

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE

England & Wales · Charity number 1158920

Details

Other names RISE

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-10-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Rise
C/O Finsbury Park Trust
225-229 Seven Sisters Road
London
N4 2DA

Phone 07929832193

Email info@rise-online.co.uk

Website <http://rise-online.co.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:(A) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF PEOPLE AGED 18 YEARS AND UNDER IN RURAL INDIA, IN SUCH WAYS AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES THINK FIT, INCLUDING BY PROVIDING PROGRAMMES THAT INCREASE SCHOOL RETENTION AND CONTRIBUTE TO EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN ORDER TO RAISE THE BENEFICIARIES' ASPIRATIONS; AND(B) TO PROMOTE CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UK IN PARTICULAR BY:(I) PROVIDING PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOLS IN THE UK AND RURAL INDIA THAT ENABLE STUDENTS IN THE UK TO REFLECT ON THE VALUE OF EDUCATION FOR PEOPLE IN RURAL INDIA, AND FOR STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS IN THE UK AND RURAL INDIA TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER; AND(II) PROVIDING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS IN THE UK THAT ENABLE STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO ACT AS ENTREPRENEURIAL INDIVIDUALS AND AGENTS OF POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE.

Activities: RISE works to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged young people in the UK and rural India. Our innovative model, comprising the ROAR Challenge and Yearn to Learn education projects, enables students in both countries to connect - a life changing experience that is broadening their horizons and inspiring them

to aim higher. Survival Week is a fundraiser enabling anyone to support our mission.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- India
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£585	£9,869	-	-
2024-03-31	£470	£4,538	-	-
2023-03-31	£832	£13,883	-	-
2022-03-31	£3,945	£5,393	-	-
2021-03-31	£7,360	£3,336	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SANJU PAL		2012-03-14
Soma Hazra		2024-07-14
Suparna Dasgupta Ghose		2024-07-20

Accounts

Trustee Report

FY 2024 – 25

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organization, compliant with the Charities Act 2011.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

At 31 March 2025, the charity had 3 trustees. No trustees received any remuneration. The charity is grateful to all Trustees for the time they give to help move RISE forward.

This year in the UK there were no full-time staff. In India, team members Soma Hazra, Curriculum Officer Debu Sen, Operations Manager and Mahuya Garai, Curriculum Developer, continued in their roles on a full-time basis for the duration of the year. In addition, Tapati Dey came on board full-time in the Curriculum team. We are delighted that two RISE alumni came on board in roles in the core curriculum team and operations team. RISE's staff in India includes 5 part-time curriculum developers and 10 part-time teachers.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees are given, in the view of the Board, sufficient training, which, although of an informal nature provides adequate knowledge of their specific field to understand the nature of the charity and fully comply with its objectives and aims.

Organisational structure

RISE (referred to as 'the charity' in the remainder of this report) is registered with the Charity Commission as of 21st October 2014. Our Memorandum and Articles of Association provides for a minimum of two trustees. The Board of Trustees is required to monitor the affairs and the general business of the charity and meets as required.



@RISEprojects

Registered Charity No. 1158920

www.rise-online.co.uk

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees are aware of the risks faced by the charity and endeavour to deal with those risks appropriately. The continued pressures post pandemic mean that operations in the UK continued to be paused.

Volunteers

RISE has always engaged a large cohort of volunteers to help with the delivery of ROAR Challenge workshops in UK schools and to engage with Yearn to Learn students in India. This year we engaged volunteers to support with various monthly events at the RISE school. We are grateful to all volunteers.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

RISE was set up to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged young people in the UK and rural India with our innovative model enabling students in both countries to connect and communicate - a life changing experience to broaden their horizons and inspire them to aim higher.

In the **UK**, RISE have devised a programme that empowers secondary school students by exposing them to the experience of setting up their own social enterprise and meeting the children they are helping in India over videocalls. **The ROAR (Reach Out And Rise) Challenge**, does this by developing key skills for employability and actively builds students' understanding of the social sector and business world. The ROAR Challenge has been commended by Headteachers for the positive impact it has uniquely building keys skills – by connecting young people in the UK and rural India through a tangible student partnership.

In **West Bengal, India**, where 46% of 10-year-olds are at least 3 years behind their expected reading level, RISE runs a literacy intervention programme, **Yearn to Learn**, free of cost to first generation learners most at risk of dropping out of school. In addition to attending Yearn to Learn, our students in rural India have had the opportunity to meet and learn about students in the UK, who participate in our ROAR Challenge programme, over video-conference.

RISE is currently focussing on our work in India where we run Yearn to Learn. The purpose of our Yearn to Learn programme is:

1. To improve literacy rates and increase school retention
2. To empower students to develop skills and have higher aspirations
3. To pave the way forward for young people to have a better quality of life in rural India

Using the literacy parameter framework that we have devised, we are able to assess and identify a child's literacy level through an initial baseline assessment and therefore pursue the appropriate intervention for them. The literacy curriculum has been written against our own criteria for innovation, ensuring activity-based learning that engages a child.

