

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 17



Sunbird Trust
PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends of Sunbird Trust,

It has been my honour to lead the operations of Sunbird Trust over the past year, which, without doubt, has been both the most productive and the most challenging for our fledgling organization. Working in a conflict zone is never easy at best, and, when our mandate is to partner with marginalized communities in the remotest areas already beset with issues of identity and politics, we are tested even further. But then, our humanistic, pluralistic and inclusive ethos stands us in good stead. We like to think that our work truly begins at times of crisis when turbulence and instability rule and the security situation is not really the best. Fortuitously, both our donors and supporters on the one hand and our village partners on the other hand have walked every mile of the bumpy road with us. Most of all, however, it is our young and dynamic team members that are helping us carve a niche in the uncharted territory we work in.

In the past year, we have more than doubled the number of sponsored children, both for tuitions and for boarding. When the January 2016 earthquake in Manipur devastated Kabui Khullen village which lay at its epicenter, the entire village was ordered to shift to a new location. Almost all the children of this village, now without a proper school, were welcomed at our Sunbird Friendship Hostel at our pilot project at Ijeirong village 15 miles away. With this, our hostel grew from 151 to 241 children overnight. Importantly, we did away from the "self-help" system, whereby our non-sponsored children cooked by themselves to a system where all children are sponsored, and food is now cooked collectively.

As ever, the basis of our work in a conflict area is **Peace through Education**. We are continually bringing people together with education as a tool and a means rather than an end. As pioneers in many of the areas where we are working, we are continually in our journey of exploration, heaving through a thick undergrowth of suspicion, poverty and paucity of resources. Through our goodwill earned from sponsored families, we are assiduously expanding our base of trust to larger communities and villages beyond. We are now at a new phase whereby NGOs specializing in other fields like health, livelihood and environmental sustainability now can partner with us leveraging our "Trust Bases". Our immense growth in just the past two years is necessitating strengthening our organizational structure, streamlining our operations and bringing more formalization in our functioning. Per force, we have had to expand, hence small rented offices at Bangalore and Imphal. A bigger challenge is affording and drawing in professional "boots on the ground" to bolster our existing team...but we're getting there.

Thank you, dear friends, for your continuing support to Team Sunbird on this engrossing journey,



With gratitude,

Col Chris Rego (Retd)

TRUSTEES REPORT

Some highlights of the year include: -

- 680 underprivileged children from Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh benefit from our Sponsor A Child Scheme.
- Our Sunbird Friendship Hostel at Ijeirong expanded from 151 children to 241 during the year.
- Our Nutrition Scheme grew from 150 to 290 children including 55 afflicted by HIV/AIDS.
- A new classroom was added to Friendship School Muvanlai through private contributions by Sunbird Trust team members.
- A new Community cum Study Hall and a “Sunbird Centre” were built and inaugurated at Ijeirong.
- Sunbird gained two new team members in Aswathy Preetha Jayakumar, a Teach for India Fellow and Bipin Shivaji Dhane, an IIT Kharagpur post graduate in Marine Engineering.
- Sunbird Trust facilitated major financial help to Bipin Dhane to erect infrastructure and start his own school (Humminbird School) at Majuli Island, Assam
- 30 children of Std 9 of Paangkriang Friendship School Ijeirong were sponsored on an educational tour to Imphal, Guwahati and Shillong through DNA – Sunbird trust partnership.
- A mushroom training camp was organized by ICAR for residents and hostel inhabitants of Sunbird Friendship hostel at Ijeirong from 13 to 16 Jul ‘16
- Under DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt Ltd – Sunbird Trust partnership, 35 students from NE will be fully sponsored for their 11th and 12th standard and for graduation in Engineering, Law, BA and B Sc at Kolar Gold Fields and Bangalore
- Dr. Benjamine Khiangte, alumnus of the Sunbird initiative, is attending his super specialty course (DBM) at Thiruvananthapuram Medical college.
- Dilip Chakma, alumnus of the National Law School of India, and assisted by Sunbird Trust during his Law studies was appointed as magistrate in the Chakma Autonomous Council at Mizoram.
- Ms. Kresitha Momin, from Meghalaya, 1st Rank holder in BA (Music), is now completing her MA (Music) at Santa Isobel College Manila, Philippines through sponsorship of Sunbird Trust.
- Col Chris Rego was conferred with the prestigious global Ashoka Fellowship in August 2016. He also received the “Significant Achievement Award” of his alma mater, St. Joseph’s Boys’ High School Bangalore.



