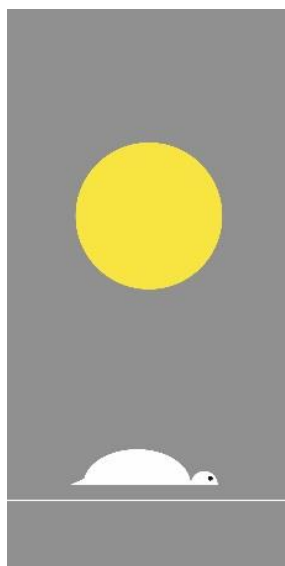

BETTER EDUCATION LIFESTYLE AND ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020





CONTENTS

• CORE TEAM SPEAKS	
• ABOUT US.....	6
PHILOSOPHY.....	6
PROGRAMS	6
• HIGHLIGHTS	9
SUPPORT FROM MAGARPATTA TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.....	9
SUPPORT FROM SUMATI TRUST.....	9
SUPPORT FROM WIPRO FOUNDATION.....	9
• PROJECT ROLE OUT.....	10
LESSONS AND A WAY FORWARD ABOUT ECE:	11
JEEVAN SHIKSHAN / COMMUNITY LIBRARY	11
LESSONS FROM JEEVAN SHIKSHAN/ACTIVE LIBRARY PROGRAM:	11
• SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES	14
• COVID RESPONSE	17
• TESTIMONIAL / FEEDBACK.....	19
• BELIEF CORE TEAM.....	19
• GET INVOLVED	25
APPEAL	25
• BELIEF AT A GLANCE (A PHOTO GALLERY).....	26



CORE TEAM SPEAKS

BELIEVING IS DOING

Sulabha Subramaniyam

When a motley group of passionate young people are restless and don't want to settle for cushy jobs, which makes life secure but routine, dampening the spirit of adventure and enquiry, they decide to take risks. When the need to feel connected with the layers of society around you takes roots, that's when something new is born. And since is born with a deep sense of responsibility- wanting to make a difference, rather than just cribbing about what's wrong, there is a strong ownership and allegiance, to the belief that if you give the right resources and space to explore, with the right approach, while partnering with the target population, you empower the people to build a better tomorrow.

“Assess the need- start small -stay steady- show results”. This has been our modus operandi as per our belief system. The child makes parents a family; families together make a society - and they collectively make the state. Since starting young makes a huge impact on the development and achievements of a child leading to a better life, we decided to start with Anganwadi children (age 3 to 6 years) and teachers. The first year, since BELIEF identified its activities in 2018, was invested in resource building and planning. From May 2019 we started a pilot project of early childhood education (ECE) in anganwadis in the slum settlement in Hadapsar area in Pune. Simultaneously, we were working on a resource centre for adolescents and an active library program with the aim of encouraging learning beyond literacy.

From the founder members, Atul Gaikwad and Mukta Navrekar have been actively involved in the fieldwork, training of ShikshanSathis and devising innovative ways of making learning interesting. They have also facilitated the training of ShikshanSathis (Coordinators) and supervisor on the logistics and administrative work for the project.

Apart from founder members and staff, well-wishers from different fields like Ms. Archana Kulkarni an expert in quality education have wholeheartedly been involved in many aspects of our projects. Many others too have contributed by way of ideas, resource links, donations and critical evaluation of our work so far. Advocate Ms. Shachee Saha has taken sessions on POSH and POCSO act for our team, most essential in our time of work. Each of the founder members has a credible reputation from their earlier years of sincere and effective work in their different fields of work. They have built an extensive network and goodwill. Due to this and also due to solid groundwork and good planning of projects that we have been honored with fellowships for Atul and Mukta by Wipro Foundation, and financial support from Magarpatta Development and Construction Company and SUMATI trust. This has not only waited for our credentials but also inspired us to do more.

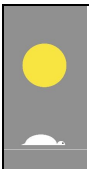
Our team has always found innovative ways to engage the community at various levels. Regular parental meetings are conducted. The team has connected with parents via



WhatsApp to get feedback, to give suggestions and now in the past few months of lockdown to share activities they can do with children. We also did our bit to spread awareness of health, hygiene, and precautions to be taken in the current pandemic.

