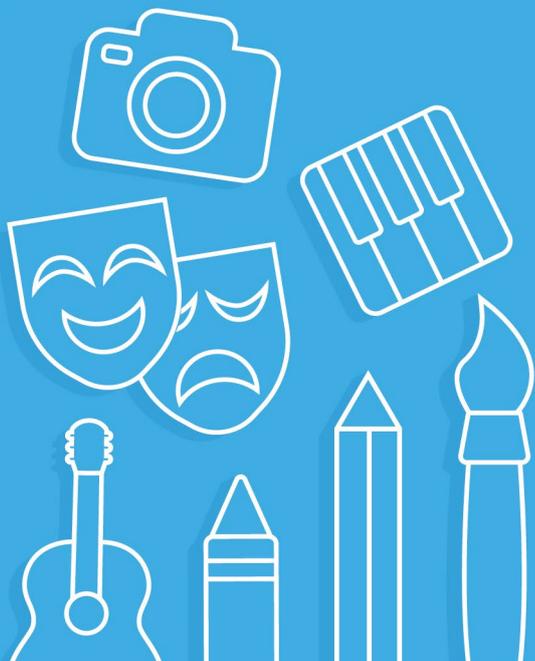


the story so far



About NalandaWay Foundation *Putting Art in Every Classroom*

NalandaWay Foundation aims to empower disadvantaged children and adolescents through art and nurture them into hopeful, resilient and fearless individuals. Through art and play-enabled pedagogies, we remove fear and bring joy to the learning process. Our interventions nurture holistic wellbeing and age-appropriate social-emotional development, and promote positive mental health.

Founded in 2005, NalandaWay has been helping children learn through theatre, visual arts, music, dance, radio and films. Here is a look at all our projects through the years.

INDEX

S.No	Projects
01	Foundational Learning in Std 1, 2 & 5 
02	Gutar Goo
03	Project Sakhi
04	Adolescent Wellbeing Workbooks
05	Ready Joot
06	Take it Eazy
07	Chennai Children's Choir
08	Delhi Children's Choir
09	vAnam Vasapadum
10	Art for Healing
11	Art in Education
12	Art Labs
13	Art for Wellbeing
14	Project Hope
15	Kannavu Pattarai
16	Children's Media Project
17	"Shout It Out" - Music Album
18	Children & Youth Radio Project
19	Art, Arattai, Aarpattam
20	Theatre Productions
21	Percussion Band in Ongole
22	Youth Speak Summit
23	Murals
24	Major Partners
25	Awards



Foundational learning

in Std 1, Std 2 and Std 5

- **Numbers:**
- Std 1 and 2 - 22 schools
- 1800+ students impacted
- Std 5 - 17 schools
- 1450+ students impacted

Children between the ages of 5 - 7 and 10 - 11 are not meeting their age-specific and grade specific learning outcomes. A recent study by Azim Premji Foundation stated that due to the pandemic, over 89% disadvantaged children in the 5th standard have forgotten English and Math. This critical loss can severely impair their ability to learn complex academic concepts, affect their self-confidence, and they may even drop out of school.

Through this programme, our aim is to reinforce concepts of English and Math learning, and improve engagement amongst students in standard 1, 2 and 5 using art-based activities in workbooks. In addition to academic support, we have also included training for social and emotional learning into the curriculum.

The programme is implemented with the help of teaching assistants who support the class teacher and students right at the school, and through the phone during the lockdown. They use engaging audio/video stories, art and story-based lessons and play activities to teach the children concepts included in the workbook. We also provide after-school support for parents to encourage them to motivate their children to continue learning outside the classroom.

Based on our rigorous monitoring and evaluation, we have observed a significant improvement in the foundational skills of children in Standards 1, 2 and 5 when compared to our baseline evaluation which was conducted prior to the programme's implementation.

Gutar Goo

Early childhood education in anganwadis

Gutar Goo is an early literacy and arts initiative of NalandaWay Foundation implemented in the anganwadis of Noida with the support of HCL Foundation. The objective of this programme is to introduce story-telling and art to 3-6 year olds to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy. The programme focuses on Physical-Motor Development, Cognitive development, Language and Communication, and Socio-emotional Development. In the project's second phase which was implemented during the pandemic, we focused on strengthening health and hygiene practices of children.

