



Sunbird Trust
PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Dear Friends of Sunbird Trust,

Yet another year passes in a blur with quite unexpected expansion of our organization. As we grow and scale rapidly, processes and structures are steadily evolving, strengthening us for the journey ahead. Fortified with learnings of the past five years, we delve into making our partnerships with local communities more holistic going way beyond our schools and classrooms to the heart of our host communities.

During this year, our biggest gain was 10 new team members including 5 Teach for India (TFI) Fellows, a Master of Education, a Gandhi Fellow, 2 MSW and 3 from the corporate sector. They have brought to us knowledge and experience from across domains - just what was required for a growing organization. While some joined at established project areas, others became our pioneers at new locations.

Talking of our team, one could ponder how a group of predominantly young people from across the country and from vastly different backgrounds, are so seamlessly able to integrate with local communities in a conflict zone. The answer definitely lies in Sunbird's humanistic, non-sectarian and "for all" approach. True "education" of children in our project areas begins with celebration of their own roots and culture. This explains Sunbird's "Deepen your roots and broaden your vision" approach whereby our students are encouraged to celebrate their traditional way of life, their festivals, culture and respective religions while at the same time respecting those of others.

If Sunbird has been able to grow and scale so rapidly, much credit must go to our thoughtful and generous donors who have stood by us through thick and thin. We are honoured that some of them could visit us and spend time with us at our remote locations. We are proud to see our donors as sturdy partners enabling marching with us in our journey of **Peace through Education**.

Much credit is also due to our partner schools and their administrators, all chosen by us for a match in our common values and objectives to educate, empower and spread peace. We at Sunbird see our partners as members of our "Team of Teams" where we mutually support each other and lend our learnings and experience to one another.





A young Civil Society Organisation (CSO) like ours and especially one carving its own niche path in remote conflict affected areas could do with much guidance and mentorship...and that has been in abundance from our valued advisors. Luis Miranda, who has been deeply involved with shaping the organisation since its earliest days and who prides himself as a “dot connector”, did precisely that, opening doors for us amongst several corporates and prospective donors. Dr. Vivek Bhaktaram’s daughter Ananya interned with us before the entire family joined us for a short visit all the way from faraway Oklahoma in the USA. Balagopal Chandrasekhar, in his youth an IAS officer at Manipur, took time off to fly in from Kochi and spend time with our team members at three locations. He visited the computer laboratories and other educational infrastructure raised through his immense generosity.

Sunbird works across a multi-cultural tapestry of communities across five north east Indian states. Each has their own realities, nuances and which we at Sunbird recognize and appreciate. We therefore abjure a “one size fits all” in our approach and practice deep listening to gauge the needs of the folks we partner with. In areas where there is sometimes a trust deficit arising from decades of conflict and civil disturbance, we are blessed that our team members are accepted as part of the community.

The past year has seen us strengthen our relationship with likeminded organisations: SELCO, Sauramandala, Barefoot College, Azim Premji University, Spread NE, Ayang Trust and Aarogyaseva. We seek to partner with more organisations with complementary specializations in fields like health, livelihood and environment sustainability.

Thank you, dear friends, for your support for our journey of **Peace through Education.**

With gratitude,

Col Chris Rego (Retd.)

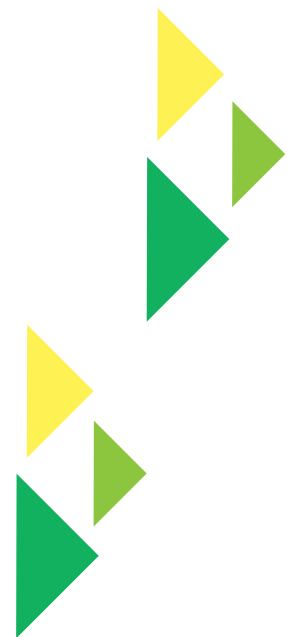


TRUSTEES' REPORT



The past year has witnessed a substantial growth in the operations of Sunbird. We are pleased to present the highlights of the year gone by.

- ▶ A total of **3254 children** are now sponsored for education under our "Sponsor a Child" scheme in 46 institutions across 5 North East Indian states including Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.
- ▶ A total of **53 undergraduate** students are sponsored for their studies at various locations in the country. These include 4 for Engineering, 5 for Law, 2 for Agriculture, 1 for Nursing and 41 for BA/BSc and others.
- ▶ A total of **395 children** are sponsored for their hostel fees at Ijeirong, Leimakhong and Majuli Island among others.
- ▶ A total of **1075 children** are sponsored under our basic "Egg a Day" Nutrition Scheme at 8 locations including 58 afflicted/affected by HIV/AIDS at Happiness Home Churachandpur.
- ▶ Our partner Lyzon Friendship School at Khomunnom Village built in 2018 is now fully functional. A 15 terminal computer laboratory has now been inaugurated. Work has also commenced on constructing 4 classrooms, a science laboratory and a staff room. During the year, work was also completed on the BKT-Sunbird Trust Hostel kindly sponsored by Balkrishna Industries. The hostel can accommodate 60-80 children.
- ▶ In keeping with our tradition of inaugurating a building every Independence Day, this year we were pleased to inaugurate the HDFC-Sunbird Trust Dining Hall at Paangkriang Friendship School, Ijeirong. It can accommodate up to 300 persons.
- ▶ Our long-term donor, Mr. Balagopal Chandrashekhar helped us inaugurate two more computer centres, one each at Lyzon Friendship

