

THE IMPACT ISSUE

APRIL 2017

We have deliberately called this newsletter an Impact Issue because for an NGO like us, our work is of no value if it does not have impact and show evidence of change. In 2003 when we started Parikrma, we were riddled with questions of how we would survive and sustain ourselves. We were questioned about how we would scale and meet the needs of millions of children. We brushed aside those questions and just focused on creating Impact. The Parikrma Model is all about how to change the story of the poor. Today we have survived fifteen eventful years and created a pathway to spread our model to several government schools.

Our guiding principles have fortified us. We believe in equality in its true sense. We also believe that equality has no meaning without quality. We believe that passion and compassion has to be delivered hand in hand to create transformation. We also believe that the best way to scale is to spread the idea of change through collaboration and inclusiveness. The Parikrma beliefs of being grounded on humility and knowing that there is much to learn has stood us well.

We now have 300 students pursuing higher studies in engineering, medicine, law, hotel-management, design coding and even animation. We have software engineers in multinational companies, nurses in reputed hospitals and assistant managers in accounting firms. We even have entrepreneurs who have started restaurants and event management companies. And their parents have changed as well. They now earn better, each has a bank account, attend our English classes and can sign their children's report cards. This is the unfolding of many stories of transformation.

Today we have taken this learning to government schools through our Education Transformation Centre where we are training teachers of 200 government schools and are creating a leadership model in the Manjunath Higher Primary Government School in Maruthinagar, Bangalore.

We can change the narrative of the poor, one child at a time. And we can do it together.



Shukla Bose
Founder-CEO



Parikrma Alumni turn into Budding Hoteliers



Students put up a show for Annual Day



Parikrma Carolers at the Christmas celebration



EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Creating an equal learning platform

Budding Socially Engaged Scientists

Parikrma Festival of Science: With the vision of fostering collaborative rather than competitive discovery among school children, the Parikrma Festival of Science aims at creating a platform for students across sections of society to go beyond their textbooks and explore the realms of science in the outdoors. Back with its 3rd edition, this year the Parikrma Festival of Science, supported by Synopsys and held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research in February was themed on '*Soil & Agriculture*'. 200, grade VII students, across 42 private, government and public schools, donned their white lab coats to celebrate the spirit of Science.

It is an opportunity for students to not just learn science but understand the impact it has on everyday life. A child may request his teacher to provide an example of how soil degradation occurs, but do classroom curriculums allow for discussions on the consequences of soil degradation in the social world? The Parikrma Festival of Science gave students an opportunity to explore, experiment and question the topic through Soil Audits, Soil Testing Experiments, first hand exposure to an Agro- Fair and a Mock Parliament Session on the 2017 Agricultural Budget. But more importantly it gave students from different backgrounds a chance to learn from one another.

Students visit an Organic Farm during Festival of Science



Shaping Change Agents

Global Youth Leadership Summit (GYLS): Every year for the last 7 years, Parikrma has been sending two of their grade 10 students to San Diego to attend the Global Youth Leadership Summit initiated by the Anthony Robbins Foundation. Aimed at empowering tomorrow's leaders, the program hosts leadership workshops as an opportunity for younger generations to take the lead and make a difference in their community. Each Parikrma student that has attended the program returned with a new perspective.

Kruthi's Journey at GYLS

"Now, in my 2nd PUC, I look back at my GYLS days two years ago and feel happy. I remember when I first found out that I was selected to go. My parents were very proud of me because I was the very first member in my family to go abroad."



"GYLS was truly a lifetime experience for me. I have never travelled such a long journey before and the fact that I did it made me feel like I can actually take care of myself. I learnt so much about new cultures, food and people. I even realized that the definition of a leader that I thought of was very different from what a leader actually is. A leader is someone who can connect with a group by understanding them and interpreting their weaknesses and strengths and using that to lift people. I realized that unless you connect with people you can never bring change. I carried back home a lot of knowledge and decided to become a responsible community member. I took the initiative to raise funds for my junior, a UKG student called Pratibha who was very ill and required a kidney transplant. With all my learnings, I was able to raise sufficient funds for her operation and I felt like I had done something of value. I would like to thank Parikrma for giving me this wonderful opportunity".

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Scaling the Parikrma Way™

In Parikrma we always believe in providing our students with the best possible exposure, be it for school lessons or life lessons. Getting our students to join forces with students from different schools and different backgrounds has always been paramount. With our ETC program in place our teachers and students are working closely with government school students. It serves as a great opportunity for our students to act as role models to them, be it as simple as helping them improve their English skills or even becoming a good friend.