By introducing children to the arts at an early age, we wish to inculcate a sense of curiosity and develop a child's interests in the world around them. Our programme equips the child to express themselves authentically while also helping them negotiate the world around them. The programme caters to children with varied learning styles such as visual, kinaesthetic, auditory, etc. Art also helps children destress, externalise their feelings, learn to trust their peers and absorb the basics of language and mathematics.

We Use:

- Story-telling
- Richly illustrated print materials like flash cards and workbooks
- Art implements like crayons, chalk and paint
- Music, Songs and Rhymes
- Dance and Movement

To Develop:

- Language
- Number concepts
- Observational skills
- Positive attitude towards learning
- A joyous and creative learning environment for the children

So that Children:

- Have improved listening and speaking skills
- Are more print aware
- Can use art for meaning - making and early representations of the world
- Are school ready

Early childhood



Project Sakhi

Holistic development for adolescent girls

This programme seeks to provide support to young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to become confident young women who are emotionally and financially independent, through a long engagement of seven years, through their school and college education.



Process

Project Sakhi is designed to ensure multi-dimensional development - i.e. physical, mental, emotional, cognitive and livelihood. This would be through various interventions which would focus on developing their knowledge, attitude, skills and habits.

Several interactive, inspiring and fun sessions, comprising of art-learning sessions, group activities, inspiring discussions, talks by experts from the field of psychology, art therapy and leadership and community projects are part of the programme. We are currently mentoring 225 girls across Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Gurgaon, Thiruvananthapuram, Pune, Hyderabad, and Bangalore.

Our areas of focus are building

- Resilience
- Empowerment
- Hope
- Inspiration
- Confidence
- Agency to make choices





Adolescent Wellbeing Workbooks

Lifeskills programme in Tamilnadu

Numbers:

14 districts

44 educationally backward blocks of TN

2,50,000 students in Std 9-12

1000 teachers impacted

Together with UNICEF India and the Tamil Nadu State Council of Educational Research and Training (TNSCERT), we designed a student wellbeing and lifeskills workbook for adolescents studying in Standard 9-12 across the most educationally backward blocks in Tamil Nadu.

The workbook is based on UNICEF's Life Skills Framework and TNSCERT guidelines. The book largely covers the domains of 'Learning to Know' and 'Learning to Do' with each activity also helping students assimilate other skills. The major themes in the book are student wellbeing and science of learning. The workbook contains 31 'do-it yourself' art-based activities, on topics such as self affirmation, boundary setting, self care techniques, mind mapping, and mnemonics.



Upon realising the troubles faced by teachers, we also created a handbook, videos and training programs focused on teachers' personal wellbeing as well as resources for them to encourage adolescent wellbeing among their students.

Ready Joot

A card game to help navigate adolescence

NalandaWay Foundation, in partnership with UNICEF India, launched "Ready Joot" to help navigate adolescence better. Ready Joot is a game-based intervention involving art-based activities and peer-learning aimed at helping adolescents understand the physical, emotional and psychosocial development of adolescence by enabling them to express and regulate their emotions.

The game is based on the philosophy of how each choice can make a difference. Inspired by the five elements of nature, the game has a pack of 75

cards, divided into 5 suites of Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Ether. The aim is to encourage children to have conversations among themselves and break away from the stigma on certain taboo topics, especially on changes in adolescence and emotional wellbeing.

The programme is currently being implemented for 10,000 adolescents who are studying in Classes 8-12 and aged between 13-17 years from urban slums across 4 communities in Chennai - Ennore, Saidapet, Vyasarpadi & Semmanjeri.





“ It felt like they listened to me. They gave useful tips for exams, how to study, and how to write etc. I've called and listened to the programme again and again - I really enjoyed it. I would have listened to each episode almost five times. ”

Girl, 15, Perambur

“ I learnt a lot through the programme, mind relaxation... I also made notes, under each date, I wrote what was told in that episode. They talked about a lot of things... about child abuse, about helping others in the house, locus of control, about self respect. They also spoke about unity, not to fight with others... I remember this during fights, I feel relaxed. ”

Boy, 15, Pudukottai

Take it Eazy

Wellbeing during the pandemic

Take it Eazy was launched in 2020 to help disadvantaged teenagers in Tamil Nadu destress during the COVID-19 pandemic through stories and art-based activities. This was designed as a 30-day project. Listening to 'Take it Eazy' was easy. Students gave a missed call to a number and an automated call was placed back to their number using IVRS technology and the story of the day was played. Each story was under 6 minutes.

