



Friends of children - Annual Report 2021 - 22



Empowering youth through education

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Vision/Mission



Vision

Every meritorious student regardless of religion, caste, gender, or socio economic background must have the opportunity to have the right education equipping him/her to lead a successful life.



Mission

To provide every student with effective, high quality guidance, learning experiences and monetary support, instilling the right values to become a good citizen of India.



Beliefs

- Education is a right in democracy and provides the tools to create a more egalitarian and just society.
-

All children and youth have a right to high-quality, comprehensive education.

We model what students learn.



Aims

- Monetary support to meritorious students who are unable to continue their higher education due to financial difficulties.
- Motivate people participation at large to contribute for development of education.
- Enable students to achieve academic excellence and raise the platform, giving equal opportunities to generate greater employability.

Foreword

Dear Friend of FoC,

It is with a sense of relief and excitement that we eagerly commence the new academic year. The past two and a half years have taken a severe personal and professional toll on all of us. We at FoC, lost volunteers, some of our children lost their parents and all of us have experienced the loss of at least one dear person due to Covid 19. Never has anything ...in our lifetimes...been such a leveler and we fervently hope this was the only one, and we have seen the last of it!

With the beginning of the academic year and colleges reopening their doors, exams starting once again and admissions commencing, we at FoC, are also looking at this as an opportunity to dust out old ideas and methods and bring in some new! Though we transitioned very well into online classes and sessions, the very ideal with which we began 19 years ago, was meeting students face to face, addressing them, mentoring them and being part of their journey towards a new phase of their lives.

We plan to restart our offline workshops at various regions, kick start our residential programs for volunteers and students and begin the weekend programs at Pune for our Final year students under the umbrella of Program Unnati. We are already on track for the same and have completed the first weekend Unnati program in the first weekend of June.

We are brainstorming on some new projects and look forward to our Alumni continuing to play an important role in any program we undertake. A huge "Thank you" to all the volunteers who unstintingly give their time whenever we reach out to them! We sign off anticipating an exciting year ahead, hoping your support and assurance will continue to be with us in the road ahead!!

Always in service,

FoC Family

Program Highlights

Friends of children came into being with the vision of empowering youth through education. Over the years, this basic ideal has blossomed from just handing out scholarships, to various projects, all coming under the same umbrella.... to strengthen the foundation of assisting youth secure their dream job.

Nurture Merit

This program is the very crux of the organization, where we provide sponsorship to meritorious, needy students. The program has been successfully running for the past eighteen years and 4690 deserving students have been beneficiaries to date. This year we further fine-tuned the program to specifically reach out to children affected by Covid and have lost a breadwinner, or in many cases, both parents. With over 790 children in Maharashtra being orphaned, we chose to reach out, in a small way, through our volunteers to such children who would otherwise forego continuing their studies.

Ujala (Light) One time off scholarships to Covid affected children

Under this project we located children who would need help with their college fees as they had lost the breadwinner in the family to Covid 19. We received many applications, and every student was interviewed extensively with their family, the need was gauged and a fixed amount of Rs. 20000 was given to defray their college fees for the year. Some children out of this group were absorbed under our annual Nurture Merit program. These students would be supported by FoC till they complete their education and would be sponsored every year till their course is completed.

With the assistance of a formed group of our Alumni volunteers, we also created a space where any student could reach out and avail of information on various schemes, both private and Govt aided, for Covid affected families. Our Alumni volunteers assisted them at every level, handholding them thru the process of applying for funding etc.

Initiative	Students Impacted	Total Fees Paid
Students taken under Nurture Merit	159	Rs 25,44,550
Students given a one time off scholarship under Project Ujala	23	Rs 4,60,000
Students absorbed into FoC from Ujala	7	Rs 76,000

Alumni volunteers who worked in Project Ujala - Tejaswini Bhingare, Suraj Kulkarni, Sudhir Morde, Ekalke Bhimashankar

Umeed (Hope) – Monthly Workshop Program

The Umeed program continues to focus on “Holistic Development” through a large array of workshops. Currently in its eleventh year, the program has evolved over time into a rigorous curriculum, equipping students with the essential life skills and soft skills to grow as individuals. Spearheaded by **Anupama Ganu**, who is a trained counsellor herself, the program has become the fulcrum of FoC’s activities.