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,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Dr. Dayaprasad Gurunath Kulkarni, M.D.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Sponsor A Child Scheme. During the year, Sunbird Trust expanded its child sponsorship scheme from 350 children to 680 children in 21 partner institutions in three states viz Manipur, Nagaland and Assam. Plans are afoot to partner with our first school in Arunachal Pradesh. While Sunbird's first step was to provide basic financial and physical access to education through sponsorship and building hostels, we are now endeavouring to slowly raising the standard of education in the sponsored schools. Besides, child sponsorship, itself empowering, is not an end, but a means to Peace and amity in a conflict affected area. Through cross cultural sponsorship of underprivileged children by people from other parts of India, threads of friendship are woven through families of sponsored children, their villages and neighbouring villages as well. The trust thus generated is employed to strengthen the partnership and facilitate more engagement with isolated communities.

Nutrition Scheme. In the past year, Sunbird Trust has increased the number of children sponsored under the Nutrition Scheme from 150 to 290. A big change is the shift from "self-help" to centralized cooking for all children of Sunbird Friendship Hostel at Ijeirong, which means that the children not sponsored will now not have to cook themselves. A nutritious menu has been carefully crafted by Aswathy Jayakumar, Sunbird's Programme Manager at Ijeirong. Among those supported in the Nutrition Scheme are 55 HIV/AIDS infected or affected children at Happiness Home Churachandpur.

Sunbird Friendship Hostel, Ijeirong

The Sunbird Friendship Hostel was started with 50 underprivileged children in Feb 2014. With continuously improving amenities like solar lights, clean toilets and a safe environment close to one of the only available schools, parents from 15 neighbouring villages started sending their children here. During Academic year 2016 – 2017, another 60 children from Kabui Khullen village that was destroyed in the Jan 2016 earthquake were accommodated here and the total number of children burgeoned to 241. This necessitated immediate expansion of the hostel with meagre funds available. A second hostel is now under planning.





Community and Study Hall at Ijeirong. With the critical need for a new school hall cum study hall for the boarders, members of Sunbird team contributed to building a large hall (30' x 90'). The hall can accommodate 300 children and is especially useful during the heavy monsoons when students cannot assemble outdoors. It is planned to install solar lighting so that this space can be used by the boarders as a study hall at night. The facility will be further improved with availability of additional funding.

Adoption of Chadong Village. This picturesque village in Phungyar sub-division of Ukhrul district of Manipur was devastated when it was largely submerged under the waters of the Mapithel Dam in 2015. As the local school too was submerged, children from the families that had chosen to remain were forced to take admission in schools far from their village. The families, already deprived of a livelihood by submergence of their fields were severely challenged to support expensive education and hostel fees at these places and approached Sunbird Trust. 30 children from Chadong are now fully supported by Sunbird.

Help for Hearing Aid and Heart Operation for Project Residents. While Sunbird is primarily in the field of education, many deserving people from its project areas approach the Trust for financial assistance for personal reasons. In the past year, Sunbird Trust has facilitated procurement of an expensive hearing aid for a college girl and helped raise Rs 40,000 towards a hear operation for a young schoolboy. In 2015, Sunbird Trust had facilitated raising Rs 5 lakhs toward and expensive ear implant for 7th Std Ritesh, son of a paramilitary official posted at Jorhat. Now, 2 year later, Ritesh can not only hear, but can also speak, and is coping well with his studies. An extrovert, he is also participating in co-curricular activities and is a budding tennis champ.



Educational Tour to Imphal, Guwahati and Shillong

DNA Entertainment Networks through their founder Dr. Venkat Vardhan, sponsored an educational tour for Std 9 children of Paankriang Friendship School to Imphal, Guwahati and Shillong from 14 to 22 Oct 16. The aim of the tour was to expose the children, many of who had never traveled outside of their remote villages, to the beauty and diversity of their country. Enroute, the children were graciously hosted by the Assam Rifles at Noney, Assam Rifles Transit Camp at Imphal and the Directorate General Assam Rifles at Shillong. Varied activities were staged for them. At Guwahati, they were special guests of the Air Force at their base at Borjhar. The children were given a presentation on joining the armed forces besides being shown the various aircraft. The highlight of the tour was their being guests of honour of actor John Abraham at the Indian Super League match between FC North East and FC Mumbai at the Guwahati football stadium. Each child received a FCNE T shirt and the school received a few footballs. At Shillong, the children visited popular tourist sites like the Ward Lake, Don Bosco Museum and View Point. All in all, the children were ecstatic at the end of a most enjoyable tour.



