

BLOSSOM PROJECTS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF
GROWTH &
COMMUNITY
IMPACT



**INSPIRING
STORIES**



**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**



**COMMUNITY
IMPACT**



BLOSSOM PROJECTS

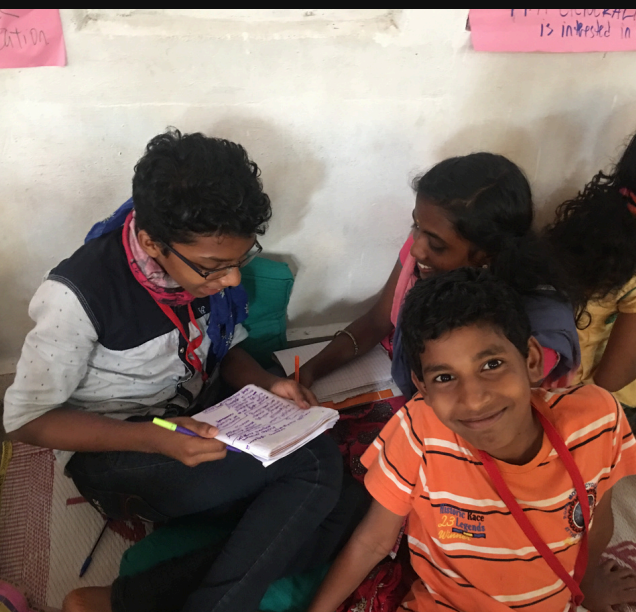
BLOSSOMPROJECTS.ORG | P.O. BOX 1226, MENLO PARK, CA 94025

A California Based non-profit, 501(c)(3) FEIN: 26-3130349

OUR VISION FOR A CASTE-FREE SOCIETY STAYS STRONG

Our Mission

Empower youth and their families in economically and socially marginalized communities through education, core skill building, leadership, and employment.



OVER 1500+ TEENS IMPACTED SINCE 2012

- In 2023, we achieved gender parity in enrollment (equal boys and girls)
- 100% of our students come from the Dalit community
- 85% are either studying or working after leaving our



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear friends and supporters,

On MLK Jr. Day, our students designed posters with inspiring quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflected on his legacy. This quote captures the essence of why we do what we do:

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."

In our program, our students feel nourished—mentally and physically, and feel peace, dignity, and freedom for the first time. They feel they can dream big, pursue their goals, and forge a path forward. However, there is still much to do to ensure that every youth has the same opportunities for education and learning, regardless of caste, gender, race.

2023 was a year of great momentum for our program—we welcomed new donors, supporters, and friends. We were honored to extend our board to include Anupam Satyasheel, CEO of Occams Advisory. Anupam's entrepreneurial and business acumen strengthened our board's capacity and impact.

A key supporter, global social entrepreneur, Dr. Chandra Vadhana, joined hands with us to enable our reach into new communities and events. We forged new connections due to her support. Thank you!

As we look back at 2023, we are proud of the impact we've had on students and their families. Enjoy a few of their stories in this report.

Thank you for your support!

The Board
Blossom Projects



OUR PROGRAMS IN INDIA

We support educational and residential programs for Dalit youth in India, through the Lokuttara Leadership Academy, an FRCA-approved nonprofit, based in Kerala, India. Most of the youth in our program are homeless, from impoverished backgrounds, and have dropped out or failed out of the government school system.

We support three main residential/study programs based on a ground-up curriculum developed over years of work in the community we serve.

INTENSIVE LITERACY PROGRAM

This program focuses on students who have difficulty with basic reading, writing, Malayalam, English, and Mathematics. The duration of the program depends on their abilities but lasts a minimum of 10 months.

11TH AND 12TH GRADES

This program is for students who have completed 10th grade and want to finish 11th and 12th grades. The academy follows the open school system associated with SCOLE Kerala, which is the open school department of the Higher Secondary Education wing. This program lasts for two years.

12TH GRADE EQUIVALENCY

This program is for students who didn't pass or dropped out of higher secondary education in Kerala. It is conducted by the National Institute of Open Schooling of the union government. This program lasts for 6 months.

