



PODIUM

A Quarterly Newsletter by Prakhyata Abhinand Charitable Trust
Jan-Mar 2022



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FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

Reuban Daniel Chandrasekaran

Greetings to you from PACT! Thank you, dear friends, supporters, and well-wishers for your solidarity through 2021-22, for your heart-warming faith in our goals and vision. This has allowed us to make progress via collaborations, outreach, and partner empowerment. Restricted resources propelled us to explore new avenues where we identified committed volunteers who helped with strategic planning, operational efficiency, and mentoring of our staff.

In 2022-23, we plan to scale up our programs in terms of reach, funds, and impact. Our work has earned us community support. The needs and demands of Child Care Institutes have led to new ideas. Our strategy and plans have been meticulously validated and reviewed to eliminate potential financial risks in the COVID era, thanks to our governing board, advisory panel, and mentors.

As we continue to work for the children with special needs who are orphaned, abandoned, or surrendered, it is heartening to see we are not alone in this journey. Many hands and hearts have joined this movement in the last 6 months. Our volunteer base has increased two folds from 2 years before. We have a diverse and resilient team that faces challenges with positivity.

Though the times are more unpredictable than usual, we stand strong in our mission to give the children we serve the best life possible. All we need is to stay human towards their suffering.

Stand with us and spread the cheer. Stay blessed.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Reconnecting with Humanity

I remember the time I met Reuban. I was interviewing him on the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) program of The Association of People with Disability for the website. I was impressed with the depth of knowledge he had on the subject, how closely he connected with the challenges faced by people with SCI, and his passion for the work of rehabilitating them.

Some years later, he contacted me to ask if I'd like to work with him for his new NGO, PACT. The NGO was very nascent; my fees though subsidised for NGOs, still too high. But Reuban's passion and PACT's vision struck the right chord with me, and we devised a way to work together.

My work with PACT has grown over time and it has been a journey of great learning. The cause itself – serving orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered (OAS) children with special needs – connects with me strongly. I remember asking Reuban once, "What happens to those children who don't make it to the child care institutes?" And he said, "I guess they're on the streets."

I have never forgotten that.

PACT's vision was always clear. The growth strategy however has evolved before my eyes. Though I have only worked in the background, it has given me great pride to see PACT grow, widen its circle of impact with partnerships with government and other NGOs. I hope and pray that the day will soon come when no child, with or without special needs, is left to fend for herself on the streets.

We need organisations like PACT in every state and city of India.

Remote but not separated

I have not met Merlyn (PACT's co-founder) yet (shocking ... but the pandemic and convenience of technology have made me lethargic I think 😊). I have interacted with the PACT team on Google Meet and calls alone. Even so, when I share the social media posts, see the work they do in the unscripted form I receive, I can feel the love and compassion that flows into their work. It's a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of people.

Shifting focus

Organisations like PACT are the reason I chose to offer digital marketing services to nonprofits and businesses that align with my inner values. And I don't regret it one bit.

I may not always be rewarded with financial wealth but the universe does bless us with enough for our needs, not our greed, as they say. I have come to appreciate and value different forms of wealth – community, social, spiritual, emotional and mental – all of which I have received in abundance in the last few years.

It is my belief that every person should spend some part of their life working for a cause they connect with, simply to reconnect with our humanity and experience a sense of unity with the world. These areas are where most of us have become poor, with the mad pace of life robbing us of our innate values.

I hope PACT's work grows and more people come aboard to make the world a better place for OAS children. I believe the aphorism - when people get together with the right intentions, the universe contrives to make things happen. That has certainly been the case with PACT.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts here. I end with my everyday prayer. May peace prevail on Earth.

Monica Samuel

Consultant (Social Media Marketing & Communication), PACT India



PROGRESS UPDATES

Organised screening camps in a Special Adoption Agency (SAA) of the Government of Karnataka, in Bangalore.

Conducted 5 capacity building training for caregivers of OAS children in Bangalore, Davangere and Gulbarga.

Distributed a custom sports wheelchair for an adopted child who got rehabilitated from PACT.

