

*September/ 2019*

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# *The CherYsh Post*

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*Mr. Vivek Pawar, CEO- Deshpande Foundation and Ms. Renu Mukunda, Director- Programmes and Social Innovation-CherYsh Trust, sign the Memorandum of Understanding*



## *Welcome to September Newsletter!*

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The times we live in today, iPhones, Artificial Intelligence, digital education etc are what we hear. The debate that the education system is globally outdated is increasing. 'One need not go through schooling to be knowledgeable', 'Global companies are not hiring on the basis of degrees', 'the child has to be happy' are all coffee table and social media discussion points off late. For those of us who work in the villages of India, particularly in the education sector this is a testing time when it comes to school going children. Are we doing the right thing? Are we doing it the right way? Is there a disconnect between what today's children need which will be useful when they reach the productive age and the inputs that they are getting during their growth process? Will we ever be able to reduce the gap that is there in the rural-urban divide? It is mind-boggling. When I see a picture sent by our field team of a child gleaming from ear-to-ear on receiving a 'Nataraja' pencil as a reward for best performance in some competition and compare it with a child in the city who threw tantrums because the parents did not replace

his mobile with the latest iPhone, my frustrations increase in leaps and bounds.

However, CherYsh works in the real world and believes in 'every drop makes an ocean' so we continue our efforts to bring the children from the remote villages, a few steps forward to the mainstream. We mobilize and pool resources from the grassroots itself, and everywhere else to meet the needs of the Programme. We foster relationships with various organizations and institutions in and around Haliyal to optimize the outcomes of the project. One such huge step we have taken this year is to partner with the Deshpande Foundation in implementing both our programmes; education to school children and livelihood for rural women. Deshpande brings in their expertise in market support, capacity building and building linkages with support systems.

Organisations and Individuals with the intention of giving back to society, wanting to join hands with each other to channelize energies, resources, knowledge, are all welcome to hold hands with CherYsh to enrich the communities of the villages of Haliyal!

Thank you,  
Best wishes,  
Renu Mukunda  
Director- Programmes and Social Innovation



*Reading activity at Shivapur village Shiksha*

## **CherYsh signed Memorandum of Understanding with Deshpande Foundation, Hubballi**

A partnership with the Deshpande Foundation has been in the works for the last few months and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to cement it. The strengths of both organisations have been recognised in order to expand our work and impact in Haliyal. This partnership will increase impact in terms of the number of villages we work in and the number of women and children these projects will benefit.

The partnership aims to expand the Shiksha Programme to more villages and children of higher

age groups, with more focus on technology. The livelihood projects in the villages of Haliyal will be rejuvenated under the Navodyami entrepreneurship programme.

We look forward to bringing sustainable solutions to improve the learning and livelihood scenario of Haliyal by combining the technical and capacity building expertise of Deshpande Foundation and the grass root community mobilization skills, field presence and experience of CherYsh Trust .

### **Phase I of “Information Communication Technology (ICT) for Rural Education” Training reaches completion**

Trainings under “Information Communication Technology for Rural Education Project” supported by Intel has been going on in Haliyal since the month of July. Twenty women trainees, who are attending the training have completed Phase I of the training that focused on the basics of computer use. They have received lessons in theory and practical, with a heavier focus on practical side to familiarize them with usage of computer software. The trainees now have a good understanding on how to create documents in Microsoft Office platforms and how they can use the internet to search for information.

An evaluation was conducted at the end of Phase I. The trainees have performed very well and the

group has scored an average of 75% overall.

In the next phase, the trainees will conduct surveys in their villages to understand the kinds of services that are availed in a rural ecosystem. This will be followed by visits to various government offices to understand the services available online. The information gathered through the survey and interactions will be applied in practical context in the second phase of the training.

Workshops will also be conducted to sharpen the entrepreneurial skills of the trainees, so that they are well equipped to operate Online Service Centres and tech enabled Learning Centers (Shikshas) at the end of the training.



*Ongoing sessions of ICT Training*



## Livelihood groups are recovering from the floods

The villages of Haliyal and its inhabitants are recovering from crop and infrastructure damages inflicted by the floods. Roads and bridges are being rebuilt, local buses are functioning again but the frequency is reduced. Crop damages have affected households and livelihoods.

CherYsh's women groups are meeting in order to plan their next steps. Simultaneously, new groups are being formed. A group of ten women has been identified in Hunswad village to start a new sugarcane bud nursery group. Initial introduction to procedure and operations have been given to the group by the CherYsh field team. Visit to Mundwad sugar bud nursery group and preliminary training programme are being arranged for the Hunswad group.

Another group of 10 women in Halmaddi village are ready to start a livelihood unit. Livelihood options are being discussed for this group.

Women from more villages are coming forward seeking opportunity for livelihood programmes. CherYsh team is actively mobilising the community and helping them to realise their potential. We hope that we will be able to help the women achieve their goals through partnerships and financial aid from various stakeholders.



Meeting with the Hunswad sugarcane bud nursery group

## CherYsh supported football player from Haliyal represents Karnataka in National Football Championship



Ms. Sunita Lambore has been selected to represent the Karnataka State Team at the Senior Women's National Football Championship, 2019. Sunita is from Jataga Gouliwada village in Haliyal and her talent has always been supported by her family and school. But after her high school graduation, her family couldn't financially support her education. CherYsh then organised to support her education and football training in St. Aloysius College, Mangalore with the help of our well wisher, Ms. Mallika Nair.

To say the least, we are very proud of Sunita and are inspired by her. The lack of resources didn't stop her from grabbing opportunities and achieving what she is capable of, and that is what we hope to do with more people in Haliyal.

## Shiksha evaluation is in progress

A comprehensive evaluation of Shikshas has been planned with education specialist Ms. Malathi in order to understand the impact the Shiksha model has made on the English language abilities of students and Learning Facilitators over the last few years.

A pilot evaluation exercise was conducted and the questionnaire and methodology was

modified as per the feedback from the pilot. The next phase of evaluation is actively progressing in the villages, anchored by a staff team. Students in standards 1 through 8 are being evaluated via written and oral tests. Feedback will also be collected from the Learning Facilitators, school teachers and the community regarding the impact made by the Shikshas over the years.



Field team conducting Shiksha student evaluations

## New additions to CherYsh field team

CherYsh's field team has been strengthened by two new staff members, Ms. Sheetal Madiwal and Ms. Manjula Shignolkar. Both are natives of Haliyal and have been associated with CherYsh previously in the role of Learning Facilitators. We are gearing up for expansion to more villages with the newly strengthened field team who are supported and guided by the head office team.



CherYsh Field team



## **QUANTUM CONSUMER SOLUTIONS PVT.LTD : CHERYSH'S CSR PARTNER**

Quantum Consumer Solutions, a company that was established in 1990, is the pioneer in qualitative market research in India. A company that is known for its encouraging work environment and strong female leaders, has been a constant source of support to CherYsh Trust over the years of our growth. Quantum supports CherYsh financially as a CSR partner. Apart from the monetary support, the team members of Quantum show their solidarity to our development work in rural areas by participating and fundraising for CherYsh in the Bangalore TCS 10K Marathon, every year. Quantum has been sponsoring all the operations of 10 Shikshas in Haliyal as well as the training and capacity building programmes. The support and contributions of organisations like Quantum plays a key role in enabling grass root organizations to take development to the rural and remote villages.



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