The topics are chosen such that they are most relevant to the student audience for their personal growth. With attendance to all workshops being mandatory, our students have shown great eagerness to use this platform and further their soft skills. Our professional trainers continue to volunteer their personal time and expertise to drive Umeed forward and several of them have had a long association with FoC. We are very thankful for their contribution.

Our students are required to attend a minimum of 5 workshops being held for their class and region, each year, to remain sponsored by FoC. All workshops continued to remain online this year and students exhibited great enthusiasm in participating and volunteering to troubleshoot making every workshop a success with full attendance.

- **Total number of workshops held online - 8**
- **No. of students who attended - 49 approx. for every session**
- **Trainers for sessions – Sujata Rege, Anisha Jaisani, Wrushali Gore, Arjun Shah, Surbhi Desai, Shreesh Rashinkar, Prashant Chavan, Kiran Joshi**
- **Topics handled – Social etiquette, Anxiety and stress management, Emotional management, Motivation, Teamwork, Goal setting, Values and ethics, Aptitude test preparation.**

Unnati (Progress) – Recruitment Skill Program

The Unnati program in its eighth year, focuses in its entirety on Recruitment skills, helping our final year students prepare themselves for interviews and securing their dream job. Spearheaded by **Manoj Sharma** and ably assisted by an Alumni team and a large array of corporate volunteers, the program provides a framework to help the students with their interviewing skills which would improve their chances to get through campus placements, or even for job opportunities beyond their college campus.

Aptitude tests were conducted every month, alongside quizzes. Students were given their scores, tips to improve along with online feedback. Mock interviews and Mock group discussions were conducted every two months, again with online and hard copy feedback to the students. All panel members for the sessions are from various corporates who volunteer with us and willingly give their time for this project. A very big Thank you to all of them!

Due to Covid 19, all modules continue to function online successfully.

- **No. of students in the Unnati program – 49**
- **Corporate volunteers – Harshad Joshi, Kapil Gour, Kiran Joshi, Surbhi Desai, Ajay Nathani, Prachi Awasthi, Priti Kibe, Ajay Deshpande, Prashant Ganu, Manoj Joshi, Raghu Jorapur**
- **No. of Panel members for mock interviews – 27**
- **No. of Alumni coordinating interviewing panels - 24**
- **Alumni volunteers – Amol Yewale, Neha Petkar, Ayushi Mundhada, Nikhil Bhagwat, Priyanka Gaikwad, Dinesh Daphale, Vaibhavi Jambagi, Prajakta Gaikwad, Sushi Wagh, Mahesh Kulkarni, Komal Takalkar, Nikita Dhamdhare**
- **Some Topics taken at sessions – Attitude and Assertiveness, Body Language during interviews, Corporate / email etiquette, Using Linked-in effectively, Sexual harassment a workplace, Financial management**

Uday (Rising) – Spoken English Program

In its third year and managed by **Sujata Deshpande**, this initiative was launched to help strengthen the Spoken English skills of our final year students, helping them gain confidence and fluency in spoken English, as they transition from their college campus into the Corporate World. Volunteers would have “twice a week” telephonic conversations with assigned students to enable him/her to improve their grammar, vocabulary and conversational skills. The students in turn can choose different topics to converse with their assigned volunteer.

Volunteers often guide the students by introducing them to various sources like Newspaper, Television News, books, movies to help them improve command on the language. This program has helped our students gain confidence during their interview process, especially around Group Discussions and Face to Face interviews, turning out to be a runaway success!

All interaction between volunteers and students were over phone and most have not even seen each other ever!

- **No. of students in Program Uday - 49**
- **No. of volunteers in Program Uday - 43**
- **Alumni volunteers who assisted the program - Neha Petkar, Amol Yewale, Pravin Salve, Tejaswini Bhingare**

SEP – Spoken English Program for penultimate year students

This program, spanning over six months of rigorous sessions, has been set up for students in the penultimate year of college. It works as a precursor to the Uday program in setting the foundation and basics of Spoken English.

