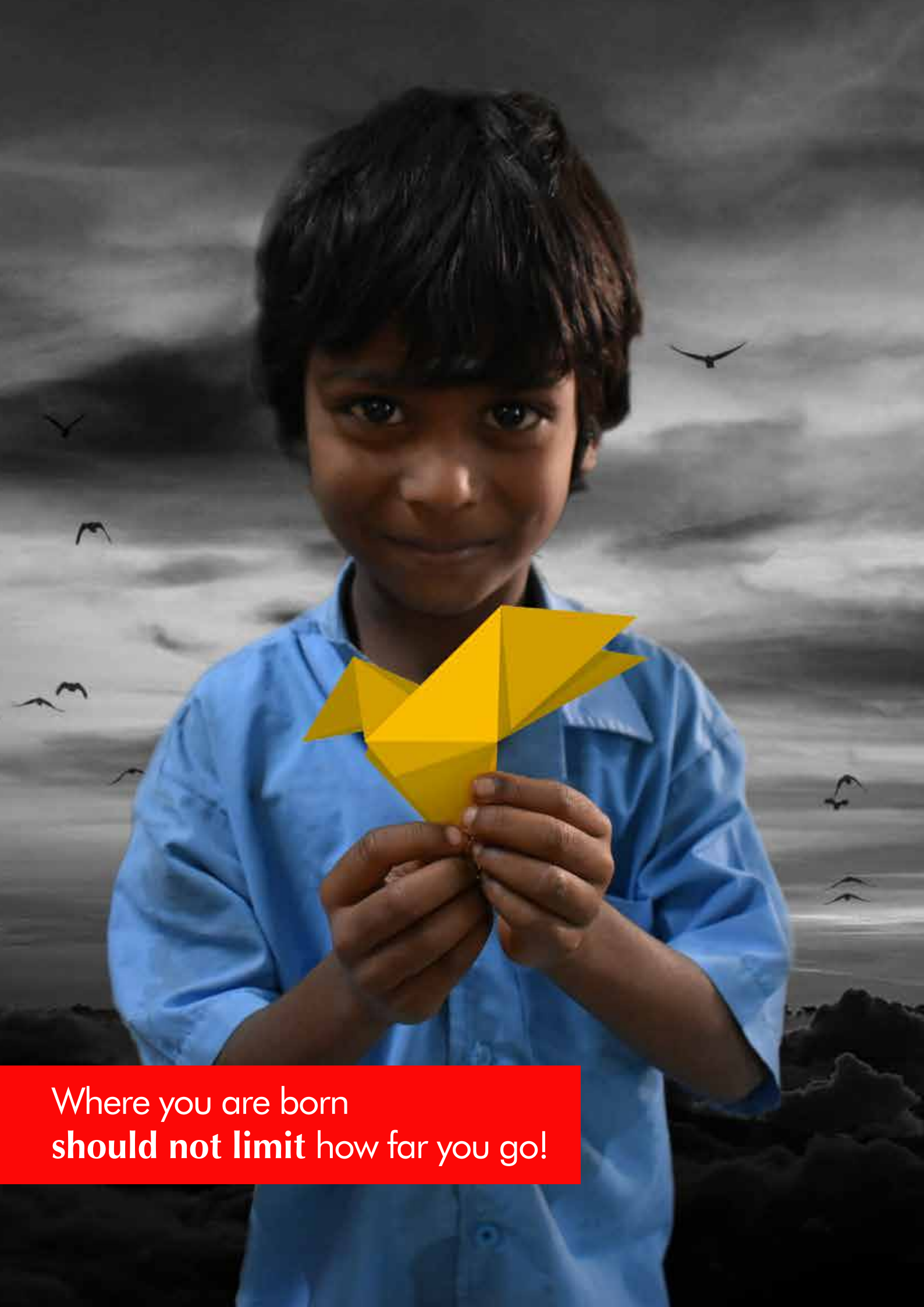




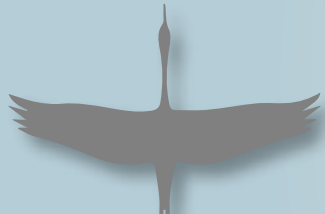
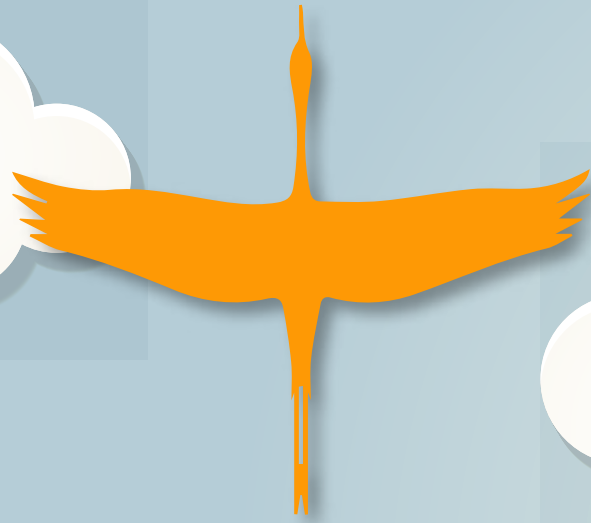
Rising strong and reaching new frontiers

Makkala Jagriti Annual Report **2022-23**



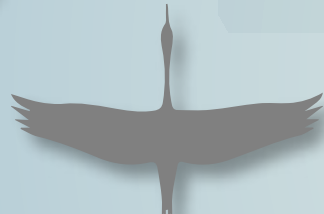
Where you are born
should not limit how far you go!

FLYING THROUGH



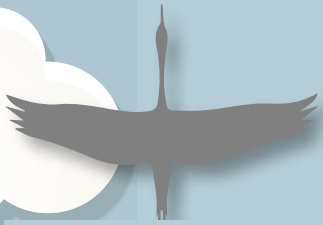
From the CEO's desk

04



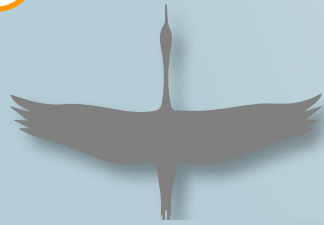
About Makkala Jagriti

05



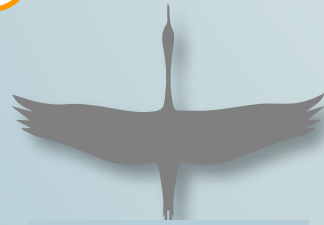
Highlights of the year

06



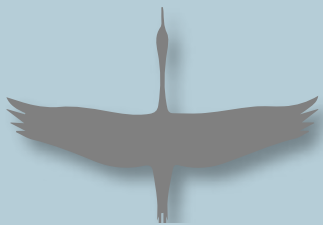
Our programs

08



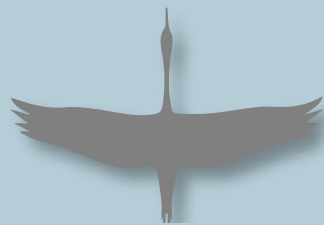
Volunteer engagement

54



Our people

56



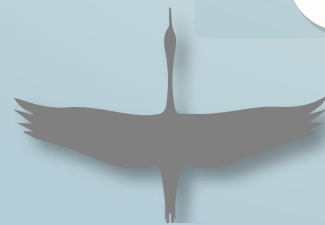
Our supporters

58



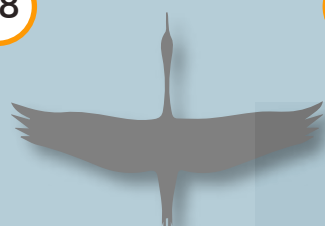
Governing Board
& Leadership

60



Financial Information

61



Outlook

62

FROM THE
CEO's DESK



Resurging ahead with renewed vigor

Dear Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

I'm delighted to present our annual report for 2022-2023, a year of profound significance for Makkala Jagriti. After the pandemic's upheavals, we're thrilled to be back in the field, steadfast in our mission to empower disadvantaged children and youth towards brighter futures.

Makkala Jagriti works in four distinct spaces: Government schools, Anganwadis, Child Care Institutions and Communities. Each of these spaces pose unique challenges but also offer opportunities to make transformative changes. Through our programs last year, we strived to bridge learning gaps, enhance Early Childhood Education, and provide age-appropriate holistic development opportunities to our children and youth in institutions and communities. A significant step was to expand our presence to new districts and work with more children in institutional care, and also launching impactful youth programs in the heart of Bangalore.

Our team demonstrated exceptional adaptability as we navigated the post-pandemic landscape - learning and adapting to make sure we continued to keep the children at the center of our attention. This report shares the highlights of the programs along with the stories of children and young adults touched by your unwavering support. Their dreams and achievements inspire us daily and underscore our collective potential to create lasting change.

As we look forward, we are filled with hope and resolve. The challenges faced by our beneficiaries remain substantial, but your continued support fuels our confidence in overcoming them. Together, we'll continue to create holistic development opportunities and empower them to tap into their own potential and fly.

Thank you for joining us on this transformative journey, believing in the potential of every child and youth. Together, we can build a brighter, more equitable future our children and youth.

With gratitude and renewed purpose,

Sunayana Chatrapathy
Chief Executive Officer



Makkala Jagriti is a non-governmental organisation that has been working towards providing holistic learning and development opportunities to children and youth from socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the society since 2003. Driven by its motto: **Where you are born should not limit how far you go**, Makkala Jagriti facilitates children and youth on a journey of self-discovery, encouraging them to explore their innate strengths and potential, through a holistic approach to learning.

Further, we believe in adopting an ecosystem approach to drive sustainable and inclusive change. Towards this, the organization partners with parents, teachers, communities, like-minded organizations, and the government to make this a social movement.

OUR VISION

A value-based social movement to empower the child and its community towards a bright future.

OUR MISSION







To facilitate holistic development for children and diverse groups, in and around the community, to build a sustainable and equitable society.

OUR CORE VALUES

At Makkala Jagriti, we see the world from a child's point of view. We follow a child-centric approach which allows us to respect the child's physical, professional, and learning boundaries. We unconditionally accept all children, irrespective of their background, gender, and ability levels. We trust and believe that children have the freedom to make their own choices.

OUR APPROACH

The key problem that Makkala Jagriti is trying to address is the lack of access to quality holistic development opportunities that children and youth from socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the society typically face through:

-  Creation of safe and conducive learning spaces in Anganwadis, government schools, Child Care institutions and urban poor communities
-  Engaging with our children and youth using an experiential learning approach for their holistic development
-  Empowering stakeholders around them (teachers, parents, community, etc.) to ensure that they support the process
-  Establishing practices in institutions that aid holistic development
-  Creating role models and change-agents among the stakeholders who we work with
-  Generating evidences and advocacy with the system at various levels to influence the public education system

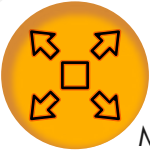


HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

2022-2023



Evolved a new integrated SPICE curriculum for holistic development of children catering to socio-emotional, physical, intellectual, creative and ethical development aspects



Makkala Jagriti extended its presence to 11 districts thanks to expansion of our intervention with Child Care Institutions



Successfully conducted Anganwadi Habba to celebrate early childhood education in collaboration with the Department of WCD with 1500+ participants

The big highlight of the year was returning to action and being amidst children and youth throughout the year. It was also a year of growth, expansion and significant new achievements.



Launched a new Yuva Cafe in Gopalapuram community and created a vibrant group of changemakers



Makkala Jagriti certified as a Great Place to Work by the globally recognized Great Place to Work Institute



Won the 8th Annual CSR Impact Award in the category of Education for our work in Early Childhood Care and Education



OUR
REACH



27,890
Children and Youth



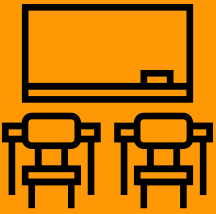
500+
Teachers




6000+
Parents



11
Districts



78
Government Schools



70
Anganwadis



26
Government
Child Care Institutions



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

A program that empowers the Anganwadi ecosystem to provide quality early education for children aged between 3 and 6, and making them school ready.



HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT LEARNING CENTRE

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT LEARNING CENTRES (HDLC)

A program to foster holistic development in children in government schools and urban poor communities in the age-group of 6 to 14 years through experiential learning using Makkala Jagriti's unique SPICE model.



With experience and expertise in working with different age groups (3 years to 25 years), Makkala Jagriti has four distinct programs catering to different categories of children and youth in different spaces.



HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS (CCI)

A program aimed at providing unprecedented learning opportunities for children in Government Child Care Institutions while transforming these spaces into spaces of holistic development.



YUVA JAGRITI (YJ)

A program to empower youth from urban poor communities with 21st century skills to unlock their potential, script better futures and become role models and change agents.