Sunbird Trust gets a Programme Manager. Sunbird Trust got its first Programme Manager in the person of Aswathy Preetha Jayakumar, a Teach for India Fellow and BE (Hons) graduate in Biotechnology. Applying to join Sunbird and requesting merely for boarding, accommodation and basic sustenance money, Aswathy immediately endeared to the team, the village inhabitants and above all to the children at Sunbird's pilot project at Ijeirong. She factored in systems and procedures in Sunbird activities and helped do away with the entrenched "self-help" system whereby underprivileged young boarders in the hostel were compelled to cook for themselves.

She was able to achieve this through a via media: families of the children contributed a small amount and the Sunbird Trust put in the rest to provide a nutritious diet for the children. Beyond Ijeirong, Aswathy helped set up the teaching system at the fledgling Sunbird supported primary school at Majuli Island and the Friendship school at Muvanlai.

A New Team Member for Assam. An M.Tech in Marine Engineering from IIT Kharagpur, 28 year old Bipin Shivaji Dhane gave up corporate life in Singapore to serve the underprivileged back home in India. Working for a year in a Sunbird Trust partner school at Majuli Island, he branched out to start his own Majuli Island Hummingbird School in Jan 2017. For this purpose, he sought and was granted much assistance from Sunbird Trust (through its generous donors) for commencing work on a hostel and dining hall. Additionally, Sunbird Trust sponsored 40 children in the school. Bipin became a part of the Sunbird Trust initiative, becoming responsible for its activities at Majuli and Assam state. He has plans to use his school as a hub to start other developmental activities, more notably in the fields of livelihood and health.



Col Chris Rego, CEO, Sunbird Trust (Top row, first from right) at Rashtrapati Bhavan along with Co-Ashoka Fellows (2016)

Ashoka Fellowship for Col Chris Rego (Retd). In recognition of his innovative work in the field of “Peace through Education” in North East India, Col Chris was one of 16 individuals elected from the Indian subcontinent for the prestigious international Ashoka Fellowship in 2014. He is now in the august company of personalities like Nobel Prize winners Kailash Satyarthi and Mohammed Yunus, Ms. Kiran Bedi and Dr. Devi Shetty all of whom were elected Fellows in the early stages of their career. His selection brings new recognition to the work of Sunbird Trust and hopefully opens the door for partnership with other Fellows and similar organizations.



NEWS OF ALUMNI

Team Sunbird sponsored several students through partner organisations for over a decade before the Trust was registered in December 2014. Several of these alumni have gone on to make a mark. They are not only fully self-sufficient, but many are also supporting their entire families as well:-

Dr. Ben Kiangte M.D. Financially supported by Sunbird team members through his MBBS, Dr. Ben completed his M.D. (Medicine) from Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha. He is now completing his super specialty (D.B.M.) in gastroenterology. Ben is already “paying back” by sponsoring education of six underprivileged children from his village in Mizoram.

Dilip Chakma. Taking financial help from through the Sunbird initiative, Dilip completed his L.Lb. from the National Law School University of India (NLSUI), Bangalore. He was appointed as a magistrate in the Chakma Autonomous Council in Mizoram. He is now preparing for his Civil Services entrance examinations.

Kresitha Momin. Supported throughout her graduation in B.A. (Music) at Shillong, Kresitha performed outstandingly obtaining the first rank. With a view to improve her job prospects and with Sunbird Trust’s financial help, she is now completing her MA (Music) from Santa Isobel College, Manila.

Andison Laishangbam. After his father died suddenly, Andy could not complete his Hotel Management course at Bangalore after being completely sponsored for his college and hostel fees by Sunbird Trust team members. After working for a few years at Bangalore, he gained a significant boost to his career by securing employment at a hotel in Australia. He attributes the fact that he could complete his education only due to the support he received at a critical time in his life.

Shomrorphi AS. Sponsored through the Sunbird initiative since her 8th Std, Shomrorphi desires to “give back” and joined her Bachelors in Social Work at Don Bosco College Maram, Manipur. During her final year, she will intern at Sunbird’s supported project at Majuli Island, the first alumna that will intern with the organisation.

