



BLOOM INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2020
EDITION



DEAR BLOOM COMMUNITY,

2020 was a year like no other. Looking back, I will forever be grateful that in spite of the challenges of 2020, Bloom India not only stayed true, but THRIVED in moving forward our mission to break the bondage of poverty through access to education. This past year, you and the Bloom India community:

- Provided over 20 tons of emergency food supplies during India's harsh COVID-19 lockdown.
- Distributed 145 laptops and tablets for distance learning, as well as new textbooks and school supply kits for every student.
- Empowered 100% of our 10th graders to pass the rigorous state board exam. Bloom India provided scholarships for each of them to continue their education in pre-university courses (PUC's) to prepare them for higher learning at University.

In 2021, our goal is to continue to create opportunities for children to receive the education they deserve, and that will set them up for future success. We plan to go "Beyond the Books" and care for the whole child by:

- Fighting food insecurity with a new school meal program.
- Ensuring girls can stay in school and continue learning, including building new, sanitary girls' restroom facilities.
- Providing new school uniforms and safe, sturdy shoes.
- Promoting fitness through a new play area, basketball court, and cricket field.

I am humbled by your generosity and continued partnership and look forward to all that we can accomplish together in 2021.

Gratefully,
Dennis Mathew
Executive Director, Bloom India





BLOOM INDIA

TODAY'S REALITY

For a child in India born into poverty, the odds are stacked against them. With little or no opportunities for upward social mobility, they are at-risk for low-level schooling, adolescent marriage, child labor, trafficking, and generational poverty. Schools for the poor are severely underfunded, with high student/teacher ratios, poor classroom conditions, and high dropout rates.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has made all these problems more severe. In the state of Karnataka alone, school enrollment dropped to just 56%.

http://img.asercentre.org/docs/ASER%202021/ASER%202020%20wave%201%20-%20v2/aser2020wave1report_feb1.pdf

TOMORROW'S HOPE

We believe children should be free to have a childhood. We believe education is freedom.

Our vision is to provide high-quality education to underprivileged children to break the bondages of poverty, injustice and social discrimination. Bloom India serves India's impoverished communities by establishing exceptional academies that teach comprehensive curriculums, deliver wholistic programs, and provide high-quality resources to empower our students to become the leaders of tomorrow.



BLOOM INDIA

OUR SCHOOLS

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bloom India's Primary School, known locally as Divine Mercy School, provides quality education to over 400 underprivileged children. Most of these children come from the Dalit caste, known as Untouchables, and most are first-generation learners. Their parents are daily wage earners, who work at the local quarry, in construction, and as maids. Headmaster Gerard is the founder and visionary of the school and has dedicated his entire life to educating impoverished children to prevent trafficking, adolescent marriage, and forced child labor. We know that education IS freedom for this community.

DARSHA ACADEMY

We are pleased to partner with The Darsha Academy, a Pre-University Course (PUC) founded by Robin & Jaunita John and Tom & Leena Varghese. The Darsha Academy prepares resilient young women for leadership and community transformation through education and character development. Pre-University Courses are similar to an 11th and 12th grade in the US. It is required for students entering university, but is often unaffordable to low-income families. Darsha focuses on STEM-based curriculum, to prepare young women for studying in a math- and science-focused university.



OUR INITIATIVES



BLOOM INDIA

ONLY 3.6% OF CHILDREN IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA EAT AN ACCEPTABLE MINIMUM DIET.

<https://www.indiaspend.com/38-of-indian-children-under-4-poor-and-rich-alike-are-stunted-study/>

COVID-19 RELIEF

In the spring of 2020, Bloom India distributed over 20 tons of food provisions to our school families. The Covid-19 Lockdown in India was abrupt and harsh, especially for daily wage laborers. Their work completely dried up and they do not have extra savings or stored food.

Bloom India provided over 30,000 lbs of rice, 3,500 lbs of lentils, and 2,500 lbs of spices to over 1600 people over the 9 weeks of lockdown.



OUR INITIATIVES



BLOOM INDIA

76.6% OF URBAN CHILDREN AND 95.6% OF RURAL CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS FOR REMOTE LEARNING.