While covid-19 pandemic ground life to a halt everywhere, our fieldwork at to stop and we were unwittingly led to taking another role. Some of our founder members, having worked in rural and tribal areas, still have deep bonds with people there. Owing to that we were approached for relief work for the adivasi padas, nomadic tribes that were stationed in small villages, for ration for the month. On appealing to our contacts, well wishes, and their friends, they helped us raise a good amount. In spite of lockdown, with the help of local contacts and volunteers, we managed to supply good quality ration based on their needs and lifestyle at different locations in Maharashtra.

This would give a glimpse of the philosophy with which BELIEF looks at community work. The sensibilities and the value of the founder members, and the clarity of mission, vision, and charter of the organization are the unshakable cornerstones on which belief rests. We invite you to join us in the Journey.



A WAY FORWARD

Mukta Navrekar

I have mixed feelings while presenting the annual report for 2019-20 you all. While, I am happy to share that BELIEF started actual work on the ground in this year, I am equally shaken by the crises created world over by the COVID 19 pandemic.

BELIEF got into its second year in May 2019, and we started working regularly on the field in August 2019. As the results of our efforts and glimpses of change were encouraging, within a few months we started getting prepared for our interventions for the next year. We had planned to scale up the project on Early Childhood Education in the year 2020-21. But in March 2020, the first few cases of COVID 19 got reported in Pune which precluded us from reaching out to Anganwadis for the next 2 months. However, we then initiated the relief work to tackle the problems that emerged out of the pandemic and the nationwide lockdown through the campaign “BELIEF for Relief”. I was shaken by the desolate pictures of our society which I saw directly and also on the screen. These are not mere images but a frightening reality of the unorganized laborers and migrants revealed by the entire world. This has left many of us disturbed & restless Atul & I were literary sleepless due to this situation. And hence, I have mixed feelings while writing and presenting this report. At the same time, I think, it is this distress that is showing us the right direction for the upcoming work.

- Planning according to the need and experience gained

Our previous year started with the objective of working in the field of education, which we fulfilled by two pilot projects. Obviously, been some additions in the objectives based on the learnings of the last year and also due to the impact of the current pandemic. Since there is a high risk of Covid in working directly with the Anganwadis, we are changing the mode of intervention to the online one. We will be continuing with the e-learning project which we initiated in April 2020. We are also planning for the similar online interventions for Balwadi teachers.

- Alignment of the objectives accommodating other issues

Considering the consequences of reverse migration, we will try to undertake some pilots focusing on the employment generation in the coming future. We are also including the aspects of personal hygiene in order to prevent the spread of communicable diseases including Covid 19 in Anganwadis and Balwadis. Online education & involvement of parents in ECE will also form part of our focus area.

- Geographical expansion

We are trying to expand our activities to other parts of Maharashtra apart from Pune. We wish to work in Marathwada and north Maharashtra (fingers crossed!)

Ashwin Bhondave – our old friend and a close associate is joining BELIEF as a director in a few months. This would be a very happy and encouraging moment for me. Ashwin is



working in the development sector for the last 10 years. He is also involved in the formation of BELIEF from day one.

The sapling of BELIEF could flourish only because of the encouragement it received from the well-wishers. Support rendered by our financial partners and donors has been of great help to us in our every endeavour. At the same time, the moral backing & courage given by many of you have helped us in keeping our moral all-time high. The overwhelming response you all gave during the campaign “BELIEF for relief” and the trust you showed upon us, deserves a special mention here. It is the generosity of the donors and dedication of the frontline volunteers with the help of which we could contribute a little in the fight against the pandemic.

Hoping to get continued love and support to ‘BELIEF’ in the future.



BETTER EDUCATION LIFESTYLE AND ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

ABOUT US

Better Education Lifestyle and Environment Foundation (BELIEF) is a not for profit organization started by few professionals who passionately want to bring social change

Vision: A society where each individual is leading an environmentally appropriate, dignified and healthy life.

Mission: Addressing the issues in Education, Health and Environment by creating replicable models of sustainable development through providing services and capacity building of stakeholders involved.

