

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Asha for Education
Bringing hope through education
Silicon Valley chapter



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To learn more about the chapter, please view our [quarterly newsletters here](#).

LETTER FROM 2020 Chapter Coordinators

Dear Asha Community,

The year 2020 is one for the books! This year we faced unprecedented challenges in continuing our mission of education for all. However, we also witnessed the Asha community at large and our chapter volunteers in particular rally together to overcome the headwinds brought about by the global pandemic.

In addition to providing continued education to over 37,000 children, this year, we successfully executed our largest seed funding contest, Edu-Impact 2020, committing to \$150,000 in funds to 5 different projects across the next three years. We provided targeted COVID relief and flood relief to the most marginalized communities, to the tune of about \$73,000, impacting the lives of thousands of families below the poverty line. We also initiated the Basic Necessities Project, funding essential infrastructure projects. With over \$580,000 disbursed to 28 project partners, 2020 witnessed our highest ever disbursement (INR) to the projects we support.

With Team Asha (TA) programs suspended due to the pandemic, we were pushed to innovate on the fundraising front to balance our books. We completed our first ever Virtual Spring Run, launched the Asha Learning program, amped up our corporate fundraisers, and reached out to our TA community at large to raise funds. We do not yet have final treasury numbers for 2020, but we expect to have a healthy working capital ratio of about 1.5 when we have them.

2020 was challenging, but it also leaves us content with what we achieved in the year and hope for what we can achieve in the coming years. We can do that only with the support of our volunteers, donors, project partners, and well-wishers. We look forward to your continued support in our mission to catalyze India's socio-economic change through the education of underprivileged children.

