




NaariSamatā

Annual Report 2021-22



NaariSamatā is an international, independent and neutral charity committed to promoting, defending and realising the rights of women, children and vulnerable, marginalised communities on issues related to gender, caste and sexuality.

NaariSamatā has now officially been running for more than a year. We were told that this was the most challenging part of the journey. It has been eventful. Setting up the bank account was a nightmare until we found the right match. We have had a lot of successes and a few hiccups that are hopefully history.

This year was about stability and working on a few projects we felt were closest to our mission, the projects we knew we could deliver.

We have revised our schedules, held back on some projects and pushed ahead with other initiatives in their place. I believe this is the advantage small charities have over larger ones; there is fluidity, a flexibility that allows us to quickly adapt to change. As a volunteer-led organisation, we do not have to worry about the costs of changing our priorities based on the need and the resources available. So, while our projects may look very different from what we had planned to achieve last year, the impact on the community we serve is as significant.

The work we do has been my dream for many years. And now we have a growing team of incredible volunteers who are as talented as they are passionate about the cause.

We have been fortunate to have been supported by Anasuya Dubey & Ravi Bhaskaran, Visa, Stanley Group and PPL, who have been significant contributors to our charity. Tesseract has given us the means of getting our Life Skills e-learning courses into schools. We are also thankful to our regular donors whose contribution is vital for a small charity like ours.

We are privileged to work with our charity partners in India and Africa, with whom we share the same passion and dedication to making a difference.

We began many new projects with great promise at the close of last year, and now we are looking forward to making a success of them this coming year.

Anita Sunder Rajan

Founder and Chair



Who We Are



Our mission is safety for women, children, and vulnerable communities on issues related to gender, caste, and sexuality.



Our vision is a safe world for all – a world where all are empowered and equality is the norm, not a privilege.

Charity Registration Number: 1194814

Registered Address: 85 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 7LT

Anita Sunder Rajan

Chairperson

Asha Rajagopal

Treasurer

Umair Khan

Secretary

Beena Dandawate

Trustee

Silvia Rangoni

Trustee





Our objectives

The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit, by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender or age.

Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity including, but not limited to, the creation of e-learning tools and resources.

Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

To relieve the needs of men, women, and children who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, violence and abuse by, but not limited to, the provision of advice, support, services, and items directed at improving their conditions of life.

To support and advance the livelihoods of vulnerable adults, children, and young people in underprivileged communities through the provision of education and recreational activities, in the interest of social welfare.

To provide support and activities that help vulnerable adults, children and young people develop the skills, capacities, and capabilities necessary for them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.



Our impact

We believe that the work we do in supporting underserved individuals cannot truly be quantified. Our work is ongoing and we recognise that we are but a small part of the lives of the people we have supported. However, as a small volunteer-run charity, we think it is important to highlight what we have achieved in the two years since we began our journey.





Our work

Project Siragu

New school toilets and a compound wall were built for the primary school in Chinnabettiganapalli, Tamil Nadu – our first sponsored village. We also committed to build a new classroom.

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Project Shiksha

Started the pilot rollout of our flagship e-learning course on gender in our partner school, BMV Public School, in New Delhi.

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Project Silaan

Helped fund the building of a safehouse for up to 50 girls and young women who are survivors of Female Genital Mutilation in Kajiado County, Kenya.

Page 20

Project Paalan

Matched donors with 6 young girls to sponsor their educational attainment.

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Project Muskaan

Over 600kg of clothes collected from the Indian diaspora in London and donated to vulnerable communities in Laxmipur, Bihar and Bangalore.

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Project Siragu

Sponsor a Village - supporting children's education by developing the environment around them.

Given that the environment a child grows up in affects their personal and educational development, we believe that holistically improving a child's environment will lead to greater empowerment and better life outcomes. This environment consists of their family, their school, their village, the food they grow and eat, etc. In order to support the holistic wellbeing of children in underserved communities, we launched Project Siragu, or our Sponsor a Village project, in which we provide holistic developmental support to small, underprivileged villages in rural areas of India.

