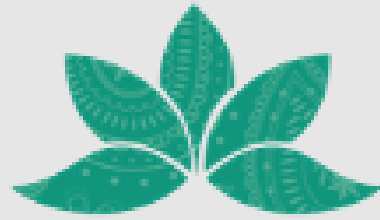


**BLOSSOM PROJECTS**



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

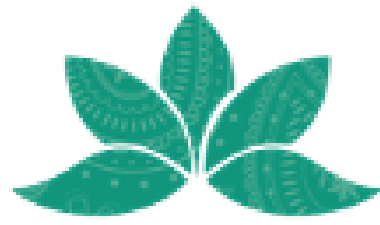


MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD	4
OUR PROGRAMS	5
OUR IMPACT	7
IMPACT STORIES	8
2024 HIGHLIGHTS	10

FINANCIALS	14
FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS BUILDING	15
CONTACT US	18



# OUR VISION STAYS STRONG

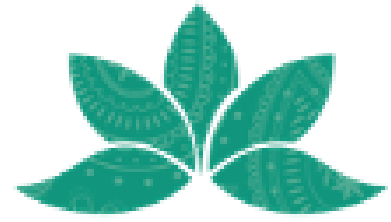


*A caste-free society based on liberty, equality, and inclusion.*

Thank you for your support in empowering Dalit and all caste-oppressed youth to re-engage with education, set goals, and achieve their dreams.



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Dear Blossom friends and supporters,

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**  
**— Nelson Mandela**

As we look back on 2024, we are filled with deep gratitude for your steadfast support of Blossom Projects. Your belief in the potential of every young person has helped us nurture not just minds, but whole human beings, academically, emotionally, and creatively.

This year, your generosity enabled us to expand our impact in meaningful ways. From strengthening our academic foundations to creating brave spaces for expression through drama and dance, we remained committed to our vision: that every marginalized child, Dalit, tribal, and from other underrepresented communities, deserves a nurturing environment where they can thrive. With your support,

In every classroom, rehearsal space, and counseling circle, your support has helped us plant the seeds of change. These young people are not just learning—they are leading, healing, imagining, and blossoming.

As we turn the page to a new year, we carry forward our deep commitment to equity and possibility. With you by our side, we believe we can continue building a world where education uplifts the most invisible, and where every child can say, with pride and power, “I matter.”

## **The Blossom Board of Directors**

- Chithra Rajagopalan (President)
- Dipankar Ghosh (Board Member)
- Eric Lopez (Board Member)
- Pushpinder Lubana, PhD (Board Member)





# OUR PROGRAMS IN INDIA

We support educational and residential programs for Dalit youth in India, through the Lokuttara Leadership Academy, an FCRA-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.

## TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL STUDY PROGRAMS

- Literacy program
- 11th and 12th grades
- 12th grade equivalency (for those who failed 12th)
- Intensive College Entrance training (started in 2024)



## **LITERACY PROGRAM**

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

## **11TH AND 12TH GRADES SUPPORT PROGRAM**

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 EXAM SUPPORT**

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. The average age of our students is 16 years.

## **2-MONTH INTENSIVE COLLEGE ENTRANCE COACHING**

Our intensive college entrance coaching program provides students the extra motivation and coaching they need to crack the exams. Our goal is to have 25 students gain admission into colleges across India.

## REACH AND DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2024, Blossom Projects welcomed twenty-six bright young learners into our community, each with a story of promise and resilience. While at Blossom Projects, each student resides full-time in a nurturing environment where basic literacy, core skills, and leadership are fostered, ensuring that economic hardship and social prejudice do not define their futures.

We also serve a richly diverse body of young people. About half of our 2024 class of students came from families living below the poverty line or covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, and half qualified as priority households under local support schemes.

## ADVANCING CASTE-OPPRESSED LEARNERS

Our mission began with Dalit youth, those historically denied equal access to education and economic opportunity. By providing a stable home, nutritious meals, and personalized academic coaching, we help students re-enroll in their state school system, pursue technical training, or enter the workforce. In fact, 81% percent of our 2024 cohort are continuing their educational journey, breaking cycles of historically limited opportunities and laying the groundwork for generational change.