PHILOSOPHY

As our mission says ‘addressing the issue in Education, Lifestyle and Environment by creating replicable models of sustainable development through the capacity building of stakeholders involved’, we believe in a sustainable change. We understand that the process of bringing such change is slow and it has to be exerted at multiple levels. For us, the institutionalization of change is very important. However, as mentioned above, this institutionalization has to happen in an organized manner. We believe that the issues in education, health and environment can be solved by partnering with the government machinery and capacity building of the stakeholders involved.

For example, in the case of early childhood education (ECE), we believe that everyone, from Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) to parents, should have a basic orientation of ECE. Unless the whole machinery has a shared understanding of what does ECE means, it is almost impossible to implement a quality ECE program at the system-level.

PROGRAMS

In year 2019-20 we decided to focus on quality education and concentrated all our resources towards the programs in education.

1. Strengthening Early Childhood Education in Anganwadis of Urban Vastis

The reasons for lack of quality education are due to lack of adequately trained teachers, poor conditions of schools and equity issues related to opportunities provided to rural children. For quality education to be provided to the children of impoverished families, investment is needed in educational scholarships, teacher training workshops, school building and improvement of water and electricity access to schools. (Sustainable Development Goals)

Why Early Childhood Education (ECE)?

Various brain-based researches and education researches reiterate that a profound early childhood education program makes a long-term positive impact on a child's life. "The British longitudinal study EPPE (Effective Provision of Preschool Education) clearly demonstrates the links between various models of ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) and later achievement at the primary level." (position paper national focus group on early childhood education). Thus, towards improving the primary and elementary education, BELIEF has taken its turtle step by starting an early childhood education (ECE) program with Anganwadies. This program aims at strengthening of Anganwadi teachers in a staggered manner to implement quality ECE program.

We are located in Hadapsar area of Pune city. In year 2019-20 we worked with the 4 Anganwadis in Bheemnagar of Ghorpadi bit. As you enter the Bheem Nagar Vasti, you see tiny houses, with a washing area almost on the road, a small bathroom just next to the door and a room or two inside. Every house in the Vasti carries a story. Some migrated during the drought, some came in search of a job, some are staying in the Vasti from the generations. Walking through very narrow roads, which are crowded with not only passers-by but also with water containers, as morning is the time when dwellers get water, you reach to a small room - an Anganwadi.

Anganwadi is a pre-school centre run under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). Anganwadi is a place where children from 3 to 6 years come to avail the service of early childhood education. But, running an Anganwadi in urban slum is not a simple task! With an inadequate space mostly in a rented house and with the teacher loaded with the task list from immunization to ANC and from neonatal care to the adolescent care the Anganwadi still awaits the quality Early Childhood Education (ECE). Parents are not aware of importance of Early Childhood Education, the social and economic condition at home is not conducive, everyone is living in an unhealthy environment, optimum space for children to learn is missing, everything is crowded and noisy. Like any urban educational institute, students from multiple linguistic background come in the Anganwadi. However, Anganwadi teachers are not trained to handle such complexities.

2. Jeevan Shikshan / Active Library Program:

Education and Life are two sides of a coin. If we try to build a wall between these two, neither education will be meaningful nor will life be dignified. Often education is confined to textbooks; and broader purpose of education is never on our radar. We, at BELIEF, believe that education is life and life cannot be confined to any book or syllabus.





Active library program is one of those attempts to erase the textbook-specific definition of education. We have a collection of good children's literature for children from grade 5 to 7. We established 3 resource centers where we used to conduct library sessions for adolescent girls and boys. We have created activity plans around these children's books.



HIGHLIGHTS

Support from Magarpatta Township Development and Construction Company

Magarpatta Township Development and Construction Company supported BELIEF's ECE and Jeevan Shikshan programs financially. They also connected us to the local supporters in the program implementation locality.



Support from SUMATI Trust

SUMATI trust formed with the gracious donation from Vidyagauri and Nanda Khare, focusses on providing financial assistance to those who are working at the grassroot levels in the underprivileged areas of Maharashtra. We received a financial support from SUMATI Trust, for the back-end expenses of the organization. This was our much-needed requirement as a startup.

Support from Wipro Foundation

Wipro Foundation gives Seeding Fellowship to the founder members of the budding organizations working constructively in Education. Two of BELIEF's founder members, Atul Gaikwad and Mukta Navrekar received this fellowship for the year 2019-20. Apart from this, Wipro also provided with some books and support on knowledge level in the form of workshops and courses.