Ain't No Mountain High Enough!

In the month of April 2,300 of our students were invited to watch the inspiring film Poorna by Rahul Bose which is based on the life of Aditi Inamdar, the youngest girl to climb Mount Everest. We saw this as a great opportunity to invite government school students as well. The theatre was bustling with a union of Parikrma students and Government school students all geared up to enjoy the movie. At the fin, each and every student emerged awestruck. What better way to inspire young minds than through stories of young people!

Parikrma students geared up to watch the film Poorna



#BeBoldForChange

Every girl, regardless of whether she belongs to a private school, a government school or a non-profit, deserves the right to her opinions and her ability to voice that opinion. At Parikrma, we not only believe that but practice it. From a young age we give our girls an opportunity to stand up and stand out. One such opportunity presented itself on International Women's Day when British Council invited our girls to share their opinion on what a gender inclusive world means to them for the #BeBoldForChange campaign. We even invited students from our government school counterpart to share their views. It is not just about opportunity but about equal opportunity!



Campaign against Violence at the #BeBoldForChange conference

"Women are exploited every day. As they run like seconds trying to chase the minute hand of the clock to catch their dreams which are being stolen by a warped society , a Male Dominated one. The sad part is that this ends up exploiting even the youngest of girls. But some women have not allowed their wings to be caged but have instead unleashed the warrior in them to face these challenges. By this 'She' has become even stronger. The government has of course played their part in trying to help these women. But if you really want to stop violence against women you need to first change from within"



- Senora, II PUC student at Parikrma

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Changing a community...One child at a time

The Community Development Services (CDS) plays a pivotal role in the day to day functioning of Parikrma. The progress of a Parikrma student has a direct link to their family life. A stable family equals to a motivated and happy child. This is where community intervention comes into play. CDS looks into the family care and health care of both the child and the family. At Parikrma every family is monitored – right from marital issues to health problems to financial problems and so on. Family counselling sessions, health check- ups for parents, breast cancer awareness camps for mothers, parent responsibility workshops, better hygiene workshops, career counselling and even single parent counselling occur through the year between the parents, the CDS team and even the teachers. It is this consistent intervention and connection with the community that results in stable families, stable homes and motivated students!

Parikrma Adult Literacy Program: On July 5th 2016, we initiated the Parikrma Adult Literacy Program, sponsored by Tata Communications. The aim of the program was to emancipate our students' mothers financially and more. What better way to do this than through education. In the last year, close to 100 eager and highly motivated mothers come 5 days a week to learn Basic English, Basic Computer skills, advanced tailoring and a Beautician course. Now, many mothers can sign their name in English, form simple sentences which they practice with their children and can even use Microsoft Paint. This is more than just skill building. These mothers walk out feeling more independent and many have even got full time jobs!

| Community Achievements 2016-2017 |
|--|
| Student Drop-out rate% - less than 1% of students |
| Parent attendance at PTA – 95% attendance |
| Fathers in the Alcohol deaddiction program – 16 fathers |
| Bank accounts opened by families – 790 families |
| Fathers who found higher paying jobs – 460 fathers |
| Mothers who enrolled in the Parikrma Self Help group program – 165 mothers |



From Daily Wages to Daily Dosas! A Story of Hope..

Harish and Anjali, parents of Parikrma students Shivaranjani and Abhilash had been in a financial crunch since the children joined Parikrma. This led to frequent fights and marital problems. He was a security guard and she was a housewife, which made it tough to make ends meet. After numerous counselling sessions with the Parikrma CDS team, Anjali joined the Parikrma Self- Help group and this slowly cascaded into both of them starting their very own mobile canteen business. Now, after 4 years of its inception, they are both able to make close to 700 rupees a day and over the years a lot more stability has come into their lives. Both of them are very excited about their venture and hope to soon start their own restaurant.





A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Using sports to compete on equal terms

Finest in School Football!

Parikrma Champions League: After raising the bar of Bangalore's School football for the last five years, the U-16 tournament took the Bangalore Football Stadium by storm from the 24th to the 26th of November 2016 once again. This year PCL stood for Quality Football. With 3 outstation teams and 13 of Bangalore's best, the level of the game went up by notches. To match the rigor on the field we had a lot of action off the field. We set up a large LED screen with custom made animations; live video feed and a tunnel for players to walk onto the field feeling like professional footballers. Each team was also provided with nutritional meals and healthcare facilities. We even had professional scouts and spotters on the field to select ace players for State level Tournaments.

