Our CEO’s Message of HOPE

As we step into a brand new academic year, this is a bittersweet moment for us all. The past year has been difficult, particularly for schools & school-going children and Covid-19 is undoing decades of progress in a child’s education. As the pandemic puts distance between our children and their pillars of support - their teachers & friends, our Akanksha family is trying its hardest to connect them to school and everything we cherish about in-person teaching and learning. At Akanksha, the key to making the highest difference in the lives of our children is connection. The year has seen countless stories of grit and witnessed resilience like never before. It has been heartwarming to see everyone come together for a collective purpose and work dedicatedly for our children.

The year also marked an important milestone for us as Akanksha turned 30 and began a new chapter of its enduring life. We are not only reimagining what education for our children will look like going forward, but are also ensuring that our communities & families are supported & safe during this pandemic. A first step in this direction is prioritizing our students & their communities through Project Karuna, Akanksha’s Covid-19 taskforce. By providing our most vulnerable families with Covid care essentials such as food and hygiene kits, we are extending our support to build resilience for nearly 200,000 lives.
Our CEO’s Message of Hope

Uninterrupted Education via Blended Learning with a Difference

As Akanksha grows older, we also become wiser. Online learning is the way forward and we are trying our best to embrace the new, while preserving the old. For us, it is our mission to ensure that the learning never stops. This year has been especially special owing to our educators’ ingenuity and innovation. 2020 saw the Shift to Blended Learning Model, a unique integration of traditional (in-person) and virtual learning techniques that go beyond the classroom. Within this is rooted our effort to stay in touch with our students and their families, and is currently taking the shape of well-being check-in calls as well as ensuring digital access for our students. Socio Emotional and Ethical Learning has become an integral part of the Akanksha culture and is being practiced by all our stakeholders, from students, teachers, staff members and parents.

Adapting to The New Normal

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that public schools are the very fabric of a community and a caring educator can turn any crisis into a learning opportunity. As we continue to rethink and reflect on the way Akanksha works, we are moving towards expanding our reach and vision, and also multiplying our efforts through advocacy and partnerships. While the journey of becoming stronger is never-ending, in these 30 years, we have tried our best to listen, accept, adapt and improve - all towards building our capacity as educators and leaders.

Our Alumni Support and Engagement program continues to guide and support our students after school to help them carve out their own pathways to success. In our endeavour to bring the Akanksha alumni community closer, we launched our alumni portal. The platform aims to provide a space for our alumni not only to stay connected but to share their voices.

In this report, you will find how we at Akanksha continue to reinvent, and strive hard to create impact beyond our 21 schools. In a day and age where students across the globe have been distanced from daily learning, strengthening educational institutions is the most critical work that we are doing. I thank you, our partners, for another year of support and care. I thank you for your questions and faith and I thank you for helping us in our journey to maximize every child’s potential.

Saurabh Taneja
CEO, The Akanksha Foundation
Akanksha 
Through 2020
THE YEAR GONE BY

MARCH 2020
Schools shut-down due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown

APRIL 2020
Akanksha builds task forces to set up systems for online learning

MAY 2020
Akanksha pilots Blended Learning with Grade 10. All schools pivot to Whatsapp as primary mode of teaching

JUNE-JULY 2020
All 21 schools transition to virtual learning using platforms as Zoom, Edmodo, Google Classroom and so on

AUGUST 2020
Akanksha acquires 15,00 tablets for Grade 7 & 10 to ensure that the learning never stops

SEPTEMBER 2020
100+ hours of teacher training on synchronous & asynchronous learning platforms

FEBRUARY 2021
A ray of light as schools reopen in Maharashtra. However, this period is short-lived and schools shut down once again with the second wave of Covid-19

DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021
We conduct classroom observation sessions to gauge how Akanksha is adapting to virtual learning. We adopt an approach to integrate 21st century competencies and build tech literacy

MARCH 2021
We reflect on the year gone by and capture our key learnings. Teachers continue to strategise ways to strengthen online classes

APRIL ONWARDS
Covid-19 isn't going anywhere, and neither are we. This time around, we are prepared to take learning to the next level!
The pandemic pushed Akanksha to extend its role beyond educators - we were now engaged as counsellors & facilitators for stakeholders outside the classroom such as our parents & communities.
School closures isolated students worldwide. Akanksha connected and bonded through the lockdown.

247M children in India lost access to daily learning as 1.5 million schools shut-down due to Covid-19. In India, where more than six million girls and boys were already out of school before the pandemic (UNICEF), closing of schools has had severe consequences.

What’s worse is that learning losses threaten to persist beyond this generation, erasing decades of progress.

Even before the pandemic, all Akanksha school teachers had active Whatsapp groups to communicate with students & parents about assignments, school events & classes. When schools shut down, schools & teachers immediately pivoted to Whatsapp, and used these groups as the primary medium to reach out and stay in touch with the children during the lockdown.

10,000
Children connected to Akanksha schools during the lockdown.
Our Plan of Relief for Children & Communities

- Over 13,000 ration kits & medical supplies distributed
- Over 8,000 Akanksha families supported

AKANKSHA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE WITH PROJECT KARUNA
Project Karuna Supports Communities

At Akanksha, our people are our biggest asset. As soon as the country went into lockdown mode, Akanksha’s Covid-19 taskforce, Project Karuna launched support efforts to ensure the safety & well-being of vulnerable families who had lost their primary income-earner during the lockdown.

Picking up from our core values and imbibing the morals and ethics of the Akanksha culture, the inception of Project Karuna (Compassion), took place right after the announcement of the national lockdown.

- 67% Akanksha parents are daily wage workers
- 72 LAKHS Raised for Project Karuna
- 330 Akanksha families lost their primary income earner
- 8553 Akanksha families supported
- 13802 Ration kits & medical supplies distributed
- 8020 Sanitizers distributed

~330
Akanksha families lost their primary income earner

8553
Akanksha families supported

13802
Ration kits & medical supplies distributed

8020
Sanitizers distributed
Akanksha Parents and Project Karuna

The parents of our 10,000 Akanksha students were deeply engaged in Project Karuna and supported our efforts of resilience with great courage.