With gratitude,
Robin Gupta & Suhas Satheesh



1500+ VOLUNTEERS

400+ PROJECTS SUPPORTED

IN SERVICE SINCE 1991



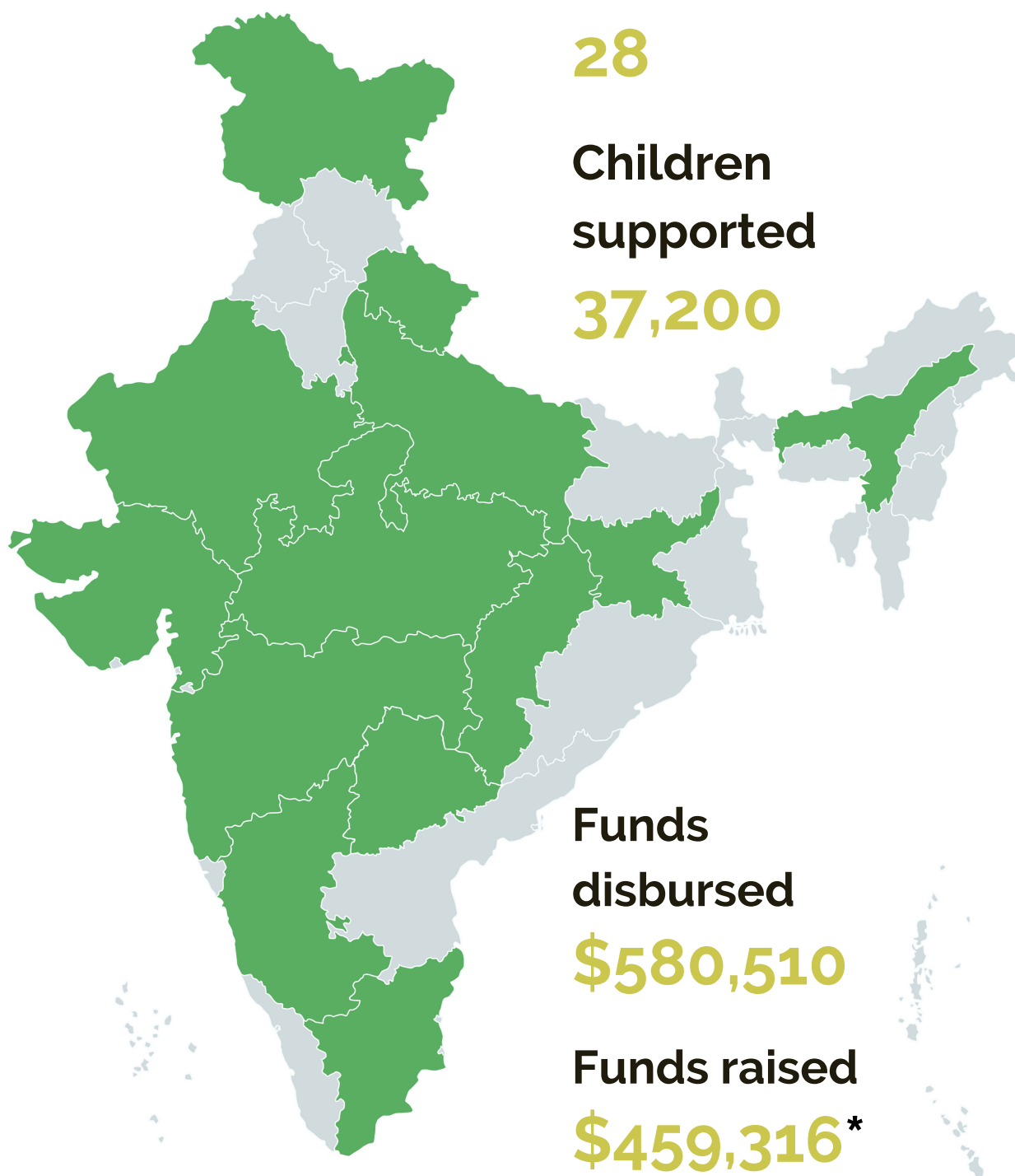
THANK
YOU

OUR IMPACT
in 2020

States
reached
14

Partners
28

Children
supported
37,200



Funds
disbursed
\$580,510

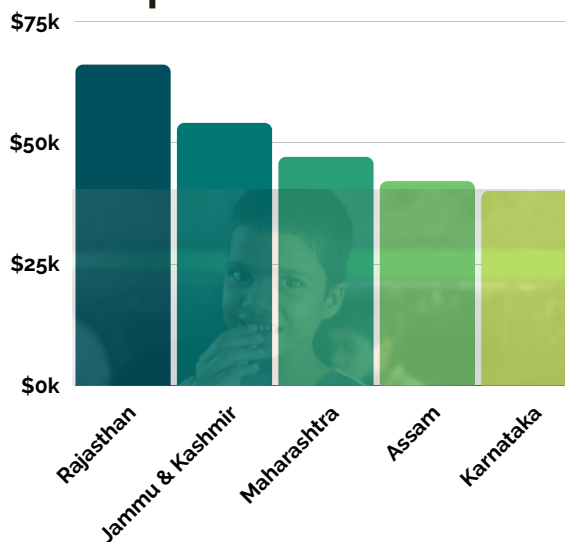
Funds raised
\$459,316*

*Final numbers to follow

OUR IMPACT in 2020

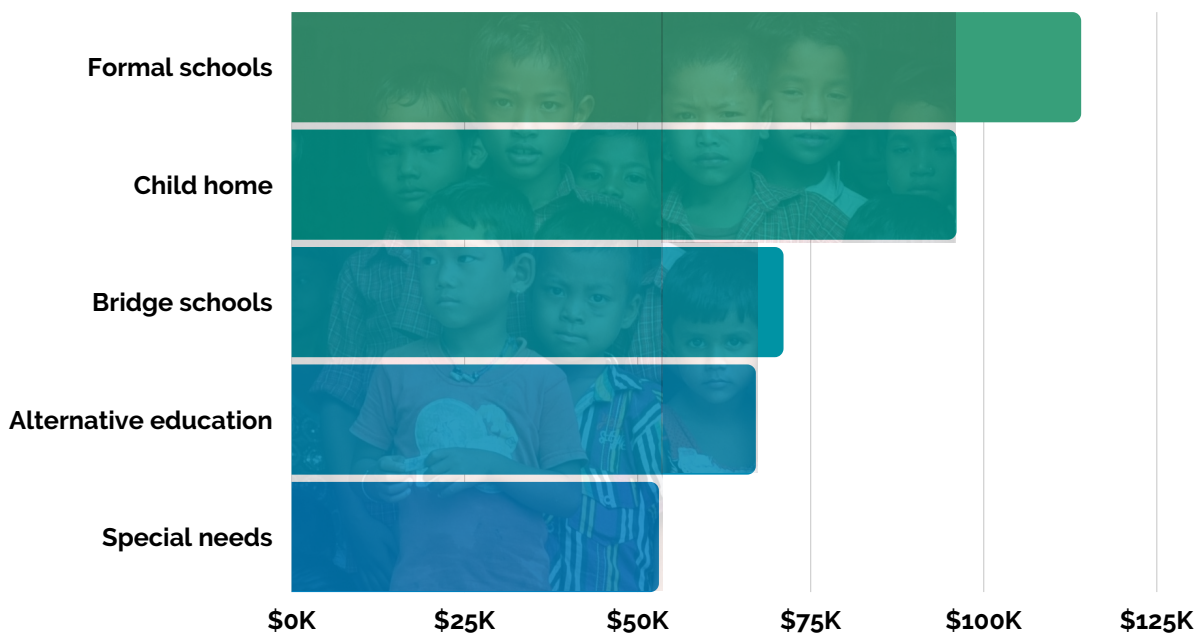


Top-funded States



We are constantly working to reach new states and communities, and in 2020 our greatest impact occurred in Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, and Maharashtra.

Top-funded Project-type



We work with partners across many aspects of education. In 2020 the greatest impact was made in formal schools and child homes.

SUCCESS STORIES

Children

Khalidaa Banoo

Khalidaa was left alone in this world at the tender age of 10 when her paralyzed-father passed away in 2006.

Jameela, a teacher in Khalidaa's previous school, admitted her to a Borderless World Foundation home in Kupwara. The BWF home helped her out with food, accommodation, clothing, shelter, education, and much more.

Khalidaa coped well in school with the help of counseling and developed various skills, including reading and teaching.

After graduating in 2018, she was appointed as a BWF home manager, while allowing her to enroll in higher education. Today she is enrolled in a PG program to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher while preparing for the IAS examination.

"Thanks to BWF, I have a dream of becoming a teacher and help the children who are in vulnerable conditions, just as I was."



Arhaan Sheikh

Arhaan, diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth and later speech and hearing delay when he was 3 years old, lives with his parents and 2 other siblings.

He came to Samerth Talim Kendra at the age of 4 and couldn't walk by himself. He could not sit for long without support and communicated his basic needs through actions – which only his mother understood, making him completely dependent on her.

After undergoing physio and speech therapy with specialized teachers, he has mastered performing his daily living activities independently. He can now say complete sentences and can independently go to the market to buy stuff. He loves going with his father to the garage and helps him in repair work.