Our programme delivery model that we use to measure our impact normally includes:

1. Fun and engaging literacy sessions with innovative activities increase student enjoyment and interest in learning
2. Ratio of 10 students to 1 teacher gives children the support they need to develop away from class sizes of over 100 at school
3. Sessions delivered by dynamic undergraduate students who undergo specific training;
4. Session Coaches are responsible for monitoring the development of teachers;
5. Parents are engaged through home visits and regular progress updates;
6. Student trips to the State capital Kolkata, that children from rural communities have never been to, are organised to raise their aspirations

We work with children in rural communities who struggle to keep up in school because they are illiterate and are therefore likely to drop out. We believe that by understanding the impact of the changes that we are enabling, inspires our beneficiaries and stakeholders; we therefore invest our time this:

1. Beneficiaries take regular tests against the literacy framework levels, the marks are shared with them so they understand the progress they have made and which areas require focus for improvement
2. We conduct quantitative surveys and qualitative discussions with our beneficiaries so that they can share their feedback in relation to the progress they are making on all aspects of the Yearn to Learn programme
3. Our Teacher training centres around the impact they are making on their students' literacy and we openly discuss what is working well and what challenges need to be overcome to make greater impact in the classroom
4. We make regular visits to parents to update them on their child's progress and we seek to hold more parents' evenings
5. We share end of year impact reports with donors
6. We share information on our impact via email communications to supporters

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

New curriculum and assessment

This year has been a hugely exciting one for the RISE School, focussing on the renewal of our curriculum across Class 5-10. The curriculum team spent a significant amount of time researching and evaluating our Yearn to Learn curriculum to make improvements that will enable greater progress in our students, utilising our 10 years of experience in Bengali literacy.

900 lesson plans were written integrate storytelling, local experiences, and hands-on learning to make education joyful and meaningful for first-generation learners with worksheets and assessments. The new curriculum launched in January 2025 alongside enhanced monitoring and assessment of both literacy and non-literacy impact.

To ensure learning progress, RISE developed a Literacy Level Framework that categorizes student performance into progressive stages—from basic letter recognition to fluent reading and independent writing. This framework is used to track literacy growth and design targeted interventions.

We implemented a Non-Literacy Skill Assessment tool to measure core competencies such as:

- Joy of Learning
- Self-Confidence
- Teamwork
- Problem-Solving
- Creativity

Conducted in January and April 2025, this self-assessment has provided valuable insights into students' social-emotional and cognitive development. The results have guided teacher mentoring and curriculum adjustments, ensuring a holistic growth journey for every child.

Teacher Training and Development

RISE prioritised continuous professional growth through monthly teacher training sessions focused on classroom strategies, student engagement, and inclusive education. Quarterly goal-setting meetings helped align individual teacher development with broader school objectives. Regular classroom observations provided constructive feedback and supported reflective teaching practices. To recognise excellence, the “Teacher Star of the Month” initiative was launched, celebrating outstanding efforts and motivating teachers to strive for quality and innovation in teaching.

Alumni Engagement

RISE continued to strengthen its alumni network by engaging past students through mentoring sessions, career guidance, and participation in school events. Alumni shared their experiences with current students, inspiring them to dream bigger and stay committed to their goals. This growing connection is fostering a supportive community that extends beyond the classroom.

Launch of “Reach for the Stars” Project

RISE launched the *Reach for the Stars* project to nurture students' aspirations through personalized mentoring, career exploration, and skill development. The initiative focuses on helping first-generation learners identify their strengths, set long-term goals, and build pathways toward meaningful livelihoods.

Mental Health Partnership

RISE partnered with two local psychological counsellors to support the emotional well-being of students and teachers. Regular sessions focused on stress management, emotional resilience, and building a safe, empathetic school environment. This initiative has strengthened the school's commitment to holistic education and mental wellness.

Mentoring Partnership

RISE established a mentoring partnership with Claylab to provide students with guidance from professionals and senior peers. Through regular interactions, students received support in academic planning, skill-building, and career awareness. This initiative is helping bridge aspiration with action, especially for first-generation learners.

Parent Meetings

Regular parent meetings were held to strengthen school-home collaboration. These sessions focused on student progress, attendance, and overall well-being, while also addressing challenges faced by families. Active participation from parents has deepened trust and improved student support both at school and home.

Monthly Events

RISE organised monthly events celebrating creativity, and cultural expression. Activities included exhibitions, performances, awareness days, and student-led showcases, fostering confidence and community engagement. These events enriched the school environment and encouraged holistic development beyond academics.

Improved Attendance & Monthly Attendance Prize

Student attendance showed steady improvement, supported by consistent follow-ups and increased parent engagement. To encourage regular attendance, RISE introduced a Monthly Attendance Prize, recognizing punctual and committed students. This initiative has boosted motivation and strengthened classroom continuity.

Local Supporters' Visits

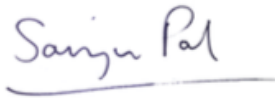
RISE welcomed several local supporters, including educators, community leaders, and well-wishers, to the school. Their visits offered encouragement to students and teachers, deepened community ties, and opened doors for future collaborations in support of holistic education.

This multi-layered impact reflects RISE's commitment to nurturing not just educated, but empowered young individuals. The journey continues—with deeper support, broader reach, and unwavering focus on dignity through education.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025-26 RISE will focus on revising our Bengali literacy curriculum across Classes 5-10, which will help us in our mission to make the greatest impact in providing the most underserved children in rural West Bengal with the tools to learn.