The stories were based on themes such as body image, the role of hormones, anxiety and stress, coping with loss, dealing with emotions, addictions, COVID-19, technological adaptation, self-esteem, and more.

Owing to the project's success in Tamil Nadu, Take it Eazy II was launched in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Jammu and Kashmir in 2021. 10 stories were created for teachers as well. This project was implemented in collaboration with UNICEF India and the state governments.

Our monitoring and evaluation also revealed improvements in emotional wellbeing, problem-solving ability, gratitude, social relationships, closeness to others, perseverance, and decision-making ability.



Numbers:

Total number of calls received from students: **17,22,061**
Active listeners: **45,320**
Feedback received: **11,855**

Some of the strategies used to foster mental wellbeing:

- Sketching
- Doodling
- Goal-Setting
- Writing poems and stories
- Relaxation
- Surya Namaskar
- Doing Random Acts of Kindness
- Journaling
- Positive Affirmations
- Selfcare routine
- Coping strategies
- Practicing Gratitude



Chennai Children's Choir is a cherished initiative of NalandaWay that has children from the disadvantaged homes in Chennai forming a world class choir.

Our choir comprises children between the ages 7 to 17. In order to find these young talents from diverse backgrounds, the NalandaWay music team conducts auditions across several government and government-aided schools, children's homes, and orphanages in Chennai and Delhi. The main criteria for selection is a child's excitement and keenness to learn; their musical abilities are secondary. In welcoming children with disabilities and children from less-

fortunate socioeconomic backgrounds, the choir represent a rich world of enthusiastic aspiring singers. They meet every Sunday at the Children's Club to rehearse with Manjula Ponnappalli and Vedanth Bharadwaj. The choir has performed at different venues, won many hearts, and have had many videos go viral.

CCC has successfully presented some experimental and popular compositions with classical and folk styles of Indian music. The co-directors consciously choose children friendly songs which will bring great joy in learning and respect different musical cultures and philosophies. The repertoire includes 45 songs in different Indian languages by eminent poets with their respective schools of philosophies and thoughts. The popular compositions of Rabindranath Tagore, Subramanya Bharati, Meera Bai, Tyagaraja, Annamayya inspire appreciation of Indian classical music traditions and their beautiful musical nuances.

Chennai Children's Choir



CCC's Highlights:

Humko Manki Shakti:
<https://bit.ly/2FIHuNt>

CCC2US - Promo:
<https://bit.ly/2XZcBXz>

CCC's Journey:
<https://bit.ly/2TdJ20J>

Our Better World video:
<https://bit.ly/2Oa5cAa>

Medley:
<https://bit.ly/2TYXcHk>

TM Krishna Concert:
<https://bit.ly/2EjnAWA>

Oh Paalanhaare:
<https://bit.ly/3PM2bFC>

Performance at the Kennedy Centre:
<https://bit.ly/2Htb3jh>

Indian Raga releases a CCC song:
<https://bit.ly/3lda8UZ>

I for India online concert:
<https://bit.ly/3aYZwV6>

Delhi Children's Choir

Delhi Children's Choir (DCC) was formed in 2018 to replicate the success of Chennai Children's Choir (CCC). Our experience with CCC confirmed our belief in the transformative power of music. Music by itself can inspire children to reach higher, but practicing and performing together as a group creates a bond and a sense of community that is unmatched.

While DCC was formed in the mould of CCC, it has a personality of its own. A large part of their repertoire is inspired by Sufi and Qawwali traditions. Many of the songs refer to the history and heritage of Delhi.

Along with learning music, we also emphasise on life skills, understanding the social emotional learning outcomes of the song repertoire, learning musical instruments and developing an understanding of career opportunities in music. Since the pandemic hit, they have been successfully developing their learning skills through the digital medium. In addition to physical classes, digital learning has given its own share of benefits to both the choirs.