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=194921>

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

School buildings have been closed since March 2020 because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The majority of low-class children in India do not have access to the internet.

Bloom India quickly pivoted to provide distance learning for over 400 children. We provided 145 laptops and tablets for our middle school students and all of our teachers.

We distributed 438 school supply kits, including new textbooks, paper, pencils, and math tools. Most of our students are first-generation learners. We refuse to let them fall behind in their studies.



OUR SUCCESSES



BLOOM INDIA

71.8% PASS RATE

State of Karnataka

100% PASS RATE

Bloom India Primary School

2020 GRADUATES

In India, most children from underprivileged backgrounds are lucky to finish 10th grade, which is the final required year of school. Instead of 11th and 12th grade, like in the US, students have to pay tuition to attend a Pre-University Course (PUC). Only after paying for those two additional years of school, plus required tutoring, can you apply to university.

Since all of our 10th graders passed their competitive final state board exam (with an A average), we felt strongly that they should continue their education.

Bloom India provided scholarships and 100% of our graduates attend local PUC's for college preparation.





OUR STUDENTS

ASHISH AND AMIT

The beauty of polished granite and sandstone is stunning and has the look and feel of elegance. However, the stone quarries where the granite comes from is a far less than alluring sight.

The laborers at these quarries are often from poor low-caste families wearing little or no protective gear, inhaling dust and chemicals for hours on end. They work for long hours, often 10 hours a day for as little as \$3. They cannot make ends meet and sometimes wind up entering into high-interest loans which leave them to become slaves to the quarry owners. They can never make enough to pay back their loans, and so, every family member becomes a laborer in an attempt to pay off the debt.

Ashish and Amit's parents were both stone quarry laborers. **Six years ago, because of the burden of debts they carried, the parents left their children behind to be cared for by their grandmother, who is also a laborer.** Despite being elementary school-age children, they started working alongside their grandmother in the quarry to help make ends meet.

On one of his field visits, Headmaster Gerard saw these children working with their grandmother. **He convinced the grandmother that the children would have more opportunities available to them by attending school rather than laboring away in the quarry.**

Without the option of schooling, these boys would have continued the cycle as manual laborers for the rest of their lives and would not have known anything more than the rock quarries.





BLOOM INDIA

The boys thrived at Bloom India's primary school for a short while, until Tuesday, March 24, 2020, when the COVID-19 Pandemic hit and the harsh lockdown in India began.

The quarry closed and the boys' grandmother had no way to provide for them. Like millions of other daily wage earners, they had very little food provisions at home, as they normally buy food day-to-day. At the same time, their school closed as well, and Ashish and Amit's education came to a halt right when they had been making such progress. All doors seemed to be closed.

But that is where you came in.

By partnering with Bloom India, you provided rice, lentils, and other food provisions that helped Ashish, Amit, and their grandmother survive the strict lockdown. You provided tablets for the boys to continue talking with their teachers while the school building remained closed. You provided textbooks and school supplies for the boys to continue learning.

Now, almost exactly one year later, Ashish and Amit are finally back in the school building. Students in 7th-10th grade are allowed back to in-person learning, with precautions in place.

“Being in school is like heaven for me. I can meet Headmaster Gerard who takes care of us so well. I also met my friends and teachers after a long time. I want to be in school forever.”

- Ashish, top student in 9th grade

*Names changed for privacy





2020 Impact



145

Laptops & Tablets for
Distance Learning

100%

of Graduates continuing
education

20

Tons of Food distributed
during Covid-19 Lockdown



438

Textbooks and school
supply kits



BLOOM INDIA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jon George, MD

Interventional Cardiologist at Pennsylvania Hospital and Clinical Professor of Medicine at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Robin John

Chief Executive Officer, Managing Partner, Eventide Asset Management

John Kuryan, MD

Allergist, Managing Partner, Allergy & Asthma Care

Jocelyn Kuryan, MD

Ophthalmologist, Partner, TriCentury EyeCare

Johnson Parayil

Assurance Partner, EY

LEADERSHIP

Dennis Mathew

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Bloom India, Senior Vice President, Comcast

Thomason Varghese

Director of India Operations, Bloom India