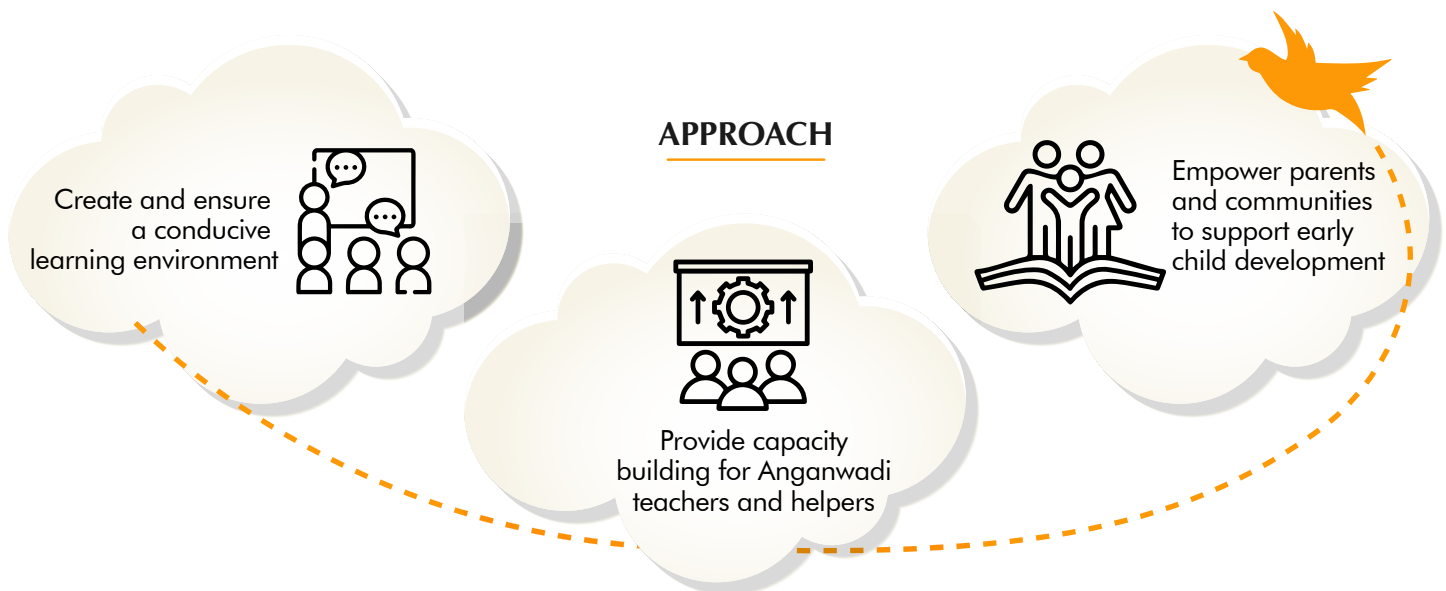


EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Quality Early Childhood Education is a right for every child. Research shows that 90% of brain development takes place by the age of 6, thus laying a foundation for future learning, health and success in life. For most of India's rural and poor children, it is Anganwadis that should meet this need.

While the government has addressed the health and nutrition needs of these children through Anganwadis under ICDS, the Early Childhood Education component certainly needs more attention. Quality early childhood education is what can help children improve their learning outcomes in later years and eventually impact their quality of life.

Makkala Jagriti's ECCE program is aimed at transforming Government Anganwadis by bringing in quality preschool learning through a holistic approach for children between the ages of 3-6 years. The program employs an 'ecosystem approach,' engaging stakeholders such as Anganwadi Teachers, Helpers, ICDS Supervisors, Parents, and the community. The key pillars of the ECCE program are as in the figure.



OUR REACH IN 2022-23



70

Anganwadis



14

ICDS Functionaries



2000+

Children



3000+

Parents



130+

Anganwadi Teachers and Helpers

KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR



Anganwadi Teacher and Helper capacity building

Anganwadi Teachers and helpers were trained using experiential learning methodologies to provide quality Early Childhood Care and Education services



Knowledge Partnership

The Department of Women and Child Development invited us to contribute to the state resources team for ECCE.



Creation of Learning Resources

We created more than 20 ECCE videos to train different audiences on various aspects of Early learning in the Kannada language



Recognition and Awards

Makkala Jagriti's ECCE project gained recognition for its impactful work by being honored with the **National level CSRBox Impact Award**



Successful Anganwadi Habba

Anganwadi Habba - a community event to showcase importance of ECCE saw more than 1500 participants including Anganwadi teachers, helpers, parents, partners and leaders from the department of women and child development



Expanding Community Interventions

We initiated interventions in Anganwadis in the **Gopalapuram, Binnpet, and Vallurvarpuram** communities with an aim to broaden our reach and enhance our influence within these communities, further advancing our mission in the field of ECCE.



TRANSFORMING ANGANWADIS INTO VIBRANT LEARNING SPACES

Safe, attractive, and joyful learning spaces are of paramount importance for early learning as these environments provide a sense of security and comfort, enabling children to explore, experiment, and express themselves freely. A visually appealing and engaging setting stimulates their imagination and curiosity, making learning more meaningful.

Anganwadi Teachers transformed their learning spaces into inviting and engaging ones by making them more colourful, ensuring age appropriate learning materials are easily accessed by children, creating learning corners, displaying children's work and more.

All of this has resulted in a change in the perception of the community about the Anganwadi from a day care to a quality pre-school, increased attendance and enrolment.

EMPOWERING ANGANWADI TEACHERS AND HELPERS

ECCE trainings were conducted across different ICDS circles for more than 130 Anganwadi teachers and helpers. The training focused on shifting the self-image of Anganwadi workers from workers to empowered educators. These training sessions are strategically designed to help Anganwadi teachers recognize their pivotal role as influencers and catalysts for change in the lives of their children and the Anganwadi helper as an able co-teacher.

We employ a blended approach of theory and practice to cultivate a more positive attitude, enrich knowledge, and enhance skills among our workforce. Day-long workshops immerse teachers in the role of learners themselves, allowing them to embrace the teaching-learning process fully and apply in the Anganwadis. Training themes include importance of ECCE, understanding various domains of development, creative teaching methodologies, influencing parents and community etc.

Apart from the training, a vital part of our ECCE program is the continuous on-the-job training and mentoring of Anganwadi teachers through visits from our ECCE trained facilitators.



“

Prior to my involvement with Makkala Jagriti, I facilitated preschool learning on a sporadic basis, but my efforts were limited to just a couple of activities. I recognized the need to expand my knowledge in early learning.

Following my training with Makkala Jagriti, I not only acquired the new skills but also successfully created a meaningful learning space for the children at our Anganwadi. I now conduct preschool activities regularly according to a structured timetable - focused on social, emotional, language, cognitive and physical development. Children love the Anganwadi environment and I also use a lot Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs). Additionally, I initiated mothers' meetings focused on preschool education, which not only transformed me as a teacher but also significantly improved the overall quality of learning at our Anganwadi.”

Munithayamma, Nagenahalli 1 Anganwadi.

”



From Challenges to Triumph:

Krishna's Inspiring Story of Growth and Development

Krishna (name changed) is a four-year-old enrolled at Jeevan Bhima Nagar Anganwadi. Despite his young age, communicating his wants and needs posed a significant challenge, leading to delays in reaching developmental milestones. Notably, he showed no response when called by name and avoided making eye contact. Krishna has been formally diagnosed with learning disabilities.

“I had a lot of difficulties in looking after him. Treatment and therapy were also not helping. The Anganwadi teacher convinced me that coming to the Anganwadi would be good for him. Within one year of him being in an Anganwadi with other children, we could see a tremendous change. His speech has improved, and restlessness has reduced by almost 80%. Over a period of time, he has become quite comfortable and has been learning a lot through Anganwadi preschool activities.” says his overwhelmed mother.



EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

As part of the ecosystem approach, enhancing the engagement of parents and community in their children's early childhood education is key.

Strengthening Mother's Meetings

Parents shape the home environment for the child, fostering holistic development and strengthening the link between home and Anganwadi for the child's learning. We recognised that mothers' meeting which is an essential part of the ICDS framework is a strong vehicle to bring focus on the importance of early learning and equip parents with the knowledge, skills and practices to support their children's development in their homes

We witnessed a significant increase in parental participation, indicating a growing awareness and understanding of their vital role in their child's learning journey.

Through interactive and activity based sessions focused on different themes every month, parents are empowered with practical insights, such as how to effectively engage young children at home, recommendations for age-appropriate activities, and solutions to common challenges faced by them.



Empowering Parental leaders to elevate Early Learning

Sonakshi and Mamatha are parents of Aryan Surya and Virat at Yeddyurappa Nagar Anganwadi center. After attending a mother's meeting, they were inspired to contribute more and were nominated as lead mothers to play more active role in improving the Anganwadi's environment and enhancing the children's learning experience.

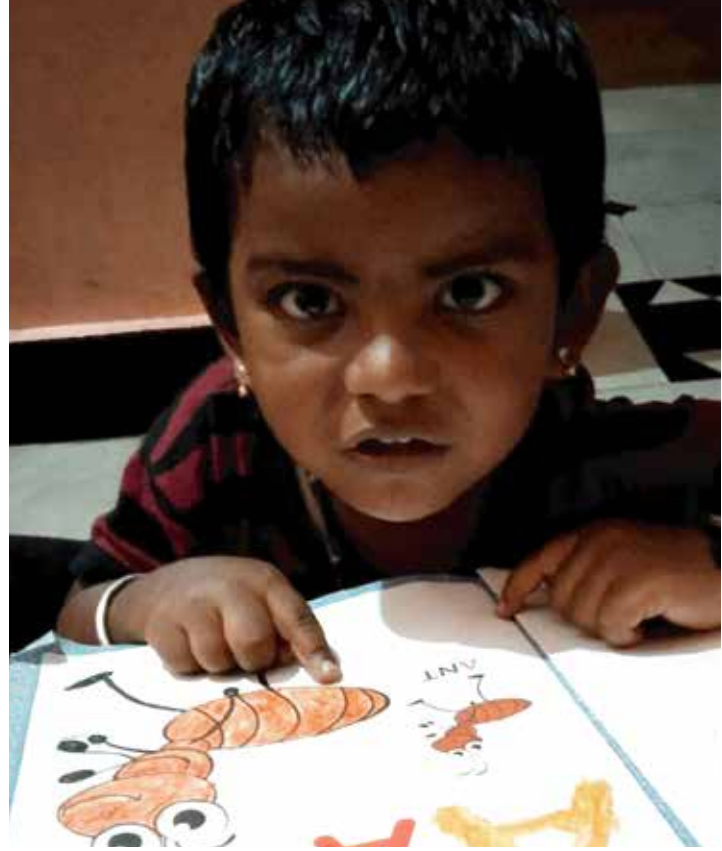
With a newfound sense of purpose, Sonakshi and Mamatha started engaging with the children whenever the Anganwadi teacher was not available. They also spend time creating teaching learning materials, labeling and arranging materials in the center, creating a more organized and stimulating environment for the children to learn and play in.



Empowering Fathers as Active Partners in Early Learning

While Early Childhood Education has often focused on mothers, we wanted to see how to make fathers understand their role as key contributors to their children's development. So, we started having regular meetings for fathers aimed to discuss the importance of their role and equip them to provide meaningful support.

By addressing social norms, perceptions and encouraging open dialogues, we successfully fostered a shift in mindset among fathers. They began to see how crucial they are in their children's lives and learned various ways to positively contribute to their learning journey.



ENCOURAGING LEARNING AT HOME

To encourage learning at home, we gave every Anganwadi child a learning kit with a workbook focused on all domains of development, stationery, colours and more. With these kits, kids could explore and learn at their own speed at home. It also encouraged parents to spend time with their children while doing the activities in the book. By addressing social norms, perceptions and encouraging open dialogues, we successfully fostered a shift in mindset among fathers. They began to see how crucial they are in their children's lives and learned various ways to positively contribute to their learning journey.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events are a strategic way to bring the community together to support the Anganwadi and also to showcase the progress in the Anganwadi to the larger community. Various events like Children's day, Teachers' Day, Women's day, National Nutrition Month, Graduation day were organized round the year attracting the community towards the Anganwadi and garnering their support.



ANGANWADI HABBA

In January 2023, we successfully organized the “Anganwadi Habba”, an event that celebrated Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Anganwadis at Yelahanka, Bangalore. This event, a collaborative effort with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka, and supported by RSA Security, engaged more than 1500 participants, including Anganwadi teachers, ICDS Supervisors, parents, our partners, and other NGOs.

The event was inaugurated by Shri S. R. Vishwanath, Honourable Member of Legislative Assembly (Yelahanka), and senior Department officials, signifying a significant step forward in advancing ECCE.

The event was led by the Anganwadi teachers of Rajanjukunte circle who showcased best practices in pre-school learning in their Anganwadis. Accompanying this exposition were experiential learning stalls, serving as platforms for the demonstration of activities promoting holistic child development across varied domains.

Another noteworthy inclusion was the on-stage enactment of a model ECCE routine within Anganwadis, enacted by young children with their teacher. This portrayal gained additional significance in light of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), underlining the crucial role of Early Childhood Education in Anganwadis and was appreciated by all the Anganwadi teachers and Department leaders alike.

The event encompassed a spectrum of experiences, ensuring participants - Anganwadi teachers, parents, Department officials, and associates - were left with inspiring insights into the importance of preschool learning and how they can take it forward.



“

“The event organized by Makkala Jagriti, supported by the WCD department, was a much-needed initiative in this new revolution happening in Anganwadis especially in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The Anganwadi Habba showcased stalls and which displayed experiential learning much needed for our teachers to adopt in their Anganwadis as per the New Education Policy to be implemented across anganwadis. I was so excited about the skit performed by children on the stage, i.e., “Model Anganwadi Centre.” It shows how teachers, helpers, and the community can manage their time and increase learning opportunities for children in Anganwadi

Dr. Usha, Joint Director, ICDS, Department of Women and Child Development

”

TRANSFORMING SHISHU MANDIRA INTO A SPACE FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Makkala Jagriti partnered with the Department of Women and Child Development to work in the Shishumandira - a home for children in need of care and protection aged 0 to 6 years. We developed a tailored curriculum and routines at Shishu Mandira, creating an environment that nurtures holistic growth.

We've also provided training to the caregivers, empowering them to engage meaningfully in the children's development. Trainings were on various themes including importance of brain development in early childhood, importance of early stimulation and early experiences.

