Dear Friends,

We at Diya Ghar are a Bangalore-based NGO that serve children of migrant construction workers through education, nutrition, healthcare and well-being initiatives. We started in 2016 with a vision for all children, irrespective of their economic status, to have access to a nurturing pre-school education. Our mission is to set up pre-schools and day care centers for children of migrant workers (specifically those living in temporary blue tent settlements) in Bangalore, and expand to other cities in India.

It has been three years since our inception and we are reaching new milestones in providing education and nutrition for the children of migrant labourers. We settled into the bigger centre we had recently moved into and added 30 more children this academic year. In January, we opened our 2nd centre to another 30 children from a migrant settlement in Horamavu. We currently operate two Preschool and Day Care centres serving a total of 90 children. We are excited that 18 of our students graduated in April and enrolled in primary schools. Towards the end of the year, we partnered with Mphasis to launch our 3rd Centre in June 2019! 2018-19 has been an impactful year for Diya Ghar and that’s a testament to the commitment and compassion that our team, donors, CSR partners and volunteers have continued to show each year since 2016.

My favourite story is that of Onvarsh, back in 2016, when I used to pick up the children myself in our car. Onvarsh was always one of the first children who was ready and waiting for me! His parents were planning to send their children back to the village, but seeing Onvarsh’s progress at Diya Ghar, they decided to enrol him in an Affordable Private School. Do read more about him in the Change Stories. It hasn’t always been easy. We’ve had to face many challenges - but we have learned to overcome each one of them even as a small 8-10 member NGO. We are now looking forward to the new growth ahead.

Our Board has laid out a new strategic plan that involves setting up at least 10 schools across Bangalore reaching over 1,000 migrant children. Our goal for the next year is to establish the 3rd Centre for 45 children and iron out operational challenges in running multiple centres.

We look forward to working with you and making this world a better place for migrant children like Onvarsh living in blue tent communities across Bangalore and the rest of the country!

Warm Regards,

Saraswathi Padmanabhan
Founder & Director
Saraswathi Padmanabhan
Founder & Director
Passionate about investing in the lives of children, Saraswathi embarked on this journey in the beginning of 2016. A trained Montessori teacher and Counsellor, Saraswathi has a deep understanding of child development. Saraswathi also holds degrees in accounting and worked as an auditor in California. She completed her undergraduate in BITS, Pilani, and her graduate studies at California State University.

Shyamal Kumar
Trustee
Living in Bangalore, Shyamal could not escape witnessing the challenges migrant workers had in providing primary education for their children. Together with his wife, Saraswathi, he was inspired to take the Montessori system of education to children from such backgrounds. Shymal holds degrees in electronics engineering and management from BITS, Pilani. He serves on the Board of Yuvalok Foundation, and is a visiting teaching faculty on Leadership at St. Andrews Center for HRD, Coonoor.

Our Team:
Uma, Teresa, Grace, Naomi, Pinky, Saraswathi, Padma, Darathy & Shridhar (not in pic)
The Diya Ghar team strives to make sure children from migrant communities experience nurture and receive education.

**VISION**
For all children, irrespective of their economic status, to have access to stimulating & nurturing pre-school education.

**MISSION**
To set up preschools and daycare centres for children of migrant workers in the city of Bangalore and expand to other cities in India.

The Diya Ghar team strives to make sure children from migrant communities experience nurture and receive education.
The children from migrant communities that Diya Ghar works with have no reference to education or how a regular school operates. Generations of them have never been to a school and working with them requires a unique approach. We work with a specially designed activity-based Montessori curriculum to help children with such backgrounds receive foundational education in Math, English and Kannada which would help them to transition into any government or private schools in India. They are also introduced to extra curricular activities like singing, dancing, arts and crafts.

Children living in blue tent migrant communities struggle to stay warm in the cold winters of Bangalore. In addition to education and nutrition, we also provide children with warm clothes & blankets for the winters, footwear, hygiene kits, etc. Hygiene kits include soaps, toothpaste, tooth brush and other items that help them avoid a myriad of illnesses they would otherwise be at risk for. We conduct medical camps to make sure children are in good health and anyone needing treatments would receive them in time.

Migrant labourers who live in blue tent communities struggle to make ends meet with their meager daily wages. Most families consume very basic food which does not help their child develop physically and cognitively. As a result, the children from these communities have anemia and low immunity levels. Hence our nutrition program covers 2 important meals of the day making sure the children get their daily nutrition from these wholesome meals. Additionally, we also provide daily snacks, milk and eggs to all our children at our schools.

We actively search for new blue tent communities and encourage migrant parents to let us work with their children. We educate communities on the benefits of education, nutrition and proper hygiene. For already enrolled children, we share each child’s progress during Parent Teacher Meetings to encourage parents to continue their children’s education further, even if they have to travel back to their villages. Parents now can foresee a better future for their children.
Children are picked up from their blue tent settlements and brought to Diya Ghar.

Children start with a nutritious Ragi porridge made with Milk and a fruit in the morning.

They learn Math and Language (English and Kannada) using various Montessori materials.

Children enjoy a hot and tasty lunch which includes an egg.

In the afternoon, our children enjoy getting their hands dirty and unleashing their creativity with arts & crafts.

Children are transported into another world through stories.

The children are so full of energy and come to life when we start singing and dancing after story time!

Around 4 pm children are served milk and a snack and then children are dropped back to the homes around 5 pm.
Our biggest challenge is to get parents to send their children regularly to school as many families are gone for 1-2 months during festival seasons. We decided to work with them in spite of this challenge and find ways to still impart good education for their children.

Our graduates are equipped through our program to excel in any school they enroll in. Our alumni are known to do very well in school because of the foundational education they have been provided.

