



Oasis

Making India better for
women and children



Annual Report 2015-16



Where we work

The image features a map of India with several states highlighted in different colors: Mumbai (purple), Andhra Pradesh (orange), Bangalore (blue), and Chennai (green). Callout boxes provide details about the projects in these locations. The background is a collage of smiling children.

Mumbai

Bandra

- After-school education
- Health awareness
- Micro-finance
- Soft skills development
- Livelihood training
- Sports club
- Life skills sessions

Borivali

- Anti-human trafficking awareness
- Pre-school and Spoken English
- Health awareness
- Soft skills development
- Livelihood training

Drop-in Center (DIC), Grant Road

- Healthcare and health awareness
- Soft skills development
- Livelihood training
- Job placement
- Rights-based advocacy initiatives
- Psycho-social care

Day Care Center (DCC), Kamathipura

- Day care and tuition
- Night shelter for young girls
- Football coaching
- Anti-human trafficking awareness
- Early Encounter program
- Group home for older boys

Nirmal Bhavan

- Residential home for girls/women
- Rehabilitation and psycho-social care
- Education
- Healthcare and health awareness
- Learning and livelihood centre
- Job placements
- Group homes
- Independent living
- Government homes

Bangalore

Hallegudadhahalli

- Anti-human trafficking awareness
- Rights-based advocacy initiatives
- After-school education
- Health awareness
- Soft skills development
- Livelihood training
- Football coaching

Andhra Pradesh

Punganur

- Youth resource centre
- Recreation cum sports centre
- Counselling centre
- Day care and tuition
- Spoken English training
- Organic farming

Chennai

Basin Bridge

- After-school education
- Health and nutrition classes
- Livelihood training
- Football coaching

Kannigapuram

- After-school education
- Health awareness
- Soft skills development
- Livelihood training
- Football coaching

A note from our Chairman

A Thousand Intentions, A Single Action...



A single action, they say, is worth a thousand intentions. Beti Bachao, Beti Pado, (Save our daughters, educate our daughters) is the slogan that our Prime Minister so brilliantly articulated in his first Independence Day address. In a country where female illiteracy and female infanticide remain facts despite decades of social and government initiatives, there could be almost no more crucial initiative.

However, as all of us who have grappled with New Year resolutions which don't see out the month of January know, translating good intention into action, and beyond that to lasting change, is not an easy step. It is in this context that the efforts of agencies and organisations that focus on and try to catalyse change in the critical areas of the safety and welfare of our women and children need the support of all of us.

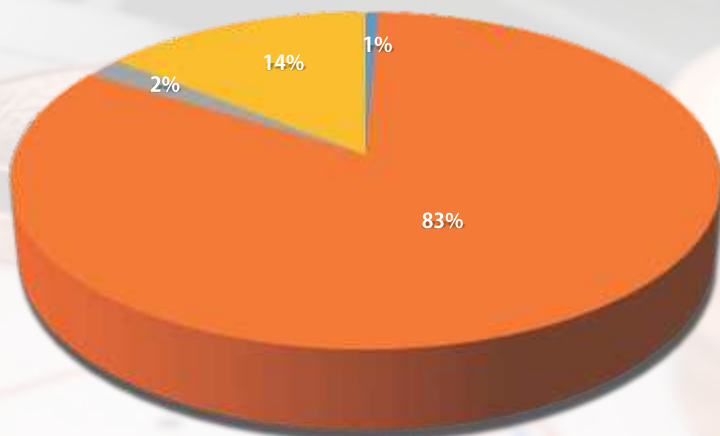
Oasis in the year gone by has wrestled with these issues in our one rural and eight urban hubs - and at times we need to face the fact of frustratingly little lasting result in the community. And yet there have been small successes and signs of a deeper, more pervasive change beginning to percolate into our communities. As when members of our community in Bangalore came forward with an instance of child labor in a factory that our staff was then able to address. Or when a young man, Salman Siddique, turned his life around after joining our Blue Edge course in Mumbai. I also must not fail to mention the numerous women who have been able to move on from the commercial sex business.

So let me present this year's Annual Report to you, with thanks for your interest in and support of Oasis India, and with a challenge (to us all) - what first step can we in our lives and circumstances take now in a journey of rebuilding, steps like ones that the staff and volunteers of Oasis set out upon each day, that we pray 'may go a thousand miles'?

