

Development Focus Annual Report 2015-16



Our Vision

A just and humane society that ensures equal opportunities for quality of life to every citizen of India through relevant and quality education to the most marginalized.

Our Mission

Development Focus promotes relevant and quality education for the most marginalized sections of the society by engaging with and building the capacity of civil society actors such that it leads to educated, egalitarian and empowered communities.

Our Objectives

- To strengthen and capacitate civil society actors to address the educational “needs” of the most

marginalized sections of society (tribes and backward communities from the last 20% of the economic scale, with a focus on gender sensitivity).

- To ensure that “education” is inclusive of moral values, life skills, livelihood skills and appropriate technologies
- To improve the quality of life.
- To empower and conscientize communities to claim their entitlements and to demand accountability from the system.
- To facilitate social, economic and political empowerment within the community towards effective local governance.
- To capacitate and facilitate engagement by civil society actors and communities with the state, to make policy-level changes.

Our Values

Hope | Respect | Commitment | Accountability | Transparency



Contents

1. A Note from the Team Leader	1
2. Our Identity	2
3. Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for Adolescents	3
4. Clean Development Mechanisms	7
5. Computer Based Functional Literacy	10
6. Different lives... common theme: Literacy	13
7. Our Partners in the Field	14
8. From the Managing Trustee	16
9. Financial Overview	17
10. Audited Financial Report	18
11. Board of Trustees	22
12. Meet the Team	23



A Note from the Team Leader

The year 2015-16 saw Development Focus working on two major projects - the Prevention of Child Marriage Programme and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) programme that focused on training youth in livelihood skills with an environmental impact - to make, market and maintain Solar Lanterns and Fuel Efficient Stoves. Both these programmes were conducted under the able leadership of Mr. Mohan Prabhu who moved on from Development Focus in February 2016.

In January 2016 we embarked on a new journey with the Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) Programme in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services. The programme was conducted in 5 backward districts of Orissa in March 2016. This was the same time that I joined Development Focus as Team Leader. During my second week at Development Focus I travelled to the districts of Orissa where we planned to implement the CBFL programme. The field visit to Orissa was an enriching experience especially as we got to interact with our partners who were directly implementing the programme. We look forward to an effective implementation of this Adult Literacy Programme that we believe will make a difference in the lives of people who missed out or have been denied opportunities.

The CDM Programme continues as we endeavour to develop in our youth the Micro-Entrepreneurial Skills that would enable them to be engaged in productive and sustainable livelihood. Much of the CDM implementation has been a learning experience for the team since it is a pilot. However, we have realized that the scope of this programme both from its socio-economic and environmental impact perspective is immense. DF plans to do a lot more in this field.

Over the past year DF's donor support has primarily been through Institutional donation from Edukans to cover part of the CDM Programme, Tata Consultancy Services for the CBFL Programme, the Power of One Campaign conducted in schools and colleges, and individual donors who have graciously contributed towards the projects.

As we stand at the threshold of a new financial year, we plan to begin our much desired work in Raichur district of North Karnataka. Much of this will depend on Corporate and Institutional donations that we are working on. Our belief remains that God knows the need and will continue to provide and lead. The CBFL and CDM projects in Central India will continue along with proposed new programmes which are in the pipeline.

The team at DF will continue to ensure that they will spare no effort to provide new opportunities for people in the remote areas of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Raipur in North Karnataka - leading them to a better and transformed life.

We look forward to your support as we endeavour on this journey.



Shalini Neelakantan
Team Leader



Our Identity

The Trustees of Development Focus met in June 2015 to reconsider the existence and continuation of the organisation. Excerpts from the meeting:

Why does DF exist?

- To serve children, youth and women who are at the Bottom of the Socio-economic Pyramid. Development of the poorest of the poor will be consciously addressed.
- Socio-economically deprived geographic areas are chosen for programme implementation. Most backward states and districts are where we work.
- Empowerment through "Education" - understood from a wide perspective - has been the focus of our work. We work on the principle of life-long learning.
- DF has been and will be a Catalyst to build the capacity of other NGOs, thereby strengthening Civil Society. Will continue to Sensitize and Motivate Civil Society.

Core Values of DF:

o We believe that every human being, however poor or marginalized s/he may be, has God given potential. Our work is to help them realize and unleash this potential.

o When isolated, the poor are powerless and voiceless. When they are mobilized as groups they understand their rights and claim their entitlements. Mobilizing children, youth and people as strong homogeneous groups is high on our agenda

o Considering the above, "Respect" for every individual in the community, staff member and organisations will be high on our agenda.



o We believe that people can find the best solutions for their problems if provided the opportunity. This leads to bottom-up approaches in the true sense.

o We work towards bringing a positive change in the attitudes and behaviour of people and developing local leadership that lead to sustainable development.

o We believe that people have fundamental rights and they have possibilities.

o We value people's culture and want them to enrich the same.

o We believe in cost effective approaches with a wide impact.

o We do not set up parallel structures like schools but empower people to claim their rights and entitlements for quality services from the state.

o Partnerships with like-minded players and networking are important to us

o We respect the law of the land as responsible citizens and will fulfill all statutory requirements - not out of fear of being penalized but as a core value.

Situational context:

Within the country:

- A strong bias towards the elites
- Right-based understanding and approaches are receding
- Empowerment of people is sometimes seen as a threat

Internationally:

- Growing "Right wing" progression.
- There is blurring of lines between capitalism and philanthropy.
- Spiritual values and institutions are fast losing their influence as the flag bearers of Conscience
- India is no more a priority for international donor support
- Market force theory is gaining prevalence

Consequences are: The very poor are ignored and entrenched in poverty

- Disparity is increasing
- Vested interests are gaining acceptance
- There is an incentive to maintain a poor layer in society

It is in this scenario that Development Focus seeks to make a difference!