Our facilitators engage children in daily structured activities covering all areas of learning and growth. Creating dedicated play areas and encouraging hands-on activities has led to significant progress in their language, physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

We also organized special outings for the children, including a visit to a multiplex to watch a documentary about wildlife and a to the Lalbagh Botanical gardens for the vibrant annual flower show, providing sensory-rich learning for the children.



A Journey of Growth:

Unveiling a Child's Transformation

Shreya was a child in the Shishumandira who struggled with speech and did not interact much with others. Children and caregivers around her also did not know how to connect with her.

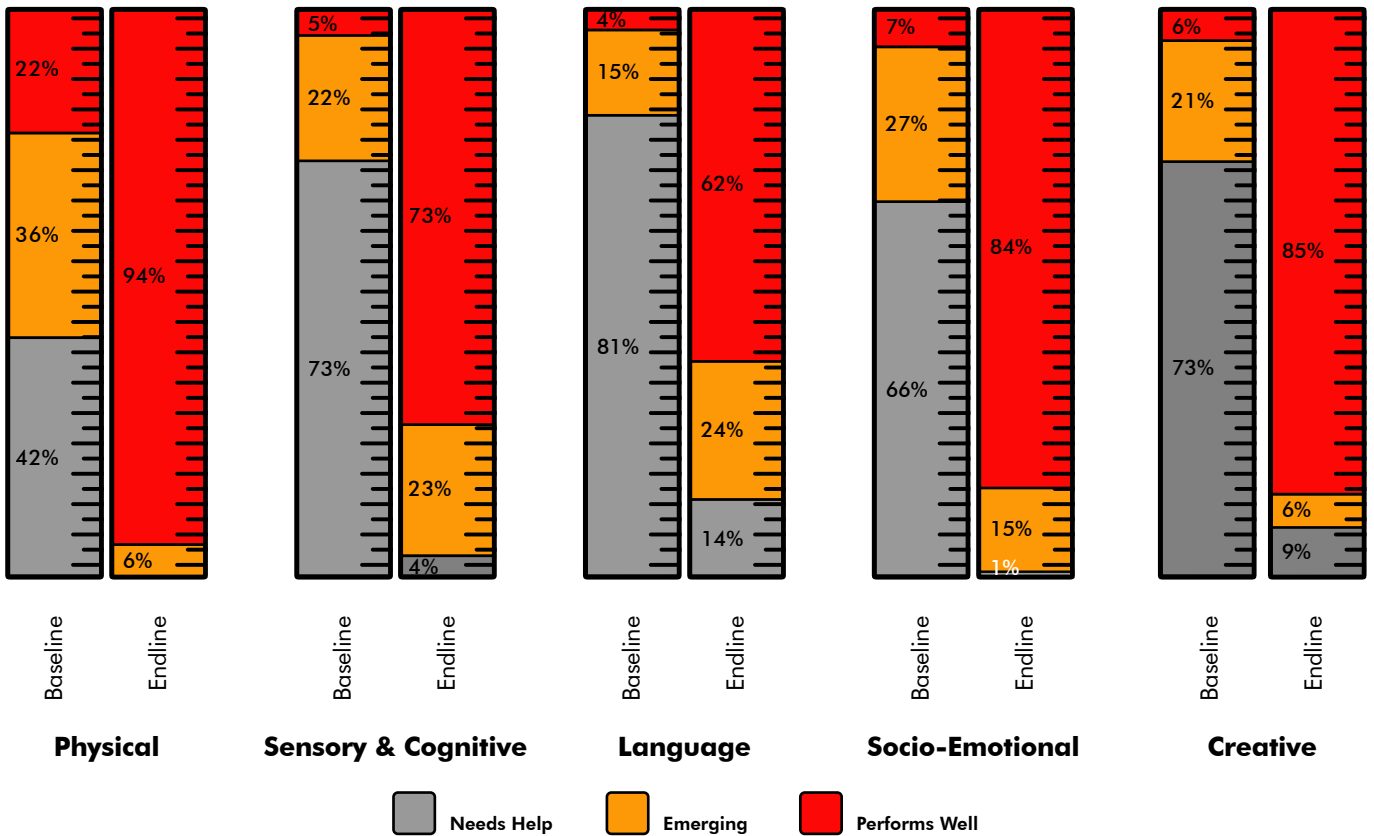
With our facilitator's patient support, a connection began to form. Step by step, actions replaced words, bridging her to the world around her. Today, she actively participates and feels a sense of belonging, even though she doesn't speak much. Her actions, like sharing toys and offering comfort, speak volumes. Her attempts at pronunciation show progress, and her recent participation in a welcoming activity reflects her growing social and emotional development.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Children's Outcomes

Through the course of the year we have followed the development of approximately 400 children across various developmental domains. We have presented here a comparison between their capabilities at the beginning and end of the year. Their capabilities across diverse activities have been classified into three categories: "needing help," "emerging," and "performs well."

Children's Assessment



Encouragingly, our assessment results indicate a notable improvement in children's performance across the five domains of development. There has been a remarkable surge in the number of children classified as "performs well" in all domains. Equally significant is the reduction of children in the "needs help" category, with nearly all children advancing to the "emerging" or "performs well" tiers. The domains of Physical, Socio-emotional, and Creative development have witnessed the most substantial growth, followed by Cognitive and Language Development.



Anganwadi Teachers and Helpers

Our commitment to equipping Anganwadi teachers with the necessary knowledge, skills and practices has yielded promising outcomes.

The most significant outcomes is that majority of teachers are successfully conducting **preschool activities for atleast two hours** each day focused on different domains of learning.

Apart from this, there are significant changes in the mindset, attitude and knowledge of the teachers and helpers. Teachers are more punctual, more open to learning, child-centric in their approach and have a good rapport with parents and community members.

Helpers have embraced their role as secondary educators, engaging children in various aspects of preschool learning both in collaboration with and independent of teachers.



Parents / Community

Our impact extends beyond the classroom to the homes of our young learners and the community at large:

- Parents have shared that our pre-school learning videos and monthly meetings have helped them in engaging their children more meaningfully at home
- Our engaging strategies have encouraged more fathers to actively participate in our monthly meetings.
- The perception of the community about Anganwadi centers has transformed from simple daycare centers to valuable places of learning.
- Parents have started investing in educational materials like toys, books and stationery - a significant shift from earlier.
- Parents are enthusiastically backing Anganwadi activities. They contribute to creating teaching materials and take part in preschool activities, showing their strong support



ICDS Supervisors

Supervisors have started prioritising ECCE in their monthly meetings with Anganwadi teachers and monitor pre-school learning during their Anganwadi visits

“

Initially, I was resistant to working with NGOs regarding preschool education. In the beginning, they did a shared vision meeting with us, and I learned how Makkala Jagriti and I could work together towards a common goal to transform Anganwadis into learning places. Together we started co-visiting Anganwadis, observing and working together to meet panchayats, organizing events, and holding monthly meetings. Over the year I have seen the Anganwadis transform. Teachers have started to do preschool activities with children. The training has helped teachers and helpers think and plan more for children. One of the fondest memories was organizing the Anganwadi Habba, where we reached the department and over 700+ teachers and spread awareness on the importance of early learning.

Geetha, ICDS supervisor, Rajanukunte circle

”



Marulukunte Anganwadi

Emerging from a soft slumber to a space of vibrant laughter

In the heart of Marenahalli Panchayat on the outskirts of Bangalore, is the Maralukunte Anganwadi. When we first saw it in 2022, it had empty shelves, inactive learning space and no Anganwadi teacher appointed. We saw its potential and decided to transform it into a vibrant learning center.

The biggest challenge was finding an Anganwadi teacher. Makkala Jagriti facilitator stepped in temporarily until an Anganwadi helper from another Anganwadi was promoted to the role. With continuous on the job training, she became a confident teacher, inspiring others with her dedication to learning. She started doing pre-school learning for 3 hours per day focused on all domains of development of children.

As the teacher grew, so did the connection with the community. Now, Maralukunte Anganwadi is a proud model center in the area. The Supervisor has chosen this Anganwadi in her entire circle to be showcased as a model Anganwadi.



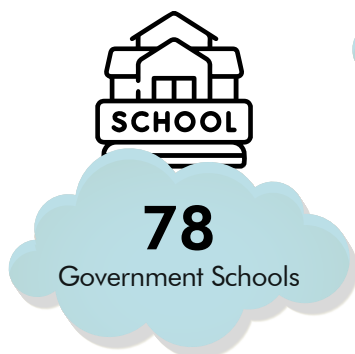
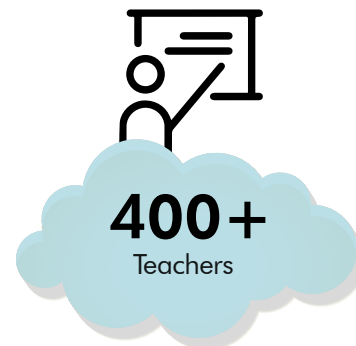
HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT LEARNING CENTRES

IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND URBAN POOR COMMUNITIES

Makkala Jagriti's HDLC program is focused on enriching the learning & development of children aged 6 to 14 years from disadvantaged backgrounds through a holistic approach. The program operates in government schools in both urban and rural areas, as well as in urban poor communities. These children often lack supporting learning environments, which limits their potential and growth. At the heart of the program is MJ's unique SPICE model - an approach and curriculum that caters to Socio-emotional, Physical, Intellectual, Creative and Ethical development of children.

It was great to see children return to school in the year 2022-23. However, the pandemic-induced school closures resulted in significant learning setbacks for students. To address this issue, we introduced a special learning recovery program with focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy along with activities for their holistic development using the SPICE model. And with our ecosystem approach, we engage with all stakeholders around the children so that they are supportive in creating a lasting impact on the children.

OUR REACH IN 2022-23



KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR



Joyous, non-threatening learning spaces:

Setting up & activating learning centers in schools and communities



Upgraded SPICE Curriculum:

Designing and implementing innovative SPICE curriculum centered around thematic learning, fostering integrated education and comprehensive growth.



Learning recovery:

Helping children with Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)



Teacher empowerment:

Working with teachers to bring out their innovative ideas and enhance classroom experience for children



Strengthening school practices:

Conducting events and activities in schools that aid holistic development



JOYOUS LEARNING SPACES

2022-23 was a year where we made a full-fledged return to schools and communities. This also meant setting up learning and activating learning centers in schools and communities. In some schools, we reactivated the learning centers, whereas in the new schools, it was a brand new set-up. Makkala Jagriti's learning centers are creatively set up with attractive displays of charts, children's art work, books and learning materials - all kept very accessible to children.

Regardless of whether these were new or old, we inaugurated the learning centers in most schools accompanied by a shared visioning with all stakeholders viz. children, teachers, parents and community members - to make sure that we support the holistic learning of children in the best possible way.

LEARNING RECOVERY THROUGH SUPPORT ON FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY & NUMERACY

It was evident that children attending government schools experienced substantial learning setbacks, particularly in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy because of prolonged closure of schools. This gap in basic skills also impacted their overall academic progress across various subjects. To address this, we curated a curriculum based on children's current levels and conducted classes to help children with basic reading and writing skills in Kannada as well as numeracy skills.

Our sessions were conducted in a non-threatening way and using activity-driven teaching methodologies so that children learned faster. Simple and engaging worksheets were also designed to help children practice. We also used innovative strategies like peer learning to ensure that all children could get attention.

The design and goals of our program were aligned to the Department of Education's own learning recovery initiative "Kalika Chetarike". As a result, the schools were able to appreciate the initiatives taken by Makkala Jagriti. It was heartwarming to see that the children from our schools excelled at Kalika Habba, an event conducted by the Department to showcase the proficiencies of children.



“

Identifying Manoj's struggle with basic knowledge, he was given special attention in FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) sessions led by Makkala Jagriti facilitators. He was motivated to study as he was put in a group with his friends to study. Makkala Jagriti facilitators also monitored his progress every day and also visited his home to encourage him. As a result of this collective effort, Manoj's interest in reading and writing flourished. He not only began recognizing Kannada words but also started writing small words. As a teacher, witnessing Manoj's progress and newfound interest in learning is absolute joy and fulfillment.

A teacher from Government Higher Primary School, Tarikoppa

”



English Language intervention

The English language is a vital life skill that unlocks multiple opportunities for children. To support English language proficiency among children in government schools, Makkala Jagriti implemented a dedicated program that spanned 15 schools in 2022-23, reaching out to nearly 5000 children. The program is designed not only to eliminate language barriers but also to infuse an element of joy, excitement, simplicity, and relatability into the learning process for the children.

We had facilitators conduct special English sessions in these schools with a curriculum developed according to the levels of the children. The sessions cover all the language skills - Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Additionally, video lessons on WhatsApp, webinars and worksheets were provided to the children to supplement their language learning. In some schools, an after-school program was also conducted to help children who needed special attention to be brought up to a level.

Fun with English

A series of exciting competitions for children aimed at enhancing their English language skills was conducted in 15 schools. The competitions, which included Rhyme Time, Phonic Songs, Spell Bees, Mad Ads and Pick n' Speak among others, were designed to make learning English enjoyable, fun and non-intimidating for children. There were classroom events and a grand finale in all schools. More than 2300 children participated in these events and about 30 children anchored the events themselves.

It was amazing to see the children's confidence in speaking in English. The facilitators and the teachers were thrilled to see the children's performances and some of them were even surprised at how confidently children could handle themselves while speaking English.