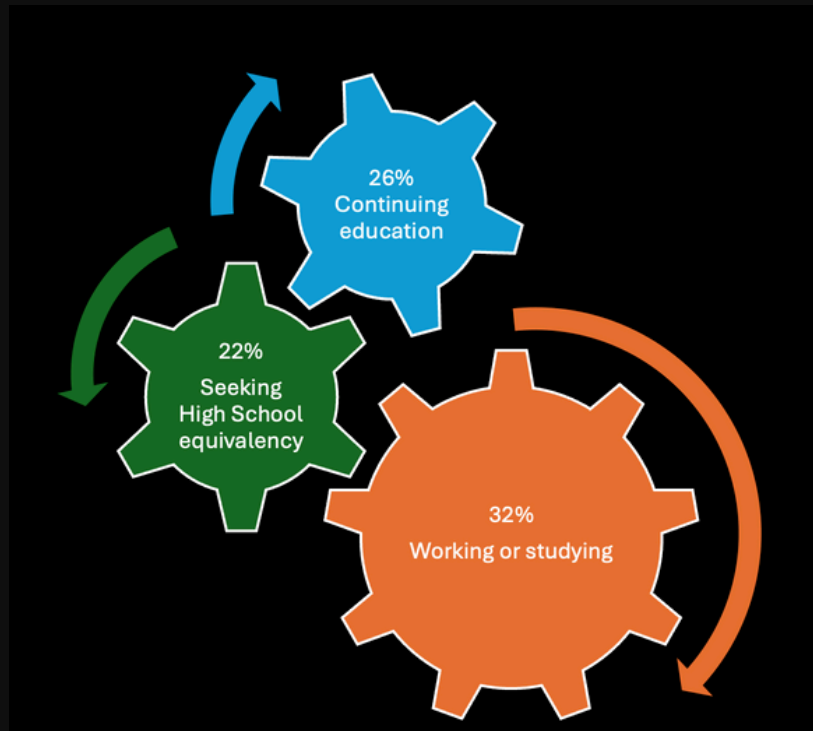
In addition to each major program, we provide various soft skills and leadership training. Many prominent leaders from national and international background visit our projects to lead workshops and interact with students.



NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

1300 STUDENTS IMPACTED SINCE 2012

85% WORK OR STUDY
AFTER COMPLETING PROGRAM



16 YEARS
AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENT

100% GENDER PARITY
IN 2023 COHORT

83% PASSED STATE EXAMS
2023 STUDENT COHORT

100% STUDENTS ARE DALIT
71% ARE SCHEDULED TRIBE
29% ARE SCHEDULED CASTE





MEET RENJITHA

Renjitha comes from Kasargod, which is in the extreme northern part of Kerala. She's a 16-year-old girl from a tribal background. When she was 10, her father left her mother, and now she and her mom live with her uncle's family. Both her mother and uncle work as laborers. In her words,

"My uncle is great; he takes care of me like a daughter. I have a younger brother, his son, and we all live together peacefully. I love my family. Although I struggled with my studies in school, now I feel I can study well. My goal is to successfully complete the eleventh and twelfth grades, and I'm getting enough support here. After finishing this course, I want to study civil engineering or pursue a diploma and get a job to support my family."





ANITHAN'S STORY

"My name is Anithan, a 16 years old boy, and I'm from Kottayam in Kerala. I come from a family of ten, including three brothers, four sisters, and our parents. Our time together was enjoyable when my father was not drinking. It happened whenever he had no job. On days when he was employed, he drank and quarreled with my family. My father is a coconut climber and mother is a housekeeper. I would often see him consumed by alcohol, making those days quite difficult, especially for my mother. As the youngest, I sometimes faced his physical abuse, but strangely, the next day, he'd be sympathetic towards me. Last year, both my parents passed away due to these circumstances, leaving me illiterate.

I feel at peace at Blossom Projects. Here I'm motivated and determined to learn Malayalam, both reading and writing, and completing my twelfth-grade education. Additionally, after Blossom I aspire to study electrical engineering, as I possess skills in repairing electrical and electronic equipment within my neighborhood. My goal is to become an electrician."



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIA

An intensive camp led by Dr. Dennehy

Our founder emeritus, Dr. Dennehy visited Lokuttara Leadership Academy and led a camp from late Dec-Jan 2023. Dr. Dennehy focused on 21st-century skills while other experts conducted motivational sessions. Each day started with morning meditation and ended with evening cultural programs, running from 7 am to 8 pm.



A great way to reset and re-energize for the new year!

Celebrating Dr. Ambedkar's birthday

On April 14th, the academy celebrated the birthday of Dr. B.R Ambedkar. Executive Director, Arun Boudh, delivered a speech highlighting Ambedkar's life and vision. During the event, the program inaugurated the Plus Two grade class by distributing textbooks to students, and sweet treats for everyone.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIA

Academic Success All the Way!

On June 15th, the results of the Plus One final exam surpassed our expectations! All 8 students successfully passed their papers. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of both students and teachers. Had they studied in their village schools, passing these exams might have been challenging. However, thanks to the conducive study atmosphere provided in the residential program, they were able to clear all their papers with flying colors.