Approved by order of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



RISE Founder and Trustee

31st January 2026

Section A Receipts and payments

A1 Receipts

Monthly donations

One-time donations

Individual donations

Miscellaneous

Sub total(Gross income for AR)

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

Sub total

Total receipts

A3 Payments

Staff Salary

Office rent

Office miscellaneous

Insurance

Bank/JustGiving charge

Staff Travel

Website hosting

Governance

Yearn to Learn

Sub total

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

Sub total

Total payments

Net of receipts/(payments)

A5 Transfers between funds

A6 Cash funds last year end

Cash funds this year end

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories

B1 Cash funds

B2 Other monetary assets

B3 Investment assets

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

B5 Liabilities

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

RISE

Receipts and payments accounts
For the period from

01/04/24

Unrestricted funds
to the nearest £

Restricted funds
to the nearest £

	318	-
	267	-
-		-
-		-
-		-
-		-
-		-
-		-
	585	-
-		-
-		-
-		-
	585	-
-		-
	2481	-
	532	-
	389	-
	79	-
	929	-
	946	-
-		-
	4500	-
	9856	-
-		-
-		-
-		-
	9856	-
	-9271	-
-		-
	29129	-
	19858	-

Details

Cash at bank

Debtors

Total cash funds

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Details

Details

Details

Details

Signature

1158920

CC16a

To

31/03/2025

Endowment funds
to the nearest £Total funds
to the nearest £Last year
to the nearest £

-	318	370
-	267	100
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	585	470
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	585	470
-	-	-
-	2481	3115
-	532	97
-	389	366
-	79	60
-	929	900
-	946	-
-	-	-
-	4500	-
-	9856	4538
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	9856	4538
-	-9271	-4068
-	-	-
-	29129	29129
-	19858	25061

Unrestricted funds to nearest £		Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	15776	-	-
	1063	-	-
-		-	-
	16839	-	-
Agreement Error		OK	OK
Unrestricted funds to nearest £		Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
-		-	-
-		-	-
-		-	-
-		-	-
-		-	-
-		-	-
Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
Fund to which liability relates		Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
Print Name			Date of approval
Sanju Pal			31/01/2026

Accounts

Trustee Report

FY 2023 – 24

1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024



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Volunteers

RISE has always engaged a large cohort of volunteers to help with the delivery of ROAR Challenge workshops in UK schools and to engage with Yearn to Learn students in India. This year we engaged volunteers to support with events at the RISE school including the donation of books and International Womens' Day. Our thanks to the Prayatna Foundation.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

RISE was set up to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged young people in the UK and rural India with our innovative model enabling students in both countries to connect and communicate - a life changing experience to broaden their horizons and inspire them to aim higher.

In the **UK**, RISE have devised a programme that empowers secondary school students by exposing them to the experience of setting up their own social enterprise and meeting the children they are helping in India over videocalls. **The ROAR (Reach Out And Rise) Challenge**, does this by developing key skills for employability and actively builds students' understanding of the social sector and business world. The ROAR Challenge has been commended by Headteachers for the positive impact it has uniquely building keys skills – by connecting young people in the UK and rural India through a tangible student partnership.

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5. We share end of year impact reports with donors
6. We share information on our impact via email communications to supporters

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

This year started off with a significant change for the charity as we moved offices after 10 years – this strategic move was in order to have the office next to our school in Krishnagar so as to better monitor and evaluate our impact.

After attending the Teach for All Social Entrepreneurs conference for leaders of organisations from around the world, RISE's Founder Sanju Pal travelled to West Bengal to share insights that led to the development of a new strategy and goals, as outlined below.

Provide high quality education

- a. High quality curriculum (including innovation)
- b. High quality teachers
- c. High quality training
- d. High quality school

Inspire ambition in our students

- a. Positive learning environment
- b. Vocational career options
- c. Interesting Educational trips
- d. Impactful Mentoring programme

Receive sustainable funding

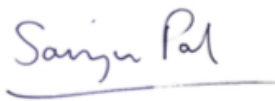
- a. Engaged donors in Krishnagar
- b. Steady pipeline of funding
- c. Strategic CSR partnerships
- d. Collaboration with Government

At the centre of our new strategy is work to revise our Yearn to Learn curriculum, utilising our 10 years of experience in Bengali literacy.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2024-25 RISE will focus on revising our Bengali literacy curriculum across Classes 5-10, which will help us in our mission to make the greatest impact in providing the most under-served children in rural West Bengal with the tools to learn.

Approved by order of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



RISE Founder and Trustee

31st January 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

RISE

1158920

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

4/1/2023

To

3/31/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest	£	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Monthly donations		370	-	-	370	241
One-time donations		100	-	-	100	141
Individual donations		-	-	-	-	450
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)		470	-	-	470	832
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts		470	-	-	470	832
A3 Payments						
Staff Salary		-	-	-	-	-
Office rent including arrears		3,115	-	-	3,115	7,638
Office miscellaneous		97	-	-	97	111
Insurance		366	-	-	366	343
Bank/JustGiving charge		60	-	-	60	82
Staff Travel		900	-	-	900	877
Website hosting		-	-	-	-	352
Governance		-	-	-	-	480
Yearn to Learn		-	-	-	-	4,000
Sub total		4,538	-	-	4,538	13,883
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		4,538	-	-	4,538	13,883
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	4,068	-	-	- 4,068	- 13,051
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		29,129	-	-	29,129	-
Cash funds this year end		25,061	-	-	25,061	- 13,051

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	25,061	-	-
	Debtors	1,063	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	26,124	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Sanju Pal	Sanju Pal	1/31/2024	

Accounts

Trustee Report

FY 2022 – 23

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023



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Volunteers

RISE has always engaged a large cohort of volunteers to help with the delivery of ROAR Challenge workshops in UK schools and to engage with Yearn to Learn students in India. This year we engaged volunteers to support with events at the RISE school to support students through the donations of books and certificate distribution on the announcement of exam results. Our particular thanks to the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Downtown.