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends of Sunbird Trust,

Another year has gone by and our fledgling Sunbird is rapidly strengthening its wings. Our work is helping us to endear to our partner communities and new opportunities for engagement beckon. The often-fractured landscape – whether culturally, politically even religiously, would be a challenge for anyone seeking to live and work there. However, it is exactly from here that Sunbird Trust's work to build bridges of friendship begins, and it is here that our humanistic, secular and "for all" core stands us in good stead.

The past year has seen us strengthen our relationship with likeminded organisations: Goonj, headed by Magsaysay Award Winner Anshu Gupta chose us as their reliable partner to deliver aid to Majuli Island in Assam during the devastating floods of July 2017. Our team member Bipin Dhane, through his own organization provided the astute administration. Goonj later partnered with us to build a road to our Paangkriang Friendship School at Ijeirong Village. We seek to partner with more organisations with complementary specializations in fields like health, livelihood or environment sustainability.

When 35 students, most from remote villages in Manipur and Nagaland, were admitted to prestigious colleges at Kolar and Bangalore to pursue their graduate studies, we have entered a new, exploratory phase. Most grateful to my classmate Dr. Venkat Vardhan for this initiative and sponsoring 9 of the students for Law and Engineering at his colleges at Kolar. All the students are supported comprehensively for their tuitions, boarding and lodging.

It is with a tinge of sadness that Aswathy Jayakumar, our first colleague from outside the North East, proceeds for her higher studies in Costa Rica. She had carved a niche for herself and contributed immensely to building our structure. However, our tiny team is blessed to welcome Ankita Phalle and Konish Naidu, both of who have already made a mark in the hearts of our village friends at Ijeirong.

Our ability to leverage the trust we are earning is limited only by resources; Thankfully, some of our donors have literally travelled the extra mile(s) to support us. Mr. Ravishankar Dakoju from Bangalore accompanied me from Majuli Island in Assam through Nagaland and then to our schools in Manipur. Satisfied with what he saw, he is now sponsoring building of several assets including an entire school. My old school classmate Narendra Kudva, CEO of Kurlon sent us a couple of truckloads of mattresses, sheets and blankets. Another classmate Luis and his wife Fiona, our very first mentors, continue to strengthen us by their personal contributions and by bringing their friends to the Sunbird fold. From the deep south, Mr. Chandrashekar Balagopal relives his days as a young IAS officer in Manipur and is sponsoring a Computer Skilling Centre at Ijeirong.

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

With gratitude,

Col Chris Rego (Retd)



TRUSTEES REPORT

Some highlights of the year include: -

- 1,210 children are now sponsored under our “Sponsor a Child” scheme in 4 NE states.
- Under DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt Ltd – Sunbird Trust partnership, 35 students from NE have been admitted to colleges at Kolar and Bangalore for their 11th and 12th standard and for graduation in Engineering, Law, BA and B Sc. All are fully sponsored for boarding, lodging and tuition fees.
- Our Sunbird Friendship Hostel at Ijeirong, built in 2014 now has 247 hostel children. The hostel running and boarding of the children is heavily subsidized by Sunbird Trust.
- 290 children are sponsored under our basic “Egg a Day” Nutrition Scheme including 55 afflicted/affected by HIV/AIDS at Happiness Home Churachandpur.
- Given the poor access to our Friendship School at Muvanlai village, a new school building will be constructed at Khomunnom Village where the Chief has donated land. After his visit, our donor Mr. Dakoju Ravishankar has pledged to sponsor the school building.
- Construction of a 75,000 litre water tank commenced at Ijeirong. Sponsored by Mr. Dakoju Ravishankar, it will ease the difficulty faced by Sunbird Friendship Hostel Children at Ijeirong.
- Our Programme Manager Aswathy Preetha Jayakumar has proceeded to pursue her MA in Peace Education at United Nations supported University for Peace in Costa Rica. Her place has been taken by Ankita Phale, a Teach for India Fellow. Konish Naidu, a civil engineer, has joined the team.
- Sunbird Trust is facilitating major financial help for improving infrastructure of Humminbird School at Majuli Island, Assam. The school was founded by our team member Bipin Dhane.
- 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 has proceeded to Australia where he has secured a job as a Chef. Kresitha Momin, from Meghalaya, completed her MA (Music) at Santa Isobel College Manila, Philippines through sponsorship of Sunbird Trust and is now seeking suitable employment.
- Luminous, the solar and electrical equipment company have contributed a 10KV solar plant at Ijeirong.
- Sunbird Trust is sponsoring building of Kawikengou Friendship School and hostel at remote Kadi II village in Tamenglong District of Manipur. The site is only accessible by foot.
- Through the kind sponsorship of Anaha Trust, a new 18 terminal computer skilling centre is being constructed at Ijeirong. It will serve 5 neighbouring villages and students of Paangkriang School.



