

LK JHA Foundation

Annual Report 2023-2024



AKSHARSPARSH, JAMBHULWADI, PUNE

Nurturing Human Potential

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ABOUT LK JHA FOUNDATION AND OUR PHILOSOPHY

The L.K. Jha Foundation was established in 2018 in memory of Late Shri L.K. Jha who was a renowned economist contributing to India's development in over fifty years of public service.

OUR MISSION

NURTURE: Potential of individuals and communities

TRANSFORM: Adversity of Accomplishment

RESPECT: Those who are privileged to serve Nurturing Human Potential

The L.K. Jha Foundation was established in 2018 in memory of Late Shri L.K. Jha who was a renowned economist contributing to India's development in over fifty years of public service.

The Foundation seeks to carry forward L.K. Jha's vision for an enlightened and empowered world where all people have opportunities and access to educational and social empowerment, irrespective of gender, race, religion and nationality.

The Foundation endeavours to nurture human potential among the disadvantaged in our country by supporting initiatives relating to Education, Health, Nutrition, Energy Supply, Sanitation, Women Empowerment, Family and Child Welfare, etc.

Our aim is to create sustainable independence in rural areas through training and infrastructure development.

CARRYING FORWARD THE LEGACY

LK Jha Foundation works with a vision of having an enlightened and empowered world where all people have opportunities and access to education, learning and social empowerment. Children, women and the underserved sections of society are the primary beneficiaries of the Foundation. The Foundation also believes in rural development as the answer to alleviate the ill effects of rapid urbanization and towards ensuring economic development and sustainability for the people residing in India. The Foundation supports Education, Health, Nutrition, Crisis Intervention, Counseling and Conservation, and Protection of Environment.

LK JHA MEMORIAL LECTURE BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

The Reserve Bank of India instituted a lecture series in memory of late Shri L.K. Jha, who was Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from July 1, 1967 to May 3, 1970.

Shri Lakshmi Kant Jha was a many-sided personality who excelled in several walks of life. He was an eminent economist, a distinguished administrator, an able diplomat, and a sage counsellor. As a person of great expertise and mature judgement, his advice was eagerly sought in India and abroad. He served with distinction as Ambassador to the United States and Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He was a member of the Brandt Commission and at the time of his death, a member of the Rajya Sabha. In recognition of his invaluable services to the Reserve Bank and the nation and to perpetuate his memory, the Reserve Bank of India has instituted a lecture series styled as the L.K. Jha Memorial Lectures.

On September 26, 2023, a lecture was delivered by Prof. Lawrence H. Summers, President Emeritus of Harvard University on the subject 'Global Economic Possibilities for Our Children'.



LK Jha Foundation Managing Trustee, Dipika Maharaj Singh, with the Governor of Reserve Bank of India at the LK Jha Memorial Lecture held by Reserve Bank of India

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE LK JHA FOUNDATION IN 2023-24

In the period 2023-24, the LK Jha Foundation continued its efforts to uplift marginalized communities and implemented several new initiatives across various sectors. These initiatives aimed to encourage, enhance, and empower these communities through development programmes focused on rural development, education, vocational training, healthcare, sustainability, water management, and overall societal upliftment.

Our committed team has worked to provide water, sanitation, electricity, healthcare and education in some of the remote areas of our country and successfully delivered excellent facilities to some of the least served sections of rural India as a way to support rural development.

The Foundation's programmes have been designed to address the specific needs of different segments of the population. For instance, having provided mentorship and support to students who have limited access to educational opportunities, helping them navigate the challenges they face and realize their potential.

Similarly, programmes have been implemented to support women (primarily farm labour) in their personal and professional growth, providing them with skills training and resources to improve their livelihoods. The Foundation's initiatives have also targeted families, offering support and assistance to improve their overall well-being.

The LK Jha Foundation's approach is holistic, focusing on multiple aspects of community development such as:

- Family and Child Development Programmes
- Environmental Projects
- Educational Sponsorship and Rural Education Support
- Women Empowerment