- Oh Paalanhaare: <https://bit.ly/3PM2bFC>
- I for India online concert: <https://bit.ly/3aYZwV6>
- Performed at the Arts4Good Forum held at the India Habitat Centre.
- Performed at the American Center during Tarang - Delhi International Queer Theater and Film Festival (DIQTFF)
- Recorded a song for Red FM on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi
- Performed at the 25th anniversary of American International School Chennai

DCC's Highlights:

- Performed at the inauguration of Ford's Happy School in Gurugram.
- Released a Music video, a mashup of two movie songs.
- Ilahi Mere and Paranne, that went viral: <https://bit.ly/3huNOil>



vAnam Vasapadum

Arts-integrated SEL in childcare institutions



‘vAnam Vasapadum’ is a Tamil phrase which translates to ‘The sky is ours’. This phrase gives us hope and let’s us believe that the sky’s the limit. Our vAnam Vasapadum programme aims to create joyful art experiences for children in government-run homes that build their sense of self and wellbeing by means of a trauma-informed expressive arts intervention.

We help build vital social-emotional skills in children with a focus on whole-child development. Through

our programme, children can explore themselves, express their thoughts better, bond with their peers, and acquire various art skills, life skills and social emotional skills in a safe and child-friendly environment.

With the support of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) and the Department of Social Defence - Tamil Nadu, this programme is currently being implemented across 20 government-run homes in Tamil Nadu, reaching over 600 children.



Art for Healing

Therapy for children with Developmental Disability



NalandaWay is keen to see that children with developmental disabilities, and children who are 'at risk' for conditions such as Developmental Delays, Autism, Mental Retardation, Down's Syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Cerebral Palsy, and Learning Disabilities (e.g. Dyslexia) get professional intervention services. Without timely support, these children would miss normal growth opportunities which could adversely impact their integration.

At our Art for Healing centre in Velachery, we bring in trained specialists to work with the identified children in a systematic programme to address their lags and educational difficulties. The goal of this programme is to educate and empower such students to be dignified, independent, contributing members of the mainstream society. We strongly believe that every child has a potential to learn, irrespective of their abilities or socio-economic-cultural background. The programme aims to maximize their physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.

For Tech Mahindra Foundation, we proposed a 3-month 'Art for Wellbeing' pilot for children from grades 5-8 in 4 ARISE+ schools with the objective of demonstrating success in establishing art-based SEL's contribution to overall wellbeing. Later, we also created an independent curriculum focused on capacitating teachers to facilitate sessions in SEL. The lesson plans that we developed use visual arts, music and movement as its pedagogy and are freely provided to any facilitators who work with children with special needs.



Numbers for 2019-2020:

Locations: 1 | Specialists: 2 | Students: 12

Occupational Therapy Sessions conducted this year: 149

Special Ed classes conducted this year: 332



Art in Education

Where we make learning a joyful experience

NalandaWay's Art in Education (AIE) programme empowers teachers to create a joyful learning experience for children. It trains teachers to expand upon the creativity of their students by integrating fine arts, music, drama and theatre exercises in teaching. The programme helps in engaging children better in classrooms, thus reducing absenteeism and drop-out rates. Our Art in Education curriculum has been introduced in more than 150 schools across Chennai, Delhi, Gurugram and Coimbatore, where our mentors work with students from standards I to V.

Numbers for 2019-2022

Classrooms we work in: **1183**

Teachers we mentor: **904**

Students we inspire: **38,353**

Art projects our students made: **3,515**

Art materials we bought: **25,656**

Math workbooks we printed: **7,820**

Programme started in the year: **2013**

Sessions conducted by our facilitators: **880**

With the help of education experts from around the world we have designed an age appropriate art curriculum that aligns with the state board syllabus. The curriculum consists of art cards and art projects.

Every term, the teachers are expected to facilitate classes using at least five art cards. These art cards contain instructions, pictures and notes for teachers. We also provide art materials and mentorship to teachers and students.

Children learn by doing. For example first standard students who are learning about parts of a plant - learn to draw the trunk of a tree using the letters Y and V. They then make leaves using finger prints. They also learn about odd and even numbers - 'Which branch has odd number of leaves - which branch has even number of leaves?'

Through art children learn concepts as diverse as concentric circles, Venn diagrams, different type of buildings, aquatic and terrestrial animals, conservation, dialogue writing and much more. The NalandaWay art classes are so popular that kids wait for their mentors to visit them every week so that they can show them what they have done.



Art Labs

Fine arts, Theatre, Dance, Music and Media

NalandaWay Art Labs are a special space for children, dedicated to the study, appreciation and experience of visual and performing arts. Our labs offer specialized courses to children from underprivileged backgrounds who show promise in fine arts, craft, music, dance, drama and media. The Art Labs seek to develop a sense of self and individuality, encourage self-expression and stimulate imagination among children through its arts-based programmes.