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,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Dr. Dayaprasad Gurunath Kulkarni, M.D.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Sponsorship of College Students. Sunbird Trust entered a new phase facilitating the sponsorship of 35 underprivileged college students from remote parts of Manipur and Nagaland. With the help of Dr. T. Venkat Vardhan, Managing Director, DNA Entertainment Networks, 4 students were admitted to Engineering courses at Dr T Thimmaiah Institute of Technology and 5 for Law Courses at Sri Kengal Hanumanthaiya Law College. 14 Students were admitted to graduate courses St. Josephs College of Arts and Science, Bangalore. A further 5 boys and 4 girls were admitted to PUC at St Josephs PUC College and Baldwins Women’s College. All arrangements are being made for the boarding, lodging and tuition fees of these students.

75,000 Litre Water Tank for Sunbird Friendship Hostel at Ijeirong. Every summer from March to May, children of Sunbird Friendship Hostel at Ijeirong Village, Manipur go through much difficulty due to the acute scarcity of water. Sometimes children have to walk down to the river a distance away to bathe. During his visit in November 2017, Mr. Dakoju Ravishankar, a donor, seeing the plight of the children agreed to sponsor cost of the water tank. The tank should be ready by August 2018.

Partnership with Hummingbird School, Majuli Island, Assam. Sunbird Trust provided major support to team member Bipin Dhane in raising infrastructure at Hummingbird School, the school he founded in Jan 2017 at Majuli island. An IIT Kharagpur post graduate who gave up a corporate job at Singapore, Bipin brings much technical expertise and innovative teaching strategies. Serving the most marginalized and poor, the Hummingbird school helps provide basic access to education for children from Kulamao and neighbouring villages on the island. With bare minimum infrastructure and basic amenities, Bipin and his team are reaching beyond the children to their parents and communities in areas of Health and Livelihood sustainability. In its “Team of Teams” concept, Sunbird Trust will be working closely with the team at Majuli to build up the school and in developmental activities with the community





Mattresses from Kurlon. Kurlon CEO Mr. Narendra Kudva kindly facilitated the contribution of blankets, mattresses and bed sheets for underprivileged children in the NE. Every one of the 247 children in Sunbird Friendship Hostel, Ijeirong got a new mattress, bed sheets and pillow cases. The Assam Rifles helped to overcome logistical issues by helping transport the aid to the remotest locations.

Anaha Trust - Sunbird Computer Centre. Anaha Trust founded by Shri. Balagopal Chandrashekhar agreed to sponsor a fully equipped Computer Centre at Ijeirong Village at a cost of Rs 22 lakhs. The work is 80% completed. The Computer Centre will be completed and fully functional by August 2018. The Centre will serve the 450 children and 247 hostel children at Paangkriang Friendship School Ijeirong and also youth of 5 neighbouring villages.

Sunbird Centre. During 2017, Sunbird Trust Project Manager Amos became architect and engineer and designed a beautiful wooden building that now serves as the Sunbird office. The Centre has a large working space on the ground floor and two guest rooms on the first floor. These will be utilized by visiting trainers and interns.



Collaboration with Goonj. In July 2017, devastating floods hit Majuli island bringing misery to thousands of people on the island. Goonj, a national NGO, partnered with Sunbird to bring solace to the flood affected and marooned people on the island. Goonj uniquely uses urban discards such as clothes, linen, as a tool to alleviate poverty and enhance the dignity of the poor and marginalized. The poor and marginalized evolve their own solutions to solve local problems and the urban material is used as a reward. When devastating floods hit Majuli Island and Goonj required a reliable partner, they chose Sunbird and our team member Bipin Dhane at Majuli. Bipin had established himself at remote Kulamao village building the Hummingbird School there. Tons of aid were distributed under the supervision of Goonj representative Romen and Bipin. Local people repaired miles of roads and built bridges and were duly rewarded by “family packs” of aid containing clothes, shoes, cooking utensils, blankets and even solar lamps.

