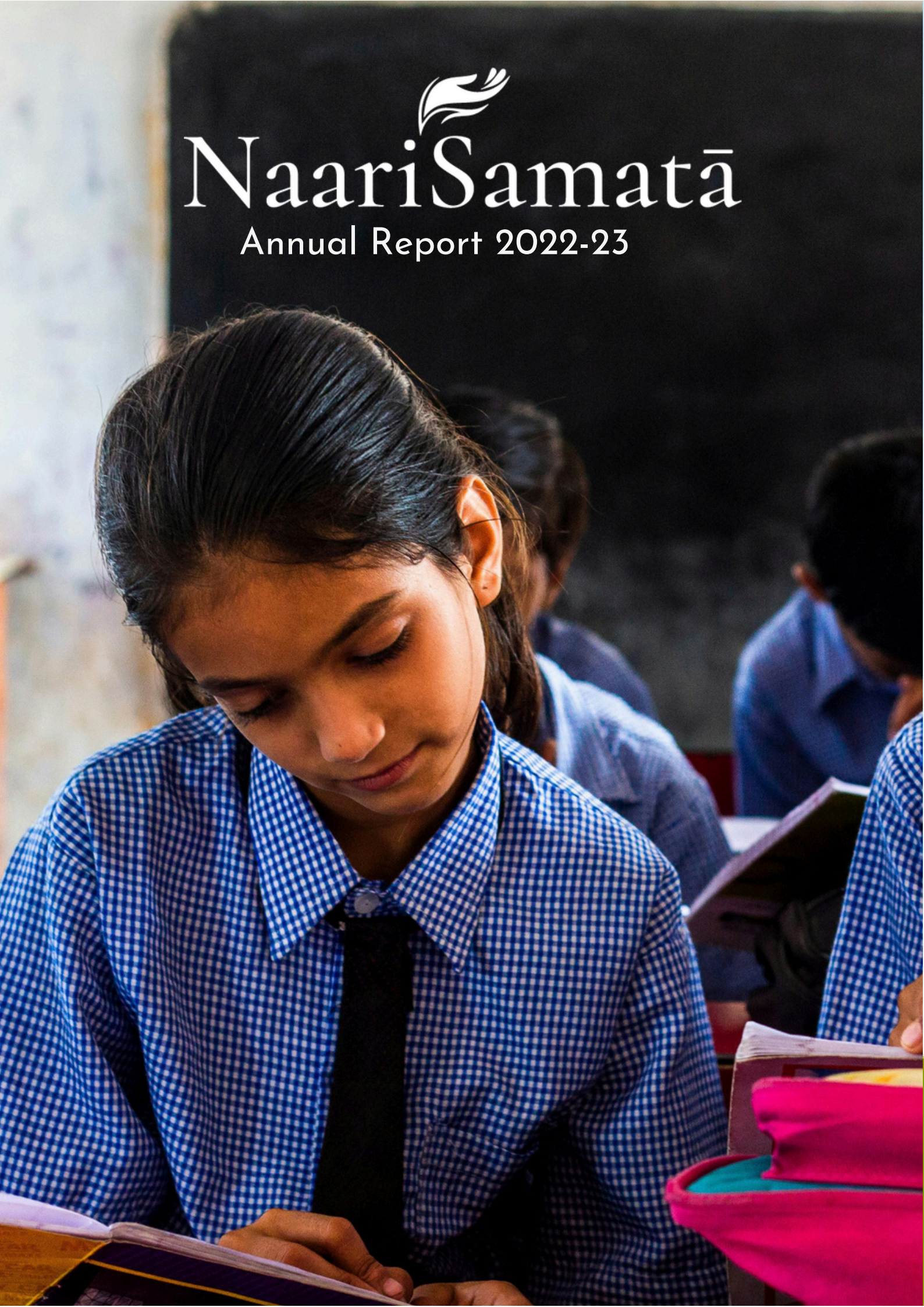
NaariSamatā

Annual Report 2022-23



Reflecting back

The past year marked a period of consolidation for our organisation. We continued with our ongoing projects with great success, enhancing and expanding upon them. Notably, we undertook our most successful project to date – the empowerment of women through sport. The outcome of this has far surpassed our expectations. Additionally, we constructed a classroom in the village we had previously sponsored and extended our support to a new village.