Art experiences offer children opportunities to think and feel as they explore, problem solve, express and interpret the world around them. NalandaWay runs six art labs in Chennai, two in Coimbatore and two in Delhi impacting nearly 3,000 children.

Numbers

Number of sessions conducted in 2019-2020: 240

Photography camps: 2

Number of collaborative story books created: 5



At the Art Lab, children get the opportunity to:

- Imaginatively explore, express and communicate ideas, feelings and experiences
- Critically reflect upon and find personal meaning by engaging the senses, feelings and imagination
- Develop confidence, communication, collaboration and creativity through arts
- Develop creative talents through spatial, rhythmic, visual and kinaesthetic awareness
- Expand life skills such as conflict resolution, negotiation and teamwork
- Acquire knowledge, skills and learning essential for success in further study of arts
- Participate in intra and inter school competitions, social events and functions and showcase their skills and talent





Art for Wellbeing

By the end of March 2020 it was apparent that schools were not going to reopen anytime soon. The pandemic was causing anxiety, stress and boredom for parents and children who were unable to step outside, meet their friends or expend pent-up energy. The need of the hour were tools that would help parents and children to identify and overcome their fears and stress. NalandaWay published "Art for Wellbeing - A Parent's Guide" to fill this void. The guides have age-specific art activities that will help children and their caregivers, regulate their emotions and also help them become empathetic. NalandaWay eventually released supporting videos on YouTube to go with the activities.

Numbers:

- No. of downloads: 3,412
- No. of languages: 10
- No. of videos: 120

Activities included finger painting, making crafts with easily available material at home, journaling, answering questions that help you understand yourself better, music appreciation, reading books available online for free and then doing activities related to that and much more.

The guides were translated into different languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malay, Vietnamese, Italian, French, German and Bahasa Indonesia. Organisations like Viva Foundation in Singapore, included it as a part of their care package that went out to young cancer patients.





Project Hope

Project Hope fosters hope, emotional resilience and joy in rural and urban underprivileged children. The aim is to develop their mental wellbeing and build resilience to effectively face the challenges in their lives. The programme will bring in trained professionals and a custom curriculum that fuses elements of visual and performing arts to bring about a positive transformation in school children in the age group of 5-11.

The programme builds institutional capacity by equipping peers, teachers and school leaders in nurturing the mental wellbeing of children. Parents of these children are oriented to provide an enabling environment at home. Counsellors work with children who need structured intervention and professional help. We tap into the guidelines of National Mental Health Programme and National Rural Health Mission of Tamil Nadu while working closely with the Tamil Nadu School Education Department in implementing this pioneering programme.

The programme builds institutional capacity by equipping peers, teachers and school leaders in



Approach

Direct engagement through schools and peer-led community building for preventive mental health. Direct engagement is designed to bring awareness, knowledge, and skills into the Primary classroom for children to understand and secure their mental wellbeing while creating a space for them to bring up and resolve their social-emotional issues. However, in this particular age-group, adults and the environment play a critical role. Any direct intervention will have to be supported by work with the community in the two spaces that children primarily occupy - home and school - to create safe, nurturing spaces where children feel secure and happy, and their rights and wellbeing are safeguarded. Peer-led approaches have been successful across the world in varied contexts, with

Numbers from 2019-2020:

No. of classrooms we have worked in: **136**
 Total students we inspired: **3,937**
 No. of Annas & Akkas (Standard 7) involved as our co-Facilitators **114** from 25 schools
 No. of Teachers we work with: **50**

Kannavu Pattarai

A residential workshop for at-risk teens

A 'workshop of dreams' in Tamil, Kanavu Pattarai is an inspiring three day residential camp organized for disadvantaged children between the ages of 13-16. Here, students are trained by our facilitators in a variety of applied theatre forms like advanced role-play, improvisation, creative games and exercises, storytelling and other participatory training techniques. The aim of the workshop is to instill self-esteem and a sense of belonging among children from different socio-economic backgrounds through the medium of art.

This would be achieved by providing opportunities to engage in various forms of arts through guided exploration, several interactive, inspiring and fun sessions, comprising of art-learning sessions, group activities, inspiring discussions, talks by experts from the field of psychology, art therapy and leadership, along with screenings and storytelling sessions. It also creates a platform where children have the opportunity to bond with each other, share experiences, engage in discussions and motivate them to learn, aspire and dream.