They helped Akanksha in delivering essential kits at the doorsteps of our students’ homes.
Our Supporters In Project Karuna: Covid-19 Response

- GIVE Foundation
- Godrej Consumer Products
- Morgan Stanley

We thank our other partners who supported our Covid relief efforts:

Abhinav Vikas Pratishthan
Annapurna Kitchen
Care India Foundation
Deepstambha
From You To Them
Helping Hand Group, Kasarwadi
Kshitij Foundation
Mukul Madhav Foundation
Repos Energy
Sadhu Vaswani Mission
India Land
Inner Wheel
Iskcon
Jan Kalyan Samiti
Karmala Udaykal Foundation
Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal
Malabar Investments
Pratham
Robin Hood Army
Rossari Biotech Limited
Rotary Club
Sparsh Foundation
Swasth Foundation
United Way of Mumbai
Young Entrepreneurs Organization
Young Feed India

WE CONNECTED, WE CARED AND WE ADAPTED
STORIES OF INSPIRATION

Our first phase of Covid-19 efforts will always be remembered by the multiple stories of hope, courage and compassion from the ground. From teachers, to school staff to parents, Akanksha heroes who went above and beyond their duty to support those in need. These real accounts motivate us and give us the strength to continue with our mission of building resilient communities.

Durga Tambe, our helper staff from Laxmi Nagar Mumbai Public School went the extra mile to ensure that our most vulnerable families received their daily essentials & supplies on time. A model of compassion, Durga didi opened her home during the pandemic to store and safeguard grocery & supply kits. What’s more, is that during the difficult period of lockdown, she personally delivered these kits to every house in the community.

Durga didi’s commitment towards the well-being of our families is unmatched. To date, she is a beacon of hope to many such Akanksha team members who continue to work on the ground fearlessly.

Durga Tambe, Akanksha support staff
Our schools’ framework for the cultivation of social, emotional & ethical competencies developed by Emory University in partnership with the Dalai Lama Trust

Harnessing the power of SEE Learning to rise against all odds

Protecting children at risk through 1 lakh+ well-being calls

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING DURING THE PANDEMIC
Socio-Emotional & Ethical (SEE) Learning: Akanksha’s Answer to Thrive Through the Pandemic

With continued school closures and what seemed to be a never-ending lockdown, our children were now confined to the four walls of the home. Simply delivering ration and medical kits was not enough to equip them to deal with a host of mental well-being challenges such as depression and anxiety.

As the pandemic situation grew worse and our children were personally affected by losing financial stability or in some cases, a loved one, we recognised that it was time to amplify our care and connectedness efforts.

Developed by Emory University in partnership with the Dalai Lama Trust, Socio-Emotional & Ethical (SEE) Learning is a learning tool aimed at honing fundamental development skills as well as providing socio-emotional support to all our students.

Employed by all 21 Akanksha schools, we used tools such as sharing circles & check-in activities such as yoga & journaling to ensure the mental safety of Akanksha students.

Staff members trained in SEE

Participants said they would continue to engage in SEE practices

Participants rated SEE learning as highly effective

Akanksha children said they were aware of what steps to take to cope with anger and fear

500+

91%

88%

67%

74%

Know more about SEE here - Click here: Socio-Emotional & Ethical Learning at Akanksha | A Times Now Plus Feature
Akanksha Students SEE Through a Different Lens

Our students have incorporated SEE practices in their daily routines, hear from an Akanksha child on how he has harnessed the power of mental well-being.

**ARMAAN SHAIKH: CHANGING THINGS, ONE STEP A TIME**

Armaan is a Grade 7 student from Akanksha’s Wadibunder Mumbai Public School. Armaan has often felt that he is behind his peers, and ‘not good enough’ compared to others in class. His school counsellor has worked with him closely and over time, Armaan has learnt to overcome such emotions including anger, another behaviour he has struggled with in the past.

Recently, his place of residence was completely destroyed, forcing his family to move homes. However, there wasn’t a single day that went by where Armaan missed his examinations or didn’t dedicate time to study. With age-related developments in place, Armaan has taken the effort to acknowledge his difficult behaviours, stepped out of his comfort zone, taken care of his brothers and delivered his very best during the toughest of times, making his journey a truly inspiring one.

Armaan Shaikh,
grade 7 Akanksha student
Well-Being: A Priority

During the pandemic, separation from safe spaces in schools and key anchors like teachers combined with economic hardships, overcrowded homes and limited access to resources in low income communities made our children vulnerable to neglect, violence and even abuse.

Recognising an urgent need to mitigate such probabilities, we set up the Student-Well Being Task Force in May 2020 to facilitate communication beyond the classroom.

Each school team checked in with each child and their family on a weekly basis. "Red-flagged" domains were raised to the Central Team, School Leader, Counsellor and Social worker for safety.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATIONSHIP BUILDING</th>
<th>PHYSICAL HEALTH</th>
<th>STRENGTHS &amp; RESOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>building rapport, strengthening connection</td>
<td>access to supplies, health, sleep/routine</td>
<td>identifying and building coping mechanisms</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE DOMAINS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHILD SAFETY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>learning &amp; well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protecting Children at Risk Through Student Well-Being Calls

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING CHECK-INS

All our educators are trained to guide these calls based on a standard guideline used across all Akanksha schools.

The check-ins serve as a platform for students and parents to voice their concerns and for teachers to better understand the home environment of their students.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT HIGH-RISK

Staying connected with children at risk of physical abuse, at risk of sexual abuse, with a history of self-harm, diagnosed Covid +ve and/or at risk due to health ailments.

Our social workers and counsellors consistently supported “distress” from our children.

Also used to reach out to children who do not have access to tech/synchronous mediums of communication.

101,264
Student well-being calls made till March 2021

15
Child/parent cases in counselling between May 2020-March 2021

325
Cases flagged to counselors

1743
Cases flagged to social workers
The pandemic urged schools and teachers to reimagine education in a rapidly changing education landscape. At Akanksha we transitioned to virtual learning, by rethinking in-person teaching & learning methods and empowering our teachers & students with skills to adapt to online classes.
Schools were in the last lap of the 2019-20 academic year when Covid-19 peaked. Instant school closures pushed us to reorganise our efforts towards training our entire network to teach and learn virtually. In early April 2020, Akanksha set up a taskforce spearheaded by our CEO to institute infrastructure & systems for the shift to online learning.