"I never dreamt that one day I would be able to see Arhaan walk and talk like my other children. This gives me great hope that Arhaan will be able to lead a life of dignity."

- Arhaan's mother

COVID 19 Relief efforts

Even as the world awaits the wide-scale deployment of a vaccine for COVID-19, we continue our ongoing efforts to provide relief to the underprivileged where necessary. We primarily focus on food relief programs for families left out of government schemes and belong to extremely impoverished backgrounds. So far, Asha SV has funded nearly \$72,000 towards COVID relief across India.

Checkout the Asha Wide Covid relief newsletter [here](#).



Light, fan, and toilet added at Bhaganda center



BASIC NECESSITIES PROJECT

It all started with a thought - Asha supported children should not be deprived of the basic necessities like water and toilet. But as it turned out, a lot of them were. At Asha SV, we have set ourselves an ambitious goal - by the end of this year, we want to ensure all our projects have sufficient funds to cover expenses for:

- Potable water within school premises
- Clean toilets within school premises
- First aid kits within school premises
- Solar [or electric] lights and fans in every classroom
- Annual preemptive medical checkup for children
- Library [min 2:1 ratio of books to children] in the school.

We took stock of the situation and worked with our stewards and project partners to complete this project on time by funding upwards of \$25,000.



EDU IMPACT 2020

Third edition

Edu-Impact contest seeks to identify and encourage impactful and innovative ideas that overcome the challenges in India's field of education. For 2020, the contest was primarily focused on identifying new projects working with

- **special needs** children
- **rescue and safety** of children in vulnerable conditions
- improving the **quality of education** in **Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan**

The contest was initiated in Dec 2019. About 80 proposals were received from NGOs working across India. A dedicated team of 15 volunteers reviewed the proposals in various stages and proposed four projects for initiation. The COVID pandemic posed enormous challenges with project reviews, especially in arranging site visits to the identified projects. Thanks to our volunteers, all the required checks have now been completed, and the projects are underway. Watch out for Edu-Impact 2021!