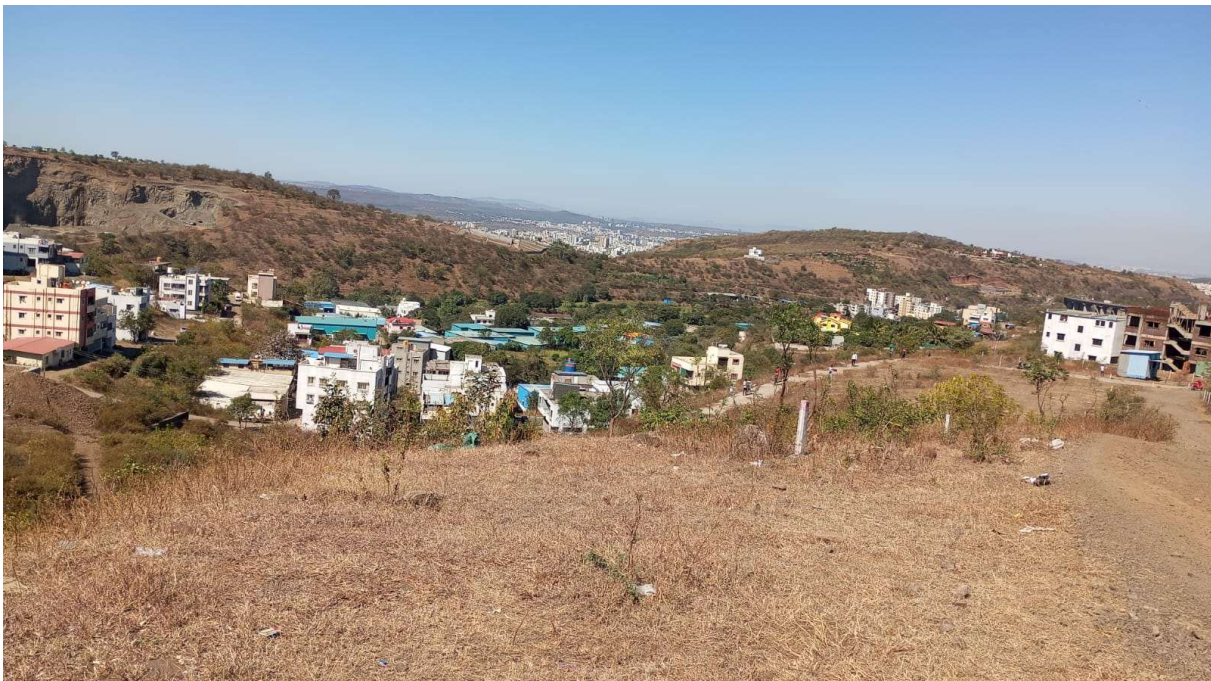
Overall, LK Jha Foundation's initiatives during this period aimed to bring about positive change in marginalized communities by providing resources, support, and opportunities for growth.

FAMILY AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

AKSHARSPARSH

The cause of mentally challenged children is very neglected in Indian Society. LK Jha Foundation identified a programme for the care of abandoned mentally challenged children located on the outskirts of Pune at a place called Jambhulwadi. The childcare center is called Aksharsparsh which was started by a mother of a severely mentally challenged child when she was confronted with the difficulties of caring for her son without any support or resources.

Aksharsparsh is home to approximately 22 severely challenged children and six destitute women. They were housed in shelters provided by the kind courtesy of the Jain community. Space for the challenged residents of Aksharsparsh was very limited. Due to harsh weather and rough terrain, the children had to be kept indoors in a very confined space. Considering the limited area available for children, LK Jha Foundation constructed extension for the space available outside the rooms in the form of verandah which has provided a play area and recreational space for all.



View from Aksharsparsh

LK Jha Foundation also supported Aksharsparsh by providing food and blankets to the children.



AKSHARSPARSH MATIMANDA NIWASI VIDYALAYA

Aksharsparsh Matimanda Niwasi Vidyalaya works for supporting mentally challenged children. Currently, there are 22 children in the institution, and some of the children are orphan while others have single parent.

In the initial phase of the work, a shed was constructed so that the area in front of the rooms can be used as a play area.



The next phase of the work included work on flooring as an extension to the rooms.



AKSHARSPARSH DIWYANGA ANI NIRADHAR MAHILANCHI SANSTHA

Aksharsparsh Diwyanga ani Niradhar Mahilanchi Sanstha works for physically challenged women and for women who do not have any support of the family. The institution gives training to such women and helps them to be financially independent. Till now, 40 women have been trained and they are living independently. Every year, these women sell one lakh oil lamps and one lakh Diwali lanterns. Also, till now, these women have sold one and a half lakhs of cloth bags. Along with cloth bags, the women are expert in stitching fancy bags, purses, torans.

MOBILE CRECHES

LK Jha Foundation supported the needs of children of construction workers at multiple creches run by Tara Mobile Creches across Pune by assisting them to purchase medical equipments such as BP apparatus, weighing machines, stadiometer, etc. to monitor the growth and development of the children.



Medical apparatus presented for children of construction workers at Mobile creches

The Mobile creches provide the facility of day care centers which function for 8 hours everyday, six days a week throughout the year. Children of working mothers from marginalized sections of the community are the organization's primary beneficiaries. Children receive a safe and nurturing environment at the daycare centres that are situated close to the labour tenements at the site.

NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

LK Jha Foundation provided nutritional support to orphan children and children of farm labourers in the pilgrim town of Alandi, Pune.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

RAINWATER HARVESTING AND BOREWELL RECHARGE IN CHIKHALI, AHMEDNAGAR

LK Jha Foundation has completed many projects in Chikhali village earlier. Chikhali is located in Ahmednagar district and is an area with water scarcity. The village already has two borewells in the school premises. LK Jha Foundation has helped with the rainwater harvesting project using the school roof.



Using the school roof, LK Jha Foundation has installed metal sheet to collect the rainwater



The collected rainwater is then channeled to two existing borewells with a view to recharge them

LK Jha Foundation also planted 300 saplings in Chikhali village last year which will grow into an orchard. The recharged borewells will help water these plants.



*Children nurturing the trees through hot summer months
(the trees were provided by LK Jha Foundation in June 23)*

HARVESTING AND RECYCLING THE WATER OVERFLOW

LK Jha Foundation helped a needy village in Ahmednagar district to drill a borewell and install a water tank which fulfills the water requirement of the village. The borewell has a good amount of water resulting in water overflow. The gram panchayat of the village installed a system to harvest and collect the overflowing water to avoid water wastage.



EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND RURAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

SCHOOL STATIONERY DISTRIBUTION

- LK Jha Foundation provided school stationery to the students of Shri Sant Gadge Maharaj Vidyalaya, Pune.



- LK Jha Foundation provided stationery to students of Rameshwar Vidyalaya Chikhali, Ahmednagar.



NON-FORMAL EDUCATION CENTRE, VIDYA NIKETAN, BAMUNARA, WEST BENGAL

LK Jha Foundation, in collaboration with TATA Bluescope Steel, has provided a prefabricated structure as a non-formal education centre for the children of Adivasi community residing there.

It is an innovative project for Adivasi and rural children living in and around Bamunara village in Bardhaman District in West Bengal. It is a lively village hub in the premises of Sri Kunj Trust, Bamunara, headed by Dr. Madhu Khanna in West Bengal.

Sixty children between ages 5 to 15 are enrolled in the school. The teacher tells stories to small children and extra-curricular activities are conducted once a week. The Rural Children Library (RCL) is a treasure trove of knowledge on a variety of children's literature ranging from school books prescribed by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to easy-to-read story books, picture books, alphabetical books, counting books, wordless books, magazines, poems, classical and world literature, spiritual literature, and conceptually framed encyclopedia on the arts, sciences and biographies in English, Hindi and Bengali. Students from years 7-15 read books in the library. Most children read Bengali books which is also their mother-tongue. The school soon plans to introduce music lessons.



HONORARIUM SUPPORT

DR. P.K. ACHARYA LIBRARY IN CHIKHALI, AHMEDNAGAR

LK Jha Foundation helped establish Dr. P.K. Acharya Library and Digital Learning Centre in Chikhali, Ahmednagar. This is a free study center at Sri Rameshwar Art Commerce and Science Junior College. Books on various subjects such as agriculture, engineering, industrial sector, etc. are available in this study center. Varied readers take advantage of this library to fulfill their thirst for knowledge and to help them study for their exams. Various important days and national festivals are celebrated by inviting professors and experts from various fields.

LK Jha Foundation has continued its support to Dr. P.K. Acharya Library and Digital Learning Centre by paying the honorarium to maintain the library and the digital centre.



SHRI SANT GADGE MAHARAJ VIDYALAYA, PUNE

LK Jha Foundation supports Shri Sant Gadge Maharaj Vidyalaya by giving honorarium of two staff members. Shri Sant Gadge Maharaj Vidyalaya is situated in Koregaon Park, Pune and conducts classes till 9th standard. There are a total of 600 students studying in the school. Classes are conducted in English medium for the children from economically and socially deprived community. LK Jha Foundation supports quality education through honorarium to well qualified teachers.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

PROJECT KALPANA IN CHIKHALI, AHMEDNAGAR

In 2021, the LK Jha Foundation initiated 'Project Kalpana', a vocational training centre that conducts tailoring classes for women in village Chikhali. The centre was started as a way of income generation for women in the village and supplementing the family income.

A few more batches of tailoring classes were conducted this year as well.

Due to the problems of the ceiling of the shelter provided by the panchayat, Kalpana project is seeking to be relocated to another space.



