

# **L. K. JHA FOUNDATION**

*HARNESSING HUMAN CAPITAL*

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**-22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 - 2019**



## **L.K. JHA FOUNDATION**

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### **TRUSTEES:**

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Mr. Chintaman Mahadev Dixit

Mr. Aditya Maharaj Singh

The L.K. Jha Foundation was established in 2018 in memory of the Late Shri L.K. Jha.

He was a renowned economist who contributed to India's development with over fifty years of public service.

In continuation of his legacy the Foundation has a range of social services to support educational and social initiatives for the economically disadvantaged children and their families in our society

Since the Foundation was established on 22 Nov 2018, the following **Programmes** and **Initiatives** were carried out:

- **Educational Support and Sponsorship of Schools to provide Qualitative education**
- **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Training Programmes to Promote Experiential Learning in Science, Technology, Mathematics and Robotics amongst underprivileged/ disadvantaged children**
- **Counselling for Vulnerable Children**
- **Recreational and Educational Activities for Children Rescued From the Street**
- **Medical Support for Vulnerable Children**
- **Nutritional Support for Economically Challenged Women and Children**
- **Vocational Guidance for Rural School Children and their families**
- **Summer Camps for Children residing in low income settlements**
- **Installation of Solar Power Supply for School in Drought Affected Village**

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY FOUNDATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

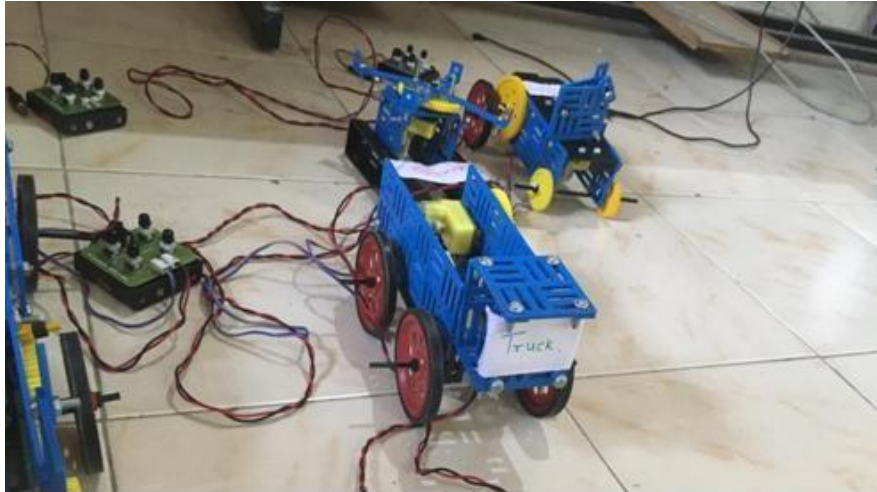
**ROBOTICS TRAINING PROGRAMME**

- A Robotics training initiative was organized in a public sector school (Zilla Parishad School) in Pune (Koregaon Park).
- A total of 12 workshops were organized between 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2018 and 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2019 as part of this initiative.
- The aim of the lab was to help students build and develop skills and understanding regarding STEM (Science, technology, Engineering and Mathematics) through hands on experiential learning to aid further educational and employment opportunities.
- The students in the school come from underprivileged /disadvantaged backgrounds which limit their education and employment opportunities.
- The workshops taught the students the application of physics and mathematical concepts.
- The students were exposed to ideas that they would not have the opportunity to engage with otherwise.
- The workshops also nurtured creativity among the students and taught them life skills such as team work, problem solving that are important in the modern world.
- 20 out of 26 students were able to complete the programme successfully. 6 students had to drop the final sessions as they were overlapping with their School Boards exams.
- The teaching and administrative staff of the School also participated in many of the sessions which proved to be a learning experience for them as well.