ASHA LEARNING PROGRAM

Pilot edition

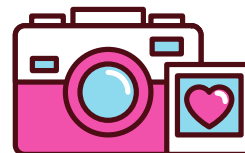
In our search for new and unique ways to raise funds in 2020, we launched the **Asha Learning Program**, the perfect solution to make shelter-in-place exciting while picking up new skills. The program offered virtual learning classes for people of all ages and interests:

- Baking & Cake Decorating,
- Photography
- Yoga
- Gardening
- Tan Door Cooking



The program was received with great enthusiasm and raised over \$10,000 in 3 months, and we plan to continue offering classes in the upcoming year.

Learn more: [here](#).



Edu-Impact 2020

Contest Winners

5

Children Supported

11,235

Funds Committed (across 3 Year)

\$150,000

ASHA FELLOW

Stories

Mahesh Kumar Pandey

Born in a poor farming family in Revati village, situated on Bihar and UP's border, I was schooled in a government school. Like the rest of the village kids, my dreams were limited to joining the army or becoming a teacher.

In 1994, while enrolled in ITI, I met Sandeep Pandey, the cofounder of Asha for Education. He was visiting Revati to improve the quality of education. After volunteering with Sandeepji for two years, I knew my passion was in helping those in need. I quit ITI to do full-time social work.

Now working as an Asha fellow, I have the opportunity to continue supporting the underprivileged. I focus on the development of Kanpur city as a whole, working on various broad issues such as education of migrant children, MNREGA, Women Empowerment, Human rights, and enforcing RTI and RTE. More than 4000 children from disadvantaged sections were encouraged to apply and later gained admission to private schools (as mandated by the RTE act) through various awareness campaigns.

Aheli Chowdhury

My first experience with discrimination came at an early age when my father was reluctant to send me to an English-medium school because he thought Western-education could corrupt girls. My mother disobeyed his wishes and still sent her to school, and this life-defining incident left a lasting impact.

After graduating with a Master's degree in psychology in 2005, I got involved with the Right to Information movement, which has a long history of fighting for government transparency. As part of the campaign, I engaged with students, youth, and low-income communities with governance issues. In 2007, I co-founded Joint Operation for Social Help (JOSH) with my colleague Sourabh Sharma. JOSH works with youth and women in low-income neighborhoods in Delhi to improve education access and end violence against women. Asha for Education Fellowship supports me in empowering marginalized women and girl children.



"My mother taught me that education is all one has to protect and empower one against all odds of life, making it my primary motivation in pushing for girls' education."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ranjani Kumar

As a student member of the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) in India, I got to experience the benefits of volunteering at an early age. After moving to the US, I got to volunteer with organizations impacting local communities. Besides, I was also looking to work with nonprofits deeply rooted in India.

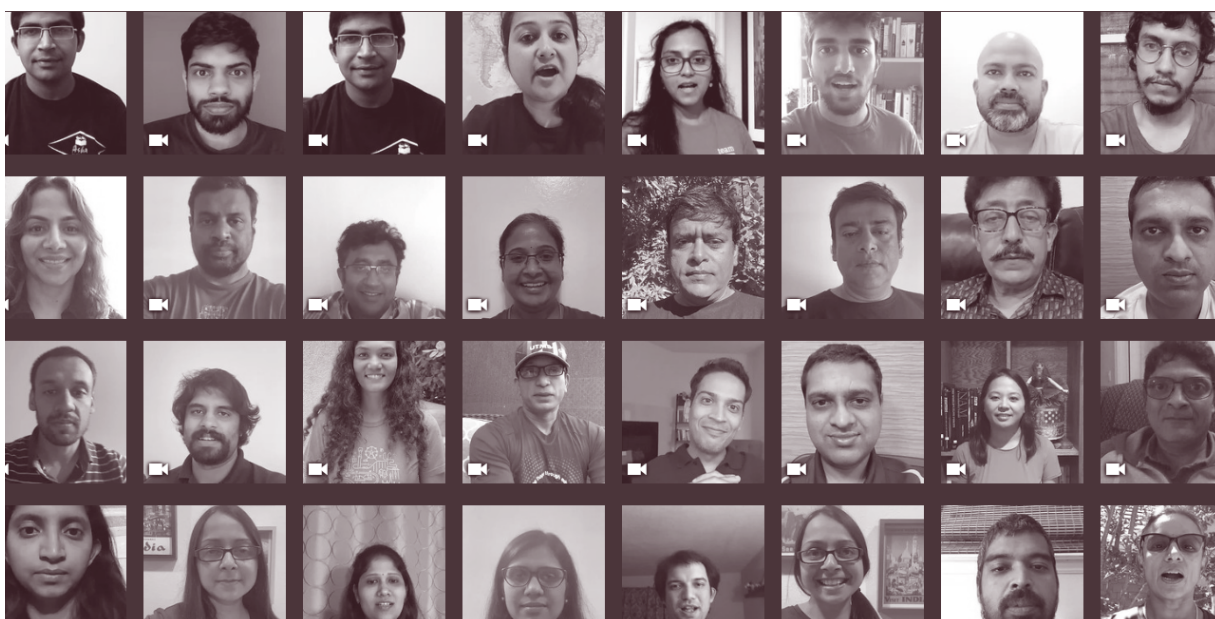
Asha for Education was a natural fit. With a robust Team Asha endurance training program, Being a part of a 100% volunteer-driven organization meant that as a volunteer, I had the opportunity to contribute to different aspects of the nonprofit such as project selection, fundraising, and directly liaising with nonprofits across India.