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for Adolescents



A quote by the Yuva Mitras
If you get married at a young age, you will ruin your life



Child Marriage is a Human Rights violation and a serious threat to the development of an individual, the family and community. Prevention of Child Marriages through sensitization of adolescents and the community was one of the significant programmes that Development Focus took up. The programme began as a yearlong intervention with 20 partner organizations formed into three clusters in Jharkhand and Odisha. With the objective of reducing Child Marriages in 400 villages, the programme aimed at bringing behavioural changes in these rural communities. These are communities where there is a high percentage of Scheduled Class and Scheduled Tribe population. They have lagged behind when it comes to overall development since their needs and aspirations have been neglected. Children have been denied opportunities for education due to lack of access and awareness. Child marriage has been a scourge in these communities. It is common that a girl of 11 or 12 is pulled out of school and married off for financial considerations or in the guise of protecting the child. In some communities where we work, more than 80% of girls are married before they are 18.

The programme focused on raising awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), leading to reduction in Child Marriages. The programme strategy was to form 2 youth clubs in each village. The clubs met twice every month. 6 volunteers (3 adults + 3 youth) known as 'Yuva Mitras' or "Change Agents"

were chosen from each village. These volunteers were systematically trained in SRHR issues. They in turn sensitized the adolescent club members on issues like: health/sexual rights, education, socio-economic issues and awareness on existing laws. Community members and leaders were also sensitized on SRHR issues and are supporting the youth clubs and Yuva Mitras. There is a reduction in Child Marriages and they are actively prevented.



A victim of child marriage with her young child



Specific imprints of Child Marriage programme:

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
2914 Yuva Mitras trained as educators on SRHR issues	Young people, women and men have been able to make informed decisions on SRHR-issues
17424 young girls and boys participated in SRHR sessions	
4021 members take leadership roles in SRHR issues in their communities	
799 youth clubs formed and involved in prevention of child marriage	
237 schools are now gender sensitive and are friendly to the girl child	Improved access to formal education
1140 teachers trained on gender sensitive didactics	
1424 sensitization meetings held with parents, SMCs, PTAs to promote school participation of children, especially girls	
3282 trainers/peers have been trained to provide awareness on the risks of child marriage	Girls and young women have been able to exercise their SRHR-rights and not forced into child marriage by their environment
27786 members from the local community sensitized on SRHR issues	
88648 members of the local community including local leaders sensitized via media, campaigns.	
20 action plans made and carried out for lobby and policy-influencing	There is a favorable (policy and legal) environment to prevent child marriage
20 partner organizations active in the networks for lobby	
72 meetings to which partners participated for legal aid and policy influencing	

THE GIRL CHILD IN OUR WORLD

- ◇ **There are 1.1 billion of them in the world**
- ◇ **Every 7 seconds a girl child under the age of 15 is married**
- Save the Children
- ◇ **Having babies early risks a girls' health**
- ◇ **Pregnancy and birth complications are the second biggest killer of girls aged 15-19**
- World Health Organisation
- ◇ **Early marriage often ends a girl's education**
- ◇ **Each extra year of secondary School boosts a girl's income by 15 to 25%**



Source: BBC Article

We are very conscious that a Child cannot resist her marriage without the support of parents and the community. The community cannot take a stand on this practice without the support of external stakeholders. With this in mind, the programme concluded with a state level dissemination workshop held in both Jharkhand and Odisha. The workshops had stakeholders sharing their experiences and leading sessions. The workshops were attended by a cross section of stakeholders; the youth, parents, Yuva Mitras (change agents), Panchayat Raj Institutions and officials. Case studies were also presented. Furthermore, the workshop had panel discussions to evolve

specific recommendations to prevent Child Marriages to the State officials. In Jharkhand, the Minister for Women and Child Welfare, Dr. Louis Marandiwas present and addressed the gathering. She emphasized the importance of civic society support that is needed to wipe out this practice. She sought the support and cooperation of Civil Society Organisations to address the issue of child marriage stating that it would be difficult to bring about change in the communities without this support. The Minister released a booklet on this occasion that catalogues the experiences gone through in implementing this programme.

“ In Jharkhand, the Minister for Women and Child Welfare, Dr. Louis Marandiwas present and addressed the gathering. She emphasized the importance of civic society support that is needed to wipe out this practice. ”



Yuva Mitras campaigning against Child Marriage



Yuva Mitras

Although this was a short programme, there was intensive sensitization and awareness that was spread across these 400 villages. The adolescents and youth were eager to learn and open their minds to face the challenge. It is observed that enough understanding has been developed among the Yuva Mitras to effectively continue their work towards ending early marriages in these communities.

The project implementation period and funding support is over. But most of the clubs still meet with the Yuva Mitras facilitating the members. The fight to stop Child Marriages has begun and will go on till the goal is achieved.

A story of hope...

Binita Kumari, a young girl of 13 years, doing her grade 8, was having a normal life until her elder sister was to get married. On the day of the wedding her sister fled from the scene not wanting to get married to the man chosen for her. The family was thrown into a crisis situation, as the bride to be was not to be seen. To resolve the situation became a matter of honour for the families involved. To add fuel to the fire, Binita's parents were threatened by the groom's party of serious consequences. Finally, her family decided to give their younger daughter, Binita, in marriage (inset). This was a totally unexpected shock for young Binita who had no say whatsoever in the matter that affected her entire future.



The marriage was scheduled to take place at Bhandra Mandir, a well-known temple in the village. All the arrangements for the wedding were in place when the Yuva Mitras along with other community members came and explained that this was not in order and the marriage should not proceed. However, all their arguments and attempts were in vain. Having failed, the Yuva Mitras informed the coordinator of the programme and the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Bhandra, who is the reporting/monitoring officer to control child marriages. The BDO in turn sought the help of the police to stop the marriage. Binita's marriage was stopped in the nick of time. The BDO went a step further to protect Binita from the consequences. He arranged for her admission in a good government school that had an attached hostel. Binita is a happy student today looking forward to join the Indian army as her career in due course of time.

