



Oasis



Making India better for
women and children

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17

oasisindia



What We Do

Dear friends, supporters and co-workers,

2016 has been another good year for Oasis India with the successful coverage of 15730 direct beneficiaries, two new hubs initiated in Mumbai and Bangalore, and newer partnerships forged with The Robbins (UK), Chennai Willingdon Foundation and Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). It has been a good year in other ways too.

I am happy to share that more donors, particularly CSR and local funders are recognising the strength (decades of work in Anti-Human Trafficking intervention) that Oasis India brings to the table. We can't wait to continue this important work in the year to come.



I wholeheartedly thank all our funding partners, CSR partners, friends and well-wishers for their continued support and faith in Oasis India. In this successful endeavour, we sincerely appreciate, recognise and laud the contribution made by each member of the Committee of Management and of the Oasis India Society who govern and guide the organisation.

I firmly reiterate that Oasis India will remain on course to realise its vision for the community – a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their God-given potential.

Mangneo Lungdim

Executive Director - Oasis India

Oasis India's vision is for community - a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their God-given potential. Our strategy to bring about community transformation, as articulated in our vision, is via the four core areas illustrated in the diagram below:



- Mumbai, Maharashtra** ▶ Bandra, Borivali, Grant Road, Kamathipura
- Chennai, Tamil Nadu** ▶ Basin Bridge and Kannigapuram
- Bangalore, Karnataka** ▶ Hallegudadhahalli and Krishnarajapuram
- Punganur, Andhra Pradesh** ▶ 10 surrounding villages

Our dear friends and partners,

Sometimes a year can seem like a lifetime, especially when there are significant happenings that impact our future and direction. For Oasis, 2016-17 has been a crucial year.

We set in place a new three-year strategic plan which defined our focus in terms of four core tasks in our work of building individuals and communities:

- **Outreach** – identifying and connecting with the marginalised and vulnerable in our communities
- **Educating for Life** – providing skills and knowledge that will enable a fuller life, with confidence and potentially gainful employment
- **Accessing Opportunities and Resources** – connecting the deserving with what society and the government has made available
- **Community Building** – ensuring the benefits to the individuals also result in consolidating the life of the community

These are detailed inside, with stories from our hubs of how these have played out in our programmes and the lives of those we seek to reach.

We were glad during the year to welcome on-board our new Executive Director, Mangneo Lhungdim, a Tata Institute of Social Sciences alumnus of 1998, with rich development (and disaster relief) expertise, to lead the next phase of Oasis India's journey.

We started to engage with a wider populace, around the shared concern of making India better for women and children, with our She is Priceless campaign. We received government renewal of our Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act (FCRA), beyond March 2017. We also initiated steps to obtain key certifications and empanelment to help establish credibility and facilitate access to CSR resources to accelerate initiatives and programmes. To this end, we went through due-diligence from Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and obtained certification, revived our Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) membership as an Implementing Agency, reconfirmed membership in Guidestar, became a member with Confederation of Indian Organisations for Service & Advocacy (CIOSA) TN, and initiated registration with the National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog.

The story of the year gone by is told inside, through the words and experiences of our beneficiaries and staff, which convey firsthand what it is we do with your prayers and support.

Each year is the beginning of many new chapters and the closing of some: for me personally it marks the end of my term as Committee of Management President. I am deeply grateful for having had this opportunity to work with the incredible team that serves in our projects and offices across Mumbai, Bangalore, Punganur and Chennai.

Praying God's hand on the work of Oasis, and all your endeavours, as we go forward in the year ahead!