In a strategic move, we established charitable entities in both the United States and India. While distinct, these entities will collaborate closely with NaSa in UK. During the year, we increased the number of girls sponsored for education to 13, a testament to our commitment to making a positive impact.

Our team of volunteers has grown into a formidable force, and as a volunteer-led organisation, they are the lifeblood that fuels our mission. We take immense pride in their dedication and contributions.

I would like to thank all our donors and sponsors who have believed in us and contributed so much in getting us where we are.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are particularly enthusiastic about advancing our e-learning courses. Furthermore, we plan to intensify our focus on health education for women. These initiatives align with our commitment to continuous improvement and our dedication to creating a lasting positive influence in the communities we serve.

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: 79 Dunston Road, London, SW11 5YB

Anita Sunder Rajan
Chairperson

Asha Rajagopal
Treasurer

Umair Khan
Secretary

Beena Dandawate
Trustee

Silvia Rangoni
Trustee

Our Objectives

1
The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit, by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender or age.

2
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.

3
Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity including, but not limited to, the creation of e-learning tools and resources.

4
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.

5
Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

6
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 on a Page

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 three years since we began our journey:

35
Women skills-trained

13
Girls sponsored for full time education

600
Kilograms of clothes distributed

4
Families helped during the Covid-19 pandemic

2
Villages sponsored

4
Abused women supported

161
Underprivileged children supported

180
Women enrolled in the Sport to Livelihood programme

4
Tribal village children supported in education

The Stanley Group Foundation is dedicated to delivering change for good, and our foundation proudly supports NaariSamatā as our principle charitable cause as a beacon of empowerment for women and girls across the Indian subcontinent. We are committed to driving impactful transformation; we channel our resources to NaariSamatā in recognition of the profound significance of their on-the-ground initiatives. While we solely provide grants, NaariSamatā's unwavering dedication to grassroots efforts in-country ensures our contributions translate into tangible, life-changing results. Together, we strive to amplify the voices and aspirations of women and girls, embodying the essence of collective philanthropy and the pursuit of a more equitable and just society.

NaariSamatā's strength lies not only in its mission but also in the extensive network of passionate volunteers and supporters who breathe life into its initiatives. Through the Sponsor a Girl programme in particular, they've created a unique avenue for direct impact, forging connections between sponsors, mentors and beneficiaries. This personal touch extends our foundation's influence beyond just financial contributions, fostering a community of advocates united by the shared vision of gender equality. NaariSamatā collaborative spirit resonates profoundly with our core values, exemplifying the transformative power of collective action and underscoring the importance of empowering women at every level of society.

Andrew Baker

Managing Director, The Stanley Group

Our Work

Expanding our geographical reach
Opened new partner offices in the United States and India to expand our network, access to support, and our impact.

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Project Paalan
Matched donors with 13 young girls to sponsor their educational attainment.

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Project Shiksha
Continued progressing our flagship e-learning course by completing the development of the Gender Equality and Bullying modules.

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Project Siragu
Built a second floor of classrooms for Chinnabettiganapalli's primary school and expanded the project to a second village – Periyabettiganapalli.

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Project Matri Shakti
Sponsored the Matri Shakti Football Tournament for 180 young mothers from Jharkhand's urban slums to take part in sports and physical activity, as well as learn vital life skills.

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Expanding our geographical reach

After two years of operating as a registered charity, we found ourselves receiving more project opportunities than we could accommodate, primarily due to limited funding. Recognising the demand for our initiatives, we deemed it appropriate to extend our reach by registering the charity in the United States. While this new entity operates independently, it will collaborate closely with NaSa UK in the implementation of projects.

In addition to our expansion in the US, we also realised the importance of having a registered charity in India. This entity will be specifically promoted to non-resident Indians, and initially, we plan to undertake smaller projects until we secure sufficient funding and volunteers to tackle more extensive initiatives. Our aim is to apply for FCRA registration after three years, enabling us to leverage the funding acquired in the UK and the US for projects in India. Through this strategic approach, we hope to enhance our impact and contribute to creating positive change in the lives of women and children.