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RISE was set up to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged young people in the UK and rural India with our innovative model enabling students in both countries to connect and communicate - a life changing experience to broaden their horizons and inspire them to aim higher.

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In **West Bengal, India**, where 46% of 10-year-olds are at least 3 years behind their expected reading level, RISE runs a literacy intervention programme, **Yearn to Learn**, free of cost to first generation learners most at risk of dropping out of school. In addition to attending Yearn to Learn, our students in rural India have had the opportunity to meet and learn about students in the UK, who participate in our ROAR Challenge programme, over video-conference.

RISE is currently focussing on our work in India where we run Yearn to Learn. The purpose of our Yearn to Learn programme is:

1. To improve literacy rates and increase school retention
2. To empower students to develop skills and have higher aspirations

Using the literacy parameter framework that we have devised, we are able to assess and identify a child's literacy level through an initial baseline assessment and therefore pursue the appropriate intervention for them. The literacy curriculum has been written against our own criteria for innovation, ensuring activity-based learning that engages a child.

Our programme delivery model that we use to measure our impact normally includes:

1. Fun and engaging literacy sessions with innovative activities increase student enjoyment and interest in learning
2. Ratio of 10 students to 1 teacher gives children the support they need to develop away from class sizes of over 100 at school
3. Sessions delivered by dynamic undergraduate students who undergo specific training;
4. Session Coaches are responsible for monitoring the development of teachers;
5. Parents are engaged through home visits and regular progress updates;
6. Student trips to the State capital Kolkata, that children from rural communities have never been to, are organised to raise their aspirations

We work with children in rural communities who struggle to keep up in school because they are illiterate and are therefore likely to drop out. We believe that by understanding the impact of the changes that we are enabling, inspires our beneficiaries and stakeholders; we therefore invest our time this:

1. Beneficiaries take regular tests against the literacy framework levels, the marks are shared with them so they understand the progress they have made and which areas require focus for improvement
2. We conduct quantitative surveys and qualitative discussions with our beneficiaries so that they can share their feedback in relation to the progress they are making on all aspects of the Yearn to Learn programme
3. Our Teacher training centres around the impact they are making on their students' literacy and we openly discuss what is working well and what challenges need to be overcome to make greater impact in the classroom
4. We make regular visits to parents to update them on their child's progress and we seek to hold more parents' evenings
5. We share end of year impact reports with donors
6. We share information on our impact via email communications to supporters

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

This year started off in earnest with the RISE school having opened for face to face learning on 14 March 2022, two years after we had been forced to close our doors due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

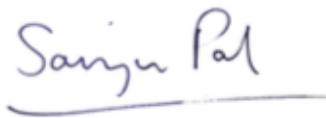
The highlights of the year were:

1. Welcoming back students for in person classes at the RISE school, which led to 91% of our first-generation learner students in rural India passing their Higher Secondary exams (equivalent to A-Levels) and 67% passing their Madhyamik exams (equivalent to GCSEs).
2. Holding multiple events for students at the RISE school to build their confidence and self esteem:
 - a. India's Independence Day
 - b. Diwali
 - c. Christmas
 - d. New Year
 - e. Saraswati Puja
 - f. International Women's Day
3. Story sharing during #SmallCharityWeek that led to a more open dialogue between staff and students

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2023-24 RISE will focus on increasing capacity at the RISE school, which will help us in our mission to make the greatest impact in providing the most under-served children in rural West Bengal with the tools to learn.

Approved by order of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



RISE Founder and Trustee

24th January 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

RISE

1158920

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

4/1/2022

To

3/31/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Monthly donations	241	-	-	241	1,384
One-time donations	141	-	-	141	839
Individual donations	450	-	-	450	1,500
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	222
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	832	-	-	832	3,945
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	832	-	-	832	3,945
A3 Payments					
Staff Salary	-	-	-	-	720
Office rent including arrears	7,638	-	-	7,638	3,763
Office miscellaneous	111	-	-	111	-
Insurance	343	-	-	343	325
Bank/JustGiving charge	82	-	-	82	75
Staff Travel	877	-	-	877	-
Website hosting	352	-	-	352	160
Governance	480	-	-	480	-
Yearn to Learn	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Sub total	13,883	-	-	13,883	5,043
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,883	-	-	13,883	5,043
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 13,051	-	-	- 13,051	- 1,098
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	42,180	-	-	42,180	-
Cash funds this year end	29,129	-	-	29,129	- 1,098

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	29,129	-	-
	Debtors	1,063	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	30,192	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Sanju Pal	Sanju Pal	1/24/2024	

Accounts

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1158920

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For The Year Ending 31st March 2022

Verdant Accountants Ltd
167 Clarence Avenue
New Malden
Surrey KT3 3TX

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

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RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees

Jeremy Glover
Chris Magennis
Sanju Pal

Charity registration number

1158920

Registered Office

225–229 Seven Sisters Road
London
N4 2DA

Accountants

Verdant Accountants Ltd
167 Clarence Avenue
New Malden
Surrey
KT3 3TX

Bankers

HSBC PLC
50–52 Kilburn High Road
Kilburn
London
NW6 4HJ

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

APPENDIX 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

See Appendix 1

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>Notes</u>			
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2	3,945	3,945	7,360
Total incoming resources		3,945	3,945	7,360
 RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable expenses	3	5,043	5,043	3,186
Governance expenses	4	180	180	150
Total resources expended		5,223	5,223	3,336
 NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)				
Net income / (expenditure)		(1,278)	(1,278)	4,024
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward		44,342	44,342	40,318
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		43,064	43,064	44,342

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	5	1,063	1,063
Cash at bank		42,181	43,629
		43,244	44,692
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within 1 year:			
Accruals	6	(180)	(350)
Net current assets (liabilities)		43,064	44,342
TOTAL NET ASSETS		43,064	44,342
RESERVES AND FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		43,064	44,342
		43,064	44,342

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees
On 16 January 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:

Ms Sanju Pal
Trustee

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015); Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be Quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure has been recognised in the accounts on an accrual basis including post balance date liabilities.

