



# Sakshara Trust



**Annual Report 2021-2022**

## **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.

*On the cover: Nikki, a beneficiary from Kolkata, with her creation Her response while giving her permission to use this lovely picture of her 'Achhi hi toh lag rahin hoon aur kaam bhi achha hai ("I'm looking good, and so is my work"). We salute her for her confidence and pride in her work.*

## Note from the Trustees

Sakshara Trust started as a dream in 2016 and finally became reality in 2019. Getting off to a slow start in 2019-20, the first wave of the pandemic brought a stop to a lot of our planned activities. After a year of consolidation rather than implementation in 2021-22, it was hoped that we would have more activities lined up in the new financial year, but that is when the nation was hit by a second wave of the pandemic which proved to be more devastating than the earlier wave. We somehow continued with our work, conducting English conversations for adults online, and teaching handiwork skills to three ladies who could work from their homes. The 'Woollens for Babies' project continued without a hitch, thanks to some very willing volunteers of the Nool Koota. Meanwhile, in the first quarter of 2021-22, Sakshara received the provisional approval under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

We end the year on a very positive note. Fifteen Sakshara volunteers started teaching the children in the Government Primary School in Anchepalya in Bengaluru, ensuring that the children made up for the gap in education caused by the shortage of classes in the past two years. Talks are also taking place for skill-building classes with the parents of these children in the school premises.

We look forward, with hope, to an activity-filled fruitful year ahead.

Sandhya Srinivasan

Shashank Srinivasan

## Programmes

Currently Sakshara conducts activities under 2 broad programme heads:

- Reading for Literacy
- Acquiring income-generating skills

### Reading for Literacy

We added to our collection of learning material from Pratham and from other educators like Jane Sahi, and also created flash cards in Kannada for adult learners.

15 years after dropping out of school, Shalini, one of our beneficiaries, was registered for the Class X Karnataka State Board examinations in Kannada medium as a private student. She appeared for her examinations in March/April, and we are hopeful that she will do well. She received a lot of support from Sakshara volunteers Amrut, Sujatha, Sindhu and Sandhya. We are very grateful to Ms Soumya Ponnappa, the Head Mistress of Kengeri Government School, for all her support in ensuring that Shalini could appear for her examinations.

*Shalini says, "I am glad I could take the Xth Board examinations. More than worrying about passing, I am so grateful that I have been able to learn so much".*

### Educational support

Sakshara reached out to Mr Sampath Kumar, the Headmaster of the Government Primary School at Anchepalya, offering our support for the school children. The school had only 4 Government teachers in charge of the education of the 230 children enrolled in the school. Mr Kumar mentioned that they were in urgent need of teachers to help with the children.

Fifteen residents of Good Earth Malhar, a residential community located just a kilometre away from the Anchepalya School, offered their services as teachers. From the first week of December, Sakshara volunteers started teaching English, Science, Hindi and Mathematics to children in classes 6 and 7, and Mathematics and English to children in classes 3, 4 and 5.

Sakshara is very grateful to these amazing people who took time off from their regular routines to teach the children twice or thrice a week for an hour. We aim to make this an on-going programme, and we look forward to very rewarding sessions with the children.





**Sakshara volunteers with Sampath Kumar, Headmaster of the Government School in Anchepalya**



While textbooks for the children were provided by the Government of Karnataka, the children needed notebooks and stationery. On our request, ITC Ltd. supplied notebooks, pens, pencils, sketch pens and geometry boxes to the 230 children of the School. Some notebooks and pens were distributed before the examinations in March and the rest of the donated stationery will be done when the school reopens for the new academic session in May 2022.



**Stationery donated by ITC Classmates**

### **Financial support for students**

Sakshara Trust has undertaken to provide financial support for the education for 2 needy students, Vishal and Alex, by paying a part of their school fees, while their parents undertake to pay the balance.

We hope to support a total of 5 children in the coming year, and depending on funds available, will add to this number in the future.

### **Conversation/Literacy Classes**

5 young working people attended online classes (both text and audio) over Whatsapp to improve their English conversation skills. The classes over Whatsapp did have some challenges. With offices opening up, these young people have had to go back to work, and the classes had to be stopped. We are still figuring out how to continue the classes remotely.

### **Acquiring income-generating skills**

Shalini, who learnt to knit and crochet two years ago, continued to build on her skills and learnt to crochet bookmarks and coasters. While she is adding to her income by selling crochet products, she has also become an efficient teacher for others who wish to crochet. With Shalini's help, our newest beneficiary Meena is also making amigurumi toys and baby blankets.



**Shalini with Meena**



**Bookmarks made by Shalini**

Nikki, who is on the cover of this report, is a young beneficiary from Kolkata and already had some basic crochet skills. She learnt to make granny squares and is busy adding to her income by making woollen baby blankets. The yarn is provided by Sakshara, and discussions about design happen through Whatsapp video chats.



### **Nool Koota and Sakshara – an invaluable collaboration**

Thanks to the Nool Koota, our friends who came together to knit and crochet woollens, work on our ‘Keep our babies warm’ project continued without interruption despite the pandemic and lockdowns. We sent over 40 sets of woollen sweaters, caps, bootees and sheets for premature babies to the Jan Chetana Manch in Jharkhand. A special thanks goes out to Ms Namita Guha Roy, an octogenarian knitter, who has also been a huge contributor.



**Woollens for preemies at the Jan Chetana Manch**

On request from Dobarra, a senior citizens' group based in Hyderabad, founded by Mateen Ansari, we also sent handmade woollen caps for children at the Niloufer Hospital, Hyderabad.

The wool for this activity was provided by Sakshara, and Dwaraka Pandurangi, one of our Nool Koota friends, coordinated the delivery of the finished caps to the organisation.



**Caps for Dobarra**

### **Fundraising options**

Good Earth Eco Development made a request for 125 sets of crocheted coasters for distribution to residents of their new housing project. Sakshara beneficiaries and Nool Koota volunteers got together to make the coasters, and Good Earth compensated Sakshara generously for this project, ensuring that we could pick up more yarn and other supplies for the handiwork sessions.



**Coasters made by the Nool Koota**

There is a growing market for the products being made by Sakshara beneficiaries. Each time a donor chooses to pick up an amigurumi toy or a bookmark from us, they contribute to Sakshara funds and help us to compensate the makers. In the coming year, we hope to reach out to more people with the amigurumi toys and other products created by us.



**Crocheted cover for a set of 6 coasters**



### Sakshara Trust Executive Committee

Name	Designation	Contact details
Sandhya Srinivasan	Trustee	Phone – 9831174678 Email – <a href="mailto:ssrinivasan@sakshara.in">ssrinivasan@sakshara.in</a>
Shashank Srinivasan	Trustee	Phone – 7840074678 Email – <a href="mailto:srinivasan.shashank@gmail.com">srinivasan.shashank@gmail.com</a>

### Contact details

#### Registered address:

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

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

Instagram: @saksharas

Twitter: - @SaksharaL