Clean Development Mechanisms



Energy for basic human needs like fuel for cooking and lighting is a big challenge in some parts of rural India, even in this 21st century. We have technology to launch space ships and produce robots, but thousands of families do not even have electricity nor can they access kerosene at a reasonable cost to burn a dimly lit lamp. When it comes to fuel for cooking, a large percentage of rural India still uses firewood. The stoves belch out smoke inside the house and consume large amounts of firewood to cook a modest meal - acting as a silent killer. Although the carbon emitted from one house may not be huge, when this adds to carbon emitted from thousands of households, several tonnes of Carbon is emitted, destroying our environment and leading to Climate Change.

Development Focus started a pilot project to address this issue in 2014. We planned to reach at least 20,000 households every year with Fuel Efficient Stoves (FES) and another 20,000 households with Solar Lanterns (SL) to replace their kerosene lamps. The strategy was to train 80 youth to Make-Market-Maintain Fuel Efficient Stoves and another 80 youth to promote Solar Lanterns with community participation. The major advantages of this approach were:

- The households that buy the FES would have cook stoves that burn less than half the amount of firewood and produce very little smoke. This leads to a big saving in firewood consumption and the incidence of respiratory diseases.
- Those who buy the SL would have 4 to 5 hours of bright light in the evenings using solar energy. There

are no recurrent costs and they save the money that was spent for kerosene. Children can study after dark and other productive activities can continue after sundown.

- The 160 youth would acquire a skill that they can use for sustainable livelihood, servicing clients in their own communities and not having to migrate for a job.
- At this level of operation, nearly 4,200 tonnes of CO₂e is saved every year, which has a considerable impact on the environment.
- The community is involved in the whole process, which makes the initiative sustainable. Awareness on environment protection and Green Energy is spread among the communities.



A facilitator showing trainees how to use an FES mould

Once the pilot is successful, the plan is to roll this out at a larger scale reaching at least 100,000 households with each of the two devices and providing livelihood for 1,000 youth.

The pilot started off well in the identified centers of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The youth were trained. The Fuel Efficient Stove initiative was in general successful. Majority of the young entrepreneurs were women. They have been able to convince other women to buy the stove by promoting the advantages. The stove made of clay costs between Rs. 350 to 450 and the cement model costs around Rs. 700. The youth who have been entrepreneurial have been able to earn Rs. 3,000 to 5,000 every month.

The Solar Lantern project was more challenging. It took a long time to establish a quality and reliable supply chain for the SL kits. It was a challenge for us at Development Focus as well as our partners initially to grapple with this level of technology. Somehow, NGOs do not get involved with technology too much! The youth, mainly from Tribal and Dalit communities felt that both the entrepreneurship and the technical aspects were too overwhelming. The SL pilot was limping. Realizing the difficulties, we suspended the pilot mid-2015. The challenges were analyzed and alternatives found. We have developed new suppliers for the SL kits with indigenous and more reliable components. We have taken a different approach for the technical and entrepreneurial training.

Incorporating these changes, a Pilot II was launched. We have used trainers who are “down to earth” for the technical and the entrepreneurial training. Trainees are accompanied to the market place and to

houses after sundown to sell the lanterns. The outcome has been far better than the first pilot. One challenge that we face is that parents and the community are not so keen for young women to get involved with Solar Lantern assembly and sale. They are OK with women producing fuel-efficient stoves.

Promoting Clean Energy especially in isolated and difficult to reach communities that do not have electric grid connection is a great need. There is tremendous opportunity to diversify this effort to larger solar lighting systems and solar power for agricultural needs like water pumps and cold storages. Development Focus is in the process of building our knowledge base and seeks partners who can support us in these projects. In the long run, we would like to claim Carbon Credits on behalf of the households and communities that are using renewable energy and saving fossil fuels.

“ Promoting Clean Energy especially in isolated and difficult to reach communities that do not have electric grid connection is a great need. ”

Lives that have been touched:

Ratan Singh is a talented young man from the hills of Chandil block, Jharkhand. He received training to Make-Market-Maintain Solar Lanterns and recently attended a refresher training camp. Ratan now hopes to build his Solar Lantern business.

Having been forced to drop out of college during his first year, due to his mother’s death and father’s prolonged illness, Ratan now has the responsibility to take care of his family. He is the eldest among 4 siblings and has sacrificed his education for that of others. At 18, his life revolves around getting his siblings ready for school, taking his sick father to the hospital for regular check-up, working in the farm, taking up minor repair work in the village to meet daily needs etc. The 3-days Refresher training camp conducted recently at Chandil went on till 9-10 pm every day. This made it difficult for Ratan to stay back after 5 pm as he had to cook the evening meal for his siblings and sick father. Looking at his keen interest in learning the trade, his family was supplied with food from the training centre so that Ratan’s training was not interrupted.

Ratan Singh sees this SL business as an opportunity to educate himself and support his family. Having dreamt of pursuing Diploma in Electrical engineering, he feels this exposure would help him acquire basic knowledge and earn money, which he could save for both his and his sibling’s education along with meeting their family needs.



Ratan Singh

Lives that have been touched:



Shabina

Shabina, a 27 year old, was one of the trainees at the Solar Lantern training module in Hata block of Jharkhand. With her limited means, she is on a mission to empower girls. Her village, Haldipokhar is prone to frequent communal riots. The single road running through the village acts as the dividing line separating two communities that frequently flare up. The two communities strictly follow their religious and cultural practices on either side of the road to maintain supremacy over the other. One of the consequences is that women and girls are suppressed by the strong patriarchal culture. Other than communal riots, her village is well known for the huge weekly market that caters to the needs of approximately 50 villages around. The weekly market is a good place to sell Solar Lanterns.