Completely satisfied with the partnership, Goonj brought tons of aid to Ijeirong and jungle track was turned into a metaled one-kilometer road. More than 250 village people from 5 neighbouring villages joined the endeavour. The splendid product now makes it easier for children to reach their school and for farmers to access their fields and bring back the produce. The Road is now called the Goonj-Sunbird Trust Lampui.



Pedestrian bridge being built at Majuli Island, Assam under Goonj “Cloth for Work” programme



250 persons from 4 villages in the process of making the Goonj-Sunbird Trust Lampui Road at Ijeirong Village under Goonj “Cloth for Work” Programme.



A Donor Visits. Mr. Dakoju Ravishankar from Bangalore travelled along with CEO Col Chris Rego from Majuli Island in Assam through Nagaland and to Sunbird Trust projects in Manipur. He closely interacted with students, their parents, school teachers, women’s group members and community leaders. Through this, he became aware of the reality of the children and their families.

Ravishankar visits Ebion Friendship School

Receiving a warm welcome at Majuli Island, Ravi pledged to support a holistic developmental hub that would include a Teacher Training Institute, Skill Development Centre, Women’s Empowerment Centre and even a school and a hostel for underprivileged children.

At Singnat Ravishankar magnanimously agreed to sponsor building an entirely new school at nearby Khomunnom village, where the village chief had donated land.



At the Sunbird Trust “Headquarters” at Ijeirong village in Manipur, Ravi witnessed the difficulty faced by children due to the shortage of water in the dry season. He sponsored a 75,000 ltr water tank. Keenly interested in organic farming, he sponsored purchase of two acres of land. Women of Self Help Groups of 5 neighbouring villages discussed their issues with Ravishankar and sought his guidance.

Ravishankar and CEO Chris Rego with members of Womens’ Self Help Groups at Ijeirong Village



Luminous Solar Plant. Luminous, the solar and electrical equipment company chose Sunbird Trust CEO Chris Rego as their first “Luminary” for their national campaign for the girl child. The Luminous team visited Ijeirong in November 2017 and installed the 10KVA solar plant at the village. This plant now provides uninterrupted power to the entire Paangkriang Friendship School, Sunbird Friendship Hostel, Computer Skilling Centre and “Sunbird Enclave”.



The team was accompanied by a professional video team that produced a promotional video called “White Bullets” which went on to have more than 3.5 million views on the Luminous Facebook Page. At a location where lack of regular electricity supply has plagued local people and especially school students, this solar plant has come as a boon.

Woolen Caps from Inner Wheel Club. Each lady of Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore painstakingly knitted woolen caps for our children in Manipur. The children received the caps just in time for the cold winter season.

Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore has been donating woolen caps for underprivileged child



Farewell to Aswathy Preetha Jayakumar. Aswathy Preetha Jayakumar, a BITS Pilani graduate in Biotechnology and a Teach for India Fellow joined Sunbird Trust in October 2016 as a Field Volunteer. Reporting at Sunbird Trust North East “Headquarters” at Ijeirong Village, she immediately immersed herself with the task at hand and was soon promoted as Programme Manager of Sunbird Trust operations across the North East. During her yearlong stay, she instituted new teaching methodologies at Sunbird Trust’s partner Paangkriang Friendship School and helped impart new skills to the local teachers. Despite the constant social and political disturbances in the conflict zone and unmindful of her personal safety as a young woman, she plunged headlong into her work, exploring nearby villages and travelling to other Sunbird projects in North East India. At each location, she imprinted her personal stamp on the educational and organisational methodologies being followed in these remote communities. Her friendly and approachable disposition helped her transcend barriers of culture, language and religion and she quickly endeared herself to children and adults alike.

Sadly, Aswathy had to move on to progress her career. She enrolled for a master’s degree in Peace Education at the University of Peace Studies in Costa Rica. She will however continue to remain in an advisory role with Sunbird Trust. A standing reminder of Aswathy will be the Nursery Section of Paankgriang Friendship School designed in the local Naga style. Upon her departure, Aswathy handed over the reins of Programme Manager to Ankita Phalle, also a Teach for India Fellow.