All expenditure that includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis as seen by the Trustees.

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued...)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
Monthly donations	1,384	588
One-time donations	839	3,364
Individual donations	1,500	3,408
Fundraising	0	0
Corporate donations	0	0
Misc	222	0
Total Incoming Resources	3,945	7,360

	2022	2021
	£	£
3 CHARITABLE EXPENSES		
Staff salary	720	0
Payroll liability costs	0	0
Office rent & interest	3,763	2,257
Recruitment	0	0
Staff training	0	0
Office miscellaneous	0	120
Marketing/social media & Telephone	0	0
Insurance	325	333
Staff travel	0	0
JustGiving charge	36	216
Website hosting	160	260
Bank charges	39	0
Total Resources Expended	5,043	3,186

	2022	2021
	£	£
4 OTHER COSTS		
Accountancy & Independent Examination	180	150
Total Other Costs	180	150

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued...)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
5 GRANT DEBTORS		
Eastbury Comprehensive	450	450
Platanos College	613	613
Total Grant Debtors	1,063	1,063
	2022	2021
	£	£
6 CREDITORS & ACCRUALS		
Accountancy & Independent Examination	180	350
Total Creditors & Accruals	180	350

Trustee Report

FY 2021 – 22

1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022

Appendix 1



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organization, compliant with the Charities Act 2011.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

At 31 March 2022, the charity had 3 trustees. No trustees received any remuneration. The charity is grateful to all Trustees for the time they give to help move RISE forward.

This year in the UK there were no full-time staff. In India, team members Soma Hazra, Curriculum Officer, and Debu Sen, Operations Manager and Mahuya Garai, Curriculum Developer, continued in their roles on a full-time basis for the duration of the year.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees are given, in the view of the Board, sufficient training, which, although of an informal nature provides adequate knowledge of their specific field to understand the nature of the charity and fully comply with its objectives and aims.

Organisational structure

RISE (referred to as 'the charity' in the remainder of this report) is registered with the Charity Commission as of 21st October 2014. Our Memorandum and Articles of Association provides for a minimum of two trustees. The Board of Trustees is required to monitor the affairs and the general business of the charity and meets as required.



@RISEprojects

Registered Charity No. 1158920

www.rise-online.co.uk

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees are aware of the risks faced by the charity and endeavour to deal with those risks appropriately. A major risk in this fiscal year continued to be the Covid-19 pandemic, with the RISE school premises closed for the majority of the year as per Government guidelines and the team in mandated lockdown. Whilst we were considering the recommencement of the ROAR Challenge programme, the continued pressures of the pandemic meant operations in the UK continued to be paused.

RISE unfortunately faced a serious issue with HSBC closing our bank account in error in August 2021 – this was a huge risk as we were unable to receive donations or make payments and we were informed that it could take 4 weeks to reinstate the account. The Trustees notified the Charities Commission and escalated this serious issue immediately to the CEO of HSBC, Noelle Quinn, and RISE's bank account was reinstated within 5 days.

Volunteers

RISE has always engaged a large cohort of volunteers to help with the delivery of ROAR Challenge workshops in UK schools and to engage with Yearn to Learn students in India. This year we engaged volunteers to support with fundraising events to support students through the pandemic including with food camps, donations of books and online learning devices. We were grateful for the more regular volunteer support from Urvi Khaitan who helped extensively with our communications and Mourad Ameziane who worked on our digital strategy.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

RISE was set up to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged young people in the UK and rural India with our innovative model enabling students in both countries to connect and communicate - a life changing experience to broaden their horizons and inspire them to aim higher.

In the **UK**, RISE have devised a programme that empowers secondary school students by exposing them to the experience of setting up their own social enterprise and meeting the children they are helping in India over videocalls. **The ROAR (Reach Out And Rise) Challenge**, does this by developing key skills for employability and actively builds students' understanding of the social sector and business world. The ROAR Challenge has been

commended by Headteachers for the positive impact it has uniquely building keys skills – by connecting young people in the UK and rural India through a tangible student partnership.

In **West Bengal, India**, where 46% of 10-year-olds are at least 3 years behind their expected reading level, RISE runs a literacy intervention programme, **Yearn to Learn**, free of cost to first generation learners most at risk of dropping out of school. In addition to attending Yearn to Learn, our students in rural India have had the opportunity to meet and learn about students in the UK, who participate in our ROAR Challenge programme, over video-conference.

RISE is currently focussing on our work in India where we run Yearn to Learn. The purpose of our Yearn to Learn programme is:

1. To improve literacy rates and increase school retention
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Using the literacy parameter framework that we have devised, we are able to assess and identify a child's literacy level through an initial baseline assessment and therefore pursue the appropriate intervention for them. The literacy curriculum has been written against our own criteria for innovation, ensuring activity-based learning that engages a child.

