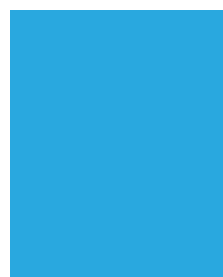




ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 23



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE



Dr. Sushama Nagarkar

For inexplicable reasons, 2022-23 seems to have flown by!

This year has been the time to pick up the pieces post-COVID and move on. We have done just that! We have been able to get an enthusiastic young team in leadership positions - who may not completely understand the lives of PwIDD, but who 'get it'. They intrinsically understand. And they intrinsically believe that every person has a right to belong and be heard. Their positive attitudes make for a workplace that is filled with love and laughter and total acceptance, while at the same time moving towards actualizing the vision and mission of YCT.

Our numbers have swelled. But due to the nature of the support needs of our team members, we are limited in the number of persons we can train at any given time. The good news is that those who are motivated and have the spark to bettering their own lives move through the training quickly to bigger and better outcomes. We have had a reasonable amount of success in placing individuals in jobs outside of YCT. Finding employment is a long and hard road but trudge along it we shall! There is a lot more to be done to secure buy-in not only from potential employers, but also families and individuals themselves.

On behalf of the disability community, this year YCT has taken on the Stem Cell therapy lobby. The PIL that we have filed sits in the highest court of the land. It shall take its time as it always does. In the meanwhile we work hard on the ground towards giving parents and family members the right information so they can make informed decisions for their loved ones. The fact that families seek out 'cures' when there are none, is heartbreaking and at times it seems that no amount of advocacy, counselling or consultation is enough.

But when our team, and there are many smiles and anecdotes to share, believe in their ability to "... be a working man..." , "...save for my daughter..." , "... have a superpower. It is my autism....", the journey and its challenges is so well worth it.

Thus we excitedly continue on with our endeavours towards bettering lives for our team members in the best way we can. We appreciate the hard work they put in to be the best version of themselves that they can be. We appreciate the unstinting support from our families. Our amazing volunteers - words do not describe the dedication and enthusiasm they bring. Always ready. Always encouraging. Always there.

The old Maori proverb resonates. "What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people!"

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

We feel very proud to share that, in September 2022, we introduced our Café Arpan menu in Braille format. This has already been tested and approved (with some constructive feedback) by some of our visually-challenged customers. It was an absolute cherry on the cake to be told that this offering (a menu in Braille) was very rare to find in most eating houses in the city (perhaps even the country). This initiative is just another way for us to make Café Arpan even more inclusive!



Thanks to our donor partners - EMpower - our first self-advocacy project was flagged off in August 2022. Eight self-advocates were prepared to present their lived experiences across schools and colleges in Mumbai. These were valuable experiences not only for our team, but also for the students - many of whom shared that they learned 'a lot of stuff' about the disabled that they had no clue about. In addition to this important sensitization and awareness building activity, EMpower funded us to continue with our skill development for youth with disabilities as well as complete another pilot which was training young women from low income households as life skill coaches for PwIDD.



In August, we celebrated Café Arpan's fourth birthday. With our team expanding in size every month, this year's celebration was literally jam packed with fun, laughter and energy as we completed four years of serving customers at our cosy little café in Juhu.



This past year also saw our catering initiative grow as we were invited to cater a variety of events by corporations like BP and Tata Power, entities such as the US Consulate, as well as pop-up events like The Bandra Steps Festival and EduFun Farmfest Mela.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR



In November 2022, we launched Café Arpan Express at Versova Metro Station. This kiosk is a smaller takeaway version of Café Arpan at Juhu and we employ two PwIDD and one support staff at this site. The idea behind Café Arpan Express is to generate awareness and sensitivity about PwIDD among commuters and citizens at large. The kiosk and our cause has been well appreciated by a steady stream of frequent commuters.



After a long horrible wait due to the pandemic, we were finally able to open our doors fully to Café Arpan at Accenture in May of 2022. A huge shout out to Sonal Mehra, Managing Director of the Innovation Hub where the café is located for embracing our cause and our team so wholeheartedly. Over the years, we have celebrated birthdays, festivals and every other event in a spirit of inclusivity and camaraderie. It takes a committed leader to achieve this and we thank Ms. Mehra and her team for walking the walk with us.



