

Annual Report (2020-21)



Koshish-Milap Trust

*11th year of Dedication for
Education, Health & Knowledge Sharing*

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Education Support Centre & Clinic:
MujMahuda Slum, Near Akshar Chawk,
Vadodara-390020, India

Our Mission is to:

Serve the needy,
Identify the root causes of their
suffering, and
Endeavour to lead them towards
self-sufficiency.

Public Trust Reg. No. E/7429/Vadodara

PAN No. AABTK7478B

Donation to Koshish-Milap Trust is tax exempt under
section 80-G (5) of Indian Income Tax Act,
Certificate No. 80G/(52/08)2010-11
FCRA Registration No. 041960184

Background

Since 2010 Koshish-Milap Trust is providing education and health services to the slum population, as well as creating a knowledge sharing platform for the Indian NGOs.

Education and health care are the most basic and powerful means to improve quality life. We provide affordable and quality education and healthcare services to the needy and underprivileged Mujmahuda slum population of Vadodara, Gujarat.

In order to create a knowledge sharing platform for Indian NGOs, a separate website (www.novoi.org) has been launched. Like a Wikipedia it is free to use and it is open to contributions from NGOs and volunteers.

Our basic philosophy

- All trustees work voluntarily without monetary reward in any form.
- Trustees get involved in actual work in addition to administration.
- Maintain quality of work through active involvement of trustees in projects, maintaining transparency and ongoing evaluation.
- Low administrative expense - around 15% of total expense.

Education Project

Koshish-Milap Trust is providing a formal education support to the school going (KG to 10th grade) Mujmahuda slum children. Our goal is to make children competitive, confident and independent thinkers; as well as to reduce school dropouts.

Working Strategies

- **Location:** The facility is within the slum area, making it convenient to the beneficiaries.

- **Methods:** Synthesize and apply the best methodology relevant to the local population.
- **Educational material:** Books, stationery, etc., are provided free in the class.
- **Differential instruction:** Address individual needs by restricting class size smaller than 20 students.
- **Cognitive focus:** Replace the rote learning with concept understanding.
- **Behavioral:** Replace the corporal punishment with love, logic and discussion.
- **Learning materials:** Develop and use teaching aids as needed.
- **Manipulatives:** Try to demonstrate with real objects such as weighing balance, coins, clock, etc. to clarify the concepts through developmentally appropriate hands-on experience.
- **Technology:** Use of audio/visual aids such as video clips, charts, etc. to clarify specific concepts.
- **Reading material:** Translate/develop reading material in Gujarati and provide them to the students for extra reading.
- **Field trips:** Arrange educational tours.
- **Extra curriculum:** Arrange extracurricular activities for arts, craft, sport, and festival celebrations.
- **Parents:** Encourage parental involvement.
- **Training:** Regular training and meetings with teachers. Teachers are provided specifically developed lesson plans.
- **Sponsorship:** Bright and needy students are sponsored to private schools.
- **Analysis:** Documentation and analysis of past experiences.

- **Subsidized:** Spending about Rs 7000 per student annually, but charging less than 10% (Rs 600 per year) as a token fee. However, last year due to Covid-19 pandemic many of the parents lost their jobs, so we waived even this token fee and provided free textbooks and notebooks to all the students so that they can study at home.

Achievements of the Education Project

- In year 2020-21, due to Corona pandemic, the time was different for everyone including students. Disrupted schedules, lockdown, virtual and hybrid learning and distancing kept students far from normal learning experience. It was difficult for slum children to study due to lack of availability of smart phones, data pack charges and support from poor illiterate parents.

When classes were not allowed, to ensure continuity in learning, we kept contact with the students on individual basis observing the Corona Guidelines and guided them for self-study.

After the government permission the classroom teaching was initiated. It took great efforts to adjust them back in a group setting, figuring out how to interact with each other. In beginning the students looked tired and sleepy, feeling hungry, inattentive and having concentration problem, getting easily irritated, frustrated and anxious. We had to give time for transition back to normal. They needed to be reminded about the Corona guidelines, like masks and social distancing. We had to do some transition activities that included classroom cleaning and arranging, storybook reading, exercising, playing simple educational games, craft, singing and doing drama.