Vijay Alexander
Chairman, Oasis India

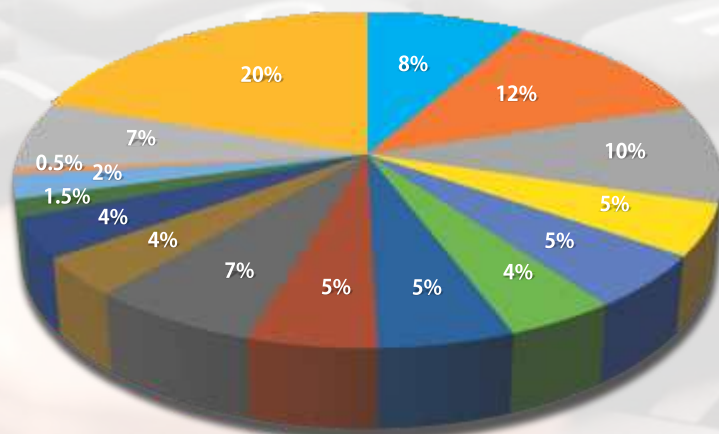
Financial Year 2015 - 2016

Who were our donors?



- ▲ Foreign Individuals
- ▲ Foreign Institutions
- ▲ Local Individuals
- ▲ Local Institutions

How we spent our money



- ▲ Drop-in Centre
- ▲ Day Care Centre
- ▲ Rehabilitation
- ▲ Anti-human Trafficking
- ▲ Punganur Community Hub
- ▲ Bandra Community Hub
- ▲ Borivali Community Hub
- ▲ Hallegudadahalli Community Hub
- ▲ Basin Bridge Community Hub
- ▲ Kannigapuram Community Hub
- ▲ Blue Edge, Mumbai
- ▲ Blue Edge, Bangalore
- ▲ Blue Edge, Chennai
- ▲ Growth & Infrastructure
- ▲ Fund Raising & Communication
- ▲ Establishment Expenses

Preventing Abuse and Exploitation

43

children were rescued through the Early Encounter Programme

10095

people were reached through awareness programmes on abuse, violence prevention and human trafficking

20

children were provided accommodation because of an unsafe environment at home

18

girls regularly used the night shelter in the Kamathipura red light area (RLA) in Mumbai

127

people, mainly youngsters, attended intervention programmes on the value of education in relation to abuse



Children at Punganur Education Centre

Second Chances

During their usual rounds at the Lokmanya Tilak Terminal in Mumbai on 2nd February 2016, the Early Encounter staff found a boy lying down on the tracks beaten very badly. The team approached the boy and started talking to him. He said that he came to Mumbai for work, and the reason for his weakness was that he had taken four tablets on an empty stomach because he didn't have enough money to buy food.

Daiyan* said that he was kicked out of his home when he lost Rs. 500 his father had given him to buy vegetables. His father's note said: "I am disowning my son Daiyan because of his disobedience."

Daiyan came directly to Mumbai looking to earn some money and return what he had lost. However, Daiyan was too weak to walk and fell on the railway tracks.

The team admitted him into a government home where he could continue his studies. Realising the importance of reintegrating him back to his community, the Oasis team continued to trace his family and today, Daiyan is back where he belongs.

*name changed

Building Community Ownership and Resilience

6

community-based organisations formed and have been involved in the following initiatives:

- Relief work during the recent floods in Chennai
- Cleaning of community water tank
- Anti-human trafficking awareness through street theatre in Bangalore
- Awareness programmes and rallies on child abuse, child labour and the environment

Outcomes

- Vast improvement in the roads in our Chennai hubs
- Many women have been empowered as a result of self-help groups and they are now running their own groups and micro-finance businesses

Children Again

This was not where they were supposed to be. Working in inhumane conditions for over 18 hours a day. Forced to hide in toilets and under benches. This was the plight of 13 boys who were trapped in a bag factory. The rescuers came after the anti-human trafficking (AHT) and child labour awareness programmes we held in our community in Bangalore prompted two individuals to come forward and report the bag factory where they had seen children inside. After much investigation and effort, the Oasis team confirmed that the factory was employing several children from North India. In collaboration with another NGO called Bachpan Bachao Andolan, the AHT Unit and the Child Welfare Committee, we decided to raid the factory and rescue the children. The 13 boys are now back home safe with their parents.