This year, we worked with the community of Chinnabettiganapalli in Tamil Nadu, India. Chinnabettiganapalli is inhabited by around 60 families,

most of whom are well below the poverty line. In addition to poverty, many other social problems prevail such as domestic abuse, alcoholism, and illiteracy. We worked with the local community to identify their most pressing issues and address each of them as a sub-project to ensure the children of the village have the right environment for educational attainment.

While there are 178 children between the ages of 5-10 living in the village, only 65 attend the local primary school because it does not have a functioning toilet. This means that male children relieve themselves out in the open, and female children have nowhere to do so. When they reach the age of menstruation, most female students drop out of the school as

continuing to go to school becomes an uncomfortable and unhygienic experience. Fixing the toilets not only ensures that the current 27 female students do not drop out of school, but encourages the other over 100 children and their families in the village to attend their local primary school.

We started work in Chinnabettiganapalli by building 4 toilets in the primary school and ensuring that there is sustainable water supply to cater to the school's sanitation needs.

After successfully rebuilding the toilets, the Chinnabettiganapalli community anticipated more students joining the primary school and decided that their next priority was having another

teacher teach in the school. We are continuing to fund the salary of the new primary school teacher. We have also built a compound wall around the school grounds and committed to build a new classroom as per the community's request.

We hope that the improvement of the school's infrastructure and the provision of quality education will ensure that all of the 178 young children in Chinnabettiganapalli are encouraged to attend their local primary school. We would like to thank Women's Welfare Initiatives (WWI), our delivery partner on the ground, who liaised with the local community and oversaw the building of the school's infrastructure projects.

The local community decided that making improvements to the primary school was their first priority.



A puja (religious ceremony held before starting a new undertaking) was held by the school students and teachers.



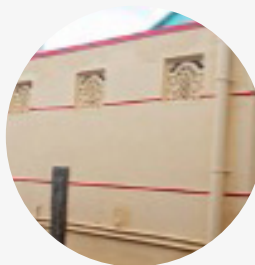
The foundation of the toilets were built and the bricks were laid for the structure of the building.



The internal fixtures of the toilets were installed.



The toilets were painted, completed, and ready for use!



Information about the importance of personal hygiene and the maintenance of the new school toilets was disseminated to the school's students and teachers to ensure the long-term maintenance of the toilets.



Project Paalan

Sponsor a Girl - Funding the education of young girls who dream big but are held back by their circumstances.

Education is at the heart of our mission to empower women and girls.

In most marginalised communities in India, gender inequalities and cultural norms have continued to disproportionately impact girls' access to education. According to the UN, the probability of girls receiving primary education is about 42% lower than that for boys – a disparity that deepens when children enter secondary education.

There are many reasons why girls' education may be neglected, such as poverty, forced marriage, and gender-based violence. Therefore, impoverished families often favour investing in boys' education.

However, supporting girls' education has enormous and far-reaching benefits for them, their families, and the wider community. It provides them with skills and knowledge that can open up employment opportunities,

and, as a result, can lead to higher lifetime earnings and an improved standard of living. Keeping girls in education also reduces harmful practices such as child marriage and underage pregnancies. Ultimately, it offers girls a chance to fight against discrimination, abuse, and oppression.

Through Project Paalan, we connect schoolgirls, whose families are unable to meet the costs of their education, with a sponsor. Their donations go towards paying for school fees and stationery equipment, and help young girls realise their potential and achieve their dreams. This year we have facilitated the sponsoring of 6 young girls' education. We have pledged to facilitate the sponsorship of 20 young girls and are planning to continue working towards that target in the coming year.

Read on to learn more about Andrea, one of the girls we have helped sponsor this year.

