



Sakshara Trust

Annual Report 2019-2020

About Sakshara

Sakshara Trust was registered on 18 February 2019 as a private discretionary charitable trust under the provisions of Indian Trusts Act, 1882, primarily for facilitating literacy and skill development among Indian residents. The hope is that with these skills, beneficiaries can generate income for themselves and improve the quality of their lives. Indian residents should be empowered to exercise their right to control, and benefit from, their assets, income and resources with a positive impact on the environment.

Sakshara's Vision

All people will be literate and possess skills that enable them to sustain their livelihood.

Sakshara's Mission

Sakshara exists to provide literacy and other skills to enhance a person's quality of life and allow them to contribute effectively in the society they live in.



Ramaa and Mamata

Note from the Trustees

Sakshara Trust started as a dream in 2016 in and finally became reality in 2019. We believe that basic literacy is possible with very little effort in the language that a person is able to speak and understand, with the use of flash cards and other teaching aids. We also believe that reading aloud to a child ensures that the child develops a love for reading and language and communicates well.

Crochet and knitting skills are good aids to help people acquire numerical skills which will help them in their daily life. It is rewarding to watch learners become proficient crocheters while also easily grasping basic mathematical concepts. In the coming year, we hope to be able to work with many more beneficiaries.

As this is our first Annual Report, we will use this forum to express our gratitude to relatives and friends who helped in the formation of Sakshara Trust. We wish to thank:

- Ravi Srinivasan for his moral and financial support
- N Krishnamurthy, our first generous donor
- Usha Iyer for her design support, including the design of the beautiful Sakshara logo
- Kalyani Shivmani and Nagarajam Devarajan for their support with the Literacy programme in Tamil and Hindi
- Akshaya Iyer who provided the content for our Trust Deed
- Ananya Iyer who is working on the Sakshara website
- Kanishk Srinivasan, who has been our sounding board for all our activities, and has worked on this Annual Report
- Nikhila Ballal, who has been a very supportive Chartered Accountant
- The entire Nool Koota group, that has been knitting, crocheting and donating funds
- Natasha Iyer, who has donated her wonderful space in Courtyard Koota for our sessions

We are sure that as we grow older, the list of friends and supporters will grow longer, and we look forward to that.

Sandhya Srinivasan

Shashank Srinivasan

Programmes

Currently Sakshara conducts activities under 2 broad programme heads:

- Reading for Literacy
- Acquiring income-generating skills

Reading for Literacy

Classes were conducted in the Courtyard Koota, a wonderful space offered to Sakshara for free by a friend, Natasha Iype. Two volunteers, Ramaa and Mona, joined Sandhya, a Trustee of Sakshara, to conduct the classes for the adults, and they were joined towards the end of the year by a third volunteer, Aaria. Initially, we held spoken English sessions with 4 adult women to help them overcome their diffidence and communicate in English. We started with teaching them to recognise a few commonly-used English words like windows, home etc. and then taught them to make simple sentences of 4 or 5 words. After a few sessions, we moved to teaching them more English words through flash cards and this helped them familiarise themselves with the words. It also helped them to start recognising the written words.

The method followed is to first help adults recognise the words with the help of pictures, and through that recognition, become familiar with the letters of the alphabet.

Khushi, one of our students, is now able to read full sentences and it has increased her prowess in sending text messages as part of her work.



Mona with Khushi



English Flash cards

Shalini, one of our students, who was already literate in Kannada and Tamil, is now able to read Pratham's Level 2 stories in English and is enjoying the sessions.



Ramaa with Mamata

By the end of 4 sessions, another student, Mamata, was able to read 40 words and recognise all the letters of the English alphabet.

In January, English reading classes were started for 18 children from the Good Earth Labour Colony and Doddabele village. The syllabus was structured with the help of a volunteer, Madhuri. The children were divided into groups and an initial assessment was conducted. While the older school-going children learnt to read aloud, picking up at the reading level at which they were comfortable, the younger children used flash cards to play memory games and become familiar with English words.



Natasha with the children in the Reading class

The resource material used for this programme is 'Library in a Classroom' - a set of 100 books that were procured from Pratham. This set contains books in 4 reading levels in English, Kannada, Hindi and Tamil. The children enjoyed the short stories written in easy-to-read words. Wholesome and healthy food was provided at the end of the 90-minute sessions. Unfortunately, these sessions were interrupted by the lockdown enforced throughout the country in the middle of March.



Madhuri with the older children



Sandhya with the younger children

A friend, Janaki, visited us at the Courtyard Koota and conducted a story telling session for the children, who were delighted with her story.



Story telling session

Acquiring income-generating skills

One of Sakshara's objectives is to help people acquire skills that help them generate income and sustain their livelihood. In 2019-2020, Sakshara started to teach crochet and knitting to women. Crochet and knitting skills are good aids to help people acquire numerical skills which will help them in their daily life. It is rewarding to watch learners become proficient crocheters while also easily grasping basic mathematical concepts.

As an extension of this programme, and to ensure proper utilisation of the finished products, a project 'Keep our babies warm' was started to provide woollens for premature babies born in a hospital run by the Jan Chetana Manch in Jharkhand.

Nool Koota, a group of ladies that came together to use their knitting and crocheting skills, volunteered to produce sweaters, caps, booties and sheets for the newborn babies.

By February 2020, over 50 pieces of woollens were sent to Jharkhand. The group also made woollen caps for babies born in St. Philomena's Hospital, Bengaluru, and woollens for tribal people in Gudalur through a charitable organisation, Ashwini. The wool for this activity was provided by Sakshara, which also coordinated the delivery of the finished products to the organisations.



Woollens ready for premature babies in Jharkhand



The Nool Koota volunteers crocheting and knitting for the babies



Shalini going through Pratham's books

Sakshara Trust Executive Committee

Name	Designation	Contact details
Sandhya Srinivasan	Trustee	Phone – 9831174678 Email – ssrinivasan@sakshara.in
Shashank Srinivasan	Trustee	Phone – 7840074678 Email – srinivasan.shashank@gmail.com

Contact details

Registered address:

Sakshara Trust,
R15, Resonance, Good Earth Malhar,
Kengeri, Bengaluru 560060.
Phone: 9831174679

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#)

Instagram: @saksharas

Twitter: - @SaksharaL