Spreading The Joy of Learning Since 36 Years
Children learn as they play. 
Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.

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Modern education is premised strongly on materialistic values. It is vital that while educating our children's brains, we do not neglect to educate their hearts, a key element of which has to be the nurturing of our compassionate nature

Dalai Lama
Muktashala, Aine, Palghar

Our team of 17 facilitators and staff impacted 221 tribal children from balwadi to 10th grade!

Highlights

- 24 children appeared for the S.S.C. board exams this year and cleared with an excellent pass percentage of 96%! This was inspite of the new rule introduced by the Board, with 100% external evaluation, instead of the previous 80% with 20% evaluation by the school.

- As always, the children zestfully celebrated the annual sports day and cultural festival putting their all to make sure that the events were a success and enjoyable for everyone!

- A trip to Aurangabad was the fun highlight of the year, where the children were in awe of the beauty and elegance as well as the historical significance of Ajanta, Ellora, Daulatabad and Bibi ka Maqbara.
The school applied and availed of 18 bicycles from the government for girl students in the 8th and 9th grades, making their travel from far-off hamlets to school a little more convenient.

Thanks to Cognizant Technologies, our school is now equipped with Smart TVs and computers for e-learning!

Archana Khaitan Foundation sponsored the repair of the rain water harvesting ponds on either side of the road leading from the mess to the training hall/dormitory.
Anutai Wagh School, Vikramgad, Palghar

Our team of 18 facilitators and staff impacted 237 rural children from balwadi to 10th grade!

Highlights

- Last year, 11 students appeared for the 10th grade S.S.C. board exam registered from a neighbouring school. The first 3 toppers at this school were our children. Among our students, we had a pass percentage of 91%.
- 3 of our children from 8th and 9th grades – Sagar Badhange, Durgesh Pawar and Saquib Ahmed – cleared Vigyan Pradnya Shodh and Geeta Pradnya Shodh, a district level test conducted by ISKCON.
- The children went on a school trip to Nehru Science Centre, where they could see and even touch a real human brain! Later a group of 6th to 10th graders visited an exhibition at the Science Centre on Bharat Ek Khoj (The Discovery of India) which was very informative.
For the first time, Grammangal Foundation Day, 19th Dec, was celebrated at our school.

On 25th and 26th Jan, the students and parents came together to enjoy Anand bazaar, Palak melava and Sneh sammelan.

A special program was held on the occasion of International Women's Day where the children could express their views on issues.

We could witness natural farming practices, principles of sustainable building, and rain water harvesting on a trip to the eco-village in Galtare, and marveled at the hot water springs at Sativali.

A new school building was under construction under the sponsorship of the Lions' Club of Juhu.

Thanks to Cognizant Technologies, our school is now equipped with Smart TVs and computers for e-learning!

Solar panels were fitted for a supply of 200 kW.

Our old building hall could be repaired with help from our neighbours at Vikramgadh High School, which was undergoing renovation and provided us reusable materials that were being removed from their school structure.

Through a one year study, Impact India Trust conducted free health check-ups for all our school girls, provided consultation and intervention on basic health and nutrition issues where necessary, and also built their awareness about menstruation and sex education.
Learning Home, Pune

Our team of 23 facilitators and staff impacted 105 urban children from balwadi to 10th grade!

Highlights

- A Do It Yourself initiative was taken up last year, where the students of grades 4 to 10 learnt while tinkering at the Science labs at J. P. Naik Resource Centre.
- Every Thursday, the Learning Home became a subject lab for either Math, Marathi or Art for children of all grades.
- Come September, we celebrated Shravan Rang with a cultural programme of dance and music. On the theme of 'Colors', the children also learned how to create varied hues for different applications using natural and synthetic materials.
On a trip to ‘The Farm’ on the outskirts of Pune, the children enjoyed making friends with the numerous cats and dogs on the farm.

The 1st to 10th grade children also went on a 3-day trip to Amboli. For many of the younger ones, this was the first time that they stayed without any contact with family for this long. This trip gave them an experience of independence along with responsibilities!