“

“The Fun with English sessions organized by Makkala Jagriti lay a strong foundation in English for the children through engaging and activity-based learning. Under the guidance of Yashashwini (MJ facilitator) our school children are exposed to a variety of activities, including rhymes and spelling, which have made the process of learning English truly fascinating. Above all the children started comprehending and actively attempting to speak and respond in English.

I really thank Makkala Jagriti, Yashashwini, and Colours of Life for their valuable contribution to providing our Children with essential language skills.”

Parvathamma, Government School Teacher

”

Karkihalli School

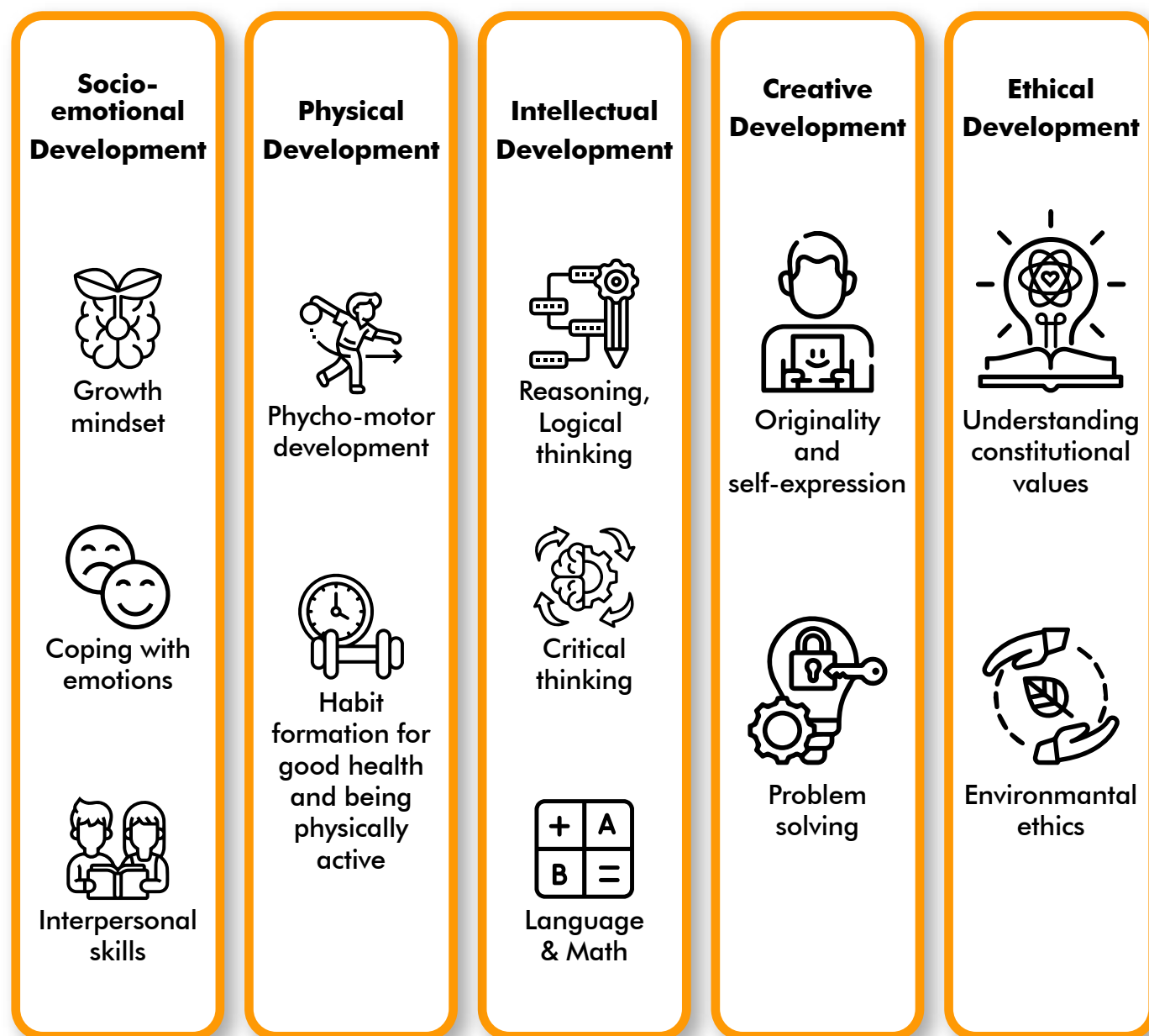
Haseena, a fifth-grade student from Karkihalli school, initially was so hesitant and did not mingle with other children in her class. Our facilitators motivated her to be a part of all the activities and encouraged to participate in the group, as this will increase her confidence and help her build a good relationship with her classmates. Today, she not only actively engages with her classmates but also takes leadership roles within her group and confidently expresses herself both inside and outside the classroom.



AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT - REVAMPING THE SPICE MODEL

This year, we reached a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to improve our program design for children's holistic learning experiences. We understand that learning itself is an integrated process and real-world situations require application of multiple skills at the same time. **We have revamped our SPICE model and developed a theme-based curriculum that will provide an integrated learning experience to children.** An important part of the revamp is the inclusion of **Ethical development** in the SPICE model.

The redesign of the SPICE model has been a rich learning experience for all the team members involved and we have taken care to include voices of facilitators who would be implementing the curriculum on the ground. The curriculum is designed to foster specific outcomes among children under the different aspects of development.



In this academic year, we conducted sessions on themes such as "Our Country", "Family and Neighbourhood" and "Democracy". With each theme spanning about 10 to 12 sessions, children had multiple experiential learning opportunities to collaborate, demonstrate leadership, learn about inclusion, apply critical thinking and problem solving skills along with building their conceptual understanding on different topics.

“

Implementing the new SPICE curriculum is a very enriching experience for us. The new approach is ensuring that all children participate actively and as a facilitator, it's a joy to see that. Children are now asking so many questions and keeping us facilitators on our toes. We're excited about the learning for all

Krishna, Facilitator, Koppal

”

An important part of every theme in the design is the conducting of a showcase event, where children demonstrate and reflect all they have learned during the previous few weeks. Preparation for the showcase itself is a good, practical opportunity for children to learn about themselves and understand different behavioral skills.

EMPOWERING TEACHERS & PARENTS

In our mission to facilitate holistic development sustainably, we work with teachers and empower them with the necessary approach and strategies to enhance child-centered teaching-learning in the schools. Our major activities towards teacher empowerment included:

- Teacher Learning Circles:** This year, we launched a unique collaborative initiative, involving teachers, fostering peer engagement on various subjects to enhance the learning environment in schools. The Teacher Learning Circles conducted 4 to 5 times in a year in each school, provided a platform for reflection, learning, planning, and translating insights into action. Topics covered this year encompassed creative teaching materials, optimizing library resources, and use of technology.
- NEP & Holistic Development:** We conducted a day-long workshop for teachers focusing on how holistic development as envisioned by the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 can be practically implemented in schools to enhance children's learning. We engaged on topics like enhancing library activities, using story-telling sessions, effective classroom routines, and skillful technology use, which can be used to enhance holistic education.



“

In the past, our focus on school lessons and engagements was limited. However, the teacher's workshop conducted by Makkala Jagriti served as a transformative experience. The training heightened our understanding of teaching techniques, methodologies, and effective utilization of available resources within the school. This knowledge is now being disseminated among all educators within the institution.

Lena, Teacher, Government Higher Primary School, Devarachikkanahalli

”

O Empowering with tech: To enhance the classroom learning experience for children, we provided government school teachers with technology kits comprising portable multimedia projectors and guidance on accessing teaching-learning resources on the internet using their smartphones.



STRENGTHENING SCHOOL PRACTICES

As part of our ecosystem approach towards creating a sustainable holistic learning environment, we work with the school to strengthen practices in the schools that provide children with learning opportunities beyond the classroom. This year, we focused on conducting creative assemblies, library usage, conducting events and also supporting the school parliament process in many schools. Assemblies are providing children with opportunities to express themselves, build confidence and overcome stage fear. School parliament inculcates a sense of leadership and responsibility among the children.

“

This was the first time I contested in an election. I learned how elections are held, how to vote and how responsibilities can be divided. I am excited and feel more confident about myself

Bhaganna, 7th Standard, Govt. Higher Primary School, Marulukunte

”

Events and exposure trips

Celebrating events in schools was a vital part of the program aimed at enhancing the educational journey for the entire school community. These events provide children with opportunities to explore and develop various skills. Among the important events were celebrations of **National Library Day, National Math Day, National Science day and Child Rights Week**. In addition to these, we took children out for exposure visits to various places of interest - dams, temples, places of historical interest, folk museums, etc.





On these days, a variety of creative activities were conducted in the schools such as book talks, storytelling sessions, quizzes and word puzzles, exhibitions featuring science experiments and math models, skits, banner art and drawing among other things. The celebrations yielded significant outcomes that lead to holistic learning and development

- There was heightened interest and participation among students in reading, mathematics, and science.
- These events increased students' awareness of their rights and prompted them to actively share this knowledge during assemblies.
- Teachers incorporated library books into their classroom teaching.
- Teachers became more actively involved, recognizing the educational benefits of these events and saw how they could become regular activities in the schools.
- Exposure trips are not just learning and fun events, but lifetime memories for the children as well.

Overall, the celebrations enriched educational experiences and facilitated the development of valuable skills and awareness among students and created a more engaging learning environment.

Collaborative efforts to meet children's desire for learning and exposure

After two years of the pandemic, providing children with exposure and outing experiences became crucial. While Makkala Jagriti typically organizes local exposure trips, this year, rural schools in Koppal expressed a desire for something grander - a multi-day tour encompassing destinations like Mysore, Hampi, Vijayapura, Ihole, and Kudalasangama. It took a heartwarming collaborative effort to make this happen. The four schools where we worked, parents, and Makkala Jagriti came together, pooled resources and jointly planned the trip for the children.

The result? A truly unforgettable experience for the children, and a standing ovation to the Koppal community for their unwavering dedication and enthusiasm in enriching these young minds' learning journey



HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY CENTRES

Makkala Jagriti has been working with children in urban poor communities towards their holistic learning and development since its inception. Through 3 community centers in Bangalore, we are reaching out to approximately 160 children. While facilitating holistic development sessions using the SPICE model forms the core of our intervention in the community centers, there are several special initiatives that we undertake in the centers. These include summer camps, exposure trips, dance sessions, volunteer engagement and deeper parent engagement.

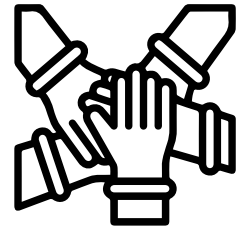
Some of the **highlights** of our interventions in the community centers include



Re-enrolling 28 children who had dropped out of schooling to nearby government schools



Alumni-led dance classes: Dance classes are conducted every Saturday and the remarkable aspect was that they are conducted by one of the alumni of the center



Volunteer engagement: Community centers are also a hub for many volunteers to come and engage with the children in creative ways



Inspiring creativity and shattering boundaries

Immersing themselves in a Sarangi recital by a Japanese artist in a first ever classical concert experience and then interacting with the artist with their unfettered questions; experiencing a Bharatanatyam performance that talks about personal stories and law; making their own art pieces with cyanotype; and doing a wall mural art on Bangalore's biggest storm water drain as a part of an art installation. These were just some of the first time and awe-inspiring experiences that children of Makkala Jagriti's community learning center received as part of a community-based project revolving around the core principles of inclusion and performing arts undertaken by Gurpriya Atreya, a student of Snehadhara Foundation

The experiences have left a profound impression on the children, both in terms of exposure and pushing the boundaries of their own imaginations. Inspired by all they were learning, children of the center independently organized a puppet show for themselves - handling all aspects including inviting the artists to outreach to guest management.

Gurupriya says “This is a crowning achievement which proves that arts extends beyond their aesthetic value. They serve as a medium where we can transform lives by fostering deeper self-awareness and understanding among the children”.

Makkala Jagriti is extremely grateful to Gurpriya Atreya for facilitating these unprecedented learning opportunities for our children through her passion, commitment and creativity.

“

I absolutely loved Gurupriya mam’s class. She introduced me to a realm of art. Through her guidance, I unlearned many preconceived notions and gained an entirely new perspective on approaching both art and life.

One memorable session was when she asked us to draw mountains. Initially, all of us drew in the same standard shape we had been taught. However, Gurupriya mam emphasized that mountains need not be in a single shape like we all depicted. She encouraged us to observe, imagine, and then translate our observations into our art. Since then, I started applying the same in all my new learnings. I have started to listen, think, and then act; a practice I intend to carry with me throughout my lifetime. If given another opportunity, I would eagerly be a part of her class once more, as it not only enhances artistic skills but also deepens my understanding of life itself.