Nursery Hut at Paangkriang Friendship School, Ijeirong conceptualized by Aswathy Jayakumar



A New Programme Manager for Sunbird Trust. On the departure of Aswathy Jayakumar for her higher studies at Costa Rica, Ankita Phalle, a Teach for India Fellow, took on her role as Programme Manager.

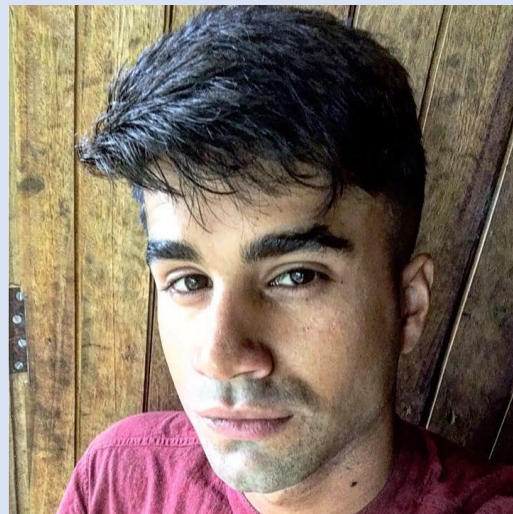
Ankita has been tasked to monitor and supervise the education of 1,600 sponsored students across 21 locations in three North Eastern States of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam (with majority of her work concentrated in Manipur).

In her short stay, Ankita has already made a mark having travelled to several partner villages often walking home with the hostel children at Sunbird Friendship Hostel, Ijeirong over the weekends. Along with Amos Inpui, our Project Manager and Konish Naidu (de facto “Chief Engineer”), she trekked over 80 kms over 3 days to recce the site for a proposed Sunbird Trust school and hostel at the Kadi group of villages high up in the hills near the Nagaland border. She is a role model to the young girls at PFS with her outward nature and many talents.

....And a New Assistant Project Manager

Coming fresh from an Engineering Degree from Christ Bangalore, Konish initially came to “try out” working with first task was to bring down 35 teenagers from Manipur to their degree course at various colleges. It was challenge at these youngsters (not even one who’d been on a train distributed across 6 or 7 bogies of the train, some with some without. Food had to be arranged through the 3-day their safety too was a concern. Konish handled the job and brought everyone safely to Bangalore without incident.

Konish quickly found a niche within the organisation...doing that everyone else could not do! So, for instance, he guiding trucks bringing up solar panels for the Luminous Guwahati, tackling multiple issues along the way. With his background, he took over as Sunbird Trust’s de facto “Chief Engineer” making plans for our new projects. It was not long before he communicated his desire to stay on at Sunbird Trust for a year.



College, Sunbird. His Bangalore for the least – before) were reservations, journey and magnificently

everything volunteered project from Engineering

Konish along with Amos and Ankita did the pioneering recce of the Kadi village school project...but things did not stop there - he returned to Kadi twice on this desolate stretch staying in the wilderness for over a month, seeing to the leveling and initial layout of the project. He is now fully entrenched at Sunbird field “Headquarters” at Ijerong monitoring local projects and teaching the children football, a passion of his.





BRIEF REPORT OF ACHIEVEMENTS BY SUNBIRD TRUST

FINANCIAL YEAR 2018 – 2019

INTRODUCTION

The FY 2018 – 2019 has been a year of rapid expansion of work of Sunbird Trust in all fields – child sponsorship, nutrition scheme, building infrastructure. A gist of work done is given in subsequent paragraphs.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP SCHEME AND NUTRITION SCHEMES (LAST THREE FINANCIAL YEARS)

ITEM	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	Remarks
Child Sponsorship	680	1210	2356	400 sponsored through Axis Bank Foundation
Nutrition Scheme	290	290	642	400 sponsored through Axis Bank Foundation
Hostel Sponsorship	250	266	355	
College Sponsorship	5	36	40	Almost all sponsored for hostel fees as well. Includes 9 students sponsored through DNA Networks
TOTAL	1,225	1,802	3,393	

HOSTELS

Hostels are being built/already built at the following locations during the year as under: -

SER	NAME	LOCATION	NOS OF CHILDREN	REMARKS
	Hostels Constructed/Under Construction			
1.	Jai Shivshakti Sunbird Friendship Hostel	Ijeirong, Manipur	100	Work Completed
2.	Aspect Sunbird Friendship Hostel	Tamei, Manipur	60	Work Completed
3.	Hummingbird – Sunbird Hostel	Majuli Island, Assam	50	Work Completed