The two people who gave us this information were very happy that they could save the lives of these boys, saying that if not for Oasis it would have been just another day seeing the boys working inside without giving them a second glance.



Rally against human trafficking

Educating and Training for the Whole of Life

330

children regularly attended after-school programmes and pre-schools

165

women enrolled in vocational training programmes

84

women from vocational programmes are self-employed or have found external jobs

3

women are placed in Oasis' Social Enterprise initiative

205

Blue Edge trainees graduated out of which 47 trainees are working and 65 are continuing their higher studies

6

women from the rehab project appeared for and passed the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) exams



Computer skills programme

Courage to Change

Fathima* came to Nirmal Bhavan (NB), our rehabilitation home, after living for six months in Mumbai in the Grant Road RLA where her mother was a sex worker. When Fathima noticed that men were following her around in the area, her mother, who had been coming to the Drop-in Centre for some time asked the staff if there was a safe place they knew of for her daughter. The staff immediately thought of NB and took Fathima in. Her time at NB helped Fathima improve her ability to speak and understand Hindi and English. She was eager to learn, passing her NIOS (open school) exams and getting a job so that she could care for her mother and two younger sisters who were staying in a children's home.

While Fathima was writing her exams in October 2015, her mother participated in one of our camps where she chose to leave the RLA. Soon, Fathima was able to leave NB with her first month's salary in hand, and now lives with her mother and one of her sisters.

Her strong desire to not continue in her mother's footsteps after watching her mother struggle and suffer drove her towards a better life, and she is an inspiration to many like her.

*name changed

My Journey to A Better Life: Salman Siddique's story in his own words as told to Oasis staff

As a child I was very wayward, telling my parents I was going to school but wandering about with friends. As a result, I failed Class 9 and dropped out, failing again when I attempted the Class 10 exams. In school I met a lot of notorious friends who taught me not just to lie and bunk school but also introduced me to alcoholism, smoking, gambling and robbery. Every day, I would return home at 4:00 a.m. and sleep till 2:00 p.m.

I joined Blue Edge in Mumbai after some friends, who had been a part of the programme, encouraged me to do the course with the assurance that my life would change. The best thing about Blue Edge is that nobody made me feel lowly or undignified. Everybody accepted me and loved me just the way I was. I was able to truly transform my life under the care and guidance of my teachers and with support from my friends.

I learnt a lot of valuable things in Blue Edge. Now I am able to control my anger. I gained confidence after the several personal training sessions and opportunities to read, teach, learn and converse in English. I have become a far more responsible person, earning my livelihood through honest means by driving an auto rickshaw. I don't waste my time anymore but use it to develop skills and abilities that will help me have a better future. I have also resumed my studies and I intend to complete school.

I now realise that I have the potential to make my life better and impact the community around me.



Blue Edge session in Mumbai

Reintegrating the Excluded back into Community

26

women from our Drop-in Centre in Mumbai have left the RLA for a new life

70

people have been successfully reintegrated back into their communities in Bangalore

Life skills session in Mumbai for women in the sex trade



Football programme in Mumbai

New Direction

Life has taken various twists and turns for Manoj*, but his commitment to his family has always been unwavering. When Manoj was five years old his father committed suicide, and his mother took up a job as a vegetable vendor earning only Rs. 50 per day.

Manoj started work as a loader in a small factory at the age of 11, switching several jobs and struggling to make a livelihood. He decided to call up a friend for help, who finally found him a job as a cleaner/sweeper in the RLA.

During a strategic survey, Oasis staff met Manoj in Mumbai but he was afraid to open up. After visiting him on several occasions and encouraging him to visit our Drop-in Centre, he finally attended our counselling sessions and decided to leave the RLA. Our team began scouting for a job for him, and prepared him for interviews till he successfully found suitable work. Being fully out of the RLA has given Manoj a new direction in life.