Given that we were very new to this arena, and had little idea on how to train a network of 21 schools, we began with three critical starting points:

(i) Understanding how countries before us managed education during a national emergency/ pandemic situation
(ii) Connecting with other organisations such as Avasara Academy, iTEACH schools, American School of Bombay and Teach For India to know more about their approach moving forward
(iii) Research on various learning platforms and digital tools such as Edmodo, Google Classroom & Zoom to identify which best suited our teaching & learning needs
REIMAGINING EDUCATION WITH BLENDED/DIGITAL LEARNING

> Transitioning to virtual learning in 4 phases
> Empowering teachers as digital coaches with 40+ hours of training & workshops
> Hear from Akanksha teachers on the challenges and secrets of online learning
> Ensuring Uninterrupted Learning through distribution of 2000+ tablets for children
> Academic Achievement in the Pandemic
> Shining Superstars of Akanksha
> Outcomes & Insights of Blended Learning
‘Blended Learning’ As the New Normal

Our learnings and perspectives from this research culminated into the idea of Digital/Blended Learning - a unique mix of TRADITIONAL (IN-PERSON/CLASSROOM) • VIRTUAL TEACHING TECHNIQUES to create an INTEGRATED REMOTE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

**PHASE 1**
All schools pivot to Whatsapp as primary mode of learning

**PHASE 2**
Schools pilot well-researched synchronous & asynchronous learning methods for other grades to digitally empower the Akanksha network

**PHASE 3**
All schools continue to implement best practices of virtual learning for all grades

**PHASE 4**
Implement Blended Learning for all grades and multiply our impact through partnerships

Grounded in QUALITY RESEARCH + BEST PRACTICES + OUR KNOWLEDGE

MISSION: Prevent & preempt daily disruptions in study + Fundamentally re-design schools

Simple + well-rounded curriculum to cater to students’ SOCIO-EMOTIONAL NEEDS

Focus on DIGITAL LITERACY/READINESS • 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Effective way to prevent children from DROPPING OUT of school system ENTIRELY
Teacher Trainings to Thrive in the Virtual Setting

With new devices reaching the homes of our students in September, it was our responsibility to ensure that our teachers & children were comfortable with using and navigating these devices and apps.

Through multiple workshops and various training sessions, our educators were equipped with the skills to execute both synchronous and asynchronous learning using these digital devices.

- 40+ Hours spent on training teachers & staff
- 634 Enrolments in the Coursera-Akanksha partnership started in Oct 2020
- 82 Courses completed up till March 2020
Teachers Speak- Journey of Transitioning to Online Learning

"Hi I’m Sanjana, I’m a teacher at Akanksha. Venturing into online learning was quite challenging. We as teachers were not experienced at conducting Zoom classes. With the support of tech specialists, we experimented with a range of strategies and apps to create an effective learning environment before we launched these efforts. Another key struggle was onboarding the children on learning management systems - we conducted various training sessions and one-to-one calls to guide them on how to use these apps. Once this was completed, keeping the children engaged was no easy feat. We organised a number of games and activities to keep students interested and motivated."

**DIGITAL TOOLS USED IN OUR CLASSROOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Tools</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check for understanding</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Management Systems</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Conferencing</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YT3ZxK_IHA) to watch the digital journey of Akanksha
Hi everyone, I’m Shruti Das, a teacher at Akanksha. I have implemented a few virtual learning strategies. A few impactful ones include -

- **Using GIFs** while sharing the class invite. This creates a buzz around class and keeps students engaged.
- **Creative and personalized slides** help to facilitate connection and stay on task. When using Jamboard in real time, I have seen students collaborating & discussing in pairs to solve problems.
- **Using games** in your class such as quizzes, WordWall, Kahoot and so on generate interest while doubling as recap tools.
- **Using Padlet** (an online tool) to solve different levels of questions has helped students gain confidence through peer learning.
Enabling Access at Home Via Digital Tablets

In July, we began to gain footing and grew comfortable with virtual learning and parallely, the lockdown was lifted. As Akanksha parents began to return to their workplaces, our students had limited access to digital devices for learning.

While 89% of Akanksha families had access to smartphones, students typically gained access for only 1-2 hours/day. Despite being located in tier-1 cities of Mumbai and Pune, the increasing digital divide continued to pose serious problems for students to stay connected with the school system.

In August 2020 we decided to acquire digital tablets & internet recharge services for grade 7-grade 10 students.
Enabling Access at Home Via Digital Tablets

OUR PROGRESS SO FAR (JULY 2020-MARCH 2021)

1000
Grade 7-8 children unable to learn for 4 hours
* based on an initial survey done in March 2020

2675
Tablets distributed to students from Grade 7-10

480+
Educators trained in cyber safety

2HRS/DAY
Average device availability to children for learning

2321
Students provided with free internet recharge worth more than INR 22L

DEVICE ACCESS
(as of Mar ‘21)

Grade K-2 73%
Grade 3-6 73%
Grade 7-8 90%
Grade 9-10 90%
Enabling #Uninterrupted Learning

To equip our younger grades with digital devices, we organised ‘Together With Akanksha’, a virtual musical evening to celebrate our students performing live with world renowned violinist and Akanksha teacher, Mika Nishimura. Our added mission was to celebrate the resilience of our students and families who prioritized education in difficult times where learning may have taken a backseat for low-income communities.
Outcomes of remote learning

**99.95%**
Student retention across 21 Akanksha schools

**44% TO 50%**
In student attendance from Aug’21 to March ‘21 for online classes

**~45%**
Student submissions over Whatsapp/Google Classroom since Aug 2020

**2321**
Students provided with free internet recharge worth more than INR 22L

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**Increase from**

**Grade K-2**

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<tr>
<th>Q-3</th>
<th>Q-4</th>
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<tr>
<td>49%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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**Grade 3-6**

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<th>Q-3</th>
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**Grade 7-8**

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<td>39%</td>
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**Grade 9-10**

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**Attendance**

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<th>Q-4</th>
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<tr>
<td>48%</td>
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**Submission**

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<th>Q-4</th>
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<td>40%</td>
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<th>Q-3</th>
<th>Q-4</th>
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<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<th>Q-3</th>
<th>Q-4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>34%</td>
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</table>

*does not include in-person attendance data for Pune schools

During our transition to online learning, our schools faced low student attendance and engagement challenges. A few reasons included:

- Loss of parent livelihood
- Crowded, noisy residential areas
- Older children are often engaged in household work + chores
- Loss of the daily midday meal
- Lack of access to quiet, personal space in the home
- Lack of digital infrastructure + readiness

However, school teams witnessed a gradual increase in student attendance with periodic well-being and one-on-one calls with children and parents.
Our supporters for devices

We sincerely thank our supporters who helped us enable Blended Learning.