We learnt so many new recipes as we attempted to grow our repertoire of food so we can cater to a variety of taste buds and prepare delicacies for different occasions. From our Independence Day tri-coloured panacotta to our multi-flavoured modaks for Ganpati and even a variety of truffles for Diwali, our team has been exposed to so many new techniques and textures through this initiative.



We launched our new line of merchandise for our customers to take home as souvenirs. Our newly designed T-shirts, mugs, badges and magnets have been a big hit - especially with our loyal customers who like to bring friends, family and visitors from out of town who enjoy taking a small memento home as a reminder of their fun and unique Café Arpan experience!

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

Through our Employment Support Services (ESS) project, we have been able to place 20 PwIDD in open employment, with a few more in the pipeline. We have over 80 PwIDD who are unemployed and looking for jobs registered with us. Recently we were able to create short videos of three of our team members who have gone on to work in open employment. Two of them are placed at Soho House, Mumbai and one at The Chocolate Room.

Watch **Saurabh and Srideep's** Stories [here](#).

Watch **Ninaad's** Story [here](#).



During 2022-23, as a part of our advocacy work, YCT initiated a PIL in the Supreme Court against a very powerful lobby of clinics and doctors who are offering Stem Cell Therapy (SCT) as a 'cure' for autism. The treatment is very expensive and families who opt for it struggle financially with no conclusive benefit. At this time, there is no scientific evidence that SCT is a proven intervention and the ICMR has issued clear guidelines that SCT is very much in the research phase and should be treated as such. Our plea in the Supreme Court is that the government should mandate these clinics to follow the ICMR guidelines. For this endeavour we retained the expertise of Dr. Uma Ladiwala, an SCT researcher with years of experience who clears the myths and provides the science to our families and other stakeholders through written articles and seminars on the subject. With generous funding from IP Integrated Services Pvt. Ltd. (IPISPL) we were able to make a short documentary about SCT and autism. This is freely available on YouTube. We have been fortunate to have been able to share it widely since there is a Hindi subtitled version too.

Here is the [link to the video](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON ABILITY

Here are a few success stories to brighten your day

Anand Jangir

Anand has been a part of Yash Charitable Trust since 2016. As a young man with an intellectual disability, Anand finds communication and comprehension challenging. However, since he joined the team, he has grown leaps and bounds. Anand is one of our most hard working and consistent team members. He is officially the only team member who actually has a key to the café! As an incredibly responsible and thoughtful person, he is very particular with being present till the café is closed properly with the metal shutter pulled down and locked with a big padlock. He takes immense pride in his work and loves preparing his specialties for his customers - his ginger garam chai and chilled cold coffee.



Prajakta Chache

Prajakta joined the SDC in June of 2022 quickly learning to travel from Bhayander independently. During her initial interview itself, she showed a certain excitement at the thought of structured skilling and her motivation to excel showed through her entire training program. She completed her training in under six months, the first to do so and immediately began working at Café Arpan. She has not looked back since. Her ever-smiling, pleasant demeanour is infectious and she is a joy to be around. Besides this, Prajakta very competently handles all her assigned tasks with a certain finesse. In a very short time, she twice won the Employee of the Month award. Very well deserved indeed!

Aaron Colaco

Aaron is 25-years-old and has been working with YCT from September, 2018. He is a hard-working, responsible and dedicated team member. Aaron's passion is food, and has been since a very early age. He is our 'master chef'! Time and again, he has proved that his love and mastery over the art of cooking is exemplary. Aaron passed his 12th std NIOS from Little Angel's High School in 2017. Subsequent to this, he got a diploma in Catering and Hotel Management from St. Andrew's college in 2018.

Aaron continues to spend hours watching food channels, he also enjoys arts and crafts, listening to music, and tik tok videos. Aaron is a man of few words. He is the only child of his parents, and as his mother reports, is their pride and joy.





HIGHLIGHTING OUR SUPPORT STAFF

Ayush Khandelwal

Ayush joined YCT in May 2022 as our Senior Operations Manager and has very quickly become an integral part of our organisation. He stands out as a diligent, dedicated, and passionate professional, and we feel incredibly fortunate to have him as one of our leaders. His solution-oriented approach and keen problem-solving skills have proven invaluable in tackling various challenges. Ayush's unwavering love and care for our special team members is clearly evident; his genuine compassion and dedication to their well-being are both heartwarming and inspiring. Ayush's contributions embody the core values of our organisation and exemplify the positive impact we aim to create in the lives of those we serve.