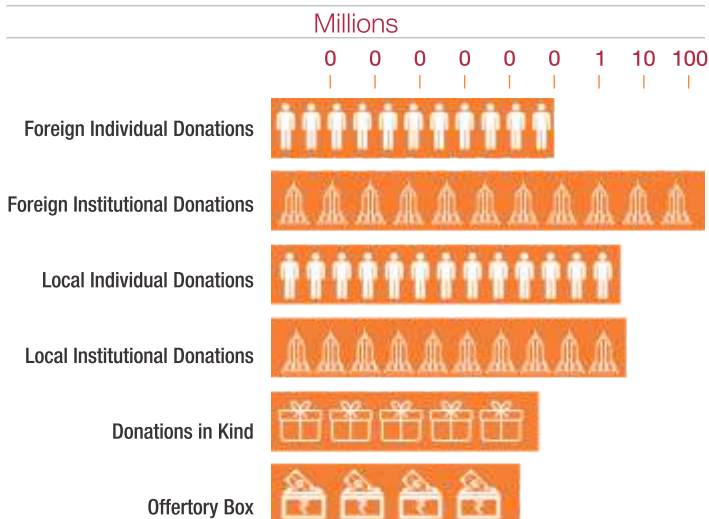
Vijay Alexander

President, Committee of Management
Oasis India

PROJECT EXPENSES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-17



DONATION DETAILS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-17



Outreach

Accessing
Opportunities
and
Resources

Educating
for life

Community
Building

Outreach is the process through which we achieve our vision of inclusion. Our staff identify and seek out vulnerable and excluded individuals and groups within each context of work. Regular meetings and interactions with community members lead to a growing understanding of local power dynamics and social hierarchies. This results in intentional efforts to reach out to those who have been marginalised and include them in activities that empower and eventually mainstream them.

This year, our outreach programmes took many forms – street plays and rallies, door-to-door visits and targeted interventions at railway stations. There are many stories of people we met - some for just a short time and others who are now part of our programmes.

This story of five teenage boys falls somewhere in between. A train from Patna, Bihar arrived at the LTT train station in Mumbai as usual, just after midnight on 7th September, 2016. When five boys between the ages of 13 and 15 got down from the train without an adult accompanying them, our Early Encounter team knew that something was not right. The children looked tired, frightened and totally disoriented.



92

vulnerable children
were protected
and put in safe
environments

7500⁺

people learnt
about human
trafficking through
awareness programmes



2266
people were part
of health awareness
sessions



15

adolescent girls
from the red-light
area were given safe
shelter every night



464
new relationships
were built with
women and pimps
in Mumbai's
red-light areas

255

children were
engaged through
summer camps and
vacation activities



43

women left the
sex trade and
9 pimps left
the red-light area



Our team found out that the boys had come to Mumbai to support their families after someone had promised them a job. However, their employer hadn't come to receive them. Our staff got his phone number from the boys and contacted the person, asking him about his connection with the children. He didn't give a satisfactory answer. He didn't show up at the railway station either. We brought this to the notice of the Child Welfare Committee and the police, and after a short stay at the government home and some paperwork, the boys were reunited with their families.

Our outreach work sometimes took surprising turns, when people from the community heard about our work and came to us for help and support.

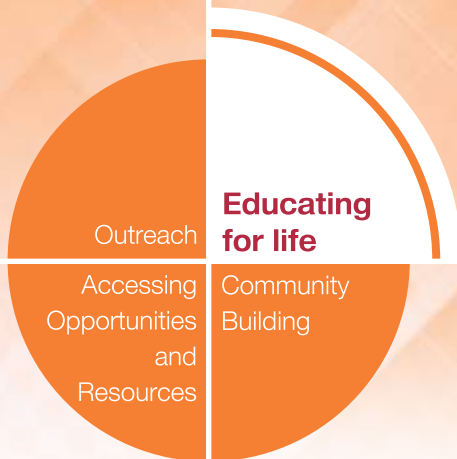
Little Bhavani's* case is one such example. Bhavani's life was abruptly changed by her father's death, and she was forced to work in a distant state from the tender age of eight. For two years, her employer did not allow her to meet her mother and brother. Panicking, the family registered a case with the police, who located her and placed her in a government girls' home.

However, the family was not informed of this, and in a state of despair, they contacted staff from our Bangalore hub. After investigation, Oasis staff found her, ensured her safety, lodged the case with the Child Welfare Committee and reunited her with her family. Our staff cautioned her family against sending her to work again, and we are happy to say that after two years, Bhavani is now back in school!

Zeenat* was married at 14 to a man who turned her life upside down. Forced to move from her native place in Bangladesh to Mumbai's red-light area, Zeenat was sold into prostitution by her husband. Alone at 19, with two small kids, she felt that her life was meaningless. It was at this time that our staff met her.

