



Dear Friends

Greetings from Plustrust!

We have just turned five and we are fifteen fellows strong! The year has been satisfying on many counts and we are happy to share the highlights! We have continued our fellowships and worked on six of them this year.

“Our Schools Our future”

The film ‘Our Schools , Our future” was completed in September 2013. We shared it with those engaged in the education sector and interested in it. We find that there is growing interest in working with SDMCs. A screening of the film was organised on the Plustrust day (May 7th 2014) at Bangalore. The gathering of about 50 people included fellowship holders, well wishers, trustees, school leaders from four schools in Kanakpura Taluk, activists from CCL, CRT-RTE forum, Makkala Jagriti, Akshara, Childreach India and Kilikili . Two members from the Sathi team helped us with organising the screening. Ms.Vaijyanthi form Akshara facilitated a discussion on the impact SDMCs can make on the quality of education in schools. The interaction was lively and thought provoking. To view the film please click on <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/kFO0Flxqjxpxzg4TX5A>

Jeevan Utsav

We organised a Jeevan Utsav in Itarsi on 4th and 5th August 2013 with help from our fellows there. It was a platform for connecting and networking for the 70 participants. Dairy farmers, people running Ghoshalas, Government veterinary doctors, activists working with dogs came together under one roof and deliberated together on animal welfare. Youngsters were able to meet the activists and service providers and understand their work. The meeting was first of its kind in the district especially on animal welfare. Three people came forward with ideas to work on animal welfare and this led to one fellowship too.



'Jeevan Utsav' at Itarsi MP



'Jeevan Utsav' at Itarsi MP



Ms. Vajjayanthi, Akshara at the Screening of 'Our School Our Future'



Screening of 'Our School Our Future'

Fellows workshop

The highlight of the year was the Fellows Workshop organised in May 2014 along with the Plustrust day celebration fulfilling the long standing desire of our fellows to come together. It turned out to be a very interesting group of 16 people with Plustrust fellows, young people on the threshold of testing out their ideas and professionals in social work sector participating. An overview of the discussions is presented on page 3.

The impact of the workshop came home to us when Sujay Raju, one of the participants shared how he has been able to concretise his project idea and even evolve a logo. Asweetha from Tirunelveli, TN, has also initiated her work, her fellowship application has been processed very recently.



Plustrust Retreat for past and future fellows

The road ahead for Plustrust

The workshop offered us an opportunity to reflect on Plustrust too. We agreed that our purpose continues to be relevant and our values - compassion, fairness and equality, the courage to speak one's mind and openness to listen to others - continue to be meaningful. In addition to fellowships, our actions direct projects (such as the SDMC film), awareness building activities (such as Jeevan Utsav) and workshops for Social entrepreneurs (like the fellows workshop) have also proved to be effective. We believe in shared leadership and look forward to some of our fellows taking greater responsibility in our trust. (Refer Graphic Page 13)

We need to focus on financial management so that we have effective revenue to grant balance. We would like to anchor /manage fellowship programmes of others and cover fellowship costs through income from our projects such as the SDMC project. Some clusters of our work emerging are: creating access to education and vocation, educating women and girls and preventing victimisation and violence against them, using media for improvements and animal welfare in small towns.

Some Personal Updates

Shanti has been unwell for a while and is on her road to recovery. Smriti has been more active this year and could travel to Bangalore with little Tejas in tow to be fully present in the retreat. Lalitha's book 'Rescuing Railway Children' was released in November and has been useful for others interested in the issue. Ravi Ramaswamy has moved on to other work, after completing our SDMC project. Most of our fellows have stayed in touch helping us as needed and our volunteers like Ambedkar, Sharanya and Pradnya continue to help us regularly.

We are grateful for all the encouragement and we look to you for continued support. Best wishes ,

Lalitha ,Shanti, Smriti 31st July 2014

Fellowships July 2013-June 2014

Shweta Choubey, a post graduate from TISS inspired by her summer placement in Bharth Calling took up Vikalp to provide vocational education for youth. She explored options like home based crafts for adolescent girls and zeroed in on computer-based skill development platform to feed into the ITES market. She has established the foundation for such work and it is proving a successful mode.

