

Yearbook 2020/21





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RAJESH NAMBIAR

Chairman, Cognizant Foundation, Chairman & Managing Director, Cognizant India

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"We plan to champion initiatives powered by digital technologies that advance inclusion for equitable opportunities."

2020 has been unlike any other year we could have imagined. As the pandemic's continuing waves impacted lives and livelihoods, we focused on deploying all resources available to us to help India overcome this humanitarian crisis. We launched Operation C3 – Cognizant Combats COVID-19 – the company's rapid response programme aimed at protecting the health and safety of not only our associates but also underserved communities. We delivered immediate relief across India through emergency funding of our Foundation. Along with our longstanding implementation partners, we successfully mobilized critical medical equipment and services, from oxygenated COVID care beds and ventilators to PPE kits and vaccinations, for most vulnerable and differently-abled communities to help meet the demands of this crisis and save lives.

Our purpose guided our actions during this extraordinary year, compelling us not only to support vulnerable communities but also to address heightened inequities and exclusions in access to healthcare, online education and learning resources, and skills that generate livelihoods.

As we move forward to the next phase of our journey, we plan to champion initiatives that advance inclusive development for equitable opportunities, especially for children, women, and differently-abled persons. We will aim to deploy the power of digital technology to scale our programmes, create greater impact and deliver maximum value to our beneficiaries.

The Foundation has already taken its first step in this direction. With its implementation partner - Enable India – a new learning platform to skill the visually impaired with digital technologies is underway, and a second project is deployed in partnership with IIT Madras to provide technology-enabled post-natal care to newborns.

We also look forward to a deeper engagement with all our stakeholders – thought leaders, NGO partners, experts, and government authorities to accelerate the impact of our work. We hope for their continued support towards our efforts to bring about sustainable change and make a meaningful difference in the years to come.



RAMASESHAN KOTHANDARAMAN

Director, Cognizant Foundation and Chief Financial Officer, Cognizant India

66

"We aim to leverage our expertise and collaborate with key stakeholders to create ecosystem-level solutions." It has been a challenging period for every one of us. The pandemic did hit us all very hard. However, in these difficult times our Foundation, working with healthcare partners and other non-profit institutions, did a commendable job in many fronts including the donation of personal protective gears, critical medical equipment to Government Hospitals. In addition, it has collaborated to mobilize COVID care beds, paediatric ICU units across multiple cities in India. To sharpen our focus and amplify our impact, we plan to adopt inclusion as the cornerstone of our impact roadmap going forward. We also aim to leverage our expertise and learnings and collaborate with key stakeholders to create ecosystem-level solutions that

benefit manifold individuals, communities and organisations.



N. R. KRISHNAN

IAS (Retd.) Director, Cognizant Foundation

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"The Foundation went all out to combat the pandemic at all centers where Cognizant operated."

CSR is not dispensing charity. It is to be socially responsive, progressive and inclusive. The COVID-19 pandemic provided the opportunity for Cognizant to demonstrate this understanding. Thanks to enhanced fund allocation, its CSR arm, the Cognizant Foundation, went all out to combat the pandemic at all centres where Cognizant operated. Material support was extended to state governments and non-governmental bodies engaged in providing hospital services for all and community vaccination particularly to the differentlyabled. This consisted of making protective gear available to healthcare personnel, along with life-saving equipment like Ventilators, Oxygenators and Oxygen producers to hospitals.

Modest though our efforts were, they gave us the satisfaction that we were part of a national campaign.

At home, Cognizant Foundation's objectives and operations are being given a fresh look to align them more sharply with the emerging demands of society. Establishing synergy between Cognizant's core competence and the Cognizant Foundation's working in its functional areas on one hand and between the Foundation and Outreach on the other form a significant part of this exercise. With this internal consolidation and the availability of greater funds, we can set our sights higher.



KESHAV DESIRAJU

IAS (Retd.) Director, Cognizant Foundation

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"The efforts of Cognizant Foundation are needed more than ever before." The past year has seen the Foundation having to continue to focus its efforts on addressing COVID-19 and its consequences. This was not entirely anticipated and the Foundation has been alert enough to identify organisations needing help. All colleagues at the office have worked without respite through these difficult times and have kept the Foundation's work on track. My warmest greetings to all of them.

An important lesson we have learnt from the pandemic is that the efforts of Cognizant Foundation are needed more than ever before. We have learnt, sadly, exactly how flimsy the public health system is in in some states; ideally we should plan for substantial investments in public health over the next few years. We have also learnt of the calamitous loss to huge numbers of India's children in terms of lost schooling; primary and secondary education are clearly sectors where the Foundation will need to focus on in the future, broadening our current emphasis on skill upgradation.



