



white lotus
CHARITABLE TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

Dear Donors, Friends and White Lotus Charitable Trust community,

When a girl is educated, she becomes independent, confident, and an advocate of girls and women everywhere. She has a voice and control over her body and mind and so can transcend the bonds of suffocating traditions that exist around her. When she is empowered, she can reach her full potential and will always lift up others up helping her community to thrive for generations to come.

This year has again been quite incredible in terms of the sheer numbers of most in need persons served by White Lotus programs across four states of India. Each and every one of the many testimonials we hear from the mostly girls and women in our program speaks of renewed hope and is powerful and individually and community wise transformative. We don't see program recipients as victims, rather, a core belief running through all our programs sees ourselves in partnership with young and capable women to which we are providing guidance and opportunity that enables and engages their already existing agency and capability.

Over the course of the year White Lotus programs continued to draw a sharp focus on providing swathes of highly vulnerable young women information and skills leading to higher education, entry level employment and a clearer understanding of their most suitable career paths and very importantly, many were prepared for and immediately entered the job market!

Many of the 1040 young tribal women of Jharkhand whom we provided basic and employment targeted advanced computer training this year, would not otherwise have access to a computer at all! Given the absolute necessity of computer literacy in the modern day and the persistence of a digital divide, access to computers and digital platforms is ensuring the students in our care have a good grasp of the basics while those more capable learn advanced skills that lead to and significantly increase their chances of employment.



Our deep and more than a decade long commitment to higher education for girls continues to ensure increasing numbers of young women enter and graduate high school and with a decent percentage of them going on to college further education. This year almost all the year 10 to 12 students travelling on the Blossom Bus passed and graduated while our UCLA extension program qualified career counselors provided mentorship, further education and career path guidance to more than 500 students.

Distance from schools and lack of reliable, safe and affordable transport remains a core issue for us and in 2023-2024 we provided daily bus services and bikes to 553 female scholars, many of which live further than 10kms (6 miles) from schools and colleges.

There's plenty more to share whether it's the deep individual and community impacts of our annual girl's football tournaments, how we ensure a thousand primary school children keep up with their studies to prepare them for high-school or the transformative potential of our youth education hubs at Delhi and Jharkhand!

We're sure you'll enjoy reading all this and more about White Lotus Trust project outcomes in this report all of which we could not achieve without the generous support of our friends, supporters and the White Lotus donor community.

Best regards,

Team White Lotus Trust.

WHITE LOTUS TRUST PROGRAM FUNDA'S

White Lotus Trust and our partners offer a range of Education, Training and Health (CARE) strategies arranged in verticals to serve the particular needs of women and children living in poverty. For instance, a bike or a bus will ensure children living remotely attend classes while school-based nutrition frees up parents to engage in livelihood activities. After school programs ensure children get academic support to keep on top of their studies. A basic high school education may not be enough to ensure a young graduate get a good job. If we give her a university degree, career counseling, a computer and employment targeted training diplomas, her chances of reaching her full potential multiply considerably in terms of supporting herself and her family over the course of a lifetime.

**Education Training and Care =
Multidimensional strategies for sustainable
empowerment**



**LOTUS
PEDALS**



**COMPUTER
TRAINING**



**SCHOOL
NUTRITION**



**BLOSSOM
BUS**



**CAREER
COUNSELLING**



**COMMUNITY
WATER
RESOURCES**

EDUCATION + TRAINING + CARE BUILD EMPOWERMENT



ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Access to education through provision of transport whether on a bus or a bicycle is a huge change agent in the lives of girls that would simply not have any option other than to become homemakers after finishing school at primary or elementary level.

BLOSSOM BUS



★ 403

Over the course of the year 303 young women attending high schools at Haryana and 100 primary school children at Garden of Peace school in Tamil Nadu were provided daily transport by bus to school from some 22 remote villages at Haryana and Tamil Nadu. A trained mentor rides our buses at Haryana to take attendance and provide advice, support and encouragement to ensure young women in these gender backward areas continue their education. Some 40 riders, 1st generation college goers ride on our Blossom to College service!





LOTUS PEDALS



★ 300

Village girls at Jharkhand are incredibly capable and determined and are riding bicycles from 5 and up to 20 kms either way across hilly terrain on a daily basis to attain their dream of higher education and a better life than their poor parents have known. In 2023 we provided 300 bicycles with pump kits to rural and tribal girls living in remote villages of Jharkhand enabling them to attend our various training courses and remain in school or college.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



★1040

Over the course of the year 1040 female youth from some 30 remote villages of Jharkhand were provided basic and employment targeted advanced computer training at our education centres in two districts of Jharkhand. Most of the youth in this area, even those attending college haven't previously had access to a computer so this is a life changing opportunity opening new and exciting career paths they never would have otherwise thought possible!!