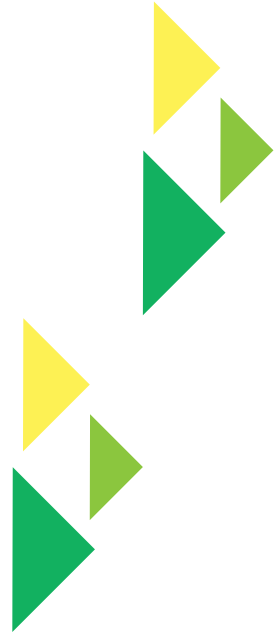


School, Khomunnom and Apou Kading School at Tamei.

- ▶ We are pleased to commence the North East Sunbird Trust Fellowship (NEST) recruiting our first three prospective Fellows. The Fellowship will help us build leadership and agency amongst dynamic local youth.
- ▶ A large number of our valued donors, visitors and interns visited us during the year. We are happy that they could take time off to visit us at our remote locations.
- ▶ Our alumni including Dr. Benjamine Khiangte, M.D., Dilip Chakma, LLB and Andison Laishangbam, Bachelor of Hotel Management, are all faring well in their professions. Andison is working as a Chef at a hotel in Australia. Kresitha Momin, from Meghalaya, completed her MA (Music) at Santa Isobel College Manila, Philippines and is now employed at a school in Dubai.
- ▶ This year, we are happy to welcome 10 new members to our team while a 4 others transitioned out. We expect our team to grow substantially in the coming year.

As we expand our activities and build our organization, we thank you for your continuing support and solicit your help at this critical stage of our growth.

Mr. Ryan Lobo (Founder Trustee)
Dr. Dayaprasad Kulkarni M.D. (Trustee)



BUILDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



CHILD EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP

One of the critical activities of Sunbird Trust is sponsorship of the education of children. The main objective of this is to provide financial access to education and through this empowerment and consequently employability. As almost all our children are sponsored by donors from various parts of India, a parallel aim is to engage and partner with local communities through the sponsored children, thus building friendship. At the end of the Financial Year 2019 – 2020, Sunbird Trust was sponsoring the education of **3254 children** in 46 partner institutions in states of Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

SPONSORSHIP OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Sunbird Trust sponsors the undergraduate education of students selected on the basis of means cum merit in several disciplines including Engineering, Law, Agriculture, Nursing, B.Sc. and B.A. The students study in institutions across the country, but most are at Bangalore

and Kolar. In most of the cases, the sponsorship is for both tuitions and boarding. In the current year, the Trust was sponsoring a total of **53 students** in 13 institutions in Bangalore, Kolar, Chennai, Roorke, Guwahati, Dimapur and Manipur.

HOSTEL SPONSORSHIP

Underprivileged children frequently give up their studies, as they are not able to afford transfer to a school with higher classes in another town due to unaffordable hostel fees. To allow these children access to education, Sunbird Trust fully or partly sponsored the hostel fees of **395 children** in 6 institutions.

NUTRITION SCHEME

Given the poor nutrition that many children in our schools get, Sunbird tries to make a difference through our Nutrition Scheme. We run a basic “Egg a Day” (or equivalent in vegetarian) for **1075 children** in 8 institutions in Manipur and Assam. Among these is a home for HIV infected or affected children in Churachandpur district of Manipur.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



Computer Laboratory, Lyzon Friendship School. A 15 terminal computer lab set up at Lyzon Friendship School, Khomunnom is a great boon for children in this remote area who had never had access to computers before. The laboratory was sponsored by our donor Mr. Balagopal Chandrasekhar who has helped us raise 3 such laboratories through Anaha Trust.

Sunbird-BKT Lyzon Friendship Hostel. With the generous sponsorship of Balkrishna Industries Ltd (Ms Vijayalaxmi Poddar and Shri Arvind Poddar), a 49,000 sq. ft hostel for 120 students was constructed at Lyzon Friendship School, Khomunnom and the work completed in November 2019.

Assam Rifles Khomunnom Friendship Community Hall. This hall of size 60' by 20' sponsored by the Assam Rifles in partnership with Sunbird Trust was inaugurated on 4th Nov 2019.

Staff Quarters, Singngat. Two rooms (12'X 12' with a 6' balcony) were constructed to accommodate

trainees, interns and outstation Sunbird Trust members at Lyzon Friendship School, Khomunnom.