The children also explored the story of Shivaji Maharaj. As part of this project, a private collector from Mumbai brought his collection of swords for a lecture cum demonstration for the Learning Home kids, where he was ‘gherao’ed’ by these inquisitive minds, eager to know more not only about history, but also about ballistics and balance.
Vikasghars at Wai, Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar

Our team of 140 facilitators of 53 vikasghars impacted 2,429 primary schoolers!

Highlights

- Last year saw the extension of 10 new Vikasghars being sanctioned.
- The mood at the school campus was quite festive on 19 Dec 2018, when a new school building that had been constructed with the sponsorship of the Rotary Club, Juhu was inaugurated!
- A literary festival of the children's writings was conducted, where parents were pleasantly surprised by the abilities of their children. The children then exchanged their work among themselves and expressed their appreciation of each other’s work in letters to each other.
- The evaluation of the children's learning performance showed that 87 to 98% of the children had good learning levels.
- The Kendra pramukh of Wai proposed that we apply the Vikasghar model in all 170 schools of Wai!

Projects

Anandghars, Wai

Our team of 3 facilitators impacted around 40 rural children in balwadi!

Highlights

- Grammangal runs two balwadis in Wai, Satara district, called as Anandghars. Here pre-primary children of the neighbouring areas come to learn and develop their skills in a playful and joyful environment, hence the name Anandghar. In the 2 Anandghars being run, last year there were around 40 students enrolled.
Responsive Care Giving, Pune & Palghar

**Sponsored by:** UNICEF

**About the project:** This program is being piloted by UNICEF in Maharashtra, and Grammangal is the chosen implementation partner in Pune and Palghar. Our goal is for 0–6 years old children to benefit from an integrated package that ensures responsive feeding, psychosocial stimulation and learning, in effect improving brain development and school readiness.

Our team of **13** has a potential impact on children in
- **48,980** families in **6** blocks in Pune and
- **15,720** families in **1** block in Palghar!

With this project, Grammangal has taken a major step entering into the realm of building awareness in society about parenting, as well as forming a new partnership with UNICEF.

**In the year gone by**

It has been an enriching experience moulding role models among the government systems' frontline workers who can positively influence parents and communities on responsive caregiving. Along with this, it has also been a learning for us on how these systems are trying to integrate health, nutrition and early childhood education for each child's holistic development.

**In the upcoming year**

This pilot is expected to be completed in this year, nevertheless, we look forward to a continued relationship with UNICEF as well as more projects in the parenting domain in the future.
Projects

Shikshantar, PCMC, Pune

Sponsored by: Tech Mahindra Foundation

About the project: This is an Educational Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) for pre-primary and primary schools administered by Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Our team of 8 impacted 107 balwadis, 8000 children!

In the year gone by

After 5 years of intervention, a batch of 25 balwadi teachers graduated as trainers for the PCMC. They were under a lot of pressure from community as well as their peers from primary school for ‘preparing’ their students for formal education without any support or guidance from any body. This picture changed when they underwent a transformation through the practice of child-centric learning methodology in their classrooms, understood its importance and evolved as someone who could share her wisdom with the higher authorities and community. They have become confident and are now proud to be Balwadi Teachers.

Teachers were exposed to workshop of English as a second language to be introduced in their classrooms. This needed to put in efforts to first make the teachers themselves comfortable with the language. Within two sessions, teachers could overcome their fear of the language and were confident enough to prepare and present a skit in front of their peers. for any individual to overcome their inhibitions and be able to perform is a great achievement.

In the upcoming year

Grammangal has proposed to develop a resource center in PCMC. With trained trainers at hand, we look forward to the facility being in operation and being utilized by all the teachers who haven't been able to participate in our program till date.
ARISE, Mulshi, Pune

Sponsored by: Tech Mahindra Foundation

About the project: This is an All Round Improvement in School Education (ARISE) program in Mulshi Zilla Parishad Primary schools. Grammangal is Tech M’s knowledge partner to build capacity of teachers as well as partner NGO members for overall improvement in quality of education.

Our team of 8 impacted 52 classes of 13 primary schools, about 500 rural and tribal children!