Andrea's story



Andrea was born in 2010 and lives in Bangalore with her single mother, Priya. Andrea was just two years old when her father left. Since then, Priya has been their sole provider, working long days as a maid in two houses. With most of her earnings going towards daily necessities – like rent, water, food, and electricity – she has struggled to afford the cost of Andrea's schooling. Faced with the prospect of her daughter missing out on her education, Priya contacted NaariSamatā for help.

With the support of our sponsor, Andrea has been able to not only continue her studies but excel. She is currently in 6th standard and has achieved top marks across all her subjects.

'Thank you so much for finding the stationary required for my daughter's education,' Priya told her sponsor. 'You have helped my daughter fit in at school and achieve her dream.'

Andrea aspires to one day become a teacher herself.

'Thank you for helping in my education. I'm so glad, and I'll not forget you in my life.'

Andrea

Project Shiksha

E-learning Course - Tackling gender discrimination through education.

At NaariSamatā, we recognise that educating younger generations about gender is vital in challenging persistent gender norms and the harmful inequities that arise from them.

Gender discrimination refers to the unequal or disadvantageous treatment of individuals based on gender, which is a construct of norms and behaviours ascribed by society, distinct from biological sex. It is a significant issue in India, particularly for women, where patriarchal structures dominate. Often stereotyped as physically weaker than men and not suited to physical tasks, women are frequently confined to low-paid employment in agriculture or expected to give up employment entirely after marriage to perform household work. Discrimination affects other areas of life, such as access to healthcare, food, and education, and can lead to gender-based violence.

Views around gender are taught – not innate. Challenging discrimination means challenging stereotypes. By educating younger generations on how gender expectations can hinder development for both boys and girls, and prevent them from realising their full potential, we can transform their behaviours and attitudes.

In order to improve awareness around gender issues, we created an interactive e-learning course, as part of our Shiksha Project, which teaches children about gender equality. It is aimed at schoolchildren aged 12-16 years old.

The course begins by unpacking what gender equality is, and how it might affect relationships and careers. Students are encouraged to write about their own initial understanding of gender equality and discrimination.

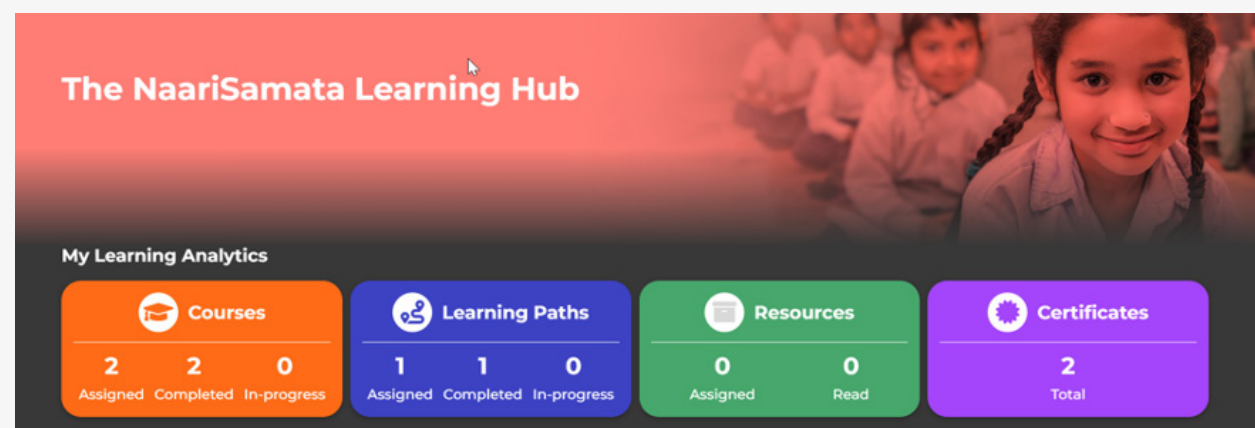
The lessons also cover how gender can intersect with colourism, casteism, sex, and social standing. Other important subjects that are often unaddressed in schools – including mental health, puberty, social media, LGBTQ+, substance misuse, and bullying – are also covered on the learning hub.