Amazon India
Anu Aga
Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd.
Cowasji Dinshawa Adenwalia Trust
Cyrus Guzder
GIVE Foundation
HT Parekh Foundation
K. A. Warrier Charitable Trust
Kainaz Ratan Gazdar

Naresh Gurudas Naik
Padmanabhan
Ranganathan
Societe Generale
Sudhanshu Vats
Tabassum Inamdar
Providing continuous & intensive support to parents in 3 key areas:

- a) Community Health & Connectedness: Through 100+ virtual parent-teacher meetings
- b) Learning Facilitators: Through various virtual and phone touchpoints with school staff
- c) Economic Resilience: Through access to employment opportunities & financial literacy.

Over 150+ parents applied for jobs through information shared by Akanksha.
Connecting With Our Communities

The uncertainty brought upon by the pandemic and the financial concerns of our parents drove us to use our existing forums as a platform to encourage sharing of grievances & problems related to online learning.

A. Monthly Meetings With School Teams:
Led by the school leader and school social worker, these meetings are focussed on building parent capacity as co-educators by providing a way forward on children’s learning and setting expectations from parents.
All Akanksha teachers communicate instructions of the assignments in local languages like Marathi and Hindi for clear comprehension by parents and students.

B. Weekly Online Meetings:
Conducted online by teachers, these provide an open space for parents to give feedback on a child’s daily progress and voice any concerns. We also published a weekly appraisal story which features parents who have performed extraordinarily as co-educators, paving their way to become a “Supermom” or “Superdad.”

C. Periodic Engagement Calls:
Our teachers are available 24/7 to offer aid to parents, answering their queries and addressing all doubts.
When we were planning to make the shift to Digital/Blended Learning via online classes, we quickly realised that parents would play a pivotal role in ensuring that the child continues to learn.

We devised a system where teachers served as lesson planners and parents served as executors of the daily school activities.

Our Akanksha parents are heavily involved in the daily remote schooling of their children which includes preparing worksheets as well as helping children complete assigned work and systematically submitting assignments on completion. Many of our parents continue to attend classes along with our children to understand the tasks and take onus of completing assignments on time.
ZAHEDA MULLA, VIRTUAL LEARNING CHAMPION

Meet Zaheda, an Akanksha parent from our K.C. Thackeray school. When the classes shifted online, every student and parent struggled to cope with the digital mode of learning. Zaheda too was worried about her child’s education and faced difficulties juggling household chores and school work. Since she was not used to the devices, she sought help from her family members and the Akanksha community. She planned a set routine for her and her child and made sure that her child watched the videos and audios that were sent for reference. Zaheda tried to include methods of play so that the child enjoyed the process of learning. The year of online learning has enabled Zaheda to be a co-educator who thoroughly enjoys teaching and learning.

SARIKA RAMTEKKAR, DEDICATED PARENT FACILITATOR

Meet Sarika, an Akanksha parent from our Navi Mumbai school. When the lockdown began, the Akanksha community couldn’t connect with her family due to network issues. Her son, Sumedh was unable to attend virtual classes or meetings due to the lack of a device. Sarika requested teachers to email the homework so that Sumedh could access it from his father’s laptop who was working from home and slowly got him used to studying after a long break. She also delayed their visit to their village to make sure his classes continue, supporting him to catch up with missed portions everyday.

Sarika’s willingness to ensure uninterrupted learning and her investment in her children is truly inspiring to our team.
Support Systems to Foster Economic Resilience

Akanksha staff organised webinars with students and parents on a regular basis to provide practical support to parents on how to discuss the pandemic with their children, ways to manage mental health of their loved ones, basic precautions and hygiene practices to stay protected from Covid-19, as well information sharing on government schemes for financial and food security.

With the transition to online learning due to school closures, the discussions also covered students’ digital experiences and steps to ensure digital safety and responsibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH &amp; HYGIENE</th>
<th>SUPPORTING CHILD DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>PERSONAL SAFETY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition needs at various stages</td>
<td>Building and maintaining relations with children</td>
<td>Mental well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining health during monsoon</td>
<td>Understanding needs of children at various stages of development and ways to handle them</td>
<td>Physical safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal and environmental hygiene</td>
<td>Forming trusting, nurturing bonds with children</td>
<td>Emotional safety</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sexual safety</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Digital safety</td>
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</table>

Parents across Mumbai & Pune consistently attended webinars (~50%)
Parents applied for job opportunities shared by the team (150+)
Schools conducted regular parent meetings & classes (100%)
Akanksha families supported by Project Karuna (7000)
Navigating college admissions and deadlines with Alumni Support & Engagement Team
Launching the Alumni Portal to connect to our network of 4000+ Akankhsha graduates

SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR ALUMNI IN THE PANDEMIC
Staying In Touch With Our Alumni

Due to the ongoing crisis, all college related admission timelines were delayed by a minimum of 6 months or more.

Akanksha’s alumni team had to grapple with not just a delayed centralised admission process but also manage confirmation processes for colleges and fee payment as everything transitioned online. What bears remembering is that many of our parents and alumni did not know how to navigate such systems.

Through our Alumni Support & Engagement (ASE) program and its various virtual touchpoints, we found a way to stay in touch with our Alumni and cater to their college, vocational and professional needs during the uncertain times of the pandemic.

ALUMNI PORTAL

Akanksha also launched a tech portal for alumni through Almashines in February 2021 with the aim to create a community for our alumni where they stay connected and gain inspiration from their peer group, especially in terms of support for future initiatives.

Click here to check out our Alumni portal

ALUMNI PORTAL NUMBERS UPTO APRIL 2021

529 Active Alumni profiles
35 Active Team/Faculty profiles
1845 Total platform views
389 Chats & messages on the platform
495 Network Requests
A showcase of our school’s 50+ innovative practices in virtual learning and celebrating the commitment of Akanksha staff

- Instituting feedback and grievance forums with Akanksha town halls
- Stories of Akanksha schools shared across our network through 100+ emailers

CELEBRATING OUR TEAM SPIRIT AND TOGETHERNESS
Virtual Showcase of Akanksha Schools’ Best Practices

The pandemic, school closures & continued lockdown threatened to enervate our schools team’s efforts and hardwork.