Conducted a need analysis for accessibility audits for 3 CCIs in Bangalore, Gulbarga and Davangere.

Identified 2 CCIs for the ROOTS program.

Partnered with 1 CCI for the WINGS program.

Received training on processes and updated technology to build a sustainable Standard Operating Procedure.

Formulated PACT's strategy for 2022-25 (3 years).

Delivered an Annual Report (2019-2021) to stakeholders.



KNOW OUR PARTNER

Amulya Shishu Graha is a government run child care home in Kalaburagi. It shelters around 18 children of 0 to 6 years who are orphaned, semi-orphaned, surrendered or abandoned. It is also an adoption agency for children.

PACT conducted the ROOTS program for the child care home in December 2021 and screened 10 children.

Out of 10 children, 4 children were adopted; 6 children identified with special needs were enrolled in the initial rehab program on 23rd March 2022. Among the 6 children, 2 are in the adoption process.

SUPPORTING PARTNER

Motivation India came forward to distribute the customised sports wheelchair to the children from CCIs. One child who got rehabilitated from PACT has received a custom-made sports wheelchair, a first step to achieving his dream of representing India in para-sports.



WE THANK OUR MENTORS

Sincere thanks to our mentor, **Mr Venkata R K Nakkina**, to help us **build our capacity** in an organised manner and helping us in quality management as we work towards our goal.

Mr Aditya Singh, one of our well-wishers, came forward to support us in **strategy development** for the next three years. We conducted various stakeholder interviews as a follow-up activity - 15 in 3 months - to get their perspective on PACT.

A generous well-wisher mentored and supported us on **strategy and planning** through 2021, keeping us on mission. Thank you for the remarkable trust and confidence in PACT's ability to make a difference in the lives of OAS children with special needs.

PACT ACTIVITIES

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION

Rehab sessions were conducted for children in Infant Jesus Children's Home (IJCH) and Amulya Shishu Griha (ASG), Hubli in the last 3 months.

CCI name	No. of children	Sessions	Session type	Program
IJCH, ASG, Hubli	13	77	Direct visits and tele-consultation	Physical and social rehabilitation
IJCH	7	26	Rehab via home visits	WINGS
ASG, Hubli	5	17	Tele-review	ROOTS
ASG, Hubli	6	6	Direct visit for caregivers' training on progression of exercises for the child's development	ROOTS
ASG, Hubli	1	2	Assess, identify, and rehabilitate on speech therapy through tele-consultation, followed by daily training by caregivers	ROOTS

**Apart from the sessions above, caregivers will provide rehab sessions to the children in care homes every day. This is recorded in an activity tracker sheet. The data of 850+ recorded rehab sessions is being uploaded to PACT's MIS.*

The following activities were conducted as part of the ROOTS program, after the ICPS approval.

Sensitisation sessions for care home

- An online sensitization session was conducted on 17th February 2022 for Vani Vidhyashreya caregivers. They were debriefed on the inclusive learning program for the children identified with learning difficulties. Further implementation and planning were discussed in an online session.
- The first training was conducted to get the teleconsultation and hotline services started for CCIs to receive guidance on fighting the current outbreak of Covid. The training, conducted in partnership with [KSICPS](#) and [MFS Doctors without Borders](#), was attended by 150 people including DCPOs, CCI superintendents and other stakeholders.

The sensitization provides awareness about orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children with special needs in the community, their challenges, and the capacity of the ROOTS program to address them. The long-term goal is to build an inclusive ecosystem for children with special needs in Child Care Institutes.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF CAREGIVERS