PROJECT ROLE OUT

ECE program in urban vastis

We started this project in June 2019. The experience of running vibrant early childhood education centres within the operational limitations of slum Anganwadis, was both enriching and motivating.

We worked with the 4 Anganwadis which is a part of the training of our coordinators (ShikshanSathis). All the ShikshanSathis were new to the field of ECE. The terms like constructivism, multilingualism, emergent literacy etc. were foreign to them. Through all this year long training, hand holding and practice they have gained preliminary knowledge regarding such theoretical concepts. They can highlight some important differences between Shared Reading and Read Aloud; and most importantly, can conduct such sessions with students. They can run an Anganwadi where children feel more engaged and learn well. Apart from that they can conduct parent meetings and orient parents on their role in ECE. They have also learned to prepare important Teaching Learning Material.



Visit to a shop (which was followed by a discussion in which children told what they saw and a facilitator wrote it on the board in children's own language)



Pre-numeracy activity with the help of counting cards

We have planned to support Anganwadi workers and co-workers of 50 Anganwadis in the year II and III to implement the state curriculum, *Akar*. Hence, we have dedicated the first year for the training of the coordinators who are expected to support the Anganwadi workers in year II and III. Apart from that piloting the intervention and rapport building were also planned in year I. Year IV will be focused on the institutionalization of the change and we will be working with the another 50 Anganwadis simultaneously in the year IV.

Lessons and a way forward about ECE:

During the pilot, it was established that our ECE program was beneficial to children. Parents and Teachers could see - what can a quality ECE program be comprised of. Now, we are thinking of scaling up this experience to at least two administrative ICDS bits and some Balwadis falling in the same location. (Hadapsar, Mundhava, Malwadi, Shinde Vasti). BELIEF coordinators ran the ECE program during the pilot. However, in the coming year, we are planning to train the Anganwadi teachers and Balwadi teachers in running the quality ECE program. Apart from the training, BELIEF team will provide on-site support to teachers. In the next year, BELIEF will try to handhold monitoring officers and strengthen the parent groups to ensure the quality of ECE program in the Anganwadis.

Looking at the current COVID 19 pandemic, the Anganwadis and Balwadis may not function for few more months from now. Hence, we are exploring other possibilities of working. We are documenting various resources used in Anganwadis. A blog for parents is also in drafting. Some parents whose children were coming in our Anganwadis are member of our parent WhatsApp groups. We are thinking of using these groups to communicate to parents and share few activities which they can do with their children at home.

Jeevan shikshan / community library

We have a collection of good children's literature for children from grade 5 to 7. We established 3 resource centers where we used to conduct library sessions for adolescent girls and boys. We have created activity plans around these children's books.

Lessons from Jeevan Shikshan/Active library program:

BELIEF established 3 resource centers in three different localities in Hadapsar area. These centers were running in the allotted community space. In spite of having a good



start, the participation of children was very fluctuating. It is not that, students were not interested in what we were offering. However, they show tremendous interest in our story reading sessions and discussions. But there were few practical difficulties which were beyond our control. Thus, we

had to discontinue the program. However, Intervention in the Anganwadi has remained unchanged.

Before closing the program, we have conducted a lot of meetings with students and parents and realized that if we can start such program in schools, the regularity will be maintained.





SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES

Capacity Building of The Team

- We organized a session on **POSH and POCSO** by **Adv. Shachee Shah**, for the team of ShikshanSathis who daily work closely with the children in the community. We also organized a meet and invited some socially sensible people in Pune to share our work and experience and to get the feedback from them for the betterment of our work. We also organized a drama workshop of Tiny Tales to enhance the performance of the ShikshanSathis.
- It is expected that an early childhood educator should be expert in using facial expressions, vocal techniques and other theatre skills while delivering the content. But the team of ShikshanSathis didn't have these skills even though they are perusing the degrees in Education. Therefore, we organised a **Theatre Workshop of Tiny Tales** for the capacity building of ShikshanSathis.
- ShikshanSathis live in different parts of the city and travel a lot to come to the work place. In managing all this, we have observed that their diet is not balance and timely. Hence, we organized a **session on nutrition** and diet by **Dietitian Nishigandha Vaze Diwekar** for the team of ShikshanSathis.
- Apart from that we also organize presentations where each ShikshanSathi is allotted different topics related to **new education policy, biography of educationists, educational concepts** etc. For that ShikshanSathis get ample amount of time to read, organize and practice. Once the content is finalized, the academic team reviews it and then the final presentation is organized.
- We have also planned a **visit to a good Anganwadis**, in order to know what good Anganwadis are doing, how we are placed against them and what we can learn from them