- One positive part of Corona pandemic was that we could provide additional individual attention to the struggling students and also build their self-confidence. As there was no school, children who experience stress as

a result of academic school pressure were benefited by school closure. And it was easier for the students to follow single sequence of teaching in our class rather than two different patterns in school and class.

- We used to support primary education up to 8th grade, but there were parents and students who were longing to study at our center only and we ended up adding 9th grade last year and 10th grade this year. It was our first batch of 10th grade students to graduate from middle school and join high school or other vocational courses. They have been with us from the start and we are elated with their success and achievements. It was a big event for us but due to Corona pandemic restrictions, we decided not to celebrate the event. Some are planning to continue their academic career by joining high school and some have decided to go for technical training by enrolling into ITI and Diploma in Engineering. We assisted for their applications.
- One of our past students whom we guided for financial support has completed graduation in commerce.
- Covered KG (Lower and Upper) to 10th grade with total number of students benefiting from our service has reached to 194.
- Sponsored 50 needy and capable students for private schooling.
- It is not possible to reflect on exam scores of our students as there was no exam due to Corona pandemic.

Number of Students admitted

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
KG (Jr. + Sr.)	41	45	55	61	56
1 st grade	14	22	20	17	25
2 nd grade	20	14	21	19	13
3 rd grade	18	21	15	22	20
4 th grade	16	19	19	18	18
5 th grade	9	15	13	18	18
6 th grade	14	10	14	10	19
7 th grade	-	14	8	10	7
8 th grade	-	-	12	6	10
9 th grade	-	-	-	4	-
10 th grade	-	-	-	-	08
Total	132	160	177	185	194
Students sponsored	52	58	53	54	50
% Dropped out	8%	10%	8%	5%	10%
Avg. Annual Exam Score	B+ (85%)	B+ (82%)	B+ (79%)	No exam (Corona Pandemic)	No exam (Corona Pandemic)

- Developed variety of teaching strategies and teaching material to support differential instruction and independent learning: variety of charts and flash cards (e.g. story charts with and without pictures, addition, subtraction, classification, comparison, ascending/descending orders, phonics, writing, etc.), strips (e.g. phonics, math concepts, reading and writing), and video collection. Specifically designed fraction and number line lesson plans for grades four, five, six and seven. Also, compiled aptitude tests for math and science to improve and monitor their critical thinking.

- Due to lack of exposures, the slum students have difficulty in comprehending many concepts described in textbook. Therefore, we have collected short (1-5 min) video clips on specific concepts like nature, dams, plants, animals, water sources, earth, mines, public places, etc. The use of audio-visual method is highly successful.
- Prepared lesson plans for KG to 1st grade, they are highly useful for teachers. Developed our own curriculum for KG to grade 1.

Involving Parents

We keep constant touch with the parents and update them about the progress of their children. We also counsel them for taking care of their children's basic needs like regular meals, sleep, hygiene, etc. This is done on one to one basis as well as through the parental meeting.

Keeping in Touch with the School Teachers

As needed, we make phone calls, visit the schools attended by our students and get updates/feedback.

Success Stories

Here are few examples of how our efforts are making significant impact in the lives of the children in Mujmahuda slum.

- A child who struggles in first grade is more likely to perform poorly and will be underachiever in the classroom throughout his school life. Children struggling in reading and mathematics were given individual tutoring, attention and support during Corona pandemic and brought to academic level same as their peers. Sixteen children struggling academically from grade 1 to 6 were successfully supported individually with differentiated instruction (custom planned instruction) and parental counseling.

- One of the critical transitions for a child is entering to preschool life. It involves separation of child from their parents and moving from a familiar to unfamiliar place.

