

BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD 2018 – EDUCATION



Katha

Katha has won the PoleStar Award for Best Social Impact organization in Education

Started in 1988 with a magazine for children from the underserved communities, Katha's work spans the literacy to literature continuum. By seamlessly connecting grassroots work in education and urban resurgence, Katha brings children living in poverty into reading and quality education. Over the past three decades, through its many programmes, Katha continues to help over one million children help themselves out of poverty.

Katha has several programmes in place to help check poverty across the country. Katha Lab School, Katha's Slum Resurgence Initiative (SRI), Katha English Academy (KENG), Katha School of Entrepreneurship (KSE), etc. are some of the many programmes Katha runs to ensure the child receives holistic learning. Katha's 'I Love Reading campaign' is an initiative undertaken by Katha to achieve this.

KATHA'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED!

Katha was the recipient of the ICICI India Inclusive Award 2012, the North India Winner of India NGO Awards 2009 and it has also been nominated for the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2011, and for four years continuously from 2013. Katha's I Love Reading programme also garnered recognition for its work when it was awarded the Millennium Alliance Award in 2013 by USAID and Government of India.

For more information visit <https://katha.org/>

BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD – EMPOWERMENT



SGBS Unatti Foundation

SGBS Unatti Foundation has won the PoleStar Award for Best Social Impact organization in Empowerment



Unnati is an initiative of the Sree Guruvayurappan Bhajan Samaj Trust (SGBS). SGBS, founded in 1978, has been in the forefront in bringing best of art and cultural programs 'Utsav' to the general public in Bangalore. In the early nineties, the Trust initiated programs to reach educational benefits to the economically underprivileged sections of our society under the program 'Shiksha'.

Unnati with its core philosophy "Learn- Earn and Stand Tall" aims at youth empowerment. It is a vocational training and transformation program which helps underprivileged youth secure a stable employment. Unnati is a 50-day vocational training program offered at a subsidized cost to the

underprivileged, poorly-educated, unemployed and economically backward youth with an assured job. Unnati enables inclusive growth by empowering families living below the poverty line.

Unnati's mission serves as a blueprint to achieve its vision which encompasses all the vital aspects of a progressive and motivated society that can bring in the required changes for a peaceful and harmonious living. Through its key programs Unnati has incorporated the most important elements for a successful society viz., educated children, empowered youth, with right moral and traditional values, patronizing art, music and culture etc. into its mission.

For more information visit <http://unnatibl.org/>

BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD – HEALTH



SHANKARA EYE FOUNDATION

Shankara Eye Foundation has won the PoleStar Award for Best Social Impact organization in Health

Founded in 1998 by Murali Krishnamurthy, K. Sridharan, and Sridharan's neighbor Ahmad Khushnood with the help of their first donor, Harihara Moorthy. Sankara Eye Foundation has risen to great heights from its humble beginnings. On the urging by of their uncle Mr. P. Balasubramaniam, brothers Murali and Sridharan became motivated to help Sankara Eye Hospital run by Dr. R.V. Ramani, whose mission headquarters is in Coimbatore, India.

SEF initiates and drives community eye care activities in India by working with Sankara Eye Care Institutions (SECI), India, which runs the "Gift of Vision" rural outreach program through Sankara Eye Hospitals in Coimbatore, Krishnankovil, Bangalore, Shimoga, Guntur, Anand, Pammal and Silvassa. Each hospital is set up to become fully self-sustaining within 5 years of service. The Gift of Vision program is based on an "80/20" model, i.e., four free eye surgeries are performed for each paid surgery. Thousands of rural poor have received free eye surgeries.

SEF has its headquarters in Milpitas, CA. It has 100+ energetic volunteer leaders all around the United States.

The majority of SEF's funds are raised through its own events, and booths at other events, donations including Founding Memberships, and advertising. Through these fund-raising efforts, SEF has played a pivotal role in increasing the number of free surgeries for the rural poor more than eightfold since 1998. The annual rate was around 1,00,000 free eye surgeries in 2009.

Funds collected under specific programs are sent in its entirety to India and. SEF provides extensive feedback to its donors on how the money is used. SEF has received 4-star rating by Charity Navigator.

For more information visit <https://www.sankaraeye.com/>

BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD – LIVELIHOOD



KAMALNAYAN JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation has won the PoleStar Award for Best Social Impact organization in Livelihood

Wardha is a land of prominent personalities - Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba and Jamnalalji Bajaj. Jamnalalji was a man of the people – "a fisher of men who had the knack of gathering people around him and inspiring them with his idealism." Very active during India's freedom struggle, Jamnalalji was a philanthropist who delighted in donating most of his wealth for worthy causes. From the beginning, Jamnalalji was always more involved in social and philanthropic activities rather than business. He made Wardha the centre for Gandhiji's economic and social development programmes. He established the Satyagraha Ashram in Wardha in 1921 and brought VinobaBhave to the Wardha Ashram to nurture it into a national institution.