Anjali, Kumara Park community

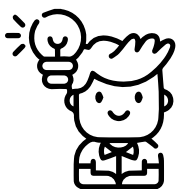
”

PROGRAM IMPACT

The HDLC program is instrumental in influencing the quality of learning of children who have faced a tough time and a large number of them were struggling to cope-up. Through our efforts we are able to see that children are on a path of learning recovery, and have also become more confident, more self-aware and more involved in their own learning.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Outcomes

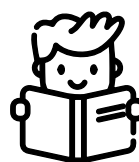
Baseline and Endline assessments were conducted during the year to track the children’s progress in FLN. We are able to see that consistent efforts and sessions on Kannada and Math have improved their abilities



78% of the children across levels have reached the expected levels of learning here



70% of children across have reached the expected levels of proficiency in Kannada

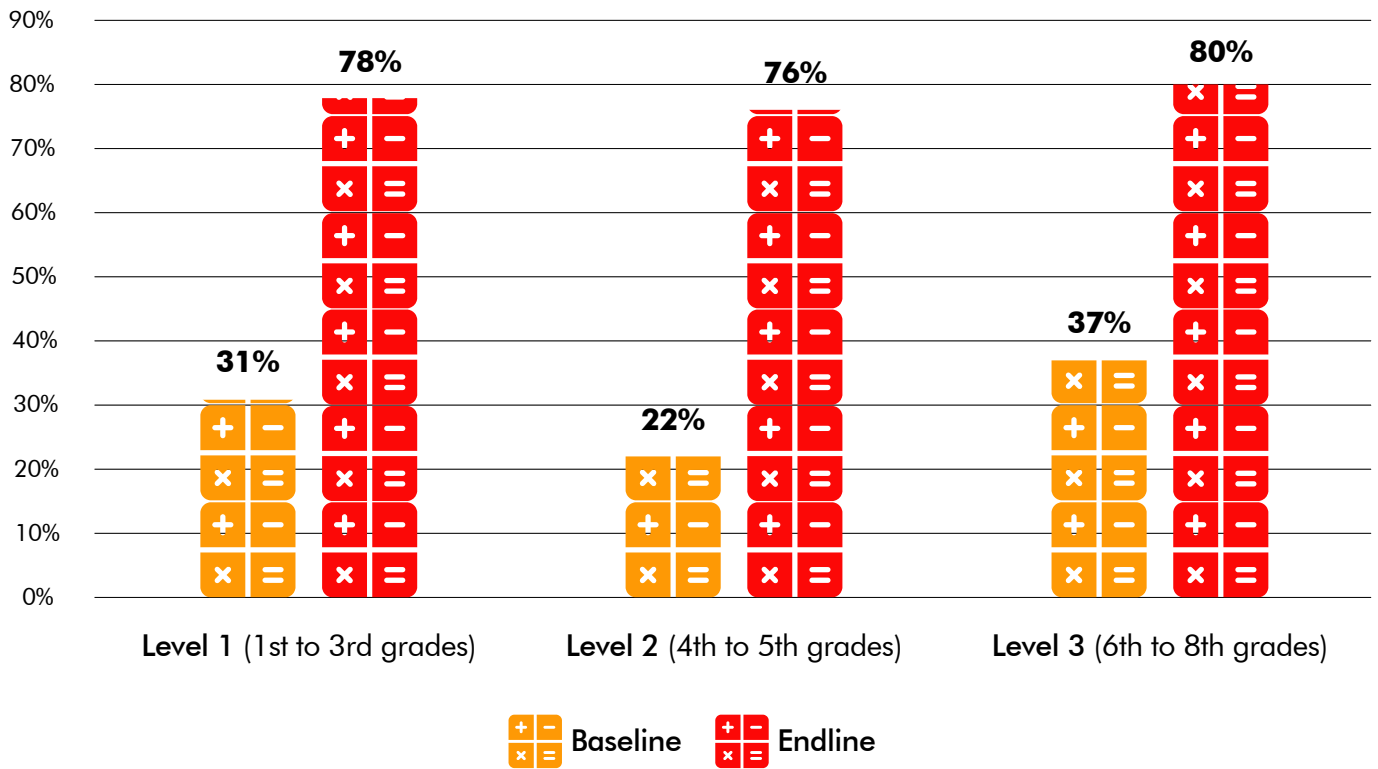


The percentage of children whose reading levels in English are at expected levels has increased from **16 to 44%**

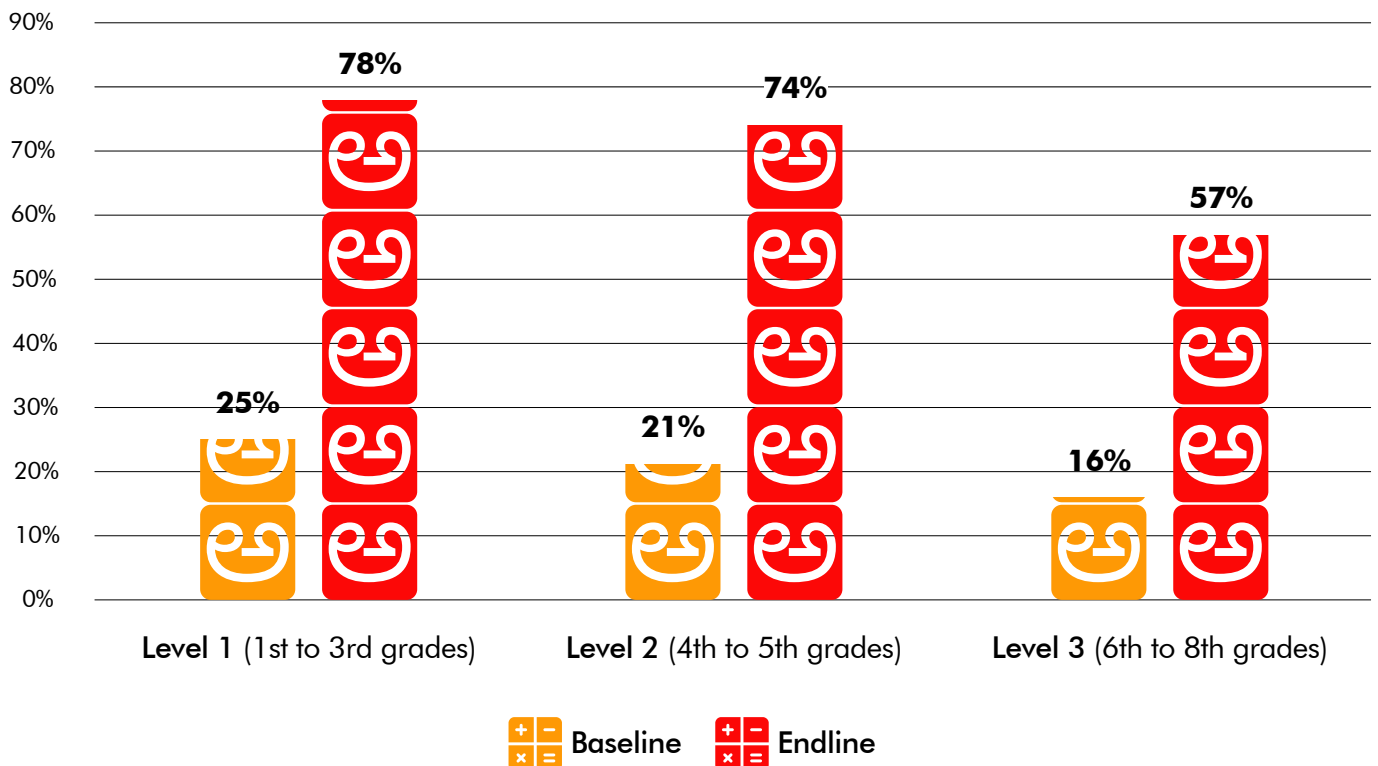


Similarly the percentage of children whose writing abilities in English are at expected levels has increased from **10% to 29%**

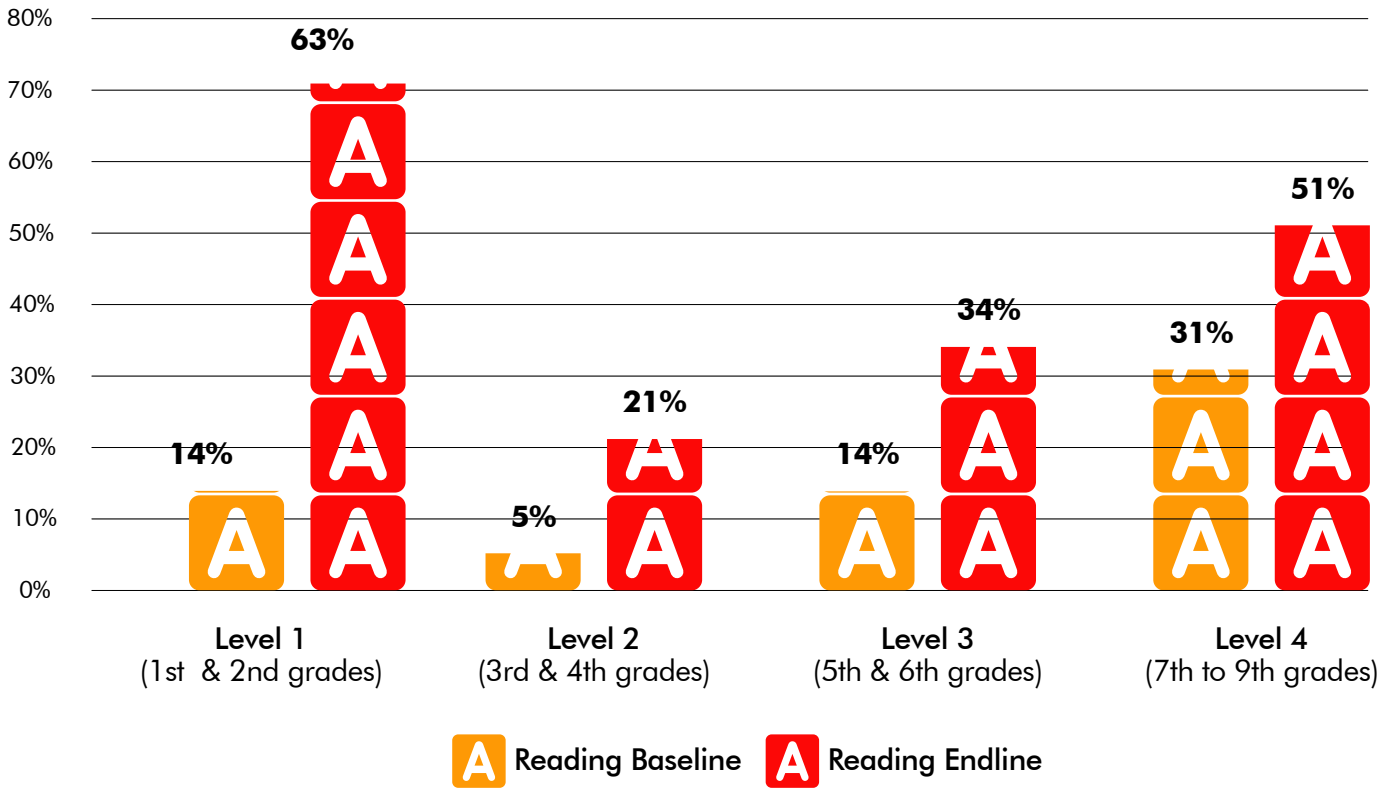
MATH - CHILDREN AT EXPECTED LEVEL OR HIGHER



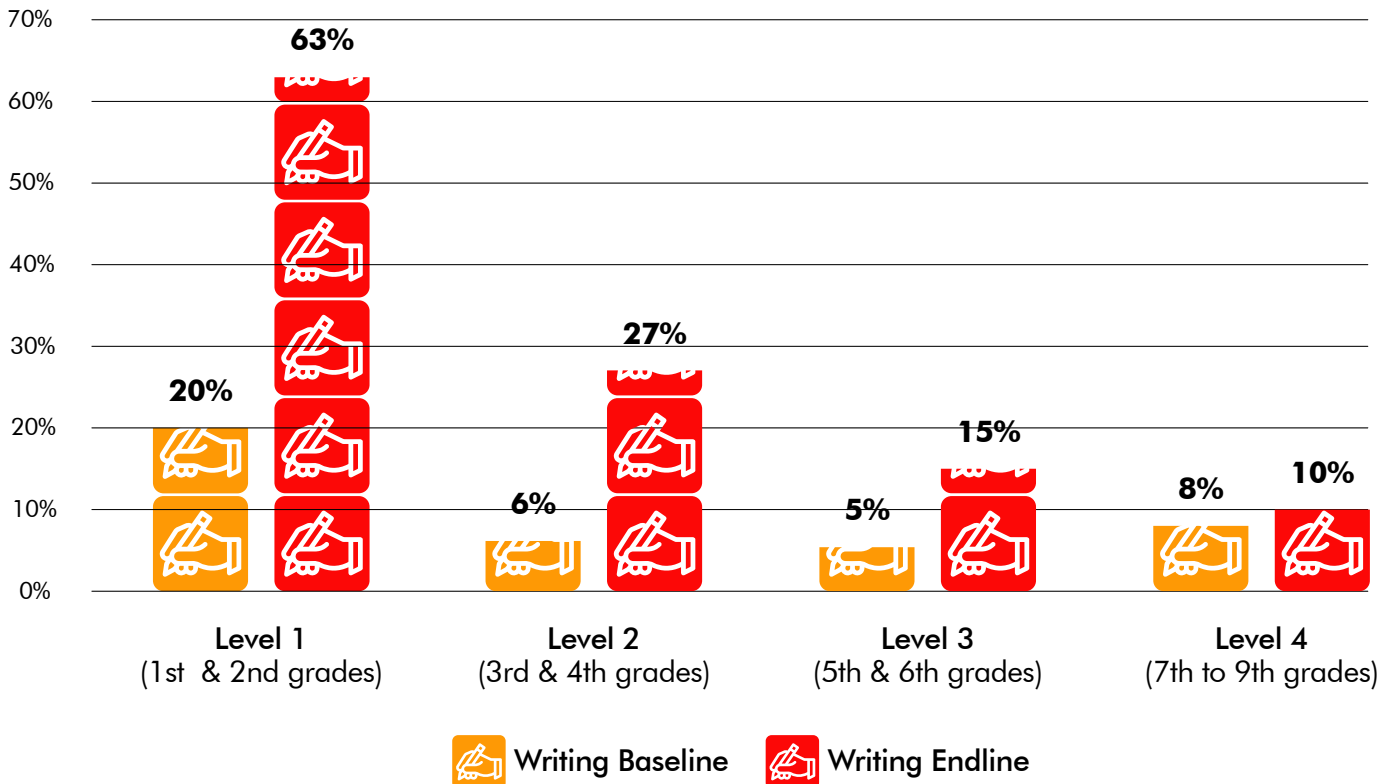
KANNADA - CHILDREN AT OR ABOVE EXPECTED LEVELS



ENGLISH - CHILDREN AT EXPECTED LEVELS IN READING



ENGLISH - CHILDREN AT EXPECTED LEVELS IN WRITING



The graphs show that there has been a positive impact in the learning recovery of children. It is also noted that in general, children from lower classes have fared better than the ones in the higher classes. However, we are also conscious of the fact that children would need continued support on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy even in the subsequent year and we are geared to provide it.

