



**Together We Can**



## YUVLOK FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2016  
“Together We Can”

Looking back over the years, and putting pen to paper on achievements of 2016, I must say that sustaining the YuvaLok movement has been an extraordinary group effort. If it had not been for the talent, creativity, and commitment of our schools faculty, support and administrative staff, our Board members and Advisory Council, our Corporate Partners, and our donor friends we would have accomplished nothing. We are grateful to you all for the confidence placed in us through your support and encouragement. That’s one reason I can say, *“Together We Can!”*

The YuvaLok Network comprises 10 schools that today serve 1500 students in Karnataka. YuvaLok schools’ distinctive integration of a rigorous academic curriculum provides an educational environment that equips students to excel in life.

Just to remind you, all of our students come from some of the most difficult and challenging situations. Some of which are dysfunctional families, broken homes, single parents, poverty and illiteracy.



**Sam Rajshekhar**  
**Founder & Executive Director**

There are students who testify of having given up and resigning to fate, but then discovering the YuvaLok School brought about a complete change in their outlook, giving a hope for the future. Now, some students aspire to be doctors, IT Professionals, Chartered Accountants and Army Officers. A mother of four tells how her children were stopped from going to school because of debts created by her alcoholic husband. Then, getting to know of YuvaLok Schools giving free education brings hope not only for a better life but most of all, a bright future for her kids. Another student whose future seemed bleak because of her father’s poor health and unemployment began to come to our school. Today, she is in college pursuing a degree in Statistics & Commerce.

Witnessing our students' accomplishments reminds me that our young people can do well in life if they are given adequate opportunities. Our Board is committed to consider more opportunities in reaching out to the downtrodden with the best possible services. We are committed to transformation of society and a better world. We can do it when individual donors, corporate partners, and institutions continue to support and believe - "together we can."

The actual cost to educate one student is \$330 per annum. Our target is to reach out to a total of 2000 children and young people in 2017. With your continued support, YuvaLok Foundation is enabled to come closer to breaking the cycle of poverty, one student at a time through education. Thank you!

It's an exciting time at YuvaLok Foundation and we can't wait for another year to begin!

Sam Rajshekhar  
Founder & Executive Director  
YuvaLok Foundation

## Board & Council Members

### Board of Management

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# *A Leader in the Making*

“What I am today, the hope I have, the opportunities before me, I owe it all to YuvaLok”.

Struggling to make ends meet a mother of four with tears in her eyes cries, “I want my children to go to school, but who will pay their fees? My husband is in bad debts and we have four children. My son Ranjith and daughter cry asking to be sent to school. What do I do”?

Ranjith’s father turned to alcohol to drown his burden of heavy debts he has incurred over the years. Violence at home was feared each day. With loans to pay off and income dipping Ranjith’s father stopped their children from going to school. At this time, a good hearted neighbor raised their attention to YuvaLok School, which provides good and free education to those in need.

Ranjith and his elder sister were admitted to Yuvalok School. The morning porridge and nutritious lunch was something they looked forward too. In their studies they were showing good signs of improvement. Ranjith who started off from being last in class rankings in a matter of two years moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> position. In him was found leadership qualities from the beginning. He became class leader from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Standard, vice-captain in 9<sup>th</sup> Standard and this year he became the School captain (fulfilling his childhood dream). When he leaves school he wants to complete his Degree and join the Indian Army Defense Forces.

He is grateful for teachers who’ve encouraged him. He thanks the school for opportunities to participate in many activities to find his strengths and says “What I am today, the hope I have, the opportunities before me, I owe it all to YuvaLok”.



Ranjith, 4<sup>th</sup> from the left

## YuvaLok School – Hennur

**“A quality education grants us the ability to fight the war on ignorance and poverty”** said Charles B Rangel.

Generational poverty has gripped the homes of many of our students. That in turn has led to fathers walking away from their children and wife resulting in mother’s fending for her children on her own. Debt increases in the family, children deprived of a childhood, education included. Poverty destroys lives and today at YuvaLok High School most of our students are innocent victims of this poverty.

Out of the 475 students, many of them are from dysfunctional homes with single parents. While youngsters would love to go and play in the evening, some of these children work and earn a small income just to support the mother who is working all day either as a maid in some houses or as a labourer at some construction site. Some of our students deliver newspapers in the morning and are up as early as 4am and then come to school. Hardships multiply and there is no respite from it.



With all the challenges that our students face at home and in their own environment in their community, it is noteworthy to state that they still have a smile on their face and look forward to another day in school with their teachers and friends.