**To combat any loss of motivation and keep our team inspired, we organised a host of virtual events & celebrations as a way for our people to meet and engage with one another.**

**EDURANCE 2020**

Our event opened with a long-service awards to thank our Akanksha members for their long-standing commitment and hard-work followed by power-packed performances by Akanksha students as well as the breakdown of key Akanksha school practices & innovations,

Hosted entirely by Akanksha alumni Bebika and Om, the shining star of our Service Awards was the groundbreaking rap performances, conceptualized and written by our very own Akanksha students!

**EDURANCE 2020**

- **3 DAY**
  - Event in December 2020
- **500**
  - People attended the Virtual Service Awards
- **5**
  - Unique tracks for the showcase on Zoom
- **50+**
  - Best practices & innovations showcased by 21 Akanksha schools
- **100+**
  - Participants for each track on Zoom

[Click here to see a Rap performance by an Akanksha student]
Akanksha Townhalls

Our town halls are an engaging and fun way to regroup online, and discuss key organisational changes, voice concerns and connect with the Akanksha’s leadership.

Most often, our town halls kick off with a grounding, well-being activity and are focussed on answering questions and addressing concerns on critical decisions or other matters. These town halls double as a primary forum to share organisation wide updates.

During the pandemic, these town halls assumed great importance as platforms for people of Akanksha to share their challenges posed by the pandemic as well as a way for the team to hear from students and alumni on the current happenings.

Number of townhalls between March 2020 & March 2021: 7

Average attendance for a townhall: ~400

Themes and central ideas discussed: 5+
Sharing Powerful Stories of 21 Akanksha Schools With Our Network

A nation-wide lockdown meant that our team was no longer going to office, like millions around the world, we were forced into moving things online.

Given Akanksha’s close knit community, and our daily visits to 21 Akanksha schools, we felt the distance.

From meeting everyday, we had moved into a zone of Wi-Fi failures, camera disruptions and audio breakage. To keep the team connected and continue to provide updates on what was happening across our expansive network, our Communications team launched a daily emailer initiative ‘Powered By Akanksha’

We published 100+ EMAIL newsletters for our central and school teams during the lockdown.

**Powered by Akanksha mailers- Spreading positivity and knitting togetherness**

**EXCERPT 1 FROM EMAILER #83 - TITLED “INNOVATION & INSPIRATION’**

Learning outside the books! Akanksha teachers never cease to amaze us with their creativity and innovations in teaching! We bring to you innovations in teaching and learning done by Steffi didi from Sitaram Mill Compound School who conducted several creative activities with her students to help them explore various skills as well as understand concepts in an entertaining manner. Here is one- 1) Dictionary making - Students picked words from A-Z which they are most likely to use on a daily basis. Reading and writing these words in their personalised hand-made dictionaries familiarised the purpose of every single word along with its correct pronunciation. This exercise also allowed children to build on their vocabulary.

**EXCERPT 1 FROM EMAILER #17- TITLED ‘GOOD NEWS’**

In today’s #PoweredByAkanksha story, we are featuring an interesting activity done by a parent at Akanksha. Vedashree Kshirsagar, a Junior KG student of PCMC English Medium School, Bopkhel has a fun way to learn values at home. Check out the snake and ladder game maze made by her mother to ensure that Vedashree becomes a child with dreams and values after this tough period gets over.
Academic Achievement

- Akanksha Students’ academic performance in the pandemic
- Akanksha superstars shine even in difficult times
Academic Achievement in the Pandemic

In an amazing feat, our students, many of whom belong to households & communities with disruptive learning environments and connectivity access issues, not only managed to submit assessments but also perform exceptionally well.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

In the last few years our data shows that 100% of Akanksha students finish high school and 96% enroll for higher education. Akanksha students have consistently outperformed their peers in government run schools in Maharashtra.

A third-party 2019-20 EI (Educational Initiatives) assessment found that Akanksha schools performed better than government schools and affordable private schools.
Grade 10 Performance

% OF 10TH GRADE STUDENTS SECURING FIRST CLASS AND ABOVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akanksha</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Schools (Mumbai and Pune)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AKANKSHA’S PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS
Grade 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pass Class</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Class</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Class</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grade 12 Performance

Grade 12 Performance 2020 - 21

Akanksha Schools

Distinction: 43%, First Class: 42%, Second Class: 14%, Pass Class: 0%, Fail: 0%

Grade 12 Pass % - Akanksha vs State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Akanksha</th>
<th>Maharashtra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 - 2019</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 - 2021</td>
<td>99.63%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accolades for Akanksha students

**Vivekananda Young Explorer Contest Winners**

19 Akanksha students from Mumbai and Pune participated in the Vivekananda Young Explorer Contest and it brought many reasons to celebrate! 2 Akanksha students made it to the top 1% and bagged an Excellence Award, while 6 found a spot in the top 10%, taking home the Appreciation award.

**Youngest Storyteller - Meera Patil**

Our 7-year-old student, Meera Patil became the youngest storyteller in the One Day, One Story Campaign organized by Pratham Books. She inspired everyone by narrating her story and sharing tips on overcoming anger, from a child’s point of view.

**CEL CS Challenge Unplugged Winners**

Akanksha students, Dhanashree and Tahura, from Late Anantrao Pawar Memorial English Medium School stood 2nd and 4th in the CEL-CS Unplugged Challenge. Code to Enhance Learning (CEL) is a weekly challenge for kids in grade 6-9 to master Computer Science concepts and 21st-century skills.