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5. We share end of year impact reports with donors
6. We share information on our impact via email communications to supporters

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

This year continued to be a challenging one for small charities, significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. In April 2021 India faced a devastating 2nd wave of Covid-19 and the country was in a state of crisis dealing with an unprecedented number of deaths from the virus. The RISE team did everything we could to continue to support the wellbeing and education of our students during this difficult time.

The Covid-19 crisis raised a lot of questions for RISE, both about the communities we serve, and about our internal survival and role as an organisation. We faced funding cuts and had staff in rural Krishnagar who were not able to access the technology to work from home during lockdown which presented challenges. However the Board of Trustees along with the team worked hard to make sure we adequately adapted our operating model so that we could impact our 350 students in rural West Bengal in their time of need, which includes:

- Regular phone contact to ascertain student wellbeing
- Disseminating information on provisions of benefits by the Government
- Running food camps for students and their families
- Continuing online learning for students who have smart phones
- Creating and delivering bi-weekly workshop for students who cannot access online classes
- Donating books to students with the support of Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Down Town
- Donating practice test papers while the school remained closed with the help of a generous donation from Dicky Harman

In 2021, despite the challenges Covid-19 presented to our teaching and learning capability, 95% of our first-generation learner students in rural India passed their Higher Secondary exams (equivalent to A-Levels) and 58% passed their Madhyamik exams (equivalent to

GCSEs). We were also delighted that 66% of students received high marks between 60-85%.

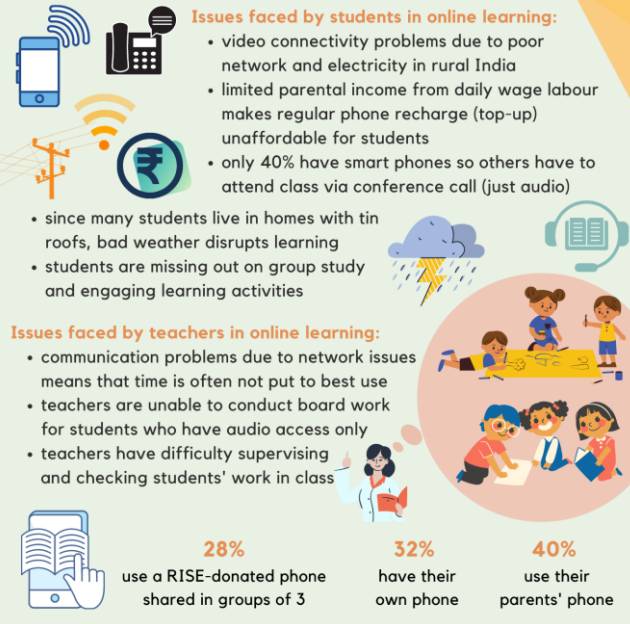
Despite the difficulties that the pandemic presented, RISE was able to make significant impact in 2021, as depicted by the infographic.



During and in the months after the 2nd wave we needed to be sensitive to the suffering and lives lost. We halted seeking donations for several months. However our target remained to re-open the RISE school and in November 2021 we began a fundraising campaign in earnest. We are grateful to everyone who supported the campaign and enabled us to re-open the RISE school for face to face learning on 14 March 2022, two years after we had been forced to close its doors due to Covid-19, with classes commencing with projector aided learning, thanks to the donation by Debashish Tarafdar.

HELP US REOPEN THE RISE SCHOOL!

Our students have struggled to get an education over the last 1.5 years while schools have been closed in West Bengal. We provide online learning but there are significant challenges in rural areas. We must re-open the RISE school to improve our students' learning.



FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2022-23 RISE will focus on increasing capacity for face to face learning at the RISE school given that we have been able to open the school after 2 years. We will commence implementing our digital strategy which will help us in our mission to make the greatest impact in providing the most under-served children in rural West Bengal with the tools to learn.

Approved by order of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

RISE Founder and Trustee

31st January 2023

Accounts

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1158920

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For The Year Ending 31st March 2021

Verdant Accountants Ltd
167 Clarence Avenue
New Malden
Surrey KT3 3TX

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

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RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees	Jeremy Glover Chris Magennis Sanju Pal Charles Stubbs (Resigned April 2020)
Charity registration number	1158920
Registered Office	225–229 Seven Sisters Road London N4 2DA
Accountants	Verdant Accountants Ltd 167 Clarence Avenue New Malden Surrey KT3 3TX
Bankers	HSBC PLC 50–52 Kilburn High Road Kilburn London NW6 4HJ

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

See Appendix 1

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>Notes</u>			
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2	7,360	7,360	3,199
Total incoming resources		<u>7,360</u>	<u>7,360</u>	<u>3,199</u>
 RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable expenses	3	3,186	3,186	5,816
Governance expenses	4	150	150	200
Total resources expended		<u>3,336</u>	<u>3,336</u>	<u>6,016</u>
 NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)				
Net income / (expenditure)		4,024	4,024	(2,817)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward		<u>40,318</u>	<u>40,318</u>	<u>43,135</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>44,342</u></u>	<u><u>44,342</u></u>	<u><u>40,318</u></u>

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

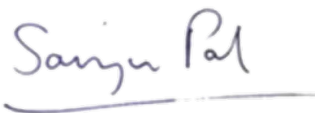
BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	5	1,063	1,063
Cash at bank		43,629	39,455
		<u>44,692</u>	<u>40,518</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within 1 year:			
Accruals	6	(350)	(200)
		<u>44,342</u>	<u>40,318</u>
Net current assets (liabilities)			
		<u>44,342</u>	<u>40,318</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>44,342</u>	<u>40,318</u>
RESERVES AND FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		44,342	40,318
		<u>44,342</u>	<u>40,318</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees
On 23 January 2022 and signed on their behalf, by:

Ms Sanju Pal



Trustee

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015); Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be Quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure has been recognised in the accounts on an accrual basis including post balance date liabilities.