At YuvaLok, we do all it takes to provide quality education to all our students. While teachers do their best to impart wisdom and knowledge they also have challenges that slow down their passion and zeal. They have to face the stark reality that some of their students are not quick to grasp and have other learning disabilities. But its “never give up” and together the student and teacher join to make another beautiful day of learning.

At the Hennur School, we have classes from Standard One to Ten. While the students from Standard One to Five learn their subjects in the local language Kannada, from Standards Six to Ten the medium is English. This in itself is a big challenge. We are hopeful that in the next academic year we will have a complete English medium School. As you would have read in the stories of Ranjith, Leelavathi, Saraswathi and Shwetha, each child in our care wants to make it big. Your investment in us makes them chase their dreams. As our students dream become a reality then YuvaLok’s dream of seeing communities transforming becomes a reality. Together we can!!



Inside the Anna Vahini van

## Anna Vahini

Anna Vahini means food vehicle. This program started off with its punch line “Wining them back to School”, a vehicle that was designed to take hot nutritious food to our students and also for non-school goers in other parts of the city. Today Anna Vahini has become a program by itself. Meeting 900 meals a day and the morning nine grain organic porridge, Anna Vahini has played a key role in the health and well-being of each child in YuvaLok. Meeting 2/3rds of the daily nutritional needs of each child this program is scaling up to meet needs of lot more children just not in Bangalore but outside the city and state.



# Dreaming BIG

Leelavathi closes her eyes and dreams of celebrating a festival with pomp and show. She dreams of becoming famous, making her parents proud.

She opens her eyes to the stark reality confronting her, its poverty surround her and taking care of her father who has lost his memory in an accident and mother who suffers from epilepsy. Her hopes for her future vanish like dew on a blade of grass in the morning sun.

But soon a silver lining shines through YuvaLok in her life. Leelavathi never imagined that a simple change in her circumstances would have such a big effect on her life, and she is glad that YuvaLok found her.

Ask Leelavathi her first memories of YuvaLok School and with a smile she recalls with joy those blissful days of playing on the swing, listing to beautiful stories and imagining herself in those stories and also the memories of playing with colorful building blocks and soft toys.

Leelavathi is a hard and smart worker and desires to achieve her dreams of being a topper each year in academics, becoming School Vice-Captain in 9th standard, and enhancing her skills in singing and dancing.

Leelavathi never imagined that a simple change in her circumstances would have such a big effect on her life...

Her ambition is to become a doctor and liberate her family from poverty.

One of her proud moments was when Leelavathi participated in a fashion show (for a charitable cause) where she walked the ramp with India's famous model Mr. Varoin Marwah and upcoming Bollywood actor Mr. Rajkumar Rao. It truly was a proud moment not only for Leelavathi but also for YuvaLok as the work of YuvaLok and its services to the community was highlighted.



## YuvaLok School – Kannur



In 2007, while the quarries were being blasted and labourers were in the hot sun crushing stones, their children were found playing around in the mud and dirt. In a survey done, there were over 500 such unschooled children. YuvaLok approached the Quarry contractors and told them that they should encourage the labourers to send their children to our school. YuvaLok agreed to take care, teach and provide their nutrition. Soon with the help of the local panchayat we were able to establish the school and over the years this school has grown to be a model school in the area especially for migratory children. With over 200 children coming to school each day, we soon had to expand the infrastructure, which the local panchayat helped us with.

Parents who attend the PT meeting are a happy lot. They are all smiles as they talk of the many learnings the children have had at school and share at home. Their gratefulness is what encourages our teachers to go that extra mile because they are not in it alone. Together, with local support, parents support and the children's eagerness to study, YuvaLok School Kannur, will grow to meet the needs of a lot more children who cannot afford education.

The students, who come to YuvaLok School Kannur, are mostly rural poor and have migrated from the north of India. Language is a big challenge but most of them in six months have shown good progress in speaking the local language.

## Pressing On...



When Abdul Suban was 3 years old, his mother fell mentally ill, his father was embarrassed, did not want to live with his wife and so abandoned his family. The society they lived in, tortured and harassed the family, forcing them to leave everything behind and move to another locality where they live with their aunt, grandmother and a younger sister. His mother was then sent to a rehabilitation centre.

Abdul joined YuvaLok School in the kindergarten section in 2012. He was emotionally lost and would hardly speak to anyone. He felt isolated, alone, abandoned and constantly fell sick. His teachers did not give up on him, they gave him the support, guidance and counselling with which he was able to overcome his emotional setbacks. Presently, Abdul is determined to put in his best and not give up on academics. His desire is to be united with his mother someday soon.