- **The workshops covered the following topics:**
  1. **Basic Robotics theory with mechanical and electrical concepts**
  2. **Assembly of 2-3 instruction based Robots**
  3. **Mechanical Concepts**
    - i. **Use of gears, levers and pulleys**
    - ii. **Amplification and reduction of speed of Motors**
  4. **Design Methodology**
  5. **Demonstrations and Explanations of the DC Motor**
  6. **Assembly of 2-3 design based Robots**
  7. **Quiz**
  8. **Final Project**
  
- A group of 4-5 students shared kits.
- The students chose agriculture as their theme since most of them have rural roots.
- Through this theme, the students were able to express their creative concepts to meet the challenges faced by farmers.
- Students were able to engage with the material based on their first-hand experience of the farmers' struggles for their livelihoods.
- The students were able use Robotics to address agricultural needs and showed engagement and problem solving through technology.
- For the final session held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, the children presented and demonstrated the models that they had created during the programme- a lawn mower, a sprinkler, a bullock cart, a truck and a robot.

- The chief guest for this event Dr Neelesh Kumbhojkar, Director of the Symbiosis Center of Alumni Engagement addressed the children with an inspirational talk and handed out certificates to each of the final participants.

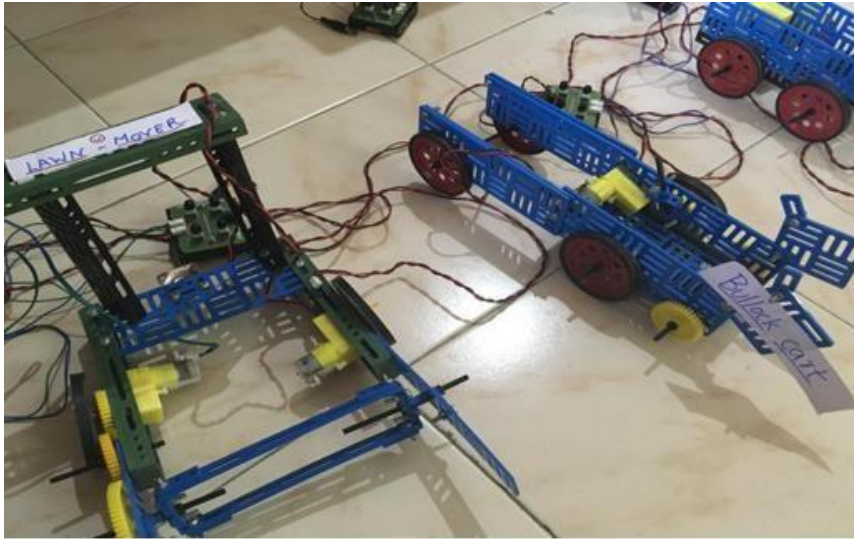
*Some models created by the children at the workshop*



*Robotic Model of a Truck*



*Model of a sprinkler and Robot*



*Model of a Lawn-Mower and Bullock Cart*



*Students with their certificates*



## VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

A Vocational Guidance initiative was conducted on 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> standard children attending Rameshwar Vidyalaya in Chikhali, Ahmednagar based on an assessment conducted by the L. K. Jha Foundation team.

- The school is situated in a rural area. Most students from this school come from agrarian households whose livelihoods are affected by the severe drought conditions in the area.
- As such there is great need for the children to have occupations that will fetch them and their families stable livelihoods.
- ‘Pratham’ a NGO working towards improving the quality of education in India facilitated the sessions.
- A team of resource people were organized to conduct short interviews and talks on further training and professional and educational prospects once students complete their secondary education
- A team of highly trained professional spoke to the students and their parents about vocational prospects as Electrician, Welder, Plumber as well as an Entrepreneurship course.
- They informed the audience about the requisite skills as well as initiatives by various organizations that train people at very low training costs.
- The students were able to develop a better awareness and exposure to various career and educational opportunities.
- They were also able to inculcate an understanding of respect towards different professions

- Parents and teachers were able to gain a better understanding and awareness of future prospects and were empowered to provide better and more informed support to their children and students



*Parents and teachers*



*Students of 10th Standard expressing their interests and ideas with regards to career path*



*Social work volunteers from the Foundation being felicitated by the School Management for organizing and conducting the Vocational Guidance Programme*



*Social Work Volunteers from Pratham Education Foundation being felicitated by the School Management for Conducting the talks*