These topics are made accessible for younger audiences through easy-to-follow stories, interactive graphics, and engaging activities. The hub offers additional reading material and resources that can be used at home and in schools. A certificate of completion is awarded at the end of each training module in appreciation of participation.

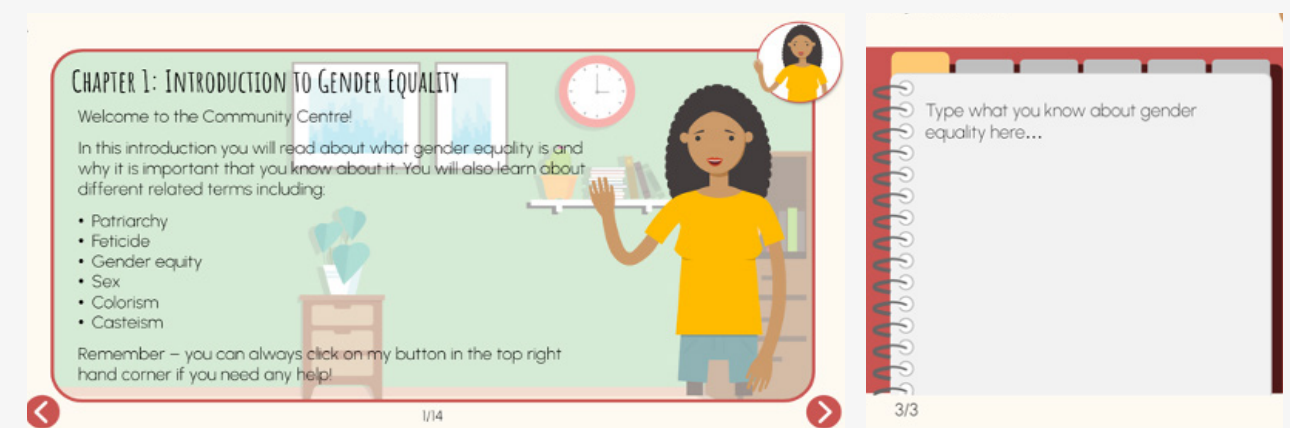
This year we began testing the e-learning course by rolling out a pilot at our partner school, BMV Public School, in New Delhi. The course had

been first assigned as a project over the holiday period for students, which resulted in low uptake and completion of the course. A second assignment of the course is due to take place during term time.

In addition to our ongoing efforts, we are currently developing other courses on important topics that are often overlooked in Indian schools. These include puberty education, anti-bullying strategies, and anger management techniques. By addressing these subjects, we aim to equip young people with valuable skills and knowledge that will support their personal growth and well-being.



Screenshots from the E-Learning course



Project Muskaan

Clothing Drive for Vulnerable Communities - Inspiring confidence in vulnerable children and adults by donating near-new occasion wear.

At NaariSamatā, we believe that clothing is more than a necessity – it has the ability to change how we feel about ourselves, and can inspire self-confidence. This year, through Project Muskaan, we donated near-new occasion wear to vulnerable groups and communities across different parts of India.

Clothing was collected from the Indian diaspora in and around the London area and shipped to India. The clothing was distributed amongst the community of Laxmipur village, in Jamui district, Bihar, to a home for orphaned girls in Bangalore, and to slum dweller and transgender communities in Bangalore.

In total, over 600 kilograms of clothing, amounting to over 1000 items, was distributed. We would like to thank the Indian community in the London area for their generous donations.



Project Silan

Women's Shelter for Female Genital Mutilation Survivors - Providing a safe space for young girls who are survivors of Female Genital Mutilation.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice has no health benefits for girls and women, and can instead cause severe bleeding, problems with urinating, cysts, infections, as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of new born deaths. More than 200 million girls and women alive today have been cut in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, where the practice of FGM is concentrated. FGM is a horrific practice and an absolute violation of the human rights of girls and women.

