

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)

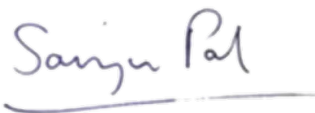
BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	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)
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

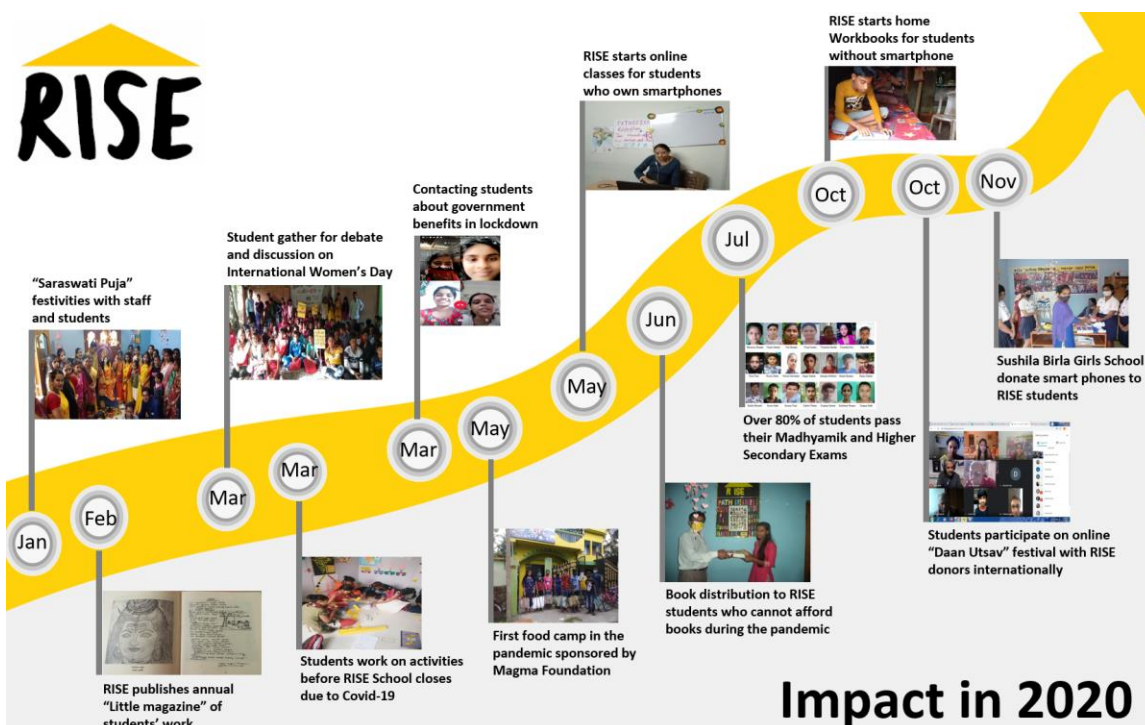
This year has been a challenging one for all small charities, significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 crisis raised a lot of questions for RISE, both about the communities we serve, and about our internal survival and role as an organisation. We faced funding cuts and had staff 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