DR. NANDINI RANGASWAMY

Director, Cognizant Foundation

"Technology can serve as a great equaliser when made available to underserved sections in society." This year, we witnessed a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions in the country. Our healthcare system bore the brunt of the strain caused by rising COVID-19 cases. Recognising that the best way to overcome the challenge is to work together, the Foundation worked closely with its partners to mobilise and operationalise our response to this crisis. The prompt support of Cognizant, its Associates and NGO partners helped the Foundation's national relief efforts for vulnerable communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic also significantly disrupted the education and skilling ecosystem. Face-to-face instruction came to a halt almost overnight, requiring a switch to online learning and virtual education. The Foundation's initiatives in education and skilling ramped up the capacity to teach and learn remotely, leveraged digital platforms, accelerated the integration of information

technology tools and aided the introduction of hybrid models of learning.

In the words of Robert Frost, "miles to go before I sleep." On the one hand, the world embraced digital transformation at an accelerated pace, bringing to light technology's critical role in how people work, learn and live in the new normal. On the other hand, the pandemic has highlighted the harsh reality of the digital divide. Recognising that technology can serve as a great equaliser when made available to underserved sections in society, the Foundation is currently designing interventions that strategically and intentionally leverage technology so that the digitallydisadvantaged are not further marginalised. As always, the objective of the Foundation's interventions will be on empowering vulnerable communities - particularly children, women and persons with disabilities - to brave the challenging times and emerge more resilient.



K. BALAJI

Director, Cognizant Foundation

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"The Board has identified 'inclusion' and 'tech-as-anenabler' as key anchors for the Foundation's programmes."

To say that the year under review (2020/21) has been a challenging one would be putting it very, very mildly. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact every aspect of living, stretching and testing the limits of human endurance and adaptability. In offering emergency assistance Cognizant Foundation responded as best it could in its usual thoughtful and efficient way. The Foundation's expertise in supporting healthcare services, coupled with the solid network of partners, was a crucial factor in the execution of projects related to the COVID-19 response. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Foundation's regular programmes continued to operate within the prevailing constraints and restrictions imposed by the various public authorities.

If the pandemic has caused organisations all over the world to take a hard look at every aspect of their functioning, it has in a way also quickened the Foundation's critical review of its own work over the past decade and a half. After a six-month-long exercise, the Board has identified "inclusion" and "tech-as-an-enabler" as key anchors for the Foundation's flagship programmes. As a result, Cognizant Foundation's project portfolio will see rationalisation, and its communication and branding strategy will reflect these changes. As a member of the Board, I look forward to seeing the beneficial effects of this sharpened focus.

The staff of the Foundation and our partners deserve the highest praise for maintaining their high performance levels in these extraordinary times.





From The CEO's Desk



RAJASHREE NATARAJAN
CEO, Cognizant Foundation

We have completed 16 years of empowering change for the most marginalised communities across the thematic areas of Healthcare, Education, and Livelihood. Thanks to the generous grant by the Cognizant leadership and the unlimited time and energy invested by our Board of Directors, our team and Cognizant Volunteers, we were able to brave the COVID-19 pandemic and focus our efforts on reaching the needy. Thanks to our committed partners, we continued our work on preventing disabilities, enabling access to quality education for children from underserved societies and skilling youth, women and persons with disabilities for employment and livelihood.

Inclusion and leveraging technology for social good have always been our focus in the programmes we've undertaken. The Foundation has adopted the cross-cutting theme of prevention of disabilities and empowering persons with disabilities across sectors. We look forward to continuing the tradition of delivering quality solutions that bring about a significant change in the lives of our beneficiaries and provide an opportunity for them to lead better lives.

Operational Highlights

The year under review saw Cognizant Foundation complete 16 years of empowering change for the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities in India. In the last 16 years, the Foundation has successfully implemented over 480 projects, partnering with over 300 not-for-profit organisations, impacting the lives of millions of underprivileged individuals across India. Inclusion has always been an underlying tenet of our programmes with our interventions focusing on uplifting the lives of some of the most underserved and underrepresented communities like children, women and PwDs across the thematic areas of Healthcare, Education and Livelihood.

The COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in significant global social and economic disruption, brought untold misery to millions of individuals in India. The Foundation's resources were focused on doing everything possible to help in the time of need. Given our strong focus in healthcare, the COVID-19 relief efforts in 2020-21 focused on protecting frontline workers & strengthening healthcare systems across nine States, helping them in their emergency response.

Braving the restrictions of the pandemic, the Foundation and its partners continued to reach out to and support underserved individuals across the country through the various programme initiatives in healthcare, education and livelihood. The core focus of

these programmes was on inclusive development, prevention of disabilities and support to persons with disabilities. We also looked at leveraging our core expertise and capabilities to harness the right digital technologies to scale our impact and bring about sustainable solutions.

Our flagship programme under Healthcare – 'Preventing Avoidable Blindness' had its thrust on preventing disability, especially among infants and children and the 'Promoting Women and Child Health' programme enabled access to quality healthcare for women and children in need. Under the umbrella of Education, the Foundation's scholarship programmes provided access to quality education for

Operational Highlights

visually challenged students and strengthened the special education ecosystem in the country. The 'Capacity Building for School Education' programme with a special focus on Digital Learning and STEM supported thousands of children across the country. The Livelihood flagship programmes empowered persons with disabilities and women, helping them become self-reliant.