Nutrition Hut, Lyzon Friendship School. It is a 12 x 10 tin sheet secure structure with a lockable door and wooden racks inside. It is used to store and distribute all the materials pertaining to the nutrition scheme for the 250 children of Lyzon Friendship School at Khomunnom, Singngat. It is also used for the storage and distribution of school books, stationery and other items every session.

Classroom Huts, Lyzon Friendship School. Two thatched roof huts keeping were made in the local style to serve as classrooms for unstructured learning and co-curricular activities. These spaces are also utilized to conduct sessions and team meetings every now and then.

HDFC-Sunbird Trust Dining Hall, Paangkriang Friendship School. Independence Day 2019 was

celebrated across our project areas at Ijeirong, Singngat and Langmai with raising of the national flag, marches and patriotic songs. In keeping with a Sunbird Trust tradition, we inaugurated a new building – the HDFC Sunbird Trust Dining Hall. Generously sponsored by the HT Parekh Foundation, this hall can seat more than 250 students and staff. Maj Nitesh from 8 Assam Rifles attended the inauguration. The hall was inaugurated by Naga Student's association President Mr. Lungjo in the presence of the school founders, teachers and Sunbird Trust team members.

Science Laboratory, Paangkriang Friendship School. 450 children at Paangkriang Friendship School did not have a science laboratory and had barely seen a magnet or prism, let alone having performed science experiments. All that changed and their dream was realized when a fully equipped science laboratory was inaugurated on 26th Apr 2019. The children showed off their new laboratory



to their parents who trekked to Ijeirong from several neighbouring villages. Full credit for setting up this critically required facility goes to team member Saniya Kirloskar for her initiative and months of labour. Special thanks to Mr. Chandrasekhar Balagopal (Anaha Trust) for having funded construction of the building, which houses the laboratory.



Toilet and Bath Block, Kahiupong Friendship Hostel: With 60 hostel students at the Kahiupong Friendship Hostel at Langmai sharing one toilet, there was a dire need to create a toilet block here. Accordingly a block with 8 toilets and 6 bathrooms was constructed and has considerably improved the situation for these students.

Computer Laboratory at Apou Kading School. With the kind sponsorship of Anaha Trust (Mr. Balagopal Chandrasekhar) a 10-terminal computer laboratory was set up at Apou Kading School. It will serve students from grades 5 – 10 and aid their digital learning. The laboratory was inaugurated in March 2020.

Chadong Village School, Kamjong District, Manipur. Chadong Village was submerged in 2015 by the waters of the Mapithel Dam. The only functional school in the village was drowned out and there was a dire need to have at least a primary school in the village so the parents did not have to re-locate to other villages. Sunbird Trust took up the challenge with the support of the

DC of Kamjong District, Ms Zuringla. The new school was made fully functional with classroom aids and the salaries of teachers subsidized.

Play Area and Rainwater harvesting, Lyzon Friendship School. The development of the play area is a big step towards providing all the students a holistic education. This enables the idea of bringing in the crucial element of joy in the school. The play area, comprising of slides, swings and see-saw is being used by the school children and other

village children as well. Among the improvements made at the campus were construction of an 800' long drainage system and rainwater harvesting for the school, hostel and library. The classrooms got a false ceiling for heat and noise insulation. An organic vegetable farm with vermi-composting tank was introduced.

Solar Electrification. Our valued partners SELCO provided solar electrification at 8 of our partner schools or hostels at Langmai, Khomunnom, Puichi, Ukhrul, Pinjang, Leimakhong and Tousem in Manipur and Mualdam and Gharbhanga in Assam. The work was done through Sauramandala and Mangaal Sustainable Solutions to provide uninterrupted electricity to the schools and hostels. This much needed amenity will provide much relief at these locations that were plagued by erratic electricity supply.



BUILDING PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

We collaborated with Y-Ultimate, a not for profit organisation bringing about social change through Ultimate Frisbee. Ultimate Frisbee is self-refereed, non-contact team sport played in a mixed gender format. Two trainers, Benoy and Nilay had come down from Delhi to teach our children the sport. In turn, they trained Boigin, a 21 year local youngster and sports enthusiast who showed great promise in the game. Boigin now teaches the frisbee game in 4 schools in the Singngat area impacting around 70 children. Sunbird Trust organised Singngat's first ever Ultimate Frisbee Tournament in November 2019 in which over 70 students participate. Sunbird aims at creating a frisbee team from Singngat that will participate in National Level Competitions.



SUNBIRD FRIENDSHIP MUSIC ACADEMY, IJEIRONG

India's North East is a crucible of musical talent. In order to tap this talent and facilitate our school children to develop to our fullest potential, we decided to institute a Music Academy at our biggest project at Ijeirong Village in Noney District of Manipur. We are most grateful to Mr. Joseph Gomes, co-owner of Furtados, India's largest music stores who took the trouble to travel all the way from Mumbai to Manipur to be with us and who gifted us an entire Academy worth of musical instruments.