Responding to Emergencies: The Chennai Flood

780

families benefited through emergency equipment and relief provided

We facilitated access to emergency health care camps and necessary resources



Flood relief in Chennai

Nurturing Talent

30

young people were trained in folk art, who then conducted awareness programmes on alcoholism and environmental hygiene through folk dance and street theatre

75

students from a local government school participated in a drawing and handicraft summer camp in Punganur

153

boys regularly attended football coaching sessions

2

football teams played 13 city-league matches, winning 7, drawing 4 and losing 2

2

under-14 footballers from Chennai have been selected for football camps conducted by Indian Super League and Chennaiyin FC

Accessing Opportunities and Resources

542

women accessed healthcare through our Drop-in Centre

66

people found jobs through our networking

16

women attended sessions on the importance of PAN, Aadhaar and ration cards

20

people accessed Government services through our community work



Thota Reddemma (centre) at home

Meeting a Need

Little Thota Reddemma was born with a disability. Now 15, she lives with her parents and is completely dependant on them. Her mother stays home to care for her while her father earns just Rs.180 a day. For years they tried for compensation from the local government but to no avail. Oasis' staff in Punganur came to know about Thota Reddemma and applied for a disability allowance from the Government. Her application was successfully processed after regular follow-up by Oasis. She now gets Rs. 1000 every month, making a huge difference to her and her parents' livelihood.

A Little Blessing

Little Afifa was born to a father who works as a daily labourer and a mother who is a housewife. At birth, it was found that she had a heart condition which led to insomnia, severe seizures and high fever. She needed constant care and support as she suffered as many as 10 bouts of seizures a day. Afifa's paternal grandparents disapproved of her due to her medical condition, and it was left to her maternal grandmother to care for her in Punganur. The doctors had given up on Afifa during the first few years and told the family to take care of her as long as she was alive.

One day her grandmother met an Oasis staff member who told her about Oasis' pre-school in Punganur. When Afifa first came to the school, she would not speak a word or eat anything. She only drank water, and was always found sitting and staring. She looked weak and pale. Only on her fourth day at school, Afifa began to talk. She noticed her classmates eating by themselves, and for the first time ever asked for food on her own plate and began to eat on her own. She began to open up almost immediately, mingle with her classmates, and run around school having a good time. Her grandmother told us about Afifa's amazing change of behaviour - how that she now smiles constantly, eats food on her own, says a few words at home and waits to get back to school everyday.

Afifa attended school for just three months, when one day she suddenly fell sick. We referred Afifa to a hospital that provides free healthcare in Bangalore, where she underwent treatment for over four months. Although she is still undergoing treatment, Afifa is back at school. We pray for a miracle healing and a bright future for Afifa.

Encouraging Health and Wholeness

78

patients with tuberculosis, dengue, asthma and other diseases brought to a place of wholeness

146

people living with HIV assisted

67

awareness sessions (11 in brothels) conducted on alcoholism, asthma, diabetes, breast feeding, dehydration, abortion, dengue and HIV symptoms

561

people attended programmes on health, sanitation and alcohol abuse

640

people benefited from three medical camps conducted by Smile Foundation and Borivali Methodist Church; 103 benefited from an eye camp held along with the Lions Club; 10 women from the RLA were taken to Government hospitals for medical check-ups, investigation and testing

Join the fight against abuse & trafficking!

Our She is Priceless campaign, seeks to draw attention to the many women and children who suffer abuse, neglect and exploitation. You can invigorate the grass roots work that Oasis is doing specifically in communities that have a high prevalence of human trafficking by:



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

Become an Oasis Advocate!

Sign up now!

You can connect with us through



We are grateful!

The accomplishments highlighted within this Annual Report are as much our supporters' as they are Oasis' - without you, none of this would have been possible. There is truly no way to fully express what your support and investment mean to us.

Thank you for fighting for justice. Thank you for changing lives. Thank you for giving hope to those who dared not hope before. Thank you, for making India better for women and children.

Bangalore: 23/2, Kumaraswamy Naidu Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore 560 005. Phone: +91 80 2548 4879 / 4125 3505

Chennai: No. 18, 1st Street, Secretariat Colony, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010. Phone: +91 44 4351 4139

Mumbai: Datta Ratna Rane Building, Cooperative Housing Society, Plot No 35, Flat No 101, LT Colony, Dadar (E), Mumbai 400 014. Phone: +91 22 2411 3359 / 60

Email: info@oasisin.org ★ Website: www.oasisin.org

Oasis India is registered under the Karnataka Society Registration Act, 1960 bearing Regn No S 690-94-95