2020/21 also witnessed the launch of key projects - such as the technology solution for temperature monitoring of newborn babies post-discharge in healthcare and the technology platform up-gradation for Persons with Visual Impairment in education - that leverage the power of digital technologies to

amplify the impact and scale of our interventions, delivering maximum value to the communities we support.

In the year under review, the Foundation impacted the lives of over 393,000 persons, in partnership with 59 not-for-profit partners. The primary geographical focus was on 8 States - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal - while some projects were pan-India and others extended to States beyond these eight, depending on the need.

We thank Cognizant and our partners who joined hands with us in showing resilience in facing these unprecedented times and aiding us in our commitment to helping our people

and communities overcome the humanitarian crisis gripping India.



Operational Highlights



393,000+ Lives Impacted





Healthcare

60,000+ lives impacted by bringing quality healthcare within reach

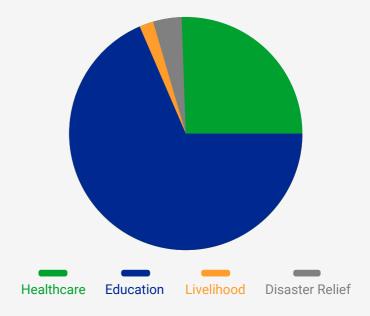
Livelihood

1900+ lives empowered by enabling underserved persons with skill-training programmes

Education

327,500+ learners impacted by enabling access and facilitating inclusion for quality education

Disaster Relief 4600+ lives impacted by providing immediate relief from a devastating natural disaster



Battling The Covid-19 Pandemic

722,000+ pieces of protective equipment donated 1,100+ critical medical equipment donated

As the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic swept the nation, people looked to frontline workers like doctors, nurses, police personnel, the fire department, and others for support. These unsung heroes worked tirelessly for months, risking their lives and putting the needs of others above everything else.

Our COVID-19 relief efforts were focused on leveraging our expertise in healthcare to support a system that was feeling the strain. Scores of protective equipment were donated to frontline workers to aid in their mission, and thousands of critical medical equipment were donated to strengthen the healthcare systems in Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal, and other continued efforts.



9 States Covered



61 Government Hospitals Supported



19 Police and Fire Departments Supported



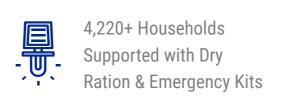
14 Not-for-profit Institutions Supported



Disaster Relief After Cyclone Amphan

About



















Disaster Relief After Cyclone Amphan

Impact Story



"The cyclone took everything we had, leaving us at the mercy of others." Mrs. Patra, Survivor, Cyclone Amphan

Read the Story



Blindness and vision impairment are major health problems that affect millions in India, especially in the underserved communities.

Read More





Community Eye Screening

About



62 Surgeries



775 Spectacles



"I now have the confidence to attain my dream," says Rumi, a 5th Std. Student Read story



"I can finally see the light in her eyes," says the father of 12-year-old Pallavi Read story



35,000+ Children Screened Partner

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi



Screening & Treatment of RoP

About



5,100+ Pre-term Babies Screened



States



"You have given us a reason to smile in life," says Mr. Shinde, father of a 28-week pre-term baby

Read story



"If this baby can see today, it is because of Cognizant Foundation," says a doctor who treated the child Read story

Partners

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai | H. V. Desai Eye Hospital, Pune | L. V. Prasad Eye Hospital, Hyderabad | Mission for Vision, Mumbai



Setting Up & Running Vision Centres

About



1,200+ Patients
Screened



States



Vision Centres



"For the sake of others like me, I hope this project continues for many years," says Mr. More from Chalisgaon

Read story



"Even though I came with empty pockets, I was treated with care at every step," says Mr. Waghmare from Patonda

Read story

Partners

Mission for Vision, Mumbai | Tulsi Eye Hospital, Nashik | Operation Eyesight India, Kolkata | Globe Eye Foundation, Bengaluru | Lions Club of Jamalpur Welfare Trust, Jamalpur | Sundarban Social Development Centre, Sultanpur



Equipment & Research

Cognizant Foundation has made significant inroads into making quality eye health services accessible to the underprivileged. We have been identifying reputed eye care institutions across the country and extending support to equip them with state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment.

Support	Partners
High-quality eye treatment to over 3,200 people from underserved communities	Sassoon General Hospitals, Pune Sri Sankaradeva Netralaya, Guwahati
Research on Fugal Keratitis	Aravind Medical Research Foundation, Madurai
Retinal injections for underserved persons	Sankara Netralaya, Chennai



"Now I know that darkness is not the end and there will always be light," says Ramila, a cataract patient

Read story

Cognizant Foundation supports projects aimed at reducing infant mortality, disability and morbidity, and maternal mortality.