Numbers:
Number of camps we conducted: 45
Participants: 1,125



Some feedback from our workshop

“ I have not spoken to these girls before. I never thought I could draw and dance. It was here, that I got to know each one of them and their talents along with mine. Today, all of them are my friends. I realized that writing helps me feel better. We hugged each other after successfully composing our school song. I felt very proud at that moment. Camp helped me forget my fear of getting home in the evening. I laughed a lot and was appreciated for the first time. I will never forget this experience. ”

Sivasakthi, CHS Cooks Road

“ I am grateful that I attended this camp. I thank the facilitators for helping me out and trusting in me because personally I see the improvement in myself. I also used to think that am dark and never looked good but now am confident that I am much more than how I look outside. ”

Aadhaya, CHS Kannamapet





Children's Media Project

Short films, Radio, Music Album and TV Series

What if young people and children in our villages and cities had video cameras to document the world as they saw it? What stories would they tell? What could they teach us?

Our children media project was born out of this simple idea. Through a unique journalism programme, young people aged 12 to 18 researched, wrote and shot stories, on issues that were important to them for publication in newspapers, television and radio. In the process they learnt new skills, became sensitive to surroundings, raised their self-esteem and developed their potential.

These films were developed along with rural disadvantaged children who were involved in the process of research, story development, acting and assistance during shooting. These workshops also included training in life skills, conversations on gender, goal setting and sexuality.

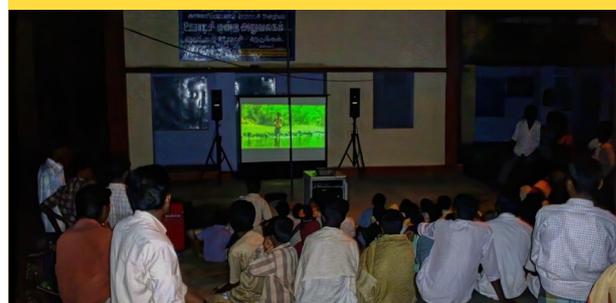
Over 700 children from Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, Pulicat, Gudiyatham, Trichy, Chennai, Kanyakumari, Patna in Bihar and Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir were involved in the workshops.

Some of the short films that were made:

Still dreams – Tamil, Kannada
Child trafficking Kalvettu – Tamil
Child labour Mezhugubarthee – Tamil
Menstruation Mug-up Mangamma – Tamil
Rote learning Nallathor Veenai – Tamil
Women's rights Vidiyal – Tamil
Child labour Nizhalum Nijamum – Tamil
Child labour Oru Iravu – Tamil
Child sexual abuse Sennakunni – Tamil
Tsunami rehabilitation Star struck – English - Children dreams

Here's the YouTube playlist with all the short films:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL53698D7BE8A947F3>





“Girls are Superstars” - 12 part television serial on Star Vijay tv

The central component of the campaign was a 12-part daily serial called “Nangathan Superstars” that was telecast on Star Vijay TV. It reached a wide range of audiences around the state. A prime time slot combined with specific online and offline promotion ensured a wide viewership. The serial was telecast at 6:30 pm from Monday to Thursday between 1st and 19th of November 2009. The stories were written by our children’s teams and directed by famous film directors like Revathi, Rohini, Gnani, Viduthalai, Manobala and Naga.

The episodes created a debate and engagement around the issues faced by girls and women. It delivered key messages to change societal attitudes and created a movement around the key message so as to make it sustainable.

“Shout It Out” - Music Album

Eight songs each capturing issues like child labour, child abuse, child’s aspirations, free-spirit, corruption were conceived and performed by children. The songs were made into music videos by popular film directors and broadcasted on music channels and on the radio.

These projects were supported by UNICEF, Worldvision, CII, IVDP, Steria and World Bank.

The films are

Anandhi - <https://bit.ly/2uiiNMt>

Amudha - <https://bit.ly/2CszQ2Q>

Santoshi - <https://bit.ly/2JqFkBo>

Kayalvizhi - <https://bit.ly/2TISu2O>

Nandhini - <https://bit.ly/2Jn9wNC>



Mobile Media Centre and community screening

Through a grant from Deutsche Bank we set up a mobile media centre that included a van, projector, screen, dvd player, AV equipment, camera and recording equipment, generator and computer with internet access.

