cases on human rights of leprosy-affected people and their families. She is facilitating the education and advocacy work of S-ILF across many colonies in Maharashtra. Currently she is also working as one of the trustees of APAL. Based on her performance and active involvement as a Mentor in Ratnagiri project, S-ILF has further extended her mentorship roles to facilitate the implementation of individual projects under the Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Maharashtra. Maya is S-ILF's partner for Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

NETWORK OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ORGANISATION (NPDO)

Head - Mr. M. Srinivasulu

Location - Malakpet, Hyderabad, Andrapradesh

Network of Persons with Disabilities Organizations (NPDO) is an organization by the disabled, of the disabled and for the disabled registered under Societies Act in 2003. The organization works towards securing the rights of persons with disabilities and working with a rights based approach, mobilizing the disabled community and empowering the organisations of disabled persons across the state of Andhra Pradesh.

NPDO is S-ILF's partner in Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Kurnul, Nellore and Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh.



PEOPLE'S FORUM

Chairman – Mr. Chitta Pattnaik

COO – Mr. Sanjay Pattnaik

Location – Khurda & Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Established in the year 1989, People's Forum provides a platform for the vulnerable and deprived sections of the community whose voices have remained unheard, rights ignored and basic entitlements unaccomplished. Their major focus areas are health (including mental health) and sanitation, livelihood generation and financial inclusion. They work across areas of Odisha and have established their work to Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. They have well established and highly credible entrepreneurship programs.

People's Forum is S-ILF's Partner in mentoring livelihood projects in districts of Khurda and Puri, Odisha.

POWER PEOPLE ORGANIZATION FOR WASTELAND AND ENVIRONMENT REGENERATION (POWER)

Head – Mr. Siddhu Pujari

Location – Bijapur, Karnataka

Power was established mainly as response to address situation of rural poor in Northern Karnataka. It works in the area of natural resource management by organising viable community based organisations. They also work in providing need based quality education, healthcare and livelihood specially for women.

POWER is S-ILF's partner in mentoring livelihood projects in districts of Gulbarga, Bijapur, Yadgir, Bidar, Karnataka.



PRIYANSHI EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL SOCIETY (PECSS)

Head – Dr. Shalini Saxena

Location – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

PECSS aims to improve the overall quality of life of people, particularly the tribal population, women, children, downtrodden and deprived sections of society, living both in rural and urban areas, so that they are able to lead a respectable, healthy and economically self-reliant life.

S-ILF partners with PECSS in Indore, Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Sehore, Bhopal, Katni, Mandsaur, Khandwa and Barwani in Madhya Pradesh.

PROGRAM FOR RURAL ACTION AND YOUTH ASSOCIATION (PRAYAS)

Head – Mr. Murli Shyam

Location – Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

PRAYAS is a Hazaribagh-based organization. Since its inception the organization has been working with rural poor with a special focus on tribal youth. They are working in different districts of Jharkhand to empower youth and women, especially those from Scheduled Tribes (STs), to access their employment and health rights as a means to a sustainable, healthy livelihood.

PRAYAS is S-ILF's partner for the tribal project in Jharkhand.

RURAL ORGANIZATION OF AWARENESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (ROADS)

Head – Mr. Puligilla Balaiah

Location – Thulluru, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

ROADS works with women, children, persons with disability and people living with HIV/AIDS. ROADS has been working successfully with the underprivileged including those from schedule castes, schedule tribes and other socio-politically economic backward communities of society.

ROADS is S-ILF's partner in Anantpur, Guntur, Kadapa, Shrikakulam and Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh.

RURAL INDIA SELF DEVELOPMENT TRUST (RISDT)

Head – Mr. Slesser

Location – Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh

Bruno Jehle, a young Swiss national traveling in Andhra Pradesh recognized the physical and social suffering of persons affected by leprosy and started a small intervention called the People's Clinic with the objective of providing medical care at their doorsteps. Impressed by the success of the Clinic and the need to scale up the services, Bruno Jehle along with his Indian friends founded RISDT in the year, 1983. It is a non-profit public health and development organization serving the most marginalized communities of East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. RISDT now works in the area of leprosy, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, family health, secondary school education and rural development.



RISDT is S-ILF's partner in East Godawari, West Godawari, Shrikakulam and Vijayanagaram, Andhra Pradesh.

SHIKSHAN ANE SAMAJ KALYAN KENDRA (SASKK)

Head – Mr. D. V. Vagadia

Location – Amreli, Gujarat

SASKK is an Amreli based organization. The Saurashtra region of Gujarat is drought prone. This has resulted in migration of the people for seeking livelihood alternatives. Men move to find jobs leaving the women and children behind. In 1980, SASKK was formed to help communities generate income.