Project Paalan

Sponsor a Girl - Financially supporting the educational journeys of young girls with ambitious dreams, hindered by their challenging circumstances.

Our commitment to empowering women and girls is centered around advancing education. Within marginalized communities in India, gender disparities and cultural norms persistently affect girls' access to education disproportionately. According to global statistics, the average female literacy rate worldwide is 79.9%, compared to 89.2% for men. In India, the gap is notable, with a female literacy rate of 62.3% as opposed to 80% for men – highlighting the challenges faced by girls in accessing education.

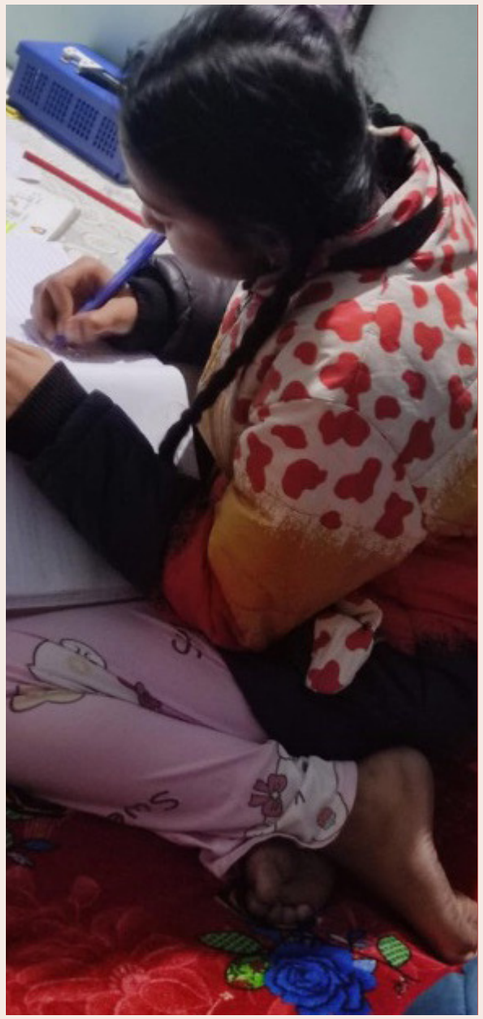
Several factors contribute to the neglect of girls' education, including poverty, forced marriages, and gender-based violence. Consequently, families in poverty often prioritize investing in boys' education.

Nonetheless, advocating for girls' education yields extensive and far-reaching benefits for the individuals, their families, and the broader community. It equips them with skills and knowledge that open doors to employment opportunities, leading to increased lifetime earnings and an enhanced quality of life. Sustaining girls' education also mitigates harmful practices like child marriage and underage pregnancies, offering girls the opportunity to combat discrimination, abuse, and oppression.

Through Project Paalan, we link schoolgirls, whose families struggle with education costs, with sponsors. Contributions cover school fees and essential supplies, enabling young girls to realize their potential and pursue their aspirations. This year, we've increased our education sponsorship of five young girls last year to 13 young girls. We are committed to our goal of extending our support to 20 young girls and plan to continue working toward that goal in the upcoming year.

Read on to hear about Jaskirat, one of the girls we have sponsored this year.

Jaskirat's story



Jaskirat's father tragically passed away earlier this year, leaving Jaskirat and her mother without a source of income and unable to pay the fees for her school.

We are very glad to have been connected to Jaskirat and her mother through her school and look forward to supporting her through her schooling journey.

Her teachers say she is very committed to her studies and not only does she excel academically but is also very active with extracurricular activities.

"My goal is to fulfil my parents' dream... I want to become a police officer. I want to study hard to do the best in my school."

Jaskirat

Project Shiksha

E-learning Course - Tackling gender discrimination through education.

At NaariSamatā, we acknowledge the critical role of educating younger generations about gender in challenging persistent gender norms and the resulting harmful inequities.