We try to reduce such transition stress by giving unconditional love, have free discussions talk with teacher and let them feel understood accepted, and comfortable, encourage their eagerness, enthusiasm and curiosity. When they come in the morning, they have to tell many things, therefore, the teacher listens to them. Following are some examples of conversations with kindergartners.

1.

Student: We went to Pavagadh. We saw mountains, mountain top Goddess (*Devi*) temple and shops. We bought toys and had Bhajiya. (Fritters)

Teacher: What are 'Bhajiya'?

Student: Oh! You do not know what 'Bhajiya' are! (He exclaimed and held his head.) They are made from gram flour (Besan).

2.

Teacher: What will you do for Shivratri? (a Hindu festival).

Student: We will go to Bholenath temple.

Teacher: What will you do there?

Student: We will do worship and light a lamp.

Teacher: What is there in the temple?

Student: Nandibel and tortoise.

Extracurricular Activities

Taught various indoor games from the kit developed by 'Shaishav', Bhavnagar and some children bought the kit at highly discounted rate.

Educational Tours

Unlike every year, due to Corona pandemic, we could not organize trips and visits.

Teachers' Training- AURA

AURA is Vadodara based organization that has experience of working with both teachers and students. AURA team has experience in how to inspire, empower and mentor teachers to motivate and think creatively so that their

relationship with self, with children, with the foundation and the parent body is strengthened in a new and enriching way. From June 2020 to March 2021, under project SARAI, AURA organized fortnightly workshops (4 hours each) with teachers of Koshish Milap Trust.

Vocational Guidance for Std. 10 students:

Many of our 10th graders will have to undergo some kind of vocational training and start earning. Vocational guidance helps students to understand and help making occupational selections. Having illiterate and un-informed parents, slum students do not have proper guidance for their occupational choices. Two trainers from Shroff Foundation and Smita Joshi from Baroda Citizen Council came and gave information about training given in various trades at Vivek Vocational Training Center, Jarod near Vadodara.

Parents' Counseling

Family structure is more disruptive among slum dwellers compared to traditional families. Children growing up in quarreling and divorced families show more anxiety, depression symptoms, more irritable, demanding, noncompliant, problems in social relationships and school performance. When we called parent/parents in the class and complained in the presence of their child, some parents would start beating the child in front of us. So, we changed strategy to counsel personally single or both parents. For some parents, we could make a difference and their behavior towards child was improved ultimately reflecting on their kid's behavior and academic achievements.

Future Plan for the Educational Activities

- Next year we plan to concentrate on KG to 5th grade students, because: a) We have developed successful strategies for this most vulnerable age, we want to document them properly and spread the message to other schools, b) It is hard to get satisfactory rental places within slum, c) It is hard to get

trained teachers for higher standards, d) We have created an understanding with the nearby 'Exxact Pathshala' where they teach under-privileged children. They will accept our students for free coaching from 6th grade onward.

- Next year a novel "Basic Skill program" will be implemented for the rural and slum adolescents with 8th standard pass. This program is developed and run by Mr. C.K. Shah (a retired engineer with experience of conducting vocational training) and Mr. Biren Nayak (a retired technician). For trial basis this program was tested successfully on 17 students at Lok Sahyog Chhatralay, Mankadamba, Dist.: Narmada. It is a Practical training on Installation and wiring of Solar System, Fuse, MCB, Switches, Lights and Fan. Household electric Fault finding and repairing of Wiring and Switch faults, Earth Faults and Electrical Safety Precautions, Repairing of House hold water piping and piping leakage, Fixing and Repairing of Water Taps and Valves. Proper and safe use of Tools and Equipment's. The training is provided on working models of House Wiring with Distribution and Switch Boards and Household Water piping and Water taps.
- To serve better our students and to encourage positive behavior in children and their parents, we want to offer improved counseling services. It is our goal to increase regular student attendance, limit time spent watching TV, decrease consumption of junk foods, prevent home violence, help families learn to budget, and increase parental participation in the academic lives of their children.
- We plan to open a library with reading rooms in the slum so that adults and students will have a good environment for independent studying.