A video van was built in the shell of a Toyota Innova and was effectively used in villages, schools and nearby habitations to conducting screenings, as a mobile training center for children in far flung areas, as a resource center for on the field training and for aiding documentation by children on the field.

Bihar Children Radio Project

This project involved working with adolescent girls in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Samastipur and Lakkisarai in Bihar to teach them skills in reporting, interviewing, writing scripts and creating stories on menstruation, sexuality, health and hygiene. Over 60 girls were trained as a part of the programme. There were four workshops every year. The girls were involved in producing 25 minutes radio programme every week for broadcast on All India Radio, Patna. The programme was aired continuously for 60 weeks. This project created wide awareness on the issues faced by adolescent girl in these four districts. The project was supported by PANOS South Asia.



Children & Youth Radio Project



Srinagar Youth Radio Project

This is a radio production project in partnership with the Islamic University of Science and Technology in Awantipura near Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. The project involved training the students of the university and youth from the neighbouring community to learn journalism skills, interviewing, sound production, editing and radio magazine production. They researched issues faced by youth, interviewed the stakeholders and produced 25 minute radio magazines. The show was broadcasted on Radio Kashmir for two years. The project created a wide-spread awareness on issues of conflict, democracy, terrorism, human rights, mental health, education and emotional challenges of the youth. This project was funded by PANOS South Asia.

Art, Arattai, Aarpattam

Children's Art, Music and Film festival



NalandaWay's "Art, Arattai, Aarpattam - Children's Art and Music Festival" is a season for children, their families and teachers - to experience and experiment with art, to express, to challenge, to inspire and have fun together. The festival was supported by UNICEF and other corporate donors.

In the five years (2008 - 2012):

- Over 1,000,000 children participated in the competitions in over 3,200 towns and villages across the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Over 25,000 parents, teachers and children witnessed the concerts, musicals, plays and film festival conducted in 5 cities.
- Millions of adults and children were reached through the medium of short films on television channels.

The purpose of the festival was to take art to a wider circle of children - from marginalised sections of the society as well as the economically well to do sections. The month long festival featured street-theatre performances, Lec-dems by dancers and musicians, workshops on pottery, painting and crafts

"I am very happy to be part of this festival. It was amazing to interact with the children about Carnatic music. By organising this festival, and introducing them to art, I would say, NalandaWay is giving these children life." - Bombay Jayashri, Carnatic Singer

"Children learn about Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics in school. They don't get to learn about Painting, Drawing, Dance and Music. Even if they want to learn, their circumstances don't allow them to. For such children this is a very good opportunity to learn about what is out there." - Ilango, Artist

Here are a few videos from the festival:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIUHMFfGb0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3oGfgm6Buo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEqoluvVuL4>



Theatre Productions

Participatory Drama for children from special homes

Government special homes for children, which are run by the Department of Social Defence, Government of Tamil Nadu, house children from broken families, children who have run away from home and other children in similar situations. NalandaWay, in close partnership with the Department and with the support of UNICEF, worked over the last year to use the participatory drama approach to encourage the children to take part in a theatre production. The highlight of this initiative was the theatre production, "Paati Vadai Kaaka Nari". This play was performed in many locations across Chennai. The second production was "Ali Baba and forty police."



Percussion Band in Ongole

Folk Art, Theatre and Drums

The Ongole district of Andhra Pradesh is on the national highway and child trafficking for sex is a major issue in the area. NalandaWay, identified around 47 children and youth from this area and worked with them over a period of time to train them in folk art and theatre. As the children learned these skills, they were also coached by the trainers/mentors in social consciousness, communication skills, storytelling, drama, dance, music and playing musical instruments in the course of participative workshops. In 2008, they performed along with famous drummer and percussionist, Sivamani at Sir Mutha Venkatasubbarao Auditorium in Chennai. This project was supported by PLAN International.

Numbers:

- Number of percussionists trained: 47
- Sessions held: 120
- Performances: 14



Youth Speak Summit

A forum for the young

YSS 2018

Organized by the US Consulate and NalandaWay on December 1 and 2, the Youth Speak Summit brought together passionate, socially minded and entrepreneurial 18 to 30 year olds to learn and share things that matter to them. The summit provided an opportunity to network with mentors, experts and fellow change makers. The Summit comprised of talks by inspiring youth icons, discussions on issues, story telling of young change makers, clinics for counselling and workshops. The highlight of the event was a social-entrepreneurship pitch-fest. Top five winners got a chance to be mentored by Ashoka Youth Ventures and a grant of ₹50,000.