SUNBIRD FOOTBALL ACADEMY, KHOMMUNOM

Sunbird Trust in collaboration with Creative Vision Football Academy conducted the football selection trials for Boys and Girls (age group 10 to 14 years) in Nehpao Memorial Playground at Khomunnom near Singngat, Manipur during Feb 2020. This was the stepping stone to kick start a football academy in Singngat. In the selection trials, 162 students had participated from all the villages and schools around Singngat, it was a great event indeed which witnessed immense talent in the young boys and girls. Out of the 162 students, 15 Girls and 31 Boys were shortlisted to be part of the football academy.



MARY KOM BOXING ACADEMY (MKBA) SELECTION

10 students from Langmai village were given initial training during October, 2019 - January, 2020 by 4 Bihar to compete in the trials for MKBA. Two of these students were selected and have been given full scholarships to finish their education while continuing to be trained in boxing at the academy. Of these, Sanwiliu, a grade 8 girl from our partner Hope Foundation Academy, got selected for a full scholarship and is currently completing her education while being trained for boxing at the Academy.



MURAL PAINTINGS

Well known Pune based artist, Abha Bhagwat, paid a visit to Paangkriang Friendship School, Ijeirong in May 2019 to do mural paintings in the school campus.

She conducted a workshop with the children of our School and helped them to paint our school walls incorporating elements from the local culture of our students such as the Ijei river, fish, women in traditional dress and even the migrating Amur falcon.



FRIENDSHIP TOURS

21 students hailing from the Zou & Thadou tribes from LFS, Singngat and Meitei students from our partner Khongjom Standard English School went to Kohima for a friendship tour jointly organized by Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) and Sunbird Trust in April 2019. Following the tour's success, 20 students from the Khongjom school, visited LFS at Singngat in October 2019 for a two-day inter-school "friendship" meet. The trips helped the students interact with students from other communities and build understanding of their different cultures.



CELEBRATING FESTIVALS WITH ASSAM RIFLES

Students of LFS celebrated Baisakhi and Diwali with the troops of 2 Assam Rifles after being invited to their camp. They exchanged greeting cards, sweets and bonded over food and crackers.



TEACHERS DAY

In keeping with tradition, Teachers' Day was celebrated at our partner schools. The day was marked with programmes staged by the children. At Sungcham Friendship School, tiny tots of grades 3 & 4 took ownership of planning and organising the program. Songs, dances and even a fashion show marked the event. Later the teachers cooked and shared a community lunch.



CREATOR ROOM, MUSIC PROJECT

The music group Creator Room from Mumbai visited from 1 - 10 Sep 2019 to train our students at Hope Foundation Academy in Langmai in music techniques and prep them for the school's foundation day celebration. They taught them the basics of guitar, Hindustani classical music and songs in different languages. They also video graphed the ceremony for the school. They continued their collaboration with our students by conducting online music classes for our students on a weekly basis.

DRAMA DAY

Five plays in various formats with cogent and relevant messages were performed by students of LFS.

SCIENCE EXHIBITION

About 52 science projects were put on exhibition by the students of LFS under the guidance of Dr. Aloka S.



LFS STAFF EXCURSION TO UKHRUL

The staff of LFS went to Ukhrul for their annual excursion in October 2019. We visited Mova and Khankhui caves in addition to trekking the famous Shirui hill. The entire staff team stayed at a Sunbird student Alumni cum employee Shomrorphi's local home in Shirui. It was a great team building exercise for the LFS staff along with providing a much-needed break from the daily grind at the school.

HFA STAFF EXCURSION TO LOKTAK

The Sunbird Team members and 9 of the school staff went on a 3-day picnic to Loktak Lake and Imphal in September 2019. This helped in building friendship and celebrating the effort that every team member puts into the work for the school and our children.

AAROgyASEVA SUNBIRD FREE MEDICAL CAMP

In partnership with Aarogya Seva, we organized a free medical camp in Noney, facilitated by Dr. Ilhaam Ashraf (Health For India Fellow) and other doctors from RIMS Hospital, Imphal and visited by 700-800 people from neighbouring villages in Oct 2019.

MEDICAL CAMP BY ASSAM RIFLES

The Noney Battalion of the Assam Rifles conducted a Medical Camp for the children of Paangkriang Friendship School at Ijeirong on 7th August 2019. The camp was held at the Sunbird Centre at the school. Children and staff from the school and local residents availed of this opportunity.



DENTAL CAMP

Singngat as a place suffers immensely with dental problems. Keeping that in view, an oral hygiene camp was organized and conducted by Dr. Aloka, Sunbird's in-house dentist. It was followed by distribution of toothbrush and toothpaste to all the children.





not only house a diverse range of books, but also have educational games and activities. Selected centres are digitally equipped and connected to the internet as well. TODP provides hands-on training to the local teachers to run the space effectively and provides a detailed handbook with a tested library program.