Meghana Bavkar

Meghana started working with us at Café Arpan in 2018. Shy and very soft-spoken, Meghana was a college student when she joined and has slowly taken on more and more responsibility. Over the intervening years, Meghana has shown that she has the potential to grow and improving her self-confidence has been an important part of her journey with YCT. She is easy-going and loved by all team members and support staff alike. Meghana is now doing her post-graduation in Commerce and for the time being continues to grow in her skills at YCT. The future may hold something different, but for the moment, we are very proud to have been able to support Meghana in her journey to acquire an education as well as build responsibility and a healthy sense of self-respect.

Kavita Akrey

Kavita has been around with YCT for several years. She joined the team when we were in a very nascent stage and had just one small 200 square foot space. Her introduction to the world of the PwIDD happened at that time. As with all others, Kavita is valued for her strengths and what she brings to her work. She is hard-working and dedicated and has quickly mastered the nuances of working with and for PwIDD. Last year, Kavita availed of the opportunity to further her education and took it upon herself to study for her 10th NIOS. While YCT provided some tutoring support, Kavita worked hard to clear the exams and clear them she did - even though it had been several years since she had left school. Kavita looks forward to doing her 12th NIOS and YCT will continue to support her in whatever way we can.



Ketki Sanghvi

Ketki Sanghavi has a Master's degree in Social Work and a Diploma in counselling. She has been associated with Yash Charitable Trust for more than two years and is currently working hard to find employment opportunities outside of YCT for our beneficiaries in her role as the Employment Support Services Coordinator. The work is hard. Ketki brings to her position a certain never give up attitude that serves her well in her current role!

Ketki has an experience of 15 years in the field of menstrual hygiene, child sexual abuse and protection and prevention of suicides. She is also a trained dance movement therapist, somatic healer and a graphologist. Ketki loves to travel and explore new places. She is also an avid reader.

OUR FINANCIAL REPORT

PARTICULARS	FY 2022-23 (INR)	FY 2021-22 (INR)
Income		
Donation	21,461,076.97	15,032,560.42
Interest Income	2,029,924.00	1,440,193.01
Income from Services	4,175,176.00	2,232,349.00
Other Income	13,624.00	-
Total Income	27,679,800.97	18,705,102.43
Expenses	19,273,150.77	10,876,648.35
Opening Balance C/F	20,251,370.96	14,431,470.81
Closing Balance C/F	28,658,021.16	20,251,370.96



IN GRATITUDE

We cannot do everything we do without community support - by way of donations as well as time and energy spent on volunteering with us. For their trust in us and their belief in our vision, we thank not only our wonderful individual donors, but also...

- **Anand Mahajan**
- **Bajaj Finserv Ltd**
- **EMpower - The Emerging Markets Foundation**
- **Give India Foundation**
- **I P Integrated Services Pvt. Ltd**
- **India Development Services**
- **ION Foundation**
- **Jayshree Mahajan**
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd**
- **Rossari Biotech Limited**
- **Sahachari Foundation**
- **Saint Gobain India Foundation**

We would also like to thank the Nanavati Family Charity Fund, Evergent Technologies Pvt.Ltd, Mrs. Vera Mahajan, Mr. Phani Kumar Anupindi and Ms. Bhavana Rajgarhia for their generous contributions.

To our volunteers and families, a big thank you! Our team grows in numbers because of you. And they continue to make a difference in all the lives that they touch every single day.

If you wish to contribute towards our cause, you can do so using one of the methods below:

By Cheque -

Made out to '**Yash Charitable Trust**'.

By Direct Bank Deposit -

For Indian Donors

Account Holder: Yash Charitable Trust
Bank and Branch: Kotak Mahindra Bank, JVPD
Savings Account No.: 7711476797
IFSC Code: KKBK0000661

Scanning the code below will take you directly to our donation page -



All eligible donors may avail of tax benefits under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

For International Donors

Account Holder: Yash Charitable Trust
Bank & Branch: SBI, New Delhi Main Branch
FCRA Current Account No: 40195423413
IFSC Code: SBIN0000691

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