Holistic Development Outcomes

Through our multiple program components, we are also able to see outcomes in children aligned with different dimensions of **SPICE**

OUTCOME



Socio-emotional development

- 87% of children are able to cope with their emotions independently or by seeking support
- 88% of children are able to work with others collaboratively in a group



Physical development

- Children have demonstrated improvement in fine and gross motor skills as well as the formation of good habits through increased physical activity.



Intellectual development

- More than 70% children have reached their expected levels of learning in Literacy and Numeracy
- Children are able to demonstrate reasoning and logical thinking



Creative development

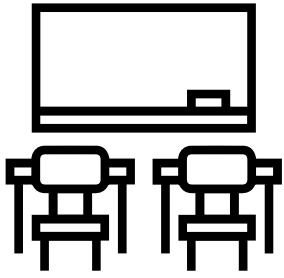
- 54% children consistently seek new opportunities for learning and display curiosity
- Children are demonstrating original thinking and solve problems creatively



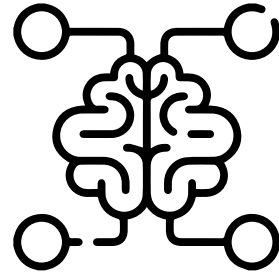
Ethical development

- 87% of children work in mixed groups without exclusion often or all the time
- Children are taking steps to keep their environment clean (classroom/school and community level)

OTHER OUTCOMES



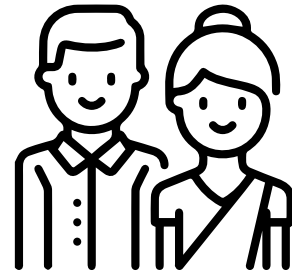
Schools have created a non-threatening, welcoming and attractive learning environment



Opportunities for Holistic development are integrated into school practices and everyday classroom routines



Teachers are equipped to use effective methods and innovative tools to enhance the quality of classroom teaching



Parents have become positive contributing forces for the development of the children

“

“As a working woman, it was challenging for me to provide the necessary attention and care for my child. Previously, after school, my child used to spend their time outdoors, engaging in play and various activities without clear direction. However, after participating in the holistic development classes, I noticed a visible transformation in my child’s behavior and her way of understanding things. There was a significant shift in her perspective.

She has become more self-reliant and has even started setting goals for her future. Attending the parent meetings organized by Makkala Jagriti has made me more aware of the importance of actively engaging with my child. I am determined to provide her with my full support and be there for her in all her endeavors throughout her life.”

Rani, a parent of Sharanya, a fifth-grade student at Devarchikkanahalli school

”



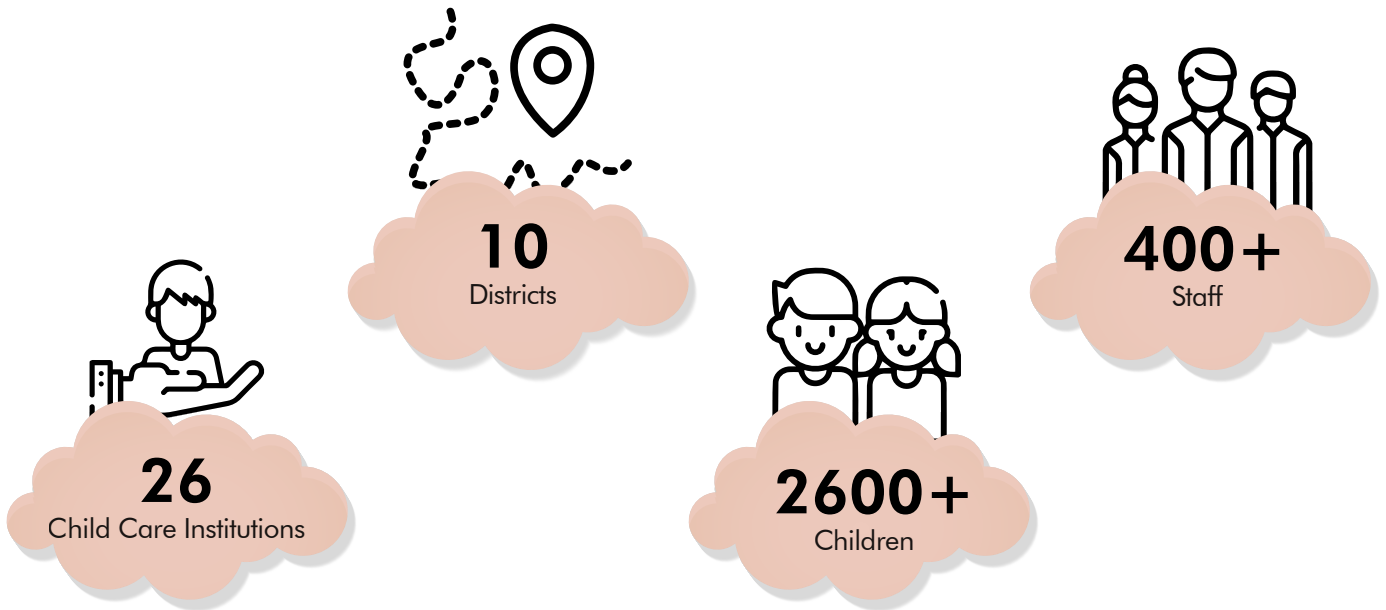
TRANSFORMING CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS (CCIS)

INTO SPACES OF HOLISTIC LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

“A child shall be placed in institutional care as a step of last resort” - this is one of the guiding principles of the Juvenile Justice system in India. But Child Care Institutions (CCIs) still form a major component of the child protection system - providing shelter to children in need of care and protection and correctional facilities for children in conflict with law. Children in institutional care can potentially be deprived of many opportunities for holistic development beyond just disruption of their education.

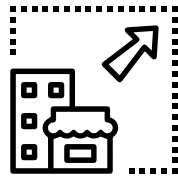
Makkala Jagriti recognizes this issue and has been working with Child Care Institutions since 2007 with a goal of transforming government-run CCIs into spaces that provide holistic learning and development opportunities to the resident children. Towards this, we not only engage with the children directly, but also work towards creating safe learning spaces and building capacities of the staff of the institutions.

OUR REACH IN 2022-23



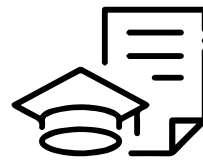
KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR

This year was a year of major milestones for our program with Child Care Institutions



Expansion

We extended our presence to 4 more districts and 13 new CCI's; with the program now boasting a 30-member strong team



New curriculum

We started implementing a new Life Skills curriculum primarily designed for children in Observation Homes



Bringing stakeholders together

We conducted the first multi-district in-person training for staff of Govt. Child Care Institutions in Bangalore



Partnering with experts

We partnered with Catalysts for Social Action and Enfold Proactive Health Trust for intensive trainings on best practices in Child Care Institutions and on Restorative Practices



Creating first-time experiences

With 22 exposure visits and other experiential learning activities, we continued to provide new learning experiences for the children across Child Care Institutions

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Creating safe and vibrant learning spaces

We believe that a safe non-judgmental learning space is one of the pillars of holistic development and towards this, we have set-up attractive learning centers in the CCIs that we work with. In 2022-23, we inaugurated nearly 10 new learning centers set-up creatively and equipped with books and learning materials. For many children, such a space also marks their first experience with free access to learning resources, instilling in them confidence and a sense of empowerment. In some places, we have introduced "Safe Corners" within the homes, which have helped children struggling emotionally to calm down.



Engaging with children for holistic learning and development

Trained MJ facilitators engaged with children in a variety of activities leading to holistic learning and development of children.. These include regular sessions to help with literacy and numeracy, Art-based sessions, Games and Sports, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) interventions, Circle activities and a slew of events and celebrations. We also conducted dance sessions, and awareness sessions covering crucial topics like menstrual hygiene. Here is a glimpse of some unique initiatives undertaken during the year



Unique initiatives

Restorative Justice Circles

Restorative practices are a mechanism to build and strengthen community, impart social and emotional learning, address risk or harmful behavior, and repair relationships. Makkala Jagriti's intervention in CCI's has actively embraced the application of restorative practices through conducting of Restorative Justice Circles, which promote values such as empathy, respect, equality, and voluntariness to create an atmosphere of connection and care. Our facilitators have undergone Restorative Justice Circle training from Enfold Proactive Health Trust.

Makerspace

Makerspace Lab was set up in the Government Boys Home, Bangalore to nurture creative and critical thinking in children. It is a well-equipped setup featuring electronic materials for engaging science-related creative activities. Children have actively participated in diverse sessions focused on circuits, conductors, and sensors, leading to the creation of impressive projects such as solar water pumps and speakers.



Special initiatives for children in Observation Home

Observation Homes are challenging spaces to work especially because of the difficult situations the children come from and their emotional state. We have been consistently working in this space and are happy to note the changes this has resulted in. Using innovative methods to connect with the children such as music, kitchen gardening, games and also supporting the painting of the space, we are able to create a positive atmosphere. A special highlight of the year was conducting a Winter camp at Observation Home, which had a variety of activities for fun and learning.

Hosa Chetana

It is our online intervention dedicated for children in Observation Homes across Karnataka. We have been consistently having sessions on life skills and self-management as part of this program. Apart from helping children manage their own emotions and stress, the online space where children interact with each other has reduced their sense of isolation.



EVENTS, CELEBRATIONS AND EXPOSURE VISITS

We created enriching experiences and opportunities for children through a diverse range of events and exposure visits held throughout the year. These initiatives not only added excitement and joy to the lives of the children but also played a significant role in their holistic development. Throughout the year, the organization hosted various celebrations and engaging activities including:

- Commemorations of national days such as Independence Day and Republic Day, fostering a sense of patriotism and pride
- Games and sports day organized by volunteers
- Celebrations such as Children's Day, Teachers day and festivals bringing joy and festive spirit
- Workshops to make Clay Ganesha sculptures
- Kitchen Gardening activities





Exposure visits

Makkala Jagriti also organized exposure visits that expanded the horizons of the children. These visits allowed them to explore historical and cultural heritage, fostering a spirit of curiosity and discovery. Notable visits included trips to Chitradurga, Mysore, and Belur Historical Places, which enriched the children's knowledge and appreciation of art and history.

Exploring the Vishveswaraiah Museum in Bangalore Boys Home encouraged interactive learning, while visits to Hampi, Hospete Dam, Kishkintha, and historical places in Kalburgi further broadened their cultural understanding.

Importantly, all trips increased a sense of bonding and formed lifetime positive memories for the children, who have otherwise extremely limited opportunities for exposure.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

In alignment with our goal of transforming CCIs into spaces of holistic development, Makkala Jagriti has been conducting a series of capacity building sessions for staff of CCIs across Karnataka with the support of the Department. Conducted twice a month, these sessions equip the participants with practical knowledge and skills to better serve the children in their care. These sessions encompassed crucial topics such as mindfulness, stress management, mental health awareness, communication skills, and child development. Understanding difficult behaviors of children and handling them sensitively were also among the important topics. Over the year, the cumulative participation in the sessions was over 800.



ADVOCACY AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Collaborative learning with other Civil Society Organizations

We have partnered with organizations like Enfold Proactive Health Trust and Catalysts for Social Action (CSA) for training in various areas including Restorative practices, Juvenile Justice system, best practices in CCLs such as formation of Committees, etc. In Bangalore, we collaborate with other organizations such as Headstreams, Durga, Enfold, APSA and others to create a vibrant learning atmosphere.

Shared visioning

In 2022-23, we conducted shared visioning exercises in 5 districts with a combined participation of nearly 150 stakeholders including Govt. officials, representatives of NGOs, children and MJ team members. Through these workshops, we articulated a vision for the betterment of CCLs in the respective districts and reiterated our commitment to contribute towards the same.

Regular updates and sharing of information

We have regularized the practice of sharing monthly reports through meetings with the District Child Protection Officers. The practice has been appreciated and we are receiving better collaboration, support and feedback. It has strengthened our credibility with the Department at different levels.



PROGRAM IMPACT

Transformation of the space



We have created conducive learning spaces in 23 CCLs, where children now have access to a variety of learning materials enabling them to explore and create. For many children, this is the first experience of using materials independently.



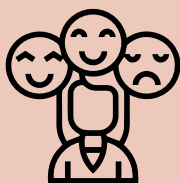
There is a positive shift in the energy and vibe of the spaces, especially in Observation Homes. With initiatives such as Wall Mural Art and Kitchen gardening, in which the children themselves got involved, Observation Homes are now capable of fuelling positivity and creativity among children.