RECOGNITION

Our one of the esteemed team members, Ms. Manali Zende-Patil, received the prestigious award, Punyasholk Ahilyabai Holkar Award. This award is presented by the Government of Maharashtra, India, to select institutions and individuals for their work in the areas of social welfare.



OUR TRUSTEES

MR. PRAKASH JHA

Prakash Jha is the inspiration behind the LK Jha Foundation. It was during the L.K. Jha Centenary Memorial in Varanasi that he proposed the setting up of a Foundation to deliver humanitarian services to carry forward the legacy of Shri L.K. Jha.

MR. DILIP DIXIT

Mr. Dilip Dixit is a distinguished Chartered Accountant with impressive experience of 45 years in the field of finance. Currently, he serves as a senior partner in G.D. Apte & Company (Chartered Accountants), a renowned firm in the industry. Throughout his career, Mr. Dixit has acquired extensive knowledge and expertise in various aspects of finance, particularly in audits and inspections of financial institutions.

DR. JAYANT NAVARANGE

Dr. Jayant Navarange is a highly accomplished and renowned medical professional who has excelled in multiple fields. He achieved gold medals in MBBS, DCH, and MD (Pediatrics) from BJ Medical College. Additionally, he graduated with a law degree (LLB) in 1995, securing fourth rank in the University.

ADV. RAJENDRA AGARWAL

Adv Rajendra Agarwal is a highly experienced lawyer with a background in commerce and law. He has dedicated his career to the practice of law, particularly in civil cases and family matters. His educational journey began with a Bachelor's degree in Commerce followed by a Bachelor's degree in Law.

MR. PARESH JHA

Mr. Paresh Dutt Jha is an accomplished individual with a diverse professional background. After completing his schooling from Krishnamurti Foundation's Rajghat Besant School in Varanasi, he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Management from the Faculty of Management at Banaras Hindu University, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Management from Indira Gandhi National Open University.

MR. ADITYA MAHARAJ SINGH

Mr. Aditya Maharaj Singh is a highly accomplished individual who is known for his philanthropic efforts and success as an entrepreneur. He is currently a partner at Lotus Properties and Anand Mindspace LLP both prominent real estate companies. He has deep knowledge and extensive experience of Law, Litigation and Dispute resolution, Architecture, Finance, Town Planning, handling Government agencies and authorities, politics and local governance issues.

MS. DIPIKA MAHARAJ SINGH – MANAGING TRUSTEE

Ms. Dipika Maharaj Singh is known for her extensive work in the field of childcare and adoption. She has a B.A. honours and a postgraduate degree in Political Science from Delhi University. She started her career as a research journalist for the Eastern Economist in 1966. She is a founding member of SPARCC, the SAMARPAN programme for Adoption Research Counselling Consultancy and Care. She served as Vice-Chairperson for SOFOSH, the Society of Friends of Sassoon Hospital, Pune, rendering a range of services for a vast number of patients at this public hospital. She was instrumental in establishing Shreevatsa Childcare Centre at the Sassoon Hospital, Pune, for the residential care of infants and children. She has published numerous articles in international journals, delivered lectures at National and International seminars, and Government workshops.

OUR TEAM

MRS. MADHURI ABHYANKAR – HONORARY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Mrs. Madhuri Abhyankar is a dedicated social worker with over 30 years of experience in the field of adoption and social services. She began her career at SOFOSH in 1984, where she worked at the grassroots level and subsequently with various individuals and groups including patients, children, physically and mentally challenged individuals, vulnerable children, adoptive families, grownup adoptees, and women in distress. She has collaborated with both non-governmental and governmental organizations on diverse social issues. She passionately advocates for the rights of children and has been associated with multiple NGOs.

VINITA DATYE – SENIOR SOCIAL WORKER, CONSULTANT

Vinita is an experienced professional with a strong background in adoption research, counseling and care. Currently, she is serving as a vital member of LK Jha Foundation and of Samarpan Programme for Adoption Research Counseling & care.

MANALI ZENDE PATIL – CONSULTANT

Manali Zende Patil is the Secretary of Janata Janardhan Education Society which runs Sant Gadge Maharaj Vidyalaya to provide free education to children from very low-income families. She is the project coordinator for rural projects of LK Jha Foundation.

V SUGANDHI – COORDINATOR

Sugandhi has worked with the British Council Library for almost 30 years. Besides managing the core library activities, Sugandhi also played an important role in event management, public relations, media coverage, marketing, and student counseling for promoting UK education. As a volunteer with LK Jha Foundation, Sugandhi provided inputs for various project proposals. She helped in setting up a well-resourced library in Chikhali village, Ahmednagar, catering to the needs of local youth. She also provided guidance for the day-to-day running of the library.