- To start extra classes for Hindi, English, sports, art and performing arts on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

Healthcare Project

We are providing highly subsidized and quality healthcare to the Mujmahuda slum population through outpatient clinic. Medicines for common diseases are dispensed from the clinic. Patients are also counseled for healthy lifestyle.

Approach for Healthcare Project

The outpatient facility is located inside the slum providing primary healthcare for all ages from infants, to adults and the elderly. Our goal is to provide an affordable quality healthcare by:

- **Free consultation:** Free consultation by MBBS/MD doctors.
- **Medicines are dispensed at clinic:** Dispensing low cost medicines in the clinic for common illnesses including cold, malaria, bacterial infections, skin diseases, muscular pain, acidity, diabetes, blood pressure, asthma/ COPD, epilepsy, depression, diarrhea, ear/eye infections, acne, etc.
- **Subsidized medicines:** Reducing the cost of medicines by subsidizing with donor's support, using generic medicines and avoiding unnecessary injections.
- **Regular screening of high BP and diabetes is carried out.**
- **Counseling:** Emphasizing the preventive health measures by vaccination, healthy lifestyle (hygiene, nutrition) and preventing addictions (Gutka, smoking, alcohol).
- **Affordable:** The fee for a typical three days treatment is Rs 10-20. For the chronic diseases like hypertension/ diabetes, the treatment cost can be Rs 10 per month per medicine.

Number of Patients Registered and Treated

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Total registration	7000	8035	8712	9458	9810
New registration	1246	1035	677	746	352
Total treated	15213	13935	11264	9616	6311
Average patients per day	50	46	38	38	25

Achievements of Health Project

- Due to Covid-19 pandemic the clinic was closed during April-May 2020, after which it has been opened for restrictive hours of 2-3 hrs (instead of 4 hrs) with all necessary precautions of mask, social distance and hand washing.
- The registered patients are about four times the total residents (about 2500) in the Mujmahuda slum. Many patients come from other slums, other parts of Vadodara city, and nearby villages.
- Due to reduced hours of working during Corona pandemic the average patient number is reduced from 38 to 25.
- Provided 50% additional subsidy to the poor chronic disease patients of diabetes, blood pressure, asthma, etc.

Plan to Expand Healthcare Activities

- Improve and implement strategies to promote community health, personal hygiene, dental care, prevention of malaria by mosquito net, regular use of footwear, use of locally available nutritious foods, avoiding abuse of injections and IV treatment (in India it is a common practice to give IV fluid treatment in outpatient clinic), avoiding blind faith in local healers (Bhut-Bhuva), avoiding early age marriage (teenage marriage and pregnancies are common), etc.

- Put greater emphasis on addressing treatment for addictions like Gutka, smoking and alcohol with more effective strategies. Our current method of counseling is not effective, since only about 3% were able to quit the use of tobacco or alcohol on our advice.
- Switch paper based patient's records to electronic medical records.

***Knowledge Sharing Platform for
NGOs: Network Of Voluntary
Organisations of India (NOVOI)***

There are about 33 lakh non-profit organizations registered in India, however, there is no broad based common platform for the Indian NGOs. A separate website (www.novoi.org) has been launched for creating knowledge sharing platform for Indian NGOs. This platform is intended to serve NGOs, volunteers, interns, donors and professionals interested in social work. It will provide an opportunity to share their experiences, facilitate multiplication of good work, minimize repetition of mistakes or duplication of efforts, create consensus on social issues and strive for collective efforts.

The salient features of this website are

- **Create a central digital resource for Indian NGOs:** It will provide an easily accessible on-line database of Indian NGOs, Funding Agencies (national and international), CSR companies, Government Laws/Schemes, Digital Library, NGO Handbook, etc.
- **Facilitate exchange of useful information/expertise:** This is done by publishing opportunities about employment in NGOs, seminars/ training, e-magazine, etc.
- **Free to use:** Like Wikipedia, it is free and open for interaction and contribution.

This is an ambitious project. For its success we seek active participation by NGOs to contribute to various sections of the website.