In the year gone by

The NGO Supervisors showed much improved degrees of acceptance of constructive methodologies. Previously, where we encountered resistance from the participants, by applying strategic alterations in our workshops, we were able to bring about attitudinal changes that have proved successful.

The workshops were conducted simultaneously in each school instead of at a centralised location. This also gave us the experience of conducting the same training at the same time at multiple venues. Each workshop had just 2-4 teachers participating, bringing a keenness of focus at the workshops, which proved advantageous to the success of the training. Our team of trainers worked together developing and delivering modules at different venues, regrouping each time to discuss experiences, learnings and bringing about improvements. This way, 3 rounds in 11 schools were completed successfully!

We have grown in confidence through our experience of holding simultaneous workshops at a time through collaborative effort.

In the upcoming year

Although this project ended this year, our partners are now keen to involve Grammangal in their capacity building program.
Manchar, Pune,

Sponsored by: Mercedes Benz

About the project: This is a pilot for Educational Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) at Ambegaon Zilla Parishad Primary Schools. For the first year, we have started work with 1st and 2nd standard teachers.

Our team of 4 impacted 15 primary schools, about 900 rural children!

In the year gone by

From the get-go, the participatory energy of the teachers was very high. They were open to adopting new methods, behavioral changes and facilitation styles for the benefit of every student in the class. Some were acquainted with constructivist philosophy, and they were practising certain aspects learnt by observation and hearsay. What they needed was the awareness of rationale behind child-centric practices. Kudos to these teachers! they even brought an extra spring of motivation in the steps of our facilitators!

For many teachers today, a common challenge is how to help children who speak different dialects of different languages and coming from different cultures in inclusive ways. One of the oldest members in this teachers’ group shared the story of his experiment, and this helped the group tackle the situation. Hailing from a tribal community himself, and having experienced problems in communication and comprehension that these children typically face when taught in formal Marathi, he had devised practical ways for communicating effectively with tribal children. Grammangal’s workshops thus have provided a platform for the teachers to exchange best practices and work in collaboration.

In the upcoming year

Discussions are in progress with Mercedes Benz for engaging in a longitudinal study of early childhood education in Manchar. We hope to soon see traction on this front.
SNEH Anganwadi, Palghar

**Sponsored by:** Dewan Housing Finance Ltd. (DHFL)  
**Facilitated by:** Samhita  
**About the project:** This program builds the capacities of Anganwadi Sevikas to strengthen the teaching-learning process in Anganwadis. Palghar, Vasai, Dahanu, Talasari and Kasa are embraced in the scope of this program.

Our team of **81** affected **1,892** Anganwadi Sevikas and Helpers across **7** blocks, having a potential impact on **68,364** children!

**In the year gone by**

The investment made in mentoring of Anganwadi Helpers has paid off! Where previously these dedicated women who are crucial to the smooth operation of the Anganwadi, besides creating safe and secure environments viable for children to learn, simply saw their role as cleaners for the Anganwadi and feeders of the children attending.

Through the successful implementation of a strategic decision to change this scenario, and influenced by not only trainings but also effective mentoring, the Helpers' attitude is visibly more self-confident and aware of the importance of the role she plays in the daily lives of every Anganwadi child.

**In the year gone by...**

After the decision to have Bahulighars, or dollhouses, put up in each Angwanwadi, within just 45 days, this was implemented across all the blocks involved in the project.

**In the upcoming year**

- The plan for sustainability is to identify and groom a few Anganwadi Sevikas to be expert ECE trainers, who can stand out as 'role models' and help her peers as 'balvikasaks'.
- We also felt the need to empower ICDS officials, i.e. CDPOs and Supervisors, to bring ECE in focus.
Anganwadis ECE Survey, Aurangabad

*Sponsored by:* UNICEF

*About the project:* This baseline survey was conducted to assess the quality levels of ECE among Anganwadis in Aurangabad.

Our team of **14** studied **232** Anganwadis across **113** beats!

*In the year gone by*

This project gave us the opportunity
- to initiate Grammangal’s work in Aurangabad district, and
- to gain experience in handling standardized tools used in the context of Anganwadis, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, and parents of children coming to Anganwadis.