Spearheaded by **Sujata Rege** and ably assisted by three more volunteers, SEP in its second year, has been a huge success. Besides gaining the confidence to speak and learning the basics of English grammar, students were well prepared for Project Uday which they would be part of in their final year. Online sessions were held every alternate weekend and students were allocated to four dedicated groups, headed by volunteers who took on steering the students through Rules of Grammar, pronunciation, and basic conversation in Spoken English.

- **No. of students in Project SEP – 29**
- **Volunteers who headed SEP – Sujata Rege, Bernadette Mulchandani, Uma Naphade , Bipasha Gupta**
- **Alumni volunteers who assisted the program – Mayuri Shinde, Sonali Dongare**

Umang (Joy)- Alumni Participation Program

FoC has always believed that the students who pass out are the ones who would remain the backbone of FoC. Having been nurtured thru their important years in college by FoC, each one of them senses the immense need to “Pay it forward”! The Umang program was launched precisely to accomplish this, where our Alumni students come together with a spirit to contribute back to FoC with donations and participate in sustaining its journey.

Umang has increased our network of students, with Alumni remaining connected to FoC through various activities. Our Alumni network has been growing exponentially and in the year 2021-22, **they contributed a notable of Rs. 3.82 Lakh to FoC. Over 127 Alumni contributed** amounts as small as Rs 1000 to a portion of their month’s salary making this effort a huge success!!

Besides their monetary contribution, our Alumni play a crucial role in every project undertaken. A few of the areas where they have taken on responsibilities are, administrative work, selection and mentoring of students, second level management of projects, remaining connected to volunteers and bringing in new volunteers.

Uttam (Excellence) Enabling Academic Toppers achieve excellence

Uttam has completed a year and has made a commendable start.

Spearheaded by **Harshad Joshi**, the program involved dedicated mentors allocated to groups of students aligned to their career streams, providing them exposure to various industry trends and personal mentorship and guidance. The one-to-one interaction and the mentorship imparted additional grooming for these hand-picked students over and above their scheduled FoC programs.

Monthly 1–2-hour sessions were conducted by the mentors with their allocated groups with the total program spread over 7 months. The focus was on Technical, organizational & management skills and Life skills. FoC alumni inclusion to share their experiences and help tailor the program topics and structure further improved the effectiveness of the program

- **No. of students enrolled for Uttam – 26**
- **Mentors who participated – Ajay Nathani (IT / Software) , Kiran Joshi (Engineering) , Nandini Jain (Commerce) , Bernadette Mulchandani (Science)**
- **Alumni volunteers – Sarita Jambagi, Pritam Paymode, Dipali Kandhare, Akshay Walunj, Sangram Bhalerao, Nilesh Kamthe, Nilam Kale, Nikhil Bhagwat**

Urja (Energy) A Listening post for all sponsored students

The team of Alumni and present students, as planned, were allocated a small group of students whom they had to remain in touch with. This group was headed by Anupama Ganu. She made sure that they kept a constant dialogue going and in case there was need for further help, identify, and inform the necessary people as need be. A gamut of problems was addressed like inability to attend online sessions, unable to pay for data on phones, not having a smartphone, family problems causing anxiety to name a few.

When this student group was eligible for Covid vaccination, the Urja volunteers swung into action, confirmed that all students get vaccinated, including their families. When any student remained absent for sessions, these volunteers took charge of finding out the reason why and offered help accordingly

This was an imperative need of the hour and our 6 dedicated Alumni and students worked tirelessly through the year.

Urja volunteers: Ashok Gabhale, Vijay Waykar, Vaibhavi Jambagi, Lohar Manoj, Pragati Manjare, Anuja Mali, Vikas Bajabalkar

Super Achievers who make us proud



Vivek Dhamale

Associated with FoC since 2017, Vivek completed his B.Tech. He achieved second rank in the Gate AIR 2 in the Mechanical stream. Having secured admission into both IIT Mumbai and NITIE Mumbai, he chose to join IIT Mumbai for his Masters.



Vaishnavi Varhadi

Being the child of a single parent and with her mother working at a hospital to earn a living, Vaishnavi single mindedly worked towards a high score of 91 % in her Final yr Diploma. She is now in her SY Engg pursuing Computer Engg.