Read More





Technology-Enabled Post-Discharge Care For Newborns

About



Aim: Cover 10,000+ Babies Over 3 Years



Personalised, App-based solution



Periodic Post-discharge Care of At-risk Infants

Partners

IIT Madras | JIPMER, Puducherry | Chengalpattu Medical College Hospital, Chengalpattu | Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chennai | Institute of Child Health, Chennai | Saveetha Medical College Hospital, Chennai





Project Suraksha

About



6,800 Women and Children Reached



2,600 in High-risk Category





Partner

Committed Communities Development Trust, Mumbai

"Thanks to you, my daughters and their children will be healthier than ever," says Mrs. Afshana

Read story

"Because of Project Suraksha, I will be able to care for my children better," says Mrs. Alfiya

Read story



Intensive Therapy Unit

About



2000+ Women and Children from Underserved Communities Treated

Partner

Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Matri Bhavan, Kolkata





Screening For Congenital Heart Disease In Children

About



Equipment Support: ECHO Cardiograph



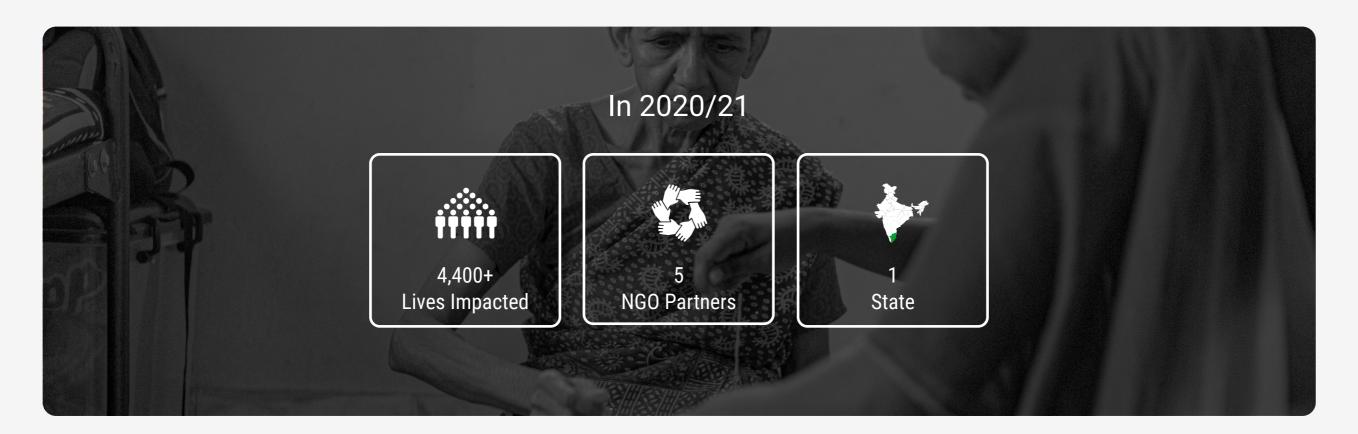
580+ Children Screened

Partner Aishwarya Trust, Chennai



Cognizant Foundation provides grants to numerous healthcare institutions to better help the underserved.

Read More





Community Mental Health Programme

About



2,500+ Lives Impacted



Partner
The Banyan, Chennai





Medical Care For The Elderly Destitute

About



Partner Little Drops, Chennai



"Take him to the bed I was on and put those tubes in his nose. He'll be all-right," says Ayesha

Read story



"What time I have left, thanks to you, I can finally spend in peace," says Nalini