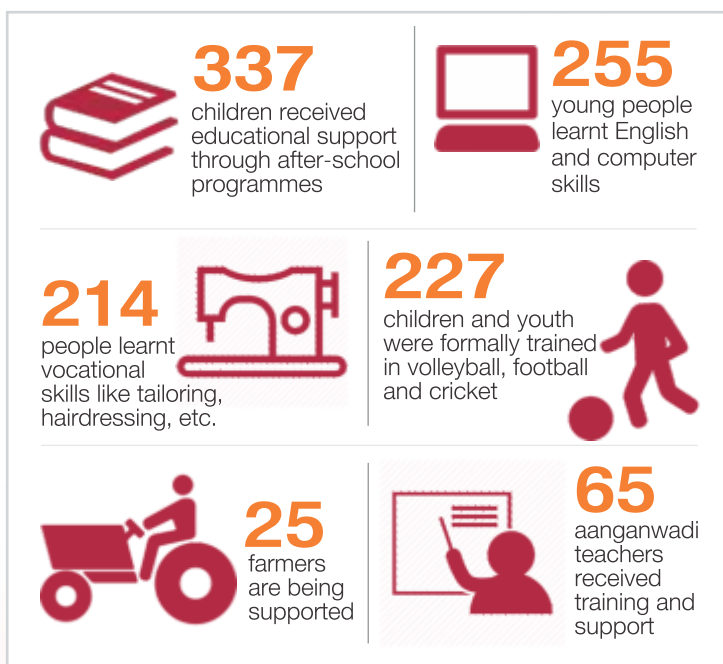
Zeenat says, "Today life is worth living, because I am employed by Oasis in the housekeeping department, and my son is attending an English medium school. Once I was living in a brothel, but I now live in a small rented house away from the area and I have given up the flesh trade! Thanks Oasis, for taking a personal interest in my life."

*name changed



Reaching one's full potential is possible only through exposure, right opportunities and education. Oasis embraces this element of our vision by providing a range of opportunities and activities that strengthen the informal educational arena - offering after-school support for children, life skills education, adult literacy, English classes, basic computer and vocational training, sports sessions and awareness programmes about social issues.

This year, the work in our rural hub in Punganur, Andhra Pradesh shifted focus to organic farming. In relation to this, we mobilised farmers and began educating them about the best practices and new trends for sustainable agriculture. We also used our experience in running pre-schools to begin training aanganwadi (mother and child care centre) teachers on creative teaching methods and best practices.



Mubeena, a 31-year-old widow and mother of four children, has this to say about her experience:

"After my husband died, I wanted to work and earn money, but was frustrated because I had not completed my education and didn't have a relevant skill. That's when I learnt about Oasis' Tailoring Programme," says Mubeena. Despite facing difficulties in managing her home and classes, Mubeena was able to complete the course and now uses her skills to work from home as a tailor.

In order to encourage the women who complete our tailoring programme and to use their skills to support their families, Oasis facilitated the setup of a social enterprise initiative in Chennai. Each



woman earns an average of Rs.10,000 per month. The women say their families have never received such a large, consistent income and that they have now developed a lot of self-assurance and self-worth.

Impressed with the quality of the products, many have already bought the products our women make. Pictures and products made by the women can be found on their Facebook page, Madras Fuse. More women are currently learning the skills to join this group.

Sport continues to be an area through which we educate and influence young people and teach them life skills. Oasis has a wide range of sports programmes – from the newly introduced volleyball training in Punganur, to friendly community cricket competitions in Bandra and thriving football programmes in Bangalore and Chennai.

"I am Ayesha Banu and one of 10 children. Earlier I was a shy girl, but after joining Oasis' programme in Bangalore, I am able to make friends and communicate fluently in English. Many programmes and activities on team work, self-esteem, communication skills, and goal-setting have helped me to become more confident and overcome stage fear. I was very happy to be part of street plays, as it helped me to raise my voice against inequality."

Outreach

Educating
for life

Accessing
Opportunities
and
Resources

Community
Building

Bridging the gap between those who have and those who don't is not just about money. It is about ensuring that people with needs are linked to places that have the resources to meet those needs. It is about helping people create or seize opportunities and make the most of government schemes and benefits that they usually know nothing about.