Summary of NOVOI website activities

Item	Total entries 2012-17	Total entries 2017-18	Total entries 2018-19	Total entries 2019-20	Total entries 2020-21
NGO database loaded	4995	5522	6304	6382	6603 (4274)
Funding agency database loaded	99	99	100	101	205
e-Library database loaded	571	616	708	708	709 (505)
Website visitors	1554 (63% from India, 37% foreign)	5552 (87% from India, 13% foreign)	8483 (80% from India, 20% foreign)	11856 (80% from India, 20% foreign)	25266 (91% from India, 9% foreign)

Achievements of NOVOI website launching:

- Developed and launched mobile friendly website. During this transfer to a new website, we removed the incomplete database of NGO; therefore, the NGO database has reduced from 6603 to 4274.
- So far we have uploaded 205 funding agencies and 709 (505 after removing non-functional link) e-library database on website.
- Interest in NOVOI website is reflected in its visit by 25266 persons, receiving 348 self-loaded NGOs database and 743 subscribers to e-magazine.
- Sent e-Magazine to 116558 NGOs/persons.
- Started using Facebook for NOVOI.

Future plan for NOVOI project

- Send regular e-magazine to NGOs/ individuals.

- Popularize this platform through social media.
- Arrange meeting of NGOs in Vadodara to discuss NOVOI improvement and issues related to NGOs.

Budgetary Aspects

We try our best to remain lean in expenses by using following strategies:

- Dr. Varsha and Dr. Kishor are working full time without salary or any other compensation. All other trustees also contribute voluntarily without any compensation.
- Currently 15 employees are working. This includes 10 as contractual part-time teachers, one part-time physician, two part-time health assistants, one full time office administrator, one full time network coordinator and two contractual persons for office and classrooms cleaning.
- Low (15%) administration expenses.

Budget Summary for 2020-21

Donation: Total donation received was Rs 23.3 lakh. Due to ongoing process of our FCRA renewal, we were unable to receive foreign funds and that reflects on reduction of overall funding.

Expenditure: The total expenditure was Rs 28 lakh, Rs. 13.3 lakh for Education, Rs. 7.4 lakh for Health, Rs 2.5 lakh for NOVOI project and Rs.4.8 lakh for overall administrative expense.

Projected Budget for 2021-22

Total projected expenditure for 2021-22 is estimated to be 26.5 lakh that includes the expenditure for Education, Health, and NOVOI projects as Rs 13.6, 9.1 and 3.8 lakh respectively.

Thanks to volunteers

We would like to thank the following volunteers who provided their services in administrative work, NOVOI or education project:

Mr. C. K. Shah, Isha Brahmbhatt, Dr. Suman Brahmbhatt, Rushi Luhar, Aakashbhai Goyal, Biren Nayak, Anil Gheewala, Bhavna & Sanat Chudasama, Smita Desai, Kalpana Shah, Kapil Shah.

Thank You to All Generous Donors

- Thanks to the following donors for Sponsoring Students for Private Schooling: Ananta Charitable Trust, Dardi Sahayak Trust, Sushma Shah, Dr. Anshu Shah, Rohit Desai, Premal Shah, Rupal Dave, Vandan & Harshil Patel, Kalpesh Parikh, Nimisha Desai, Adil Bavaadam, and Bharatiya Seva Samaj.
- Thanks to Dr. Barin Desai and Bhavin Shah for the corpus fund to support highly subsidized medicines for chronic diseases like diabetes, blood pressure, asthma etc.
- Thank you to Sharad Vaghela for providing free batteries, invertors as well their free and regular maintenance in the office and clinic.
- Thanks to Rushi Luhar for financial support to maintain www.koshish-milap.org website.
- Thanks to all trustees for their services without any monetary reward.
- Thanks to Dr. Pankaj Jain and his team of Gyanshala Project, Ahmedabad, for providing teaching material.
- Thanks to Yogini Shah and Smita Desai for helping in preparing lesson plans and providing teaching guidance.