Rohit Jadhav

Associated with FoC since 2019, Rohit secured a hat trick in placement, securing offers from Wipro, Infosys and Cognizant. He has completed his BE Mechanical and is a Six Sigma Green Belt certified member.



Fatima Wadiwale

Fatima has been sponsored by FoC for past four years and is presently in her FY MCom. She scored 92.6 % in her final year of B.com topping her college. With no siblings and brought up by a single parent, Fatima is focused on securing a job and supporting her mother.



Arti Gadge

Sponsored by FoC since last four years, Aarti is presently in her FY MSc. She scored a whopping 90 % in her final year of BSc. An avid NCC cadet, she has participated in National camps and is a qualified Junior under Officer. Arti likes writing

poetry and has won the tenth rank in the Anamika Poetry competition worldwide.



Purva Thite

Purva is presently in her second year Engg. She scored an unbelievable 93 % in her FY Engg. She is pursuing E&TC and hopes to secure a stable job after her degree. Since her parents live in the interiors and there are no colleges there, Purva

stays with her grandparents and pursues her education.



Rumana Patel

Associated with FoC since 2016, Rumana has completed her Masters in Statistics. She is a 3 time Gold medalist in her course, has won the D.C.Pavate Diamond Jubilee award and has had a Research paper published. She is currently a Research Intern with RBI

Mumbai, in the Modelling and Forecasting Division, Dept of Statistics and Information Management.



Achal Vishwakarma

Achal completed her B.Tech (Electrical Engg) and got an offer from Ebara Corporation, a Japanese company, securing the highest ever package of 20 Lakhs pa. She has set a new benchmark in FoC's students' placement! An over achiever, she got the Elec. Branch cup at her college

Gathering Festival and is a 3-time Gold medalist at her course

Proposed Plans for 2022 -23

Udaan (Flight) Student volunteer residential program

After a long hiatus of three years, we propose to restart the student volunteer camp this year. This program basically encourages students who are sponsored by FoC, and are interested in contributing more, thereby learning how FoC functions. Over a span of a weekend, around 30 students come together and learn how the organization works and functions. Based on their skill sets, they then take on responsibilities within their region and help with the various activities therein. Be it organizing, co ordinating or scheduling and managing a session, the students are handheld by senior volunteers who guide and mentor them.

Udaan has been a part of FoC for over 8 years and has been instrumental in bringing in many needy students from remote regions. We hope that it continues to achieve the success it has in the past

Alumni Interaction

We generally have one gathering of Alumni every year and the time is spent in great bonhomie with a sense of home coming. We also share achievements and details of work undertaken by the Alumni for FoC.

This year, we intend to engage with them in a more constructive way, perhaps thrice through the year. Guest speakers, online sessions which would hold value to them, mentorship and learning more about how they have moved ahead in their lives. With many of them being an integral part of every project undertaken, we hope that this continued interaction would bring forth more support and ideas from our Alumni

Include more Active volunteers in the management of FoC

We would look at incorporating more Alumni and volunteers to managing and administrating projects independently. Being completely volunteer driven, having a continuously committed group of volunteers has always been a challenge. We presently have over 110 dynamic volunteers and would actively look at keen and committed members within the group to participate in the day to day running of FoC.

Record Breakers Book

This was a thought that has been germinating for a while, and with our students and Alumni making it a mission to create and smash new records on a regular basis, we propose to make a book of their professional and academic achievements. This book would also be a great motivation for present students to look and aim higher!

Restart Residential programs

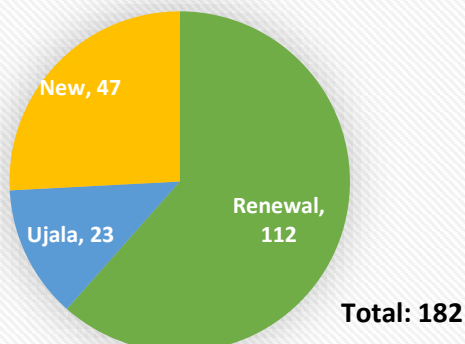
We will be restarting all residential weekend programs and students will participate in designated groups over weekends in Pune city. Alongside, offline workshops / activities will also commence, particularly the social activities which our students used to be actively involved in. Tree plantation, visits to orphanages and old age homes, cleaning and sprucing schools over weekends to name a few.

Our Helping Hands – Donors for 2021 - 22

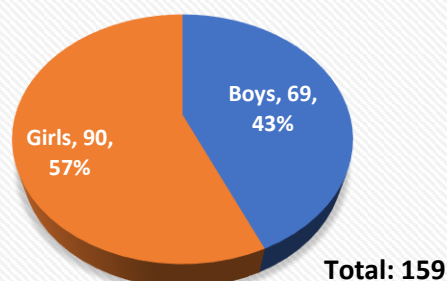
Aarti Sarawade	Dipali Fale	Nilesh Kamthe	Sharad Patil
Aayushi Mundada	Dipali Kandhare	Omkar Patil	Sheetal Kawade
Abhijit Bhor	Divyarani Patel	Onkar Valsangkar	Shinde Sujit
Abhijit Patil	Durgadevi Sargar	Padekar Mayur	Shrijeet Savadikar
Acceltree Software Pvt Ltd.	Dwarka Avasare	Padvi Vishwanath	Sneha Shirse
Ajit K Kadam	Forbes Foundation	Pallavi Bibave	Snehal Auti
Akash Mohite	Ganesh Amrule	Pooja Patil	Snehal Hake
Akshada Gagare	Ganesh Chaugule	Pournima Thakur	Snehal Shinde
Akshay Parte	Ganesh Dinde	Prajakta Gaikwad	Snehal Patil
Akshay Dhokale	Ganesh Rokade	Pramod Shinde	Sonali Dongare
Amol Sathe	Gaurav Bharmal	Pranali Wankhede	Sparsh A Healing Touch
Amol Yevale	Harshada Bhosale	Pranjal Deshpande	Spectrum
Ancha Subba Rao	Hemant Jadhav	Pravin Gulage	Sudhir Morde
Aniket Jadhav	Hemant Ramnani	Pravin Potdar	Sujay Phalke
Anjali Gaikwad	Hrushikesh Kulkarni	Pravin Salve	Sushant Kugaji
Anuradha Bachina	Jayashree Patil	Pritam Paymode	Sushil Wagh
ARaymond Fasteners India Pvt Ltd	Jyotsna Patil	Priyanka Gaikwad	Suvarna Abhang
Arnawaz R Aga	Kalpesh Shinde	Priyanka shinde	Swapnil Gore
Asha For Education	Kanchan Jadhale	Radhu Chaudhari	Tejaswini Bhingare
Ashok Patankar	Kanchan Shegar	Rahul Ashtekar	Tukaram Gore
Ashwini Patil	Kedar More	Rahul Yevale	Tulirekha Chaudhary
Ashwini Nalawade	Keshav Bhoite	Rakshanda Pawar	Tushar Wayal
Asmita Shinde	Khandagale Sonali	Ramesh Sutar	Umeed Kothavala
Atishkumar Dhage	Kiran Pandit	Sachin Bankar	Vaibhav Patil
Atul Parmanand	Kiran Satkar	Sachin Jadhav	Vaibhavi Jambhagi
Atul Waykar	Lamkhade Akash	Sachin Pansare	Vaijayanti Joshi
Bajbalkar Vikas	Madhuri Pingale	Sagar Avate	Vikas Ghatge
Bangiya Sanskriti Sansad	Mahesh Kulkarni	Sagar Wakale	Vishal Gholap
BBM Acoustics (India) Pvt Ltd.	Manoj Dongare	Sagar Yelzare	Vshal Ramkar
Bhartiya Samaj Seva Kendra	Mayuri Patil	Sandesh Dhore	Vishwanath Mantha
Borhade Nirmala	Monali Kale	Sandhya Pais	Wagh Pravin
Chetan Shetty	Monika More	Sangram Bhalerao	Waghanur Vijaya
Chetan Waghule	Mrudula Ozarkar	Sanjay Badhe	Walunj Akshay
Chhaya Lakkad	Mudita-An Alliance for giving	Sanjay Kirloskar	Yashodhan Rege
Deepa Koshy	Naazneen Kothavala	Sanjita Patil	Yogesh Ghule
Devashish Jatthap	Navnath Karande	Sanket Kale	Yogesh Patil
Dhananjay Metkari	Neeta Bhatawadekar	Santosh Bangar	Zyfn Kothavala
Dhananjay Padghamkar	Nikita Dhamdhere	Satyajeet Yadav	
Dinesh Daphale	Nilam Kale	Shafa Lagiwalé	

FoC In Numbers

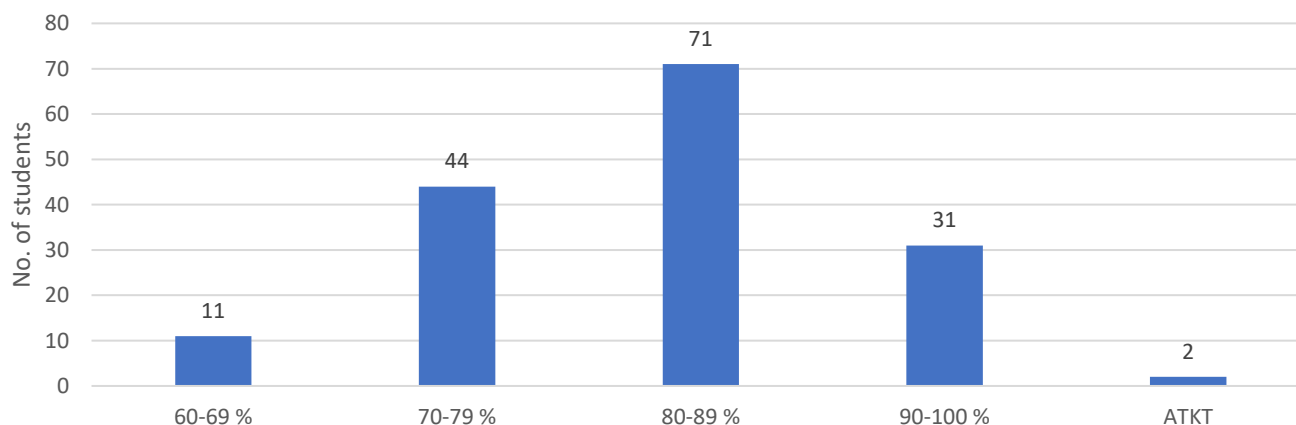
No of Students



Genderwise



Marks Scored (%)

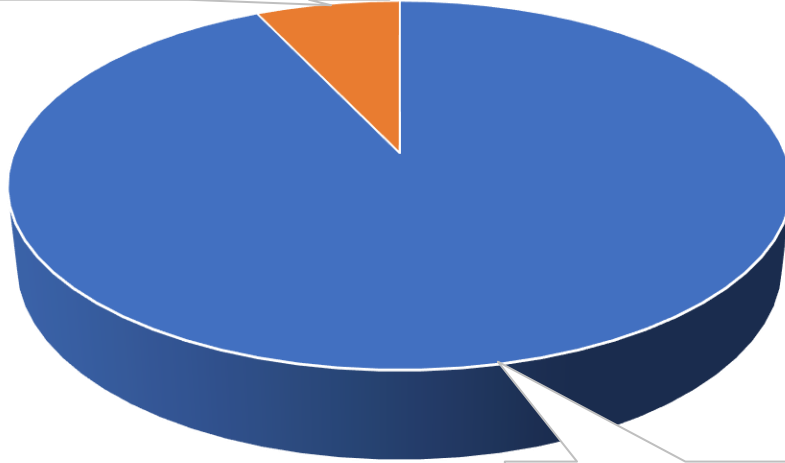


Coursewise breakdown

Course	No. of Students	Fees paid
Pharmacy	6	179450
Engineering	84	1767390
Medicine	4	62500
BBA	2	31000
BCA/BCS	6	78750
BSc	12	37500
Diploma	17	127800
LLB	1	13700
Masters	13	186150
BA	1	4500
Bcom	13	55810
Total	159	2544550

Total Expenditure: 27,37,415

Administrative expenses; 7%, 1,92,865



- Scholarships given
- Administrative expenses

Scholarships given; 93%, 25,44,550

Regionwise breakdown

Ale	7
Amravati	4
Awsari	6
Belhe	4
Junnar	30
Manchar	8
Narayangaon	8
Pune	37
Rajgurunagar	4
Sangli	36
Someshwarnagar	5
Others	10
Total	159

Annexure 1: Identification Process, Selection and Monitoring Criteria

Identification Process

- In every case, fee disbursement was done only after rigorous process of identification and verification by physically visiting the home units of shortlisted students.
- Applications received from school contacts, volunteers and well-wishers.
- Volunteers interviewed all shortlisted candidates and visited every shortlisted applicant's household.
- Final selected new student beneficiaries inducted in FoC for the year.
- Detailed documentation of each deserving case with photo shoots of house/applicant prepared.

Selection Criteria

We have followed two different modules for selection of students in the city and villages. The criteria which has driven us to follow this particular pattern is as follows:

- Cost of living is much higher in the city
- More general awareness in the city compared to villages
- Availability of resources, mainly volunteers
- **This year, all interviews, interaction with students and their families were conducted online with detailed notes and videos being taken to substantiate data collected (due to Covid 19)**

Criteria	Urban Students	Rural Students
Identification & Home Visits	Done through our volunteers	Teachers from local schools identify and perform the home visits
Income	<60,000 P.A.	<50,000 P.A.
Cut off % Std. X	> 85%	> 80%
Cut off % Std. XI	>70%	> 70%
Cut off % Std. XII	>80% for professional courses and 70% for degree courses	>80% for professional courses and 70% for degree courses
Cut off % Degree	First Class	First Class
Fee Distribution	A fixed amount is paid - depending on the course taken, marked scored, participation in workshops and various activities & general proficiency	A fixed amount is paid - depending on the course taken, marked scored, participation in workshops, meetings attended & general proficiency
Meeting/Workshop	Once a month	Once a month through local Coordinators and volunteers

Monitoring Criteria (renewal of sponsorship on an evolved credit system)

- Students are expected to keep up their mark scores to the required percentage and renew their sponsorship each year.
- Attendance to workshops/residential programs is mandatory
- Extracurricular activities and extra academic projects are given extra weightage
- Self – Supporting students and orphans are given preference
- Students are encouraged to volunteer for FoC within their regions or volunteer in any organization of their choice.

Annexure II: Trustee and Contact Information

Friends of Children, Pune was initiated and registered under Maharashtra Societies Registration Act (1960), India in 2003 and as a Regd. Trust in 2004.

Board of Trustees & Working members

- **Mrs. Shantha Suryanarayan – President, Trustee**
- **Mrs. Vani Subramanyam – Trustee, Treasurer**
- **Mr. Chetan Shetty – Trustee, Secretary**
- **Mrs. Aparna Pardeshi – Trustee, Working member**
- **Mr. Manoj Sharma – Trustee, Working member**
- **Mr. Harshad Joshi - Trustee, Working member**
- **Mrs Anupama Ganu – Working member**
- **Mr. S. Subramanian – Trustee**

Contact Us

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Aparna Pardeshi
<i>Founder / Trustee</i>
aparna.foc@gmail.com
➤ Vani Subramanyam
<i>Founder / Trustee</i>
vani.foc@gmail.com | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Manoj Sharma
<i>Trustee / Working member</i>
mksharmafoc@gmail.com
➤ Office Details:
Swati Naiknaware
8983318429
<i>(Office open 10 am – 5 pm)</i>
<i>Closed on Thursday</i> |
|---|--|

Bank details for INR donations

Friends of Children, Canara Bank, Koregaon Park, Pune 411001

A/c no. 0263101018900, IFSC Code: CNRB0000263

Bank details for foreign currency donations

Friends of Children, State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch

A/c no. 00000040178477391 , IFSC Code : SBIN0000691

Friends of Children is also registered with Asha for Education (Boston Chapter)

Pallavi Kulkarni, volunteer of Asha, dedicated for FoC, co-ordinates for the same – pgiyer16@gmail.com