SASKK is S-ILF's partner in Junagarh and Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN ASSISTANCE AND RURAL EMPOWERMENT (SHARE)

Head – Mr. Vinay Ranjan Saraswati

Location – West Singhbhum, Jharkhand

SHARE works with tribals, women and marginalized groups in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand. SHARE mainly focuses on empowering socially excluded people to work collectively for their social and economic development and entitlements.

SHARE is S-ILF's partner for the tribal project in Jharkhand.

UJJIBAN-03

Secretary – Mr. Ardhendu Banerjee

Location – District Burdwan, West Bengal

UJJIBAN-03 was established in 2003 with the mission to cater to the developmental needs of the backward and the downtrodden. It operates in 38 Blocks in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Purulia Districts in West Bengal, working extensively on issues related to livelihood. It also started working in South 24 Parganas, particularly in Sunderban areas recently. They have received funding from NABARD, Government Authorities, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

UJJIBAN-03 is S-ILF's partner in mentoring livelihood projects in the Burdwan and Durgapur district of West Bengal.

VANVASI SEVA KENDRA (VSK)

Secretary – Dr. Sadanand Rai

Location – Bhabua, Bihar

VSK is a Kaimur, Bihar based organization working on animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, agriculture, education and literacy, food processing, health and family welfare, microfinance (SHGs), panchayatiraj, rural development and poverty alleviation, science and technology, tribal affairs, vocational training, water resources and women's empowerment.

VSK is S-ILF's partner for East Champaran, West Champaran, Patna, Samistipur, Darbhanga, Nawada and Kaimur in Bihar.

SKILL TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS



ALL INDIA SOCIETY FOR ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (AISECT)

Through sustained and innovative ICT and skills-based initiatives, AISECT aims to bring about an inclusive change in the semi-urban and rural areas of the country. The organization has a pan-India presence with a network of 12,000 centers at district, block and panchayat levels across 27 states and three Union Territories as well as offices in over 30 cities.

AISECT is one of the major training partners of NSDC. AISECT is S-ILF's major partner for skilling youth from leprosy-affected families in all states.

APPAREL TRAINING AND DESIGN CENTRE (ATDC)

ATDC has emerged as India's largest vocational training network for the apparel sector with around 175 ATDCs including 65 ATDC Vocational Institutes and over 135 ATDC-SMART Centres and Skill Camps in major apparel clusters spread across 22 states and 85 cities pan-India. S-ILF associated with ATDC after receiving a request for skill training in tailoring. Currently S-ILF is working with ATDC in Madhya Pradesh.

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Don Bosco Technical Institute is a placement-driven skill training Institute. The group is spread across 132 countries and has 125 locations in India, catering to skilling and employability needs of the youth. S-ILF is associated with the organization in several states such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

GMR VARALAKSHMI FOUNDATION (GMRVF)

GMRVF is the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of the GMR Group. Its objectives are to develop social infrastructure and enhance the quality of life of communities in the areas where the Group is located. Skill Development is one of GMR's CSR activities. S-ILF is associated with GMR in Delhi.

GRAM TARANG

Gram Tarang is a Social Entrepreneurial Initiative in skill development, working in largely underdeveloped regions of the country. S-ILF is associated with the organization to impart training to youth from leprosy-affected families in the state of Odisha.

GRAS ACADEMY

Gras Academy is a vocational training initiative of graduates from the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata who share a common desire to bring about social change by empowering the unemployed and out-of-work youth. It was launched in 2006, and over the years has successfully expanded across the country. S-ILF is associated with the Gras academy to impart IT skills in Uttar Pradesh.

GRAMIN VIKAS EVAM SAMAJIK SEWA SANSTHAN

This is a partner organization of Gras Academy for its IT trades. S-ILF is associated with the organization to provide vocational skills in Uttar Pradesh.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF JOB TRAINING (IIJT)

IIJT is India's fastest growing vocational training institute offering an industry relevant training in a large number of trades. S-ILF has been associated with the organization for its vocational trainings in the IT sector in Delhi.



LYCOS COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE

Lycos is a Delhi-based IT training centre. Being a partner organization of Gras Academy, S-ILF was associated with Lycos in Uttar Pradesh.

PRATHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Pratham is one of the largest Non-Governmental organizations in India, which works in the area of education and skill development. Pratham has several training centres across the country. S-ILF is associated with Pratham to impart training in the states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

SIMTEJ 7 ACADEMY

Simtej 7 Academy is one of the emerging training institutes in Maharashtra providing training on System Applications Products-Enterprise Resource Planning (SAP-ERP) with modules such as Technical, Functional and Advanced SAP-ERP. S-ILF is associated with the organization in Maharashtra.