Shabina passed high school and worked for some time with the Jharkhand Livelihood Mission to train

Self Help Groups in the villages. She has been passionate about helping the women to come out of poverty. She later completed 3 months' training in tailoring and started her own Tailoring Centre. In spite of her background she is controlled and restricted by the patriarchal culture. Though the 3-days Solar Lantern training was a residential module, Shabina was only permitted to attend the training till 5 pm. She was accompanied by a neighbour and was instructed not to interact with any other trainee during the 3 days. This was her state in spite of her financial independence and full support from her family. For the past 5 years Shabina has been trying to break these cultural barriers and has been aiming to provide independent space for every girl in her village. She has faced many challenges from arrogant individuals in her community.

Shabina has completed the Solar Lantern training and is competent to assemble and sell the lanterns. Her goal however, is not to make money through this newly acquired skill. She sees this as an opportunity to empower women and girls in the village. She wants to master the art and make a statement that women can also get involved in technical innovation to light up homes. She wants to set an example to other girls in the village. She believes that a wave of change cannot be brought about by a single woman. She feels that if more girls come out of the dark corners to which they have been pushed and take up skills, especially technical ones, it will not only provide them livelihood but will break the chains of bondage and empower girls.

“ **She wants to set an example to other girls in the village. She believes that a wave of change cannot be brought about by a single woman. She feels that if more girls come out of the dark corners to which they have been pushed and take up skills, especially technical ones, it will not only provide them livelihood but will break the chains of bondage and empower girls.** ”

Computer Based Functional Literacy

“Educate a man, you educate a person, but you educate a woman and you educate a whole civilization – Mahatma Gandhi”



India is home to the largest number of illiterate adults in the world - 287 million persons, amounting to 37% of the global total. Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh are amongst the bottom seven states in terms of literacy. The literacy rate of female Dalits in Bihar is 38.5%, which is far behind India's progress trend. It is still 30 years behind India's national literacy Rate which was 43.7 in 1981. India is ranked 123rd out of 135 countries in female literacy rate.

In January 2016, Development Focus (DF) partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to initiate the Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) Programme in 5 backward districts of Odisha. TCS has developed an innovative Computer Based Functional Literacy application in 9 regional languages. This enables an illiterate person to become functionally literate in 45 days, participating in sessions of 1 to 2 hours each day. The programme aims at strengthening and enhancing the reading, writing and cognitive skills of adults. The specific goal of this initiative is to address critical gaps in these skill areas by enhancing the functional literacy of adults, especially women, thereby leading to self-esteem and confidence to engage in livelihood and economic activities for improved lives. Functional literacy will further impact people's ability to understand their rights, and

claim their entitlements, enabling them to be able to influence Government policies that affect them. DF has taken on the co-implementation role of conceptualizing, designing, building capacities, monitoring and assessing progress along with credible, local organizations for project implementation. The programme will use the CBFL application to enable 150,000 adults become functionally literate in the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha over a 4 year period. The target for 2016-17 is to reach 30,400 learners in Odisha.



A CBFL learner rehearsing what she learnt in class



74% of the learners passed, of which, 5.5% passed with Distinction.



On completion of this course, a learner who started off as an illiterate person can begin to read and write. Many of the learners are now trying to read the Oriya newspaper, at least the headlines. When they go to a shop, they are able to read the product brands and even the Maximum Retail Price. They are able to calculate the change that is due to them when they give money to the shop-keeper. Learners in the 18 to 60 age group are welcome to participate in the course. So far, the majority of learners are in the 20 to 45 age group. Nearly 70% of the learners are women. 40% of the learners are from Scheduled Tribes, around 22% from Scheduled Castes and the rest from Other Backward Classes.

The learners who completed their course take a simple examination. 74% of the learners passed, of which, 5.5% passed with Distinction. The learners are also encouraged to take the NIOS - National Institute of Open Schooling examinations to qualify for the Open Basic Education level. Those who qualify will have a Certificate to state that they have acquired Basic Education. To many of these poor women and men, this has been an exhilarating experience. To sustain the learning initiative, Learner's Clubs have been formed. The learners meet together regularly to read the local newspapers, discuss current issues and revise what they learnt during the course. They have

appointed Facilitators from among themselves, who make sure that the group meets regularly and have meaningful activities. The facilitators and club members help slow learners to catch up on learning. Some clubs have also started a small, regular saving to meet their activity expenses.



Facilitators using stencil blocks to teach

Implementation

The table below gives an overview of the implementation plan for the year and the number of beneficiaries enrolled for the programme as of March 2016.

Beneficiaries Enrolled for the Programme						
Year	State	Partner Organisations	Villages	Learners in year 1	District	Learners in first quarter
2016	Odisha	YCDA	60	7600	Boudh	1900
		PAP	50	7600	Balangir	1899
		AJKA	50	7600	Bargarh	2000
		ADRSA	25	3800	Sambalpur	961
		SIDI	25	3800	Deogarh	1008
	1 State	5 POs	210	30400	5 districts	7768

Five districts, namely; Boudh, Balangir, Deogarh, Sambalpur and Bargarh were chosen based on the high Base of the Pyramid population. Providing functional literacy to the adult illiterates would mean better awareness, decision making ability and confidence among the present illiterates. DF chose 5 partners working in these areas with whom DF has a long standing and credible relationship, namely: YCDA, PAP, AJKA, ADARSA and SIDI.

200 Facilitators have been selected with one facilitator for each village. The role of the facilitator is to train the learners with the aid of the CBFL application. Since this is a basic literacy course, facilitators who have completed their 10th standard and are proficient in reading, writing and basic mathematics were selected. 8 Supervisors monitor the work of the facilitators. Each facilitator is given a laptop to be able to teach the lesson.