Vachan Prerana Din

Vachan Prerana Din (Reading motivation day) is celebrated nationwide on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former President Late A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. In all Anganwadis we celebrated this day on 15th October 2019. ShikshanSathis decorated the centres with a lot of children's books, poems and displayed the information on famous children authors. We also invited parents and motivated them to read these children's literature. We also organized the same event in 3 community centres of Jeevan shikshan (Active Library program) followed by some games regarding books. Children and parents enjoyed reading. Looking at the response and the need of reading opportunity we decided and started celebrating *Vachan Din* (reading day) every month.

Parents' meetings

We believe that the parents can play a very important role in ECE. Children spend only 2-3 hours in Anganwadi, but during the remaining 21 hours of a day they learn from their parents or the neighbours and the surroundings. Hence, parents should be oriented and get involved in the process of education of their child at early stages (i.e. 0 to 6 years) Also, the thought that 'educating children is only Anganwadi's responsibility' is very

prevalent. Most of the parents don't even bring their children to the Anganwadi and wait for the Anganwadi helper to bring their child to and from the Anganwadi. Looking at all these issues, we organized parents' meetings in the Anganwadis. ShikshanSathis oriented parents about our work in ECE, demonstrated a few things that we do and exhibited teaching learning material prepared by BELIEF. We also discussed the problems faced by Anganwadi worker while running the Anganwadi. We also talked about what ECE activities can parents do with their children at home. We got a very nice response from the parents. They demanded more such meetings should be arranged. We observed that after the meeting, some of the parents also started taking initiative in solving the problems of Anganwadi.



Parents' Meeting
in Anganwadi

MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Early childhood education is heavily dependent on teaching learning material. It is almost impossible to conduct any Anganwadi session without using some sort of resource. The ministry of women and child welfare have come up with a guideline booklet - “pre-school education kit” which includes a recommended list of play and learning material which an Anganwadi should have.

Before starting our four Anganwadi centres we tried to gather all sorts of material appropriate for the Anganwadis. But, to our surprise, there were not many options available in the Market. Those which were available were either costly or not appropriate as per the context of children. Hence, we decided to prepare basic teaching learning materials in-house.



Building Blocks



Pom-Pom



Various Counters



Lacing Boards



Daily Calendar



Puzzles

All these materials were prepared by our team. This has tremendously reduced the cost. Most of the raw material used is less harmful to the environment. Also, the team got a hands-on experience on material development. Most importantly, children loved these materials and enjoyed playing with them in so many different ways.

Some salient features of play materials designed by BELIEF

- Multi-purpose and multi-domain to foster holistic development
- Safe for children (Non-toxic material and colours, smooth edges and large enough to prevent swallowing).
- Durable and sturdy.
- Culturally and environmentally appropriate.
- Easy to view. Posters and conversation charts should be placed at eye level for children.
- Adequate in quantity, with a variety of different materials available. There should not be too few, preventing all children from playing, nor too many, preventing children from learning to share, cooperate and wait for their turn.

Apart from the play material we have also designed some amount of teaching learning material such as Anganwadi monthly plans, Lesson plans on some activities in Anganwadis, Activity plans on Children's Books. All this material is under trial, once we finalise it; the material will be put in public domain.



COVID RESPONSE

The world is struggling and fighting against the Pandemic COVID 19. We at organizational level also started the campaign BELIEF for Relief during April 2020. We appealed people and organizations in our contacts to join hands and donate generously for the distribution of dry ration to the people in need from the different parts of Maharashtra in the first phase and distribution of dry food packets and other essentials to the migrants travelling back to their native places in the second phase of our campaign.