4.	Vivekananda Hostel	Majuli Island, Assam	20	Work Completed. Number of children being increased
5.	Philia Friendship Hostel	Leimakhong, Manipur	30	On lease. Numbers being increased to 50
6.	Sunbird Friendship Hostel	Sajik Tampak, Manipur	35	Work completed. At suggestion of Army
7.	Lyzon Sunbird Friendship Hostel	Khomunnom, Manipur	100	Work Completed
8.	Sunbird Kawikengou Friendship Hostel	Kadi, Manipur	50	Work in progress
	Hostels under Planning			
9.	Sunbird Friendship Hostel,	Kangshim, Manipur	100	Land purchased. Work under planning
10.	Sunbird Friendship Hostel, Kohima	Kohima, Nagaland	30	Work under planning.
11.	Ravishankar – Sunbird Friendship Hostel	Majuli, Assam	100	Land requirement projected to CM

SCHOOLS

The following infrastructure was raised/being constructed: -

- **Lyzon Frienship School, Khomunnom Village** (Classes KG to 6th) constructed in full through kind donation of Shri Dakoju Ravishankar and inaugurated on 27 Sep 2018. Work on construction of a hostel for 100 students commenced here
- **Paangkriang Friendship School, Ijeirong**
 - 75,000 ltr water tank constructed for hostel students (Courtesy Mr Ravishankar)
 - 18 Terminal Anaha – Sunbird Trust Computer Centre inaugurated 15th Aug 2018.
 - Jai Shivshakti Sunbird Trust hostel for 100 children inaugurated on 21 Feb 2019.
 - 5 toilet/10 bathroom block constructed.
 - Staff Quarters completed (Sponsored by Assam Rifles & Sunbird Trust)
 - Playground levelled
 - Science Laboratory completed (Inauguration Apr 2019)
 - 'Sunbird Ravishankar Farming Knowledge Centre'(Inaugurated on 29th Sept 2018.
 - Work on Library and Music academy under progress
- **Hummingbird School, Majuli Island.** The following infrastructure was constructed with the help of funds through Sunbird Trust/Caring Friends:-
- **Sungcham Friendship School.** Primary School (Classes KG to Std III) raised in Army barracks handed over to the village.
- **Kawikengou Friendship School.** Primary School at extremely remote location (Kadi Village). Under construction
- **Haite Friendship School.** Located in Mualdam Assam. Work commenced in December 2019

PICTURES



18 Terminal Anaha – Sunbird Computer Skilling Centre, inaugurated 15 Aug 2018





Lyzon Friendship School, Khomunnom Village, Manipur, inaugurated 27 Sep 18





Above: Philia Friendship Hostel inaugurated February 2018. It has 30 underprivileged students. It is in free accommodation provided by the local college. **Below:** Aspect-Sunbird Friendship Hostel at Tamei inaugurated Feb 2019





Jai Shivshakti – Sunbird Trust Friendship Hostel, Ijeirong, inaugurated 21st Feb 2019 at Ijeirong Village, Manipur



Jai Shivshakti – Sunbird Trust Friendship Hostel with toilet and bath block (Below)





Sunbird
Friendship
Hostel, Sajik
Tampak.

Inaugurated
Apr 2018



Sungcham
Friendship
School,
Inaugurated
Apr 2019

Classroom at
Majuli Island,
part
sponsored by
Sunbird Trust





Classrooms at Majuli Island part sponsored by Sunbird Trust



Toilets for Happiness Home, sponsored by Sunbird Trust (Ravishankar Dakoju)



Learning House at Lyzon Friendship School, Khomunnom, Manipur



Children Play area at Lyzon Friendship School, Khomunnom, Manipur



Nutrition Scheme (Egg a Day)



Ravishankar-Sunbird Trust Farm, Ijeirong



Above: Ravishankar-Sunbird Trust Farm, Ijeirong Below: Organic Farming training





Inauguration of Sunbird Trust– HDFC Dining Hall at Ijeirong Village, Manipur on 15 Aug 2019





Inauguration of Sunbird Trust– HDFC Dining Hall at Ijeirong Village, Manipur on 15 Aug 2019





The Force behind it all – Team Sunbird Trust,
22 young professionals from across India

