CHANGING THE SCRIPT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN INDIA

MID-YEAR REPORT

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2016
The first six months of 2016-17 has also been the first six months of our new 5-year strategic plan, outlining our vision for 2016-21. And as with all new beginnings it brought a sense of anxiety and ambiguity, with the exciting possibility of reinventing ourselves yet again.

Some key moments of 2016-17 so far:

- 4 young footballers, Navnita, Harshitha, Manoj and Arbaz participated in the StreetFootballWorld Festival 2016 and flew to Lyon, France representing the Indian contingent. The festival is one of the biggest ‘Football for Social Change’ event celebrated as part of the UEFA European Championship 2016. This was ‘a first’ of many things for these youngsters and the journey has been a life-changing experience for them.

- A deliberate effort to change our fundraising strategy from annual renewals to multi-year funding, led us to a nail-biting finish where some of our long-term proposals turned around with just a few months of cash-flow to spare. In retrospect, the crisis only helped us reinforce our belief in each other, as we came together as a team to tide over the cash crunch.

- Dream a Dream was a part of the 2016 Lego Idea Conference, which had over 300 international experts talk about quality learning through play. Suchetha Bhat, COO at Dream a Dream, co-led a session on ‘Sustaining Positive Behaviour Change in Teachers’ during a pre-conference workshop and Vishal Talreja, CEO at Dream a Dream, shared Dream a Dream’s model during a session on ‘Designing for Scale’ at the conference. In addition, Dream a Dream designed and facilitated a day-long workshop on Impact Evaluation for 16 Ashoka Globalizer Fellows at the conference.

- We were recently awarded the Platinum Level (Highest Category Award) in the GuideStar India NGO
Transparency Awards 2016. This has given us an added impetus to set new benchmarks in transparency and accountability.

- Dream a Dream was part of the Ashoka Globalizer Program that supports selected Ashoka Fellows to move beyond local impact towards ‘tipping’ systems at a regional or global level. The process pushed us to our limits in defining and clarifying our 5-year strategic plan. Through many late-night calls, pertinent questions from a range of trusted advisors challenged our approach and helped us gain confidence and clarity in who we want to be and how we want to get there.

- In another first for Dream a Dream, our new Research & Advocacy unit submitted its recommendations to the New Education Policy urging The Ministry of Human Resource Development to urgently invest in Life Skills to prepare young people for the 21st Century.

- We express our gratitude to Dell International Services and NetApp for their continued support and partnership due to whom we shifted to a new & bigger Career Connect Centre in KR Puram, Bangalore to keep up with the growing aspirations of the youth in the community.

- We engaged over 576 volunteers clocking over 13,187 hours in partnership with DELL International Services, Axis Cades, Goldman Sachs, Adobe, NetApp, Ritz Carlton and other corporate partners and individuals.

- We are currently a 79 member Dream Team

- In the middle of all the highs and lows, we continued to focus on the delivery of our programs on the ground ensuring that we stay committed and unrelenting in impacting the lives of young people to help them overcome adversity and prepare them for the fast-pace of change in the world.
KEY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

AFTER SCHOOL LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM
- 5525 young people engaged After School Life Skills Program
  - 2024 engaged in the Life skills through Football and 3501 in Life skills through Arts program.
  - 49% Girl participation was ensured.
  - We continue to foster our relationship with 24 partners across Bangalore to deliver the program.

CAREER CONNECT PROGRAM
- 2203 young people engaged in Career Connect Program
  - 269 in Skill Development
  - 1028 in Career Awareness
  - 89% Retention and 85% Attendance
  - 55 Scholarships Awarded

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
- 775 new teachers / NGO workers were enrolled in our Life Skills Approach
  - 86 teachers completed all 4 modules of the trainings up to September.
  - 34 new partners brought on board.
  - Spread across 10 districts of North Karnataka
  - 70 batches of workshops conducted.

IMPACT ANALYSIS 2015-16
- 71.1% of young people showed an improvement in their overall life-skills* score, by at least 1 point.
- 56% of young people showed an improvement in all 5 life-skills measured*, by at least 1 point.
- 100% young people showed an improvement in their overall life-skills* score, by at least 1 point.
- 98.87% of young people showed an improvement in all 5 life-skills measured*, by at least 1 point.
- 90.4% participants said the training helped them explore their own creativity.
- 90.6% of participants said they had developed skills of listening and validation

14 YEAR OLD KUSUMA FINDS HER VOICE

Kusuma is 14 years old studying in 9th grade at Pragna Vidyanikethan School. Her father works as an attendant in a company and her mother is a housewife. She has participated in the After School Life Skills through Arts program for the past 2 years.