**Laxminagar Students Secure Scholarships**

Three of Akanksha’s Grade 5 students from Laxminagar Mumbai Public School secured the 2019-20 state scholarship organised by the Maharashtra State Education Board annually. Dedicated to funding the educational needs of 5th and 8th-grade students in the state, the Maharashtra State Council of Examination (MSCE) scholarship includes competitive examinations in 4 subjects – Mathematics, Science, General Knowledge and Language.
Our Alumni Thrive Even During the Pandemic

**Enrolment in Junior College with 386 out of 401 alumni enrolled**

**Secured admission in undergraduate institutions**

**Alumni studying in reputed institutions such as Ashoka University, Azim Premji, KREA, United World College and others**

**Of the 24 Alumni currently studying in the US**

### Junior College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREAM</th>
<th>2019-20*</th>
<th>2018-19*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSVC#</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITI</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</table>

### Degree College (UG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2017-18*</th>
<th>2016-17*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREAM</th>
<th>2017-18*</th>
<th>2016-17*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocational</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mass Media</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual/</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*High Skill Vocational Course

**NOTE:** ' represents SSC Cohorts i.e. year in which the batch appeared SSC
**SURAJ GUPTA, OUR FIRST STUDENT TO CRACK IIT**

Suraj remembers joining Akanksha at an extremely young age of five years. He belongs to the very first batch of Akanksha’s Abhyudaya Nagar Mumbai Public School and comes from a family of equally bright siblings who have worked hard to receive the best education possible in spite of their humble background.

Suraj’s father sells vegetables and mother is a homemaker. Both his parents feel that education is important and have encouraged their children to study. Suraj Gupta is our first student to have secured a seat at IIT Kharagpur, the premier engineering institution in India.

**RUBY RAM, LIVING THE ARTIST LIFE**

Ruby’s love for art began from the young age of kindergarten when she often used to get reprimanded for colouring her books. Belonging to a four-member family from Pune, Ruby began her journey as an Akanksha student in 2013 and is the part of the first batch that passed out from AVBS Ganj Peeth. Driven by her extraordinary talent and support from Akanksha leadership, and the Art for Akanksha curriculum, Ruby went on to do a two year diploma in art teaching and is currently pursuing her bachelors in Fine Art alongside her Class 12.

While the journey isn’t always easy, especially when it comes to assuring her parents about art as a financially viable profession, today Ruby is a published artist having sold her paintings at a gallery exhibit during the lockdown.
Financial Aid for Our Alumni

The onset of the pandemic & the loss of livelihoods for several Akanksha families signalled that our communities needed urgent support.

100% of the college/university fees were paid for alumni if they fell under any of the following categories
- a. Both parents are deceased and are now under the care of grandparents/elderly relatives/older siblings who currently have no source of income and/or are currently incurring medical expenses due to ill health
- b. Under the care of a single parent who is separated and has no source of income
- c. Under the care of both parents or older siblings who currently have no source of income

Above and over Covid-relief funds, we also supported our alumni with financial aid to enable them to pursue higher education

Financial Aid for Our Alumni

- **6.4 Lakhs**
  - FYJC
  - 160 Alumni
- **3.4 Lakhs**
  - SYJC
  - 91 Alumni
- **30.3 Lakhs**
  - Grad. Renewals
  - 209 Alumni
- **3.4 Lakhs**
  - Diploma (New)
  - 91 Alumni
- **15 Lakhs**
  - FY Grad.
  - 113 Alumni
- **0.7 Lakhs**
  - Grad. Renewals
  - 8 Alumni

**Total - 56 Lakhs**

- FYJC - First Year Junior College
- SYJC - Second Year Junior College
- FY - First Year
- Grad. - Graduation

Female:
- **285 Alumni**
- **49%**

Male:
- **296 Alumni**
- **51%**
The pandemic has taught us the importance of adaptation as we move forward. At Akanksha, we invested our efforts in amplifying the myriad of innovations created by our schools & their teachers - all towards the larger goal of advocating systemic change by creating standpoints of excellence.

WE INNOVATED

We innovated to multiply and amplify our outreach through partnerships with government and other non-profits.
Art at Akanksha: Our curriculum extends beyond the use of colours and paper. It is empowering our children through expression. The Akanksha curriculum has catered to 2.5 CR students in Maharashtra through various apps.

Parent collaboration with our Radio Programme in Pune

Sharing our innovations on InspiED

6500 Parents & children supported through our partnership with Rocket Learning

1500 parents availed benefits through welfare schemes with Haqdarshak

Akanksha counsellors empower educators in Andhra Pradesh

Our CEO talks about the New Education Policy at Asia Society
Art for Akanksha’ (AFA), a unique program which empowers children with a powerful art education supported by a curriculum developed in-house is currently partnering with DIKSHA by contributing an extensive range of educational materials, including lesson plans for classes 1 to 10. The AFA curriculum is featured and widely used on the app, covering topics such as painting, origami and use of colours.
Art That Matters: What Kept Our Students Going In Difficult Times

When Project Karuna was launched, what made it even more special was that art kits were distributed to 10,000 students alongside food ration & sanitation essentials. The AFA team supported the Peepul Foundation Schools, the Khoj Community School and Apni Shala in implementing art lessons for their students virtually.

300 Artist Portfolios was a unique initiative by AFA which showcased individual students & their art portfolio for the year on a variety of social media platforms.

- 96% Of art activities for K to Grade 10
- 81% Students received art kits during the lockdown
- 124 MCGM school teachers are using our art lessons
- 600 Children from 6 Peepul Schools (Delhi) using our Art Lessons
- 11 Art partnerships including Diksha & Firki
- 11 Educators/ participants can access art lessons on Firki
THE CORONA QUILT PROJECT saw over 500 pieces of Akanksha art make its way onto various buildings and spaces all over Mumbai city. Akanksha students, as well their families, contributed over 500 pieces of art through initiatives such as ‘100 Days of Art’ and ‘The Art Challenge’ towards an installation capturing collective experiences of the pandemic created by the Corona Quilt Project. You can watch the video on this link.

BOMAN IRANI’S HEARTWARMING RENDITION of Garland’s ‘Somewhere Over The Rainbow’: The incredible art made by Akanksha children was featured in the music-video of Akanksha champion, Boman Irani. The veteran actor’s beautiful singing was brought to life by the hopeful colours of Akanksha students. You can watch the video on this link.

KALA GHODA UNLOCKED 2021 saw 3 animation videos from Akanksha students being awarded in the Childrens’ Digital Art Competition. View the videos below to experience the magic of ART by the children of Akanksha.

Kala Ghoda Akanksha Entry Video 1. Link
Kala Ghoda Akanksha Entry Video 2. Link
Kala Ghoda Akanksha Entry Video 3. Link
Amplifying Parent Voices With Our Radio Program

Our radio program spearheaded by Akanksha parents in Pune was organised by the school teams and our helper didis who used Whatsapp to share student responses.