With a view to commemorate the memory of Shri Kamalnayan and Shri Jamnalal Bajaj, the Bajaj family constituted the Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, (KJBF) "towards fulfilling social responsibility and gratitude through continuous efforts for the cause of Socio Economic development of the Society." The vision of KJBF is, "Integrated development of the society through participatory approaches that sets benchmarks and standards for others to emulate for sustainable development" To fulfil this vision, KJBF initiated a number of development interventions in 700 villages of Wardha district since July 2009. The major emphasis is on integrated Water Resource Development and management, Agriculture development, Livestock development, women empowerment and training and capacity building through participatory approaches. Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj (KJBF) also aims to establish a Training and Livelihood Resource Centre to contribute to integrated and sustainable development of the rural community of Wardha district through participatory approaches

KJBF's mission is "Empowering the rural community for efficient and judicious use of human and natural resources to improve the quality of their lives."

KJBF Values

KJBF's values govern the guiding principles of its behaviour, attitude and actions.

These values have been set out to ensure that KJBF:

- values integrity and strong character building qualities
- values the individual, irrespective of his organizational position
- values open, honest and caring communication
- values quality in everything we do to achieve excellence
- values effective inter-personal relationships and teamwork
- values collaboration, networking and partnerships for the common good
- values individual and organizational learning
- values an ownership approach that encourages innovation, creativity and scaling up

KJBF's Approach

KJBF works through a Livelihoods-centred approach to empower the rural community to take charge of their own development in a participatory manner by developing and managing natural resources. The developmental interventions focus on enhancing the income generated from agriculture, which is the principal source of Livelihood. KJBF also promotes alternate agro-based Livelihood opportunities such as Dairy Farming, natural farming, horticulture and Biogas which not only provides additional steady income but allows the rural community to get enhanced quality of life.

For more information visit <http://www.bajajfoundation.org/>

JURY SPECIAL MENTION AWARD 2018



CENTRE FOR ACTION RESEARCH AND PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT (CARPED)

CARPED has won the PoleStar Special Award for Best Social Impact organization in Health

CARPED is an action research group, formed by a group of young professionals, engaged in participatory community development.

The group registered as a Society in 1989 with an objective to facilitate better quality of life in development through community mobilisation, participatory governance based on sustainable natural resource management. Thus community participation, education, protection and promotion of environment and social capital are central to the activities of the organisation. Emphasis on children, women and environment are major areas of attention of CARPED's action research interventions that provide space for the participation and engagement of the stakeholders in analysis and change of the conditions forming the milieu of the people with whom CARPED works. Thus, targeted women are partners in the interventions and important stakeholders. CARPED emphasizes on making policies people-oriented.

CARPED was active in the areas of preventing displacement of the tribal communities, environment education and legal aid as part of larger networks, during the first five years. CARPED initiated activities in Kowdipallymandal of Medak since 1994 with focus on woman and child issues and participatory community development based on natural resource management (NRM). Besides, it continued active involvement in networks, campaigns and movements to facilitate people's development in varied spheres.

CARPED is known for designing and implementing Pilot projects to demonstrate alternative models. Projects include stopping child marriages among Gangireddula community, education to

the first generation lambada children by developing temples of learning in tribal hamlets, campaign against unnecessary hysterectomies, developing IEC material on HIV/AIDS in a tribal language, social audits on BC scholarships.

The Polestar Jury Special Mention Award 2018 for CARPED was conferred for the yeomen service CARPED renders in saving the lives of thousands of women from the hands of unscrupulous medical practitioners by preventing more number of unwanted hysterectomy cases, as pictured below.

"The RSBY and similar health insurance schemes are incentivising unethical practices leading to the large number of irrational and unnecessary surgeries."

Under the RSBY, cashless insurance of Rs 30,000 is given yearly to a BPL family – and a doctor can charge a hefty Rs 12,500 for a hysterectomy. In Andhra, for instance, a hysterectomy can cost up to Rs 60,000 - an amount that was reimbursed under the state's Aarogyasri scheme. As there was scope for quick money to be made in surgeries, private hospitals used registered medical practitioners (RMPs) to refer poor women with gynaecological problems as hysterectomy cases". In Andhra Pradesh, 'aarogyamitras', or health assistants, are appointed by private hospitals to scout around for patients who can be enticed to get operated upon in private hospitals. CARPED was alarmed at the rate of young women operated wrongly for hysterectomy, without their knowledge - due to ignorance compounded by illiteracy. It played an activist role in exposing this illegal and dangerous practice and continues to save large number of tribal and poor rural women from the clutches of the perpetrator.

For more information visit <http://carped.org/>

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