Gender discrimination involves the unequal or disadvantageous treatment of individuals based on societal norms and behaviors attributed to gender, distinct from biological sex. It remains a significant issue in India, especially for women, where patriarchal structures hold sway. Women are often stereotyped as physically weaker and relegated to low-paid agricultural jobs or expected to abandon employment post-marriage, focusing solely on household responsibilities. This discrimination extends to areas such as healthcare, food, and education, contributing to gender-based violence.

Recognizing that views on gender are learned rather than innate, combating discrimination means challenging stereotypes. By educating younger generations about how gender expectations can impede the development of both boys and girls, hindering them from realizing their full potential, we aim to transform behaviors and attitudes.

To raise awareness about gender issues, we have developed an interactive e-learning course as part of our Shiksha Project, tailored for schoolchildren aged 12-16 years old.

The course commences by exploring the concept of gender equality and its impact on relationships and careers. Students are encouraged to reflect on their initial understanding of gender equality and discrimination. Lessons delve into the intersectionality of gender with colorism, casteism, sex, and social standing. Addressing crucial subjects often overlooked in schools, such as mental health, puberty, social media, LGBTQ+, substance misuse, and bullying, the learning hub presents these topics through easy-to-follow stories, interactive graphics, and engaging activities.

Designed to be accessible to younger audiences, the hub provides additional reading materials and resources for use at home and in schools. Upon completion of each training module, participants receive a certificate of appreciation.

After the pilot rollout of the course at a partner school last year, we have used this year to complete the development of our Gender Equality and Bullying modules. Our goal for next is to expand our e-learning pilot to test the course in numerous schools and reach 500 students in total.

Read on to hear from Philomena, one of our dedicated volunteers who is leading the design of the e-learning course.

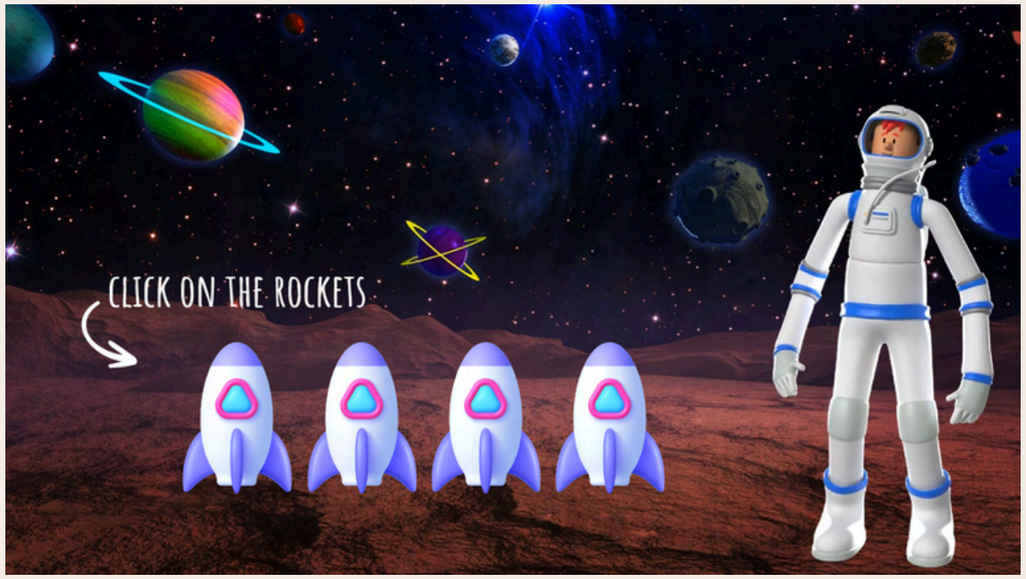
My name is Philomena and I am a volunteer for NaariSamatā, I have been with the eLearning team for 2 years. I really enjoy working with everyone on the eLearning and animation teams and am very proud of what we have done so far.

