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Messages
From The Board
“There is an adage in sports that the way one scores points is more important than the points themselves. So it is with Corporate Social Responsibility. Measured by this yardstick, the Foundation has been fortunate, over the years, in the number of projects it has supported and their relevance to its thrust areas of activity, namely Education, Healthcare and Skilling for Livelihood. This trend continued in 2019/20 also. The COVID-19 pandemic has given us yet another opportunity to be of service to the community all over the country.

For statistical interest, project spend on the three traditional domains went up by well over 40% compared to 2018/19. This was made possible through an increased inflow of funds from Cognizant and the efforts of project-executing agencies. In addition, the ongoing “Rebuilding Communities” programme is on its way to a successful conclusion. Geographically, the Foundation’s operations could be widened to cover areas like the North-East which have remained inadequately attended to so far. As for places already being served, Cognizant Foundation has started making its presence felt in high-visibility locales like the National Capital Region.

The Foundation would like to express its grateful thanks to the Cognizant Management and the large body of Cognizant Associates for their enthusiastic support.”

N.R. KRISHNAN
IAS (Retd.)
Director, Cognizant Foundation
“For Cognizant Foundation, 2019/20 was yet another year of successful support in Education, Healthcare and Livelihood for the most deserving sections of our society. In monetary terms, the level of disbursements was the highest since the Foundation’s inception. The timely and efficient implementation of programmes such as the screening for and treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha is not a little due to the robust partner ecosystem so carefully developed and maintained by the Foundation’s hard-working secretariat. The role of the partner ecosystem was also clearly evident in the Foundation’s fulfilment of requests for assistance in the early days of the COVID-19 crisis in India.

We were able to respond quickly largely because we have implementation partners who could understand the needs, connect with the appropriate authorities, identify and align vendors, and rope in the right people to work in challenging conditions. This gives us every confidence that the Foundation can both deepen and widen its impact footprint in the years to come.”

K. BALAJI
Director, Cognizant Foundation
“It is heartening to note that Cognizant Foundation has continued its commendable work during the current year. The activities undertaken by it and the Cognizant Outreach team are truly worthy of appreciation. I wish Cognizant Foundation the best in carrying the work forward.

While it has caused untold misery to millions across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic that broke towards the end of the year has had its positive outcomes as well. The three focus areas of the Foundation – Healthcare, Education and Livelihood – have witnessed changes which have never been experienced before. We have seen healthcare workers around us donning the mantle of care for humanity and rendering a level of service that all of us are grateful for.

Education has opened up a wider choice for the learners and innovative ways of course delivery for the teachers. Small and big entrepreneurs and businesses are inventing everyday products and services to maintain the livelihood of employees, vendors and customers. The Cognizant Foundation team has played a very significant role in supporting the needs of all the three sectors.

I pray that humanity gains compassion, service, and love for fellow humans from this unexpected and unprecedented calamity. Nature has its inimical way of teaching us lessons for the future. We are challenged to rise to the occasion, and we will. Cognizant Foundation can and will play a significant role.”

DR. NANDINI RANGASWAMY
Director, Cognizant Foundation
“As I write these words, Cognizant Foundation has extended over ₹11 crores to organisations and hospitals across the country to help them in their emergency responses to COVID-19. It is a mark of the Foundation’s commitment that we were able, in the face of the very sudden outbreak of the virus, to source proposals, identify organisations in need, re-order budgets and make necessary funds available. Clearly these activities will dominate our work plans over the current year and I would like to express my appreciation to our colleagues who, through lockdown, have worked on reaching funds to recipient organisations.

Cognizant Foundation’s work is growing and we are able to expand the scope of our interventions even within our identified priority areas. We are aware of the need to support organisations in regions where we do not, at present, have a footprint. We are constantly on the search for new partners, but we are also happy to continue supporting organisations we have worked with in the past.”

KESHAV DESIRAJU
IAS (Retd.)
Director, Cognizant Foundation
“This past year was a landmark year for Cognizant Foundation. It marked a decade-and-a-half of the Foundation’s extraordinary support to millions of people in the areas of Education, Healthcare and Livelihood. It also marked the strengthening of the focus on programme orientation, driving sustainable, long-term societal impact. And, most importantly, the year saw the Foundation join hands with NGOs with a pan-India footprint to meaningfully expand its outreach into regions hitherto not commensurately supported, including the North East of India.