Introduction of Safe Corners in these homes has allowed children to effectively navigate their emotions through creative expression

Children outcomes

The program has been able to nurture holistic development of children in the CCIs in different dimensions



Children have a better understanding of their own feelings and emotions; are able to express themselves without fear of judgment. Values of non-judgmental listening, value of friendship, freedom of choice with responsibility are instilled



Children have enhanced curiosity levels and opportunities for original thinking as a result of art-based sessions. Makerspace activities have fostered problem solving skills and conceptual understanding



Regular physical fitness routines, including sports and yoga, have promoted consistent physical development and overall health



There is Increased participation of children in Observation Homes in life skills sessions - both offline and online. Additionally, children have better relationships with the staff of the CCIs and freely expressing their needs



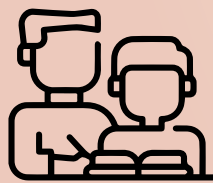
Achievement and Excellence:
In some of the locations, children from our Child Care Institutions (CCIs) have achieved remarkable success, dominating inter-school and inter-district competitions and consistently earning top prizes

Changes in Staff knowledge and attitude

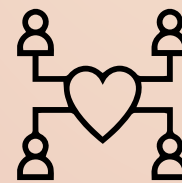
The program's approach of building effective rapport with government staff has yielded positive results.



Government staff members now actively engage in classroom activities with the children, resulting in a better learning environment



Staff prioritize the well-being and educational needs of the children, fostering trust and collaboration between the organization and government staff



Staff have developed non-judgmental and empathetic relationships with the children

“

When the children come here there is no hope in them, but when they attend the sessions of Makkala Jagriti, they feel it is like a positive ray of hope. They give confidence and hope to the children. We are very happy to partner with MJ in changing the lives of the children who are our future. We want Makkala Jagriti to spread across all over the districts where they can give back the child's childhood. During Project Ullasa, the children become so happy that they were determined to take back their learnings to their hometown and continue doing the same.

Mumtaz, Superintendent

”

16-Year-Old Finding His Way Out of Struggles to Creative Triumphs

Harish (name changed) was fostered in the Bangalore Boy's Home. He was a curious learner but did not have any learning opportunities. The setting up of the Makerspace in the Bangalore Boy's home conducted by Makkala Jagriti gave him immense happiness. His interest in creating working models was evident from the beginning itself. He came up with innovative ideas, joined forces with other children, and created fantastic working models of Solar Water pumps, Speakers, and Hydraulic JCB, among others.

Not only did he excel in developing innovative projects, but also emerged as a natural leader in the group. He took it upon himself to patiently explain the intricacies of materials and techniques to his friends. Driven by his thoughts and ideas, he began crafting models independently. A sensor automatic water machine, a Tattoo Machine, and much more sprang forth from his creative mind.

During the time of his release, he promised to make a good Bluetooth speaker and also connect back through pictures and video calls with the facilitators. He leaves us with hope and reassurance that the children we discovered in the depths of despair can rise once more. With the proper care, attention, and support, they can overcome all odds stacked against them.



Sujith's Remarkable Journey

Sujith (name changed), a 7th-grade student, has undergone a remarkable transformation during his time with us. Initially, he exhibited reluctance to participate in our activities, often displaying frustration when corrected. However, his attitude gradually shifted as he observed other children actively engaging in our programs.

Today, he is a model student. After school, he eagerly joins our Learning sessions for awareness. He is a curious child who is always enquiring about the day's topic with enthusiasm. Through creative activities such as drawing and crafts, he has developed a strong aptitude for both reading and writing. He possesses a curious mind, unafraid to ask questions and seek answers.

Sujith has overcome his fear of speaking and has transformed into a confident and fearless expression. Our child-friendly learning environment has played a significant role in his development. Despite growing up in poverty, he excels in storytelling, drawing, and delivering articulate speeches. He even participated in the Katha Kammata children's camp in Dharwad, impressively presenting his original story. Notably, he showcased his talent by participating in a painting competition at the Kalyana Karnataka Utsav in Kalaburagi.

Sujith's potential is boundless, and with continued encouragement tailored to his interests, he is poised for even greater achievements in the future.



“

Participating in group activities has been a life-changing experience for me. I had always hesitated to engage in group activities throughout my academic journey and at home. I am excited to continue this journey, embracing every opportunity that comes my way. I encourage everyone to step out of their comfort zones and embark on their transformative journey.

Sahana, Tumkur Girls home

”

“

I used to attend the learning center but often found myself being a passive observer rather than an active participant. I was hesitant to socialize with the other children and didn't show much interest in group activities. However, everything changed when my friend approached me and invited me to join in one of the activities. I decided to give it a try, and it made a world of difference. Now I enjoy all the activities conducted for us.

Khazagaribanawaja Sheikh, Bidar Boys home

”

“

I wasn't interested in learning when I first came here. But later, after noticing how the children participated in various activities, I also started getting involved. In the beginning, I struggled with anger management, but now I've learned different ways of expressing my emotions. Through life skills and activities, I realized how to control my anger. It's been a significant transformation for me.

Hanumesh, Bellary Observation home

”

Success Stories

Mailarappa was a sensitive child who struggled with his emotions due to his personal reason. He felt overwhelmed and had difficulty expressing himself. He discovered his passion for art, through his artwork, the child began to communicate his feelings and find a sense of inner peace. With each brushstroke, he gained confidence and a newfound ability to express their emotions and the sensitive child discovered the power of creativity and self-expression to transform their world.



YUVA JAGRITI

HELPING YOUTH UNLEASH THEIR POTENTIAL

"Yuva Jagriti" is Makkala Jagriti's flagship initiative dedicated to empowering youth from urban-poor communities. The program is designed to nurture essential life skills, foster leadership and communication abilities, offer exposure to diverse experiences, and provide mentorship, and academic support to the youth in the disadvantaged backgrounds. Our aim is to empower them to make informed decisions and pursue paths that align with their life goals and equip them with the essential life skills and leadership qualities necessary to leverage and sustain opportunities, enabling them to realize their full potential and achieve their aspirations. The program serves different categories of youth, including studying, job-seeking, or youth at risk.

The program also engages with the community at large towards enhancing their participation in youth development and with volunteers and resource persons from different backgrounds who add value to the program by bringing opportunities, knowledge, skills and perspectives to the youth.



Inauguration of a vibrant new Yuva Cafe at Gopalapuram, Bangalore

KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR



A wide variety of events and activities in Gopalapuram reaching out to **110** youth and **70** parents



Successfully completed **'Parivartane'**, a comprehensive course for youth for 2 batches



Partnerships with NIIT Foundation and Vidya for IT skills and digital literacy



Placement support for youth in diverse jobs



MAJOR ACTIVITIES:

Setting Up of Gopalapuram Youth Centre

Gopalapuram is a densely populated urban community located in the heart of Bangalore. Despite being an old community, people have meager means of income and education levels are low. Many youth are unemployed, have dropped out of education or prone to deviant behavior. Motivated by Makkala Jagriti's work with the youth in other locations, the community leaders of Gopalapuram invited us to start an initiative here and even offered a big community space.

In June 2022, we established a new Yuva Cafe at Gopalapuram with lots of shared excitement and hope with the community of Gopalapuram. The first major success of our program was the transformation of the space itself. Along with the support of our alumni youth, interns, volunteers and also Gopalapuram's own youth and children, we created a youth-centric, inviting, and vibrant space in a building that was neglected and also known to be misused. The Yuva Cafe with a dedicated computer lab, space for life skills activities, library and indoor games became a space for fostering learning, exploration, and positivity.

Prior to the inauguration, we also conducted a household survey to understand the current status of youth, their needs and aspirations and also make them aware of the opportunities and possibilities at Yuva Cafe.



Parivartane - a comprehensive course for youth empowerment

Parivartane - a course comprising several components including IT Skills, Life skills, Spoken English, Personality Development, Exposure visits and volunteering opportunities and more is our primary offering to the youth in Yuva Cafe. In 2022, we formally enrolled 66 youth to the course after a detailed process of motivation and counseling. Meanwhile, other youth in the community continue to benefit from access to the space, participating in events and weekend sensitization programs.



OUTCOME



IT Skills Program with NIIT Foundation: Our partnership facilitated a Basic IT skills certification course, encompassing computers, Microsoft Office, and market-relevant skills across 45 successful sessions.

Life Skills Training: Engaging the youth in experiential learning, our program covered crucial life skill themes such as self-awareness, empathy, effective communication, and problem-solving through 24 interactive sessions, integrating diverse activities to foster holistic development.



Spoken English and Personality Development: With a focus on communicative English and job readiness, our sessions addressed essential aspects like self-introduction, polite conversations, and interview preparedness, aiding in enhancing employability and personal growth.

Weekend Perspective Building Sessions: Our weekend sessions offered diverse experiences, from gender and sexuality awareness to emergency support training, yoga, health discussions, and interview preparation workshops, significantly contributing to our youth's holistic development.



Outbound experiential learning: We organized an adventure camp in Ramnagar for our youth, where we engaged in various exciting games and activities. We also organized outdoor life skills sessions in places like Cubbon Park. Apart from giving first-time experiences to the youth, these activities help them build aspirations, develop confidence and foster personal growth.

Volunteering and internships: Youth of our program are encouraged to undertake volunteering work and internships to get exposed to different sectors, understand professional work environments, etc. Our youth worked at BBMP offices, volunteered with Makkala Jagriti's events such as the Anganwadi Habba and also involved in data entry work.



UNIQUE INITIATIVES

Graduation Day

We conducted a graduation day event for the first cohort of the youth who completed Parivartane Course. It was a memorable and emotional experience for all the youth who were proud to be now known as 'Changemakers'. With inspiring stories and testimonies from youth and their parents alike, this event was a showcase to the community about what transformation Yuva Jagriti could bring about. Community leaders acknowledged increased social awareness among the youth, which highlighted the program's potential to foster both individual development and community engagement.

"We used to think that we want to leave this community and build a bright future elsewhere. But now we understand our responsibilities and want to stay here and bring about change" said one of the youth who also admitted that she was a shy and introverted person, 6 months ago.



Youth-led initiatives

The youth of Gopalapuram engaged in many innovative activities proactively.

- **Celebration of Independence Day:** For the first time, the youth of Gopalapuram actively engaged with the community and celebrated India's Independence Day. All arrangements for the event were coordinated by the youth themselves including felicitation of senior citizens.
- **Hosting Makkala Jagriti's 19th year anniversary:** The 19th-year anniversary celebration of Makkala Jagriti was beautifully hosted by the enthusiastic youth of the Gopalapuram. They skillfully and creatively engaged with all the employees of Makkala Jagriti and delivered a meaningful and memorable celebration of our growth and successful nineteen years.
- **Celebration of festivals:** Gopalapuram is a multi-religious community and it was heartening to see the youth come together to celebrate different festivals together. One highlight was the community lunch preparation together by the youth on the occasion of Pongal / Sankranti. What was most notable was that this celebration not only brought everyone together, but was also celebrated in a place that was earlier known to be misused by miscreants - signifying a true transformation.

Job Placements

A major achievement for the program this year is the job placement in diverse roles. As part of our placement support initiatives, we could facilitate the placement of 16 youth into different roles, which shall contribute to their personal and career development. The different jobs secured include back-office jobs, data entry, facilitation, administration, telecalling, and front-line admin/security jobs.

This has not only resulted in good career opportunities for the youth in the community, but their successful placement also enables them to become inspirational figures within the community and setting an example for the other youth.



Mentoring and Counseling

Our comprehensive program for youth development integrates one-on-one mentoring and counseling sessions facilitated by field experts, resulting in transformative outcomes for our 60+ youth. Through these personalized interactions, our youths gain invaluable insights into their values, goals, and aspirations while addressing mental health needs with the support of qualified counselors. The impact of this mentorship extends beyond increased confidence, career advancement opportunities, and improved decision-making, contributing to holistic development.



Skill Building for Community Youth and Women

Digital skills are not just a matter of convenience but a means to empower and uplift an individual. In collaboration with Vidya Foundation, we facilitated a program to empower women from the community with digital skills to be able to thrive in the digital age, contribute to their families and communities, and take control of their lives and future.

This course focused on building a strong foundation by teaching essential skills such as “knowing your device, effective use of device, and connecting with the world.” The fundamentals ensure that the participants are not only proficient with their digital tools but also capable of harnessing them to engage with the global community effectively. Other topics included “Learning and content creation, online banking, e-commerce selling, ecommerce selling, digital storage and MIS, and privacy and security.” About 35 women participated in the course successfully.



NARESH BALA EXCELLENCE FELLOWSHIP

The Naresh Bala Excellence Fellowship (NBEF) was established in 2019 in collaboration with Makkala Jagriti as a scholarship initiative aimed at providing financial support and focused mentoring to deserving students with limited financial resources, enabling them to pursue higher education.

This year, following a meticulous selection process, which involved 391 applicants, 8 students were chosen for the scholarship. The selected students received financial aid covering 40% to 60% of their academic fees. Noteworthy achievements include three Fellows from Cohort 3 pursuing Medicine, marking a new milestone. Four successful graduates showcase the program's impact, with three securing jobs and one aspiring for an MBA. With the addition of eight bright students in the 4th cohort, NBEF now supports a total of 37 Fellows, demonstrating our commitment to transforming lives through education.



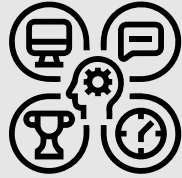
An important part of the NBEF program, which both fellows and parents eagerly look forward to, is Spoorthy - an annual workshop for Fellows and their parents. This year, a total of 70 participants, which includes 35 Fellows and their parents, participated in the event.