All expenditure that includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis as seen by the Trustees.

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued...)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
Monthly donations	588	459
One-time donations	3,364	2,740
Individual donations	3,408	0
Fundraising	0	0
Corporate donations	0	0
Survival Week donations	0	0
Total Incoming Resources	7,360	3,199

	2021 £	2020 £
3 CHARITABLE EXPENSES		
Staff salary	0	0
Payroll liability costs	0	0
Office rent & interest	2,257	4,515
Recruitment	0	0
Staff training	0	0
Office miscellaneous	120	59
Marketing/social media & Telephone	0	110
Insurance	333	333
Staff travel	0	332
JustGiving charge	216	216
Website hosting	260	244
Marketing – Survival Week	0	0
ROAR marketing	0	0
ROAR event	0	0
Yearn to Learn	0	7
Staff food/entertainment	0	0
Total Resources Expended	3,186	5,816

	2021 £	2020 £
4 OTHER COSTS		
Accountancy & Independent Examination	150	200
Total Other Costs	150	200

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued...)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
5 GRANT DEBTORS		
Eastbury Comprehensive	450	450
Platanos College	613	613
Total Grant Debtors	1,063	1,063

	2021	2020
	£	£
6 CREDITORS & ACCRUALS		
Accountancy & Independent Examination	<u>350</u>	<u>200</u>
Total Creditors & Accruals	350	200

RURAL INDIA SCHOOL ENTERPRISE (RISE)

APPENDIX 1

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

Trustee Report

FY 2020 – 21

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organization, compliant with the Charities Act 2011.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

At 31 March 2021, the charity had 3 trustees, with Charles Stubbs stepping down as Trustee in April 2020. No trustees received any remuneration. The charity is grateful to all Trustees for the time they give to help move RISE forward.

This year in the UK there were no full-time staff. In India, team members Soma Hazra, Curriculum Officer, and Debu Sen, Operations Manager and Mahuya Garai, Curriculum Developer, continued in their roles on a full-time basis for the duration of the year.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees are given, in the view of the Board, sufficient training, which, although of an informal nature provides adequate knowledge of their specific field to understand the nature of the charity and fully comply with its objectives and aims.

Organisational structure

RISE (referred to as 'the charity' in the remainder of this report) is registered with the Charity Commission as of 21st October 2014. Our Memorandum and Articles of Association provides for a minimum of two trustees. The Board of Trustees is required to monitor the affairs and the general business of the charity and meets as required.



@RISEprojects

Registered Charity No. 1158920

www.rise-online.co.uk

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees are aware of the risks faced by the charity and endeavour to deal with those risks appropriately. The major risk in this fiscal year continued to be the Covid-19 pandemic, with the RISE school premises closed for the duration of the year as per Government guidelines and the team in mandated lockdown. Whilst we were considering the recommencement of the ROAR Challenge programme, the continued pressures of the pandemic meant operations in the UK continued to be paused.

Volunteers

RISE has always engaged a large cohort of volunteers to help with the delivery of ROAR Challenge workshops in schools and to engage with Yearn to Learn students in India. This year we engaged volunteers to support with fundraising events to support students through the pandemic including with food camps, donations of books and online learning devices.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

RISE was set up to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged young people in the UK and rural India. Our innovative model enables students in both countries to connect and communicate - a life changing experience to broaden their horizons and inspire them to aim higher.

In the **UK**, RISE have devised a programme that empowers secondary school students by exposing them to the experience of setting up their own social enterprise and meeting the children they are helping in India over videoconference. **The ROAR (Reach Out And Rise) Challenge**, does this by developing key skills for employability and actively builds students' understanding of the social sector and business world. The ROAR Challenge has been commended by Headteachers for the positive impact it has uniquely building key skills – by connecting young people in the UK and rural India through a tangible student partnership.

In **West Bengal, India**, where 46% of 10-year-olds are at least 3 years behind their expected reading level, RISE runs a literacy intervention programme, **Yearn to Learn**, free of cost to first generation learners most at risk of dropping out of school. In addition to attending Yearn to Learn, our students in rural India have had the opportunity to meet and learn about students in the UK, who participate in our ROAR Challenge programme, over video-conference.

RISE is currently focussing on our work in India where we run Yearn to Learn. The purpose of our Yearn to Learn programme is:

1. To improve literacy rates and increase school retention
2. To empower students to develop skills and have higher aspirations

Using the literacy parameter framework that we have devised, we are able to assess and identify a child's literacy level through an initial baseline assessment and therefore pursue the appropriate intervention for them. The literacy curriculum has been written against our own criteria for innovation, ensuring activity-based learning that engages a child.