In the early stages of the outbreak of COVID-19 in India, the Foundation took a lead in making protective gear and diagnostic equipment available to frontline healthcare and other workers, and followed up with providing other critical medical devices, thereby helping arrest the spread of the disease, and save innumerable lives. Working closely with Cognizant Outreach, the employee volunteering arm of Cognizant, Foundation was able to establish last-mile connectivity and played a stellar role in mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

With increased funding, the ability to take on longer-term projects, a good roster of NGO partners with a pan-India presence, robust social impact assessment rubrics, and a highly experienced and active Board, the Foundation is today in a position to address much bigger issues and make the country a better place to live in.”
2019/20

At A Glance
“We take great pleasure in sharing Cognizant Foundation’s Annual Report for 2019/20, along with a special report on our journey over the last 15 years which has impacted over 3.5 million lives across India.

Thanks to the generous support from Cognizant Management and guidance from the Foundation’s Board, we were able to reach out to more deserving communities and support them in the chosen areas of Education, Healthcare and Livelihood in the year 2019/20. We carefully selected our programmes with thorough secondary research on areas of dire need in the country, vetting of its alignment to the Foundation’s vision, Cognizant’s CSR agenda and the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). Cognizant Foundation Projects are thoroughly evaluated to determine the robustness of field-level interventions in all stages from inception to completion. This has been possible only due to the enthusiasm of volunteers from Cognizant and the passion of our dedicated team. Our goal-oriented approach, a strong focus in nurturing innovation, relentless efforts in leveraging technology to promote excellence and strong partner network has helped us maximise the impact of our work. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their passionate support and commitment towards making our dream a reality.”

RAJASHREE NATARAJAN
CEO, Cognizant Foundation
In 2019/20, Cognizant Foundation entered its 15th year of empowering change for the most marginalised and underserved communities in India. During this period, the Foundation was able to impact the lives of more than 3.5 million people through 385+ projects. This milestone was achieved thanks to partnerships with 270+ non-profit organisations and institutions, Cognizant Outreach team and Cognizant Associates, all of whom helped reach the unreached through their unwavering dedication.

**The year witnessed the strengthening of the cross-cutting theme of prevention of disabilities and empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).**

During the year, the Foundation continued its efforts to sharpen its focus through a programme approach in which projects are not picked up at random, but are tailored and promoted to fit into a focal area of activity. Flagship programmes were scaled up in all key sectors - Healthcare, Education and Livelihood - through strategic partnerships with credible implementation agencies.
Operational Highlights

The year witnessed the strengthening of the cross-cutting theme of prevention of disabilities and empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The Healthcare flagship programme of “Preventing Avoidable Blindness” had its thrust on arresting the spread of preventable blindness, especially among infants and children. Under the umbrella of Education, the Foundation launched scholarship programmes with the aim of providing access to quality education for the visually challenged students and strengthening the special education ecosystem in the country. The Livelihood flagship programme empowered PwDs and helped them become self-reliant.

As part of the ongoing effort to extend its reach, Cognizant Foundation added the state of Odisha to its geographical focus, with the aim of adding other deserving geographies like the North East in 2020/21. The COVID-19 pandemic which struck towards the end of 2019/20 saw the Foundation gear up to equip frontline workers and healthcare systems to combat the invisible enemy.
2019/20 Impact By The Numbers

- **Projects**: 71
- **NGO Partners**: 44
- **Lives Benefitted**: 1,827,000+

**Impact Numbers by Sector**

- **91,400+ lives**: Bringing Quality Healthcare Within Reach
- **80,600+ lives**: Enabling Access to Quality Education
- **2,200+ lives**: Enabling Livelihood
- **8,500+ lives**: Rebuilding Communities
Geographic Coverage

2019/20 Impact By The Numbers

AP/Telangana: 33,200+ lives
Karnataka: 13,800+ lives
Kerala: 200+ lives
Maharashtra: 78,000+ lives
NCR: 10+ lives
Odisha: 1,200+ lives
Tamil Nadu: 34,100+ lives
West Bengal: 18,500+ lives
Pan India: 3,500+ lives
Bringing quality healthcare services within reach
Under the pillar of Healthcare, Cognizant Foundation implements programmes that bring quality healthcare within the reach of underserved people in the country.