The programme was rolled out in March, 2016. A one-day orientation programme was conducted for all partner heads, supervisors and facilitators. This was followed by a 2-day technical training facilitated by Mr. Sagar from TCS on the use of the CBFL Application. This was attended by the supervisors and facilitators. During the Orientation Programme, the team deliberated on the role of the wider community in implementing the programme. Participants agreed that the community should be involved and participate in the whole process to make it effective and sustainable.

Community meetings have been organized in each village to raise awareness on the negative effects of illiteracy at the individual, community and state/national level. The benefits of the CBFL programme have been explained. To increase the Community ownership and involvement, the implementing partners have facilitated the setting up of a CBFL committee made up of community members. The CBFL committee has been involved in the selection of facilitators and learners in their village. They further ensure the effectiveness of the programme by monitoring the facilitators and learners. One of the challenges faced is motivating the adult learners to attend the sessions regularly and balance their seasonal occupation and changing weather conditions with the class timings. The CBFL committee has helped motivate the learners to be regular. It has been very heartening to see the contributions made by the community. Some Panchayats have provided teaching and learning materials in the form of charts. Some communities have come up with songs and role plays to promote the initiative. These are clear indications that the initiative will be sustained.

DF is extremely grateful to Tata Consultancy Services for their support in the roll out of this very needy programme. DF is also thankful to each of its Partners, the Supervisors and Facilitators who tirelessly work towards the successful implementation of the programme.



Mr. Sagar from TCS, conducting a technical training session for the facilitators on the use of the CBFL application

Different lives... common theme: Literacy

Padmabati Sahu lives with her children in Pandesara village of Balangir district. She is 39 years old and belongs to the OBC community. She lost her husband Sankarsan Sahu, who was working as a Munsii (Writer) in the village. Being landless, his salary was the only source of income for the family. After the death of her husband, the job was offered to Padmabati. As she was illiterate, she was not able to manage the records, and would always take the help of her daughter.

When she was informed about the CBFL programme in the village, she realized that it could help her do the job of a Munsii on her own without depending on others. Being enthusiastic about learning and getting educated, she was regular and was able to learn quickly. After completing her CBFL course, she is now able to read and write, and is slowly learning calculations. She is now able to sign in Oriya and English. She is able to manage her Munsii's work all by herself and is proud of doing so. She says, "I feel proud after joining the CBFL programme. I can now manage my

work without any support from my daughter. I would like to thank my Facilitator, Subhashree Sahu and the PAP team."



Padmabati Sahu

Parbati Munda



Parbati Munda aged 35, wife of Kangalu Munda aged 45, is from the Kusuli block, Jamankira, Sambalpur. She got married 15 years back and came to

Kusuli to her husband's house. She had never gone to school and hence couldn't read and write. She heard about the CBFL Program from a reliable source, and the teacher happened to live close by. She met with the teacher and requested for admission.

She used to finish her household work early and also her wage labour work, and then attend the classes. Her husband used to get angry, because she was concentrating more on her reading. One day he got angry and tried to hit her, asking why she was so interested in reading at this old age. As a result she stopped attending classes temporarily. One day her husband asked her what she had learnt from the centre which seemed to engage a lot of her time. She wrote her name and as well as her husband's name, which made him happy. He also took admission in the learning centre, and now both of them attend the classes regularly at the centre and are very involved in the adult learning process. They are very thankful to Pärbati Seth, the instructor, DF, ADARSA and TCS for this noble cause.

Our Partners in the Field

As a policy, Development Focus does not implement directly in the field but co-implements with credible, local partners who have a passion for the communities around them. They have also developed a good rapport with Stakeholders. The advantages of this approach are:

- Hard to reach remote areas can be accessed
- Community participation and ownership is possible in a shorter time frame

- Lobby for claiming rights and entitlements can take place within the project period
- The intervention has a wide impact
- Capacity of Civil Society Organisations are built in the process

We are very grateful to our programme partners who have worked hard to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and their communities. Partners who have co-implemented in the year of report are:

Computer Based Functional Literacy Program – Year 1

Partner	State	District
Youth Council for Development Alternatives (YCDA)	Odisha	Boudh
Association for Development Research in Socio-Economic Activity (ADARSA)	Odisha	Sambalpur
Agranee Jana Kalyan Anusthan (AJKA)	Odisha	Baragarh
Palli Alok Pathagar (PAP)	Odisha	Bolangir
Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute (SIDI)	Odisha	Sambalpur

Clean Development Mechanism – Phase II

Partner	State	District
The Leprosy Mission Trust of India (TLMTI)	Chhattisgarh	Janjgir
Society for Health Opportunity Rehabilitation and Empowerment (SHORE)	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon
Technology Resource Communication and Service Centre (TRCSC)	Jharkhand	Seraikela - K
Pragati Luyadih (PL)	Jharkhand	East Singhbhum
Shikshit Berojgar Mahila Samiti (SBMS)	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum

Child Marriage Programme India

Cluster	Partner	District
Dahar Cluster,	Lohardaga Gram Swarajya Sansthan (LGSS)	Lohardaga
Jharkhand	Society for Participatory Action and Reflection (SPAR)	Ranchi
	Technology Resource Communication and Service Centre (TRCSC)	Seraikela - K
	Vedic Society (VS)	Latehar
	Bihar Pradesh Yuva Parishad (BPYP)	Palamu
	Mahila Samagra Uthaan Samittee (MSUS)	Palamu
	Youth Unity for Voluntary Action (YUVA)	Jamshedpur
	Life Education and Development Support (LEADS)	Ranchi
	Maharshi Menhi Kalyan Kendra (MMKK)	Ranchi
	Society for Participatory Action Research and Knowledge (SPARK)	Ranchi
Western Odisha Child Marriage Prevention Cluster, Odisha	Youth Council for Development Alternatives (YCDA)	Boudh
	Association for Development Research in Socio-Economic Activity (ADARSA)	Sambalpur
	Agranee Jana Kalyan Anusthan (AJKA)	Baragarh
	Palli Alok Pathagar (PAP)	Bolangir
	Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute (SIDI)	Bolangir
	Shiksha Chetna Cluster, Odisha	Voluntary Assoc. for Rural Reconstruction & Appropriate Tech (VARRAT)
Sundargarh Education Society (SES)		Sundargarh
Women Organization for Rural Development (WORD)		Keonjhar
Women Organization for Socio-Cultural Awareness (WOSCA)		Keonjhar
Old Rourkela Education Society (ORES)		Rourkela