As an organisation, we ensure that children who have dropped out from school are linked to formal or non-formal education opportunities, that people in need of healthcare or specialised training get the best possible services, and that people have jobs, safe homes and the ability to make choices.



697

individuals were
linked to
healthcare
services



12

people were
linked to
specialised
health training

98

people were
placed in jobs



106

people were
offered
counselling
services



87

children who dropped
out of school were
linked to opportunities
to continue their
education



27

people were
linked to
government
benefits and
schemes

15

people were
referred to other
NGOs for services



Mubashira is a hardworking young woman. As a child, her dream was to become a teacher. She was well on her way to making that dream a reality, completing her high school board exams with 77% and securing the third rank in her school in Punganur. But then her father fell ill and eventually passed away. Mubashira's mother Sajida struggled to take care of her four daughters and was unable to make ends meet. Mubashira was forced to stop her studies to learn tailoring through which she began supporting the family.

She currently works part-time at multiple places. Her day begins between five and six in the morning, making samosas at a bakery until 12 noon, completing tailoring orders from home between one and three and then spending the next two hours deseeding tamarind. All this effort gives her approximately Rs.150 a day.

Our staff met her in September and noticed her thirst for knowledge. We helped her enrol in the Andhra Pradesh Open School. In spite of her busy work schedule she spends 2-3 hours studying every day. She says, "I almost gave up on studies and thought I would never get an opportunity to continue my studies again but Oasis brought new hope into my life. If Oasis didn't support me by paying the fees and helping me enrol, I doubt I would have restarted my studies. I now have more confidence that I can reach my goal of becoming a teacher."

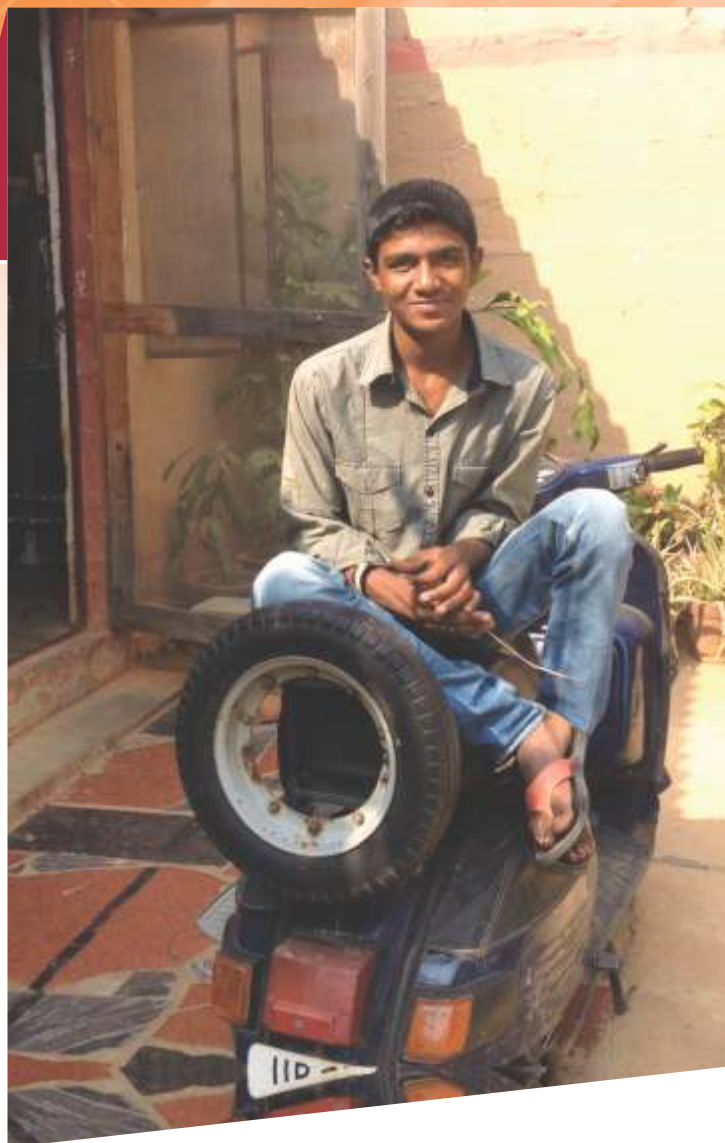


Our vision for community has led us to establish small groups of people who are committed to their transformation and that of their community. By creating and mobilising community members to join and run Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Community Vigilance Groups (CVGs) and Change Agent Groups, we aim to ensure that people become contributing members of society, because there is strength, safety and success when people work together for a common cause.