Phase I

We initially appealed for support for the relief work at Kavatepada village in Palghar district of Maharashtra on 9th April 2020. We were overwhelmed with the prompt and generous response from all parts of Maharashtra. It not only fulfilled the need of that one village, but left us with a sizable balance from the excess funds. This really was very touching and humbling for us. Initially we felt a little burdened because it is heavy responsibility to fulfil the trust vested in us. But shortly, we started getting requests for need of ration supply from different parts of Maharashtra, especially for unorganized laborers and migrants from urban and semi-urban areas. With that possible goal ahead of us, the overwhelmed feeling soon disappeared. Thereafter we discussed the logistics, and then sought consent of the donors of the remaining funds. Ration items were given as suited to the geographical conditions, lifestyle and the availability of the ration items locally. Now we have already provided dry ration to those other places too i.e. in Surgana (Dist Nashik), Nashik city, Solapur city and Jalgaon. I must say that in each place, the local coordinators and volunteers contributed the most in the distribution of ration packets.

Support from Tata Trust and TINi:

‘GOMO dal crunchies’ is a nutritious food supplement distributed for free by The India Nutrition Initiative (TINI), Tata Trusts, as a part of COVID 19 relief operation. Recently 76,000 GOMO packets were distributed to Solapur Police (Rural and Urban) who are working tirelessly amid the pandemic on multiple fronts. Sarika Kurnurkar coordinated this on the behalf of BELIEF. We are thankful to TINI and TATA Trusts for providing and transporting the packets free of cost. We also thank to Swati Kurnurkar for the local support and the people at various locations.



We, at BELIEF, have only arranged for the required quantity of ration. But Sandip and Arun Khulat, Hemraj and Yadav Mahale, Samadhan Bagul, Sadashiv Ganage, Devidas Hajare, Sanket Gawai, Vandana and Nitin Mate, Kishor Zendekar, Sunita Waghamare, Pintu Pawar put in tremendous efforts to distribute them. They have meticulously been following the physical distancing norms and other guidelines for prevention of infection and spread of Covid 19. We are very sensitive to and particular about respecting the dignity of the beneficiaries. Hence, we are against publishing photos of the distribution. However, they are with us for record



TESTIMONIALS / FEEDBACKS



Bharati Dhavare, Parent.

Nil, my child loves the activities held by BELIEF. His pre-numeric skills are developing. He enthusiastically gets involved in the games and songs. We as parents see some visible changes within him. He can recognise the animals and other things, can talk about the things around him and asks questions too. We are happy to get associated with BELIEF.



Bhagyashri Gaikwad,
Parent

The content you send through whatsapp during the lockdown is very nice. My children love to go through it. But sometimes it gets difficult to access because of the technical issues of lack of mobile data. It is appreciable the way Vrushali tai sends songs, stories and puzzles. It makes children to think and respond. Some games improve their physical flexibility.



Dipak Padale, Parent

The ECE program by BELIEF is being run from last year. I saw some remarkable changes in the children during lockdown. Children are eager to get the daily content. They have learned many songs and poems. They enjoy the games you have taught in the Anganwadi even during their play time at home. They have understood the days in a week and now they can easily say yesterday's or tomorrow's day. We parents feel enthusiastic while doing the activities with the children. I request you to keep this programme in continuation.



Ashwini Patil, Fattepur,
Jalgaon

I am a student and I came to my hometown due to the nationwide lockdown to stop the spread of Covid 19 pandemic. I have seen the plight of the residents of my village Fattepur. I approached Geeta Lele and she connected me with BELIEF who provided the dry ration to the 41 families of our village. I along with the residents of Fattepur heartfully thank BELIEF for this relief work.

Dr. Vaishali Kadukar, Dep.
Commissioner of Police

The Solapur police Commissionerate is thankful to you for managing to provide GOMO dal crunchies to the police fighting against COVID 19 on war footing. Your helping hands have increased our motivation to face this national disaster.

BELIEF CORE TEAM

Sulabha Subramaniam

We all call her Sulabha tai. After doing her post-graduation in Applied Biology and working as a production executive and applied research scientist in an MNC for almost 12 years, she realized her passion lay in Connecting and Counselling. That led to a change in career.