Our programme delivery model that we use to measure our impact normally includes:

1. Fun and engaging literacy sessions with innovative activities increase student enjoyment and interest in learning
2. Ratio of 10 students to 1 teacher gives children the support they need to develop away from class sizes of over 100 at school
3. Sessions delivered by dynamic undergraduate students who undergo specific training;
4. Session Coaches are responsible for monitoring the development of teachers;
5. Parents are engaged through home visits and regular progress updates;
6. Student trips to the State capital Kolkata, that children from rural communities have never been to, are organised to raise their aspirations

We work with children in rural communities who struggle to keep up in school because they are illiterate and are therefore likely to drop out. We believe that by understanding the impact of the changes that we are enabling, inspires our beneficiaries and stakeholders; we therefore invest our time this:

1. Beneficiaries take regular tests against the literacy framework levels, the marks are shared with them so they understand the progress they have made and which areas require focus for improvement
2. We conduct quantitative surveys and qualitative discussions with our beneficiaries so that they can share their feedback in relation to the progress they are making on all aspects of the Yearn to Learn programme
3. Our Teacher training centres around the impact they are making on their students' literacy and we openly discuss what is working well and what challenges need to be overcome to make greater impact in the classroom
4. We make regular visits to parents to update them on their child's progress and we seek to hold more parents' evenings
5. We share end of year impact reports with donors
6. We share information on our impact via email communications to supporters

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

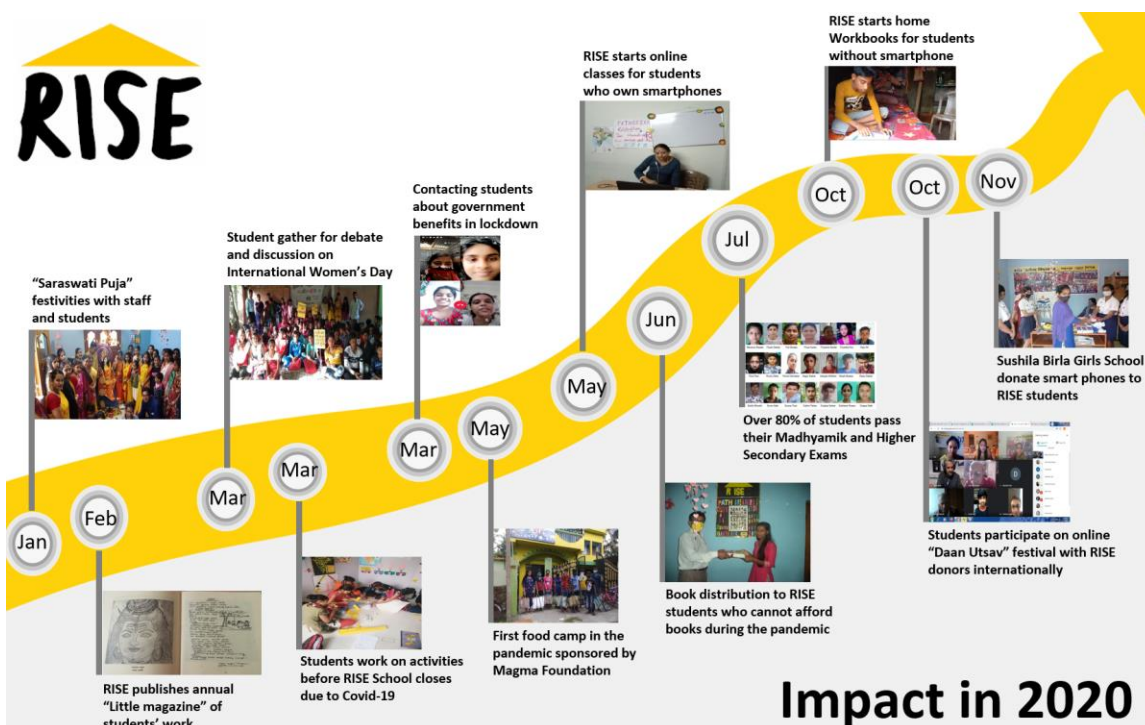
This year has been a challenging one for all small charities, significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 crisis raised a lot of questions for RISE, both about the communities we serve, and about our internal survival and role as an organisation. We faced funding cuts and had staff in rural Krishnagar who were not able to access the technology to work from home during lockdown which presented challenges. However the Board of Trustees along with the team worked hard to make sure we adequately adapted our operating model so that we could impact our 350 students in rural West Bengal in their time of need, which includes:

- Regular phone contact during the first lockdown to ascertain student wellbeing
- Disseminating information on provisions of benefits by the Government
- Running food camps for students and their families while parents were unable to work with the support of Magma Foundation, Prayatna Foundation and Rural Health Care Foundation
- Commencing online learning for students who have smart phones
- Creating and delivering bi-weekly workshop for students who could not access online classes
- Donating smart phones with the help of Sushila Birla Girls School in Kolkata
- Donating books to students

In 2020, despite the challenges Covid-19 presented to our teaching and learning capability, 88% of our first-generation learner students in rural India passed their Madhyamik exams (equivalent to GCSEs) and 83% of our 1st ever batch of students passed their Higher Secondary exams (equivalent to A-Levels). This is the first time any of our students have sat this level of exam and the highest educational qualification that a member of their family has achieved, therefore a huge milestone in their life.

We were able to participate in the nationwide 2.6 Challenge fundraising event held over April and May 2020 which raised significant engagement of our work to our supporters at the start of the pandemic. We are grateful to everyone who got involved by conducting a 2.6 Challenge and making a donation to RISE.

We were also thrilled to be connected with volunteer Tajona Karhu through Editors for Impact who supported us by building out a series of videos for our fundraising campaign. All our videos can be viewed at on www.youtube.com/RISEProjects.



FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2021-22 RISE will continue to run operations as best we can whilst the pandemic continues. We hope to raise enough funds to reopen the RISE school in lines with Government regulations. We will continue to strive to make the greatest impact in providing the most under-served children in rural West Bengal with the tools to learn.

Approved by order of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Sanjay Pal

RISE Founder and Trustee

31st January 2022