Highlights of the event included the felicitation of four graduating Fellows and the welcoming of the new fellows from Cohort 4. This was the first batch of students who were graduating from the fellowship and it was a truly special milestone for the program.

The parent's workshop, featuring activities like the "Trust Walk" and discussions on stereotypes, fostered trust and reflection. Notably, the active involvement of NBEF fellows in anchoring and organizing showcased enhanced communication and leadership skills, inspiring confidence in the potential for a Fellow-driven program in the future.

PROGRAM IMPACT

The Yuva Jagriti program, a transformative initiative, has had a positive impact on the lives of young individuals and families and empowered the community in several aspects.



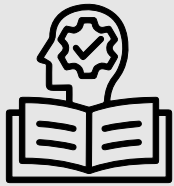
Enhanced Skills:

The course bolstered diverse skills encompassing IT proficiency, effective communication, problem-solving, and job readiness, equipping youth for the professional sphere.



Holistic Development:

Through interactive sessions and experiential learning, it fostered holistic growth, nurturing self-awareness, empathy, and critical thinking among participants.



Awareness and Sensitization:

The program raised awareness on crucial societal issues like gender, sexuality, personal safety, and health, promoting a more informed and sensitive youth cohort.



Diverse Experiences:

Youth engaged in varied activities, including volunteer work, exposure visits, and workshops, broadening their perspectives and understanding across sectors.



Confidence and Empowerment:

By participating in adventure camps and hands-on initiatives, the youth gained confidence, a versatile skill set, and a sense of empowerment for their personal and professional lives.

“

I am an introverted person and not used to talking with others. It made me less social and my confidence was very low. I was not interacting with others. Yuva Cafe is helping me a lot. I am learning to interact with others. I am making new friends. Learning personality development, life skills, and computers as well. The best thing about Yuva cafe is that no one judges me, all accept me as I am and support me in learning new things.

Nawaz



SUCCESS STORIES

Asfiya

Asfiya Khanam is a young woman from Gopalpuram, who defied societal norms and embarked on an extraordinary journey of self-discovery and empowerment. At the age of 17, she was married and started a family, believing that her life was destined to revolve around her role as a wife and mother. However, life took a significant turn when she stumbled upon the Yuva Jagriti Program by Makkala Jagriti. Little did she know this decision would mark a turning point in her life. "I had to come out of my chains and be a changemaker" - She said.

Asfiya had a fire in her to learn again, which led her to restart her education after 7 years. The Yuva Cafe was a safe space to express herself and take up responsibilities nurturing the leadership qualities in her. Asfiya works as a facilitator and coordinator at Makkala Jagriti now. Her journey exemplifies the power of self-belief, resilience, and the profound impact that education and empowerment can have on one's life. Today she stands as a role model for many women in her community and inspires them to pursue their dreams.



Poojashree

At the age of just 18 years, Poojashree faced setbacks in her educational journey due to family financial constraints. Her father worked tirelessly for daily wages and also served as a temple priest. Her mother battled health issues, adding to the family's challenges.

Poojashree however had dreams and a variety of interests. Her diverse hobbies showcased her potential: painting, singing, sports, dance, sketching, designing, and crafting. Her dream was to become a Physiotherapist.

Initially confined to home to assist her ailing mother, Poojashree's opportunities were limited. Her family's strictness and worries held her back. Education and building skills were financially out of reach. All of these made her suppress her dreams and she hardly communicated.

However, hope arrived in the form of Yuva Cafe. Encouraged by her father, Poojashree joined the program independently, igniting her transformation. Her newfound independence and self-confidence became apparent. She honed essential life skills, embraced personality development, and acquired computer proficiency, all thanks to Yuva Cafe.

Today, Poojashree's life has taken a different trajectory. She communicates effectively, and her confidence soars. Yuva Cafe's support has not only empowered her but also instilled hope and gratitude for a brighter future.



UNLEASHING TRANSFORMATION THROUGH VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer engagement lies at the very heart of our vision to create a social movement to empower children from disadvantaged communities. Over the years, we have witnessed the profound impact of dedicated volunteers from diverse backgrounds, including corporate partners, colleges, and civil society, who have passionately joined our cause.

CORPORATES

Our partnerships with corporates have proven to be instrumental in effecting positive change. Employee volunteers from these organizations bring a wealth of skills, resources, and a strong commitment to our cause. Whether it's painting wall murals, mentoring youth, organizing school events, awareness workshops, hosting our children in their offices or creating teaching learning materials for our schools and Anganwadis, these volunteers have played an essential role in amplifying our impact.

What particularly stands out, is that volunteers were able to create 100s of creative teaching learning material sets, directly amplifying the learning of our children.

Corporates included Dell, Alstom, Allegis, Google, Gameskraft, Akamai, IBM, Adobe, Ernst and Young, Amadeus, Target corporation and more.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The enthusiasm and energy of college and university volunteers have invigorated our initiatives. These young minds infuse fresh perspectives, creativity, and an unwavering belief in our cause. We saw student volunteers teach in our centers, create amazing educational content, organise workshops, paint wall murals, organize fun fests, assist during big events and more. Additionally, they act as inspirational role models for the children we serve, widening the horizons of our children.

Colleges included Mount Carmel College, St. Joseph College, Christ University, SJRC College, SDM College Dharmasthala, Nagarjuna College of Management Studies, MES College, MLA College, Sheshadripuram Evening College, St. Joseph College, Maharani Cluster University, Yelahanka Govt college, Sheshadripuram, Yelahanka College to name a few.

CIVIL SOCIETY CHAMPIONS

Our collaboration with other civil society individuals has been instrumental in expanding our reach and influence. These volunteers from different walks of life brought different kinds of expertise and exposure to our work - ranging from the arts to awareness sessions to tutoring and more.



“

I personally had an amazing experience today. Was able to revive school memories and also had a great time with students. It's often told that do something which gives you happiness. I get happiness in giving others how much I can and see the smile on their faces as well. Would like to Thank Makkala Jagriti and would definitely like to attend more events of such kind. Always ready to support!

Shrishti Mehta, Allegis

”

“

Being part of MJ is one of the best experiences. Spending time with Children and young minds would surely help us learn from them. This is the second time I've been part of volunteering and I have enjoyed every moment spent with children and banner painting. I would recommend everyone to be part of the volunteering activity. Great assistance from MJ volunteers. Thanks again for the opportunity.

Shruthi, Dell

”

The collective efforts of these volunteers serve as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers, as their dedication propels our social movement forward, bringing us closer to our vision of a brighter future for every child.





At Makkala Jagriti, we firmly believe that our most valuable asset is our dedicated and passionate team of employees. As we reflect on the past year's accomplishments and look ahead to the future, it's abundantly clear that our people are the driving force behind our mission to empower children from disadvantaged communities.

In the year 2022-23, our team underwent substantial expansion, growing to a total of 118 members. Our team members, hailing from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, come together with a shared commitment to making a positive impact on children's lives. Whether it's our facilitators and coordinators in the field, program managers, enablers, or administrative staff, each individual plays a pivotal role in bringing our initiatives to life.

INVESTING IN CAPACITY BUILDING

Recognizing that our employees are central to our mission, we prioritize their growth and development. We understand that an empowered and well-equipped team can drive meaningful change. Throughout the year, we've invested in capacity-building programs for our employees. These initiatives not only enable them to excel in their roles but also contribute to their personal and professional growth.

We foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement, encouraging our team to stay updated with the best practices in education, child development, and community engagement. This investment in capacity building not only benefits our employees but also amplifies the impact of our programs on the children we serve.

Some of the notable capacity-building initiatives in the year include

- Program-specific trainings for more than 15 days for all program team members that cover aspects of knowledge, skills, and personal effectiveness.
- A specially tailored leadership development program facilitated by our founder Joy Srinivasan and co-facilitators for mid-level leaders and the coordinators
- External workshops on niche areas like Understanding the Juvenile Justice Act, deep dive into Monitoring and Evaluation, Special aspects of ECCE, and more
- Continuation of Clifton-Strengths journey for Managers through workshops and conversations towards becoming better versions of themselves

Our commitment to our people is further exemplified by our Great Place to Work certification, a testament to our dedication to fostering a supportive and empowering work environment for all our employees.

As we celebrate our achievements in this annual report, we extend our deepest gratitude to our exceptional team members. Their dedication, resilience, and passion are the driving forces that propel us forward on our journey to create a brighter future for our children and youth.





DONORS



ASML

Autoliv



Muniswamappa Trust

UK ONLINE GIVING FOUNDATION

WILCOX FAMILY FOUNDATION



PARTNERS





GOVERNING BOARD AND LEADERSHIP



JOY SRINIVASAN

Chairperson & Managing Trustee

Founder and leading change agent at Makkala Jagriti;
Former president, ISABs,
OD Consultant and International Leadership and
Behavioural Sciences Trainer.



VISWANATH GOPALAKRISHNAN

Trustee

Organisational development consultant;
Founding Director Organisations & Alternatives
Consulting Pvt. Ltd.



RANGARAJAN PADMANABHAN

Trustee

Former COO, Appnomic Systems;
Board Member at RubanBridge;
Angel Investor and Advisor to Startups.



SATYEN VYAS

Member

CEO, Symphony SummitAI;
Former VP (India and South Asia), IBM;
Former GM for Mid Markets, Dell India; Founder and
Former CEO, Vitage Group.



KAVITHA KRISHNAMOORTHY

Member

Co-Founder and Co-Director, The CanBridge Academy;
Managing Trustee, Kilikili;
Arts-based Therapy Practitioner



SUNAYANA CHATRAPATHY

Chief Executive Officer

Alumnus of Symbiosis Institute of Business Management
SBI Youth for India Fellow

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Consolidated Foreign and Local grants Account Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR FY 2022-23

INCOME	TOTAL (IN ₹)
Project Grants	2,14,17,843.00
General Grants	3,73,52,510.00
Interests and other income	11,43,161.00
TOTAL	5,99,13,514.00

EXPENDITURE	TOTAL (IN ₹)
Programme Expenses	4,54,05,135.00
Admin Expenses	76,19,427.00
Capital Expenditure	50,54,380.00
TOTAL	5,80,78,942.00

Excess of income over expenditure transferred to Balance Sheet

ASSETS	TOTAL (IN ₹)
Fixed Assets	12,74,744.00
Specific Grants - Receivables	3,52,866.00
Advances and Deposits	10,83,878.00
Investments	50,00,000.00
Cash in Hand	2075.00
Cash in Bank	1,90,18,610.00
TOTAL	2,67,32,173.00

LIABILITIES	TOTAL (IN ₹)
Capital Fund	12,74,744.00
Corpus Fund	50,00,000.00
General Fund	8376825.00
Unutilized Specific funds	1,15,87,274.00
Provisions	4,93,330.00
TOTAL	2,67,32,173.00



Excitement, enthusiasm and encouragement - that describes how we feel as we step into the year 2023-24. Makkala Jagriti marks a significant milestone - **20 years of dedicated service** towards empowering children and youth. This momentous occasion inspires us to envision a future where we are amplifying our impact on the communities we work with, both by deepening our interventions and scaling our reach.

The year ahead unfolds with a strategic focus on expanding our **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program**, aiming to reach more children while forging robust collaborations with governmental bodies. We are aiming at **Taluk and District level interventions** that build lasting capacities and knowhow on Early Childhood Care and Education within the system and ensuring that quality preschool education for all children in Anganwadis becomes a way of life. We are also encouraged by **partnerships with other organizations** in this domain and see ourselves strengthening the ECCE movement.

In the upcoming year, we continue investing in fortifying our flagship program: **the Holistic Development Learning Centers (HDLC) program** and the **SPICE** model that drives the program. We are excited by how the revamped SPICE curriculum for holistic development is evolving to meet the needs of the current contexts of school going children. Key program components such as **teacher empowerment and establishment of school practices** that aid holistic development will be further strengthened helping us create models of excellence in numerous government schools that we are engaging with.

In tandem with this, our commitment to strengthen our program with **Child Care Institutions** remains steadfast with innovative program components that engage the children as well as staff of the institutions. We are encouraged by the recognition and support we continue to get from the government and aspire to work more towards influencing all the stakeholders and the child protection system such that Child Care Institutions across the state become transformative spaces for children.

What truly invigorates us is our novel strategy of the **Integrated Community Program**. Through this approach, we envision **sustainable community transformation** with interventions for children and youth across age-groups, thus fostering **school readiness to life readiness**. The program will also see more community collaborations and engagement, making it truly a vehicle for lasting community transformation.

Beyond the programs, our journey of strengthening the organization with investment in people and processes continues. We are moving towards **greater use of technology and digitization** of our processes and envision making our accounts and bookkeeping process completely paperless while also deploying technology platforms for program data management, monitoring and evaluation. People are our biggest assets and we'll continue to invest in not only their learning and development, but also strive to bring in measures for **staff wellbeing and welfare** including employee health insurance and other benefits.

And lastly, the year 2023-24 promises to be a year of celebrations galore. The **completion of 20 years** is a remarkable milestone and we shall celebrate children and youth - the true heroes of our movement. Their resilience and spirit inspire us to continue our efforts towards a brighter future. We are grateful to all our donors, partners, and well-wishers for their continued belief in us and support in the years to come.





To know more about our programmes contact us headoffice@makkalajagriti.org

Follow us on social media



@MakkalaJagriti



@makkalajagriti



@Makkala_Jagriti



@Makkala Jagriti

#56/3, 18th cross, 4th Main Rd, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560055 | +91 80 2336 9865 / 96061 35202 | headoffice@makkalajagriti.org | www.makkalajagriti.org

CELEBRATING CHILDREN. EMPOWERING YOUTH.