Kamlatai Kanya Shala, Dhule

*Sponsored by:* Kamlatai Kanya Shala (Govt. aided private school)

*About the project:* What started as a workshop on constructivism in education went on to become a customized literacy improvement program for the school.

Our team of 3 trained 45 teachers of 7000 students of balwadi to 10th grades!

**In the year gone by**

- This project kicked off in Jun 2018 to train the school's teachers from balwadi to 10th grade on the constructive approach to education, its objectives, principles, methodology and some practical techniques and tools. The workshop was to span 12 days over a year.
- During the course of the workshop, from the interactions of the teachers with our trainers, it was acknowledged that many of the school children were struggling with poor literacy skills in Marathi. (Dhule has a sizeable migrant worker population that speaks primarily Hindi and Urdu, some students also spoke Kannada.) It was decided then that we need to address the students' literacy issue, the remaining skills would automatically improve.
- A baseline assessment in Jul 2018 helped us identify 300 out of 7000 students, in need of help in literacy.
- A special teachers' training course was conducted for 12 teachers of these 2nd to 10th grade students.
- 3 study groups were formed to meet on 3 days each week to learn using new learning materials and with the teachers applying the new methodology.

**In the upcoming year**

- An endline assessment will be conducted in Apr 2019 to gauge the progress in students.
- Due to a shortage of school funds available, the training workshop will have to be suspended after 10 sessions. The remaining 2 sessions maybe continued at a later date.
News and Events

Reknowned scientist Dr. Anil Kakodkar pays a visit - Back to basics

Grammangal was privileged to host Padma Vibhushan Indian nuclear scientist, Dr. Anil Kakodkar, at the Aine campus. Dr. Kakodkar spent 2 days absorbing the educational philosophy and methodologies used in Grammangal balwadis and schools, and expressed his appreciation of the important work being done here!
This year too, a group of Swedish students on a 6 month internship exploring the varied aspects of social work in different contexts reached our Grammangal campus in Aine, Palghar. They spent 3-4 days studying how the children learn, along with a taste of the local culture and cuisine!

Today, the fundamental global objective of all education aspiring not only to progress but to the survival of humanity, is to civilise and unify the Earth and transform the human species into genuine humanity.

The Education of the future should teach an ethics of planetary understanding

Edgar Morin
Thank you for your support!

We sincerely thank all the foster parents in our Dattak Palak program. A warm welcome to you all into our ever growing family!

Parag Joglekar       Meghana Kulkarni
Sandesh Lad          Abhijeet Kulkarni
Rahul Bartakke       Sachin Damle
Madhav Vaishampayan  Nandkishor Nere
Ketan Damle          Kushal Dhonde
Vinod Desai          Shilpa Shindagikar
Mandar Kashikar      Sagar Joshi

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the donors who supported us this year, without who we could not have accomplished what we did this year.

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Atul Krishnaji Thakar
Preeti Ranjit Paranjape
Shri Shikshan Sanstha, Dhule
Donation recd from Govt for Cycle
Thane Municipal Corporation
Cognizant Foundation
Support our movement

We at Grammangal dream of a future where every child has the freedom to be driven by their innate intelligence to learn and grow in ways only they might imagine. Our unending work lies in clearing the obstacles lying in the path of growth for the children of today, every day. These are some ways you can support us in our endeavors.

- Connect us with an individual or organization with the capacity to empower educators in your community by
  - Sponsoring an Educational Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP)
  - Sponsoring a training program on Constructivist Education
- Sponsor a child’s education through our Dattak Palak program. You will be connected with the child and kept updated with the progress he/she makes. If you wish, you can also get acquainted and communicate with the child’s family.
- Make a monetary contribution towards the running of our free education programs at Aine and Vikramgad
- By helping students learn from your expertise in a particular field to develop livelihood skills.

Reach out to us

We look forward to getting connected with you. You can reach out to us at

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- The Societies Registration Act 1860, on 03/01/1979. Registration number MAHA/1142/THANE
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All donations to Grammangal are accepted under section 80G of IT Act 1961 vide CBDT Circular No. 7/2010 dt. 27/10/2010.
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