

Mudita

An Alliance for Giving...



Annual Newsletter (2023-2024)

*“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller*



Note from Trustees

Greetings from us at Mudita! The year 2023-24 seems to have flown past us. It was a wonderful year during which we saw a lot of changes within Mudita –our programs grew in reach as well as saw many changes in the way we run them; our team expanded; and we also now have a dedicated work space for our team within the premises of KSH Distriparks, our CSR partner. We have been fortunate to onboard our first advisor, Mr. Samir Aksekar, onto our panel – all in all, Mudita has taken strides away from a home-grown organization to a more streamlined & structured one getting ready for further growth.

Looking across the body of our work, our scholarship program saw significant changes – we introduced more stringent screening criteria for students at the application process. We also expanded the interview panel, bringing in wider perspectives while also setting the stage for clear selection criteria & objective decision making. Our medical eye care program grew in reach, as did our Annadaan food distribution program.

This year we celebrated **Mudita's Foundation with a special movement workshop led by Hrishikesh Pawar** to help our scholarship students gain confidence and understand nuances in communication & mindfulness. We were also privileged to be second-time charity partners for **Nirmayan – the Pro-Am golf tournament organised by Rajiv Datar** to raise funds for a social purpose. We were also charity partners for the **Tata Mumbai Marathon 2024** and were able to use the platform to raise funds for Mudita's medical programs.

Through all of these changes, we are thankful to all our partners without whose support our growing reach would not be possible. We are also grateful to our donors – individuals as well as corporates for their intentional contribution which has paved the way for this expansion in reach. It is with all of your help that we have all been able to experience the true sense of the term **Mudita** – delighting in the joy of others.

Note from Trustees

As a small but growing organization with a vision to Enable, Enhance & Empower individuals and thereby build inclusive communities, we are eager to hear all of your thoughts and feedback on how Mudita can not only increase our footprint but do so in an impactful manner.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our partners with whom we collaborate for the running of our programs as well as to our donors, well-wishers & supporters without whose contributions none of our work is possible.

In gratitude,

Ripple Mirchandani
Katyayani Balasubramanian

Vision Statement – Revisited

A few months ago we revisited the Mudita Vision Statement and are happy to share a revised Vision Statement for Mudita – An Alliance for Giving.

Collaborate to Enable individuals, Enhance their potential & Empower our communities towards a sustainable future.

Mudita's Scholarship Program

Mudita's college scholarship program quadrupled from supporting 60 students at the end of March 2023 to over 250 students at the end of March 2024.

While our objective this year was to increase our reach, we also wanted to focus on sharpening offerings of the program itself and on enhancing the program by way of other forms of support that we believe the students will benefit from.

We began the year, we started an **English fluency program** whereby we matched dedicated volunteers with some of the scholarship students for weekly conversations in English with the objective of increasing fluency and more so confidence in speaking English and also overall confidence as they transition from college into the working world.

While our volunteers and students found the interactions engaging and helpful, we realized that the program needed a more structured curriculum and we have been working on the same to be rolled out in the upcoming academic year.



In September 2023, we also rolled out the **Mudita Online Talk Series** whereby we bring experts to speak to our student cohort on aspects of life skills, personal skills as well as specifically skills needed for their working life.

We have had talks on general resilience and life readiness, communication & confidence, financial literacy and most recently interview skills conducted by leading experts in the field.

As we began to grow the number of scholarships awarded, we realized the bottle neck in the form of the interview panel. We have thus **expanded our interview panel to ease this process.**

The panel carries out the first round of interviews of students which is followed by another round of interviews after which decisions are made. We are truly grateful to our volunteer panelists, Ms. Manasi Bhosale, Ms. Neha Sagar, Ms. Pallavi Shah, Ms. Preeti Mahendru and Ms. Priya Thittai who take time out of their busy schedules to support the scholarship program.

In March 2024, we also **distributed 30 refurbished laptops to students** in the fields of engineering & technology for whom laptops are an essential for their academic progress.



In addition to the Mudita Scholarship grants, we also started a **Loan program for students** to either augment student scholarships or then for those who may have more of a cash crunch that will ease out in the foreseeable future. This initiative is also based on the premise to ensure an efficient use of our donor funds – loans once returned will support education for others in need.

The objective of the Scholarship program is to enable & empower our student body to take charge of their future with a better education that would not only enhance their own lives but also those of the communities they come from.

Mudita Medical Treatment Program

Eye Care

The Mudita-Moolani Eye care & Mudita partnership has jointly carried out over 2 dozen eye camps at schools across Pune, screening over 5000 students in all over the past year 2023-24. Close to 500 of these students were also fitted with spectacles to correct their vision impairment.

The Mudita-MECC partnership works towards supporting vision health and preventable blindness.

Eye health for the youth is supported through the camps held across low-income schools in the city. Some of the screenings were conducted in partnership with the NGO-run iTeach Schools, the screenings soon expanded to the iTeach feeder schools as well as other schools serving underprivileged communities.

Senior citizens have been cared for by screening for age-related cataracts and state-of-the-art surgeries subsidized by Mudita. We have also completed over 50 cataract surgeries supported by Mudita for senior citizens who cannot afford the same through the same partnership.