Focus Areas

- Preventing Avoidable Blindness
- Promoting Women & Child Health
- Capacity Building in Healthcare
91,400+ people received access to quality healthcare in 2019/20
Preventing Avoidable Blindness

The problem

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Global Total
39 Million Blind

India
12 Million Blind

75% Of It Is Preventable

The reach

OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20

7 States

80,000+ Beneficiaries

India
75% Preventable

Global Total
39 Million Blind

Cognizant Foundation Yearbook 2019/20
Healthcare
Preventing Avoidable Blindness

School Eye Screening

Screen
2,00,000+ children in 3 years

**Partners**
Mission for Vision, Mumbai
Tulsi Eye Hospital, Nashik

99 Schools
51,600 Children Screened
1,300 Spectacles
200 Surgeries

“I did not know whether to be happy or sad. Happy, because my problem was getting a solution; sad because I could not afford that solution.”
Shumi*, Class 10 Student

“What is unique about these initiatives is that it has enabled comprehensive eye healthcare for vulnerable communities.”
Elizabeth Kurien
CEO, Mission for Vision

Read The Story

Watch The Video
Screening & Treatment of RoP

Preventing Avoidable Blindness

Screen 10,000 premature babies in 3 years, across 5 states

2,623 Babies Screened

207 Infants Treated

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

A baby girl was born - premature, frail and suffering from RoP - a mere 4 days before the nationwide lockdown.

How the LVPEI-Cognizant Foundation team saved the infant’s vision

“When you look into the baby’s eyes and see the warmth and a smile, then you know that this partnership has really blossomed.”

Dr. Subhadra Jalali
Director, Retina Institute, LVPEI

Read The Story

Watch The Video
Preventing Avoidable Blindness

Setting up and Running Vision Centres

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

Vision Centres: 8
27,600+ patients screened

5,700+ spectacles
2,500+ surgeries

“They have filled my family's life with light.”

Saving the eyesight of a farm labourer from Maharashtra

Read The Story
# Equipment Grants

## Preventing Avoidable Blindness

65,000+ patients impacted every year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Reach</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHACO Machine</td>
<td>4,000 Cataract surgeries per year</td>
<td>Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya, Sonepur &amp; LEPRA Society, Secunderabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-of-the-art Ophthalmic Equipment</td>
<td>2,000 Patients per year</td>
<td>Sundarban Social Development Centre, Sultanpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Ophthalmic Equipment</td>
<td>60,000 Patients per year</td>
<td>Sassoon General Hospitals, Pune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical Coherence Tomogram (OCT)</td>
<td>3,000 Patients per year</td>
<td>Lions Club of Jamalpur Welfare Trust, Jamalpur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“It felt like I was being surrounded by walls of darkness.”

How the equipment donated by Cognizant Foundation empowers lives.

Read The Story
Recognising the need for quality research in eye care, the Foundation has supported premier eye health institutions such as L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad and Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF), Madurai for translational research. In 2019/20, support was extended to AMRF to conduct research in the area of Fungal Keratitis. It aims to help AMRF develop evidence-based methods for delivering personalised treatments to patients affected by the disease.
Focus on Inclusivity
Promoting Women & Child Health

West Bengal
Intensive Therapy Unit

2000
Underserved women & children benefitted every year

Partner
Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Matri Bhavan, Kolkata
Capacity Building in Healthcare

Karnataka
Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy Unit
360 Patients a year
Partner: Bangalore Kidney Foundation, Bengaluru

Tamil Nadu
Automated Liquid Handling System
3,500 Patients a year
Partner: Jeevan Stem Cell Foundation, Chennai
Capacity Building in Healthcare

COVID-19 Support

“I am grateful to Cognizant Foundation and BKF for helping me through the lockdown.”

Rani Hegde*
A dialysis patient from Bengaluru

Read The Story
Enable access to quality education for underserved communities in India.
Under the pillar of Education, Cognizant Foundation works to enable access to quality education for the underserved communities in India. The Foundation’s efforts are focussed on promoting equity, merit and inclusion by helping beneficiaries acquire knowledge which is relevant in the modern world.

Focus Areas

- **Scholarships For Higher Education**
- **Capacity Building in School Education**
- **Promoting Vocational Technical Education**
80,600+
Learners empowered in 2019/20
Scholarships for Higher Education

*The reach*

OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20

- 4 Scholarship Programmes
- 1,011 Scholars Supported
- 151 Institutions
- 20 States
Scholarships for Higher Education

In Engineering & STEM

Partners
Foundation for Excellence India Trust (FFE), Bengaluru
Christel House, Bengaluru
Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai
Swadha Foundation, Bengaluru
Cognizant Outreach

In 2019/20
503 Scholars Supported
72 Institutions
20 States

Sudha Kidao
Managing Trustee, FFE

“(This programme) has clearly shown the power of giving and the impact it can create.”

Bodulla Sahithi
Beneficiary

“I owe my success to the Cognizant Foundation-FFE Scholarship Programme.”

Watch The Video
Read The Story
Scholarships for Higher Education

In Engineering & STEM

“We are very happy that Cognizant Foundation has come forward to sponsor the tuition fees for 10 students in this programme each year, making it accessible to students from varied economic and social backgrounds.”