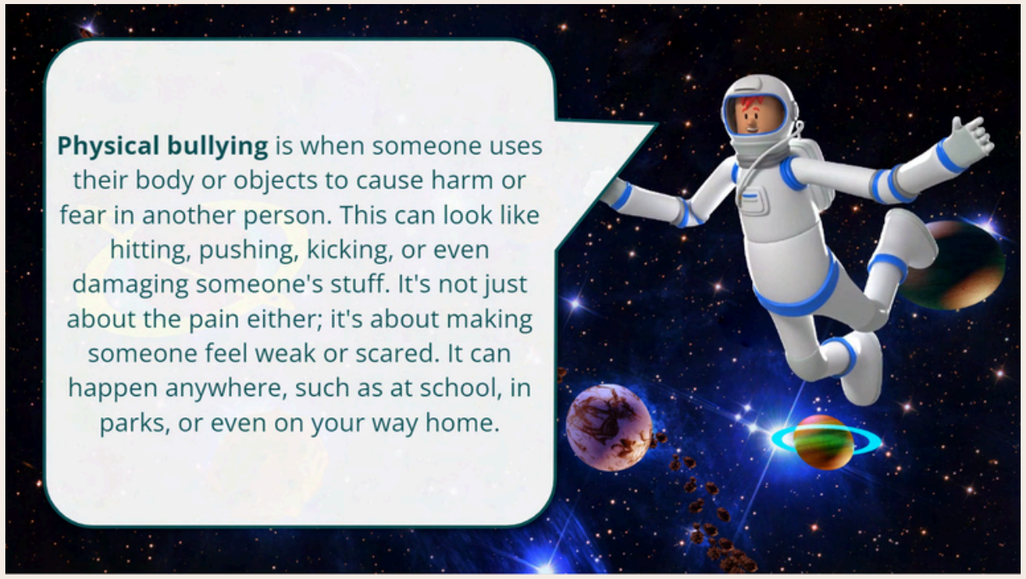
This year we have concentrated on finding many new animation volunteers which took lots of research to work out exactly what is required in the animation process and then finding people with the relevant skill set. Now we have a pool of animators with lots of great skills, which will help make our online learning so much more engaging for students. I am really looking forward to this year and delivering some more impactful training to help young people.

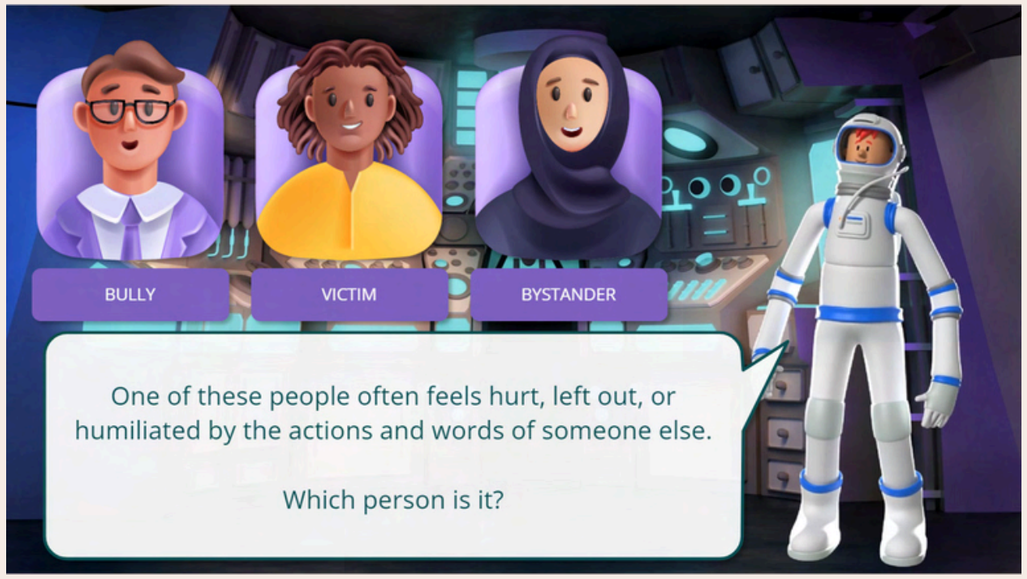
Philomena, NaariSamatā Volunteer

Project Shiksha

E-learning Course - Tackling gender discrimination through education.







Project Siragu

Sponsor a Village - Supporting children's education by creating the right environment around them.