“ We are very grateful to our programme partners who have worked hard to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and their communities. ”

...from the Managing Trustee

We at Development Focus firmly believe that Human Development is more than GNP growth, more than producing commodities, and accumulating capital. It is creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accordance with their needs and interests, however poor they may be. People are the real wealth of nations. Development is about expanding choices people have to lead lives that they value. Accordingly, in all our projects we involve the communities' right from the beginning to own the initiative. What surprises us over and over again is that people have God given potential, however poor they may be, and they are eager to make a positive difference. Building on their potential makes the projects relevant and sustainable.

We constantly endeavor to apply this principle. In the prevention of Child Marriage project, the community is sensitized and they are the ones who are now monitoring and preventing child marriages along with their "Yuva Mitras" or Change Agents. In the Clean Development Mechanism project, the community selects the youth to be trained and provides them follow-up support to sell the Solar Lanterns and Fuel Efficient Stoves. In some cases, local Self Help Groups have provided loans to these youth, who were earlier considered good for nothing. In the Computer Based Functional Literacy programme, the community is eager to see that illiterate members can read and write. The community identifies the Learners, the Facilitators and supports the Learners' Clubs. In many cases, the community and local stakeholder have provided money and materials to these clubs to continue learning. With the community involvement, these project initiatives continue after the project period comes to an end.

The theme for the latest UNDP's Human Development Report is "Work for Human Development". It takes a broad view of work, going beyond jobs and taking into account such activities as unpaid care work, voluntary work and creative work—all of which contribute to the richness of human lives. The report identifies sustainable work, which promotes human development while reducing and eliminating negative side effects and consequences. Such work would expand opportunities for the present generation without shrinking those for future ones. Creating opportunities for youth in rural communities is a great need. If not addressed, the disparity within the country will widen further. We would like to play a facilitating role to help rural communities see greater opportunities for their sons and daughters to find work - work that will lead to the development of their communities in a sustainable manner.

I take this opportunity to thank our implementing partners who have tirelessly reached out to remote areas seeking to serve the communities that are in greatest need. We are also very grateful to those who supported these projects. A special mention to Tata Consultancy Services, Edukans Foundation and several individuals including school children who saw the need for them to get involved to Bridge the gap.



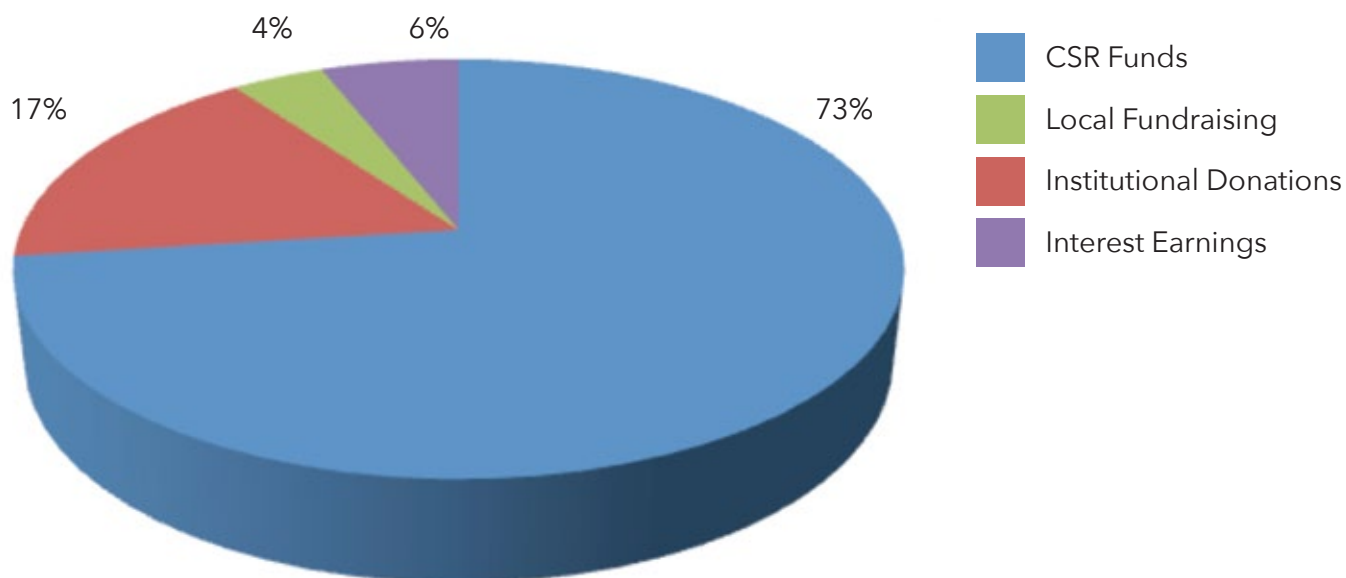
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Thomas Paul
Managing Trustee