This year, through Project Silan, we supported the construction of a transitional shelter to provide protection against or recovery for girls rescued from FGM in the Eremi community of Kajiado County, Kenya. It is important to note that FGM is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15. FGM is also usually a precursor to forced early marriage and pregnancy in Maasai culture.

The safehouse, named Silan ('girl' in Maasai), offers various educational components for the 50 girls and young women that it accommodates. This includes basic education with four levels in Maths, English and Swahili courses that correspond with

primary school grades 1-8. The final level prepares students for the Kenya Certificate for Primary Education (KCPE).

The safehouse also provides training in health, human rights, and leadership to ensure that the girls staying there gain self-confidence and feel empowered to make their own decisions. Training topics include sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention and response, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Lastly, the safehouse provides vocational training in the form of a seven-month tailoring course, which supports residents in building skills in measuring, cutting, and stitching fabrics. The young women are then given the opportunity to enter a partner programme through which women generate income from Maasai beadwork and textiles.

NaariSamatā is grateful to have been a fiscal sponsor for the building of one of these safehouses. We hope the safehouse provides a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment for young girls and women who are survivors of FGM. We would like to thank our delivery partner in Kenya who managed the building of the safehouse and the subsequent launch and management of its services.





Our strategic priorities

We are committed to continuing to support women, children, and vulnerable communities' wellbeing as we look to start our second year as a charitable organisation.

We have co-developed a set of strategic priorities as an organisation for the year ahead in order to continue working towards our mission, vision, and objectives. Our strategy for 2023 includes expanding our reach as well as building on our key learnings from this year's most impactful projects.

1

Expanding our reach

We are planning to expand our presence in our area of focus, India, and open a NaariSamatā office in the USA.

We are in the process of applying for charity status in India with FCRA registration. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) regulates how non-profits in India can receive and distribute foreign funding. Having FCRA status will allow us to have greater financial oversight and manage the distribution of funds to projects internally, as opposed to relying on partner organisations for financial management support.

The paperwork for opening the USA office has already been submitted and we are expecting approval of our application within the next few months. Having an office in the USA will allow us to access new sources of funding, which in turn will allow us to provide long-term or a greater level of financial support for upcoming projects.

2

Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity

This year, we have made significant progress in developing our flagship e-learning course. The first module has been completed and we will be moving into testing phase this year. We have identified a partner school, BMV Public School in New Delhi, whose students will complete the module to test its effectiveness and usability. We will gather feedback from the students and teachers, before making iterative changes to the course. For the coming year, we plan to establish more partnerships with schools to expand the uptake of the course.

4

Exploring non-traditional paths to empowerment

Whilst we recognise the importance of education in empowering vulnerable individuals and continue to prioritise this area of focus, we also believe that other areas of personal development can have a significant positive impact for individuals. As such, we are planning to support Pratigya's Matri Shakti Tournament.

The Matri Shakti Tournament is a sports development initiative in the form of a football tournament for mothers in the state of Jharkhand, India. The primary objective of the tournament is to create a welcoming and empowering space for women, make them aware of the benefits of sports and physical activity, and most importantly encourage their daughters to engage in sports and physical activity as well.

3

Building on this year's impact

One of our biggest and most impactful projects this year was Sponsor a Village, which was underpinned by the ideology of taking a holistic approach to educational empowerment. We are planning to build on this ideology this coming year by supporting the Koru Foundation's Lahunipada Bridge Programme.