Sulabha tai is a practicing Mental Health Professional for more than 20 years; a Senior Therapist at Institute for Psychological Health (IPH) & Mosaic Center, both in Thane. Since years, she has been associated with various renowned organizations like IPH, SEARCH (Gadchiroli), Kshamata & SUPPORT (Mumbai) in different capacities. She is involved with different rehabilitation groups and facilitates a support group L.O.C., for parents of children with serious behaviour issues. She is the coordinator of Maitra, a telecounseling helpline of IPH launched in 1998, for those who need emotional support in distress. She has often been invited as guest faculty for lectures and workshops at various institutes. She is the author of the book 'Of Human Bonds' and has translated the book 'Art of Thinking Clearly' by Rolf Dobelli into Marathi.



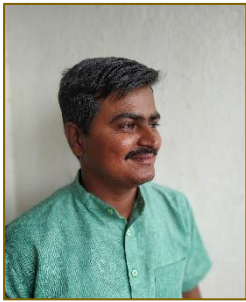
Dr. Amol Gaikwad, Director

Amol serves as an established health consultant in Tata Trusts for the last five years.



He is an outstanding public health expert and has been involved in the fields of Health and wellness industry for over the better parts of 12 years starting as a dedicated medical officer in the rural parts of Marathwada, a land of extreme and severe droughts all the way up to his current position as the Director. Amol has demonstrated admirable leadership skills; and was an innovator par excellence in developing the first and foremost Cancer Prevention Program in District of Jalna with help of Dr. Krishna Rakh Memorial Cancer Research Centre which has led to development of cancer awareness and detection of common cancers in women in Jalna, especially the rural and underprivileged belts. He also has teaching experience as an Assistant Professor in Community Medicine. He was been able to successfully implement Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) program in the district of Gadchiroli as District program manager and thereafter as State Program manager, Maharashtra. He is author of multiple research publications and training modules. The focus of his work is action-based and impact-based research and practice across the spectrum of public health issues and strategies.

Ashwin Bhondave



Ashwin is an IT Engineer who is been raised in a socially sensitive residential school run by his parents found his purpose of life in the field of Education and hence did his M.A. (Elementary Education) from Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai. He is having experience in development sector for more than 8 years. Currently, Ashwin is the Trustee and programme manager at Sonadara Gurukulam, Beed. He is also associated with Vowels Of People Association (VOPA) as a teacher training facilitator. He had worked as an associate software developer in SEARCH, Gadchiroli. Designed an educational app with Jnana Prabodhini, Pune, worked to train volunteers for 'Chhote (Little) Scientist' project. Previously he had worked as a chief coordinator in the Supplementary Quality Education Projects for rural children beneficial to 3000 students from 25 villages with Jnana Prabodhini, Harali (JP Harali) in Osmanabad.

Dr. Rashmi Gore

Rashmi, a public health expert & young researcher is a clinical content analyst at Cotiviti India Pvt. Ltd since last 7 months. Earlier she was affiliated with Prashanti cancer care mission on different projects since March 2017. After completing her graduation in Ayurveda, from Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (March 2013), she worked with multiple hospitals as a Medical Officer to earn clinical skills. But due to intense desire to contribute in health betterment of community, she pursued the field of public health and completed her Master's in Public Health from one of the most prestigious Institutes of India, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She has also worked in various parts of rural Maharashtra to understand the problem of gynaecological morbidities of women from rural Maharashtra including cervical cancer and is in the process of representing the results in article.



She served as a Project Coordinator for the Project Shodh, an initiative for screening of common cancers of women in the Pune city. She was responsible for the data management and follow up of the Project. She is currently involved in various surgical research paper writing and Case report writing at Orchids Breast Health and Prashanti Cancer care Mission. She also served as a Coordinator for the Ethics Committee of Prashanti Cancer Care Mission.

Atul Gaikwad

Atul is an IT Engineer and holds a MA degree in Elementary Education from Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai. Atul has more than 8 years of experience in the development sector. He started his professional career as a associate Software developer at SEARCH. During those years, he developed an interest in Education and later joined Quality Education Support Trust (QUEST). He worked there in different capacities for about 6 years gaining expertise in various aspects of the core of Quality Education at grassroots level, which is now an asset to BELIEF. He has also been a consultant to Leadership for Equity (LFE). Atul is currently working with BELIEF for full time as an Academic Consultant.