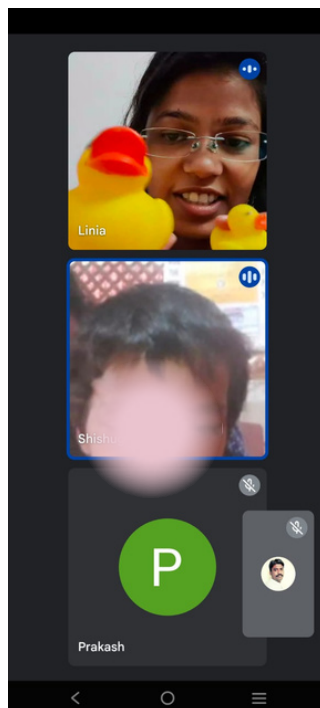
On 5th February 2022, a screening camp was conducted at the CCI, Vani Vidhyashreya, Devanahalli with 2 caregivers, 37 children, 4 volunteers, one well-wisher of PACT India, and the PACT team. Following the screening camp, a sensitization program was conducted for the caregivers virtually, followed by an accessibility audit.

The Phase 2 caregivers training was conducted at ASG on 5th March 2022. Around 11 caregivers including the superintendent were trained on postural care, child care, reporting on the red flags on the screening form. The second phase trained them to focus on individual child care.

The Phase 1 caregiver training was conducted at ASG, Kalaburagi on 23rd March 2022. Around 10 caregivers including the superintendent were trained on basic medical terms and first aid protocols. The trainees were keen to learn and interact actively. The first phase served as a foundation learn the screening, identification, and programming of the initial rehab plan for an identified child.



Mr Nakkina - team building session ↑
Teleconsultation with CCI →



Postural support & training at ASG ↑
Rehab session for ICJH at PACT →
center



THANK YOU, DONORS

Four children received assistive devices from Kingdom Builders. They raised the needed funds as part of their giving initiative.

Ms Pubali donated her guitar and bicycle to the children at the Anandasagara orphanage.

Mr Abhijit Murkerjee donated 2 cots for the sick room in the Infant Jesus Children's Home.

Ms Jyothi, a volunteer, donated to a care home on her birthday.



Screening camp at Vani Vidhyashraya

PACT STAFF TRAINING

Our team met on alternative weekends to build the strategy, conduct mock presentations of PACT's model, and run through the standard operation plan.

One of the team members attended training to convert spreadsheets to a database, simplifying our work.

APRIL-JUNE PLANS

- Organise screening camps in 5 SAA of the Government of Karnataka in Bangalore, Bellary, Dharwad, Gulbarga and Davangere.
- Conduct 5 capacity building training for caregivers of OAS children in Bangalore, Davangere and Gulbarga.
- Distribute assistive devices to children with special needs.
- Run accessibility audits for Child Care Institutes in Bangalore.
- Finalise our operational processes supported by an external consultant and mentor.

On 17th January 2022, PACT completed 2 years as an NGO serving orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children with special needs.

VOLUNTEER AT PACT

SUPPORT PACT

PACT India is committed to rehabilitating OAS children with special needs in CCIs. The Government of Karnataka has recognised our efforts and partnered with us to take the ROOTS program to CCIs in the state. We have also launched the WINGS and End Mile Connect programs to ensure no child is left behind. (More about these programs on our website www.pactindia.org.)

But we need your help.

Corporate and individual donors can adopt a CCI or sponsor the children's rehabilitation costs.



1 Orphanage's
Healthcare Needs for a Year

₹22,500



1 Child's Healthcare Needs for
a Month

₹575



1 Child's Assistive Training for a
Month

₹550



Make an open donation for
PACT to use the funds based on
urgent and important needs

There are nearly 29.6M orphaned, abandoned and surrendered (OAS) children in India. And less than 10K child care institutes (CCI). A significant percentage of these children have special needs. But lack of resources and training at CCIs has these children grow into "disabled" dependent adults.

This MUST change!



CONTACT US

VOLUNTEER, DONATE & NURTURE

Please email your inquiry to info@pactindia.org.

Call us at +91-9379741933.

Visit www.pactindia.org.



HOW TO DONATE

For online donations:

<https://pactindia.org/donate/>

Scan with a UPI app:



For NEFT donations:

Account Name: Prakhyata Abhinand Charitable Trust
A/C No.: 0486073000000945
Bank: South Indian Bank
Branch: Kothanur
IFSC Code: SIBL0000486
Account type: Current

Donations to PACT are eligible for 50% tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, India.