So far, 11 such centres have been established in 4 states. Of these 8 have been established under the aegis of Sunbird Trust (at Khomunnom, Ijeirong, Puichi, Leimakhong, Tamei, Pinjang, Ngarian- in Manipur and Mukalimi in Nagaland). 4 more libraries are coming up at Aben & Tousem in Tameinglong dist of Manipur and Mualdam and Garbhanga in Assam.

THE OPEN DOOR PROJECT

Desiring to build access to knowledge for rural kids, 'The Open Door Project' (TODP), has been setting up libraries in the remotest villages of India in collaboration with

a local partner school/NGOs since Feb 2019. Conceived by Sunbird Trust COO, Dr Sonal Sethia and School Leader, Arpan Sen, these libraries are designed to serve as independent learning centres that





EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

In June 2017, 35 students from Manipur and Nagaland were sponsored by Sunbird Trust and our partners DNA Entertainment Networks for their graduation. While 4 students were sponsored by DNA for various disciplines of Engineering at Dr. T Thimmaiah Institute of Technology, Kolar, 5 commenced their BA LLB at Sri Kengal Hanumanthaiya Law College, Kolar. A further 10 students were admitted to Pre University Courses and 15 to various disciplines of Science and Arts at St Joseph's College (Deemed University), Bangalore.

During the current year, we are happy to report that 100% of our students were promoted to their higher classes. All our Pre University

Students secured admission in St. Joseph's College, Bangalore in disciplines of Social Work, Law, Arts and Science. 3 of our law students migrated from Kolar to St Joseph's College of Law Bangalore.

Our students have fared fairly well in their academics and also excelled in co-curricular activities, representing their colleges in inter-college sports, cultural and music competitions. Importantly, they actively participated in numerous socially useful activities like blood donation camps, visiting elders at a local Homes for the Aged and entertaining them with music and even partaking in Swachh Bharat activities.

Throughout their stay, our young Sunbirders were afforded with every opportunity to interact with their

peers and citizens from across the city. Besides Col. Chris and Myrna Rego, their de-facto foster parents at Bangalore, several local families engaged with them and invited them over on various occasions. Myrna Rego doubled as the French tutor for those who had opted for the subject. Educational excursions were organised to historic and cultural places. The students were fortunate to have a "Bangalore grandma" (Mrs Jean Rego), who hosted several of them during the term breaks, and a "Mangalore grandma" (Mrs Esme Pais) who hosted them during their excursion to Mangalore.

All in all, our students, through their actions, social activities and achievements have done Sunbird proud and are valued ambassadors of the organisation. ▶

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Centralised Teacher Capacity Building Program. Five of our teachers participated in training conducted by Azim Premji University and aided by the Sunbird pedagogy team. The 3-day event in Feb 2020 incorporating teachers from various schools was conducted at PFS, Ijeirong. The workshop was aimed at introducing learning outcomes, innovative pedagogical practices, lesson planning aligned to outcomes and other pedagogical tools.

Pravinya Learning Management System (PLMS) Training. PLMS is a free computer resident application that provides audio-visual content, in English medium, in government secondary schools through a computer resident program. Sunbird collaborated with PRAVINYA to install their software in the computer lab of Ijeirong village. The computer lab in Paangkriang Friendship school has 18 high speed computers. PRAVINYA mapped the content in the local school textbooks to its digital

content and made it more interactive and fun. The teachers underwent a week-long training programme from 23rd April to 29th April 2019 to teach the children using the package. This initiative is one of its kind in the hills of Manipur and it has thrown open advance avenues for learning for our children.

Mushroom Cultivation Training. Sunbird Trust collaborated with ICAR and Assam Rifles (AR) to organise a one day training in Oyster Mushroom farming for Singngat and

its neighbouring villages in June 2019. A total 60 people attended this training. Post this, Sunbird partnered with three enthusiastic families from the village of Lanchah to set up a small mushroom farm in their village. They were able to seed 70 bags in February 2020 and will increase their production in the next season. Our team member Pratip Ganguly also attended a course in mushroom cultivation at Guwahati conducted by the Mushroom Development Foundation.

Apiculture training. Barefoot College and Sauramandala conducted training in beekeeping and honey cultivation for women in Langmai village. The women were also provided with locally made equipment to generate better results. The objective was to leverage natural resources of the location to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the women in the village.

Organic Farming. In order to promote sustainability at our PFS hostel, an organic farm was set-up



where local vegetables and fruits are being cultivated by a local farmer, Jonah and team member, Bruno. Additionally, this farm is being developed as a knowledge centre where we engage in sustainable farming practices such as vermicomposting, mulching along with maintaining a repository of local medicinal plants known to the Inpui community.

Mud Ovens. A talented architect Anjali Joy helped us build our first mud-oven at Muvanlai Village. The oven was used to bake delicious banana and cinnamon breads and biscuits locally, which were distributed to the children as a part of the nutrition scheme. Based on the success of this, two more mud-ovens were constructed in our partner schools at Ijeirong and Mualdam respectively.