A Sustainable Kitchen Garden is Planted

A sustainable kitchen garden project was inaugurated on October 17, 2023, with the generous support of Mr. Hank Pellissier from Humane Aide Network, USA. Each student planted a vegetable, and a Blossom student committee was formed to oversee the garden. The project aims to grow over five types of vegetables, providing vocational expertise and fresh, organic food for students' meals. The goal is to produce 10% - 15% of the vegetables needed daily for the 40 students, benefiting the community positively.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIA

CSR donations and local giving boosts the program

A CSR donation by Puri Oil Mills provided each student with a hygiene kit, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair oil, bathing soap, washing soap, and sanitary napkins. Students also received six notebooks and a pen, generously donated by the Kayamkulamkaaran Facebook group. These essentials were distributed by the Honorable Member of Legislative Assembly Mr. Arunkumar M.S.

The program also received a new television and cordless microphone donated by Puri Oil Mills. The new television enabled watching educational programs, building interest in current events, and news. Students also attended online English classes led by CLE Trust (a nonprofit based in Bangalore) through the Smart TV, using a cordless microphone for interactive learning. Saturdays featured English movie screenings, followed by film reviews to boost public speaking skills. The TV also served as a source of informative videos, enriching the students' educational experience.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIA

Clothes for Students

In December 2023, Blossom Projects received a generous donation of clothes for the students from an anonymous donor introduced to Blossom Projects by Mr. Hank Pellissier from Humane Aide Network, based in the US. The donor who runs a clothing company in the US, sent six boxes of clothes, which were distributed among the students.

The smiles of our students in their new clothes say it all!



US FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Sirjana Singh Benefit for Blossom Projects

For the second year in a row, in April, New Delhi-based fine jewelry designer Sirjana Singh hosted a fundraiser for Blossom Projects. We are so thankful for this support. A percentage of the proceeds went to Blossom Projects, along with bringing much needed awareness about our cause with new donors and supporters.



US FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Blossom & Blues Tamas Concert

A rocking concert by Tamas, a Bay Area band, was the highlight of a community awareness building event in the historic Tabard Theater in San Jose, CA. Our team of young volunteers made the show a rocking success!



US FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Sevathon

Our first time, but not the last—Blossom Projects had a booth at Sevathon, the largest gathering of nonprofits in the Bay Area, CA in September. Supporters signed up to run or walk 5K in a beautiful park. The booth attracted new people curious about our mission and vision. Great connections were made with other education-focused nonprofits.



Local Bay Area Events



Board President, Chithra represented Blossom Projects at the local Malayalee Bay Area event.

Board member Pushpinder represented Blossom Projects at Vanitha's nonprofit event where she received a cash award for the organization. She also presented Blossom Projects at the Menlo Park Rotary Club.

We are so grateful to organizations like Vanitha, MANCA, and the Rotary Club for supporting us.



UPCOMING EVENT

Ray of Hope Soiree

A Fundraiser for Marginalized Youth

CA STATE TREASURER



FIONA MA, CPA

Join us with our distinguished guest, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA for an elegant soiree of generous giving and great inspiration

Come together with supporters from all walks of life to bring hope and opportunity for underprivileged youth in India

Get your tickets today for Sept 14



Date

Saturday, September 14, 2024,
5:30-9:00 pm PST (dinner, dancing, and more)

Venue

The Patio, Lucie Stern Community Center
Palo Alto, CA

Dress Code

Garden party/Cocktail attire



BLOSSOM PROJECTS

blossomprojects.org/events-news
P.O. Box 1226, Menlo Park, CA 94025

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FINANCIALS

Blossom Projects Statement of Activity January - December 2023

| | | Total |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Donations | \$ | 27,995.74 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Event expenses | | 526.00 |
| Office Supplies & Software | | 3,397.23 |
| Paypal Service Fees | | 298.22 |
| Program Expense | | 41,280.03 |
| Total Expenditures | \$ | 45,501.48 |
| Net Operating Revenue | -\$ | 17,505.74 |
| Net Revenue | -\$ | 17,505.74 |

Blossom Projects Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2023

| | | Total |
|------------------------------|----|------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Bank Accounts | | |
| Wells Fargo Checking | | 12,492.29 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$ | 12,492.29 |
| Total Current Assets | \$ | 12,492.29 |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Furniture & Equipment | | 2,903.86 |
| Software | | 120.28 |
| Total Fixed Assets | \$ | 3,024.14 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ | 15,516.43 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| Total Liabilities | | |
| Equity | | |
| Retained Earnings | | 33,022.17 |
| Net Revenue | | -17,505.74 |
| Total Equity | \$ | 15,516.43 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$ | 15,516.43 |



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

This work is not possible without your support. Every dollar you donate goes towards food, clothing, and shelter for our out-of-school youth. It builds the foundation for their success.

Please continue to invest in the future by investing in our youth.

Learn more at BlossomProjects.org

Donate at BlossomProjects.org/donate
or scan the QR code

Email us at: info@BlossomProjects.org