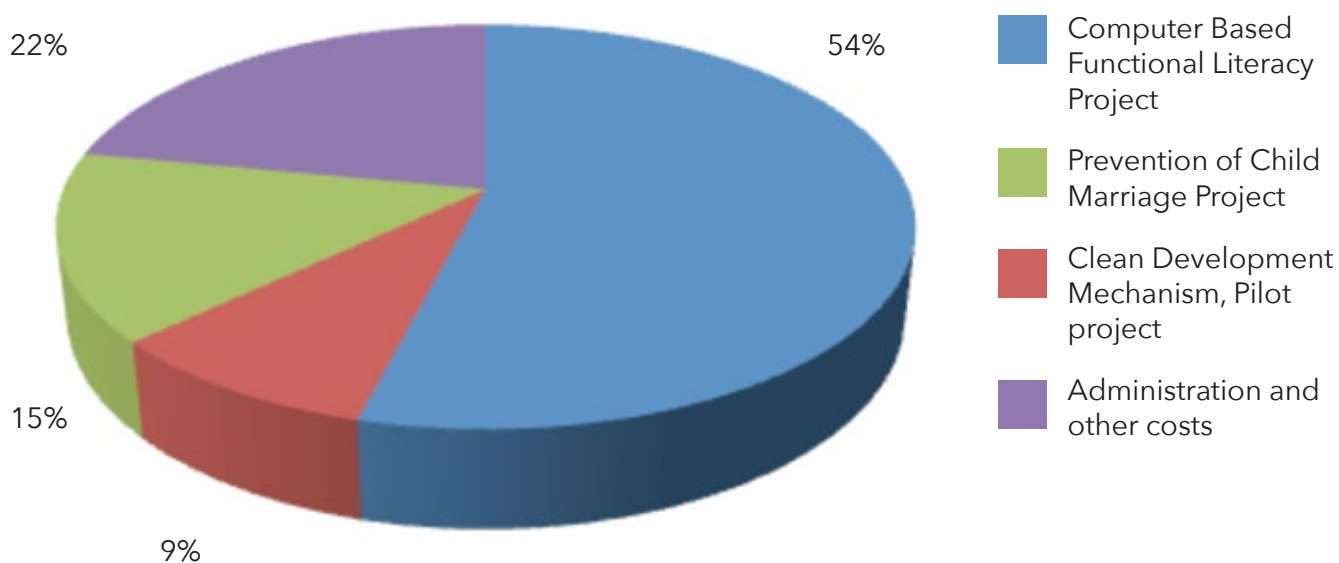
Financial Overview

Transparency and Accountability are key principles followed at Development Focus. We ensure that our accounting and financial practices are as per existing standards prescribed and in line with the priorities set by the DF Board of Governance. We fulfill all statutory requirements - not out of fear of being penalized, but as a core value. Here is an overview of funds received and funds spent. The Audited Financial Report for the year 2015-16 follows this overview.

Inflow



Outflow





INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
OF DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Report on the Financial Statements:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **DEVELOPMENT FOCUS**, No 917, 9th B Main, 3rd Cross, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore – 560043 which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2016 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements:

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Trust in accordance with the Accounting Standards generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility:

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Trust's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also



includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion:

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information required in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- a) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Trust as at March 31, 2016; and
- b) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the excess of expenditure over income for the year ended on that date;

For R. K. KHANNA & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

(Firm Regn. No.105082W)



(S. MANJU GEORGE)

Partner

(Membership No. 027444)

Place: Bangalore

Date: 28th June, 2016.

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016

	Rupees	
<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</u>		
GENERAL FUND		
As per Last Balance Sheet..	12,418,581.97	
Excess of Expenditure over Income transferred from Income & Expenditure Account...	(12,160,606.44)	257,975.53
CORPUS FUND		
Sustainability Fund...		2,905,513.00
ENDOWMENT FUND		129,322.00
DEPRECIATION FUND		
As per Last Balance Sheet...	1,914,625.81	
Additions during the year...	248,885.81	2,163,511.62
LOAN FROM TRUSTEE		390,000.00
		5,846,322.15
<u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS:</u>		
FIXED ASSETS		
Per Schedule "A"		623,586.10
INVESTMENTS		
In Fixed deposits with Bank		
Depreciation Fund...	1,704,648.90	
General Fund...	1,559,673.20	
In units of Mutual fund		
Endowment Fund...	162,289.46	
<i>(NAV as on 31/3/2016 Rs. 1,86,729.67/-)</i>		3,426,611.56
CURRENT ASSETS		
Deposits...	203,000.00	
Loans and Advances...	1,244,891.26	
Cash and bank Balances...	2,547,109.73	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities...	(2,198,876.50)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,796,124.49
		5,846,322.15

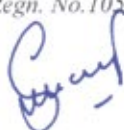
ACCOUNTING POLICY AND NOTES TO ACCOUNTS...SCHEDULE 'B'

Schedules A and B form part of this Balance Sheet...

Per our report of even date attached...

For R.K.KHANNA & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants
(Firm Regn. No.105082W)



(S. MANJU GEORGE)

Partner
(Membership No.027444)



For DEVELOPMENT FOCUS



(THOMAS PAUL)
Managing Trustee



(DR. D. GLADYS SUMITHRA)
Trustee

Place : Bangalore
Date : 9th June, 2016

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

	Rupees	
INCOME:		
Donations ...	9,617,002.88	
Interest on fixed deposits...	630,686.06	
Interest from Savings bank account...	138,595.00	
Income from fund raising activity...	362,143.00	
Other Income...	32,177.84	10,780,604.78
		10,780,604.78
EXPENDITURE :		
Projects and Programs		
Strengthening Civil Society...	19,481.00	
Clean Development Mechanism Projects...	1,171,778.00	
Child Marriage Programme India...	893,364.00	
Development Skills for Cleaning Markets...	188,427.00	
Computer Based Functional Literacy Programme Expenses...	6,482,444.00	8,755,494.00
Administration Cost...		3,432,825.00
Motional Expenses...		166,625.00
Unspent Donation of Earlier year Refunded...		10,219,576.10
Depreciation...		117,805.31
		22,692,325.41
Excess of Expenditure over Income ...		(11,911,720.63)
Appropriation to Depreciation Fund...		248,885.81
Balance transferred to General Fund...		(12,160,606.44)

ACCOUNTING POLICY AND NOTES TO ACCOUNTS...SCHEDULE 'B'

Schedule B forms part of this Income and Expenditure Account...
Per our report of even date attached...

For R.K.KHANNA & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants
(Firm Regn. No.105082W)



(S. MANJU GEORGE)
Partner
(Membership No.027444)



For DEVELOPMENT FOCUS



(THOMAS PAUL)
Managing Trustee



(DR. D. GLADYS SUMITHRA)
Trustee

Place: Bangalore

Date: 28th June 2016

Board of Trustees

Dr. Gladys Sumithra (Treasurer and Founder Trustee) holds a PhD in economics from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. She was the Senior Director of the Planning Department, Government of Karnataka where she served for 25 years. On retirement she was reappointed as Senior Scientist in the office of the Additional Chief Secretary for Public Works and Housing.

Dr Gladys is actively involved in civil society development and continues to be on the Governing Board of several Churches, Schools and Non-Profit Organizations in Bangalore.



Dr. P Sethu (Founder Trustee) is the Director of Indienhilfe, India - a charitable organization that empowers children belonging to economically and socially weaker sections in different states of India. Analysing and finding solutions for empowerment of communities especially among the children, youth and women has been his passion for the last 3 decades.

Besides serving on the Board of several organizations and institutions, he renders consultation on administration, finance and project launching. Dr. Sethu has organised national and regional events, seminars and conferences, and has also led international and national delegations in India and abroad.



Dr. Hannah Anandaraj (Trustee) holds a doctorate in Social Sciences and has expertise in Social Work with a focus on Medical and Psychiatry. Dr. Anandaraj worked as a Reader (Associate Professor) in Osmania University. She has many publications to her credit. She also serves as a guide to research students.

Dr. Hannah Anandaraj has served on boards of several organizations and committees. She was the Chairperson of the board of World Vision India for 4 years and was on the World Vision International Board for 3 years.



Mr. Thomas Paul (Managing Trustee) holds a Masters degree in Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai. After working for a private firm in Gujarat for 10 years, he moved on to the social development sector and was the Superintendent/Director of the Methodist Technical Institute at Vadodara, Gujarat. He later took over as the General Secretary of Skills for Progress, an all-India association of over 200 private vocational training institutions across India.

For the last 16 years, he has been supporting various international organizations as a freelance consultant. His main forte has been community development and livelihood training for marginalized children and youth. His passion has been to help people realize and unleash the God given potential within them.



Meet The Team

Development Focus has been working as a small yet effective team. The DF team has a strong sense of compassion towards those in need, with a genuine desire to make a difference. Professionalism and experience adds value in project planning, management and implementation.

Emmanuel Arokiaraj has been with DF for over 9 years and is in tune with all that happens concerning DF. Beginning his career as the Office Assistant, Emmanuel has successfully transitioned to the Programme Team as an Assistant Project Officer. He partnered with Sathvik for a field and partner analysis in Raichur district of North Karnataka in his new role.

Deepa Kumari holds an M.SW with specialization in Community Development from Christ University, Bangalore. She has wide experience in the area of rehabilitation while working with International Justice Mission. Her 5 years with DF has enabled her to garner extensive experience in reaching out effectively to the grassroots level through our partners. She is currently responsible for the planning and implementation of the TCS - CBFL programme. The programme is doing well under her coordination.

Vijay Samuel, an engineer by profession, is the Fundraising and Communications Officer. Passionate about social causes and activism, he is actively involved in the Power of 1 campaign in Schools and Colleges of Bangalore, to raise awareness among students about the plight of their rural counterparts.

Solomon Srinivasan is a MBA in Finance. He has over 13 years' experience in the Development sector as Administrative Coordinator and Finance coordinator with various organizations. His last assignment was with World Vision India. He is the Finance and Administrative Officer at DF and works closely with the Programme team in developing programme and organizational budgets and budgetary controls.

Sathvik Gadvi, works with DF as a Programme Officer. Having worked in the corporate world for 3 years, Sathvik realized his calling was in the Social Sector and chose to do his M.A. in Development Policy from TISS. TISS helped him understand the rural development sector. With his academic knowledge and compassionate heart, Sathvik is keen on working for the development of vulnerable children and youth. He is involved, hands-on, in the CDM project.

Satish Kumar, the youngest member of our team is the Office Assistant at DF. His role encompasses assisting DF staff in the maintenance of office systems, support to the finance and programme departments, and logistics management. As an important support staff servicing the departments of the organization, he helps to ensure that office work goes on smoothly.



Come, be part of us.....

We at Development Focus believe that every human being, to include women and children have the right to a decent life; education, health, livelihood, joy of childhood and freedom to choose, especially on matters like marriage etc. In all our programmes we sensitize children, youth and adult community members on their rights and entitlements.

You can be a part of this initiative.

- **You can volunteer your services on a short-term or long-term basis**
- **You can contribute to enable us reach out to more needy people**

Development Focus is registered under the Indian Trusts Act-1882, vide No: BNG (U)-JNR IV/667/2005-2006; under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act of 1976 –vide reg. 094421359 and exempted from paying Income Tax under Section 12A of the IT Act. Your contributions are eligible for IT deduction under section 80G.

Please provide your PAN number for this.

You may make your contributions through:

- **Direct Bank Transfer to: Development Focus, a/c no: 909010037997565, IFSC: UTIB0000734**
- **Online payment on our website: www.devfocus.in**
- **By cheque, drawn in favour of “Development Focus” and mailed to our address**

You will certainly be enriched when you lift a fellow citizen!!

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake

- Rabindranath Tagore

Contact Us:

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