— Prof. Madhavan Mukund
Dept. Director and Dean of Studies, Chennai Mathematical Institute

“The Cognizant Foundation scholarship allowed me to focus solely on being a good student and researcher. As part of my thesis, I tackled a Computer Science problem with implications in Social Choice Theory.”

— Ankita Sarkar
M.Sc. Computer Science (2018-20), Chennai Mathematical Institute
Scholarships for Higher Education

For Persons with Disabilities

Partner
Help the Blind Foundation (HTBF), Chennai

In 2019/20

200+ Students Supported for Graduate Education

300+ Beneficiaries of EMET Programme for Job Readiness

“Through the EMET programme, I have reaped many benefits.”
Divya
Trainee, HTBF

“We are really thankful to Cognizant Foundation for their support without which we would not have achieved (our goals).”
Nataraj
Trustee, HTBF

Watch The Video

Watch The Video
Scholarships for Higher Education

For Social Sciences & Special Education

In 2019/20

139 Scholarships Awarded

16 Institutions

6 States

“We are truly thankful to Cognizant Foundation for rendering this unique scholarship for budding development practitioners.”

Prof. Asha Banu Soletti
Dean - Students’ Affairs and Placements,
Tata Institute of Social Sciences
"The support given by Cognizant Foundation definitely helps fulfil the aspirations of students belonging to underserved communities, and also students who want to become teachers to children with special needs."

P. Kamaraj  
HOD, Department of Special Education, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities

"Thanks to the scholarship, I could focus on my studies and not worry about the expenses. I was able to clear UGC-NET in December 2019, and now I am eligible to become an Assistant Professor."

Nivetha S.R.  
II Year Student, MSW (Aided), Madras School of Social Work
Capacity Building in School Education

The reach

OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20

78,745 Students
1,063 Teachers
174 Schools
10 Partners
5 States
Capacity Building in School Education

Promoting Digital Learning & STEM Education

**Partners**
Aide et Action, Chennai
Agastya International Foundation, Bengaluru
The American India Foundation Trust, New Delhi
IT for Change, Bengaluru,
Rotary Club of Chennai Kilpauk, Chennai
Madras School of Economics, Chennai

**In 2019/20**

- **Students**: 73,845
- **Teachers**: 1,007
- **Schools**: 134

**“(The training) resulted in an informative and smooth way of teaching learning processes.”**
Firdos Ara Khan, Teacher, Bangalore High School, Jayanagar

**“We explore how tools can be used to create more engaging, interactive learning opportunities.”**
Gurumurthy Director, IT for Change
Capacity Building in School Education

Promoting Digital Learning & STEM Education

“Thank you for helping me see the world in a way I couldn’t before.”

Kishore
Student, Class 7

“[Image of teacher and students]

“I never thought that one day I will be able to access digital devices and gadgets to teach my students.”

Yerram Srinivas, Teacher,
ZP High School, Karimnagar

Read The Story

Read The Story
Promoting Vocational Technical Education

Cognizant Foundation works towards promoting Vocational Technical Education by supporting various trade-based technical skilling programmes. Only institutes which offer programmes that are benchmarked with industry standards, approved by skill sector councils provide and have exceptional placement services are extended support.
Promoting Vocational Technical Education

Career Value Enhancement for Youth and Persons with Disabilities

In 2019/20
Training in Electronic Mechanic Trade

36
Beneficiaries

Partner
Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF), Bengaluru

“Thanks to Cognizant Foundation’s support ... I am able to focus on growing as an individual.”

Raju V. Asangi
Trainee at NTTF

Read The Story
Promoting Vocational Technical Education

Career Value Enhancement for Young Women and Rural Youth

In 2019/20
Training in Vision Technician Course

11 Beneficiaries
2 States

Partners
L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad
Dr. Shroff Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi

“T hope that Cognizant Foundation never stops supporting financially disadvantaged students.”

N. Sravani
Trainee at LVPEI

Read The Story
Promoting Vocational Skilling Infrastructure

The Foundation supports some of the finest Vocational Technical Education institutions in the country by helping them strengthen their learning environment through state-of-the-art physical and digital infrastructure.