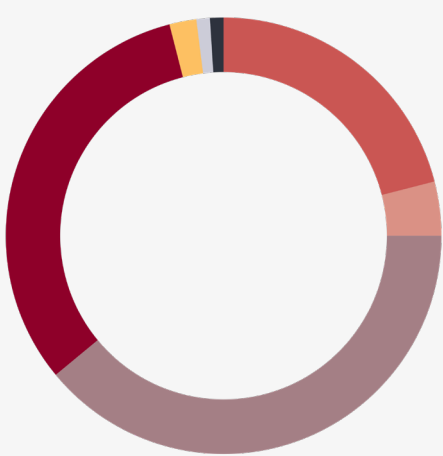
The Lahunipada Bridge Programme is an initiative to support the education of children of tribal groups in Sundergarh district, Odisha, India. In addition to filling gaps in the local children's literacy and arithmetic skills through the provision of English, Mathematics, and Science lessons, the teaching staff conduct regular community visits to demonstrate the value of education to their students' families, as well as taking the students on field trips to local areas to challenge and debunk superstition-based myths and rumours about their surroundings.



Financial report

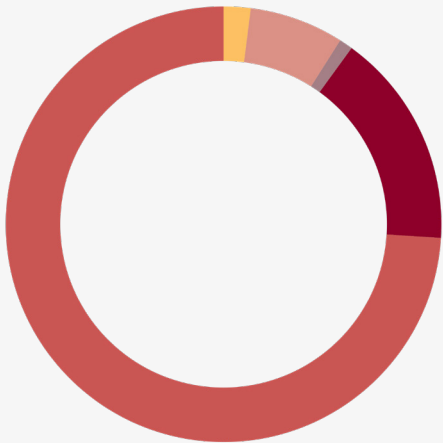
2022

Projects we invested in



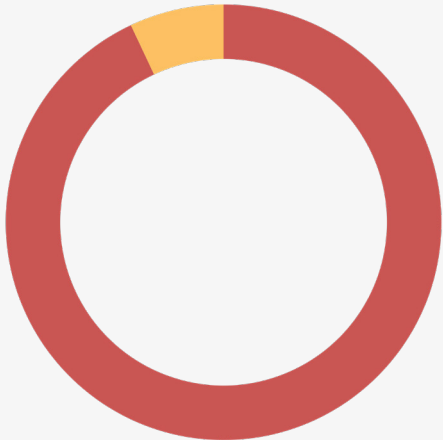
- Unrestricted (21%)
- Palaan (4%)
- Siragu (39%)
- Silaan (32%)
- Muskaan (2%)
- Unnati (1%)
- Siksha (1%)

Where our funding came from



- Matthew Good (2%)
- PPL (7%)
- Stanley Group (1%)
- Visa (16%)
- Individual contributions (74%)

Admin spend as ratio of total contributions



- Contributions (93%)
- Admin, including marketing (7%)

Chart of accounts and operating ledger

NaariSamata
Financial Statement for the year ended January 10, 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total for Period
Receipts			
Regular giving and other donations	£29,111.54	£22,225.55	£51,337.09
	£29,111.54	£22,225.55	£51,337.09
Payments			
Project related		£13,902.95	£13,902.95
Admin	£3,749.77		£3,749.77
	£3,749.77	£13,902.95	£17,652.71
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£25,361.77	£8,322.61	£33,684.38
Bank current and deposit accounts including paypal-Jan 10, 2022	£1,794.56	£430.39	£2,224.95
Bank current and deposit accounts-Jan 10, 2023	£27,156.33	£8,753.00	£35,909.33

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Bank current account	£35,909.33
Total Assets	£35,909.33
Total Liabilities	£0.00

PAYPAL SUMMARY		UNRESTRICTED	PALAAAN	SIRAGU	SILAAAN	MUSKAAAN	UNNATI	SIKSHA
Receipts	5484.94	2,176.37	413.88	12.50	2,829.00	0.00	53.20	0.00
Payments	4978.82	1,152.15	0	0	3,778.54	0	£2.54	45.6
Balance Brought forward	953.59							
Carried Forward	1459.71	1977.81	413.88	12.50	-949.54		50.66	-45.60

CASHPLUS SUMMARY	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	PALAAAN	SIRAGU	SILAAAN	MUSKAAAN	UNNATI	SIKSHA
Receipts	28349.27	25183.46	282.55	0	2883.26	0	0	0
Payments	2016.67	127.37	0	3.1	1876	10.2	0	0
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£1,271.36	2547.87	-282.55	3.1	-1007.26	10.2		
CARRIED FORWARD	£27,603.96	£27,603.96	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