## GENDER EQUITY IN ACTION

We believe true empowerment is inclusive. In 2024, our student body was 58% male and 42% female, and our programs are designed to foster mutual respect and shared leadership. Mixed-gender workshops build confidence in young women to pursue careers beyond societal expectations and encourage young men to become advocates for gender equity.

Behind every number is a life changed. Your support helps us extend scholarships, reach families in deep poverty, and grow programs for caste-oppressed youth. Invest in a student's future—and watch a whole community thrive.

# OUR IMPACT

**96%**

Scheduled Caste and Tribe  
Students

**100%**

Pass Rate for 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**48%**

Male Students

**42%**

Female Students

**81%**

Students continue higher  
education or work after  
program



# IMPACT IN STORIES



## ONCE LEFT BEHIND, NOW COLLEGE BOUND: AJITH'S STORY

Ajith, from our 9th batch, is now a proud entrant to Azim Premji University—an inspiring milestone that embodies Blossom's mission.

Raised in a tribal community in Pathanamthitta, Ajith struggled with limited access to education and had dropped out after failing his Plus Two exams. But through the Lokuttara-Blossom Plus Two Equivalency Program, he reignited his academic journey, later joining our two-month entrance coaching course.

With guidance from our partner CLE Trust in Bangalore, Ajith found the support and mentorship he needed to succeed.

His admission to a prestigious central university is not just a personal triumph—it reflects the kind of systemic impact Blossom aims for: empowering over 25 marginalized youth each year to access higher education.

To our donors: Ajith's success is your impact in action. Thank you.



# IMPACT IN STORIES



## ASWANI FINDS HER VOICE ON THE PATH TO HIGHER DREAMS

Aswani Sudheer, from Ernakulam district, joined our 3-year residential program at Blossom—a journey that transformed her life.

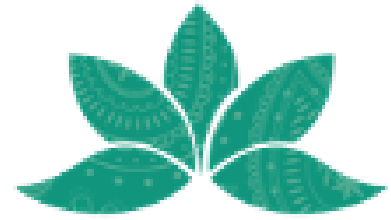
Raised by her grandmother due to a difficult family situation, Aswani arrived at Blossom shy and reserved. Through the 10-month Advanced English and Leadership Training, she began to find her voice. Over the next two years, she completed her 10+2 education (high school), gaining not just academic strength, but personal confidence.

With continued support from the Blossom team, Aswani went on to complete a BA in English Literature. Today, she's working at a restaurant in Kochi, saving up to pursue her postgraduate studies next year.

As Aswani shared, “Thank you, Blossom, for helping me come out of my shyness and giving me confidence.”

Her journey reflects the deep, long-term impact of our work—nurturing young women to become confident, self-reliant individuals ready to shape their futures.





# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS: NURTURING THE WHOLE STUDENT

At Blossom Projects, we believe education is not just about passing exams—it's about transformation. In 2024, we nurtured our students academically, emotionally, and creatively. Through leadership training, cultural enrichment, rigorous academics, and career preparation, we empowered our students to dream big and move forward with confidence.

Here are the year's key highlights, organized by our core pillars of impact:

## ACADEMIC RIGOR & MILESTONES

### Strong results and academic momentum

- All 8 students in 12th grade cleared their final board exams—100% pass rate.
- Specialized coaching for competitive exams like Azim Premji University and Central University Entrance Test (CUET) prepared students for higher education.
- One of our students, Ajith, overcame early academic failure to secure admission to Azim Premji University.
- NIOS online classes and the Lokuttara Online Study Program expanded access to learning.
- A new Political Science and Economics teacher joined, strengthening our academic team.
- Weekly staff meetings and professional development sessions enhanced teaching quality.





## PERSONAL GROWTH & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

### Confidence and Leadership Development

- Students began the year with a leadership development workshop led by Board Advisor Abha Singvi, integrating English proficiency training through interactive methods. Staff also benefited from a one-day leadership workshop led by Abha.
- Career guidance sessions helped students envision life beyond school.
- Mental health awareness and sex education sessions broke taboos and equipped students with essential knowledge. Thank you to our donor Humanist Mutual Aid Network for sponsoring these sessions
- Students like Aswani Sudheer, who came to Blossom shy and uncertain, now work confidently while planning further studies.

### Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

- Hygiene kits, health awareness sessions, and new facilities (like a pad disposal machine) promoted dignity and wellness. Thank you to our donor, Puri Oil Mills!
- Parent-Teacher Meetings received enthusiastic participation and strengthened trust with families.





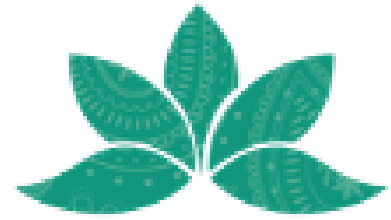
## CREATIVE EXPRESSION & CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

### Cultural Programs and Performances

- Regular monthly cultural events, farewells, and festival celebrations (Onam, Christmas, Independence Day) gave students a space to express joy and talent.
- Winners in these events received cash prizes, reinforcing pride and motivation.

### Art and Film for Critical Thinking

- The “Nava Agaso” Film Festival exposed students to world cinema and sparked powerful discussions on society and values.
- An engaging music performance by Thekillam Pattu Kootam and a cultural exchange with Sri Lankan guest Indika Wijesingh deepened students’ global awareness.



## TRANSITION TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

### Pathways to Higher Education and Jobs

- Entrance coaching led several students to confidently sit for university admissions.
- Ajith's success in clearing the Azim Premji exam was a standout achievement.
- A Job Fair on campus introduced real employment opportunities. Vibin, a 12th equivalency student, secured a job through this initiative.
- Alumni engagement and motivational sessions throughout the year inspired current students with real-life role models. Alumnus Abhaya Megha and her friends conducted an interactive session for students that was inspiring and energizing.

### New Beginnings

- The 10th National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) batch was launched, along with the new Plus One (11th grade) and Plus Two (12th grade) classes.
- A structured admission campaign helped reach out to marginalized students and bring new learners into the Blossom community.
- The creation of an Advisory Board for Enhancing Teachers, with monthly expert engagement, marked a strategic investment in quality teaching.



# Financials 2024



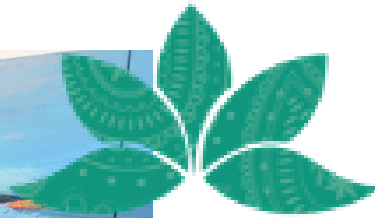
Financial Statement	CY 2024 Total
Donations	\$67,623
Total Donations	\$67,623
Expenditures	
Bank Charges & Fees	\$0
Office Supplies& Software	\$2,602
PayPal Services Fees	\$489
Program Expense	\$45,276
Total Expenditure	\$48,368
Net Operating Revenue	\$19,255
Net Revenue	\$19,255

# FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS BUILDING IN THE US



Sirjana Singh, Fine Jewelry hosted a fundraiser for Blossom Projects in Menlo Park in April 2024 for the third year in a row. Donors and supporters enjoyed the visual treat of fine jewelry, handmade in India, against a spring backdrop of lush greenery in a beautiful private setting. Blossom volunteers worked hard to make the event a huge success.





Board President Chithra Rajagopalan was profiled in a local art and fashion magazine in the Bay Area, CA called Red Hot Monde. As part of the story, Chithra shared her passion for Blossom Projects and why she is inspired to work on creating opportunities for marginalized youth. The cocktail launch party of the magazine issue saw a mix of celebrities, artists, and entrepreneurs at a beautiful art gallery in downtown Palo Alto, CA.



A key milestone in the US for Blossom Projects was the first gala at a public venue on Sept 14, 2024, in Palo Alto, CA. Philanthropists, musicians, artists, and entrepreneurs gathered at the Ray of Hope Soiree to support the cause and be inspired in a stunning Mediterranean setting at the Lucie Stern Community Center. Fiona Ma, CPA, California's State Treasurer was the honored guest at the event and was felicitated with the "Blossom Change Maker" award. The event was an incredible success—both in terms of awareness building and raising funds for the expansion of the program to after-Blossom support.



# DONATE TODAY

2024 was a year of transformation and triumph. From quiet students finding their voices, to new admissions, leadership workshops, artistic exploration, academic success, and job placements—Blossom Projects stood true to its mission: nurturing the whole student.

We thank our donors for making these stories possible. Your support builds not just classrooms, but confidence, resilience, and futures.





# CONTACT US

**Blossom Projects, a US non-profit organization, with 501 (c)(3)  
status #26-3130349**



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