Roselle Farming and Sales. In order to promote livelihood sustainability, Sunbird Trust is trying to make

locally sources products like exotic Roselle tea available to people from across India. Locally known as Silok Sougri, this plant is from the hibiscus family. The flowers when brewed in water make a tangy concoction that can be had hot or chilled with sugar or plain. In our first year, 10 women farmers we supported produced 60 kgs of Roselle and were able to market it profitably. We intend to help our local farmers scale their production substantially in the coming years.

Participatory Rural Appraisal. Three of our NEST fellows conducted detailed surveys with the villagers to understand the social, economic and resource mapping of the village and the community. They have conducted the PRAs for two villages in the Singngat block- Khualnum and Lanchha followed by detailed analysis of the collected data points to understand the strengths and needs of the community and base our projects accordingly.

Puichi Market. Puichi is mostly a self-sustained village in terms of consumption, but for the money flow, the village depends on the outside markets. The nearest market is 2 hours down the hill by a vehicle and it costs around Rs. 100 one-way to reach the market. Thus to address this cost challenge, using 'human-centred approach' we ideated and set-up a market in the village itself where channelizing money flow back to the community could be attained.

Community Centre, Puichi. We conceptualized and set up a community centre in Puichi as a hot spot for the community youth and women to gather for meetings on village development work. In addition, the place in the heart of the village also serves as a one-stop solution for the community to avail access to utilities such as laptops, printers, music instruments and books for practical and educational purposes.

Exposure Visit with SELCO Foundation. In Dec 2019, Sunbird Team members visited various projects of SELCO in Karnataka and Telangana to understand how the Foundation is working with different communities and implementing clean energy solutions. Team members Arpan Sen, Konish Naidu and Pratip Ganguly attended.

North East Facilitation Fair (Renewable Energy) 2020. This fair was organised by SELCO Foundation in Guwahati during Feb 2020. The event included panel discussions on the impact of sustainable energy in



different fields and an exhibition of solar powered machineries, which would make life easier for people. Pratip Ganguly represented Sunbird Trust.

NORTH EAST SUNBIRD TRUST FELLOWSHIP (NEST)

To further Sunbird Trust's objective of building peace in the conflict affected areas of North East India It was decided to start a North East Sunbird Trust (NEST) Fellowship. from 1st Feb 2020. The Fellowship involves empowering local youth as leaders and change makers in areas of education and community engagement. The first three NEST Fellows commenced their fellowship

from 1st Feb 2020 at Singngat. The duration of the Fellowship is 2 years. The number of Fellows will gradually

be increased in coming years and it is expected that some of the Fellows will go on to join the Sunbird Team.



TEAM SUNBIRD



FAREWELL

We were sorry to bid (a temporary) farewell to some of our team members who had to transition out for their further career prospects, study or marriage. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours:-

Aliasgar Janjali. A former Vice President at Bank of America, Ali left the corporate sector to first do his Fellowship at Teach for India and joined Sunbird in May 2018. He brought about remarkable changes to the school and its administration before leaving us in June 2019.

Saniya Kirloskar. Saniya joined us in May 2018 as Assistant School Leader at Paangkriang Friendship School. Her legacy is raising a modern Science Laboratory at the school. Saniya transitioned from Sunbird Trust in December 2019.

Dr. Aloka S. Our Assistant Teacher & Healthcare Manager at LFS, Khomunnom, who joined in Jan 2019 left us on 15th Jan 2020 on her impending marriage to Mr. Venkatesh and moved to Dubai. She will be sorely missed by her young wards.

Alrica D'lima. Our Sponsorship Co-ordinator & School Co-ordinator at HFA, Langmai, who joined us in 2018 left us in May 2018 to pursue MSc Psychology in Montfort College, Bangalore.

AS Shomrorphi. Our student alumnus and School & Community Co-ordinator at SFS, Puichi, who joined us in 2018 left us in Jun 2019 to pursue her Master's in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Tamil Nadu.

WELCOME

Ravi Kumar Konathala. Ravi joined us as Assistant School Leader at Paangkriang Friendship School, Ijeirong in April 2019. He is an MBA and Teach for India Fellow.

Shivalika Gill. A Teach for India Fellow with experience in the CSR sector, Shivalika joined us in April 2019 as an Assistant School Leader at HFA, Langmei.

Angela Mathew. An advertising graduate and a Teach for India Fellow and Staff, Angela joined us in April 2019 as an Assistant School Leader at HFA, Langmei.

Pratip Ganguly. A Civil Engineer and Teach for India Fellow, Pratip joined us as Community Development Coordinator on 20th May 2019.

Rucha Deshpande. Coming from the Corporate Sector, and holding a Masters Degree in German Literature, Rucha, joined us in May 2019 as our Media and Music Coordinator. She also takes classes at PFS Ijeirong.