SOCIO ECONOMIC EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE FOUNDATION (SEEIF)

SEEIF is a grassroots organization working in Jharkhand. S-ILF is associated with the organization for training in computer hardware and automobiles.

WOCKHARDT HEALTH EDUCATION INSTITUTE

Wockhardt Foundation is a national, not-for-profit organization working in social service and human welfare activities. Wockhardt has taken an initiative to train quality health service providers. Currently, they are working in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Wockhardt is associated with S-ILF for its general duty/assistant courses in Uttar Pradesh.



NGO PARTNERS

S-ILF has also partnered with some organizations working in the field of leprosy. These partnerships are a few examples of joint efforts by different organizations to eliminate stigma and discrimination against leprosy.

NETHERLANDS RELIEF FOUNDATION (NLR FOUNDATION)

S-ILF and NLR Foundation have partnered for tribal area projects in Jharkhand.

THE LEPROSY MISSION (TLM)

S-ILF and TLM have partnered for a project in Champa, Chhattisgarh.

OUR SUPPORTERS

S-ILF would not have achieved what it has today, without support from:

- Members of the Parliamentary Forum to Free India on Leprosy
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)
- Ministry of Railways
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- Ministry of Education (NCT)
- Embassy of Japan
- School of Inspired Leadership (SOIL)
- National Institute of Design (NID)
- Dastkar, Nature Bazar
- Association for the International Exchange of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC)
- Delhi University Colleges
- Vasant Valley School, New Delhi
- The Sri Ram School, Mousari Avenue, Gurgaon

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR SASAKAWA INDIA LEPROSY FOUNDATION

SOURCES OF FUNDS				
As on 31-03-2015			As on 31-03-2016	
INR In Lakhs	%	Particulars	INR In Lakhs	%
5251	85	Trust Fund (Corpus)	5251	84
818	14	Reserves & Other Funds	981	16
83	1	Sundry Liabilities & Provisions	28	0
6152	100		6260	100

APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
As on 31-03-2015			As on 31-03-2016	
INR In Lakhs	%	Particulars	INR In Lakhs	%
9	0	Fixed Assets	7	0
5109	83	Investments in scheduled Banks	5097	81
679	11	Investments - Others	682	11
355	6	Other Assets	474	8
6152	100		6260	100

INCOME

For the Year Ended 31-03-2015			For the Year Ended 31-03-2016	
INR In Lakhs	%	Particulars	INR In Lakhs	%
19	5	Domestic Grant	40	8
383	95	Interest on Investments & Saving Bank Account	482	92
402	100		522	100

EXPENDITURE

For the Year Ended 31-03-2015			For the Year Ended 31-03-2016	
INR In Lakhs	%	Particulars	INR In Lakhs	%
		Expenditure on Objects of the Trust (Including Grant Related expenses)		
141	36	Livelihood Program Support	138	31
34	9	Communication & Advocacy	39	9
59	15	Education	86	20
96	24	Administrative Expenses	96	22
63	16	Surplus/Deficit transferred to the Balance Sheet	79	18
393	100		438	100

YOUR ROLE



A SMALL BEGINNING...

Each and every one of us can and must become a brand ambassador and make a small beginning in fighting discrimination against the leprosy-affected and their families.

You too can make a difference by doing the following:

Reject the use of derogatory terms such as 'leper' and its equivalent in other languages as a person should never be defined by his or her disease.

Acknowledge that people affected by the disease and their families are equal members of society.

Remember that "Every person is born free and equal in dignity and human rights" (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948) and apply it in every sphere of our lives.

Change our values and attitudes towards people affected by leprosy.

Leprosy is fully curable, non-hereditary, non-contagious and treatment is available free of cost.

SPREAD THE WORD

If all of us including the government and the support groups join hands, together we can eradicate the social stigma and accomplish a leprosy-free society.

OUR TEAM



Bottom row, L to R:

Yogita Parkale, Program Associate; Rajni Sharma, Consultant; Dr. Vineeta Shanker, Executive Director; Rituparna Sarangi, Program Officer; Vandana Nagpal, Consultant; Aftab Pasha, Program Officer

Top row, L to R:

Khaled Sharfuddin, Program Officer; Atul Kumar, Program Officer; Raj Kumar Masih; Office Attendant & Driver; Rachna Mantri, Consultant; Ram Autar Accounts and Administrative Officer; Payal Gadhiok Consultant; Ganesh Prasad Dhuria Office Attendant; Sanjeev Kumar Program Manager; Tanzeel Khan Programme Officer



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