Recognizing the profound impact of a child's surroundings on their personal and educational growth, we are committed to enhancing a child's overall environment as a means to foster empowerment and improve life outcomes. This encompassing environment includes their family dynamics, educational institutions, as well as the community they reside in. To champion the holistic well-being of children in underserved communities, we initiated Project Siragu, also known as our Sponsor a Village project. Through this initiative, we extend comprehensive developmental support to small, underprivileged villages situated in rural areas of India.

Last year, we worked with the community of Chinnabettiganapalli in Tamil Nadu, India. 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. The community chose their local primary school as their main area of focus and we funded the building of four new toilets, an additional classroom, and a compound wall around the school grounds. As the Chinnabettiganapalli community anticipated more students joining the primary school as a result of the school's regeneration projects, they decided that their next priority was having another teacher teach in the school, and so we funded the salary of the new primary school teacher.

This year, as a consequence of the increase in pupils, we funded the construction of a second floor to the primary school building to create additional classroom space. The new classrooms were completed before the school year started in the autumn and have been in use since. Furthermore, as a result of gaining the required teaching experience over the past year, the primary school teacher whose salary we funded last year has now secured a government-funded post to continue teaching at the primary school.

Read on to hear from Thanushree, the teacher we sponsored at the Chinnabettiganapalli primary school last year.

"Sitting at home and being a housewife didn't give me satisfaction or happiness and [while] I was searching for a job, NaariSamata stood with me and made my dream come true.

Today, being a teacher makes me feel happy and proud. I believe [just] one book, one pen, and one teacher can change the world for a student."

Thanushree, Teacher at the Chinnabettiganapalli primary school

Project Siragu

Sponsor a Village - Supporting children's education by creating the right environment around them.

Furthermore, we were able to expand the reach of Project Siragu this year by sponsoring our second village – Periyabettiganapalli. Similar to the context of Chinnabettiganapalli, Periyabettiganapalli is habited by families who are mostly well below the poverty line. In addition to poverty, many other social problems prevail such as domestic abuse, alcoholism, and illiteracy.

Following in the footsteps of their sister village, Chinnabettiganapalli, the Periyabettiganapalli community also wanted to nominate their primary school as their primary area of focus. The primary school in Periyabettiganapalli is quite small, with only 33 pupils, due to the school's teaching language being Tamil – the regional language. Keen to promote the learning and usage of local languages, we were delighted to financially support the school's regeneration. We are currently sponsoring the salary of an additional teacher in the school, and have also committed to repair and renovate two disused classroom spaces in the building.

Project Matri Shakti

Creating a ripple effect of social change by encouraging young mothers to participate in sports.

Many young girls in underdeveloped and rural areas of India are married off at an early age, leading to early pregnancy and the added responsibility of managing the household. These women never get to experience a proper childhood and are forced to grow up too fast. Unfortunately, motherhood for these girls is often filled with violence and discrimination. They face the challenge of providing for their families while also dealing with the emotional and physical tolls of domestic abuse and societal prejudice.

Empowering young mothers can create a ripple effect of positive change. By providing access to opportunities, we can equip them with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health, family planning, and finances. Educated and financially independent mothers benefit their families and communities by serving as role models for younger generations.

This theory of change has formed the basis of our flagship project this year – the Matri Shakti Football Tournament. The Tournament aims to create a more inclusive and supportive community for women and promote gender equality by encouraging young mothers to participate in sports.

In addition to promoting physical activity and teamwork through football, the tournament serves as a platform for women to become agents of change in their community by providing them with the tools and resources to effect positive social change. As part of the tournament, the women participating are asked to complete tasks and take part in discussions designed around subjects such as gender stereotypes, domestic violence, menstrual hygiene, crimes against women and girls, and the basic rights of women and girls.

NaariSamatā, in collaboration with our partner charity Pratigya, sponsored the 2023 Matri Shakti Football Tournament in which 180 young mothers from the urban slums of Jagannathpur, in the state of Jharkhand, India participated. We also sponsored livelihood skills-training for 30 of the young mothers, based on willingness to participate and personal circumstances. This included vocational training as well as linking them with banks and other financial institutions to encourage them to start their own entrepreneurial journeys.