VIRGIN SUMMARY	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	PALAAAN	SIRAGU	SILAAAN	MUSKAAAN	UNNATI	SIKSHA
Receipts	17502.88	1751.71	1180	14571.2	0	0	0	0
Payments	10657.22	2470.25	689.46	6915.36	0	399.08	54.53	128.54
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	6845.66	-718.54	490.54	7655.81	0	-399.08	-54.53	-128.54

GRAND TOTALS	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	PALAAAN	SIRAGU	SILAAAN	MUSKAAAN	UNNATI	SIKSHA
CASHPLUS RECEIPTS	28349.27	25183.46	282.55	0	2883.26	0	0	0
VIRGIN RECEIPTS	17502.88	1751.71	1180	14571.2	0	0	0	0
Paypal receipts	5,484.94	2,176.37	413.88	12.50	2,829.00	0.00	53.20	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	51337.09	29111.54	1876.43	14583.7	5712.26	0	53.20	0
Paypal payments	4,978.82	1,152.15	0.00	0.00	3,778.54	0.00	2.54	45.60
CASHPLUS PAYMENTS	2016.67	127.37	0	3.1	1876	10.2	0	0
VIRGIN PAYMENTS	10657.22	2470.25	689.46	6915.36	0	399.08	54.53	128.54
TOTAL PAYMENTS	17652.7137	3,749.77	689.46	6918.46	5,654.54	409.28	57.07	174.14
NET	33,684.38	25,361.77	1186.97	7665.21	57.72	-409.28	-3.87	-174.14

BALANCE IN BANK+ PAYPAL	35909.33	TRANSFERS	BAL B/FWD	FINAL
Represented by:			£1,794.56	£27,156.33
UNRESTRICTED	£27,156.33	-409.28		£26,747.05
PALAAAN	1,186.97			£1,186.97
SIRAGU	7665.21			£7,665.21
SILAAAN	57.72			£57.72
MUSKAAAN	-409.28	409.28		£0.00
UNNATI	112.34	0		£112.34
SIKSHA	140.04	0		£140.04
TOTAL	35,909.33			£35,909.33

Contributions Admin (incl marketing)
£51,337.09 £3,749.77



Thank You

We would be nothing without the support of all our dedicated volunteers and donors who have shown such passion for the cause and believed in us.

Your support means the world to us!

Volunteers

Anahita Bordoloi
Shivani Herlekar
Aashi Lunia
Alexandra Petliakova
Archana Jamadar
Daniela Krissa
Deepa Chandwani
Emma Whitelaw
Florence Chilver
Holly Gatfield
Dhananjay Chaudhary
Jonathan Langdale
Justine Skeels
Lauren Scott-Jackson
Luís Samouco
Philomena Lines
Ridwana Chowdhury
Sarah Liu
Suresh Gopal Krishnan
P A Raju
Carrie Buckley

Auditor

Naveen Judah

Treasurer

Asha Rajagopal

Corporate Donors

Visa Private Limited
PPL
Stanley Group
Matthew Good Foundation
Teserract Learning

Partners

Pratigya
Kora Foundation
Women's Welfare
Education Saves Lives

Major Donors: £10,000+

Ravi Bhaskaran
Anasuya Lakshmi Dubey

Regular Donors

Balaram Venkataraman
Radesh Ganeshkumar
Leena Mulage
Nandini Kandolha
Paresh Jethwa
Beena Dandawate
Umair Khan
Anita Sunder Rajan
Akshita Dandawate
Deepa Chandwani

Donors

Bhatt SB
Aditi & Miheer Modak
Srinivas SR Upadyayula
Maria Gigi
Abi Gopalan
Priti Joshi
Bhagya Subramanian

2022 Supporters