Over the last two years, PCL has also become more than just about football. With our corporate partner CGI, it has developed into a leadership platform for CGI employees. Right from scheduling to entertainment and management, employees bring their A game. But more than this, PCL is an opportunity for even the most under privileged to rise and prove their worth. Champions, on and off the field!

Parikrma team playing the Quarter Finals at PCL



Coaches across Continents

In November of last year, Parikrma signed up with Coaches Across Continents, an International organization that uses football as a social impact tool to give underprivileged children life lessons and develop leaders. They had a one week training where Parikrma coaches, footballers and alumni learnt about issues such as conflict resolution, gender equality and the likes through the medium of sports.



Bend it like Parikrma FC!

BDFA Division B Football League: At Parikrma football is religion and every game is a joyous one. In May 2016, the fervor went up a few notches when the team, an incongruous bunch of alumni, staff and students earned a promotion to Division A after winning the BDFA Division B Football League. This was a cause of huge celebration for the Parikrma family as the team, who were considered the underdogs jumped from Division C to Division A in a span of 2 years. Never before has BDFA seen such a meteoric rise. In Parikrma, this is much more than just football. It is an 'Economic Leveler' for many of these boys. Their accomplishments in football are their turn at being given an equal opportunity. Being seen as heroes and role models by the younger ones in the school and community, football has become a way of life for them. Through sheer hard work, discipline and the guidance of coach Ravi Babu, Parikrma FC rose from underdogs to wolves!

Parikrma FC celebrate after winning the BDFA Division B Football League



Support Parikrma FC at the next Division League

#ParikrmaFC

TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

Parikrma students lead the way

At Parikrma, teaching our children to take initiative, exude confidence and express themselves has become a part and parcel of every teacher's daily lesson plan. Perhaps it is for this reason, that anyone who walks through our gates and interacts with our students talk about how friendly, outgoing and confident they are.

Parikrma Youth 'Light Up Lives'

A few grade 8 students from Parikrma collaborated with students from Delhi Public School and helped raise funds to provide a solar lighting system for a hamlet that had no source of electricity in the Chindalvadi district of the Kanakpura Forest Range in Karnataka. With the guidance of the MGIRED team who sourced and installed the lighting system, the group of students went to the hamlet, spoke to the families and even learnt that the children in the family didn't have light to do their homework. Over and above learning the workings of a solar panel, students learnt the value of even the most basic of amenities. Truly an eye opening experience!

Students install solar panel in Chindalvadi hamlet



'Pages of Parikrma'

One fine day in the month of June 2016, a few English teachers, Bidisha, Sushmita and Debasree from the Koramangala branch, were trying to decide what the next class project should be. Upon being impressed by some of the students' creative writing they decided to get them to start a school newsletter. Word spread across the school and they decided to host interviews for various positions. To their astonishment, over 60 students applied and that's when they knew this would be a hit. The first newsletter went to print on 4th July 2016 and now after a year with around 20 students as members of the newsletter and 4 issues, the Pages of Parikrma has turned into a platform of expression and initiative for our students. With editor, deputy editor, photographer, graphic designer and researchers, it all comes down to the students. From idea to reality!



Pages of Parikrma team



"I decided to apply for the post of Editor because I believe I am a good leader and a good writer. I saw this as a good opportunity to channelize my talents and improve my English skills as well. I also thought it would be a lot of fun!"

Karnika, Grade 9, Editor of Pages of Parikrma

THE FINAL LEAP

Keeping our promise to our students

At Parikrma, our Alumni are a true representation of our journey and where we stand today. Any achievement of theirs is a huge source of pride at Parikrma. When Parikrma started its journey our first batch walked in at the age of 5, eager and curious to be in an environment very different from the one back home. As first generation learners, as we call them, it was then that Parikrma made a promise to their students to help them become self-sustainable, Change Agents for their community and for the larger social world. Today, after 14 years, many of our alumni are either pursuing their higher education or pursuing their dream jobs as engineers, lawyers, managers, dentists and accountants. We can proudly say that we have kept our promise to them, and will continue to do so with each new face that walks into Parikrma.

From their Final Leap in Parikrma to their very own Start-Up!

Just like every group of guy friends sitting and talking about starting their own business, Srinivas, Mahesh and Vijay, currently part of the Parikrma alumni and close friends, got together 3 months back to start their own event management company called 'Events For You'. They are still pursuing their higher education but always had a desire to start their own company and after a lot of planning they finally translated their dream into a reality. With their business card and company registration, they are well on their way. With Shukla akka's guidance they are getting connected with other event management companies and will soon organize their very first event. Dreams do come true!