Thank you for your in-kind donations

- In-kind donation items included: food items, slates, used laptop and iPod, teaching items

for class, steel cabinet, library books, stationery kits, etc. For the donation of such items, thanks to: Bina Naik, Daksha Salil Gandhi, Hemendra Bhatt, Hema Parikh.

- Thanks to Jayesh Kanuga and Bharatiya Seva Samaj for distributing food grain kits to 228 poor and needy Mujmahuda slum families during Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your donations (April 2020 to March 2021):

Name of donor	Donation Rs
From Indian donors	
Devison Charity	400000
Jayesh G. Kanuga	162000
Jaykal Exports Pvt. Ltd.	150000
Himalaya Machinery Pvt. Ltd.	100000
Prasad GWK Cooltech Pvt. Ltd.	100000
Vipin Naginlal Shah	68180
Sushma K. Shah	66790
Jayantilal C. Shah	60000
Manjula Shirish Shah	50000
Kalpesh S. Parikh	41540
Apte Charitable Trust	30000
Premal Vinodkant Shah	30000
Amit & Medha Akkad	25000
Manav Jyot Public Charitable Trust	25000
Neha Shah	25000
Physiosmart Clinic	21620
Charulata shah	20000
Dr. Taralika Trivedi	15000
Krishnakumar Bhagwanji Luhar	15000
Santokben Mohanlal Swadia Charitable Trust	15000
V2 Tech Ventures Pvt. Ltd.	15000
Usha Ramanlal Gandhi	11400
Rasheedunnisa Begum	9000
Dr. Dilip Shah	7500
Jalpan RakeshKumar	5001
Ashwinkumar B. Patel	5000
Chandrakant S. Shah	5000
Chunilal G. Shah	5000
Daksha Salil Gandhi	5000
Mehul Bharatbhai Shah	5000
Reena D. Shah	5000
Shreyas Gandhi	5000
Hiteshbhai K. Solanki	4000
Parsotambhai Bhikabhai Patel (by Chirag G. Patel)	3001
Bina Milan Naik	3000
Manjulaben Jagdishbhai Shah	3000
Mohan M. Bhadra	2000
Mukundbhai Gheeya	2000

Madhaviben Uday Gajiwala	1501
Jagdip Thakarbhai Luhar	1000
Virmatiben Tribhovandas Mistry	1000
NASSCOM Foundation	291.3
<i>From foreign donors</i>	
No foreign donation was received since FCRA renewal process is going on.	

***Information for Sending Your
Donation***

Donation in India:

a) Direct transfer of donation to the bank account:

Bank Name: HDFC Bank

Bank Address: Shine Plaza,
Near Natubhai Circle, Gotri Road,
Vadodara-390007,
Gujarat

Account type: Savings

Account name: Koshish-Milap Trust

Account number: 50100193099402

IFS Code: HDFC0000384

b) The cheque (in Indian Rs) can be made in favor of “Koshish-Milap Trust” and sent to:

Koshish Milap Trust
10 Ganga Park, Inside Pashabhai Park,
Near Natubhai Circle, Gotri Road,
Vadodara-390007,
Gujarat
Phone: 0265-2334041

Donation from foreign countries:

***Since FCRA renewal process is going on,
please inquire from us before sending
foreign fund.***

Trustees

1. Dr. Kishorkumar P. Mistry
MD (Family Medicine, USA), PhD (Biochemistry)
2. Dr. Varsha B. Shah
MA (Education, USA), PhD (Biochemistry)
3. Krishnakumar B. Luhar
BSc (Chemistry), AMIE (Chemical Engineering)
4. Yogini B. Shah
MSc (Statistics), MEd
5. Harish M. Desai
BSc (Chemistry), LLB

Our Inspirations

“The major fault lies in the system and not in the person.”

Gandhiji

“Ignorance, inequality, and desire are the three causes of human misery.”

Swami Vivekananda

“God grant me the serenity
To accept things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.”

Reinhold Niebuhr