Project Matri Shakti

Creating a ripple effect of social change by encouraging young mothers to participate in sports.

The Tournament has been hugely successful in creating ripple effects of change in numerous areas. One of the critical insights gained from the tournament was that mothers who participated were not only benefiting from physical activity and social interaction but were also creating safe spaces for their children, especially their daughters, to play. In addition, the social change workshops have led to a select group of Change Champions emerging, who act as mentors for the other young mothers. Finally, taking part in the tournament has encouraged numerous women to return to education. 15 women will be pursuing their high school graduation and have been linked in with the National Institute of Open Schooling for further support. An additional 10 women will be pursuing higher education and have been linked in with the Indira Gandhi National Open University for further support.

Read on to learn about Sunita, one of the Change Champions for this year's tournament.

"My name is Sunita, and I live in Moshi Bari. I have graduated high school and I got married in 2018. I have a daughter who is three years old now. After I was married, when I moved to Moshi Bari, I heard about Pratigya teaching women to play sports, so I joined to play as well.

While I was there, I was selected as a Change Leader, and now as a Change Leader I work with 30 women in my neighbourhood. After receiving my training, I now teach these 30 women about hygiene and cleanliness. At first, I was sceptical about me being able to be a Change Leader, but I felt encouraged to take on the role after attending the training.

Just as I joined the football tournament and became a Change Leader to help other women in need of support, I hope that the 30 women I work with learn important life skills and support the women in their lives to do the same...I hope they feel knowledgeable and confident enough to educate those around them. When the women in the community will feel empowered, we will see many other positive changes in the community as a whole."

Sunita

Our strategic priorities

We are committed to continuing supporting women, children, and vulnerable communities' wellbeing as we look ahead to our third year as a charitable organisation.

Our strategic focus for 2024 will be on education. We have done significant work in this area this year, whether that is by redeveloping school buildings, sponsoring school fees of young girls, or encouraging the pursuit of education through sports, and we would like to continue building on the great outcomes we have been able to achieve thus far. Some of our specific projects for next year include:

1 Next phase of the e-learning course

As the e-learning course nears completion, we are looking forward to a robust pilot phase in the next year. Our goal for next year is to expand our e-learning pilot to test the course in numerous schools and reach 500 students in total. We plan to gather feedback from the students and teachers through the pilot process to make iterative changes to the course.

2 The Lahunipada Bridge programme

Our partner charity, Koru Foundation's Lahunipada Bridge Programme aims to kickstart the educational joureys of children from tribal communities in Sundergarh district, Odisha, India. Beyond addressing gaps in the literacy and arithmetic skills of local children by offering lessons in English, Mathematics, and Science, the teaching team engages in frequent community visits. These visits serve to showcase the significance of education to the families of the students. Additionally, the program includes field trips to nearby areas, challenging and dispelling superstition-based myths and rumors about the students' surroundings. The programme also offers a paid fellowship to older students, which trains them to teach classes for younger students, whilst supporting them to pursue higher education.

3 Foundational Numeracy and Literacy (FN&L) Project

Our partner charity, Pratigya's FN&L project targets systemic and ontextual challenges by emphasizing foundational literacy and numeracy through government schools. The project aims to influence three important pillars of the education system – administration, schools, and the community. Combined, all three together can create a complete ecosystem around children. Using this model, the project's interventions ensure the active participation of all three components, which will have immediate effects both inside and outside the classroom. These include improvement in attendance, in-class engagement of children, use of social and cultural aspects for enhancing the learning levels of children.

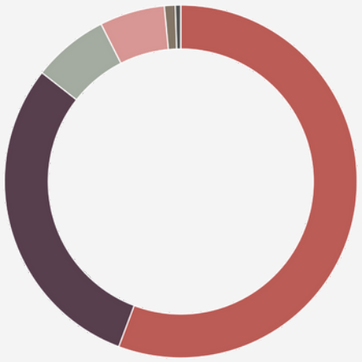
4 Sharing health education content with partners in India

Our partner organisation, Education Saves Lives, has kindly provided us access to their course on health and personal care education (including but not limited to topics such as HIV/AIDS, Sex Education, and Addiction) in local Indian languages which we plan to share with our charity partners in India to be used in conjunction with their planned educational programmes and interventions for the upcoming year.