Read story



Equipment For Blood Bank

About



20,000+ Lives Impacted Every Year

Partner Voluntary Health Services, Chennai





Screening Equipment For Cancer Patients

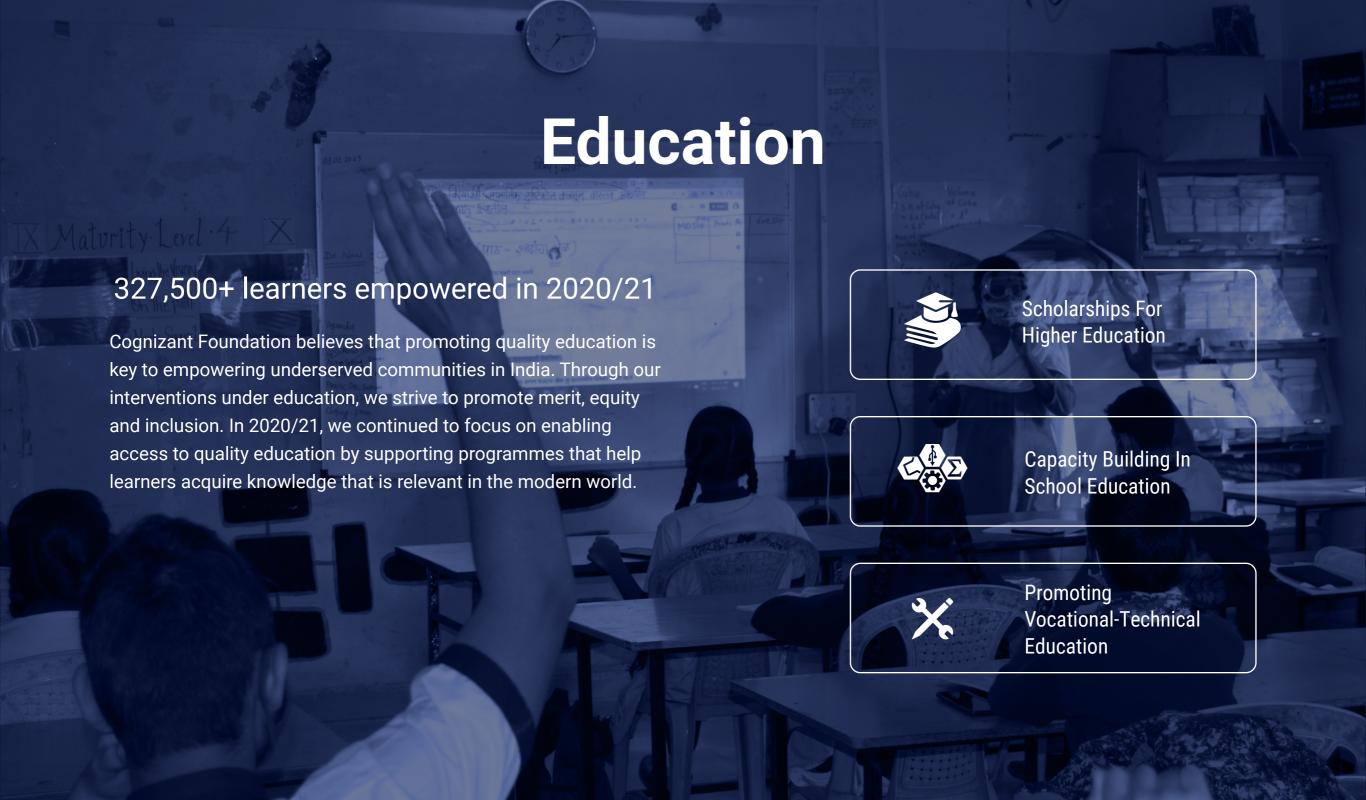
About



Partners

Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai | Rotary Club of Madras Temple City

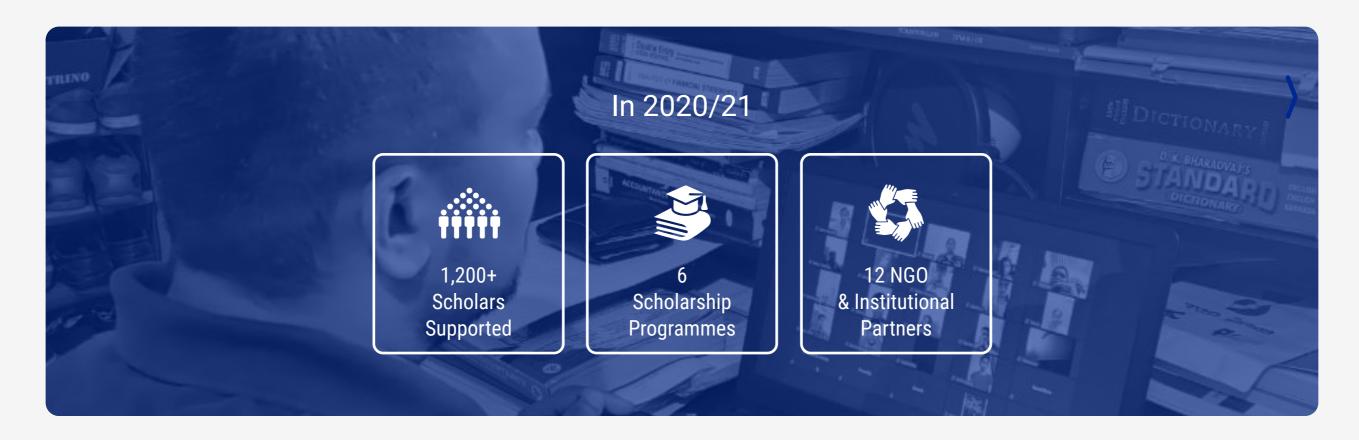




Scholarships For Higher Education

To promote equity and inclusivity, Cognizant Foundation has institutionalised a wide range of scholarships in diverse disciplines.

Read More





Scholarships For Higher Education

In Engineering And STEM

About



Partners

Foundation for Excellence India Trust, Bengaluru | Christel House, Bengaluru | Cognizant Outreach



"I hope to help others like me achieve their goals."

- Krithika, III B.Tech

Read story



"I hope to become an entrepreneur one day and give back to society."

- Thirumurugan, III B.Tech

Read story



For The Visually Impaired

About





Help the Blind Foundation, Chennai



"The scholarship has helped me become more confident and develop essential skills."