The program is currently airing in collaboration with our partners Kshamtalaya, Vidya Vani and Rising On Air.

"Students and parents are very eager and excited to do the radio activities. Students are keen on listening to radio episodes everyday. Even parents love to listen to their child's voice on apki awaj (Friday episodes). As a facilitator I feel very proud when I get a number of responses from them."

203 Episodes were aired from 29th Jun’ 20 to March ’21

123 Learning through play activities (khel khel mein) were recorded by Akanksha teachers & aired

405 Akanksha families reached in Pune at peak of program

695 Student responses received over time

MICRO-INNOVATIONS IN THIS SPACE

AAP KI AWAARZ

28 Friday episodes were hosted by our Akanksha teachers to showcase student and parent voice, on being trained by Soumya from The Kshamtalaya Foundation.

SAVAALON KI SAIR

3 synchronous interactions between students of Akanksha and Kshamtalaya to discuss radio content in context of their lives in the rural and urban set-up.
Akanksha as Thought Leaders At InspirED

In October 2020, Akanksha was a core partner for a one-of-its-kind thought leadership & learning conference - InspirED. The platform brought together educators, students, policymakers, parents and experts in the field to discuss the idea of Reimagined Education. You can also watch the full-length sessions here.

6450 Viewers for Akanksha session
340 Akanksha team registrations
235 Minutes at InspirED
86 Team Akanksha members involved (parents, students, alumni, partners)
13 InspirED posts + emails
11 Akanksha sessions + white papers*

You can find them here
Empowering Parents For Home-Based Learning

In Jan 2021, Akanksha partnered with Rocket Learning, a non-profit ed-tech organisation with the mission to catalyze early childhood education and foundational learning based in Delhi to pilot a tech-based parental engagement program in 17 of our schools for all Jr. Kg parents.

This initiative aims to provide access to age-appropriate foundational learning, increased parent participation in the learning of children & an increase in learning outcomes.

64% Submission rate for parents between Jan & March 21

97% Parents have submitted & responded to an activity at least once

Rocket Learning comes with scalable parent engagement technology solution with experience in Aurangabad, Chandigarh and UP.

Akanksha comes with an innovative pedagogy and high-quality co- and extracurricular program which has been working in 20+ schools in Mumbai, Pune.

Improved early education learning outcomes

Akanksha & Rocket Learning also collaborated with MCGM in Dec’ 2020 to support through Whatsapp based home learning activities.

- 250 Balwadis supported
- 280 Teachers supported
- 6500 Children/parents supported
- ~3000 Parents actively learning at home through Whatsapp
- ~25% Of total parents frequently engaged through Whatsapp-based activities
Building Economic Resilience With Haqdarshak

At Akanksha, several of our parents and community members belong to the informal sector and are daily wage workers. Multiple lockdowns and never-ending restrictions has rendered them jobless and has adversely affected their livelihoods.

To address this pressing issue, Akanksha partnered with Haqdarshak, a technology-based service connecting citizens to government welfare schemes by bridging the information gap.

Under this project, Haqdarshak ensures that parents submit applications to receive benefits from government schemes.

- **1809** Parents submitted applications via the platform upto March 21
- **1536** Parents availed benefits through welfare schemes upto March 21
- **2845** Parents downloaded the Haqdarshak App
- **22194** Parents attending meetings
- **401** Parents enrolled in skill-building courses
- **8** Parents have secured job placements
Yuvraj Jitendra Kunbi is a Grade 1 student at an Akanksha School. Yuvraj’s parents learnt of available schemes via Haqdarshak and with added assistance managed to avail the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana for Yuvraj’s sister and a recurring deposit scheme for Yuvraj. They also received assistance with a Pan Card and Aadhar biometric update.

Afreen Gufran Khan, the mother of Shirin, a Grade-9 student in Akanksha school, received assistance in generating a pan card and opening a Savings Bank account. She is thankful to Akanksha and Team Haqdarshak, as now she can avail of Government schemes through Direct Benefit Transfer.
Upskilling Teachers In Andhra Pradesh the Akanksha Way

Akanksha partnered with Mantra 4 Change and conducted training modules for teachers of Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (APSWREI). APSWREI, a society running 188 residential institutions in Andhra Pradesh reached out to Akanksha for identifying and supporting social and emotional needs of its students.

Participants including teachers & caretakers

539

2-3 DAY

Training module featuring online synchronous learning circles & offline asynchronous learning through pre-reads, case studies and reflections
Deciphering the National Education Policy at Asia Society


Chaired by our CEO, Saurabh Tanjea, the panel comprised expert educators including Dr Wilima Wadhwa, Director, ASER Centre; Dr Ameeta Mulla Wattal, Principal, Springdales School, New Delhi and Mr Sridhar Rajagopalan, Co-Founder and Chief Learning Officer, Educational Initiatives as well as our very own Akanksha alum, Kushagra Sathe.
MAKING IT HAPPEN WITH AKANKSHA CHAMPIONS

- Our arm of support in the US, Akanksha Education Fund and their initiatives
- A heartfelt gratitude to our donors and supporters
A Big Thank You!
Akanksha Education Fund Building Resilience Campaign

In early June 2021, Akanksha Education Fund, led by Executive Director Sejal Desai and the Board's President, Ramesh Srinivasan held an intimate event launching their Building Resilience campaign. The event was a virtual fundraiser which raised over $500,000 for Akanksha’s work in India. This funding will enable Akanksha to prioritize vaccinating our staff and community members, prioritize mental wellbeing and child safety and help provide tablets for our students.
Donors & Supporters