"This is a dream come true for us. I remember how back in our school days the three of us would sit in the last bench and talk about our company. We are really happy that this is actually coming true and we need to really work hard on ensuring that our company grows".

**Srinivas, Parikrma Alumnus and Co – Founder of
'Events For You'**

Rajshekhar's F&B journey!

As part of the first batch of Parikrma, Rajshekhar joined in UKG and completed his II PUC with us as well. Walking out as a proud student of Parikrma at age 19 he decided to pursue his dream in the hospitality industry. After working for 4 years at Sweet Chariot as Unit Manager, Rajshekhar gained the confidence and experience he needed to start his own restaurant. In January of 2017, with the support of his mentor, Rajshekhar started 'Fresh Fusion' at the JP Morgan office in Bangalore. With an assortment of continental savory foods and desserts, Rajshekhar and his team have had a good start. With numerous challenges and milestones, Rajshekhar is not only learning how to be a good manager but also a good entrepreneur.

Rajshekhar with his team at his restaurant
'Fresh Fusion'



BE A MENTOR

Making a difference to their tomorrow

Stepping into employment can be a daunting experience for many. More so for our students who have to step out of the protective shell that the school has provided for them. Today's corporate workplace is rapidly evolving and many of our students are struggling to understand the range of options and exposure that students their age from a privileged background are implementing. Right from which career option to choose to finding the right path to that career, our students step into a college or a corporate environment feeling a little lost.

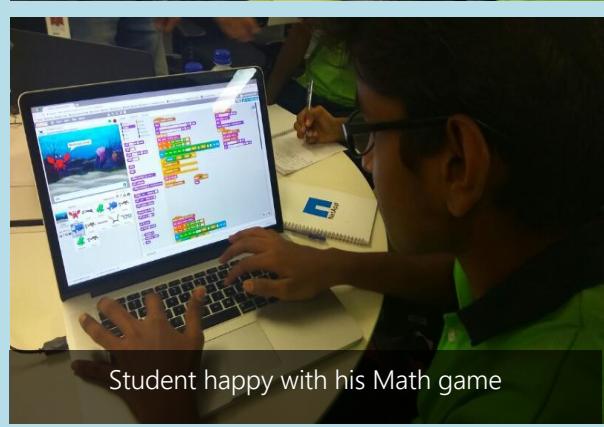
The Parikrma Mentorship program aims to bridge the gap between our students and the corporate world by matching suitable mentors to students. Mentors with similar occupational interests as students guide them with career counselling, soft skill development and any other assistance they might require. But more than this, mentors help students prepare for their future. They motivate, inspire and help students become critical and independent thinkers.

Netapp helps students Up their Digital Game: For the last one year Netapp has been an ardent supporter of the mentorship program. Netapp, being in the IT sector, have a select group of highly motivated employees who have been mentoring our I PUC Science students and developing their skills in Scratch Animation software. Students are using Scratch to design educational games for their 4th graders. This collaboration has been about so much more than just skill development. More than spoon feeding answers to students, they are being taught how to use google to find solutions. This is a very successful method to develop critical thinking and independent thinking in students. Over and above this, each student know that they have someone they can rely on when they begin their corporate journey!

Ingersoll Rand makes Alumni Work Ready: For the last six months, Ingersoll Rand has matched employees to mentor 5 of Parikrma's alumni who are currently pursuing their higher education in various fields of engineering. The mentoring is directly linked to helping them become ready for the corporate world by guiding them in their presentation skills, enhancing their resume and campus recruitment interviews and more over advising them on their future plans.



Netapp mentor and his students work on Scratch Animation



Student happy with his Math game

Balaji, Netapp employee and his journey as a mentor...



"I really enjoyed working with the Parikrma kids. When they started, coding and programming was very new to them. Yet within a few sessions they were able to get a hang of it and were well on their way. What was amazing was how each team came up with their own unique ideas. They showed great team work and it was very satisfying to watch them work. This mentorship program allows them to aspire for greater things. They have made a connection with the mentors and can always reach out to them in the future. Personally, I learnt that mentoring is more about guiding students towards an answer instead of providing the answer."