- Shiv Kumar, HTBF Scholar



"Being a part of the EMET programme is better than I ever imagined."

- Poonam, HTBF Scholar



In Special Education

About



Institutions

National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple
Disabilities | Andhra University | Sri Padmavati Mahila
Visvavidyalayam | Alagappa University | Ramakrishna
Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute





In Social Sciences

About



Institutions

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai |
Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi |
Madras School of Social Work, Chennai |
Maharaja Sayajirao University Baroda, Vadodara | University of Rajasthan, Ajmer | University of Kashmir, Srinagar



"Your support has inspired me to help others and give back to the community." - Namika, MSW student



"I hope to serve others in need and your support makes my goals more reachable." - Telston, MSW student



For Promoting Excellence

About





Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai



"We thank Cognizant Foundation for providing invaluable support."

- Prof. Madhavan Mukund, Director, CMI

Read more



"This scholarship has equipped me with the knowledge to excel in the field." - Deeksha, II Year Student



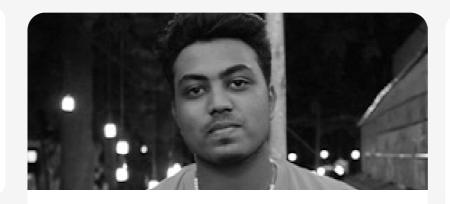
In Arts, Science & Commerce

About





Cognizant Outreach | Swadha Foundation, Bengaluru | Christel House, Bengaluru



"Your support will help me create a bright future for me and my family."

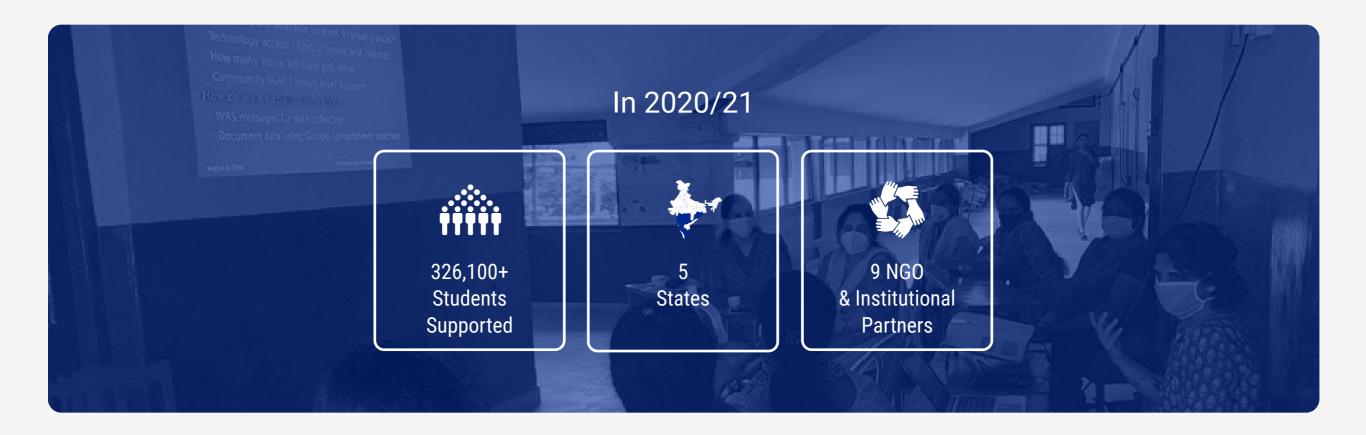
- Anthony, II BBA



"I will work hard and one day, support students in need just like how you are doing." - Prem, II B.Com

Leveraging our strength in technology, Cognizant Foundation is working towards enhancing the quality of school education.

Read More





Building Teachers' Capacity In Digital Learning & STEM

About



4,200+ School Students & Teachers Empowered



30 Governmentaided Schools in Bengaluru



"These online classes allowed me to continue learning from my comfort zone, even during this pandemic."

- Sahana, Std. 8 Student



"I enjoyed all the activities conducted for us like Geogebra and Tangram puzzles. They will be very helpful for my future." - Nithin, Std. 9 Student

Partner

IT for Change, Bengaluru



Enabling Access To Experiential Science Learning

About



210,900+ School Students and Teachers Empowered



States



"The classes are fun and interesting. I even got to participate in an online science contest and won a trophy!"

- Rithika, Std. 8 Student



"Before the Cognizant classes, I never liked science. Now my favourite subjects are Maths and Physics." - Manisha, Std. 8 Student

Partner

Agastya International Foundation, Bengaluru



Enabling Digital Learning In Classrooms

About



5,400+ School Students Empowered



2 States



"I would like to thank American Indian Foundation and Cognizant Foundation for giving our school this opportunity." - Qhirunissa, Headmistress

Read more



"These classes have really helped us continue learning, even though we couldn't go to school."