Highlights:

- Human Library
- Counselling by Banyan
- Skillshare Garden

YSS 2020

Organized by UNICEF and NalandaWay Foundation on March 6th at the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), this edition of the Youth Speak Summit focused on empowering young people to raise their voice against child marriage. The panel discussion featured social workers, human rights activists and youth advocates who discussed child marriage and their on-field experience. The summit also featured seven young changemakers who changed their reality by following their passion. In the run up to the summit, a film-making workshop was organized with a view to create short-films about child marriage. At the venue, delegates also created posters.



Numbers for 2018:

- Change Makers: 12
- Delegates: 732
- Panel Discussions: 3
- Workshops: 5
- Teams who applied for the Social Entrepreneurship Pitch fest: 71



Numbers for 2020:

- Change Makers: 7
- Delegates: 175
- Panel Discussions: 1
- Workshops: 1
- Number of short films created during the workshop: 5



Murals

Saidapet Mural Project

Tamil cinema permeates the lives of every Chennaiite. From the swankiest of clubs to the neighbourhood Nair kadai, not a day goes without the people of the city talking about their favourite actors, directors, box office collections or gossiping about the latest affair in town. But surprisingly there was no public art that stands as a tribute to the ones who have entertained us for 100 years. All that changed in October 2016 when children from NalandaWay Foundation generously donated their time and skills to create a public art project for DaanUtsav 2016. The children along with one of their favourite art trainer Thangaraj painted the Saidapet railway station with Tamil cinema's legendary actors Sivaji Ganesan, M G R, Nambiar, Nagesh, Manorama, Padmini, Rajnikanth, Kamal Hassan, Goundamani, Senthil, Revathi and Nayanthara.

Thiruvanmiyur Project

How much does Chennai love Cricket? Approximately 2,400 square feet worth. The mural featuring MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj at the Thiruvanmiyur MRTS railway station was a joint project between NalandaWay, Aravani Art Project, @fever 91.9FM and Freshworks. Children from our Art Labs, transgender people from Aravani Art Project and curious volunteers, all worked side-by-side to complete the project. It was Chennai's ode to cricket during the 2019 Men's World Cup.

Bharati Mural Project

What better way to celebrate Mahakavi's 135th birthday than dedicating a wall mural to him? The Bharathiyar mural was painted by children of Olcott Memorial and Lady Nye Schools, who are participants of NalandaWay Foundation's Art in Education programme. As a tribute to the Mahakavi, NalandaWay Foundation collaborated with artist Lotus Head to create a wall mural on Bharati Salai, the road opposite Kannagi statue on Marina beach, where Bharati lived until his death. The mural comprises verses from his poems and quotes along with a dash of artistic imagination.



Major Partners



and more...



Awards

The Great Place to Work Certification

The prestigious Great Place to Work Institute assessed us as a 'Great Place to Work' after NalandaWay came out with flying colours in their standard anonymous employee survey. The intent of it is to investigate the perceptions of employees and assess what their real-time experience is working at an organization. The rigorous survey involved our employees rating us across credibility, respect, fairness, pride and camaraderie.

Guidestar Platinum Rating for Transparency

NalandaWay was awarded the prestigious GuideStar India Champion level- Platinum award. NalandaWay joined India's largest pool of credible NGOs after undergoing a rigorous due diligence process. GuideStar India's Platinum Certification is the Champion Level Certification indicating that comprehensive transparency, accountability and good governance procedures are adopted by the organization with exemplary level of public disclosure.

South Asia Development Marketplace Award by World Bank

The Development Marketplace (DM) Award is a competitive grant programme administered by the World Bank. Projects are selected based on innovation, potential for growth, visible benefits, realism and sustainability.

Millennium Award for Innovation in Education

NalandaWay won the Millennium Award as one of the top three education innovators in the country. This award is instituted by USAID, FICCI, Govt. of India and UK Aid.

SMERA Ratings for Healthy Performance

SMERA ratings agency, a SIDBI Company graded NalandaWay Foundation under "Healthy performance and sustainability" category.



Head Quarters:

NalandaWay Foundation, AH-123, 2nd Floor,
4th Street, Anna Nagar, Chennai 600040

Phone: +91 44 43500127

Email: contact@nalandaway.org

Website: www.nalandaway.org