Mukta Navrekar, Director

Graduate in Sociology and postgraduate in Rural Development. She is a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and looking after the overall implementation and compliance. She was very much involved in setting the internal systems and day-to-day functions. She is the third generation of Navrekar family who are involved in development sector. Since her college days she is been involved in various projects/programs related to environment sanitation. She has also worked as radio jockey (All India Radio). She ran a social enterprise named Sakav, focusing on waste up-cycling to produce various artifacts and lifestyle products. She was a State master trainer under 14th finance commission and PESA untied fund. She was also involved in a research on Menstrual health. Mukta is currently working with BELIEF for full time as a CEO and is a connecting thread of the core team, staff members, partners, donors and well-wishers.



BELIEF STAFF MEMBERS

(In year 2019-20)



Vrushali Talape, Coordinator, Education

Vrushali is very passionate about early childhood development. She had been working with Gram Mangal for 2 years. A young and dedicated towards her goals, she has taken all the exhecutional responsibilities of BELIEF's recent program 'Parent as Teacher. She is also actively involved in COVID relief campaign BELIEF for Relief.

Archana Kulkarni, Academic consultant

Archana is an academic expert and working in the field of quality education from last 18 years. She is and exelent teacher educator and loves working with children too. Archana had been working with QUEST for 12 years as a Senior Manager (Academics). Some of her sessions have also been video recorded and are used as a valuable resources in educationnn. Archanatai is a co-author of the book series 'Maze Pustak"(My Math). She is associated with BELIEF from December 2019 and is actively invilved in training, on-site support, planning, review and content development.



Amir Sheikh, Supervisor, Education

After graduating in theatre from Lalit Kala Kendra, Amir worked as an Assistant Director. But his urge of makig change through education brought him to BELIEF. He looked after mainly the Jeevan Shikshan Programme. He also supported ShikshanSathis in their on-field activities. He also some back-end responsibilities too in BELIEF during the organization's initial phase.

Pratima Metkar, ShikshanSathi

Pratima worked with BELIEF as a ShikshanSathi in year 2019-20. Previously she was working with Jivan Vidya Trust in Nandurbar and has 4 years of experience of teaching.



**Ashok Wayal, ShikshanSathi**

Ashok worked with BELIEF as a ShikshanSathi in year 2019-20. Previously he was working with Shashwat in Junnar and 4 years of experience of teaching.

Chitra Dhalpe, ShikshanSathi

Chitra worked with BELIEF as a ShikshanSathi in year 2019-20. Previously she was working with different schools including Hujur Paga in Pune and has 7 years of experience of teaching.

**Pritam Lonare, ShikshanSathi**

Pritam worked with BELIEF as a ShikshanSathi in year 2019-20. He was previously involved in education related activities like library in his hometown in Gadchiroli.



GET INVOLVED

The curious minds and experimenting hands are always welcome to BELIEF family. We welcome you with your ideas and dreams of social change.

CONTACT US

Registered Office:

Better Education Lifestyle and Environment Foundation

Flat No. B-103,

Belleza, Malwadi, Hadapsar,

Pune, Maharashtra 411028

Email: connect.belief@gmail.com

Phone: +918767954709

Website: <https://beliefforchange.org>

VISIT US

Office Address:

Flat No 110, Fourth Floor,

Glow Heights Society,

Vivekanand Nagar

Off. Solapur – Pune Highway,

near Kumar Primus,

Pune, Maharashtra 411013

APPEAL

We, as a development sector organization can sustain only with the financial support of the well-wishers and financial partners. We appeal you to join hands and be a part of this beautiful journey of bringing change together!

BELIEF AT A GLANCE (A photo gallery)



Wachan din (Reading day)

A shared reading session in Anganwadi



Involvement of Anganwadi teachers in ECE activities: Calendar



Children enjoying reading during a session of Jeevan Shikshan program





'Kalanubhav' –
Art experience
activity in
Anganwadi

Session on
POSH and
POCSO





Theatre
Workshop



Drop Everything And Read!
It's a DEAR time!