Cancer Care

The Mudita-LKT Cancer treatment support for young adults continues to help those with young children. We also extended our support to pediatric patients.

Our support for cancer patients continues in support and consultation with doctors as well as hospitals.



Annadaan

This past year, the Mudita Annadaan program reached close to 7000 senior citizens and those with disabilities. We are truly grateful to our CSR donors as well as the many individuals whose contributions have ensured nutritious meals for all.

Our monthly Annadaan program continues to distribute ration kits to senior citizens living in slums in Pune city without family support. We also continue our support to residential homes for individuals with disabilities. The Annadaan program is carried out in collaboration with Vriddha Mitra who support us with their on-ground team supporting senior citizens across Pune City.

In the year ahead, we hope to expand the number of senior citizens reached as well as residential homes for those living with disabilities. We are also relooking at the ingredients included in the ration kit to ensure superior nutritional value.



Events

Mudita Foundation Day

The Mudita Foundation Day is celebrated every year on the day the organization was registered, December 3rd. The day is an opportunity for us to connect with the larger Mudita family through a meet and greet event.

This year, we celebrated the day in a different manner. We organized a workshop on body language and communication for our scholarship students. The workshop was conducted by **Hrishikesh Pawar and his team from the Centre for Contemporary Dance**. It was a unique opportunity for our students to understand and practice non-verbal communication and mindfulness.

The students enjoyed themselves, gaining confidence and a better understanding into themselves via the medium of movement & dance.



Nirmayan 2024

Organised by pro-golfer Rajiv Datar , Nirmayan is a bi-annual pro-am charity golf tournament held in Pune. This January was the 5th edition of the tournament where funds raised are committed to social causes.

This year the tournament raised money for cancer care as well as education. Mudita has had the privilege of being the charity partner for the tournament for the 2nd time in a row.

Funds raised through Nirmayan 2024 will all go towards the Mudita College Scholarship Program.

Tata Mumbai Marathon 2024

Mudita was once again a charity partner at the annual Tata Mumbai Marathon held on January 21, 2024.

Funds raised via the charity bibs sold as well as fund raisers held by Mudita's well-wishers will be directed towards the health care programs run by our NGO.

In Organisational News

The year 2023-24 was a significant year for Mudita as an organization. We had worked so far with both Ripple and Katya filling in for all roles within the organization. We now felt it was time to expand the team & create separate roles & responsibilities for all team members.

Team Expansion and Office Space



Madhav Chavan



Anjali Amolekar

We hired our first team member, **Madhav Chavan** in June 2023. Madhav is the program coordinator for Mudita, supporting all 3 verticals of Education, health care as well as Annadaan in an operational capacity. Madhav is a qualified social worker and has experience within the NGO sector.

In March 2024, we were joined by **Anjali Amolekar** who is currently working as a media & communication trainee and supports our work across programs.

In September 2023, we were also provided with **dedicated work space** within the premises of our CSR partner, KSH Distriparks.

This space has been instrumental in providing an enabling environment for our team and has consequently also been crucial to our growth as an organization. We are truly grateful to the KSH management and leadership for this space and for their hospitality.

Capacity Building for the Mudita Team

ILSS Workshop on building & strengthening advisory boards

In July 2023, both founders, **Katya & Ripple** attended a **capacity building workshop** held by think tank ILSS (India Leaders for the Social Sector). The 2-day workshop was organized around creating & strengthening of advisory panels for social purpose organisations like our own. It provided us with the framework to help recruit a panel for Mudita.

Social Media Workshop

In December 2023, Madhav & Katya attended a workshop on social media organized by SVP Pune & Extentia Technology for the NGO community. It was truly helpful in helping us understand the nature of content needed to be posted along with the importance of the time of post and the analytics of the posts needed to be studied.

The workshop also emphasized the need for a social media policy for every organization.



Advisory Panel

We are excited & privileged to announce the first member of our advisory panel, **Mr. Samir Aksekar**. Currently the cybersecurity director for private equity firm EQT Group, Samir is a results-oriented leader who is adept at establishing a governance program that integrates people, processes & technology. Samir's experience over the past 2 decades has taken him across the Asia-Pacific region. He has successfully led technology & cybersecurity teams at JP Morgan & IBM. He was the CISO at Tata Digital before he joined his current role at EQT Group. We are excited and honoured to have Samir as part of our advisory panel especially as we step into the next chapter for our organization.



Looking Ahead

We are excited to share that we have ambitious plans for all of our programs – to expand reach but also depth and engagement with those most impacted by our work.

By the end of the year, we aim to double our scholarship student pool. We are also working towards greater engagement and holistic support for all of our students.

Similarly, for our eye care program, we will continue the screening camps in schools and double the cataract surgeries we are able to support through our partner doctors. The Annadaan program will reach out to more homes of senior citizens but we will also include more residential homes in our fold of support.

As supporters of Mudita's we look to each of you for your support in terms of your feedback & comments on our work so far and also our plans for the future. We truly believe that your feedback will only help in impact that we will be able to jointly create.

We will also be grateful for your support in connecting us to other organisations, supporters & donors as well as experts who will help in Mudita's growth

Our Corporate Donors



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