OUR PARTNERS

- Akanksha Education Fund Inc.
- Altroy Foundation
- Anita Vardhan
- Anu Aga Family Discretionary Trust
- Apple India Private Limited
- Arisaig Partners Foundation
- Arnavaz Rohinton Aga
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- DSP Merrill Lynch Limited
- exl Service.com (India) Private Limited
- Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Private Limited
- Give Foundation
- Godrej Consumer Products Ltd.
- H.T.Parekh Foundation
- Hamilton Housewares Pvt Ltd
- Hemendra Kothari Foundation
- HSBC Trustee (Hong Kong) Ltd. - Rusy & Purviz Shroff
- K.A.Warrier Charitable Trust
- Kainaz Rattan Gazder
- Kunal Jesrani
- LI & Fung Foundation Limited
- MasterCard Technology Private Limited
- Morgan Stanley Advantage Services Private Limited
- Morgan Stanley India Primary Dealer Pvt Ltd
- Morgan Stanley India Securities Pvt. Ltd.
- Mphasis F1Foundation
- Narasimhan Eswar
- Naresh Naik
- Nihal Sarawgi
- Padmanabhan Ranganathan
- R. Jhunjhunwala Foundation
- R.G. Manudhane Foundation for Excellence
  Rahul Mookerjee
- Razorpay
- Rebecca Marie Mullins - Smith
- Robin D souza
- Saint Gobain India Foundation
- Sanjay Shah
- Saurabh Taneja
- Societe Generale Securities India Private Limited
Donors & Supporters

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- Standard Chartered Bank
- Sudhanshu Vats
- TA Associates Advisory Private Limited
- Tabassum Abdulla Inamdar
- The Associated Auto Parts Private Limited
- The Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd
- Thermax Foundation
- TransUnion CIBIL Limited
- UK Online Giving Foundation
- UTI Asset Management Company Ltd.
- VFS Global Services Private Limited
- Vimala Jambu
- White Ventures Online Pvt Ltd

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Akanksha Education Fund

Thermax Foundation

Our other donors and supporters for 2021-2022 can be viewed [here](#)
## Board of Directors & Advisors

### Our Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role and Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aditya Natraj</td>
<td>Founder &amp; Director, Kaivalya Education Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anu Aga</td>
<td>Director and Ex-Chairperson, Thermax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meher Pudumjee</td>
<td>Chairperson, Thermax Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nandita Dugar</td>
<td>Ex-Consultant, Boston Consulting Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neel Shahani</td>
<td>Ex-Banker (Barclays, JP Morgan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaheen Mistri</td>
<td>Founder of Akanksha; CEO, Teach to Lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srila Chatterjee</td>
<td>COO and Executive Producer, Highlight Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saurabh Taneja</td>
<td>CEO, The Akanksha Foundation</td>
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### Alumni Board Members

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Role and Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shweta Nagaria</td>
<td>Gandhi Fellow, Certified Instructional Designer &amp; Facilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahesh Londhe</td>
<td>Chartered Accountant, Thermax</td>
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### Advisors

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<tr>
<td>Anuj Malhotra</td>
<td>Ex-Partner, Point State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naheed Carrimjee</td>
<td>Lawyer and founding partner of Desai Desai Carrimjee &amp; Mulla (consultancy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pradeep Mukerjee</td>
<td>Founder Director at Confluence Coaching &amp; Consulting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rahul Mookerjee</td>
<td>Managing Director, YoNao Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramesh Srinivasan</td>
<td>Senior Partner, McKinsey &amp; Company, Inc. United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudhanshu Vats</td>
<td>Managing Director &amp; CEO- EPL Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandana Goyal</td>
<td>Ex-CEO, The Akanksha Foundation</td>
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# Financials

## SCHEDULE IX

### The Maharashtra Public Trust Act

The Public Trust: The Akanksha Foundation

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
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<td>42,092,950</td>
<td>To Establishment Expenses (Annexure F1)</td>
<td>40,915,432</td>
<td>By Interest (Annexure G 3)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7,172,727</td>
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<td>2,911,156</td>
<td>To Remuneration to Trustees</td>
<td>2,942,892</td>
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<td>4,385,333</td>
<td>Deposits</td>
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<td>354,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>To Amount written off:</td>
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<td>On Bank Deposits</td>
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<td>19,406,844</td>
<td>To Depreciation</td>
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<td>On Saving Accounts</td>
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<td>374,471,213</td>
<td>To Expenditure under objects of the trust</td>
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<td>By Donations in cash or kind (Annexure G 2)</td>
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<td>15,186,702</td>
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<td>99,014</td>
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<td>By Grants (Annexure H)</td>
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<td>7,815</td>
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<td>By Income from other sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>28,373,783</td>
<td>To Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet</td>
<td>32,025,215</td>
<td>Other income (Annexure l)</td>
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<td>2,749,176</td>
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<td>Sale of Art Product</td>
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<td>481,172,981</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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### Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts (Annexures-I)

The Annexures referred to above form an integral part of the Income & Expenditure Account.

For the Akanksha Foundation

As per our report of even date

Hemant J. Bhait
Partner
Membership No. 129848

Place: Vadodara
Date: September 23, 2021
The Mahanagar Public Trust Act
The Public Trust: The Akanksha Foundation
Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2021

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SCHEDULE VIII</th>
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<td>(Vide Rule 17(I))</td>
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<th>Amount (₹) 2020-21</th>
<th>Amount (₹) 2020-21</th>
<th>Amount (₹) 2020-21</th>
<th>Amount (₹) 2020-21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FUND &amp; LIABILITIES</td>
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<td>Trust Funds of Corpus</td>
<td>Local</td>
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<td>F.C.</td>
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<td>F.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance as per last balance sheet</td>
<td>Local</td>
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<td>F.C.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F.C.</td>
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<td>69,881,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>78,825,206</td>
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<td>Liabilities - (Annexure A)</td>
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<td>For Expenses</td>
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<td>16,090,086</td>
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<td>F.C.</td>
<td>16,090,086</td>
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<td>16,090,086</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>64,877,300</td>
<td>F.C.</td>
<td>16,090,086</td>
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<td>F.C.</td>
<td>16,090,086</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>Less Appropriation, if any</td>
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<td>Add Surplus (as per Income and Expenditure Account)</td>
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<td>Advances</td>
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<td>To Employees</td>
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<td>To Contractors</td>
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<td>To Others (Annexeure D)</td>
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<td>Income outstanding</td>
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<td>Other Income and asset receivable</td>
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<td>Grant receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Bank Balances (Annexure E)</td>
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<td>i) In Savings account</td>
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<td>171,903,754</td>
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<td>ii) In Fixed Deposit account</td>
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<td>b) With the Trustee</td>
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<td>c) With Manager</td>
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<td>d) Cash</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts (Annexure J)

The Annexures referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet

As per our report of even date
For Harish Vashishtha & Co. LLP
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration No. 143023N/W10048

Henaz J. Bhatt
Partner
Membership No. 93683

Place: Vadodara
Date: September 23, 2021

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee