

HUMAN UPLIFT TRUST (HUT)

Report of activities 2015

*'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'-
Margaret Mead.*

Human Uplift Trust (HUT) is a **community-based organization**, established in 1987 by Dr AV Rajagopalan and his wife Renganayaki, serving the rural areas of Mannachanallur, Perambalur and Ponmalaipatti in Tamil Nadu, India. For more than 20 years, HUT has helped people in rural communities achieve their basic needs in education and health care. Human Uplift Trust's HIV/AIDS prevention activities and care centre address the specific vulnerabilities of the rural poor.

The organization has also established a school for disadvantaged children (**750 children from 'Dalith' families**) and a shelter with a school for HIV infected children (**102 children involved in the specific program**).

Many donors have entrusted HUT for implementing various projects, such as Ministry of Health and Family welfare (Govt. of Tamilnadu) Govt of India and Tamilnadu State AIDS control society.

Internationally, HUT is working with Foundation Hirzel (Switzerland), Canadian Crossroads International, the Clinton Foundation (USA), ASHA (USA), OFI, Humanitarian Association Board of Sustainable Development, TOULOUSE BUSINESS SCHOOL (France), CASA Foundation (Bangalore), DESWOS (Germany) and even Microsoft Corporation. Indeed, in health projects, HUT has been ranked as one of the top performers by the independent evaluation team of Ministry of Health, National AIDS control organization(NACO) in 2013. HUT/ASHA HIV orphanage Schooling project has gained wide spread appreciation from all over the state and have been recently adopted as a model project by the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Government of India.

To lead these successful programs, HUT works with 2 Project Managers, 2 accountants on top of 51 staff including the teaching staff to efficiently manage all its programs. Especially two of our staff had undergone international training in Canada.

'Be the change that you wish to see in the world'

-
Mahatma Gandhi

History

HUT India was founded by the renowned professor A.V.Rajagopalan and Renganayaki Rajagopalan in a small rural town in South India in 1983, after this couple met with an incident in a deep rural village- Puthanampatti, which changed their life ever after. They saw a 7 year old girl child carrying human waste on her head, for disposal. This child was born in an untouchable family, from a community responsible for the disposal of night soil in India. The child never went to school and was helping her parents in this manual scavenging, which they were doing for generations. Renganayaki took the child in her arms and decided to take care of the child, no matter what. They believed that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" and it is the only way to break this vicious cycle of terrible poverty and inhuman labor. 'HUT's rural English medium school' came into reality with 14 untouchable Dalith children to start with.

Inspired by his parents' work and a catholic priest from Armenian Church, where he stayed during his medical schooling, Dr.Raja Venkatesh decided to join his parent's charity in 1995. He says "I realized the purpose of my life is to serve the ailing poor and these unfortunate children"; he decided to start a free medical clinic for the AIDS people and children to address yet another burning issue then. With no external funding, HUT created this small hospital, with the pension savings of Rajagopalan in 1999.

Dr Indhra married to Dr.Raja joined the team, against the wish of her parents to pursue her studies in the United States, where her own sister and brother in law are flourishing doctors in Texas.

In 2005, team HUT, with a handful of committed volunteers and these two doctors, launched a 10 bedded hospital (HUT community care hospital for AIDS patients) exclusively for AIDS patients. 'If you judge people, you have no time to love them' is the concept based on which the Hospital was initiated for these discriminated people.

Two years later there was a patient who had his kids with him and begged the administration at HUT to let them sleep on the floor next to his bed. When the man passed away, leaving his two kids orphaned, left on streets, began the orphanage of the HUT campus- a loving shelter for AIDS infected and orphaned kids with these 2 kids.

HUT is then committed to save the abandoned AIDS infected and orphaned children in India. Their immediate goal was to help the children and families struggling to survive, been ostracized by their own community due to AIDS, get a decent life without fear, stigma, cry and hunger; build shelters, school and hospital for these children.

HUT believes that every child where ever born, where ever lives, should have the opportunity to grow in a safe and nurturing environment, have access to a good education to become a productive citizen of the country.

After many hardships, HUT has successfully served the community more than 25 years now with own personal dedication and conviction of Dr AVR and his son and daughter in law, the two doctors.

HUT's orphanage now shelters 102 children, 41 AIDS infected and 61 orphaned. The HUT's AIDS community hospital has registered over 2650 AIDS clients. Now due to lack of funding support the hospital operates as a day clinic only. The HUT's rural English medium school educates 750 children with 80% of them from the untouchable community.

'How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world'
-Anne Frank

Vision

Building lives; creating positive influence and delivering smiles on the lives of the orphaned children and the ailing people, free from hunger, abuse, neglect and poverty.

Mission

HUT India's mission is

- to create a safe, loving homes for the AIDS infected, orphaned children, where each child is given the opportunity to reach their full potential in their personal, educational and emotional life.
- to offer a value complementary education to the orphaned and historically underserved children
- to deliver high-quality, compassionate and comprehensive health care, through its professional team, to the disadvantaged impoverished communities in rural India
- to provide comprehensive medical services to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) to address their specific needs through a care, treatment and support hospice.

Guiding principles/Values

Shared Humanity

we want to spread the philosophy of shared humanity where people readily share their economic and intellectual wealth with the less privileged ones.

Respect

We respect the intrinsic, the inherent characteristics and values of all the communities and we want them to work towards prosperity keeping those characteristics and values intact.

Integrity

Integrity lays the foundation of trust, friendship, professionalism and transparency. We put great stress upon the integrity of our actions to establish long-lasting relationship. We achieve this by relentlessly re-evaluating ourselves as a coordination team and carry out changes as and when they are required.

Accountability

We treat our supporters with great respect and keep them informed on all developments and the project will establish measurable goals for which we will hold ourselves accountable. We ensure sincerity and transparency at all levels of the management and projects.

Equity

We enforce ethical behavior of everyone involved in our projects and ensure equity regardless of gender, caste, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and income.

Transparency

We ensure accessibility and availability of resources and services at all levels of any project and ensure efficacious care be provided at reasonable societal costs, demonstrated through ongoing monitoring and evaluation

Quality

We believe in structuring comprehensive programs through partnership with service and program delivery experts so that individuals can access what they need, when they need it. We continuously stay motivated to improve our missions, our staff, and our project design and management and monitoring & evaluation techniques to become the best.

'A baby is
God's
opinion
that the
world
should go
on."
-Carl
Sandburg

What we do

HUT Rural School for Dalith Children in Manachanallur

Human Uplift trust (HUT) is working in educational and health projects with Dalith agricultural families in Mannachanallur from 1987. Most of the Dalith families in Mannachanallur work as bonded labours in rice mills and agricultural fields.

All their children are 'first generation learners' and become 'drop outs' and child laborers. No schools excepting us, provide quality education above primary level in and around Mannachanallur. Moreover, the children do not have an opportunity to get a comprehensive education including life skills, computer skills, creative learning and English skills, which in turn prevent them from getting education based employment and eventually they become physical laborers.

With all this experience, we understood that these children need to be created, an opportunity to lead a better life through proper education. Hence, a felt need for a quality and a competent education through the school of our kind is the key solution to this long-term problem of bonded labor vicious cycle by creating a better scope for education based decent employment for these children in the future.

To this end, HUT is running an **English Medium Rural High School (Meikandaar School)** for the children of these Dalith bonded laborers in ricemills and agricultural fields at Mannachanallur, since 1987. The school is an integrated learning centre for these underprivileged children hailing from interior villages. Understanding the illiterate familial background of these children, they are given special attention by our teachers in creative Education system with English education, computer, life skills and over all individual development.

Till date, HUT has successfully produced 3700 graduates from these children and 400 of them have become computer engineers, doctors, Indian Police Service officers, auditors and IT personnel. HUT's rural school stands as one of the top twenty schools in Trichirappalli district, offering a good education and results. HUT rural school has won many awards including producing a continuous record of 100% result in Tenth standard board examinations for the preceding 9 years.

In the tenth standard board examinations 2015, HUT rural school has received 100% pass percentage with the first mark being 97% (486/500). Also 76% of the students (11 out of 16) who appeared for the examinations got more than 80% marks which is a very good result for a rural school.

'I was hungry you gave me something to eat, I was naked you clothed me, I was sick you visited me' 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brother, you did it to me', - Mathew 25

Making a Difference in a homeless child's Life

HUT India's mission is to create loving homes and competent educational opportunity to the AIDS infected /orphaned children and deliver a high-quality, compassionate and comprehensive health care to the AIDS infected community; to provide the homeless HIV children with comfort, safety, love, reassurance . . . and a hug when needed.

We achieve this through the following activities.

House of Hope Shelter for HIV infected children

India's National AIDS Control Organization estimates that 2.7 million people of its people are HIV positive. Tamilnadu is identified as one of the six high prevalence states in India. Estimates for the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Perambalur range from 96,000 – 140,000. Also there are nearly 200 AIDS orphans in the district, and 25 children between 2-10 years of age who are HIV positive (AIDS Orphans – A child who has lost one or both the parent to AIDS before reaching the age of 18.) The reasons for Perambalur's elevated prevalence rate are numerous and interrelated. The literacy rate in Perambalur is 67%, compared to 86.5% in Chennai. This statistic reflects the low level of education throughout the district. Illiteracy is a major obstacle to the 12 million people in Perambalur gaining wide access to information about protecting themselves from HIV.

HUT, in the process of addressing the medical and psychological needs of the HIV positive people, found that the greatest concern of these people was about the future of their children.

A free residential shelter and school (House of Hope) for 39 children (including Children infected by AIDS and Children orphaned by AIDS) in the age group of 6 to 15 was started **in 2007**, which provides them with the formal education in line with the education standards set by the government.

HUT India's main objective is to provide shelter for the homeless HIV orphaned children who have been ostracized by their own relatives and live in streets. This shelter provides these homeless and the children with all their basic requirements like beds, blankets, daily nutritional meals and snacks, served piping hot with a smile, clean clothing and large doses of individual attention to make each feel special, cultural and enrichment activities, including weekly field trips, medical checkups, counseling for psycho social support, bereavement counseling and physical exercise to keep up their health

In short HUT's 'House of Hope Children shelter' is an integrated learning centre for the HIV infected children. The home provides comprehensive educational, emotional, nutritional and medical care to the HIV orphaned and vulnerable children.

At present 102 children are in the shelter and school. (2015)

A school that provides competent education to the HIV kids

HUT India's shelter is harmonized by a school that provides a competent skillful education for the orphaned kids. The school seeks to provide a quality education to these unfortunate children to access high quality education which will revolutionize their lives. There will be continuum of education and we plan to provide these children with industrial training later on for good job opportunities.

*'A father of
the
fatherless,
mother of
motherless is
God*

Admission policy for the orphaned children

1. House of Hope shelter shall ordinarily support children who meet the following criteria: they are classified as AIDS infected, double orphaned, dependent, neglected, or abused; they are from a lower socio-economic background; they have no other viable family placement alternative. Any admissions exceptions to these criteria shall be approved by the Executive Committee.
2. House of Hope shelter will support children of any age and will continue providing services beyond age 18 for youth pursuing further education; provided, however, that HUT India shall diligently pursue alternative placement for infants that are not a part of sibling groups and that the admission of children age 13 or over shall be approved by the Executive Committee. In emergency circumstances, where immediate placement is required, the President or his designee, upon consultation and approval by the Chairman of the Board or upon a favorable poll of Executive Committee members, may approve the admission of a youngster age 13 or over.
3. House of Hope shelter for Children shall serve children without regard to race or creed, rearing them in a Christian setting in the Presbyterian tradition and providing for their physical, emotional, educational, social, recreational, and spiritual needs.
4. House of Hope shelter for Children shall give preference for admission to sibling groups and to children who are referred through a church contact

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Children speak..from Meikandaar school



*The feelings of independence and self-worth that come with happy and fruitful lives are something we all need and value. Thanks all for their compassionate support. We hope that we will continue to get help in fulfilling our commitment –**Prem IX STD, Class topper. 2015'***



*I feel so blessed to have received a desk and bench of my own. Everything was so good, classroom looks beautiful. I know this was a gift from God! May the lord bless all those supporters
Satyaseelan, IX Std class second topper 2015*



*"I thank the Donors for their kind donation. I love to sit and read in the new library which is full of books- well organized and with tables and chairs. – **BakyaVI STd -Got Grade A++ Marks***



With the funding from various donors, HUT Rural school has served the following homeless kids till 2015

- ▶ We have provided quality academic and life skill education to more than 3700 children from economically, socially disadvantaged backgrounds.
- ▶ 1800 first generation school goers have been prevented them from becoming drop outs by our scholarship schemes.
- ▶ 100% pass in nine consecutive years in public exams
- ▶ 400 graduates in professional courses like medicine, engineering till 2015