## **SUMMER CAMP FOR STUDENTS**

A Summer Camp for the students of Sant Gadge Maharaj Prathmik Vidyalaya and other schools for the disadvantaged in Pune from 16<sup>th</sup> of April to 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2019

- The Summer Camp Programme was designed to allow the children to engage and learn under different disciplines and activities in order to explore themselves through the activities and gain different perspectives at creative problem solving.
- A total of 36 students attended the Summer Camp and were divided into two batches in order to carry out the activities with more attention and focus on each students
- During breaks, the children were also entertained with stories and short sessions conducted towards Value-educational themes.
- Stories with important life lessons of being concerned and sensitive human beings with strong moral and ethical considerations were shared by the Social work volunteers
- The Summer Camp programme was enjoyed thoroughly by the children.
- Along with complementing their formal education, the skills and learnings of the Camp allowed children to express themselves creatively
- They also helped them manage their personal stresses and energies in a more conducive manner
- Develop interests in activities they otherwise may not have engaged with previously

## **Activities organized during the summer camp:**

### **Experiential Science and Maths Camp**

- In the experiential Science and Maths Camp, a facilitator provided kits and allowed children to conduct experiments in Maths and Science lessons that they are already familiar with, but with more emphasis on their own understanding and hands-on activity

### **Yoga**

- Through various sessions children were able to learn how to conduct themselves and their bodies to help them relax and manage stress in healthy and conducive ways.
- A few challenging poses were conducted in order to suggest a level of self-confidence that the students developed within themselves.
- The children were taught breathing exercises which they could do on their own to manage stress.
- They were taught that they can exercise their own control towards their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

### **Percussion**

- The objective of the activity was to urge students to be creative within the available resources to express themselves.
- Students were asked to bring in their own equipment comprising of water bottles, lunch boxes, books, metal plates and pens/pencils.
- Through various patterns, students were taught the importance of concentration, coordination in team work and keeping a rhythm.

### **Line-dancing**

- Sessions in Line-dancing were conducted in order to allow the students to coordinate the movement of their bodies with instruction, music and each other.
- This activity taught them to manage their physical and mental wellbeing as well as the importance of being in sync with others in order produce a good output collectively.

### **Crafts**

- The children were able to be creative while recycling paper, and materials. The students made various items that they were also able to take home and use, such as a picture frame and a pinwheel.





*Children and facilitators involved in the Science and Maths Camp Activity*



*Yoga Workshop - Working on Pranayama to build Relaxation and Concentration skills*





*Children enjoying a Dance Session*



*Children solving Math and Logic Puzzles*



*Children showing off their work from the Crafts session*



*Group photo at the end of the Summer Camp programme after certificates were handed to the children for their participation and good work*

## **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS WORKSHOPS**

Saraswati Vidyalaya Pune is a century old school that caters to children from the very disadvantaged section of society.

L. K. Jha Foundation organized Experiential Learning Science and Mathematics workshops for students of Saraswati Vidyalaya.

The workshops focused on important concepts in Science and Mathematics with hands-on learning for the students.

- **Sessions began from the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2019.**
- **Sessions were conducted for the students from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> standards.**
- **Sessions were conducted twice a month.**
- **A total of 10 sessions were conducted.**
- **A total of 100 students attended the sessions.**
- **Students learnt fundamental concepts of physics such as motion, light, sound, force, magnetism.**
- **Students learnt fundamental concepts of Mathematics such as area and volume, shapes, and calculations.**
- **Students learnt these concepts by way of games, puzzles and experiments.**

**The sessions opened up a completely new method of learning for the students. The hands-on learning was very enjoyable for the students who were able to clear their concepts easily compared to the textbook learning they had been exposed to so far.**





*Hands on learning*

## VALUE EDUCATION

The Foundation arranged various value education classes at three centres of a NGO that provides shelters for children who live on the streets.