Pragyan Mohanty approached us with her idea on providing adolescent girls training in personal safety in Bhopal. This is particularly relevant in view of the strong movement in the country for women's safety. She has been able to train a few trainers to work both on the self-confidence and the self defence skills of young girls in poor neighbourhoods.

Lewitt Somrajan is setting up science labs in under resourced schools in Pune and sought our support for six months while he worked on the prototype. He is now ready to run a larger programme and has found the funding he needs.



Science Labs for under resourced schools, Lewitt Somrajan

Fellowships July 2013-June 2014

John Yengkhom from Nagaland feels the need for more direct contact between people of the North East and the rest of the country. He has been working to promote citizen journalism to build more bridges. During his fellowship period he worked on bringing in a course to enrol and train CJs in the North-East

Manoj Rathor is passionate about the well being of all creatures and got to know of us during the Jeevan Utsav in Itarsi. He has worked on his idea of providing water and shade to birds on roof tops to help them survive the heat of summer with the help of community volunteers who host bird shelters on their rooftops. (picture of bird shed fabricated by Manoj for a resident Mr Deepak Soni.

Angela Davis has been working on the issue of trafficking and the forcible dedication of young girls as Joginis in remote locations in Mahabubnagar district of Telengana. She observed the challenges the children of Joginis face due to large scale discrimination especially in schools. She has set up resource centres in five villages to guide and support their academic progress and emotional well being.



Bird shelter project, Manoj Rathod, Itarsi

Participants in the fellows workshops

- 1 Sandeep Mehto
- 2 M .Padma
- 3 John Yengkhom
- 4 Lewitt Somarajan
- 5 Ch Angela Davis
- 6 Tejaswini M
- 7 Smriti Kedia
- 8 Shreya Bhattacharya
- 9 Ambedkar P
- 10 Sujay Raju H
- 11 Arcahna Kumari
- 12 Asweetha Shetty
- 13 Neeraj Chaudhary
- 14 Pradnya Keskar
- 15 Greeshma Rai
- 16 Sai Pranav A



The Plustrust Retreat at Bangalore (8th-10th May 2014) was facilitated by Ms.Vibha from New Delhi. The participants shared their personal journeys, dreams of work and personal future with each other. They also reflected on their personal life, challenges and how they balance the various aspects of their lives. They found similarities as they shared deeply with each other and felt very connected emotionally. As one member put it, "they think and talk about their projects until a stage comes when You become like a project only!"

They worked on their vision for the future with V Sridhar and gradually the imagery for project began to take shape. They began to sketch their images which they shared in the group in a unique non verbal approach to vision building. They reflected on the balance between social purpose, market orientation , altruism and complexity in their enterprise ideas.

They had opportunities to interact with several experts on Social Enterprise. Darshan Mundada from Ashoka Foundation and he shared the approach of Ashoka foundation as well as his own experiences. Vikram Rai of Sattva spoke of his own the choices and the work of Sattva. He summed up his approach saying “A Social enterprise has the heart of NGO and brain of a company. When doubts arise it is important to put the social factor first”. Vivek Raju, raised fundamental questions about education and shared his experience in communicating the message correctly.

Ms. Pradnya Keskar lead them into an exploration of teamwork and leadership through games and activities. This was loads of fun and great learning too.

Ms.Gayatri Sriram a well wisher spent time getting to know the Plustrust fellows by hosting us a traditional Kerala dinner at a near by restaurant

Action Planning

The concluding day was entirely spent on action planning. Participants summarised their priorities-personal as well as project level and shared with another person.



Plustrust fellows 2010 - 2014



Plustrust Retreat for past and future fellows

PLUSTRUST IN 2018

VISION 2018

10/12 fellows annually, 4 fellows on animal welfare, long term work with SDMCs and MDMS

Value based LEADERSHIP

driven by Trustees & Volunteer Fellows

CORE FOCUS

Inclusive education & animal welfare
Fellowships,
SE Development Programs
Awareness building
Scholarships
SDMCs in Govt. schools

MANAGEMENT

Finding staff, Finance, Improved selection & mentoring

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY

Volunteers, advisers, donors, Other SE incubators