## Corporate Social Responsibility

At our schools we have volunteers from various companies who spend a day or come a couple of times a year to invest in our students. We have had corporate volunteers from Dentsu, Thomson Reuters, HCL, also from overseas. We have had volunteers from different countries especially from the Netherlands – Marnix Gymnasium. A team of 8 to 10 students along with their teacher, come every year in the month of February and spend a week or two with our children, teach them exciting outdoor activities and also raise support for the work of YuvaLok.

The Corporate that stands out in supporting and volunteering with YuvaLok for over 9 years is Target India. Our students love it when they engage them in career guidance, games, hands on training in computers, sports at their campus and the various competitions Target organises for the NGO's it supports. We are proud of our partnership and support we receive from Target, meeting a part of our educational and nutritional needs for our students.





The sun sets on another day and Mr. Murali, our school's administrator, is walking towards his home, enjoying the coolness the darkness brings a girl yelling out rips through the silence calling out "Anna, tharkari thakolie, kadume bellae" in the local language meaning, "Brother, please buy my vegetables, it's priced less". Mr. Murali turns around to see a young girl, about 11 years, sitting on the footpath and selling some vegetables! He was shocked and wondered why this girl wasn't in the safety of her home this late in the evening.

He found out that this girl, Shwetha, and her brother Ashwin (10 years) were living in an impoverished community that kept them away from school and forced them to get a small income by selling vegetables.

Shwetha and Ashwin can't contain their joy at the thought of being back to school...

These kids were very interested in studying but were unaware of opportunities that were available.

Mr. Murali took this opportunity, met and requested their parents to visit YuvaLok's Office the next day. The parents turned up, finished the required formalities and were happy to see their children back to school and free from the streets selling vegetables which under the child labor act is an offence as both their children were less than 14 years old.

Shwetha and her brother Ashwin can't contain their joy at the thought of being back to school and in their new uniform with new friends. There are many children like Shwetha and Ashwin who are deprived and robbed of a childhood for no fault of theirs. YuvaLok reaches out to such children through their parents/guardians and restores them their rightful space.



# NEVER give up

Knowing what it is to be poor, barely able to afford the basic so called luxuries of life; this is the world Saraswathi grew up knowing. When Saraswathi's father's health took a turn for the worse and he had to stop working. Her mother worked as a housemaid. But her income could not support both home and school.

They made the difficult choice of not sending their kids to school.

But there came a bright side through friends who told them about YuvaLok School.

Free education, nutritious meals, free uniforms and note books – it was a truly a surprise gift for the family.

Saraswathi joined YuvaLok from Class 1 and as a student, she consistently excelled in her studies and was a class leader throughout her journey in YuvaLok becoming CCA Captain in 10th standard for 2015-16. She is now studying Statistics and Commerce at SJRPU College and is keen on gaining a Bachelor of Commerce Degree.



**She can't wait to come back to YuvaLok and inspire other children to follow their dreams.**

Saraswathi says her father and the teachers at YuvaLok are the people who have supported and motivated her. She says the workshops, seminars and the Leadership and the Discipleship weekly classes have molded her, given her real life education and the confidence to face life's challenges. The career counseling by the Target team has facilitated her to decide the path she wants to follow.

She can't wait to come back to YuvaLok and inspire other children to follow their dreams.

# YuvaLok Schools – Chamarajanagar

YuvaLok's Five Schools in Chamarajanagar District of Karnataka is being managed by Prasad Educational Society.

While Four Schools are for the rural poor, the School at K-Gudi is for the tribal children of the forest. Total number of students - 527. Standards - One to Seven.

1. St. Peter Higher Primary School, Nagavalli Village, Chamarajanagar Dist.
2. Nirmala Higher Primary School, Chatipura Village, Chamarajanagar Dist.
3. Nirmala Primary School, Kudlur Village, Chamarajanagar Dist.
4. Little Star Primary School, Gulipura Village, Chamarajanagar Dist.
5. Tribal School, K-Gudi, Chamarajanagar Dist.



Chamarajanagar is known for its perennial drought condition. Rainfall is scanty and agriculture, which is the main occupation, is affected. This has resulted in poverty and many families are in debt as opportunities for earning a living is less. YuvaLok has stepped in to provide education for these children in its care. At the school in Nagavalli, lunch is provided for the students.

Soon the other schools too will be provided with the required nutrition. Many students have excelled in their studies and even in the area of sports and games. This is the Third year the Tribal school is running and parents have expressed their gratitude to the YuvaLok for starting a school for these tribal children inside the forest. The school is in a make shift shed and needs reinforcement and strengthening. We are hoping the government will give us land and permission to build a school in the forest for these children.