Thanks to 120 generous donors, Diya Ghar now has its own van! We no longer have to depend on a hired vehicle to bring our children to school. When the Children see the school van approach the settlement each morning, they can’t wait to climb in. Without providing transportation, these parents wouldn’t have the means to send their children to school.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 18 children graduated our Montessori program in April 2018 and joined schools.
- 30 children continued education from the previous year.
- 30 new children added in the 1st centre.
- Started 2nd centre with 30 new children.
- A total of 90 migrant children being educated and transformed.
- Over 80% of parents attended PTMs.
- Parents mindset now changed to support their child's education.
- Partnered with Mphasis to set up the 3rd centre next year.
- Purchased a School Van to pick up and drop children daily.

WE GOT WHEELS!

Our graduates are equipped through our program to excel in any school they enroll in. Our alumni are known to do very well in school because of the foundational education they have been provided.
**Preschool Education**

- 18 children graduated in April 2018 from our foundational education program and have joined public or private schools in Bangalore or their villages.
- With 30 children in April 2018, we enrolled 30 new children in June 2018, and added another 30 children for our 2nd centre in January 2019. We ended the year with 90 children on our rolls.
- Our average attendance was 66% which is good considering that these families spend several months in a year at their villages.

**Nutrition**

- 8800+ lunches served, 17600+ healthy snacks served this year.
- 90 children across 3 centres were given milk, eggs, and porridge.
- Children got to eat fruits and vegetables on a daily basis.
Community Development

- 4 Parent Teacher Meetings at 2 centres.
- Encouraged parents to continue supporting their children and they have shown a keen interest to see their children succeed beyond their expectations.
- Parents are making sure children maintain general hygiene.

Child Care & Medical Care

- 1 General Health Camp, 1 Eye Camp and 1 ENT camp was held for children in both our centres and follow up treatments were provided for children who needed it.
- Warm clothes, blankets, slippers, handkerchiefs, under garments and hygiene kits were provided periodically to every child.
When we first enrolled Adiyapa, we did it so that his three-year-old “big” sister Lakshmi would be able to come to school and not have to stay home as his babysitter. At first Adiyappa did exactly what was expected of him: he cried nonstop and stuck to his sister. Little did we know that in a few weeks, Adiyapa, all of 1.5 years old, would grow into a keen learner. It’s been amazing to watch him playing with cylinder blocks, and “see” his neurons firing. It just goes to prove how important foundational education is in a child’s development.

Kumar and his family are from Bellary and had moved to Bengaluru in search of work. When he was about 3 years old his parents realised that Kumar could neither speak nor hear. They had little choice but to ignore his problem and leave for construction work every morning. They would come home to find Kumar agitated, unable to express himself. At Diya Ghar he has the space to work at his own pace. We see behaviour changes like kindness, compassion, and joy. Kumar loves school and is first in our pickup van. Kumar is not the only example of such children who need to be helped.
CHANGE STORIES

KIRAN
A FATHER’S PRIDE

When Diya Ghar first approached Kiran’s dad to take the 4-year-old to school, he was dismissive of the idea. Kiran couldn’t speak properly, he said. There was no point sending him to school, he added. It took two months and many more conversations for Kiran’s dad to finally agree. Today, after one and half years of being enrolled in Diya Ghar, Kiran can speak clearly for his age! In fact, his favourite activity at school is reciting nursery rhymes. For the first time since Kiran joined Diya Ghar, his dad attended the parent-teacher meeting. He beamed with pride as he saw all that Kiran had been learning. Kiran will be graduating in April 2019 and his dad is determined to continue sending him to school.

ONVARSH STARTS
“BIG” SCHOOL

When we first met Onvarsh, he was running around in the settlement barefoot, rolling a tyre with a stick. We were able to enroll Onvarsh in Diya Ghar as one of our first students. Over the next two years, we saw little Onvarsh explore Montessori materials and eagerly soak in all the learning. In April 2018, we were thrilled to present Onvarsh with a certificate as he “graduated” from Diya Ghar. Through his time at Diya Ghar, we were also able to convince his parents that education is a way out of poverty. Despite their initial reluctance, his parents now believe in the power of education. We helped him get enrolled in first grade at Greenland Public School and are partially sponsoring his school tuition fees. We recently met Onvarsh in his new "big" school. His new teachers report that he is doing well in class. We couldn’t be prouder of the little guy! Communities are being transformed, one child at a time!
**Support Received**
About 35% of our donations come from Corporates and Social Organisations and the remaining 65% comes from individuals, HNIs.

**Our top donors - Corporates and Social Organisations:**
- Accel Partners India LLP
- Bangalore Ladies Circle Charitable Trust
- Flatworld Solutions Private Limited
- Hiranyagarbha Foundation
- Mphasis F1 Foundation
- Omidyar Network
- Polycab Premiers Pvt. Ltd
- Resurgent India Limited

**Donations from Individuals**
3 crowdfunding campaigns on Milaap and Donatekart
Donations from close to 350 individuals across platforms

---

**FINANCES**

- **DONATIONS** - RS. 38,58,288
- **PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION EXPENSES** - RS. 25,49,489
- **ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER EXPENSES** - RS. 1,45,214
Diya Ghar’s vision is to reach 1,000 children through 10 preschool centres by the end of 2020 so we can help more Children like Kiran. It’s a big dream! But we found that unless we dream big and we dream bold, things stay the same. In the next year our goals are to establish the 2nd Centre that was started in Jan 2019; set up the 3rd Centre by June 2019 which includes setting up the centre with all the learning material, hiring teachers and enrolling new children.

Thank you for joining hands to serve children of construction workers!

"We continue to press forward in our support for migrant families and their children to have an opportunity for a better life!"

THANK YOU
WWW.DIYAGHAR.ORG