- The aim of the classes was to help students to not only understand the values, but also to reflect them in their attitudes and behavior, and contribute to society through good citizenship and ethics.
- The messages were conveyed through various stories and examples of scientists and other professionals.
- Children were taught about the power within oneself and the value of truth, right action, peace, love and non-violence to make a positive contribution to the world.
- It is important to inculcate the right value systems by watching our words, actions, thoughts, character and heart.
- Everyone is precious and has a purpose. We're all supposed to find our purpose, and positively contribute to the world using our values we have imbibed.
- The five elements namely earth, air, fire, water, and space are the world's greatest givers. They give in silence, and what each of us receives from Mother Earth cannot be counted.
- We are born for a purpose, and the choices we make are important.
- We must all contribute to the world positively.
- We can begin with building our values and forming our character by taking care and watching our words, actions, thoughts, character and heart.
- Control of anger is important as it could hurt us and the people around us.
- Doing good things has a ripple effect, and if we do good to others, it will always come back to us in another form.
- It is important to sit quietly at least once a day and have some peaceful time with oneself.
- Watching our breath and being completely aware of it can energise us instantly.

## NUTRITIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

L. K. Jha Foundation arranged an event to pay tribute to the memory of Shri Ramesh Thakkar, by giving nutritional support to children at a Shelter for street children.

Educational material was distributed to the same Shelter through the support of Karishma Knipper, on the occasion of her birthday. The children were highly appreciative as they had received a much needed support.

The number of beneficiaries were around 45 to 50 children.



*Volunteer distributing educational materials*



## **SOLAR PANEL PROJECT**

The Foundation supported a solar panel project in a rural school near Pune in November 2019 based on a request by the School authorities to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply.

The problem came to light during the vocational training programme conducted by the Foundation at the school.

Outlying districts in Rural India face many challenges like severe drought and shortage of electricity that adversely affect the farmers and their families.

The drought conditions render the farmers and their families underprivileged and vulnerable.

One such village in a district near Pune is severely drought affected leading to many hardships for the farmers and their families.

Besides the drought conditions the area also faces interrupted power supply.

The power shortage was affecting the physical health of the students especially during summer months when the students suffered from dehydration due to water shortage and in the absence of fans.

Additionally lack of adequate lights was affecting their classroom learning and without a continuous electricity supply computers and other technology-aided learning platforms could not be operated.

This was proving to be a major setback for the students in terms of their future educational and employment opportunities.

**Accordingly the solar panels were setup with the Foundation's support:**

- **The installation is benefitting the 225 students enrolled from Grades 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in the school.**
  - **It runs 14 fans**
  - **14 computers**
  - **14 tube lights**
  - **Sound system for the Prayer and Assembly is functional**
  - **10<sup>th</sup> standard students who come to study at night are also benefitted by this project.**
  - **Recent programs held at the school premises on occasions like Gandhi Jayanthi and children's day program had uninterrupted power supply**
  - **Young students use the space to do night study and the school ground for sports and exercises as well.**
  - **Residents of the village and the neighbouring village exercise on the school grounds which are now lit because of the solar power**
  - **Besides the students, the solar panel is ensuring a 24 hours power supply in area**

**The Foundation's support in installing the solar panels is highly appreciated by the residents of the area since it has brought about tremendous improvement in their overall lives and greatly supported the children's education.**







*Solar panel power installation*



*Flag hoisting on 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 at the school by the Managing Trustee of the Foundation who was the special guest at the event*



**Glimpses from various workshops**



*The joy of creating*



**All the initiatives have been possible due to the contribution and support from friends and well wishers**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Thanks are due to the **Donors** and **Sponsors** with whose support the Foundation was able to get started on its social objectives.

We also wish to thank all our **Trustees**.

We acknowledge **those** who have **contributed their expertise** and their **voluntary services** for the Foundation activities.

Thanks to the **social workers** and **administrative team** for their invaluable contribution.

### **Special thanks to:**

**Mr Prakash Jha and the Anubhooti Foundation**

**Ms Geraldine Clarke**

**Ms Manali Zende Patil**

**Mr Kieron J Glover**

**Ms Madhuri Abhyankar**

**Ms Elizabeth John**

**Mr Aditya Maharaj Singh** for providing us the office space for the L. K. Jha Foundation activities