Financial report

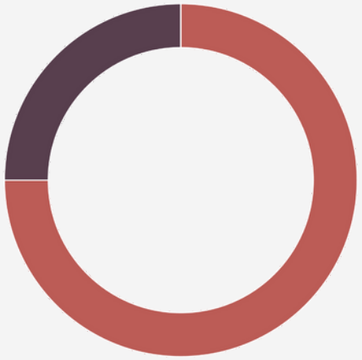
2023

Projects we invested in



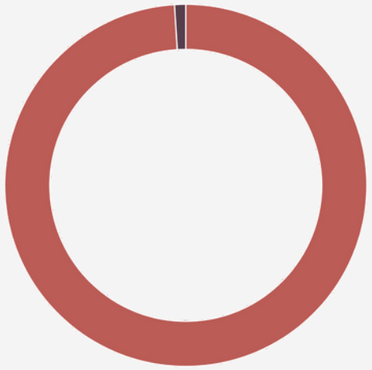
- Sponsor a village (56%)
- Sport to livelihood (30%)
- Sponsor a girl (7%)
- Tribal villages education (6%)
- Admin (1%)
- E-Learning (0%)

Where our funding came from



- Corporate (75%)
- Individual (25%)

Admin costs vs Spend on Projects



- Projects (99%)
- Admin (1%)

Chart of accounts and operating ledger

NaariSamata
Financial Statement for the year ended January 10, 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total for Period
Receipts			
Regular giving and other donations	£5,826.88	£14,203.15	£20,030.03
Payments			
Project related		£31,440.76	£31,440.76
Admin	£400.94		£400.94
	£400.94	£31,440.76	£31,841.70
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£5,425.94	-£17,237.61	-£11,811.67
Bank current and deposit accounts including paypal-Ja	£25,248.22	£9,433.06	£34,681.28
Bank current and deposit accounts-Jan 10, 2024	£21,780.65	£1,088.96	£22,869.61
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
Bank current account			£22,869.61
Total Assets			£22,869.61
Total Liabilities			£0.00

During the year we also had small unrestricted Dollar donations into our Paypal account amountning to $2354.44
These will be converted into Sterling and transfered into our Sterling account in 2024/25

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	TOTAL	CORE	PALAAN	SIRAGU	SILAAN	MATRISHAKTI	UDAAN	SIKSHA
OPENING I	34449.62	25016.56	773.09	£ 7,652.71	£ 1,007.26	0	0	0
Opening B	231.66	231.66						
RECEIPTS	20030.03	5826.88	2305	£ 2,254.45		9643.7		
PAYMENT:	31841.7	400.94	2021.32	£ 17,724.00		9611.51	2000	83.93
CLOSING B	22869.61	30674.16	1056.77	-7816.84	1007.26	32.19	-2000	-83.93
Transfer		-8893.51		£ 7,816.84	-£ 1,007.26		2000	83.93
	22869.61	21780.65	1056.77	0	0	32.19	0	0

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!

Donors

Leena Mulage
Deepa Chandwani
Nandini Kandolha
Akshita Dandawate
Nitika Dandawate
Beena Dandawate
Anita Sunder Rajan
Venkataraman Balaraman
Umair Khan
Radesh Ganeshkumar
Rumit Kapoor
Nikita Dave
Paresh Jethwa
David Chivers

Volunteers

Amrapali G Sawant
Anahita Bordoloi
Aqsa Ashraf
Archana Jamadar
Brinda Murali
Dan Maden
Divine Uwadiale
Florence Chilver
Giulia De Angelis
Holly Gatfield
Jemma Hendry
Kat Dawn
Kiran Babu Plackal
Michael Newboult
Muneera Begum
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Ruchi Singh
Sam Darbyshire
Shivani Herlekar
Shreyash Pant
Sonny Hawkins

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Stanley Group Foundation
Education Saves Lives
KREDO
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2023 Supporters

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