- Akshita, Std. 8 Student

Read story

Partner

American India Foundation, New Delhi



Digital Learning Platform For Persons With Vision Impairment

About

Platform

EYE (Educate Yourself Easily)

Aim

Enable 60,000+
Persons with
Vision
Impairment (PVI)
Across India Over
3 Years

Partner

EnAble India, Bengaluru





Connected Learning And Research On Inclusive Education

About

Partner

Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai and Hyderabad





Montessori Environment Of Education

About



500+ Students Supported



Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust, Chennai





"Learning is a continuous process and should not be limited to the child's third environment, the school."

- Radhika, SRCT

Read more



Resource Rooms For Dyslexic Children

About



6 Government-aided Schools



Madras Dyslexia Association, Chennai





"Through this programme we gained invaluable skills needed for teaching dyslexic children."

- Mrs. Sharmila, Teacher

Devices For Blended Learning

About



265 Students & 10 Teacher Assistants

Partner iTeach Movement, Pune





"Thanks to my device, I was able to discover new things even during lockdown."

- Mohini, Std. 10 Student

Missed Call Do Kahaani Suno!

About



150,000+ Kids In The 3-10 Age Group

Partner
Pratham Books, Bengaluru





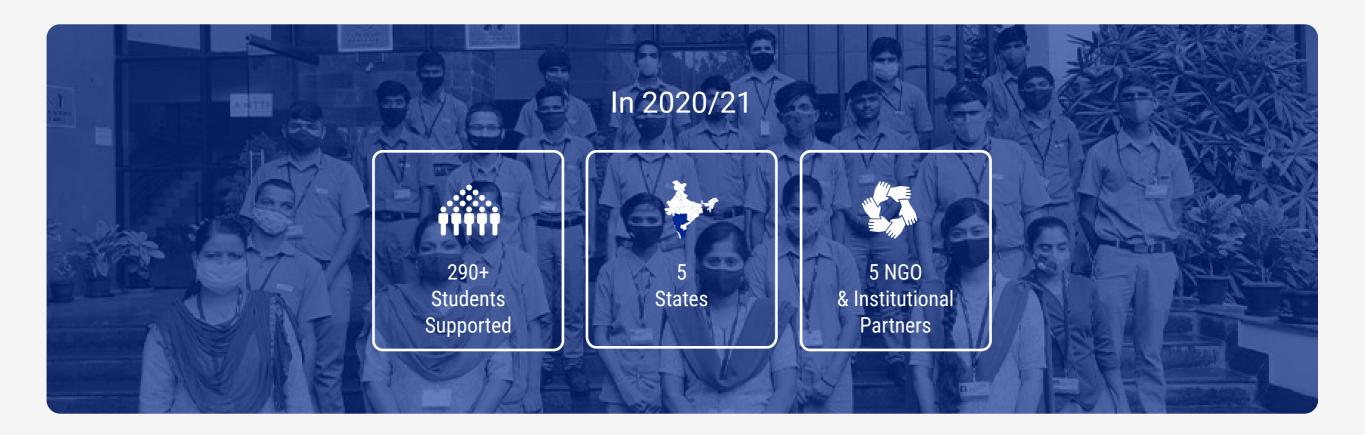
"My students are so interested in the stories that they listen to them even on weekends."

- Mr. Jivne, Teacher

Promoting Vocational-Technical Education

Cognizant Foundation promotes Vocational-Technical Education by supporting initiatives at a student and institutional level.

Read More





Promoting Vocational-Technical Education

Promoting Technical Skills For Young Women & Persons With Disabilities

About









Partners

Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF), Bengaluru | PanIIT Alumni Reach for India Foundation (PARFI), Mumbai | L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad | Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi "I hope to get a good job which will help my family thrive and live comfortably." - Monish, NTTF-ITI Student

Read story

"Thanks to Cognizant Foundation's support, I am able to bring a difference to our lives."