Kusuma is a very quiet and timid girl by nature. She would speak very softly during the sessions and as her voice is barely audible, she often required help from others to repeat her views to the rest of the group. There were also several instances when she did not understand the instructions given by the facilitator, and would hesitate to voice out and seek clarification.

The Life-skill Facilitator noticed these behaviours and decided to have a one-on-one interaction with her. Kusuma opened up in the conversation and explained that she grew up in an environment of fear. She came from a very conservative family where girls were never allowed to speak to anyone. She also did not interact with people in the neighbourhood she lived in. After listening to her patiently and earning her trust, the facilitator encouraged Kusuma to participate more actively in the sessions so as to increase her confidence levels. As a trial, he invited her to take the initiative to conduct the warm-up activity for the next session. Kusuma agreed and was thus tasked to conduct the warm-up activity for her group for the next 3 sessions.

In the first warm-up activity she conducted, her discomfort was apparent and she required help from her facilitator. However, in the subsequent sessions, her confidence grew and she was able to successfully conduct the warm-up activity on her own. Furthermore, she also took the initiative to explain the purpose of the activity to her group and did it without hesitation and fear. The space given by the facilitator to Kusuma to show herself and take charge of the group, was a moment of transformation for her.

Today, Kusuma is no longer the same person who was once filled with fear and hesitant to talk to anyone. She interacts with her classmates actively and often takes the initiative in activities. She is also not afraid to voice out her opinions or question during the various activities - a testament to the positive improvement in her communication and leadership skills. Kusuma revealed, “I always look forward to the Dream a Dream sessions because I feel very happy when I get to interact freely with all my classmates. I was not able to talk to anyone previously, but because of these sessions, I am now able to interact with everyone.”
OUR SUPPORTERS

ADOBE FOUNDATION | AMMADO | ASHIRWAD TRUST | ASHOKA | AXIS CADES | BENEVITY
ONE WORLD | BOOK A SMILE – AN INITIATIVE OF BOOK MY SHOW | CAF INDIA | CAF AMERICA | COLOUR THE WORLD FOUNDATION | DELL INTERNATIONAL SERVICES | DREAM A DREAM UK | FIFA – FOOTBALL FOR HOPE | GLOBAL GIVING | IDG VENTURES | INDIA CARES FOUNDATION | INFOSYS FOUNDATION | J PAUL GETTY JNR CHARITABLE TRUST | MAIYA PUBLISHING | MATHWORKS | MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL FOUNDATION | MICROLAND | MICROSOFT GTSC | MOMENTIVE PERFORMANCE MATERIALS | NETAPP | NORTHERN TRUST | OBEROI FAMILY FOUNDATION | SANDISK | SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | STATE STREET FOUNDATION | STREET FOOTBALL WORLD | SULTHAN TRUST | THE MARSHALL FOUNDATION | TESCO | THE LEGO FOUNDATION | VERIZON

FINANCIALS

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Expenditure: April – September 2016
IN THE NEWS

• Social Story covers Dream a Dream on its new People Philosophy and how it will impact 2.5 lakh children at the end of 2016: https://yourstory.com/2016/04/dream-a-dream/

• Your Story features the new Career Connect Center of Dream a Dream and how it is helping young adults to make a career for themselves: https://yourstory.com/2016/07/dream-a-dream-young-adults-script-a-fairy-tale-career/

• 4 young people travel to France to participate at the StreetFootballWorld Festival: http://www.thehindu.com/features/magazine/shreedutta-chidananda-on-four-youngsters-who-will-represent-india-at-the-street-football-world-festival/article8594473.ece

Over the next 6 months we aim to realize our goals of directly impacting 5500 children in the After School Life Skills Program using the mediums of Sports and Creative Arts. In the Career Connect Program we are on course to engage over 5000 young people in the age group of 14-19 years to build their life skills for career development. We also aim to empower 1200 teachers/educators/youth workers in integrating and using the Life Skills Approach indirectly impacting over 30,000 children and young people.

We also have our strategic direction for 2021 in place and are excited to share the same with you. Do write to us at vishal@dreamadream.org, if you would like to know more.

In continuation of our endeavour to develop an ecosystem that recognizes the urgency of life-skills for youth development, we are hosting our 3rd Change The Script Conference on 20th-21st January 2017.

Thank you for your continued support.

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