# Vocational Training - Threads of Life

At the **'Threads of Life'** Vocational Training Centre both at Hennur and Kannur, the women trainees are given holistic training for 12 months in tailoring, spoken English, computers, numeracy, greeting card making, candle making, screen printing (optional), health and hygiene and life skills. At the end of the training, all the successful graduating trainees are guaranteed of getting a job with a decent salary to support themselves and their families and thereon to live a life of dignity and hope.

YuvaLok give them a sewing machine as a parting gift so that they can also work from home and earn a decent livelihood. Tailors are always in demand. Girls trained at our Vocational Centre have got jobs on completion of training immediately with a starting salary ranging from Rs. 5,000 to 7,000 a month.



At YuvaLok, we believe that transformation in communities can come about faster when the women are empowered more than the men. Women are more keen to see their children attend school and don't want them to go through the misery they are presently in. So an empowered mother / women can bring about the desired transformation in a child, in a family and in the community.

# Mankulam School for Tribal Children

YuvaLok in partnership with Mankulam Education and Charitable Trust runs a school for the children of this backward town on the outskirts of the Idduki forests and for its tribal children. Mankulam is prone to heavy rains and landslides; power cuts are very common cutting off the local people from communication and at times groceries for long periods of time.

The school initiated in 2014 has 66 students with 7 teachers providing education and taking care of the emotional, physical and psychological needs of the tribal and poor children. As the forest area is very hilly, the settlements are far apart and transportation is a big challenge but students come on time through the transport arranged by the school.

The children enjoy a nutritious mid-day meal and safe drinking water and as and when required. Apart from sports, other educational and cultural programs were conducted bringing in awareness among the tribal students the importance of need of such activities.

For the community, counseling for parents and students is regularly being done. Seminars on education, parenting, time and money managements are being organized both for parents and the local tribals. YuvaLok and MECT have opened a community center for the local people and even for the government bodies to conduct their meetings.



Tribal Students picked up from the forest



# PICTURE GALLERY



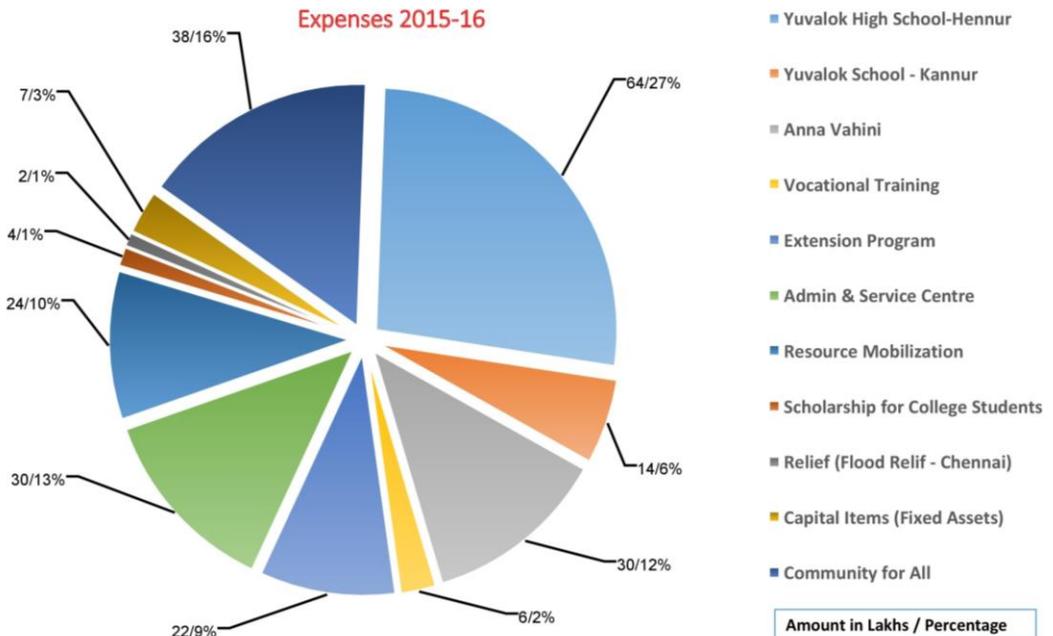


## Finance

At YuvaLok Foundation, care is taken to see that every rupee is stretched and put to good use and that there is no wasteful expenditure. We express our thanksgiving to God for providing our needs and very often at the real time of need. We take this opportunity to thank all our donors and well-wishers who have supported us and helped us to truly invest in the lives of the underprivileged children and women.

It is because of your large-heartedness we have progressed over the years. The diagram shows you the revenue that came in and how the money was spent.

Do email us if you want a copy of our audited financial statement. It will be sent to you on request only.



# Our Partners



Our Special thanks to

M/s R. Ramakrishnan & Co. Chartered Accountants, Bangalore

Mr. Raj Patel, Management Consultant, Oxford, UK



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