CAREER COUNSELING AND CAREER PATH DEVELOPMENT



★560

560 youth were provided access to life changing professional career counselling resources informing further education, targeted employment and career path development options! Both our councillors at Delhi and Jharkhand education hubs are graduates of the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) global counselling certificate course and deeply devoted to the development of our students and there are many success stories.

KAPADIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



★109

100 University scholarships for an entire Bachelor Degree and including Masters, were provided to selected scholars at Delhi, Haryana, Bihar and Jharkhand in the 2023 academic year. Many of our university scholars are also benefitting from cross cutting impacts of multiple programs. A KEF scholar may also be salaried as a teacher in our afterschool programs, attend career counselling and computer studies at our education hubs in Delhi and Jharkhand.





AFTER SCHOOL CENTRES



★ 1003

Over the course of 2023-24 academic year 1103 children attended afterschool classes 6 days a week at 31 centres; 16 Buddha Smiles centres at Tamil Nadu and 15 EQU+ centres at Delhi. The overarching goal of the program is to provide tuition to poor children whose families cannot afford private tuition in an after-school education format that ensures a safe and uplifting environment. Students attending our centres are provided remedial education in a safe environment that aims to prepare them for a confident transition into lower secondary schooling as well as encouraging a love of learning by adding 'Learn-through-play' approaches such as drawing & painting, handicraft, dance and story-telling.



Reflecting on White Lotus as a Community builder

There is nothing more satisfying than while developing critical education resources for young people, we end up supporting a community that is so much more than the sum of its parts. Many White Lotus Trust education initiatives have been running for more than 10 and up to 20 years serving children and youth through the entire life cycle of their education.

Our Lotus Hubs in Delhi and Jharkhand have served more than a thousand youth (mostly girls) from slum and extremely low-income families and remote tribal villages providing them not only with various education resources and employment to boot.

Our education Hubs are warm, secure and safe places where our youth will always feel at home, make life-long friends and have people they can depend on for good advice and encouragement, where someone will always be there to answer their questions and open doors and windows leading to better lives. There is nothing more uplifting than feeling the hum and thrum of young people working and interacting in a reading library, computer room and counselling session ALL in the same place at the same time!!



EDUCATION HUB AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



★ 1000

In 2003 with the kind support of Douglas A Campbell Foundation we were able to establish a community education hub in the village of Bahoranpur in the District of Hazaribagh, to serve the more than 1000 tribal girls attending programs in our target area. The building has two very spacious classrooms with a massive covered verandah serving as an outdoor classroom and all-weather space for community gatherings.



ACCESS TO (CARE) WATER, HEALTH, NUTRITION & SPORTS

Lack of health services and knowledge of basic hygiene leads to many social ills and impacts on education and livelihood outcomes. Our CARE programs include Village based community water programs for drinking and irrigation for better livelihood outcomes, provision of nutrition for school children, soccer coaching, cleaned boots, full uniform kits and an annual three day tournament of sudden-death playoff matches.

SCHOOL BASED MEALS PROGRAM



★ 145,800

201 students, children of small holder farmers, stone masons and daily wager labor, plus teachers and volunteers at Garden of Peace School received morning porridge, full lunch of rice, dahl, vegetables and afternoon snack six days a week for 9 months of school year – 145,800 nutritious meals delivered in all!!

GIRLS FOOTBALL



★ 180

In 2023 we supported 180 girl footballers constituting 15 teams of 12 players drawn from 43 youth groups across two districts of Jharkhand at Hazaribagh and Gumla.

These days young women in the tribal areas at Jharkhand have a burning desire to play football. Not only to play, but to be recognised as footballers in their own right. Over the past two years we have transformed gender equations and changed the face of women's football here by providing equipment and supporting three-day sudden death play-off, football tournaments with professional umpires and line officials and where village girls can develop and show off their skills in front of their entire community, all the while proudly kitted out in full uniform and boots!

A BIG THANKYOU TO OUR PRECIOUS DONORS



NISSAN RENAULT FINANCIAL SERVICES INDIA

**THANK YOU FOR BEING
PART OF WHITE LOTUS
TRUST COMMUNITY**



white lotus
CHARITABLE TRUST



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