Michelle Markos. A Teach for India fellow, with a Masters in Education specialising in School leadership, Organisation and Management from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, Michelle joined us in June 2019 as an Assistant School Leader at SFS, Puichi.

Josmy Joseph. A Gandhi Fellow, with a Masters in Social Work specialising in Community Development, Josmy joined us in June 2019 as the Head of Community Development. She lives in Puichi and also teaches at SFS.

Konish Naidu. A state level footballer and civil engineer, Konish re-joined Sunbird for his second innings with us in October 2019 as a Project Manager to supervise our upcoming projects in some of the remotest areas such as Kadi and Mualdam.

Vishwanath Hiregoudar. A mechanical engineer with eight years of experience in the corporate sector, Vishwanath joined us in Nov 2019 as our Program Manager to co-ordinate our educational sponsorships across over 50 partner institutions across 5 states in the NE.

Bruno Kachua. An Adivasi person from Assam, Bruno holds a Masters in Social Work. He joined us in January 2020 as a Community Development Co-Ordinator.

INTERNS

Sunbird was privileged to welcome the following interns:-

Interns from Xavier's Institute of Rural Management (XIMB), Bhubaneswar. Sunbird Trust was privileged to host its second batch of 3 interns from XIMB. Tanya Rao, Arushi Mallik and Somdutta Das spent a month at Puichi, working on surveying the village, life skills, curriculum, livelihood opportunities, preparing Hindi worksheets and the like.

Imran Thangboi. Our sponsored student currently studying in B.Sc Agriculture at Rourkee, interned with us from 23rd Aug – 5th Nov 2019. During this time he taught secondary students at Lyzon Friendship School

Anjali Joy. A talented architect Anjali helped us build our first mud-oven at Muvanlai Village. The oven has since been used for baking delicious cakes and biscuits for the Nutrition Scheme of our children at Lyzon Friendship School. She spent five weeks at Sunbird projects during August and September 2019.

Nikita Barton (TFI and TISS, Mumbai) and Simran Bajaj (TFI, Pune). Nikita and Simran brought colour and life to our library spaces of the Open Door Project. The two travelled across 5 locations around Manipur to set up the first libraries in the remote villages of Singngat, Ijeirong, Puichi, Tamei and Leimakhong in a span of 4 weeks.



Ananya Bhaktaram. Studying at University of Oklahoma, Ananya came from Oklahoma in the USA to spend 6 weeks with us during June and July 2019. She took classes at our schools and sessions on awareness on female health to explore the connection between education and health. She studied the challenges to teaching tribal children due to the language barrier and basic infrastructural impediments at

three of our schools. She conducted cursory health assessments and also helped the community evaluate the effectiveness of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Poorva Deshpande (Masters in German language) is a German Trainer and a Kathak Dancer from Pune. She has her own language institute, where she facilitates foreign language training in 3 languages.

Priyesh Chouksey, hails from Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh and has completed his graduation in mass communication from the Delhi University. Poorva and Priyesh set-up rural learning houses at three remote locations across Manipur and Nagaland under The Open Door Project, with the aim to provide exposure and to build 'independent exploration' capabilities in children from rural parts of the country.





TEAM CONCLAVES

Team Conclaves. Being spread across many projects located far apart, a need arises for team members to gather at one place, strategize and take stock. Of course it's a great time for bonding and fun. The year saw three such gatherings, on dates 17th-18th August 2019 and 30th Nov-1st Dec at the serene Yum and Hills location at Imphal and on

and 29th Feb-1st March 2020 at LFS, Singnat. Brig Ravroop Singh, Cmdr 59 Mtn Bde and Brig SK Shrama DIG, CRPF addressed our young team and motivated them further.

Team Conclave in Bangalore. In the month of January 2020, 4 members from the senior leadership of Sunbird Trust, gathered at Bangalore

to set the Objectives for the year 2020, streamline the organizational structure, update company policies, re-structure the work function verticals. By the end of year 2019, the organization had seen a sudden increase in the volume of work and the workforce. This team conclave, it helped to set a strong foundation to carry out the upcoming operations.





Meetings with Hon'ble Governor of Manipur, Dr. Najma Heptullah (25th February 2020)
and boxing legend Mary Kom (22nd June 2019)

DONORS, PARTNERS AND WELL-WISHERS

We were honoured by the visits of our valued donors, partners and friends who came from afar to be with us. Our team members thoroughly enjoyed their company and received some valuable guidance.

Lt. Gen Shokin Chauhan (Retd) and Mrs Daphne Chauhan. We were honoured by the visits of former Director General of Assam Rifles and current Chairman of the Ceasefire Monitoring Group, Lt Gen Chauhan and Mrs Daphne Chauhan. As DGAR, Gen Chauhan had facilitated immense help for operations of Sunbird Trust linked to community development programmes. Gen and Mrs Chauhan addressed our team during our Team Conclave in March 2020.