PASSION WITH COMPASSION

Creating a more responsible future generation

Parikrma Dog Project

At Parikrma we believe in doing things a little differently. Our children are special and so are our teaching methods. One such example is Parikrma's effort to teach life skills such as empathy, responsibility, accountability and compassion to our students by taking care of dogs. Each of the Parikrma schools has adopted a dog from the streets and each dog is named after a Shakespearean character from favorite novels read by our students. All classes that are in their best behavior are given the responsibility of looking after their school pet. From walking them, to feeding them and playing with them, students are taught about ownership and responsibility. In fact, time with the dogs is a privilege earned by the students and not a task to be checked off their list. Getting a chance to look after the dogs is far more treasured than a gold star for good behavior. It also removes the fear of animals which many of our children develop from a young age owing to their exposure to street dogs. This project does so much more than a moral science class.

Volunteer leaves corporate job abroad and joins Parikrma family

"A lot of us are dissatisfied with earning money but not being able to nourish our soul. I too found myself in the same dilemma 15 months ago. I was well accomplished professionally but unhappy with my contribution to the betterment of the less privileged. While visiting Bangalore I found Parikrma's site and decided to volunteer. From the first week I was sold on the mission statement of Parikrma. The children have led their lives in great tumult and pain and many a times as teachers we are their only source of love and care. The satisfaction I get every day from seeing their faces glow with understanding and knowledge is unparalleled to any professional achievement. I am proud to be a member of this foundation which believes in empowering not only the students but also their parents and the communities they come from, to rise above their circumstances and create a better life for themselves".

Bidisha Chatterjee, Teacher at Parikrma

Students with Jayanagar dog 'Bianca'



Saffy rescued by Parikrma student and finds a 'Furever' home



Slumdog wins a Million Hearts...

Saffy and Rithik's story is one that not only melts hearts but also stands as a testament to the values imbued in Parikrma students. An animal lover at heart, Rithik found the wounded pup near the school gate after her foot had been run over by a motorcycle. He instantly picked it up and brought it to his teacher for advice. Along with Parikrma staff he carried the pup to the vet where she had to have her foreleg amputated. While at the vet, a concerned Rithik visited her regularly to check on her condition. We even started a drive to find her a foster home and after much effort she was fostered by a kind lady in Bangalore called Sangitha who lovingly named her Saffy. In a few months she was adopted by a Parikrma volunteer, Fiona; who lives in the UK. Before Saffy left for the UK to start her new life, she visited Parikrma to thank Rithik, the boy who saved her life!



GOING BEYOND PARIKRMA

Adopting the Manjunath Higher Primary Government School

Parikrma is committed not only to changing the lives of children, but also influencing the broader landscape of education in the country. Parikrma's scaling model is not only about scaling, but also about spreading the Parikrma Way™. This is what the Parikrma Education Transformation Centre (ETC) , launched in 2014, aims at doing, one government school at a time. ETC was created with the vision of replicating the Parikrma Model of Teaching amongst government schools by completely revamping the way a teacher is prepared for a classroom. So far, ETC has conducted 31 training sessions for teachers from 16 government schools in Bangalore and over the next 5 years we plan to reach out to over 100 government schools across Bangalore, train more than 500 teachers and in the process impact the education of almost 100,000 students.

A big leap taken by Parikrma was in the month of February 2017, when Parikrma adopted the Manjunath High Primary Government School in Maruthinagar, Bangalore, sponsored by Trio School. The Parikrma ETC team will be working closely with the teachers of the govt. school to conduct teacher training sessions that will include teacher sensitivity, English skill development, effective teaching and leadership skills, teacher student interaction, parent teacher meetings, increased student achievement and feedback sessions. All carved out of the Parikrma Way™. In just a month's time, the school has seen multiple firsts initiated by Parikrma. First time the school has been painted and cleaned. Their first ever PTA with 80% attendance from parents. The highest so far! A Teacher Consensus Meeting was conducted, giving teachers a platform to share their opinions and views on the curriculum. They even celebrated their first Annual Day where parents were invited on stage, given prizes and made to feel more involved. Teachers and parents are excited about this new merger. #ChangelsOn

Parikrma Wave painted on school wall



First Parent- Teacher Meetina



Parents receive award at Annual Day



About Parikrma Humanity Foundation: Parikrma Humanity Foundation is a non-profit organization providing the best possible English language education to the poorest from the slums of Bangalore, India since 2003. Parikrma also provides each child 3 meals a day, comprehensive healthcare and family care. Now in its 14th year of operations, Parikrma manages K-12 education, through 4 Centers for Learning and a Junior College for 1700 children coming from 70 slum communities and 4 orphanages. For more on Parikrma, log on to www.parikrmafoundation.org or write to us at info@parikrmafoundation.org.