Over the past two years, I have been involved in selecting new projects and social media marketing efforts for the Silicon Valley chapter. As a project steward for a nonprofit in Chhattisgarh, I got the opportunity to see firsthand the benefits of Asha's support.

Picture this - amidst lush green paddy fields, unpaved roads, and in an old building, kids learned arithmetic via online videos, projected on a screen and overseen by enthusiastic young teachers. These were the kids of daily wage laborers who had previously never had access to laptops or the internet. Asha's investment in this project has helped narrow the digital divide in the community. Being a part of this journey was incredibly humbling.



"As an Asha volunteer, I get to be an agent of change for education in India."



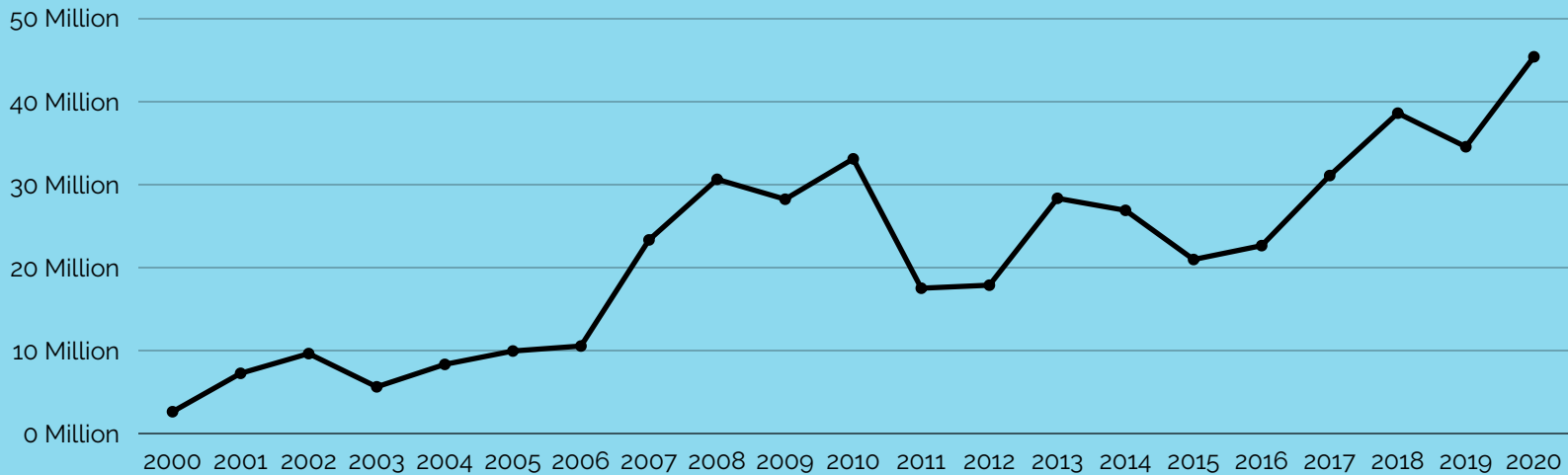
A heartfelt **thank you** to all of our volunteers—our work together helps take Asha to new frontiers.

FINANCIALS

2020

Our 2020 Disbursements Soar!

Disbursements in INR Millions



Silicon Valley Chapter Impact



\$8 Million+
Disbursed

100k+
Children
Supported



22
Years of Service