Dr. Vivek Bhaktaram, M.D. and Family. Dr. Vivek Bhaktaram, M.D., a cardiologist and his entire family came all the way from Oklahoma in the USA to be with us during July'2019. Vivek's daughter Ananya Bhaktaram, interned with us for 6 weeks and made a valuable contribution.

Maj. Gen. Sreehari, GOC 57 Inf Div. Gen Srihari made special visits to our villages at Ijeirong and gave his valuable time to be with our teachers and children at Lyzon Friendship School in Jan 2019.

Dr. Ravishankar and Ekta Dakoju. Mr. Ravishankar, acknowledged as Rotary Club's most generous donor worldwide and his wife Paola are sponsors for building our Ebion Public School at Khomunnom Village



and other infrastructure. After their most enjoyable sojourn with us with younger daughter Samta last year, it was the turn of elder daughter Ekta, based in Australia, to visit with her father (December 2020).

Caring Friends. Mr Abhishek Yadav a Chartered Accountant visited our Headquarters at Ijeirong in Oct 2019 and conducted an audit on behalf of Caring Friends, our

partner organization.

Jatin Lucky. The videographer of the iconic Luminous "White Bullets" movie on us, Jatin has since become a de-facto Team Member and visited us to shoot footage for upcoming videos. He visited us in Feb 2020.

HT Parekh Foundation. Ms Sweetie Thomas and Ms Pooja Kamat from HT Parekh Foundation, visited us in

November 2020 and visited Ijeirong and Puichi villages

Mr Joseph Gomes. Co-owner of Furtados, India's biggest music enterprise, Joseph made the trip from Mumbai to be with us in November 2020. Visiting Ijeirong and Puichi, he regaled us with his anecdotes and jokes and all of us thoroughly enjoyed his company. Joseph contributed all the musical instruments required for starting our Furtados-Sunbird Music Academy at Ijeirong.



Mr. Balagopal Chandrasekhar. Our long time mentor and donor Mr Balagopal Chandrasekhar, who had served in the 1970s as a young IAS officer in Manipur before moving to the private sector, visited us in March 2020. Over the past decade, he and Mrs Vinita Nambiar had been involved in humanitarian activities and social entrepreneurship through his NGO Anaha Trust. Author of the book "On a Clear Day you can See India", he is the generous sponsor of multiple computer laboratories, a science laboratory and miscellaneous school infrastructure. He visited our projects at Ijeirong, Puichi and Langmai.



Shashi Velath. A journalist for two decades who has covered conflict in various parts of the country, he worked in leadership positions in Amnesty International and Ashoka University. He visited Ijeirong in July 2019 and interacted deeply with our stakeholders to study the potential of eco-tourism.

Harsha Pandav a professional photographer, visited us from the UAE during August 2019 and captured many captivating images.

Rhujuta Belsare. Rhujuta is an HR professional in the field of Strategic HR and Organizational Development. She has an MBA (HR) from Pune University prior to which she obtained her M.Sc. (Electronics) from Fergusson College, Pune. Rhujuta strengthened our HR and administrative policies including compliances and help set up a more conducive work environment.

Founder of 'Travel Dirty' paid us a recce visit in the month of March 2020 to understand the work of Sunbird Trust and possibly collaborate in the coming years. Aishwarya visited a total of 6 locations during her 10-day visit and tried to engage with the community, team and the school to understand how eco- and experiential tourism can be carried out in our locations. The aim of introducing this project in our locations is to create a sustainable structure in the communities, by making the parents of our school children the direct beneficiaries.

Aishwarya Phadke. Aishwarya **Satyajit Elangbam, District Program**

Officer at Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and a group of 15 teachers from Tamenglong District visited us for an “Exposure visit”. This event was organized in collaboration with Mr. Armstrong Pame, DC of Tamenglong District on 12th February 2020.

Brig Raminder Sethi (Head, NCC Manipur) and Mrs Preeti Sethi visited us in February 2020 at Ijeirong and spent a night with us. They encouraged our team and our children at PFS with their kind words.



Kurlon Mattresses. Our generous donors and partners, Kurlon through their CEO, Mr. Narendra Kudva contributed over 1,000 high quality bedsheets, 1,000 “dohars” and 70 mattresses for use in our hostels for underprivileged children and for orphan and destitute children (including those affected by HIV) in various homes. This was in addition to a large number of mattresses, pillows, bedsheets and blankets contributed during the last year. Sunbird Trust is much indebted to the Assam Rifles for assisting in the logistics of transferring the items to remote locations and delivering them to the various institutions.



Featherlite Chairs. In September 2019, Sunbird Trust received a consignment of 250 high quality chairs from Featherlite, one of the leading furniture manufactures in India. These will be immensely beneficial for the lucky school children who are able to use them. We are most grateful for these



to Mr. Manohar Gopal, Director of Featherlite, who shipped the chairs to Manipur all the way from Bangalore. ▶

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