500+ Rural Students Benefit Every Year

Institution
Swami Dayananda Saraswati Educational Society, Manjakudi

Tamil Nadu

Support
Equipment for 2-year Diploma Courses in Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning and Mechanical & Power Electronics

465+ Rural Students Benefit Every Year

Institution
Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College, Puducherry

Puducherry

Support
Equipment for Computer Laboratory to launch Animation & Web Designing course
Empower and enable underserved persons with **skill training** programmes
Under the pillar of Livelihood, Cognizant Foundation focuses on empowering and enabling underserved youth, persons with disabilities and women to gain employment. The Foundation collaborates with credible skill training providers and organisations in identifying, training and supporting job placement.
The reach
OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2019/20

2,200+ Lives Impacted
12 NGO Partners
5 States
Skilling Underserved Youth

1,400+ Trainees
4 States

Automobile repairs, IT/ITeS, Electrical, Hospitality, Retail

Partners
Aide et Action, Chennai
Don Bosco Tech Society, New Delhi
Hand in Hand India, Kanchipuram
Social Empowerment and Economic Development Society, New Delhi
Pratham Education Foundation, Mumbai

“Even after I got placed, they did not forget about me and gave me the opportunity to get an even better job.”
Ganesh Pandurang Sadavare
Electrician Trainee
Pratham Education Foundation

Read The Story
Skilling Underserved Youth

“I am finally in a position to follow my dreams.”

Perumal, Trainee, Don Bosco Tech Society

“All our recruits have performed exceptionally well.”

Mohan, HR Manager, Nine Stars Information Technologies
Skilling Persons with Disabilities

660+ Trainees
3 States
BFSI, IT/ITeS, Hospitality, Retail, Tourism

Partners
Cheshire Disability Trust, Bengaluru
Cheshire Homes India, Kolkata
Dr. Reddy’s Foundation, Hyderabad
Sarthak Educational Trust, New Delhi
The Association of People with Disability, Bengaluru

“We thank Cognizant Foundation for supporting virtual training during COVID-19 lockdown.”
Rana M. Philip
Chairman,
Cheshire Disability Trust

“I feel confident now, and I’m able to financially support my family.”
Manohar
Trainee,
Cheshire Disability Trust

Watch The Video
Watch The Video
Srilakshmi Bellamkonda
Programme Head - DRF

“We have trained more than 200 youth in the last 1.5 years.”

Srilakshmi Bellamkonda
Programme Head - DRF

In his own words, Vikram explains how he got placed thanks to the training provided at DRF, and Cognizant Foundation’s support.
Skilling Women

170+ Trainees

Home Nursing, Tailoring & Apparel

Partners
Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women (ANEW), Chennai
Women’s Organisation for Rural Development (WORD), Namakkal

“Through my job as a nurse, I am able to make a meaningful contribution to society.”
Gowri
Home Nursing Trainee, ANEW

Read The Story
Responding To The COVID-19 Pandemic
In times of crisis, it is often those we don’t see, the unsung heroes – the doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers, police officers, fire department personnel – who get us through.

Given Cognizant Foundation’s strong focus in healthcare, our COVID-19 relief efforts focused on protecting such frontline workers and strengthening the healthcare system across Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal. This included the donation of over 6,13,000 units of protective gear for healthcare and frontline workers and over 1,100 critical medical equipment to strengthen health systems, along with other continued efforts.
Protecting Frontline Workers

- 76,000+ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits
- 80,000+ N95 Masks
- 70,000+ Other Protective Gear
- 7,200+ Litres of Sanitisers
- 3,800,000+ 3-ply Masks
- 1,100+ Medical Equipment
The Foundation donated personal protective gear and critical care medical equipment such as ventilators, multi-para monitors, ECG machines and infrared thermometers to Government Hospitals combating COVID-19.
Fighting shoulder to shoulder with healthcare workers are officials in the police and fire departments. We donated personal protective gear to such workers to keep them safe from the pandemic.
Support was extended to the Foundation’s existing healthcare partners and other not-for-profit institutions with protective gear and critical medical equipment to help them combat COVID-19.
Journey Since Inception in 2005

3.5 million+ lives have been impacted across India
State-wise Impact

AP/Telangana  1,42,000+ lives
Karnataka  6,56,000+ lives
Kerala  63,000+ lives
Maharashtra  9,87,000+ lives
NCR  3,64,000+ lives
Odisha  6,000+ lives
Tamil Nadu  5,91,000+ lives
West Bengal  6,82,000+ lives
Pan India  36,000+ lives
270+ NGO Partnerships
Lives impacted through Healthcare initiatives: 2.7 million+

Students and teachers enabled with quality Education: 7,59,000+

Underserved individuals skilled: 18,500+

Lives impacted through the Rebuilding Communities programme: 25,000+
Standing up for the Change-makers

Across all our pillars inclusivity has been Cognizant Foundation’s continued focus and one of the most-significant drivers of social change.