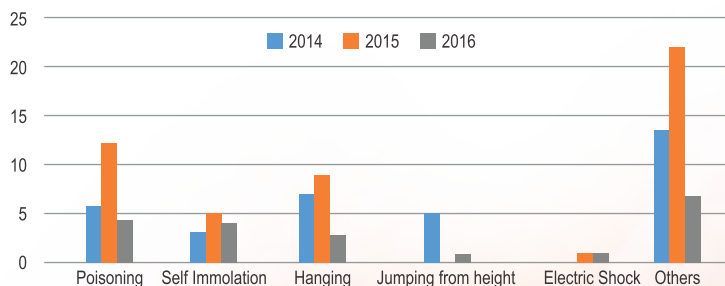
Sheila* is a young mother in Chennai. She faces immense pressure every day because her husband has an alcohol addiction. He is always suspicious and doesn't let her do anything on her own. She struggles to manage the family because her husband doesn't give her any money for household expenses.

Sheila is not alone. Every day we come across women like Sheila whose stories show us the importance of working with men and influencing the younger generation by shaping the minds of the boys, and setting the right example. As an organisation, we recognise that men play a crucial role in our efforts to make communities in India better for women and children.

With this in mind, we began a new venture. It was slow going, as it took us several months to gain the support of the men and help them see that they needed to become responsible and contributing members of society. After several months of work, we formed our very first Men's SHG in Chennai. The 16 men began saving money and have already taken out several small loans. They plan to begin a small income generation programme and share the profits equally. To this end, they have visited other NGOs and groups. They have also actively initiated and carried out awareness programmes on alcohol and substance abuse.



NUMBER OF UNNATURAL DEATHS IN HALLEGUDADHAHALLI



22 groups (up from six groups last year) with approximately 20-25 members each are on the journey to transform themselves and those around them.



1 child federation (Bal Panchayat) with 27 children between the ages of 14-18 met regularly to understand and discuss local and socially relevant issues.

Community building is not just about bringing people together and getting them to make positive changes. It is also about actively addressing prevailing social evils and issues that tear society apart. Our focus on anti-trafficking has been integrated into all other programmes and we consistently conduct awareness and training sessions on the same. Other issues we address include child marriage, child labour, and drug addiction among youth.

In our Hallegudadahalli Hub, we have also made significant strides towards addressing suicide which was very common in the area.

According to police reports, the number of unnatural deaths in Hallegudadahalli were 35 in 2014, 49 in 2015 and 21 in 2016.

This decrease we feel, is in part due to the targeted intervention conducted by Oasis in association with Safe Hands, a like-minded NGO which works towards suicide prevention. Together, we have been conducting monthly sessions to create awareness through role plays and share case studies. 25 members of the community signed up for a volunteer programme and learnt about what signs to look out for when someone is suicidal, how to engage with and counsel people with suicidal tendencies and are actively involved in identification and referrals for counselling.

To our donors

You have, time and again, been the source of blessing for many across India. It is because of you that children are back in school, many women have gained financial freedom, young people have found jobs, and vulnerable women and children have a safe place to live.

So, thank you from the bottom of our heart, for without you, this wouldn't have been possible.

To our partners

Support from you, in the form of direction, project plans, resources and money, is what has enabled us to be an oasis for many. Your support has meant we have been able to reach the unreached, and many now dare to dream. Thank you for sharing our vision and working with us through thick and thin. Here's to many more years of joyful partnership together!

You can connect with us through



info@oasisin.org



OasisatIndia



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Oasis India

Did you know?

Women and children are sold into slavery for as little as Rs. 500.

You can **break** that cycle by joining our



Your monthly contribution of
Rs. 500
will help us

- Identify and restore trafficked women and children
- Empower communities to build high levels of trust, safety, mutual support, vibrancy and opportunity
- Create employment opportunities for underprivileged youth through education, training and job support

Sign up now!

All donations made to Oasis India are exempt from tax under 80G.

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