- Sunita, PARFI-ANM Student

Read story



Promoting Vocational-Technical Education

Supporting Vocational-Technical Institutions

About

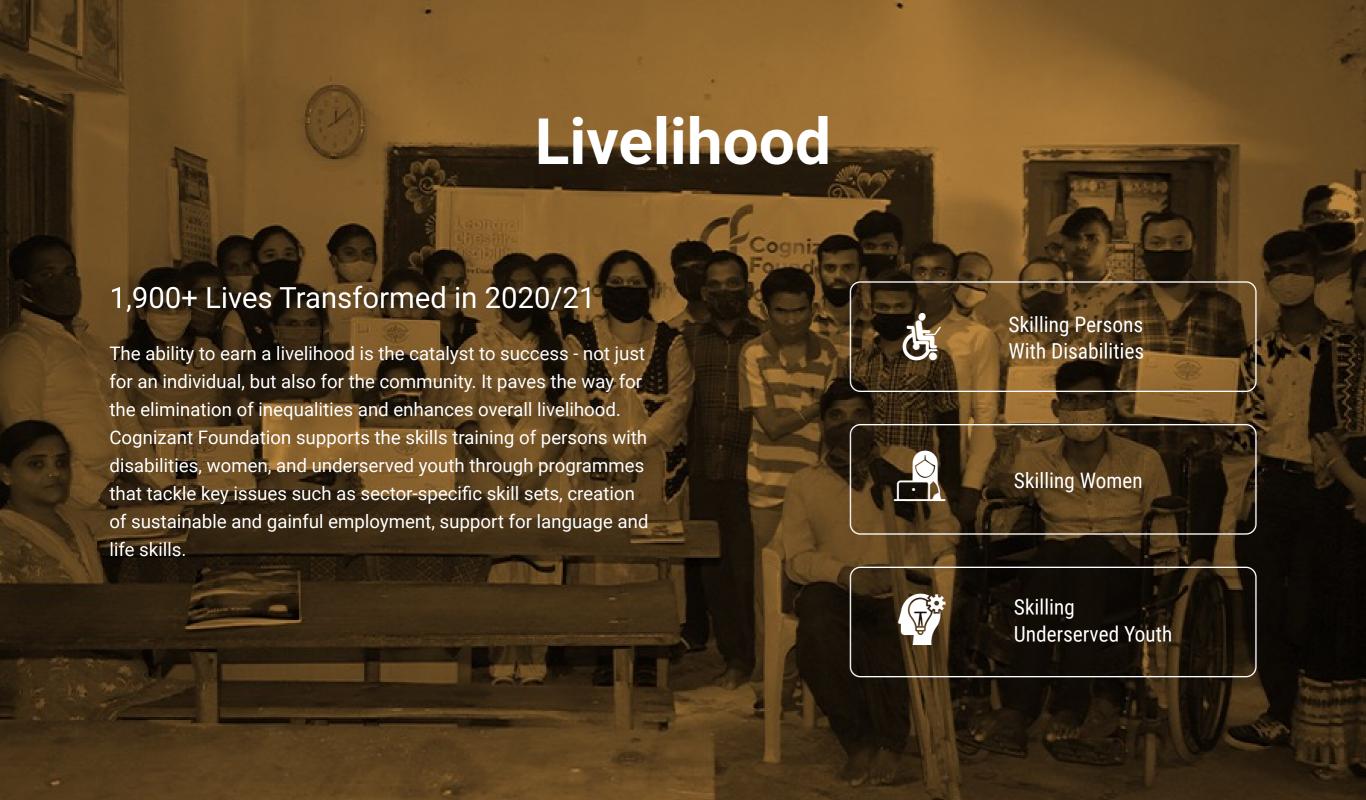


Equipment to Launch a 1-year Diploma Course in Mechanic Auto Electrical and Electronics Which Trains 40 Students Every Year

Partner

Swami Dayananda Saraswati Educational Society, Manjakudi





Skilling Persons With Disabilities

Cognizant Foundation collaborates with reputed not-for-profit organisations to train, enable and empower PwDs.

Read More



600+ Lives Transformed



Partners

Cheshire Disability Trust, Bengaluru |
Dr. Reddy's Foundation, Hyderabad |
Sarthak Educational Trust, New Delhi |
The Association of People with
Disability, Bengaluru

Skills

Banking, Financial Services and Insurance | E-Commerce | Information Technology (IT) and ITeS | Hospitality | Logistics | Manufacturing | Retail



Skilling Persons With Disabilities

Impact Stories



"After the pandemic hit, I thought I would never get a job."

- Jeni, Trainee, Dr. Reddy's Foundation

Read story





"This training programme has transformed my life."

- Mahesh, Trainee, Cheshire Disability Trust

Read story

Skilling Women

Cognizant Foundation, in partnership with reputed not-for-profit organisations, provide women with training in specialised skills.

Read More



160+ Lives Transformed



2 States

Partners

Association for Non-traditional
Employment for Women, Chennai |
Sarvodaya Integrated Rural
Development Society, Koppal |
Women's Organisation for Rural
Development, Namakkal

Skills

Home Nursing | Tailoring



Skilling Women

Impact Stories



"I am a confident, happy person today because of Cognizant Foundation." - Gayathri, Trainee, ANEW

Read story



"My training has given me the confidence needed to be successful." - Radhamani, Trainee, WORD

Read story

Skilling Underserved Youth

Cognizant Foundation supports programmes that enable underserved youth to improve their economic standing.

Read More



1,100+ Lives Transformed



4 States

Partners

Aide et Action, Chennai | Don Bosco Tech Society, New Delhi | Pratham Education Foundation, Mumbai

Skills

Automobile Repairs | Customer Relations Management | CNC Operation | Electrical | General Duty Assistant | Hospitality | ITeS | Retail | Tally



Skilling Underserved Youth

Impact Stories



"I now have the ability to create a better future for my family."

- Nilgagan, Trainee, Pratham

Read story



"I hope more people get the kind of opportunities I have been blessed with." - Nikita, Trainee, Pratham

Read story

